

Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy

September 2026

 Lancashire
Violence Reduction
Network

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Our Vision

Lancashire will be a place where people feel safe, where children and young people can thrive free from violence, exploitation and harm, and where partners work together to prevent serious violence before it occurs.

Acknowledgements

This strategy has been developed in consultation with the following partners and sets out our shared commitment and approach to preventing and tackling serious violence across Lancashire.

			 HM Prison & Probation Service
			
			
			
			

Commissioner's Foreword

Serious violence has a devastating impact on individuals, families and communities. Behind every statistic is a person whose life has been affected, whether as a victim, witness, family member or perpetrator. The consequences can be profound and long-lasting, affecting health, wellbeing, education, employment prospects and community confidence.

While Lancashire remains one of the safest places in the country, we cannot be complacent. Serious violence, in all its forms, causes significant harm and disproportionately affects some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Tackling these issues requires more than police enforcement. It demands a collective commitment to understanding and addressing the root causes of violence before it occurs.

The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network was established to bring partners together around a shared ambition: to prevent violence, reduce harm and create safer communities. This strategy sets out our collective approach to achieving that ambition through a public health model that recognises violence as preventable, not inevitable.

We know that factors such as poverty, trauma, adverse childhood experiences, poor mental health, exploitation, substance misuse and inequality can increase the risk of involvement in violence. By working

together across policing, health, local government, education, probation, prisons, fire and rescue services, and the voluntary and community sector, we can better identify those at risk and provide support where and when it is needed most.

This strategy focuses on three key priorities: diverting children and young people away from violence and criminality, reducing offending and reoffending, and tackling Violence Against Women and Girls. These priorities reflect both local need and national expectations, while recognising the unique challenges and opportunities within Lancashire.

I am particularly proud of what has already been achieved through the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network. Thousands of children and young people have benefited from early intervention programmes, vulnerable individuals have received support at critical moments through our Emergency Department Navigator Programme, and thousands of professionals have been trained to better understand the causes and consequences of serious violence.

These achievements demonstrate what can be accomplished when organisations work together with a shared purpose.

However, there is still much more to do. Success will depend on strong partnerships, effective use of data and evidence, listening to those with lived experience, and maintaining a relentless focus on prevention. Most importantly, it will require all of us to play our part in creating communities where people feel safe, supported and able to reach their full potential.

I would like to thank all our partners for their commitment to this shared mission and for the vital role they play in helping to prevent violence and protect the people of Lancashire.

Together, we can build a safer Lancashire for everyone.



Clive Grunshaw

**Police and Crime Commissioner
for Lancashire**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clive Grunshaw'.



Lancashire Violence Reduction Network

Serious violence has devastating effects across all our communities and destroys lives, often with intergenerational consequences. At both a national and local level, tackling serious violence is a priority for government bodies and communities alike, as we all have a role to play in preventing violence, harm and mitigating risks that lead to tragic fatalities.

In July 2019, the Government announced Home Office funding to support 18 police force areas in establishing Violence Reduction Units (VRUs), bringing together key agencies to tackle the root causes of serious violence through a public health approach.

VRUs operate on the premise that violence is preventable, not inevitable. They focus on understanding the underlying causes of serious violence, exploring why it occurs rather than simply reacting to it. A key part of this approach is early intervention, particularly in the lives of vulnerable children and young people at critical moments.

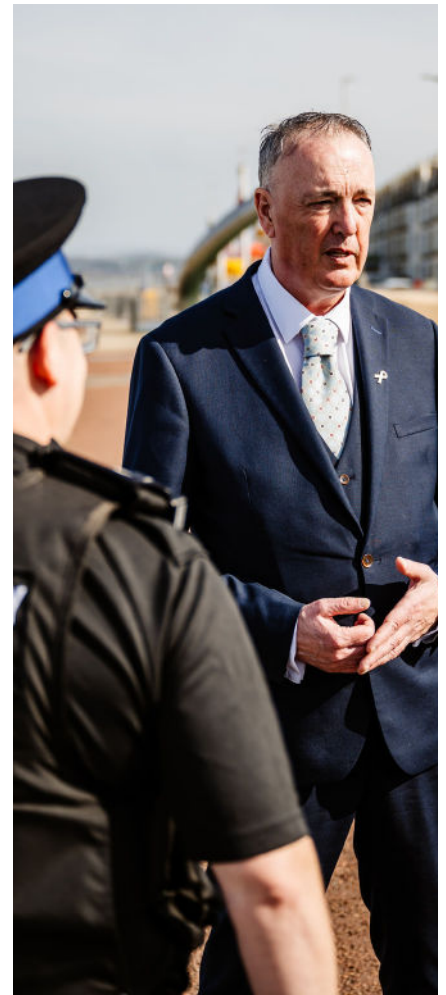
Serious violence cannot be addressed by policing alone. VRUs bring together data and expertise from a range of sectors, including health, police and local authority. By sharing intelligence, partners can better identify the factors driving violence in a specific area and design targeted responses.

