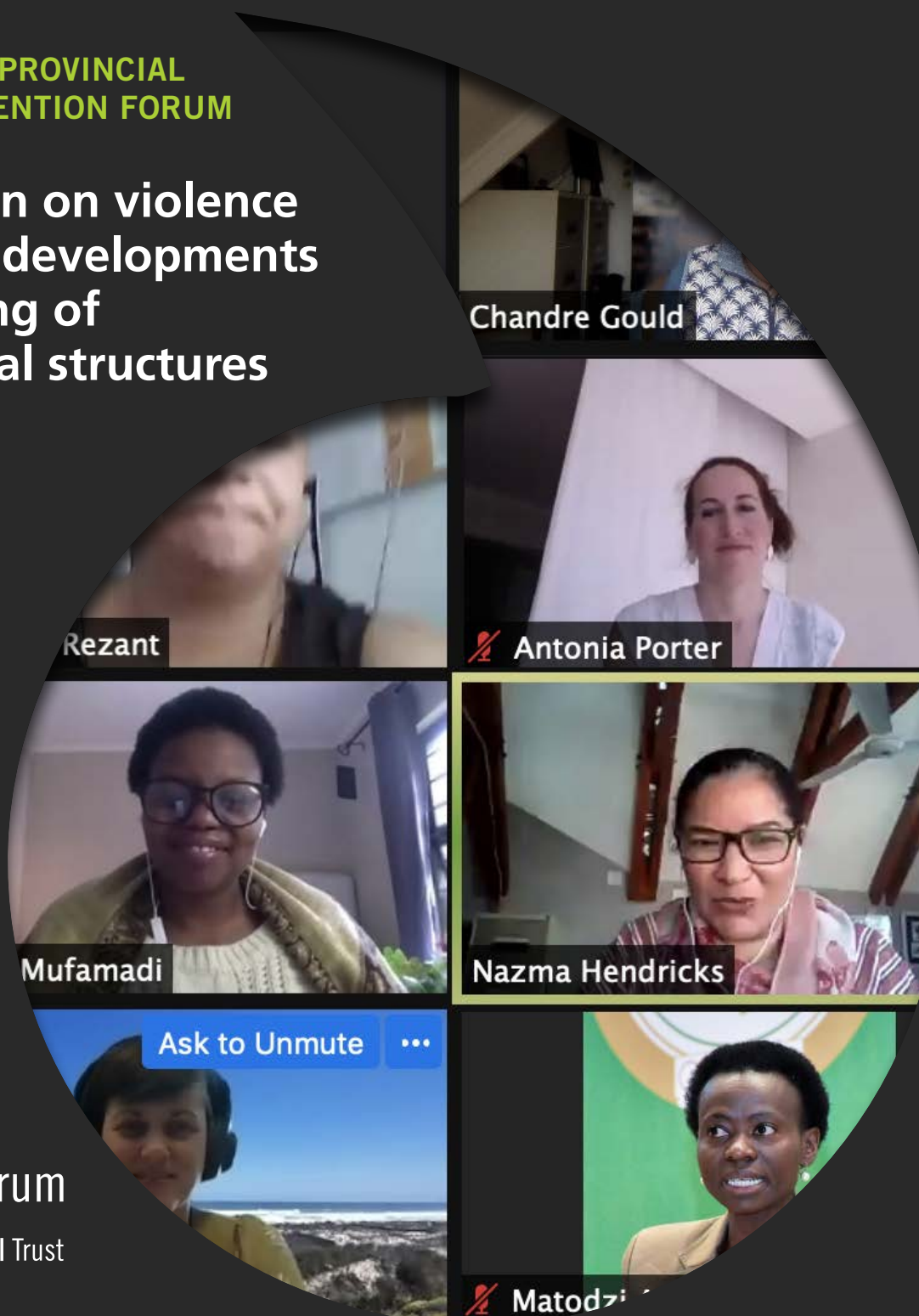


**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL  
VIOLENCE PREVENTION FORUM**

**Consultation on violence  
prevention developments  
and mapping of  
multisectoral structures**

24 March 2021



**The Violence  
Prevention Forum**

Evidence | Collaboration | Trust



Bayerische Staatskanzlei



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## SUMMARY



On 24 March 2021 representatives from government departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the donor community and research institutes came together online to map multisectoral structures that address violence and its prevention in the province; and to share updates and new developments in violence prevention in the province. The need to identify and enable opportunities for collaboration was an overarching theme of the meeting.

