



**Camden Youth Justice Services,  
Youth Early Help and Children's  
Safeguarding and Social Work**

Protocol for joint working

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## 1 Policy statement

Camden is committed to supporting all children and families to achieve their full potential and understands the majority of children at risk of offending often have an underlying, complex set of needs that require a multi-agency response. Camden is also committed to understanding offending behaviour, exploitation and extra-familial harm related behaviours as requiring both a safeguarding and public protection response. Camden is a national DfE Partner in Practice and is focused on new and innovative ways of working to safeguard adolescents at risk of harm.

Young people who are involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour can put Camden's policy is to ensure that young people involved or at risk of involvement in criminal and anti-social behaviour receive an integrated service that safeguards their welfare, diverts them from crime and provides positive activities and support to help them address the underlying issues that cause this behaviour.

These young people will receive an integrated service from Camden's Youth Justice Service (YJS) and Children's Safeguarding and Social Work (CSSW).

## 2 Purpose of protocol

This protocol sets out the framework for joint working between YJS and CSSW where a young person is known to both services. It supports integrated service delivery by:

- helping workers in both settings to identify young people who require an integrated service;
- setting out thresholds for services and referral pathways between services;
- providing guidance on information-sharing, joint assessment and case planning where young people are known to both services;
- ensuring inter-service co-operation in decision-making for young people.

## 3 Principles

- Workers within both services have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people and to reduce crime and the risk of harm from crime.
- Services will respect each other's contribution to cases, particularly with regard to decisions on service eligibility and case management.

- Where a young person is subject to a criminal court order, case decisions will reflect a balance between “care and control” and services and interventions provided will be compatible with the dual need to enforce court orders and meet the young person’s needs.
- Young people are best looked after in their own families and where this is consistent with the young person’s best interests and the duty to protect the public from harm, both services will look to keep young people at home.
- Services will promote joint working, including timely information-sharing and joint assessment, in order to promote delivery of integrated services that achieve good outcomes for young people.
- Where possible, the young person’s right to confidentiality will be respected by each service unless it is lawful to share information and there are sound reasons for doing so. Both services will work to the guidelines set out in the government guidance “*Information sharing; guidance for practitioners and managers*” and information sharing will be carried out in the spirit of the General Data Protection Regulation framework as set out in the guidance below.

[Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

- Services recognise that Looked After Children are more vulnerable to entering the criminal justice system and may face more problems than their peers due to their status. For this reason, the protocol will aim to prioritise their needs and avoid them becoming criminalised inappropriately where possible.
- Services recognise that many children accessing CSSW and YJS will have experienced adverse childhood experiences and associated trauma that will impact on their behaviour, trust of professionals and overall engagement. Staff networks will seek to understand the child’s journey and what approaches may best enable meaningful engagement.
- Because of over-representation of black and minority ethnic groups within the criminal justice system and amongst children in need, all workers need to be aware of issues of race, culture and religion and to identify good practice that enhances service delivery and reduces inequalities.
- Any disagreements between services relating to service eligibility, service provision or case management decisions will be dealt with under the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership escalation and dispute resolution procedures.

[CSCP-Escalation-Policy-Resolving-Professional-Differences-Jan-2022.pdf](#)

## 4 Role of YJS and Youth Early Help

### 4.1 Service structure and eligibility

YJS is part of Camden’s Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) providing statutory services under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Legal Aid, Sentencing, Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, the Children Act 1989 and Criminal Justice legislation for young people aged between 10 and 17 years old who have either offended or been identified as being at risk of offending. The team provides responses that are based on the young person’s level of involvement and the assessed level of risk from their criminal behaviour.

YJS is a multi-agency team consisting of representatives from core agencies including Education, Probation, Police, Health, Youth and Connexions, the voluntary sector and substance misuse agencies (see attached structure chart at Appendix 2).

### 4.2 Youth Early Help team (YEH)

The YEH team works with young people who are at the first point of contact with the criminal justice system upon receiving triage. The young person will be offered intervention to prevent escalation of their criminal behaviour and avoid getting a criminal record.

Services are built around a triage system based on the level and seriousness of their offence and their offending history;

<b>Triage 1</b>	<b>Triage 2</b>
<p>Triage 1 applies to young people who commit a crime, possibly for the first time and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The offence is a low gravity level.</li> <li>• The young person fully admits to the offence in an interview with the Police.</li> </ul>	<p>Triage 2 applies when a young person commits a second offence and it is felt that the matter can be addressed through Triage.</p> <p>There is no statutory minimum number of offences that a young person can be considered for Out of Court Disposal</p>
<p>It is considered the circumstances of the offence can be appropriately addressed without the higher sanctions of a youth caution or a charge.</p>	<p>A case will be considered on its own merits, as in Triage 1. Important considerations <i>may</i> be the gravity of the offence, the timing of the offence, the frequency of offending, the previous level of engagement, the views of any victims and if contriteness is displayed. (This list is</p>

	not exhaustive).  In many cases, a second offence will not be suitable to be dealt with by way of a triage.
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Young people dealt with under the triage system are referred to the YEH to deliver a preventative programme that focuses on diversion and reparation. Following assessment, an intervention plan is developed which includes provision for positive activities, mentoring and reparation, as well as work with parents to support parenting.

For young people at risk of offending and anti-social behaviour a YEH worker is allocated to undertake a full assessment of needs as a voluntary arrangement.

### **4.3 Out of Court Disposal Panel**

Statutory out of court disposals such as youth cautions and conditional cautions are available for low level offences. Young people referred to the panel will have been identified early as being at risk of escalating criminal behaviour with the aim of avoiding them entering the criminal justice system. The YJS manages all youth cautions and youth conditional cautions.

