

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Early Intervention Working Group

Scrutiny of the provision in Northamptonshire of targeted early intervention services for children and young people who, without some support, are likely to come into contact with the police and ultimately may enter the criminal justice system.

Draft Report

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Chair's Foreword

Early intervention has always been crucial to our communities. However, since becoming a councillor in 2021, I have learnt just how important these services are. We take a moment here to recognise the tragic events that have taken place all over this county in the last few years and hope that we can all play a role in preventing this from happening again. As a collective we cannot and must not, hide from this responsibility.

This working group was tasked to examine existing early intervention services, including the role that they play in empowering and supporting children and young people who may be at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work carried out by all youth clubs and groups in Northamptonshire. Those who are community based, charitable or otherwise. Particularly those who are volunteering their time to provide support and opportunities to young people. We thank you for the crucial role you play in providing early intervention.

Scrutiny of this topic by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel was intended to reflect that the Panel's role was to scrutinise and support the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for the way in which he carried out his responsibilities. The PFCC's Police, Fire and Crime Plan 2021-26 included the strategic priority to "Protect and support those who are vulnerable", with the supporting action to "Work with all partners to ensure that our approach to and delivery of early intervention services are joined up and effective."

The key objectives identified for the working group were:

- What early intervention support was provided in Northamptonshire by the PFCC and what positive outcomes it was producing? What was the cost of this support and what resources were available for it? How was support directed, including between different areas in the county? How sustainable was the current provision and what demands on capacity were likely to occur in the near future?
- What early intervention support was provided by other organisations in Northamptonshire? How effectively did this link up with the support provided by the PFCC? Were there opportunities to improve how the overall resources available in the county for this purpose are used?
- What were the service-users' and their families' perceptions of the early intervention support provided in Northamptonshire and the outcomes it was producing?
- Were there examples of good practice relating to early intervention support in other areas from which Northamptonshire could learn?

The working group met with the OPFCC Early Intervention Team on 15 December 2022 to discuss early intervention and youth budgets.

On 27 February 2023 the working group met to consider details of partner organisations that the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) worked with on early intervention activity and potential questions that might be raised with these partners as part of information-gathering for the scrutiny review.

On 9 March 2023 the working group met with the OPFCC practitioners to gather information on early intervention work being carried out in Northamptonshire. Each of the officers from the OPFCC provided a comprehensive view of the work being carried out in their respective areas.

In April 2023 the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel working group invited views and information from people working in Northamptonshire schools about support available in the county to young people who are at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity. Contact was made through North Northamptonshire Councils Weekly Update, dated 25 April 2023 and West Northamptonshire Councils, HeadWest Newsletter, Issue 39. The request for views elicited zero responses and the working group noted on the 24 May 2023 that they would need to consider other actions to elicit feedback from schools to assess whether they are well informed about early intervention work and the services available to children and young people.

On 24 May 2023 the working group met to consider the supplementary responses from the OPFCC.

From these meetings the working group identified the following information:

- The OPFCC currently had an Early Intervention Team with approximately 21 staff and a Youth team with an establishment of 11 staff and 8 staff in-post.
- Recruitment had begun to expand the youth team to 18 members of staff, commensurate with the number of neighbourhood policing areas.
- Defined the roles of the areas of support provided; Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE - referrals from partner organisations) and Domestic Abuse (DA - family support). The teams provided public support in a range of manners which included, one to one's, family support, group work and working with schools to improve reporting and pastoral support.
- Funding for early intervention was included in the mainstream budget and if it changed in the future was more likely to increase than to decrease.
- The OPFCC funded all of the work outlined at the current meeting.
- All of the services mentioned were core provision and were not short term or time limited.
- Raising / pursuing the issue of competing targets in the Criminal Justice system having a counterproductive effect.
- Whether the policy of providing grant funding to external organisations on a one-off basis only is always the most effective approach.
- Raising awareness of EI work done by the OPFCC.
- Importance of evidencing the worthwhile early intervention work.
- That, without the ability to monitor success, the team would not be in a position to evidence value for money.

The working group met on 30 April 2024 and reviewed their scrutiny of early intervention work carried out by the PFCC, discussed their findings and identified key areas for recommendation.

The working group encountered various challenges during 2023/24 which impacted on the time available for the working group meetings and they were unable to proceed within the original timescales outlined in the Scrutiny Review Scope. At the meeting of the Northamptonshire, Police, Fire and Crime Panel on 30 November 2023, during the course of discussions regarding the Work Programme, the Panel agreed to reactivate the early intervention scrutiny work. The terms of reference were updated and agreed accordingly. Regardless of those constraints the working group had been enthusiastic about the work they were tasked to carry out and determined to provide the Panel with their findings.

The examination of the provision in Northamptonshire of targeted early intervention services for children and young people was greatly assisted by the Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (OFPCC) Early Intervention (EI) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) teams who provided a detailed insight into the provision available through the OFPCC and the extended working relationships they had with the partner organisations.

