

Report of the Strategic Director, Place to the meeting of Bradford West Area Committee to be held on 20th October 2022

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Subject:

WORK OF THE DISTRICT YOUTH SERVICE TEAM

Summary statement:

This report provides an overview of the work of the District Youth Work team and gives an update on work undertaken by the District Youth Service during the last 12 months.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Young people in our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods experience a greater range of issues and are more likely to be exposed to the risk of exploitation and risk of harm. In addition, young people from 'community of interest' groups can experience extra barriers in accessing services.

The work of the district Youth Team is focussed on supporting some of the districts more vulnerable young people to mitigate the impact of this occurring and to provide a response and support to specific issues and incidents.

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Portfolio:

Neighbourhoods and Community Safety

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the work of the District Youth Work team and gives an update on work undertaken by the District Youth Service Team during the last 12 months.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Youth Service remains committed to its work around exploitation in all forms. Exploitation is a key element of our safeguarding children processes, and all staff are trained in safeguarding and contextual considerations through initial inductions and onward training.
- 2.2 Our locality based youth provisions, in open access and street based work, consistently support information, advice and guidance to young people to raise awareness around exploitation. This agenda is to ensure young people gain critical thinking skills and that they can identify when people do not have their good interests at heart. The area based teams are well placed to identify early those young people who are vulnerable to exploitation, or who are being actively exploited and to work directly, and through linking with other agencies ensure that the right support is given to each young person so that actions can be taken to protect the young person and to disrupt the perpetrators of their exploitation.
- 2.3 To enhance the area based youth work a District Team is in place that operates a 'step up/step down' approach to support some of the districts most vulnerable young people.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The District Youth Work Team delivers the Breaking the Cycle project which provides an intensive intelligence led intervention to young people who are identified as being at risk of or who are being actively criminally exploited. The project works with young people, referred in by other professionals across the district where there are concerns or intelligence to suggest the young person is at risk or involved in serious, organised or violent crime, urban street gangs, county line trafficked, those identified as being actively criminally exploited or who may be exploiting others, or sometimes both, those who have higher than yellow Anti-social behaviour sanctions, drugs or weapons markers (as either users of, suppliers of or have been found in possession of), or who have out of character or unexplained missing incidents. Currently the team are working with over 500 individual young people who are on one of 3 levels of intervention - intensive where a young person receives support, which can be as frequently as daily, weekly or lighter touch.
- 3.2 Young people who are referred in to the Breaking the Cycle project have a bespoke 1-1 intervention that works alongside other professionals (including social care, health, education and police) to ensure the young person is flagged appropriately for their exploitation and their risks are appropriately managed. The team use a resilience framework to evidence distance travelled and work every day with colleagues through the risk management meeting to ensure the intervention is

making a difference. The Service is also part of the monthly MACE meeting that looks to creatively work with young people who are 18 plus and where there are still concerns about their exploitation. All full time youth workers working in Breaking the Cycle are trauma informed, and certified, having undertaken bespoke training they are certified Bronze (Trauma Aware) and Silver (Trauma Informed) practitioners and are due to become Gold certified in late November. This means the Youth workers in the district team are well placed to work alongside the vulnerable cohort of referred young people who have experienced early childhood trauma, or who are facing trauma now as part of their ongoing exploitation.

- 3.3 Breaking the Cycle has been recognised for their practice, having been evaluated by the home office, Warwick university and as part of the Ofsted inspection for children’s services that identified that the service was effective.

The team are currently working with 518 open cases, having had referrals totalling 1369 in the lifetime of the project. The 518 open cases are broken down as below:

BD1	BD2	BD3	BD4	BD5	BD6	BD7	BD8	BD9	BD10
5	36	31	48	42	34	41	30	27	35

BD11	BD12	BD13	BD14	BD15	BD16	BD17	BD18	BD19	BD20
0	11	20	11	16	8	12	24	1	8

BD21	BD22	LS29	Out of district
35	18	16	9

Males	Female
89%	11%

NB we have seen a 3% increase in females over the last 12 months

Postcodes captured indicate place of residency of young person at point of initial referral and not necessarily where they continue to live during the intervention or where their exploitation takes or has taken place.

Risk indicators – identified / evidenced at initial referral

Serious, Organised or violent crime	29%
Urban Street Gangs	46%
County Line Trafficked	32%
Criminally Exploited / Exploiting others	62%
In receipt of a higher than yellow ASB Sanction	42%
Weapons marker (user, supplier, possession)	35%
Drugs marker (user, supplier, possession)	46%
Out of character / unexplained missing incident	27%

This figure has only been captured in recordings in the last 6 months

- 3.4 Recognising that the work of Breaking the Cycle is focussed on supporting those who are criminally exploited the team have secured further funding to upstream the work and this enables work to take place where there are early indicators of exploitation. This includes work in the A&E department at BRI hospital 7 nights a week, working 4pm to midnight the team see young people who attend hospital due to incidents of violence, sharp instrument injuries or with injuries that do not match their explanation. The team will also work with those who present with contributing factors to exploitation like drug or other substance misuse, overdoses and those in

mental health crisis. This work has seen hundreds of interventions with young people from across the district and provides support to young people as they go through treatment services at the hospital, which includes on ward and at point of discharge there is an onward support offer. This gives continued support, building on the relationships started in the hospital environment. This work is highly respected and has proven to be successful at identifying early signs of exploitation. The team work closely with clinical staff in the department to ensure the voice of young people is heard and that they get the right support during their stay in the department.