The Out of Court Disposal Panel is made up of representatives from YJS, YEH, the police and CAMHS. Information will also be requested from CSSW where relevant.

Each individual case is considered on the basis of the seriousness of the offence, previous offending, the young person's engagement with services, the risk to the public and the most appropriate way of disposing of the case. Interventions may include a drug and alcohol services, positive activities, family support or mental health intervention.

### **4.4 The YJS**

The YJS manages statutory, post-court services for those children and young people who are in the criminal justice system and are subject to:

- court ordered bail support packages
- Referral Orders
- Youth Rehabilitation Orders
- remand into the care of the local authority with requirements to engage with YJS
- remand to youth detention accommodation
- a custodial sentence

- licence period following release from custody.

When working with young people who are being released from custody, YJS will follow the Resettlement procedures and national guidance to ensure there is adequate support for young people returning to live in the community and that their reintegration is effectively managed.

#### **4.5 Assessment**

The YJS uses the Assetplus assessment tool which can be applied pre or post court to assess young people who are in the criminal justice system. The assessment helps YJS workers to predict the risk of re-offending, risk of serious harm and safety and wellbeing concerns. This informs the plan and the type of interventions required to address needs and reduce this risk. All YJS assessments will be completed with input from CSSW where cases are already open to CSSW, with plans expected to be aligned and co-ordinated.

Please see section 7 for details on expectations for multi-agency joint working and standards of practice where cases are jointly worked by YJS and CSSW.

#### **4.6 Appropriate adult service**

An Appropriate Adult is a person who under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) attends at the police station with a child or young person whilst they are in custody to protect the child or young person's interests. Ordinarily, an Appropriate Adult would be the child's parent or guardian unless they are disqualified from doing so.

YJS commission a voluntary service for 10 to 17 year olds in need of an Appropriate Adult in Camden Police cells in cases where parents are not present. A YJS worker will act as Appropriate Adult where the young person has been arrested for a serious offence or if YJS feel this is in the young person's best interests.

However, if the young person is looked after, their social worker or foster carer may be asked carry out this role. If this is not possible YJS will arrange for this service to be provided.

Out of office hours, the Emergency Duty worker will make arrangements for someone from the Appropriate Adult service to attend at the police station with a young person on request by the police.

## 5 Role of CSSW

### 5.1 Service structure

CSSW has a statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the borough by providing a social care service for any child who has been assessed as being in need, in need of a child protection intervention due to significant harm or requiring accommodation.

The service is delivered as follows:

- The Children and Families Contact team and MASH team deal with all incoming referrals for a social care service and will decide on the most appropriate intervention.
- The CSSW Brief Intervention team works with families on a short term basis to assess and meet needs.
- Long-term work with families, including child in need and child protection interventions, is carried out by the Family Intervention teams.
- The Looked After Children and Care Leavers Service (LACCLS) provides a specialist service for children who are looked after by Camden and those who have left care up to the age of 25.

### 5.2 Eligibility and service provision

Eligibility for a social work service is based on the young person's assessed needs under the Children Act 1989. Guidance on levels of need can be found in the eligibility criteria and thresholds at appendix 3.

- Young people who are assessed as being *in need* (level 3) will receive a child in need service in order to help them reach a reasonable standard of health and development and support them to achieve good outcomes.
- Where a young person is assessed as being *at risk of significant harm* due to harm or neglect (level 4), CSSW will follow the *London Safeguarding Children Board child protection procedures*.

[London Safeguarding Children Board: Child Protection Procedures](#)

- If a young person needs to be accommodated or is remanded into local authority accommodation, they will become Looked After (please see section 11).



- Young people aged 16 and 17 who are at risk of homelessness, including those young people who are leaving custody, will be assessed by CSSW and where necessary, accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 within Camden’s Young Person’s Housing Pathway. If the young person is not accommodated by CSSW, they will be referred to Housing to be accommodated under homelessness legislation. Please refer to the Homeless Young People protocol for further details.

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/3367/homeless-young-peoples-protocol.pdf>

- Young people who have been looked after by Camden for 13 weeks since the age of 14 including time after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday are entitled to receive a *leaving care service* under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. Please refer to leaving care policies for further details.

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/3225/services-and-support-for-care-leavers-18-25.pdf>

- Where a young person does not meet the threshold for a social work service the case will be referred on to the Youth Early Help Service for a preventative service. When closing cases, CSSW may step cases down to the Youth Early Help service if it is thought the young person needs continuing support.

### 5.3 Assessment, planning and review

Social workers will carry out a child and family assessment for all cases referred into CSSW. All assessments will be completed within 35 days of referral to CSSW and will identify the level of the child’s needs and devise a plan that sets out actions to address their needs and ensure good outcomes.

All assessments are updated on a 6 monthly basis prior to formal review of the plan in order to assess its success in improving outcomes for the young person. Where a looked after child reaches 16, they will have a pathway needs assessment to inform their pathway plan that sets out what services and support will be put in place to help them move to independence.

All children’s plans are reviewed formally on a 3-6 month basis as follows:

Type of plan	Review meeting
Child in need plan	Child in need review meeting
Child protection plan	Child protection conference
Care plan	Looked after children review
Pathway plan	Pathway plan review

Where a young person is known to both services, there is an expectation that YJS workers will contribute to assessment and planning by providing information and attending reviews.

#### **5.4 PACE beds**

Young people who are held in police stations overnight are considered vulnerable to risk of harm. If a young person under 18 has committed a serious offence they may be refused police bail and will need to be held overnight prior to their court appearance.

