

YOUTH JUSTICE & COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING IN BOLTON

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Presentation Agenda

- *HM Inspectorate of Probation – Bolton Youth Justice Inspection Feedback*
- *Partnership working with Education*
- *Complex Safeguarding Team Delivery & National Referral Mechanism*
- *Case Studies*

Inspection Framework

- HMIP – Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation – Youth Justice equivalent of Ofsted
- Three Broad Areas of Inspection:
 - 1) Organisational Delivery Of the Service*
 - 2) Quality of work with Children sentenced by the Courts*
 - 3) Quality of out-of-court disposal work*

HM Inspectorate of Probation also separately inspected the quality of **resettlement**

Type Of Inspection – On site visit – April 2022

Feedback from Inspectors

Bolton Youth Justice Service – rated overall as ‘Good’

Resettlement – separately rated as ‘Outstanding’

“A committed staff team undertook high-quality and timely assessments, leading to appropriate planning to increase desistance, keep children safe and protect victims”

“We were impressed by the staff we interviewed. They know the children very well, work well with partnership workers, and are all very good advocates for the children.

A shared culture across the service of putting children at the heart of the service

Strong Partnerships

- “Mature & Respectful relationships across the partnership, at strategic and operational levels, have resulted in collaborative working to support children and families”
- “Partnership work is a strength. The arrangements are strong and effective, at both strategic and operational levels”
- Youth Justice Service cohort has many unrecognised needs – full health assessment completed
- Need to focus on transition to other services

Diversity & Disproportionality

- “Identifying and responding to individual diverse needs are priorities and have resulted in many individual examples of effective practice, work to understand and address systematic disproportionality in underdeveloped”
- Good project responding to the needs of Bolton’s diverse population in the Bolton Solidarity Community Association.
- Example of Good Practice highlighted by Inspectors

Resettlement

- Good use of a range of multi agency meetings to begin early planning for the sentence and release
- Effective information-sharing and collaborative work with partners, to understand and meet children's needs
- Excellent scrutiny and oversight of children who are in custody
- Youth Justice Service is providing good and timely support for children who are preparing to be released from custody
- Effective links with two local custodial establishments – Barton Moss Secure Children's Home and Wetherby Youth Offending Institution
- Partner agencies visit children in custody and begin work in preparation for release – as per policy and noted as good practice
- Management Oversight of resettlement is effective

Recommendations

- Bolton Youth Justice Service:

- 1) Review and monitor the outcomes and experiences of children from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, to make sure that any disadvantage is identified and mitigated
- 2) Train staff on holding discussions with children about discrimination and what that means for the individual children

- Greater Manchester Police:

- 3) continue to reduce unnecessary delays in all cases being referred to the YJS

Partnership Working With Education

Partnership working

Building positive relationships

Sharing of information

Smart action plans

Enhance young peoples learning and development

Educators and partnership is working together towards a shared goal designed to benefit students while at the same time, achieving goals unique to each partner agency

Advantages of partnership working with education providers

Bridge the gap in knowledge and understanding

Working together to have positive outcomes with young people

Supporting networks

Attend meetings

Multi agency working

CASE STUDY

- 17 Year Young Person = aim of intervention was to find a placement which could meet his specific educational needs.
- Limited Options – spaces full or couldn't meet his specific needs
- Worked closely with the family to understand barriers for young person and support needs
- Education Officer - Liaised with a College and was clear about his specific needs and then brought the family to meet with them and ask questions
- Initially took the Young Person to College at lunch – busy spell – how would he cope? Education Officer stayed with him for support.
- Gained a place and Education Officer took him each day for first week to support and then helped secure funding for transport.
- Young Person managed to do the initial course and secured a place on his preferred subject for the next year

BOLTON COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING TEAM ARRANGEMENTS



The Complex Safeguarding Team

Exit Team
Manager

Exit Team

- 2 Social Workers
- 3 Support Workers
- 1 Admin Worker
- 1 Trusted Relationship Practitioner
- 1 Link Health Practitioner

Police Team

1 x Detective Inspector

4 x Detective Sergeant

16 x Detective Constable

4 x Police Constable

Education to Employment Offer,
Speech and Language Offer, 0-19
Public Health Nurse Offer, Diversion
Worker