During the course of the meetings, the working group drew the following conclusions:

- The working group should follow up the point made at a previous meeting about the effect of competing targets within the criminal justice system, such as the Youth Offending Service target concerning the number of first time offenders entering the criminal justice system and the police target for the number of positive outcomes including community resolutions.
- The working group might consider raising with the PFCC whether the policy of providing grant funding to external organisations on a one-off basis only was always the most effective approach.
- A possible area for a conclusion by the working group could be about the need for greater awareness and publicity in the community about the work being done by the OPFCC.
- Evidencing the success rates of early intervention activity could be achieved by carrying out a survey at the beginning and end of work with individual young people. An example of the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale was given as a recognised academic method of recording data to get sustainable recordable outcomes.

On 30 April 2024 the working group met to consider their findings, to affirm their conclusions and drew up 6 key recommendations for the consideration of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel :

The importance of the Commissioner providing more detailed reporting measures to clearly identify and evidence the positive outcomes of the early intervention work.

Recommendation:

- That the PFCC review how data is currently recorded and collated and give further consideration to including the recording of data that clearly defined the

demographic including ethnicity, identified families or individuals and included geographic data. To ensure data was recorded in a manner that would provide detailed information and would also demonstrate and evidence the effectiveness of early intervention work.

The importance of scrutiny work and following through the process, to include a review of the topic, the recommendations made by the Panel and the PFCC responses to the Panel's recommendations.

Recommendation:

- That the Panel agrees to review early intervention activity by the OPFCC and the impact of any actions resulting from this scrutiny review 6 months after the presentation of the final report to the PFCC.

That longer term funding could provide more effective support to groups, would have greater benefit and improve partnership working.

Recommendation:

- That the PFCC consider re-profiling the approach to funding early intervention projects by community groups to provide support to multiyear projects.

It had been identified, through the family feedback questionnaires carried out by NGAGE and ACE, that a small number of families would require support beyond the 12 weeks.

Recommendation:

- That the PFCC consider developing a longer-term strategy to extend the OPFCC's support on a case-by-case basis, or to ensure that those families identified would be signposted to partnership organisations that would be in a position to take on the support role.

The working group recognised the stress' and strains encountered by OPFCC staff working in a physically and emotionally challenging role and appreciated their additional engagement in the scrutiny review.

Recommendation:

- That the Panel recognise the important contributions made by OPFCC staff in carrying out their roles.

That both local authorities work should together, in conjunction with the OPFCC, to ensure opportunities for partnership working were maximised.

Recommendation:

- That the OPFCC liaise with panel members to facilitate conversations within the local authorities and to engage with cabinet members to advocate on their behalf.

Councillor Zoe McGhee
Chair, Early Intervention Working Group

Acknowledgements to all those who took part in the Review:

- Councillors Andre Gonzalez de Savage, David Smith, Dorothy Maxwell, Gill Mercer, and the Independent Co-opted Members, Pauline Woodhouse and Anita Shields who sat with me on this Review.
- Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner:
Sadie Baggett, Early Intervention and Domestic Abuse project worker
Michelle Gourley, Early Intervention and Adverse Childhood Experience worker
Jackie Jones, Head of Early Intervention and Youth Services
Nicci Marzec, Director for Early Intervention, Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer
Stuart McCartney, Governance and Accountability Manager
Rebecca Parr, Early Intervention and Adverse Childhood Experience worker
Lucy Spencer, Senior Practitioner, Early Intervention
Sam Ward, Senior Practitioner – Youth
And members of the OPFCC who assisted in collating data and information to inform the responses to the working group.

Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Report of the Early Intervention Working Group

1. Purposes and Rationale

1.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny review was:

To examine the provision in Northamptonshire of targeted early intervention services for children and young people who, without some support, are likely to come into contact with the police and ultimately may enter the criminal justice system.

Scrutiny of this topic by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel is intended to reflect that the Panel's role is to scrutinise and support the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for the way in which he carries out his responsibilities. The PFCC's Police, Fire and Crime Plan 2021-26 includes the strategic priority to "Protect and support those who are vulnerable", with the supporting action to "Work with all partners to ensure that our approach to and delivery of early intervention services are joined up and effective."

2. Key Lines of Enquiry

- What early intervention support is currently provided in Northamptonshire by the PFCC and what positive outcomes is it producing? What is the cost of this support and what resources are available for it? How is support directed, including between different areas in the county? How sustainable is current provision and what demands on capacity are likely to occur in the near future?
- What early intervention support is provided by other organisations in Northamptonshire? How effectively does this link up with the support provided by the PFCC? Are there opportunities to improve how the overall resources available in the county for this purpose are used?
- What are service users' and their families' perceptions of the early intervention support provided in Northamptonshire and the outcomes it is producing?
- Are there examples of good practice relating to early intervention support in other areas from which Northamptonshire could learn?

2.1 A copy of the original version of the scope of the review is attached at Appendix A. The timescale for the review was amended whilst it was in progress.

3. Context and Background

3.1 Following approval of its work programme for Northampton Police, Fire and Crime Panel, at its meeting on 8 September 2022 commissioned the Early Intervention Working Group to undertake the review – To examine the provision in Northamptonshire of targeted early intervention services for children and young people who, without some support, are likely to come into contact with the police and

ultimately may enter the criminal justice system. An in-depth review commenced in December 2022 and concluded in April 2024.

