



**Standing Together Partnership**  
**Youth Against Violence Summary Report**  
**June 2026**

## 1.0 Introduction

Following being awarded funding, from the Standing Together Partnership grant, from Bolton Council via Bolton CVS, we implemented the Youth Against Violence Programme with Bolton Together as the partnership lead with BSCA, Flowhession Foundation and Urban Outreach as the delivery partners.

•The delivery started in February 2025 till the 30th June 2026, the period the funding covered.

### Objectives:

- A partnership approach to supporting young people in Bolton to reduce anti social behaviour, provide protective factors, develop skills and aspirations and provide diversionary activities.
- Young people shape the project and tell us their views.
- Partners share learning and good practice.

## 2.0 What The Partnership Delivered

### 2.1

- One to One Mentoring with young person centred tailored development plans.
- Diversionary Activities, including outdoor activities and sport.
- Workshops.
- School Awareness Sessions on criminal exploitation.
- Social Media Campaign and activities for Anti Social Behaviour Awareness Week.
- Building connections and joint delivery with our statutory partners.
- Sharing of best practice through quarterly partnership meetings.
- Sharing lived experience from young people through two young people presenting at the Safeguarding Partnership event and 10 young people sharing their experience with the Police District Commander for Bolton and the Head of Children's Services at Bolton Council at an event arranged by the partnership.

2.2 Alongside participation in positive activities and mentoring, young people received tailored advice and guidance in the following areas:

- Employment, education and training opportunities
- Higher education and career planning
- Referrals and signposting to specialist services
- General wellbeing, mentoring, and practical support based on individual needs
- Virtual reality workshops on knife crime and violence and criminal exploitation

2.3 This holistic approach has allowed the partnership to respond to a wide range of needs, helping young people overcome barriers, build confidence, make informed decisions, and work towards positive outcomes.

2.4 Referrals were received from a number of sources including the Youth Offending Team, the PIED panel, ARC, Life Lodge, Edstart, the IThrive Referral Hub, The Missing from Home Team, Connexions, The Police and self referrals.

**YOUTH AGAINST VIOLENCE**

Led by Bolton Together four organisations are working together to reduce antisocial behaviour, providing protective factors for young people at risk of youth violence, developing skills and increasing opportunities.

Partners will be engaging with young people aged between 12 and 17 years

- ✓ Youth Voice
- ✓ Diversionary activities & Outreach
- ✓ Mentoring and One to One Support

Standing Together Partnership

- ✓ Brightmet
- ✓ Halliwell
- ✓ Farnworth
- ✓ Johnson Fold

BSCA flowhession URBAN OUTREACH

SCAN HERE



## Who We Supported

### 3.0 Qualitative Data

In this section the quantitative data collected over the programme is presented.

## 382 Young People Supported Over the Programme

### 3.1 Number of Young People Supported Each Quarter Across the Partnership

Quarter	Number of young people
Jan - March '25	54
April - June	95
Jul -Sept	96
Oct - Dec	70
Jan - March '26	60
April - June '26	73

