

SCRUTINY REPORT



MEETING: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 12th September 2023

SUBJECT: Youth Prevention

REPORT FROM: Cllr Lucy Smith

CONTACT OFFICER: Sandra Bruce- Assistant Director Early Help and School Readiness
Jen Mills -Head of Service Family Resources

1.0 BACKGROUND

The report provides information and detail of the council's delivery of its youth justice prevention offer for the year 2022/23 and, priorities for 23-24. The report should be read in conjunction with the Youth Justice Plan 2023-2024 also submitted.

The youth justice shared service for Rochdale and Bury is managed by colleagues in Rochdale except for the prevention element of the offer which is managed through services in Bury's Early Help Division. The report provides information on the prevention offer in Bury including,

- Governance
- The Bury picture
- Priorities for 23-24

2.0 (Issues)

Governance

2.1 The youth justice service is accountable to Bury and Rochdale, Youth Justice Board. The Board is statutory and is required to manage the delivery of services across Bury and Rochdale; it is accountable to the National Youth Justice Board. Youth justice is a regulated activity and is inspected by HMI Probation. The Bury and Rochdale Youth Justice Board is chaired by the Bury, Executive Director for Childrens Services.

- 2.2 Until April 2023 the prevention element of the youth justice offer sat within the early help localities teams until, through a restructure in 2023, the resource was moved to a newly created family resource service, to build further capacity in the offer specific to adolescents as it now sits alongside our youth service, mentoring service and children's participation team. There are three youth justice prevention workers in Bury equal to 2.7 full time equivalents.
- 2.3 The prevention team is funded through the annual Youth Justice Grant. Rochdale receive a proportion of the grant to deliver the statutory element of youth justice and some is retained by Bury to deliver the prevention offer.
- 2.3 The small prevention team offers support across the children's continuum of need and works with children supported in early help through to children supported by social workers who may be children in need, children who require protection or, who are looked after, but who are on the edge of crime.
- 2.4 The youth justice prevention work is driven both by the needs of individual children through case management, through to a wider community offer.
The prevention element is also driven by other key agendas, namely the GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) Reducing Knife Crime agenda and, the GMCA, young people at risk of violent crime, project as well as through a new national driver called, Turn Around.
- 2.5 Grant money is provided each year to support the GMCA drive to reduce both knife crime and violent crime. A multi-agency steer group in Bury, both allocates and manages the grant money targeted to both individual and community approaches to reduce crime. This is not recurrent monies and each year an investment plan is developed across the partnership to deliver against the grant. A later table highlights some of the offer delivered through these monies.
- 2.6 Introduced in 2023 Turnaround has provided a new focus on prevention work with individual children. This 3 year funded programme aims to target young people and their families at the earliest opportunity, offering tailored interventions based on an holistic assessment and strengths-based action planning. An outcomes framework is defined by government against which we are required to report. Bury is required to work to turn around 28 young people through 23-24.
- 2.7 A specific subgroup of the Youth Justice Board and Community Safety Partnership manages the offers linked to GMCA and the ~~Turn Around~~ Turnaround agenda and is chaired by the new service lead for the Family Resource Service. This enables partners to work together to develop actions aimed at preventing young people entering the criminal justice system and to offer prevention approaches across the borough, based on need.

- 2.8 The governance allows for both individual tracking of the delivery and impact on children in receipt of direct support, as well as wider strategic approaches such as work with schools, detached youth work etc. Internal reporting mechanisms are in place ensuring both the Youth Justice Board and the Community Safety Partnership have sight of the work being undertaken and its impact.

3 The Bury Picture

Prevention - Individual Support

- 3.1 In 2022-23, **76** young people received prevention support. 54 were new children supported from, April 22, whilst 22 were already open at the start of the reporting year. The prevention workers either support children as part of a plan led by another lead professional such as an early help practitioner or social worker as well as acting as the lead professional for children.

	April 22 – June	July 22 – Sept 22	Oct 22 – Dec 22	Jan- 23 – March 23	Total
As part of a plan	5	6	0	6	17
As lead professional	7	5	9	16	37
Open episodes	12	11	9	22	54

- 3.2 First time entrants into the criminal justice system have increased across Bury and Rochdale from a low of 147 in April to March 20-21 to 169 in 22-23. It is above the England average of 148 but below the Greater Manchester average of 180. Our figures remain lower than pre-pandemic figures which suggests our prevention offer is having impact though we want to see this figure further reduce and this is the focus of the work of the prevention team as well as the wider strategic partnership approach to prevention.
- 3.3 Since the Turnaround Program was introduced in January 2023, 23 young people have been assessed as eligible and supported through an Early Help prevention plan, exceeding the Ministry of Justice targets for Bury, of 16. These children have been successfully worked with and have not entered the criminal justice system. This remains a new project and we will build up both our data and profile to enable us to develop services and target support based on our learning, as we progress.

Prevention – Community Offer

3.3 Through the wider strategic approach overseen by the reducing knife crime sub group, the offer to young people incorporates the following.