By mapping existing multisectoral structures that address violence and its prevention, participants sought to determine whether a new provincial platform (such as a Violence Prevention Forum [VPF]) is necessary, or whether another approach, such as strengthening existing structures, would be more appropriate. While many structures for cross-sectoral interaction were identified, these focus on specific thematic areas (such as trafficking, victim support, etc.) or specific geographic areas. None of the existing structures provides an opportunity for addressing violence prevention holistically, for detailed information and knowledge sharing between sectors, or shared reflection and learning.

It was agreed that the nascent VPF would meet again on 2 September 2021. A strategic planning group was established to plan the next meeting and think further about the benefits and challenges of the formalisation of this structure.

# STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE



In October 2020, representatives from government departments, NGOs and academic institutions met to explore whether the formalisation of a forum for violence prevention in the Western Cape would be helpful in building relationships and understanding across sectors, in order to prevent violence by drawing on the evidence of what works and what doesn't. It was agreed that instead of hastily establishing another structure, it was necessary to take stock of what already exists and to identify gaps and opportunities. This included mapping structures in the province that bring together NGOs, government departments and researchers to think and plan around safety and violence prevention.

On 24 March 2021, 23 representatives from NGOs, the government and the research community met on Zoom to give effect to this mandate by mapping structures and sharing new developments.

Participants agreed to uphold the following agreements in the meeting:

- Share and be honest
- Be open to conversation
- Accept dissenting voices
- Be present – do not be preoccupied with WhatsApps, emails or phones
- Manage differences between one another
- Be aware of power – which often gets in the way of honest conversations
- Be humble
- Respect the process
- Be bold and vulnerable in volunteering yourself for action.

The meeting had four components which are detailed below:

- **Part 1** comprised inputs (formal and informal) on developments in the province relating to the prevention of violence.
- **Part 2** entailed the mapping of multisectoral structures that exist to address aspects of violence and safety.
- **Part 3** considered opportunities for collaboration.
- **Part 4** mapped the way forward.

# PART 1

## Developments in the Western Cape violence prevention ecosystem

The following presentations and inputs were made:

- Dr Melvin Moodley, Department of Health:  
*Safety priority in the Western Cape government*
- Johan Brand, Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP):  
*Western Cape Safety Plan and Area Based Teams*
- Gwen Dereymaeker, Western Cape office of the Premier:  
*Family Strengthening programmes to reduce violence*
- Kaathima Ebrahim, Mikhulu Trust, and Blanche Rezant, the Parent Centre:  
*SAPPIN*
- Dr Elmarie Malek, Department of Health (DoH):  
*DoH and early indicators of violence in early life*
- Major General Oswald Reddy, SAPS Cluster Commander:  
*Evidence Based Policing in the Garden Route District*
- Kaathima Ebrahim, Mukhulu Trust:  
*Research around early childhood*
- Anna Booij, Clown without Borders (CWB):  
*CWB and digital parenting programme delivery*

### Safety priorities of the Western Cape government

#### Dr Melvin Moodley (Western Cape Department of Health)

Dr Moodley outlined the safety priorities of the provincial government, with a specific focus on the data stream that is informed by the Cardiff model. The model comprises the collection, collation and analysis of anonymised health data on interpersonal violence that is shared with police and local government over 51 months. The idea is that by sharing information between the health department, police and local government, violence prevention strategies and interventions can be identified, which will lead to a reduction in violent injury. The model encourages collaboration between service providers and provides data to inform action.

The presentation highlighted work already done in relation to surveillance. Examples were shared of integrated safety systems, data reports, and a scoreboard that is still a work-in-progress.

