



Schools Youth Crime Prevention Resource Pack

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Introduction:

The youth justice system in England and Wales is a network of organisations working together under a legal framework and overseen by the Youth Justice Board (YJB). However, commissioning youth justice services in the community is dealt with at a local level.

Nationwide, since the peak in 2006/2007:

- Youth crime (proven offences) is down by 40%;
- Numbers of under-18 first-time entrants coming into the youth justice system are down by 59%; and
- The average percentage in custody under the age of 18 has fallen by 30% (Home Office, n.d)

The YYJB works closely with youth offending teams (YOTs). The YJB oversees and supports the performance of the youth justice system in line with its main aim, which is to prevent children and young people from offending.

YOTs are a partnership of organisations (including the police) with a legal responsibility to prevent offending and reduce re-offending. They are overseen by a management board usually chaired by a senior official within the local authority. It is the duty of every local authority, acting with partner agencies, to set up one or more teams for their area (Home Office n.d).

The National Audit Office estimates that, in 2009, offending by young people cost the UK economy between £8.5 and £11 billion a year with around one-third of young people re-offending.

Intervening early to prevent children from offending is more effective than dealing with the consequences of that offending. This is because the patterns of behaviour become well established and costs will be high. The aim is for safer local communities, and for young people at risk of offending and re-offending to be less likely to do so (Home Office n.d).

Youth Crime Prevention Team – Derby Youth Offending Service

Who are we and what do we do?

This pack has been put together with an aim to introduce schools in the Derby City area to the Youth Crime Prevention Team that work throughout the localities of the City. The overall objective of this team is to prevent first time entrants into the Youth Justice System, via working with young people who are assessed as being at risk of offending. This is largely done through one to one work, involving activities, tasks and discussions to tackle the risk factors that have been identified, while also encouraging the protective/positive factors that may be in a young person's life.

In defining the risk factors related to youth offending, the focus is on reducing criminality, and on factors in children and young people's lives that can, to some extent, be influenced by practical, community-based prevention programmes. Reference is, however, also made to such factors as gender, genetic influences and biological mediators. Although these are unchanging during development, they may contribute to the identification of children at risk. The risk factors for youth offending and substance abuse overlap to a very large degree with those for educational underachievement, young parenthood, and adolescent mental health problems. Action taken to address these risk factors (and to increase levels of protection) therefore helps to prevent a range of negative outcomes. Moreover, because these outcomes are closely related (anti-social behaviour is strongly correlated with heavy alcohol consumption, for example), this broad-based approach to prevention offers the greatest prospect of securing lasting reductions in offending behaviour (YJB 2005).

Derby City Youth Offending Service has a Prevention Team made up of four Youth Crime Prevention Workers who provide intensive prevention support to young people identified 'at risk' of offending.

Three of the four workers are based within each of the Multi-Agency Teams (MAT). The MATs consist of a mix of professionals from different areas who work together to provide early intervention support for young people based on a locality/ neighbourhood working model. The Youth Crime Prevention Workers based in the MATs will work with young people who live in their specific locality and who are assessed as being 'at risk' of entering the Youth Justice System.

The fourth Youth Crime Prevention Worker is based within the Youth Offending Service with a remit to work with siblings of current young offenders who are deemed as being at risk of entering the Youth Justice System.

Youth Crime Prevention Workers will work with any young person (generally aged 8-17) identified as 'at risk of offending' but who has not already entered the Youth Justice System (they therefore cannot work with any young person who has previously received a Police Reprimand, Final Warning, Caution, Youth Conditional Caution, Court Sentence or Custodial Sentence).

The Prevention Workers generally receive referrals from two main sources:

- The Prevention Workers in the MAT teams will receive referrals from the weekly locality Vulnerable Child Meetings (VCMs) where individual cases are looked at and it is decided what the key risks are and who the most appropriate professional is to work with the young person;
- The Prevention Worker in the YOS will receive referrals from Case Managers working within the Service who have identified siblings of young people on their caseload who could be 'at risk of offending' due to their family history of offending behaviour; and
- All Prevention Workers will undertake prevention work with targeted young people who have recently received a Police Youth Restorative Disposal (YRD).