- 3.2 A Task and Finish Group was therefore established comprising Councillor Zoe McGhee (Chair); Councillors Andre Gonzalez de Savage, Greg Lunn, Dorothy Maxwell, Gill Mercer, David Smith and the Independent Co-opted Members, Pauline Woodhouse and Anita Shields.

4. Panel Role

- 4.1 Scrutiny of this topic by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel is intended to reflect that the Panel's role is to scrutinise and support the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for the way in which he carries out his responsibilities. The PFCC's Police, Fire and Crime Plan 2021-26 includes the strategic priority to "Protect and support those who are vulnerable", with the supporting action to "Work with all partners to ensure that our approach to and delivery of early intervention services are joined up and effective."

- 4.2 The working group was established to examine the provision in Northamptonshire of targeted early intervention services for children and young people who, without some support, are likely to come into contact with the police and ultimately may enter the criminal justice system.

5. Methodology and Evidence Collection

- 5.1 Evidence was sought from:
Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Early Intervention and Adverse Childhood Experiences team.
Educational institutions located within North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council.

6. Report Background

- 6.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and supporting legislation give various specific responsibilities to the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel ("the Panel"). These are principally as follows:

- Scrutinising and reporting on the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)'s proposed Police and Fire and Rescue precepts.
- Scrutinising and reporting on the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan.
- Scrutinising and reporting on the PFCC's Annual Report on the delivery of Police and Crime Plan objectives and on the annual Fire and Rescue Statement reporting compliance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework.
- Scrutinising and reporting on proposed appointments by the PFCC to certain positions (Deputy PFCC; Chief Executive; Chief Finance Officer; Chief Constable

of Northamptonshire Police; and Chief Fire Officer of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service).

- Dealing with complaints from members of the public about the conduct of the PFCC.

6.2 In addition, the legislation referred to in paragraph 6.1 above gives the Panel the general responsibility to review and scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the PFCC in connection with the discharge of his functions and to make reports or recommendations to the PFCC with respect to these matters. The Panel is required to carry out its role with a view to supporting the PFCC in effectively exercising his functions.

6.3 It is standard practice for the Panel to set an annual work programme to provide a framework within which it carries out its functions and the practical tasks these involve. The work programme is made up of a combination of statutory and discretionary scrutiny work; matters relating to the operation of the Panel; and any supporting activities such as briefings or training. The work programme covers a rolling 12-month period. The work programme is considered at the first Panel meeting in the municipal year. It is then kept under regular review by the Panel and modified or updated as necessary, with a view to ensuring that it is focussed on the aim of using available capacity to best effect. On 8 September 2023, the Panel agreed the draft scope for proposed in-depth scrutiny work on early intervention.

6.4 Background data

A copy of the Community Grant Funding 2022 -23 budgets is attached at Appendix B.

7. Core Questions

7.1 The working group devised a series of core questions that it put to its key organisations in the form of questionnaires tailored to the remit of the organisations (copies at Appendix C and D) and emailed to the OPFCC and circulated to the educational institutions via their newsletters (copies at Appendix E and F).

7.2 The OPFCC provided additional information in response to these core questions to the working group (copy at Appendix G)

8. Conclusions and Key Findings

8.1 After all of the evidence was collated, the following conclusions were drawn:

- The working group should follow up the point made at a previous meeting about the effect of competing targets within the criminal justice system, such as the Youth Offending Service target concerning the number of first-time offenders entering the criminal justice system and the police target for the number of positive outcomes including community resolutions.

- The working group might consider raising with the PFCC whether the policy of providing grant funding to external organisations on a one-off basis only was always the most effective approach.
- A possible area for a conclusion by the working group could be about the need for greater awareness and publicity in the community about the work being done by the OPFCC.
- Evidencing the success rates of early intervention activity could be achieved by carrying out a survey at the beginning and end of work with individual young people. An example of the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale was given as a recognised academic method of recording data to get sustainable recordable outcomes.

9. Recommendations and Reasons

The recommendations are suggested to assist the PFCC to meet his objective to “Protect and support those who are vulnerable”, and to “Work with all partners to ensure that our approach to and delivery of early intervention services are joined up and effective.”

On 30 April 2024 the working group met to consider their findings, to affirm their conclusions and drew up 6 key recommendations for the consideration of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel:

9.1 The Early Intervention Working Group recommends to the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel that it agrees the following:

- The importance of the PFCC providing more detailed reporting measures to clearly identify and evidence the positive outcomes of the early intervention work.

Recommendation:

That the PFCC review how data is currently recorded and collated and give further consideration to including the recording of data that clearly defined the demographic including ethnicity, identified families or individuals and included geographic data. To ensure data was recorded in a manner that would provide detailed information and would also demonstrate and evidence the effectiveness of early intervention work.

- The importance of scrutiny work and following through the process, to include a review of the topic, the recommendations made by the Panel and the PFCC’s responses to the Panel’s recommendations.

