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Violence is preventable, not inevitable.

VRU

End of Year Activity Report

June 2021

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Summary

Over the last year the VRU like many other organisations had to adapt and pivot to deal with the Covid pandemic. Despite the many challenges that presented over the last year there have been many highlights to report as the team continue to strive towards tackling violence in Scotland.

Over the year we saw new work streams generated and others paused as the pandemic changed the way that we worked and impacted on how we could support and deliver some of the project areas. Dealing with this fluid situation was challenging however, through it, we have emerged with a number of key deliverables and a new strategy that will help to move the violence prevention agenda to the next level and look to address some of the deep seated complex challenges that enable the culture of violence.

Understanding the how the response to Covid-19 has impacted on Violence

The last year has had a significant impact on behaviour, with the country pulsing in and out of varying degrees of lockdown (some stricter than others) and the curtailing of the evening economy (especially alcohol licensing). As a result the trends¹ in violence may have been effected, with reductions in the numbers of interpersonal assaults (no-fatal serious and common) as well as homicide particularly during the times where there was greater adherence to the lock-downs. However, as the lockdowns eased there was some evidence to suggest that the violence increased again (all be it inconsistently). The impact on Domestic Violence and the violence against the emergency services was much more telling with increases across the board. With the stress and strain of being forced to be at home, with the fear of covid-19 preventing some from seeking support and help from domestic violence led to record numbers of calls to domestic violence helplines. And as the emergency services led the response to the pandemic, this may have led to increased levels of animosity between the public and those charged with upholding public health legislation.

During 2020 there were also an increased focus on the levels of protesting with clashes between with those identifying with the far right and far left as well as football. The presence of the covid rules and the debate round gathering and protesting during a public health emergency increased to the tension round the events with protests and counter protests. Also as the world retreated into their homes and virtual domains many of the opinions of the rights and wrongs over the protests were played out

¹ End of Year Crime figures not available at the time of writing the report

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in the echo chamber of social media where the content algorithms solidified those opinions and polarised people and communities.

It is still too early to accurately predict the long term outcomes from Covid-19, however, we do know that many challenges lie ahead. These include a potential increase in poverty through unemployment and the contraction of the labour market. Allied to this will be long term mental health issues through trauma and social isolation and a potential increase in alcohol, drug and gambling addiction, in addition to potential increases in hate crime as individuals search for blame and identify difference.

The research into 'ACE's' and evidence of the effect they have on negative outcomes including crime and violence is fairly robust. It is becoming clear that the covid-19 crisis may be adding to the trauma already experienced by those in our more deprived communities and thus raising the potential for negative outcomes. Many services will require to adapt to this situation whilst funding becomes more limited. We are already identifying a loss of third sector youth work provision in certain areas of Glasgow and a reduction in the availability of recreational space. With less recreational facilities, less work and reduced support or engagement, the potential for harmful activity to manifest itself is high.

Therefore, the primary and secondary prevention activity that has been delivered across the country are more vital than ever to ensure that we minimise the number of people who either cause or are subjected to the most violence: this activity is about "flattening the curve", to ensure that our services (social work, policing and prison etc) are not overrun by the demand they may face.

Strategy for the future

At the start of the pandemic, the SVRU identified an opportunity to refresh and review our basic strategy. We decided to create a new plan for the next 5 years which will try and address several key concerns about the delivery of a public health model within this rapidly changing environment. This document is currently in the consultation phase and will be launched later this year (late Q4 or early Q1 2021)

Our Vision

A Scotland where citizens and communities reject violence in all its forms.

A tolerant, empathetic and kind Scotland where people work together to reduce fear and the harm caused by violence.

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Activity Summary

The following section is organised by the agreed workstreams and projects; where a summary of activity for the year 2020/21 is included.

