

## 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)

**Southampton 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 funding will supplement two emerging Pan Hampshire programmes of work in partnership with the 4 LSCB and Hampshire OPCC; these are the development of a Pan Hampshire (4 LSCB) Child Exploitation Strategy and the development of trauma informed/Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) aware practice across a multi-agency workforce.

Each YOT and Local Authority within Hampshire are developing interventions to mitigate and understand the impact of ACEs; these will potentially mirror existing strategic and operational arrangements through the auspices of Community Safety Partnership led problem solving forums and networks.

The project will aim to add value to activity already being undertaken to tackle these issues, to better interlink existing strategies and to enhance the effectiveness of staff engaging with children and families.

This approach will be supported by training programmes to support our ambition to upskill staff to be trauma informed and ACE aware. Data will be used to develop a needs analysis of further training needs for staff cross sector, so they are better able to assess risks factors caused by ACEs. This will support the targeting of shared resources to reduce the risks of identified gang activity (both potential and actual). The research will narrow the gaps in Pan Hampshire data sources, with inputting to different, but often incompatible case management record systems. In time, analysis of multiple data sources will support a strengthened Pan Hampshire approach.

The work supports a Pan Hampshire response to strengthening prevention services, informed by the publication of new National Standards for Youth Justice Services. The importance of identifying risk factors associated with gangs and exploitation will be vital to the efficacy of early help assessment tools that may be used in this arena and good practice can be shared with partner agencies working within this environment.

The funding will support the consolidation of data sets and analysis capacity that would prove useful in a range of operational settings, including Policing, YOS based interventions, as well as Health, Education, Social Care and Early Help assessments of need.

It will also allow YOT's to better support children from out of area who present risks in Hampshire; activity that is currently unfunded and falls outside the parameters of funded Youth Justice activity. This will ensure there is sufficient capacity to facilitate safe returns home after arrest by commissioning assistance from organisations already active in London Boroughs with a strong track record of success.

#### **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)**

Although a Southampton led bid, the proposals support activity across four YOTs (Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight).

There are a number of forums already in place which will be utilised to share local learning; the Serious Violence Reference Group, regional YOT Manager meetings and Association of YOT Manager meetings are all supported by representation from Hampshire YOT's.

At a national level the Youth Justice convention is held annually and would be a potential forum for dissemination.

As this is a joint Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner area bid, inclusive of four Local authority areas, both Unitary and County/District, there is existing capacity and commitment to disseminate learning within the four YOTs within the geographical area.

The ambition is to develop exemplar work that can inform and support YOTs in other areas

#### **How will the project be evaluated?**

Some of the funding for the project specifically focuses on the identification of an analyst to undertake an evaluation of the data that we will be collating in the next 3 to 6 months. It is envisaged that a cohort of children will be identified during this period. Once this cohort has been identified the two quantitative outcome measures: first time entrant rates and reoffending rates, will be reviewed at the end of a 12-month period. These rates can then be compared with sample groups across the four YOTs who do not have ACEs and/or are involved in Serious Youth Crime. If possible, this cohort sample can be compared with cohorts from other YOTs and Local Authorities. It can also be compared with YJB National Key Performance Indicator data.

Data could also potentially be compared with Children and Family Services within the four Local Authorities; assessing the correlation of children with ACEs involved in serious crime and their involvement with other areas such as Early Help, Social Care and SEND.

#### **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.