

Serious Youth Violence multi- agency audit- Learning Outcomes

The audit reported on the themes arising from the individual practice of 5 cases, over the past 12 months. From the audit it was noted that all these children had experienced intervention prior to the beginning of 2022, and for some, this had been extensive multi-agency intervention.

The audit template for single agencies covered the key areas of safeguarding practice: thresholds and referrals; risk assessment, decision making and intervention; the quality of engagement with the child and the family; multi-agency working. The Independent Reviewer has had sight of the completed templates from some of the agencies.

The audit meeting on 13.03.2023 was attended by the following, who were also the auditors for their agencies:

- Children's Social Care – Service Manager, Children's Specialist Support Services (Adolescent Safeguarding Teams (AST) and Contextual Safeguarding Team (CST)) and Contextual Safeguarding Lead.
- Community Health safeguarding lead BEHMHT – (CAMHS, School Nursing, Health visiting, SLT) and YOS therapist
- Youth Justice Service, Head of Service.
- ICB Designated Nurse from NCL
- Police DCI.
- NUMH named nurse – to cover ED, Oasis Youth project outreach workers based at NMUH.
- CAMH safeguarding lead
- Two schools responded to request for information – the head and deputy from Orchardside Pupil Referral Unit attended for SYV004
- Independent Reviewer plus Business Unit colleagues

This comprehensive attendance allowed for a full frank discussion and analysis of practice.

Across the evidence found from the audit, there are some real strengths in practice but weaknesses in the safeguarding system leading to variability in the response to Serious Youth Violence and other extra familial risks.

Key learning points

1. Engagement and direct work to understand the children's lived experience in this audit appears to be a feature of good practice. Auditors identified these

good features to be tenacity and multiple attempts at engagement; focusing on building good rapport and regular engagement by the child; focussing on the child's interests e.g., boxing to support engagement; using specific tools as mentioned above to work with the child on risk.

2. The multi-agency network to explore the family's historical and current dynamics and patterns and how they are linked.
3. As identified in the [National Panel's report regarding this cohort](#) to respond to the child in the 'critical moments' are highlighted as crucial to safeguarding these children.
4. It was identified that good working relationships with familiar partner-colleagues supports the multi- agency response when working with serious youth violence.