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Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership 2020-21 - Sports, Arts and Culture Work Programme

Jennifer Hough, Zara Quigg

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Jennifer Hough¹, Zara Quigg²

¹ The School of Social Sciences, Liverpool Hope University, ² Public Health Institute (PHI), Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), *World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Violence Prevention*

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For further information contact Zara Quigg z.a.quigg@ljamu.ac.uk

About this report

Merseyside is one of the 18 areas allocated funding in 2019 by the UK Government to establish a Violence Reduction Unit. To inform the continued development of the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), in November 2019 (Quigg et al, 2020) and July 2020, the Merseyside Academics' Violence Prevention Partnership (MAVPP)¹ were commissioned to evaluate the MVRP as a whole, and selected work programmes. This report forms one of a suite of outputs from this evaluation work programme, and specifically presents an initial review of the 2020/21 VRP Sports, Art and Culture Work Programme. Additional reports for 2020/21 explore:

- The overall development and implementation of the VRP (whole system evaluation; Quigg et al, 2021);
- The Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme (Butler et al, 2021);
- The VRP Data Hub (Lightowlers et al, 2021); and,
- Support programmes for the families of offenders (Ashton and Quigg, 2021).

Evaluation outputs are available on the Merseyside VRP website: www.merseysidevrp.com/what-we-do/

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¹ MAVPP includes academic representatives from all Merseyside universities, who represent a range of disciplines including public health, criminology, policing and psychology.

Summary of key findings and recommendations

- Following the development of the VRP sports work programme in 2019/20, the work programme was extended to also include arts and culture, and similar to year one the VRP allocated a fund to a commissioning agent from each area (sports, and arts and culture) to coordinate the funding and monitoring of VRP funded sports, art and culture interventions. Further, based on the problem profile, funding of interventions focused on areas with the highest level of serious violence or risk factors for violence.
- The structure of having commissioned agents who acted as liaison between the VRP and service providers appears to have been a successful approach to funding this work programme.
- This structure has enabled a more targeted approach to tackle violence in Merseyside through sports, arts and culture-based interventions as working with one overarching provider from each sector ensured there was clear communication and trusting relationships were built between the VRP, commissioning agents and service providers.
- The flexibility offered by the VRP, which was necessitated by COVID-19, resulted in successful implementation of sports, arts and culture-based interventions. This flexible approach could be replicated in future commissioning to enable responsiveness to unforeseen circumstances without the need for extensive bureaucracy, facilitated by the trusted relationships formed between the commissioned agents, service providers and the VRP.
- Targeting areas with the highest levels of serious violence and/or underlying risk factors (rather than ensuring interventions were commissioned for delivery in all local authorities, as in year one) has ensured that interventions have been delivered in the right areas, and aligns with the public health approach.
- The way this pathway was structured and implemented led to a strengthening of partnerships, building new networks with local groups, communities and organisations that will extend beyond the funding received from the VRP.
- A range of positive impacts for children and young people (and their families) have been identified (including reducing risk factors for exposure to violence and enhancing protective factors).

Recommendations

- Maintain and upscale - continue to build upon the work programme, ensuring the coordinated delivery of interventions for those communities and groups who will benefit most (identified via local evidence and data).
- Tiered delivery - Continue the tiered approach of delivering this work programme, benefiting from the expertise of commissioning agents who have experience of working with local service providers and the community.
- Deadlines - ensure deadlines for monitoring and reporting between service providers, the commissioning agents and the VRP are clear and set deadlines from the beginning as changing deadlines caused issues with service providers in terms of intervention delivery, data collection and trust.
- Funding - ensure funding is distributed at the beginning (once allocated) to allow all service providers to commence, as delays can result in reduced time for intervention delivery.
- Increased flexibility - include a level of flexibility in future commissioning to facilitate innovative service delivery in light of local community needs and any COVID-19 restrictions.
- Enhance clarity - in documentation in terms of terminology (universal benefit, risk etc.) and around dates, processes and lines of communication. Support all providers and commissioning agents with completing documentation in an effective and standardised manner, ensuring effective programme monitoring and intervention evaluation.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Interpersonal violence is a global public health issue, with severe consequences for individuals' health and social prospects across the lifecourse (WHO, 2014). In addition to these individual impacts, violence affects families, communities and wider society, placing significant burdens on public services including health, criminal justice, social services and other sectors. Internationally and across the UK, there is growing recognition of the advantages of adopting a public health approach to violence prevention which aims to promote population level health and wellbeing by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood of violence, and promoting protective factors. In 2018, the UK Government published its Serious Violence Strategy, encouraging a multi-agency, whole system public health approach to violence prevention (Home Office, 2018). To support local areas to adopt this approach, various measures were implemented, including provision of funding to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) in 18 areas to set up a multi-agency violence reduction units (VRU) bringing together police, local government, health, public health, community leaders and other key stakeholders (Home Office, 2019). Merseyside was one of the areas allocated funding and established the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP). During 2019/20, the VRP supported the development and implementation of a range of interventions to prevent violence. In 2020/21 the VRP was allocated additional Home Office funding, and continued to implement a range of activities to develop, promote and sustain a whole system public health approach to violence prevention, including funding the implementation of a range of targeted violence prevention programmes, with a key focus on young people.

Young people are more likely to be victims and perpetrators of violence and there are many challenges they face, including increased exposure to violence, substance abuse and organised gangs grooming vulnerable individuals to engage in criminal activity across county lines (NCA, 2017). Research by the Home Office suggests that 'a significant proportion of organised criminals have a history of prolific offending at a young age, with many receiving a criminal sanction before they were 18 years old' (Home Office, 2018). Risk factors for youth violence can include adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), unemployment, gender, substance use, poverty, poor relationships and lack of education (Bellis, et al, 2012). Consequently, interventions which focus on protective factors such as increasing wellbeing, improving relationships, developing transferable skills and bringing young people and communities together through mutual interests - such as sport or arts based activities - have an important role to play (Coalter, 2013).

By providing a safe space and attracting young people through the provision of positive activities, trusting relationships can begin to be formed. This is particularly significant given the evidence of increased youth violence during recent years. While actions such as antisocial behaviour or even carrying a knife does not automatically signify something like gang-association, there is increasing evidence that there is often shared genesis or stimuli (Palasinski, 2013). As a sense of belonging or seeking social bonds may be a reason for gang membership in particular, and motivations or risk factors can also include low social capital, lack of alternative opportunities, educational exclusion and financial pressures, so creating trusted relationships between authorities, communities and other young people is vital (Wood, 2014). A focus on non-traditional forms of education, diversion activities,

team and confidence building and mental wellbeing can be implemented through a focus on sports or art and culture based activities.

Diversions activities, such as those focused on sports, arts and culture, are increasingly identified as having the potential to support young people, improve mental health and well-being, build resiliency and community connectedness and reduce risks of violence (Hughes et al, 2018; Fancourt and Finn, 2019; Kappe, 2015; Moore et al, 2019;). A recent scoping review of the role of arts in improving health and well-being suggests positive outcomes (Fancourt and Finn, 2019). In relation to violence prevention, the review identifies studies demonstrating that:

- Community-based music programmes for children exposed to violence in Venezuela were associated with improved self-control and reductions in behavioural issues (Alemán et al, 2017).
- Drama-based peer education for adolescents has been associated with improved responsible decision-making, enhanced well-being and reduced exposure to violence in the United States of America (Chung et al, 2019).
- Among children who have experienced trauma (including sexual abuse, terrorism, war and domestic violence), studies have shown promising findings for the value of the arts in supporting grief, depression and PTSD, as well as for the communication of experiences (Andemicael, 2011; Bergman, 2002).