**69**

**Accessed One to One Support**

**100**

**Accessed Workshops**

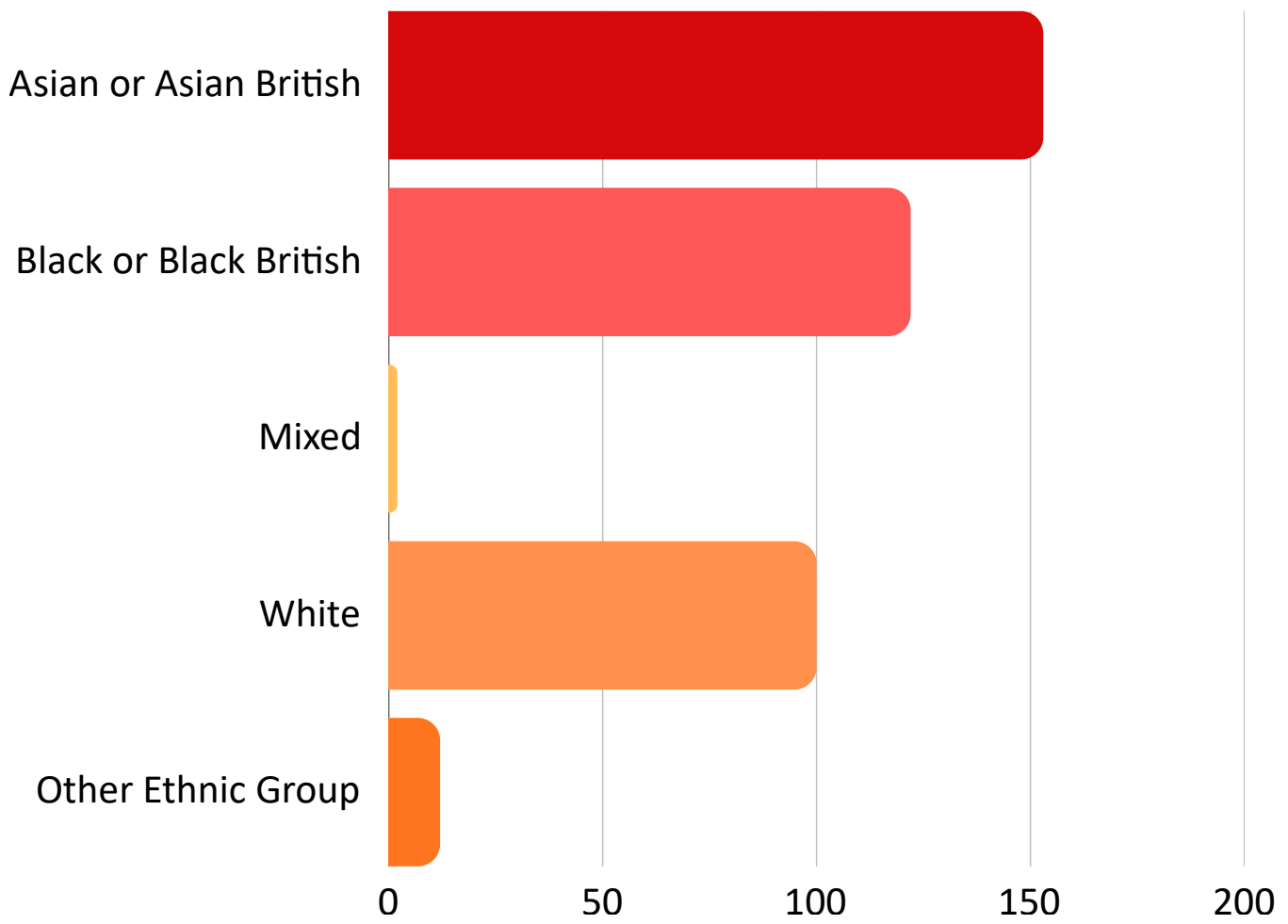
**247**

**Accessed Activities**

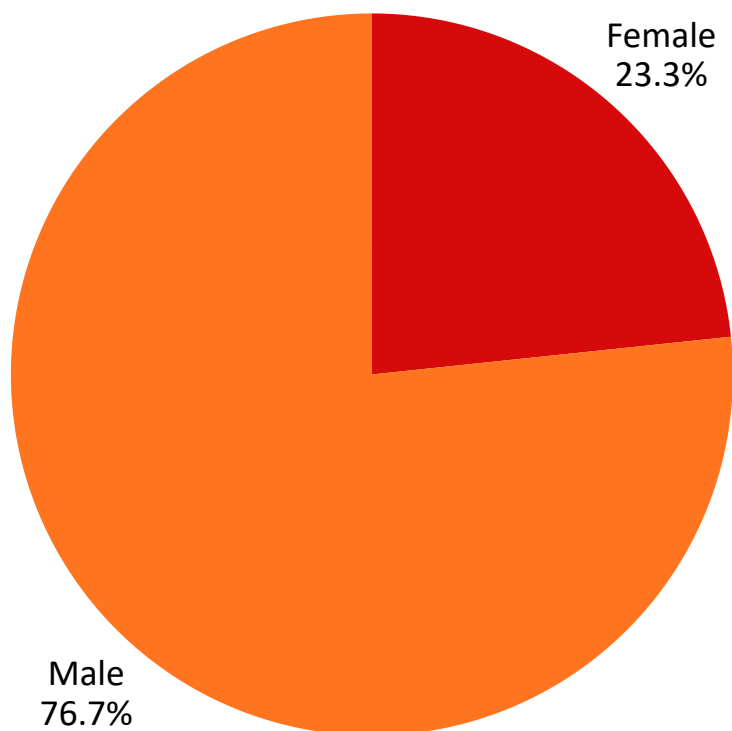


**Young People Meeting with The Children's Director and The Police District Commander**

### 3.2 Ethnicity of Young People Supported

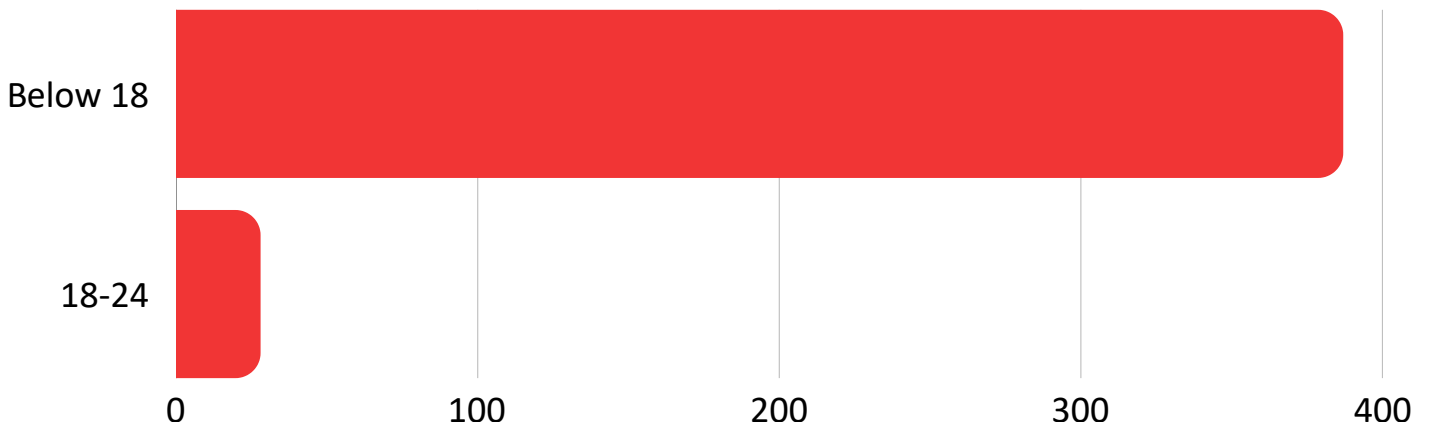


### 3.3 Gender of Young People Supported

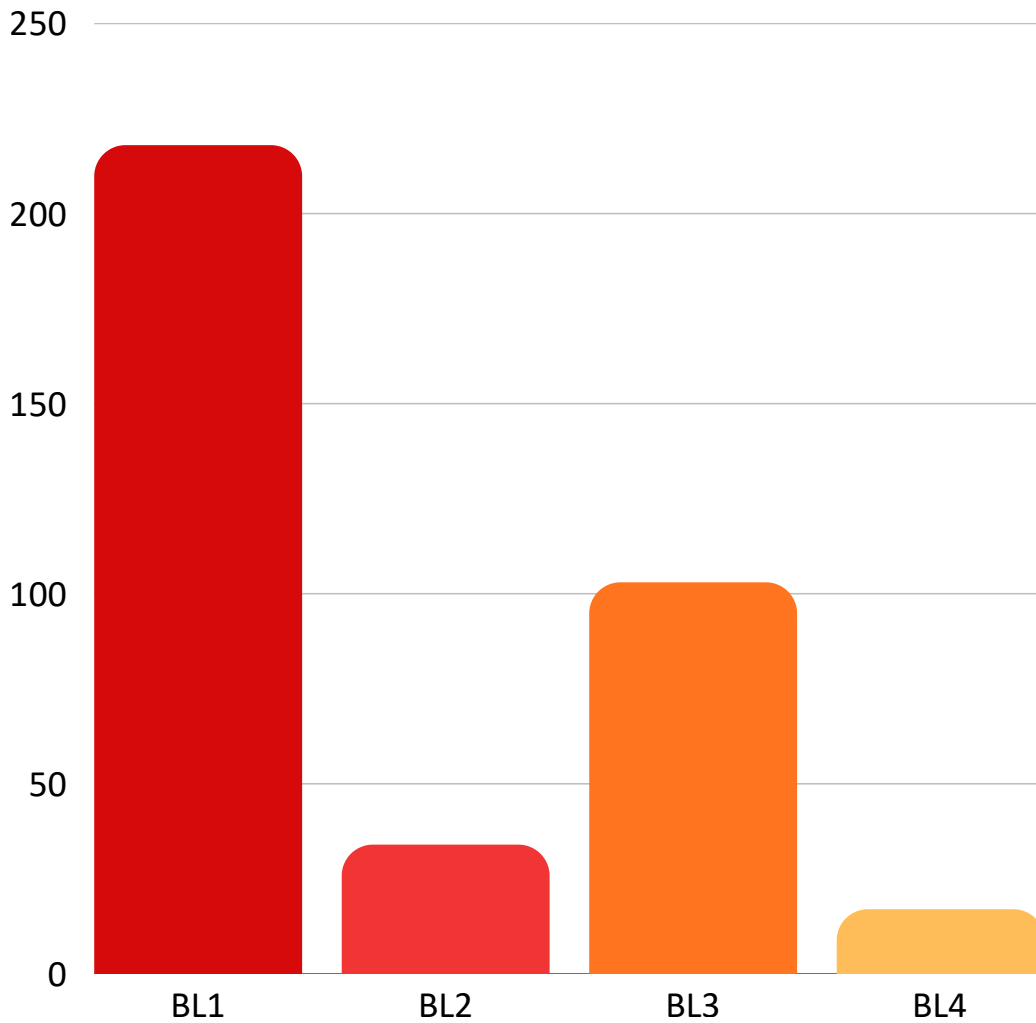


### 3.4 Age Range of Young People Supported

● Young People



### 3.5 Postcode of Young People Supported



**83% of young people achieved their goal**



**The Difference Made**

## 4.The Difference Support Made - Quantative Data

### 4.1 Case Study - Urban Outreach - Delivering VRU Headsets Workshops

The immersive programme covered topics including knife crime, child criminal exploitation, online safety, grooming and sexual exploitation. The sessions encouraged young people to reflect on their own experiences, engage in open discussions, and build confidence in seeking support from trusted adults.

