

Our Ref: FOI 1272

20 August 2019

Dear

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference FOI 1272**

Thank you for your FOI request set out below.

**REQUEST**

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), to ask for the following information:

1. How much of the £100m Serious Violence Funding was allocated to your police force? [I believe, in the original announcement by the Home Office - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/police-granted-funding-boost-for-action-on-serious-violence> - South Yorkshire Police was allocated £2,580,000 but please confirm or correct this amount.]
2. How much of the funding that your force was allocated has been spent to date? Please indicate financial amount. Please give an approximate figure if a precise figure is not possible.
3. What has the funding, that has been spent to date, been spent on? Please indicate by category and any detail available, such as operations, intelligence, additional deployment, etc.
4. What will the remaining funding be spent on (presumably over the next 10 months or so)? If no decisions have been made/are in progress please indicate.
5. If you hold information on the £35m allocation to Violence Reduction Units or the £1.6m allocated to “improved data collection” then please provide information on spending and forward planning for this.
6. I would be very grateful of any contextual information or additional information you deem useful/relevant.

**RESPONSE**

South Yorkshire Police are responding to questions 1 to 4.

**South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner**  
**Carbrook House, Carbrook Hall Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S9 2EH**  
**Tel: 0114 2964150**  
**Email: [Info@southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:Info@southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk)**  
**[www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk)**

5. If you hold information on the £35m allocation to Violence Reduction Units or the £1.6m allocated to “improved data collection” then please provide information on spending and forward planning for this.

Please find attached the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit Funding Application Form.

6. I would be very grateful of any contextual information or additional information you deem useful/relevant.

Question 6 is not a request for information and is not valid under s8 (1) (c).

S8 (1) states - In this Act any reference to a ‘request for information’ is a reference to such a request which:

- (a) is in writing
- (b) states the name of the applicant and an address for correspondence, and
- (c) describes the information requested.

However, in a duty to assist the Deputy Chief Finance Officer has provided the following information.

The Home Secretary announced in April that £35 million of the Serious Violence Fund will be invested in Violence Reduction Units (VRUs). VRUs will lead and co-ordinate the local response to serious violence, bringing together a range of agencies including health, education, social services and others to develop a multi-agency approach to preventing serious violence altogether. Implementing a public health approach, they will act as a focal point for effort to stop children and young people from being drawn into the spiral of crime and violence in the first place.

The Home Office has worked closely with a wide range of partners, in developing policy proposals to support the award of VRU funding.

With regard to the £1.6m allocated to South Yorkshire, this funding has only today been confirmed by the Home Office and therefore no expenditure has taken place yet. Please note however that the funding is not for ‘improved data collection’ but for a multi-agency, public health approach to violence, which is what was outlined in the Home Office funding guidance.

The funding has been allocated for one year only, and must be applied in the 2019/20 financial year. The allocation has been calculated on a tiered basis, reflecting levels of serious violence in the South Yorkshire area (based on hospital admissions for sharp object assault data).

The below press release may also be of interest.

<https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/south-yorkshire-to-get-1-6-million-funding-for-violence-reduction-unit>

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) states that, when refusing information to provide the (because the information is exempt) to you, the applicant, should be provided with a notice which:

- a.states that fact,
- b.specifies the exemption in question and
- c.states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Relevant exemptions considered:

**Section 40(2) Personal Information**, this is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant.

However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption. Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified.

**Section 43(2) Commercial Interest**, this is a qualified, class-based exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is required.

### **Public Interest Test**

#### **Considerations for Disclosure**

- Disclosure of the information would enable members of the public to have a better understanding of how public money is spent.
- Disclosure would enable the public to better scrutinise the public monies spent.
- Disclosing information would encourage value for money.

#### **Considerations for Non-Disclosure**

- Disclosing information would reduce the ability to negotiate or compete in a commercial environment.
- Providing information would be detrimental to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (OPCC) ability to obtain value for money.
- The OPCC is shortly due to commence a grant negotiation process, once the funding has been awarded information may be eligible for release at a later date

## Balancing Test

I have carefully considered your request for information. The key test when considering the public interest is to establish whether in all the circumstances of the request, the public interest in disclosing the information is not outweighed by that in maintaining the exemption.

