

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)

Nottingham City Council Youth Justice 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

Funds will be used to develop ongoing training and supervision to support a healthy and robust workforce, able to deliver responsive interventions to the many children and families who are impacted by trauma linked to serious violence.

It will enable continued 1:1 and group clinical supervision as well as monthly 1:1 supervision sessions for frontline staff and the leadership team alongside resources to strengthen the Exploitation and Violence Reduction Hub. Activity will also include ongoing training around the systemic response needed to provide appropriate and timely interventions to reduce the risk and impact of SYV.

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)

Nottingham's tiered approach to weapon-enabled crime involving young people is already on the YJB hub and we will expand this as we develop.

The Redthread 'network' will be used to support those adopting a similar approach to working with other Youth Justices services

How will the project be evaluated?

The Trauma Informed Practice pilot is being continually reviewed and evaluated by the project team, in conjunction with Nottingham Trent University.

There are plans to produce a paper reflecting on the model used, the effectiveness of the training and the pilot programme, learning and its effectiveness. This will be built on, using

staff feedback etc to evaluate the impact of providing ongoing clinical supervision in line with other YOTs (such as Lewisham) who are further down the 'trauma-informed' approach and have this as an integral part of their programme.

Nottingham City's Director of Children and Families and senior police colleagues have developed a high-level partnership governance structure of the knife crime/criminal exploitation agenda, (beginning in February 2019) This will complement and provide reporting for other interested partnership boards such as the local YOT Board.

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.