Building resiliency can support children and young people to overcome hardship and trauma (including ACEs). Key sources of resiliency during childhood included personal, relational and community resources; social and leisure activities; and, trusted relationships with adults (Hughes et al, 2018). A recent study amongst adults in Wales explored sources of resiliency and their moderating relationships with harms associated with ACEs. The study found that childhood (and adulthood) resiliency resources showed protective relationships with mental illness independent of ACEs. Further, regular participation in sports during childhood was associated with lower levels of mental illness, including in those experiencing 4+ ACEs (Hughes et al, 2018).

1.2 The development of the 'new' Sports, Arts and Culture work programme

In 2019/20, the VRP appointed Healthy Stadia to allocate funding for sporting activities across Merseyside, with a fund of £219,000 to be divided between local sports providers who could support the aims of the VRP within the given timescale. The VRP stated that there should be a proportionate allocation of funding between the five Merseyside boroughs (Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Knowsley and Wirral) to ensure that each area was supported in preventing violence and that this funding should be directed to areas most at risk within each of the boroughs.

In 2020/21, a decision was made to restructure the funding allocation based on a more intelligence-driven model, aligned with the public health approach. This would focus on data provided from the VRP's Serious Violence Problem Profile (MVRP, 2020) and the Data Hub, which would provide a picture of areas most affected by serious violence over the last two years. From this, instead of allocating funding equally across the five boroughs, as per 2019-20, data provided by VRP analysts was used to identify specific wards which had high levels of violence, as well as deprivation, NEET issues and other inequalities across the whole of Merseyside. These wards were identified as: Birkenhead and Tranmere; Kensington and Fairfield; Tuebrook and Stoneycroft; Speke and Garton, Riverside, County Kirkdale, Everton; St Helens Town Centre; Princes Park; Warbreck; Anfield; and, Picton. Despite being the top area for serious violence, Central Ward was not listed specifically due to further analysis identifying that the main offence in that area as personal robbery, and that both victims and offenders

were largely from outside of that ward. This demonstrates the potential effectiveness of such a data-driven approach to tackling violence by the VRP and how this system is designed to target areas and populations most at risk at a micro level. This decision is in line with a more focused public health approach, as by examining Merseyside as a whole and identifying specific wards, it facilitates a more targeted approach to tackling serious violence rather than relying on abstract geographical boundaries.

Box 1: Dialogue engagement tool

To enable discussions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the MVRP purchased an online engagement tool (i.e. Dialogue), to “*create a space where communities across Merseyside can voice ideas for how partners can deliver safer communities which are free from violence*” (MVRP PD). Through this, the MVRP aim to ensure that the decisions they make are “*as a direct result of what young people tell us matters most to them in relation to reducing the risk of violence*” (MVRP PD).

As well as a different approach to funding allocation in 2020/21, the VRP also decided to include an Arts and Culture sector as an alternative way of engaging young people. This new pathway would provide an additional way of delivering key messages around serious violence as well as a variety of options and support for those participating in the funded programmes. The Community Foundation (CF) for Merseyside was commissioned to allocate funding for arts and culture-based projects, while Merseyside Sports Partnership (MSP) were appointed to allocate funding for sports interventions. MSP and CF were then tasked with identifying suitable projects which were working within the most problematic wards specified above and that could meet the aims of the VRP. This approach was further enhanced by working closely with the community and in particular young people within those identified wards, which would be facilitated through the ‘Dialogue’ platform (Box 1). This multipronged method was designed to ensure that funding was benefitting those most at risk as well as giving those within the communities a voice to decide what was best for their local area.

1.3 Aim and methods

Due to changes to the allocation of funding from the VRP to interventions (discussed above) this initial evaluation of the Sports, Arts and Culture pathway aimed to explore the development, implementation and impacts of implementation at a whole programme level. Evaluation methods are summarised below. Both MSP and CF have existing monitoring practices in place, to measure intervention implementation and impact, and where feasible, such data collection processes have been used to support this evaluation.



Semi-structured interviews (n=3) with a VRP team member (n=1), and VRP appointed commissioning agents (n=2). Interviews were supplemented with informal meetings, which collectively explored the development, implementation and impacts of the 2020/21 Sports, Arts and Culture Work Programme.



Review of Work Programme documentation, from initial funding bid paperwork to delivery and impact reporting. This included changes initiated by the organisations as well as those necessary due to COVID-19 restrictions.

2. Findings

2.1 Initiation

The new commissioning pathway

This funding cycle (2020/21) was structured differently to the initial year of the VRP (2019/20), as instead of numerous different interventions applying to the VRP calls for funding directly or through umbrella organisations such as Healthy Stadia, this year it was determined that there would be one overarching organisation responsible for each of the sectors in this pathway and they would be responsible to, but also supported by, the VRP. This decision was made to ensure that funding went to those wards identified as most at risk of serious violence and it was one of the key determiners that there should not be numerous smaller/shorter interventions funded, only those that had the potential to demonstrate impact. This led to the decision to use commissioning agents to allocate funding based on their areas of expertise in order to streamline the process and allocate funding to those service providers capable of meeting the VRP's aims. As a result, Merseyside Sports Partnership (hereafter MSP) were commissioned to fund sports-based interventions, while Community Foundations (hereafter CF) were commissioned to fund arts and culture based interventions (see Box 2).

In this way, the VRP still facilitated programme delivery but it was also able to draw on the specific expertise of the two commissioned agents to not only determine the right funding decisions but also utilise their experience with these organisations, including their close relationships with service providers, to ensure a better standard of intervention was delivered, and that intervention delivery was coordinated. The call for funding was in the first half of 2020, and MSP/CF put out the tender for grants.

Communication

Structuring the commissioning pathway as outlined in Fig.1 was designed to provide a clearer and better supported pathway between funding providers and service providers. The use of the commissioning agents to act as liaisons meant that the VRP did not have to continuously engage with numerous groups/leads but could contact the relevant commissioning partner to discuss progress or any issues as a whole. From this, the VRP would also have a clearer overall view of the different areas.

Box 2: The commissioning providers

Merseyside Sports Partnership (MSP): Provides leadership and expertise in sports based provision to inspire people in Merseyside to unlock the power of sport and physical activity. They work with a variety of partners and funders to offer a range of services to help people get active and improve their wellbeing, which includes a focus on education programmes, volunteering and training.

The Community Foundation (CF): Offers advice and expertise to charities and groups to improve their community and enrich the lives of people living in Merseyside. Through a range of funding options they are able to work with a variety of organisations to offer support to community based interventions, including grassroots charities and focus on facilitating local partnerships.

