

Safeguarding young people from serious violence: sharing practice

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1. Background

We know that Covid has exacerbated vulnerabilities that children and young people can face from a number of angles: engagement with education and structured positive activities have been disrupted, and there has been less face to face contact with professionals and trusted adults who are able to identify signs of risk and put in place measures of protection.

While levels of serious violence (other than homicide) fell sharply with restrictions of movement during the first period of lockdown, as restrictions were eased over the summer the number of incidents increased to levels higher than those seen pre-pandemic. In August, we saw the highest monthly national levels of hospital admissions for sharps injury in eight years.

The Government is committed to tackling serious violence as a priority and has committed a package of **£130.5m to tackle violence, murder and knife crime in 2021/22**. This includes a further £35.5m for our network of Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) which bring partners together to assess and respond to the drivers of violent crime locally, as well as £30m for the police to grip violence hotspot areas and up to £23m for projects working with young people at risk.

We have been working with 30 local safeguarding partnerships that saw the highest levels of hospital admissions for sharps injury between April–September 2020 to understand how agencies are working together to identify young people who may be at risk of violence and how they are intervening and protecting those who are vulnerable, especially over the coming months as lockdown restrictions ease. This included a Learning from Excellence event with nearly 200 professionals, held on 17 March.

Written returns from safeguarding partnerships, and the subsequent discussions at the event, produced a rich range of information on what local partners are doing to work together to identify and protect those at risk. This document summarises key themes, including partners' areas of focus as restrictive measures are eased. The case studies included are by no means exhaustive – partnerships shared many examples of their ways of working and we are also aware of a wide range of innovative and effective practice happening outside of these 30 areas. This document includes a selection to give a flavour of activity across the country.

Local partners will know best what works in their areas and this document is not intended as a one-size-fits all guide, but rather we have collated and shared a variety of case studies where partners told us they feel they are having success with a particular way of

working. We hope that local partnerships and system leaders are able to use this to learn about different approaches that colleagues are taking to tackle violence, and as a starting point for conversations with other partnerships where this could help enhance your local approach.

As Ministers set out at the event, we hugely value partners' ongoing commitment to protecting young people at this difficult time. We heard loud and clear that a joined up approach both at central and local level will be critical in ensuring that young people at risk are identified and protected. Government departments will use this rich store of information as they continue to plan for activity to prevent serious violence as restrictive measures ease and beyond, and in wider ongoing policy development to protect vulnerable children and young people.

2. Messages

i. Identification

Partners have set out a variety of **data-driven tools** that they use to identify children and young people at risk of or involved in violence and exploitation. These consider a range of indicators associated with increased risk including:

Persistent absence; excluded from mainstream school/AP pupils; children in homes with domestic abuse; poverty/family unemployment; neglect; risk of NEET; links to organised drug activity; going missing from home or care; previous victims or suspects of serious violence; poor housing; family bereavement; parent in custody; children with special educational needs or disabilities.

Partners emphasised the need for consistent knowledge about the nature and risks of extra-familial harms across professionals in the area. This included the need to see vulnerability as **fluid and intersectional** – risk is not static, and many partners referred to reviewing cases daily to keep track of individual children's vulnerability in real time.

Many areas highlighted that it is critical to understand risk and share intelligence regarding **siblings and peer groups**, as well as individuals involved in serious violent incidents.

Some areas recognised that increasing numbers of **young women and girls** are now identified as being affected by gangs and violence, and that the impact on them can be less well understood. Several areas had put in place tailored interventions to support women and girls as a result.

Use of data, intelligence and information sharing

Many practitioners raised the importance of **speed** in assessing risk and making referrals. They highlighted that gangs work very quickly to engage vulnerable young people every day, while clunky referral processes can mean that we can often be too slow to react. Practitioners stressed the value of **community intelligence**, which can help us to identify hidden cohorts and respond promptly.

