

Briefing to: Sefton Community Safety Partnership

Briefing from: Ros Stanley, Localities Service Manager (Youth Justice Service)

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Subject: Violence Against Women and Girls

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing document is to highlight how the Youth Justice Service (YJS) tackles violence against women and girls with particular attention to the below areas:
- Their experiences of Violence against Women and Girls
 - The actions they put in place to deal with Violence against Women and Girls
 - Any barriers to achieving success.

2 Experiences of Violence against Women and Girls

- 2.1 There are many children who have witnessed violence towards family members. In previous case mapping exercises, there are multiple cases where children have been exposed to prolonged domestic abuse within the home environment. The YJS recognise this as an adverse childhood experience and assessments focus on this to understand the child's lived experience. Where there are concerns, YJS seek support from partners such as Venus via the Youth Justice Therapist, CAMHS or the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion service to deliver bespoke support. YJS will also offer support to parents including access to the ACES programme.

3 Actions to deal with Violence against Women and Girls

- 3.1 If there was a concern that a child was exposed to violence, a safeguarding referral would be made to MASH immediately to protect the child. There are occasions where a child's behaviour raises concerns, such as displaying violence towards parents. Venus offer anger management support to children which is one option to consider. Alternatively, YJS would seek support from SWACA who could deliver work to the child and parent in this situation.

3.2 To raise children's awareness, YJS regularly deliver 'keeping safe' and 'healthy relationship' work so that they understand boundaries and what is acceptable and not acceptable.

4 Barriers to Achieving Success

4.1 The most common barrier is non-disclosure from the child or disguised compliance within the family. YJS prioritises building a trusting relationship with children so that they feel safe to share their concerns and lived experiences. Often with shorter pieces of work, such as out of court disposals, this is more of a challenge. However, a thorough assessment is completed with out of court disposals and information is obtained from a variety of sources.

5 Summary

5.1 Sefton YJS recognises the trauma caused from being involved in or exposed to a violent event. Therefore, all staff are vigilant as to how children may be affected and should any concerns exist managing a child's safety would be a priority. Any residual harm resulting from exposure to violence would be assessed and appropriate support put in place, utilising the bespoke offers available within the partnership. In addition, sessions are delivered to support children to keep themselves safe and recognise where others may cross boundaries that compromises their safety,

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