

MY TOMORROW

Violence Reduction Strategy 2023-2026

supported and funded by



WEST MIDLANDS
VIOLENCE
REDUCTION
PARTNERSHIP





MY TOMORROW



**A Tomorrow
worth fighting for**

The views of local children and young people matter and we play an important role in preventing and reducing violence in our communities.

Through the Youth Assembly, we have come together and used our voices to develop our West Midlands Violence Reduction Strategy (2023-2026) which helps professionals and communities to understand the needs of young people and the contribution we can make to ensure our communities are safer.



Intro from VRP

Everything we do is about creating a safer future for our children and young people. It is really important that they have a voice and tell us what their experiences are and what professionals and services can do that will help them. This strategy really brings to life what children and young people have told us and I look forward to working with them to make their priorities a reality.

*Sara Roach, Director
West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership*



OUR 5 PRIORITIES

**Priority 1:
Preventing violence
from happening**

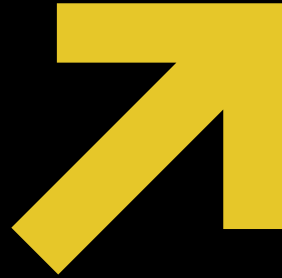
We believe that violence can be prevented from happening by:

- Professionals having a better understanding of the issues that lead to violence and supporting young people to understand the factors that can increase the risk of harm.
- Providing access to specialist support for young people that have been exposed to violence.
- Creating safer spaces for children and young people.
- Reducing the sale and access to weapons that can cause harm.



**Violence
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OUR 5 PRIORITIES

**Priority 2:
Working with young people and
communities to reduce violence**

We believe that young people and communities play a key role in violence reduction, and that violence can be reduced by:

- Ensuring all children and young people can access safe spaces in their communities.
- Communities uniting together to stand up against violence.
- Communities providing help and support for parents and carers to support their understanding of the factors that can lead to violence.
- Better advertising of activities and groups that connect young people with their communities.
- Reaching communities through religious/faith places.



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**Priority 3:
Young people working in
partnership with professionals to
reduce violence in our region**

We have lived experience of the issues that impact young people and should partner with professionals to reduce violence by:

- Developing better relationships between the police and young people in our communities.
- Developing better relationships between the police and young people in our communities.
- Professionals providing spaces to listen to what young people have to say and understand their perspectives.
- Professionals working with young people who can support them to develop creative and child-friendly solutions to reduce violence.
- Ensuring that young people from all cultures and communities have the opportunity to engage and work with professionals that understand them, their challenges and lived experiences.



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OUR 5 PRIORITIES

Priority 4: Using social media for good

Social media is the new wave around the world and it is how most people know and see stuff, so there is an opportunity to use it to prevent violence by:

- Developing better relationships between the police and young people in our communities.
- Using positive “influencers” that young people can relate with to share positive messages.
- Advertising activities, youth groups and services that support young people.
- Exposing young people to reliable information that does not cause them to feel worried and scared (a counter-narrative)



OUR 5 PRIORITIES

Priority 5: Educating for peace!

We need to be educated about issues that are important and the world around us. Education is important in helping to prevent violence. Every young person should access education that:

- Bravely explores sensitive topics and issues such as crime and violence.
- Educates young people on how to stay safe in the community and on-line.
- Educates young people about the consequences of certain behaviours.
- Links education settings like schools and colleges with the community by using local speakers with knowledge and experience to provide mentoring.
- Use different types of resources such as documentaries to help deliver authentic messages.
- Ensuring that young people who cannot access school and college can access information, guidance, advice and support.
- Providing space spaces for young people to share their views and opinions openly and honestly.

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For further information please visit <https://westmidlands-vrp.org/>