- **Integrated safety system**  
An integrated data system is a system where information from different role players is integrated and made available in the form of reports, analyses and dashboards. Examples of such systems are Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Hospital and Emergency Centre Tracking Information System (HECTIS):

– **EMS**

EMS have an advanced data collection system for weekly assault reports. Their interaction with clients allows them to explore data points regarding individual injuries. This information is documented and a report produced for each priority area (e.g. Khayelitsha, Delft, Hanover Park, Nyanga, Bishop Lavis, etc.). These reports include detailed information on the injury – the time, type (e.g. physical assault, assault with a gun or other) and place of occurrence. Reports are drawn every week and made available to all stakeholders. It is important to note that this information is limited to individuals that come into contact with the EMS. It excludes those who have died, took private vehicles to the hospital or simply did not report an injury. Nevertheless, it is an important data source, that if made available to the police, would allow them to better target their response to violence in the province in certain geographical areas. In the long term, the Department of Health is looking at integrating the EMS report directly into their data system.

– **HECTIS**

This is a patient information system for people who come directly to the emergency rooms (ER) of provincial hospitals. This system was rolled out three years ago, with the long-term plan to roll it out in all 24 facilities in the province by the end of the next financial year. This system captures a wide range of disaggregated information about patients and injuries – such as age, gender, the total number of injuries in a facility/area, types of injuries – that allows for a better understanding of the patterns of injuries and an ability to compare and contrast injuries over periods of time, among other things.

• **Data reports**

Area-based profiles are compiled by the Department of the Premier. These are detailed reports that pull together data from various sources on the ten priority areas and include: population profile, transport and movement, crime statistics, socioeconomic and vulnerability index, and government services. They are updated regularly and incorporate data as it becomes available. The reports provide a comprehensive picture of a particular area that serves as a starting point to understanding an area. Area-based profiles have been developed for the ten priority areas with a target completion date of 31 March 2021.

• **Safety scoreboard**

This will enable users to know what the province is doing to prevent violence and to adjust their strategies and actions accordingly.

Understanding the kinds of violence that occur in specific areas, down to the smallest details, enable better context-specific solutions for emergency centres in each geographic area. In addition to integrated systems, we must move towards getting the information and establishing trends as close to real-time as possible.

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## Western Cape Safety Plan and area-based teams

### *Johan Brand (Economic Development Partnership)*

The Western Cape Safety Plan has three principles: access to jobs, improving quality of life along the life course (i.e. wellbeing), and reducing and preventing crime and violence (i.e. safety).

In accordance with the safety principle, reducing and preventing crime and violence in the province is addressed using a three-pronged approach, with specific focal areas: social cohesion, urban design and law enforcement. These different areas are led by representatives (both from government departments and NGOs) who have identified collaboration as the key to achieving violence and crime prevention. Area-based teams have been established as an intervention to encourage collaboration at a local level. These teams also depend on integrated data (e.g. population profile, movement patterns, socio-economic vulnerability index, crime statistics, EMS assault hotspots, etc.) to understand generators of violence in particular areas and to respond appropriately.

Achievements so far include:

- The establishment of an interim technical steering committee. This is chaired by the head of the departments of Health and Community Safety. The establishment of an evidence stream and a data surveillance stream.
- The establishment of an evidence advisory board that consists of academics and other experts to advise the committee.
- The establishment of a law enforcement working group and six initial metro working sites.
  - The law enforcement agencies work together in the metro, specifically looking at areas with high murder rates such as Delft, Nyanga, Mitchells Plain, Phillipi and Bishop Lavis.
  - To date, this working group has been put together by the departments of Police and Community Safety, Economic Development Partnership, the City and the Institute for Security Studies.
  - The working group has identified ‘quick wins’ which contribute to murder: firearms, substance abuse (alcohol and drugs) and persons of interest (including wanted subjects, parolees, and repeat offenders).
- Data surveillance is now being used for more targeted responses (as touched on in the presentation by Dr Moodley).

It is envisioned that the following are still to be achieved:

- Establish a social cohesion technical working group and the urban design and management technical workgroup.
- Establish five additional metro sites with high murder rates (including rural sites).
- Include NGOs as part of the working groups. These NGOs are still to be identified.