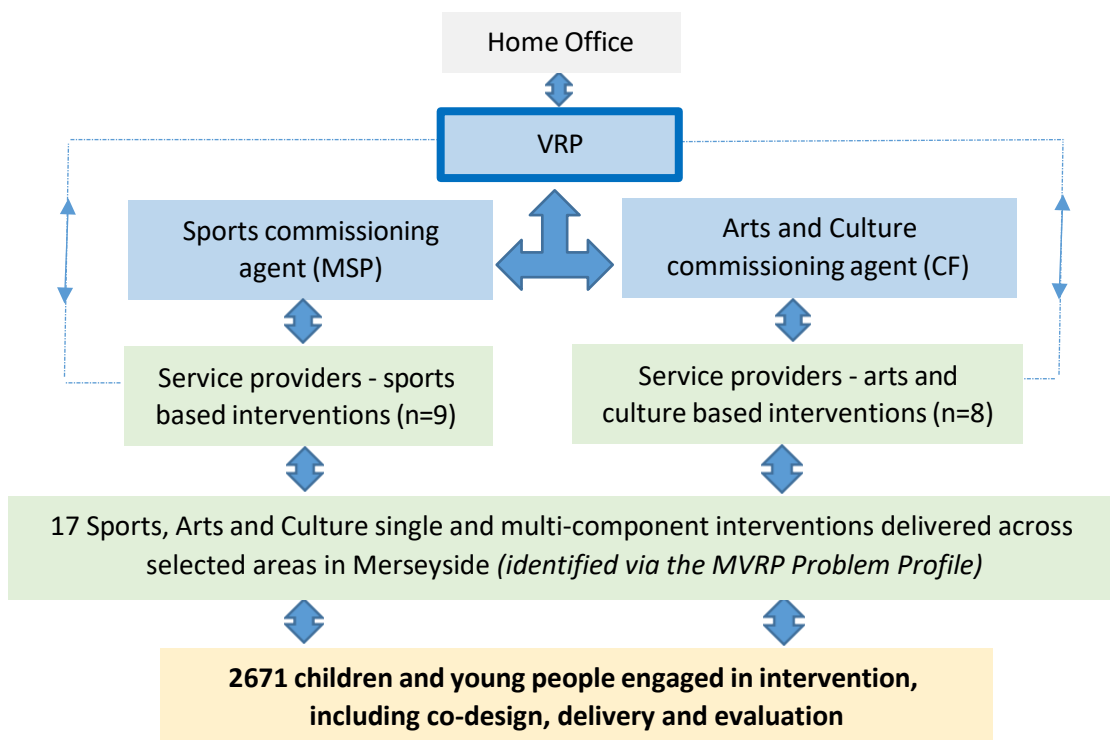
The issue of communication is one which emerged during the thematic analysis of data provided to the VRP and/or the evaluation team. There were many avenues of communication required as part of this pathway, which included:

- Communication between Home Office and the VRP;
- Communication between VRP and MSP/CF ;
- Communication between MSP/CF, the VRP and the evaluation team;
- Communication between MSP/CF and service providers;
- Communication between service providers, the VRP, MSP/CF and the community; and,
- The use of the Dialogue platform.

Therefore, having a clear line of communication as much as possible was paramount. This structure has also meant an added level of expertise and partnership working in the particular areas, as both MSP and CF have worked with the majority of the funded service providers before and could draw on their previous relationships to address any issues or concerns quickly. The commissioned agents also felt that communication was sufficient from the VRP in terms of initial support, with members of the VRP being described as “*extremely flexible*” and “*approachable*”. MSP/CF felt they knew what the VRP were looking for in terms of targets and they commended their flexibility with necessary changes at short notice due to national/local COVID-19 lockdowns.

However, there were some concerns about miscommunication around monitoring dates, as initially MSP/CF were informed that monitoring data would have to be submitted by service providers at the end of December 2020 (and the end of March 2021) yet they were later informed this would instead be mid-December 2020 (and mid-March 2021). While the commissioned agents were aware that at times deadlines have to change to meet national targets, this made the delivery of some interventions more time pressured, and service providers had to alter their delivery pattern to produce the required information within the timeframe.

Figure 1: Sports, Arts and Culture commissioning, delivery and communication processes



Operation

What is clear from examining the available data is that the commissioned agents and the VRP felt this new structure offered a mutually beneficial relationship. Although there is no information yet from service providers to determine their experience of working within this structure, the expressed positivity from MSP/CF at the level of communication and flexibility from the very beginning by the VRP is indicative of a positive experience overall.

“VRP team have been really flexible and given groups flexibility and options of how they can deliver the projects which has been positive” (Commissioning agent)

“We used MSP to do the sports sector and CF to do the culture and artwork and the benefits of doing that is they had the knowledge of those sectors [and] they had also the kind of daily management, working closely with the providers” (VRP team member)

One of the main themes which emerged was the level of expertise and value this new structure added. The VRP was able to communicate their requirements to specific contacts in MSP/CF and a clear line of communication was formed. This built a trusted relationship between the VRP and MSP/CF, which enabled better working practices throughout difficult periods such as lockdowns. This was also facilitated by the already established relationships between MSP/CF and the service providers who were funded through this new arrangement. As commissioned agents, MSP/CF were able to provide advice and guidance throughout this process. Once MSP/CF had secured the tender from the VRP, they were able to put out a call for bids and set up a panel to determine which interventions would meet the VRP’s targets. Once the commissioned agents identified suitable projects in their areas, they each fed this back to the VRP to ensure they were also happy with what was being funded.

“[this structure was a] definite positive [...] having someone manage it in this way removes a lot of the management from the VRP but it allows them to drill down on one level and figure out who is going to be right to deliver based on their contacts and experience” (Commissioning agent)

This process allowed MSP/CF to draw on their own experience of working with service providers, in the local areas, and within the specific sector. They were trusted to select the most viable projects and checking this with the VRP ensured everyone was supportive and aware of the decisions made. It also meant that the VRP lead(s) responsible for this pathway did not have to scrutinise numerous interventions and determine the more minute details of what might work well or may not as MSP/CF already had that specific knowledge of areas, groups and networks, supported by the Problem Profile provided by the VRP and with *“lots of research carried out in the specific areas we work in”* (Commissioning agent). The commissioning agents were clearly able to offer expertise in these areas, helping to work with groups who may have needed more support initially or were able to identify which ones were not suitable for this funding cycle.

“[we] checked and challenged the viability of the programmes...MSP can bring their experience and expertise to this but also acknowledge it isn’t just about sport but this wraparound service as well” (Commissioning agent)

“[we have] run a lot of police funds before - so we have good relationships with a lot of groups and even the reporting we may not have done that one before but we have done similar ones and just we have to think about how we can gather the evidence for that” (Commissioning agent)

MSP/CF also reported that they *“added value to the programme as we invested own money into the training”* (Commissioning agent) to help meet the targets of the VRP. This uplift was also detailed in

the final Monitoring Report 2020/21, which detailed MSP offered 28 training opportunities (at an additional cost of £6,000 funded by MSP via National Lottery investment) which aimed at improving the skills and confidence of providers. MSP reports that of those who completed the training, *“94% stated they had strengthened existing skills”* while *“94% rated the ‘usefulness’ of the training good or excellent”* (p.3).

“Increased confidence to ask more questions that are not necessarily about the subject to allow the young person to open up” (Trainee)

It was also felt that the brief from the VRP in terms of targets (such as wards and risk categories) was clear from the very beginning, but it was also flexible in the way that for the Arts and Culture part for instance, it could include a variety of projects such as dance, poetry, music and graffiti art. The model of delivery was flexible enough to accommodate a variety of projects, but the brief was still clear to help MSP/CF make informed decisions to commission interventions to support the VRP in meeting its overarching objectives. It was also noted that the commissioning agents and the VRP both had conducted extensive research into the areas and MSP/CF noted the Problem Profile from the VRP team was really useful when they were making the funding decisions as it included the issues, number of cases and types of crime taking place in those areas. Commissioning agents noted that the wards the VRP had identified *“matched ours like 90% so that was good to see that we were on the same page”* and the fact that it was *“restricted to certain wards means that we are making an impact where it is most needed”*.

