

Quarter Four - Progress Against Priority Three of the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy:

Priority Three – Keeping Young People Safe

Partner – YOS, Police, Community Safety, Education,

<p>Priority Three – The ambition is for our borough to be safe for our children and young people, where they can grow up, thrive, and have the best life chances in families who flourish, and are happy to call Bromley home. To achieve this, we want to improve neighbourhoods affected by anti-social behaviour and crime. We want to reduce crimes that cause the most harm to children and young people, by preventing them through early intervention (where possible) for those who are at risk of offending, or re-offending. There are key interrelationships between this priority and our other priorities.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <p>To improve outcomes and life chances for children and young people in contact with the youth justice system, or at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the number of first-time entrant children in the youth justice system, and reduce re-offending • Reducing the number of knife crimes, by volume and repeat victims and reduce levels of serious youth violence • Preventing and reducing substance misuse 	
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Commitments within the SBPS	Rag Status
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<p>1. Provide Support</p> <p>Set up an in-house Prevention Support Programme working closely with Community Safety and Children's Social Care to assist children early away from offending.</p> <p>We have a prevention support programme offer for children and young people who are deemed as being “at risk of offending” usually those young people who are engaging in anti-social behaviour, coming to the attention of police or other professionals or families have concerns about their behaviour. This is designed to help them avoid getting into further trouble that could lead to them having a criminal record as this can seriously impact on their futures. Therefore, we provide support that makes it easier for young people to achieve positive outcomes and make positive decisions by delivering a tailored support plan designed to keep young people on the right path away from offending.</p> <p>The aim is to work with young people and their parents/carers on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>This was completed and currently available to all children in the borough.</p>	<p>Green for achievements in 2020-21 – more to do as we move forwards into 2021-2022</p>
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<p>publish a serious youth violence toolkit. We utilise the YJB toolkits and VRU</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Deliver the cross-cutting key actions within the Youth Justice Strategy 2019-21 and the Serious Youth Violence strategy 2018.</p> <p>We launched a new Youth Justice three-year strategy in 2019-22 and we are working and delivering against it and on target to meet the objectives set and agreed by the YOS Partnership governance board.</p>	<p>Green for achievements in 2020-21 – more to do as we move forwards into 2021-2022</p>
<p>2. Work with Partners to disrupt gangs</p> <p>Tracking and share information on those young people who have associations with gangs, through the weekly Missing, Exploited, Gang Affiliated (MEGA) meetings. Safeguarding is a statutory duty as defined in the Children’s Act 1998 and 2014 and in Working Together.</p> <p>The YOS carries out its responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. The Head of Service provides quarterly reports to the Safeguarding Board on how the service is fulfilling its duties.</p> <p>YOS staff has safeguarding training as well as access to a wide variety of training both in house and externally.</p> <p>The issue of Serious Youth Violence has become a higher priority across London and locally. The YOS attends and contributes to the MEGA and shares information on the children known to the YOS.</p> <p>Community Safety A new highly experienced staff member has been recruited from Croydon to fill the vacant serious youth violence and gangs posts. This will enable Community Safety to deliver against the VRAP. This staff member will also be an active member of the MEGA panel. LBB has also been working with MPS to relaunch a Junior Citizen program to increase the trust between young people and the police and it is hoped that an event will be delivered in 2021.</p> <p>Met Police The gang matrix continues to be monitored daily. At the weekly proactive meeting and the monthly Tactical Tasking meeting, risk in relation to each of the gang nominal’s is assessed and officers tasked accordingly</p>	<p>Green for achievements in 2020-21 – more to do as we move forwards into 2021-2022</p>
<p>Provide gang awareness training</p> <p>All YOS staff and a small number of colleagues from the youth service attended a training session on gangs on 18 January 2021. This was externally facilitated by Gangsline and was well received. The training covered understanding the mindset of street gangs and those involved in violence, tools to use in working with young people and those vulnerable to gangs. It provided a good insight into dispelling the myths about gangs and gang affiliation.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Support young people to exit gangs, as well as applying for gang injunctions where appropriate.</p>	<p>Green for achievements</p>