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Workstream 1: Navigator	Activity	Status
Community Setting (Kilmarnock Prison)	<p>This joint approach with the 3 Ayrshire ADPs is supporting remand prisoners in and out of Kilmarnock prison. Through the delivery partner, 'We Are With You', three navigators are employed to operate using a similar model applied with the A&E to try and develop relations to encourage supportive change.</p> <p>Covid-19 caused significant issues to the delivery of the programme, with Kilmarnock Prison being locked down on several occasions. The navigators were left to deliver a remote service to those in prison. Still, it was challenging in developing rapport with this complex group as being on remand, they were very transient, and it wasn't easy to create the trust required.</p> <p>As the prison became unlocked, the Navigators could operate following the original delivery model, which saw both the uptake and the outcomes improve.</p> <p>The service is still under evaluation; however, the numbers who went through the service were not sufficient for a robust evaluation due to the challenges. Consequently, it has been decided the best course of action would be to extend the pilot into 2021/22 to ensure that the effectiveness can be accurately assessed.</p>	On target
Custody Setting	<p>Custody Navigator will be delivered in the first instance at Kirkcaldy Police Office. Our delivery partner will be 'Serco', and external funding from a local source has been secured for this project, allowing it to face no financial obstacles for its first two years.</p> <p>There have been numerous false starts with recruiting issues, and the covid-19 custody protocols programme will be ready to launch in Q1 2021.</p> <p>During 2020/21, the VRU has been working with Police Scotland to try and understand the landscape of custody provision as the delivery of support and interventions were not consistent across the Force, with some areas not having access to any help and others only through providing leaflets etc. With that in mind, the VRU has adapted the evaluation framework to look at the effectiveness of different types of approaches ranging from a complete person-centred approach such as Navigator to simple leaflet provision. This work will carry on into 2021/22.</p>	On target
GP setting – Changed to Community Navigator (the You Decide Team)	<p>This amended programme moved away from the full GP setting partially because of the impact of Covid but also through the identification of additional needs and referral points for Navigators. This approach has morphed into the Community Navigator, or You Decide Team in Glasgow North, which will seek referrals from numerous agencies and services, including housing, health and other locally based organisations etc.</p>	On track – amended outcome

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<p>Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB) Navigators</p>	<p>The initial programme of work was to use Navigators to navigate individuals away from the criminal justice system. However, SLAB has asked to pause this at present as although they are committed to the idea and the principle, they did not feel the time was right. Iain Smith, Keegan Smith Law, was fully involved in the initial proposal and contacted us in this regard. We hope that SLAB will re-visit this proposal in due course as it has excellent potential. Similarly, we have discussed a programme along these lines regarding drug detections (Section 5(2) possession) where offenders could be removed from the CJ system to a programme of support/mentoring. This proposal was brought to us by the drugs death task force work, and only an initial discussion has yet taken place.</p>	<p>Paused (Discussions On going)</p>
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<p>Workstream 2: Desistence Mentoring</p>	<p>Summary</p>	<p>Status</p>
<p>Braveheart Industries (Street and Arrow)</p>	<p>The last year has been extremely challenging for Street and Arrow, with significant downward pressures on the catering industry due to Covid; the business was constantly in a state of flux. The social enterprise has reacted to the lockdown conditions and opened and closed accordingly. This, coupled with the reductions in the numbers of customers, has reduced the income for S&A from £1000-£1200 per day to £100.</p> <p>This has been challenging for the business, but the staff and trainees and furlough had to be used to attempt to reduce the financial burden. Throughout this time, the trainees were encouraged to volunteer at the foodbanks in the North of Glasgow, where the VRU were operating on the ground, where they could also be supported by the VRU lead officer there and mentors.</p> <p>With the full-time reopening of the Street and Arrow café in the dental school, the programme will be bringing on new trainees in 2021/22 however, at a reduced number until the long term financial viability can be fully established. BHI board are still pursuing funding for a chief operating officer and admin support to develop the business side of the charity. They are through to the final stages for a bid they have with the Robertson Trust. This will ultimately lead to the VRU having a much reduced day to day role in the running of the charity/programme</p>	<p>Under Review</p>
<p>Desistence Mentoring Training programme</p>	<p>During 2020/21, the VRU reassessed the training requirements for mentors and developed a more detailed support plan for training. In partnership with the St Giles Trust, we have identified an opportunity to train the</p>	<p>On track – amended now included within the training element supporting Glasgow</p>

