



Event Summary – Third Sector Annual Conference

9 November 2018

Theme: Early Intervention and Prevention

This was the sixth third sector annual conference since the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) came into office in 2012, with a theme to discuss how early intervention and prevention could support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2016-21 (Refreshed 2018).

1. Aim of the event

This event brought together a wide range of over 120 colleagues from across the sector and allowed them an opportunity to talk about the sectors' role in early intervention and prevention.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Mark Burns-Williamson, West Yorkshires Police and Crime Commissioner opened the event, he welcomed colleagues and thanked Safer Leeds for their support in hosting the event. Having bid to Government, he spoke about the partnership approach to achieving over £1m from the Early Intervention Youth Fund and added there was still more to be done but it was a good step towards the delivery of early intervention across the county. He spoke about the clear link between the numbers of police officers, the rise in crime and that cuts to policing and statutory services particularly youth services, had impacted and placed further pressures on third sector groups, who he recognised were left to fill the gaps. He said children and young people often faced significant challenges but by identifying and providing effective early support to those who we knew were at risk he said we could prevent problems occurring, or at least be there to tackle them head-on when they did. The best evidence showed that effective interventions could improve children's life chances at any point during childhood and adolescence and that early intervention worked to reduce the risk factors and increase the protective factors in a child's life.

Councillor Mohammed Iqbal representing the Leeds Community Safety Partnership also welcomed the attendees to Leeds Civic Hall.

3. West Yorkshire Police Perspective

ACC Catherine Hankinson spoke about her responsibilities which included Local Policing and safeguarding, which she felt had strong links to prevention and early intervention. She said the Neighbourhood Policing 'offer' which was given to communities across West Yorkshire was important and that the teams could work with the third sector to solve problems in communities. She described the 3 pillars of the neighbourhood policing model which included community engagement, problem and solving and early intervention. She described the importance of listening to communities, understanding them and promoting sustainable solutions which the communities could be responsible for.

ACC Hankinson described early intervention as being able to understand who would be susceptible to crime and stepping in before it happened. She also stated that early intervention could also affect people who were already in the criminal justice system; "we can prevent them from offending further".

She summarised by saying that early intervention and prevention were a 'leap of faith' as it was a challenge to measure prevention or what an input might have diverted someone away from. She was aware some barriers remained but concluded by stating that West Yorkshire Police were committed to work with partners on early intervention.

4. Youth Justice Service

Andy Peaden from the Leeds Youth Justice Service, said it was his aim not to label young people who commit crime but to 'mitigate the consequences of their mistakes'. He stated that young people learned from the adults around them, and for some young people, and the adult role models were not positive ones.

5. Early intervention and Prevention at work

a) The Basement Project

One of the most powerful conversations on the day was started by James McCord and Sally from the Basement Project when they spoke about how the early intervention support offered to them had made both life changing and profound differences to their lives. They spoke about their lived experience and recovery journey. James described the project, which works with those who had a substance misuse problem in Kirklees, and said that everyone from the chairman to the workers were persons in recovery which allowed them to truly understand service user journeys. James spoke about his personal journey and said he had 'accessed all services through his offending career', but it wasn't until he came into a recovery community like The Basement Project that it worked for him. He felt that other services he came into contact with 'fell on deaf ears' and that he was in a 'revolving door' of offending and addiction. You can read more about James' journey here. <https://thebasementproject.org.uk/addiction-recovery-stories/addiction-recovery-stories-james/>

The opportunities at the project had led James to become a Team Leader and some of the work he had been involved with included linking up with housing associations to ensure that service users were housed appropriately and away from temptation or risk. He described the ripple effect had when changing one person's life for the better and the impact it then had on their friends, family and community.

Sally also joined us at the event and was a service user from the Basement Project living in the female sober living house. She described spending most of her adult life hiding her addiction and that it taken her a long time to admit that her life was becoming unmanageable. She detailed her journey with the project so far, which included a relapse but that the project welcomed her back and that for the first time in her life she was happy to be sober and reengaging in the community.

