

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)

Royal Borough of Greenwich 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

The aim of the project is to improve analytical capability and provide relevant information to partners to support the development and allocation of resources. This will be both at an individual child level and strategic level with regards to problematic areas or themes that may emerge. Use of improved data analysis will improve the understanding of needs by all partners involved in the safeguarding of children and their associated risks.

The money will be used for a one-year purchase of the licences, developments and implementation of AXIS including internal staff time to assist implementation.

AXIS will lead to:

- Improved analytic capability across the partnership which can be utilised for short and medium-term planning
- Resources targeted more specifically and based on accurate analysis of need
- Impacts of interventions can be measured across the partnerships
- Better information dissemination regarding individual children to front line practitioners
- Clearer identification of patterns and hotspots for intervention planning

The project is designed to support and enhance existing work with the focus being on development work and supporting the transition to business as usual. Utilising external support to develop and kick start the work will enable a completed piece of work to be placed into current work streams.

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)

Information about the efficacy and working of the AXIS tool will be disseminated via London Heads of Services meetings and Serious Youth Violence Strategic Group.

On a local level analytics will be shared with the strategic groups referenced, including the YOS Management Board.

Individual case level data will be shared directly with the practitioners involved to aid planning and interventions.

The learning of the project will also be shared with all YOTs and partners via the YJ Resource Hub and YJ Bulletin.

How will the project be evaluated?

Work will be evaluated through the strategic governing bodies, Safer Greenwich Partnership, Greenwich Safeguarding Children's Partnership and SMACE.

Evaluation will be based on:

- Reduction in concern in areas identified via AXIS.
- Feedback from front line practitioners regarding use of information
- Feedback from partners regarding use of and response to information shared.

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.