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	<p>next generation of mentors and support local organisations (within the Glasgow North programme) with additional lived experience support for their youth work provision.</p> <p>There is a need for fully trained mentors and support staff with lived experience. The development of these trainees and consistency of the approach should produce high-quality candidates for potential employment in the area of mentoring.</p>	<p>North, PI programme and the You Decide Team</p>
<p>NHS Employability</p>	<p>Through the local approach targeting Edinburgh, there is more support required for those wishing to enter employment and move away from violent lifestyles. Based on our successful mentoring projects such as BHI and the tattoo programme, Inspector Jim Gray approached NHS Lothian. He asked them to consider employing individuals with convictions to assist them with mentoring support through our connections with Aid and Abet, Heavy Sound etc. This was progressing well pre-COVID and was aimed at the employment of individuals with complex needs and previous convictions for violence in NHS Lothians. This programme has been delayed until phase 4, when we are hopeful that the environment will be such that dialogue can be re-commenced.</p> <p>NHS Lothian examines the UK Govt 'Kickstart' programme and may see this as a vehicle to commence this work.</p> <p>Throughout 2020/21, this work programme was revisited, and a process of ongoing dialogue with NHS Lothians was undertaken.</p> <p>All parties maintain that there is real value in taken this forward, but only once the Covid situation becomes much clearer.</p> <p>This programme of work will be revisited in 2021/22</p>	<p>Delayed to be revisited in 2021/22</p>

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Workstream 3: Trauma- Informed Practices	Summary	Status
Prison Based Work – Low Moss	Covid and changes to the management at Low Moss have made this work extremely challenging at this time. Over the last year, the VRU has diversified the Prison work across Kilmarnock, Perth, Edinburgh and Dumfries. The needs and requirements from each of the prisons have been different, for example, Community Navigator – Kilmarnock, Help the Helper – Dumfries, Scoping the support needs for remand prisoners – Perth and Trauma-Informed practices and CRIB (bus) refits – Edinburgh.	Low Moss work paused Wider prison work increasing
Highlands Project	<p>A relationship has been built with numerous agencies in the highlands area, which identified that the ACES Hubs have primarily fallen into disuse across the country. The idea behind this project was to aid the development of a resilience hub (in partnership with local Public Health) which, rather than concentrating on the negative aspects of trauma, highlighted the positive and the strength of the trauma-informed approach locally. This work has been paused primarily due to the covid impact on travel. As an alternative, a kick-starter, the VRU will do a second pilot of the SMART programme in the highlands as a way of supporting trauma-informed practices in post covid environment and continuing some of the momentum lost in the first half of 2020.</p> <p>In partnership with PPCW, local Policing and local services, including health and education, the group are looking at harnessing multiple agency delivery hubs in the Caithness area. The progress on this has been slow as it has been challenging for services to align resources to address the myriad of challenges. The VRU will continue to work at a strategic level to influence the development of the hub.</p>	Change of focus now morphed into the prospective Caithness delivery
You Decide Programme	<p>The programme ran within the G20 group and worked with 6-8 young people every week. This work was by the local police, lived experience speakers, and Darren McGarvey (Loki) all came and shared their experience with the group of young people. Six young people stayed the course and have significantly reduced their offending behaviour.</p> <p>To coincide with this, the team also trained and worked with the G20 staff to increase their capabilities. They were focussing on areas such as an understanding of trauma and the importance of boundaries. As a result, G20 has changed their operational practices and employs specialist youth workers with experience in dealing with complex groups.</p>	Complete

