

MINUTES OF THE YOUTH ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TASK AND FINISH GROUP

17th November 2016 at 5.00p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Roden (Chair), M Dolling and Moles (Sub for Cllr Keens)

In Attendance: Vicky Hawkes, Acting Service Manager
Linda Farmer, Senior Targeted Youth Worker
Kim Murphy, Operations Manager
Gareth Williams, Adolescent Response Coordinator

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF 1)

Apologies for absence from the meeting was received on behalf of Councillors Baker, Keens (Sub by Cllr Moles), J Taylor and Rowlands.

29. MINTUES (REF 2.1)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2016 be deferred to the next meeting due to the meeting being inquorate.

30. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE EARLY HELP TEAM AND soLUTioNS ASB TEAM (REF: 5)

Catherine Barrett, Early Help Programme and Partnership Manager presented the report (Ref 5) and advised the Troubled Families Programme was launched in April 2012, and at that time the government's estimate was 120,000 of the most troubled families account for £9 billion of public spending. Of which £8 billion was spent on reacting to problems these families have and can cause in their communities. Only £1 billion was spent on prevention work to stop reoccurrences.

The Troubled Families programme was expanded for a further 5 years from 2015 to 2020, and inclusion on to the programme is based upon meeting the following criteria:

- Parents of children involved in crime and anti-social behaviour

- Children who have not been attending school regularly
- Children who need help
- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness
- Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
- Parents and children with a range of health problems

In January last year Luton successfully evidenced significant and sustained continuous employment for 252 Luton families and on target to achieve the nationally set target of 1940 by 2020.

The Stronger Families programmes is embedded within Early Help and Advice Hub, developed in September 2015 to coordinate and deliver an early help response to families at Levels 2 and 3 in line with Luton's threshold framework. Families in need of Level 2 services are identified through an Early Help Assessment service and receive coordinated support using the team around the family approach. Families identified in need of Level 3 services receive dedicated support from an Early Help Team Family Support Worker.

The Early Help team cannot support individuals in isolation from the rest of family members within the household. If such, tailored support is required an internal referral is made to the Targeted Youth Support Service to provide that support.

Anti-social behaviour research found traditional response by agencies focus on measures that dealt with the ASB problem rather than identifying the underlying causes of the anti-social behaviour. Other studies also found the characteristics of perpetrators of ASB are often vulnerable and display mental health problems and community care needs and may themselves be victims of ASB. ASB was also found to be linked to wider social exclusion such as poverty, family stress, drug dependency and truancy.

Understanding why ASB is perpetrated provides an opportunity to enhance the work of the Integrated ASB team. An Early Help Family Support Worker is now allocated in the Team to give support on early identification of families who are either victims or perpetrators of ASB. The integrated support provides a better understanding of the ethos in adopting the 'whole family' model of working.

A partnership approach was adopted in November 2016 which seeks to:

- Address ASB, both directly and indirectly through the provision of wider support;
- Promote a key worker model as pivotal in providing challenge and support to families
- Support a multi-agency/colocation approach to enable all aspects of the perpetrator or victim and their family needs to be taken account of as a whole;
- Enable and promote strong relationships between local agencies to react quickly and devise pragmatic solutions to address families needs;
- Promote appropriate information sharing to enable a comprehensive understanding of the issues in a family thereby informing better support plans and ultimately positive outcomes.

In response to a question on the communicating with different people having an early help team family support worker embedded within the ASB Team with their own case work provides an oversight of the other work being carried out. The early help service works with the youth offending service to also achieve the whole family support especially in areas of mental health where additional support is welcomed. The early help team have a database of services to tap into and in are the process of getting access to FLARE system which contains information of ASB.

In response to a question on reporting success and categorisation, parameters are set by the DCLG which need to be met and measured against the

payment by results criteria. The difficulty is not having access to police data to check offences which might have been committed which would need to be evidenced back to the DCLG. There is also a requirement to show changes families have made where no further offences have been committed which is seen as a success. In cases where mental health problems have been identified and medication is taken such cases can be complicated to document in terms of providing evidence.