<p>The YOS continues to work with children and young people with affiliation and associations with gang. The Pan London Response and Rescue service also provide opportunity for wider support and intelligence information to enable us to have an understanding locally of our children's involvement in gangs.</p>	<p>in 2020-21 – more to do as we move forwards into 2021-2022</p>
<p>3. Work with partners to tackle knife crime, serious youth violence, child exploitation and anti-social behaviour</p>	
<p>Delivering the knife crime intervention programme for young people who carry weapons, working on a robust approach to prevention in identifying young people through Merlin reports, Individual weapons awareness work has been carried out virtually with young people and has been reduced due to covid-19 restrictions.</p>	<p>Amber for achievements in 2020-21 – more to do as we move forwards into 2021-2022</p>
<p>Partnership taskings to develop and deliver the Violence Reduction Action Plan. The YOS and Youth service contribute to the action as required, providing update of the work we are engaged in although this has been limited due to covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Reduction of violence is delivered via the work streams within the Violence Reduction Action Plan (VRAP), the Gang Violence Matrix, the Violence Against Women & Girls strategy, the Youth Justice Strategy and the Police led Violence Reduction Team.</p> <p>The governance of the VRAP plan (which contains the actions in the associated plans and strategies as highlighted above, sits with Community Safety.</p> <p>In June 2020 Steve Bending from the GLA virtually visited Bromley to review progress against the actions stated within the plan. In providing feedback he noted that the visit was productive and that it was clear that as an outer-London borough there was a clear focus on violence reduction and really strong leadership. Key highlights were the work of the Gangs Mega Panel, the work of Trading Standards and the weekly community safety meetings undertaken with the South BCU leadership team. Indeed, he is proposing to suggest that this type of meeting should be adopted by all BCUs across London as this provides a regular opportunity to brief/catch-up and task resources as a weekly support for the four weekly TTCCG.</p> <p>Following the visit, actions within the plan were refreshed by the VRU and four new actions were included. The first around governance, and this set out how the CSP, two safeguarding boards and Health and Wellbeing Board must co-ordinate to provide a public health approach to reduce violence. Two new actions related to parenting and support for parents and carers and the last new action looked at local multi-agency safeguarding or concern hub arrangements.</p> <p>Moving forwards and in the spirit of positive engagement of borough partnerships and an ethos of collaboration, the VRU intends to provide some virtual learning hub sessions through London Councils and London Heads of Community Safety (LHoCS) that can support shared learning and ideas.</p>	<p>Green for achievements in 2020-21 – more to do as we move forwards into 2021-2022</p>
<p>Working with partners to recognise that child exploitation must also be understood in terms of its connectivity with a wider range of vulnerabilities that young people can be exposed to, including harmful sexual behaviours, missing children, gang involvement and youth crime.</p>	<p>Green for achievements in 2020-21 – more to do as</p>

<p>YOS and youth service work closely with Social care on these issues and YOS staff have all done training in risk and vulnerability (2020).</p> <p>Met Police</p> <p>Safer Schools officers have recently restructured their way of working, reducing the amount of schools for which they are responsible. This has enabled officers to spend more time within their schools carrying out engagement activities which will allow them to identify those vulnerable children at greater risk from child exploitation, both criminal and sexual. Every school, both primary and secondary, has recently been emailed with personal contact details of a school liaison or Safer Schools officer. Throughout the pandemic the schools have been in direct contact with their Safer Schools sergeants and assisted on a daily basis with delivering school lunches and welfare visits to the most vulnerable children or those who have simply not been engaging with online lessons. Every Safer Schools officer completed Op Aegis (safeguarding training) and in the last month they have received training in regards to indecent images.</p>	<p>we move forwards into 2021-2022</p>
<p>Working in partnership with the Police Anti-Social Behaviour Team, and schools to address anti-social behaviour issues, through the adoption of an early intervention approach, that utilises informal approaches that can be escalated to formal enforcement where necessary or appropriate.</p> <p>There are examples of good joint working between agencies, and the ASB Team together with the police engages with children, parents, Housing Associations, Children's Services and schools to develop appropriate approaches that deal with the issues reported and which seek to prevent the child entering the criminal justice system.</p> <p>See Case study</p> <p>Met Police</p> <p>LBB now part of MPS working group via Inspector Morteo looking for options to steer children away from crime such as London Village Network and the Crystal Palace Trust</p>	<p>Green for achievements in 2020-21 – more to do as we move forwards into 2021-2022</p>
<p>4. Carry out joint operations with Trading Standards, Licensing and Police</p> <p>Deliver a programme of test purchasing in respect of age-restricted legislation pertaining to products and activities including, sale of alcohol, cigarettes knives, as well as underage gambling and drinking on licensed premises.</p> <p>The pandemic has resulted in the need to pause test purchase operations. Nonetheless all reports made to Trading Standards have been followed up with the respective premises. Work has also gone into preparing for test purchases based on these reports once restrictions have eased</p>	<p>Red due to COVID restrictions – due to be delivered in 2021-22</p>
<p>5. How we know if we are on track</p> <p>This theme will be included as a substantive discussion item at the Safer Bromley Partnership Board in quarter 3.</p> <p>This was presented in quarter 3</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Partners will present an end of year update in quarter 4</p>	<p>Green</p>

