

## Liaison and Diversion Pathway Project

### Sunderland YOS

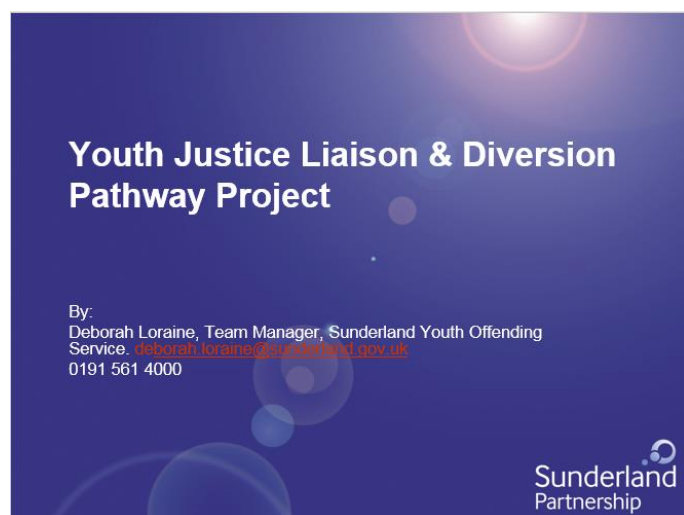
#### Key points:

- All young people 10-17 are offered L&D support, some within 48hrs of contact with youth justice system (regardless of offending history)
- Three stage process: identification (prioritisation process); screening (home grown tool); assessment (liaison with (and pathways to) partner agencies and services)
- Out of 523 successful screenings, 258 were identified as having unmet needs (thinking and behaviour, alcohol and substance misuse, parenting, education, mental & physical health, speech and language, children's services)

Following the Newcastle workshop, Peter Smith (Senior Practitioner Sunderland YOS) offered a case study and data based on local practice.

“Currently Sunderland offer all YP wherever and whenever they contact the criminal justice system screening using the tool forwarded to you earlier and this screening tool has been aligned to ASSET+; prevention services are in the process of coming under the YOS umbrella and this will enable the screening of YP who are offered community resolutions and are involved in ASB that has not led to formal or informal Police interventions. If my guesstimates are correct this will lead to a further 292 plus those offered community resolutions being screened.

Here are some PowerPoint slides that were correct as of September 2014, however they give a good overview of the operating model for Liaison and Diversion and the percentage of young people where unmet needs have been identified.”



## What is Youth Liaison & Diversion?

- **Diversion:** is early action so children and young people in trouble with the law get the right help, in the right place, at the earliest opportunity
- **Diversion:** can be action to avoid a young person coming into the youth justice system (*diversion away from the system*) or action to improve outcomes if they do come in or are already in (*diversion within the system*)
- **Liaison:** relies heavily on **partnership** work and a commitment to good liaison with others. This is crucial due to the wide range of services that could be involved through the criminal justice system.

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## 3 Stage Operational Model:

### Stage 1: Case Identification

- All children and young people coming into contact with the CJS will be **actively** offered L&D (regardless of offending history)
- The prioritisation process is based on risk /vulnerability indicators sourced from relevant databases (Education, Social Care, Youth Offending Service, Police and Health).
- Those young people with presenting key risk/vulnerability indicators will be prioritised and seen within 48hrs
- All young people will be offered an appointment in their home or suitable venue with their parents/carers present.

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## 3 Stage Operational Model:

### Stage 2: Screening

- Screening tool developed that identifies all relevant vulnerabilities; Physical Health, Mental Health, Substance Misuse, LD, ASD, SLCN, ABI & Safeguarding.
- Screening tool has been reviewed and approved with relevant professionals such as Speech and Language, Community Paediatric Team, CAMHS & Education Psychology Service
- L&D case managers have received training and had the opportunity to work alongside other professionals when using the screening tool

**NB:** Young people are predominantly screened in the community, but can be seen in the police cells or at court.

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### 3 Stage Operational Model:

#### Stage 3: Assessment

- Referral pathways have been established with the relevant partner agencies to ensure speedy access to services
- Relevant agencies complete further assessment and diagnosis in relation to relevant vulnerabilities
- Liaison with relevant partner agencies allows for case discussion re suitability of referral and /or advice for a referral to an alternative service
- Case Management process ensures young people are supported in accessing services and are engaged with the service before concluded



