

## 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 Lambeth 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 project will embed a specialist data analyst within the YOS and alongside Community Safety to co-ordinate data and information across all statutory agencies. This will be used to rapidly identify those young people at higher risk of violence. As a result of this work, tailored intervention will be provided to support those young people to reduce the risks to themselves and their communities. This combined information package will be shared across all statutory agencies involved with the young person to ensure a co-ordinated and joined up response.

As the project operates on a voluntary basis with a wide cohort of young people at risk, tailored interventions will need to be delivered to ensure they are taken up and effective. This will be through a combination of enhanced provision through Lambeth YOS, with a dedicated case worker, and enhanced provision from the contracted service with St Giles Trust.

The project will primarily deliver on:

- 1) Reduction on first time entrants
- 2) Reduction in re-offending of young people who have previously received YOS statutory intervention

The grant will fund continued enhanced analytical resource and the enhanced provision to sit alongside the wider service offer.

### 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)

The project results will be disseminated through two main forums:

- 1) The London Heads of Community Safety forum, which brings together all London boroughs and is prioritising youth violence. This includes setting up a repository of good practice on serious youth violence run through London Councils, which Lambeth has already contributed to
- 2) Working with the newly created London Violence Reduction Unit to share information and best practice

In addition, through the YJB serious youth violence network, and with the wider YJB developing practice fora.

### How will the project be evaluated?

The work will be evaluated through public health analysts who are conducting an independent evaluation of all effective interventions and processes to deal with youth violence, as part of Lambeth's wider public health approach. They will be heavily involved from the beginning of the project to ensure that accurate effectiveness and outcomes are measured.

Risk levels will be assessed at the start and end of the project to ensure a reduction in risk has occurred. This will be similar to the current effectiveness models used for other violence services such as the GAIA centre for Violence Against Women and Girls.

### 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.