In response to a question on victims of ASB and perceptions of change, victims of ASB perceive success when it has stopped through interventions that have been made that has led to them to turn their life around. Over the last twelve months the Early Help Team have seen an increase in the amount of referral assessments at L3 and are now carrying out assessments at Level 2 which means families can be identified earlier.

In response to a question on the cooperation of families, when referrals are made the EH Team need the cooperation of the whole family. If families still refuse to engage then there are statutory tools which can be used to force them to accept the help but the preference is for families to voluntarily commit to the support which is available.

Resolved: (i) That thanks to the Officer be recorded.

31. TARGETED YOUTH WORK RESPONSE TO ASB (REF: 6)

Linda Farmer, Senior Targeted Youth Worker and Gareth Williams, Adolescence Response Coordinator presented the report (Ref 6).

The targeted youth service work to help to reduce levels of youth related ASB through two avenues:

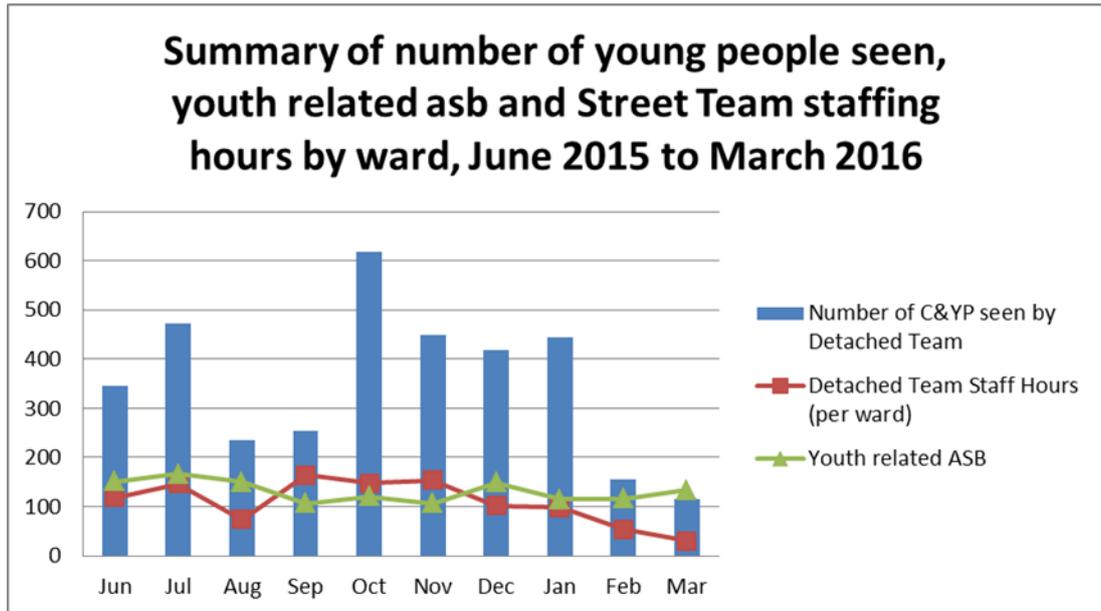
- (i) Targeted Youth workers who work intensively with identified individuals involved in or at risk of being involved in ASB through a case work model that engages the whole family.

- (ii) Detached street Youth Work Team who operate out in the community, engaging with young people in areas where they congregate and allows direct impact on levels of youth related ASB. They also use data and intelligence from the CSP, MAGPan, CSEP and local knowledge the detached workers are deployed to hotspot areas where issues of youth ASB are apparent.