Recommendation:

That the Panel agrees to review early intervention activity by the OPFCC and the impact of any actions resulting from this scrutiny review 6 months after the presentation of the final report to the PFCC.

- That longer term funding could provide more effective support to groups, would have greater benefit and improve partnership working.

Recommendation:

That the PFCC consider re-profiling the approach to funding early intervention projects by community groups to provide support to multiyear projects.

- It had been identified, through the family feedback questionnaires carried out by NGAGE and ACE, that a small number of families would require support beyond the 12 weeks.

Recommendation:

That the PFCC consider developing a longer-term strategy to extend the OPFCC's support on a case-by-case basis, or to ensure that those families identified would be signposted to partnership organisations that would be in a position to take on the support role.

- The working group recognised the stress' and strains encountered by OPFCC staff working in a physically and emotionally challenging role and appreciated their additional engagement in the scrutiny review.

Recommendation:

That the Panel recognise the important contributions made by OPFCC staff in carrying out their roles.

- That both local authorities work should together, in conjunction with the OPFCC, to ensure opportunities for partnership working were maximised.

Recommendation:

That the OPFCC liaise with panel members to facilitate conversations within the local authorities and to engage with cabinet members to advocate on their behalf.

TASK AND FINISH SCRUTINY REVIEW – TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Topic

Early intervention with children and young people at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity in Northamptonshire

2. Purpose of the scrutiny review

To examine the provision in Northamptonshire of targeted early intervention services for children and young people who, without some support, are likely to come into contact with the police and ultimately may enter the criminal justice system.

Scrutiny of this topic by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel is intended to reflect that the Panel's role is to scrutinise and support the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for the way in which he carries out his responsibilities. The PFCC's Police, Fire and Crime Plan 2021-26 includes the strategic priority to "Protect and support those who are vulnerable", with the supporting action to "Work with all partners to ensure that our approach to and delivery of early intervention services are joined up and effective."

Key lines of enquiry

- What early intervention support is currently provided in Northamptonshire by the PFCC and what positive outcomes is it producing? What is the cost of this support and what resources are available for it? How is support directed, including between different areas in the county? How sustainable is current provision and what demands on capacity are likely to occur in the near future?
- What early intervention support is provided by other organisations in Northamptonshire? How effectively does this link up with the support provided by the PFCC? Are there opportunities to improve how the overall resources available in the county for this purpose are used?
- What are service-users' and their families' perceptions of the early intervention support provided in Northamptonshire and the outcomes it is producing?
- Are there examples of good practice relating to early intervention support in other areas from which Northamptonshire could learn?

3. Outcomes

To make evidence-based recommendations for consideration by the PFCC intended to contribute to the provision of effective and sustainable early intervention support in Northamptonshire.

4. Approach

The scrutiny review will be carried out by a task and finish working group made up of the following Police, Fire and Crime Panel members:

1. Councillor Zoe McGhee (Chair)
 2. Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage
 3. Councillor Greg Lunn
 4. Councillor Dorothy Maxwell
 5. Councillor Gill Mercer
 6. Mrs Anita Shields
 7. Councillor David Smith
- Mrs Pauline Woodhouse also to be involved in reviewing the draft report

5. Information required

- A baseline overview of the early intervention support currently provided by the PFCC – from the PFCC, the Director for Early Intervention and/or other representatives of the Office of the PFCC, as appropriate
- Relevant local policies and strategies
- Relevant national and local research
- Examples of good practice from other areas
- Views / case studies about service users’ and their families’ experiences
- Views from local partner organisations, for example, Northamptonshire Children’s Trust and the two Northamptonshire local authorities; relevant voluntary and community sector organisations.

The working group may invite partner organisations and similar stakeholders to provide information to the scrutiny review where relevant to the purpose but this would be on a voluntary basis, with no power to compel the provision of information.

6. Resources and support

Secretariat officer support for evidence-gathering and for production of the report by the working group.

7. Timetable and key dates

Initial meeting to develop the draft scope	1 September 2022
Confirmation of scope by Police, Fire and Crime Panel	8 September 2022
Evidence-gathering (specific dates for meetings and other activity to be set by the working group)	September 2022 – February 2023
Approval of draft report by working group	March – April 2023
Agreement of final report by Police, Fire and Crime Panel	20 April 2023
Presentation of final report to PFC Commissioner	April – May 2023

The working group will report back to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel should it identify any need to request a variation to this timetable or any other amendments to the agreed scope whilst the work is in progress.

NOTE: the Police, Fire and Crime Panel agreed at its meeting on 2 February 2023 that the final report by the Working Group could be presented to the Panel in June 2023 to allow additional time for it to carry out its work.

Community Grants 2022 -23**Northamptonshire Road Safety Community Fund**

Supported by the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance, grants of between £500 and £5,000 have been granted for initiatives that support the Northamptonshire Strategic Road Safety Plan. Grants have been awarded to the following Parish Councils for Vehicle Activated Speed signs.