Whilst there is a public interest in how the police service spends public money, there is also a strong public interest in the police service ability to obtaining value for money.

I am of the opinion that disclosing this information would reduce the OPCC's ability to negotiate or compete in a commercial environment and obtain value for money for the public of South Yorkshire.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Telephone: 08456 306060 or 01625 545745

Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Sally Parkin  
**South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner**



Home Office

# **Violence Reduction Units**

## **VRU Funding Application Form**

June 2019

## 1. Applicant details

Name: Dr Alan Billings  
Role: Police & Crime Commissioner  
Address: Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner  
Carbrook House  
5 Carbrook Hall Road  
Sheffield S9 2EH

Point of Contact:

- Name: Michael Clements
- Role: Chief Finance and Commissioning Manager
- Email: [REDACTED]
- Phone: [REDACTED]

## 2. Provisional funding allocation

Please confirm the amount of funding you have been provisionally allocated for VRU activity in 19/20.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire has provisionally been allocated £1.6 million to support Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) activity in 2019/2020.

The bid will look to pick up on the strength of work that is already in place, primarily focussed on Sheffield, and look to build on that to provide South Yorkshire-wide coverage. The VRU will take a public health approach to address the underlying causes of violent crime. This will build on established work, again based on a public health approach, pioneered by Police Scotland in Glasgow. South Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) visited the Glasgow VRU earlier in June, with partners, to learn from the work being undertaken there.

There are three workstreams comprising our bid:

1. **Scale up:** local delivery of the tried and tested multi-agency public health approach that to date has been concentrated in Sheffield, to the other 3 districts. Work in Sheffield under Operation Fortify, based on the Glasgow model, is already gaining reputation in its own right as an exemplar of good practice, so it makes sense to extend and apply that learning to the other parts of the county. Existing good practice working well in other areas that align with the Glasgow model, will also be scaled up. For example, we will shortly introduce 'Navigators' to A&E departments.
2. **New Projects:** Deliver a range of new partnership interventions and initiatives across the county. This may include
  - developing or testing out new approaches across all 4 districts with distinct target groups; or,

- testing &/or piloting in parts of the county

With a view to analysing, assessing and building business cases to up-scale the most successful in future years to provide countywide coverage.

3. **Enhancing Partnership Arrangements:** leadership, determining strategic direction and driving delivery capability. These arrangements will lay the foundations of a sustainable multi-agency approach, both at strategic and operational levels. It will enable partners and the VRU to achieve progress, at pace, in future years.

### 3. Proposed geographical boundary of VRU activities

The provisional funding allocation has been made on the basis of the volume of knife crime in police force areas, based on hospital admissions data. However, it is open to each VRU to determine the geographical boundaries relating to the VRUs activities, provided these fall chiefly within the force boundary associated with the relevant VRU provisional allocation.

Please confirm your proposed geographical boundary below.

If you are proposing any extension of the VRU geographical boundary beyond the force area, please set out your justification for this below.

If you are proposing to focus on specific areas within the proposed VRU geographical boundary in 19/20, please also specify what these will be.

The VRU will have a countywide reach across South Yorkshire, including the four boroughs of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, serving a population of 1.34 million people and an area of 1,552 square kilometres.

### 4. Proposed VRU membership

Please detail your proposed VRU membership. Please note membership must include 'core membership' organisations as specified in VRU Application Guidance. Please also specify any further organisations that will be members of the VRU.

When completing this section, please provide the names of member organisations and the job titles/posts of the individuals that will represent them.

We propose to establish the VRU along similar lines to the Glasgow VRU model, as it is a proven model that has delivered successful outcomes. The overall aim is to prevent and tackle serious violent crime.

The South Yorkshire VRU will focus upon delivering activities as set out below.

- Prevention
- Education
- Projects
- Enforcement

There will be two core elements adopted to systemise our approach: a Violence Reduction Executive Board and the operational VRU itself. The Executive Board will be established to provide strong leadership, provide strategic direction and drive the activities of the VRU, which will be responsible for day-to-day delivery.