Section 38 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 states that the local authority should provide the young person with accommodation (known as a section 38 PACE bed) if requested by the police.

In these circumstances, the joint *London protocol for the provision of local authority accommodation for children held in police stations* will apply.

<https://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>

The YJS case manager will contact the Resources team manager (ext: 1238) or the EDT manager out of hours (020 7974 4444) to discuss the case. Provision of accommodation will depend on placement availability and the risk the young person may present to others in the placement.

## **6 Referral between services**

No referral will be made between the services without an assessment being undertaken by the referring service unless there is an emergency situation requiring immediate action to safeguard the young person or others. Where a referral is made in such an emergency, the assessment will be completed within 48 hours.

### **6.1 Referral from CSSW to Youth Early Help (YEH)**

YJS teams only take referrals from the police or courts once the young person has entered the criminal justice system so CSSW cannot refer directly. CSSW may step down a case to YEH using the MOSAIC process where the case is being closed. If ongoing YEH support is needed for an open CSSW case, this can be requested via the *Request for Targeted Early Help Support* form.

CSSW social workers will refer young people to Youth Early Help where there are concerns that the young person is at risk of becoming involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour. Referrals should be discussed with Youth Early Help in advance of making a referral.

Referrals will be sent to the YEH duty manager to determine if the case meets the threshold for a service and if this is the case, the YEH will make contact with the family to offer services, for example a Youth Engagement Programme or FWD service. The YEH duty manager or allocated YEH worker will then request copies of relevant documents such as the child and family assessment in support of the referral. Consent will need to be obtained from the family for these to be shared and to make any referral to YEH.

## 6.2 Referral from YJS to CSSW

YJS workers will refer young people on to CSSW in a timely manner where;

- the young person may be a child in need;
- there are child protection concerns due to the young person's offending behaviour and/or the standard of care provided by parents;
- there are concerns about the safety and welfare of younger siblings as a result of the young person's offending behaviour;
- the young person is thought to be at risk of harm due to extra-familial harm (please refer to section 10 for further details);
- the child or young person needs to be accommodated or has been remanded into local authority accommodation.

Before making a referral, YJS will carry out a search on MOSAIC to see if the child is already known to CSSW.

- If the ***young person is already known to CSSW*** (ie: open case) the YJS worker should contact the relevant social worker to discuss the case and a referral will be made to the allocated social worker via email and attaching a copy of the YJS assessment.
- If the ***case is closed or the young person is not known to CSSW***, referrals will be made via an e-CAF referral to the Children and Families Contact team who will process the referral in line with MASH processes.
- All ***child protection referrals*** must be via an e-CAF referral to the MASH team detailing the concerns. Urgent telephone referrals can be made to the MASH but must be followed up in writing within 48 hours. YJS workers will follow the London Safeguarding Children Board child protection procedures and the YJS child protection procedures

- All ***child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation referrals*** must include a completed CSE or CCE risk assessment (see section 10 for details).
- All requests for accommodation where a young person has been ***remanded into local authority accommodation or needs a bed following refusal of police bail*** must be made to the manager of the CSSW Resources team.

### 6.3 Allocating cases in CSSW

The Contact Service/MASH will give a RAG rating to all referrals to decide on the most appropriate level of intervention and to establish whether the threshold for a CSSW service has been met.

- cases that are given a Red or Amber RAG rating will meet the eligibility criteria for a social work service from CSSW
- cases that are given a Green RAG rating will be referred to the Early help service including Youth Early Help.

When allocating cases to CSSW teams, the child's journey principles will apply. The severity of concerns, history of involvement and likely length of interventions will be considered to ensure the young person and their family is allocated to the most appropriate team from the point of referral to CSSW in order to avoid multiple transfers across teams and changes in social worker.

A Daily Discussion meeting takes place at 1.30pm every day chaired by a MASH manager/senior practitioner and attended by manager's across the Early Help Service and CSSW. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss any contacts in MASH where thresholds and case trajectory is not clear and to enable Early Help teams to step cases up to CSSW in the event that there has been an escalation of concerns and risks.

## 7 Joint working practice

It is important that YJS and CSSW work together to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved for young people. Parents and young people should be informed at the outset of the joint working arrangement and the need to share information between the services. This includes young people referred by CSSW for a targeted piece of work via a request for targeted early help form.

Standard practice expectations are that when a case becomes jointly worked between YJS and CSSW that a joint reflective supervision space will be held between the social worker, their line manager, the YJS case manager and their line

manager.

This will reduce repetitive questions for children and families, support a better understanding of family dynamics and pressures and how to work responsively. Records of joint supervision will be recorded on both MOSAIC and ChildView systems using the joint supervision template (link). The space will also support a shared understanding of the priorities, aligned assessments, plans and priority areas of support. Joint supervision sessions will take place when:

- within 10 days of a child becoming open to both services
- every 6 months
- at closure of either service

### **7.1 Joint assessment, planning and review**

- It is recognised that Assetplus will focus on the young person's offending behaviour and its associated risk, while the child and family assessment will focus on the young person's wider developmental needs.
- Both services recognise the importance of sharing assessment information and will respect each service's analysis of information and conclusions on their respective assessments.
- Services will share assessment information on a routine basis and carry out a joint risk assessment where decisions are being made regarding;
  - accommodating a young person
  - returning a young person home
  - pre-sentencing reports when a young person may receive a custodial sentence
  - when a young person is being released from custody.
- Where possible, assessments should be planned and co-ordinated to support integrated working and service delivery.
- Children being resettled into the community from custody will be supported via resettlement pathways and best practice.

