

Youth Now Community Implementation Tool

Increasing community guardianship to build Contextual Safeguarding

'Youth Now' is a pilot project based within the Youth Justice Service at Positive Steps Oldham designed to explore the relevance of adopting Contextual Safeguarding approaches to address serious youth violence. During the pilot, the Youth Now team developed and implemented contextual interventions across four key contexts. These can be summarised as:

- Community/neighbourhoods
- Schools
- Young people/families
- Peer groups

Community and neighbourhood developments have been significant. The development of the 'Friday night pop-up' provision in one area of Oldham, where targeted activities are on offer, successfully engaged with an increasing number of young people from the location who otherwise would have had nowhere to go.

Partnership work was developed by 'Youth Now' to bring together key providers around a joint offer for the young people which had a sports focus. There is evidence from partners of reduced anti-social behaviour in the area, a steadily increasing, robust number of young people in attendance and the added development of young people engaging in further sports related activities to which they have been directed, following engagement with the Friday night provision. Alongside the Friday night offer directly to young people, there is evidence of improved ways of working in neighbourhood contexts with existing partners, such as local business, libraries and other community groups.

This intervention enabled the Youth Now team to develop a useful and clear process model for how to develop a similar programme in other neighbourhoods, to develop the pilot work further. Learning from the success of this community intervention has been developed to complete 'places and spaces' community mapping of further areas, where RAG rating can be completed. Evidence of how to develop and enhance the 'Guardianship Capacity' of local communities/neighbourhoods as part of Contextual Safeguarding clearly emerges through this process.

This flowchart was created by the 'Youth Now' team to capture how they planned the intervention.