Feedback from staff highlighted particularly strong engagement among young people with ADHD, who responded more positively to the VR format than to traditional classroom-based approaches. Young people demonstrated increased awareness of personal safety, with key learning centred on recognising the risks associated with carrying knives and understanding how to protect themselves from exploitation.

Through targeted partnerships with Life Lodge and BLGC Young Carers and innovative delivery methods, ReRoot successfully engaged vulnerable young people and strengthened their knowledge, confidence, and ability to seek support when needed.



**Photograph taken by a young person being supported by  
Urban Outreach**

***“I used to carry a knife to feel safe, but now I know it is more  
dangerous to carry.”***

***Young Person supported by Urban Outreach***

## 4.2 Urban Outreach Case Study

Oscar, aged 11, was referred in September 2025 to Urban Outreach's Re Root Project by his school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and SENCo due to emerging concerns around Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), anti-social behaviour (ASB), and increasing interest in gang-related activity.

School identified early indicators of risk, including negative peer influences, risktaking behaviour, and vulnerability to exploitation within his local community. Concerns were also influenced by contextual factors, including his father's recent release from prison and potential negative influence at home.

Prior to referral, Oscar had been involved in an incident of criminal damage and theft in his local park, where another young person present was carrying a weapon.

### Engagement Through Re Root

Significant progress has been observed since engagement began. School have reported:

- Improved behaviour and engagement in learning
- Increased attainment
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents
- Fewer anger-related outbursts across settings

At home, Oscar's mother reports improved behaviour and that he now shares safety messages and learning from sessions, indicating increased internalisation of key messages. His mother has also re-engaged with school and attended follow-up meetings, demonstrating improved trust in services.