### **Violence Reduction Executive Board**

This will meet on a monthly basis to create sustained momentum in support of the establishment the VRU itself and, in driving the set up and delivery of the VRU's strategy and key output activities, commencing 2019/20.

The Executive Board will be chaired by the PCC, and key to its membership will be the Chief Constable and senior representation from partner organisations across each of the 4 local authority boundary areas of South Yorkshire. The core membership will be as follows:

- South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- South Yorkshire Police – Chief Constable
- Barnsley MBC - Chief Executive Officer, Director of Public Health and/or Director of Childrens Services
- Doncaster MBC - Chief Executive Officer, Director of Public Health and/or Director of Childrens Services
- Rotherham MBC - Chief Executive Officer, Director of Public Health and/or Director of Childrens Services
- Sheffield City Council - Chief Executive Officer, Director of Public Health and/or Director of Childrens Services
- Barnsley & Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Groups – Joint Chief Officer
- Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group – Chief Officer
- Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group – Chief Officer
- Youth Offending Team representative
- Education sector representation - Academy Head, Further Education Establishment Head and Pupil Referral Unit.
- Public Health England

Representatives from third sector groups, faith organisations, commissioned services and voluntary agencies will be identified in order to create a localised collaborative delivery environment. In due course, the intention will be to include the voice of those with 'Lived experience'. The PCC will also develop a Reference Group of the relevant Cabinet

Members from the local authorities, which will meet quarterly to help keep informed of the VRU and its activities and successes.

Key to the Executive Board will be developing and driving delivery of the two mandatory products;

- a) a South Yorkshire Problem Profile - identifying the drivers of serious violence in the local areas and the initial steps to identify the people most affected.
- b) a South Yorkshire Serious Violence Response Strategy - setting out the multi-agency response to be delivered by the VRU. The strategy will describe how the actions undertaken by the VRU enhance and compliment existing local arrangements responding to serious violence.

### **The VRU**

The VRU will deliver outputs against the strategic aims set by the Executive Board identified in the Problem Profile and to be implemented in the subsequent Response Strategy. Progress will be tracked against the common statistical success measures alongside developing, implementing and evaluating evidence-based interventions.

The VRU itself will be led by a Programme Manager, supported by a violent crime coordinator (non police) and police superintendent, and will have additional posts to support multi-agency and multi-functional delivery as previously detailed. These will support, coordinate and drive activity by adopting a programme management approach to deliver the VR Strategy. It will scale up violence prevention activities across the county, working within a multi-agency arrangement. The VRU will also spearhead a number of new projects.

The VRU itself will take a prioritised, risk-based focus on the profile of violent crime across the county to direct activity and will include have the following capacity:

- Co-ordination capability
- Partners with experience from a range of backgrounds to support delivery
- Analytical, performance & research capability
- Communications and engagement capability
- Programme management.

## **5. Existing multi-agency arrangements**

- **Are you proposing to build on an existing VRU to deliver the core requirements of this funding?**

**No**

- If yes, please provide details and confirm that the spend proposals outlined in this application are not already being funded through the existing VRU or another source.
- **Are you intending to build on other existing multi-agency arrangements to deliver the core requirements of the VRU, for example safeguarding multi-agency arrangements, community safety partnerships, health and wellbeing boards etc?**

**No**

- If yes, please provide details.

Please also see the information in question 2

This bid does not build on an existing VRU. It proposes to establish new structural arrangements to deliver a VRU providing countywide coverage.

South Yorkshire Police, over the last 12 months has established co-located multi-agency teams under the brand Operation Fortify, to coordinate the approach around violent crime and organised criminality in Sheffield.

The Operation Fortify team gather information and intelligence, to map and monitor organised criminality and violent crime in all its forms and ensure that active steps are taken to target, disrupt and prosecute individuals who participate in, or orchestrate this activity within our communities.

These teams consist of a multitude of partners across policing, children's services, youth justice, immigration, housing, DWP, NHS and partners in education focused on developing long-term solutions and interventions to serious violent crime.

This will be scaled up to deliver across South Yorkshire. This work will be supported by preventative work which seeks to divert people away from this lifestyle.

