

Glossary of terms

VRU/Police related terminology and offerings for young people

VRU Core Principles

Enhancing collaboration through the VRU

The VRU is dedicated to uniting partner agencies to improve collaboration regarding gangs, County Lines, and the related violence. We invest time in exploring the root causes and adopt a trauma-informed approach. We assist in identifying and highlighting individuals, groups, and locations where risks are surfacing.

This allows for a coordinated response to these emerging threats, focusing on support for young people alongside disruption strategies. Furthermore, we aim to equip communities and partnership agencies with safety and guardianship guidance to tackle the known vulnerabilities in their areas, rather than using displacement.

Terms in this document:

- Active Bystander
- Analytical products
- Buddi Tag
- Catch 22 – Intensive mentoring
- CAWNS – Child Abduction Warning Notice)
- Clock It, Check it, Change It
- Complex Adolescent Harm Meetings (CAHM)
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Child Centred Policing Team (CCPT)
- Commando Chef
- Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)
- Commitment Pledges
- Eyes Open Campaign
- Focused Deterrence
- Grip funding
- National Referral Mechanism
- Pol-Ed
- Reachable Moments A&E Navigator Service
- Roadshows
- Safer Knife Replacement Scheme (SKRS)
- Safe Space scheme
- Safer Streets Funding
- Serious Violence Duty
- Serious Violence Toolkit for Schools and Colleges
- Social Skills
- Sports Commissions
- Street Aid
- Violence Reduction Unit
- YEF Toolkit
- Youth Justice Team





Active Bystander

This focuses on the response to violence, how and when to intervene, reflecting some of the principles of contextual safeguarding. The VRU has funded delivery of this training to professionals and supported a 'train the trainer' model to further spread the learning in the area. The principles have also been presented at conferences and events supported by the VRU. The VRU now have Clock it, Check it, Change it Active Bystander poster resources to print in educational areas of locations where young people visit.

Analytical products

The VRU analytical products help to inform Police and partnership decisions. These include the monthly tactical report, scoping for Young Street Groups, providing data to the Serious Violence Duty and the PPP document which helps to identify those at risk of or involved in exploitation.

Buddi Tag

A VRU-funded intervention which provides GPS tracked ankle tags to young people at risk of or involved in exploitation, crime, or violence. The young people voluntarily wear the tags which helps give them a reason to engage less in criminality or risky situations and demonstrate the will to change behaviour. These can be fitted by local police teams and early help/youth justice workers. There is a referral form which must go through the VRU first.

Catch 22

Intensive mentoring. A VRU-funded intervention providing 1:1 support to children and young people under 25 who are at risk of child criminal exploitation or county lines involvement. The support is bespoke and includes protective and preventative measures, close collaboration with the individual's support network, and a holistic, trauma-informed approach. Only in Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone, Medway, Swale and Thanet.

CAWNS – Child Abduction Warning Notice

National notice to safeguard vulnerable children and young people from a person that presents a perceived risk, and to disrupt offending behaviour by those that present the risk

Clock It, Check it, Change It

Stepping in could be as simple as asking someone who is being threatened or being aggressive if they're okay. We want young people to know that they have the power to make a difference. This campaign is not about putting yourself in danger, it's about thinking how safe it is to step in. This is a poster campaign with social media advertising. Wording can be adapted for different scenarios and posters can also be used in workplaces.

Complex Adolescent Harm Meetings (CAHM)

Meetings set up as needed, led by Adolescent Service, focussed on supporting a child or young person facing harm or risk thereof. Attending partners are like those at District Contextual Safeguarding Meetings. The criteria can be found by contacting KCC.

Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual safeguarding recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse, and people outside of parents have a role to play in keeping young people safe.

Child Centred Policing Team (CCPT)

A Kent Police team that focuses on identifying and supporting children and young people at risk of, or engaged in, criminal activity, with the aim of reducing offending. Mainly work in schools but has oversight of under 18's in their district.

Commando Chef

Colour Sergeant Mike Beaton MBE of the Royal Marines Educational Awareness Team works in partnership with the Kent and Medway VRU. Commando Chef comes to events organised by the VRU a few times a year to "Inspire and Educate". Commando Chef's key messages include diversion from crime, the importance of education, food and nutrition, manners, discipline, dangers of weapons on the streets, "a knife is for the kitchen not the streets" and advice on career paths.



Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

These partnerships bring together local agencies to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder, and antisocial behaviour in their communities.

Responsible authorities include the police, fire and rescue services, local authorities, health services, and probation. Normally run from the district council in each area along with county wide separate CSPs.

Commitment Pledges (school or business)

The Commitment Pledge is presented to schools in either a classroom environment or a school assembly and is normally done by the Kent Police Child Centred Policing Team and/or partner agencies.

The business pledge is also rolling out across Kent and Medway including in local and national retail shops, fast-food premises and sports locations.

Eyes Open Campaign

Eyes Open is a dedicated campaign aimed at raising awareness about the growing issue of child criminal exploitation and county lines.

Focused Deterrence

An approach that stems from the idea that 'most serious violence is associated with a small group of people who are themselves very likely to be victims of violence, trauma, and extremely challenging circumstances.'

It is a multi-agency led process of identifying and mapping such groups as networks, and supporting them to desist or reduce risk, via a combination of support, deterrence, and engagement with the wider community or family.

This is run when a Young Street Group is scored and is owned by Police Community Safety Units. Can also be used on high-risk individuals.

Grip funding

This Home Office funding to Police provides a combination of both regular visible patrols in the streets and neighbourhoods (hotspot areas) experiencing the highest volumes of serious violence to suppress violence and provide community reassurance, as well as delivering problem-oriented policing.