The Lancashire Strategic Needs Assessment identifies the prevalence of underlying risk factors that can lead individuals towards serious violent crime. Health, social and structural inequalities are key determinants of serious violence.

The place in which a person is born and lives fundamentally influences their opportunities, experiences, and life choices. Research demonstrates that socioeconomic inequalities can negatively affect individual and community wellbeing and are associated with higher rates of violent crime. In Lancashire, we aim to address the root causes of serious violence by tackling the factors highlighted within the Index of Multiple Deprivation, helping to prevent and reduce serious violence across our communities.

To further strengthen the partnership approach, the Serious Violence Duty came into force on 31st January 2023 through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The Duty ensures that serious violence remains a priority for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and requires specified and relevant authorities to work collaboratively to prevent and reduce serious violence.

The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network brings together professionals from policing, health, local authorities, probation, fire, youth justice, prisons and education.



The factors that influence the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (IMD25)

Source: Gov.uk, 2025 are:

Income

Measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income.

Supplementary Indices

Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI)

Measures the proportion of children (0–15) living in income deprived families.

Income deprivation affecting older people index (IDAOPI)

Measures the proportion of those aged 60+ who experience income deprivation.

Employment

Measures the proportion of the working age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market.

Education, Skills and Training

Measures the lack of educational attainment and skills in local population.

Health and Disability

Measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.

Crime

Measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.

Barriers to Housing & Services

Measures the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services.

Living Environment

Measures the quality of both the 'indoor' and 'outdoor' local environment.

The World Health Organisation (2020) defines violence as

“ Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.”

Lancashire’s agreed definition of serious violence includes the following crime types and crime descriptors:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Homicide | 6. Robbery |
| 2. Knife Crime | 7. Aggravated Burglary |
| 3. Gun Crime | 8. Domestic Abuse & Violence |
| 4. Assault resulting in injury | 9. Child Exploitation (sexual and criminal) |
| 5. Rape | |

In addition to the three Home Office Key Performance Indicators:

- A reduction in homicides
- A reduction in knife-enabled violence
- A reduction in hospital admissions due to a knife or sharp implement

Lancashire will measure the success based on a reduction of the 9 serious violence priority crime types.

Governance

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner chairs the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network Partnership Board, which brings together all specified and relevant authorities. This partnership:

- Provides strategic leadership and direction for Lancashire’s response to serious violence
- Delivers and monitors performance against the Serious Violence Strategy
- Provides governance for the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network
- Monitors Lancashire’s compliance with the Serious Violence Duty
- Oversees the implementation of the Young Futures Prevention Partnership Panels
- Acts as a critical friend, challenging performance and unblocking issues at a strategic level



Success to date

Following the initial Home Office grant in 2019, the Home Office has committed funding to continue the work of VRUs.

Since 2019, the LVRN has:

- Designed, developed and delivered a sports programme that provides targeted, trauma-informed mentoring for children and young people who have committed violence or are at high risk of offending. Since its inception, the Champions Programme has supported over 2600 children and young people from across Lancashire resulting in 81% of clients showing positive outcomes in relation to further offending
- Funded Emergency Department Navigators to provide support to individuals presenting at A&E with serious violent injuries. Navigators offer trauma informed, relational support at the time an individual is most vulnerable and potentially open to change. In 2025, the Navigators supported 599 patients, with 96% avoiding a further violence-related A&E attendance within the same quarter.
- The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network has delivered Trauma Informed Training to over 14,000 professionals across Lancashire to understand the root causes of serious violence.



Strategy Delivery

Public Health Approach

Lancashire is committed to adopting a public health approach to prevent and tackle serious violence.