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	<p>As the groups closed down due to covid – concerns, the young people themselves requested that the groups continued virtually as they wanted the contact and the safe space to listen and talk.</p> <p>The programme was also adapted to work with service providers to enable them to understand the trauma-informed principles that sat behind the approach. Feedback from this training was extremely positive from the agencies involved.</p>	
<p>Help the Helpers (previously known as SMART)</p>	<p>SMART is based on an approach in China where psychological support was provided for those dealing with trauma caused by epidemics (SARS). This approach is designed to help the helpers deal with their trauma and issues caused by unusual traumatic circumstances such as a global pandemic. It was adapted for the Scottish context by the VRU. It is a trauma-informed relationship-building module using a trauma-informed approach to aid recovery.</p> <p>The initial pilot took place in Glasgow North in the summer of 2021 with 12 attendees from organisations working in the area, both statutory and third sector (Aberlour children’s charity, Differabled Scotland. High park Primary School, Partick Thistle Trust, North United Communities, NG Homes, Possilpark Baby Foodbank, Springburn parish Church, G20).</p> <p>These individuals held positions throughout their organisations, from management to support workers.</p> <p>The initial organisations who participated in the programme have organically formed three training teams working together to deliver the training to their organisations and clients. The joint working was not anticipated as an initial outcome. However, analysis of the training indicated that bonding that occurred during the sessions resulted in bringing people and organisations together.</p> <p>Feedback from the training delivered from the initial group trained has been very positive, and the recipients were very engaged and found the training extremely beneficial. With this training beginning to cascaded further afield, we will be able to provide a richer evaluation of its effectiveness in 2021/22</p> <p>The programme was cascaded to 3 regional delivery teams in the North (Dundee), East (Edinburgh) and Ayrshire, where the local VRU delivery lead partnered with a local service to form a training team. The training will be delivered where required throughout 2021/22.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Negotiators Training</p>	<p>In partnership with Police Scotland, the VRU to enhance the National Hostage and Negotiator Training. After establishing potential gaps in the training, the VRU explored with PS the introduction of elements from COSCA counselling training and the NES Trauma Training framework. A further dialogue will continue to explore the opportunities available to collaborate to review and develop a ‘Trauma’ Module for Negotiators.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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Workstream 4: Community Approaches	Summary	Status
<p>Adverse Community Experiences</p>	<p>2020/21 was a challenging year for any community work covid forced people indoors and into social isolation/seclusion. However, it also presented an opportunity to engage with some of the most vulnerable and work on the ground services still operating. Working with organisations including Spirit of Springburn, G20 and Lambhill provided the stable ground to listen, assess and develop responses.</p> <p>The VRU worked with organisations and services large and small to create networks of support to share resources and specialisms.</p> <p>There were multiple successes, including “help the helpers”, the boxing and mindfulness club (G20) the development of the You Decide Programme support those helping young people.</p> <p>However, three key areas underline the development. The groundwork for all three programmes has been carried out in 2020/21 to enable go-live dates in early Q1 2021.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assets programme – Springburn area – a C2 approach Groundwork carried out on the relationship-building between services and local communities. Focusing on relationship building and developing a sense of trust and coherence 1. PI programme – The Peer Inclusion programme is a partnership with Glasgow North Social Work to support some of the most complex young people and their families away from the chaos and more positive outcomes. 2. You Decide Team* – Community Navigator. Based on the learning from other ‘Navigator’ models, the You Decide Team will support those affected by violence. This service will deal with the most vulnerable people in the Glasgow North area and the network of services available. In preparation for the go-live date, the service has developed relationships with service providers across the whole community. As a result, there is a feeling that there is a real need for a service like the You Decide Team (Community Navigator) in the area. <p>* The You Decide Team is not the same as the You Decide Project. The processes and practices observed within the YDP have been integrated into working practices alongside the trauma-informed person-centred approach of navigation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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The Crib	<p>The Bus was used during the COVID-19 crisis as a rallying point, storage and office for the collection and delivery of food parcels, sandwich bags and pre-prepared meals. The East Lothian SIP also used it as a hub and focal point for individuals in crisis.</p> <p>During the year, the Bus was pivoted to assist in the development and deployment of a complimentary education programme to work with young people who were an immediate risk due to being absent from the school/education system (COVID). Heavy Sound began working with small groups and individuals to provide them with 'place' and activities.</p> <p>First Bus have agreed and identified 2nd Bus. HMP Edinburgh has agreed to provide refit facilities and workforce to develop the prison population. It was delayed due to COVID-19 closing prison estate and restricting resources/services. In partnership with the broader Crib team, a planning session took place to identify the wider Community outcomes for Edinburgh and Lothians.</p>	Ongoing
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Workstream 5: One Community	Summary	Evaluation & Reporting
Charity Creation	<p>The first board meeting was held Q3 2020, and the content of its first meetings aimed at outlining and establishing the aims, objectives and strategic vision for the charity moving forward.</p> <p>Since then, the charity has launched a website, applied for funding (youth workers) and sought to open a bank account.</p> <p>The VRU will provide continued support whilst this charity is in its fledgling stages.</p>	On going
Young People	<p>Mental Health issues were prevalent pre-COVID; however, during this time, with additional financial struggles, being unable to leave their home, lack of contact with family (due to no internet), job insecurity, falling behind in education, racism, etc., people's mental health had been significantly impacted on during Lockdown. Within the BAME community, discussing mental health is not routinely done, so reaching out for help can be difficult.</p> <p>In partnership with Strathclyde University, One Community has enabled research into the barriers experienced in the BAME community to get past the application stage because of their "name".</p>	On Going