The ecological model of identifying risk factors for violence has been key to helping the government in understanding drivers of violence in the Western Cape context.



## Family strengthening programmes to reduce violence

### *Gwen Dereymaeker (Office of the Premier)*

This presentation had a specific focus on family strengthening as a way to increase safety in the province.

The aim of the Western Cape provincial government, as has been alluded to by previous presentations, is to use evidence to lead the prevention and response to violence in the province. The government seeks to find out what already exists, use this knowledge to design better interventions and build evidence for implementation, and to understand better what works and what doesn't in specific areas. The ecological model of identifying risk factors for violence has been key to helping the government in understanding drivers of violence in the Western Cape context.

Family strengthening or parenting programmes that encourage positive parenting for long-term positive effects have been recognised by the government as effective for violence reduction and prevention. Though these programmes are complex and challenging to deliver, positive outcomes include: improved parent-child relationships, non-violent discipline, improved parent mental health, etc. The government is currently grappling with whether and how such programmes can be scaled up as part of ordinary government services.

A focus on family strengthening/parenting programmes was made by the government as there is a strong foundation of existing programmes in the Western Cape. Many such programmes are already being delivered by NGOs within the province and many of these are evidence-informed or evidence-based. The government realises that in order to promote an evidence-based approach in service delivery, these programmes give the ideal base from which to start. A broad, inclusive definition of families has been adopted that aligns with the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on gender-based violence (GBV) which defines family as anyone living together in a household.

Issues currently being grappled with by the provincial government include:

- How can we strengthen and better support family strengthening programmes that are impactful?
- How can we strengthen referral pathways between family strengthening programmes and other family support services/violence prevention programmes?

Proposed processes going forward are:

- Map current programmes and referral pathways.
- Conduct consultations with families to understand their needs and perceptions.
- Knowledge sharing and evidence: What is evidence? Evidence-based? Evidence-informed? What are the current and future opportunities for evidence?
- Unpack challenges and blockages to rolling out evidence-informed programme design and implementation, and strengthen referral pathways.
- Co-design programmes with components that promote evidence-informed approaches to family strengthening programmes.

A broad, inclusive definition of families has been adopted that aligns with the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on gender-based violence (GBV) which defines family as anyone living together in a household.



## South African Parenting Programme Implementors Network (SAPPIN)

### *Kaathima Ebrahim and Blanche Rezant*

With its roots in the national VPF, the South African Parenting Programme Implementer's Network (SAPPIN) was formed in 2017. SAPPIN is a network of parenting organisations with a national footprint. They share and commit to a set of principles that ensures confidence in each other and their programmes.

SAPPIN's vision is to build secure futures for all who live in South Africa by assisting families to create warm and non-violent homes for children. The overarching goal is to enable collaboration between SAPPIN members in order to make quality and effective parenting programmes and interventions available and sustainable across the country in communities where they are needed.

Recently SAPPIN members identified as a core value its commitment to *quality service provision* and from this, six core principles emerged:

- The promotion of warm and non-violent family (caregiver-child) relationships.
- The ethos of collaboration and learning with internal and external stakeholders.
- The implementation of quality programmes, achieved through monitoring and evaluation, supervision, evidence-based/informed programmes which occur within a referral network.
- To be informed by relevant social, cultural and religious practices.
- To apply ethics and respect in implementation and research (with regards to staff and beneficiaries). To ensure members are registered, compliant entities in South Africa with child protection and safeguarding policies.

This commitment to quality service provision unearthed conversations and thinking around evidence, its generation and use within the NGO sector. The network identified gaps between the research and the implementing (or community-based/NGO) sectors. Most community-based organisations are not partnered with research organisations, are therefore unfamiliar with research language and are alienated from the process and discussions. SAPPIN, therefore, speaks of 'evidence' in a more 'familiar' language, framing it around the network's commitment to quality service provision. The issue of evidence is also unfamiliar territory for organisations as they are often more preoccupied with meeting the needs of communities than whether there is evidence for the work that they are doing, in the way in which they are doing it.