Violence is a preventable issue that is influenced by factors such as adverse childhood experiences, poverty, unemployment, substance misuse, mental health, school exclusion and community inequalities.

We aim to understand and address the underlying causes of serious violence rather than only responding once an incident occurs.

The Public Health Approach follows 4 key principles:

1. Define the problem

2. Identify risk and protective factors

3. Developing and evaluating interventions

4. Implementing evidence-based interventions

Partnership Working

Partnership working is central to the successful delivery of this strategy, recognising that no single agency can tackle serious violence in isolation. By bringing together statutory partners and the voluntary and community sector, we can develop a coordinated public health approach to the complex drivers of violence. Effective partnership working enables the sharing of information, resources, and expertise, ensuring that interventions are targeted, timely, and evidence-led.

Community Safety

Partnerships

The Serious Violence Duty ensures that serious violence is a priority for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). CSPs have a strong understanding of their local areas and communities, enabling them to play a vital role in tackling and preventing serious violence.

Data Sharing

Data sharing is a key factor in successful partnership working. In Lancashire, we are working to develop a Multi-Agency Data Sharing platform that brings together a range of data sources from various partners. The goal is to develop a system that enables frontline professionals to understand a broader contextual understanding when working with individuals and families.

Trauma Informed Lancashire

Trauma-informed practice helps address the root causes of serious violence by focusing on what often lies beneath violent behaviour (such as unresolved trauma and unmet needs). Understanding and addressing these underlying causes can support individuals to make safer, healthier choices, resulting in improved outcomes for people and communities.

Youth Endowment Fund

The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network utilises the Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit, which provides research and evidence on effective approaches to preventing children and young people's involvement in violence, ensuring that our approach is evidence-led.

Prevention

Prevention focuses on eliminating risks and addressing the root causes of potential problems before harm occurs. In Lancashire, we recognise that it is more cost-effective to work in partnership to address issues before they escalate into serious violence.

The public health approach outlines three levels of prevention:

Primary Prevention: Preventing problems from occurring in the first place by addressing the underlying causes and risk factors associated with serious violence, crime, and inequality.

Secondary Prevention: Intervening early when problems begin to emerge to prevent escalation and resolve issues at the earliest stage.

Tertiary Prevention: Managing ongoing issues to avoid crisis, reduce harmful consequences and prevent further offending.



Strategic Priorities

This Strategy sets out how we aim to prevent and reduce serious violence in Lancashire through three priority areas.

Youth Diversion

In line with government priorities, Lancashire aims to divert children and young people away from criminality through prevention, early intervention and diversion.

The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network recognises that one of the most effective ways to tackle serious violence is to prevent it before it occurs. By intervening early and providing young people with positive alternatives to offending, diversion reduces their exposure to risk factors such as exploitation, gang involvement and cycles of harm. It acknowledges that many young people involved in, or at risk of crime, are themselves vulnerable and may benefit more from support rather than punishment. Prioritising youth diversion helps to disrupt pathways into persistent offending, improve long-term outcomes for individuals and reduce demand on the criminal justice system.

The LVRN also recognises the importance of the protective factors that its interventions provide for the most vulnerable cohorts. These factors help to strengthen:

- Positive relationships
- School engagement
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Emotional regulation
- Aspirations and employability
- Community connectedness

The LVRN also aims to focus support during key transitions that can have the greatest impact on children and young people, including:

- Exclusion from school
- Move from primary to secondary school
- Children in care
- Entry into youth justice services
- Leaving custody
- Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
- Identified risk of exploitation

Youth diversion targets support during these critical life transitions, when young people may be at increased risk of serious violence, offending or exploitation.

Youth diversion contributes to safer communities by addressing the root causes of violence and ensuring that young people are supported to make positive choices.

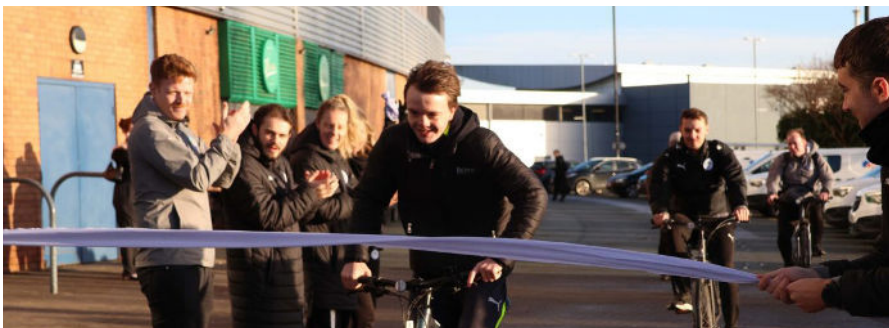
Primary Prevention

Pol-Ed is a prevention initiative that allows schools and police to deliver expertly planned inputs themed across relationships, keeping yourself safe and understanding the law.