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	<p>One Community Scotland worked with relevant agencies to ensure that young people received the support they need, including the Mental Health Foundation, SAMH, and other similar support providers.</p> <p>To address the issue of young people dropping out of mainstream education but not into work or other education. One Community worked with skills development Scotland to access employers actively seeking modern apprenticeships and technical skills such as CV building and interview skills.</p> <p>In partnership with FORWARD UK, we trained six young women to give them leadership skills, extending to more young women in 2021/22.</p> <p>We are in planning with BBC Children in Need to develop a programme; Young Black Lives, and we will be putting young boys into this training (leadership development and mentorship programme) to be delivered in 2021</p>	
Domestic Abuse	<p>As with the community in general, there has been an increase in Domestic Abuse during COVID. Historically, within the BAME community, there has been a reluctance by some to report issues to the police. During COVID, One Community Scotland, provided reassurance for people to contact the police. One Community Scotland also produced Domestic Abuse leaflets containing information on where to get help. These leaflets were printed in several languages.</p> <p>Throughout the Covid crisis, One Community has actively maintained contact with their clients to ensure that they were aware of the relevant information and support available during the COVID crisis. In addition, we circulated anonymised emergency contact detail to our most vulnerable clients.</p> <p>http://www.svru.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/One-Community-Scotland-Domestic-Violence-Covid-19-Digital-Resource.pdf</p> <p>Disturbingly it is being highlighted that there may be an increase in domestic abuse from teenage children on their parents as the conditions imposed by Lockdown impacted the family and relationship dynamics. These incidents were not generally reported to services for various reasons but mainly due to a fear of their children being taken into care or their child getting a criminal record.</p> <p>Assessment of the families and the young people involved have indicated significant trauma and incidences of depressions and other mental health disorders. Working with GPs and support agencies, we are trying to improve the safety of all involved.</p>	On Going
Covid Racism	<p>By providing the support and advocacy required for families, we can ensure that the correct service takes the appropriate action.</p>	Ongoing

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Park Inn Incident	This was a hugely traumatic and highly publicised event with major implications for the asylum-seeking community and the BAME community in general. One Community was at the forefront of the response offering support and helped the families and individuals caught up in the incident and reassurance to the broader community. By providing outreach and calming the fears of many people caught up in the situation, One Community built relationships with those affected by the events.	Complete
Poverty	<p>Due to a significant number of the BAME community working in the 'Gig Economic' (taxi drivers, Deliveroo, etc.), and its subsequent collapse due to Covid-19. This resulted in families struggling to pay bills, provide food, etc. This gave additional stress on top of the fact that they were reluctant to step out of their home because they had a higher risk of infection of COVID.</p> <p>One Community Scotland's Community Champions in partnership with STV Appeal and Cash for Kids were able to provide food vouchers and delivered food to vulnerable families.</p> <p>In summary, the number of funds raised: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STV Appeal £4000.00 • Cash for Kids £5050.00 • Children's Aid Scotland £500.00 • JMA Trust £3000.00 • Youthlink £2500.00 <p>One community is actively supporting 340 families in the Glasgow area, and the impact of Covid-19 has intensified the support required with families living in poverty and little knowledge on how to access the wider support available.</p>	Ongoing
Christmas Appeal 2020	The 2020 Christmas appeal saw the delivery of 1675 gift bags kindly donated by local community members; these bags made sure that so over 600 families were able to provide their children with a little festive cheer at a time when everyone is struggling from the effects of the pandemic.	Complete

Workstream 6: Bystander Approaches	Summary	Status
MVP Schools – a gender-based violence primary	The VRU pioneered programme is being delivered across Scotland by Education Scotland. The VRU remains the primary contact for the MVP programme and other bystander approaches in Scotland. While we are not	On-going