The gaps between these sectors result in gaps between the actual research and its implementation. SAPPIN believes that while evidence is important, contextual differences necessitate the rapid adaptation of programmes (e.g. COVID-19). Programmes that are not adapted can, and do, cause harm, therefore, it is important to start thinking about the role implementation science plays in the rollout of programmes. Although this is acknowledged in the violence prevention sector, implementing organisations still find difficulty in expressing these and other challenges and learnings within the sector. Reasons and possible solutions for this have been identified:

- The elevation of research evidence over the voices and experiences of implementers. Platforms to share rich lessons coming from implementation must be created as is afforded to lessons learnt through research.

- Randomised control trials are the gold standard for how evidence is generated. This type of research is costly and is a barrier for implementing organisations. Implementing organisations need to focus on sustainability to continue rendering services post-research. Therefore, it is important to collaborate to offer services that have the same principles of tested programmes and to roll that out nationally.
- Often research processes can be impractical in real-life settings. Implementers must find ways to offer learnings about challenges that can be faced in the rollout and possible solutions to such challenges.
- Explore quality assurance through firm principles which guide implementing organisation to be evidence-based rather than seeing evidence as costly and unattainable.

## Department of Health and early indicators of violence in early life

### ***Dr Elmarie Malek***

There are many opportunities in antenatal services and child services for mental health assessments to pick up risk early in a child's life. This is a current service and an entry point to explore opportunities. This can be regarded in addition to the heavy reliance on emergency data when we speak of safety and violence. Emergency data is at the end of the line and it is important to see the 'beginning' of the story – with pregnant women. Mental health services should be a part of the referral pathways as early starting points for caring, preventing violence and instilling parental capacity.

## Evidence-based policing in the Garden Route district

### ***General Oswald Reddy, SAPS Cluster Commander***

A pilot project has commenced in the Garden Route district within the Eden cluster. This is in collaboration with the Institute for Security Studies and the SAPS research regional component. The national commissioner has approved this project. The project focuses on evidence-based policing and has identified six police stations to be piloted. The stations will be looking at GBV and domestic violence (DV) specifically, as well as other crime generators in the area. Evidence-based practice (EBP) is being piloted here first.

## Mikhulu Trust research around early childhood

### ***Kaathima Ebrahim***

The Mikhulu Trust is an early childhood organisation focused on research of the three early parenting difficulties in early childhood and how these predict child aggression later in life. Mikhulu is the purveyor of the dialogic book-sharing programme – a tool and support programme that uses picture books as a basis for parents to develop positive relationships with their children, and to provide early stimulation and cognitive development in children.

Mikhulu is undertaking research to explore the impact of the book-sharing programme on fathers and their five-year-old children. The organisation is also developing a wordless picture book of stories that lightly touch on issues of violence and violence in the home.

## Clowns Without Borders (CWB) and digital parenting programme delivery

### ***Anna Booij***

Inspired by COVID-19 and regulations such as social distancing, CWB has been working with its parenting partners to see if they can pilot and adapt the different parenting programmes for remote delivery to families. Initiatives are currently at a piloting stage in South Africa and other countries, with the aim being to learn and improve digital delivery. The digital adaptations are:

- Parenting for life-long health programmes provided over Zoom.
- Parent Chat – messages around positive parenting are shared in groups with caregivers over WhatsApp and other instant messaging apps. This mimics the in-person dynamics.
- Parent Text – parents engage via text messages with an automated system that provides tailored messages based on the parent's needs.
- Parent App – caregivers can download an app that provides different elements of parenting programmes. The app can be used individually or as a group with neighbours and friends of the caregiver to stimulate conversations.

## PART 2

# Mapping multisectoral structures

Participants spent time mapping multisectoral structures (i.e. structures that bring together researchers, NGOs, government, the private sector etc) in the province that address violence prevention or safety. Some structures identified were not multisectoral and have, therefore, not been included in the table below.