Safe Spaces & Environments for Children and Young People

Providing safe, accessible spaces and environments for all children and young people where they feel included, supported and inspired without fear of judgement, harassment or harm.





Targeted Youth Support

Targeted Youth Support contributes to the prevention of serious violence by helping young people develop the skills, confidence and resilience needed to make positive life choices. Through youth work provision and programmes, work within educational settings, community-based activities and positive relationships with trusted adults, young people are supported to build protective factors that reduce vulnerability to violence, exploitation and offending.

By promoting emotional wellbeing, positive relationships, school engagement and community connectedness. Targeted Youth Support supports young people to thrive and reach their full potential. This support provides opportunities for young people to develop social skills, confidence, aspirations and a sense of belonging within their communities.

Secondary Prevention

Prevention Partnership Panels

Prevention Partnership Panels are designed to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour through early intervention and multi agency collaboration, by identifying children and young people who may be at risk.

The panels bring together to assess the risks and needs of the child or young person and put in place tailored support packages to prevent escalation into more serious criminal behaviour, harm or lead to exploitation.

Police Partnerships Project

The Police Partnerships project delivers mentoring, group sessions, and diversionary activities to children and young people on the cusp of offending, with the aim of preventing involvement in criminal behaviour. Support often provides targeted support during key life transitions where young people may be at increased risk of serious violence or exploitation, with a clear focus on the move from primary to secondary school.

Targeted Youth Support

Targeted Youth Support provides early intervention for young people who may be vulnerable to serious violence, exploitation, anti-social behaviour or involvement in crime. Through a strengths-based and relationship-focused approach, practitioners work with young people and their families to identify emerging risks and provide timely support before difficulties escalate.

A range of targeted interventions are available to meet the needs of vulnerable young people. Youth Work Mentors provide bespoke one-to-one support packages tailored to individual needs, helping young people to build resilience, improve decision-making and access positive opportunities. Evening youth provision offers safe spaces during peak times of vulnerability, providing positive activities and trusted adult support. Detached youth work engages young people within their own communities, particularly those who may not

access traditional services, enabling youth workers to build relationships, identify concerns and intervene at an early stage. Schools-based youth work supports children and young people experiencing difficulties with attendance, behaviour, emotional wellbeing or peer relationships, helping to strengthen engagement in education and reduce the risk of exclusion.

Interventions may include:

- Bespoke one-to-one mentoring
- Evening youth provision
- Detached youth work
- Schools-based youth work
- Group work programmes
- Family intervention via our Family Intensive Support Team
- Emotional wellbeing support
- Engagement with education, training and employment opportunities

Working alongside schools, police, health services, youth justice services, contextual safeguarding team and community organisations, Targeted Youth Support helps address the factors that increase vulnerability to violence and exploitation before they become entrenched.



Tertiary Prevention

The Champions Programme

Works with children and young people who have committed, or are at risk of committing, a violent offence. Sports coaches provide mentorship through bespoke action plans tailored to the individual needs of each child or young person. Support includes engagement in a range of sports and physical activities identified by the child or young person, alongside emotional, social, educational, training, and employment-related interventions. These trusted adult relationships and structured mentoring play a key role in preventing violence. The mentoring provides children and young people with consistent support, positive role models and guidance, helping to build resilience, improve decision-making and reduce vulnerability to exploitation, offending and serious violence. Where appropriate, individuals with lived experience support prevention work by acting as credible role models and mentors for children and young adults, which aligns with many violence reduction approaches nationally.



Youth Justice – Pre Court Diversions

Out of Court Disposals take a child first approach and prioritise rehabilitation and prevent young people from formally entering the criminal justice system.

Child Knife Possession

The government has issued new guidance to agencies to support young people who are found in possession of a knife. Young people will receive a tailored, compulsory interventions to target the root causes of their behaviour.

