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Karen Manville, Head of Service: Early Help and Prevention

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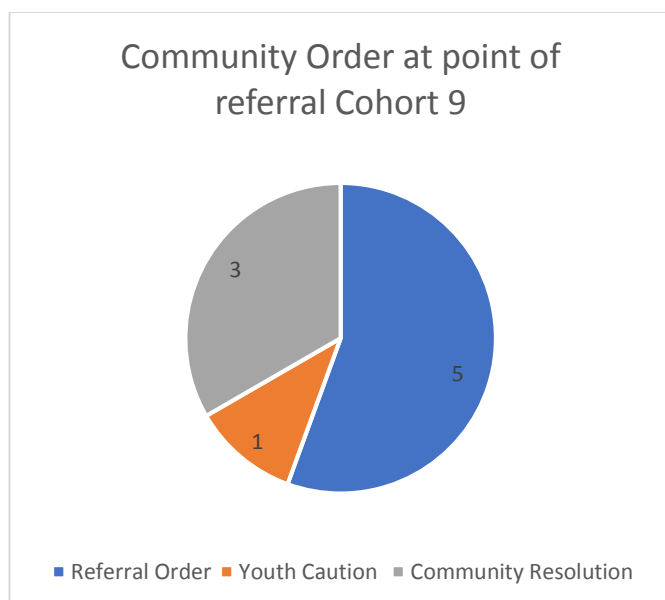
Report: The Which Way Programme – January – March 2022 - Quarter 4

1. Background information:

- 1.1 The 'Which Way' programme was launched in April 2019. Its objectives are to respond to the issue of children and young people being criminally exploited, their engagement in county lines activity and subsequent involvement in serious youth violence that so often accompanies this. An outline of the aims and objectives of the programme can be found in Appendices 1.
- 1.2 For quarter 4 selected sessions were redesigned based on previous feedback from our children and what the data was telling us about the type and nature of offending that is being committed by children in the city.

2. Referrals to the Programme.

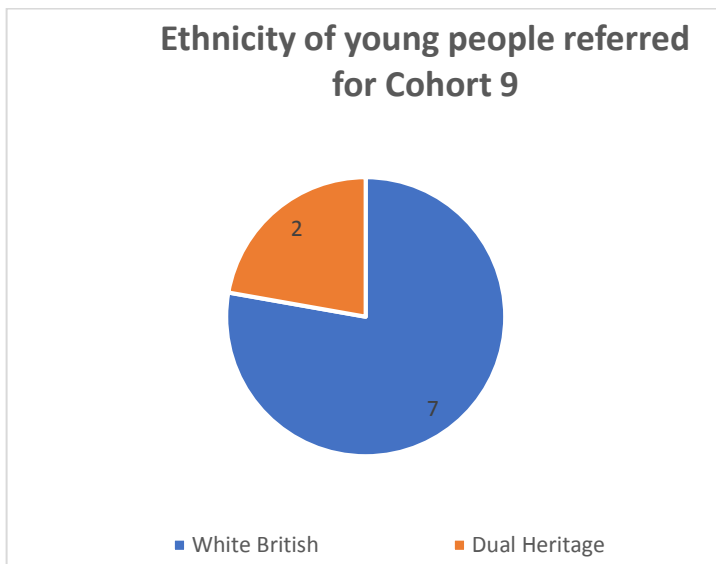
- 2.1 The Which Way programme has now delivered to 9 cohorts from 2019, 64 referrals to the programme have been made and 73% of young people have completed 4 out of the 6 sessions delivered. Considering the often-chaotic lifestyles of many of the young people referred to the programme, the engagement rate is positive.
- 2.2 The following information concentrates upon referrals made to Cohort 9 that commenced in January 22 and ended in March 22. The intake for cohort 9 was 9 young people, all engaging in the programme and attending at least 4 out of the 6 sessions. The following chart illustrates the community orders or prevention status the young people were subject to whilst attending the group work programme. A decision was made to accept 3 referrals from the prevention team, the children had been referred because there were indicators that suggested they may be at risk of criminal exploitation. The impact of delivering intervention to children open on a statutory orders and Prevention was closely monitored to inform future planning.



2.3 The gravity score matrix provides offences with a score of 1-9 depending on their seriousness, with 1 being low seriousness and 9 high. For Cohort 9 the average gravity score was 3, this was the same for 6 of the last 8 cohorts, this does not include young people open on community resolutions. In this cohort there were 2 children who had committed offences that carried gravity scores of 6, both for the offences of robbery. This trend is typical across the whole service cohort with a gravity score of 3 being the average.