Name of structure	Focus	Who is involved
PICH: Parent Infant Child Health Working Group (hosted by the Western Cape Dept of Health)	First Thousand Days, including parent support for mothers	Dept of Health, civil society, University of Stellenbosch
Western Cape Provincial Children & Family Forum (hosted by Dept of Social Development)	Child protection and family services	Local government with invited stakeholders
Thusong Centre	Domestic violence in Oudtshoorn and George	Thusong Centre (NPO), Dept of Health, SAPS
At Home Learning (hosted by Dept of Basic Education)	Education through building community and family cohesion	Western Cape Department of Basic Education, NGOs, grant-making organisations
Dysselsdorp (ACVV)	Women's shelter	SAPS, Dept of Health and local government
Greenhearts	Violence prevention (women and children – victim empowerment)	Local government, Greenhearts (NPO), SAPS, Dept of Health, Plettenberg Bay
Homelessness intersectoral structure (CoT)	Offering services such as reintegration and relocation	NGOs, different departments (city level), Dept of Social Development (provincial)
Western Cape Substance Forum (hosted by provincial Dept of Social Development)	Substance abuse	Treatment centres, Education, Health, Municipal, Medical Research Council, hospitals (treatment), justice, SAPS (do not always attend), rural drug action committees
Victim Empowerment Project (hosted by Dept of Social Development)	Improved coordination for victim support services	SAPS, Dept of Social Development, Health, NGOs, academics
Provincial Safety Advisory Committee (hosted by provincial Dept of Community Safety)	Providing advice to the Minister of Safety (provincial) on how to improve safety in the province	Academics, business, NGOs, advocates/judges, government; meetings are held quarterly

Name of structure	Focus	Who is involved
Gender Justice Forum and LGBTI forum (hosted by Dept of Justice)	Issues concerning gender justice	Includes NPO representation
Court meetings (for survivors of crime and violence)	Ensures that issues of safety and services for survivors are addressed	Government and NGOs
Substance abuse forum	Responsible for implementation of the master drug plan in the province, prevention and intervention	Dept of Social Development, NPOs, government departments, family forum, multisectoral stakeholders

It was observed that most of these structures are convened by government and are focused on a particular issue or geographic area. The specificity of the focus seems to create a sense of fragmentation that risks losing sight of how issues around safety and violence prevention are interlinked.

Participants explored what value a new multisectoral forum on violence prevention could add to the many valuable, but disparate, forums that already exist. It was concluded that none of the existing structures seemed to actively seek to attain multisectoral representation in which collective action and problem-solving takes place. A longing surfaced for the creation of a space that could foster collaboration, encourage innovation and hold, in an unbiased way, the interests of all the different sectors.

The lack of private sector engagement in the sector was noted with the suggestion that the private sector be engaged in a manner that shows how they are already a part of, and impacted by, the cycle of violence in the country. In addition, there was a wish for a space to integrate formal and practice-based knowledge, and a wish to continue seeking ways to engage rural organisations to ensure a holistic view of the province.



## PART 3

### Strengthening collaboration

When asked to imagine opportunities for collaboration within the province, one participant captured the overall sentiment well by stating, “*There are existing opportunities around the Safety Plan, but we need a forum in order to think about things in a holistic way.*” Other responses included giving attention to the process needed to create carefully considered partnerships. Questions that arose for further discussion included the following:

- What do we understand about the extent of violence in the province and interventions that work to prevent and reduce it?
- Can this space be a space that equalises voices (by encouraging the use of non-exclusionary language) and shapes the generation of knowledge?
- Will area-based teams cause us to over-focus on certain areas?
- How can area-based teams collaborate with NGOs?
- How can NGOs use this opportunity to generate evidence from their implementation experiences?
- How can the private sector be engaged in violence prevention?



## PART 4

# The way forward and conclusion

Evidence-based violence prevention appears to be a burning subject in the province. While the provincial government is using the Cardiff model of shared data to inform decisions and influence its response to violence and the prevention of violence, NGOs are grappling with how to increase their contribution to the evidence-based practice, including drawing on lessons from practice.

While many structures exist in the Western Cape that focus on the safety and wellbeing of its citizens, a gap was identified for a holistic platform for learning, knowledge sharing engagement and to identify opportunities for collaboration. Participants noted their desire for better partnerships and collaboration and agreed that another meeting of stakeholders should take place to further explore the form and function of the Western Cape violence prevention.