National Referral Mechanism

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensuring they receive appropriate support. An NRM referral should always be considered if there are concerns that a child or young adult is being criminally or sexually exploited

Pol-Ed

The Kent and Medway VRU have funded the educational resource 'Pol-Ed'. This makes it free for Kent and Medway education providers.

The aim of Pol-Ed is to keep our children safe through a range of interventions. We want to stop children becoming victims or indeed perpetrators of crime. These interventions are designed to be delivered to children in phases.

The resources are in line with the current Policing Priorities, DfE Curriculum Frameworks and the Ofsted Lines of Enquiry. Pol Ed offers both Police Forces and schools a range of resources.

Reachable Moments A&E Navigator Service

A VRU-funded intervention targeted at young people in A&E because of youth violence, focusing on using the 'reachable and teachable moment' to build engagement and link them into support. Ashford Hospital are covered by KCC ART and Medway Hospital by Medway Council.

Roadshows

Various roadshows across Kent and Medway have been delivered or supported by the VRU and Police CCPT to engage with young people, raise awareness, share information, and gather their feedback.



Safer Knife Replacement Scheme (SKRS)

The VRU are offering this evidence-based scheme to replace pointed kitchen knives and replace them with a safer alternative. The Police or partnership agency can offer the SKRS to eligible households or businesses. This will provide them with a pack of four knives or a single 5" rounded-end kitchen knife, alongside safety advice and guidance. This is in exchange for replacing all the pointed knives.

The VRU are leading the national working group for this and will soon be offering to replace the knives in schools and colleges. Eligibility for the SKRS will be based on the circumstances of the family home, young person and their family/guardian engagement.

Safe Space scheme

A collaborative initiative led by the VRU, developed based on feedback from women and girls about the lack of safe, welcoming places in town centres. Participating businesses receive guidance on how to provide a Safe Space and are identified by a visible sticker. District councils also have their own versions under different names.

Safer Streets Funding

Home Office funding used for evidence-based measures to prevent neighbourhood crime, such as additional CCTV, street lighting, alleygating, and improved security for properties at risk—identified through needs assessments of burglary hotspots and remote locations. The funding also supports Neighbourhood Watch schemes and community-led crime prevention and reporting. Normally led through district councils.

Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty places a statutory requirement on specified statutory authorities to work together to plan to prevent and reduce serious violence including delivering a Serious Violence Strategy.

Serious Violence Toolkit (schools and colleges)

This toolkit has been written to offer ideas and resources to school leaders that will help to prevent violence from occurring, and ways to support young people who have been affected by violence. It emphasises the importance of providing a positive approach to building children's resilience and how to support them with the life skills needed to overcome any adversity they may have experienced or continue to experience.

Social Skills

This VRU-funded initiatives delivers training for PRU staff (co-developed with PRU heads), along with resources and some professional supervision from a clinical psychologist. The training focuses on understanding the drivers of young people's behaviour and supporting them to respond to situations in more balanced and constructive ways.

Sports Commissions (community related)

A VRU-funded intervention delivering multi-sport sessions in targeted communities and at specific times. These sessions aim to provide positive diversion, engage young people, and strengthen protective factors. Coaching opportunities are also included.

Street Aid

Funded by the VRU, this training was delivered to Early Help teams, Police and Youth Workers. It provides information and a toolkit to help teach young people how to respond if someone suffers a knife wound/injury whilst in the community and incorporates generic first aid skills.

Violence Reduction Unit

Units funded by the Home Office in 20 Police Force Areas worst affected by serious violence. They were tasked with using public health principles to tackle the root causes of violence and to lead and co-ordinate a preventative, whole-system approach that reflects the needs of the local area.

This includes four key strands: multi-agency working; data-sharing and analysis; engaging young people and communities; and commissioning (and delivering) evidence-based interventions.



YEF Toolkit

The YEF Toolkit is a free, online resource from the Youth Endowment Fund that provides evidence-based information on different approaches to preventing serious youth violence.

Youth Justice Team (KCC/Medway)

A Kent County Council team that works with children to help rehabilitate them after committing an offence and reduce offending or reoffending.

Youth Justice Team (Police)

The Youth Justice Team (YJT) provide an informed and consistent decision-making process that determines the most appropriate outcome (disposal decision) for young people. These outcomes include Outcome 22, Community Resolution, Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions. The team aims to address offending behaviour and satisfy the needs of victims to reduce the number of young offenders unnecessarily entering the Criminal Justice System, in line with Child Centred Policing strategies.

The new partnership intelligence sharing portal

The police rely on information from the community to understand local and wider issues. Crucial information may fill gaps and link other pieces of information together.

Alongside reporting a crime and telling us about possible terrorist activity, partner agencies and organisations, plus other police forces can share non-urgent information. It is a safe and direct way to provide information which may help with investigations and inform actions.

This includes information that relates to, but is not limited to:

- anti-social behaviour
- child abuse, sexual or criminal exploitation
- community tension
- drugs and county lines
- gang activity
- modern slavery, exploited or trafficked
- sexual offending



Share your
Community
Partnership
Intelligence



****IMPORTANT****

- **Safeguarding concerns** must still follow standard safeguarding procedures.
- **Do not use the portal** to report crime or urgent intelligence. It is not monitored 24/7 and has no dedicated resource.

Alternative reporting routes:

- **999** – For crimes in progress or immediate risk.
- **Live Chat/Online Reporting** – For non-urgent crime or intelligence www.kent.police.uk
- **Crimestoppers 0800 555 111** – For anonymous reporting where source protection is needed.



Reminder – Risk remains with the sender until Kent Police accepts it via the correct route



Kent Fire & Rescue Service



Kent Police