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prevention programme	responsible for the overall delivery of the programme, we have communicated our willingness to support the delivery in these challenging times.	
Bystander Youth Football	During 2020/21, engagement with football at both a professional and the grassroots level was curtailed due to covid. There was some engagement with Hamilton Academicals FC to support staff who have engaged with young people in the community who have significant trauma. This often leads to poor behaviour when in the guardianship of the club. There is also the matter of engagement with the parents of these children. The traditional response has been punishment by withdrawal or isolation of the programme. The VRU engagement will seek to widen the responses available and make them more trauma-informed. This programme was ready to commence when COVID restrictions were widened in October, with a review to take place once the restrictions are lifted in 2021.	Paused During 2020/21 however refreshed in 2021/22
Bystander Licensing	During Q3, the training materials were refreshed, discussions were held with the licensing teams to secure dates etc.	Ongoing
Bystander Workplace	Previously delivered Bystander Training received some resistance from a section of Government representatives. The reporter revisited this in alignment with workplace requirements and discussion with Unions and SG Representatives. Dialogue has led to a Pilot Session covering relationship-based practice, which incorporates an awareness of the Bystander Approach. The evaluation of the pilot session with a selection of individuals will determine its fitness for purpose. Should the Pilot evaluate well, promote and maintain self-sufficiency, Train the Trainer Sessions will be developed with identified individuals to disseminate and imbed the Relationship-Based Practice throughout the Scottish Government.	Ongoing
Ask Support Care (ASC) delivered in partnership with the VRU & MAV	<p>The VRU is currently reviewing Bystander materials in this area to adapt if necessary.</p> <p>The initial programme was rightly survivor-centric and should remain so. However, there is an opportunity to adapt the approach and expand the training to use the principles of the Bystander approach and other theories of change to try to effect change on those whose behaviour is abusive. This will be initially focused around on areas such as coercive control. Several organisations have expressed an interest in this approach as a supplementary to other practices that concentrate on the survivor.</p> <p>MAV will maintain ownership of the original ASC programme, and the VRU will continue to work on a new perpetrator focused programme. The idea is to co-create (with young people) an innovative group work programme aimed at early intervention for young people engaging in youth clubs. The focus would be on psycho-education and a strength-based approach to healthy /unhealthy relationships and inclusive of self-esteem and self-worth focus to improve the resilience and sense of self of young people who are engaging in harmful sexual behaviours. This approach is supported by Safelives and received warmly from broader survivor services, including Scottish Women's Aid. Whilst this programme is not strictly a Bystander programme, it was</p>	On-going under review

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	born out of a need to be more specialist in supporting change in those perpetrating negative behaviours and attitudes.	
NKBL Support	Through the VRU Glasgow North (Echo) project and our working relationship with G20, NKBL commissioned some development work into how the best peer-based education and lived experience can be combined. Consequently, the VRU and local partners worked with the organisation Catch the Light to help shape the programme.	Ongoing

Workstream 7: Regional Development	Summary	Status
Dundee Recovery Mobile App and Website	Dundee currently has a hard copy 'roadmap' identifying support services and 3rd sector organisations within the City. Working collaboratively with Dundee Parish Nurses and Queens Nursing Institute Scotland (QNIS), the SVRU has assisted in bringing a digital mobile App of the Dundee Recovery Roadmap to the City. Now available on both Android and Apple platforms, the App is being utilised by service providers and service users and their families to identify and obtain the help they need across a range of vulnerabilities. Recent additions to the App scheduled are all of the IEP sites in Dundee and all organisations that currently provide Naloxone. Work continues to introduce other functionality to the App, with several other local authority areas citing interest in it.	Ongoing
Dundee: Collaborative Outreach Team	<p>Cath has been uppermost in developing a collaborative outreach team to Dundee, based within the local Lochee Hub and working alongside statutory and third sector partners. A model similar to the VOW team (deployed in Edinburgh) is the aim, and with the delivery partner being a local charity, 'positive steps' (similar to Aid and Abet).</p> <p>In collaboration with Positive Steps, a charitable homeless outreach organisation based in Dundee, the SVRU supports and assists with developing an overdose intervention aide-memoire and associated E-learning resource named START NOW. The toolkit, once complete, aims to help those staff working in frontline areas across a range of health and social care services in Dundee. Currently, work is ongoing to adapt the toolkit to one that could be also be used by PSoS officers. The idea is that every professional who comes into contact with someone at risk of drug death can give a brief intervention that provides harm reduction advice and signposting for the more comprehensive health and social issues that are often interlinked with substance use.</p>	Ongoing