### Barriers to Support and Contextual Risk

Although concerns were significant, Oscar did not meet the threshold for statutory intervention through Social Care or Youth Justice services. Previous attempts to engage the family in early help support had been unsuccessful due to his mother's mistrust of services.

#### Engagement Through Re Root

Oscar lives in a high-risk area for anti-social behaviour and peer exploitation, where younger children are often influenced by older peers, increasing his vulnerability.



## 4.3 BSCA Case Study

Two young people joined our Youth Against Violence (YAV) project approximately one year ago. Young Person A initially attended with a friend who had been engaging with the project for around three months before his arrival. Both young people were aged 17 and faced significant challenges in their lives. They displayed high levels of anger, aggression, and anti-social behaviour and were known to be involved in low-level criminal activity. Both had previous contact with the police and were at risk of becoming further involved in offending behaviour. Their first engagement with the project was through diversionary football sessions at Spa Road. During the early stages of their participation, both young people struggled to follow rules, regularly challenged boundaries, and were often disruptive. Their behaviour presented difficulties for staff and volunteers; however, rather than excluding them, the project team recognised their potential and remained committed to supporting them.

### Intervention

Over the following six months, project staff built trusting relationships with both young people through consistent engagement, positive role modelling, and a non-judgemental approach. As trust developed, they began opening up about their experiences, challenges, and aspirations. The young people were then encouraged to attend the project's issue-based workshops. These workshops covered topics including violence, crime, decision-making, consequences, and personal development. Staff quickly recognised that both young people were highly streetwise and possessed valuable lived experience that resonated with their peers. As their confidence grew, they became active contributors within the workshops. They demonstrated leadership qualities, shared thoughtful insights, and helped shape discussions. Recognising their progress, staff provided opportunities for them to support the planning and facilitation of workshop sessions, giving them increased responsibility and ownership within the project.

During these sessions, both young people openly discussed their previous involvement in low-level criminality and their desire to move away from negative influences and build better futures for themselves.

### Outcomes

Through sustained support and mentoring, the project helped both young people identify positive pathways forward. Staff worked closely with them to create professional CVs, improve their employability skills, and support them in their job searches.

## The Difference Made:

- Both young people successfully secured employment with Amazon.
- They have maintained their employment and report being happy and settled in work.
- They have significantly reduced their involvement in risky and criminal behaviours.
- They developed leadership skills by contributing to and facilitating workshops.
- They improved their communication skills, confidence, and ability to engage positively with others.
- They continue to maintain contact with the project and regularly return to attend activities and speak with staff.

## Impact

The transformation seen in these two young people demonstrates the value of early intervention, relationship-based youth work, and providing meaningful opportunities for young people who may otherwise be excluded from support services.

**Both young people have stated that, without the support of the Youth Against Violence project, they do not know where their lives would have ended up. Their journey from disengaged, angry young people involved in offending behaviour to employed young adults contributing positively to their communities highlights the long-term impact that sustained youth work can achieve.**



**His transition from participant to mentor has been inspirational for many of the young people involved. Sudais brings empathy, lived experience, and leadership to the group, creating a space where others feel heard and empowered. His involvement has led to increased engagement among his peers and contributed to the success of many individuals in reaching their goals. – Sudais is an 18 year old mentor at BSCA.**

## 4.4 Flowhession Foundation Case Study

Khurram was referred to the project as he was experiencing low confidence, difficulties managing his emotions, and challenges engaging positively with school and social activities. He was referred to us by his school's head of pastoral support. He often lacked confidence in his own abilities and found it difficult to express how he was feeling, which sometimes affected his relationships with others leading to him having altercations with pupils.

At the start of his engagement, Khurram was reluctant to participate in group activities and tended to keep to himself. He struggled with self-esteem and found it difficult to manage frustration when faced with challenges.

Support was requested to help Khurram build confidence, improve his emotional wellbeing, develop positive coping strategies, and increase his participation in social and community activities. It was also important for him to have a trusted adult he could speak to openly.

During his initial meeting he chose to take part in sports, a range of workshops and 1-1 mentoring. He received regular one-to-one mentoring sessions alongside participation in group work activities based around peer pressure, drugs and relationship building. He was also a keen player in our football club Flowhession FC taking part in 3 league matches.