One of the issues identified which may have hindered the initial process was a delay in receiving funds once successful bids had been made. This limited the timeframe some groups had to complete the interventions. For example, once applications were received by one of the commissioned agents (18th September 2020) decisions on successful applications were made quickly, but funds from the VRP were only received some time later (16th November 2020). Once service providers had been informed that they were successful in their funding bid, some were able to start before funds were received due to individual groups having access to some of their own funds already. However, this was only possible due to the trusted relationships they already had with MSP/CF as they trusted they would receive the funds and be able to claim back what may have been spent in the interim.

“There were delays with getting the funds delivered – some groups don’t wait for funds to come in as that comes from relationships that have so they made a start - some groups don’t have the funds but those that do will make a start” (Commissioning agent)

Although it was acknowledged that COVID-19 had inevitably caused delays for all partners, it was felt that some delays could have been mitigated in terms of funding by receiving funds quicker to enable interventions to begin with as much time as possible to complete, but the commissioned agents appreciated that working with such funds directed from the Government can result in delays. MSP/CF felt this demonstrated it was a positive of having them as commissioned agents as they were able to draw on previous working relationships and trust with the service providers to begin projects before money was received, where possible.

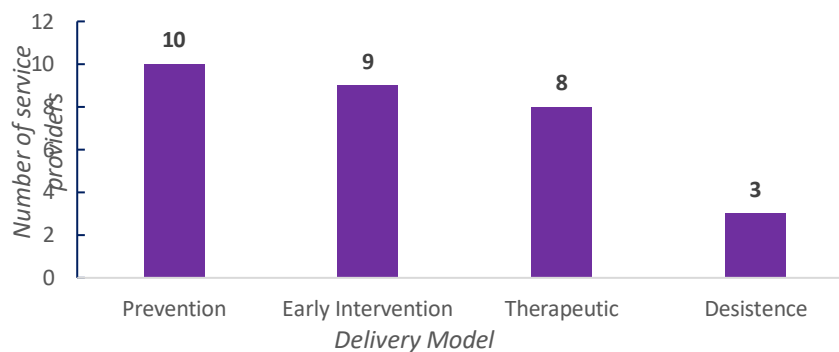
“The [service providers] have got the best skills in place to decide what is going to work for them so the VRP being flexible with that is good we are excited to see what comes back in the monitoring because of all the work the young people have created” (Commissioning agent)

Overall, nine service providers were commissioned to deliver sports interventions and eight were commissioned to deliver arts and culture interventions. Included within the sports programme are

projects which utilise sports activities alongside mentoring, a focus on wellbeing, communication and teamwork. In the arts and culture programme, there are projects which focus on creative writing, street art, dance or music therapy. In addition, four new interventions were approved for funding by CF due to an initial project being unable to run due to COVID-19 restrictions. Appendix 1 provides an overview of all these interventions.

As part of the funding bid, service providers were asked to identify which would be the predominate delivery model for their intervention. From the current data that is available, all service providers identified 'prevention' as their key delivery model with others also including at least one other model (early intervention, therapeutic and/or desistance; see Fig. 2). Only one commissioning agent specified this information for each funded intervention, so this is an example of differences in monitoring data collection and presentation which makes direct comparisons difficult at time (see recommendations).

Figure 2: Delivery model of funded interventions, Community Foundation



Documentation

The funding application paperwork developed by the VRP, which service providers used to apply to MSP/CF for the first round of funding, captures the necessary basic data of the interventions, such as target wards, project description and costings. The funding application was described as being comparable with other similar tender bids and did not cause any particular issues for either of the commissioning agents. It was felt that what was required was clear and appropriate, but there is no feedback from service providers at this point so this is something which should be factored in for future funding rounds, given the grassroots groups who may be applying. However, it was acknowledged that the initial documentation was slightly larger than other comparable funding bids, but the information required was essentially the same. It may be that this form could be revised for the next funding cycle to ensure greater clarity from the VRP and reduce time constraints for potential organisations who are looking to apply.

There were also some unclarified delays with organisations accessing the forms allowing them to apply to be commissioning agents, as this was expected to be April 2020, but was instead May/June 2020. This meant that the time to deliver interventions, once the funding process had been completed, was reduced more than it needed to be if the initial documentation was received on the expected date as this delayed the overall process.

2.2 Implementation

Communication

Communication between service providers, MSP/CF and the VRP has been a crucial element of this pathway due to the local and national lockdown restrictions that have been in place largely throughout

2020/21. Working with young people has been particularly challenging due to issues of access (school closures, social distancing or complete closure of spaces) so there needed to be clear lines of communication to ensure the VRP's aims could still be achieved. Communication was viewed as effective and was facilitated by the previous trusted relationships between the commissioning agents and the service providers.

"All groups have come back saying they have no issues - groups that got funding know what they are doing which is lucky but it also helped with us having a relationship with the groups already [...] so if they had any issues they would have come to us – with a lot of them it's like speaking to a friend as we are in constant contact with them - any problems which arise they contact us straight away asking can we do this or change this?" (Commissioning agent)

During conversations between commissioning agents and the evaluation team, the need to utilise and capture voices of young people was highlighted as one of the VRP's main priorities. On the funding documentation completed by service providers, the criteria includes that the "beneficiaries of your proposed project are from at least one of the priority wards stated in the criteria" and that service providers should be "connected with or meeting the needs of the local community and are able to evidence this". It also includes a section which asks, "Please tell us about how young people are involved in the design and planning for this project?" to ensure that young people are participants in the development and delivery of interventions as well as being beneficiaries.

"Part of that brief, is that they must insist that any provider we funded through it demonstrates to them as a commissioning agent, how they're going to involve the young people from the get go, how they're going to listen to what they want so that they know what needs to be delivered what doesn't, they, you know, are they involved in them in the design of the project, are they helping them to kind of co-developing co-delivery and co-evaluate it" (VRP team member)

However, the emphasis on the voices of young people in such an explicit way was missing from the interim monitoring documentation, likely due to delay in intervention delivery and the anticipated use of the Dialogue Platform (see Box 1). The commissioning agents mitigated this through their own monitoring practices by maintaining regular contact with the service providers throughout. In the final Monitoring Report 2020/21, more detail was provided regarding how service providers utilised young people's voices, such as the use of pre and post evaluation questionnaires, asking young people what their preferred social media platforms were to ensure maximum engagement and consistently checking in with young people to ask what they find interesting and for their suggestions.

"We checked in on a weekly basis so the young voices were there throughout [and we are] confident that those partners have been getting youth insight and that will have continued throughout [while] this will have been better without COVID" (Commissioning agent)

It was acknowledged that communication could have been better if the restrictions were not in place due to COVID-19. Although the VRP had funded the use of Dialogue platform to capture children and young people's perspectives (see Box 1), and each service provider were given their own access to it, the commissioning agents were not able to monitor use of the platform in the way that it was initially planned. However, both MSP/CF trusted the groups to be engaging with the young people throughout the process.

Operation

From initial reports, COVID-19 has disrupted all planned interventions in some way, from the implementation of activities to the timeframe of delivery. However, extensive close contact between MSP/CF and the VRP, and MSP/CF and service providers has meant that all projects which received funding have been delivered in some capacity. It also meant that external issues preventing one project from being delivered were realised quickly and these funds could be redistributed to some existing service providers, as well as funding several other projects, so this new tiered-structure worked well to mitigate issues arising from COVID-19 in particular.

