

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

1 February 2016

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Report of the Acting Head of Community and Family Wellbeing

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report is to outline the work of Early Intervention Services, including the Liaison and Diversion project that is being undertaken by the Youth Offending Service.

2. Introduction/Background

- 2.1 Early Intervention Services were established in their current delivery model in September 2011. The service brought together a number of individual programmes to provide a more integrated offer, on a locality basis, for children, young people and families in the City.
- 2.2 The services cover the pre-birth to 19 age range and include Children's Centres, Attendance, Youth, Risk and Resilience (including Youth Drug and Alcohol and Wear Kids), Child and Family Support Services, Connexions and Parenting.
- 2.3 In April 2014, Sunderland was chosen as one of 10 sites to test the proposed national model of Liaison and Diversion. The purpose of the project is to identify children and young people who come into contact with the police (suspected of committing an offence) whose criminal behaviour is a consequence of unmet / undiagnosed health needs. It is also to ensure children and young people can understand and engage in the criminal justice process from police interview through to sentencing at court.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Access to more targeted services in early intervention is through the Strengthening Families framework. This is measured by the number of referrals to the weekly locality panels. As part of the Safeguarding Improvement Plan, there is a target for increasing referrals to the services. Current performance is outlined below:

Total no. of CAFs initiated	12/13	13/14	14/15	YTD 15/16
Outturn	n/a	1572	1547	1674
Target	n/a	n/a	n/a	2000

It is important that families access early intervention services in a timely manner to ensure that help is received at the earliest opportunity, reducing the long term risk of children becoming looked after.

- 3.2 Children's Centres continue to provide the earliest opportunity for intervention at a universal and targeted level. Offering a range of services from activities to targeted support on routines, feeding and development, they deliver a service in wards and localities, meeting local need.

Registration and participation of all children	Target	Latest Position
Children 0 – 4 registered with Children's Centre	97%	104%
Children 0 – 4 who have attended Children's Centre activity at least once in year	50%	58%
Children 0 – 4 who have attended Children's Centre activity at least once in year (including all 3 and 4 year olds)	80%	87%
Children 0 – 4 who have attended Children's Centre activity at least 3 times in year	35%	37%
Children 0 - 4 who have attended Children's Centre activity at least 3 times in a year including all 3 and 4 year olds	65%	72%
Children under 2 years who have attended Children's Centre activity at least once in year	75%	79%
children under 2 years who have attended Children's Centre activity at least 3 times in a year	65%	57%

- 3.3 There is recognition through Children's Local Area Boards that there is a need to target children on a protection plan, again providing access to additional support and through this, looking at reducing the number of children that become looked after. All Children's Centres have the targeting of under 2's on a child protection plan as a priority in their annual action plans

- 3.4 In addition to the Children’s Centre work, Bumps 2 Babies offers targeted services for teenage mums and mums to be. It provides a range of support and advice services up to the age of 20 and engages them in education and training opportunities, where they can gain 17 young women attending the project of which one is a care leaver.
- 3.5 Connexions provide services both in schools and to young people having left education up to age 19, or 25 when they have been looked after or have other special circumstances. The latest data around young people not in education, training and employment is highlighted below:

Data for end of December 2015
NEET.
585 young people (6.1%) Available 432 (74%) Not Available 154 (26%)
Target Groups-NEET
Young Parents/Pregnant Teenagers 165 (28%) Looked After/Leaving Care 53 (9%) SEND 32 (5%) YOS 28 (5%) Young Carers 13 (2%)

- 3.6 Young people looked after or leaving care are a key target group for the Connexions service and there are currently plans in place to set up focus groups with the leaving care team that will action plan individual cases to improve their education, training and employment outcomes.
- 3.7 Youth provision in Sunderland is delivered through commissioned contracts with the voluntary sector. There are two contracts, one for 8 -10 year olds and the other for 11-19. There are no specific requirements in the contracts to measure looked after children accessing the project. The table below gives the City position around engagement in the youth provision for the period 1st April 2015 – 15th January 2016

	8 – 10 Contract	11- 19 Contract
Contact	2399	7189
Participation	1741	3909
Recorded Outcomes	444	1145
Accredited Outcomes	Not measured	388

- 3.8 Whilst there is no specific measure of looked after children attending youth provision, In December 2015, research was carried out on the LAC Young People who had accessed external provision for the previous 6 months. Of the 15 young people identified, 12 had accessed youth provision since 2010, 7 had been regular attendees, 3 had gained recorded outcomes and 3

achieved accreditations. 5 of the young people had accessed youth provision in 2015/16. Of the 42 LAC young people who have used the Independent Advocacy Service, 24 have accessed youth provision.

