

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 final newsletter of the year, and our work is progressing as we move towards 2024.

With the Serious Violence Duty Response Strategy due to be published at the end of January, the VRU has continued to play a co-ordinating role, working alongside partners to shape South Yorkshire's priorities and approach to the Duty.

We have additionally started to plan for next year's budget, which is provisionally set at £2.14m. This has involved discussions within the team and with partners, on how this money will be spent.

With plans for the future underway, the VRU is continuing to monitor the impact of this year's funding. With £323,000 of funding allocated through our grant round, the Violence Reduction Fund, we have been out and about visiting the 20 projects we've supported.

Alongside this work, our A&E and Custody Navigator programmes are continuing to support people who are in those settings as a result of violence.

You can read more about our work below. All that remains is to wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. I look forward to working with you in 2024.

MEET

the team



Albina Burdovskaya

Albina joined the VRU team in September this year as a Project Manager, leading on the Serious Violence Duty, and assisting in other areas, such as finance.

Albina has over ten years of experience as a Project Manager, working in automotive manufacturing, rail, healthcare, and engineering, as well as South Yorkshire Police.

She likes to keep active, climbing, snowboarding, cycling, and walking her dog. Albina enjoys travelling and has visited over 30 countries, with Japan and Brazil being two of her favourite places.

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Men Step Up

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 Violence Reduction Unit.

Over the last year, the VRU has been working with two Yorkshire-based communications agencies to develop two Violence Against Women and Girls communications campaigns, which focus on positive male role models and behaviours, and the role that men can play in tackling the issue.

Developed in partnership with communications agency Jaywing, the first of these campaigns is called Men Step Up, and launched on 24th November at St Mary's Church on Bramall Lane in Sheffield.

The campaign will run until 5th January, covering the Christmas and New Year period, although the VRU will continue to use the campaign materials in its own communications and engagement work in future.

The second of the VRU's two campaigns will be launched in February, and further information on that campaign will be shared with partners in due course.



Police and Crime Commissioner Precept Survey

The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner is asking residents to complete a short survey to help shape policing across the county.

Residents are asked to highlight the areas of policing and crime they would prioritise, such as neighbourhood crime, domestic abuse, victim support, off-road bikes, and fraud.

You can fill in the survey and share your views by clicking [here](#).

Sheffield Safe Space

In a pilot funded by the VRU, organisations working in the Evening and Night-Time Economy in Sheffield City Centre have come together to pilot a safe space in Leopold Square.

This will provide a safe environment for anyone in need of support on a night out, from medical aid to wellbeing support to mobile phone charging and safe travel home.



Violence Reduction Unit visits Ad Astra

The VRU visited Ad Astra.

Ad Astra provides activities for young people in the St Helen's ward of Barnsley.

They aim to build resilience in young people by increasing their self-esteem and self-confidence through their personal and social education programme.

[Read more.](#)



Violence Reduction Unit visits Redfearns Junior Football Club

The VRU visited Redfearns Junior Football Club.

Based in Monk Bretton, Barnsley, Redfearns has received grant funding from the VRU's Violence Reduction Fund, to support their junior football programme, working with young people aged 4-16.

This includes coaching sessions, football matches, and other social activities.

[Read more.](#)



VRU attends Sheffield Wednesday Community Programme event

The VRU recently attended a Sheffield Wednesday Community Programme event in Parsons Cross Park. The Community Programme was supporting the activation of the Johan Cruyff Foundation Court that has been developed in partnership with Sheffield Council, as well as the renovation of the pavilion.

[Read more.](#)



VRU supports Dinnington Boxing event

During Operation Sceptre, the VRU supported an event run by Dinnington Community Boxing Group.

The event used the power of sport to deliver key educational messages to children and young people to raise awareness about the consequences of carrying knives and knife crime.

[Read more.](#)



Violence Reduction Unit supports event at Saif's Boxing Gym

The VRU supported an event at Saif's Boxing and Fitness Gym in Rotherham, where children and young people heard key educational messages about the risks and consequences of knife crime, and information about positive lifestyle choices.

[Read more.](#)



Violence Reduction Unit supports Dinnington Street Doctors event

The VRU supported Street Doctors' delivery of a First Aid session to students at Dinnington High School. During the session students learnt about the science of blood loss, how to apply pressure on or around a wound, and how to call an ambulance.

[Read more.](#)



Violence Reduction Unit supports Purple Thursday Networking Event

The VRU attended the Purple Thursday Networking Event at the Helping Hands Community Centre in Edlington, held to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

The Unit attended to raise awareness of its work to tackle domestic abuse, and to build links with key partner organisations in this area.

[Read more.](#)



Violence Reduction Unit supports Dinnington Christmas reindeer event

The VRU and the Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner supported the Dinnington Christmas reindeer event.

The annual event, including music, Santa, and real life reindeer, brings the community together for an afternoon of festivity.