#### The Violent Crime Task Force

The South Yorkshire Violent Crime Task Force was established in June 2019, supported by the £2.6 million of surge funding received from Home Office. This will be supported and facilitated by the newly created VRU. The Task Force will support enforcement activity from the VRU, such as disruption in hotspot areas: conduct targeted operations, increase police visibility; conduct 'stop and search' and carry out other disruption and enforcement activity as identified as required.

## **6. Combining VRU provisional allocations**

Where local areas consider this most appropriate, it is open to them to work with another area(s) also in receipt of a VRU provisional allocation to deliver a single VRU. Please refer to the VRU Application Guidance for further information.

If you are not intending to pool your allocation to deliver a combined VRU in partnership with another local area, please state 'no' in response to this question.

If you are intending to pool your allocation with another local area to deliver a combined VRU, please contact the Home Office for further VRU guidance on how to complete this VRU Funding Application Form.

At this time, it is not proposed to extend the VRU outside the South Yorkshire boundary. However, the Executive Board will expect/encourage the Programme Manager to establish links with other areas and other cross-border multi-agency partnerships such as the South & West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortia, to explore joint collaboration and co-commissioning opportunities.

## **7. VRU delivery plan**

Please use the table below (expanded as required) to outline proposed VRU activity and spend for 19/20, including a description of each key activity and associated costs for each month. Please account for the full amount of funding you have been provisionally allocated. The Delivery Plan must also demonstrate delivery of the Problem Profile and Response Strategy. Note that funding will only be awarded for activities which aren't already being funded via another source.

Description of Proposed Activities and Costs		Expected Monthly Expenditure									Total Spend	
		Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20		
<b>1</b>	<b>Scale Up the local delivery of tried and tested multi-agency approaches:</b>		10,000	17,000	28,833	28,834	28,834	28,833	28,833	28,833	200,000	
	Operation Fortify activity											
	Other Scale Up projects (examples incl. Incredible Years Pre-school Scheme; Forging Ahead; Young Advisors work)											
<b>2</b>	<b>New Projects</b>											
	Hospital Navigator Project			11,538	23,077	23,077	23,077	23,077	23,077	23,077	150,000	
	Youth Screening Tool		10,000				10,000				20,000	
	YOYO Sport											
	South Yorkshire Serious Violence Fund (funds to CSPs & CJS activities focussed upon prevention, intervention, protection & enforcement)			35,714	35,714	35,714	35,714	35,714	35,714	35,714	249,998	
	Establish Youth Independent Advisory Groups				454	910	909	909	909	909	5,000	
<b>3</b>	<b>Enhanced Partnership Arrangements</b>											
	Programme Management (to include Consultancy, Financial & Administrative support)	5,000	5,000	1,929	1,929	1,929	1,929	1,929	1,929	1,929	23,503	
	VRU Staffing to include:										0	
	Co-ordination			32,419	64,838	64,838	64,838	64,838	64,838	64,838	421,447	

Analytical Support			4,019	8,038	8,038	8,038	8,038	8,038	8,038	8,038	<b>52,247</b>
Policing		17,267	17,613	17,613	17,613	17,613	17,613	17,613	17,613	17,613	<b>140,558</b>
Communication and Engagement capability			2,692	5,385	5,385	5,385	5,385	5,385	5,385	5,385	<b>35,002</b>
Administrative Support and Misc.		4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	<b>36,024</b>
IS infrastructure		849	2,791	4,715	4,715	4,715	4,715	4,715	4,715	4,715	<b>31,930</b>
Accommodation		4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	4,503	<b>36,024</b>
Training		619	2,030	3,436	3,436	3,436	3,436	3,436	3,436	3,436	<b>23,265</b>
<b>Total Expected Monthly spend</b>	5,000	52,741	136,751	232,205	232,662	242,661	232,660	232,660	232,660	232,660	1,600,000

**Please confirm the amount of spend you will incur on interventions. Please note this must constitute not less than 20% of any subsequent actual VRU funding award (as confirmed by way of Grant Agreement).**

It is the intention of the VRU to commit £800,000 (50%) of the £1.6 million to countywide and local initiatives. Whilst the exact nature and costing of these programmes of work is to be fully determined, each will be agreed at the Executive Board, with delivery and outcomes coordinated via the VRU.

