

Community Projects



Funded projects **pan Bedfordshire** → Individuals engaged from these projects

Projects involve educating young people on: the meaning and dangers of joint enterprise, gangs and grooming, early prevention and intervention, diversion, healthy relationships, anti knife crime, county lines and exploitation. Here are some examples of how our projects are delivered: through mentoring, workshops, performances in schools, physical activities, 1-2-1 support and family support



In house and Community Project Statements

Mary Seacole Homeless HA, Luton

"I'm pleased to confirm that there have been many achievements during the project. However, a noteworthy achievement has been the employment of 3 of the young people involved in the project with aspirations to employ the fourth in the near future. All 4 were previously unemployed with 3 being NEET"

RealFit Centre, Riseley, North Bedfordshire

"The young people have become more confident over the last few weeks. Sometimes they will look at the technique and weights we are showing them and convince themselves they won't be able to lift them. Through careful coaching we have been able to show them they can do more than they think they can and this gives them more confidence and pride. They are really pleased with their achievements. We are also teaching them growth mind-set and getting them to approach problem solving in a different way."

St. Hughes Church, South Bedfordshire

"The development of the course has been a great strength. It is grass roots and accessible for everyone. Delivering within the NHS has shown us that there is a deep desire to learn more about those things that are important to our community which was great to see."

24 mentors recruited and trained to act as 'big brothers or sisters' to young people at risk of serious youth violence.

1,670 year 8 and 9 students in Luton educated through an interactive anti-knife crime theatre production. It has been a highly effective way to help young people better understand the dangers of carrying knives and the damage they can do to themselves, their family, friends and local community.

5X community projects where sports are used as an engagement tool

8X Alternative Provisions ran creative projects, reinforcing the VERU message about reducing violence and exploitation

- Regular awareness workshops and conferences held delivering training to practitioners, parents and carers-givers. Trainings are held in faith houses, community venues and educational establishments.

Y15 Workshop Feedback-Barnfield College Luton

Student

- "Very powerful and realistic. Thank you"
- "I learn a lot today"
- "The speaker was excellent. Well done"
- "It is a very useful information for us all. We really appreciate your work and presentation"

Teacher

- "Hope you can return to capture students who aren't in college on a Thursday"
- "Very immersive experience eyes opening"
- "Very informative and relatable covered and broke everything down in a structure our learners could access. Thank you"

Reactive8, Pan Bedfordshire

"A lad came to the programme - looked depressed, head down, no engagement, no participation, but by the end of the first session, he was contributing, confident enough to share his thoughts and left smiling, which was great to see."

Samson Boxing Academy, Bedford

"We have three young people who have been on the verge of being groomed to join two gangs in Bedfordshire. One of them has actually bought one of the other gang members in and has joined the boxing classes. We also have two young people who have been exposed to elements of Child Sexual Exploitation, (CSE) They have since been able to warn and show other young people the progressive pathway and share their experiences with others who may not have initially seen that they were also on this pathway"

In house Youth Intervention Specialist (YIS) Team

YIS Project Initiative- an innovative partnership initiative between the Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU), Bedfordshire police and specialist providers of emotional counselling and practical support.

Team Coordinator

Experienced Designated Safeguarding Lead. A background in building strong relationships with diverse multi-cultural groups. Experience in team leadership and training, events and workshop management. As well as educational and Alternative Provision experience. Extensive knowledge around school exclusion processes and a voluntary member of a number of community cohesion panels.



Ex-gang member

dedicated to educating young people about the dangers of gang involvement and negative life impacts.



5



Workers with lived experience

A variety of spoken languages including: English, French, Yoruba, GA-Ghana, Bengali, and Croatian (Croatian covers 4x countries - Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro & Slovenia)

Trauma counsellor

with personal knowledge and experience of exploitation as well as fleeing a war torn country



Mother

who lost her son to knife crime and is now dedicated to supporting families and individuals experiencing adversity.



Professional

with personal experience of sexual exploitation and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)

YIS Referrals

41 Referrals across Bedfordshire



75%
MALE



25%
FEMALE

Referrals to the VERU
YIS team have come from:

- Community
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Luton Borough Council
- Bedford Borough Council
- Various departments within Social Services
- Schools
- Housing
- Youth Offending Services
- Police