### Principles of the Youth L&D Project:

- At **every** point of arrest (despite stage in the CJS or repeat offending) a young person will be offered L&D service
- The majority of young people will be seen in the community with their parents present. Those who are seen in the Police cells or held for court, will have follow up community appointments
- **LAC** will be offered the same level of L&D service as any other child/young person, despite the extent of professional involvement
- Where vulnerabilities are identified young people will be **actively** offered support in **engaging** with services through the L&D process
- At **every** stage of the CJS, L&D staff will **liaise** with decision makers in respect of any vulnerabilities identified and present their view on what the young person requires to be dealt with effectively. This includes both Police and Magistrates (bail, charge and sentence)
- Making a Difference: as the Youth L&D sits within the YOS the outcome of L&D screening / assessment effectively informs how the young person is engaged through the court ordered intervention, adaptations made to ensure effective understanding by the Young Person



### Demographics of Young People in Sunderland:

	Demographics	YOS	L&D	Sunderland Baseline (11 to 16 years on)
GENDER	Male	82%	75%	48%
	Female	19%	25%	52%
AGE	10 - 14 years	18%	33%	-
	15 - 17 years	82%	67%	-
SEN	Statement	18%	11%	3%
	School Action Plus School Action	27% 18%	21% 16%	2% 9%
BME		3%	2%	6%
LAC		18%	14%	1.2%

Compare based on:  
YOS - young people given a substantive outcome during 01/04/2012 and 31/03/2014  
L&D - young people given Liaison Divison during 01/04/2012 to 31/03/2014  
Sunderland baseline - Secondary pupils, 11 to 16 years taken from School Census January 2014  
L&D Education Cohort - young people given Liaison Divison during Oct-Nov 2012 & Apr-Aug 2013  
L&D LAC - from April 12 to June 13



## Sunderland L&D Data Breakdown

Number of Young People Arrested:	1154
Referrals to L&D:	802 (69% of 1154)
Young people dealt with by Liaison Only:	143 (18% of 802)
Young people offered screening:	659 (82% of 802)
Unsuccessful screenings:	136 (21% of 659)
• Refused assessment:	51 (38% of 136)
• Home visits unmet:	85 (63% of 136)
Successful screenings:	523 (79% of 659)
• No current needs/needs already met:	265 (51% of 523)
• Unmet needs Identified:	258 (49% of 523)
• Declined support following screening:	92 (36% of 258)
• Accepted further support:	166 (64% of 258)

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## Referral Breakdown: unmet need / accepted support:

Thinking & Behaviour:	57
Alcohol & Substance Misuse:	40
Parenting:	39
Education:	33
Mental Health:	28
Physical Health:	7
Speech and Language:	5
Children Services:	3

**NB: some young people will be referred onto more than one intervention**

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## So What? ....

- L&D ensures at the earliest opportunity young people are screened and diverted appropriately
- Every young person screened will receive brief offending behaviour intervention (CBT), regardless of outcome of screener
- Young people and families are offered support at the earliest opportunity
- New & repeat offenders are given a chance at every opportunity to engage with relevant services with the aim of preventing further offending
- In the period 1.4.13 – 31.3.14 YJL&D project identified 258 of young people with unmet need
- YJL&D has broadened our understanding of why young people offend and how to effectively intervene to make a difference (and prevent further offending)
- YJL&D is now provided in a timely manner and can inform police decisions re bail & charge and Magistrates in relation to bail and sentencing

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Peter Smith also offered the screening tool that was specially developed in Sunderland in order to drive the process.

Sunderland Youth Justice Liaison Diversion (YJLD) Health Screening Questionnaire			
Young Person Details			
TRAINING TOOL			
Name:		Date:	Verbal Consent Tick if agreed <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender:	DOB:	Background checks Completed by:	
Address:		Tel No:	
Alleged Offence and date:		Arrest Outcome:	
Date Referred:	L&D Service Time:		
L&D Declined:	Appointment Date:		
Appointment Time:	Appointment: Booked Seen in Justice Setting Unknown		
Screening Undertaken Date:	Assessment Undertaken Date:		

CLICK on image to download

**KEY- where evidence can come from:**

<b>Green – Verbal / Direct questions</b>
<b>Pink - Observation</b>
<b>Yellow – Third Party / Parent / Other Professional</b>

### Contact Details

Sadly, due to a recent service reorganisation, Peter Smith no longer works for the YOS.

If you have any questions or queries:

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