Bulwick Parish Council	£2,813.00
Clipston Parish Council	£4,925.52
Kelmarsh Parish Council	£4,881.00
Blisworth Parish Council	£3,689.00
Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council	£3,649.00
Easton on the Hill Parish Council	£2,875.00
Kings Sutton parish Council	£5,000.00
Overthorpe Parish Council	£3,898.00
Barnwell Parish Council	£4,953.10
Aldwinckle Parish Council	£3,250.00
Whilton Parish Council	£5,000.00
Great Oxendon	£5,000.00
	£49,933.62

Making Northamptonshire Safer Fund

This fund, provided by the Northamptonshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, provides grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 for initiatives that support the aims of the Police, Fire and Crime Plan.

Various partners across the county	Costs associated with the delivery of the Knife Angel visit to Northampton, Wellingborough and Corby	countywide	£11,064.70
Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS)	Expansion of their training programme as well as to lead the development of skills internally and reach a wider audience within the local community.	countywide	£10,000.00
Off the Streets NN	To have critical bleed cabinets and bleed control kits installed across Northamptonshire within prominent areas - Having a pro-active approach is key to saving lives.	countywide	£10,000.00
C2C social Action	A programme to empower young females in Northamptonshire to move forward with their lives. The programmes will be run in small groups using material from ShineGirl and help to divert young people from crime – both those who are already involved in the criminal justice system and those at risk of being involved.	countywide	£10,000.00
Family Support Link Application	Requesting funding for PuP, a unique programme supporting young people who are impacted by other family members drug and alcohol misuse	countywide	£10,000.00
Guiding Young Minds	Targeting girls who have been affected by county lines and gang exploitation	countywide	£9,119.00
First Line Medical	Providing medical support in the NTE in Kettering	Kettering	£9,900.00
United African Association	Football, MH and Music projects supporting community wellbeing	Northampton	£10,000.00
			£80,083.70

Making Northamptonshire Safer Small Grants Fund

A Small Grants Scheme for bids under £3,000 (from £500) is now being offered through the Office of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, which gives groups even more options when seeking funding.

Small grants application can be sent from a variety of organisations including schools, parish councils and community groups. due to the value of the grant pot, the application process is much quicker and therefore applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and decisions are made more swiftly than those of the larger Making Northamptonshire Safer Scheme.

Northants Litter Wombles (NLW)	To purchase litter picking equipment (pickers, hoops, hi vis jackets, gloves, etc.) to enable more people to be able to litter pick in their neighbourhoods.	Northampton, Corby, Kettering Daventry, Wellingborough.	£2,692.00
Accommodation Concern	Providing debt advice currently delivered in Kettering to support the Rough Sleeper Drop in service in Wellingborough, Corby & Rushden.	Wellingborough, Corby and Rushden	£2,834.00
Hearts of Young People	funding towards the Heart of Young People youth group in Corby	Corby	£2,999.00
Team Shoe Box	Purchase boxing equipment. This gym works in area of high deprivation and also runs programmes with The Hope Centre and HMP 5 Wells	Northampton	£2,980.00
Corby Amateur Boxing Club	New equipment to support the club with Boxing training to divert young people from crime in Corby.	Corby	£3,000.00
			£14,505

OPFCC Early Intervention and Youth Services Partner information

Partner	How we work together
Police	<p>Work flow to the Early Intervention team supporting victims of Domestic Abuse comes from Public Protection Notifications (PPN).</p> <p>Four of the team support the CIRV initiative.</p> <p>Team leads attend various meetings around vulnerability, risk and harm for young people.</p> <p>Work with Police Officers and PCSO to deliver education input in schools around knife crime and exploitation.</p> <p>Neighbourhood PCSO's attend Contextual Safeguarding meetings.</p>
Youth Offending Service	<p>Weekly attendance at the Prevention and Diversion Panel – multi agency discussions to prevent young person entering the Criminal Justice System.</p> <p>The Early Intervention staff supporting CIRV hold drop in session alongside YOS Police Officers. Offering confidential space for young people to discuss worries and concerns about their local area and school.</p>
Northamptonshire Children's Trust	<p>The Trust refer cases to the team. Mostly from Early Help MASH and the Early Help Locality team.</p> <p>Team attend Social Care meetings where appropriate (CIRV).</p>
All Schools & Nursery settings	<p>All schools in the county can refer children, young people and their families to the team.</p> <p>The Senior team offer training input into the Thresholds and Pathways with focus on Tier 2.</p> <p>Youth Workers deliver group work and one to one sessions.</p> <p>Early Intervention and ACE Officers deliver one to one sessions.</p> <p>Practitioners attend multi agency Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings</p>

	All referrers are contacted with details of allocated workers. Any referrals not suitable for the team to support are given verbal or written feedback.
Children's Centres	Refer families to the Service. The team use the Children's Centres to hold Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings and help to complete Early Help Assessments (EHA's).
NHFT	Health Visitors, GP's, 0-19 team, School Nurses, CAMHS & midwives refer to the team. The Senior team have delivered Threshold and Pathways training to help Health staff recognise the indicators that a family who could be supported by the team at Thresholds and Pathways Tier 2.
NFRS	Collaborative working with Northants Fire and Rescue delivering a group work programme aimed at raising confidence and self-esteem for a selected group of young females selected by a school who recognised issues with negative attitudes towards females from male students.
Housing Providers	Regular interaction with housing providers, advocating for families.
Service 6	Attend the Contextual Safeguarding meetings chaired and run by the team across the county.
NGAGE	Will support ACE, Youth and CIRV ACE Officer Team with joint visits to educate young people on risks of substance misuse.
Sunflower	Collaborative working with Sunflower to support DA victims & attend MARAC meetings.
NDAS	Collaborative working to support DA victims.