James wanted to use this platform to advise colleagues in the room to stop sending people with substance misuse problems to treatment centres but to send them to communities such as The Basement Project as the prevention was much more powerful and they would feel supported through their journey.

b) Staying Put

Yasmin Khan began by thanking James and Sally for their powerful testimonies and for sharing their journeys. She spoke from her expertise in Domestic Abuse working at Staying Put and also as a member of the Third Sector Advisory Group. She talked about early intervention as working with people who were at risk and preventing the problem occurring or before it gets worse. She described investment in services as 'firefighting' and that working with the third sector collaboratively is vital to identify the earliest opportunities to meet our community's needs. She described the current climate and that demand was increasing but resources were not so it was important to look at doing things differently. Yasmin talked about prevention as addressing the underlying causes; increasing knowledge across all services and to influence attitudes to create behavioural change. She also spoke about the importance of identifying clear referral pathways, sharing information and empowering people early on to make informed choices.

6. Group Discussions and Key Points

Groups were asked to consider the same questions as part of a group discussion within the context of the following topics: **Drugs and Alcohol, Mental Health, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Multiple and Complex needs and Domestic and Sexual Abuse**. Discussions centred on a number of common themes across each of the questions:

Based on your experience what do you see are major barriers/challenges to effective early intervention and prevention?

Stigma – There were some important barriers to overcome across all of the topics so that people would choose to engage with interventions, however it was a particular issue when it came to drugs, alcohol and mental health issues, people were often afraid to reach out or had negative experiences when they did. It was vital that when people did ask for help they approached the right services and some felt that both police and other statutory services would benefit from training to ensure they referred or signposted individuals to the right people.

Information Sharing and Investment – Many of the groups commented that this should be based on the needs of an individual, this included key communication between partners. However, the lack of resources was a key issue particularly at a time of austerity, there were particular concerns for young people as they moved from child to adult services and many people felt that commissioners should invest in long term support. Some groups commented on the complexity of the Criminal Justice System as a whole and that there were barriers caused by services which did not talk to each other at all.

How can we work together to overcome these with effective West Yorkshire wide partnership solutions?

Training and Engagement - Moving on to solutions training was required for the police and statutory organisations to support signposting, events to bring organisations together to share best practice and find partnership solutions were also important. Engagement with those with lived experiences was vital and whilst many accepted that this might be challenging but it would better inform solutions and support what interventions would work rather than continued investment on those that didn't.

Services and Mentoring for young people - Local Authorities also needed to consider cross boundary services and delivery and supporting collaborative working was vital. Mentoring young people, raising aspirations and communicating clearly were also vital as well as challenging outcome based commissioning. There was a strong need for services to be flexible so an individual needs could be supported, groups also spoke about the need for more WY wide campaigns could save money and deliver key messages.

What more can the third sector contribute to early intervention and prevention across West Yorkshire?

Added Support for the Sector - Thinking about what more the sector could do some people felt that a third sector database was vital and that this could be used to share knowledge and work across West Yorkshire. The sector needed additional support to bid for contracts and there was also recognition that they were often competing against each other.

Knowledge and lived experience - Within the third sector there was a huge amount of knowledge and lived experiences, statutory services would benefit greatly by engaging them, tasking groups were also a great way to include them and draw on their skills and specialisms. There was also a great deal of professional involvement and evidence of creative thinking and innovative solutions within the sector

Groups were also asked to share some key feedback across the themes on the day:

Mental Health

- Under diagnosis was a huge problem so there were many missed opportunities for early intervention.
- There was an unrealistic expectation on the police to have the skills to diagnose people.
- Custodial sentences could be a positive alternative for some people's circumstances.
- We treat young people as suspicion "only 2 young people in the shop at once" example. We would not be able to target any other group of people like this.
- 'Second chance week' should be utilised to hear more about positive stories and engagement

Drugs and Alcohol

- Mainly spoke about in terms of children and young people
- Both drugs and alcohol were prevalent in society; alcohol was legal to over 18's and there was a spectrum of drugs which were "socially acceptable" but this was a problematic gateway to more serious drug use
- Third sector organisations were more trusted by children and young people than statutory organisations, so need to make use of existing relationships
- Barriers of perceived information sharing and GDPR
- We need to talk to young people about their views and those who were the most difficult to engage to work in a meaningful way to develop solutions

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- We need People who are the best placed to deal with children and their families
- Short term funding (sure start example) and the risks and impacts which this presents
- Need mentoring and community to take responsibility
- Don't automatically fund people who have 'always had it'
- PCC to lobby for a national incentive to help raise family aspirations as an alternative to living on benefits
- Families first; were the right people involved to deliver and are families involved in the process