Each service should be actively involved in planning to ensure young people's social care plans and YJS intervention plans are fully integrated and jointly reviewed to ensure joint service delivery.

- CSSW and YJS workers should ensure that the allocated worker from both services are invited to all planning and review meetings held by each service.
- Where workers are not able to attend meetings, they should either make arrangements for a colleague with relevant experience and knowledge to attend or provide a written report for the meeting.

## 7.2 Case management

- When working jointly with a young person, YJS or Youth Early Help (where appropriate) will maintain case responsibility for offence based issues and CSSW will have case responsibility for safeguarding and welfare issues.
- Where a young person is receiving a service from CSSW, their allocated social worker will be the lead professional, responsible for co-ordinating multi-agency responses and interventions and providing a point of contact for the child, their parents and the professional network.
- A multi-agency planning meeting should be arranged by the CSSW social worker within 10 working days of the case being referred to them to agree roles, responsibilities, joint working and liaison arrangements. The meeting should be chaired by the social worker's supervisor and should be attended by the relevant YJS worker.
- YJS caseworkers and CSSW social workers should ensure that there is a high level of contact between the services and good exchange of case information.
- CSSW and YJS supervisors and managers should liaise closely and consult on jointly-worked cases including care planning, looked after reviews and key management decisions.
- No case will be closed by **either service** without consultation between the relevant team managers. Where there is disagreement concerning case closure or any other key case decisions, the YJS and CSSW service managers will be consulted.

## 7.3 Recording

Both services have separate recording systems, and there is limited access between these systems in order to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR. YJS record on YOIS and access to this system is restricted to YJS workers only.

CSSW record on MOSAIC with access by YJS limited for the purposes of checking the young person's status and some recording.

- YJS social workers will be able to read limited information on MOSAIC and carry out a search of young people who are referred to them to see if they are known to CSSW.
- Where a known young person is receiving a service from both CSSW and the YJS, both services will provide relevant information to the other service which will be recorded on the relevant recording system. Consent should be sought from the young person and family to enable this but if consent is withheld, both services have a legal basis to share information if there are safeguarding concerns and sharing information is a proportional response to these concerns.
- Where a child is remanded into local authority care or local authority secure accommodation, the YJS worker will liaise with the allocated CSSW social worker or the MASH social worker, advising them of the need for a placement. The case will be jointly worked between the services, with CSSW holding LAC responsibilities.
- Where there is a jointly worked case, all minutes of meetings and other documents such as pre-sentence reports and social work assessments that need to be shared between the CSSW social worker and the YJS worker will be uploaded onto the young person's case record on both recording systems.
- Both services should refer to the CSSW divisional recording policy for guidance on standards of recording on case records.

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/3292/recording-policy.pdf>

#### **7.4 Joint strategic working groups**

CSSW and YJS have representatives on the following boards and groups:

- Camden Safeguarding Children Board and sub-groups
- Looked After Children steering group
- CSSW senior management meetings
- CSSW 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> tier management meetings
- Multi-agency Child Exploitation (MACE) group
- YJS Management Board
- Vulnerable adolescents strategy group.

## **7.5 Multi-agency audits**

The CSSW Quality Assurance Unit carries out case audits on CSSW cases on behalf of the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership on a 6 monthly basis in order to ensure high quality practice. YJS managers will be fully involved in any case audits where a young person is known to both agencies.

## **7.6 Critical Learning Review (CLR)**

YJS will hold a CLR in the following circumstances:

- a public protection incident involving murder, attempted murder or manslaughter, rape, torture, kidnapping, false imprisonment or firearms offences;
- a safeguarding incident involving:
  - the death of a young person in secure accommodation or under escort;
  - the death or attempted suicide of a young person who is being supervised in the community by YJS or by another YJB supported project or prevention programme;
  - where a young person being supervised by YJS is the victim of one of the offences listed above.

CSSW will form part of the meeting when a young person is known across both services. The YJS will convene an initial meeting to discuss the incident and in particular look at the effectiveness of joint working, information sharing and look for parallel planning.

## **7.7 Extended Learning reviews**

Where a CLR has been triggered and there has been extensive CSSW involvement with the child and their family, an extended learning review will be conducted to involve all relevant multi-agency partners.

CSSW will form part of the meeting when a young person is known across both services. The YJS will convene an initial meeting to discuss the incident and in particular look at the effectiveness of joint working, information sharing and look for parallel planning.



## 8 Information sharing

### 8.1 The Daily Risk Briefing (DRB)

The YJS and CSSW will discuss high risk cases, new police intelligence and overnight arrests on a daily basis within the DRB. This will inform onward referrals and actions such as strategy meetings or referrals to multi-agency panels.

### 8.2 The MASH daily discussion

Where the YJS has a specific safeguarding concern and is unclear on thresholds or the need for a formal referral to MASH, the allocated YJS worker will take the case to the MASH daily discussion for a multi-agency discussion on thresholds and actions to be taken to safeguard the child.

### 8.3 Information to be shared on allocated cases

This section applies only where cases are being worked by both YJS and CSSW.

YJS will provide CSSW with the following information:

- offending history and notifications to the police
- dates and times of court appearances
- attendance to police station and reasons for the arrest if known
- offence details
- one point of access information and reports
- assessment outcomes from Assetplus including information on the level of risk posed by the young person
- the young person's bail and remand status.
- where applicable the Risk of Serious Harm (ROSH), Risk Management Plan, (RMP) and Vulnerability Management Plans (VMP) will be shared.