A strategic planning group was appointed to plan and direct the next meeting and to begin thinking about the objectives and aims of this structure. A lesson learnt from the national VPF is that the forum is most beneficial and effective for all sectors when it is co-owned and led by a small multisectoral group. The main purpose of this group is to provide strategic guidance for the forum, providing specific insights from their respective sectors. The following participants volunteered to be part of the strategic planning group:

- Natasha Siebritz (Department of Social Development)
- Gwen Dereymaeker (Office of the Premier)
- Elmarie Malek (Department of Health)
- Jill Ryan (University of the Western Cape & South African Medical Research Council)
- Antonia Porter (Independent consultant)
- Wilmi Dippenaar (Seven Passes Initiative)
- Kaathima Ebrahim (Mikhulu Trust)

The strategic planning group will meet twice to plan the next meeting of this forum.

The next meeting of the provincial forum has been scheduled for 2 September 2021.

## PARTICIPANT LIST



Name	Institutional affiliation
Ammaarah Martinus	Department of the Premier: Western Cape
Anna Booij	Clowns Without Borders
Antonia Porter	Independent consultant
Blanche Rezant	The Parent Centre
Chandré Gould	Institute for Security Studies
Claudia Taylor	Hanns Seidel Foundation
Diketso Mufamadi	Institute for Security Studies
Elmarie Malek	Department of Health: Western Cape
Ferial Soeker	City of Cape Town
Gwen Dereymaeker	Department of the Premier: Western Cape
Jill Ryan	University of the Western Cape & Medical Research Council
Johan Brand	Economic Development Partnership
Judy Connors	Facilitator
Kaathima Ebrahim	Mikhulu Trust
Kathleen Dey	Rape Crisis
Lucille Meyer	Chrysalis Academy
Matodzi Amisi	Institute for Security Studies
Melvin Moodley	Western Cape Government
Natasha Siebritz	Department of Social Development: Western Cape
Nazma Hendricks	Rape Crisis
Oswald Reddy	South African Police Service
Robert Macdonald	Department of Social Development: Western Cape
Vonita Thompson	Department of Health: Western Cape
Vuyo Koyana	The Pan African Market

# The Violence Prevention Forum

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## THEORY OF CHANGE

### ULTIMATE GOAL

Evidence informed interventions reduce and prevents interpersonal violence in South Africa

Policies and decision aimed at preventing violence are informed by evidence

Expansion of who is represented/ participates in policy discussions and other spaces of influence

Increased collaborations and information flow between individuals and organisations

A mutually supportive network of people who understand violence prevention is created and maintained

Participants are likely to use evidence in their work and promote the use of evidence in their organisations

Participants apply skills learned in the forum when engaged in difficult discussions on violence prevention, even with dissenting voices

Relationships are built between individuals in different sectors that allow information to flow between different sectors

Participants have confidence to communicate privately and publicly about violence and its prevention

Participants have evidence informed understanding of violence and its impact on society, and what it is needed to prevent it

Participants learn self mastery and skills to engage with dissenting voices in violence prevention

Multisectoral driver groups conduct regular situations analysis, ensures content and progress remains responsive to member needs and external context

Workshops offer experimental learning

Individuals get to know and trust each other

Sectoral differences are acknowledged and empathy is built

Participants engage in translation and collective sense making of the evidence

All awareness (emotions, experience, etc.) and voices acknowledged during forum discussions

Individuals invited to participate because of their expertise and skills, but attitude and openness to be challenged, and ability to influence change in their organisations

Facilitators are skilled and equally participate

Participants spend time in relationships building activities (dinner, introspection, sharing in pairs/threes, etc.)

Government, researchers, NGOs, etc. all share knowledge information and evidence

Evidence from programmes being tested and other evaluations presented in the forum

Meetings facilitated using deep democracy and AV principles

Convenor is competent and credible

Existing evidence and established relationship base to draw from

Relationship building pathway

Evidence generation, translation and brokering pathway

Strengthening the workforce pathway