

Briefing to: Sefton Safer Communities Partnership
Briefing from: Ros Stanley
Date: Sept 2021
Subject: Integrated Youth Services
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1. **Purpose / Summary**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the SSCP regarding progress and achievements of Integrated Youth Services since June 2021.

2. **Recommendation(s):** The SSCP notes the report.

3. **Youth Offending Team (YOT)**

3.1 **YOT Performance**

3.1.2 This report is to provide a summary of the Youth Offending Team's performance in relation to nationally and locally set key performance indicators. National data is sourced via Police National Computer (PNC) and is the latest available. Local data is sourced via Child View, a live database. Data extracted from Child View is a snapshot of a point in time and therefore is an approximation rather than an absolute. Local statistics for 2020/21 may have been affected due to courts being closed as a result of COVID-19, these will continue to be monitored.

3.1.3 Currently both national and local tracking show Sefton YOT to have strong performance regarding first time entrants and custody rates. Sefton YOT continues to be proactive through prevention strategies reducing the number of young people who receive a criminal record for the first time and continues to perform extremely well having the lowest rate of custody amongst Merseyside YOT's and the YOT family.

3.1.4 **Reoffending** - In Sefton during April 2017 to March 2018 the rate of re-offending was 50.8% compared with 44.8% during April 2018 to March 2019 decrease of 6.02%. Sefton YOT had the third highest decrease in re-offending rates within the YOT family. During April 18 to March 2019 the number of reoffences committed per reoffender in Sefton were 2.29, a decrease compared with 2.97 during April 17 to 2018.

3.1.5 **First Time Entrants** - During January to December 2018 the rate of FTE's in Sefton was 215 compared with 171 during January to December 2019 a reduction of 44 per 100,000. In actual numbers this translates in a decrease from 51 to 41 in the same period. Sefton is listed as the fifth YOT as having

the lowest number of FTE's out of 11 similar YOT's from January 2019 to December 2019.

- 3.1.6 **Custody** – The custody rate is the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence. Sefton's custody rate during April 19 to March 20 was zero. Performance compares extremely well when compared to the YOT family.

3.2 Local Tracking

- 3.2.1 **First Time Entrants (2019/20 – 2021/22)** - Sefton's continues to be proactive through prevention strategies, particularly with out of court disposals. There has been continued reduction in the number of FTE's for each quarter apart from an increase to 12 during Q4 2019/20.

Q1 2019/20 had 10 FTE's, which reduced to 5 in Q1 2020/21 and a slight increase from 5 in 2020/21 to 7 in Q1 2021/22.

- 3.2.2 The 7 offences committed during Q1 2021/22 consisted of three motoring offences, three for violence against person, (two of which were for possession of a knife in a public place) and one for assault by beating, and one further offence for drugs - possession of cannabis. Four of the FTE's were not children looked after, three of which committed first times motoring offences and one for possession of cannabis. Three of the FTE's are children looked after whom committed first times offences for possession of knife blade in a public place and assault by beating. Each of the FTE's will be monitored throughout the three quarters and reported on.

- 3.2.3 Historical national data shows Sefton to have had an increased rate of re-offending during 2017/18 at 49.9% compared to 47.7% during 2016/17 at this time incidents were being recorded as offences, since recording methods were changed during 2019 local tracking has shown a reduction in the rate of re-offending. As suggested by local tracking re-offending increased slightly in April 17 to March 50.8% then fell to 44.8% during April 18 to March 19. Sefton YOT had the third highest decrease in re-offending rates within the YOT family.

- 3.2.4 Currently both national and local tracking show Sefton YOT to have strong performance regarding first time entrants and custody rates. Sefton YOT continues to be proactive through prevention strategies reducing the number of young people who receive a criminal record for the first time and continues to perform extremely well having the lowest rate of custody amongst Merseyside YOT's and the YOT family.

4 Operational Partnership Group

- 4.1 The Operational Partnership Group has recently been developed to reflect the YOT Management Board Partnership at a practitioner and front line manager level, reporting back to the Board. Following a case mapping exercise (Appendix 1) the group has worked together to discuss the findings and identify themes which will be reported back to the YOT Management Board and in the meantime to the Early Help Partnership.