- 3.9 The Child and Family Support Service deliver a targeted outreach support service to vulnerable families and children (pre-birth to 19years) with a focus on preventative practice. Workers provide support either as a single agency or as part of a Team around the Family approach. The level and duration of Child and Family intervention within a family can vary from a brief parenting intervention of approximately six weeks to involvement of some months addressing a wide range of issues and needs.
- 3.10 Support is provided to families to access both targeted and universal services in respect of housing and financial issues, education, physical and mental health issues as well as helping families to identify and access support within their own family network.
- 3.11 The Child and Family Support team is currently working with 193 families, offering dedicated support that reduces the need for social care intervention
- 3.12 The Risk and Resilience service includes Wear Kids, which is a prevention of offending programme and Youth Drug and Alcohol Project (YDAP) that provides specialist intervention for young people with substance misuse issues
- 3.13 The Youth Drug and Alcohol Project have links with each of the residential units in the City, ensuring that the young people living in the unit are comfortable with the workers in the team and able to access support formally and informally. The team also provide a link for residential staff needing advice on managing the substance misuse issues within the home. There are currently 120 young people are engaged with the treatment service of which 9% identify themselves as looked after. This is the exact same percentage as the national average for looked after children in treatment.
- 3.14 YDAP targets young people who present at Accident and Emergency with substance misuse issues and the OFSTED inspection noted this as good practice, highlighting the increased number of referrals through this route.
- 3.15 In terms of national indicators, the service is performing above the national average in key areas of access to services and planned exits from treatment.
- 3.16 Alongside the Liaison and Diversion Service, Wear Kids tackles the issue of reducing first time entrants in to the Youth Justice System. Providing targeted group work in schools and 1:1 work with individual young people, it provides challenge and support to young people at risk of offending.
- 3.17 The last quarter reporting data for Wear Kids shows there were 49 referrals to the Service and 47 commencements by young people in the quarter. Of the referring agencies, 33% (16 of 49) were from Strengthening Families, 24% (12 of 49) were from the YOS, 22% (11 of 49) were from Schools; the

remaining 20% (10 of 49) were from Self Referrals, Child and Family Team, Social Care and CYPS. Year on year comparisons show referrals being maintained (Q22014/15 = 45, compared to 49) and commencements have increased (Q2 2014/15 = 36, up to 47). There is no measure currently of looked after children in the cohort.

- 3.18 Within the Liaison and Diversion Service, Sunderland Youth Offending Service aims to screen all young people who come into contact with the police for unmet/undiagnosed health and vulnerabilities such as; physical health, mental health, substance misuse; speech language and communication needs; learning disability; autistic spectrum disorder and acquired brain injury. The screening tool used was developed with relevant health partners to ensure the each health need was being screened effectively and all Youth Offending Service staff were trained. Sunderland's screening tool is nationally acknowledged as an effective tool that mirrors the later developed Youth Justice Board CHAT (comprehensive health assessment tool), which is a recommended tool for youth offending teams to assess the health needs of children and young people coming into contact with the youth offending services.
- 3.19 Over the previous six years, Sunderland's Youth Liaison and Diversion Service has begun to identify wider unmet health needs than the established Youth Offending Service assessment tool (ASSET) and has been successful in establishing referral pathways for these needs, for example speech, language and communication needs (SALT), learning disability, autistic spectrum disorder and acquired brain injury (paediatrics).

Social Care Involvement & Screened:	179
Physical health	8
Emotional mental health (including offending behaviour intervention)	50
Learning Disability	3
Social and Communication Needs	7
Speech and Language	7
Alcohol	35
Substance Misuse	25
ETE	23
Sexual exploitation	1
No Needs / Needs Met	58
LAC	57

- 3.20 Of the 794 young people arrested 615 were not active to social care, 474 were screened through liaison and diversion and 208 screened had no additional need identified. This meant that 266 young people were screened though Liaison and Diversion had unmet need. Prior to the implementation of liaison and diversion in Sunderland, these young people's needs would not have been identified by the Youth Offending Service until they received a substantive outcome in the criminal justice system.

The table below sets out the unmet need identified:

Unmet need identified (onward referral):	266
Physical health	12
Emotional mental health (including offending behaviour intervention)	125
Learning Disability	17
Social and Communication Needs	12
Speech and Language	25
Alcohol	100
Substance Misuse	92
ETE	59
Sexual exploitation	0
Accommodation	7
No Needs / Needs Met	208

3.21 It has been nationally recognised that Sunderland Youth Liaison and Diversion is very effective and as such has attracted great national and regional interest. The development and implementation of the youth Liaison and Diversion service has enabled the service to better understand the wider needs of the young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system including those that would traditionally not work with the Youth Offending Service. The Liaison and Diversion service has also worked with partners to establish direct referral pathways into services to meet that need.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 In line with the OFSTED inspections recommendations and the subsequent Safeguarding Improvement Plan, early intervention services are ensuring that the offer is more focused and co-ordinated in a clear strategy.

4.2 More targeted and focused services will ensure that the right families are receiving the right level of intervention when needed and therefore reduce the need for a higher level of input from social care agencies. This should be evidenced by a reduction in the number of looked after children.

4.3 New structures will see more integrated services and learning within Children's Services, including those provided by Youth offending and improved relationships with partners enabling more integrated delivery around areas of health, including emotional well-being.

5.0 Recommendations

The Corporate Parenting Board are asked to note the content of the report and provide feedback on areas of interest