Early Intervention Working Group – information-gathering with local partner organisations relevant to early intervention work

Partner organisations will be asked to respond in writing to questions identified by the Working Group. The Working Group may then ask to meet with selected key partners for a further discussion.

Suggested general questions for partner organisations:

- How is your organisation involved in providing targeted early intervention services for children and young people in Northamptonshire who, without some support are likely to come into contact with the police and ultimately may enter the criminal justice system? Does your organisation carry out any work on early intervention directly? If so, how does this link up with work by the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner? Do you see any gaps in local provision?
- What is your view of the effectiveness of Early Intervention work generally and of the outcomes it produces? What do you see as examples of good practice in relation to early intervention work, either in Northamptonshire or in other areas?
- What is your view of the effectiveness of early intervention work being done in Northamptonshire? What works well? What could be done to improve provision?

Specific questions for, or relating to, particular partner organisations:

OPFCC / Northamptonshire Police / local authorities

- To what extent is the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) model being applied in Northamptonshire?

OPFCC / Northamptonshire Police / Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

- What impact does the Emergency Services Cadets scheme have on diverting young people from becoming involved in criminal activity? What is the demographic breakdown of young people involved in the Cadets scheme? How accessible is the Cadets scheme, for example, is there a charge for participating?

OPFCC / schools

- Do schools have good information about early intervention work in Northamptonshire and the support available to children and young people?

OPFCC / mental health services

- Is early intervention work affected by pressures on services and support for children and young people’s mental health, given that mental health needs may put people at greater risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system?

Requests for further information arising from information on OPFCC work with partners provided to the Working Group meeting on 27 February 2023

Partner	How we work together	Questions from the Working Group
<i>Police</i>	<p><i>Workflow to the Early Intervention team supporting victims of Domestic Abuse comes from Public Protection Notifications (PPN).</i></p> <p><i>Four of the team support the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) initiative.</i> • <i>Team leads attend various meetings around vulnerability, risk and harm for young people.</i> • <i>Work with Police Officers and PCSO to deliver education input in schools around knife crime and exploitation.</i> • <i>Neighbourhood PCSOs attend Contextual Safeguarding meetings.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many clients do you currently have under the four areas of EI / ACEs, EI / DA, EI / CIRV and Youth? What percentage increase have you seen compared to last year? • How many PPN referrals have you received this year compared to last year? • What is your clients’ satisfaction this year compared to last year? • Do you measure the cost benefit of meetings around vulnerability, risk and harm for young people attended? • Have you seen a reduction in knife crime / exploitation after conducting education input in schools?
<i>Youth Offending Service</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Weekly attendance at the Prevention and Diversion Panel</i> • <i>Multi agency discussions to prevent young person entering the Criminal Justice System.</i> • <i>Early Intervention staff supporting CIRV hold drop-in sessions alongside YOS Police Officers.</i> • <i>Offering confidential space for young people to discuss worries and concerns about their local area and school.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What quantifiable benefits / outcomes result from the drop-in sessions involving EI staff supporting CIRV? • How many young people have been offered a confidential space this year? Have you seen a change in attendance? • Have you seen an improvement from the young people regarding their concerns? • Do you benchmark your results and compare them to the previous year?

<p><i>All Schools and Nursery settings</i></p>	<p><i>All schools in the county can refer children, young people and their families to the team.</i></p> <p><i>The Senior team offer training input into the Thresholds and Pathways with focus on Tier 2.</i></p> <p><i>Youth Workers deliver group work and one to one sessions.</i></p> <p><i>Early Intervention and ACE Officers deliver one to one sessions.</i></p> <p><i>Practitioners attend multi agency Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings.</i></p> <p><i>All referrers are contacted with details of allocated workers. Any referrals not suitable for the team to support are given verbal or written feedback.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many schools have made referrals this year compared to last year? • How many training sessions have been provided by your senior team this year compared to last year? • How many one-to-one session and group work have been provided this year compared to last year by your Youth Workers? What was the outcome for providing them? • How many one-to-one sessions have been provided this year compared to last year by your Early Intervention and ACE Officers? What was the outcome for providing them? • What is the number of referrals per worker this year compared to the previous year? • What is the number of unsuitable referrals received this year compared to the previous year?
<p><i>Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service</i></p>	<p><i>Collaborative working with NFRS delivering a group work programme aimed at: raising confidence and self-esteem for a group of young females selected by a school who recognised issues with negative attitudes towards females from male students.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How were the participants selected by the school and what help was provided by NFRS?
<p><i>Housing Providers</i></p>	<p><i>Regular interaction with housing providers, advocating for families.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What positive outcomes result from this interaction?
<p><i>NGAGE</i></p>	<p><i>Will support ACE, Youth and CIRV ACE Officer Team with joint visits to educate young people on risks of substance misuse.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many young people have been supported by the NGAGE with Aquarius service from which parts of the county? How successful has the service been in reducing substance misuse?

