



## #ISTV in practice: Greater Manchester

### Behind every piece of anonymised data is a person with a story

**Emergency medicine consultant and clinical lead for Greater Manchester's Violence Reduction Unit, Dr Rachel Jenner is well positioned to share the value of implementing Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV), where it's being used to great effect to target and deliver community-led interventions to those who need it most.**

Like other cities, no two data sets are the same, but working closely with the police and ambulance service and sharing data with community partnerships, they are pinpointing areas of concern.

The team in Greater Manchester share similar challenges with the rest of the health sector when it comes to IT systems and governance concerns. But it's good to know they're not alone - sharing what does and doesn't work is proving to be enormously valuable.

Rachel said: "In our region we're using ISTV data to implement clinically-led programmes, being delivered by a wide variety of people in the community.

"There are a number of workstreams in Manchester related to violence reduction. One of the big ones is a community-led programme where we're going into communities, talking to people with lived experience and getting direct messages from them to plan community interventions, and I think that is really important."

There are lots of different organisations commissioned in different parts of the country to deliver youth work in hospitals. Through the violence reduction unit and funding from the Home Office in 2020, they broke ground in Manchester with the introduction of a Hospital Navigator Programme, and with that youth workers are provided by the charity Oasis UK.

Deployed to the major trauma centres in Greater Manchester, clinicians are able to refer patients to youth workers who can intervene and offer support - whether somebody is seriously injured from a near-fatal stabbing, or if they've been punched resulting in bruises and facial wounds that need simple treatments.

#### GM NAVIGATORS

Youth workers

Initially hospital based in Major Trauma Centres and Trauma Unit

Now accepting community referrals

>800 referrals for vulnerable young people

Bespoke support programme for CYP 10-25 affected by violence



This identified an immediate need by the ambulance service whose call-outs often don't end up in hospital but there is a need for additional support. So, the Navigator service was quickly extended to paramedics in Greater Manchester.

The team also realised that those coming into hospital don't represent all the people who are affected by violence. So, they widened their scope and secured additional funding to accept referrals from anybody working in primary care, schools etc. People can also self-refer, albeit it is more common for parents to refer on their child's behalf. In the last year, there have been more than 800 referrals.

What started on a small scale within hospitals is having a much wider community impact.

In the last two years they have also worked with the charity [Citizen Aid](#) to deliver 'Stop the Bleed Day' which was piloted in 11 schools in Greater Manchester. They went into schools and taught year seven students bleeding control skills using very low-tech simulation equipment – no bleed kit – no fancy tourniquets. They were taught how to apply pressure, pack a wound and make an improvised tourniquet from clothing and household objects.

Feedback was really positive, with confidence levels in managing bleeding rising from 35% to 90%.

**STOP THE BLEED DAY 2023**

Pilot in 11 schools

Taught 1687 children bleed control skills in a single day

No specialised equipment

Self-reported confidence in managing bleeding rose from 22% to 80%

Rolling out further in 2024

In conjunction with Citizen Aid



Another programme delivered in Greater Manchester, led by a paediatric registrar, used sport as a medium to target girls and young women. UniteHER and [England Netball](#), brought together professionals – doctors, lawyers, police officers, social workers to work alongside the girls for a focused day. Sport was the ice breaker, and it helped demystify roles that may intimidate young people.



The day resulted in the girls having newfound confidence to seek help, being taught lifesaving skills and learning about healthy relationships.

For Rachel and the team, face-face engagement is everything, breaking down barriers and respecting individual life experience.

"Behind every piece of data is a person with a story.

"We know, and there's loads of evidence about this, that adverse childhood experiences such as abuse, neglect, household dysfunction, has lifelong implications to all sorts of aspects of your health and wellbeing.

"When we're thinking about violence - if you've had four or more adverse childhood experiences, and that's absolutely common, you're 14 more times likely to be a victim of violence in the last year and 15 times more likely to be the perpetrator of violence.

"You're 20 times more likely to end up imprisoned and also much more likely to live in poverty, be unemployed, have a long-term sickness. You're also more likely to have diabetes, heart disease, cancer."

Your hospital. Your community. The part you play.

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