The Prevention Team at the moment consists of the following four workers:

- Terrie Button – Locality 1 & 5 (based at Beaufort Street Business Centre)
- Sharna Khan – Locality 2 (based at Stanley Road)
- Ryan Black – Locality 3 & 4 (based at Ashtree House)
- Alexis Thompson – YOS Worker (based at YOS Connexions, Curzon Street).

The risk factors that may prompt a referral to Youth Crime Prevention are listed on the following page.

Risk factors that may prompt a referral to Youth Crime Prevention:

The following list includes risk factors that may be present in isolation, or in a combined scenario. It is important that these things can be recognised in young people as early as possible, so to prevent the behaviour/actions/situations from deteriorating further:

- Young people causing Anti-social behaviour/ involved in groups causing ASB
- Young people on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's)
- Young people who have been excluded or at risk of exclusion from school
- Young people who are at risk of being NEET (not in education, employment or training) either now or in the future
- Young people who have recently received Youth Restorative Disposals or Restorative Justice Disposals (YRD'S or RJ'S)
- Young people involved with negative or inappropriate peer groups
- Young people with family or peers linked to offending or anti-social behaviour
- Young people displaying issues around violence, anger or aggression
- Young people who are bullying or are a victim of bullying
- Young people who are aspiring to be or currently involved in gangs
- Young people socialising in areas of high crime and known 'trouble' area hot spots
- Young people with substance misuse issues
- Young people that have or are witnessing domestic violence
- Young people who have poor parental supervision and control
- Young people who experience conflict in the home environment

Types of Support/Interventions Offered by Youth Crime Prevention Team identified as appropriate through individual assessment

- One to one work or Group Work (where appropriate) with young person - focused themed sessions addressing the key risk factors and individual needs apparent from the assessment such as: Offending Behaviour; Victim Awareness; Consequences; Anger Management; Empathy; Positive Friendships and Relationships; Bullying; Aspirations; Boundaries; Keeping Safe etc.
- One to one work with young person in school to support the young person in terms of engagement, attendance and attainment at school.
- Engagement with specific art based programmes that take place throughout the year run by the Youth Crime Prevention Team.
- One to one support for parents with regards to strategies at home such as boundary setting, routines, budgets etc,
- Liaison with/or referral to other agencies and services e.g CAMHS, Breakout, Education, Safe and Sound, Runaways etc.
- Supporting young people and their parents with attendance at appointments eg medical appointments, school appointments, benefits appointments etc.
- Signposting young people and their families on to other agencies and services to provide additional support.
- Introductions to positive activities – we will aim to encourage young people to get involved in community activities and help the young people discover and get involved with maintainable/sustainable activities such as local football teams, cadets, brownies, scouts, swimming etc - this will aim to help raise their self-esteem, aspirations and gain a sense of belonging and reward.
- Encouraging young people to attend structured activities in the half term and summer holidays to help prevent the young people from getting involved in anti-social and/or offending behaviour.

