

<p>Priority 3 – Keeping Young People Safe</p> <p>Quarter Four – Progress Against Priority 3 of the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy:</p> <p>Partners – Youth Justice Service, Police, Community Safety & Education,</p>	
<p>Priority 3</p> <p>The ambition for our borough is for it 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.</p> <p>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 	
<p>Commitments within the SBPS</p>	<p>RAG Status</p>
<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 usually engaging in anti-social behaviour, coming to the attention of Police or other professionals, or their 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</p>	<p>Achieved</p>

<p>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 action has been completed and the service is currently available to all children in the borough.</p>	
<p>Publish a serious youth violence toolkit.</p> <p>We utilise the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and Youth Justice Board (YJB) toolkits to ensure comparative approaches and practices to other London Boroughs</p>	<p>Achieved</p>
<p>Deliver the cross-cutting key actions within the Youth Justice Strategy 2019-21 and the Serious Youth Violence Strategy 2018.</p> <p>The Youth Justice three-year strategy 2020-2023 is being delivered and is overseen by the Youth Justice Executive Board.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>
<p>2. Work with Partners to disrupt gangs</p> <p>We undertake tracking of gang activity and share information on those young people who have associations with gangs, through the weekly Missing, Exploited, Gang Affiliated (MEGA) meetings.</p> <p>The Youth Justice Service (YJS) carries out its responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. The Head of Service for Children’s Services provides quarterly reports to the Safeguarding Board on how the service is fulfilling its duties.</p> <p>Youth Justice Service staff are required to do safeguarding training provided by our Safeguarding Board as well as access to a wide variety of training both in house and externally.</p> <p>The issue of serious youth violence (SYV) has become a higher priority across London and locally. The YOS attends and contributes to MEGA and shares information on the children known to YOS.</p> <p>Safeguarding is a statutory duty as defined in the Children’s Act 1998 and 2014.</p> <p>YOS staff have safeguarding training as well as access to a wide variety of training both in house and externally.</p> <p>Community Safety</p> <p>The Serious Youth Violence & Gangs officer attends the BCU’s Daily Crime Grip meetings, to stay abreast of local incidents in real time. This officer is an active member of the MEGA panel. They have also reviewed the Violence & Vulnerability Action Plan (VVAP). This will enable Community Safety and key partners to deliver in accordance with local priorities.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>

<p>Sandra Campbell of the LBB Community Safety team organised the installation of 2 knife amnesty bins in the borough. One on Station Road Anerley and one on Walters Yard in Bromley.</p> <p>Met Police</p> <p>The Gang Matrix continues to be monitored daily. At the weekly proactive meeting and the monthly Tactical Tasking Coordination Group (TTCG), constantly assessing risk in relation to gang nominals and crime hot spots ensures officers from various local and specialist teams within the BCU are tasked accordingly.</p>	
<p>Provide gang awareness training</p> <p>The gang awareness training is regularly refreshed and delivered by the SYV&G officer to YOS staff, the youth service, Children's' social care and other key partners. The training covers understanding the mindset of street gangs and those involved in violence, and the tools to use when working with young people and those vulnerable to gangs, how to support young people to exit gangs, as well as applying for gang injunctions where appropriate.</p> <p>The Youth Justice Service continues to work with children and young people involved in serious offending including those with gang affiliation and/or association.</p> <p>We also support young people with gang trained mentors and positive role models.</p>	Achieved
<p>Support young people to exit gangs, as well as applying for gang injunctions where appropriate.</p> <p>The YOS continues to work with children and young people with actual and potential gang affiliation and association.</p> <p>The Pan London Response and Rescue Service provide opportunity for wider support and intelligence information to enable us to have an understanding locally of our children's involvement in gangs.</p>	Achieved
<p>3. Work with partners to address knife crime, serious youth violence, child exploitation and anti-social behaviour</p> <p>We have developed a weapons awareness programme in response to the increasing concerns of young people carrying weapons. We aim to run this throughout the year to help and raise awareness of the risks and the consequences both for the knife carrier and others. It is anticipated that young people will recognise and be educated around the legal aspects and their own personal safety.</p> <p>Individual weapons awareness work has been carried out virtually and face to face with young people at risk and in targeted schools and through the YOS.</p>	Achieved
<p>Partnership taskings to develop and deliver the Violence Reduction Action Plan</p>	Achieved

The Youth Justice Service and Youth Service contribute to the action as required, providing update of the work we are engaged in.

