

### Northumbria VRU Phase 3 Funded Projects

In February 2021 the Home Office formally announced Year 3 continuation funding for VRU's - Northumbria VRU was successful in receiving a total of £1.6 million to continue from April 20201 to March 2022.

The following projects have been commissioned by the VRU to take place over the next 12 months and contribute to the overall OPCC aims of Fighting Crime, Preventing Crime and Improving Lives.

For more information on any of the funded projects, please contact [VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)

Project	Project Overview	Award
<b>Fighting Crime</b>		
VRU Short Sentence Diversion Programme	Building on from the exploratory approach in year 2 via the 'Whole System Approach' and working with Police and Probation colleagues, there will be a programme of activity delivered via a dedicated resource to an identified cohort of individuals who are causing the most issues within communities and are repeatedly entering the judicial system.	£130,000
Continuation of the Out of Court Disposal Officer and the Women's Pathway	This approach seeks to engage people at the earliest opportunity as they enter the criminal justice system. The aim is to deliver the Conditional Caution disposals in order to divert individuals away from the criminal justice system and reduce reoffending. This will be a continuation of the work carried out last year and will include the continuation of the Out of Court Disposal Officer and the Women's Pathway.	£35,629
Domestic Abuse	The role of the Domestic Abuse Specialist has progressed throughout Year 2, as well as the continuation of partnership approaches across Northumbria a number of new pieces of work were successfully progressed including additional support through the Children Affected by Domestic Abuse (CADA) fund and the successful application for funding to develop a DRIVE intervention aimed at more intensive work with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. This work will continue as part of Year 3 as well as ongoing services and development to further support victims and their families. Tacking Domestic Abuse continue to be a significant priority for the VRU and in order add further value to the current approaches being taken, an additional project called 'Ask Me' will be implemented as an intervention in Year 3.	£80,000
<b>Preventing Crime</b>		

Youth Navigators	The aim of the Youth Navigators is to reduce the risk of young people being drawn into the criminal justice system as well as reduce associated risks of further vulnerability and ASB. The proposal is to base three Youth Navigators within the three area commands across Northumbria. The Navigators will sit as part of the Northumbria Police Divert Team and work closely with youth offending team and associated partners to identify a case load of young people at risk of being drawn into the criminal justice system.	£100,000
YOLO Provision	YOLO has continued to have a positive impact on some of our most vulnerable young people, and there is a commitment to continue and develop this provision to ensure that it is accessible to the most vulnerable young people within the areas of most need. Continuation funding for Year 3 will ensure that this provision continues to be offered and develops further. Work is ongoing to expand the referral process to offer up the provision to more young people and this will be reviewed throughout the year.	£183,150
Education Engagement Team	The work of the Education Engagement team has had to evolve in light of the restrictions and emerging challenges caused by COVID. This has led to an increased focus on virtual delivery as well as an expansion into youth and community settings. This work has been well received by both schools and other community organisations with over 7,000 young people taking part in interventions over the last 12 months. An effective Education Engagement Team is key to the continued success of the VRU. The range of interventions on offer to schools and community settings has expanded and will continue to develop during year 3.	£206,971
<b>Improving Lives</b>		
Community Link Workers	The aim of the VRU Community Link Workers is to engage with vulnerable individuals within the identified localities to reduce their risk of becoming involved in violence and associated activity, either as a victim or perpetrator. Link Workers are able to deliver bespoke interventions within the community adopting a social prescribing approach. They are able to build up trust with individuals and have the ability to engage with other support services to assist in meeting the identified needs of individuals.	£144,125
Community Hubs	Community Hubs aim to provide family-based intervention within areas identified as harm hot spots. During Year 2, three hubs were supported in Gateshead (Thrive), Sunderland (SARA) and North Tyneside (Barefoot Buddies). All projects aim at supporting families through early intervention and with input from individuals with 'lived experience'. There is an emphasis on peer support and community engagement as well as a commitment to involving individuals with 'lived experience'. As part of year 3 delivery, all three current projects will be continued until the end of March 2022. In addition to this work is ongoing with partners to support the development of a community hub in Byker.	£165,455



Local Youth Fund	Through the work of the VRU Ambassadors and links with youth organisations the Local youth fund will provide young people with the opportunity to develop their own proposal and bid for funding to support this. Funding will seek to support projects that could include social enterprise, youth engagement, increased sport and recreation opportunities, intergenerational projects and community action. A small resource has been allocated to each Local Authority area and the fund will be open to all young people with a particular focus being placed on areas identified as 'harm hot spots'. The fund will be co-ordinated by the VRU team and will involve a local partner in each authority area.	£18,000
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### Summary of Interventions:

Theme	Intervention	Cost
Fighting Crime	IOM Approach	£130,000
	OOCD/VAWARE/Women's Pathway	£35,629
	DA 'Ask Me' Community Champions	£80,000
Preventing Crime	Youth Navigators	£100,000
	YOLO	£183,150
	Education Team	£206,971
Improving Lives	Community Link Workers	£144,125
	Community Hubs	£165,455
	Local Youth Fund	£18,000
<b>Total Spend</b>		<b>£1,063,330</b>