

Children and Young People

Youth Justice Service Strategic Needs Assessment

2022/23

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Executive Summary

Criminality affects, all residents within our local communities, in particular the most disadvantaged. Addressing crime committed by children is a complex issue which requires partner's understanding children's vulnerabilities and the associated risk factors and root causes that lead them to commit offences.

The purpose of Sefton's Youth Justice Service (YJS) Children's Needs Assessment is to gather and collate evidence to develop a better understanding of children entering and those already entrenched in the youth justice system.

We need to develop greater insight into the relationship between the commission of offences, the driving factors, Adverse Childhood Experience's (ACE's) and wider determinants of health, education, and poverty.

The experiences that children have while growing up can have life-long effects and are linked to a multitude of poor outcomes including, but not limited to, persistent mental and physical health problems and increased justice system involvement, the impacts of which influence a successful transition into adulthood and sustained independence.

Children involved with Youth Justice Services often have one or more ACE's and could be experiencing these through to adulthood.

Effective interventions require a multi-agency approach to identify risk factors within a child's life and to coordinate an appropriate response to address the concerns, whilst also assessing and developing protective factors. It is essential that partners record and share information about children who are showing signs of vulnerability that may lead to offending behaviour.

Whilst not an exhaustive list, ACES can include:

- Experience of violence, abuse, or neglect
- Witnessing violence in the home
- Loss of a family member or close relative
- Attempted suicide the child, family member or close friend
- Mental Health issues
- Drug and alcohol misuse

- School Exclusions and persistent absences
- Poor relationships with peers
- Involvement in Gangs
- Social Media

A child's home life can undermine their sense of safety and stability such as growing up in a household with:

- Parental substance and /or alcohol misuse
- Parental mental health problems
- Parental separation or living with household offenders
- Family breakdown
- Deprivation

This report provides insight into the vulnerabilities that children experience who are working with or at the cusp of working with youth justice services. Increasing our understanding of the driving factors will ensure that issues affecting the safety and wellbeing of children are prioritised in all aspects of delivery at strategic and operational levels.

To understand whether we are achieving good outcomes locally it is useful to benchmark outcomes in Sefton against the national average our statistical neighbours and look at trends over time.

The primary purpose of this Executive Summary is to identify key points from the YJS Children's Needs Assessment core dataset, with particular emphasis on those areas and issues that are of greater overall concern within each part of the report. The core figures in this document reflect the latest information available primarily from the Youth Justice Board (YJB), YJS and Partners.

Conclusions & Recommendations

As discussed in the main document, assessment of issues relating to young people's ACE's, offending and re-offending and ASB can be measured directly where data exists through service delivery and as surrogate measures based on data collated from the Youth Justice Board. Whilst case level qualitative and quantitative data is achievable for statutory cases, it is not as achievable for non-statutory cases. Non statutory cases are increasing and take up on average 50% of cohorts.

In terms of surrogate measures there are a number of generic and population specific areas of concern that would benefit from further detailed analysis and engagement. These include recording for non-statutory cases, services supporting mental health, substance misuse; education absences, training, and employment particularly amongst the most vulnerable and children transitioning from youth offending to probation.

In the context of YJS performance, there continues to be good progress for First Time Entrants (FTE's), Re-Offending and Custody rates which are covered further on in the document. Since the last inspection in 2019 there have been improvements to management oversight and data recording.

However, of most concern are the numbers of children experiencing ACE's, their access to adequate mental health services and the increase of serious youth violence and drug related offences. Other areas of concern children involved with gangs and sexual exploitation.

There is a need to address any potential 'treatment gaps' across mental health service providers, as we know that many children within the YJS cohorts have displayed mental health concerns.

Introduction

The Sefton's Children and Young People Plan 2020-25 highlights the key priorities for building better outcomes for our children and young people. This includes the improvement of existing services in terms of speed of delivery and quality and developing new innovative services to help resolve new challenges.

Mental health can impact on all areas of young people's lives - how they feel about themselves and others, their relationships, and their psychological and emotional development. Poor mental health underlies many risk behaviours including anti-social behaviour, offending, smoking, alcohol and drug misuse and higher-risk sexual behaviour. Research commonly finds that being mentally healthy helps people to realise their potential, gives them strength to cope with change, overcome challenges and adversity, and make a positive contribution to their community.

The key priorities in Sefton's Children Young People Plan 2020-25 includes:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people.
- To encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
- To consider the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people.
- To help children and young people gain access to and make the best use, of services provided by the local authority.
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children and young people.
- For children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships, education and work.
- To prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Further details can be found in Sefton's Children and Young People Plan 2020-25.

The key local priorities agreed by the Youth Justice Partnership (YJP) include:

- Preventing offending & reoffending
- Listening to our children so we understand their individual needs
- Continually reviewing and improving our services
- Reducing inequality, and minimising the impact of custody and the wider CJS
- Reducing the harm caused by violent crime, criminal and sexual exploitation and association to gang culture

The YJP Strategic Priorities report evidence's progress made against the above priorities.

Background

It is a local, regional, and national priority to reduce youth offending and serious youth violence. This requires a multi-agency approach focusing on preventing children entering the youth justice system and understanding root causes early on that may develop into offending behaviour.

Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced that it would introduce legislation relating to a serious violence duty. This will ensure that relevant services work together to share information to target interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities. The Government also announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships and by making sure they have a strategy in place to explicitly tackle serious violence.

In June 2021 the YJB introduced statutory reporting procedures for YJS of serious incident notifications, this was made mandatory in April 2022.

- If a child is charged with committing one of the following notifiable incidents outlined below
- attempted murder
- murder/manslaughter
- rape
- grievous bodily harm or wounding with or without intent – section 18/20
- a terrorism related offence or
- dies while on the YJS caseload, or up to 20 calendar days following the end of YJS supervision

Understanding of the root causes of crime and vulnerabilities and recognition that almost all causes of childhood offending lie outside of the direct influence of the youth justice system (Public Health England, 2019)

A Public Health approach to the reduction of youth offending and serious violent youth crime includes consideration of the following factors;

- Wider determinants of health
- Promoting the benefits of school inclusion and reducing the number of school exclusions
- Prioritising working with gangs
- Educating young people on the effects of social media, sexting, cyber bullying, gang involvement and healthy relationships.
- Provision and access to services that provide support, diversion to crime and offer opportunities
- The importance of prevention and early intervention with families and young people
- Multi-organisation and multi-agency co-operation
- Accurate data and local intelligence to inform actions efficiently

Multi-agency data used in connection with youth justice data enables measurement, identification of the offence types, the localities most affected and identifies young people who are most vulnerable and at risk, thereby informing early interventions.