Analytical tools

- **Greenwich** uses their analytical product 'InSight' which draws data from police, Merlins, Children's Social Care, Youth Offending Service, Early Help and the Community Safety Unit, looking at both people and places. This information is used to determine both actions relating to individual young people as well as where targeted interventions are needed in the community around hotspots.
- **Avon and Somerset** use the VRU App, a prioritisation tool that has been developed utilising police data as the starting point for understanding the threat and harm risk in individuals and groups of individuals who offend together. Police crime and intelligence data provides a list of offenders and offender relationships. A universal harm score is applied to the offences associated to such individuals.
- **Sheffield** uses a predictive analysis model looking at children who are at increased risk of permanent exclusion and those at risk of NEET. This prompts discussion with schools to arrange packages of support to protect children from educational disengagement.
- **Leicester** uses an interactive dashboard created by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Violence Reduction Network in partnership with Leicestershire Police which allows them to monitor data on a daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly basis. Through this, they have been monitoring how serious violence behaves during the pandemic. Work is underway to provide a more granular analysis, including a more detailed cohort analysis using police, school attendance and exclusions and other multiagency data.
- **Doncaster's** Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panel uses the Vulnerable Adolescent Tracker (VAT) to identify young people at risk of exploitation by type, connectivity and crossover of vulnerability. This is a model recommended by the National Crime Agency and informed by research from Bedford University.

Learning from previous lockdown

- **Croydon** has identified repeat victims and suspects of violence within a 12-week period leading out of the first lockdown. These individuals will receive engagement from the Violence Suppression Unit or dedicated gangs and CCE teams.
- **Lambeth** has created a protocol between Education, Children's Social Care and the Youth Offending Service so that children known to a social worker are referred to the Education Welfare Service for a consultation if they have not been seen on a virtual learning platform or by telephone for 3 days. This has significantly improved attendance amongst this cohort during lockdowns.

Child protection categories

- **Greenwich** has introduced an additional child protection category, adolescent risk, to be used alongside an existing category, where there is both familial and a contextual risk to make this cohort more visible across the partnership.

Professionals

Partners shared how they are making sure that practitioners across agencies are **knowledgeable about the risks that young people can face outside the home** and have the skills to effectively identify and safeguard these young people, flexing ways of working which are often designed around intra-familial abuse, including through a **trauma-informed approach**.

- **Walsall** has been implementing trauma-informed colleges and schools by embedding a trauma-informed approach across all staff. This has been complemented by a wellbeing hub and additional therapeutic support for pupils. They have since seen a drop in the number of behaviour marks and exclusions.
- **Manchester** is rolling out Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) awareness training and developing trauma-informed approaches, with the ambition to become a trauma-informed city by 2025.
- **Camden and Islington** NHS Trust, in partnership with Camden Council and the Central North Basic Command Unit co-produced a model of reflective supervision to support police officers. The pilot saw quantitative reductions in stress and burnout compared to cohort scores pre-pilot and qualitative feedback from officers demonstrating impact on wellbeing and practice.
- **Sheffield's** Amber project is a multi-agency exploitation service for children at risk of all forms of exploitation. The Amber Project has carried out multi-agency briefings to over 400 professionals around the city who now know the signs of exploitation and the referral pathways.
- **Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland** Violence Reduction Network have developed "Are you Listening?", a film designed to equip trusted adults with the tools to recognise the issue of CCE and take action. Since its launch, the film has reached 3.5 million people through social media channels and more than 1,400 people have signed up to attend a training workshop delivered by Leicestershire Police to train parents/carers and anyone who works with young people to recognise the signs of CCE.

Race and disproportionality

We know that young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds are **disproportionally represented in both victim and perpetrator cohorts**. Several areas told us about work they were doing to understand and respond to needs of the different communities they serve. The importance of professionals being **representative of and relatable to** the cohorts of children and young people they are supporting was also raised.