The Executive Board will look to identify gaps in provision and commission accordingly. They will not include activities funded from another source. Activities will include scaled up projects already tested and also trial new projects and activities to test their impact.

### **Workstream 1 - Scale Up**

The approaches that have been tested and deployed so far have focussed upon:

- Preventing serious violence amongst those at risk or perpetrating violence - adults and young people
- Managing the risk of serious violence occurring posed by adults and young people
- Protecting those at risk of becoming a victim of serious violence.

The initiatives that will be scaled up will look to address known risk factors and offer realistic alternatives that seek to enhance life chances and prospects for those at risk of being drawn into committing or being victims of serious violence (for example the potential expansion of SmartWater initiatives to prevent and deter violence across the night time economy of South Yorkshire will be explored).

There are some well-developed multi-agency approaches that have been developed and tested in Sheffield under Operation Fortify, and this to be expanded to the other districts. Operation Fortify has had a particular focus around organised criminality. This has been undertaken in a multi-agency context, consisting of police, children's services, youth justice, immigration, housing, DWP, NHS and partners. Operation Fortify has focussed upon co-ordinated disruption and enforcement activities; safeguarding and protecting children and in particular those at risk of placement in care; and working intensively with most 'at risk' families in a supportive way.

We will look to deliver diversionary activities and interventions that look to develop prospects and improved life chances. For example, using multi-systemic therapy for offenders wanting to get back into paid employment through the 'Forging Ahead' is a programme that has been developed, in partnership, and looks to build skills, provide experience and boost employment prospects of those at risk of re-offending. The project has established links with local businesses and is undertaken with them to break down barriers to future employment.

Embedding the public health approach – exposing the wider population to proactive prevention activities early – we will look to take scale up activities that are already tried and

tested. For example, Young Advisors as used in Scotland to present prevention messages to fellow pupils. Similarly, we will scale up delivery of the Incredible Years Pre-School Programme – which was piloted in Sheffield’s ‘high harm’ areas. The programme delivers 20 weekly group sessions for parents. The programme aims at emphasising the positive rather than negative interactions between parents and children aged 3-6 years old. Areas identified as the highest vulnerability will be targeted, based on use of cross-sectoral data and harm indices as per the analytical function of the VRU bid.

### **Workstream 2 - New Projects**

There are some new innovative projects that will be commenced within South Yorkshire during the initial phase of work. Co-commissioned opportunities with neighbouring force areas or between community safety partnerships (where it makes sense to do so) will be explored, and early conversations have already begun during the bid development process.

Other projects will be identified by the Violence Reduction Executive Board once it is established and fully functioning within the next couple of months to address issues such as organised crime, child criminal exploitation or the use of opiate based drugs.

We will use an evidence based approach to the development of local projects - wherever possible placing reliance upon that already established, and seek a robust evidential-base to be able to demonstrate what works to inform future commissioning and scale up activity.

We will look to introduce new projects in South Yorkshire as part of the programme of work. For example, the introduction of “Navigators” in the A&E departments that will pick up victims at the ‘teachable moment’. Positive preliminary discussions have already taken place with the Sheffield Hospitals Charity and engagement with partners could expand the project to all A&E departments across the county.

Diversionary activity will be provided to young people at risk of becoming embroiled in serious violence. For example, negotiations with the Premier League regarding a new “You’re Only Young Once” Sport (YOYO Sport) project are well advanced that will seek to deliver diversionary activities in identified hot spot areas. As well as the diversionary activity itself, the project will deliver a range of support services and workshops for those identified as most vulnerable and/or at risk.

To help engage young people and inform development of and impact of local activity, it will be important to have in place a voice from the communities. There are already established independent advisory groups looking who can provide an adult’s perspective. But, there is a gap as far as young voices are concerned. To help address this, its is planned to engage with established networks such as Youth Cabinets and look to establish Independent Youth Advisory Groups.