It was noted by the VRP and MSP/CF that they worked very closely together to ensure the projects could still be delivered due to COVID-19 restrictions, even if this meant they had to be delivered in an alternative format during this time. The commissioning agents worked with service providers while connecting with the VRP and the VRP were able to offer the flexibility required for the projects to run, such as allowing practical sessions to continue but move to online platforms. There is evidence of trust on all sides to ensure that the projects could still be successful, and the Final Monitoring Report 2020/21 outlines that all projects were completed, despite the issues faced. There were some specific examples given of how the implementation of interventions had to be redesigned:

“MSP for example linked in with one of the boxing groups that we had, who were struggling to deliver. And they wanted to do something more online and do something around potentially a video and so they've never done that before. So they [MSP] were able to put them in contact with another group they knew who had thought it before, to allow them to help each other, and do that. So it was those kinds of aspects that helped help the delivery” (VPR team member)

Having such close contact and being able to draw on those trusted relationships also enabled decisions to be acted upon quickly if it was determined that projects would not be able to run due to restrictions.

“One actually in, I think it was the culture and arts came back and said we just can't deliver. So we then were able to identify that very early on, and redistribute to the other groups to say, Okay, what can you deliver and how can you uplift and also the other thing is a bit more flexible, flexibility around what they spent the money on to allow them a little bit of longevity and sustainability. We allowed some of our potential underspend to be focused on providing some equipment that they could then use going forward to work with these young people. So it was a bit of flexibility using the commissioning agents and actually providing them with some kind of support, to be able to alternatively deliver what they needed to deliver” (VRP team member)

The positive aspects of using MSP/CF as commissioning agents was acknowledged by the VRP pathway lead, not just in terms of ensuring funding was allocated appropriately and interventions were delivered in line with VRP targets, but also because they could draw on previous trusted relationships and a vast array of partners, organisations and other networks.

“[having] commissioning agents to kind of as a partner, I think worked really well I've been impressed with both of them [and] they've also got access to a wider network than we could hope to achieve” (VRP team member)

It was acknowledged by the VRP that MSP/CF were instrumental in helping the service providers to still deliver interventions to meet the funding criteria whilst navigating COVID-19 restrictions. For instance, the commissioning agents worked with service providers to alter their delivery methods to adhere to current government guidelines and facilitated working relationships between service providers and other key organisations which could help them to complete. It was noted by the VRP

pathway lead that the commissioning agents were *“really, really key and instrumental in kind of, in many ways, leading [service providers] through the kind of process of alternative delivery methodologies [and] recognising what can be delivered and what can't [...] and a little bit of flexibility in that because one of the big things for me, is we did target key areas. So we really wanted a presence in those key areas”* (VRP team member).

Another key aspect which supported the delivery of interventions is the flexibility provided by the VRP. MSP/CF have noted that although flexibility was required due to COVID-19 restrictions, a similar degree of flexibility in future (without national lockdowns) would enable groups to run projects as they needed, with consideration of issues which may arise, which would increase that trust between groups, communities and the VRP.

“We needed flexibility with COVID but this has been useful generally and would be welcomed and it helps with having a longstanding relationship with partners and there has been a real trust between the organisations and the VRP and providers” (Commissioning agent)

This level of trust and flexibility has facilitated projects to run. In the Arts and Culture pathway, all groups who started have still been able to deliver, and some of this has still been able to be face-to-face in small groups but a significant amount of work has had to move online. CF noted that there is a *“real mix of what the groups are doing but they have also been able to adapt to each young person - tailor it to each young person not just saying you are doing this but worked hard to support them at such a difficult time”*. MSP had to work very closely with some groups to ensure interventions could still be delivered and although some projects were designed to work intensively with a small number of young people, moving the project to digital platforms has enabled wider participation than initially anticipated. Some of the success stories identified not only came from young people, but also from parents.

“[to service provider via social media message] I just wanted to say your workshops have been absolutely amazing. They're invaluable for the children involved and the skills they are obtaining from being part of something so inclusive and interactive are just fantastic” (parent of YP engaged)

Indeed, the delivery model was identified as a success due to reaching the right young people. Allocating funding to projects working in the specific 'at-risk' wards meant that this could be more targeted support, but that others would also benefit just by living in that area. The research provided by the VRP meant that the commissioning agents had data they would not usually have access to, so they could use this to gain more information about what is happening in those specific areas and they *“found it really good to get a different aspect”* of the issues in those areas. They were also able to ensure that there was more concentrated support by putting groups in touch with services or other organisations working in that area such as the Youth Offending Team, as *“if they don't have links then we can put them in touch and we also got a list for different areas to provide additional feedback with [the VRP's] contacts so it is a really collaborative effort”*. It was also noted that *“the groups all engaged with different young people and worked hard to engage with young people online as there had to be different ways [and] a fun way that's going to make people want to come online”* (Commissioning agent).

One area which was raised as a potential for improvement in future funding rounds is the timing of deadlines being set at the beginning as some of the groups are working with extremely vulnerable and disadvantaged young people which requires a sensitive approach to delivery of the projects. Although the commissioning agents understood that deadlines often change nationally, they were concerned

that it could erode the trusted relationships they have built with service providers if they had to keep altering the dates for monitoring data. It was also noted that the final monitoring report had to be submitted before the end date for the projects (31st March 2021) and this could impact on workloads and delivery.

The delivery of projects, up to this point, has been achieved through several identifiable means:

- Close contact between commissioning agents and service providers, often building on previous relationships.
- Flexibility in delivery mode, activities and timeframe from service providers.
- Flexibility in the above being accepted and encouraged by the VRP.
- The level of trust between MSP/CF and the service providers.
- The level of trust and effective communication from the VRP to MSP/CF.
- MSP/CF staff feeling they could approach the VRP lead contact for support.

Although some of these may have been necessitated by COVID-19 restrictions, it was stressed by MSP/CF that the level of flexibility, trust and cooperation from the VRP benefitted the interventions as a whole, even aside from COVID-19 related issues.

This mutually beneficial relationship has, according to the Final Monitoring Report 2020/21 documents, enabled a total 2671 participants to have benefitted from this pathway funded by the VRP. This includes 1961 children and young people accessing sports based interventions, and 710 accessing arts and culture based interventions. Overall, 60.2% of participants were male, with a more equal gender balance in the Arts and Culture programmes than in the Sports programmes (Figure 3). The majority (92.1%) of participants were under the age of 16 (Figure 4). Where recorded, 87.8% of participants self-identified as white ethnicity. Overall, 60.6% of participants were identified (by service providers) as not currently being involved in criminal activity (universal target group), 23.3% were young people known to congregate in hotspot areas (potential high risk target group), 10.1% were young people with known risk factors and 5.9% were known to be involved in crime (Figure 5).

