

**ORIGINATOR:** CHIEF CONSTABLE

**PAPER NO:** AP21/15

**SUBMITTED TO:** ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL – 5 MARCH 2021

**SUBJECT:** CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE UPDATE  
(COVERING PERIOD JULY 2020 – DECEMBER 2020)

**SUMMARY:**

1. This report provides an update in relation to the Constabulary's approach to Children and Young Persons, it provides key performance information and highlights areas of organisational and operational development.
2. The period of this report covers the end of the first 'Lock Down', the second 'Lock Down' and the start of the current 'Lock Down' period with the further closure of schools due to COVID-19.
3. This report demonstrates the continued work being undertaken to engage with, and better understand children and young people across the Constabulary. It also highlights the engagement and diversionary work being undertaken with children and young people despite the impact of COVID-19.
4. The Constabulary continues to work in partnership with a range of agencies to respond to the ongoing threat to Children and Young Persons from criminal and sexual exploitation.
5. Problem Solving is increasingly being used within areas of work to tackle specific problems, thorough analysis to understand the problem, the development of a tailored response and an assessment of the effects of the response.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. The Accountability and Performance Panel is asked to note the content of this report.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

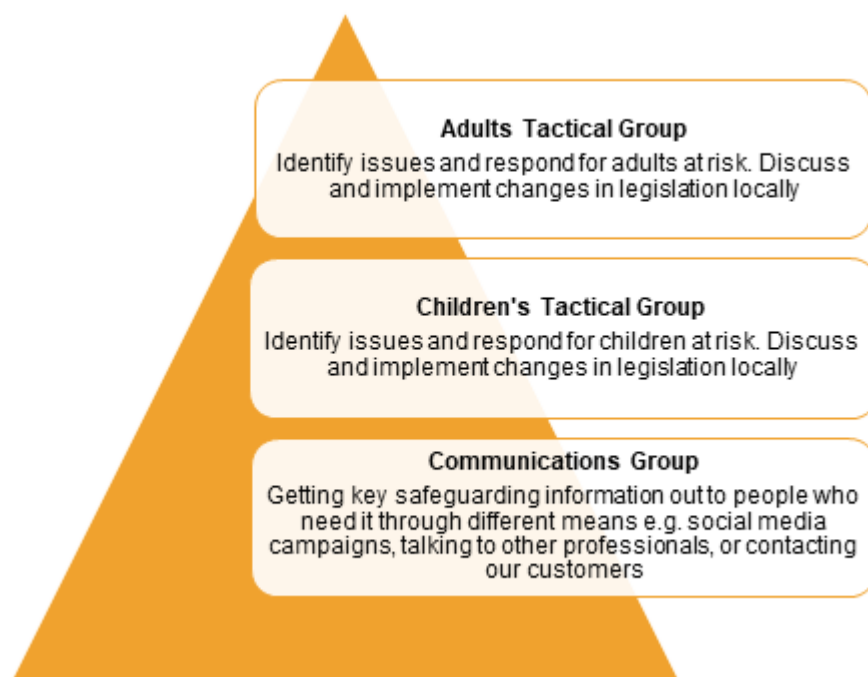
- 1.1 This report covers the period July 2020 to December 2020 and provides an update to the areas reported on in the previous paper.
- 1.2 Strategic oversight of Children and Young Persons is shared across two Superintendent roles – Detective Superintendent (Safeguarding and Crime investigation) and the Southern Area Commander (delivering policing services to children). A Strategic Governance Board chaired by Assistant Chief Constable provides leadership and oversight, supported by a Tactical Delivery Board chaired by the West Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Inspector reporting into the Southern Area County Policing Commander.

## 2. CHILD SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

### **The Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) for Children**

- 2.1 The Police are one of three statutory organisations within the partnership, along with the Local Authority and Health.
- 2.2 As previously reported there are five (5) sub-groups under the SSP structure:
- Learning and Improvement Group (focussed on continual learning and contextualised safeguarding of children)
  - Policy, Practice and Training Subgroup (joint children and adults – looks at whether Policy needs updating / rewriting, and ensuring the collective workforces are appropriately trained, as well as looking to coordinate new CPD events)
  - Exploitation and On-line safety (joint children and adults – look to ensure that initiatives are conducted around improving awareness and response to issues of exploitation and online contact, whether sexual or financial)
  - Child Death Overview Panel (chaired by Public health – scrutinises all child deaths, regardless of reason – with a view to trying to improve and learn for the future – feeds into national group)
  - Case review panel (Looks at individual cases in detail, and considers whether a serious case review is required, when they are – ensuring the learning from those reviews is implemented and actioned)
- 2.3 The SSP allows Suffolk Constabulary to improve its processes and performance in relation to dealing with children and young persons. It is the mechanism for ensuring continual improvement is achieved in this area of policing. The various sub-groups are all cognizant of regional and National best practice in the various different areas they cover. The group's also link in with wider partnership working arrangements, for example the safer stronger communities group concerning child exploitation and response to vulnerability.
- 2.4 Throughout Covid-19 the SSP has been a key part in ensuring the timely sharing of information between partners on current rising concerns. They have also been central in ensuring working practices were developed in unison with one another and communications consistent. The SSP has developed tactical groups with partners and other agencies to ensure our response in relation to Safeguarding is joined up. The groups consist of a mixture of the following organisations: Adults Social Care, Children's Social Care, Police, Health, Community Safety Partnerships.

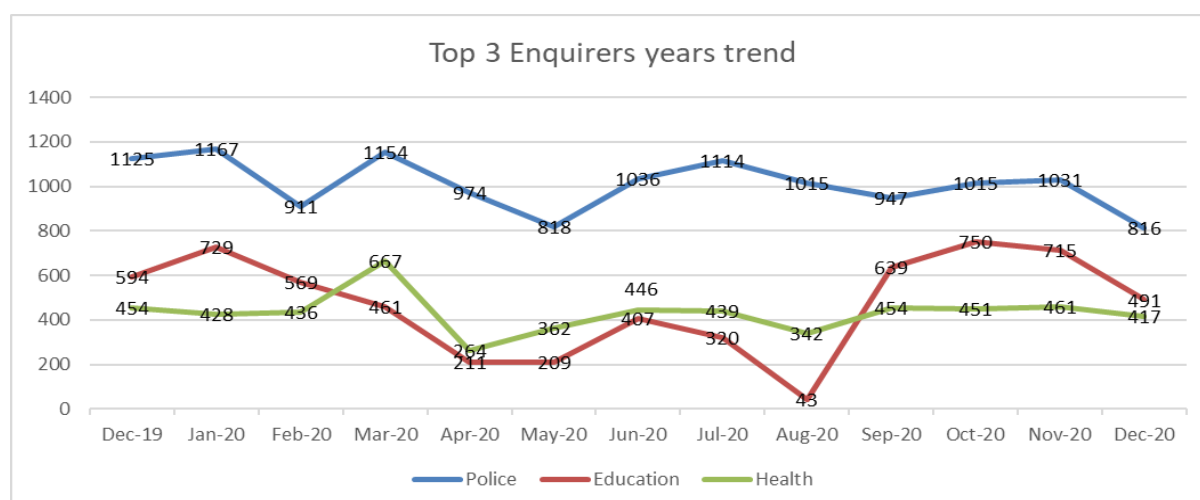
2.5 The structure and information about what these tactical groups do is shown below.



### Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

2.6 The MASH has continued to experience high demand, with 11,460 child contacts received between July and December 2020 (9061 previous period). The top referrers remain as police, education and health respectively, with predictable slight seasonal variation when schools are closed. The impact of the first National lockdown on referrals from schools and health is clearly illustrated. Referrals remained consistent during the second National lockdown in November with what would normally be expected.

2.7 The table below illustrates the number of contacts from the top three enquiring agencies.

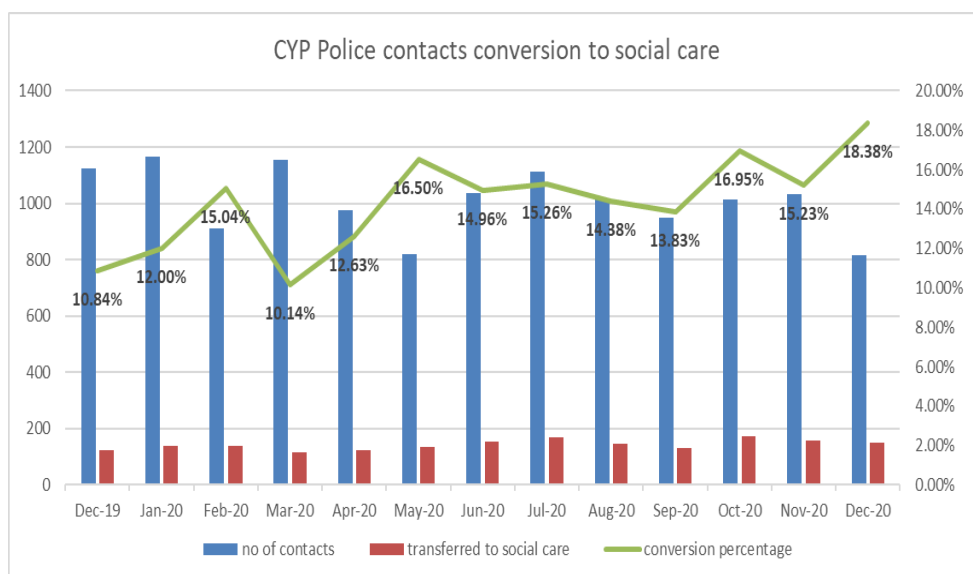


- 2.8 At the end of December 2020, there were 512 children in Suffolk who were subject of Child Protection Plans 516 previous reporting period). The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan is marginally higher than those in the last report, however there is a trend nationally of rising CP numbers. Suffolk are below the national and statistical neighbour numbers per 10,000 head of population and also mid table regionally. Whilst Suffolk Children and Young People Service (CYPS) is looking locally at why the numbers are rising, Suffolk Constabulary is not an outlier regionally or nationally.
- 2.9 There is a total of 946 children in Local Authority care at the end of December 2020 (934 previous reporting period), their legal status is shown in the graphic below.

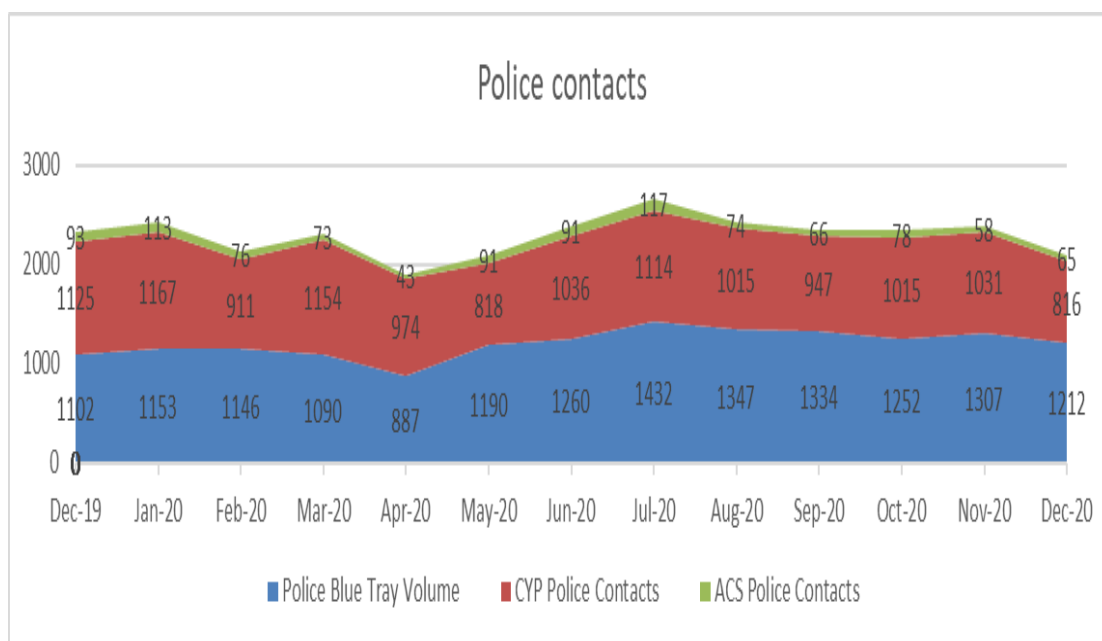
<b>946</b>	Number of Children in Care	<a href="#">View &gt;</a>
of which		
Legal Status	Count	%
CLA - C2 - Full Care Order	<b>512</b>	54.1% <a href="#">View &gt;</a>
CLA - C1 - Interim Care Order	<b>185</b>	19.6% <a href="#">View &gt;</a>
CLA - V2 - Single period of accommodation under Section 20	<b>171</b>	18.1% <a href="#">View &gt;</a>
CLA - C2 - Full Care Order and E1 - Placement order granted	<b>53</b>	5.6% <a href="#">View &gt;</a>
CLA - E1 - Placement order granted	<b>22</b>	2.3% <a href="#">View &gt;</a>
CLA - J1 - In local authority on remand, or committed for trial or sentence	<b>2</b>	0.2% <a href="#">View &gt;</a>
CLA - L2 - Subject to emergency protection order	<b>1</b>	0.1% <a href="#">View &gt;</a>

- 2.10 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to investigate where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. This investigation includes an objective assessment of the child's needs, including the risk of abuse and need for protection as well as examining the family's ability to meet these needs. To agree that the threshold for this level of intervention is met, a multiagency strategy threshold discussion is held in MASH. If the threshold for S.47 inquiries to commence is met this can be conducted by CYPS as a single agency, or jointly with Police if a criminal investigation is necessary and proportionate.

- 2.10.1 The table below illustrates the conversation rate of Police contacts to Social Care.



- 2.11 In excess of 98% of contacts that arrive in MASH are resolved without the requirement for police investigation. Effective triage by skilled and experienced practitioners allows the appropriate level of intervention to be identified. This ensures the most concerning cases requiring scrutiny by Police and the Local Authority working together are passed to specialist Safeguarding Investigation Units. The demand on police officers is therefore manageable due to the extremely low conversion rate of referrals to joint S.47 investigations.
- 2.12 CYPS ICT system Liquid Logic is fully embedded in the MASH process, with all partners within the MASH having direct access. This allows access to live safeguarding information and facilitates information sharing via a single secure system. The value of this has been clearly demonstrated during the revised pandemic working procedures when our partners have worked almost exclusively from home. MASH performance data capture from the Business Intelligence Platform remains an evolving process to report meaningful data.
- 2.13 The Constabulary remains the largest enquiring agency for child safeguarding concerns to the MASH accounting for over a third of referrals entering the MASH process. This is a reasonably static figure and is expected as police are frequently the first agency in attendance at the point of crisis. Skilled and experienced MASH police decision makers review each record to decide whether it is a safeguarding concern appropriate to share with CYPS. This initial screening and triage determine around 50% of records do not meet the threshold for CYPS intervention and creates capacity for the most concerning cases to be identified and addressed expeditiously.
- 2.14 The graph below illustrates the number of police referrals into the MASH shared with CYPS and those retained by police. The blue portion demonstrates the number of police records sent to MASH police to review which did not meet the threshold for sharing with CYPS as there was no safeguarding concern meeting their criteria for intervention. The red portion demonstrates the number of police records sent to MASH police to review which met the threshold and were shared with CYPS as a safeguarding concern. Similarly, the green portion demonstrates the number of police records sent to MASH police to review which met the threshold and were shared with ACS (Adult and Community Services) as a safeguarding concern. As some young people remain open to CYPS services after the age of 18, it is relevant to include this figure.



- 2.15 The county's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) continue to be attended by CYPS partners to address child safeguarding concerns within cases discussed. One monthly meeting is held in the north and two for southern and western areas. MASH have recently taken responsibility for reviewing MARAC referrals for external agencies in order to identify crimes and ensure Crime Data Integrity (CDI) compliance and creating the Athena records. This has been subject of audit and very high compliance identified. The added benefit of this is these cases are now being referred to MASH partners to consider involvement. MARAC meetings are now held via Teams, which has improved the attendance and overall efficiency.

#### **Suffolk MARAC Cases involving Children July-December 2020**

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>
58%	55%	58%

#### **Missing**

- 2.16 The Missing Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (TTCG) continues to focus and review children with frequent missing episodes and those vulnerable to exploitation. This helps to ensure tight coordination of multi-agency response, identification and management of risk. The group discusses ten children with most frequent missing episodes and at the highest risk of harm. Information from each agency is collated in advance to allow data rich and meaningful discussion to aid appropriate decision making. Op Culworth which is detailed at the end of this report is an example of an operation which has resulted from the TTCG.
- 2.17 Between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020 there were 2368 (1744 - 2019) recorded missing reports for both adult and children. The reports related to 868 (921 - 2019) different persons, 417 (437 - 2019) of which were children. It should be noted that the period July to December historically shows an increase in missing compared to the early months of the year.
- 2.18 The figures show that there has been an increase in missing episodes when measured against the previous reporting period and the same period last year. However there has

been a decrease in the number of individuals that have been reported missing (suggesting the increase is caused by repeat missing episodes from a smaller cohort of people). It is assessed that the reasons for the increase may be attributed to a reduction in adherence to COVID guidelines, pressures caused by COVID restrictions and the closer contact of people making reporting easier. This is supported by communication with care home partners encouraging them to report missing episodes. To combat the increase a two-stage process has been implemented:

- A full review of missing process for the Constabulary supported by the 2025 team leading to a series of recommendations that are in the process of being implemented to change the way the Constabulary manages missing as a single agency and in partnership;
- Three (3) missing person coordinators have been recruited to impact on high risk high demand missing issues across the organisation, placing a dedicated resource in each area with a specific remit to reduce risk and lower demand in regard to missing.

### **Police Youth Engagement Team (YET)**

- 2.19 The Youth Engagement Team (YET) have continued to evolve and progress. A change in line management was made in September 2019 and the YET Sergeant now also supervises the alternative provision PCSO funded by the Raedwald Trust, a bespoke Educational provision made up of 6 Pupil referral units within Suffolk. This enables a close link into the Education of the young person (YP) being supported by YET.
- 2.20 The police-based Vulnerability Assessment Tracker (VAT) that was embedded to enable a tasking system is now triaged on a monthly basis by meeting with the Children and Young People Service (CYPS), Youth Justice Service (YJS) and Suffolk County Council (SCC). This enables a multi-agency approach and the opportunity to risk assess each YP in line with all partners and share concerns. Once triaged YET aim to contact all YP highlighted on the VAT either by way of ongoing close working or visits which identifies between 70-100 YP per month.
- 2.21 YET have formalised their Problem-Solving Approach by use of a bespoke investigation on Athena providing an in-depth analysis of each YP, which can be accessed by all officers as a research tool. YET have initiated in excess of 25 Problem solving plans on Athena since November 2019.
- 2.22 Following a submission to The College of Policing in February 2019, the YET are now working with the College of Policing and the University of Birmingham on a feasibility study regarding the impact of the YET team in reducing vulnerability.
- 2.23 YET continue to build relationships and break down barriers with YP often being there at that reachable teachable moment, maintaining a consistent influence in their chaotic lives. An example of this occurred recently. YET had been successfully working with a YP diverting his offending and poor associations. YET responded to a call on the radio when they heard that a sudden death had been called in at his address. The YP had discovered his father deceased and YET were first on scene and able to be offer him emotional and practical support at that devastating moment due the trust they had built.
- 2.24 YET staff work alongside statutory and non-statutory partners to create a bespoke package tailored to the needs of the young person. Recent examples of this include:

### **Young Person (YP) A**

- 2.25 YP A is 14yrs of age and an example of success through early intervention. YET sought to engage following YP first arrest. There were 31 investigations recorded on Athena prior to this arrest indicating that Child A was on a downward spiral. YET commenced engagement via visits and a diversionary mountain biking activity building trust with both the YP and the family. The YP was due to start at a pupil referral unit having been excluded from main stream education. YP had already been in an incident whereby they had armed them self with a knife for their own protection. YP vulnerability made them susceptible to becoming exploited to CCE. They had moved from another county with family who had a poor view of police due to previous negative interactions.
- 2.26 YET encouraged YP hobby taking YP to a local cycle shop where they learnt to service their bike. YET liaised with the PRU and attended meetings to support YP transition into the PRU. One week in there was an incident where YP pushed a teacher that saw YP excluded from the school. YET were able to respond immediately and calm the situation down due to their existing rapport, knowledge of the YP and family dynamics prevented the response police team being called. It was seen as a pivotal time as both YP and the family needed the stability of being in education and whilst Not in Education, Employment or training (NEET) YP was at heightened risk of exploitation.
- 2.27 YET worked closely with YP over a 2-week period whilst home schooled assisting YP with set work. During these sessions YP opened up about previous exposure to domestic violence and how YP mental health diagnosis affected YP. YET were instrumental in escalating concerns regarding education and a bespoke plan was put in place. YP returned to the PRU and YET linked in closely with the PRU dedicated PCSO so support could continue whilst there. Referral was made to the SCC Activity group and YP has enjoyed positive activities with peers. YET were successful in a charity funding application for a new mountain bike and membership to a local off-road cycle park. The application also included a scooter for YP younger sibling as it was acknowledged that siblings often feel excluded when support is targeted in one direction. At this time there have been no further arrests and demand on services has been significantly reduced. The mother has expressed her new-found confidence in police and YP has a foundation on which to work on.

### **Young Person (YP) B**

- 2.28 YP B is 16 yrs. of age and scored highly on the VAT and was raised at the monthly Missing person TTCG due to missing episodes and concerns regarding CSE/CCE. YP had been missing 14 times and linked to Investigations. YP was a high demand on police resources. YET created a problem-Solving Plan and conducted extensive scanning linking in with partner agencies to enable an analysis of the issues. It was clear that due to low self-esteem and drug use YPs anxiety had prevent them forming positive relationships. YET built a good relationship with YP and family via regular visits giving providing a point of contact. YET liaised with DWP to source a laptop to enable YP to apply for jobs and spent time building self-esteem, empowering YP to submit applications. This relationship enabled YET to act quickly to concerns raised by family in relation to negative influences and pre-empt missing episodes. YP has not been reported missing since YET involvement and the following feedback was received from the mother:
- 2.29 'Hello, I was given your email so I could say how much I value your service, the youth engagement team. They have been involved with my 'B' in the last month, helping to keep 'B' on track, I have already said that they are very constructive, and anything that's not going

well, they will soon be chasing things up to make things better and keep in touch with updates, we don't feel in limbo, I'm impressed with what they do so far.

Some children who have additional needs are so unaware of their feelings and why they do the things they do, that support workers just end up leaving as children not engaging, and all the small talk, that doesn't mean anything to the child, in my experience they are hands on, cut the small talk out and are very easy to get along with, they say they will do something and they do it. I really hope this helps a lot of other children in same situation as my 'B'.'

### **Young Person (YP) B**

- 2.30 YP C aged 13yrs arrived on the VAT with a low score indicating an emerging risk. Research and triage with partner agencies established concerns in relation to CSE that police were unaware of. YET created a problem-solving plan carrying out a joint approach with CYPS. The support of YET was initially declined by family, however YET maintained regular contact monitoring demand, staying in contact with the allocated Social Worker. YET set about trying to secure some horse-riding lessons at a local stable to give YP an interest and divert away from current associations. This support and initial contact were invaluable when the situation escalated involving missing episodes and crimes raising concerns that the YP was subject of CSE. YET were able to re-engage to assist family with safety planning and attend complex strategy meetings giving police perspective. YET responded to missing episodes and the relationship built enabled a through return interview gaining crucial intelligence. By feeding into the intelligence picture this enabled a Child abduction Warning notice to be issued against a local potential exploiter and a link to a group of London based males. The relationship built with family led the YET to being the first point of contact when the YP made significant disclosures regarding their involvement in CSE/CCE. YET continue to support the YP.

### **Suffolk Youth Offending Service and Suffolk Constabulary Partnership**

- 2.31 This period has seen significant improvement in police compliance with the Youth Justice Service (YJS) referral requirements, particular in terms of Youth Cautions & Youth Conditional Cautions. Early assessment indicates that 97.5% of Youth Cautions & Youth Conditional Cautions were delivered with YJS ratification, compared to a 50.5% during the 2019 period. This means that more young people were open to alternative disposal methods, diversion and increased support.
- 2.32 This improvement has been supported by revised PENY submission approaches within the Constabulary, a new QA process, streamlining of submissions through police systems and training. YJS Officers now complete a mandatory input on all post foundation training, and run continuous supervisor CPD sessions. YJS now features within investigative training for all frontline officers. Feedback from the Youth Justice Service also highlights an improvement in standards of PENY submissions.
- 2.33 The Constabulary has undertaken work in continued support of the decriminalisation of Young People and through the Youth Justice Board will review the role of community resolutions, in particular the impact they can have, if issued incorrectly or at the wrong time. The joint focus will be on supporting national recommendations regarding non-criminal outcomes for first time offences.
- 2.34 Whilst there has been a reduction in the volume of referrals to YJS, reflective of the changes in demand during the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a 50% rise in non-crime diversion referrals into YJS. This demonstrates a cultural shift to early intervention. Work will continue to raise the awareness of early diversionary opportunities to frontline officers and staff, as a means of disposal.

- 2.35 During this period, there has been a strong focus on young person's unnecessarily arrested, or kept within custody for extended periods. Work has taken place to educate and train officers, and custody staff on the impact on young people. This has seen a rise in out of court disposals and alternative interview methods.
- 2.36 A bespoke package has been produced regarding young people and the necessity for arrest, which has been disseminated to frontline supervisors and embedded into ongoing training. This highlights alternative considerations, to ensure the appropriate outcome for young people, whilst maintaining victim support and investigation standards.

<b>Police (PENY) referrals*</b>							<b>Total Last 6 Months</b>
	<b>Jul-20</b>	<b>Aug-20</b>	<b>Sep-20</b>	<b>Oct-20</b>	<b>Nov-20</b>	<b>Dec-20</b>	
Youth Conditional Caution	2	5	3	3	10	2	<b>25</b>
Youth Caution	1	7	5	4	10	9	<b>36</b>
Diversion Crime	20	18	20	15	19	27	<b>119</b>
Diversion Non-Crime	3	3	2	9	9	7	<b>33</b>
Community Resolution	13	9	9	11	6	8	<b>56</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>269</b>

### **3. OPERATIONAL DELIVERY & PREVENTATIVE INITIATIVES**

#### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing Children**

- 3.1 As has previously been reported, Suffolk Constabulary continues to work closely with the Regional Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Coordinator, the Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit (ERSOU) and across a range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies resulting in a number of proactive operations targeting perpetrators of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child sexual abuse (CSA). Current proactive operations (including Op Ascent locally and Op Aident regionally) actively target perpetrators and are set to be maintained again throughout the year. These link to internal operational activities to identify victims of CSE and provide safeguarding support and assistance whilst targeting suspects.
- 3.2 For the period July to December 2020 as part of Op Ascent police have made 39 visits to Sex Workers in relation to their safeguarding and submitted 2 National Referral Mechanism referrals. To date we have not encountered or identified any under 18 years sex workers. There have been 33 Intelligence reports in respect to Sex workers operating in Suffolk.
- 3.3 During this period the Constabulary has engaged in 2 operations, alongside regional partners (OP Excalibur), where adults have attempted to engage in sexual communication with a child. To date, 2 suspects have been arrested and remain on police bail while enquires are ongoing.
- 3.3 During this reporting period there have been 1900 missing episodes recorded by partners in relation to children and young persons. Out of the 1900 missing episodes during July to December there were 1400 missing episodes that met the criteria for a Return Home Interview by CYP (cases allocated to Social Care/Early Help or unallocated cases where MASH considered a Return Home Interview as an outcome). To date of the Return Home Interviews offered to young people 66% have been completed and 28% of young people have refused a Return Home Interview offered to them.

Return Home Interview completed	924
Child/Young Person refused to engage with RHI offered	386
Return Home Interview not offered following review/assessment by MASH	89
Return Home Interview not offered following review/assessment by Practice Manager	293
Return Home Interview not offered due to child placed in Suffolk by another Local Authority	118
No Return Home Interview completed on Liquid Logic	90

### Child Sexual Abuse and Online Investigation

- 3.4 For the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 there were 665 investigations with the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) flag in Suffolk, an increase of 74 investigations from the previous reporting period.
- 3.5 During the period 1 July 2020 to 31 Dec 2020 the department has received 116 new referrals, each of which accounts for a new investigation. The volume follows the same trajectory of an overall increase in referrals compared to the same period last year. It is likely that COVID has influenced the levels and types of referrals received, during periods of lockdown referrals have increased.
- 3.6 Chart 1 – Number of Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) Investigations



- 3.7 The department continues to see an increased rate in referrals. A review of the departments working practices and operating model has been commissioned and commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the anticipated date for recommendations is within 3 months. The volume of work and associated requirements is recognised by the organisation, the review aims to ensure Suffolk adopts the most efficient working practices in response to IIOC and provides the best possible service.

## **Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)**

- 3.8 The emphasis being placed on wellbeing medical checks and access to STI screening for 0-12-year olds, rather than just forensic examination, has seen an increase of 6.25% in this age group, compared to the previous half year. Older children aged 13 – 17 are accommodated within the adult SARC and cannot access STI screening. This is provided via partners at iCaSH, who facilitate a priority service for SARC clients, even during the Covid-19 restrictions that have affected every agency. The overall increase into the SARC for children within both age brackets is 31.25% on the last half year. There will also shortly be HIV testing for children 0-12 years within the SARC, which will further enhance their care, as they will not require referral to primary care unless they yield a positive result.
- 3.9 The attendance of young people aged 13-17 has proportionately decreased during this period, when compared to the 0-12 age bracket. During the previous half year, the attendance ages in the two brackets had been 50/50. In this half year, attendance by children aged 0-12 was a significant 325% higher than those attending within the 13-17 age group. It is unclear why there is such a large disparity, as the actual number of attendances are the same for each half year (4 and 4). It may be reflective of Covid-19 restrictions playing a part in less social activity for 13-17-year olds, therefore impacting on their risk from external sources of sexual assault. The concern, is that many are not feeling safe enough to disclose abuse if they are confined to their home environment, particularly if the perpetrator is also resident within the home. The expected deluge of individuals reporting abuse following the easing of lockdown did not occur at the levels anticipated. It may still be yet to come and if so, we may see a spike in the next half year. The SARC has recently secured Ministry of Justice (MoJ) funding for a temporary ISVA who commenced their role in January 2021. Six (6) new crisis workers have been recruited and are currently undergoing training. There will be scope to further enhance their skills in supporting the ISVA team to deliver recovery programmes once restrictions are lifted. This puts the SARC in a positive position to provide the support that may be required in the near future. All clients attending the SARC are offered ISVA support. The ISVAs continue to work remotely, but will provide face to face meetings after a careful risk assessment, for those that require it.

## **Schools Liaison and CYP engagement**

- 3.10 School visits were severely restricted during the period as a result of COVID-19. Where visits or virtual engagement took place, they centred around the four core areas of One Cop Stop - County Lines, Knife Crime, Relationships and Social Media. During this period, we have lost one Schools Liaison Officer (SLO) for the East due to retirement. The Community Engagement Officers have also supported the SLOs.
- 3.11 During this period work has continued to engage with young people despite the closure of schools. SLO's have linked in with the schools to identify vulnerable families/ children. Joint visits to these families are continuing to take place across the county. Home educated children have also been identified and will receive the One Cop Stop packages via online and be signposted to the One Cop Stop website.
- 3.12 SLOs maintained contact with schools during lock down phase, including maintaining records of which schools were open, estimated pupil numbers and whether police interaction was sought. This is ongoing work as schools fluctuates with the Government changes. We have seen a significant fall with the support schools have requested from us, however we continue to maintain contact.

- 3.13 The number of visits below relates to the visit the SLO's have physically attended, at this time it does not capture virtual, CEO or SNT visits. Virtual visits will be recorded from January 21 and will be included in next periods figures.

Number of visits completed in the period	
South	32
West	21
East	7

- 3.14 The One Cop Stop Online Portal for Parents & Students is currently being updated with its resources and will go live in February 21. The Portal will provide a library of resources in support of police engagement and PSHE, which will build over time. This will cover primary, secondary and higher education. There has been continued work to ensure the alignment of One Cop Stop resources across the county, to ensure consistency in delivery. In addition, work has been ongoing with partners and charities to build and support a resource library for schools. Partners have requested use of the police website links once it goes live. To future proof the One Cop Stop brand recorded sessions have begun this will also support the ongoing COVID work and the force website.
- 3.15 One Cop Stop Primary & Secondary Schools Newsletter. During first lockdown was issued on a weekly basis. Due to the demand placed onto the schools and parents these have been changed to be produced as special additions to support our policing themes each one to still carry an individual theme, to maintain engagement. This included an 'Ask the Police' function, branded as 'Ask Morse' for young people. HOPE the butterfly was designed and launched during HATE Crime week.
- 3.16 Mini Police for Primary schools was due to be launched during this period. Due to Covid-19 this has been delayed with a provisional time frame of March 2021 to make requests for school's support. This scheme will be trailed in six schools two from each police area with a view of full roll out Sept 2021.
- 3.17 Problem Solving has been imbedded within the SLO function. Work was undertaken by the East with support from the other SLO team and local SNT, to work with a school with multiple issues. This approach has also been used to support individual young people with complex needs.
- 3.18 Continual Professional development (CPD) for SLO's has been undertaken to include a three-day workshop style day these included key partners and internal links.

### **Operational Highlight Report**

- 3.19 Operation Culworth was commissioned in June 2020 as a Suffolk Constabulary priority. There was a concern for a cohort of young females who were regularly being reported missing and becoming victims of sexual offences. At the start of the operation missing episodes for the entire cohort would be in excess of 25 per week, and often would lead to disclosures of criminal and sexual exploitation. Three objectives were set by the Senior Investigating Officer:
- Reduce the number of missing episodes;
  - Reduce the number of sexual offences being reported / committed;
  - Develop and introduce a problem-solving plan to provide long term solutions to these issues.

- 3.31 A tactical delivery plan was devised under the headings Pursue, Protect, Prevent and Prepare:

**Pursue**

- All investigation opportunities pursued and exploited
- Proactive disruptions by specialist proactive teams were undertaken, including arresting several individuals for facilitating the exploitation of children, on specific individuals who posed the most risk

**Prepare**

- Multi-agency partnership group established under 'organised and complex abuse process' chaired by Local Authority
- Undertake DOCO assessments of all locations where vulnerable children are at risk, to target harden and reduce risk of exploitation

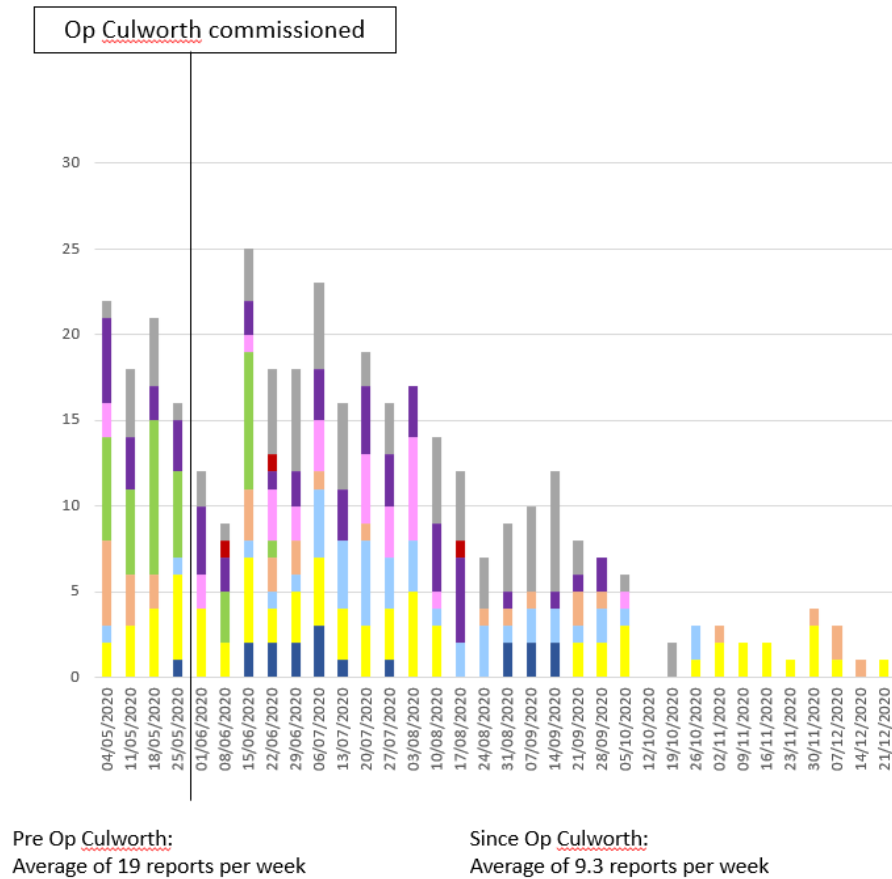
**Protect**

- Educate staff – key themes. National Referral Mechanism (NRM), Missing reports, use of civil powers and legislation
- Maximised use of Child Abduction Warning Notices, Sexual Risk Orders, Risk Orders, Domestic Violence Disclosures and other police powers
- Media campaign – target hotels – taxi companies to recognise signs of CCE and CSE
- Partnership worked together, to look at best housing options for all cohort members on individual suitability and location
- Front line teams are working closer together – 1 example is the co-working between Police Youth Engagement Team and SCS Make A Change Team, utilising the most appropriate professional

**Prevent**

- Deliver problem solving plans for each individual child
- Deliver multiagency problem-solving plan to be delivered by partnership
- Implement new missing persons protocol – Philomena protocol

- 3.32 As a consequence of the operation Missing episodes have continued to decline, due to the hard work and dedication by all of the front-line colleagues. The average missing numbers have fallen from a peak of 25 per week in June 2020 to 1 or less a week, for the last 6 weeks (December 2020):



3.33 In addition, Serious sexual offences reported have declined, with no new reports since October 2020. A Problem-Solving Plan has been created and agreed across the partnership, and is now beginning the implementation phase that will provide the long-term sustainability for this operation.

3.34 The HOPE Awards were launched to schools in the county by Police in partnership with Suffolk County Council, District and Borough Councils during National Hate Crime Awareness Week (NHCAW) in November 2020. Taking forward the slogan of “We stand together” the HOPE Awards aim to celebrate and recognise the positive contribution of our young people within their communities, their schools or by a particular individual. The awards will be open to all young persons in education between the age of 11-18 yrs. and they are based around the following core values:-

- Diversity;
- Respect;
- Teamwork;
- Determination.

## 4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No financial implications are highlighted in this period.

## **5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

- 5.1 Suffolk is yet to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people but undoubtedly there will be both short term and long-term issues. Young people are particularly vulnerable to the disruptions the COVID-19 pandemic has caused, with many at risk of being left behind in education, economic opportunities, and health and wellbeing during a crucial stage of their life development.
- 5.2 Many of these hardships are also known risk factors associated with crime, violence, and drug use, and may expose youth to increased victimisation and involvement with crime during and after the pandemic. The pandemic has created challenges for child protection services, the police, the courts and other frontline services, both changes to working patterns, and to the services they are able to provide. Lockdown has inhibited opportunities for face to-face safeguarding and risk assessment, fuelling concerns over online harms and grooming while young people were confined to their homes. Court and school closures, and delays to CPS processes, further exacerbated risk to vulnerable young people.