We propose to create a South Yorkshire Serious Violence Fund to direct resources to existing multi-agency partnerships with a particular focus on achieving the desired outcomes

and outputs. The fund will be managed separately to more general funds available to Community Safety Partnerships, as part of the VRU Programme. This Fund will enable activity to be mobilised quickly whilst the Serious Violence Reduction Executive Board is established. There will be an expectation that wherever possible, these funds will be used to deliver activity with sound evidential base (for example, utilising the Early Intervention Foundation guidebook; Justice Data Lab). The Fund will be available to:

- Countywide Community Safety Forum - for countywide activities chaired by the PCC
- Community Safety Partnerships – Chaired by Local Authority and Police but comprising a full range of partners including CCGs, Public Health and others and will consider local initiatives aimed at such as bringing the Knife Angel to their local area to raise awareness as part of the community education
- Local Criminal Justice Board – to work with those offenders already known to criminal justice agencies where discrete focussed work can take place (for example, looking to mentor serious violent offenders leaving secure custody – whether that be through the Resettlement Consortia for young offenders; or those being managed in the community). These activities will be new and in addition to statutory or contractual obligations already in place.

**Please briefly describe how the VRU will work with relevant local agencies and partnerships. This should include an explanation of how the VRU will demonstrate additionality through centralised VRU coordination rather than duplication of effort.**

### **Workstream 3 - Enhancing Partnership Arrangements**

In the last financial year, partnership working has taken place in Sheffield to address serious organised crime in the city; this has worked on similar principles to a VRU. Excellent as that work has been, it has had a defined focus on organised crime and has been focussed and directed through Sheffield's Community Safety Partnership. Local partnership arrangements now need to be re-shaped so that a VRU which serves the needs of the entire county, making the appropriate linkages and pulling all the various activities taking place to address serious violence together into a more co-ordinated programme of work.

Co-ordination of all the activities focussed upon addressing a reduction in serious violence is likely to be best achieved through a programme management approach. This co-ordination role needs to be fully developed. Getting this in place is therefore a priority to ensure delivery of an ambitious programme of work in a short period of time. The VRU will work alongside other partnership arrangements encouraging open information sharing from other relevant multi agency for a, such as the Countywide Community Safety forum, the Organised Crime Partnership Board and the Strategic Safeguarding Forum.

Strategic leadership is key to realising a step change in South Yorkshire's approach to addressing serious violence. The convening power of the PCC and accessing this £1.6m of funding will undoubtedly be key enablers to making a positive difference for South Yorkshire

communities. Establishing a Violence Reduction Executive Board which will be responsible for driving progress to make a positive difference for South Yorkshire communities. Once established, the Executive Board will ensure the production of the Problem Profile and Response Strategy, determine longer term strategic ambitions, harmonise existing strategies, have oversight of the delivery of the success measures, drive activity already underway, clear blockages in systems and processes, and resolve issues that require senior level authority.

By taking the programme management approach and developing a governance structure it is intended that information sharing will improve. Taking this inclusive partnership approach local agencies will be represented at Executive Board level to develop the vision for the VRU and its subsequent work. It is intended that duplication with established local forums such as Community Safety Partnerships and other local delivery is avoided. Operational VRU leads will ensure attendance at District and countywide forums providing updates on outputs and outcomes from proposed activity.

Establishing the South Yorkshire VRU as the delivery arm is a key part priority for us.

**8. Briefly describe how you will ensure the VRU operates with and for the community and how the voices of young people will be taken into account.**

Please note that this response must explain how the work of the VRU will be communicated to the community.

The first phase of the development of the VRU will see an overarching communication strategy developed, which will be integrated into partner agencies. This strategy will include the further development of branding and South Yorkshire-wide messaging.

The VRU will continue to seek guidance, support and learning from community leads, in particular young people. Local community forums, youth panels and developing Youth Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) will provide a source of critical review as the VRU progresses.

Early consultation with elected members and key community representatives will provide the opportunity for feedback, transparency and local connectivity.

During his recent visit to the Glasgow VRU, the PCC particularly noted the capacity of the VRU to connect and engage with members of the public, partners and media. The communication and engagement capacity as part of this bid will develop the strategy to ensure an open communication line and meaningful engagement between the Executive Board, VRU and key stakeholders.

