

# Must have, should have, could have.



'**Must have**' – those essential components to any diversion service

'**Should have**' – those important but not vital components

'**Could have**' – area based variations

## What is this doc?

Lancashire's Child-First diversion service is an evidence based service tailored to support our unique cohort and demographic.

As we began to collate documents for dissemination we discussed that Diversion is not a one size fits all approach and that it should be adapted to meet the needs of the area it is situated, in order to be truly Child-First. With this in mind we have categorised our dissemination resources into 3 categories.

### 1 Must have

**Evidence Base:** A service designed in-line with the evidence base around diversion and a child-first approach (e.g. Case and Haines (2015) and The Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime.) **A full list of initial evidence base consulted has been made available.**

### 2

**Whole-multi agency buy in** to Child-First as a core principle, from Service Leads at a strategic level to practitioners in every interaction with children. **A Child-First training presentation and a YJB Child-First tenets quiz has been made available.**

### 3

**Police referral pathway** across a constabulary area for Out of Court Disposals, particularly around Community resolutions (CRS). Essential that there is a clear and coproduced flowchart between police and Youth Justice services. **Lancashire's flowchart has been made available.**

**4**

**Active Participation and coproduction with children.** Children's involvement at each stage is imperative to a Child-First Diversion Service. **Lancashire's Child's plan, Prevention and Diversion Self-Assessment and Participation strategy** has been made available.

**5**

**Assessment tool:** a child-first, strengths based assessment. **Lancashire's Prevention and Diversion assessment tool** has been made available.

## **1 Should have**

**Joined up working with other children's services** – whole county, multi agency understanding of Child-First principles and the need to screen children away from Child and Youth Justice Service and into more appropriate child friendly services. **Lancashire's Diversion Service flow chart** has been made available.

**2**

**Data tracking** of outcome of Diversion service to demonstrate successes. **A blank copy of Lancashire's data tracking spreadsheet** has been made available.

**3**

**Screening tool** to avoid net-widening and overdosing children. **Lancashire's screening tool** has been made available.

**4**

**Higher level Child-Centred participation in practice strategy.** Whole service understanding of the importance of participation. Should also have supporting resources to promote children's active participation to influence change. **Child-Friendly explanation of participation poster and comic strip, Child-Friendly Vision and Values poster with voice clips and Participation staff training PowerPoints** has been made available.

# 1 Could have

**Diversion community based offer** – true diversion away from the Child and Youth justice service into more child-friendly services could also include a community based offer. In Lancashire we have DIVERT Youth that covers the vast majority of the county based in the community football trusts. **A presentation about DIVERT Youth and a case study of a child referred to divert youth has been made available.**

2

**Diversion leaflets** for different audiences. Leaflets to explain the diversion service aimed at different stakeholders. **There are three leaflets: one aimed at children and parent/carers, one for other agencies and one for police that have been made available.**

3

**Centre for Justice innovation Cost Avoidance model.** Whole multi-agency buys in to time effectiveness and cost effectiveness of diversion through completing the CJI tool alongside police colleagues. Dependant on area need, funding etc. **A How-to guide from how we approached the tool in Lancashire has been made available.**

4

**Reflective timeline** of progress in regards to becoming a Child-First Service. **A timeline of steps taken in Lancashire to become Child-First has been made available.**

5

**Child-First Diversion Service evaluation.** Evaluate the service to further the evidence base of what is working in your service and how to improve. **Lancashire's evaluation has been made available, which will include: qualitative experiences of children, parents/carers and victims, quantitative analysis of outcomes for children, an exploration of the existing Diversion evidence base and the efficacy of the CYJS' screening tool and process through interviews and focus groups with staff.**