Reduction of violence is delivered via the work streams within the Violence & Victimisation Action Plan (VVAP), the Gang Violence Matrix, the Violence Against Women & Girls strategy, the Youth Justice Strategy and the Police led Violence Reduction Team.

The governance of the VVAP plan (which contains the actions in the associated plans and strategies as highlighted above, sits with Community Safety.

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 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 to the monthly TTCG.

Following the visit, actions within the plan were refreshed by the VRU and 4 new actions were included. The first around governance, and this set out how the Children's Safety Partnership (CSP), the two safeguarding boards and the Health and Wellbeing Board must co-ordinate to provide a public health approach to reduce violence. Two new actions related to support for parents and carers and the one looked at local multi-agency safeguarding hub arrangements.

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.

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.

There is evidence of effective joined up work between services within Children's Social care, youth justice and youth support services. All relevant staff are trained.

Met Police

The Police Safer Schools teams target the schools for which they are responsible. This targeting has enabled officers to spend more time within key schools carrying out engagement activities allowing them to identify vulnerable children at greater risk from child exploitation, both criminal and sexual. Every school, both primary and secondary, has a school liaison or Safer Schools officer allocated to them. This may be an officer posted to the Safer Schools Unit, a Dedicated Ward Officer or a PCSO (if a primary school). Every Safer Schools officer has completed Op Aegis (safeguarding training) and have received training with regards to indecent images. All schools' officers received enhanced vetting before taking up their role.

Achieved

<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 LBB Statutory Nuisance & ASB Team and SNT's engage with children, parents, Housing Associations, Children's Services, and schools to develop bespoke and effective approaches that address reported concerns, and which seek to prevent the child entering the criminal justice system.</p> <p>See attached case study for illustration</p> <p>Met Police</p> <p>Have collated and considered many options and activities offered by 3rd sector organisations that steer children away from crime such as the London Village Network and the Crystal Palace Trust – as well as having the Police officers that work on diversionary activities for children.</p>	Achieved
<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, corrosives, and solvents, as well as undertaking checks regarding underage gambling and drinking on licensed premises.</p> <p>The pandemic resulted in the need to pause all test purchase operations, but the programme recommenced in June 2021. A stepped approach to enforcement is built on assessing risk, which considers all relevant, available information and intelligence to make an informed assessment of the likelihood of compliance. Our model works through initial advice, gathering intel through complaints or other sources, if appropriate test purchasing with an 18 to21-year-old to test compliance of the Challenge 25 scheme, and then following up any failures with an underage test purchase. This approach sets out a clear pathway of escalation which, if culminating in a sale to an underage person, will result in a licensing review or prosecution. This also helps to set out the business' approach to and history of compliance. A full programme of test purchasing is now under way.</p>	Achieved
<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 report was presented in Quarter 3</p>	Achieved
<p>Partners will present an end of year update in Quarter 4</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.</p>	Achieved

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.

This is presented here, notwithstanding this, the YOS has 3 national key performance indicators set by central government:

- Reducing first time entrants to the criminal justice system
- Reducing offending and reoffending and
- Reducing the demand for custody.

These indicators are used by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to measure our performance. The performance of the YJS for the last year shows positive outturn in relation to these KPI's. In relation to key targets for first time entrants, reoffending and the use of custody is encouraging. We continue to see reductions in first time entrants, lower numbers of young people in the cohort being tracked in relation to offenders and the actual number of re-offenders is reduced as well as low custody numbers.