The detached street team offer a visible alternative to the traditional approach of youth clubs where young people attend. The role of the detached youth workers is flexible, deployment is dynamic and responsive. They are able to enter spaces that young people frequent which allows them to develop relationships not only the young people but also in the local community. Detached youth workers give young people good, effective advice and information and can act as advocates and be the voice of young people in local areas. Their work also includes prevention work to dissuade young people becoming involved in anti-social behaviour activities by offering alternatives.

Targeted youth workers work with individuals or small groups on tailored programs to help young people from continuing their involvement in ASB, or indeed, moving into the criminal sphere. Targeted youth workers work on specific aspects of behaviour with an individual to move them away from negative influences and peer pressure aiming to meet the needs of the young person.

The table shows a summary of numbers of young people seen by the detached team together with the number of anti-social behaviour related incidents recorded by the Police.



Where detached workers are deployed there tends to be a reduction in youth related ASB incidents.

Current work taking place is operating a small team (less than 3 FTE) which means the service is restricted in delivery capacity. However, in the New Year where the service will be moving towards a new working model that allows the opportunity to increase detached work through the realignment of roles. A recruitment process focussing on community based delivery is shortly to take place; which will allow the team to cover wider areas of Luton more frequently.

The detached youth work team has worked extensively to build relationships with young people and the wider community. These relationships helped to contribute to lessen incidents of youth related anti-social behaviour.

Line managers receive level 1 and 2 referrals from schools and Early Help Co-ordinators to work with the individuals to prevent escalation onto level 3. A targeted youth worker is deployed to meet the individual in a place of choice and work with them for 3 months. There have been a few CSE (child sexual exploitation) referrals cases made and for those the targeted youth worker would work with the individual for a longer period. Targeted youth worker

support individuals throughout the court process until the individual feels their support is no longer needed. There are 5 targeted youth workers.

Work has also started in schools, running a 12 week programme in a group setting where young people turn up and respond in a positive way.

The Youth team operate out in the community providing a universal service and act on the basis of trust finding out what young people are up to and speaking with local shop owners in the area to gain an insight in what is happening in the area. Comments received from shop owners found young people who engage in ASB do so out of boredom and the lack of job opportunities. Links made by targeted youth worker with young people to encourage them to by engaging in some form of activity such as youth clubs at the TOKKO centre or after school activities.

The Youth team also work closely with the ASB Team who advise on hotspot areas to work with youth people in that area. Police data is also looked at for areas where detached youth workers can be deployed according to need. In terms of resources there are 6 detached youth workers (1 on maternity leave) who provide coverage across the whole of Luton.

Changes in youth service shortly to be implemented will see increase in resources 6 to 8 youth workers and detached youth workers increase to 10. The team will be out on streets 2 nights per week.

When the figures are aligned with the Police it shows reduction in youth ASB.

In response to a question on the problems in Hockwell Ring the targeted youth workers are aware of that and staff are being deployed in that area. There was a team out there once a week but have to look at health and safety of the team due to the serious issues and will liaise with the Police to do some joint working. There is now a more responsive and reactive team in place in that area.

In response to a question on whether service provides outward bound activities. No but did use to provide residential activities in the past which no longer take place due to limited resources.

In response to a question on the age range for the targeted youth work. This service is provide to young people aged 10 to 19 years old. The aim is to provide a service at the early stage in life as it is harder once they are in street mode who have the influences of other young people.

In response to a question on work carried out in Stopsley. They are running the Star programme at Stopsely High School and also doing some detached sessions. Work has also been contracted out to other agencies to give talks on Fire and Safety, Drugs and Alcohol, but due to limited resources can only offer 1 session per week.

In response to a question on ASB of motorbikes in Stopsley. The Team are aware of the problems regarding this in that area where it is being used to store bikes.

Similar work was being carried in Bushmead for that reason but its finding the right time. They can put Intel in that area which means it goes to the Police and other services to attend.

The Portfolio Holder for Children Services commented that more work was needed with multi agency work as there was no money for extra resources. It would be helpful for members to play a part and report ASB activities to the 101 service.

