

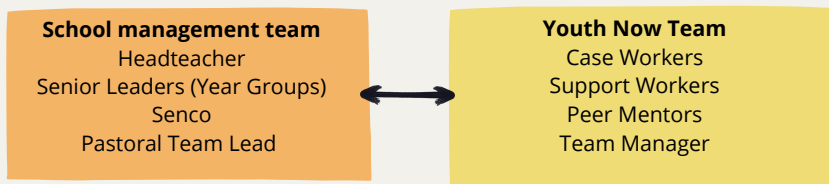
Secondary school safety audit on serious youth violence

Process Flowchart

Youth Now was a project within a youth justice team based within Positive Steps in Oldham, a Charity who supports young people and adults in a variety of ways to help improve their lives. 'Youth Now' was a pilot to develop work independently within local schools, bringing ideas from a contextual safeguarding approach into the setting, in order to improve the safety of young people in the local community and school and reduce serious youth violence.

As part of their work, the Team developed and implemented a 'School Safety Audit' to determine the nature and extent of serious youth violence connected to the school. This approach was based on adapted tools taken from previous schools-based research within the CS Network developed by the 'Beyond Referrals' project on Harmful Sexual Behaviours in school settings.

This tool outlines the whole process of building the work with one secondary school. To carry out a full School Safety Audit you would need to use all tools related to this process in conjunction with each other. They are available [here](#) on the CS Network.



Both teams work together to identify the initial concerns within the school and immediate neighbourhood around serious youth violence (SYV), through meetings, discussions and interviews.



Carry out the following potential safety audit activities on the basis of this:



OBSERVATIONS IN SCHOOL SETTINGS

Youth Now Team carry out noted observations in school across a four week period, especially during arrival, break and transition times, end of school day.

Youth Now Team conduct informal conversations with students and staff, try to identify places and spaces within school, or the immediate local environment, that may be less safe and why.



MEETINGS WITH ADDITIONAL STAFF

Youth Now team speak with a range of staff across the school, including non-teaching staff.

Identify with wider staff group key issues/areas of concern in relation to SYV in school.



REVIEW BEHAVIOUR LOGS/POLICY

Youth Now Team review the school Behaviour Policy and a sample of past Behaviour Logs in order to identify issues of repeated concern and any key indicators/trends in relation to SYV.



FOCUS GROUPS WITH STUDENTS

Youth Now Team, in partnership with school staff and pastoral team, run a series of targeted focus group discussions, with students across the Year groups, in order to identify key issues and allow students to raise areas of concern in relation to SYV. *Example of discussion areas, exercises and prompts to be used in Focus Group Tool available [here](#).*



STUDENT SURVEY

Youth Now Team in partnership with school staff devise and distribute a student survey to further identify areas and issues of concern in relation to SYV across the whole school. Use findings from above activities to inform content of the student survey, especially concerning possible solutions/interventions being considered by the school.



PARNET/CARER SURVEY

Youth Now Team in partnership with school staff devise and distribute a parent/carers survey to further identify areas and issues of concern in relation to SYV, both within school and the immediate neighbourhood. Use findings from above activities to inform content of the parent/carers survey, especially concerning possible solutions/interventions being considered by the school.



Produce a 'School Safety Plan' through School Management Team & Youth Now Team strategic meetings

Regular meeting to:

- Feedback on the findings throughout the process
- Analyse data collected and jointly identify key elements to be addressed
- Develop appropriate interventions on the basis of identified needs

Intervention examples:

- Staff training and support;
- New frameworks/activities to support to students (such as Bystander Intervention programmes);
- Improved communication and support to parent/carers;
- Clearer referral routes to external multi-agency partners;
- Working with local community guardians to build safety around the school setting.

On the basis of a school safety audit a “Safety Plan” for the school can be developed to both address continuing areas of identified potential harms and also to ways to build and improve safety and support (for students, staff and the immediate community/neighbourhood)