<p>This is presented here, notwithstanding this, The YOS has three national key performance indicators set by central government: Reducing First time entrants, reducing offending and reoffending and reducing the demand for custody. These indicators are used by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to measure our performance. There has been a delay on the part of the Ministry of Justice in publishing the latest data, so we are reliant on the previous data outturn, which is has been delayed by 7 months.</p>	
<p>First time entrants into custody and re-offending will be monitored through national KPIs.</p> <p>The latest published data from the Ministry of Justice has been delayed by 6 months and the explanation given is that this is due to the pandemic, so the latest available data is that of quarter 1 data. The most current data showed a reduction in first time entrants is:</p> <p>The latest figures available are for a 12-month period January 19 – December 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 49 Young people became first time entrants into the criminal justice system during January 18 – December 19. • This is a 25% reduction (from 65 down to 49) in the actual number of first-time entrants compared with the previous year. 	<p>First Time Entrants Green</p>
<p>Re-offending: The latest figures available are for a 12-month period January 18 - December 18. (Tracked until the end of December 2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 135 Young people were sentenced between January 18 - December 18. • This cohort of young people being tracked has reduced over the past 4 years where 219 young people were serving YOS interventions by the end of December 2014. This is an 38% (84 cases) reduction over a 4-year period. 	<p>Re-Offending Green</p>
<p>This data is presented and scrutinised at the YOS Partnership Board. Reports will be made to the Youth Offending Service Board on a quarterly basis highlighting concerns within indicators.</p> <p>Exceptional reporting happens at the YOS Board with the latest data presented regarding custody which has seen an increase of one additional custodial sentence that represents a 25% increase.</p>	<p>Reducing Demand for Custody Amber</p>
<p>Youth Offending Service will complete an in-depth analysis to identify areas of focus for the above.</p> <p>The YOS has a detailed improvement action plan that charts all aspects of work of the service and this is overseen by the AD and DCS.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Serious youth violence will be measured by the Mayor’s Office for Policing & Crime Weapon Enabled Crime Dashboard and also through local data.</p> <p>This data is published and used to measure outcomes</p> <p>Repeats monitored by Mayor’s Office for Policing & Crime dashboard and local data. Measure success of reduction in weapons crime through published data on Mayor’s Office for Policing & Crime performance framework.</p>	<p>Green</p>

Community Safety will attend and add value at Youth Offending Service Board Missing, Exploited, Gang Affiliated and Multi Agency Child Criminal Exploitation.

Green

AD of Public Protection is an active member of the YOS Partnership Board providing comprehensive update and reports on every occasion.

The HoS for Community Safety, Environmental and Domestic Regulation will also start attending as a deputy

Victims will be monitored by local data over time to look at reductions of numbers.

Green

Victim engagement is measured by the YOS and there is a RJ worker in the service who makes contact and delivers restorative interventions to victims of youth crime.

for achievements in 2020-21 –

Victim referrals from April to December 2020 (inclusive) were 62, with the RJ service being offered to 61 victims. These numbers are down significantly compared with the same period in 2019, as shown in the table below:

RJ service referrals	2019 (April – Dec incl)	2020 (April – Dec incl)
Victim referrals	127	62
Victims offered RJ service	93	61

Work with young people, family, and others

Although the number of one to one RJ and victim impact sessions with young people have increased during 2020, overall work with young people has reduced since 2019. This is in part due to a reduction in the number of referrals and in part due to being unable to run group workshops such as Triage Crime and Consequence, London Ambulance Impacts of Knife Crime and Street Doctors because of the Covid-19 lockdown and social distancing restrictions.

6. Impact of COVID 19 on Business as Usual

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Bromley Youth Offending Service has continued through the pandemic to operate a service to children, families, and victims. Regular contact has been maintained with vulnerable and high-risk children as well as others in contact with the justice system using digital engagement. This has included home visits and setting tasks for children to complete in relation to their offending. There has been issues regarding isolation as a direct result of having to self-isolate and restrictions in place caused by the lock down, but staff have tried to increase contact with young people via telephone and other media in response to this.

