



Wakefield Step-Up to Positive Activity (Step-Up)

Briefing Note

Wakefield Step-Up to Positive Activity (Step-Up) is funded through the Early Intervention Youth Fund as part of the Serious Violent Crime Strategy through the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. It is a youth intervention programme that targets young people 11 to 17 years of age, who are involved in or at the risk of being involved in serious violent crime.

The programme aims to disrupt offending behaviour and step young people up to involvement in positive alternatives to crime with peers and trusted adults. The programme will be delivered by the Youth Work Team, Youth Offending Team and Liaison & Diversion Services.

Step-Up will use existing Wakefield multi agency arrangements to refer young people to an 8 week group work programme that mixes offending focussed group work with positive activities, activities that set to excite, engage and retain participants. The initial 8 week programme will challenge behaviour and look to address 'why young people offend' within a peer setting (recognising contextual safeguarding) and set to build relationships with trusted adults who will be pivotal in exiting young people into the second part of the programme, youth mentoring. Three of these programmes will be run over the life of the project, 8 young people per cohort (Recruiting 12 expecting drop out)

Step-Up will also run two Youth Mentoring training programmes for adults (15 adults per programme). The training will be an introduction to work with young people, with a particular focus on youth work, young people and offending and mentoring. Adults who graduate from these programmes will be tasked to mentor / pair with the young people who have exited the 8 week group work programme. The mentors will build trusted relationships with the young people they are paired with through weekly contact and support the young person's journey to a more positive Step-Up away from serious criminal behaviour.

Step-Up will recognise that not all young people will be ready or wanting to participate in an 8 week programme, so some young people referred to the programme will be paired with a mentor from day one.

The mentors will focus on building trusted relationships with the young people they are paired with and then look to explore with them positive activities that best meet their needs and their sustained diversion from involvement in serious crime. At least 21 young people will access the programme through this pathway.

Young people will be referred to the programme through existing partnership meetings / arrangements and individual agencies. Partner meetings will include: Neighbourhood Coordination Group meetings (formally known as Tasking), Edge of Care Panels and the ASB Manager meetings. Individual agency referrals will come from Youth Offending Teams, Liaison and Diversion, Children First Hubs, Social Care Teams and Voluntary Community partners.

There will be a multi-agency mapping activity which will identify those young people on the periphery of serious violence and criminal behaviour. These young people will be targeted at the 'Teachable Moment'* and prevent escalation. This mapping and subsequent action plan will be monitored through Neighbourhood Coordination Meetings and ASBU managers meetings.

The Early Intervention Foundation say that "The earlier a trusted relationship can be established the better, as it may prevent problems developing or escalating" (Early Intervention Foundation, Building Trusted Relationships 2018)

Street based youth workers will intensify their presence and engagement based on clusters identified through mapping. Further liaison with schools and PRU's within these areas will add to engagement.

Each young person accessing the programme will be assessed for suitability and individual plans set with them against outcomes expected, with an emphasis around youth voice and participation.

Young people are being recruited from January onwards with the first cohort being delivered to in April

There will be parallel recruitment and training of Youth Mentors

If you could see yourself as the important trusted adult in the lives of vulnerable young people then please get in touch with the Youth Work Team on 01924 302665

Nomination forms for young people are available by request from youthwork@wakefield.gov.uk or ring 01924 302665.