**The Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership**

The Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership takes a public health approach to tackling serious violence.  The team is made up of partners from a range of service areas, providing a unique opportunity for true partnership working, and resulting in the combined expertise and knowledge to work with communities and address the underlying causes of violence. Working as a multiagency team, we look to define the problem, identify those risk and protective factors, develop and test prevention strategies and then facilitate widespread adoption. This follows the principles of a PH approach, looking at the longer-term solutions, encouraging wider systemic and cultural change. Using public health principles, we are provided with a useful framework for investigating and understanding the causes and consequences of violence, which can help to prevent violence from occurring in the first place through primary prevention programmes, successful projects and advocacy.

STR experience:

During this placement, I have taken a strategic leadership role, providing Public Health expertise, and working with partners across the region, including all five Directors of Public Health and their teams. The development and strengthening of these relationships is critical is ensuring that PH approaches continue to be supported across Merseyside and embedded within our statutory (and broader) partners.