- In 2020, **Islington** and **Haringey** published their partnership project involving criminologists at City, University of London, evaluating a programme designed to tackle key issues relating to the disproportionate representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic young people in the Criminal Justice System and beyond. Subsequently, during the COVID-19 pandemic they have increased their partnership response and reach into specific communities, particularly the Somali community, following the murders of two young Somali men after the relaxation of the first lockdown. This led to the co-production of a multi-agency action plan to improve outcomes for this community.
- In **Bristol** the Black Police Association project supports community engagement with police in schools with large Black Asian and Minority Ethnic populations.

ii. Multi-agency working

Many areas referred to their local [public health approach](#) for tackling serious violence, which requires all local partners to get involved in strengthening communities, supporting the vulnerable and responding to and curtailing violence where it occurs.

At a strategic level, partnerships had put in place structures underpinned by appropriate governance, including membership beyond social care, police and health, and some areas spoke of the benefits of [co-location](#). The [transition between children's and adults' services](#) was a key area in which effective multi-agency working was particularly important.

At operational level, many areas told us they have [daily multiagency briefings](#) regarding young people at risk of exploitation and violence. Areas also had a combination of weekly/monthly/six-weekly multiagency meetings both on the local strategic approach and to discuss individual young people who may be at risk and develop [holistic intervention packages](#) tailored to their needs.

Many professionals highlighted the important role of [schools, Alternative Provision and Further Education](#) in identifying and diverting young people at risk of being perpetrators or victims of serious violence and exploitation.

Strategic

Partners told us that the landscape and structures for protecting vulnerable children and young people from violence, exploitation and other harms is complex. Sir Alan Wood's review of multiagency safeguarding arrangements will take a comprehensive look at how local systems and structures are working, identify gaps and barriers, and make recommendations for improving collaboration at national and local level in order to better identify and protect those at risk.

Several areas described local process frameworks that have been rolled out in **NHS Emergency Departments** for young people attending who may be at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation or serious violence. These are used to notify local agencies to ensure an appropriate plan can be quickly put in place.

- “**co-location** helps shared understanding across the partnership and avoids duplication.” ([Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group](#))
- **Tower Hamlets** plans for local police to have a dedicated team permanently in hospital to address intelligence gaps, improve evidence, and enhance strategic partnership relations.
- In **Bradford** the hospital trust is launching a new “Navigator Role”. The data captured from the Emergency Department will identify ward areas of concern, enabling partnership resources to be deployed proactively to reduce and prevent young people being subject to or involved in serious violence. Work will also focus on building emotional intelligence and resilience.

Transitions between children’s and adults’ services

Partners emphasised that young people do not stop being vulnerable when they turn 18, and yet many can face a ‘cliff edge’ in service provision, with lack of join up between children’s and adults’ services in the same area and differing thresholds for support as a child and young adult. Some areas have now developed strategies or programmes which support young people across a wider age range and assist with transition to other services.

- **Newham** has launched their Exploitation Strategy for young people up to the age of 25, supported by a strategic group of partners across children and adult services with the aim of a single pathway for exploitation.
- **Birmingham** Children's Trust Adolescent Hub focuses on young people involved in criminality between the ages of 13 – 30, including the transition between services.
- **Bradford** has implemented a refreshed All-Age Exploitation Group to improve their ability to address issues of transition and all age responses as a multi-agency partnership. This Group has representation from The Bradford Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, The Community Safety Partnership and the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board.
- **Nottingham's** prisoner resettlement programme for young people aged 18-25 leaving the prison establishment provides holistic support in the community, including engagement in education, training and employment.

Voice of young people and the community

Many attendees emphasised the importance of ensuring that young people and their communities have the opportunity to feed into and shape the services that support them.

- **Islington** has just published its five-year Youth Safety Strategy. It was co-produced with children and young people, including those directly impacted by serious youth violence.
- **Sandwell** supports young people to influence and shape services through their Youth Forum, Sandwell Youth Parliament, the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner's Youth Commission, and through facilitating national Youth Takeover Day.
- **Croydon Voluntary Association** is a partnership forum which involves local groups, including the BME forum. This enables the service to connect with communities and grassroots agencies in hotspot areas to help establish the best routes to tackle violent offending.