Targeted Youth Support

Targeted Youth Support also works with young people who have already become involved in offending, violence, exploitation or other high-risk behaviours. Through intensive intervention and sustained support, youth workers help young people address the underlying causes of their behaviour and reduce the likelihood of further harm.

Youth Work Mentors provide intensive bespoke one-to-one support packages for young people who are already known to partner agencies, helping them to navigate complex challenges, manage risk and develop positive pathways away from violence and offending. Evening youth provision continues to provide structured activities and positive relationships that encourage sustained engagement and reduce exposure to harmful influences. Detached youth workers maintain contact with vulnerable young people in community settings, enabling ongoing support and engagement with those who may be reluctant to access formal services. Schools-based youth work supports

reintegration into education, improves attendance and helps young people remain engaged in learning following periods of exclusion, offending or significant vulnerability.

Support focuses on:

- Intensive one-to-one mentoring and key working
- Reducing offending and anti-social behaviour
- Preventing re-engagement in violence and exploitation
- Reintegration into education, training or employment
- Improving emotional wellbeing and resilience
- Strengthening family and community support networks
- Developing positive aspirations and future opportunities

By providing consistent, trusted and coordinated support, Targeted Youth Support helps young people move away from violence and offending, reducing the likelihood of reoffending and improving outcomes for individuals, families and communities. This approach recognises that many young people involved in serious violence have experienced significant adversity and require long-term support to achieve sustainable change.



As a partnership, we will:

- Adopt a trauma informed child-first approach
- Deliver a coordinated, joined-up approach to youth diversion
- Support young people to ensure they have the best possible start in life
- Capture and reflect the voices of young people to ensure we are delivering the right interventions
- Share intelligence and information through multi-agency partnerships to effectively identify and target vulnerable children and young people
- Support and deliver appropriate interventions that are data and research led

- Invest in education programmes that encourage young people to make positive life choices
- Raise awareness of issues that directly affect young people and provide information on how to access support
- Promote and publicise the positive work of partner agencies

Measures:

- Level of police contact with children and young people
- Reduced number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system
- Improvement in school engagement

- Increase in training and / or employment opportunities
- Reduction in school exclusions
- Sustained individual / young person engagement rates
- Feedback from children and young people
- Case studies demonstrating impact and good practice
- Improvements in wellbeing and resilience measures



Reduce Offending

Lancashire is committed to reducing offending through prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation.

The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network recognises that effectively tackling serious violence requires a strong focus on those already involved in or at risk of offending, to prevent escalation and repeat harm. The LVRN aims to work with partners to address the drivers of criminal behaviour, such as substance misuse, trauma and social inequalities, and supports individuals to move away from crime and towards more positive pathways. It emphasises the importance of multi-agency working to manage risk, disrupt activity, and provide tailored interventions that promote desistance. Prioritising the reduction of offending helps to break cycles of reoffending, protect victims and reduce demand on criminal justice services.

Primary Prevention

Sceptre

Sceptre represents Lancashire's year-round commitment to reducing knife crime and keeping communities safe. It relies on the collective efforts of partners across education, health, youth services, local authorities,

community organisations and the voluntary sector. Together, these partners focus on enforcement, education and engagement to tackle the causes and consequences of knife-related harm.

Knife Bins / Surrender Schemes

Knife bins and surrender schemes aim to remove weapons from the streets by allowing members of the public to safely and anonymously dispose of knives and dangerous weapons without facing immediate prosecution for possession.

Trading Standards – Responsible Retailer Scheme

The Responsible Retailer Scheme focuses on working together to tackle knife crime and make communities safer.

The scheme focuses on educating retailers about the role they can play in preventing and tackling knife crime by understanding the law surrounding the sale of age-restricted products, learning how to store knives and bladed articles safely, and knowing where to access support and report any concerns.

Secondary Prevention

The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network is committed to supporting individuals who are at risk of offending and diverting them away from the criminal justice system. Its approaches range from peer-led mentoring focused on substance misuse to the creation of voluntary roles within community projects. The VRN will continue to promote a wide range of diversionary and support programmes aimed at individuals on the cusp of offending, helping to prevent their involvement in the criminal justice system.



