

YOUTH OFFENDING & CRIMINALISATION

Offending by children is often a symptom of other challenges they are facing in their lives. We need to be professionally curious to make sure we don't miss opportunities to intervene to prevent harm.

A priority is to ensure that young people are not unnecessarily criminalised, and every opportunity is taken to divert them away from offending and the reachable and teachable moments are maximised.

- ◆ Outcome decisions made by a multiagency triage panel in a timely way.
- ◆ Effective diversion scheme in place and working, with data scrutinised and evaluated.
- ◆ Reoffending rates are monitored and repeat offenders are referred to YOS at the earliest opportunity.
- ◆ Data for CR's/ Cautions/ Youth Conditional cautions/ Charges given to under 18's monitored and scrutinised. RUI data collected, examined and reviewed regularly.
- ◆ OOC External scrutiny panel in place to regularly examine under 18 disposals.
- ◆ Disproportionality element within youth justice identified and explained in line with Lammy.
- ◆ Able to respond to children who are exploited and commit crime as victims rather than as offenders.
- ◆ Multiagency local protocol in place in line with the national protocol to reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of children in care and care leavers.
- ◆ Opportunities to intervene early and make the most of reachable and teachable moments, in order to change behaviour are maximised.
- ◆ Young people who are victims are appropriately supported.

18 - 24 YEAR OLDS – TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

A recognition that the brain does not necessarily mature at 18 and therefore offending by young adults needs to take a different approach to that given to mature adults.

- ◆ Force has scrutinised the data of offending in this cohort.
- ◆ Has an action plan to address the persistent low level offending in this cohort.
- ◆ Force has links with local authorities and children services, in relation to care leavers to make sure that appropriate support is in place to reduce the impact of transition.

Child

CENTRED POLICING

BEST PRACTICE FRAMEWORK

Children and young people feature across all aspects of policing. Many of the specialist capabilities are managed within other portfolios. There is a need to focus the Children and Young Person portfolio on some key areas that will make a positive impact in the lives of children and young people. Using procedural justice theory to underpin every interaction will lead to a greater level of trust and confidence between young people and the police. We have created a framework that forces can use in developing a child centred policing approach.

FORCE APPROACH

In order to progress a child centred approach across the force there needs to be a senior leadership commitment. This will be evidenced in the below areas:

- ◆ A Chief officer lead has been established.
- ◆ Governance in force has been established that brings together all strands of CYP involvement to make sure that the public protection element is cross referenced, using the National Vulnerability Action Plan.
- ◆ A force level action plan for the policing of CYP is in place.
- ◆ Active participation at the NPCC regional chief officer CYP meeting to share good practice and inform the national meeting.
- ◆ Training for staff which on issues relating to CYP including: how to engage children and young people, awareness of vulnerability, adverse childhood experiences and how to be trauma informed.
- ◆ Scrutiny across all aspects of policing for issues of local disparity for:
 - Black and Ethnic Minority groups
 - Neurodiversity and differently abled children and young people.
- ◆ Establish a child centred approach to the victims charter

POLICE CUSTODY

Custody for under 18's is only used when proportionate and necessary. All detainees are treated with dignity and respect, proactively protecting their rights. (National custody strategy). CYP are a protected group with specific vulnerabilities and need to be treated like children. Recognising that poor treatment from the point of arrest and throughout the custody process is an adverse child experience and could add to their trauma.

Force has a scrutiny and accountability process in place to monitor:

- ◆ No of under 18's in custody
- ◆ Overnight detentions
- ◆ Time taken to contact AA
- ◆ Time taken for legal representative to attend Time taken for interview
- ◆ Strip search records and whether items are found and identified repeat individuals being searched.
- ◆ Review after 6 hours by insp
- ◆ 38(6) protocol in place as per national concordat
- ◆ YP seen by liaison and diversion scheme
- ◆ Referral made to MASH
- ◆ Remand decisions

ENGAGEMENT & RELATIONSHIP

The force has embedded procedural justice theory principals in all aspects of engagement and relationship with young people. Opportunities for positive engagement are sought and reachable, teachable moments are maximised. Strong engagement with the ability to listen to concerns and issues raised by CYP will allow a far more efficient and forward thinking approach and response to delivering policing services to CYP.

Recognising the policing role of preventing CYP from becoming victims or offenders of crime by delivering meaningful engagement activities.

Engagement and relationship building will assist in identifying the early stages of extremism and radicalisation amongst CYP. The complex and changing nature of these areas requires innovative and collaborative solutions with partners.

- ◆ Monitor and scrutinise stop search data for under 18's with particular emphasis on conversion rates, recognition of vulnerability and disproportionality.
- ◆ A working relationship with educational premises has been established from both a strategic and operational level.
- ◆ Consideration to the LSE findings and PSHE Handbook have been undertaken before any educational inputs are given.
- ◆ Officers who deliver educational inputs have received relevant national led training.
- ◆ Opportunities created to build trust and confidence between YP and the police.
- ◆ Training provided for officers in engaging with CYP and recognising vulnerability.
- ◆ Links established with the yourpolice.uk team
- ◆ The voice of children and young people are actively sought to inform local policing
- ◆ Opportunities for young people to volunteer with policing ie cadets are supported by the force.
- ◆ Every opportunity taken to change the narrative from the force to ensure that young people are not demonised.
- ◆ A force level engagement plan has been developed to ensure consistent messaging both internally and externally.