Communication, education and engagement are regarded as a key element of the South Yorkshire approach. Inclusion of a specialist communication and engagement staff within the VRU will provide this capability.

**9. All VRUs will be assessed against a set of common success measures. See VRU Application Guidance for more details.**

Are there any other high-level success measures which the VRU will voluntarily use in addition to these to measure long-term progress? If so, please outline these below.

The VRU will look specifically to achieve:

- Reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with knife or sharp object especially amongst victims under 25.
- Reduction in knife enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25 based on police recorded crime data.
- Reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.
- Reduction in exclusions across the secondary and primary sector in South Yorkshire.
- Increase the volume of mandated health visitor checks in first 1000 days.

**10. Due to the complexities and challenges of measuring progress against these common success measures, VRUs will also be required to measure more immediate, short-term outputs and outcomes.**

**Please refer to the VRU application guidance for further details.**

**Are there any additional short-term outputs and outcome measures which the VRU will voluntarily track? If so, please outline these below.**

Whilst not finalised additional short, medium and long term output/outcome measures will be identified to demonstrate delivery of the common success measures. The indicators below are provided by way of example of specific outputs which will be captured and performance indicators which will demonstrate the overall journey.

- Mapping exercise to capture current interventions (including linkages with 'Complex Lives' and 'Troubled Families) available across the county specific to violent crime.
- Agree a consistent framework with partners to identify children and families vulnerable to the impact of serious violent crime.
- The number of school children subject to school-based interventions (such as "Guns and Knives Take Lives) within the county.

- The number of preventative interventions undertaken with knife or gun crime victims in A&E settings within the county
- Number of surrendered knives (e.g. through the Operation Sceptre (knife arches) and recovered in Knife Bins based in communities).

In addition to these as the VRU analytical function additional indicators will be developed, related to risk factors particularly with links to the Public Health Outcome Framework to be agreed in conjunction with Public Health partners

**11. VRU projects will be centrally evaluated by the Home Office independent evaluation partner. We expect this to take the form of a qualitative evaluation process.**

**Please confirm your ability and willingness to work with the independent evaluation partner.**

Please refer to the VRU Application Guidance for further details.

We can confirm both our ability and willingness to participate in this independent evaluation

**12. Duplicate Funding Declaration**

**Please declare any duplicate funding under the header ‘Duplicate Funding’ below.**

**Please tick the box below to make the Duplicate Funding Declaration**

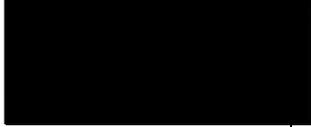
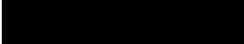
The Grant Agreement will contain provisions relating to ‘duplicate funding’. The Home Office will not be able to fund costs presented for payment under the Grant Agreement which are otherwise being funded in whole or in part from another source, or which would otherwise have been funded in whole or in part from another source.

Accordingly, please confirm the statement below by ticking the box.

The activities and costs described in this application form and for which VRU grant funding is sought are not already being funded, and would not otherwise be funded, in whole or in part by any other funding source.

**13. Sign Off**

This application must be agreed and signed off by the persons as specified in the VRU Application Guidance (please expand the table below as may be required).

Name	Role	Signature	Date
Dr Alan Billings	Police & Crime Commissioner		08/07/19
Stephen Watson QPM	Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police		08/07/19
	Chief Executive, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council		08/07/19
	Chief Executive, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council		05/07/19
	Chief Executive, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council		08/07/19
	Chief Executive, Sheffield City Council		08/07/19
	Barnsley (Childrens/ Public Health)		08/07/19
	Doncaster (Childrens/ Public Health)	By email	04/07/19
	Rotherham (Childrens/ Public Health)		08/07/19
	Sheffield (Childrens/ Public Health)		08/07/19
	Chief Officer, Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group		05/07/19
	Chief Officer, Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group		05/07/19

[REDACTED]	Chief Officer, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group	By email	05/07/19	
[REDACTED]	Chief Officer, Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group	[REDACTED]	05/07/19	
[REDACTED]	Public Health England	[REDACTED]	08/07/19	