Tertiary Prevention

Emergency Department Navigators

Emergency Department Navigator Programme is a hospital-based intervention service that supports individuals who present at an emergency department following a serious violent injury.

Navigators work with individuals to encourage healthy choices and positive life plans, helping to break the cycle of violence. This intervention aims to reduce the risk of repeat hospital attendances, further harm to victims and others, and the wider impact of violence on communities.

Champions

The Champions programme provides support and mentorship to young adults leaving prison and repeat offenders identified through partner agencies. The programme actively targets support at individuals leaving gangs or exploitation.

Knife Crime Concentration Fund

Through funding provided by the Home Office, Lancashire is able to intensify activity in the areas most affected by knife crime. The funding enables a highly targeted, intelligence-led partnership approach, directing resources to where they are needed most to disrupt offending, safeguard vulnerable individuals, and prevent violence before it occurs.





Prisons & Probation

His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) incorporates the Lancashire and Cumbria Prisons Group and the North West Probation Service. Lancashire is home to five prison establishments: HMP Preston, HMP Garth, HMP Wymott, HMP Kirkham and HMP Lancaster Farms, together with eight probation offices.

Working with individuals that have offended is a vital part of preventing serious violence because many individuals involved in violent offending have complex needs, including trauma, mental health, substance misuse, poor emotional regulation and links to organised criminality. Custody, followed by supervision in the community, provides a unique opportunity to identify those at risk of committing or becoming victims of serious violence, assess the factors driving their behaviour and deliver targeted interventions to address these issues. By engaging with prisoners before their release, agencies can challenge harmful attitudes and support positive behavioural change.

Through effective partnership working between prisons, police, probation services, health providers and community organisations, individuals can be supported to access housing, employment, education and treatment services upon release from custody.

This coordinated approach helps reduce the likelihood of individuals returning to crime, breaks cycles of offending and supports long-term rehabilitation.

Through liaison with third sector providers, the LVRN can help ensure that bespoke interventions and programmes are developed to address the specific criminogenic needs of individuals leaving prison. By providing tailored support that targets the factors driving offending behaviour, rehabilitation outcomes can be improved, contributing to a reduction in reoffending, lowering crime rates and ultimately decreasing the number of victims of crime.

As a partnership, we will:

- Adopt a trauma-informed approach by understanding the root causes of serious violence
- Proactively identify, engage and support young adults who are most in need and often the hardest to reach
- Share intelligence and information across partner agencies to effectively identify, manage, and monitor the highest-risk offenders
- Promote access to education, skills development and vocational training for individuals in custody
- Work collaboratively to support prison leavers before release, ensuring appropriate support is in place to help them successfully reintegrate into their communities
- Provide consistent support to prison leavers in accessing, securing and sustaining employment, with the aim of reducing reoffending
- Take a person-centred approach by capturing and reflecting the voices of those with lived experience, ensuring services and interventions meet their needs and achieve positive outcomes
- Ensure substance misuse services are accessible to those who need them, providing a holistic and supportive approach to recovery
- Raise awareness of the support and services available for individuals affected by substance misuse
- Support and evaluate pilot initiatives designed to reduce criminal offending and improve outcomes for individuals and communities

Measures:

- Reoffending rates
- ED Attendance
- Harm scores
- Probation data
- Case studies demonstrating impact

Violence Against Women and Girls

Lancashire echoes the Government's mission to end violence against women and girls.

Violence against women and girls can take many forms, including, but not limited to, domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault, stalking, and the exploitation and abuse of women and girls in online spaces.

In Lancashire, we support a coordinated approach focused on prevention, the pursuit of perpetrators and the provision of comprehensive support for victims and survivors.

Following feedback from women and girls across Lancashire, we aim to strengthen the early identification of risk and ensure that victims and survivors receive the support they need. We are committed to holding perpetrators to account, disrupting harmful behaviour, and promoting long-term behavioural change through effective partnership working and specialist training.

Prioritising VAWG helps to protect those most at risk, increase confidence in reporting, and create safer environments for women and girls.

Primary Prevention

Campaigns

Campaigns designed to raise awareness, influence attitudes and behaviours and encourage positive action around specific issues. Examples include:

Get The Message

#GetTheMessage is a behaviour change campaign aimed at men and boys to highlight the impact of low-level harassment on women and girls. It is focused on gateway offences such as public harassment, unwanted or inappropriate comments, including online, that often make the recipient feel uncomfortable, objectified or unsafe. We want to call this behaviour out and challenge harmful actions that can impact women and girls' feelings of safety and get young men to be active bystanders and allies to challenge the behaviour of their peers.



