



Serious Youth Violence Prevention in Coventry

March 2024



Responding to and preventing serious youth violence in Coventry is a city-wide aim, and an on-going initiative. Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership have asked fellow partners and agencies to highlight how preventative work is carried out in their organisations and what intervention measures are in place.

This summary will provide you with an understanding of how Coventry responds to serious youth violence.



Serious Youth Violence Prevention in Coventry

The following document represents information around serious youth violence prevention and intervention, with a view to better inform the Partnership on how serious youth violence is prevented city wide amongst agencies.

We have received responses from all of the below organisations.

Coventry Probation Services

University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW)

Coventry Youth Justice (CYJ)

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT)

Coventry City Council - Public Health

Coventry City Council - Education and Violence Reduction

Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Catch 22- County Lines Support and Rescue Service

Change Grow Live: Positive Choices

South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT)

Horizon Children's Services

St Giles Trust

West Midlands Police (WMP)

Positive Choices

Positive Youth Foundation



Table of Contents

Coventry Probation Services	Page 4
University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW)	Page 5
Coventry Youth Justice (CYJ)	Page 6
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT)	Page 9
Coventry City Council - Education and Violence Reduction	Page 11
Coventry City Council - Public Health	Page 13
Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)	Page 15
Catch 22 - County Lines Support and Rescue Service	Page 17
Change Grow Live: Positive Choices	Page 18
South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT)	Page 19
Children's Services	Page 20
St Giles Trust	Page 24
West Midlands Police (WMP)	Page 28
Positive Choices	Page 30
Positive Youth Foundation - Chances Programme	Page 31
Mountain Health Care SARC	Page 32
Glossary	Page 33
Appendix A	Page 34



Coventry Probation Services

Prevention

The Probation Service manages adult men and women (over the age of 18). A middle manager attends the monthly Coventry Serious Youth Violence Forum to keep abreast of any young people of concern who will transition over to the Probation Service from Youth Justice Service. A handover process is in place for individuals who transition from youth justice over to the probation service.

Evidence & Impact

The Ministry of Justice publish proven re-offending statistics, however there is a 2-year delay i.e., the re-offending rates that have been published most recently are for September 2021. This publication includes re-offending rates for both adults and juveniles (defined as those aged between the ages of 10 and 17 years old).

Intervention

Within the Probation Service, interventions have different eligibility criteria. These interventions are all for men and women over the age of 18 who are managed by the probation service.



University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW)

Prevention

All staff at UHCW receive Level 3 safeguarding children training every 3 years, in line with the current intercollegiate document. Staff in the Children's Emergency Department also have yearly mandatory updates, this includes a session from Peter Walker, St Giles team manager.

UHCW offer bespoke training for the Major Trauma team around serious youth violence and the safeguarding team also regularly receive alerts and updates from the major trauma team highlighting cases of any young patients of concern to the safeguarding team.

Intervention

St Giles are UHCW's main service for intervention. UHCW try to actively identify any individual who may be exploited or at risk of serious youth violence, particularly those under 18 years old. This allows the safeguarding team to attempt engagement with the young person and involve St Giles at the earliest opportunity, in many cases young people may not be attending due to being a victim of serious violence, but the young person may be a pathway of concern which could lead to serious youth violence.

The referral criteria to St Giles can be quite fluid and are often based on professional judgement regarding the presentation or information obtained during triage or assessment. This allows the St Giles youth workers to then speak with the young person and respond to concerns that staff have raised, but also, they are then well placed to explore any further concerns identified during this exchange.

Evidence & Impact

As UHCW do not deliver any interventions they are not able to describe or evidence any data of the referrals and signposting they do. However, St Giles aim is to see reductions in Emergency Departments, offending, gang activity & serious youth violence. Also improved knowledge of consequences; health & lifestyle, confidence – self-esteem and ability to say 'no'; improved family relationships; more positive leisure; and sport activities. UHCW will see an increased activity with liaison with the UHCW safeguarding team, which will also reflect in the number of children's services referrals completed and referrals of good quality.



Coventry Youth Justice Service (YJS)

Prevention

In February 2022, a diversion pathway was established for the Service for children who have been suspects in offences, but where the Police are taking no further action (NFA); this enables an earlier offer to these children, albeit on a voluntary basis where consent has been given and aims to support a reduction in racial disproportionality. This is in direct response to the learning from custody reviews around children having multiple NFAs before entering the youth justice system for a serious offence and going straight to custody.

In Coventry, the Community Safety Fund from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is used to fund 1 to 1 mentoring locally for children at risk of entering the youth justice system where there are significant exploitation/serious youth violence concerns and/or a Child Looked After.

The Youth Justice Service has led on developing a mentoring consortium (at the moment consisting of four providers) who have worked with the Service over a number of years. Mentors are available from 4 local organisations who offer a variety of lived experience, varying locations across the city and greater access to mentors from a black and or minority ethnic background.



Coventry Youth Justice Service (YJS) continued...

Evidence & Impact

The 2023-25 Youth Justice Plan outlines a new set of priorities and an updated vision for Youth Justice Services in Coventry for a two-year period.

This plan provides an updated picture on the work of the last year and reflects that, while the recent His Majesty Inspectorate of Probation Single Inspection saw an overall 'Outstanding' judgment, there remains much to do and a need to ever evolve in line with the needs of children, families, and victims of crime. The plan is presented using the template mandated by the Youth Justice. It further outlines: how we continue to engage/work collaboratively with children, families, and victims of crime; governance arrangements; partnership resourcing into the Service; our performance against key priorities; a youth justice analysis, current challenges, and risks; our emerging evidence base of best practice; and, how we continue to build on the developmental activities across the city in 2022/23 and learning areas identified through our recent inspection. For further information on the Service and evidence/impact see:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s58089/Coventry%20Youth%20Justice%20Plan%20-%202023%20-%202025%20Strategy%20-%20Appendix%201%20-%20Strategy.pdf>

The plan outlines a current research project with Loughborough University and the use of discourse within the youth justice system, which has seen children and practitioners be observed/recorded. Additionally, an external evaluation of diversion offers is currently underway, which is being completed by Dr Brian McShane.



Coventry Youth Justice Service (YJS) continued...

Intervention

Youth Justice Services were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with the principal aim being to prevent offending behaviour by children. The Act imposed a duty on each local authority together with its statutory partners, Police, Health, and Probation, to ensure that adequate Youth Justice Services are available in their area.

The key tasks of the service are:

- Management and delivery of community sentences
- Assessing and delivery of Out of Court Disposal interventions
- Assessing and delivery of diversion² support to children at risk of entering the Youth Justice System.
- Management and delivery of secure estate sentences and resettlement
- Servicing the Youth Court and Crown Courts (in terms of provision of the court team, Bail & Health Assessments, provision of Pre-Sentence Reports and Stand-down Reports)
- Parenting services and management of Parenting Orders
- Victim services



Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT)

Prevention

CWPT offer a RISE service that provides emotional well-being and Mental Health service for children and young people in Coventry and Warwickshire. The services that come under RISE are Dimensions, Mental Health in Schools, and Primary Care Teams. Looked After Children (LAC) Specialist Mental Health Services, Eating Disorders, Crisis and Home Treatment, Neurodevelopmental and Youth Justice service. There are CAMHS (child and adult mental health) workers known as YJS/RISE Early Mental Health (EMH), and Speech and Language Therapists who work within the Youth Justice service. CWPT has a Liaison and Diversion team offering a service at arrest supporting people through the early stages of the criminal system pathway and referring them to the most appropriate health or social care service.

Intervention

This quarter (Q3 2023) has seen a steep increase in young people coming into the youth justice service and hence an increase in referrals for the EMH team, therefore YJS EMH teams increased presence and participation in Rise services such as inductions and student taster sessions with Coventry University.

YJS RISE has participated in consultation/meetings regarding a singular young person to ensure that a trauma-informed service is being included in the CYJS intervention planning. The EMH team continues to provide a trauma-informed perspective at - Out of Court Joint Decision Panel, YODOC Panel (Youth One Day One Conversation), Support referral panel volunteers, the Parenting Friendship Group, and the monthly performance review. All Young People open to face-to-face support by the EMH team continue to undertake 'The Child and Youth Resilience Measure (CYRM) and the beginning and end of EMH support.



Coventry and
Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust





Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT) continued...

Evidence & Impact

The CIRV (community initiative to reduce violent) project is live as of May 2023. The model is: *a focused deterrence programme that seeks to identify the people most likely to be involved in violence and combines communicating the consequences of violence with support for developing positive routes away from it.*

While CIRV is Police led, it involves seconded children and family workers, mentors from St Giles and education/employment support from Prospects. The project is funded by the Youth Endowment Fund and impact of the program will be monitored as a requirement of the fund. Lessons learned from the project work will provide new insight into how Focused Deterrence programs can be adapted and adopted to reduce violent crime in the UK.



Coventry and
Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust






Coventry City Council – Education and Violence Reduction

Prevention

The city launched a 10-year Youth Violence Prevention Strategy in 2020, adopting a Public Health Approach to unite partners in addressing the root causes of violence and supporting those involved. Collaborating with the Regional Violence Reduction Partnership, several initiatives were piloted, but COVID-19 impacted delivery. The surviving initiative, Tizz Time, provides universal protective behaviours education for children aged 3 and up in specific areas. A joint post between the local authority and local police senior leadership team facilitates the implementation of the public health approach, influencing focus areas through data, and enhancing collaboration. Two summits in 2019 and 2020 led to the development of the 10-year strategy, reinforcing partners' commitment to combat serious youth violence. The Violence Reduction Partnership, in collaboration with Coventry, launched time-limited innovative initiatives like the #Ourhillfields social media campaign. Funding, such as from the Safer Streets fund (2019), supported various projects in Hillfields, including murals, children's games, and enhanced CCTV provision. Lately the City has benefitted from After School Chaperones in Hillfields and the Woodend/Moathouse Area, the project is known as Step Together.





Coventry City Council – Education and Violence Reduction continued...

Intervention

Tizz Time is a universal provision, but only for those attending nursery/school in the St. Michaels or WoodEnd/Moathouse Area. CIRV (community initiative to reduce violence) referral criteria are that the person must be aged 14 and above and live in Coventry (or have significant ties).

Evidence & Impact

Since the launch of the 2020 strategy many things have developed across the partnership, but primarily the biggest change is a stronger focus on working together. Examples of this are the Horizon team which has staff from a number of different disciplines including Health working with those at risk of Exploitation. The partners also hold a Serious Youth Violence meeting where the most high-risk young people are discussed, and information shared to ensure the partnership fully understand the risks and issues around these individuals.

Although is it impossible to point to one thing that has made the most difference, the incremental and flexible approach across the partnership has seen that the number of serious incidents including attendance at Accident and Emergency has been falling for the past 3 years.





Coventry City Council – Public Health

Prevention

In terms of Prevention, there are many different initiatives, programs and services that have been put in place.

Within schools there has been great success working with Round Midnight Theatre Company who have brought a VR (virtual reality) headset into the schools programmed with different choices. The scenario that they use for youth violence involves a decision around the young person being asked by a character to carry a weapon. The decisions can be monitored, and the outcome of the story differs depending on the user. Some of the schools within Coventry have had embedded workers from St Giles, and they work with target students in schools particularly around the transition between primary school and secondary school. Violence Reduction Partnership workshops and assemblies are also done within a range of schools in Coventry.

Another initiative for young people in Coventry is Music and Change which is run within the Coventry Boys and Girls Club.

Step Together is another initiative in place in which school chaperones are placed in key areas such as Hillfields to ensure the enhanced safety of the students.

Intervention

Coventry have the CIRV (community initiative to reduce violence) in place. CIRV is primarily designed to engage anyone over the age of 14 and connect them to an exit pathway from gangs, violence, and county lines. CIRV is uniquely accessible and unlike any other programme of support. It can be accessed via an online portal (the website is standalone and not linked to any statutory agency in order to promote neutrality), a mobile phone by voice, via text or WhatsApp facilities 24/7 – 365. The phone is staffed at all times so a referral can be made to an actual person anytime. In terms of who can refer this can be anyone. A concerned parent, the individual at risk themselves, schools, police, partners, whomever has a concern about an individual. Early intervention for target students has also been installed within the schools themselves.





Coventry City Council – Public Health continued...

Evidence & Impact

The impact of all of these preventative measures can be seen through the lowering of exclusion rates, as well as the referrals into CIRV. The impact of all of the initiatives may not be simple to evidence, however, the safety and wellbeing of the young people due to the workshops and safe initiatives is clear.





Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Prevention

The Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) is a specified authority regarding Serious Youth Violence. It is also a review Partner in the Offensive Weapons Homicide review process ensuring lessons are learned. Primary Care have had exploitation training delivered by the Horizon Team. Early Help practitioners have presented at learning events for GPs and Safeguarding Co-ordinators. Primary Care staff know how to refer into Early Help for support and are aware that key priorities include reducing child exploitation and tackling crime. The next Protected Learning Time conference theme is all age exploitation. ICB is a MAPPA (multi-agency public protection arrangement) core member at L2 and 3 and contribute to risk analysis and information sharing. The ICB is also a core member of the Violence Reduction Partnership Strategic Board.

History of Domestic Abuse is a risk factor for many children who are involved in serious violence. The ICB commissions the IRIS service (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) which is a Domestic Abuse training and direct referral provision for GP practices. As part of the IRIS provision Children of referred victims are highlighted and the Advocate Educators will make onward referrals for the Children and support parent to inform school.

The ICB secured funding for the Trauma/Vanguard project (positive directions) which has been extended for another year. A suite of resources has been made and are available for all on the Partnership website to enable the system to respond using a trauma informed approach. The project has also devised a social prescribing offer and funded AHPs (Allied Health Professional) within the youth justice service. The ICB joint funds with Public Health a Health Navigator post in the Horizon Team which adds a health lens and provides health information to aid analysis. Resources from NHSE, VRP (Violence Reduction Partnership) and others regarding serious youth violence are disseminated across the health system by the ICB. The ICB hosts the West-Midlands Trauma Vanguard, which an NHSE funded initiative to support young people who have experienced trauma and adversity.



Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) continued

Intervention

The ICB/Primary Care do not deliver interventions but do signpost to other services and/or organisations.

Evidence & Impact

The work done within the ICB in regard to serious youth violence would be difficult to measure. Potentially this could be evidenced through the referrals they submit to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) team or Early Help.

The Health Navigator, which is jointly funded by the ICB/Public Health, produces an annual report. There will be measurables through SVD delivery plan, however at this point in time it is in its early stages.



Catch 22 - County Lines Support and Rescue Service

Prevention

Catch 22 work with young people up to the age of 25 who are being exploited through County Lines. Their workers offer 1:1 support to the young people, and this will be specific to each individual. This will often involve awareness around exploitation, gangs, weapons, and drugs.

They are also offering group sessions that can be run in schools, community settings and residential homes and more. They also have Women and Girls Mental Health case workers, which helps us support a wider group of young people.

Intervention

As well as the 1-1 work they do with individual young people, Catch 22 also undertake rescues for any young person from the West Midlands found out of area in conditions related to County lines, with support from the Police in order to return them to a place of safety.

Someone being referred into the service would be involved in or at risk of county lines exploitation, however, Catch 22 will look at each referral on an individual basis and take into consideration vulnerabilities, attempting to refer them onto a suitable service should they not meet their criteria.

Evidence & Impact

Catch 22's work highlights to the young people the nature of exploitation on how they can be pulled into a lifestyle that they are not aware is even happening. They raise their awareness of the dangers associated with carrying weapons and drugs, not only from a legal point of view but the risks this puts them at in the community.

They have also supported young people into jobs, training, and various positive activities, this highlights that there are better options available to them and there are people in society willing to give them an opportunity.



Change Grow Live: Positive Choices

Prevention

Positive Choices has the emerging risk pathway for criminal exploitation (CE) in Coventry. Interventions are delivered on a 1-2-1 basis for young people at risk of CE.

Diversionary activities are provided to our young people to encourage them back into positive activities and help them to withdraw from CE or negative friendships.

Interventions are delivered to all our young people who have experienced or committed youth violence.

Positive Choices collocates in CYJ to support young people working with CYJ around the strands. All of the service offer is available to CYJ such as diversionary, ecotherapy and 1-2-1's.

Intervention

An exploitation screening tool needs to be completed on the young person prior to referral to be deemed as low risk by Horizon. Referrer gains consent for the young person to be contacted by an appropriate service such as Positive Choices to support with emerging risk of CE.

Positive Choices will accept referrals without an exploitation tool being completed to prevent delay in engagement but will encourage the referrer to complete this and will support where needed.

Positive Choices meets with Horizon daily to review screening tools.

Evidence & Impact

Positive Choices has seen some positive outcomes with young people at risk of CE via the diversionary activities particularly the boxing sessions. Positive Choices supported a family of young people who were at different levels of risk, all the young people returned to school, removed themselves from the friendship group and one young person trained to become an amateur boxer before gaining full time employment. This young person presented his story to the professionals attending the Public Health and Wellbeing awards.



South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT)

Prevention

South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT) offer level 3 safeguarding training around exploitation, and this includes information on serious youth violence. Including signs of exploitation and criminal exploitation and how this is linked to serious youth violence.

SWFT also have a safeguarding duty line and discuss staff concerns, offering advice and signposting as appropriate.

Staff within the trust, who are required to have safeguarding supervision are offered this via the safeguarding team. If serious youth violence is part of the discussion staff would be supported with recognition, and how to respond to it and report concerns.

Intervention

SWFT have recently recruited for a Coventry Health Exploitation Navigator, which is a brand-new post. The post is located within the Horizon Team, enabling the navigator to work collaboratively with other professionals. The purpose of this role is to collate, interpret and present a detailed analysis of relevant health information from a range of NHS Systems. This will contribute to triage, risk assessment and outcome decisions.

This role involves signposting and supporting for professionals working directly with exploited children across the partnership, this is a core function which will involve a holistic response to supporting young people.

The Health Exploitation Navigator also works alongside Public Health and the ICB (Integrated Care Board) at a strategic level by building and maintaining strong relationships and furthering service provision. This also includes creating annual reports and developing and maintaining a repository of services.

Evidence & Impact

SWFT have evidence of staff who have completed the Level 3 Exploitation training and keep records of all duty calls.



Children's Services

Prevention

Horizon work collaboratively to ensure children and young people who are deemed at risk of child exploitation are safeguarded. The Horizon Team:

- Provide timely and effective interventions with children and families to safeguard those vulnerable to child exploitation and serious youth violence.
- Apply pro-active problem solving to address the risks associated with victims, perpetrators and locations and ensure children and young people who are or may be at risk from child exploitation are safeguarded.
- Act against those intent on abusing and exploiting children and young people by prosecuting and disrupting perpetrators.
- To raise awareness and provide preventative education for the welfare of children and young people who are, or may be, exploited.

Horizon have been instrumental in supporting the partnership to manage risks posed to children within the city rather than requesting for children and their families to be moved, as Horizon recognise this approach can increase the risks to the child and family. When coordinated well the risk management plan is effective at targeting the perpetrators, increasing the safety within the community, and enabling the child/ren to remain close to their family network. There are times, when it is not safe for a family to remain within the city, or professionals have identified a circuit breaker to support in stabilising the child/ren's situation away from the harm. Out of city provisions are often expensive, not specialised in supporting children who are being exploited or not available when needed and results in high-cost placement that do not meet the needs of the child. In these instances, Horizon have been creative when exploring alternative options to care and commissioning services to provide interventions to the children and families within their home environment.

Horizon work in collaboration with several third sector agencies to contribute to the intensive intervention packages designed to increase the safety of young people at risk of child exploitation and serious youth violence to achieve the reduction in risks. These services and interventions include:

- Guiding Young Minds
- Mentoring Services
- Gym passes offered children deemed high risk of exploitation as a diversionary
- Step together programme



Children's Services continued...

Prevention continued...

- Co-working with West Midlands Police for targeted intervention to reduce crime.
- Out of court diversion – to offer young people.
- Turn around project.
- Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV)
- MAC Project (boys & girls club)
- Targeted intervention sessions with schools and pupils facilitated by Horizon Youth Workers, Child & Family Workers, and Adolescent Workers.
- Education around knife crime and hammer attacks which over the last twelve months has been a theme in Coventry.

Intervention

- Horizon is part of Responsive Services and work closely alongside the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and EDT (Emergency Duty Team).
- Horizon work with children and young people resident in Coventry aged between 10-18 years who are deemed at risk of child exploitation.
- Horizon accepts referrals directly from MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub) and via the internal transfer protocol from the Social Work Teams.
- Horizon work closely with the MASH to ensure a timely and robust response to new referrals involving children and young people deemed at risk of Child Exploitation is provided.
- Horizon and Youth Justice Service are routinely contacted and invited to MASH strategy meetings to ensure skilled practitioners can advise and support in timely decision making.
- Horizon provides Area Social Work Teams with information on pending referrals relating to Child Exploitation. This effective communication has enabled children and young people to receive a timely response and ensure safeguarding opportunities are implemented to assist in the reduction of potential risks identified.
- The ICB joint funds with Public Health a Health Navigator post in the Horizon Team which adds a health lens and provides health information to aid analysis.

Evidence & Impact

“Strong multi-agency working in the local authority protects children from exploitation. This is a real strength, with particularly strong links between children’s services and the police leading to effective mapping and disruption work. Children and young people who are at risk of exploitation receive thorough and timely assessments which lead to detailed plans, resources are used to help keep children safer”. June 2022 Ofsted Inspection Judgment.



Children's Services continued...

Evidence & Impact

Horizon has been identified as part of the pivotal change in the reduction of children entering custody. Youth Justice Service and Horizon collaboration is strong, with the development of one plan which feeds into the Youth Justice Service plan and the Child in Need plan. This compliments the overall approach to the child. There is effective communication and both teams work together to ensure children are seen daily when required.

Examples of collaborative practice:

- Joint planning for Serious Organised Crime Exploitation (SOCEX) implementation.
- SOCEX and Daily Missing Triage both have been judged as effective multi-agency arrangements to disrupt exploitation and serious youth violence.
- The Child Exploitation and Missing Persons Group (CEMOG) focusing on perpetrators and locations. This panel has been effective at identifying disruption opportunities including a warrant being executed at a location that had been cuckooed by gang nominals known to use violence. This approach safeguarded several young people and young adults.
- Robust oversight of serious youth violence victims and perpetrators to identify and implement appropriate services to meet the needs and risks.
- Joint training plan for contextual safeguarding. The impact of the training supported the development and implemented of a coordinated plan for child where there were concerns regarding exploitation/offending. The problem location was identified, with a coordinated plan for disruption, GYM (Guiding Young Minds) bus offering mentoring, daily plan and walk arounds to locations with Youth Justice Service (YJS)/Horizon to try and see the child. The child is now engaged and had a significant reduction in missing episodes.
- Through Our Eyes Session of which the Horizon Child & Family Worker supports YJS. The Child Exploitation Co-ordinator led on creating questions for the Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment for Through Our Eyes. Various feedback on takeaways, use of honey trapping and so forth that has fed into the needs assessment.
- Horizon monthly report is disseminated across YJS and supports around intelligence triangulating through themes/trends across the city.
- Complex mapping across Warwickshire and YJS to support around detection and planning for county lines disruption.
- Robust tracking of incidents to identify themes, trends and the implementation of place-based interventions that disrupt and prevent further incidences of serious youth violence.



Children's Services continued...

Additional Information:

- Horizon work with young people and their families to increase safety and reduce the risks within the community. This approach focuses on tackling the harm outside the home and utilising parents and carers as part of the safeguarding arm.
- This engagement style has been received positively by young people, parents/carers, and partner agencies. Horizon ethos is very much, where it is safe to do so keeping young people within their family home/network provides better outcomes for them in the long term.
- Horizon work creatively with partner agencies to enhance the community wrap-around support packages to keep children at home safely while disruption against perpetrators occurs.



St Giles Trust

Prevention

Midland's SOS+ are embedded in 7 schools across Coventry and Wolverhampton, along with YOT (Youth Offending Team) in Walsall and Wolverhampton too.

Their embedded staff work with those who the schools highlight as being on the periphery of crime. These are one to one sessions and work include:

- Knife crime
- Violence
- County Lines
- Grooming
- Gangs
- Attitudes and consequences etc

All of this work has ongoing reviews (children are seen in the school weekly), the child is involved at every stage where they input and if staff feel they are at risk, the actions plan will be adapted to support individualised needs. They also complete school assemblies on the areas the school highlight as the need for particular year groups. As well as this they deliver to parents, and professionals to upskill them on current trends in their areas to be aware of, along with warning signs as to what their children may be involved in / how to spot involvement. (Deliver to Police, parents, guardians, teachers, and additional professional cohorts).

Two staff are embedded in YOT and complete the embedded work with the clients that YOT send to them for additional support. Clients tend to open up to St Giles staff due to their lived experience, the rapport that they build and because they are not seen as authority.

Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) is a West Midlands Police focused deterrence programme available in Coventry & Wolverhampton. Focus deterrent is a strategy that seeks to identify the people most likely to be involved in violence and combines communicating the consequences of violence with support for developing positive routes away from it.

St Giles Mentors have been commissioned to deliver the mentoring element of the programme. Credible competent mentors will provide intensive 1-1 wrap around mentoring to help prevent and divert clients engaged in or thought to be at risk of involvement in gang and youth violence. The service will offer holistic and adaptable support for families where applicable as part of a structured and proven programme of work.



St Giles Trust continued...

Intervention

Desist & Transform provides a single community outreach service supporting YPs (young people) impacted, at risk or involved in youth offending, gangs, county lines etc. in Coventry aged 11-25. It has combined staffing resources from the previous Police Custody and Young Adults Resettlement service. This has created a service that has a twofold approach – early intervention/prevention divisionary mentoring support for CCE & CSE, providing an intervention during the ‘Teachable Moment.’ Desist & Transform offers mentoring/case working support to ensure YP’s are linked in with key services, increase their social capital, change their perspective, increase their confidence, and provide opportunities to engage in positive activities. Community Caseworkers will be working locally in the community within a multi-agency network to engage and support YP’s to divert them away from further involvement with the police and back into positive activities.

Expect Respect Coventry Are Supporting young females 18 years and under on the periphery, or entrenched within Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), gangs, county lines, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). To address this growing need, they will provide a 360-degree service that includes training for professionals, prevention and early intervention and support.

ST Giles Trust A & E Coventry: The caseworkers will engage with the injured young people as soon as they are in a stable condition and start the processes of working with them.

The aim of the intervention service is to offer timely and tailored support to young people, under 25 years of age, who have been a victim of a violent attack (youth, gang, and domestic violence) and have attended the A&E department, supporting them to establish lifestyles that move them away from gang activity, violence, crime, and victimization. Post discharge support is offered to ensure young people are linked in with key services. Work continues with every young person in the community following their discharge from hospital.



St Giles Trust continued...

Evidence & Impact

Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) & Desist & Transform

- Through the work they conduct they are able to empower young people to make better decisions, reduce their risk and vulnerability.
- They have seen a reduction in re-offending, improvement in school attendance and attainment, reduction in missing episodes, raised awareness of exploitation, reduction in substance/alcohol misuse, improved relationships with families, reduction of involvement with negative peers and exit from gangs and county lines.

ST Giles Trust A & E Coventry:

- To-date there have been sixty-five referrals received for those young people attending Coventry A&E.
- Many of the referrals are still related to physical attacks such as knives and guns and this has shown an overall increase in violent crimes. There has been an increase in stabbings in Coventry and since April 2023 there have been three shootings in the city. There is also evidence of targeted attacks following road traffic collisions (RTC).



St Giles Trust continued...

Additional Information:

St Giles Trust case workers are equipped.....

- The caseworkers often have lived experience of the same issues that our clients are facing, and they will be seen as a credible source of advice and guidance and a real-life positive alternative to the street narrative.
- They have seen from experience that even the young people most reluctant to engage come to see their St Giles Caseworker as someone who really understands what they are going through.
- Each Caseworker offers tailored support to their client's individual needs.
- They will provide young people with positive, consistent, and trusted role models.
- All caseworkers hold a DBS level that relates to the client group and activity undertaken.
- Caseworkers are trained to L3 Advice & Guidance

Typical projects provide support on:

Practical issues:

- Positive activities - new skills/hobbies/life skills
- Financial advice and support caused by leaving home/care.
- Careers advice: setting alternative goals.
- Safe exiting
- Safe spaces to express self.

Emotional issues:

- Healthy relationships: able to identify negative and positive lifelong friendships, providing them with the ability to recognize peer pressure and the grooming process within friendships.
- Empowerment.
- Resilience
- Instilling confidence and self-respect
- Promoting positive familial relationships.
- 1:1 professional counselling

St
Giles



West Midlands Police

Prevention

Hot spot locations have been identified and shared via schools' panels. The Step together project is a Home Office funded initiative that provides chaperones along school's routes after school. Data tells us that under 25 violence peaks in the hours after school, therefore the chaperones play a vital role in keeping children safe, diffusing incidents, and raising safeguarding concerns. They also try and engage with local children to encourage them to participate in activities provided in the local area e.g., football, youth clubs etc. There are a number of step-together projects across the city at key locations which are funded.

There are a number of Youth IAG's (Independent Advisory Group) across the city which have recently been developed. This piece of work is in its infancy but is already proving to be valuable. A number of the young people attended the Force Youth summit and shared their views.

They now use schools' officers to great effect across the whole city. Evidence of this can be seen at the school's partnership meetings where SLT (School Leadership Team) representatives from both schools and the police as well as operational staff from both organisations meet regularly to discuss issues.

Intervention

Coventry has a Socex partnership hub, County Lines and Gangs team. There are designated 4 P plans in place (Pursue, Prevent, Protect & Prepare). Daily multi agency triage process to identify those at risk of exploitation and appropriate intervention, alongside SIPOS (School Intervention & Prevention Officer) who work closely with the DSLs to identify those at risk, appropriate referrals submitted and then triaged to identify most appropriate intervention.

CIRV has been introduced to Coventry in April 2023. Targeted Guardian Patrols (TGP's) have been developed as a result of extensive analytical work around data for Youth Violence across the force. Specific areas have been identified with five located in Coventry.

Multi -agency professionals' meetings are conducted in respect of any young person who is deemed appropriate for a MAPPA/PDP (Potentially Dangerous Persons) referral. A MAPPA screening will be completed.





West Midlands Police continued...

Evidence & Impact

The work within the West Midlands Police regarding Serious Youth Violence can be measured in several ways:

- Reoffending rates for managed cohort. – a reduction in reoffending rates would show the impact of the work with the individuals.
- Reduction in SYV within hotspot areas. – this would evidence and show the impact of the work in targeted areas within Coventry.



Positive Choices

Prevention

Positive Choices was a Youth Music funded project led by Coventry Music within a broad ranging partnership that sought initially with a range of 240 at risk young people in the 11 to 16 age ranges. The focus of the project was delivered in four secondary schools in the city with the intention of producing music and growing the skills of young people who may have been at risk to youth violence.

Intervention

Each school has through the project created music videos that have been recognised in the city and distributed amongst professionals as a positive intervention.

The programmes delivered across the Extended Learning Centre and mainstream schools hosting Positive Choices, aim to incorporate youth led music making through contemporary accessible resources and instrumentation. Through the programmes, links are made to careers within the music industry via Coventry Music Hub partners, and signposting, where possible, to Coventry Music groups for progression opportunities and performances. Examples include recording sessions at Coventry University, video creation with Studio X, ran by Jay 1's producer Coolie and opportunities to perform at Godiva Festival and other high-profile events.

Evidence & Impact

Over the past 6 years, music provision in the Coventry Extended Learning Centre settings has grown from 5 hours per week, to 20 hours of delivery, with most students accessing individual or group sessions. The Positive Choices programme has engaged with a total of four secondary school schools during the past 2 years, with individuals identified as at risk accessing the after-school music making programme supported by several community-based Hub partners, including Media Mania, Studio X, and The Tin Music & Arts. Coventry Music's investment into additional instrumentation, studio equipment, and resources has also supported music specialists working with vulnerable children and young people.



Positive Youth Foundation – Chances Program

Prevention

Coventry Education lead on running the Chances program. This project is commissioned by Coventry City Council and delivered by the Positive Youth Foundation. The overall aims of the program are: Improving School Attendance and Physical Literacy, Supporting the reduction of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or At Risk of NEET Status, and Supporting the reduction of Offending and Reoffending.

Intervention

Positive Youth Foundation deliver a programme called Chances which is essentially personal development support in 1:1/Small group settings as well as transitioning into the wider programmes offered at PYF. Outcomes include potential volunteering/work experience placements, accreditations, support in increasing school attendance and reducing youth offending.

Schools refer into the programme and if the young person is willing, they can supported through the Chances programme. Each Young person will complete an Individual Action Plan (IAP) with up to 12 months support.

Eligibility:

- Ages 10-17: Who have been either excluded or have had an attendance of less than 60% in the previous full school term.
- Ages 13-17: Any young people between the ages of 13 and 17 who are at risk of becoming a NEET young person.
- Ages 16-17: Young people who are either 16 or 17 and have a NEET Status
- Young Offender: Offenders who have been arrested twice or less in the last 12 months, or are subject to Out of Court Disposal, Community orders or Post Custody License.

Evidence & Impact

There are many young people on the program receiving support, interventions and training looking to improve their outcomes. The Programme is an evidence-based activity programme based on 20 years of research with organisations across the UK.



Mountain Health Care – Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

The West Midlands Regional Children and Young People Sexual Assault Service

The regional service cares for children from birth to 17 years old and 18 to 25-year-olds who present with complex needs. The Hub is located at Willow Tree SARC in Wednesbury.

The comprehensive range of services include:

- Immediate crisis support
- Comprehensive history taking and risk assessment
- Forensic Medical Examination
- Holistic Examination (non-recent cases: 22 days onwards following assault)
- Injury check
- Access to pregnancy testing, emergency contraception
- HIV PEP risk assessment & Hepatitis B vaccine
- Sexual health screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- Referral to local GUM services (over 13s)
- Access to specialist counselling support
- Access to an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor
- All children and young people who attend the service will be safeguarded.

All children under the age of 13 must be referred to the service by Police or Social Care.

APPOINTMENTS & REFERRALS

24/7 TELEPHONE TO MAKE AN
APPOINTMENT
0808 196 2340

Glossary

CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation.
Child and Youth Resilience Measure (CYRM)	The CYRM is a self-report measure that assess resilience across three domains: personal, relational, and contextual.
Child In Need Plan (CIN)	A CIN Plan is drawn up following a Single Assessment which identifies the child as having complex needs and where a coordinated response is needed in order that the child's needs can be met.
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation.
Dimensions	The Dimensions of Health and Well-being is a free online tool for providing self-care information to support adults, children and young people in Coventry and Warwickshire.
Exploitation Screening Tool & Guidance	https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/6695/child_exploitation_indicator_tool
Intercollegiate Document	The Intercollegiate document provides a clear framework which identifies the competencies required for all healthcare staff.
MAPPA	MAPPA stands for Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements – a set of arrangements established by Police, local authorities, prison service and health known as the Responsible Authorities, to assess and manage the risk posed by certain offenders.
Ministry Of Justice	The Ministry of Justice is a major government department at the heart of the justice system.
Out of Court Disposal Panel	The Out of Court Disposal Panel is a multi-agency decision making panel that aims to divert children from future involvement in the criminal justice system.
Parenting Order	Courts are required to consider issuing a Parenting Order where a child under the age of 16 has been convicted of an offence.
Prospects	Prospects is a careers advice and guidance service for young people who are Not In Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
Tizz Time	Tizz Time is a play based; protective behaviours-infused programme of sessions developed for delivery with children in early years.



Appendix A

YJS Mentoring Offers:

Summary on the experience of the organisation and facilities for the four mentor providers.

Positive Youth Foundation –

We have over 20 years' experience of delivering mentoring programmes and supporting young people who have experience of the CYJS.

Our robust recruitment, selection and training programme ensures we have appropriate and credible staff members and volunteers delivering programmes to a high standard. This is a vital element of our organisation's supervision and support offer to all our delivery team who work with young people.

The potential team consists of 7 staff, including 2 Programme Managers, 2x Programme Leads and 3x Youth Workers who are all able to provide mentoring support for individual young people.

All our mentors have been through a rigorous recruitment process and induction into our service, this includes safeguarding training, managing, and challenging behaviour, engaging with hard-to-reach young people. During the recruitment process we check that the staff that we recruit are representative of the people we work with and have lived experiences of challenges our young people face. We also check that they are suitability qualified and are willing to undertake additional training and as an organisation we are committed to staff CPD.

We record and track the qualifications our staff undertake and there are currently over 70 different qualifications that staff have completed. Our mentoring team have completed qualifications such as:

- Mental Health First Aid
- Protective behaviours
- ACE's training
- Trauma informed practise.


Our team of mentors have delivered mentoring to a variety of young people living in challenging circumstances and have participated in several, local, regional, and even national programmes. These have included the Coventry Youth Crime Prevention programme and are currently part of a multisite mentoring trial funded by the Youth Endowment Fund and lead by the Centre for Evidence and Implementation which focuses on young people at risk of crime.

The staff are well versed in working in partnership with others and taking on referrals from statutory bodies including Early Help and CYJS, understanding the requirements around effective communication and providing information, reports and working to deadlines.

Our mentoring practice model outlines consists of the following elements:

how we recruit mentors and young people. It



- 
- Recruitment
 - Screening and onboarding
 - Training for mentors
 - Matching and initiation
 - Support Closure

Our approach to mentoring is to focus on asset-based mentoring so that we can be more proactive and productive with the young people we support which will hopefully lead to less of the young people we work with reaching crisis point. This allows to focus on the young person in a positive perspective rather than starting with a deficit that something is wrong and needs correcting.

Most of our delivery is from our purpose-built youth centre that has received a makeover in recent years which was designed by young people to ensure its relevance and purpose. We deliver a variety of activities from the youth centre for young people aged 8 – 25 and have facilities onsite such as a gym, music studio, commercial kitchen, classrooms, games room with computer consoles, access to digital equipment, table tennis, outdoor MUGA, pool and more.

Young people will be able to access these activities and will be encouraged to attend other programmes we deliver, such as youth clubs, community sports sessions, and targeted sessions such as our NCS programme or ESOL support. We have more than 50 different sessions being delivered from our youth centre each week, Monday – Saturday with the centre usually staying open from 9am – 8pm.

All sessions are delivered by PYF's experienced youth workers who are fully vetted, trained, and experienced in engaging young people who are known to the CYJS.


Aptitude – Summary:

The organisation has a Mentoring Programme Leader who will oversee the referrals and organise the planning and logistics for the session. They may themselves work directly with the young person, or co-ordinate one of our other Youth Work Mentors to deliver the session, all of our staff are trained and qualified in Youth Work, Mentoring, Safeguarding, First Aid and a range of Sports qualifications such as street dance, yoga, kickboxing, taekwondo, gym instructor, fitness etc.

Staff who will work on this project will have no less than 3 years' experience of direct work with young people in a community setting and an understanding of the trauma which a young person in the youth justice system may have been through, as well as knowledge of risk and protective factors for a young person when considering the Mentoring approach, location, activity, time of day etc.

The staff already work for Aptitude Youth Work (Aptitude Organisation CIC) and work across other projects such as Youth Clubs, Community Sport Sessions, Holiday clubs and would be able to support a young person to be integrated across to these at the end of the maximum 10 Mentoring sessions.

The organisation as a whole has JNC Qualified Youth Workers with over 15 years' experience who lead the organisation, we are also a regional training provider for Youth Work Accredited courses.



We have a range of facilities and venues which are available to use for the Mentoring sessions:

1. CV6 3EX RADFORD Always have access to The Crez Youth Space at Jubilee Crescent

Community, where we have a music studio, pool table, youth club space for 121 sessions,

art/crafts. Upstairs a fitness studio where we can do street dance, yoga, taekwondo, or other fitness activities.

2. CV2 1EQ WOOD END, Moat House Family Hub - varied availability daytimes usually 9am-5pm upstairs with a kitchen for cooking sessions

3. CV6 4BT HOLBROOKS – Kickboxing sessions various times daytime

4. CV1 3JQ SPON END, Apollo Gym at the Arches Industrial Estate – fitness and access to gym equipment, various time daytime.

The interests of the young person and location which best suit the young person will be considered which can be done in collaboration with their case manager to find the most suitable activity, place, and time.

Coventry Boys and Girls Club – Summary:

John Bernard

John Bernard is a multifaceted artist, known for his work in poetry and rap. From collaborating with Palm Angels to making appearances on BBC platforms and performing at prestigious events such as Formula 1 and the Virgin London Marathon, his work has garnered recognition and acclaim. Additionally, John's also worked with theatres such as the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) further highlighting his versatility as an artist, demonstrating his ability to engage with a wide spectrum of creative endeavours.

Howard Richards

Howard is a Mentor and empowerment coach, drawing upon his personal experiences and knowledge, to positively impact the lives of young people. Howard is passionate about young people and has developed core skills to enable him to engage with young people from all walks of life. Specialising in fitness and music, Howard supports young people from all over the West Midlands to build their skills in both life and industries.

Jack Carrigan

Jack is a dedicated youth worker and mentor with a specialization in kickboxing and MMA. He collaborates closely with Howard on after-school activities and holds the position of head at CBGC's open access youth sessions. In this role, Jack skilfully manages a team to ensure that the young individuals who join is during the week find a welcoming and enjoyable environment. Furthermore, Jack plays a pivotal role in our school delivery program, actively engaged in working with numerous schools throughout Coventry.



Grace Boylin

Grace is recording, mixing, and mastering engineering who works with young people to help them gain skills and a career in music. Grace has achieved a BA in music production and is now studying an MA in the same subject to further her knowledge. Grace has experience working with analogue equipment and mixing desks as well working digitally.

DieuMerci Emmanuel

Dieu Merci is a youth worker who works with youth people at the club and in schools. Dieu Merci has experience working with the youth aged 7-18 whether that's one to one's or group activities. Dieu Merci specialises in sports and coaching.

George Ndegwa

George is a self-taught producer, songwriter, and engineer, who branched from attending as a young person at the club to becoming a staff member, mentoring, and providing musical advice and guidance for the young people at CGBC in and out of studio sessions. He has a background in drumming and producing for local/affiliated artists and young people around Coventry and is happy to help in any way possible.

Joe Beesley

Joe is a musician, producer and sound engineer who works in a variety of genres, from Hip-Hop, Funk, Jazz to Electronic music. He has experience working with a wide range of musicians/artists in the studio and has been engineering and producing music since 2017. Joe also works with young talent in the city, mentoring artists and producers through Media Mania and the MAC project.

Credo Kampeta

Coventry bred producer/multi-instrumentalist/songwriter/composer/engineer/mentor. Driven by a passion to create tools for people to heal, feel grow & live. Youth charities were a huge turning point growing up; facilitating key opportunities and nurturing essential values that were significant contributors to the current successes found; performing alongside a 100-piece orchestra & choir, performing at Godiva festival and the support for university applications.

Panashe Dahwa

Nash has embarked on a dynamic creative journey that spans collaborations with established artists, music releases, and performances at renowned events. Widely recognised for their exceptional lyrical talents, Nash has contributed their songwriting prowess to various artists within the city and beyond. Their invaluable contributions to the local music scene have made them a sought-after mentor and a driving force behind the development of emerging talent.

At Coventry Boys & Girls Club, we take pride in offering a versatile venue for all of our young people's needs. Whether we're planning a meeting, sports event, or creative workshop, our facility has the perfect space to accommodate any requirements. Here's a brief overview of the various room spaces and amenities available:

- Meeting Rooms:



- Multiple meeting spaces equipped with essential amenities.
- Perfect for corporate meetings, workshops, and seminars.
 - Indoor Sports Area:
 - Fully-equipped space for indoor sports enthusiasts.
 - Includes facilities for basketball and football.
 - Boxing Ring:
 - Dedicated boxing space with a professional ring and equipment.
 - Ideal for training, sparring, and boxing events.
 - Dance Studio:
 - Spacious studio featuring mirrors and ballet poles.
 - Perfect for dance classes, rehearsals, and creative movement.
 - Music Studio:
 - State-of-the-art music studio with two recording booths.
 - A wide array of musical instruments available for use.
 - Sports Hall:
 - Versatile sports hall accommodating football, tennis, and basketball.
 - Suitable for sports competitions and practice sessions.
 - Coffee Shop Area:
 - A cozy corner for relaxation and refreshments.
 - Ideal for networking and socializing during events.
 - Youth Rooms:
 - Various youth-oriented spaces featuring arts and crafts areas.
 - Equipped with pool tables for recreational activities.
 - Why Choose Coventry Boys & Girls Club?
 - Flexibility: Our diverse range of rooms and facilities cater to various project types and sizes,
 - ensuring have the right space for the right activity.
 - Professionalism: Our team is dedicated to providing excellent service and assistance to make our
 - youth sessions a success.

- **Central Location:** Located in the heart of Coventry, we are easily accessible, making it convenient for our young people to attend the sessions we put on for them.

Guiding Young Minds – Summary:

The mentoring for this service will be provided by Anton Noble.

Anton Noble is an Urban Youth Specialist in Gang culture and Youth violence. He is himself an ex-offender who was previously involved in street gangs but has been away from the gang culture for more than 12 years now. Having broken away from his own past, his 'lived experience' enables him to relate well to troubled young people and he is now acknowledged as one of the UK's leading youth mentors, advisor, mediator, and Gang Exit Strategist. Anton leads an organisation called Guiding Young Minds, which offers mentoring and specialist therapy to young people involved in Gang activity and serious youth violence or who are caught up in exploitation and organised crime.

Anton is also a motivational and transformational speaker. He won the Most Inspirational Male Role Model of the Year 2019; the Windrush 2nd generation champion Award 2022 and The West Midlands High sheriff 2023 award. He featured in the Channel 4 documentary 'Britain's Young Drug Runners' and has frequently spoken on BBC News and radio stations about how to tackle knife crime. He was also the advisor for the Hollyoaks county lines story.

Anton has in-depth knowledge of the language, dialects, slang, phrases, and codes used within gang culture by different gangs or those involved in drug related crimes and can interpret and explain these to help professionals understand specific terms related to criminal activities.

Anton is very knowledgeable about the workings of organized criminal networks involved in the illegal drug trade across different areas and jurisdictions. He has first and second-hand experience in these areas and can provide insights into the tactics, operations, recruitment methods, and communication channels used by County Lines networks. He has also undertaken training in trafficking; exploitation and modern slavery and Disguised Compliance, has knowledge of the relevant laws and procedures and can provide expert testimony in criminal cases involving county line; knife crime and criminal operations. This expertise also enables him to attend court and testify as a mentor, supporting legal teams to develop effective strategies regarding risk management and preventative future interventions.


Guiding Young Minds is at heart therapeutic service which recognises that young people caught up in gangs and knife crime have often experienced adverse childhood events. Trauma-focussed interventions are therefore delivered as part of mentoring if needed, and Anton has undertaken training in trauma-focussed cognitive behavioural therapy to enable this and enable him to help young people who have suffered trauma.

Anton's specialised knowledge, experience and expertise in understanding gangs and gang strategies enables him to implement programmes and strategies aimed at preventing gang involvement and to provide support to individuals at risk of joining gangs as well as to those already immersed in gang culture.

As well as extensive experience as with expert testimony, Anton's

a gang mentor and providing the court work experience has included





working with CIRV (Community initiative to reduce violence), serving on the Coventry Youth Justice Service Shadow Board and working as a Designated Safeguarding Lead. He is first aid trained and trained in using bleed kits in emergency situations. We can confirm that he will be able to provide 1 to 1 mentoring to Children referred by the CYJS, agreeing the number, frequency and location of sessions, and activity to be used in line with the needs of the young person, and will invoice as required by the referrer.

Mentoring provided to young people does not take place in a specified location, but in varied locations to meet the young person's needs. We are very aware that a young person may not have transport to get to a pre-specified venue, therefore all GYM mentors travel themselves to meet the young person. Support may be provided in a young person's own home, at an agreed community venue, or out in the community if the session involves a particular activity, e.g. sports.

The community is important to a young person's development and progression and very influential on their lives. When young people are involving themselves or being groomed into negative behaviours it is vital that more positive activities are identified within their community which will take their interest and motivate them to move away from more negative alternatives. Our mentors are also very aware that most young people do not engage by simply sitting talking, therefore effort is made to engage the young person in activities with interest and motivate them, as part of the mentoring provision. The aim, as the mentor engages alongside their mentee in an activity of choice, is to show the young person that there are wider possibilities in life than the negative behaviours they have been engaged in. We seek to motivate and inspire them, so encouraging them to make more positive lifestyle choices.

We are also very aware that outside of regular sessions with their mentor, young people have a whole week to fill with either positive or negative activities.

Guiding Young Minds deliver a range of different youth activities during the week, including 4 different youth clubs in high crime areas across the city, which are funded by the police; the Youth justice service; different local communities and churches:


- Escape youth club, St Chad's church in Woodend- every Monday 6pm to 7.30pm
- Escape youth club, Mosaic family Hub in Tile hill: - fortnightly on a Tuesday 6pm to 7.30pm
- Escape youth club in Canley community centre - every Thursday 6pm to 7.30pm
- Escape Youth club in St Peter's church Hill fields: - fortnightly on a Thursday 3pm to 5pm

As well as regular youth club activities, each youth club also arranges regular day trips, for example to sports or trampoline venues, for which transport is provided. We have also arranged bicycle trips to Coombe Abbey Country Park.

All these youth clubs are open to our mentees to attend. However, GYM understands the postcode wars and the division that is happening with our younger generation. So, to keep our young people safe, we work with them to enable them to attend the youth club(s) which will best support them.

As well as the youth clubs GYM also has a youth outreach bus, which travels to different communities where there is a lack of youth provision. The bus





transports a variety of sports and games equipment, which is set up in each area for the use of local young people without cost. Coventry council has given us a key and permission to access all the parks in Coventry, which we do in school holidays as well as during after school hours. These outreach sessions serve to raise awareness around gangs and knife crime and provide opportunities for young people to talk to the youth workers, either one to one or in groups, as well as engaging in the activities and sports on offer.

The youth Bus can travel anywhere in Coventry and is funded either by the police; the Youth justice service; different local communities; Langar aid, Pet-xi, West Midlands PCC and Mcdonalds. It is always promoted on our social media when the youth bus will be around.

As well as youth clubs and outreach sessions, GYM deliver school workshops and assemblies during term time and HAF programmes during school holidays around Coventry. These programmes support families with low incomes and children with special needs. We currently also have plans in place for expanding these programmes, to make them available to young people whose families do not meet the HAF criteria.

We believe strongly in engaging young people in positive activities as an alternative to negative ones, to motivate them towards a different and more positive lifestyle. Many of the activities provided by GYM would not normally be accessible to young people from low-income families. All the above are available to our mentees in Coventry, both between sessions during the mentoring period and after mentoring has concluded.