

# **Bolton Complex Safeguarding and Youth Justice Service Prevention Strategy (under review)**

## **Background**

A review of Bolton's Youth Justice Prevention Service is currently underway. Whilst this is in progress this document will provide guidance about the role and function of current Prevention Team.

Our aim is to identify and support children/young people and their families, from the age of 8 years old, who are showing signs of becoming involved in ASB and/or criminality. Referrals come from a variety of sources including schools, police, Safer Schools and Community Officers and Community Safety.

Following a service review in 2021 our Targeted Youth Support Team (TYS) reduced in size. The remaining 3 TYS Support Workers are line managed by an Operational Manager and carry caseloads of up to 25 children/young people.

Due to this reduction in capacity, it has been necessary to streamline the referrals process, hence the further review outlined below.

## **Current Role and Responsibilities**

### **Head of Service**

- To guide the strategic direction of Bolton's Youth Justice Prevention, offer in conjunction with the Youth Justice Service Management Board, Bolton's Be Safe Partnership, GMCA, GMP and the Violent Reduction Unit (VRU)

### **Operational Manager**

- To incorporate strategic developments into practice to ensure Bolton's Prevention Offer meets the needs of the local population
- To lead the TYS Team in line with Bolton's agreed Prevention Strategy
- To support the TYS Support Workers and have oversight of the work they undertake with children/young people and families
- To gatekeep referrals and allocate cases

### **Targeted Youth Support Workers**

- To undertake an assessment and plan within 10 working days of allocation, in partnership with children/young people, their families and taking account of other assessments and plans
- To aim to see children/young people on caseload as often their level of need dictates
- To take a relational approach to practice and work creatively with the child/young person to address the reasons for their behaviour
- To work with families and partners to identify & address the structural inequalities in the child/young person's lives and gain an understanding of the context they operate within
- To use the required database to make accurate and timely records of all contacts

## **Our Future Vision**

It is proposed that the Youth Justice Service further refines & narrows its 'targeted' Prevention Offer with a clearer focus around 'early identification' of those children on the cusp of becoming embroiled in crime, and/or anti-social behaviour, identified via the police and community safety.

This would incorporate elements of the PIED (Prosecution, Intervention, Education and Diversion for Children) model which has been piloted in certain areas across Greater Manchester. The aim of PIED is to identify and offer support to children/young people regularly involved in or on the fringes of offending but not arrested, or whom have crimes closed, leading to them having no access to referral pathways and their needs remaining unmet.

It is additionally proposed that to provide an effective targeted prevention service the creation of a post of 'YJS Prevention Co-Ordinator' is necessary. This role could also sit between YJS and Integrated Front Door/Early Help to ensure there are clear pathways and processes between services and that resources are fully utilised across both services to ensure that children and families receive the most appropriate early help response.

### **Our Next Steps**

- Numbers – a clearer view is required of the numbers of young people that would come under the specific YJS Targeted work and also wider Prevention services across the authority.
- Develop a shared definition of prevention and diversion across services in Bolton Council.
- Increase understanding of prevention / diversion initiatives and resources across Bolton.
- Liaise with YJB "Prevention and Diversion Project" to look at ways the YJS can improved monitoring and recording of prevention and to look at the evidence-base for effective prevention.
- Community Safety to develop job description/person specification for 'YJS Prevention Co-Ordinator' – Serious Youth Violence Funding.
- Additional Police Resource Consideration.
- CCG Grant – Mental Health & Vulnerable Young Person funding to be further explored.
- Measuring Effectiveness and outcomes – to be developed.