Through mentoring, he was given a safe space to discuss concerns, reflect on his experiences, and identify personal goals. Sessions focused on confidence building, managing big and small emotions, communication skills, and problem-solving techniques.

In group sessions, Khurram was encouraged to work alongside other young people, helping him to develop social skills, teamwork, and positive relationships. Sports activities provided opportunities for him to challenge himself, build resilience, and experience success in a supportive environment. Mentors used goal-setting exercises, positive reinforcement, reflective conversations, and practical activities to support his development.

Over the course of the project, Khurram has made tangible progress that has been evident in school; where he now is calmer and more measured in dealing with different situations. Furthermore, school staff have noted that he became more confident in expressing his views, participated more actively in group activities, and developed stronger relationships with his peers. He has demonstrated improved emotional regulation when faced with challenges. Khurram has found the one-to-one mentoring particularly helpful as it allowed him to talk openly and receive personalised support. Moving forward, he plans to continue using the coping strategies he has learned, remain involved in positive activities, and build on the confidence and skills he has developed

## 5. What Young People Told Us

**“ We are experiencing more racial discrimination ”**



**“ We see Police when there is something wrong ”**

**“ We want to give back to our community and help other kids not get caught up in trouble ”**

**flowhession**  
BUILD • BELONG • ASPIRE • VALUE

**“ The mentoring helped me believe in myself more. Sadiq is non-judgemental and has been so supportive. I feel more confident talking to people now and I don't give up as easily when things get difficult. ”**

**Young Person accessing support from Flowhession**



**URBAN**  
OUTREACH (BOLTON)

**“ Peer Pressure is a big thing ”**



**BSCA**

**“ The best way to get young people involved is through other young people - Trust and word of mouth ”**



## Learning & Next Steps

## 6.0 Learning and Next Steps

- The goals achieved, case studies, and feedback from the young people supported, evidence how patience, and belief in young people's potential can lead to significant positive outcomes for individuals who are often considered the hardest to engage.
- Longer term support that is not limited to a few sessions is key to enable young people to build trust and confidence and to open up.
- Each delivery organisation is embedded in their local community and able to engage with young people who don't necessarily access support and may feel judged or mistrust services. The project had a significant reach within Asian and Black communities of young men - a key priority for the Safeguarding Partnership.
- Working together as a partnership enabled the four organisations to share best practice, knowledge and resources, for example, BSCA used the Flowhesion minibus, Urban Outreach shared the VRU headsets and BSCA hosted us for food at their venue to enable the young people to engage with senior leaders.
- Enabling young people to shape what support and activities they engage in looks like leads to them being empowered, building self esteem and sustained engagement and involvement.
- Building links with some statutory partners was initially challenging, despite our best efforts to promote the programme and encourage referrals.
- The short term nature of the programme and the restricted geographical footprint led to challenges developing links with some referral agencies.
- After relationships had been established with key partners and commissioners this enabled targeting of the resources and the offer in the best way to avoid duplication.
- The strategic connection and position Bolton Together has as a system partner, chairing the Safeguarding Effectiveness Group and being a member of the Children and Young People's Board meant intelligence and learning could be shared with statutory partners and with voluntary sector providers to improve safety and outcomes for young people.
- Having one point of information for the offer created a clearer pathway for referrers.
- Due to the finite resource available and the geographical restrictions capacity to take on referrals was limited.



**Young People Watching a Knife Crime Awareness Film**

## Next Steps

- Due to the success of the partnership all partners are committed to seeking to secure additional funds to be able to continue with delivery, as part of this we are currently completing a joint bid to the Reaching Communities Lottery Fund.
- If successful in securing additional funds we aim to increase the capacity to meet demand and strengthen the offer with one referral form.
- There will be a gap in provision before and until further funding is secured with fewer young people being able to access support, especially those most vulnerable.
- We are looking forward to holding our programme learning event in mid July to share achievements and learning and discuss with key stakeholders how we can continue to support Bolton's young people and reduce antisocial behaviour and youth violence as a system.



Partners across the system discussing strengths and needs

Bolton Together



This funding was made possible by funding from Bolton Council via Bolton CVS as part of the Standing Together Partnership Fund



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