Operational

Several areas described multiagency initiatives that benefit from strong buy-in across local partners to identify young people at risk and put in place tailored packages of support for them and their families.

- **Croydon** has a youth Integrated Offender Management cohort. The team works with Probation and CRC to develop relationships to deter offenders from reoffending through use of external partnerships, including a focus on education, training and employment, as well as ensuring the enforcement of breaches and offences.
- **Salford**'s Youth Justice Service and Complex Safeguarding Team are piloting a 'Risks in the Community' meeting model. This model maps young people linked to serious youth violence and exploitation and works with a range of partners including schools to agree and implement the most appropriate diversion and disruption opportunities.
- **Tameside**'s PIED (Prevention, Intervention, Education, Diversion) Pilot identifies and supports young people at risk of getting involved with serious violent crime with the overall aim of diverting them from risky behaviours, negative influences and social isolation. The partners involved are GMP, Early Help, Youth Justice Service, Action Together, Positive Steps, CGL, Enhanced Nursing, sexual health, schools and colleges and careers. A keyworker engages the cohort and puts in place tailored packages of support to re-engage them with school, employment or training, and meaningful activities.
- **Birmingham**'s Empower U Hub for child exploitation and missing children includes eight partner organisations to ensure a robust prevention and support offer to children at risk of or subject to exploitation. This has enhanced screening, evidence and intelligence mapping, advice on specialist interventions, multiagency response and planning, and work with care homes and families.
- In **Islington**, when a child has been a victim of violence and is in hospital, their partnership strategy meeting is held in the hospital so that a discharge plan can be incorporated into the safety plan for the child and their family.
- In **Rotherham**, Operation Keepsafe brings together a range of partners including Early Help, Youth Offending Teams, Rotherham United Community Sports Trust detached service and the neighbourhood police force to target intelligence-led hotspot areas. The team engages young people in the areas, providing signposting to diversionary activities.

Education: the role of schools, Alternative Provision and Further Education

Practitioners noted that in many cases the **relationship between local safeguarding partnerships and schools had been strengthened** over the course of the pandemic and were keen to build on this going forward. In particular, professionals recognised the importance of **reducing the likelihood of suspension and expulsions** by intervening early with pupils who need support. Where pupils are attending **Alternative Provision**, it was important that appropriate support was put in place, delivered by skilled and trauma-informed professionals, to help keep pupils engaged with their education alongside their other needs.

Attendees also highlighted the need for a **consistent pathway for when young people are found to have a weapon in school**, and several were rolling out clear frameworks for how local partnerships and education settings should respond, with the aim of avoiding expulsion, reducing criminalisation and promoting education.

iii. Interventions

Areas told us about the wide range of interventions that they fund, both through individual agencies and as a partnership. These focused around areas which have evidenced links to crime reduction outcomes, including **building relationships** with trusted adults; providing **structured, supervised positive activities**; **life and social-emotional skills-based** programmes; and **strengthening family support**.

We know that violent incidents often peak during after school hours, and practitioners highlighted the need for provision during **evenings and weekends**.

- **Waltham Forest, Lambeth** and **Southwark** are operating Streetbase, a project which trains teams of young advisors aged 16-25 in safeguarding training, conflict management, risk assessment, observational awareness, personal safety and community harm and exploitation. The young advisors then work with local authorities and key partners including the police to identify and patrol hotspot areas where young people spend time, engage with them, and signpost to positive opportunities and activities. So far, the project has reached over 40,000 children and young people.
- **Brent's** MyEnds programme is a community and voluntary sector led programme, taking a public health approach to reducing youth violence through four principles: a whole family approach, trauma-informed learning and practice, peer-to-peer work and cultural competence. Detached and outreach work will focus on three high risk locations in Brent.
- **Leicester's** Routes to Safety project focusses on developing safe routes/spaces to and around schools, delivering activities to children and young people in peer groups with the aim of reducing youth violence.