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<p>Dundee: HMP Perth Prison</p>	<p>An initial meeting has taken place with the Governor and his senior management team to explore some resilience and trauma training for staff – this is a development of the project detail earlier under ‘Low Moss’. The prison is also interested in replicating the CRIB bus utilising a former Royal Bank of Scotland mobile banking vehicle. The governor is also keen to explore an initiative with inmates centred around breaking the cycle of domestic abuse/educating perpetrators.</p> <p>Following the Senior Management Team meeting at HMP Perth and engagement with the staff, there are apparent gaps in care for prisoners on remand. Evidence suggests that prisoners on remand and released with no support only to find existing assistance they did have now cut off go on to re-offend and/or become involved in drug misuse, leading to acquisitive/violent crime. This is similar to the aims of the Community Navigator project in Ayrshire, and again ‘Positive Steps’ are involved in this development. They intend to employ at least one outreach worker to undertake this work in the not too distant future.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>Dundee: Provision of Naloxone to Remand Prisoners on release</p>	<p>As part of a general discussion with Perth Prison about potential VRU work, the subject of Naloxone to remand prisoners on release as part of the overall care and wellbeing strategy for individuals was raised by those attending. AS OUTLINED ABOVE, the VRU involvement is taking 15 years of public health experience and applying it to the issues facing Dundee at present. The links between drug-taking activity and violence are long-established, and any move to reduce the first will reduce the latter. These developments also fit with the output sought by Police Scotland when seconding Inspector Lannen.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>Dundee: Influence</p>	<p>Through the Violence Prevention Board run by the local Division, links with local policing have been maintained. The public health approach is advocated throughout, encouraged through various meetings that have taken place with local community policing teams, and establishing connections to partners within the Third Sector locally—strengthening our approach to prevention, aiming to change the narrative!</p> <p>Highlighting preventative initiatives that have brought significant benefits elsewhere for discussion and consideration and encouraging dialogue around such initiatives, such as campus officers, Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP), Heartstone (previously mentioned above). By working as part of the Protecting People Team and forging links with Community Safety & Justice Team, providing information/updates/advice through the Executive Board. The continued collaboration with SVRU and PPCW regarding new projects around prevention and intervention and supporting existing work locally. Acting as a conduit, the work continues to explore planting national SVRU projects within the Division and exporting creative initiatives from Tayside to other Police Scotland areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Violence Prevention Workshops</p>	<p>The initial prevention workshops were paused (initially due to covid) and laterally whilst new ‘partnership’ arrangements were being developed with Police Scotland PPCW. PPCW is the new name for Safer Communities</p>	<p>Refocused – in partnership with PPCW</p>

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	at Police Scotland seeking VRU advice and direction to deploy a more trauma-informed and Public Health approach to policing across the country.	
North Ayr Hub	<p>The VRU began working in the Wallacetown area of Ayr in Jan 2021. In the first few months of the project, the team has been assembled from various agencies and services. The community dialogue has begun, and the C2 assets development training has been arranged.</p> <p>Presentations delivered to Elected Members, Community Justice Ayrshire and during the first meeting of the CPP Strategic Delivery Partnership.</p> <p>Outline agreement for the direction of travel – broader partnership aims to be signed off at next SDP meeting. Representation made to maximise the community and third sector voice at the SDP – ongoing discussions with ‘Voluntary Action South Ayrshire’ to develop these links.</p> <p>This work is beginning to pick up the pace, and we will likely see significant outputs/outcomes from this project in 2021/22 and beyond.</p>	Ongoing
Proposed Caithness Hub	The VRU conducted numerous local and strategic level meetings regarding the creation of a Multi-agency hub in Caithness. Despite the overwhelming support in principle, it has proven to be more challenging than expected to establish. This work will continue throughout 2021/22.	Ongoing

Workstream 8: Other	Summary	Evaluation & Reporting
Advocacy & Communications	<p>All members of the VRU continue to engage with services and the broader public at all levels, from small community meetings (socially distant zoom meetings) to larger strategic meetings with heads of service(s). members of the VRU have also spoken at many conferences, provided lectures to trainee teachers, nurses, criminologists etc.</p> <p>The VRU was involved in various conferences and seminars ranging from discussions on public policy, violence prevention and lived experience to highlight a few.</p> <p>BBC Panorama broadcast “How Scotland Cut Violent Crime” in July 2020</p> <p>The VRU broadcast several live stream conversations early in the pandemic with thousands of views we heard from Homeboy creator Father Greg Boyle and the author of “Young Team” Graeme Armstrong.</p>	ongoing

