

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE

PAPER NO: AP22/50

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –
18 NOVEMBER 2022**

SUBJECT: SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

SUMMARY:

1. This paper supports the related commitment in the Police and Crime Plan, that the Constabulary will ensure the way it works with young people supports effective engagement, safeguards young people, prevents unnecessary criminalisation and reduces reoffending (including its triage work with Suffolk Youth Justice Service).

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is asked to consider the progress made by the Constabulary, and raise issues with Chief Constable as appropriate to the PCC's role in holding the Chief Constable to account.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report covers the period January 2022 to June 2022 and provides an update to the areas reported on in a previous paper to the Panel.
- 1.2 Strategic oversight of Children and Young Persons (CYP) is shared across County Policing Command and Crime, Safeguarding and Incident Management and Joint Justice Services. The portfolio holders are as follows: Superintendent (South Area) responsible for Children and Young People against the National Child Centred Policing Framework, Detective Superintendent responsible for the Safeguarding Partnership, Detective Superintendent for Child Abuse Investigations and a Chief Inspector responsible for Children in Custody. The Strategic Governance is held by the Assistant Chief Constable providing leadership and oversight. There are delivery boards for both CYP (incorporating custody) and for Child Protection.
- 1.3 This paper supports the related commitment in the Police and Crime Plan, that the Constabulary will ensure the way it works with young people supports effective engagement, safeguards young people, prevents unnecessary criminalisation and reduces reoffending (including its triage work with Suffolk Youth Justice Service).

2. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 The Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) for Children

- 2.1.1 The Police are one of three statutory organisations that form the partnership, along with the Local Authority and Health. There have been little structural changes to the partnership since the last reporting period, but the partnership continues to evolve in relation to new findings from cases which are reviewed.
- 2.1.2 The full Children's Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) meets quarterly. The Partnership has an Independent Chair who scrutinises the Partnership to ensure that all agencies are doing all they can to keep children safe. There are four (4) sub-groups that meet under the Children's SSP structure.

- **Learning and Improvement Subgroup**
Supports the SSP in fulfilling its statutory duty to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve. This is achieved by monitoring a range of performance data, statutory and practice audits and quality assurance activity.
- **Case Review Panel**
The group also undertakes reviews of cases where there is serious cause for concern as to the way in which the Partnership and other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child; and to advise on lessons that can be learnt. The group will also identify and manage Partnership Reviews of cases which do not meet the statutory Serious Case Review criteria but can provide valuable information about how organisations are working together and identify improvements. This group will oversee all action plans resulting from these case reviews.
- **Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)**
Reviews all child deaths up to the age of 18, excluding those babies who are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law by collating information on

each child. The panel determine whether the death was deemed preventable, had modifiable factors that may have contributed to the death been avoided, and makes recommendations to the SSP, or other relevant bodies, promptly so that action can be taken to prevent future such deaths where possible.

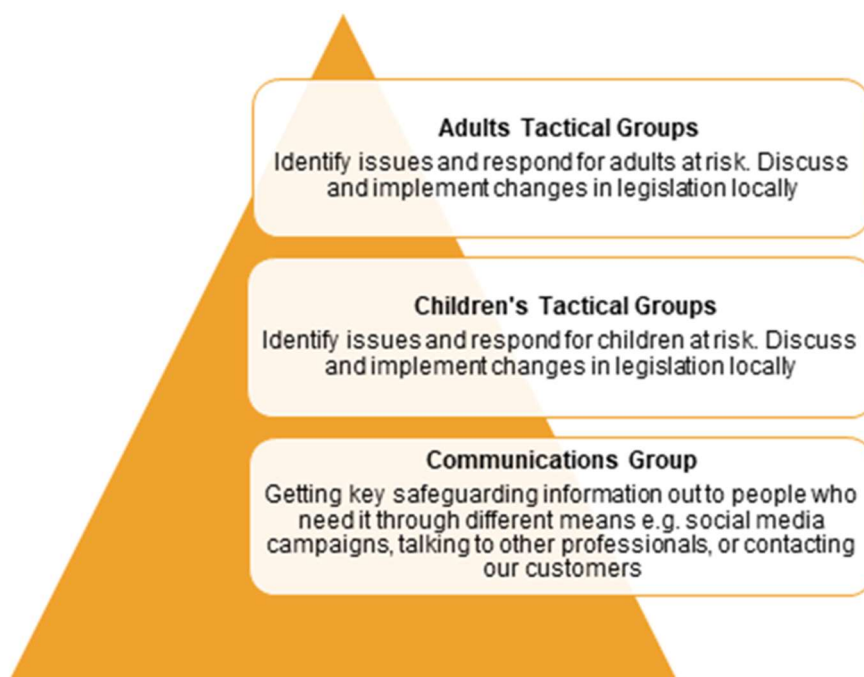
- **Exploitation and Online Safety Subgroup**

This group has had an all-age approach incorporating adults as well as children which promotes co-ordinated thinking and delivery of services to safeguard children, young people, adults and their families/carers. This group will soon be modified to become the “*Online Safety & Exploitation Subgroup*” and will afford greater focus in relation to online issues rather than wider exploitation (which is addressed across other groups).

The overarching purpose will be, “*A partners meeting to capture strategic issues surrounding online safety and exploitation affecting both adults and children and provide direction and support for organisations across Suffolk under the 4P’s; Prevent & Prepare, Pursue and Protect.*”

2.1.3 The SSP has maintained the tactical groups initially developed to ensure the timely sharing of information. The groups have been integral to ensure consistent communication and working practices across the partnership. The groups consist of Children’s Social Care, Adult Social Care, Police, Health and Community Safety Partnerships.

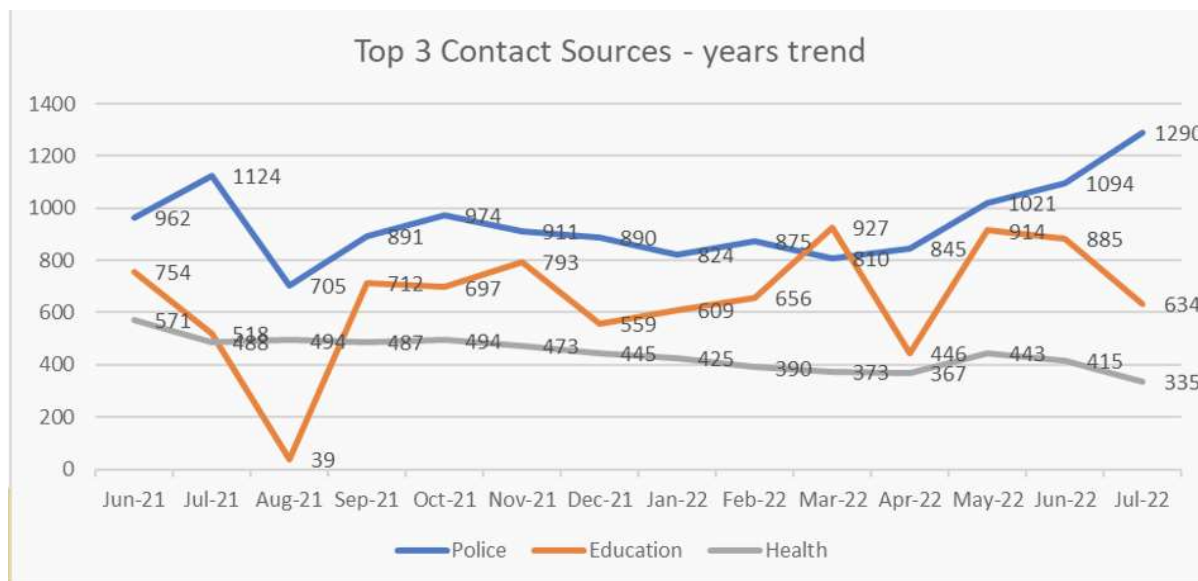
2.1.4 The structure and information about what these tactical groups do is shown below.



2.2 **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

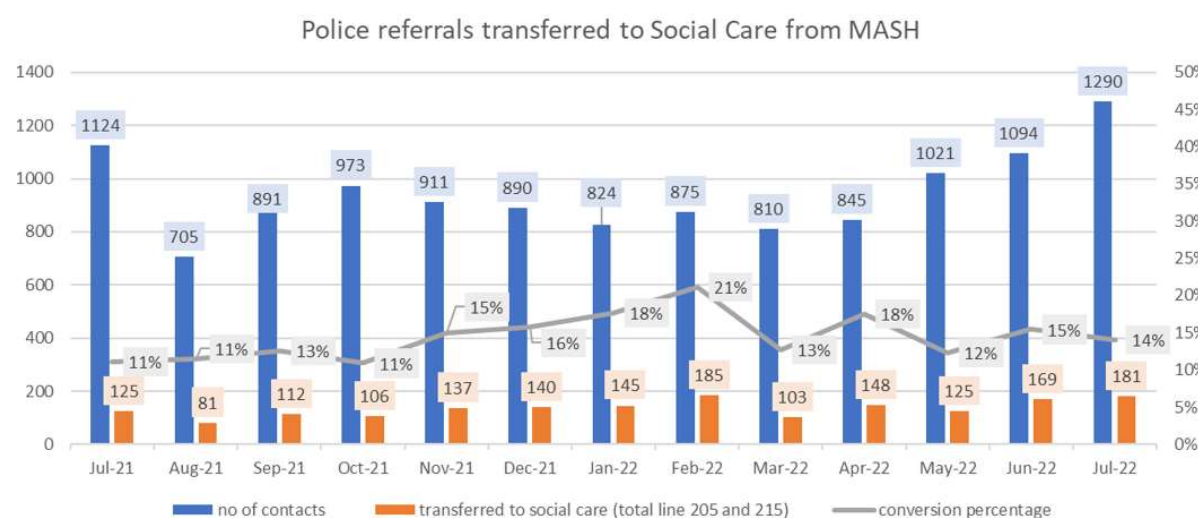
2.2.1 The MASH Police team has continued to have daily presence in MASH, with significant numbers of staff working in the office throughout the first half of 2022 and have welcomed back small numbers of partner agency colleagues allowing face-to-face interaction, robust discussion of safeguarding concerns and enriching decision making.

2.2.2 The MASH continues to experience high demand which has increased from 5495 child Contacts (referrals) between July and December 2021, to 6759 between January and June 2022. The top referrers remain as police, education, and health respectively, with predictable seasonal variation when schools are closed, which can clearly be seen in the graph below.



2.2.3 In accordance with Section 47 Children’s Act 1989, the Local Authority has a statutory duty to carry out an investigation when they have 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found, in their area 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 a S.47 investigation is met, this can be conducted by Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPS) as a single agency, or jointly with Police if it is necessary and proportionate, or a criminal investigation is required.

2.2.4 The table below illustrates the conversation rate of Police Contacts made to Social Care, which is similar to Contacts received from other referring agencies.

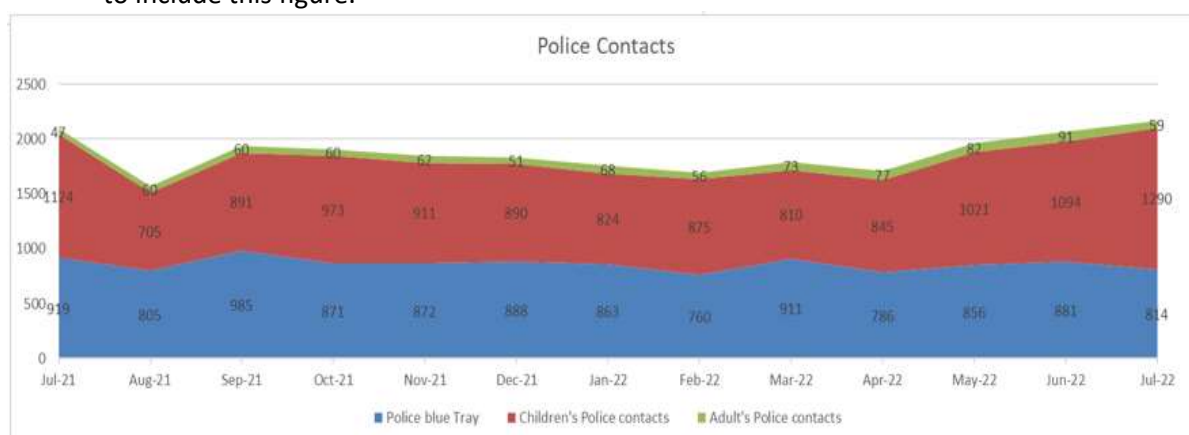


2.2.5 In excess of 98% of contacts that arrive in the MASH are resolved without the requirement for police investigation. Effective triage by skilled and experienced practitioners across all agencies allows the appropriate level of intervention to be identified. This ensures the most

concerning cases requiring scrutiny through joint working of the Police and the Local Authority are promptly passed to specialist Safeguarding Investigation Units. The demand on police officers is therefore made manageable due to the low conversion rate of Contacts to Joint Agency S.47 investigations.

2.2.6 Suffolk Constabulary remains the largest referring 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 determines around 50% of records sent for review do not meet the threshold for CYPS intervention. This triage process creates capacity for the most concerning cases to be identified and addressed expeditiously.

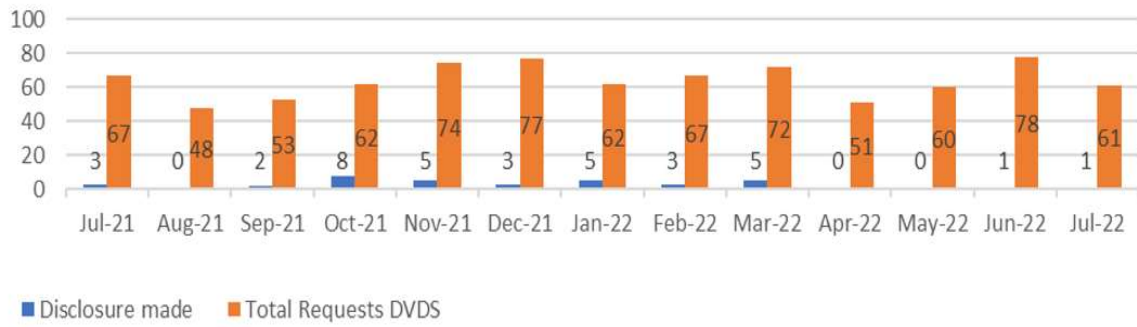
2.2.7 The graph below illustrates the number of police referrals into the MASH shared with CYPS and those retained by police. The blue portion demonstrates the number of police records sent to MASH police to review which do not meet the threshold for sharing with CYPS as there was no safeguarding concern 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 Adult and Community Services (ACS) 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.



2.2.8 Clare’s Law (Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, DVDS) and Sarah’s Law (Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme, CSODS) can allow police information about a potential source of risk to be shared with a person potentially at risk. This empowers people to protect and safeguard themselves and their children by making an informed choice about their relationships.

2.2.9 The graph below shows the number of DVDS applications that have been received and processed by MASH police. Not all applications result in a disclosure being made to a person potentially at risk, although safety planning advice is offered in all cases where engagement is possible.

DVDS Requests by Month



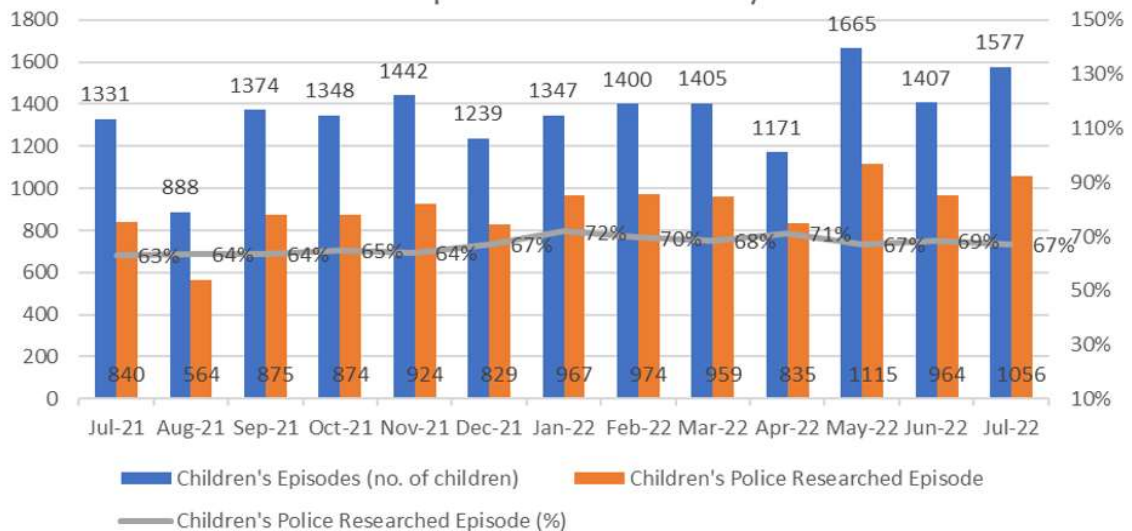
2.2.10 The graph below shows the number of CSODP applications that have been received and processed by MASH police. These figures are all within expected parameters.

CSODP disclosures by Month



2.2.11 The graph below shows the number of research packages completed by the MASH police research team. This research is requested by MASH partner agencies to aid decision making and can include information retrieved from all police data bases, relevant to the safeguarding concern.

Children's MASH Episodes researched by MASH Police



2.2.12 The county's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) continue to be attended by CYPs to address child safeguarding concerns within cases discussed. All MARAC referrals are processed through the MASH in order that any crimes being disclosed to both statutory partners and third sector agencies are identified and recorded. There are 2 MARAC meetings

per month held in South and West Areas and 1 Meeting in the East Area. MARAC meetings are held on Teams for efficiency.

Suffolk MARAC Cases involving Children January - June 2022

	No. of MARAC cases heard	No. of cases heard with children linked	Total no. of children linked to heard MARAC cases
Southern	281	161	332
Western	265	136	273
Northern	88	44	87
Total	634	341	692

2.3 Missing Children

2.3.1 Missing Children has remained a source of significant demand for Suffolk Constabulary, particularly those children who reside within a care home setting and/or are vulnerable to exploitation. The monthly Missing Tactical and Tasking Co-Ordination Group, is jointly chaired by a Children Young Persons Service (CYPS) manager and a Detective Chief Inspector, it meets to ensure a partnership response to those children who are frequently missing. If a child is identified at risk of exploitation, they are referred into the Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) Panel.

2.3.2 Between 1st January 2022 and 30th June 2022 there were 1591 individual reports of missing children (Under 18). Of these reports this related to 531 children. It should be noted that the Southern Area has the greatest number of repeated missing children, and highest number of children reported missing from care.

Total number of child missing reports during this period:

South Area – 1021 of which 556 related to children in care

West Area – 420 of which 147 related to children in care

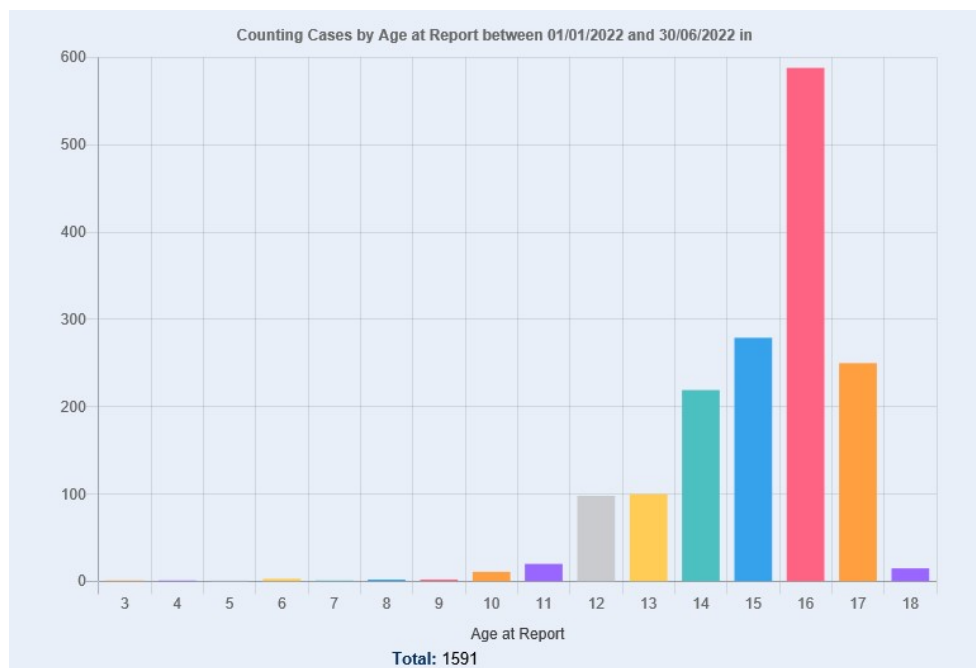
East Area – 218 of which 64 related to children in care

Total number of children reported missing during this period:

South Area – 130 of which 63 were in care

West Area – 186 of which 26 were in care

East Area – 130 of which 22 were in care



- 2.3.3 The three missing persons advisors based on each area are embedded and are working well across the three areas and have built key relationships in Children’s Care Home setting and with Children and Young Persons Services.
- 2.3.4 The Philomena Protocol was implemented in the South Area and has now been adopted in the East and West of the county. Work is ongoing with partners to fully embed the process and improve uptake and effectiveness. The protocol requires care homes to conduct initial enquiries in relation to the missing child and provide the information to police when reporting the child missing. The effectiveness of the protocol will be reviewed in the coming months.
- 2.3.5 Return Home Interviews are provided to the police from Children and Young Persons Services. These are reviewed by the Missing Person Advisors to capture intelligence that can be used to Safeguard the child for future missing episodes.
- 2.3.6 An audit process is in place for Missing reports, with a focus on those Children under the age of 18 years old. This is reviewed as part of the Missing Persons Delivery Board, which seeks to support continual improvement in line with the Constabularies missing person strategy.

2.4 **Child Exploitation**

- 2.4.1 Suffolk Constabulary are currently writing a new Child Exploitation Policy to ensure that Children who have been identified as victims of either Sexual and Criminal Exploitation are effectively safeguarded and those who perpetrate these offences are held to account. This will replace the current Child Sexual Exploitation Policy. Quite often children who are victims of exploitation do not recognise themselves as victims until years after the offences take place. The new policy will mean that Suffolk Police has a robust partnership response in place that has a child centred approach. This is being led by the Detective Superintendent for Exploitation.
- 2.4.2 Suffolk Constabulary has enhanced data collection around Child Exploitation. From 1st April 2022 there have been 20 children identified as being exploited, either criminally or sexually, of these 20, 6 are Children who are in the care of the Local Authority. This data will be produced on a quarterly basis.

2.4.3 The focus on exploitation has resulted in a year-on-year increase in the number of Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs) that have been issued. There have so far been 14 notices issued across Suffolk in 2022. The issuing of the notice assists in ensuring that persons who would exploit children will be prosecuted if they do not disengage with the child.

2.5 **MACE (Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation Panel)**

2.5.1 The MACE Panel meeting is now embedded within Suffolk. They are held in each geographical Command area. The meeting consists of key stakeholders including Police, Children Young Peoples Services (CYPS), Health, Education, representatives from the Community safety Partnerships and Youth Justice Services. 3rd sector agencies who have referred in a child will also be invited to the meeting. Children and Young People referred into the MACE are between 10 and 25 years old and have been identified as being involved in, or at risk of exploitation. The Child or Young Person is scored against a Vulnerability Assessment Tracker that will identify whether the child is high, medium, or low risk of exploitation. This assists in deciding whether the child is adopted by the Panel. The score is reviewed at subsequent meetings to establish whether the measures put in place at through the MACE have reduced the risk to the child.

2.5.2 In January 2021 CYPS commissioned a review of MACE by the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre. This provided some key recommendations including the implementation of a Pre- MACE meeting where information and intelligence about a Child or Young Person is shared, ensuring that the MACE panel is focused on multi-agency contextual safeguarding of the child and identification and pursuit of the perpetrators. At pre-MACE, which is attended by the statutory members of the Safeguarding Partnership a decision will be made whether there is sufficient support in place for the child or young person or whether it needs to be heard by the panel. The Criminal Exploitation Co-ordinator provides hot-spot mapping of locations for exploitation that is included for consideration of additional patrols within the Area Tactical Tasking Coordination Group.

2.5.3 The MACE Panel has had the following referrals from January 2022 to July 2022:

	North	South	West	Total
No of referrals	17	35	27	79
Presented to MACE	13	25	20	58
Adopted by MACE	8	12	13	33

Multi- Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) Example

2.5.4 Actions Child B was referred to MACE following disclosure that they had been selling explicit photographs online, passing the money on to individuals known to be linked to County Lines activity. There were frequent missing episodes where the child travelled to meet these individuals, one of who claimed to be their 'boyfriend'.

Actions complete by MACE Panel representatives-

- Concerns re: suitability of the child’s placement raised with placements team - placement changed;
- Intelligence trawl and research carried out to identify unknown individuals of concern;
- Positive activities arranged and funded;
- Criminal Exploitation Hubs outreach work carried out with the Child;
- Supported to engage in sexual health services;
- MAC worker engaged;

- Turning Point referral made;
- Supported the child to engage in education.

When the case closed the child had disengaged with the individuals of concern (two of whom were convicted and now in prison), was no longer selling explicit images online and had an appropriate, safe, well-supported placement. They had enrolled in a college course and were no longer using drugs. They were in a stable, appropriate, caring relationship.

2.6 Child Exploitation & Gangs Team (CEGT) - (formally Police Youth Engagement Team)

- 2.6.1 In this reporting period the Criminal Exploitation & Gangs Team was formed from the Youth Engagement Team under a revised term of reference. The impetus for this change was to better align the activities of the team with their established role profile and provide clarity to their responsibilities within partnership environments.
- 2.6.2 The team are now closer aligned to national recommendations regarding Youth Offending Services and predominantly deploy in uniform to build closer relationships between policing and young people. The team work closely with Criminal Exploitation Hubs, Social Care, MACE and the Youth Justice Service.
- 2.6.3 The team undertake a balanced focus of engagement and disruption, identifying young people who are at risk of exploitation or becoming involved with gangs and acting to ensure they are signposted to the correct provision for diversion.
- 2.6.4 The CEGT work in conjunction with public sector agencies, third sector partners and with the MACE framework in support of a whole public health response. They will conduct investigations to disrupt exploitation and identify perpetrators in addition to provision provided by others.
- 2.6.5 The team are currently under establishment, with recruitment ongoing to fulfil two vacancies, however they continue to demonstrate a high level of productivity having recorded 99 investigations connected directly to exploitation concerns and children.

Child Exploitation & Gangs Team (CEGT) Example

- 2.6.6 A 14-year-old male who had been seen in an area known for gang and drug activity in company with an older male who had links to a local gang. Little was known about Child A so CEGT officers visited Child A and his mum. Mum advised that the child's dad had passed away when he was younger and up until recently, she had had a very good relationship with the child. But she described his behaviour as deteriorating recently and that he was going out late at night and not returning until the early hours. Child A did not have a Social Worker and mum was not receiving any outside assistance from partner agencies. Mum was encouraged to set a curfew time and report him missing if he did not return by the set time.

A non-crime exploitation investigation was recorded and worked on by the team. Disruption visits were conducted with the older males whom child A was believed to be associating with and advice given about potential offences should the contact continue or be encouraged.

Direct contact was made with Social Services by CEGT and a Social Worker was arranged for the child and mum.

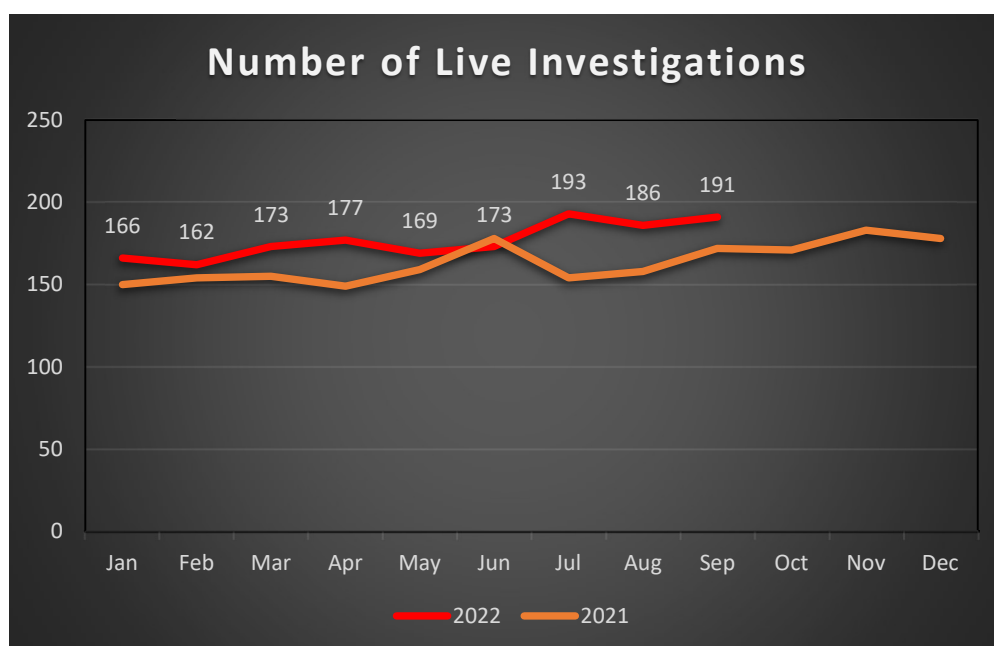
Through referrals by the team, and additional support from a Social Worker, Child A was allocated a Make a Change worker and support from the CE Hub. His behaviour has since been much improved, he has changed his friendship group, and has not come to police attention. The relationship between him and his mum became much healthier, and mum's health and wellbeing is much improved.

2.7 Child Sexual Abuse and Online Investigation

2.7.1 Demand has continued to rise in Suffolk in 2022 which is in line with a national increase in online offending. Demand was up by 8% in the first half of 2022 in comparison to the same period in 2021. On average, each Officer has a workload of around 33 live investigations. Despite the unrelenting rise in online offending there has been an increase in the number of cases referred to CPS for a charging decision, which has resulted in some dangerous individuals being successfully convicted.

2.7.2 The Internet Child Abuse Investigation Team (ICAIT) was subject of a full review in 2021 with a recommended uplift of 4 additional members of staff to be implemented to assist with the increase in demand. The additional staff would provide capacity to engulf the grading demands of all Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) investigations in the County, which would ultimately prevent untrained Officers from viewing IIOC and the subsequent welfare issues this can cause. The uplift would also ensure consistency in the evidential packages produced as the new model would include a standalone intelligence development function, so as not to be reliant on the IDUs. Work is ongoing to identify how this uplift can be achieved.

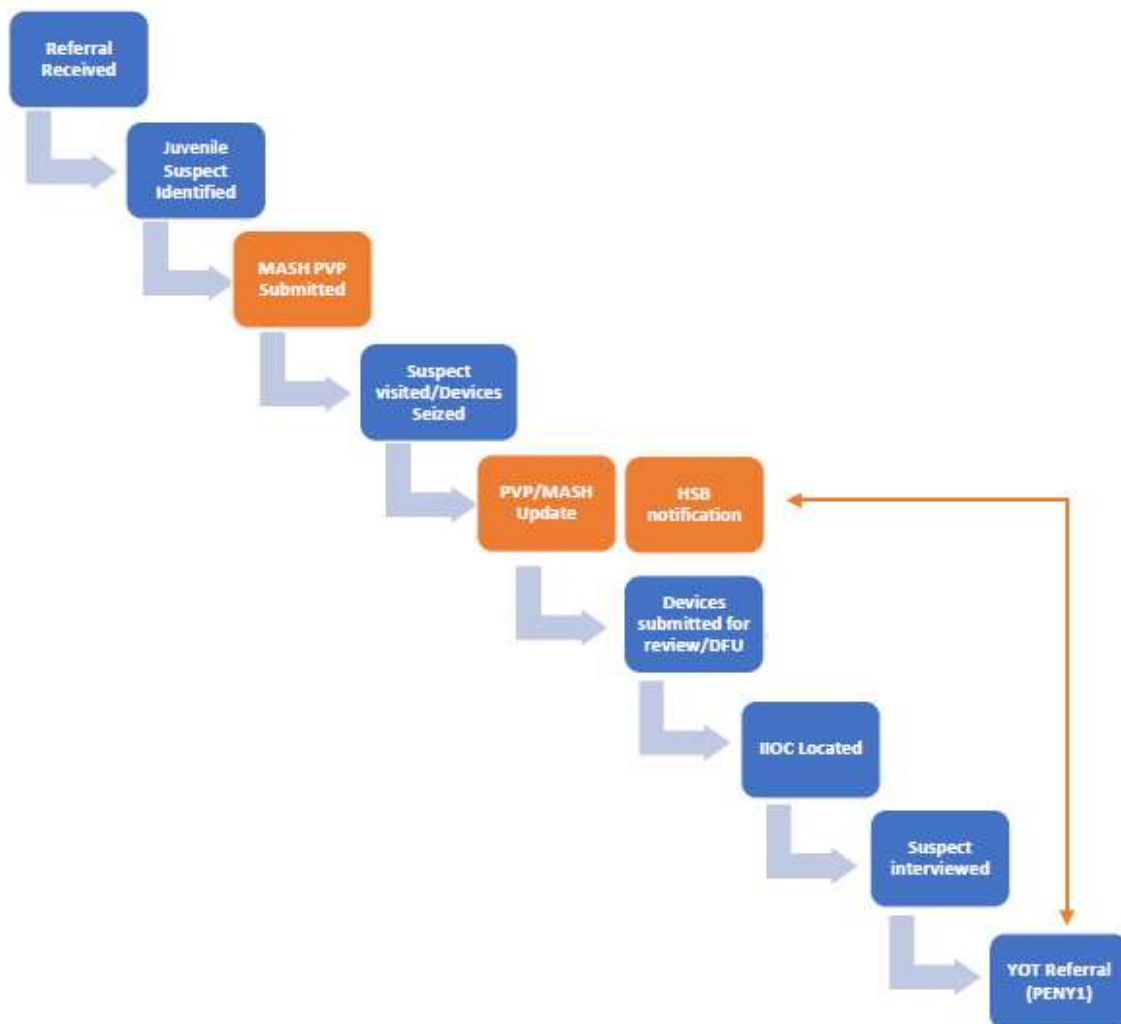
2.7.3 Volume of investigations during this reporting period:



	2022	2021
Jan	166	150
Feb	162	154
Mar	173	155
Apr	177	149
May	169	159
Jun	173	178

- 2.7.4 In recent months, Suffolk ICAIT have developed closer working practices with the Suffolk Public Protection Unit (PPU), which has resulted in a new, more co-ordinated approach to charging and remanding Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) who are in breach of their Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs). This has included streamlining the grading procedure and expediting their journey through the criminal justice process and has resulted in five high risk RSO's being changed and remanded for Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) and causing/inciting offences since January 2022.
- 2.7.5 Along with the increased demand, increasingly ICAIT are dealing with referrals identifying juveniles as the suspects. To tackle this trend, ICAIT have recently forged a closer working relationship with the Suffolk County Council Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Team and implemented a new early referral mechanism which requires Police to notify HSB Team when a young person (U18) is identified as potential perpetrator/suspect of an IIOC offence. A request is submitted at the point of the first MASH referral, allowing the HSB team to work with CYPS from the outset to ensure the appropriate response is forthcoming; early intervention seeks to circumnavigate the criminal justice system, and to prevent the unnecessary criminalisation of children, through education and diversion.

Suffolk ICAIT Juvenile Referral Flowchart (HSB route)



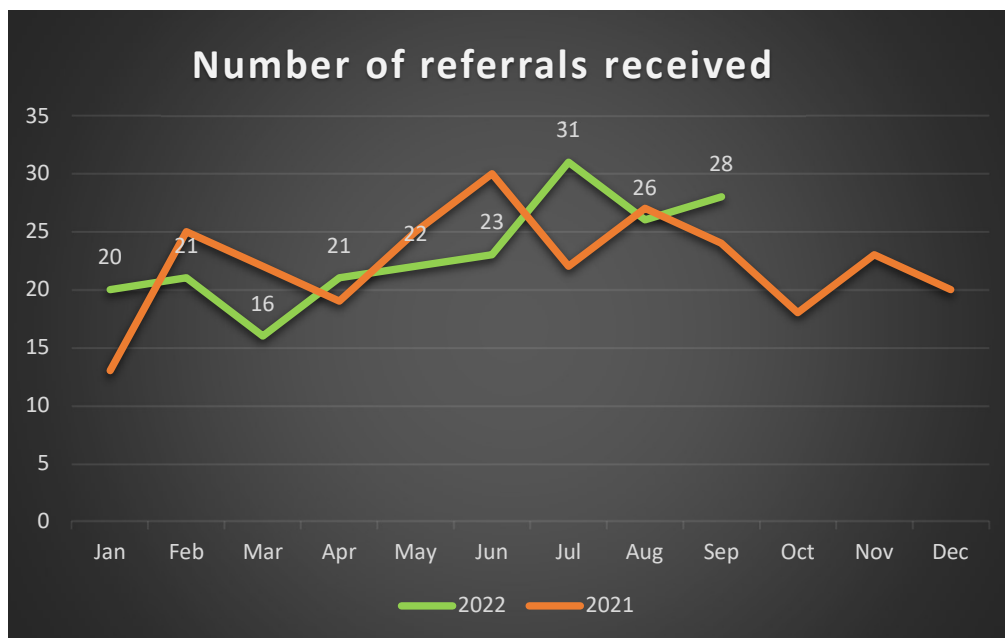
- 2.7.6 In the six months from January to June 2022, ICAIT received 123 referrals from the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). The

enforced against 94 suspects in the same period, safeguarding 80 children, and seizing 245 devices suspected to contain IIOC, utilising a range of powers including S18, S19 and S32 of the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act, and submitted 40 cases to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in that time, all of which have been charged and have either been convicted or await trial.

2.7.7 ICAIT work closely with proactive teams in Suffolk, and often utilise the expertise of the Scorpion teams to assist with arrest, search, and seizure, and allows them to work within KIRAT 3 risk management guidelines, enforcing more than 90% of investigations in the below timescales.

- Very high risk – 48hrs
- High risk – 7 days
- Medium – 14 days
- Low risk – 30 days.

2.7.8 Volume of referrals received:



	2022	2021
Jan	20	13
Feb	21	25
Mar	16	22
Apr	21	19
May	22	25
Jun	23	30

2.8 Schools Liaison and CYP engagement

2.8.1 During this period face-to-face delivery has continued in educational settings. The School Liaison Officers and Children and Young Person (CYP) Officers are essential for building trust with Children and Young People. During this period that have supported local and national initiatives such as County Lines Intensification Week, Safer Intraday, Sexual Abuse, Violence Awareness Week and Op Sceptre (Knife Crime).

2.8.2 The CYP Officers continue to expand police support within further education, specifically targeting 16+. The additional capacity offered by the officers has grown since their introduction and at a rapid pace since the easing of national restrictions.

2.8.3 Both CYP Officers and School Liaison Officers deliver bespoke material produced in-house and approved for delivery in conjunction with Suffolk County Council. They continue to enhance elements of compulsory delivery by other agencies and address thematic areas within the PCC's priorities.

2.8.4 Educational Delivery in this period:

	Primary School		Secondary School		South PRU's	
	Inputs	No. of children	Inputs	No. of children	Inputs	No. of children
County Lines	4	120	4	26	8	12
Healthy Relationships	6	350	24	1574	12	12
Knife Crime	4	308	18	1860	4	12
Internet Safety	41	1948	6	670	12	28
Other	62	4230	168	2822	8	32
Total	43	6956	220	6952	44	96

	16+	
	Inputs	No. of children
Consent	6	410
County Lines	10	160
Digital Footprint	10	1030
Domestic Abuse	6	60
Drugs	16	422
Hate Crime	6	114
Knife Crime	2	226
Sexting & Revenge		
Porn	18	912
Other (inc Mini Police)	16	2476
Total	90	5810

2.8.5 The second HOPE awards, which focuses on celebrating the achievements and resilience of Children and Young People within Suffolk were held this year, with the winners selected in March 2022. This will continue to be a yearly event coordinated by Suffolk Constabulary. The event continues to bring partners together and this year's judging panel consisted of the Assistant Chief Constable, The High Sheriff of Suffolk, The Leader of Ipswich Borough Council and Community Safety from Suffolk County Council.

2.9 **Suffolk Youth Justice Service and Suffolk Constabulary Partnership**

2.9.1 The Police are a statutory partner of the Youth Justice Service and three Youth Justice Officers are permanently seconded to the service, with one based in each of the area teams (Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds & Ipswich). They are complemented by two matched funded

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) which provide additional provision outside of the Police Constable role.

2.9.2 Preventing unnecessary criminalisation of Young People remains a priority for the police and Youth Justice, and work continues to develop in this area. As a partnership we are focusing on improving out of court disposal options by adopting a modified diversion model, which places an emphasis on public interest and first time offending, as well as better oversight regarding the use of Community Resolutions.

2.9.3 Outcomes as a result of decision making within Youth Justice continue to favour heavily towards diversion, with charge remaining the option of last resort. This remains the most desired outcome and moving forward the service and police aspire to establishing multi-disciplined panels to better inform objective decision making for each individual.

2.9.4 Referrals to Youth Justice Service (known as Youth Offending Teams) and outcomes:

South

Police Electronic Notifications to YOTs (PENY) referrals	Total Last 6 Months
Youth Conditional Caution	7
Youth Caution	16
Diversion Crime	92
Community Resolution	23
No Further Action	4
Charge	7
Total:	149

West

Police Electronic Notifications to YOTs (PENY) referrals	Total Last 6 Months
Youth Conditional Caution	5
Youth Caution	11
Diversion Crime	75
Community Resolution	4
No Further Action	2
Charge	4
Total:	101

East

Police Electronic Notifications to YOTs (PENY) referrals	Total Last 6 Months
Youth Conditional Caution	5
Youth Caution	6
Diversion Crime	22
Community Resolution	8
No Further Action	3
Charge	2
Total:	46

2.9.5 The Youth Justice Service offers Non-Crime Diversion in addition to its statutory requirements and police referrals continue to be a focus for increase. The referral form is scheduled for review in order to better ensure suitability of children and young person's being referred to the scheme and increase the likelihood of acceptance.

Youth Justice Service (YJS) Example (Child A):

2.9.6 Child A was arrested for the offence of Arson, which was considered 'low' level. Diversion was chosen as the most appropriate outcome.

During the YJS screening process it was discovered that he was not attending mainstream education and was suffering with the trauma of losing his father.

A referral was completed to Suffolk Fire Service for the young person to participate in the Fire setters' course in relation to the offence, and a further referral completed to WS Training and the PMHW (Primary Mental Health Worker).

Outcome – Four sessions were completed with Suffolk Fire Service to provide him with an understanding of deliberately starting fires and the potential dangers. He is now a regular attender at WS Training who have devised an alternative education programme for him which included music and statutory Maths and English, he has engaged with appointments with the

PMHW to support him in reducing distress and Trauma. To date this young person has not come to police or YJS attention.

YJS Example (Child B):

- 2.9.7 A Diversion Non-Crime Referral from education highlighting concerns about associations with older peer groups, absconding from home, ASB, behaviour is upsetting other pupils and causing him to be a risk of retribution from others.

During the screening process it was evident that he struggled to concentrate and make good decisions, he did not understand the consequences of his actions and was struggling with mainstream schooling

Referrals were submitted to Educational Psychological services and Speech and Language Therapy Service to enable him to apply for an Educational Health and Care Plan.

Outcome - Education Psychologist and Speech and language therapy (SALT) were able to assess him and identified that he was displaying clear indications of ADHD. Both formulated reports that could be taken forward to support EHCP (Education Health Care Plan) application. From the resulting referrals, EHCP was successfully obtained. He engaged positively with all aspect of this support and education, he moved away from an older negative peer group who were seeking to influence him into low level criminality.

He has completed work around healthy relationship forming and discussed exploitation. He has developed wider interests; via sport and social activity groups He was able to engage positively with topics discussed and there were changes to his behaviours due to increased understanding. He has not engaged in offending behaviours since this incident and concerns around missing episodes, have reduced.

2.10 **Cadet Scheme**

- 2.10.1 Since returning from lockdown the cadet scheme has grown in numbers from 129 to 160 with a further 10 applicants currently on the waiting list. All Units have now returned to face-to-face meetings and have been involved in over 35 community events across the county in this period.

- 2.10.2 There are eight cadet units across the county (three joint with the Fire Service). Mildenhall remains at risk due to lack of volunteer leaders, this is a current focus for the Citizens in Policing Manager.

- 2.10.3 Key Headlines:

- Vetting continues not to be required for the scheme;
- The National safeguarding standards are now being followed by Suffolk and a national audit will soon be completed;
- The Cadet Coordinators post is now fully resourced with two part-time members of staff;
- A pathway for referrals from the Youth Justice Service into Cadets has been agreed to support identifying vulnerable children and young people who may benefit from the scheme;
- Recruitment of volunteers to lead the units continues to be an area of concern.

2.10.4 Recruitment of leaders remains a focus and currently an incentive and recruitment campaign are being explored to attract new leaders both within the organisation and from external members of the community.

2.10.5 Several engagements were supported by the cadet scheme in this period:

- Countywide Jubilee Events;
- Suffolk Show;
- Suffolk Dog Day;
- Hadleigh Show;
- Felixstowe Carnival;
- Recruitment Events;
- Suffolk Day;
- PHQ Recruitment Events;
- Latitude Festival;
- Park Runs across Suffolk;
- Women's Cycle Race.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Children and Young Persons Strategy and resulting activity continues to reflect the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Strategy and action plan. but in low context. It is recommended that this should continue to be the case when the current Strategy is renewed in 2023. The national strategy continues to capture key thematic areas for delivery and drives consistency and learning across borders, drawing on regional support and learning.

3.2 Primary Non-Crime diversion provision is currently provided by the Youth Justice Service supplementary to its statutory requirements. This is enhanced by the match funded PCSO provision within the service. A review should be completed of these arrangements to ensure longevity and continued productivity for the service and police.

He has completed work around healthy relationship forming and discussed exploitation. He has developed wider interests; via sport and social activity groups He was able to engage positively with topics discussed and there were changes to his behaviours due to increased understanding. He has not engaged in offending behaviours since this incident and concerns around missing episodes, have reduced.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The current funding arrangement for the Youth Justice Service PCSOs will expire in March 2023.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

6.1 The impact of the cost of living crisis continues to be a concern, albeit at this stage there is insufficient data to conclude that this has had a direct impact on crime levels. There remains continued concern on service provision for children and young people within the county and the ability for statutory and not statutory services to maintain services should there be further financial constraints. Any impact should continue to be monitored through the Youth Justice Board, the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership and the Safer Stronger Communities Board.

6.2 Serious Youth Violence continues to be a national and local concern. This area should continue to be monitored robustly by the force and partners to identify in advance any trends through

existing strategic and tactical boards. Opportunities for funding should be considered as part of early identification of risk and sought where provision gaps are identified.