Children who offend or are at risk of offending often have challenging health and wellbeing needs; experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect, witnessing violence in the home or community, having a family member attempt or die by suicide

Also included are aspects of the child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding, such as growing up in a household with, substance use problems, mental health problems, instability due to parental separation or household members being in jail or prison

The examples above are not a complete list of adverse experiences. Many other traumatic experiences could impact health and wellbeing. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adolescence and adulthood. ACEs can also

negatively impact education, job opportunities,
and earning potential.

The National Crime Agency states *“as modern technology has developed, so has the drug market: the issue of county lines has become an increasing concern. County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of this trend. As we have seen in child sexual exploitation, children often don't see themselves as victims or realise they have been groomed to get involved in criminality.”*

Sefton YJS monitors and records referrals made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM's) through the recording system. NRM's are included within the cohort profiles to enable the partnership to identify and respond to trends showing within the profile linking NRM's with CE and wider intelligence through the vulnerable children's group.

As a local authority the CE business analyst collates all submissions and shares this on a quarterly basis.

This includes children with MACE plans and NRM submissions and conclusive grounds.

During 2021/22 fourteen children within the YJS cohort received conclusive grounds for NRM with an additional six awaiting an outcome. This highlights the complexities of Child Exploitation within the cohort and the need for multi-agency response to working with children experiencing exploitation and modern slavery.

The Public Health - Whole System Approach

A Public Health England report, Collaborative approaches to preventing offending and re-offending in children (CAPRICORN) discusses a whole system approach and presents a resource for local health & justice system leaders to support collaborative working for children and young people with complex needs.

The resource takes a public health approach to prevent offending behaviour in children and young people. It describes the importance of understanding health and social care needs, identification of risk and protective factors to

support individual and population level interventions and supports the development of a whole system approach to tackle complex problems.

“Risk factors may be found at an individual level, family or environment level and can change over time depending on factors such as age. Research on violence prevention has categorised these risk factors into individual, relationship, community and society, Protective factors buffer against risk factors. They are conditions, characteristics and influences that may decrease the likelihood of children coming in contact with the youth justice system and encourage a positive, health promoting focus. They are at the core of asset based or strength-based prevention strategies.”

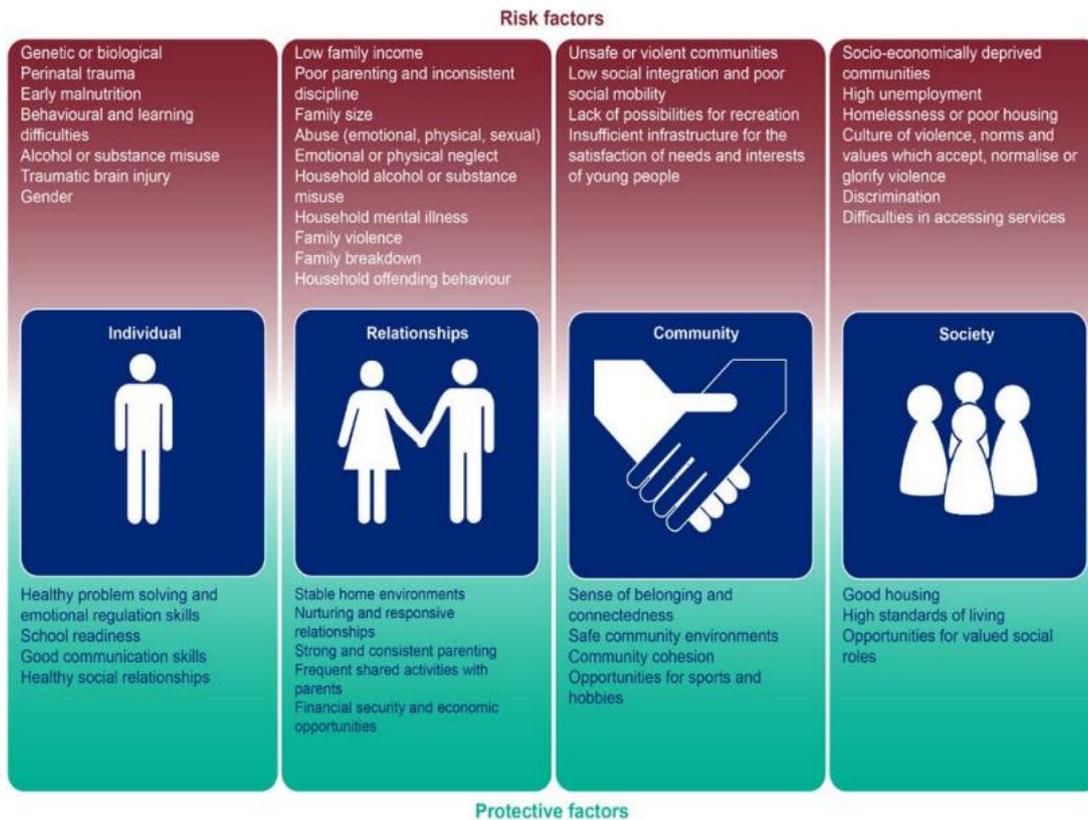


Fig 1. A summary of risk and protective factors

*Collaborative approaches to preventing offending and re-offending in children (CAPRICORN)

Numerous risk factors shown in the above diagram are withstanding in children and young people who are known to have health and social care needs. Similarly, these risk factors are also caused by the wider determinants of health (Public Health 2019).

Identifying Risk & Protective Factors

Mental Health

National analysis has found that one in 10 children aged between 5 and 16 years experiences a mental health condition, and many continue to have a mental health condition into adulthood. Half of those with lifetime mental health conditions first experience symptoms by the age of 14, and three-quarters before their mid-20s.

Children in the youth justice system have a 3-fold increased risk of mental health conditions. Approximately 95% of children in detention have a mental health problem and 80% have multiple mental health issues. An in-depth Children and Young People - Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Assessment has been completed by Sefton where further information can be found on this topic.

During April 2020 to March 2021, Sefton YJS had interventions with 192 young people, there were 46 mental health indicators recorded for 28 young people. 17 had mental health concerns, 3 had threatened suicide and 8 had attempted suicide.

Analysis of the June 2022 cohort found of the 73 young people 6% had mental health diagnosed and undiagnosed, 10% had attempted suicide and had a threat/risk of self-harm. 37% of the cohort received mental health referral.

Figure 2. shows an audit completed by Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, July 2021 to June 2022 for CYP presenting in A&E with a Psychiatric Condition crisis or with Social Problems.

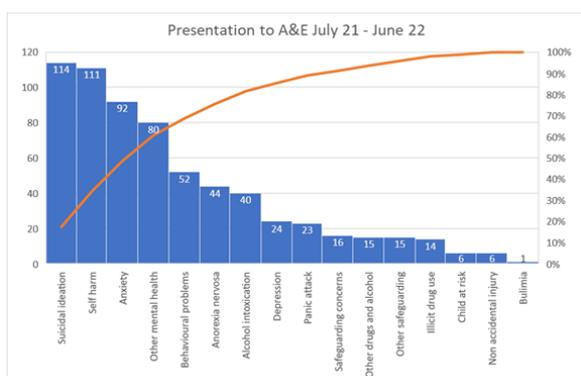


Figure 2. Presentation to A&E July 21 – June 22

The children included within the audit experienced difficulties around mental health, school exclusions, risk of committing violent offences and difficulties in engaging in positive activities. Sefton children made up 22% of the cohort.

Analysis of the YJS June 2022 cohort found of the 73 young people 6% had mental health diagnosed and undiagnosed, 10% had attempted suicide and had a threat/risk of self-harm. 37% of the cohort received a mental health referral.

In 2022 The Framework for Integrated Care (FIC) is being introduced across Liverpool and Sefton localities (North Mersey), that work in and around CAMHS, Social Care, Local Authority, YJS, Liverpool and Sefton CCG and Third Sector organisations.

The vision is to improve access and support in the community for the most vulnerable Children and Young People (CYP) with complex needs and their families/carers. The trauma informed, enhanced case management model aims to build upon existing infrastructure to strengthen pathways and collaborative working and deliver a multi-agency response to CYP in a Mental Health crisis, thus achieving positive long-term outcomes and reducing presentations and admissions to hospitals and care.

In year one the target cohort is CYP aged 13 - 19 who;

- Present as at risk of criminal exploitation
- Missing from home on one or more occasions in the past 90 days
- Missing from education / persistent absence / SEN
- Previous Criminal or Sexual Exploitation concerns

To meet the phased objectives, the focus will be on the following key areas;

- Establishing a Complex Needs Service; to implement trauma informed recovery models to our most vulnerable CYP and families, focusing on an enhanced case management, training, consultations, assessments and intervention.

- Develop multi-agency relationships and partnership working to embed a trauma-informed care approach across all agencies, increasing access to a range of expertise for CYP presenting with the most complex needs; an asset-based approach to community development.
- Build upon and implement the Tier 4 Gateway Model and Dynamic Support Database to reduce Tier 4 admissions and out of area placements.
- Develop and roll out a comprehensive ACE and Trauma Informed Training Programme, Tier 2 and above, to key stakeholders across Liverpool and Sefton localities.
- Share learning from the implementation of the Framework regionally and nationally.

The framework covers Liverpool and Sefton localities however, both areas currently differ in their commissioning and provider landscape and different approaches are planned to ensure equitable and sustainable commissioning and provision for this cohort of CYP and their families across both areas. The framework aims to do this through taking a phased approach across the next 10 years.

Children's Social Care (CSC)

Children's Social Care support some of the most vulnerable children in society, for example children who are at risk from harm, disabled children and those who do not have a place to live. According to the Institute for Government, Local Authorities are persistently overspent, yet spend has not kept up with demand.

There were 2,028 children aged between 0 and 17, across Sefton who were children in need (CiN) on the 30th September 2020, this equates to 375 per 10,000 children residing in Sefton. 616 were children looked after (CLA) a rate of 114 per 10,000 child residents and 274 on a child protection plan (CPP) a rate of 51 per 10,000 child residents.

Analysis of the June 2022 cohort found of the 73 young people, 8% were child looked after, 3% were being supported by a child protection plans, 16% were being supported by child in need plans and 3% were being supported by early help plans.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Pupils with EHCP's have a 3-fold increased risk of conduct disorder. In Sefton approximately 14% of school children have been identified as having Special Educational Needs (SEN) (either SEN support in school or a prescriptive Education, Health, and Care (EHC) Plan which is in line with the national average.

Analysis of the June 2022 cohort found of the 73 young people, 29% had a special education need, 17% had diagnosed and undiagnosed ADHD and ASD and 21% had an Educational Health Care Plan. 26% of the cohort received and education/educational psychologist referral.

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Studies suggest that being NEET for any period can affect a young person's physical and mental health along with increasing the chances of unemployment, low wages or low quality of work throughout their adult life.

Latest data from Sefton Career Connect found that:

- In August 2022 there were 176 children (aged 16 – 17) residing in Sefton deemed to be NEET
- In August 2022 there were 61 young people aged 16, and 115 young people aged 17, with a further 138 young people aged 18 deemed as NEET in contact with Career Connect.
- 19% of the NEETs in contact with Career Connect in August 2020 resided in a central Sefton with 56% in south Sefton wards, and 25% across the north Sefton wards.

- In August 2022, there were 621 young people with Special educational needs and disability (SEND) aged between 16 and 24 in contact with Career Connect. Of these 12% (77) were deemed to be NEET.

Analysis of the June 2022 cohort found of the 73 young people 7% were NEET, 26% were attending an alternative provision, 4% were educated otherwise, 42% were at mainstream school, 10% College/Training/Apprenticeship, 1% employed and 10% were out of Borough and in transition.

Of the cohort attending an alternative provision, their average attendance during the last academic term was 67.1%

Of the cohort are attending mainstream school, their average attendance during the last academic year was 76.2%, 5 of those had below 50% attendance and 2 had over 95% Unauthorised Absences.

Those who were NEET, were made up of two 18-year-olds, two 17-year-olds and one 16-year-old. This cohort saw a slightly lower number of NEET compared to previous cohort profiles and higher number of 16 years olds at mainstream schools and alternative provisions.

Priorities detailed in Sefton's Children's and Young Peoples Plan 2020 - 25 aims to achieve to the following:

- that all children have a comprehensive Education Training and Employment (ETE) assessment
- to monitor the extent of school exclusion in the YJS cohort and the actual level of attendance at school, college, work or training placement and the extent of additional support provided to children with SEN and that every child with an ECHP has this reviewed on an annual basis.
- develop ambitious aims for ETE work in the YJS, including the achievement of Level 2 English and Maths by every child
- establish a greater range of occupational training opportunities for those children beyond compulsory school age

- monitor and evaluate the levels of educational engagement and attainment in disproportionately represented groups within the YJS caseload to develop improvement, including for: - children with an EHCP, children with SEN, children permanently excluded from school, out of court disposal cases and children released under investigation.

Substance Misuse

In Sefton between 2016/17 - 18/19 there were 100 hospital admissions due to substance misuse for those aged between 15-24 years, with a directly standardised rate per 100,000 of 116, this is significantly worse than the England rate and higher than the North West, yet lower than that seen across LCR. Rates have fluctuated across the period.

Sefton saw 85 hospital stays due to alcohol for those under 18 during 2016/17 to 18/19. The Borough has a worse crude rate than England in three of the five time periods, yet for the past previous four years it has been below the North West with only the current period being higher. Sefton is continually lower than the LCR rates.

During April 2021 to March 2022, Sefton YJS had interventions with 192 young people, there were 63 drug indicators recorded for 42 young people. 36 were users/suspected users of controlled drugs, five were dealing drugs and 11 had evidence of household substance misuse. 6 of the young people lived in households with evidence of substance misuse prior to them being recorded as users of controlled drugs.

Child Exploitation (CE)

Children who have been the victims of CE had a 15-fold increased risk of minor depression as a child, 8-fold increased risk of suicidal ideation, 8-fold increased risk of anxiety, 5-fold increased risk of substance misuse, a 7-fold increased risk of recurrent depression as an adult and a 10-fold increased risk of adult PTSD.

There were 178 referrals to Sefton’s Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE) between April 2019 and March 2020, slightly higher than the numbers seen the previous year (174).

Of these referrals 59% related to child exploitation (CE), 38% to child sexual exploitation (CSE) and 3% were referrals for both. 45% of referrals were from Sefton Children Social Care, with a further 27% being Merseyside Police.

In total, 157 individuals were discussed (27 of which had previously been discussed in 2018/19 and one of which has been referred seven times over the past two years).

Domestic Abuse (DA)

The NSPCC estimates that around 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse and that children exposed to domestic violence are more likely to have behavioural and emotional problems. This would equate to around 11,400 children in Sefton.

“Conflict in families and relationship breakdown can have detrimental effects on children and young people and violence witnessed or experienced in the home can normalise violence in future relationships for both boys and girls.”

National self-reported survey data shows that 17.5% of 11- to 17-year-olds said they had been exposed to domestic violence.

The Sefton Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment August 2022 found In Sefton in the 12 months to September 2021, there were 5037 domestic abuse incidents reported to the police. This represents a 9% increase on the previous year. The increase in offences is likely to have been caused by the multiple impacts that the COVID-19 lockdowns had on the restrictions of access to services, limited opportunities for preventative measures and early interventions and the increase in domestic abuse-related crimes.

Wards with the highest rates of domestic abuse crime per 100,000 of the population are predominantly located in the south of Sefton, where there is a younger demographic and greater deprivation. The one exception to this is Dukes ward.

Expected and actual prevalence of domestic abuse by gender and age group

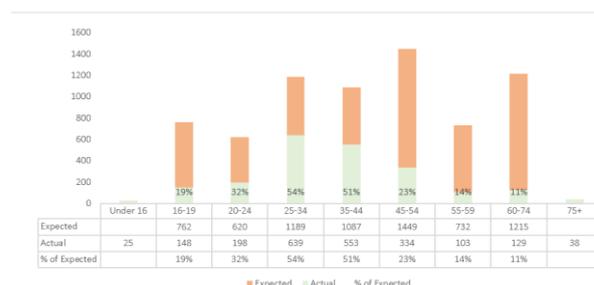


Figure 3. Expected and actual prevalence by age group for females.

Expected and actual prevalence of domestic abuse by gender and age group

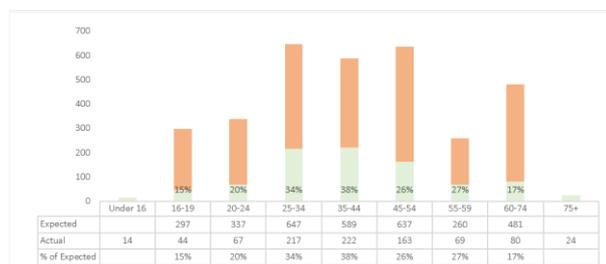


Figure 4. Expected and actual prevalence by age group for males.

Sefton Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment reported on the following of what was thought to be working well and what was thought to need improvement in relation to working with children and young people.

- “There are programmes in place to offer some support for vulnerable people, mostly targeting YP as opposed to younger children.”
- “Services are providing emotional support for children who have witnessed or experienced DA.”
- “Support is provided for children to some degree and when provided is of a good quality.”
- “We are failing children who are witnessing DA and we need to invest more to support them and help break the cycle to reduce the risk of harm and ACEs.”
- “Direct work with adult children who have experienced adverse childhood experiences which lead them to continue the pattern of abuse on their elderly parents.”

During April 2020 to March 2021, Sefton YJS had interventions with 192 young people, there were 37 domestic abuse indicators recorded for 22 young people. 19 had domestic abuse issues in the household, six were perpetrators of domestic abuse and three were victims of domestic abuse. One of the young people had 6 indicators

recorded for domestic abuse in the household between 2010 and 2018, in 2022 that young person had an indicator recorded for being a perpetrator of domestic abuse.

Deprivation

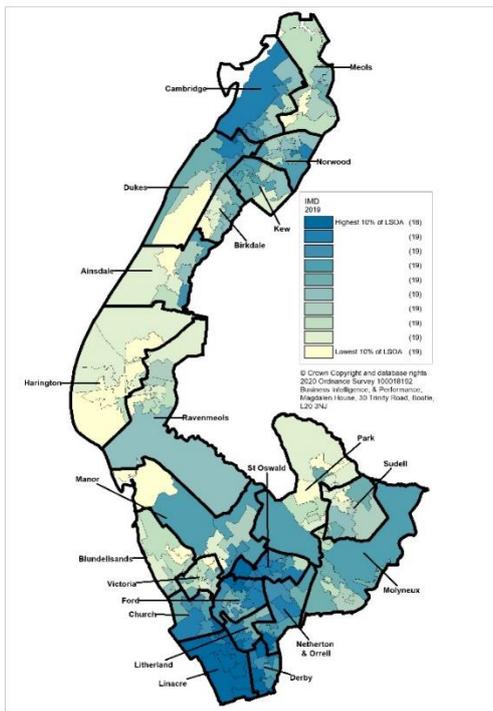
The Indices of Deprivation (IoD) measures levels of deprivation across seven core domains, which are merged to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The higher the score the more affected or ‘deprived’ an area is. The seven core IoD domains include: Income, Employment, Education, Skills, & Training, Health & Disability, Crime, Barriers to Housing & Services and Living Environment. In 2019 was ranked 58 out of the 318 lower tier Local Authorities Districts around England.

Figure 5. shows out of all Sefton wards in 2019 Linacre scored the highest IMD with 70.8, followed by Derby with 54.2 and St Oswald with 43.4. Lowest scores were Harington with 7.5, followed by Park with 11.4 and Blundellsands with 11.6.

From April 2021 to March 2022, Sefton YJS had 236 open interventions with 192 young people. Of those 192 young people, 22 (11%) resided in Norwood, 20 (10%) in Linacre, 14 (7%) in St Oswald and 13 (7%) in Kew. A Further 63 (33%) resided in Meols, Birkdale, Netherton & Orrell, Manor, Litherland, Ford and Derby. Of the cohort 58 (30%) resided in the five highest scoring wards for deprivation.

Ward	Ward	Sefton	England
Linacre	70.8	27.0	21.7
Derby	54.2	27.0	21.7
St Oswald	43.4	27.0	21.7
Litherland	42.2	27.0	21.7
Ford	41.4	27.0	21.7
Church	38.7	27.0	21.7
Netherton	37.7	27.0	21.7
Dukes	32.4	27.0	21.7
Cambridge	29.1	27.0	21.7
Manor	27.1	27.0	21.7
Kew	22.9	27.0	21.7
Norwood	22.8	27.0	21.7
Molyneux	18.0	27.0	21.7
Ainsdale	17.8	27.0	21.7
Birkdale	15.8	27.0	21.7
Sudell	14.8	27.0	21.7
Victoria	14.1	27.0	21.7
Meols	13.7	27.0	21.7
Ravenmeo	11.9	27.0	21.7
Blundellsar	11.6	27.0	21.7
Park	11.4	27.0	21.7
Harington	7.5	27.0	21.7

Fig 5. Average Index of Multiple Deprivation Score – 2019 by Ward



Map 1. Distribution of Index of Multiple Deprivation (LSOA Level) - Rank of IMD

Map 1. Shows deprivation is highest in the south of the Borough specifically around Linacre and Derby wards, with small pockets of high intensity dotted around other locations including Southport town centre. In general, there is nearly five times more crime occurring in the 20% most deprived areas of Sefton than occurring in the 20% least deprived areas.

Sefton YJS Out of Court Disposal (O OCD) - Case Study

The number of children in the youth justice system peaked in 2007 and has declined every year since. The fall in numbers has coincided with a shift in the relative proportions of those cases handled in court and those handled through out-

Across those YOTs that were rated poorly, there were a number of common issues. An overly complex or poorly understood framework for managing out-of-court disposals led to poor working between agencies. The quality of delivery of all YJS out-of-court disposals in youth justice stated by HM Inspectorate of Probation in 2021 stated ; *“The effectiveness of leadership and management was not necessarily correlated with the quality of delivery of out-of-court disposals. An important responsibility for YOTs is to work with other agencies, and with parents and carers, to try to establish a safe space to support children towards positive, healthy and pro-social lives. However, a theme running through almost all the poorly performing YOTs was an insufficient focus upon the safety of the child and/or other people.”*

Since the inspection Sefton YJS have worked to improve assessments for O OCD with the latest review being early 2022. There is no national guidance for out of court assessments and practice varies across Youth Justice Teams.

Case Study

The three boys in the group were selected as they were friends who had received O OCD's for varying degrees and types of offences including ASB, cannabis and assault.

All three boys were involved in ASB in their community, used cannabis and are vulnerable to Childhood Exploitation (CE).

of-court sanctions, with YJS work moving more towards the latter.

The ethos behind these disposals is to intervene early and holistically address a child's offending-related behaviour before it becomes entrenched, while at the same time avoiding costly court appearances and the potentially institutionalising effects of entry into the full youth justice system (Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board).

The group had a 2-hour session at the Netherton Activity Centre (NAC) per week focusing on CE and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and how it affects the community.

Resources from https://notinourcommunity.org/real_stories/film-lesson-alfies-story/ - Alfie's Story, using flip charts were used to gain their views and promote discussions.

They attended an extra session and engaged interactively with Street Doctors to complete a lifesaving first aid session, delivered via Zoom.

During the sessions the group had a break where they took part in activities; table tennis/pool and snacks/drinks were provided.

The expected outcome was to develop knowledge and understanding of child exploitation (CE), to enable them to make positive informed choices to keep themselves safe and to know what CE looks like and what to do if they or anyone they know needs support.

To have a greater sense of belonging to their community and increase understanding of the negative impact of ASB on communities.

The group actively participated in every session, they were respectful of the building, the staff at the NAC and the public who also use the building.

All three have attended all sessions and shared their ideas and views about what they would like to have in their community for young people – a safe space for them to spend time with their friends.

Sefton YJS Offences and ASB Incidents

Offence Types – January 2018 to April 2022

January 2018 to April 2022 Offence Types	Female	Male	No. of Offences	% of Offences
Arson		3	3	0.3%
Breach Of Bail		13	13	1.2%
Breach Of Conditional Discharge		7	7	0.6%
Breach Of Statutory Order	5	22	27	2.5%
Criminal Damage	38	62	100	9.3%
Domestic Burglary		5	5	0.5%
Drugs	20	300	320	29.7%
Fraud And Forgery		5	5	0.5%
Motoring Offences	1	33	34	3.2%
Non Domestic Burglary	4	23	27	2.5%
Other	8	45	53	4.9%
Public Order	34	52	86	8.0%
Racially Aggravated	2	9	11	1.0%
Robbery	2	18	20	1.9%
Sexual Offences	1	10	11	1.0%
Theft And Handling Stolen Goods	21	32	53	4.9%
Vehicle Theft	2	22	24	2.2%
Violence Against The Person	83	195	278	25.8%
Grand Total	221	856	1077	

Figure 8. Offence Types

Figure 8 shows offence types recorded by gender, between January 2018 and April 2022 there were a total of 1077 offences recorded. Of these 320 (29.7%) were drug related 20 of which were committed by females and 300 were committed by males. 278 (25.8%) were for Violence Against the Person (VAP) 83 of these were committed by females and 195 were committed by males.

ASB Incidents - January 2018 to April 2022

January 2018 to April 2022 Incident Types	Female	Male	No. of Incidents	% of Incidents
ASB	10	24	34	7.2%
ASB Assault	2	5	7	1.5%
ASB Burglary		2	2	0.4%
ASB Criminal Damage	2	13	15	3.2%
ASB Violent Behaviour	41	64	105	22.2%
ASB Drugs	27	231	258	54.7%
ASB Knives / Weapon / Firearms	2	16	18	3.8%
ASB Harassment	3	2	5	1.1%
ASB Homophobia	2	2	4	0.8%
ASB Sexual Exploitation		5	5	1.1%
ASB Threatening Behaviour	5	6	11	2.3%
ASB Racism	2	2	4	0.8%
ASB Fraud		4	4	0.8%
Grand Total	96	376	472	

Figure 9. Incident Types

Figure 9 shows incident types recorded by gender, between January 2018 and April 2022 there were a total of 472 incidents recorded. Of these 258 (54.7%) were drug related 27 of which were committed by females and 231 were committed by males. 105 (22.2%) incidents were for Violent Behaviour 41 of these were committed by females and 64 were committed by males.

Figure 9 shows between January 2018 and April 2022 there were 105 incidents recorded for Violent Behaviour, this does not include further incidents considered as violent, for example Assault, Criminal Damage, Knives / Weapons / Firearms or Sexual Exploitation.

Violence Against the Person (VAP) Incidents - January 2018 to April 2022

Jan 2018 to April 2022	No. of Incidents	No. of VAP	% of VAP
2018	9	6	66.7%
2019	148	29	19.6%
2020	151	24	15.9%
2021	108	35	32.4%
2022	56	17	30.4%
Grand Total	472	111	

Figure 10. Violence Against the Person

Figure 10 shows yearly incidents of Violent Behaviour between January 2018 and April 2022. There are a lesser number of incidents recorded in 2018 as in 2018 incidents were recorded offences.

Whilst the percentage of re-offending data gained via the Youth Justice Board has shown a decrease in re-offending, local cohort data for Sefton shows a yearly increase in the percentage of Violence Against the Person being committed with 23% between January and December 2018 to 30% between January and December 2021. In addition, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Incidents that involve violent behaviour and use of weapons or knives increased 24% between January to December 2019 to 38% between January to December 2021. There were limited recordings of ASB during 2018 as these were being recorded locally as offences rather than incidents.

ASB Incidents – Knives Involved - June 2022

For the year ending December 2019 in England and Wales, the Office for National Statistics found a 7% increase in the number of offences involving knives or sharp instruments (to 45,627 offences). This was 49% higher than when comparable recording began (year ending March 2011) and the highest on record.

Analysis of Sefton YJS June 2022, figure 11. shows out of a cohort of 73 young people 5 (6%) of those had been involved in an anti-social behaviour incident involving the use of knives. These were made up of 3 males, aged 13, 15 and 16 and 2 females aged 14 and 17, this is continually monitored.

Incident Type	No.	%
ASB Knives Involved	5	6%
ASB Various	7	8%
ASB Threatening Behaviour	12	13%
ASB Violent Behaviour	29	32%
ASB Drugs Involved	37	41%
Total	90	

Figure 11. Knives Involved

Sefton YJS Latest Key Performance Indicators

First Time Entrants (FTE's)

The youth justice cohort in Sefton has seen decreases in first time entrants (FTEs) over recent years. This relates to those young people who receive a criminal record for the first time. Figure 12 below shows the rate of FTEs per 100,000. The rate of FTEs in Sefton was 117 in the period Jan 2020 – Dec 2020 compared with 94 in Jan 2021 – Dec 2021 a reduction of 23 FTEs per 100,000 rate. Sefton was one of only three authorities across all the YOT Family comparators to see a reduction in this indicator whilst Nottinghamshire had the worst with an increase of 99 FTEs per 100,000.

FTE's rates per 100,000 of the 10–17-year-old population

New YJS Family	Jan 20 - Dec 20	2019 Population	Jan 21 - Dec 21	2020 Population	Change +/-
Lancashire	135	111,454	108	114,410	
Swansea	130	-	104	21,338	
Wirral	99	30,158	114	30,571	
Stockton-on-Tees	152	19,342	157	20,023	
Nottinghamshire	348	73,622	447	75,871	
Bridgend	115	-	129	13,022	
Darlington	177	10,147	232	10,432	
Sefton	117	23,963	94	24,476	
North Tyneside	57	18,359	111	18,833	
Wigan	94	30,704	137	31,472	
Calderdale	279	20,340	328	20,818	
Family Average	155	39,266	178	35,679	

Figure 12. FTE's January to December 2020 – January to December 2021

FTE's in actual numbers

New YJS Family	Jan 20 - Dec 20	2019 Population	Jan 21 - Dec 21	2020 Population	Change +/-
Lancashire	151	111,454	123	114,410	
Swansea	28	-	22	21,338	
Wirral	30	30,158	35	30,571	
Stockton-on-Tees	29	19,342	32	20,023	
Nottinghamshire	99	73,622	130	75,871	
Bridgend	15	-	17	13,022	
Darlington	18	10,147	24	10,432	
Sefton	28	23,963	23	24,476	
North Tyneside	10	18,359	21	18,833	
Wigan	29	30,704	43	31,472	
Calderdale	57	20,340	68	20,818	
Family Average	45	39,266	49	35,679	

Figure 13. First Time Entrants January to December 2020 – January to December 2021

Figure 13 show FTE's in actual numbers, this translates in a decrease from 28 to 23 in the same period.

Re-Offending

Re-offending is defined as the percentage of those young people who have re-offended from an identified cohort of first offenders. Figure 14 shows in Sefton during July 2018 to June 2019 the rate of re-offending was 43.2% compared with 31.2% in the period July 2019 to June 2020 a decrease of 28%.

Re-offending July 2018 – June 2019 to July 2019 – June 2020

Proportion of offenders who reoffend (%)	Jul 2018 to Jun 2019	Jul 2019 to Jun 2020	Change
Lancashire	38.2	33.3	- 4.9
Swansea	43.9	37.5	- 6.4
Wirral	38.7	41.9	3.2
Stockton-on-Tees	33.3	45.7	12.3
Nottinghamshire	31.1	30.2	- 0.9
Bridgend	59.6	52.3	- 7.4
Darlington	35.3	57.6	22.3
Sefton	43.2	31.2	- 12.1
North Tyneside	35.9	37.3	1.3
Wigan	23.4	37.0	13.6
Calderdale	36.6	38.2	1.6

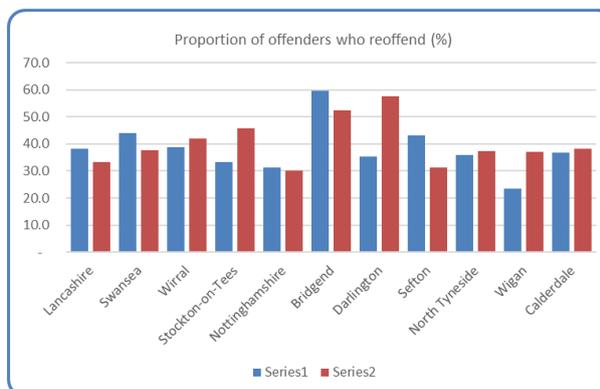


Figure 14. Re-offending July 2018 – June 2020

The average number of offences with Sefton in the period July 2018 - June 2019 and the following dataset for July 2019 – June 2020 as shown in figure 15, a slight fall of 0.4. Again, in the comparators for the SNN, Stockton-on-Tees had the highest increase of on average 1.4 more reoffences per reoffender from all 11 local authorities, with Bridgend having the best reduction of 2.2 offences per offender.

Re-offences per re-offender July 2018 – June 2019 to July 2019 – June 2020

Average number of reoffences per reoffender	Jul 2018 to Jun 2019	Jul 2019 to Jun 2020	Change
Lancashire	4.0	3.5	- 0.5
Swansea	4.4	3.5	- 0.9
Wirral	3.5	4.6	1.2
Stockton-on-Tees	3.0	4.4	1.4
Nottinghamshire	3.8	2.4	- 1.3
Bridgend	8.0	5.8	- 2.2
Darlington	2.8	3.3	0.5
Sefton	2.4	2.0	- 0.4
North Tyneside	3.9	4.4	0.6
Wigan	4.4	5.4	0.9
Calderdale	4.4	3.9	- 0.5

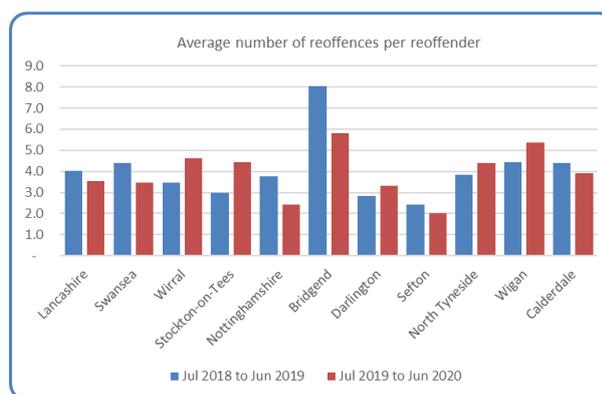


Figure 15. Re-offences per re-offender July 2018 – June 2020

Figure 16. shows the average number of previous offences for Sefton has again fallen in the July - June 2018/19 and July – June 2019/20 period, reducing from 3.6 to 2.2, respectively. six of the YOT family had an increase on this indicator with Darlington going from 4.5 previous offences up to 8.8 for the period.

Lancashire shows as being the best performing authority in this indicator reducing by 1.5 previous offences per offender, Sefton is a very close second with a 1.4 reduction.

Average number of previous offences per offender July 2018 – June 2019 to July 2019 – June

Average number of previous offences per offender	Jul 2018 to Jun 2019	Jul 2019 to Jun 2020	Change
Lancashire	6.0	4.5	- 1.5
Swansea	3.8	3.4	- 0.4
Wirral	3.3	5.3	+ 2.0
Stockton-on-Tees	5.2	3.9	- 1.3
Nottinghamshire	3.9	5.4	+ 1.5
Bridgend	7.3	6.7	- 0.6
Darlington	4.5	8.8	+ 4.3
Sefton	3.6	2.2	- 1.4
North Tyneside	4.4	6.3	+ 1.9
Wigan	4.8	5.4	+ 0.7
Calderdale	4.4	5.9	+ 1.5

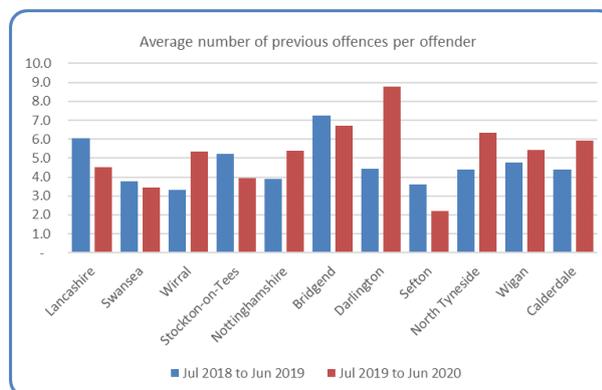


Figure 16. Offences per offender July 2018 – June 2020

Custody Rates

Custody Rates 2019/20 to 2020/21

YOT Family	2020 Population	2019-20	2021 Population	2020-21	Change +/-
Lancashire	111,454	15	114,410	8	
Swansea	-	4	21,335	3	
Wirral	30,158	9	30,571	2	
Stockton-on-Tees	19,342	3	20,023	0	
Nottinghamshire	73,622	14	75,871	8	
Bridgend	-	2	13,022	0	
Darlington	10,147	6	10,432	2	
Sefton	23,963	2	24,476	0	
North Tyneside	18,359	5	18,833	0	
Wigan	30,704	7	31,472	13	
Calderdale	20,340	4	20,818	2	

Figure 17. Custody Rates 2019/20 to 2020/21

There were 2 instances of detention in 2019/20 in Sefton, this number went to zero in 2020/21, only 3 other local authorities in the YOT family had a null figure for the same period, Stockton-on-Tees, Bridgend and North Tyneside 2 of whom are North-East localities. There was only Wigan who had an increase in custodial outcomes rising by almost 100% from 7 to 13 instances.

*Of the 2 recorded Sefton custody incidents one of the offenders was another local authority child.

Data Gaps and Issues

When interpreting the data provided in this report a number of factors should be borne in mind:

- Detailed data supporting analysis of CYP in particular is often sparsely available, based on national surveys that may not be applicable to local conditions and often out of date.
- Currently the report does not consider any feedback from questionnaires completed by young people who have engaged with the YJS
- There is limited data available at local level for referrals
- It has not been defined locally how to collect and record ACE's across partnerships
- There is a lack of local data on young people that are Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender.
- There is limited data available at local level for analysis on risk levels for out of court disposals.
- The lack of availability of case studies.

Conclusions

Although the current quantitative data requires supplementing with qualitative data from our communities a few key areas for focus over the short to medium term are clear. This includes a need for partners and Sefton's wider children's services to understand and act on issues including:

- Children in Sefton face particular challenges, especially those that are living in or have lived in difficult circumstances e.g., poverty, parental substance misuse, are looked after by social care or have special educational needs.
- There is an increasing rate of violent crime and a need to identify and collate root causes collaboratively early.

- High rates of 'children supported by social care', and families supported through 'early help' programmes may mean that statutory services may struggle to provide effective interventions to address the needs of these vulnerable young people.

Recommendations

The following have been identified within the main body of this report and highlighted as areas of opportunity for future partnership work.

- Review services to provide more efficient access to Mental Health Services
- Continue to support and expand workforce development utilizing the Collaborative Training Group (CTG)
- Expand the workforce to include professionals from schools and health at operational levels.
- Continue working with Leeds City Council towards the Family Valued approach focusing on the strengths and importance of family and productive working relationships between practitioners and families.
- Continue to improve data quality and availability from in house systems and that of our partners.
- Continue to promote the role of schools in supporting children's mental health and emotional wellbeing, and as potential direct commissioners of services.
- Work to increase the amount of useful data routinely shared between providers and commissioners.
- Continue to build on the links between the YJS, children's mental health services, early intervention and parenting and family support to continue to identify risk factors.
- Agree how ACE's are defined, utilised and collected as part of the wider public health approach.

- Schools and colleges including alternative provisions must be seen as integral to early intervention in identifying ACE's
- Work with schools and school inclusion and diversion projects to ensure a strategic and whole-system approach to school inclusion and diversion, providing opportunities away from crime and victimisation.
- Support work in schools and with young people to raise awareness on gender based threatening behaviour and healthy relationships.

- Work needs to progress to implement a whole system approach across the system of care for children which will enable the identification of protective factors and high-risk groups and those with ACE's. Linking this dataset to education, social care and health data will enable in-depth enquiry into the effectiveness of the system of care for children and young people.

- Having robust information to make informed commissioning decisions continues to be problematic. Locally, a more robust process for understanding local levels of need is required.

Supporting Information & Context

JSNA Webpage

[Children and Young People - Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Assessment](#)

[Children and Young People – Overview Strategic Assessment Appendix](#)

[Children’s Social Care Improvement Plan](#)

[Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board \(LSCB\)](#)

[YJP Strategic Priorities Report](#)

[Sefton Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment](#)

[https://www.sefton.gov.uk/your-council/plans-policies/business-intelligence,-insight,-performance/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-\(jsna\).aspx](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/your-council/plans-policies/business-intelligence,-insight,-performance/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-(jsna).aspx)

Population Projections

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/1436091/sefton-population-projections-v3.pdf>

Review of Poverty in Sefton

https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/1405220/Welfare_Reform_and_Anti-Poverty_v3.pdf

Sefton Local Plan

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan>

Ward profiles on Sefton’s website

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/your-council/plans-policies/business-intelligence,-insight,-performance/borough-ward-profiles.aspx>

Glossary of Terms / Acronyms

ASB Anti-Social Behaviour

BAME Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic group

CAMHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

CARMAC Child at Risk Multi Agency Assessment Conference

CCG Clinical Commissioning Group

CiN Child in Need

CLA Child Looked After

CP Child Protection

CSE Child Sexual Exploitation

CYP Children and Young People

DfE Department for Education

DIP Drug Intervention Programme

DWP Department of Work and Pensions

ETE Education Training & Employment

FIC Framework for Integrated Care

FTE First Time Entrants

HA Hospital Admissions

HES Hospital Episode Statistics

HMO Housing of Multiple Occupation

HNA Health Needs Assessment

HRA Homelessness Reduction Act

IMD Index of Multiple Deprivation

JSNA Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

LA Local Authority

LAC Looked After Children

LCR Liverpool City Region

LGBT+Q Lesbian Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning

LSOA Lower Super Output Area

MACE Multi Agency Child Exploitation

MARAC Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MASH Multi agency safeguarding hub

NDTMS National Drug Treatment Monitoring System

NAC Netherton Activity Centre

NEET Not in Education Employment or Training

OOCD Out of Court Disposals

ONS Office for National Statistics

PHE Public Health England

QOF Quality Outcomes Framework

SEND Special Education Needs and Disabilities

UC Universal credit

UK United Kingdom

YJB Youth Justice Board

YJP Youth Justice Partnership

YJS Youth Justice Service

YOS Youth Offending Service

Sources

ACEs

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<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html>

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES.pdf

Out of Court Disposals

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County Lines

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>

Drug Review 2020

https://www.assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/882953/Review_of_Drugs_Evidence_Pack.pdf

ASB

<https://intranet.smbc.loc/media/511617/Anti-Social-Behaviour.pdf>

Risk and Protective Factors

www.publicsafety.qc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/fndng-prgrms/rsk-fctrs-en.aspx

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Serious Youth Violence

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Early Help

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Children's Social Care Improvement Plan

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Sefton Public Health

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Public Health Approach to Serious Violent Crime

www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.46%20Taking%20a%20public%20health%20approach%20-%20Violent%20crime_03_0.pdf

Public Health Whole System Approach

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LAC

[Implementing the Children and Young People's Commissioning Strategy](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/1415/care-leavers-sufficiency-strategy-final.docx)

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Violent Crime admissions

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Mental Health

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[Sefton - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

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Educational Attainment of young offenders

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SEND

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Substance Misuse

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www.internetmatters.org

Wellbeing Centres

www.sefton.gov.uk/schools-learning/family-wellbeing-centres/

Childhood Exploitation

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Programmes

Family Values _ Leeds

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Operation Target – Serious Violence

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