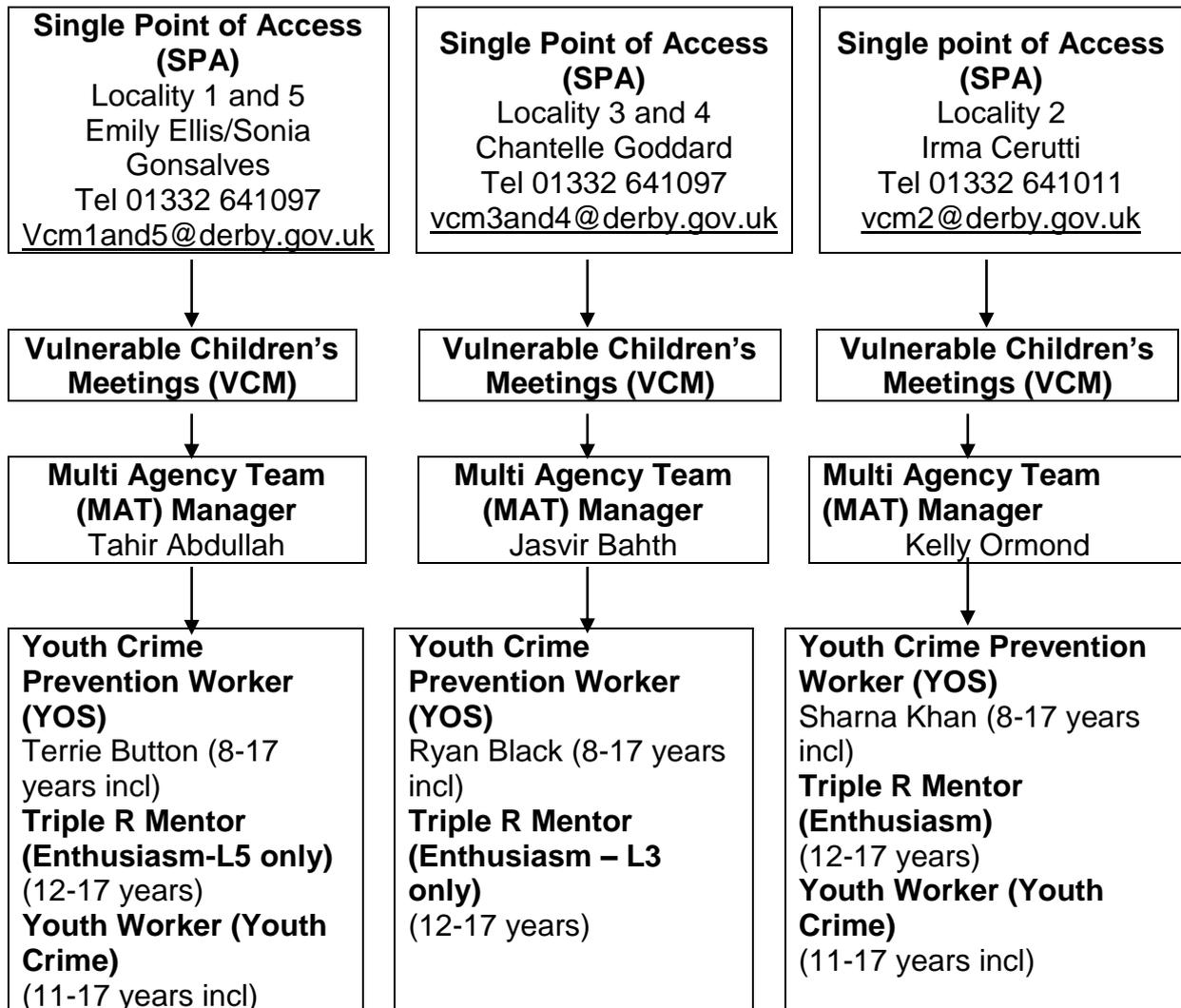
Youth Crime Prevention Referral Process

Youth Crime Prevention Services can be accessed by making a referral following the process below:

Partner Agencies such as ASB team, Police/PCSO's, Youth Involvement Officer (YIO), Schools, Neighbourhood Tasking Meetings and CAMHS

Refer via EHA/ Pre-EHA to the relevant Single Point of Access (SPA).

(Weekly Vulnerable Children's Meetings take place every Thursday - Referrals must be received by the Tuesday to be considered at that week's meeting)



MAT Managers will allocate work where required and forward referrals to Enthusiasm to nicola.lewis@enthusiasm.cjsm.net/ tel: 362479

Sources:

Homeoffice, n.d.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117401/youth-justice-system.pdf

YJB, 2005 <http://yjbpublications.justice.gov.uk/en-gb/Resources/Downloads/Risk%20Factors%20Summary%20fv.pdf>