2.4 The average age of referral for cohort 9 was 16, the age range across the cohort was 14 -16, being typical across all previous cohorts. We would expect to see a greater number of 17- and 18-year-olds being referred reflecting the cohort across the whole service. Local analysis tells us that young people aged 17-18 are less willing to engage in group work. This is included in CYPJS service planning as a priority area for development. There is a need to ensure staff are referring this age cohort onto the programme.

2.5 In line with the service's wider focus on disproportionality, an analysis of the ethnicity profile of attendees on the programme has been provided. The diversity of children and young people engaging with the programme is reflective of the wider CYPJS cohort of children. Further analysis is required to ensure Which Way is positioned to reach all groups of children and this will be available for the next report.



2.6 Education continues to be a focus throughout the delivery of group work, reinforcing both the value of education and the need to take back group learning to the educational setting. All children in this cohort were in statutory education.

3. Cohort 9: Group and Individual Outcomes:

3.1 The following section focuses upon group and individual outcomes for Cohort 9. For each of the session's children are provided with the objectives and are asked to scale their own knowledge, thoughts, and feelings in relation to the topic of discussion. They are asked to base their scoring from 0-10, with 0 being little about the topic is known and 10 being they know everything about the topic.

3.2 The following table demonstrates the average score at the beginning of each session and then at the end. It is notable that all the average scores for each session have increased which is positive. Children from previous cohorts have expressed that they have a good understanding of gangs, county lines and substance misuse prior to joining the programme. Exploration of this tells us that these aspects of crime are positively reinforced through 'role models' in popular culture, these concepts are addressed through the intervention. However, children are less confident about issues relating to mental health and peer influences, and the end of the session they can demonstrate they have a greater understanding.

SESSION TOPIC	Average Group Score at start	Average Group Score at End
Session 1 Enhanced induction session/Count Lines	7	8
Session 2 Gangs and Knives	8	8
Session 3 Role Models and Peer Influences	6	9
Session 4 Mental Health and Wellbeing	5	8
Session 5 Drugs and Alcohol	7.5	9
Session 6 – Celebratory Session.	N/A	N/A

3.3 At the end of the 6-week group programme all children were asked to scale themselves in terms of learning across all sessions, future risk taking, and future potential consequences should they re-offend. The table below illustrates the scaling of their knowledge and understanding at the start of the programme and then at the end of it. All participants viewed the group delivery positively and they could illustrate that they had all learnt how to take less risks and would be more considered in the future.

YOUNG PERSON	INITIAL SCORE	END SCORE
1	4	7
2	3	8
3	3	7
4	4	8
5	4	8
6	4	7
7	3	7
8	2	8
9	3	7

4. Re-Offending data: Cohorts 1-8

4.1 Offending is monitored and tracked pre, during and post intervention. The table's below shows the number of children who completed the programme from all 8 previous cohorts between April 19 – March 20, April 20 - March 21 and April 21 – March 22 the number of offences they had committed pre intervention and post intervention. Children have been referred from the Prevention team on occasion, but not in the number that have referred for this cohort, therefore not all young people have previous offending history.

Apr 19 – Mar 20	Pre-Intervention	3 months post closure	6 months post closure	9 months post closure	12 months post closure
No. of Young People	15	15	15	15	15
No. of young people who offended	15	2	2	1	1

Apr 20 – Mar 21	Pre-Intervention	3 months post closure	6 months post closure	9 months post closure	12 months post closure
No. of Young People	17	17	17	17	17
No. of young people who offended	17	1	2	1	1