Our Current Arrangements

- **Engagement**

- Each Child open to Child Exploitation Action Meeting (CEAM) is allocated to an officer from Child Protection Investigation Unit CPIU
- Child Protection Investigation Unit (CPIU) officer to engage with EXIT worker and child to deliver safeguards and develop trusted relationships.
- Feedback information to Child Exploitation Action Meeting
- Criminal Investigation where appropriate

- **Disruption**

- New disruption meeting – Child Exploitation Disruption Action Meeting (CEDAM)
- Disruption activity based on Places and Persons
- Disruption delivered by neighbourhoods / partners as directed by CEDAM/ Neighbourhood crime meetings

Our Current Arrangements

CHILD EXPLOITATION DISRUPTION ACTION MEETING – Intention and purpose:

- To identify for Bolton risks relating to:
 - Places
 - Persons
 - Where the potential victim is a child
 - And actions can reasonably be taken to generate information or disruptive activity that may reduce or remove the risk

Disruption – ways we aim to stop them doing what they want to do

Disruption activities include:

- Joint visits
- Seizure of counterfeit or illegal goods
- Environmental health inspections
- Fire safety inspections
- Housing enforcement
- Civil orders such as Child Abduction Warnings
- Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) investigations
- Immigration enforcement visits
- Taxi licensing
- Landlord licencing

What have CST recently delivered?

- Implementation of Working Together to Increase Safety in Exploitation (WISE) Assessment – shift from a focus of risk to one of **safety**.
- Re-Introduction of multi-agency disruption meeting – CEDAM – focus on places / spaces of concern
- November 2022 – CST Assurance & Assurance Audit Completed – triggered by Cheshire East JTAI

Our Demand - Headlines

- Currently 48 children open to the Complex Safeguarding Team
- 22 Children open due to Criminal Exploitation
- 16 Children open due to Sexual Exploitation
- 1 Child open due to concerns around forced marriage
- 6 Children open due to multiple exploitation concerns.
- Majority of children are aged 15 to 18
- Roughly an even number of boys and girls
- All children are also open to Children Social Care so have a social worker

Our Demand - Headlines

- 22 children have an identified specific educational need or learning disability
- 14 children have identified speech and language needs
- For 27 children, substance misuse is an issue and support is offered
- 38 children engaged in education, training or employment – support from Education Officer
- 15 children are accessing mental health support

CASE STUDY

- Child (male) was referred to Complex Safeguarding Team (CST) following disclosure that 2 adult males had sexually assaulted him
- CST Worker focussed on building a relationship with him & his family
- Close working with the police – joint visits to update family / extending bail conditions of the perpetrator
- Child Action Meetings – partnership contribution to care plan – all working together to safeguard child
- One perpetrator has now been sentenced to a lengthy custodial
- Male is starting to open up and is disclosing further information – he is ready to talk due to the relationship with his CST worker!

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

- Framework for identifying & referring potential victims of modern slavery – human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour
- Duty To Notify – All public authorities have an equal “*Duty to Notify*” under S52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Suspected that a child is a potential victim of slavery/trafficking
- Refer into safeguarding service
- Refer into the Independent Child Trafficking Guardian Service (ICTG)
- Complete National Referral Mechanism referral
- Initial Decision = Reasonable Grounds (within 5 days)
- Conclusive Grounds (within 45 days)

Benefits of the National Referral Mechanism

- Can support children within the criminal justice system - Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Section 45 Defence
- Can lead to more appropriate service provision
- Supports effective safeguarding
- Ensures children are recognised as victims rather than willing participants
- Can support asylum claims
- Supports understanding of the national picture
- 33 Referrals made by Complex Safeguarding Team between October and December 2022

CASE STUDY

- Young Person = Bail for a Violent Offence – referred to Serious Youth Violence Diversion worker for intervention.
- Relational practice key = opened up concerns around exploitation
- Referred into Children Social Care & Complex Safeguarding
- National Referral Mechanism referral completed – reasonable grounds
- Partnership working – Youth Justice / Police / Children Social care = mapped current and previous associates
- Identified clear exploitation concerns supported by police
- Young Person has the opportunity to have their voice heard