

REDUCING CRIMINALISATION THROUGH PREVENTION AND DIVERSION

LANCASHIRE CHILD AND YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE'S OFFER

WHAT IS THE LANCASHIRE PREVENTION SERVICE?

- The focus of the Prevention Service is to help prevent children aged between 8 and 17 from entering the Criminal Justice System.
- This work may include one to one sessions and group work. Sessions will be completed in schools, at home, community centres or somewhere that the child feels comfortable.

WHO CAN REFER?

- Referrals can come directly from Lancashire Police when a child is at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System.
- In addition case consultations are held for children known to Children's Social Care and the Children and Family Wellbeing Service where it is felt additional specialised support would be beneficial.
- The Prevention Service will also complete targeted sessions in conjunction with partner agencies for example within residential children's homes and schools. To help to reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of Looked After Children, link workers from CYJS are attached to each Lancashire County Council residential children's home.

WHAT CAN THE PREVENTION SERVICE HELP WITH?

- The child's plan can address a number of issues including:

Consequences of offending and anti-social behaviour; confidence; self-esteem; assertiveness; social exclusion; emotional regulation; restorative justice; peer pressure; youth violence; gang membership

Voluntary support usually lasts 12 weeks, however there is some flex if needed.



LANCASHIRE'S DIVERSION SERVICE

CHILD-FIRST, TRAUMA-INFORMED, RESTORATIVE

KEY SERVICE PRINCIPLES

- The service is:
 - Child-First – the child should be seen first by all professionals – not the offence. This strengths-based approach seeks to ensure that diversion also means desistance
 - Trauma-Informed – the lived experience of the child and their families helps to guide our work and ensure children are systemically supported to move away from offending
 - Restorative – the views and needs of victims are included in the work planned with the child

THE MODEL

- The evidence-base clearly states that diversion schemes should avoid net-widening and pulling children into the criminal justice system if there are alternative child-friendly systems for them to go into
- Our screening exercise holds this as a key value and considers the most appropriate agency to support the child at a given time
- If additional specialist support from CYJS is needed, a full assessment and plan will be co-produced with the child

CYJS IS TRACKING ALL CHILDREN SUPPORTED BY THE DIVERSION SERVICE AND BETWEEN 1ST OCTOBER 2019 AND 1ST NOVEMBER 2020:

- 83 Children were supported via a Community Resolution with CYJS Intervention (Diversion Programme)
- Of those children, only eight have gone on to become a First-Time Entrant.
- 22 further children were screened out to other services, primarily Children's Social Care and Child and Family Wellbeing Service

NEXT STEPS:

- Lancashire have been awarded “Pathfinder” status for our Child-First Diversion programme. This means that we have received additional funding from the Youth Justice Board to further develop and evaluate our work, whilst sharing good practice with other services who are developing Diversionary approaches
- We have also been invited to speak at the annual Youth Justice Convention about our Child-First work.