The annual cohort of children offending reduced by 31%. Our rate of reoffending is also 4% lower than two years ago.

Our delivery objectives continue to focus on the key performance indicators as well as a local focus on areas that we know will make a difference in improving outcome for our children and young people.

First time entrants into custody and re-offending will be monitored through 3 national KPI's

First time entrants

Preventing first time entrants (FTE) into the Youth Justice System continues to be positive. This measure helps us to understand how effective the local area is in supporting young people not to offend. The number of FTEs entering the criminal justice system is tracked by the YJS for an annual period. The latest figures available are for the period October 20 – September 21

- 44 Young people became FTEs into the criminal justice system during October 20 – September 21. A 2% reduction in the actual number compared with the previous year.
- Bromley's rate of FTEs has reduced annually by 6% and is 34% lower than the average for London.
- Bromley's rate of FTEs is 12% below the national average and 7% lower than authorities used for statistical comparison.
- Bromley has the lowest rate of FTEs compared with the 6 surrounding boroughs. (Bexley, Croydon, Southwark, Lewisham, Lambeth, Greenwich)
- Bromley has the 6th lowest FTE rate in London is ranked 57th out of the 154 YJSs nationally.

First Time Entrants

Bromley YJS triage an average 100 cases a year and issue an average of 15 community resolutions a month. This has a direct impact on keeping the number of FTEs low in comparison to the London and national average. (A young person receiving a triage or community resolution for a 1st offence prevents them from becoming a FTE).

Offending and re-offending

The youth justice system supports young people who previously offended not to reoffend. It is a quarterly rolling measure of the rate of re-offending after 12 months of a cohort of young people. Data taken locally shows that age plays a significant part with the older young people being more prolific in their offending.

The YJS tracks a cohort of offenders who received a pre-court, court disposal or were released from custody in a 12-month period. The latest figures available are for April 19 - March 20. (Tracked until the end of March 2021).

- Of the 83 young people that received a YJS intervention 27 (33%) reoffended within a 1-year tracking period. Bromley YJS have achieved a 4% reduction in the rate of reoffended compared with the previous year of April 18 - March 19
- The cohort numbers are reducing year on year so less children offending.
- Bromley YJS reoffending rate is 7% lower than the average for London but is 2% higher than the national average. Bromley's reoffending rate is 1% higher than our statistical neighbours.
- Bromley has the 6th lowest reoffending rate in London and is ranked 71st out of the 154 YJS in the country.
- The YJS had been working with several children and young people with a variety of complex issues and challenging behaviours.
- Bromley has an offence frequency rate of 1.00. A total of 83 offences were committed by the (27) individuals who reoffended.

Reduce the rate of young people who are sentenced to custody

This covers the number of young people sentenced to custody in an annual period between January 2021 – December 2021. Good performance is typified by a low figure. The data below is the latest verified and published by the Ministry of Justice in April 2022. Exceptional reporting happens at the YJS Executive Board.

- 1 young person was sentenced to custody between January 2021 – December 2021. The YJS continues to offer a robust package of support when the courts are considering remands into custody. We currently have no children on custody in remand.
- Bromley is currently ranked 32nd out of the 154 YJS in the country and has the 4th lowest rate of custodial sentences in London.