Figure 3: Gender of intervention participants

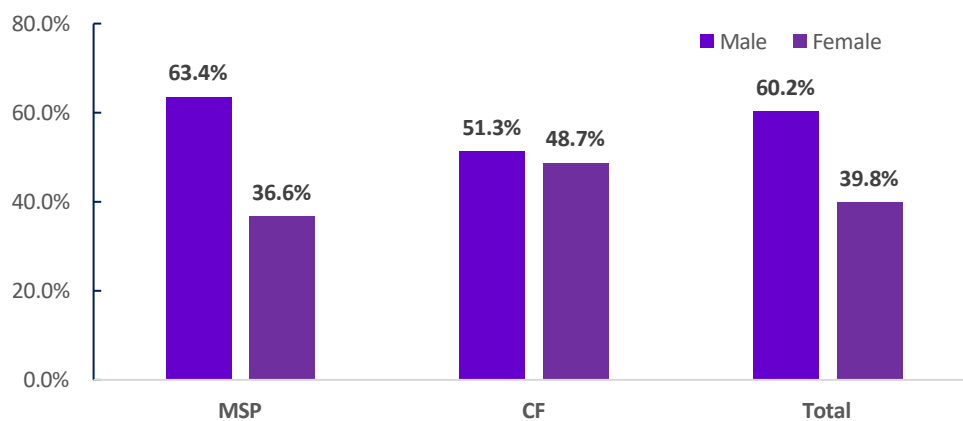


Figure 4: Age group of intervention participants

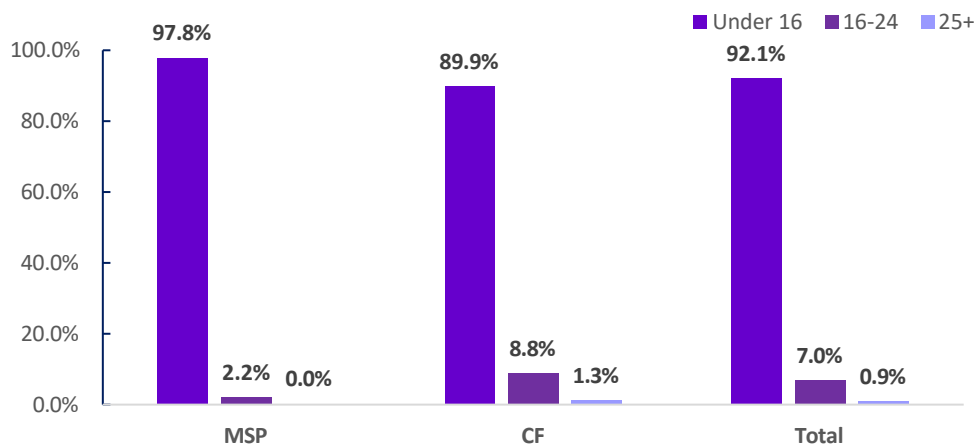
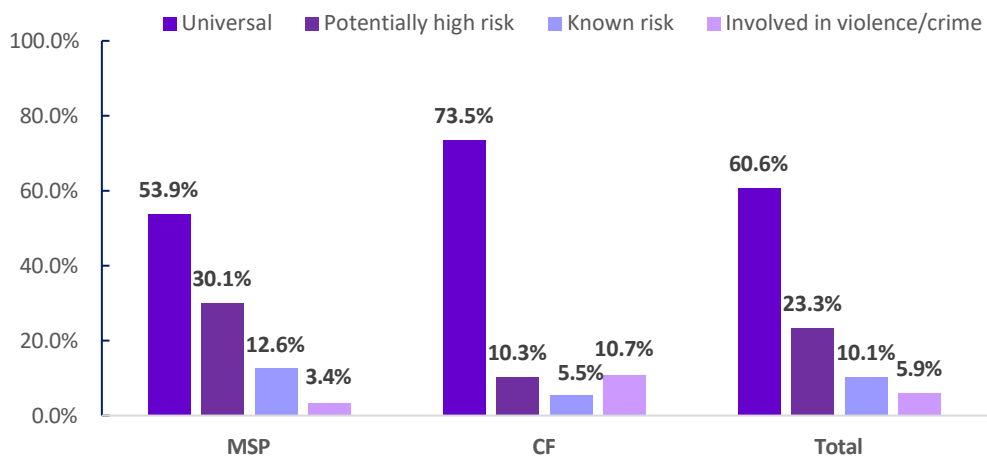


Figure 5: Target group of intervention participants ²



Documentation

The documentation utilised by MSP/CF for the VRP/Home Office interim monitoring report (submitted by service providers back to MSP/CF by December 2020 and March 2021) was provided as a template from the VRP. This includes organisation details (name, address and contact details) as well as a brief overview of the project, how it has developed from initiation, any challenges it has faced in implementation and an overview of how the grant has been spent so far.

There are some slight alterations between the interim and final monitoring forms depending on what the commissioned agents felt was necessary to capture, as they were able to add sections which they needed for their own records as well as what the VRP required. There was also some difference between the data collected. For example, it was clearer to see in one commissioning agent’s interim monitoring report how the voices of young people would be utilised in each project, while in the monitoring form from the other commissioning agent, it was clearer to see which were the predominate delivery models (prevention, early intervention, therapeutic and/or desistance). This was also the case for the final Monitoring Report 2020/21.

² This is an example of conflating figures due to terminology – CF figures identify 1036 participants in this section, but their actual participation figures are 710 according to other demographics (gender and age).

One important point to note with the monitoring forms is that there appears to be some confusion from service providers around the terminology, in particular the distinction of terms used to describe beneficiaries. There also appears to be inconsistencies in how service providers record the number of beneficiaries across the identified categories. More clarity is needed to illustrate how to complete the monitoring to ensure data are accurate.

2.3 Outcomes

Data collected demonstrates some positive outcomes of the 'new' Sports, Arts and Culture work programme:

Improved programme management, coordination and communications:

The new-tiered delivery structure for the work programme (see Figure 1) has helped streamline programme management and coordination, and communication between the VRP and various service providers. The commissioning agents have brought additional subject and programme management expertise to the VRP, that have helped facilitate the commissioning and delivery of interventions that meet the local communities, and VRPs needs (based on the problem profile). The new structure has aided communications, which has been vital during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through regularly liaising with service providers, the commissioning agents could identify the likelihood of interventions progressing as planned, and support both the service providers and VRP to adapt delivery plans, including changes to interventions (e.g. moving services online) and reallocate of funding to upscale interventions that could progress during lockdown periods. Despite the difficulties arising with COVID-19 restrictions and the shorter timeframe to deliver the outcomes, the VRP were commended on their communication with the commissioning agents. Both MSP/CF felt very supported by the VRP and that they could approach the VRP lead if they had any questions or concerns. There was regular contact between all involved and they liaised closely during lockdowns to ensure the projects could still run and all projects were completed successfully.

"[the VRP lead and the team] are really great if I just have a question or just want to double check anything, or sometimes she will check in just to see how things are going so that's been really, really good" (Commissioning agent)

Trust and flexibility

"We felt really supported by the VRP [they] demonstrated incredible flexibility throughout a tough period and trusted us to help the [service providers] to deliver" (Commissioning agent)

There have been inevitable issues with some of the interventions due to the COVID-19 restrictions, but these have been mitigated well by the VRP's flexibility and the experience of the commissioning agents. For instance, one project has *"been trying to get into prisons so they have had massive difficulties but have started at the interim point at least"*. This has been helped by:

"[the VRP lead and team who] have been really flexible and given groups flexibility and options of how they can deliver the projects which has been positive - restricted by Home Office in terms of dates but in how they deliver it they have been really flexible - but with the times we are in and the stresses for the groups they have been really good" (Commissioning agent)

This level of trust and flexibility has been commended by both the VRP and the commissioning agents as being instrumental to the success of this pathway through a difficult period. While moving to an online delivery model may have had the biggest impact on this work programme given the greater

emphasis on physical activity through sports and creative practices, some interventions have not been hindered by the move to mostly online delivery, as they have been able to reach a similar number, or even more people than initially anticipated. It is clear that, although COVID-19 has been a mitigating factor, this has been mitigated to a large extent, and has also provided more opportunities to those who may not otherwise have been able to access the services.

