



Salford Violence Reduction Unit Community Led Support

Year three
Six month report
2024



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Introduction

The community-led approach to violence reduction, means the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) works closely with communities across the city region to understand the strengths, challenges, and needs of the communities and determine how local investments will be made.



**VIOLENCE
REDUCTION
UNIT**

**DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR
GREATER MANCHESTER'S COMMUNITIES**

Several boroughs across the city-region have received funding from the VRU as part of its investment in community-led programmes, outlined in Greater Manchester's Serious Violence Action Plan.

They commissioned 10GM to deliver the programme of work around community-led approaches. 10GM is a joint venture to support the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in all ten boroughs of Greater Manchester.

The key focus of the VRU programme is ensuring that young people and stakeholders in a place come together, focussing on a strength-based approach in the pilot sites to identify what is going on, what is not happening and to develop ideas from within the community.

In Salford the programme is led by Salford CVS who work with Public Sector and VCSE sector partners to deliver the programme. We maximise the contribution of the VCSE sector in leading a series of place-based responses to violence affecting young people in those areas most in need of help and in achieving better outcomes for residents in those communities.

Outcomes

The outcomes we want to see for young people living in Ordsall, Weaste, Seedley, Pendleton and Charlestown as result of this work include:

- ★ **Improved aspirations**
- ★ **Improved access to activities and opportunities**
- ★ **Improved mental and physical wellbeing**
- ★ **Improved mental and physical wellbeing**
- ★ **Improved sense of pride, respect and belonging in their community**

The local delivery partnership in Salford has the following priorities

- ★ Mentoring programmes and positive role models for young people and families at risk or vulnerable to serious youth violence and criminal exploitation
- ★ Improved sense of pride, respect and belonging in their community and improved community cohesion
- ★ Youth work activities aimed at engagement of young people at risk or vulnerable to serious youth violence (ages 10-14 and 14+)

Salford CVS and local delivery partners have completed the first six months of year three delivery in October 2024. The partnership includes the following organisations and activities:

Organisation	Activities
Innit 4 Young People Charity (I4YPC)	Delivering three sessions per week for young people, with a focus on art and entrepreneurship. Alongside the creative pursuits, the young people are taught how to source materials, keep stock spreadsheets, budget for new materials etc. so they can build their business acumen. They are also provided with customer service skills and general retail skills, such as displays and keeping the space tidy through the Innit Creative Hub gallery and shop.

Organisation	Activities
<p>Salford Foundation</p>	<p>Provide weekly one to one mentoring sessions for a maximum of six months through their Steer project with young people aged 8-17 who have an identified risk of youth violence, or if there are concerns around anti-social behaviour and negative peer pressure. Support involves core interventions including goal setting, safety mapping, healthy relationships, exploitation, weapon carrying, anger management, amongst others as well as engagement in positive activities. Whilst core interventions are delivered with all young people the rest of the support is bespoke to each young person including location of sessions and activities.</p>
<p>Oasis Hub Media City</p>	<p>Youth work activities for young people aged 10 to 16 years aimed at engagement of young people at risk or vulnerable to serious youth violence. The Friday Night Youth Club is a safe space and outlet for young people to improve their wellbeing and aspirations for the future. The aim is to stop negative cycles, with young people developing new skills and confidence and having more control over their behaviour to be the best version of themselves.</p>
<p>Mancunian Way</p>	<p>Provide a street based detached youth service, delivering workshops aimed to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. The teams go out twice a week in the youth vehicle driving to various neighbourhoods in the area, parking up and engaging with young people.</p> <p>This work can be mentoring, offering informal guidance and support, signposting young people to service, art-based projects, sport, and games. Or it can simply just be a chat and a brew – somewhere and someone for the young people to go to.</p>

Organisation	Activities
<p>Salford Community Leisure</p>	<p>Friday Night youth club, originally offering a sport and swimming session however following the fire at Clarendon Leisure Centre they moved to Langworthy cornerstone and provide a drop-in session for young people. This provides a safe space for young people aged between 8-16yr olds to come and engage in positive activities and conversations. The young people can participate in gaming and arts and craft activities. Gaming includes the PS5, Nintendo Switch and the oculus headsets. Arts and crafts activities tend to be base it on a theme, for example, the young people discussed aspirations through Olympic themed pieces.</p>
<p>Swinton Lions</p>	<p>Rugby, healthy eating and lifestyles based delivery taking place within Primary schools in Langworthy and Ordsall targeting years 5 and 6, with an additional after school session with a focus on those at risk of offending or already within the Youth Justice or Police System.</p>

Partnership working

The delivery partnership is working well with members working closely together and engaging with a range of young people across the different sessions. All providers have visited each other's sessions and actively promote these to the young people they are working with. The delivery partners work flexibly in response to need and identified risks across the areas for example Mancunian Way have been to different anti-social behaviour hotspot areas, as directed by the neighbourhood management and the police.

