

1 What is Lancashire Violence Reduction Network?

Violent crime cost Lancashire £346 million in 2017-2018, but the human impact is much greater.

This is set against a national picture of increased violence.

Lancashire VRN are working to shift the mind set towards **early intervention and prevention** to facilitate a culture change and embed new approaches to supporting Lancashire communities.

Funded by the Home Office, Lancashire VRN offer:

- Leadership
- A strategy for reducing serious violence
- Strategic coordination of the local response to serious violence
- Support for a multi-agency, public health approach to preventing and tackling serious violence
- A focus on early intervention.

2 Causes of serious violence

The Lancashire VRN needs assessment identified these main causes of serious violence:

- A **challenging experience of education**, training and employment resulting in poor outcomes
- Difficulties within **families and communities**
- **Financial, employment and food insecurity**
- **Substance/alcohol misuse.**

Data shows that homicides and rape are an increasing trend in Lancashire, though knife crime is less prevalent than in other geographical regions.

3 Public perception

A public perception survey showed that:

- Young people feel **drug and substance** misuse is their most significant concern.
- **38% of young people do not feel safe** in their communities at night.

Young people felt that enhanced community provision was the best tactic to reduce violent crime, whilst the majority of adults felt that enforcement and harsher sentencing were the best approaches.

7 Minute Briefing

Lancashire Violence Reduction Network



7 Next steps

You can find out more by visiting our website, here are the key sections:

lancsvrn.co.uk/
lancsvrn.co.uk/resources/
lancsvrn.co.uk/projects/

We're also on Twitter, follow us [@LancsVRN](https://twitter.com/LancsVRN).

6 Membership

Lancashire VRN is made up partners from across public services and the third sector.

On our team we have representatives from youth offending teams, schools and colleges, public health, police, children's social care, probation, community safety partnerships, Lancashire PCC, Lancashire County Council and the NHS.

Through this network, we aim to facilitate a system-wide **trauma-informed** approach to making Lancashire a safer place to live, work and visit.

5 Types of work

We are sponsoring **parenting support** programmes and **community projects** to try to alleviate some of the impact of child poverty, deprivation and unemployment across many areas in Lancashire.

We are also working in **schools, colleges, hospital emergency departments, and police custody** suites.

You can find out more about the programmes we are involved in on our website: lancsvrn.co.uk/projects/

4 Strategy

The Lancashire VRN strategy delivers by prioritising action, leadership and system mobilisation in four priority areas:

- **Prevention** of serious violence
- **Enforcement**
- **Cultural transformation** and workforce development
- **Evidence:** data and evaluation

The strategy helps us to co-produce and develop responses alongside communities.

Our approach merges knowledge from secure, evidence-based learning with insight from voices of experience to help Lancashire communities feel safe from serious violence.