Targeting areas at-risk of violence

“As [the funding] was restricted to certain wards it means that we are making an impact where it is most needed” (Commissioning agent)

All interventions have been delivered in the areas identified as most at-risk of violence (via the VRP problem profile). The commissioning agents believe that this new structure based on specific wards *“100% targeted the right groups”*.

Engagement with children and young people

“[we are] confident that those partners have been getting youth insight and that will have continued throughout” (Commissioning agent)

Data from the Final Monitoring Report 2020/21 for both commissioning agents show that 2671 children and young people have accessed Sports, Arts and Culture based interventions funded via the this work programme (see figures 2-4). The commissioning agents report that children and young people have helped co-design, deliver and evaluation interventions, such as one project whose *“young volunteers who form the Youth Council have been consulted for young person voice”* (MVRP Third Quarter Report, p.13).

During the timeframe for this funding cycle, Merseyside has been in two national lockdowns as well as the then highest tier (tier 3). This has meant that Merseyside has spent longer contending with strict lockdown measures than it has with reduced or more relaxed measures during the VRP 2020/21 period. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented some challenges for the delivery of this (and other) VRP work programmes, with many of the funded interventions having to pause or adapt due to lockdown restrictions. Further, whilst the VRP had purchased the Dialogue online platform to engage with children and young people more effectively during the pandemic, in reality this was difficult to implement, due to the wider complexities and time implications of interventions being paused or adapted. The VRP acknowledged that although this was the right idea in principle, it was not as effective as it could have been during this time period.

“Dialogue [...] which we try to use really within those communities as a way of kind of gate you know we're working in this area kind of thing can you give us your views on it, some design for young people, that concept was great. We didn't have massive uptake. But I think where we would have been where we would have envisaged it working better is using the delivering agents to kind of work it through with the young people at the sessions, and that because they were, they were so interrupted with those sessions and a lot of it went online and that really didn't happen and it was probably one too many asks, of them to kind of get that done” (VRP team member)

However, it was recognised that there needs to be a distinction made between what has been impeded by COVID-19 and what has just not worked as well as expected due to other factors. This was also noted by the commissioning agents, *“we should not just assume that things which didn't work will*

be right again for next year by exploring those conversations fresh for the year, not just rolling over but also responding to the current situation”.

Impacts for children and young people

Service providers identified a number of impacts for children and young people engaged in interventions including (see Box 3 for example case studies):

- Increased participation in sport, arts and culture based activities;

“Since attending sessions at XXX, I found that I have increased confidence in my physical skills and general well-being. I enjoy freerunning and their facility and equipment they have is really good”

(Young person)

- Improved physical and mental wellbeing;

“I was having a problem with someone at school and the youth workers listened to me and I was able to get it sorted” (Young person)

- Improved behaviour, and emotional regulation, confidence and resiliency;

“The boys have really enjoyed the sessions...some of them weren't sure about signing up, but they looked forward to the weekly sessions. It's been extremely rewarding watching all the boys involved excelling and growing in confidence as each session went by, truly grateful to be a part of this project” (School teacher)

- Increased opportunity to develop leadership and team working skills, and build knowledge (e.g. around healthy eating, mental health, sports coaching).

“Been great to see the youth workers on the streets where everywhere was closed, I have been able to get support and take up some one-to-one work when I was struggling with school and my mental health. They also help me with my job application, and I got a job in Sainsbury's” (Young person)

“I really hope you don't mind me messaging you on Facebook. Its XXX, XXX mum. I have had the privilege of being at home on a Tuesday and have been able to witness Paul being involved in some of the zooms you have done. I just wanted to say your workshops have been absolutely amazing. They're invaluable for the children involved and the skills they are obtaining from being a part of something so inclusive and interactive are just fantastic. I wanted to thank you and also felt it important to show our appreciation and gratitude” (Parent)

- New and improved relationships with peers and positive community role models; and, *100% of young people [for one intervention] reported that they feel that they can trust the staff here to support them and their families if they needed help* (Monitoring data)

- Increased opportunity to contribute their ‘voice’ to identifying their needs and influencing service provision.

“I have opportunities to discuss my ideas and I like being included” (Young person)

Young people's provided positive responses to a number of interventions, identifying aspects they enjoyed most, for example *"meeting new people"* *"working in a team"* and *"getting to know others."*

Box 3: Selected case study examples

1. XXX told us that he found the winter lockdown especially difficult as he couldn't socialise with his friends and he was one of the few still able to attend school as his mum was a social worker. He said that this lockdown hit his mental health even more so than previously in summer. He booked onto the 121 sessions being delivered at XXX and immediately told us how much having this time allowed him to "clear his mind". We provided him with strategies to improve his mental wellbeing that he could do at home as well as with us in the centre. We managed to book XXX in for multiple sessions working on benefiting his mental and physical health through gym and basketball sessions with project staff.
2. XXX 10, would consistently be very aggressive and violent at home. His mother, XXX, would often take the brunt of this violence and not only found it difficult on control XXX, was often scared about how he would react. However, since working on the project XXX is able to identify the emotions leading to his violent outbursts, with [mum] reporting that XXX has not had a single outburst at home, saying "it has been a huge relief for me and XXX to get this type of support, especially over the lockdowns. His behaviour at home has completely stopped since he began working with the project...This has been the most meaningful service I've accessed for XXX throughout his life".

Outlook

While commissioning agents, service providers and the VRP have been realistic about what could still be delivered during lockdown restrictions, they also recognised that *"the impact [of intervention work] can take over a year even though they fund 6-12 months as young people may have completed a project but that doesn't say what the real impacts are"* (Commissioning agent). However, in the Final Monitoring Report 2020/21 for both commissioning agents, despite necessary alterations to proposed activities due to the pandemic, it was identified that all projects were completed successfully. This is testament to the strong relationships between service providers and commissioning agents, the communication and trust from the VRP and the hard work of all involved. Due to COVID-19, changes had to be made to proposed delivery models and activities and commissioned agents worked with service providers in order to do this effectively, offering 'flexi-plans' and targeted support. Although there were some differences in delivery and reporting due to varying levels of confidence and expertise with online platforms and monitoring documentation, the above has facilitated an effective work programme for all involved.

3. Conclusion and recommendations

Sports, arts and culture based interventions are increasingly identified as having the potential to support young people, improve mental health and well-being, build resiliency and community connectedness and reduce risks of violence (Hughes et al, 2018; Fancourt and Finn, 2019; Kappe, 2015; Moore et al, 2019;). As such, development, implementation and ensuring the sustainability of such interventions across areas most at-risk of violence has been a vital strategy for the VRP since its inception. Ensuring this work programme is embedded in a whole system public health approach to violence prevention, that is evidence and data led, has been a key strength of this VRP, particularly in 2020/21 when interventions were targeted towards areas identified as most-at risk. Whilst further work is needed to identify the impacts of this targeted approach on children, young people and communities, and Merseyside as a whole, VRP partners have widely acknowledged the wide ranging advantages resulting from changes in the management and targeting of this work programme. Further, a range of positive impacts for children and young people (and their families) have been identified (including reducing risk factors for exposure to violence and enhancing protective factors). Some of the main factors which facilitated this work programme were identified as effective communication, flexibility, targeting at-risk areas, and building on existing relationships with service providers and their expertise. Collectively, findings suggest that the new tiered management and targeting delivery of interventions in areas most-at risk was an appropriate decision, and had benefits for children and young people, and should be continued, with clear monitoring and evaluation of short and long-term impacts.