4.1.2 Key themes arising from the discussion include:

- Strengthening the team around the school – as primary school moves were identified as an issue and first indication of unmet need
- Lack of resources for older boys particularly for emotional support / ACES work
- Prevalence of cannabis use and engagement with WAVY is often compromised due to requirement for consent for referral
- Support for staff to be resilient when attempting to engage with challenging families as well as cutting through to the root causes of presenting issues
- Multiple changes of worker is an engagement barrier
- Young people without qualifications which can be a barrier to accessing apprenticeships as they haven't got English and maths, 6-8 week courses and views as less effective
- Many 14+ yp are not motivated or interested in school or college, but would engage with practical work therefore this may enable progress into employment
- Kick start scheme offers opportunities but only for 16-24yr olds who receive universal credit (which could be barrier for the family)
- Reduction in staffing numbers limits the time to build trusting relationships, and develop the right approach

4.2 The case mapping report has been shared with the Early Help Partnership. There is ongoing work relating to developing the team around the school and how workers can forge stronger relationships at an early stage with families so that they can challenge issues within the family home. The evidence from the case mapping exercise strengthens the case for change and the mapping exercise will be repeated for another cohort of young people.

5 **Boys Group – Help for Young People Programme**

5.1 This programme focused on healthy relationships for boys who have been identified as experiencing relationship difficulties with parents or guardians has concluded with success. The course leaders noted a significant improvement in young people's presentation, engagement and understanding. Initially, the boys talked about being excluded from school, smoking cannabis, that they didn't see the point in having a job and for those that attended further education they didn't recognise the value.

5.1.2 All boys had experienced relationship difficulties with families and peers. By the end of the programme, the course leaders reported much greater levels of engagement through participation, eye contact, taking responsibility for group arrangements, and building aspirations for their future. There were notable changes in how the young people recognised the value of education and the importance of family. Many talked about how they understood how they can influence relationships through positive contributions and their behaviour. They talked about developing trust in others and understood the meaning of empathy.

5.2 We Are With You (WAWY)

5.2.1 Sefton YOT works closely with WAWY, the drugs and alcohol advice and support service for under 18's. Representatives from the service sit on the YOT Out of Court Disposal decision making panel each week to discuss cases referred in by police for diversionary intervention. YOTs are now able to divert young people who have been referred in for certain minor offences under Outcome 22 which offers an opportunity for educative work to be delivered by a partner agency negating the need for direct YOT involvement. Since January this year YOT has referred 41 young people who have admitted to being in possession of cannabis when stopped by police, via Outcome 22 to WAWY. Out of this number, 40 have engaged with the service and 1 refused which is a pleasing response.

6 Youth Service

6.1 The Youth Service outreach teams continue to support Anti -Social Behaviour Hot Spot areas utilising the Youth Bus and have concentrated on Bowersdale Park engaging with young people in attempts to prevent further problematic anti social Behaviour. This work has been carried out in partnership with Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire and Rescue teams. The teams have also been in the local parks to offer support and diversion for young people who have moved from Bowersdale to other parks such as Caradoc Park and Pottersbarn Skate Park

6.2 Southport Detached Work

6.2.2 The team has been supporting the Parenting 2000 staff in Southport with a new project designed to educate young people around Criminal Exploitation, County Lines and Grooming. There are plans for Youth Outreach Workers to deliver this in the King's Gardens area of the town. The Southport youth work team is also continuing to travel around the area engaging young people and handing out information on local services.

6.3 Reading Project

6.3.1 The Youth Service has been supporting Cllr Atkinson at Aintree Community Centre with the Summer Reading project. This project has also provided opportunities for young people to engage in various confidence building activities throughout the summer period. At the end of August, the project will celebrate the young people's "graduation"

6.4 Operation Banger

6.4.1 Planning is now underway for Operation Banger, where Youth Workers will join up with relevant Council Departments as well as Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service to work with children and young people in preparation for the period between Halloween and Bonfire Night. The aim is to provide as many diversionary activities during this period as possible via the Youth Bus and commissioned organisations. It is hoped that a firework display

can go ahead this year and if this is the case, Youth Workers will be present to engage with children and young people on the night. The aim will be to keep everyone safe whilst ensuring that the community enjoy a night to remember.

6.5 Symbol

6.5.1 Following the last SYMBOL meeting, staff are working with Sefton CVS to consider ways young people can be better encouraged to engage with Youth Provision across the borough, particularly in terms of SYMBOL and Youth Voice. A Task and Finish group has been set up to explore the issue, this will also consider how staff can utilise social media to communicate with young people. It is hoped that school Police Officers will join Youth Workers to broaden their knowledge about youth provision in the borough so that children and young people with whom they work, will be encouraged by the school Police Officer engage in Sefton's youth provision.

6.6 Drugs and Mental Health Support

6.6.1 Youth Work staff in consultation with We Are with You are planning training for workers around substance misuse and young people. This is to encourage staff confidence in discussing referrals to the service and to plan some joint work using the Youth Bus in the community.

6.6.2 The Youth Service use of Social Media Platforms to highlight services and opportunities open to both young people and parents. To support mental health the youth service have highlighted Kooth to heighten awareness of the online counselling service available. The Kooth Engagement worker will offer training to schools and providers on the benefits and how to access the service.