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	Integral members of the Hope Collective and the Poverty Avengers	
CPD(s)	All training was moved to an online platform. This significantly impacted the resources available to develop and run CPDs.	ongoing
Targeted Marketing Campaign 2021	<p>In early 2021 (subject to procurement), the VRU will launch a targeted social campaign. Through direct social media marketing, we will target specific demographic and geographic profiles with messages and support through either community navigators (Glasgow North only) or through a web portal to help navigate people to the support they need. The concept is currently under development and will be fully developed and deployed in Q4.</p> <p>Due to delays with the new procurement process, this has delayed this programme by at least two months. Contracts were expected to be in place before the end of Q4. However, it is now more likely to be launched in Q1/Q2 2021</p>	Ongoing - delayed
Research	<p>The VRU is supporting several external research projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knife Imagery – Strathclyde Uni A two stage study examining the impact of weapon imagery on young people living in areas effected by violence and secondly examine the impact of the media portrayal in affecting different different demographics. 2. Schools based knife interventions – Manchester Uni (under review by prospective funders) An examination of various school based programmes to try and identify what works and why in reducing weapon carrying and use. MRC proposal to be submitted in Jan 2021 3. The Public Health Approach lessons from Scotland – SCCJR & London School of Economics An examination of the public health approach in Scotland and how this approach has impacted upon practice in and out with Scotland (London) 4. MVP Implementation Study – Strathclyde Lessons learned from the Strathclyde MVP study and how this can be adapted into best practice for implementation. Project ongoing but delayed due to difficulties in accessing schools and teachers- will provide update when available <p>Internal evaluations community/custody Navigator, You decide, Crib and SMART</p> <p>Evidence Review – Preventing Youth Violence – Published by Scottish Government</p>	Ongoing

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5-year strategy	<p>Throughout 2020/21, the VRU developed a new five-year plan/strategy. This was a key development as it will act as an enabler for future work and help the newly formed Governance Board to discuss the progress and future direction of the VRU.</p> <p>To enable transparency of delivery and achieve prospective outcomes, the Business Case 2021/22, project updates and Quarterly returns to the Scottish Government/Board will be aligned to the key actions identified within the strategy.</p> <p>The consultation process took longer than expected however the strategy will be ready for launch from Summer 2021</p>	Ongoing
Weapon Use and Violence In Scotland	<p>Due to the recent recorded rise in weapon seizure in Scotland without a similar increase of violent offences being recorded, the VRU examined the reasons behind this rise. It appears to have been generated from new recording practices at Police Scotland and the accuracy of the organisation's crime recording practices. Moreover, many of these offences are recorded within schools, creating an impression that there is a specific problem of weapon carrying and violence in our school campuses. Our preliminary research shows that many of these 'weapons' are articles such as school bags and plastic bottles and that a false narrative may, in fact have been created.</p> <p>In partnership with Police Scotland, the VRU is developing a detailed assessment of Scotland's current picture of violence. This in-depth research conducted by the Analyst Performance Unit and the VRU will synergise policing and partnership data to provide evidence of the current picture, identify emergent trends and assess the impact of Covid-19 as we move through the pandemic and into either recovery and/or the new normal. With special consideration to the young people and violence, weapons and repeat victims the research will also help to support</p>	Ongoing

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SCHEDULE 3

NARRATIVE BREAKDOWN

Organisation: Violence Reduction Unit (Police Scotland)

Bank details: SC 60 70 80 A/C 10019510

Programme: Violence Reduction Unit

Total agreed for 2020-2021: £952,750.00

Latest forecast of expenditure of grant for: £912,250

Grant claimed to date: £908498.28

Completed by: S38(1)(b)

Position: Admin Officer

Contact Details: S30(c) @scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Date:

Items of Expenditure

Please list in the table below all discrete items of expenditure relevant to the above period and the type of documentary evidence that has been submitted to substantiate each amount.

A	B	C	D
Item	Amount (£)	Paid Invoice [Y/N]	Other (please specify, e.g. certificate of payment in kind)
Salary Costs	£ 711,602.00	Y	
Invoice Costs £167,000.00			
Workstream 1, Navigator, Kilmarnock	£0		
Workstream 2, Desistance	£45,000.00	Y	Salary Costs

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Workstream 3, Trauma Practices	£5,300.00		Cumulative Training and Development costs
Workstream 4, Community Approaches	£8,500.00	Y	The Crib
Workstream 5, One Community	£17,000.00	Y	Salary cost
Workstream 6, Project, Dundee, Edin, Ayr	£39,500.00		Project Area spend
Operational	£28,000.00		Includes Travel, events, general office equipment/printing stationery/Training
Research	£5,000.00	Y	Implementation research MVP
Community Training	£10,000.00	Y	Cumulative Training Costs
2019-20 MAV Costs	£7,500.00	Y	2019-20 costs
Crimestopper	£1,200.00	Y	As agreed with SG Communitive Safety
Marketing	30,000.00	N	Delayed Invoice Payment
Strategy Document	10,000.00	N	Delayed Invoice Payment
TOTAL GRANT CLAIMED	£ £908,498.00		Grant claimed total £908,498.00 plus carry forward of £42,500.00 Returned £40,500.00

* Note the total should add up to the total expenditure claimed for the period.

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