Nail Domestic Abuse

The #NailDomesticAbuse campaign offers a free, interactive online training package, designed to help beauty business owners and employees to spot the signs of domestic abuse and know what to do if a client, colleague, friend or family member may need support.



JUST OUT FOR ~~ATTENTION~~ A RUN

93% of Lancashire women
modify their daily behaviour
to avoid danger.

Women restrict their activity to
main roads and daylight to stay safe.
They shouldn't have to.

**#GetThe
Message**



Find out more:
www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/get-the-message



Education

Education plays a fundamental role in preventing Violence Against Women and Girls. It provides individuals with knowledge, skills and awareness to make informed decisions and to recognise risk. Education plays a preventative role by challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours before they become entrenched. For example, Healthy Relationship programmes delivered by specialist services focusing on consent, conflict resolution and challenging the myths of domestic abuse.

Secondary Prevention

Domestic Abuse Training

Enhanced training for frontline practitioners to improve victim engagement, increase confidence in policing and strengthening the multi-agency response to domestic abuse. Early identification of victims can better protect those at risk and provide professionals with the skills, knowledge and confidence to intervene at the earliest opportunity to prevent harm. This should include specialist training on domestic abuse-related suicide awareness, the use of homicide timelines to identify escalating risk factors and heightened risk for victims of Non-Fatal Strangulation.

VAWG Early Intervention Initiatives

Support early intervention initiatives that reduce violence against women and girls. For example, programmes for young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours or abusive behaviours in relationships.

Tertiary Prevention

Specialist support services for victims and survivors

Providing specialist support services for victims and survivors is vital in helping people heal from trauma, navigate complex legal systems and regain a sense of safety and control over their lives. In Lancashire, we want our communities to have the best possible chance to cope and recover. Therefore, we provide specialist support for victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and stalking, as well as dedicated support for young victims of crime.

DRIVE

The Drive Project is a tertiary intervention programme that works with high-risk, high-harm perpetrators of domestic abuse through intensive case management. The aim of the programme is to prevent further harm and abusive behaviour, improve the safety of victims and survivors and reduce the risk of future offending.

Domestic Abuse Police Community Support Officers

Dedicated, specialised PCSOs that are a trusted point of contact that provide reassurance, guidance and access to support to victims and survivors whilst also strengthen the visible presence in communities.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Multi-agency reviews undertaken to identify and learn lessons following the death of an individual as a result of violence, abuse, or neglect by a partner, ex-partner, or family member.

Domestic Abuse & Suicide Legislation

Advocate for stronger sentencing powers in cases where domestic abuse has been a contributing factor in a victim's death by suicide. Collaborate across policing, prosecution services and specialist support organisations to identify gaps within the current legal limitations and to develop opportunities for legislative change.





As a partnership, we will:

- Raise awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls and the support services available
- Deliver behaviour change campaigns that encourage positive attitudes and choices
- Educate young people on consent and healthy relationships
- Invest in professional homicide timeline training to support frontline practitioners in recognising suicide risk indicators among victims of domestic abuse enabling earlier, more effective intervention
- Challenge misogynistic attitudes and behaviours
- Develop a VAWG Lived Experience Panel to capture and amplify the voices and experiences of victims and survivors
- Work with transport organisations to ensure the safety of women and girls is paramount
- Invest in specialist support for victims and survivors to ensure they have the best possible chance to cope and recover
- Ensure that children and young people affected by domestic abuse are recognised and treated as victims in their own right and have access to specialist support.
- Ensure compliance with the Victims Code of Practice
- Utilise the PCC's platform and influence to champion reforms to domestic abuse legislation, ensuring stronger protections for victims and improved accountability for perpetrators

Measures:

- Public perception
- Survey results
- Reporting rates for domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Evidence-led prosecutions
- Domestic Violence Prevention Orders
- Level of repeat victimisation
- Findings from Domestic Homicide Reviews / Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews
- Number of victims supported
- Number of individuals on perpetrator programmes
- Victims Code Compliance Data
- Case studies demonstrating impact

Contact

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Lancashire
Violence Reduction
Network