Offending & Re-Offending

Reducing Demand for Custody

<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. This is overseen by the Assistant Director and Director of Children's Services.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>
<p>Serious youth violence will be measured by the Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC) Crime Dashboard and also through local data.</p> <p>This data is published on the MOPAC dashboard and used to measure outcomes.</p> <p>Repeat offenders are monitored by the MOPAC 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>Achieved</p>
<p>Community Safety will attend and add value at Youth Offending Service Board Missing, Exploited, Gang Affiliated and Multi Agency Child Criminal Exploitation.</p> <p>The Serious Youth Violence and gangs officer attends MEGA and both they, and the Head of Service for Community Safety, Environmental & Domestic Regulation attend MACE.</p> <p>Senior Public Protection managers are active on the YJS Executive Board provide and updates on every occasion.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>
<p>Victims will be monitored by local data over time to look at reductions of numbers.</p> <p>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. We have high victim contact and lower levels of engagement and this is very similar across the country. In view of this we spend a lot of time building relationships with victims and ensuring that their wishes and feelings are incorporated into the interventions that we do with children and victims.</p> <p>Talking about something that has happened and affected someone in a negative way is central to the Restorative Justice (RJ) processes. Speaking openly and honestly in a safe environment enables those involved to understand why something happened, the impact, what could be done to address the harm caused and how this can happen. The voice of the child - their thoughts and feelings - is a crucial part of the process and forms the basis for all RJ and victim impact work undertaken with the young people.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>
<p>6. Impact of COVID 19 on Business as Usual</p> <p>We have reviewed how we work with children; safety and well-being are of utmost priority. We continue to see children, particularly those who are high risk and highly vulnerable, face to face.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>

<p>This has included home visits and setting tasks for children to complete in relation to their offending.</p> <p>We constantly review our service delivery offer we are reducing the use of digital media and getting back to pre-pandemic but with the option of a hybrid model of delivery.</p>	
<p>7. General Annual Update of achievements</p> <p>In the last year we published our Youth Justice Strategy 2020/23. It sets out our ambitions for our children by improving their life chance and outcomes. Our work as a YJS Partnership is guided by the 'Child First, Offender Second' principle. As part of this we have changed our name to Bromley Youth Justice Service in recognition of the maturity of the service as well as moving away from stigmatised language of referring to children as offenders, they are children who are in the justice system because they have offended.</p> <p>Over the last year we have achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and well-being are at the forefront of all the work with do with all our children and victims • The voice of victims is heard, and harm is addressed through their wishes (where appropriate) • Tackling disproportionality for both YOS and Partners • Developing and training our workforce with a comprehensive training offer in place for all staff • Utilising local resources to support a high-quality service and personalised delivery offer to our children and families • Our performance is better driven by analysis of statistical data, other qualitative and quantitative evidence, and information including feedback from service users, parents/carers and children • Our assessment and plans are well informed and actively involve the child in the planning process to ensure there is a shared ownership with achievable outcomes • The range of complexities that our children experience is well managed by the service and partners • Our new governance arrangements are in place with commitment from senior partners in understanding and scrutinising the work of the YJS partnership, and understanding of the agencies contribution to reducing offending <p>Further work on our priorities will continue over the next year 2022-2023.</p> <p>We are focused on desistance, prevention and diversion from offending and have developed a safeguarding rainbow well-being model and have built on this idea to reflect our YOS cohort.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>
<p>Case Study</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>What's the story?</p> <p>ASB case worker received an application from Police requesting an intervention for a young person "J Smith" who had been increasingly coming to Police</p> </div>	

notice for being part of a small group who were allegedly harassing and intimidating a small shop owner and his customers.

What did the ASB officer do?

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

Enquires were made to partner agencies to ascertain the interventions or connections with partner agencies. Moreover, as J was getting 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 Officer make?

The officer arranged a meeting at J's school. This included J, their parents, the ASB Officer, the ASB Police Officer and J's Head of Year.

Initially J's parents were very concerned that their child was going to be categorised as a problem due to the gang connections of their older sibling. 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 J make better decisions at the right time, which was hoped would help keep J on the right track.

During the meeting the ASB Officer asked J to reflect on his past actions, and to take a pause before they perhaps committed to detrimental actions in future. The officer went through a process that J could apply in real time, that would give them the space to think before they acted.

The ABC was put in place and monitored for the next 6 months during this time J did not come to Police notice and their behaviour also improved at school.

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

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

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

Example of Partnership working

During this whole process a team of professionals 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

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

The family were encouraged to contact the ASB officer should they have any concerns, or if they needed more support. If required, the Officer can complete a referral to Bromley Children's Project or any other service that could assist this family.