

Meeting date:	29 th November 2022
Subject/Report Title:	Youth Offending Update
Report Author/Lead Contact Officer:	Superintendent 1023 Harris, West Midlands Police

1. Purpose of Report
1.1 To inform the Board of the current position in respect of Youth Offending. To describe police and partnership activity taking place to tackle and prevent offending.
2. Decision/s recommended
2.1 The Board is asked to receive the update regarding Youth Offending work.
3. Background
<p><u>Schools and Education</u></p> <p>3.1 In July 2022 the early help and school's intervention and prevention teams have been created force wide. Solihull have a team of 1 x Sergeant and 10 x PC's. On a daily basis, their aim is to identify and intervene with children and families at an early stage to help divert them from requiring universal services. Often our cases are self-generated by research, or by police attending incidents and children being present, or advice requests from schools or family support workers/social workers. Our aim is to reduce offending and prevent the criminalisation of young people, avoid problems escalating and early help officers to step in with advice, guidance and diversion.</p> <p>3.2 Within Schools education is key, officers are aligned to schools in the borough and are conducting visits, presenting structured material either on a 1-2-1- basis or in bigger groups, this is proving to be useful for relationship building. The officers are imbedded within Neighbourhood police teams, offering advice on exploitation and the wider impact of county lines, cybercrime and money muling. (A money mule is a person who transfers stolen money on behalf of others, usually through their bank account. Criminals contact people and offer them cash to receive money into their bank account and transfer it to another account. This person is known as a 'money mule', money is often used to fund lots of different crimes, like Drug dealing, Sexual exploitation, Frauds and Scams, Human trafficking and even terrorism). We aim to divert young people into other supporting activities such as cadets, local youth groups and sporting activities and offer support to parent to deal with issues presented.</p>

Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

- 3.3 The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) employ a Community Navigator who is a conduit between the VRP and West Midlands Police. They help in facilitating increased co-ordination and local system-based approaches to violence prevention and reduction, supporting the delivery of evidence based primary, secondary and tertiary preventative interventions, and supporting violence reduction partnerships to thrive. The Violence Reduction Partnership seek to develop excellent relationships with schools and colleges while supporting them, to address violence and vulnerability as well as local initiatives to reduce exclusions from education, and promote inclusivity, supported by local officers. Working alongside communities to understand the role they can play in violence prevention and reduction and placing them at the centre of Violence Reduction Partnership planning and activity through local asset mapping to understand local systems, stakeholders and networks, existing projects and programmes, gaps, opportunities and funding streams. The Violence Reduction Partnership seeks to embed Trauma-Informed Practice locally in order to build resilience and ensure a holistic family centred approach to the design and implementation of interventions.

Vulnerability Tracker

- 3.4 The borough has a vulnerability tracker which tracks the vulnerable young people in the borough and ensures that they have the correct support and right intervention to prevent problems escalating. Tracked weekly we ensure that actions are taken weekly.

Youth Triage

- 3.5 This is attended by the Violence Reduction Partnership, Early Help, Local Offender Management Unit (LOMU), Solihull Integrated Addiction Services (SIAS), Health, and Exploitation Team. Their aim is to get the best outcome for the child if they have been referred into the youth offending service.

Pre-Charge

- 3.6 Solihull Police have a Youth Crime Officer (YCO). Their remit is to help divert young people and ensure they are getting the right help and support. They conduct home visits, delivers consequences sessions, takes young people to the custody block with a view to provide them with an insight of what the cell block procedure looks like, with the hope of diverting them from crime. Provides advice, guidance and diversionary activities, such as cadets and aims to deal with individuals that are being managed through an out of court disposal, centred around best interest of the child.
- 3.7 The Youth Crime Officer works closely with the Violence Reduction Partnership and Urban Heard (a community interest company on a mission to work with young people to build their self-efficacy through training and empowering projects, where they learn skills, get paid and build confidence), who provide one-to-one sessions with individuals as a preventative measure. They also provide outreach sessions along with Gro Organic (a local organisation based in the West Midlands, built with a

team of driven people who are passionate about creating wonderful green spaces whilst investing in local people and our community) who assist us with diversionary activities and Go Girls who help improve self-esteem, confidence, and body image.

Post Charge

- 3.8 Once individuals are in the system having been found guilty of crime, they are managed the Youth Offender Manager (YOM). The manager will manage the offender for as long as they are on the order given out at the court. Here they will work with individuals to help prevent reoffending. They offer sessions like street doctors – which is run by local A & E doctors who talk about the consequences of violent crime, particularly around the use of knives. Recent Proceeds of Crime Act funding has allowed us to provide 4 sessions which to date have been well attended.
- 3.9 Often youth orders dictate reparation hours which is effectively community service for children whereby they will provide hours in the community either charity shops, local allotments, local amenities clean up sessions, conducting litter picks etc.
- 3.10 To date we have had little reoffending of youths through the post charge process and feedback is generally positive in that they have the opportunity to improve their communication skills and is nice to talk to someone.
- 3.11 We also have a number of other pathways open to us to help prevent youth offending/offer of diversionary activities
- 3.12 Holiday Activities and Food Programme – This programme provides food and activities for young people over the school holiday at low/free cost, officers signpost to these sessions
- 3.13 Step Together - Evidence-based activity funded by home office, youth workers line the school route to talk to young people offer intervention, support and guidance. Currently running in the south of the borough.
- 3.14 Out-of-court Disposal Team – Small out-of-court disposal team that deal with low level incidents to provide a positive outcome for all parties, an option to criminalisation of young people.
- 3.15 Princes Trust – large percentage of referrals come from post charge youth who when they have completed their youth order as we like individuals to have a positive outcome of education or training, Princes Trust offers them that and more.

Future Ambition

- 3.16 Family Support Hubs – These were withdrawn from the borough but as a consequence of the Arthur Case these will be returning in around 2024. Early Help Officers are working with colleagues from Public Protection and children's services to ensure they are fit for purpose, but will provide a hub for youth diversion, intervention and prevention.
- 3.17 Data Driven Insights project - currently in the early inception stages but will provide us data to ensure that we are in the right place at the right time, dealing with the right people.

4. List of appendices
4.1 N/A