There is a longstanding partnership between Salford Community Leisure and Oasis Hub as they deliver holiday provision throughout the year. Because of the VRU funding Salford Community Leisure have been able to bring Oasis youth workers to some sessions to deliver additional youth work at their Friday night provision. Salford foundation through their Steer programme have supported young people in attending Oasis Hub on a Friday evening and Salford Community Leisure activities.

Individual Delivery Partner Overview

I4YPC

I4YPC have delivered 41 sessions which were attended by 25 young people. Participation has been consistent and most young people have attended 100% of the time. It has been challenging to recruit young people for several reasons, one of which being our base within Quayside means that young people are often escorted out before they can even reach the hub due to issues around anti-social-behaviour.



Outcomes

Five of the young people (female) were all known at Quayside for committing various acts of Anti-Social Behaviour and shoplifting. Since starting the project, they have not been shoplifting, are much calmer around the centre and have started to make better choices around their friendship groups. They are using their manners and have not been seen on CCTV for the wrong reasons since May 2024! There has been an overall reported reduction in anti-social behaviour and shoplifting offences taking place since the project began. This is recognised by the Neighbourhood management team and raised in the wider community meetings, we have created a safe space for young people therefore generating a sense of belonging and ownership.

Case Study - M

'M' came to us via his social worker, he is in foster care with a range of complex needs. When he first came to the sessions, he was shy, socially anxious and continuously wore headphones. Now, he is a valued member of the core group who initiates discussions and helps his peers if they are struggling (he's a gifted artist!), he loves guidance and wants to improve.

He has also now started to independently attend the session and make his own way back home using public transport (previously he was picked up and dropped off by his carer).

Case Study - K

When 'K' first joined the project, he was dressed in his 'armour' - a beanie hat, hood, sunglasses, quilted jacket and gloves. These were not removed throughout the session. He spoke to his peers and the facilitators albeit monosyllabically. He was very focused on painting a mandala but was very hard on himself often saying things like "I don't like it" and "It's not good enough"; with encouragement and some guidance he was able to finish the painting to a standard he was pleased with.

As the weeks have progressed 'K' has dropped his 'armour' and now attends sessions dressed in a T-shirt and tracksuit pants. His personal hygiene and appearance have improved over the weeks and his keyworker explained that 'K' was 10 minutes late to one session because he "...wanted to wash his hair". 'K' now also engages in meaningful discussions with the group sharing his thoughts on subjects like 'do you think aliens exist' - he is able to listen and articulate his thoughts during these conversations. He has also recently started to bring his own items (trainers) to the sessions so he can paint them - showing pride in his work - and he is thinking about the sessions during the week.

Oasis Hub MediaCityUK

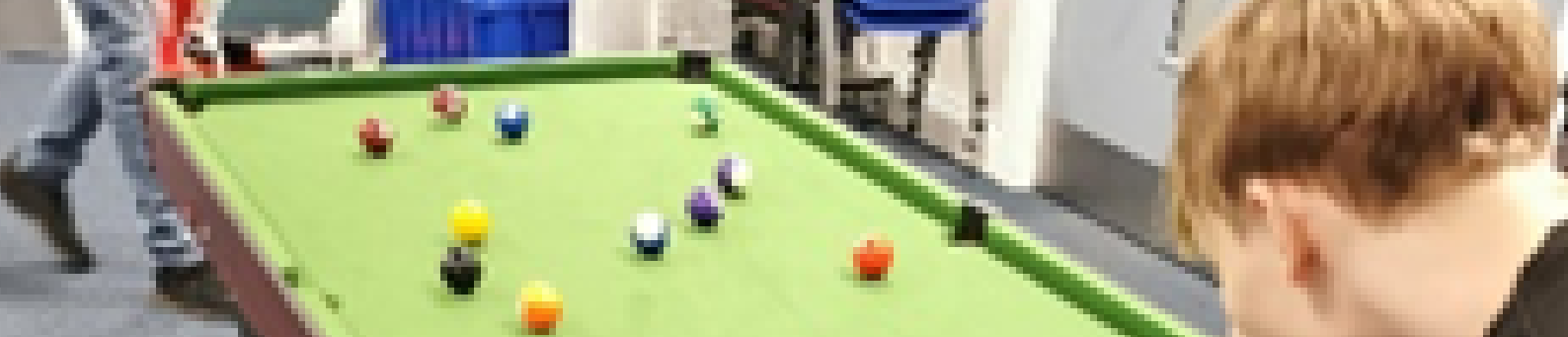
The Friday Night Youth Club has delivered 26 sessions which have engaged 128 unique individuals, 54 of whom are new to the project.