CSSW will provide YJS with the following information:

- young person's assessed status under the Children Act 1989 and any changes to this status, including accommodation
- details of any court orders under the Children Act 1989 that are in place with regard to the young person
- outcome of all assessments and overall plans for the young person
- dates of reviews and other professional meetings
- details of involvement of any other agency with the family, including parents
- any changes of the young person's placement.

## 9 Multi-agency forums

To support multi-agency working and integrated service delivery, Camden has the following multi-agency forums in place.

### 9.1 Daily Risk Briefing

(Please see section 8.1)

### 9.2 High Risk and Vulnerability Panel (HRVP)

The aim of the HRVP is to allow agencies to be updated and share the responsibility of risk management for cases presenting with a high risk of serious harm or high safety and wellbeing concerns.

The panel is briefed on the current strategies in place and will help to support other ideas and actions that may assist to mitigate the concerns identified. The HRVP will discuss all MAPPA Level 1 cases and will provide clear management oversight to all cases discussed in order to ensure a thread of accountability. The panel meets monthly and consists of representatives from YJS, IYSS, CSSW, Education, CAMHS and Police.

Where a young person known to CSSW is referred to the panel, their allocated social worker will be informed by the YJS worker and it is an expectation that the social worker attends the panel in order to provide relevant information. Where the social worker is not able to attend they will be expected to provide a written update in advance.

Referrals for this panel are made as a result of any of the following routes:

- The allocated worker and/or line manager do not feel the multi-agency network is effectively managing risk.
- The allocated worker and/or line manager feel the multi-agency risk management plan is stuck and not effectively managing risk.
- A serious incident or change of circumstances occurs requiring multi-agency oversight to update the risk management plan and it is not felt that a strategy meeting or serious incident meeting can sufficiently manage the risk.
- The HRVP wizard highlights a case that requires further scrutiny for example where a child is a victim of serious youth violence and the risk of further injury or reprisal is high or where a child's AssetPlus risk rating has changed significantly.
- The YJS manager's weekly meeting to provide oversight on risk management plans feels that multi-agency input would be of value to drive forward the risk management plan.

- YJS police and/or multi-agency partners request an allocated case is discussed by the panel.

This multi-agency process will discuss and agree risk levels and develop and review risk management or safety plans. It will also determine cases that need to be referred to the MAPPA or any other relevant risk management process.

### **9.3 Gangs and serious youth violence strategy/Bronze Group**

Camden has a five pillar strategy to effectively manage gang activity and youth violence. The five pillars are:

**Prevent:** Prevent youth violence by providing young people, parents and professionals with information which raises their awareness of the issues and helps them keep themselves safe, make positive choices about their behaviour and build their resilience.

**Identify:** Identify and refer those young people who need support because they are vulnerable to being affected by youth violence

**Support:** Target those at risk of or affected by youth violence and provide them with the support they need, including enabling parents and professionals to support the young people with whom they are involved.

**Disrupt:** Disrupt the patterns of youth violence to make Camden a safe environment by interrupting the activities of perpetrators and inhibiting the grooming and targeting process.

**Enforce:** Use appropriate enforcement against perpetrators using information and intelligence gathered by partner agencies.

The Camden Bronze Gangs Meeting is a multi-agency problem solving group established to respond to gang related violence in Camden with a focus on high risk gang nominals identified through the MPS gangs matrix and partnership intelligence.

The main aim of the panel is to prevent and minimise violence between individuals and groups by sharing information and developing safety plans and coordinating interventions with individuals and groups. The group aims to manage, identify and prioritise individuals up to the age of 25 deemed most at risk of gang activity and serious youth violence. Both CSSW and YJS are members of this group.

Additionally there is a 'wild card' discussion where professionals can refer emerging individuals of concern in relation to vulnerability and risk, and the panel will consider how they can be supported with interventions and enforcement where appropriate.

This framework supports the development of the borough strategy which highlights the various approaches across the spectrum from universal to very high risk.

#### **9.4 MACE group**

The Multi-agency Child Exploitation group (MACE) is a strategic group with representation from a variety of agencies, including CSSW and YJS. The group is responsible for co-ordinating and implementing Camden's child exploitation strategy and both services will provide key intelligence and information with regard to young people they work with for whom there are concerns about child sexual exploitation or child criminal exploitation both as victim and perpetrator.

#### **9.5 Channel Panel**

Camden's Channel Panel is a key part of the *Prevent* strategy that places a duty on local authorities to set up at a specialist Channel Panel in order to:

:

- identify individuals at risk of being radicalised and potentially drawn into terrorism;
- assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Referral to the Panel is via the MASH team and all referrals should be sent to the MASH in the first instance. Please see section 10 for further details.

## **10 Working with children and young people at risk of extra-familial harm**

### **10.1 Definition of extra-familial harm**

Extra-familial harm describes the forms of harm and exploitation arising from young people's community or peer group or on-line, rather than from their home environment.

Factors such as substance misuse and periods of going missing from home or school can also add to young people's vulnerability to extra-familial harm and are often indicators that exploitation may be taking place.

Sources of harm and exploitation can include:

- child sexual exploitation (see 10.5)
- child criminal exploitation including county lines (see 10.6)
- modern slavery and trafficking (see 10.2)
- gang activity and youth violence (see 10.4)
- radicalisation (see 10.7).

Child exploitation is a form of modern slavery and trafficking involving the movement of children into and within a country in order to exploit them through servitude, forced labour and sexual and criminal exploitation such as county lines. This is a criminal offence under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Further information can be found in the CSCP guidance available at:

[CSCP-extra-familial-harm-and-child-exploitation-guidance.pdf](#)

## **10.2 Agency response to extra-familial harm**

Workers need to be aware of young people who are at risk of extra-familial harm. Some criminal behaviours may be a result of exploitation and may lead to the young person entering the criminal justice system. Workers should also be aware that often the different forms of exploitation described here are linked and young people may face multiple risks.

