

SPOTLIGHT

on a safer South Yorkshire

UPDATE

Graham Jones
Head of the
South Yorkshire Violence
Reduction Unit



Hello, and welcome to the latest edition of *Spotlight*, the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit's newsletter. This is our second newsletter of 2023, and our first of the new financial year.

Now that delivery has finished for 2022/23, and we are into 2023/24, we are pressing ahead with our plans for this year's funding, which stands at £2.16m. While this is a fall from last year's budget, it is still a substantial amount of money which we hope will make a real difference in South Yorkshire.

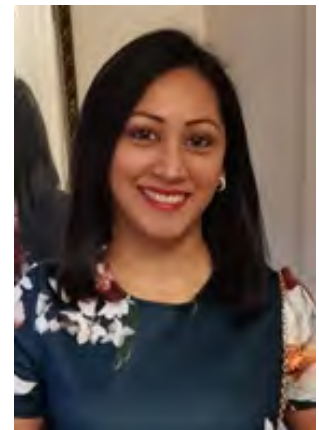
This year, our A&E and Custody Navigator programmes will be continuing. These initiatives engage with people who are in those settings as a result of violence, and try to steer them onto a different path. We have made a long-term commitment to fund these programmes, and the data shows that they are making a difference.

We are also in the process of awarding funding through this year's grant round, the Violence Reduction Fund. This focuses on supporting young people aged 4-25.

Alongside this, work is ongoing with partners around the implementation of the [Serious Violence Duty](#), and in other areas such as our efforts to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls. This will be another busy year for the VRU, and I am confident that we have hit the ground running.

MEET

the team



Neepa Bandyopadhyay

Neepa is the Business Support Assistant of the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit.

She manages the diaries of the VRU team members, organises meetings and events, looks after general administrative work for the VRU team, and assists Graham in his day-to-day work.

Outside of work, Neepa is usually busy with her little girl. She also loves to cook.

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Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence Against Women and Girls has a terrible impact directly on victims, and indirectly on other women and girls who too often do not feel safe in our communities. Tackling this issue remains a priority for the VRU. This means working with partners, organisations, and communities to not just provide support for victims and survivors, but also to tackle the social and cultural attitudes which contribute to Violence Against Women and Girls in the first place.

The Unit has previously supported four engagement events on this issue, most recently a [Knowledge Sharing Event](#) at the end of November, and further supported the development of a South Yorkshire Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership Statement of Intent. This asks organisations to sign up to a shared set of principles to tackle this issue in the county. 28 organisations have signed up to the Statement, which can be viewed [here](#).

The Unit additionally provided grant funding to South Yorkshire organisations aiming to tackle this issue through its [Violence Against Women and Girls Reduction Fund](#), which ran in the 2022/23 financial year. This allowed the Unit to support a number of projects and initiatives aimed at addressing this issue.

In 2023/24, the VRU will be launching two VAWG communications campaigns, focused on positive male role models and behaviours, and the role men can play in tackling this issue.



Violence Reduction Fund 2023

The VRU is in the process of awarding funding through its latest grant funding round, the Violence Reduction Fund 2023.

This focuses on supporting young people aged 4-25, providing positive diversionary activities, role models, and mental health support, with the aim of preventing young people becoming involved in violence.

Full details of successful grant recipients will be published on the VRU website as soon as possible.

Operation Sceptre

From 15th-21st May, the VRU supported Operation Sceptre, a national week of police action to tackle knife crime.

During the week, the VRU supported the operation by visiting key partners, and sharing key messages from South Yorkshire Police regarding efforts to tackle knife crime in South Yorkshire.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).



VRU supports Community Payback anniversary

The VRU has supported the Golden Shovel Community Payback anniversary.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Community Payback scheme, which sees offenders work on projects to pay back to the community for the crimes they have committed. The VRU attended a project in Greasbrough to mark the anniversary.

[Read more.](#)



VRU supports conference on mental health

The VRU recently supported a conference on Mental Health, Abuse and Culture in the Black Community. Held at St Mary's Church on Bramall Lane, the conference was led by Adira, a charity which aims to support mental health in the black community.

[Read more.](#)



Working with education providers and schools

The VRU has partnered with Learn Sheffield to provide education resources to schools across South Yorkshire in an initiative called *Developing Healthy Attitudes*.

VRU funding provided to Barnsley Community Safety Partnership has further supported Yorkshire Mentoring to develop [programmes](#) on issues including child exploitation and Violence Against Women and Girls.



Safe Haven bus launched in Doncaster

The Safe Haven bus was recently launched in Doncaster. This aims to give people on a night out a safe space, with the aim of protecting potentially vulnerable people, particularly women, and helping to reduce violence in the city.

The project is run by Doncaster Council's public health team, and is supported by other organisations, including the VRU and South Yorkshire Police. [Read more.](#)



VRU supports Night Angels initiative in Barnsley

The VRU is supporting the Night Angels initiative in Barnsley.

Set up using VRU funding provided to the Barnsley Community Safety Partnership, the all-female team aims to safeguard vulnerable women and girls on a night out.

[Read more.](#)



VRU distributes radios to licensed premises

The VRU, working with colleagues from Rotherham Council and South Yorkshire Police, has been distributing radios to licensed premises in Rotherham.

This was funded from VRU money provided to the Rotherham Community Safety Partnership, and aims to strengthen co-ordination between venues and improve safety in the local Evening and Night-Time Economy.

