

**ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**PAPER NO:**

**AP20/45**

**SUBMITTED TO:**

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –  
4 SEPTEMBER 2020 (COVERING PERIOD JANUARY 2020 – JUNE  
2020)**

**SUBJECT:**

**CRIME, SAFEGUARDING & INCIDENT MANAGEMENT  
(CSIM)/COUNTY POLICING COMMAND - CHILDREN AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE UPDATE**

**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 significant organisational and operational development.
2. The period of this report covers the period of 'Lock Down' and the closure of schools due to COVID-19. The demand on policing despite 'Lock Down' continues to increase in a number of areas including many related to children and young people.
3. This report demonstrates the continued breadth of work being undertaken to engage with, and better understand children and young people across the Constabulary. It also highlights the diversionary work being undertaken with children and young people.
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. Area based Partnerships activity provides a multi-agency coordinated approach to delivering focussed education, awareness raising, intervention, diversionary and enforcement work.

**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 January 2020 to June 2020 and provides an update to the areas reported on in the previous paper which also gave more detail around the current processes and structures in place that have oversight of Child and Young People for the Constabulary.
- 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

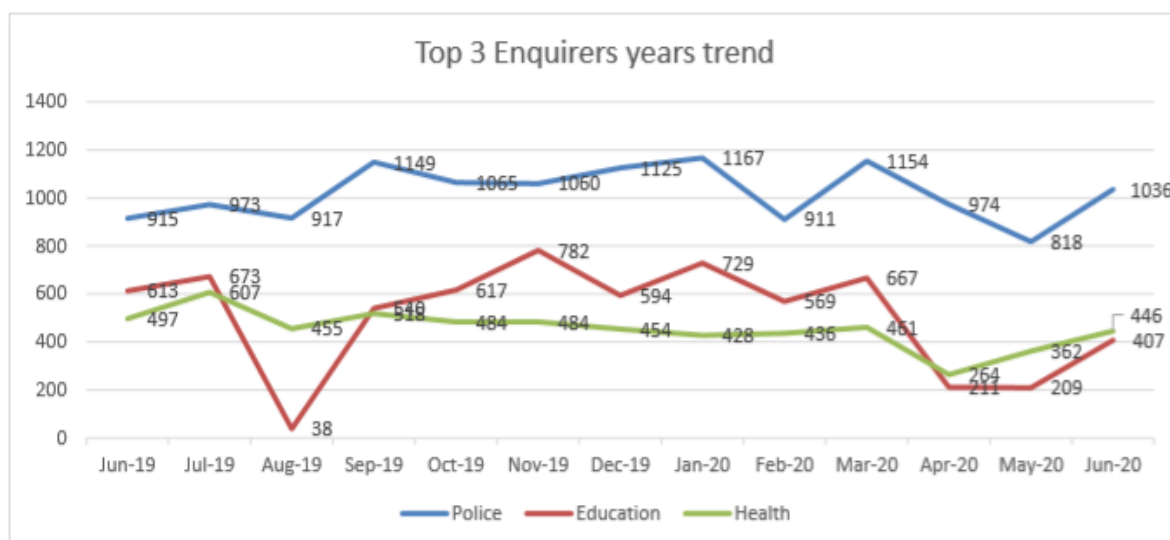
- 2.1 The Police are one of three statutory organisations within the partnership, along with the Local Authority and Health.
- 2.2 The sub-groups under the new SSP structure consist of the following groups:
- Learning and Improvement Group (focussed on continual learning and contextualised safeguarding of children)
  - Policy, Practice and Training Subgroup (joint children’s 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’s 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 Learning and Improvement Group continues to bring partners together to identify best practice and continued learning. This includes learning from all agencies from health to education, social care and police in addition to learning from Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) cases and tracking of recommendations following incidents of SUDI which are discussed and agreed in greater details during the Child Death Overview Panel. The Child Death Overview Panel ensures that lessons learnt are highlighted and steps are taken to prevent avoidable incidents from occurring again. Matters are timetabled to educate partners on organisational changes and ensure partners are familiar with the working practices and services available across all agencies.

2.4 During Covid-19 the SSP was a key function in ensuring the timely sharing of information between partners on current rising concerns and issues including provisions of PPE in addition to ensuring working practices were developed in unison with one another.

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

2.5 The MASH has continued to experience high demand, with 9061 child contacts received between January and June 2020. The top referrers remain as police, education and health respectively, with predictable slight seasonal variation when schools are closed. The impact of National lockdown on referrals from schools and health is clearly illustrated. During this time schools remained in close contact with vulnerable families with calls being made to around 200 children each week. When contact was not achieved and concerns raised, local SNT’s conducted welfare visits.

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



2.7 The Children Act 1989, defines a child in need is “a child who is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health or development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services, or the child is disabled”. The child in need’s local authority may decide to place the child on a protection plan. This is drawn up during a multi-agency child protection case conference, if the child is believed to be suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm. The purpose of the child protection plan is to detail how the child is to be kept safe and what needs to be done to promote a child’s health and development. Furthermore, the plan needs to detail the ways in which professionals can support the child’s family, if involvement would be beneficial for the child’s welfare.

2.8 At the end of June 2020, there were 516 children in Suffolk who were subject of Child Protection Plans. 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 CYPS are looking locally at why the numbers are rising, we are not an outlier regionally or nationally.

There is a total of 934 children in Local Authority care at the end of June 2020, their legal status is shown in the graphic below.

**934**

Number of Children in Care

of which

Legal Status	Count	%
CLA - C2 - Full Care Order	<b>510</b>	54.6%
CLA - C1 - Interim Care Order	<b>170</b>	18.2%
CLA - V2 - Single period of accommodation under Section 20	<b>167</b>	17.9%
CLA - C2 - Full Care Order and E1 - Placement order granted	<b>39</b>	4.2%
CLA - E1 - Placement order granted	<b>39</b>	4.2%
CLA - L1 - Under police protection, in local authority accommodation	<b>5</b>	0.5%
CLA - J1 - In local authority on remand, or committed for trial or sentence	<b>4</b>	0.4%

- 2.9 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. Co-located partners from CYPS, Police and Health take part as well as other relevant professionals involved with the child. 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 There were 155 cases subject of S.47 Strategy Threshold Discussions in MASH from January-June 2020 which resulted in an agreed outcome of police and CYPS joint investigation. The total amount of child contacts entering MASH during this period was 9061, thus the conversion rate to joint police investigation was 1.7%. This shows an increase from the previous 6 months and correlates with the increase in children on CP Plans in Suffolk.
- 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 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.
- 2.13 Op Encompass is the process for informing schools when a DA incident has occurred at a location where a child is ordinarily resident. This allows schools to carefully monitor the children and provide additional support when required. The recent drive to for additional

school subscribers has since resulted in 97% of Suffolk schools receiving DA notifications. Op Encompass now offer schools professional dialogue and advice by phone from an Education Psychologist following receipt of a notification, this has been circulated to the Suffolk school cohort. This is a free service funded by the Home Office.

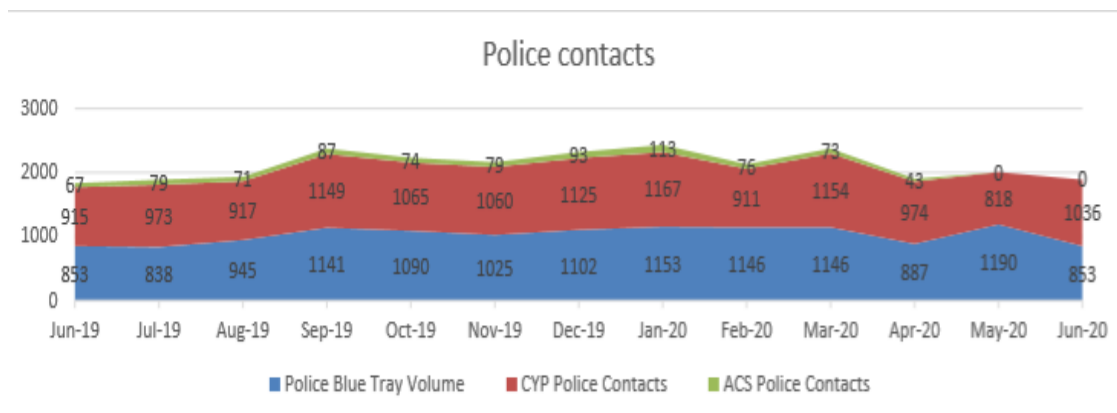
- 2.14 The county’s Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) continue to be attended by CYPS partners to address child safeguarding concerns within cases discussed. One monthly meeting is held in the north and two for southern and western areas. MASH have recently taken responsibility for reviewing 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.
- 2.15 Work to enhance DA incident information sharing between MASH police and Child Health was halted due to the redeployment of Health staff as part of the pandemic response, however this has now recommenced and is due to start in late September 2020. This will allow Primary Healthcare Practitioners to carefully monitor children witnessing DA in and provide an enhanced service to those in need.

**Suffolk MARAC Cases involving Children January-June 2020**

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>
56%	53%	54%

- 2.16 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.
- 2.17 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.
- 2.18 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. Note due to unavailability of the Business Intelligence Platform, the ACS data is not available for May or June 2020.

2.19 Work is ongoing with the Joint IMU in an effort to reduce the number of inappropriate Athena records that are registered to MASH for review and thereby reduce demand for both departments. This is likely to require Safeguarding training for IMU staff and rewording of Athena workflow processes. Reducing the number of records that are ultimately determined blue will allow higher risk incidences requiring referral to partner agencies to be identified more quickly and shared with our partners at the earliest opportunity.



2.20 Suffolk Constabulary have introduced a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Unit which tackles the abusive behaviour of Domestic Abuse perpetrators. Behaviour Change Case Workers are being trained to work one-to-one with perpetrators in a multi-agency environment to address their unstable pathways (e.g. alcohol, housing, mental health) and work on changing their demeanour and actions. One-to-one work with perpetrators in other forces have shown that DA from these perpetrators have ceased and as a result have allowed the family unit to remain together in a safer environment free from abuse, thus reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences.

**Multi-Agency Governance – Gangs and Violence Board; Community Safety Partnerships; Gangs Panels & Police Youth Engagement Team**

2.21 There is a partnership led Governance for the response to County Lines and Youth Gang Violence across Suffolk. The Gangs and Youth Violence Board ensures the coordination of activity delivering against a strategic action plan.

2.22 Covid-19 has seen a reduction in County Lines Panels, with none held since April 2020:

No of cases discussed	Bury St Edmunds	Ipswich
Jan	21	10
Feb	15	9
Mar	10	9

No of cases Closed	Bury St Edmunds	Ipswich
Jan	9	3
Feb	7	1
Mar	1	5

- 2.23 To complement the work of the County wide panels, the multi-agency Suffolk Against Gangs Team (SAGE) continues to invest dedicated and highly skilled staff as part of a holistic approach to diversion. The SAGE Team are operating with a reduction in staff and therefore working with less children (active caseload of 27 young people). Team extended until March 2021. SAGE team have used digital and virtual platforms to undertake both 1-1 and group work.
- 2.24 The Constabulary's Youth Engagement Team (YET) in Ipswich has continued to engage with vulnerable and exploited young people involved in crime to improve their life choices and social integration, reduce associations with gangs, reduce incidences of serious youth violence & reduce demand on the Constabulary. The Vulnerability Assessment Tracker (based on data from police systems) has now been embedded into tasking processes. Based on a scoring system around key indicators of risk, young people are identified for the YET to work with. This has assisted in ensuring police prioritise work with those most identified as being most at risk. When working with these young people the officers are made aware of any changes in their circumstances and can intervene if risk is identified. An example of this took place in April 2020 when a young man on the YET team cohort was robbed and his bicycle was stolen. Officers provided immediate follow up support and secured funding for a bike. His transport was identified as necessary to keep him safe.
- 2.25 The YET have continued to work with young people throughout this period ensuring contact is maintained with some of our most vulnerable young people:

**Young Person A**

YP frequently involved in criminality during the first three months of the year. Level of involvement ranged from drugs, criminal damage and thefts. Early engagement identified YP being exploited due to learning difficulties and a disjointed upbringing. YP required stability and a mentor. YP taken to a local park run, involved in making breakfast and given an honest realistic oversight of where choices were taking YP.

From building this trust and relationship with YP the YET supported YP to be enrolled at St. Johns Ambulance as an adult volunteer for the Covid-19 pandemic. YPs aspirations are to become a paramedic YET continue to engage with YP.

Between January and March YP had 20 Crimes/PVP on Athena as a suspect or involved party. During the month of April YP has had 0 Crimes/PVP recorded. During the same 3-month period YP had also been reported missing 25 times. In April this number was reduced to 0.

**Young Person B**

YP came to notice as he was using his vehicle to pick up vulnerable young girls at two of the YMCA centres with concerns of CSE, drugs and alcohol use. Initially Covid-19 verbal warnings given and engagement with the YMCA staff to reduce the incidences. YP was then issued a Community Protection Notice warning due to his persistent behaviour. Reports reduced from initially 8 in two weeks to 1 following YET intervention. YET continue to monitor YPs behaviour and are now exploring whether the case is suitable to seek a Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order.

**Young Person C**

YP between January and February YP was involved in 29 criminal investigations and was referred to the YET. Since they have started to work with there has been a reduction to just 3 investigations.

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

- 2.26 The Constabulary continues to work with the Suffolk Youth Offending Service (SYOS) to deliver the nationally recognised Youth Diversion scheme. The Diversion Programme focuses on early assessment of young people aged between 10-17 who have, or are, at risk of offending and provides effective intervention to prevent criminalisation.
- 2.27 Between January and June 2020, the Suffolk Youth Justice Service received 293 crime referrals, 83 of which resulted in a caution (28.3%). In comparison between January and June 2019 the SYJS received 250 crime referrals, of which 46 resulted in a caution (18.4%). The increase in volume of referrals is reflective of the new training and increased compliance. The increase in the number issued a caution is reflective of better alignment across areas with national guidance regarding Knife Crime. National Guidance is Youth Conditional Caution for Under 16s and Charge for 16 & 17 as a starting point, with mitigation to reduce from a charge to a caution. During April and May, the Schools Liaison PCSOs and the Schools Links officer provided support to the YOS officers.
- 2.28 This period has also seen the establishment of a Bi-Monthly Quality Assurance Panel to ensure consistency across areas in regard to decision making. During the meeting 2 cases from each area are assessed against each other for consistency against particular offences and backgrounds. Improvements have also been achieved through the introduction of an additional NPT Sergeant to coordinate YJS decision making & communication between Police, YJS Police Staff and SCC Staff, as well as facilitating officer training. This has included the development and roll out of PENY Referral training for frontline officers and supervisors to drive improvement in referral quality and compliance. PENYs are now done exclusively via Athena and the process has been streamlined to ensure prompt assessment and return.
- 2.29 The Protocol and Action Plan for the Unnecessary Criminalisation of Children in Care Task & Finish Group have been agreed and the group has been set up. The Constabulary has placed greater emphasis on out of custody interviews and resolutions for young people, to reduce the number of entrants into custody and the time spent in custody. Custody Sergeants take a more intrusive approach to the arrest and management of young people in custody.

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

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) & 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 Since January to June 2020 Op Ascent has made 25 visits to Sex Workers in relation to their safeguarding and submitted 5 Duty to Notify referrals for 5 adult sex workers who we believe are at risk of exploitation, as all 5 have stated they have no concerns and declined to agree to the National Referral Mechanism. 1 person was arrested In April 2020 on suspicion of controlling a brothel and money laundering offences, this investigation is still ongoing. To date we have not encountered or identified any under 18 years sex workers. There have been 58 Intelligence reports in respect to Sex workers operating in Suffolk.



- 3.3 From 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020 the Constabulary has engaged in 8 operations, alongside regional partners (OP Excalibur), where adults have attempted to engage in sexual communication with a child. To date, 3 of the suspects have been charged awaiting criminal trial whilst the remaining 5 continue to be investigated. 1 offender has been sentenced to a term of 12 years imprisonment.
- 3.4 Op Bane is another operation within Norfolk and Suffolk, used to target those who share Indecent Images of Children. During the first 6 months of 2020 there were 6 investigations involving persons located by this method in Suffolk, 6 warrants have been executed and the investigations are on-going.
- 3.5 Between 1 January 2020 and 30th June 2020 there were 1640 recorded missing reports. The reports related to 752 different persons, 350 of which were children. Year on Year data shows a reduction of 202 missing reports. This can be linked to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has significantly affected the Missing figures during the lockdown period. The sharing of information between the police and CYPS continues to improve and police now see the content of a CYPS Return interview. Records of the return home interviews are kept by Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPS) and can be seen below in table 6.

1258 missing episodes recorded between January and June 2020, of these:

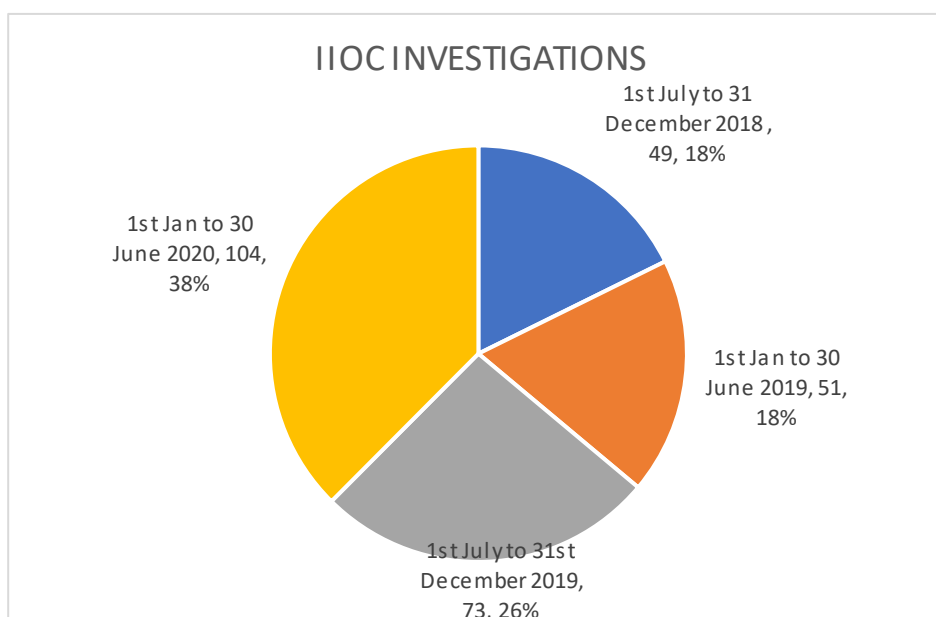
<b>Return Home Interview completed</b>	634
<b>Child/Young Person refused to engage with RHI offered</b>	211
<b>Return Home Interview not offered following review/assessment by MASH</b>	76
<b>Return Home Interview not offered following review/assessment by Practice Manager</b>	141
<b>Return Home Interview not offered due to child placed in Suffolk by another Local Authority</b>	164
<b>No Return Home Interview completed on Liquid Logic</b>	32

- 3.6 Out of the 1258 missing episodes during January to June 2020 there were 877 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 72% have been completed and 24% of young people have refused a Return Home Interview offered to them.
- 3.7 Operation Hydrant is the national coordinating response to historic allegations of child sexual abuse linked to prominent individuals or institutions. For the period 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020, 5 new referrals were received.

#### **Child Sexual Abuse and Online Investigation**

- 3.8 From 1 January to 30 June 2020 there were 591 reported investigations that carry a child abuse flag, an increase of 61 investigations from the previous reporting period.
- 3.9 From 1 January 2020 to the 30 June 2020 there have been 104 Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) investigations undertaken, an increase of over 50% on the previous year for the same period. At least 95% of these investigations resulted in a court case and conviction. There has been a steady increase of referrals over the last 12 months.

### 3.10 Chart 1 – Number of Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) Investigations



3.11 The significant work has been undertaken in the area of IIOC to assist in dealing with increased demand continues. One of the police staff recruited is now finishing their training and will be in a position to assist with the grading of IIOC, conducting the Victim Identification role and completing more of the grading of IIOC for the Constabulary. The other member of staff has not completed their training as they have had to self-isolate during the coronavirus pandemic.

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

3.12 the uptake of referral into the child SARC has increased on the last half year with just under 40% of all attendances for medical or forensic examination being clients aged under 18. It is believed this may be attributable to professionals gaining confidence in referral of young people into the SARC as a result of the simplified referral pathway that was introduced in the early part of this year. Concerns around the lack of referrals were also addressed by series of training events to social care teams, delivered by the SARC manager and Mountain Healthcare. It would appear this has also provided a forum for discussion between professionals that have had a positive impact.

3.13 The attendance of young people aged 0 to 17 has increased by 22% on the previous six months, despite a general decrease in referrals for all ages into SARCs across the region, since the Covid-19 restrictions came into effect. The ISVA service has continued to provide remote support to all clients since 9<sup>th</sup> March. There has been no interruption or restriction placed on referral into the service and there has been an overall increase in demand of 148% since this time last year (referrals for all ages). Each of the 9 ISVAs support both adult and child cases whilst also actively engaging in preventative work such as providing workshops at schools and youth groups (when not in lockdown). All clients attending the SARC are offered ISVA support. For children and young people, uptake of the service is largely dependent upon the wishes of the care providers, particularly in the under 13 age group. The relationship between the SARC and Voluntary sector partners is progressing positively. The Operational Group is at full complement and together with the Stakeholder Group, ideas

around forming services that reflect the demand of children and young people within Suffolk are fed directly to the Strategic Board.

### **Schools Liaison & CYP engagement**

- 3.14 Visits were severely restricted during March – June because of COVID-19. Visits are centred around the four core areas of One Cop Stop - County Lines, Knife Crime, Relationships and Social Media. This period also saw a larger representation of Schools Liaison Officers (SLOs) at parents evening and providing inputs for parents around the 4 key areas.

Number of visits completed in the period	
South	51
West	27
East	32

- 3.15 Development of One Cop Stop Online Portal for Parents & Students is now in the testing phase and will go live for the new school year. The Portal will provide a library of resources in support of police engagement and PSHE, which will build over time. 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.
- 3.16 Continued development and delivery of ‘presenter’ training to better equip SLOs, Community Engagement Officers (CEOs) and SNT Officers for delivery in schools. This is aligned to the College of Policing Training and delivered in house, providing officers with the necessary skills to deliver training to students and parents. 24 officers have been trained to date, an additional 30 are to be trained, which is currently postponed due to Covid-19.
- 3.17 Development of bespoke One Cop Stop Advice Leaflets for Parents. County Lines & Knife Crime have been produced so far, with a specific Knife Crime Advice leaflet developed for young people and where to seek help.
- 3.18 During this period work has continued to engage with young people despite the closure of schools:
- Introduction of One Cop Stop Primary & Secondary Schools Newsletter. Issued on a weekly basis and each one carries an individual theme, to maintain engagement. This included a ‘Ask The Police’ function, branded as ‘Ask Morse’ for young people.
  - SLOs maintained contact with schools during the initial lock down phase, including maintaining records of which schools were open, estimated pupil numbers and whether police interaction was sought.
  - #StayHomeSaveLives Campaign – Competition for school children to produce posters thanking key workers during Covid-19. Officers on patrol would then select posters at random and deliver a bag of mini-eggs. Schools were also invited to take part with key worker children on site. Over 700 eggs were delivered.
  - Worked with a consortium of academies to produce a ‘story-time’ video for virtual classrooms. This involved an officer reading their favourite children’s book.
  - Worked closely with West Suffolk College to organise charity events with the Police Cadets during their ‘daily exercise’ and produce a video by young people for young people to support Covid-19 messaging.

- 3.19 The KickOff@3 event planned for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020 had to be postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, in partnership with Suffolk Football Association, National KickOff@3 team, Suffolk Ethnic Police Association, YMCA Trinity Trust, Positive Futures, Local Authority partners and business partners a funding application has been submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund to enable the creation of police youth football league with weekly matches for girls on one evening and boys on another (age range 13-16 years as per national KickOff@3) This would take place on the run up to a KickOff@3 tournament (Covid-19 permitting) in April 2021. The application is much wider than football, there would be a referee and coaching development programme running alongside the weekly league with a view to developing as many young people as possible. Building life skills and increasing employment opportunities. There would also be opportunities for young people to be involved in the committee, event management, photography, social media, and a range of other linked opportunities. As per the national KickOff@3 the intention is to invite educational establishments and business partners to attend and provide inputs/attendance at the weekly league and at the event itself to help young people identify future employment and educational opportunities. Ex Premiership referee Roger East is a national KickOff@3 ambassador and he has offered to support a Suffolk police youth league if the funding bid is successful.
- 3.20 The Youth engagement Team were able to support 'SpinOff@3' over the summer months. SpinOff@3 is a national initiative linked to KickOff@3 and it involves encouraging young people to keep active during the restrictions by undertaking cycling (when restrictions permitted). This involves mountain biking at 'Twisted Oaks' site in Brightwell. The team have been working with a cohort of vulnerable young people on a weekly basis to help build their confidence, help to keep them active and enable partners and Youth Engagement Team Officers to undertake bespoke diversionary work with these young people. The following comments are taken from feedback from a parent of a YP who has been taking part and a Youth Justice Practitioner;

*"I think that your Spin Off @3 team project is a great way to engage our youth with the police on a personal level, it demonstrates and reminds them and the rest of the public that the police are not just about solving crimes and protection, but also about caring and engaging in such a way as to help prevent future crime. I feel that this is so important at present, it shows the public the real people behind the uniforms, this is so important, especially with the negative stereotypes that are all too often portrayed by mainstream media." (Parent)*

*"Today was the first opportunity I have had to visit twisted oaks whilst supporting a YP. The YP in question had previously been exploited to become involved in Class A drug dealing, had been the victim of a stabbing and has been living in fear for around 18months – rarely leaving the home all of which has had a significant impact on his self-esteem, mental health and confidence further compounded by the co-vid 19 pandemic.*

*I can only speak from my own personal point of view but the positive impact on this YP 's mental health, self-esteem and confidence even just from today's session are absolute huge as well as developing positive relationships with the police." (YJ Practitioner)*

## Area Command Highlight Report

### South

- 3.21 Ipswich Central SNT have been utilising ASB legislation to tackle a range of issues including begging and anti-social behaviour within the town centre and misuse of emergency services. A recent success has been problem solving work with a young person causing ASB in Ipswich, where they were served with a Community Protection Notice (CPN) warning. The young person moved out of the area, but continued to come back into Ipswich and was believed to be continuing to cause anti-social behaviour with associates. A full CPN was served by the Youth Engagement Team (in consultation with the Youth Justice Service) and they are continuing to work with them to make positive changes.
- 3.22 Felixstowe Academy were experiencing issues with some young persons that they have excluded and were still coming onto school property causing further issues. Safeguarding meeting was held with the school and East Suffolk Council as part of a wider piece of work around schools. As a result, a Diversion Project was engaged to come in and initially work with groups to then identify who they needed to work with individually.
- 3.23 Operation Culworth is a joint operation between South Area CPC and CSIM focusing on a small cohort of young females and concerns in regard to frequency of missing persons episodes and CSE. As part of the operation CSE posters and postcards have been distributed to local hotels and licence premises to raise awareness and knowledge. CSE postcards are also being distributed by the Taxi licencing to all 600 licenced taxi drivers, and will feature in their taxi newsletter and mail shop. The YET have all received further training on CSE by the children's society, that was arranged via the ERSOU SPOC. The Design Out Crime Officer has completed a report on all key premises and this will feed into the development of a Problem Orientated Policing (POPS) plan, so there is a legacy once this operation concludes. The YET have supported the operation by engaging with the cohort following missing episodes and supporting preventative and diversionary work. A Partnership meeting has been established under the SSP complex abuse policy – managing organised and complex abuse. This is supported and managed by Local Authority Safeguarding team, although still led under Operation Culworth. Attendance is Police, Local Authority, Health and Education.
- 3.24 'Jab not stab' for young men is recommencing on 4th September 2020. Spaces are available for up to 16 young men. Plans are also being established to set up a female only Jab Not stab. This is likely to take place at the YMCA.
- 3.25 Raedwald Trust – Alternative Provision, fully funded PCSO post has been very beneficial over the last six months and particularly since March 2020. Alternative Provision remained open throughout Covid-19 and PCSO Cowles attended daily safeguarding virtual meetings and provided ongoing support throughout. This enabled insight into the Raedwald Trust support packages for each pupil and enabled a quick response to any safeguarding concerns identified whilst young people were even more vulnerable than in normal circumstances. During this period, The CEO of the Trust has provided positive feedback as per below and updated that they would like to continue with the dedicated PCSO post, following the end of the current contract ending March 2021.

*"As ever, thank you for all that you and your teams do to work with and alongside us. I have no doubt that our children are safer and our organisations better as a result of our shared commitment. Jason, building on the strengths brought by Stacey, has provided invaluable support and intervention, at pace. We are so grateful." (Angela Ransby, CEO Raedwald Trust)*

- 3.26 In June as soon as schools began to reopen to more pupils, including their Year 6's, the South SLO's were keen to provide whatever support they could. It was an opportunity not to be missed as they needed important information about crimes/consequences and staying safe before their transition to high school. South SLO's put out an open invitation to schools to see their Y6 pupils in a Covid-19 secure fashion. They gave inputs to 17 primary schools across the region in a one-month period and in many cases, there were multiple visits to see all their 'bubbles'. It was positively received and the rewards will likely be reaped when those Y6's become Y7's in September.
- 3.27 The South NPT worked closely with Northgate High School as part of Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2020. The event was held at University Campus Suffolk and the theme was 'We Stand Together' Neighbourhood Partnership Team gave a presentation with partners and it was called 'We Stand Together Against Hate Crime'. Following this work, police were invited to be part of the school's community day in July 2020. However, when this was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were invited to submit something to be shared on the school's social media as part of the 'Great Get Together 2020 Northgate community event' the submission could be anything but was intended to demonstrate our hopes for Post Covid-19.

### **West**

- 3.28 In Bury St Edmunds, a dedicated link PCSO has reviewed the top 10 missing persons for the area and tailored support strategies linked to the needs of the individual. This has included working closely with CYPS to support, in one instance a foreign national parent, away from her home and pressures to identify and provide support and pathways regarding county lines and gang issues affecting their child. The strategies implemented are planned over the longer term, to build trust and understanding between families, the police and partners and prevent missing children from being exposed to greater risk. The local SNT have also worked with child care providers to produce tailored care plans addressing anti-social behaviour and criminality caused by young people in their care, as an alternative to punitive measures. By addressing behaviour through the care plans they have been able to reduce poor behaviour and avoid unnecessary criminalisation. The local officers have identified vulnerable young people that repeatedly come to police attention, and worked with partners to identify non-conventional diversion activity to reduce risk and improve behaviour, for example one child who repeatedly went missing and showed ideations of self-harm was encouraged to join a local drama group, which developed their own self-worth, successfully reducing and then stopping calls to the police.
- 3.29 In Haverhill the local SNT attend the Youth Action Group, to discuss individual and groups of young people who are problematic and identify what local activity can be organised to engage with them, providing opportunities for young people outside of normal clubs and schooling. The SNT attend a weekly youth club for children up to the age of 13 to foster better relations. Op Ainsley has been commissioned to address ASB within the locality, in addition to operational activity, the SNT have worked with partners to conduct joint visits to offenders and families, direct activity by youth workers to areas of high ASB and increased foot patrols in hotspots to increase engagement between the police and those involved to reduce the chances of offending. During lock-down the local police cadet unit wrote 'pen-pal' letters to vulnerable elderly residents in a nearby care home, and will follow this up with a physical visit once restrictions ease. Local officers have continued to visit schools during lock down, to support children of key workers.
- 3.30 In Sudbury pop-up police engagements have been organised in key locations to meet with parents and young people during lock-down, addressing issues with anti-social behaviour, signposting to partners and continuing educational work that would have taken place in

schools. They have taken a key focus on engagement outside of educational settings, organising trips to the local station for scout and beaver groups as well as designing bespoke inputs. These have been delivered alongside a current police cadet. The Sudbury Cadet Unit has taken a strong focus on encouraging children from difficult or challenged backgrounds to join, this has seen bespoke delivery of session inputs to meet the needs of young people that have learning difficulties or ill mental health. A football project is currently being arranged for the Great Cornard Area, but has been paused due to COVID-19.

- 3.31 The Western Area as a whole is building on the Op Mario initiative from Mildenhall, by piloting bespoke delivery of educational resources to parents of children within Elective Home Education. The aim of the scheme is to build relationships with parent networks and provide the same level of police engagement with children outside of mainstream education, as those within. The first session has already taken place and will be resumed as restrictions ease. The Area has been working closely with the Western Assembly of Youth to develop engagement opportunities with young people, through their representatives. This included the delivery of a bespoke 'police survey' completed by over 500 young people in the area regarding their engagement with the police, police presence and how safe they feel in the area. The results will be looked through jointly to identify areas of improvement and what can be done.

### East

- 3.32 The East NPT successfully delivered 15 separate sessions to young people at Crucial Crew Plus over January and February and each session consisted of 9 back to back inputs. The combined efforts of Police, Partners and other organisations, each delivering their own topic sessions, reached over 600 pupils. Our inputs were around, cyber-crime, knife crime, youth justice and healthy relationships and consent in sex and targeted at years 8-10 although some schools permitted years 7 & 11. East Suffolk requested feedback from all schools and this was positive.
- 3.33 The East NPT Inspector attended the Waveney Youth Parliament and delivered an input around realities of crime, fear of crime and public perception against media reporting. This commenced with a quiz, followed by some fact finding and resulting in the 'truth' about crime. Some adults present also took part in the quiz and were surprised at the answers and findings results which tended to show that most people felt that the reality of crime was much worse than it actually was. This work was fed into the CYP Governance Board.
- 3.34 The Halesworth Community Engagement Officer (CEO) attended Careers evening at East Coast College in Leiston in January where crime prevention and recruitment advice was given to young people and their families. The East NPT provided a positive presence at the Careers Fair's at Denes High School in Lowestoft in March. They provided recruitment and crime prevention advice to young people and their families. Lowestoft CEO has visited with 6<sup>th</sup> form students who are looking at a career in policing and talking to them in a small group about policing giving them career advice and sharing policing experience with them at Sir John Leman High School.
- 3.35 CEO's and local SLO have conducted general patrols and street meets during lockdown which have been an invaluable way of staying connected with our young people which included a poster competition over Easter where Easter Eggs were delivered to participants. This was widely received on Facebook and Twitter. The East SLO has also been supporting the youth justice officer with diversion assessments and has been patrolling areas known to be frequented by youths where there has been higher footfall and where incidences of nuisance and ASB have been reported.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The diversion model within the Youth Justice Service is supported by 2 established PCSO posts which are jointly provided by Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Constabulary, which equates to a contribution of 1.5 FTE and 0.5 FTE respectively. These posts were introduced following a requirement identified to provide 3 additional police officers into the service. This funding is due to cease in December 2020 and proposals for its extension will be presented to the Youth Justice Board in due course. These positions are over and above the statutory requirement provided by the police into each Youth Justice Service, but were introduced following cost benefit analysis which demonstrated a long-term reduction in reoffending and demand on the police. Demand within the Youth Justice Service is increasing following remedial work within the police to increase referral compliance and quality. The loss of the diversion model is likely to see an immediate short- and long-term impact on police demand and reoffending based on current projections.

#### **5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

- 5.1 Demand relating to child protection and CSE continues to rise in keeping with national trends. It is anticipated this will continue to be the case as more hidden harm is identified and professionals become more experienced in the recognition of CSE/ CSA. The increase will provide ongoing challenges to the managers and practitioners charged with providing a service to this most vulnerable group of the community.
- 5.2 The long-term impact of Covid-19 on children and young people is yet to be fully understood and as we move forward it is important that we recognise that we could see a further increase in demand as schools and other education establishment re open in September. Initial feedback and anecdotal evidence would indicate that those who have had previous experience or are currently in contact with youth justice services or practitioners working within the youth justice system, are feeling increasingly isolated in lockdown.
- 5.3 Between 20-27 March 2020, UK Youth surveyed the needs of the youth sector and young people in the wake of COVID-19, and potential long-term impact. Feedback from the UK Youth Movement predicts that the impact on young people will include the following, ranked by order of importance (based on number of responses):

1. Increased mental health or wellbeing concerns
2. Increased loneliness and isolation
3. Lack of safe space – including not being able to access their youth club/ service and lack of safe spaces at home
4. Challenging family relationships
5. Lack of trusted relationships or someone to turn to
6. Increased social media or online pressure
7. Higher risk for engaging in gangs, substance misuse, carrying weapons or other harmful practices
8. Higher risk for sexual exploitation or grooming