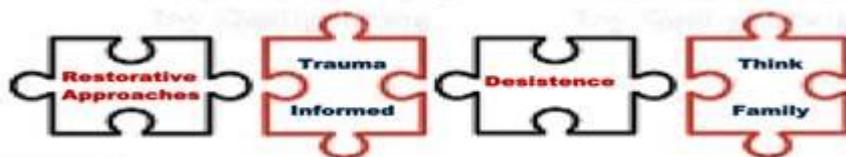


## Briefing Note on Lewisham YOS Model for Reducing Violence.

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**Purpose:** In response to high levels of youth violence and re-offending the Youth Offending Service in Lewisham has developed an evidenced based model by applying the theories of Childhood Trauma, Restorative Approaches, Unconscious bias and Family therapy. The combined model has contributed to significant reductions in children and young people entering the youth justice system, lower rates of re-offending and reduced numbers of incidents of serious violence leading to less use of custody.

**The Delivery Model-Trauma-Informed Practice:** The Service is progressing the approach to embed and integrate across every element of the work. **“Safety**-Throughout the organisation, staff and the people they serve feel physically and psychologically safe.” **Guiding Principles of Trauma-Informed Care, 2014.**

“A **trauma-informed** service system and/or **organisation** is one in which all components of the system have been reconsidered and evaluated in the light of a basic understanding of the role that violence and **trauma** play in the lives of people seeking or referred to services.

The staff team continue to embed the approach consistently so that practitioners are able to apply evidence, method and outcomes. Lewisham YOS’ Trauma-Informed service offers:

- Consistent and meaningful contact and trusting relationships
- Moving to secure, organised attachments
- Reducing fear through reduced stress/anxiety
- Partners co-delivery of the approach
- Monthly 1-1 clinical supervision for staff
- Co-production and case formulation
- Intensive and consistent practitioners
- Interventions that process trauma to manage behaviour

**Lewisham adopt the following principles and apply to organisations throughout the borough:**

- ✓ **Safety** – creating spaces where people feel culturally, emotionally and physically safe
- ✓ **Transparency and Trustworthiness** – full and accurate information about what’s happening and what’s likely to happen next
- ✓ **Choice** – an approach that honours an individual’s dignity
- ✓ **Voice** – creating the opportunity where the individuals views, opinions and feeling are heard and acknowledged
- ✓ **Collaboration and mutuality** – healing happens in relationship and partnerships with shared decision making
- ✓ **Empowerment** – Recognition of an individual’s strengths. These strengths are built on and validated.

**Case Formulation:** This is a multi-agency case reflection meeting which is conducted following sentence. It is the critical analysis and joint action planning, (the bridge between Assessment and Planning) which ensures agency roles and responsibilities are clear and that there is an agreed 'product' to share with the young person and family. The roll out of the Case Formulation (Co-production) model has now being used on every case.

**The Delivery Model - Restorative Justice:** The service continues to lead the roll out of RJ in its delivery and across the partnership. *Restorative Now* are currently engaged in a whole school approaches and in helping to deliver a community engagement and dialogue. It is intended to involve the Young Person in Restorative Enquiry ahead of their attending the Panel. This engagement will then inform additional intervention with the significant parent or parents or caregiver and through this seek to address relationship harm caused by the offending behaviour. In instances where there is also a community based victim harmed in the incident, it is intended that they are to be engaged with restoratively to enhance the parties opportunity to address the event and see the matter resolved directly between them. And then open up more opportunities for family and direct victim restorative work.

**The Delivery Model - Unconscious bias:** All Team members have completed a series of one-day joint training sessions with the Crime Enforcement and Regulation Team on increasing awareness and understanding bias in its many forms. This was followed up with the provision of further training days for the wider partnership during May/June 18. A whole YOS team follow-up exercise has highlighted that there are many positive approaches that are used across the work streams to address negative bias (Court reports, interactions with young people, Restorative and TI approaches) but also much more that can be achieved using the 'Identifying the potential bias at each stage' framework seen below:

- **Challenge without shaming**
- **Check response and reflect with colleagues**
- **Examine cultural assumptions**
- **Use the GRACES as a framework (Gender, Race, Religion, Age, Ability, Appearance, Class, Caste, Colour Culture, Sexuality, Spirituality, and Sexual Orientation).**

**The Delivery Model- Think Family:** Lewisham YOS is a Functional Family Therapy (FFT) accredited agency. The recent review has provided the team with a strong evidence base that this model of therapy achieves its objectives by reducing re/offending and strengthening families.

This provides the opportunity to impact greater numbers of those affected, create shared learning and understanding, reduce feelings of isolation and develop a sense of community.

*Community Groups Programme-* is for children, young people and their mothers who have experienced domestic violence. It provides a community based setting to share and talk about their experiences.

Given our understanding of the prolonged impact and trauma caused to young people who have experienced DV, being able to provide an intervention for both mothers and young people, would directly address those families who are assessed as experiencing DV in a way that helps to provide safety, structure and support.

*Non-Violent Resistance Programme*- is a psychological approach for overcoming destructive, aggressive, and controlling risk-taking behaviours. It involves the parent acknowledging that the child is not the problem - the problem is the problem. When the problem is no longer located in the child, the parent is empowered to begin to change.

**Outcomes and Conclusion:** Over the past two years during the pilot stage of the model Lewisham has achieved the following outcomes:

- Higher than the London and England reduction average in reducing re-offending
- A halving of the numbers being sentenced to custody
- A stable and highly skilled work force
- The Improvement Plan was based on a fresh, compelling, analysis of how youth justice services need to work with young people and partners and parents. This is the Trauma Informed and Restorative Practice model – now widened into the whole systems approach.
- An intensive application of data collection and analysis across the partnership to inform strategic and tactical work.
- Excellent leadership capacity at strategic and service level ensuring that the implications of the adopted Model are implemented thoroughly across the services and with partners.
- Refreshed Partnership Board functions which included close collective oversight of the Improvement Plan, Board member engagement with practice, and Board commitment to shared training on the model.
- A trauma-informed violence reduction group work program
- External endorsement from the YJB Chair (Charlie Taylor) and the Under Secretary of State for Justice (Minister Argar) for best practice.
- Recognition from the Department for Education’s Innovation department as a ‘Trauma –Informed Service’

Next steps will include a full scale evaluation undertaken by University of Goldsmith’s and a separate academic evaluation of the Trauma -Informed Violence Reduction program by South Bank University