Virtual Decisions – Knives and Gangs Delivery Partner 2025-26

Supporting information

April 2025

# Introduction

The West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) are seeking to commission a delivery partner to undertake delivery of our Virtual Decisions programme across West Yorkshire.

A successful pilot year of the Virtual Decisions programme has been completed through localised delivery and the VRP wish to centralise a portion of the programme to extend reach of the delivery across the region.

## Background

In 2023, the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership purchased a license for the Virtual Decisions – Knife Crime and Gangs programme produced by Round Midnight and acquired the virtual reality headsets to accompany the programme.

Round Midnight are a creative arts company that specialise in the use of drama and technology in education. Virtual Decisions is Round Midnight’s innovative virtual reality educational programme which is aimed to support children and young people who are at risk of criminal exploitation. Virtual Decision films enable participants to experience multiple dilemmas and illustrate the impacts of different choices. The choose your own path format provides over 3,000 different paths for a user. The experience promotes awareness, empathy, and critical thinking.

The programme objectives are:

* Educate children on social issues, such as gang culture and knife crime
* Reduce youth crime, youth violence, and criminal exploitation
* Empower young people to make informed decisions and take positive actions, contributing to a safer, more inclusive community

Following the virtual reality experience, facilitators are expected to run creative arts workshops that explore the issues raised in more depth. The workshops allow the children to reflect on their personal journey and discuss it with others to share and learn from each other’s experiences.

The GANGS video looks at gang culture, youth violence, criminal exploitation, and risk-taking behaviour. The KNIVES video looks at why young people may carry a knife, what the implications and consequences of this might be, and what impact it can have.

**Delivery 2024-25**

To provide context of the pilot year of delivery, this section provides an overview of the Virtual Decisions delivery from 1st April 2024 until 28th January 2025.

Reach

* Leeds had the highest number of bookings for headsets across the region (45.7% of bookings)
* Calderdale had the lowest number of bookings at >1%
* Across the delivery, 726 children are reported as having been reached
* Half of the children said after watching the gangs’ film, they knew a lot about gangs. This is a 140% increase from before watching the film
* 66% of children said that after watching the film they knew a lot about knife crime. This is a 168% increase from before watching the film.
* 54.8% of children strongly agreed that virtual reality is a good way of teaching people about these topics
* 46.6% of children strongly agreed that the film made them think about the consequences of knife crime

**Accompanying Evaluation and Learning**

The VRP takes a public health approach to violence reduction, which includes being evidence-led in understanding what works in reducing violence. This includes evaluating the programmes we deliver and commission to understand their reach and impact.

Evaluation of the commissioned delivery of the Virtual Decisions programme will be led internally by the VRP with the exact expectations for the commissioned partner outlined in the grant agreement.

The evaluation will look to understand the quality, experience, and impact of the training for the children and delivery partner. The commissioned delivery partner will be expected to collect monitoring data regarding the children reached and facilitate completion of evaluation surveys with the children.

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

Under the Equality Act 2010, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority has an ongoing legal duty to pay ‘due regard’ to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct; advance equality of opportunity between different groups (those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not); and foster good relations between different groups.

The provider must:

* Act in accordance with this duty, as well as the more general provisions of the Equality Act.
* Understand the diversity of West Yorkshire and ensure the service is accessible focus and commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI).
* To proactively, and through an intersectional lens, consider how interventions are supported and embedded both within the organisation and in work with local communities and partners, to achieve quality social and inclusion outcomes.
* Actively attract, nurture, and retain a diverse and talented workforce.

**Safeguarding - Disclosure and Barring Service**

Due to the nature of the provision, we require suppliers to check someone's criminal record as an employer and for those working on the contract to have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in place. Disclosure and Barring Service checks carried out on those who have direct contact with vulnerable groups or potential vulnerable groups

Link to Disclosure and Barring Service <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>

It is required that any staff member or volunteer involved in delivering the service

have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in place. Disclosure and Barring Service checks carried out on those who have direct contact with vulnerable groups or potential vulnerable groups.

## Find out morewestyorks-ca.gov.uk

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All information correct at time of writing