Multiple and Complex Needs

- Challenges as funding is structured around things that can be measured. Early intervention and prevention can't be measured so co-commissioning and trust based commissioning needs to be the way forward
- The definition of this is not helpful. Terminology is a barrier for some so our language needs to change
- Short term funding to tackle this is a barrier; 6 – 12 months is too short
- Leadership to take the messages back, service user voice – 'stop asking for a local solution to problems that are created nationally'
- CRC accountability
- Safer Communities Fund to support existing projects not new

Domestic and Sexual Abuse

- Translation and interpreting services for victims but also available for third sector to utilise to engage earlier
- Children and young people; what works for them?
- Innovation within the third sector. Need to look at some of the ongoing work and take some learning from that

7. Question and Answer Session

Delegates took part in a Question and Answer session with the PCC Mark Burns -Williamson, ACC Hankinson, Andy Peaden, Yasmin Khan and Ruth Kettle, the questions and responses are summarised below:

1. **We have an issue with excluding pupils and the associated costs with social care and the criminal justice system, what work could be done in partnership to ensure that we're not missing these young people?**

Mark was aware of this issue and said he had recently spent some time with a NPT in Bradford and learnt that a great deal of their time was spent dealing with around 8 young people who were attending PRU's for only a few hours a day. He understood the pressures placed on schools for educational attainment which was leading to the increased number of exclusions and PRU referrals, he said he had recently seen the Children's Commissioner and spoken to her about the growing numbers of children being excluded and that common age is getting younger. Young people were much more vulnerable to exploitation such as county lines as a result of exclusion but accepted that we were in the early stages of understanding the West Yorkshire picture and what can be done to address the issue.

Andy Peaden said that the service didn't have an answer to this, but that school policies had changed and with the increased numbers of academies it was harder to coordinate this. He felt that young people who are out of education or on very short timetables were not receiving adequate education.

Yasmin also added there was a need to empathise with the isolation and associated trauma that these young people were experiencing. This links to the topic of adverse childhood experiences and we needed to look at practical solutions.

Helen Olick, a member of the Third Sector Advisory Group, added that Kirklees had some good examples of how to tackle this issue which could be shared from the Yorkshire Children's Centre.

2. **We all agree that prevention is better than the cure, but money is put where the outcomes can be measured so how do we change that?**

ACC Hankinson said that this was the 'million dollar question' which should have a common sense answer. She advised from a policing perspective, they need to have a future vision and trust in the organisations to deliver. She stated that there wasn't a massive evidence base for what work but the recent money from the early intervention fund had been secured, so we need to ensure it is used wisely. The police face a lot of 'hear and now' critical incidents which can't be ignored; the demand has increased and there are lots of reasons for that, but if we can empower communities and the third sector to deal with low level crime then this could free up some police resource to do some early intervention work.

Mark agreed with the point made in the question and stated that due to pressures capabilities to do evaluation and research has shrunk, but we need to reinvest in those areas which will make a difference. He stated that as the PCC he is prepared to take risks and be innovative on new approaches and the Basement Project shown today is a great example which has provided very successful outcomes.

3. **With regards to the high numbers of prison population who were looked after children, how do we intervene earlier with them?**

Ruth Kettle added to this by saying there were a lot of 'stuff' which receives money that doesn't work and that we need to be brave enough to take risks and to make some changes to respond to trauma. She also added that some solutions don't always need money, for example changing school policies etc.

Andy Peaden explained that 1% of young people are deemed Looked After, but 25% of the custodial population is/was a looked after child so they are vastly over represented. He said that most young people are 'processed' and are forced down the criminal justice system. He referred back to his earlier presentation and informed that in Leeds, all low level offending went through the Youth Justice Panel which linked in to restorative practices and having a change in focus.

Yasmin added that children needed a sense of belonging and she felt we needed to work earlier with parents. Looked after children often felt excluded and unloved, so asked delegates to imagine feeling that day in day out. She expressed we needed to respond with a human approach.

Mark added that interventions which can stop the cycle were really important and that young people would learn from negative role models present in their life. If the prison system wasn't rehabilitating people then we needed interventions that would. He informed delegates of the recent discussions in relation to CRC's which had taken place about the devolution of responsibilities locally so that we could better choose what works for our communities.