The close relationships between MSP/CF and service providers, additional uplift through the training offered by the commissioning agents and the ability to draw on their previous experience of managing such funds has enabled the success of this new commissioning pathway. Indeed, it is unlikely that this work programme would have been delivered to the extent it has been at this point without the tiered structure to facilitate this, and the existing networks and expertise of the commissioning agents. Service providers have access to additional support to develop interventions and develop partnerships with other providers, maximising potential impacts and efficiencies. Without the connections and expertise of the commissioned agents, the implementation of this pathway would have been more difficult. It is also likely that this would have placed significantly more pressure on the VRP, particularly during the pandemic.

COVID-19 has likely been the most significant factor which had impacted this sector but it is important to determine what has been impeded by COVID-19 and what may not have worked for other reasons. To ensure that the VRP has as much detail as possible to inform future funding cycles, collecting further information about what service providers learnt from working with the commissioning agents and VRP as part of a public health approach to reducing violence in Merseyside would provide useful data. This could also include details of what, if anything, would be maintained from the adaptations implemented to programmes due to COVID (such as online delivery modes etc.) and how certain issues were mitigated (in case of future restrictions). Capturing this information would also aid clarity around separating what has been hindered by the pandemic. It would also help inform future training for service providers in case of additional VRP funding and enable the VRP to examine how their message was understood by external organisations who may not have had direct contact with the VRP due to the new structure. It would also be useful to ensure that commissioning agents are completing the forms using comparable data provided in the same level of detail throughout the reporting to ensure

effective cross-examination. While avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy is important, the VRP can ensure more consistent data collection by creating more standardised and specific documentation.

Something which did emerge from this work programme which was unexpected was a greater relationship between diverse services in the local areas, as they were all working towards a common goal (through the VRP). This closer working relationship has created better networks and connections between groups who would not otherwise have interacted. It was also acknowledged by MSP/CF that despite the *“difficulty with impact at this point in time from what we have seen there is a good balance between providing a positive experience to young people at a difficult time who would have otherwise had nothing to do and would have potentially found something more negative to do with their free time”*.

The VRP have already acknowledged areas for future delivery too (such as the dialogue programme) and this will be expanded upon once in 2021/22. Both the VRP and commissioning agents valued this new commissioning approach, and more broadly the value of sports, art and culture-based interventions for preventing violence, and welcomed its continuation going forward.

Recommendations

- Maintain and upscale - continue to build upon the Sports, Arts and Culture work programme, ensuring the coordinated delivery of interventions for those communities and groups across Merseyside who will benefit most (identified via local evidence and data).
- Tiered delivery - Continue the tiered approach of delivering the work programme, benefiting from the expertise of commissioning agents who have experience of working with local service providers and the local community.
- Deadlines - ensure deadlines for monitoring and reporting between service providers, the commissioning agents and the VRP are clear and set deadlines from the beginning as changing deadlines caused issues with service providers in terms of intervention delivery, data collection and trust across the partners.
- Funding - ensure funding is distributed at the beginning (once allocated) to allow all service providers to commence, as delays can result in reduced time for intervention delivery.
- Increased flexibility - include a level of flexibility in future commissioning to facilitate innovative service delivery in light of local community needs and any COVID-19 restrictions.
- Enhance clarity – in documentation in terms of terminology (universal benefit, risk etc.) and around dates, processes and lines of communication. Support all providers and commissioning agents with completing documentation in an effective and standardised manner, that support programme monitoring and evaluation.

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Appendix 1: Overview of funded interventions

Table i: Sports based interventions funded via MSP

Organisation	Intervention overview	Residents from
Wheels Extreme	Wheeled sports provision (skateboarding, scooting, rollerblading etc.) alongside aspirational and mental wellbeing support which is delivered in school and community settings	Not specified by area ³
St Helens Youth Service	Partnership between St Helens Youth Service and Merseyside Police to deliver multi-sport provision and provide additional support for substance issues and mental wellbeing	
Your Edge CIC	Multi-sport sessions, followed by kayaking, BMXing, Boxing and Climbing which builds on extensive partnerships at grassroots level and includes youth inspectors to check/challenge delivery	
Merseyside & Cheshire Amateur Boxing Association	Enhancing provision across boxing clubs and include mental health training and support as well as first aid training alongside 'Knife Savers', and mentoring and peer support	
Wirral Positive Futures	An intensive 7-day multi-sport course which incorporates detached youth work delivering sports activities in priority locations as well as training and development	
Firefit Hub	Sporting activities which will instil teamwork, discipline, respect and communication to participants and aim to integrate existing members with new inactive young people from the community	
LSSP	Sessions tailored to meet needs of those identified by secondary schools which includes sports, emotional support/control and mental health outcomes using a pro-social approach	
Airbourne Academy	'Youth Bounce Back' programme which includes different programmes aimed at different needs and is delivered in conjunction with Merseyside Police, schools and learning centres	
LFC Foundation	Will support the LFC Foundation's football education programme by hosting a football league and directing participants to PL Kicks and Onside programmes while providing informal education and personal development workshops around issues such as knife crime and first aid training	
Street Games – Training and Development	This funding is to enable appropriate training to be delivered to the above providers, in order to make a lasting sustainable difference and to build the capacity and skills of the sector and to engage more young people in these communities beyond VRP funding	

³ The difference between reporting and the structure of reporting between commissioning agents (for instance regarding specific details and demographics) means at times comparable data is difficult to determine.

Table ii: Arts and culture based interventions funded via CF

Organisation	Intervention overview	Residents from
Shaftesbury Youth Club	Project to provide art, dance and music activities and workshops for young people	Wirral
Utopia Project	Project to provide art activities including graffiti art sessions aimed at young people that are currently involved or at risk of being involved in crime or ASB	Wirral
Maximum Edge	Art on the Streets to engage young people to help divert them from crime and violence	St Helens
Tiber	Project to create a piece of street art which will highlight issues in the local area	Liverpool
UC Crew	Reducing risk through hip hop by providing workshops for those involved in or at risk of crime and ASB	St Helens
Yellow House	Project to provide community engagement sessions and use of film to reduce effects of violence for local young people	Liverpool
Writing on the Wall	Part of the WoW Young writers project to provide online sessions to young people in areas such as rap, creative writing and spoken word to improve their skills	Liverpool
Centre 56 Ltd	Project to provide early intervention music therapy for vulnerable young people	Liverpool

Table iii: Arts and culture based interventions funded via CF (additional interventions due to redistribution of unspent funding)

Organisation	Intervention overview	Residents from
Acronym Community Enterprises	Project to provide creative sessions with at risk young people to explore multicultural stories in the canon of Black British Playwrights	Not specified in final report ⁴
Kaalmo Youth Development	Project based on Somali Tales which promotes oral & written Somali literary traditions which will result in a publication by participants	
Tate Liverpool	Remote art exchange and learning project to reduce risk factors associated with ACEs, especially young people who have a parent in prison	
Wirral Youth Zone	Enhanced programme of performing arts, multimedia, social media and production on the themes of knife crime and exploitation	

⁴ As in previous note, there is some discrepancy in monitoring reports between commissioning agents.