- 3.5 The district team also provide a service to young people in crisis through the work of the focussed deterrent car. This sees police and youth work colleagues working together across the district deployed to live time incidents of serious violence, with a remit of working together to prevent incidents of violence reoccurring once victim and perpetrator have been removed from a street based incident. The team is deployed in the aftermath of incidents of serious violence and fill the vacuum often left when the victim has been taken to hospital, suspect arrested and what is left young people in the streets.
- It is de-briefing young people after an event who haven't been directly involved but might have witnesses it.
 - To speak with witnesses of serious violence after an incident to see if they will support prosecutions or consent to interventions and support.
 - To deploy into areas in which have high levels of ASB / concern around child exploitation to engage with young people.
 - To deploy alongside proactive police and partner's resources, to de-brief tactics such as stop and search.

- 3.6 Officers undertaking this work with Youth Workers are positive about the difference made with one officer recently feeding back to their Inspector that:

"It was the best shift she has worked in a long time and how her eyes have been opened to the work that Breaking the cycle does.

She had no idea how vulnerable some of the youths are that you work with, and she could not believe how they opened up to the youth worker and the valuable intelligence they were offering up when speaking to them.

Most of the caseload is in the area where the police officer works she realised that one of his caseload is one that she had referred a few months ago. It has given her faith that the system works and the referrals we make are actioned. She is going to go back to her team and reiterate how valuable the referrals are.

It is clear that the partnership between the Youth Service Breaking the Cycle and the Bradford District Policing is working and that Bradford is leading the way in this level of partnership working.

- 3.7 The Youth Service also have a district team of apprentices, recruited to work on the Unicef Childs Rights agenda this team of young people are undertaking level 3 learning in the college and are deployed into placements across the district.

- 3.8 The Youth Service, as part of its district wide offer provides workforce development to the youth work practitioners working across all parts of the district. Over recent months the service has inducted new starter staff, and provided training that has developed understanding of world affairs and the impact these have on our district. The “solutions not sides” sessions were organised to provide an informative understanding of the Palestine situation. This packed training session enabled youth workers to have a safe space in which to discuss the situation and to understand its impact on the districts citizens. This training is to empower youth work staff to start and feel increased confidence to have difficult conversations with young people in youth work settings.
- 3.9 The district team has also utilised their skills and knowledge and are the provider of training around county lines and criminal exploitation for the multiagency safeguarding partnership. This has seen large numbers of people who work with young people from a variety of settings trained to spot and be more exploitation aware. Every Neighbourhood Policing Team have also had a bespoke awareness and training package about the work of the Breaking the Cycle team. We have also delivered training to 2 youth club settings outside of district, a health centre / GP Practice team and students and staff at the college in Shipley and Bradford.
- 3.10 The Youth Service has run a very successful kickstart programme, recruiting 11 young people to be trained to become sports leaders. Each participant has had part of their working week in their own learning where they have worked towards gaining a range of sports qualifications, and part of their week where they have worked in placements in a range of locations that has enabled them to put into practice their sports learning. As they have come to the end of their kickstart placements a number of the young people have gone on to secure employment with the Council and with some of our partner organisations.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The District Youth Service Team is funded through a combination of Council budget (Children’s Services & Public Health) external grants (Violence Reduction Unit) and ‘fee earning’ externally commissioned services (Health).

The overall budget for the District Youth Service Team is £1,088,000

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The implementation of the planned budget for the Youth Service is subject to the internal risk management plan of the Council and progress is reported to the Place Departmental Management Team.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are no legal implications apparent within the context of this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Young people in our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods experience a greater range of issues and are more likely to be exposed to the risk of exploitation and risk of harm. In addition, young people from 'community of interest' groups can experience extra barriers in accessing services.

The work of the district Youth Team is focussed on supporting some of the districts more vulnerable young people to mitigate the impact of this occurring and to provide a response and support to specific issues and incidents.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications apparent within the context of this report.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There are no greenhouse gas emission implications apparent within the context of this report.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Young people from across Bradford West engage in the work that is delivered by the District Youth Work team that supports the objectives of the District Community Safety Plan.

The Community Safety Partnership and the Office of the Deputy Mayor, through the Violence Reduction Unit, supports the work of the District Youth Work Team.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Some of the work of the District Youth Work team is undertaken with young people who are highly vulnerable and who have been in 'high risk' situations. Engagement with the Team by young people is voluntary and always carried out with their agreement and support.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no trade union implications apparent within the context of the report.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The work of the District Youth Work team takes place on a 'needs basis' which can include some or all wards at any point in time. Resources and support are targeted through referrals and young people presenting in A&E and is generally not directly related to individual wards.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

There are no 'not for publication' items.

9. OPTIONS

The majority of the work is targeted and responds to the specific requirement of funding providers. Notwithstanding, Bradford West Area Committee is asked to note the report and the work of the District Youth Work team, providing any recommendations for how services can be tailored to better respond to vulnerable young people living in the Bradford West constituency.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the work undertaken by the District Youth Work team is noted.

11. APPENDICES

None

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None