<i>NDAS</i>	<i>Collaborative working to support DA victims.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both NDAS and Sunflower seem to provide similar services; what is the major difference between them apart from the refuge provided by NDAS?
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Weekly update: 25 April 2023

Dear Colleagues

Please find below all updates for this week.

You will note that two articles regarding assessment and moderation both in early years and in Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2) have been repeated this week. These sections offer information about local authority moderation activities for the coming terms.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Asbestos and Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) articles which contain important information and a survey for completion. There are supporting documents attached for this article.

Content in this issue:

1. North Northamptonshire Council Information

For Action:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Governance Training
- **Repeated:** Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) Agreement Trialling Network Meeting (North and West Northants) - open to all Reception Teachers
- Asbestos and Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)
- The Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel - Request for information and views – diverting young people from crime

Information:

- **Repeated:** Assessment and Moderation 2023 – **Important Information**
- Infection, Protection, Control (IPC) Team – New Contact Details
- Northamptonshire Children's Trust - Let's Celebrate our Children and Young People in Care

1. North Northamptonshire Council Information

For Action:

[....]

The Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Request for information and views – diverting young people from crime The Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel would like to invite views and information from people working in Northamptonshire schools about support available in the county to young people who are at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity.

The Panel is a committee, made up of councillors from North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire councils and independent members, which scrutinises the work of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Further information about the Panel is available at: [Committee details - Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel - West Northamptonshire Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#).

The Panel is able to look into issues relating to community safety that affect Northamptonshire in order to identify when local services are working well or, where necessary, to make recommendations intended to help the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to improve them.

In this case the Panel is looking at the provision of targeted early intervention services for children and young people who, without some support, are likely to come into contact with the police and ultimately may enter the criminal justice system.

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner funds various early intervention activity. An example of this is given at: [Early intervention projects help divert young people from crime - Northamptonshire Police & Fire Commissioner \(northantspfcc.org.uk\)](#). Other organisations can also carry out similar activity.

The Panel is keen to hear views from a schools' perspective on this subject. The Panel is interested in views on the following questions:

- What experience has your school had of Early Intervention support in Northamptonshire delivered by the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner or by other organisations?
- Do you think your school has access to good information about Early Intervention support available to young people in Northamptonshire?
- What is your view of the effectiveness of Early Intervention support generally? What do you see as examples of good practice in Early Intervention work, either in Northamptonshire or other areas?
- What is your view of the effectiveness of Early Intervention work being done in Northamptonshire? What works well? What could be done to improve provision?

School representatives are invited to send written responses to these questions, or other comments on the subject, to democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk by 19 May 2023.

The Panel will consider all information provided. It may then contact selected responders to ask if they would be willing to attend a virtual meeting for a further discussion of this subject.

HeadWest - Issue 39 (May 2023)



welcome

Same newsletter, different look! Welcome to the new edition of HeadWest. We would love to hear your thoughts. Hopefully you will find it easier to navigate.

Exam/assessment season is upon us and so I wanted to wish all of our pupils in Year 2, 6, 11 and 13 the very best of luck. It is a sign that Summer is well and truly on its way.

I am hoping that you have managed to attend one of the SEND co-production sessions and have had the opportunity to have your say. We have found these to very positive events and have managed to gather a range of voices which will help us shape the new SEND strategy. I hope to provide you with regular updates on this over the coming weeks and months.

As always, please email me any concerns, issues and successes: ben.pearson@westnorthants.gov.uk

Best wishes

Ben Pearson

Assistant Director

Children and Young People Services.

[...]

Democratic Services

The Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel would like to invite views and information from people working in Northamptonshire schools about support available in the county to young people who are at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity.

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Requests for further information arising from information on OPFCC work with partners provided to the Working Group meeting