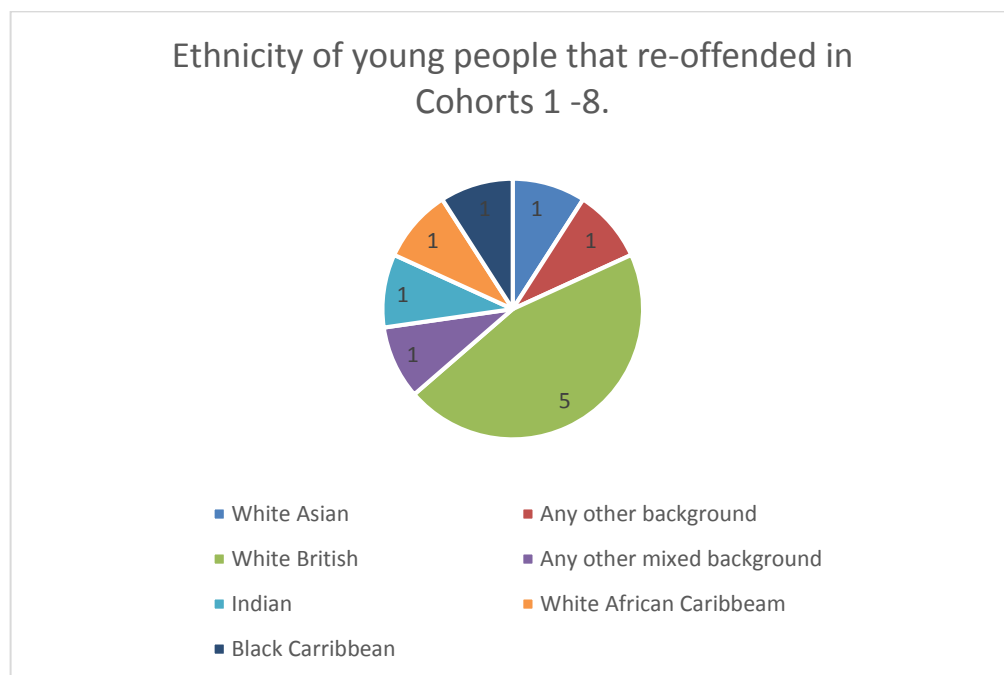
Apr 21 – March 22	Pre-Intervention	3 months post closure	6 months post closure	9 months post closure	12 months post closure
No. of Young People	23	23	23	23	23
No. of young people who offended	18	2	2	1	0

4.2 Post closure data illustrates that 16 (29%) children have reoffended, committing 23 offences in total, 13 children have committed a further 1 offence (this includes 2 children referred by prevention who had not previously offended) 3 children have committed a further 10 offences between them.

4.3 Analysis of the re-offending data to date indicates that the programme has a positive impact on desistance. Whilst it is always difficult to establish a direct link between specific interventions and rates of recidivism, the relatively low rate of re-offending of participants that has been sustained over a significant period, in conjunction with a consistent reported increase in knowledge scores pre and post session, is likely a contributing factor.

4.4 The following provides a summary of the ethnicity of those young people that re-offended, this will be considered further in the next report as white British males are overrepresented in term of offending and re-

offending within Leicester City CYPJS cohort. However, this is in line with the overall youth justice population in the service.



4.5 Female attendance across all cohorts is 2 in total (4%), this is less reflective of the wider CYPJS cohort where 18.06% are female. However, this is in part attributable to the existence of a separate group run by the Youth Service, specifically for females ‘at risk’ of or involved in CE. The Groupwork co-ordinator has established links with the Youth Service staff who facilitate this group and has referred females where it is felt to be more appropriate than engagement on the Which Way programme. With few referrals of females to the Which Way programme, careful consideration must be given to the appropriateness of a female attending a predominantly male group.

5 Recommendations and progress this quarter

1.	<p>Which Way participants outcomes to be used to support individual ETE attainment, through more robust channels with CYPJS education representatives.</p> <p>Accredited (ASDAN) portfolio framework to be developed based upon the core objectives of the programme. Portfolio to demonstrate young people’s input, output, and outcomes in relation to scaling and pre/post intervention questionnaires.</p>	<p>Portfolio framework drafted, to be considered by the joint CYPJS/Youth working group.</p>
2.	<p>Work to target referrals from the service, there will be a focus on advertising the program and attend team meetings. Due to the lifting of restrictions we hope to reintegrate young people back into centres and hopefully being visible in community venues will strengthen this.</p>	<p>Group work coordinator presented at a service meeting in March and is now meeting with all team to understand need.</p>

3.	Further work in the next quarter needs to be completed to understand how 17- and 18-year-olds can be positively engaged in group work and ensuring staff are actively referring this age cohort.	Team managers are analysing data on a quarterly basis to establish a focused response the 17/18-year-old cohort.
4.	The next quarterly report requires more detail and analysis of disproportionality.	To ensure more robust analysis for future reports
5.	The Post-programme questionnaire to be designed to elicit 'qualitative' information to compliment the quantitative information that is gained from the pre- and post-programme questionnaires and strengthen the voice of the young person in the evaluation of the programme.	The post programme questionnaire will be piloted with cohort from April 22.
6.	Work continues to engage young people in the co-production of future group work sessions in line with the wider service participation agenda. The groupwork co-ordinator is a 'champion' for participation within the service and trained in the Lundy model of participation.	The analysis of post-programme questionnaire data that goes live from April 22 will serve to strengthen the voice of the young person in the future development of the programme.
7.	Regular observations of groupwork will commence from April 22 to maintain good practice.	Observations scheduled throughout 22/23
8.	To establish 'peer mentors' on the program to capture young people voice and be a positive role model for future candidates.	Planning with volunteers is underway and will be operational from September.

Appendices 1



Which Way
Aims.docx