The decision to use digital media as opposed to telephone calls was to provide a more robust supervision and management of risk and to seek compliance from the children and young people. This has particularly been important especially in relation to those children vulnerable to exploitation. This period of delivering interventions appears to have been effective with staff reporting good engagement with parents as well a more consistent approach with young people appearing to be willing to be open and discuss issues over digital platforms. It was anticipated that there might be an increase in non-compliance but that has not been the case, there has been two breaches instigated during this period and generally high levels of engagement from children.

7. General Annual Update of achievements

Green

In the last year we have published our Youth Justice Strategy 2020/23 for the first time that sets out our ambitions for our children by improving their life chance and outcomes. Our work as a YOS Partnership is guided by *the Child First, Offender Second* principle. Our priorities are:

- Reduce the number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system
- Reduce reoffending by children
- Improve the safety and wellbeing of children in the youth justice system
- Address ethnic disproportionality and over representation of other protected characteristics and vulnerable groups
- Protecting the public and victims
- Strengthening our Partnership Board and workforce.

We are focused on desistance, prevention and diversion from offending and have developed a safeguarding rainbow well-being model, so we have built on this idea to reflect on our YOS cohort.

National standards for youth justice

Last year the YOS Partnership were required to undertake an audit of the national standards to enable the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to monitor adherence to the standards in line with their statutory responsibilities.

The Standards, set by the Secretary of State for Justice, aim to:

Provides the framework for youth justice practice and ensure that quality is maintained

- Support and encourage innovation and good practice to improve outcomes for children who commit crime
- Every child lives a safe and crime-free life, and makes a positive contribution to society aligning with the YJB's child first principle
- Assist the YJB and inspectorates when they assess whether youth justice services are meeting their statutory requirements.

The YJB have concluded the moderation of all the self-assessment submissions received and then select a small minority of areas to do a validation exercise. We have been informed that in relation to our submission:

The moderation exercise has concluded that your self-assessment offers an evidenced reflection of the judgements against service standards. The YJB do not intend to carry out a validation visit to your service.

We have focused our attention on practice improvement throughout the last year and in ensuring that we deliver a high-quality service to all of our children and families,

Case Study ASB Team

What's the story?

ASB case worker received an application from Police requesting an intervention for a young male "John Smith" who has been increasingly coming to Police notice for being part of a small group of were allegedly harassing and intimidating a small shop owner and his customers.

What did the ASB Team do?

Based on the evidence supplied by Police, the Officer felt that the best intervention for John would be an Acceptable Behaviour Commitment (ABC). This is a contract made with the child, his family and any other agencies involved. It states positive conditions of behaviour that the child agrees to adhere to, so as to prevent him from making poor decisions that could result in him entering the criminal justice system. This was especially pertinent as the Officer was aware that John's older brother was well known to Police as he has been involved with local gang.

Enquires were made to partner agencies to ascertain the interventions or connections with partner agencies. Moreover, as John was getting himself into trouble at school by playing around in class and at times being rude and argumentative to teachers, school requested to be part of the intervention process

What difference did the ASB Team make?

The Officer arranged a meeting at John's school. This included John, his parents, the ASB Officer, the ASB Police Officer and John's head of year.

Initially John's parents were very concerned that he was going to be categorised as a problem due to the gang connections of his older brother. Quite rightly, they felt that this would be unfair, and the ASB Officer was able to explain that the idea behind this intervention was purely to try and help John make the right decisions at the right time, which was hoped would keep him on the right track.

During the meeting the ASB Officer asked John to start reflecting on his past actions, and to take a pause before he perhaps committed to a future detrimental action. She went through a process that he could apply in real time, that would give him the space to think before he acted.

Finally, the ABC was put in place and monitored for the next 6 months during this time John did not come to notice once and things improved at school.

What difference did the ASB Team make specifically to our Children and Young People that are or were involved with the YOS?

John was in danger of being arrested for various offences (including public order offences), and should he have continued unabated, the likelihood was that he would offend and receive a criminal sanction.

The intervention of the ASB Team helped to prevent the situation escalating, and John's behaviour improved moving forwards.

Example of Partnership working?

During this whole process the Team worked in partnership with Police and education not just in the implantation of the ABC but for the next 6 months whilst the ABC was live.

Comments of parents / carers, children and young people

John's parents were really concerned as the behaviour of their eldest son was already attracting police attention. As such, they were relieved that there was the option of an early intervention that assisted John to make positive changes.

Next steps

John's parents now have the Officer's contact number. The family were encouraged to contact her should they have any concerns, or if further support was needed.

If required, the Officer will complete a referral to Bromley Children's Project or any other service that may assist this family.