The Senior Youth Worker advised monthly reports are made to DMT and discussed with the Service Director, Prevention and Early Intervention. Areas which are targeted most are: Marsh Farm, Lewsey Farm, Park Town and Hockwell Ring for youth ASB and usually correlate high deprivation areas where there is a lack of youth provision although young people do have access to voluntary youth services provided by TOKKO and Youth Scape.

Resolved: That thanks to Officers be recorded.

32. YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE (YOS) - (REF: 7)

Kim Murphy, Operation Manager presented a report which was tabled at the meeting. She advised youth offending teams were introduced following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with the primary aim to prevent and reduce reoffending by children and young people. The YOS is hosted by the local authority and forms part of the multi-agency partnership that includes professional bodies such as: Police, Probation, Health, Education, Social Care and Victim Services.

The YOS provides a wide range of work from:

- Prevention & Intervention – Youth Justice Officer (YJOs) work with children and young people identified at risk of ASB, offending, gang affiliation, and vulnerability to radicalisation or extremism.
- Attendance at the Police Station (triage service) - All children and young people are assessed when brought into custody and a joint decision is made regarding suitable outcomes to address the seriousness of the offending, the needs of the victim(s) and the needs of the child/young person. This can include informal and formal criminal disposal and interventions from YOS and other services.
- Services to the Courts – Service Luton and South Beds Youth Courts and Luton Crown Court and other criminal courts providing information to justices, CPS lawyers and defence lawyers to assist them in the court process and decision making.
- Statutory Court Orders – manage all statutory criminal orders made by the courts for children and young people under 18 and also manage orders by the court made to family members
- Bail and remand – handle provisions for a child/young person has been remanded to the youth justice secure unit awaiting trial or where a court

has asked YOS to intervene whilst the child/young person is subject to court bail.

Budgets cuts to the service has had an impact on some of the posts within the YOS e.g. the prevention workers posts have been deleted and these roles are now taken up by the youth justice officers. The service is still a high performing service achieving positive outputs. Referrals made to the YOS are increasing and do not always relate to ASB and most referrals come from schools and can involve incidents of sexual or inappropriate behaviour where YJOs are deployed to work with the young person.

Young people referred to the YOS for prevention which can include engaging in ASB are required to work with YOS on a voluntary basis. Practitioners need to work creatively with a young person and their family, adopting a tailored approach to meet individual needs and secure engagement. Young people referred to YOS will be assessed and an individual intervention plan will be devised. YOS adopts a holistic, whole family approach with all children and young people it works with, which means as well as addressing the AS and its causes, the YOS also work to address any other issues identified for the young person and their family as part of the assessment which includes:

- 1:1 interventions sessions (e.g. consequential thinking, moral reasoning, victim awareness)
- Attendance at YOS programmes or workshops (e.g. motor offending, weapon awareness)
- Support to engage in positive activities, sports and clubs
- Support to engage in education, training and employment
- Family support (parenting classes, intensives family support team)
- Health screening – access to CAMHS practitioner and YOS Nurse
- Speak and language screening/assessment and access to the YOS SALT
- Restorative Justice

The number of referrals made to YOS in 2015/16 for prevention and diversion programmes 139. The number of young people identified for prevention and diversion programmes from ASB was 32. Of those 21(66%) were referred for ASB and successfully engaged with interventions; 8 (25%) remain open and 3 (9%) were unable to engage in intervention. The overall engagement rate of 91% is extremely high. Of the 32 referred for ASB 9 went on to receive further convictions.

Resolved: That thanks to be Officer be recorded.

33. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That the next meeting of the Youth ASB Task and Finish Group be held on Tuesday 20th December 2016 at 6pm to receive the following:

- Results of the consultation – Vicky Hawkes
- Final Research Paper – Joan Bailey
- Conclusions and recommendations – Discussion - All

(Meeting ended 6.50pm)