Youth work

Evidence suggests that **targeted, specialist youth interventions** have a greater impact on crime outcomes than universal youth provision. Practitioners mentioned the important role of high-quality youth work in supporting young people, particularly through persistence in building trusted relationships. While youth work provision across the country varies, most areas had invested in focused projects to engage young people who may be at risk of exploitation and violence.

- **Newham's** Youth Empowerment Service delivers youth services in local youth zones. The service has undertaken socially distanced youth work interventions throughout the pandemic to ensure that those most vulnerable do not lose contact with their trusted adult. The service also set up a new digital service to ensure that young people could remain connected to their youth work teams and each other in a safe and healthy environment.
- **Sandwell** Young People's Service provides a range of youth provisions across the 6 towns of Sandwell including 7 open access youth clubs, 2 detached teams in each town, Enhanced Youth Support which includes targeted one to one and small group work support, borough wide young women's/ young men's groups, and a youth club for young people with additional needs.
- **Northumbria's** You Only Live Once project is targeted at individuals believed to be on the periphery of knife crime, gang affiliation and serious violence. A notable success of the project has been the improved attendance rates at school.
- **Nottingham City's** detached youth and play team delivers two-hour outreach sessions on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. The focus of the team is to engage and divert children and young people into positive activities as lockdown restrictions are lifted. This takes place alongside more targeted contextualised safeguarding mapping and therapeutic trauma-informed counselling.
- **Enfield's** NEXUS project targets young people at risk of school suspension or expulsion. It provides a range of support and activities with strong evidence of impact on significantly reducing exclusions.

The Home Office's £13.2m **Trusted Relationships Fund** is supporting 11 projects across England to identify innovative approaches to tackling vulnerability among children at risk of child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation and peer on peer abuse. Projects went live in August 2018 and will be funded until March 2022. They aim to build resilience to harm through fostering healthy, trusting relationships between children and responsible adults. Through an independent, programme-wide evaluation of the Fund, we will continue to build the evidence base on what works to protect young people from exploitation and abuse.

Transitions through education and training

Many practitioners raised the importance of supporting young people through their education, both in the **transition from primary to secondary school**, and the **transition into post-16 education, employment or training**. It is crucial that young people feel they have the support and opportunities to thrive.

Many areas had dedicated support in place to ensure smooth transitions for children and young people who they had identified as being at risk and had been sure to continue this provision throughout the pandemic, given increased risks around engagement with education and post-16 transitions.

- **Lewisham** has developed an Education, Training and Employment Enhanced Offer, which is designed to support their more long-term vulnerable young people with a view to increasing their aspirations. The offer includes speech, language and communication skills support, career advice sessions and 1:1 mentoring. It also includes sector-based opportunities, including football coaching sessions, and the Mondays on Wheels project. This is joint provision with the Virtual School and the Young Lewisham Project where young people learn about bicycle and motorbike mechanics, can engage in bike riding trips and have access to training and development opportunities.
- **The Lambeth** Made Education, Skills and Employment Programme includes a specific employability programme for young people known to the youth offending service as well as the 'Lambeth Unlock' programme, which built on the Education Recovery programme and targets those young people who were NEET or at risk of becoming NEET.
- **Salford** delivers a Connexions service which focuses on young people involved in the Youth Justice System, care leavers and pupils in AP settings. Their summer engagement programme for school leavers provides positive activities linked to post-16 and employment.
- In **Waltham Forest**, every year 6 children in the borough received dedicated guidance during the transition from primary to secondary school, with children identified as vulnerable being given extra support.
- **Greenwich** has worked closely with schools to introduce a screening tool for children in year 5 to identify those who may struggle with transition to secondary. They were able to deliver their well-established two-week summer programme to support vulnerable children with their transition to secondary last year, despite Covid.
- **Rotherham's** Keep On Track programme is delivered to year 11 pupils who are at risk of becoming NEET. Students are identified by their schools and participate in a series of 12 workshops which explore issues around self-esteem, mental health, rights and responsibilities, interview skills and CV development.

