

YJB Pathfinder – Tackling Serious Youth Violence

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is working to support frontline service improvement through grants and activity which target system-wide challenges. This involves a pathfinder approach whereby local authorities and partners can pilot, develop and disseminate whole system solutions.

Organisation(s)

London Borough of Brent Youth Offending Service

What does your project aim to achieve?

The YJB's strategic plan for 2019-22 highlights serious youth violence as one of the YJB's priorities, including an aim to see a sustainable reduction in serious youth violence within the cohort of local authorities in the upper quartile of serious youth violence for at least three out of four periods in the last 12 month data cycle.

The funding allocated to the Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) within the serious youth violence reference group is for the purpose of those YOTs to develop and deliver best practice and disseminate this with others to meet that priority. This fits with the YJB's mandate under S41 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to make known and promote good practice across the sector.

Overview of planned activity

Funding will be used to continue delivery of Brent's out of hours mentoring provision, extending their services to weekday evenings, weekends and bank holidays.

This will include planned mentoring support for a minimum of 29 young people, a mentor available alongside the Accelerated Support Team (AST), mentors on standby to deliver services for unplanned provisions and Trauma Informed Practice training.

Milestones & length of funding

The Grant funding is to run from September 2019 to March 2020.

How will the outcomes and benefits of this work be shared with YOTs and others? (Both universal offer and any additional intensive support that will be available)

Good practice will be disseminated to neighbouring YOTs and to the Youth Justice Board for consideration for the Resource Hub.

Outcomes and lessons learned will also be shared across Brent's Children and Young People department and the wider council to inform commissioning and contribute to the development of sustainable good practice.

How will the project be evaluated?

1. Quantitative measurement

The following outcomes will be measured and compared:

- Reduction in the number of young people receiving knife related convictions – compared to 2018/19.
- Reduction in the number of knife injury victims (aged 0-24) - compared to 2018/19.
- Increase in the number of tier 2 referrals supported by the YOS CAMHS Mental Health specialist or Brent Centre for Young people psychotherapists – compared to 2018/19.
- Increase in the number of young people participating in restorative justice provision - compared to 2018/19.
- Reduction in the number of YOS young people receiving Offender Management Group support – compared to 2018/19
- Increase in the number of staff in Brent receiving Trauma Informed Practice training.

2. Qualitative measurement

All young people will be asked to complete a survey at the completion of the programme. Parents and carers will be encouraged to complete a phone survey.

Statistical and survey findings will be reported to the YOS Management Board. Improvement recommendations will be made as required.

A mixed method evaluation will take place that includes analysing costs avoided and financial and wider return on investment.

Contact

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Why this project was chosen:

The grant is designed to develop and share effective practice to reduce the number of children involved in serious youth violence in the YOTs experiencing the highest levels of serious violence.

The Youth Justice Board identified the local authorities with persistent high levels of serious violence. For the purposes of the YJB's analysis, 'serious youth violence' is defined as the most serious robbery, drugs or violence against the person offences (those with a gravity score of 5 or more as outlined in the Police National Legal Database).

We took the rate of these offences per 10,000 of the general 10-17 population for each YOT and identified those YOTs that had been in the top quartile for three or more quarters during the 2017/18 financial year. We applied these criteria so that it would select the YOTs that consistently had high levels of SYV over the year, rather than one anomalous quarter that would increase their rate.

From that group we identified 12 YOTs to fund as pathfinders.

Due diligence:

All Youth Justice Board grants for pathfinder activity have been through the Ministry of Justice Grant Challenge Panel. This panel scrutinises grants made by the MoJ and its arms-length bodies to ensure public money is being spent effectively and responsibly. It provided objective scrutiny of our business case for the grant in line with guidance on

managing public money. The YJB will monitor the project at intervals agreed with the grant recipient.