

Youth Justice SEND Project: The Quality Mark and Quality Lead Designation Process

Context

Achievement for All has a well-established and highly valued process for recognising the progress made by partner education settings in terms of inclusive practice and enabling the progress and achievement of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in the education system.

Working in partnership with Association of Youth Offending Team Managers, Manchester Metropolitan University and a powerful Advisory Group of frontline professionals and policy leads, the Achievement for All **Needs Analysis** process and procedure (the first step in the improvement journey, identifying strengths and highlighting areas for development) was adapted for use within the Youth Justice system.

Area partnerships (Local Authorities, Youth Offending Services and other key partners, such as Health, Virtual Schools, etc.) could thus participate in a benchmarking process, moderated by Achievement for All, early in the second year of the DFE-funded contract.

Once this initial benchmarking process was completed, emerging or embedded effective practice could be spread across the community of practice, adding value and creative solutions to existing improvement planning, driving positive change through sharing and collaboration.

These first two steps took place between April 2017 and July 2017, with more areas joining and participating throughout the rest of the year (over 50 Local Area partnerships engaged, in total).

We are now ready to revisit the partnerships, assess the impact of improvement activity, and, where possible, consider whether Local Area partnerships can be considered for a Quality Mark in acknowledgement of the improvement journey that has been undertaken.

The Ten Key Statement Framework

A series of statements were used to frame effective SEND practice in the youth justice system.

Statement 1 All Local Authority SEND Team staff (and others who work regularly with YOTs) have working knowledge of SEND Reform practice in the Youth Justice System

Statement 2 All staff within Youth Offending Teams (relevant staff in the Secure Estate) have a working knowledge of SEND Reform practice in the Youth Justice System

Statement 3 All staff who work with and within YOTs have had recent training that builds a basic awareness of the type and range of special educational needs that are prevalent in the youth justice system, as well as the complexities and impact of structural (social) disadvantage.

Statement 4a Information exchange regarding all forms and levels of special educational needs between secure estate, health and care professionals, LAs and YOT is timely, comprehensive and leads to continuity of/establishing appropriate provision.

Statement 4b Proactive information exchange and planning between LA SEND, Social, Health and LAC Teams, as well as YOT, leads to the early identification of YPs at risk of entering the youth justice system, with provision leading to reduced “first time” offending rates.

Statement 5 Initial screening/assessment of YPs entering the Youth Justice System is conducted by trained / experienced professionals and informs provision mapping.

Statement 6 If a YP has an EHCP, information sharing leads to continuity of provision (throughout youth justice system and into transition/resettlement)

Statement 7 If screening/assessment indicates a YP has high level needs that were previously unidentified, or has SEN support needs not met by an EHCP, timely and appropriate support is either implemented or commissioned whilst further assessment is considered.

Statement 8 Multiagency teams, working in partnership with the YOT, ensure that transition and resettlement planning/delivery are aligned to securing a series of positive life outcomes for YPs (education, independence, self-efficacy, work, etc.)

Statement 9 Young people and their families are actively engaged in all aspects of screening, identification, diagnosis and intervention planning, and have a voice in shaping the provision, and evaluating its impact

Statement 10 Strategic Commissioners within Local Authority Area Partnerships ensure that the needs of YPs in the youth justice system are adequately resourced and supported, and the provision reviewed regularly.

These statements were considered against a ten-point scoring grid:

0 Inappropriate/inapplicable to our setting

1 We do not do this

2

3 Some evidence that this happens

4

5 Evidence of effective practice

(but not consistent or widespread)

6

7 Widespread effective practice with evidence of better outcomes for young people

8

9 Case studies of outstanding practice to share

10

A profile was thus created, giving a “picture” of strengths and development needs.

In discussion, local area partnerships could describe strategic and operational improvement planning already underway, and work out ways to integrate development needs into existing plans.

For other partnership areas, the results from the benchmark process (and the sharing of effective practice) triggered new thinking and new development planning.

It was also gratifying to find out that, in many areas, improvement work was already underway following the workshops that were run in 2016-17, informed by workshops run prior to this particular contract (led by CDC and Sheffield Futures) as well.

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

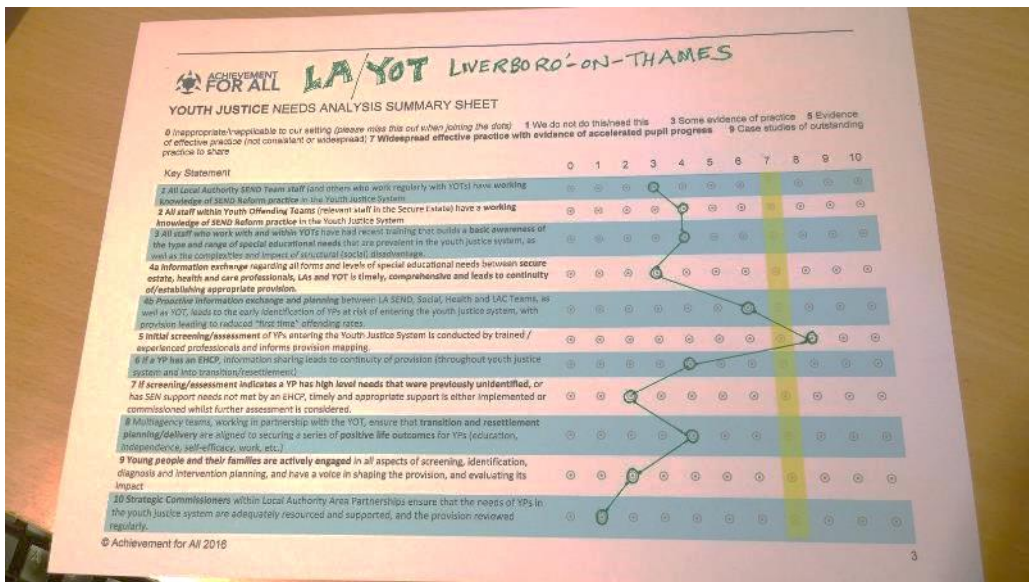
YOUTH JUSTICE NEEDS ANALYSIS SUMMARY SHEET