Outcomes and feedback

The young people who are consistent with attendance have grown in confidence. Their ownership of the space and feeling comfortable in the space shines through. Some of the young people who have taken on responsibility and expressed an interest in youth leadership have been amazing with providing support to obtain feedback from the young people who attend.

"I enjoy coming to Youth Club because it gives me a space to go on Friday evenings and we get to play football. I enjoy being around the staff, Nathan and Katie are great and always on hand to help. We get to use the youth club as our own place. Dave plays football with us as well as the SCL coaches. I enjoy working in the tuck shop and being part of the young leaders to help run the youth club. We have a great time cooking food which gets served to everyone. We usually make pizzas, hotdogs, homemade chips, and cakes."



Case Study - LM

LM has been attending the Youth Club for multiple years now. They have also attended our lunch club, Rainbow Room, and set up a Dungeons & Dragons club within our academy-based youth work provision. LM has always been a consistent participant; they enjoy the social aspect and really developed their confidence in relationships with peers. LM has recently left Oasis after obtaining their GCSE results in August. They have expressed interest in continuing as a volunteer. LM is now on track to become an official Hub Volunteer. They have mentioned it will be useful for them when they become a History Teacher.

Salford Community leisure

Following a fire in the original venue 'Clarendon Leisure Centre', Salford Community Leisure moved the delivery to Langworthy cornerstones. In total, they delivered 17 sessions (10 at Clarendon and six at Langworthy Cornerstone), engaging 94 individuals (68 at Clarendon and 26 at Cornerstone).



Outcomes and feedback

From the beginning of the engagement there have been many positive changes in behaviour. Discussions and work around respect has been identified and both staff and young people have worked on mutual respect. Young people respect each other, staff and equipment. There are many positive conversations on making friends, school and weekend plans building up links away from the activities.

One young person is particularly keen to attend as his opportunities to attend activities elsewhere have been restricted due to his behaviour. He is happy attending the centre as he isn't just playing outside on Friday nights. Through using an externally booked facility, which is open to the public, the receptionist and worker at the Cornerstone have been very happy and positive that we are using the space. Staff have enjoyed having conversations with the young people as they have entered the youth activities and conversations help build some positive perceptions from residents. Parents have commented they are glad their child is attending instead of 'playing out' on the streets especially with the weather getting darker.

Case Study

Boy 1 is a ten-year-old male who attends the Cornerstone Friday youth club regularly. He is one of six siblings, with a new baby being born and lives in the Weaste area. The session he attends is 6-8pm, he found out about Friday nights because he attends one of SCL's other sessions in the week.

He has expressed some challenges in the transition to high school and has seemed very overwhelmed at times. Whilst joining the intervention, he has had time to interact with friends from his former primary school as well as using the opportunity to build relationships with newer young people. The provision has been a safe space for him to 'chill out', providing him with the opportunity to escape the busy environment at home at the same time as having the time to talk about his week.

Salford Foundation

Salford Foundation have delivered one to one mentoring sessions with seven young people aged 8-17 who have been identified as being at risk of youth violence.



Two young people have completed their sessions with consistent engagement, the other five young people's engagement has been more inconsistent particularly over summer where engagement is trickier without the routine of a school day.

Outcomes and feedback

As a result of the sessions the young people have developed their confidence. For example, one young person would speak about how they were worried about not being able to do things such as succeed in their SATS. In the sessions there were discussions about the ways they could succeed. It was great to see on our last session when they said 'I can do it! You're right!'

Other young people on the programme have had noticeable improvement managing their emotions and understanding their anger.

Parent Feedback - The programme was brilliant, [young person] made a great connection with the mentor, and they don't usually connect with people. They are now able to manage and discuss their emotions a lot better, which is a change. They are also doing better in school and are no longer getting up and leaving classes or being defiant. They are more confident and enjoyed it so much. I am very thankful for the work that has been done with them, and they will miss having the sessions.

School Feedback – The children on the programme are engaging very well, especially those that do not usually engage. The timings of the sessions are perfect, and it is flexible to work for young people. If a young person does not want it, then Tara will check in on the young people. Tara has blended into the school nicely and it is beneficial to all the young people engaging with the programme as they have a safe space to talk.

Young person Feedback – I really enjoyed all the sessions and being able to go and do things that I usually would not be able to do. I will miss having sessions with you.



Case Study

J was struggling, predominantly in school, due to being often violent and aggressive towards staff and peers. J's mum shared that J has Autism and ADHD and is extremely interested in Lego. When the mentor told J that they would bring Lego to their sessions J got very excited and said they were looking forward to starting the following week.



Mum did also explain that J's older brother is currently in prison and J is aware of this. J does not have any other services involved with him but has a strong relationship with Mrs K from school.

Each week with J the mentor looked at interventions that would have a positive impact and J would always enter and leave the sessions with a smile. The early sessions looked at Goal Setting and J's goal was to improve his behaviour in school. The ways J might behave in school now and what the impact it has on others around him was discussed and a step-to-step plan was made on ways for J to control anger and behave better in class to do well going forward.

In most of the sessions there were conversations about anger and ways of managing it. One session looked at what J's 'warning signs' of becoming angry are where. The mentor and J discussed that when J starts to notice these warning signs, to start doing breathing techniques. We also talked about how if J practices these techniques when not angry, it can help to breathe utilise them in the moment. So now in each of the sessions the mentor and J take 10 deep breaths together. The sessions finished looking at anger by talking about the ways it impacts other people such as peers.

In one of the sessions J completed the circle of trust. This showed that J had progressed with their respect for teachers and peers as they had written lots of their names into the inner circle of trust. J and the mentor talked about how the relationships they have with teachers, as well as friends and family, are positive and healthy relationships. J recognises he has a lot of support around him. When speaking to the school staff he would tell the mentor great things about J which is a big change from the original referral.



Swinton Lions

Swinton Lions have delivered three weekly sessions to six cohorts of children, engaging between 20 and 30 children per session.



Outcomes and feedback

Coaches have recorded significantly improved skills, a deeper understanding of health and diet, and successfully playing in full intra-school matches and even refereeing their own sessions.

In weeks one or two many of the children found it difficult to regulate discussion in particularly on a rule disagreement. By week 7/8, children were listening to the designated referee and self-regulating on mass to enable the game to continue and to ensure that appropriate games were played.

Case Study

Within cohort one and two Swinton Lions were able to bring 17 children to a professional game and act as mascots for players before the Swinton Lions v Widnes Vikings game in July. Most of the children don't leave Langworthy on a normal day to day basis, so by engaging directly with the parents and supporting travel needs Swinton Lions were able to get the children out of Salford to spend the day at the professional match in Sale, a 10 mile journey and most came via public transport on a tram. The feedback from the event was extremely positive from the young people and has provided a life-long memory for all.



Mancunian Way

Mancunian Way have delivered a total of 46 sessions engaging a total of 636 young people (167 of whom are new engagements)



Outcomes and feedback

Mancunian Way have spoken to many young people, during discussions, asking what their service has given to them and the feedback has been that they enjoy attending, they feel confident to get involved and have tried new things. Cricket in particular, as many have never played before.

This is a statement from a parent they chatted to on shift (local resident from Fitzwarren Street, Salford M6). “Seeing the Mancunian Van in the community gives reassurance that the kids have something to do, and the kids look forward to it. There isn’t a lot for kids to do around here and they get bored so having this really helps”.

“We welcome this around here; the kids don’t have a lot to do so it’s good they have this as it is in the community and the kids don’t have to pay because money can be a barrier. All these clubs’ kids go to, it costs money, and not all families can afford it”
Statement from a shop keeper in Ordsall:

Marie Shields, Salford City Council Neighbourhood Manager reported a dramatic drop in antisocial behaviour in the specific areas where Mancunian Way deliver. The team have proactively assisted with detached street-based outreach across several neighbourhoods with the central Salford area and are a central part of the local partnership arrangements in helping to tackle youth related antisocial behaviour by offering positive engagement in alternative activities and dialogue with the Mancunian Way team. The outreach delivered by the team is vital in engaging with young people and supporting them as needed and in reducing incidents of youth-related antisocial behaviour, to the benefit of residents and community members.

Case Study

An example of a piece of work undertaken by the team has been in Ordsall, whereby positive relationships have been developed with a large group of young people who were congregating in a residential area and their behaviour was impacting negatively upon residents and people accessing a neighbouring community centre.

As a result of delivering the outreach work, the young people engaged with the Mancunian Way team who made inroads and signposted to alternative provision and support. The wider impact of this work has been positively received by the residents as incidents of antisocial behaviour have been reduced considerably. The Mancunian Way approach has been replicated across other areas of Central Salford with the same positive outcomes.

Focus for the next six months of the project

Over the next six months we will focus on continuing to build and develop the relationships within the delivery partnership. Exploring future funding opportunities is a priority to ensure continuity in delivery, either as a collective or in smaller groups where relevant. We will continue to work closely with the VRU and Manchester Metropolitan University (data collection) Maintaining close links with the community and interested parties. Another area to focus on is creating case studies and documenting positives as we go along. Hopefully culminating in an event at Ordsall Park, one of the identified hotspots for antisocial behaviour, bringing all the partners together.