Young people who are experiencing extra-familial harm and exploitation may need social care support from Youth Early Help or CSSW. Where YJS workers are concerned a young person they work with is at risk from extra-familial harm, they should carry out a risk assessment to identify the type of harm and levels of risk (see below for details of risk assessments). Where the risk assessment shows the young person may be at risk, a referral should be made to the Contact Service where a decision will be made on the most appropriate level of intervention.

Cases where young people are vulnerable to extra-familial harm but where there is no evidence that they are being exploited will be referred to the YEH.

Cases where the young person is being groomed for exploitation or are experiencing exploitation will be referred to CSSW and will normally be dealt with as a child in need case. Child protection procedures will only be used where risks are not acknowledged by parents, where care is neglectful, or where there is evidence of other ongoing parental neglect or abuse.

Workers should also ensure that any information or intelligence with regards to exploitation in relation to locations, perpetrators and victims should be shared with the MACE group.

For further details on working on cases involving child exploitation, workers should refer to the *Child exploitation policy and procedures*.

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/3703/child-exploitation-policy-and-procedures.pdf>

### **10.3 Young people affected by gang activity**

Workers should refer to the guidance “Safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity” (DCSF) for further details and follow section 12 of the London Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

[Online Publications: Download options](#)

[http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/gang\\_activity.html](http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/gang_activity.html)

**Where YJS is working with a young person affected by gang activity**, a referral will be made to CSSW where:

- their gang-related activities present clear safeguarding concerns for the young person;
- they have younger siblings who are at risk of harm because of their association with the young person or may become involved in gang activity themselves;
- there are concerns about the safety of the family and parent’s ability to protect the young person or younger siblings from harm.

YJS will provide all information and intelligence that is available regarding the young person’s involvement in gangs and what risks are posed to them and their family.

CSSW will convene a strategy meeting to be attended by the police and the YJS worker and which will look at:

- level of involvement in gangs;
- specific threats or evidence of targeting of the family by rival gangs;
- evidence of gang-related child sexual exploitation;
- parenting capacity and levels of parental control, including ability to protect children from risk;
- evidence of grooming of younger siblings in gang cultures.

If the young person needs to be accommodated, social workers will need to give careful thought to placement choices to ensure the young person is not put at further risk by being placed in a rival gang’s area.

YJS will also make a referral to CSSW where a young person who is involved in gangs is being released from custody and there may be a need to safeguard younger siblings in the event that the young person returns to the family home.

CSSW will need to play a part in pre-release planning in order to ensure the family's continued safety and will convene a strategy meeting to look at the risks to the younger siblings.

***Where CSSW social workers are concerned that a young person they work with may be involved in gangs or vulnerable as a result of gang activity,*** the following sources may provide useful information;

- Information shared at the Daily Risk Briefing.
- YJS will be able to provide information of the service's involvement with the young person and whether this is gang-related.
- The analyst in the Evolve team can share intelligence from the borough police with regard to the young person's possible gang affiliations; this must be done via a formal request for information.
- District Housing Offices may have information on young people who are thought to be involved in local gangs and whether families are at risk of eviction because of this.
- Schools often have information on pupil's gang involvement.

Where there is evidence that the young person is at risk from gang activity, social workers should discuss the case with the Serious Youth Violence Co-ordinator with a view to making a referral to the Bronze Group under the Camden Gangs Strategy.

#### **10.4 Radicalisation and extremism**

Further details on how young people are targeted and groomed by extremists can be found in the CSCP multi-agency guidance on radicalisation and extremism available at: [CSCP-guidance-on-radicalisation-and-extremism-2021.pdf](#)

Where a YJS worker is concerned a young person is at risk of radicalisation they should contact the Prevent co-ordinator to discuss concerns and where appropriate, make a referral to the Channel Panel via the MASH (see guidance above for details).

YJS workers should refer where there are concerns that:

- the young person is in contact with extremists or family members are known to hold extremist views
- there is evidence the young person is being radicalised
- the young person is radicalising peers

## 10.5 Sexually harmful behaviour

Camden has a multi-agency protocol for dealing with children and young people who exhibit harmful sexual behaviour towards others. The purpose of the protocol is to help agencies identify sexually harmful behaviour and make appropriate referrals to CSSW and YJS. The protocol is available at:

<https://cscp.org.uk/resources/sexual-harmful-behaviours/>

Under the protocol, CSSW and YJS share responsibility for assessment and devising a multi-agency plan to monitor the young person and ensure their welfare and the welfare of other children.

## 10.6 Children who go missing

The CSCB *Missing* protocol contains guidance on preventing missing episodes and what actions to take when a child or young person known to either service goes missing. <https://cscp.org.uk/resources/missing-children-from-home-and-care/>

## 11 Looked after children

Looked after children are disproportionately represented within the criminal justice system, and often the issues that lead to their becoming looked after are similar to those that contribute to their entry into the criminal justice system.

For this reason, YJS and CSSW are committed to providing an enhanced service for this vulnerable group and will follow the CSSW divisional policy “Looked After Children in the Criminal Justice System” available at:

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/3596/lac-in-the-criminal-justice-system.pdf>

### 11.1 Legal framework

CSSW will accommodate young people under the Children Act 1989 because:

- No-one has parental responsibility for the young person;
- The young person is lost or abandoned;
- The parent/carer is prevented from providing suitable care and accommodation;



- The young person is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm which is attributable to the care they are receiving or they are beyond parental control.

Young people who are remanded into local authority accommodation or secure accommodation by the criminal courts will be considered Looked After and will be subject to all LAC statutory processes up until the point they are sentenced.

These cases will be dealt with under the division's "Children remanded into the care system" policy;

<https://ascpractice.camden.gov.uk/media/3602/children-remanded-into-the-care-system.pdf>

Where a child appears in court for a matter that may meet the remand threshold the YJS court officer will liaise with the MASH/allocated worker immediately and follow the local procedure to secure an address wherever possible. Please see the ***children remanded into the care system policy***.

Where a child or young person aged between 10 and 17 years old has been declined bail and needs to be accommodated by Camden overnight under section 38 (6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 prior to a court appearance (known as a PACE bed), YJS and CSSW should work to the London Safeguarding Children Board multi-agency protocol "Children and young people held in police stations".

## **11.2 Role of CSSW**

Statutory services for looked after children and care leavers are delivered by the LACCLS. Each looked after child will have:

- a foster/residential/secure placement that meets their assessed needs;
- an allocated social worker;
- a care plan/detention plan detailing services and support to meet their needs and that sets out their pathway to rehabilitation home, permanence or independence or safeguards them during their time on remand;
- regular statutory reviews to ensure their care plan/detention plan is being implemented and remains relevant to their needs and situation;
- regular statutory visits from their allocated social worker to ensure the placement is safeguarding and promoting their welfare;
- an allocated Independent Reviewing Officer who ensures the young person is receiving a high standard of care and that Camden is fulfilling the corporate parenting role.

To support joint working, CSSW will:

- liaise with the allocated YJS worker to share information, assessments and care and/or detention plans for the child and to discuss progress and any further work that needs to be undertaken;
- make appropriate referrals to YEH for an early intervention service on behalf of LAC who are assessed as being at risk of offending;
- participate in YJS reviews of voluntary and statutory work and interventions;
- ensure that the YJS worker is invited to and can participate in LAC reviews in relevant cases;
- ensure that the care plan includes information on strategies to prevent or reduce offending by looked after children and young people;
- ensure the allocated social worker or foster carer attend police stations or court hearings with the young person in order to support them;
- attend planning meetings and statutory reviews at secure establishments and youth offending institutes to ensure that effective through-care is provided.

### **11.3 Role of YJS**

The YJS has an advanced practitioner responsible for being the lead on LAC-YJS cases, providing coaching to case managers and acting as the point of contact for LAC social workers and YJS case managers with specific enquiries.

To support joint working, YJS will:

- on receiving a referral, check on MOSAIC to ascertain whether the young person is looked after by Camden;
- where a child is being remanded into local authority accommodation or secure accommodation, make appropriate referrals to CSSW in line with the remands policy;
- liaise with the allocated LAC social worker to discuss the case and obtain a copy of the care plan and share all assessment information;
- attend and contribute to LAC reviews to report on YJS interventions and what progress has been made on addressing offending issues;

- arrange secure placements where appropriate;
- attend and engage in joint supervision or consultations for the network to ensure key professionals are clear on needs, family dynamics and how to best engage families with multi layered needs.

#### **11.4 Providing accommodation**

Where it is likely that a young person may be remanded into local authority accommodation or an emergency placement is needed for a young person detained in police custody, YJS workers should contact the manager of the Resource team or the EDT manager out of hours. Decisions on provision of accommodation will be based on placement availability and subject to rigorous risk assessment.

## **12 Care leavers**

YJS will work with relevant children (care leavers aged 16 and 17 who have since left care) and will liaise with leaving care social workers and personal advisors to ensure that care leavers receive the same service as Looked After Children. In order to achieve this, YJS will be fully involved in the pathway needs assessment and planning and review mechanisms so that the process takes account of the young person's offending behaviour and any issues arising from this.

YJS will continue to work with care leavers aged 18 and 19 (former relevant children) if the young person is still subject to a Referral order or other requirement attached to a youth rehabilitation order that deems it impractical to transition to adult services.

The YJS worker will be responsible for any transition to adult probation services and work with the social worker to ensure this in accordance with the transitions policy. All young people who enter custody will receive an offer of support from the Enhanced Constructive Resettlement Team (ECR) who work with young people in custody and then on release, beyond any YJS intervention, or turning 18 years.

Service delivery will reflect the young person's increasing independence and details of interventions will be written into the young person's pathway plan. Pathway planning and support from the LACCLS will continue whilst the young person is in custody.

Specific consideration will be given to whether the young person's supported housing provision is adequate to their needs, particularly in terms of complying with any bail conditions or supervision following release from custody. CSSW and YJS will work with Housing Pathway providers to ensure the young person is offered suitable supported accommodation, particularly on release from custody.

## 13 Children in custody

Children remanded into youth detention will automatically become looked after children and be entitled to support. Joint working expectations outlined within this protocol become particularly important in managing the transition between the community, custody and resettlement. For further details please see the **Remands into local authority accommodation** policy.

- The allocated IRO of remanded children will ensure there is a shared understanding amongst the network of support and priorities and agree the frequency of visits to support the child (if needed more regularly than every 4 weeks).
- Remanded children who have difficulties coping or behaving with the custodial regime will be considered for discussion at the HRVP monthly meeting.
- The allocated IRO will ensure any reports or allegations made by a child about professional treatment or behaviour are referred to LADO where appropriate.

All children who receive a custodial sentence cease to be looked after if not previously subject to a Care Order. A decision will be made by CSSW regarding the benefit or need CIN or CP intervention and this will be notified to the YJS worker.