8. Third Sector Advisory Group - Ruth Kettle

Ruth, from community links, spoke as a member of the third sector advisory group about the contributions and local achievements over the past 12 months. She felt that amongst the pressures faced by all organisations, in West Yorkshire we were very 'well off' in terms of Third Sector support and representations with the Police and Crime Commissioner, compared to other regions.

See presentation for content - [...\Ruth Presentation.pptx](#)

Her ask of the delegates was to keep making sure the influencers were kept aware of all the good work the third sector was doing and to bring about the service user voice. She spoke about the money from the Police and Crime Commissioner which was granted to the third sector networks in each district has enabled them to engage with the sector around community safety and the police and crime plan. It had enabled much smaller organisations to access money to deliver more good work locally. Ruth then introduced Ivelina from Clinks to speak about new opportunities and the extra resource from her post as a development officer which has been funded by the PCC.

David Smith thanked delegates for their feedback and said it was apparent there were underlying issues highlighted regardless of the theme, such as listening to service users and information sharing. Third sector to be aware of each other and to respect each other.

9. Close and Next steps

The PCC thanked all for their attendance and for providing feedback from the discussions. He highlighted some further issues of note:

- Good point about chaotic lifestyles and prison being a positive option for some people, although short sentencing doesn't rehabilitate. He was raising this concern at a national level
- Engaging with young people was vital but how do we engage further with those who are hard to reach? Try and address the gaps in youth provision
- Short term funding and to reassure people that sometimes monies received from the Home Office or Ministry Of Justice were bound by regulations and treasury accounting rules, therefore the time restraints were sometimes unavoidable by the OPCC
- Commissioning however is a longer term option but is often time bound
- Heard the comment about building on existing work
- He wants further flexibility with his funding
- Information sharing, recently appointed David to overcome information sharing barriers with GDPR

PCC Actions and Next Steps: From these valuable discussions, some key points to feed into future work:

Mental Health

- Advocate with other commissioner partners for third sector agencies to work outside of local authority jurisdiction
- Champion on the idea such as “2nd Chance Week” to tackle the issue of mental distress arising from being written off and viewed with suspicion
- Supporting and promoting multi-agency practice development groups to build change from the bottom.
- Clear plan around mental health – how are you going to address the ‘however’ within the PCC plan and Work with relevant partners/ third sector groups to develop this plan
- Central message from PCC re: mental health i.e. training
- If structures are in place – and no evidence around prevention& early intervention – take the risk!
- Supporting building of reliance with young people around mental health.

Drugs and Alcohol

- Consult and involve young people using those with lived experiences
- Support partnership working across Local Authority wards
- Maximise partnerships to secure national and regional funding and link with European city of culture
- Engage more students in prevention
- Explore possibilities of commissioning on trust, take risks flexible funding, not outcomes heavy.
- Share needs / stats / hot spots so people can fund work that will address it and be responsive.

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Develop clear criteria to see who is best placed to deliver work to Young People and families. Re-structure commissioning to best represent those families
- Share information and fund the third sector
- PCC to lobby for a Nationwide strategy and funding to help deliver early intervention
- early intervention work with schools and prisons

Multiple and Complex needs

- Look at co-commissioning models.
- CRCs to account should have involved the voluntary sector – hold them to account
- Take the messages to a national level not just local solutions
- More focus on supporting existing good rather than funding new projects
- Share best practice, avoid duplication and reinventing the wheel

Domestic and Sexual Abuse

- Take some risks, invest in evaluations and look at new innovative approaches.
- Share learning across the partnerships
- More direct work with CYP experiencing DA at lower level. Universal and Tier 2 levels continuum if need.
- Consider some resource to support service user engagement
- Use emotional health and wellbeing task forces locally
- Take learning from DHR’s across WY to improve earlier intervention.

- An interpretation and translation services for victims of crime across WY.
- Barriers – Volume
- How work together – Awareness raising
- Communication – Early intervention strategies
- Help people to understand what sexual abuse is
- West Yorkshire wide campaigns

Further Information

Enquiries should be directed to the West Yorkshire OPCC on 01924 294 000 or to contact the engagement team directly on Consultation@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk