



Schools & Youth

PROPOSAL FOR NEW STRUCTURE AND OPERATING MODEL FOR SAFER SCHOOLS
TEAM.

SAFER SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2024/25 – MPS CHILDREN'S STRATEGY

KEY ISSUES

- ▶ A safeguarding gap has been identified for those students/YP who are not being actively managed by another safeguarding team (such as CET/Gangs/CAIT etc.) Where a risk has still been identified for these YP and it is possible/likely that they will come to the attention of a safeguarding team in the future. We believe that this gap can and should be filled by the Safer Schools Team (for students who attend a school on our Borough).
- ▶ Ongoing engagement/management and oversight of these children could prevent further/future involvement in criminal activity as either a victim or suspect.

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Safer Schools Team to bridge this gap by engaging with these YP and actively managing them from a police perspective.
- ▶ Meet the MPS Children's strategy to help protect and support children, both in schools and the wider community by prioritising their safety, wellbeing and trust in the police as a community partner.
- ▶ Protecting children from harm
- ▶ Supporting YP to make positive choices
- ▶ Building trust between YP and the police
- ▶ Working collaboratively with schools & communities.

WHAT WILL THE NEW SAFER SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP LOOK LIKE?

- ▶ Regular engagement with YP who meet the threshold. This could be meeting them in school settings or home visits. Regular engagement with school DSL's to best understand the situation and what may work.
- ▶ Signposting and referral to intervention & engagement opportunities.
- ▶ Collating/requesting a research package on those YP so we can effectively share information with partners and understand the risk.
- ▶ Identify potential threats to student safety and help implement preventative measures. This could involve identifying specific threats whereby police action may be necessary and/or assisting with safety plans.
- ▶ Speaking to YP and families to help them appreciate the risk and confirm/advise on how to safeguard the YP.
- ▶ Liaise with other partners to help identify and manage risk (this will lead to an increased attendance at STRAT/CIN and potentially CP meetings).
- ▶ Investigating and sharing relevant information regarding risks to YP. This could be visiting locations where children may be getting exploited and/or assisting other departments, such as providing information to close down cuckooed addresses etc.

THRESHOLD FOR REFERRAL

- ▶ Student at risk of permanent exclusion
- ▶ Student at risk of high harm offences, as a victim or suspect (including VAWG and sexual offences)
- ▶ Student at risk of exploitation (this would be the relevant proportion of the 25% of rejected CET cases)
- ▶ Student who has displayed persistent poor behaviour at school, the school have exhausted their management options and there is a risk of this behaviour continuing in the community.

HOW THE SCHOOLS TEAM WILL PICK UP CASES

- ▶ Referral directly from the school (we would always want the school to also have completed a MASH referral)
- ▶ Referral of cases directly from the CET team, after they have reviewed the case
- ▶ Referrals directly from the CAIT referral desk
- ▶ Referrals from the Missing Persons Unit
- ▶ Cases raised from multi agency meetings with the Education Inclusion Team, YJS, Serious Youth Violence & Gangs and Hamrow.
- ▶ Proactively allocating cases from robbery and YOS overnight reports

WHAT WILL THE NEW STRUCTURE LOOK LIKE?

- ▶ 8 SSO's on the Borough (Southwark), with 4 posted to the Schools North team and 4 posted to the Schools South team. Each team will have their own operational Sergeant.
- ▶ There will not be an officer directly assigned to any school. Rather the team of 1/4 will work together to deliver the objectives, managing the cases which meet the threshold.
- ▶ Provide targeted education on emerging risk. Relevant input will be given to the students identified. General input can still be delivered via assemblies.
- ▶ Patrols will be limited due to resource reduction but the Safer Schools Team will have some capacity to complete intelligence led patrols. The SNT's have been tasked to provide school dispersals when on duty and not otherwise tasked.
- ▶ Daily checks and information sharing will continue.
- ▶ All requests should come through the Schools Mailbox. Information will be shared via the DSL or otherwise nominated person(s) at the school.

Why Schools & Youth are best placed to manage these cases?

- ▶ An established youth focused approach with prior experience of dealing with schools and YP directly.
- ▶ The 'soft skills' needed to engage with students.
- ▶ The Communication skills to speak to students, school staff, partner agencies and parents/guardians.
- ▶ Sound existing knowledge of how schools operate and policing in collaboration with schools.
- ▶ Building on existing relationships that have been developed.
- ▶ The ability to work with relevant safeguarding teams (such as the Child Exploitation Team) and the Neighbourhoods portfolio.

ANY QUESTIONS?