The **Creating Opportunities Forum** is a new Home Office programme that will generate work-related opportunities for young people at risk of serious violence and provide wraparound support including coaching, mentoring and employability skills support. The programme is being piloted in 12 local authority areas and will link in with local partnerships in those areas to make sure it is reaching the young people in need of support.

Families

Several areas highlighted the importance of supporting the family around the child and had implemented a range of projects working with **families whose children or parents were either involved with or at risk of offending**.

- **Sandwell** is working with the Youth Justice Board to pilot a peer support programme for families already engaged with the criminal justice system, which brings parents together to support each other. Through the programme, there has been better identification of parental needs (including around substance misuse and mental health) and a shift in how services work with parents, as well as a positive impact on siblings in the family.
- **Waltham Forest** has been delivering Functional Family Therapy delivery, which is accessible to families across the children's safeguarding system. This has delivered a significant impact, both in reduction of offending and family preservation. They also run a Parent Champion programme providing peer support to parents of children vulnerable to exploitation and violence.
- **Islington** and **Camden** have been working with the VRU to develop a new Parental Support Project with Public Health, underpinned by a public health approach and the empowerment of parents and carers.
- **Leicester** is working with Leicestershire and Rutland on a multiagency project aimed at identifying and supporting children affected by parental imprisonment. The model is being developed to ensure support pathways are in place with the aim of securing positive outcomes for children, including reducing inter-generational offending.

Health

We know that the pandemic has had an impact on children and young people's health, including their **mental health**. Partners described the measures they had in place to make sure children are able to access the support they need, including by **embedding services in school settings**.

- **Greater Manchester** has four trailblazer sites implementing mental health support teams in schools, called 'Thrive in Education'. This includes dedicated mental health workers who deliver evidenced based mental health interventions in schools, as well as advice, consultation and training for the education workforce.
- **Tower Hamlets** has CAMHS clinicians embedded in alternative provision settings, schools and the Youth Offending Team. Docklands Outreach offers a combination of parenting therapy, Systemic Family Therapy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and counselling, and includes a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Youth Offending Team and a Forensic Liaison Nurse.
- **Hackney's** Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools (WAMHS) service ensures access to high quality mental health interventions for children through enhanced partnership working across health, education and social care. A link worker is embedded in every Hackney school to develop links between CAMHS and schools; provide support and training; and facilitate direct clinical support for young people.
- **Wirral** Community Health and Care Trust employs specialist nurses who work with young people aged 14-19 years at risk of or involved with child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation or violent crime. The nurse works with the young person, their family/carers, and other professionals to assess any health needs which are contributing to their vulnerability. This informs a package of care to support behaviour change and promote their health and wellbeing, as well as direct referral to specific services such as paediatricians, ADHD diagnostic services and mental health support.
- In **Southwark**, a scoping and mapping exercise is underway to enable health clinics to offer different clinic times for known gang affiliates. This has seen a significant reduction in further violence and retaliation, and young people feel safer attending health appointments.

Policing

There is evidence that hotspot policing reduces violent crime. Over the past two years, the 18 police force areas with the highest NHS hospital admissions for injury with a sharp object have received over £100m in Home Office Police Surge Funding to uplift their police response in serious violence hotspots. In this financial year, the same 18 forces will receive up to £30m to grip their serious violence hotspots with even more analytically-driven, targeted hotspot activity.

- In **Northumbria** a six-weekly knife crime and serious violence report is produced specific to Local Authority areas. The report identifies emerging hot spots, crime trends associated with knife crime and weapon carrying, key offenders, repeat victims and forthcoming prison releases of concern. The report also highlights any violence related incidents associated with, or on, school or educational premises to enable early intervention.
- In **Merseyside**, Operation Overlord involves Criminal Exploitation deployments at major transport hubs and exploitation hotspot areas in Wirral. Operation Parksafes has also been undertaken in response to an anticipated increase in violence at local parks used by young people. The activity resulted in a reported 43% reduction in serious violence offences during the deployment period.
- In **Croydon**, as restrictions ease Safer Schools officers will be working extended hours completing high visibility patrols in the locality of their priority schools.
- In **Ealing**, the Police Gangs unit delivers active intervention for those young people most at risk of CCE. Visits to existing gang members are undertaken regularly and information about younger siblings and peer group members is disseminated across the partnership to allow early identification and intervention with those most at risk.

Teachable moments

There is promising evidence that supports **intervening at key moments** where learning is expected to be best heard in a vulnerable young person's life (for example, at entry to A&E or police custody) to connect them to a **package of support** enabling a more positive life course. Several areas were investing in 'teachable' or 'reachable' moments interventions, either at moments of crisis or early for a more preventative approach.

Youth Justice System

- **Enfield, Haringey** and **Camden** have been piloting schemes where youth workers are placed inside custody services to provide early support when a young person first enters custody, followed through with appropriate long-term support. Similarly, **Nottingham**'s U Turn Custody Intervention has supported 28 young people aged 16-26 this year with 100% having not reoffended.
- The Young **Hackney** Early Help and Prevention Service ensures all young people offered an out of court disposal are provided with interventions focussed on identity and community integration. 82% of young people offered an out of court disposal did not go on to become First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice system.
- **Liverpool** Clinical Commissioning Group's commissioned offer includes targeted work with young people accessing the out of court disposal route with timely access to early help, mental health support including psychological therapies and family systemic practice.

A&E

- A number of specialist youth work services are being delivered through organisations such as Redthread and St Giles Trust in A&E, in areas including **London, Nottingham, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool**.

Pre-threshold

- **Sandwell** has a new pre-early help partnership panel in each town where schools can refer vulnerable young people who would fall beneath the Early Help threshold. In addition, the Offender Management team will visit and try to engage all excluded children (currently high school but will be primary).
- Operation Divan in **Newcastle** is a police-led partnership initiative to discourage the carrying of knives by young people. The YJS Police identify circumstances where young people are suspected to be involved in knife carriage based on intelligence, but there is insufficient to progress evidentially. Visits are conducted to educate, support, engage with parents and seek to discourage risk-based behaviour.

National **Liaison & Diversion** services operate at police stations and courts to identify and assess children, young people and adults with vulnerabilities, such as mental health problems, a learning disability, substance misuse problems or unstable accommodation. They refer identified vulnerable individuals into suitable services and, where appropriate, away from the justice system altogether. Their assessments also help magistrates and judges make decisions about sentencing.

Night Time Economy

Partners identified that one of the drivers of an increase in serious violence incidents following the easing of restrictions following the first national lockdown may have been the reopening of the night time economy. Several areas have put in place plans to **increase presence in potential hotspot areas**, working with **local partners** as well as **venues** to keep people safe as restrictive measures are relaxed in the coming months.

- **Newcastle** has developed a Night Time Economy plan to minimise the likelihood of a spike in incidents post lockdown, using incident and partnership data sets to identify premises and locations which are more susceptible to increased levels of violence. This has been used to divide the city into zones and will shape officer deployments and pulse patrols to ensure visibility and early intervention to prevent violent offending. The plan also includes taxi marshals at high risk taxi ranks and door staff briefings for venues.
- **Nottingham** will be deploying drugs dogs to identify individuals for stop and search; a visible presence of dedicated trained staff to react to incidents in the city centre; and venues are to be offered metal detecting arches, trauma packs and training for venue staff.

3. Guidance and evidence

Existing government guidance

- [Working together to safeguard children](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education](#)
- [Preventing serious violence: a multi-agency approach](#)
- [County lines exploitation: applying All Our Health](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation at school](#)

Repositories of evidence

- [Evidence and Gap Map, Youth Endowment Fund](#)
- [What works to prevent gang involvement, youth violence and crime: A rapid review of interventions delivered in the UK and abroad | Early Intervention Foundation \(eif.org.uk\)](#)
- [Repository of practice on serious violence, London Councils](#)

Reviews

- [It was hard to escape: Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation](#)
- [Wood Review of multiagency safeguarding arrangements](#)