- Training for professionals working with young people across the partnership.
- Awareness raising for parents/cares and young people
- Universal Prevention offer

In 2022-23 the offer included,

	Strand	Activity/support	Data
Step Ahead	training	ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) training for all relevant professionals to support understanding of the impact of trauma on young people’s actions and behaviours	453 professionals trained form across schools, social care, early help, foster carers and complex safeguarding team.
How to listen to young people	Training	Co-produced training to support relationship building between professionals and young people delivered to GMP staff	23 school engagement officers
Knife crime training	awareness raising	Sessions delivered in the community for adults to better support young people. This included parents whose children were accessing diversionary activities as well as targeted support following community incidents.	50 parents/community members
Knife crime booklet	awareness raising	1000 booklets created and shared with parents to offer information and support, Thes booklets were shared with partners and were targeted to parents who were experiencing the challenge of managing	Knife crime training

		young peoples behaviour when at risk of criminality	
Lived experienced sessions	awareness raising	Assemblies from 3 rd sector organisations to raise awareness of exploitation and the impact of violent crime	9 secondary schools
Transition sessions	Awareness raising	Sessions on safety offered to 6yr 6 pupils to support with positive relationships, internet safety, legality and impact of risk taking behaviour	29 primaries received the session
Detached	Universal prevention support	Evening detached sessions across the borough in partnership with GMP/TfGM/CSP/3 rd sector and Complex Safeguarding Team	1200 contact with young people made
Open provision	Universal prevention support	7 youth clubs have opened across Bury East, Central Bury and Radcliffe offering weekly sessions	228 young people have registered and regularly attended
Diversions activity	Universal prevention support	Weekly sessions with an increased offer over the summer and holiday period to offer open access positive activities	1100 young people have attended sessions
Step Out	targeted support/direct work	Group work and 121 support for young people identified as being at risk of exclusion related to violence (school referral pathway)	120 young people supported
Mentoring offer	Targeted/direct work	121 weekly mentoring to identified young people	37 young people
School thematic offer	Targeted/direct work	Thematic group work offered to schools with identified young people to reduce the risk of criminality	11 half termly project delivered
Serious youth violence	Targeted/direct work	Access to funds to remove barriers to EET, deter risk taking behaviour, offer increased prevent	28 young people supported

		activity to prevent entrance to the YJS	
Reducing Knife Crime	Universal Prevention	Review of the weapons protocol for schools with identified pathways for schools to seek advice and access support.	All secondary schools

A successful summer of diversionary activities has also been rolled out this year to provide opportunities for both the wider population and identified young people who were engaged with. (Numbers not yet confirmed but this will be reported on in October).

4 Priorities 23-24

In line with the wider youth justice plan, Bury will focus on priority 1- Prevention

Ensuring the holistic needs of our children and young people are met at the earliest opportunity

Reason: To ensure that the children across Bury and Rochdale are receiving the right support as soon as need is identified and that the offer including, mental health, social and, education needs for young people at risk of escalation through the criminal justice system is robust and reduces the risk of offending behaviour.

Action: Review the pathways to early help support, across both Bury and Rochdale to ensure that children and young people are quickly identified and are provided with early support to prevent offending behaviour. Ensure a holistic approach to health (including mental health) social and education needs through a placed-based early help delivery model.

Expected Outcome: Improved offer which identifies and responds to young people at the earliest opportunity which leads to a reduction in young people entering the criminal justice system.

To do this Burys prevention service will

4.1 Improve pathways to support

To impact more positively on children's outcomes we will identify and respond to need at an earlier opportunity in respect of individual children. Already there has been a review of the referral pathway for

accessing the youth justice prevention team. We are working with police colleagues to ensure that all children, who are identified in the community as requiring support to reduce escalation into the criminal justice systems, are referred through our Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub - our front door to social care. There, all children are triaged and a plan of action to support them is considered. Children will be referred directly to the prevention team if they require an early help plan, to ensure at the earliest identification, children are supported through a team around plan to reduce possible criminal activity and behaviours.

4.2 **Improve Data/Quality Assurance and Impact**

4.2.1 As the approach is multi-faceted with involvement from across internal and external services the challenge is to ensure all is joined up and data/information sharing is robust.

We are developing improved recording and data systems. Good data will allow us to review the pathways of support accessed to monitor and record the impact of our work on young people.

4.2.2 The creation of the prevention team and the referral pathway through the MASH (multi agency safeguarding hub) has already enabled us to more effectively respond and track demand. We are currently writing data reports that will allow us to lift data more easily from our recording systems to access 'live' data, review patterns across our cohort and respond to changes in demand through targeted activity - for example deploying detached support to respond to demand and local need.

We have developed and are due to launch our new Family Resource panel in September which will receive referrals for children across the continuum of need and will support us to respond to children at higher levels of need who require prevention support.

4.2.3 This year we have started to increase our audit activity so that we can review learning from specific children's journeys and apply this to practice. We are developing unique practice standards for our prevention team in line with our Bury commitments to support our 'testing out' of the quality of our offer for individual children.

This year we will develop a more robust outcomes framework for both our individual support to children as well as for our wider prevention approach. The Turnaround project has provided a framework to deliver this at an individual child level but we will also measure the impact of the wider work and its impact on reducing entry to the criminal justice system.

4.2.4 The active participation of young people in their own assessments and intervention plans is essential as part of our quality assurance tool and we will develop stronger feedback mechanisms so we can ensure that young people are shaping and co-producing our service delivery.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The small bespoke team formally moved into the new Family Resource Service in April 23 and we are now embedding this within a new wider family offer. The structure and governance is improved and there are defined pathways to support through assessment and planning.

As we move through 2023 the ~~Turn Around~~ Turnaround programme and outcomes framework will support us to develop a better understanding of young people on the edge of crime and the impact of our interventions on young people's outcomes.

With the alignment of the prevention workers with our wider adolescent offer we are well placed to ensure a more coherent and creative approach across both individual and wider community support.

The youth justice plan 2023-24 provides a framework to develop an holistic approach across Rochdale and Bury with appropriate governance to test our success and understand the improvements we are making for our young people

List of Background Papers: -

Youth Justice Plan 2023-2024

Contact Details: -

*Sandra Bruce -Assistant Director Early Help and School Readiness
s.bruce@bury.gov.uk*

Executive Director sign off Date: __24th August_23 _____

JET Meeting Date: __6th September 23_____