0 Inappropriate/inapplicable to our setting (please miss this out when joining the dots) 1 We do not do this/need this 3 Some evidence of practice
 5 Evidence of effective practice (not consistent or widespread) 7 Widespread effective practice with evidence of better outcomes for CYPs with SEND
 9 Case studies of outstanding practice to share

Key Statement	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 All Local Authority SEND Team staff (and others who work regularly with YOTs) have working knowledge of SEND Reform practice in the Youth Justice System	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2 All staff within Youth Offending Teams (relevant staff in the Secure Estate) have a working knowledge of SEND Reform practice in the Youth Justice System	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3 All staff who work with and within YOTs have had recent training that builds a basic awareness of the type and range of special educational needs that are prevalent in the youth justice system, as well as the complexities and impact of structural (social) disadvantage.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4a Information exchange regarding all forms and levels of special educational needs between secure estate, health and care professionals, LAs and YOT is timely, comprehensive and leads to continuity of/establishing appropriate provision.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4b Proactive information exchange and planning between LA SEND, Social, Health and LAC Teams, as well as YOT, leads to the early identification of YPs at risk of entering the youth justice system, with provision leading to reduced "first time" offending rates.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
5 Initial screening/assessment of YPs entering the Youth Justice System is conducted by trained / experienced professionals and informs provision mapping.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
6 If a YP has an EHCP, information sharing leads to continuity of provision (throughout youth justice system and into transition/resettlement)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
7 If screening/assessment indicates a YP has high level needs that were previously unidentified, or has SEN support needs not met by an EHCP, timely and appropriate support is either implemented or commissioned whilst further assessment is considered.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
8 Multiagency teams, working in partnership with the YOT, ensure that transition and resettlement planning/delivery are aligned to securing a series of positive life outcomes for YPs (education, independence, self-efficacy, work, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
9 Young people and their families are actively engaged in all aspects of screening, identification, diagnosis and intervention planning, and have a voice in shaping the provision, and evaluating its impact	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
10 Strategic Commissioners within Local Authority Area Partnerships ensure that the needs of YPs in the youth justice system are adequately resourced and supported, and the provision reviewed regularly.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

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The Scoring Grid



Specimen completed Scoring Grid

Criteria for Quality Mark Award



- On re-evaluation of scores, and due to demonstrable improvement activity, a consistent “6” or “7” is scored across all Ten Key Statements
- It is accepted that, in the timeframe of the project, it would be hard to demonstrate tangible outcomes from improvement planning. However, individual anonymised case studies are welcomed as supporting evidence, or short witness testimonies from key professionals
- Submission needs to be “signed off” by Local Authority SEND Leadership and YOS Leadership (this can simply be a joint email back to the project team with the supporting evidence, i.e. the *completed assessment grid* plus **case studies** and/or *witness testimonies*)

Criteria for Quality Lead Award



- Ratings of “6s” and “7s” obtained in the majority of statement areas during initial benchmarking activity, backed up by additional evidence of effective practice and partnership working (such as first-time offending rates, reoffending rates, protocols in place, systems in place and operational, appropriate panels and forums active and functioning effectively, etc.)
- No statement scored below a “7” on re-evaluation
- At least two scores of “8” or higher, with a case study of effective practice submitted with each score of 8 or higher as part of the QL submission.
- Submission needs to be “signed off” by Local Authority SEND Leadership and YOS Leadership (this can simply be a joint email back to the project team with the supporting evidence, i.e. the *completed assessment grid* plus **case studies** and/or *witness testimonies*)

- **Any Quality Lead submission will need to be verified by a conference call with a member of the Project Team or a visit.**

How submissions can be made

- In January 2018, all participating areas will have their benchmark data redistributed, with space to rescore the statements, and to add a commentary in support of any scores that have improved.
- In early February 2018, Local Area partnerships will be able to return the form, with supporting evidence and individual case studies
- **We would like all submissions (whether completed, or still “in action”, to be submitted by 23rd February, in order to compile a final project report to the DfE**

How submissions will be judged

- In late February-early March 2018, a panel consisting of Achievement for All and Association of Youth Offending Team Managers will meet to scrutinise the evidence
- In some cases, follow-up conversations and the submission of additional information will be requested. In other cases, a visit will be made by a member of the panel to verify the scoring
- Successful Area Partnerships will be informed by mid-March 2018
- Unsuccessful Area Partnerships will be given detailed feedback, encouraged to continue to improve practice, and resubmit at a later date

What happens if improvement planning has not been completed by March 2018?

If an area is unsuccessful in being awarded the Quality Mark on first submission, or improvement activity is still underway and yet to be completed, **the project team from Achievement for All and Association of Youth Offending Team Managers pledge to continue to support any area that participated in the original benchmarking process (however long it takes) and consider favourably any re-submission made after the funded contract finishes in March 2018.**

What happens if an area partnership wants to apply for a Quality Mark or Quality Lead, but did not participate in the original benchmarking process?

The project team are putting together a model process that will be sustainable after the contract ends. However, there will be a charge, as costs will need to be recovered.

Who can I contact to find out more?

Please email the project team: youthjusticesend@afaeducation.org

January 2018