Partner	How we work together	Questions from the Working Group	Further Information/ Clarification
<i>Police</i>	<p><i>Workflow to the Early Intervention team supporting victims of Domestic Abuse comes from Public Protection Notifications (PPN).</i></p> <p><i>Four of the team support the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) initiative.</i> • <i>Team leads attend various meetings around vulnerability, risk and harm for young people.</i> • <i>Work with Police Officers and PCSO to deliver education input in schools around knife crime and exploitation.</i> • <i>Neighbourhood PCSOs attend Contextual Safeguarding meetings.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many clients do you currently have under the four areas of EI / ACEs, EI / DA, EI / CIRV and Youth? What percentage increase have you seen compared to last year? • How many PPN referrals have you received this year compared to last year? • What is your clients' satisfaction this year compared to last year? 	<p>CIRV: As of 19/5/23 EI CIRV Officers have 15 cases open.</p> <p>DOMESTIC ABUSE: As of 19/5/23 DA practitioners have 63 cases open.</p> <p>EI/ACE LOCALITY: As of 19/05/23 the locality team have 71 cases open.</p> <p>YOUTH: As of 19/05/23 the youth team have 55 cases open.</p> <p>Jan – April 2022 224 PPNs received in to the DA Project. Jan – April 2023 526 PPNs received in to the DA Project.</p> <p>Clients' satisfaction remains the same as last year rating the service 9-10 out of a 10 Maximum rating. And Excellent or Very good from our partner agencies.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you measure the cost benefit of meetings around vulnerability, risk and harm for young people attended? Have you seen a reduction in knife crime / exploitation after conducting education input in schools? 	<p>More clarification needed from panel.</p> <p>This service provides educational input and support at the earliest opportunity to prevent knife crime and exploitation. It is not possible to evidence improvement in something that may not have happened.</p>
<p><i>Youth Offending Service</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Weekly attendance at the Prevention and Diversion Panel</i> <i>Multi agency discussions to prevent young person entering the Criminal Justice System.</i> <i>Early Intervention staff supporting CIRV hold drop-in sessions alongside YOS Police Officers.</i> <i>Offering confidential space for young people to discuss worries and concerns about their local area and school.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What quantifiable benefits / outcomes result from the drop-in sessions involving EI staff supporting CIRV? How many young people have been offered a confidential space this year? Have you seen a change in attendance? 	<p>67 Young People have engaged to date.</p> <p>Outcomes: 2 Referrals to EI and ACE Team 5 Referrals to OPFCC Youth Team 2 Referrals to CIRV 25 Students attended 3 or more sessions</p> <p>Clarification required from panel.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you seen an improvement from the young people regarding their concerns? • Do you benchmark your results and compare them to the previous year? 	<p>All young people that were identified for ongoing support have engaged and seen positive outcomes.</p> <p>Our projects are dynamic, responding to the needs of the community so there may not be a like for like project to compare from the previous year.</p>
<p><i>All Schools and Nursery settings</i></p>	<p><i>All schools in the county can refer children, young people and their families to the team.</i></p> <p><i>The Senior team offer training input into the Thresholds and Pathways with focus on Tier 2.</i></p> <p><i>Youth Workers deliver group work and one to one sessions.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many schools have made referrals this year compared to last year? • How many training sessions have been provided by your senior team this year compared to last year? • How many one-to-one session and group work have been provided this year compared to last year by your Youth Workers? 	<p>We have made significant attempts to try and report this information, but we cannot accurately report on this, using the systems we have.</p> <p>April 2022 – March 2023 we delivered 23 sessions. April 2023 – 19th May 2023 we have delivered 2 sessions.</p> <p>The team have delivered one to one sessions to 309 young people. 640 young people have had groupwork sessions and drop-down days Total engagement: 949.</p>

	<p><i>Practitioners attend multi agency Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings. Early Intervention and ACE Officers deliver one to one sessions.</i></p> <p><i>All referrers are contacted with details of allocated workers. Any referrals not suitable for the team to support are given verbal or written feedback.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the outcome for providing them? • How many one-to-one sessions have been provided this year compared to last year by your Early Intervention and ACE Officers? What was the outcome for providing them? • What is the number of referrals per worker this year compared to the previous year? 	<p>We cannot provide comparison data for the previous year.</p> <p>Feedback from YPs and Schools is positive. But no quantitative data available to support this at his time.</p> <p>Holistic family support provided in the community, unable to identify the number of 1:1 interventions provided by EI/ACE Locality due to the style of the case work as its determined by the needs of the family.</p> <p>Interventions are delivered to meet the individual needs of each case. This is recorded in qualitative case notes.</p> <p>Caseloads for each member of staff are capped at a maximum of 14 families. They average between 12-14 at any one time. This has been the same on average across this year and last year.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the number of unsuitable referrals received this year compared to the previous year? 	<p>April 2023 – 19 May 2023 we have declined 31 referrals. April 2022 – March 2023 we declined 269 referrals.</p>
<p><i>Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service</i></p>	<p><i>Collaborative working with NFRS delivering a group work programme aimed at: raising confidence and self-esteem for a group of young females selected by a school who recognised issues with negative attitudes towards females from male students.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How were the participants selected by the school and what help was provided by NFRS? 	<p>School identified students that were presenting with emerging needs in the areas of mental health, engagement in education and friendship groups.</p>
<p><i>Housing Providers</i></p>	<p><i>Regular interaction with housing providers, advocating for families.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What positive outcomes result from this interaction? 	<p>Families are supported to gain appropriate housing for their needs with the Information, Advice and Guidance, advocacy and signposting support from our service</p>
<p><i>NGAGE</i></p>	<p><i>Will support ACE, Youth and CIRV ACE Officer Team with joint visits to educate young people on risks of substance misuse.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many young people have been supported by the NGAGE with Aquarius service from which parts of the County? How successful has the service been in reducing substance misuse? 	<p>This information is not available and would need to be accessed through NGAGE.</p>

<p>NDAS</p>	<p><i>Collaborative working to support DA victims.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both NDAS and Sunflower seem to provide similar services; what is the major difference between them apart from the refuge provided by NDAS? 	<p>Websites available to ascertain this information. NDAS and Sunflower are not part of our service.</p>
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