All sentenced children will be managed in accordance with the YJB case management guidance and Camden Resettlement Planning Programme. All children leaving custody should have an educational placement identified before release with clarity on roles of agencies where cases are jointly worked.

## 14 Other Information

- Responsibility for looked after children in the cells at court remains with the CSSW social worker. The YJS worker cannot fulfil this role as they have a responsibility to provide services as officers of the court and will be engaged in a court duty role and provision of supported bail services.
- Where a child or young person is looked after, the CSSW social worker will need to liaise with the young person's foster carer or residential key worker to arrange an escort to court.

- As corporate parents, CSSW will be responsible for addressing any accommodation and welfare issues that arise as a result of court decisions and must be able to ensure continued services for the young person. The YJS court officer will liaise with the allocated social worker regarding any proposed court bail conditions that lead to a changes in address.
- YJS does not provide a service out of normal office hours. The Emergency Duty Team should be consulted in line with their agreed protocols. Home visits and evening reporting can however be arranged as part of the statutory assessments and sentences carried out by YJS.

Appendix 1 **Thresholds and eligibility for children's services**

	<b>Level of need</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<b>Universal</b>	<b>Level 1: Universal:</b> children whose needs are being met through universal services. This includes children with additional needs which can be met through a single universal service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in good physical health whose general development is age appropriate and who are making good progress academically.</li> <li>• Children living in stable families where parents are able to meet all the child's needs.</li> <li>• Children who need some support and who would benefit from additional universal services to improve outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>All children should receive universal services such as health care and education, as well as early years and Integrated Youth Support Services.</p> <p>Professionals working with families should check if children are in receipt of universal services and take appropriate action where this is not the case or consider whether to step up to early help intervention.</p>
<b>Early help</b>	<b>Level 2: Low level needs or vulnerable to poor outcomes:</b> Children whose needs cannot be met from one service and where there are a number of factors preventing the child from achieving their potential. Two or more of the indicators listed here need to be present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with mild disabilities or health issues.</li> <li>• Children with special educational needs.</li> <li>• Children who are out of school or have regular unauthorised absences.</li> <li>• Young carers.</li> <li>• Children showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour.</li> <li>• Children growing up in difficult family circumstances where there are low levels of substance misuse, adult mental health difficulties or domestic violence.</li> <li>• Families affected by parental ill health, parental custody, homelessness, poverty, immigration or other problems.</li> <li>• Children showing early signs of developmental delay.</li> <li>• Families affected by social isolation, discrimination or harassment.</li> <li>• Children who show early signs of being radicalised by people outside of their immediate family.</li> </ul>	<p>Professionals should talk to the family about carrying out a CAF assessment in order to identify appropriate services that could improve outcomes for the child. Where more than one agency is involved, a lead professional should be identified and the Team Around the Child should meet to devise an action plan that meets the child's additional needs. Where the CAF indicates that thresholds have been met for a child in need service, a step up referral should be made to CSSW.</p> <p>Where there are concerns that a child may be being radicalised, professionals should discuss the matter with Camden's Prevent Co-ordinator or the Police Prevent Engagement Officer for advice on a possible referral to the Channel Panel.</p>

<p><b>Child in need</b></p>	<p><b>Level 3: <i>Complex needs</i>:</b> Children who have more complex and enduring needs requiring a statutory social work service.</p> <p>Parents may lack insight and may not engage with services to address problems.</p> <p>For youth offending cases, children who are involved in low level criminal activity and who have entered the criminal justice system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with lifelong disabilities.</li> <li>• Children whose growth and development is being impaired by the quality of care received.</li> <li>• Children exhibiting high levels of behavioural difficulties and risk-taking behaviour or who are out of parental control.</li> <li>• Pregnant women whose lifestyle may be affecting the development of the unborn child.</li> <li>• Parents experiencing difficulties in parenting capacity due to substance misuse, physical disability, learning difficulties, domestic or family violence or mental health problems.</li> <li>• Children with high levels of emotional difficulties who may need a service from CAMHS.</li> <li>• Children who show more advanced signs of being radicalised and where parents or siblings may be involved in radicalisation.</li> </ul>	<p>Professionals should talk to the family about making a CAF referral to CSSW for a child in need service. CSSW will carry out a child and family assessment and convene a child in need meeting to devise the child’s CIN plan. The allocated social worker will be the child’s lead professional.</p> <p>Where there are concerns that a child may be being radicalised, professionals should discuss the matter with Camden’s Prevent Coordinator or the Police Prevent Engagement Officer for advice on a possible referral to the Channel Panel.</p>
<p><b>Child protection</b></p>	<p><b>Level 4: <i>Acute needs</i>:</b> Children may be suffering significant harm, in need of a safe home and/or a legal order to safeguard and promote their welfare. Parents face difficulties that affect parenting capacity and may not engage with services.</p> <p>For youth offending cases, children who are involved in serious criminal activity, eg gangs, and who may be remanded into care or receive a custodial sentence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children requiring accommodation because there is no-one who is able to care for them.</li> <li>• Children whom it is suspected are being physically, emotionally or sexually abused or neglected or living with high levels of domestic violence.</li> <li>• Children who may be at risk due to trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced marriage or FGM.</li> <li>• Unborn babies where a pre-birth assessment has shown them to be at serious risk of significant harm.</li> <li>• Children who are deeply enmeshed in the extremist narrative and/or at imminent risk of carrying out violent acts or leaving the UK following radicalisation.</li> </ul>	<p>Professionals must make a referral to CSSW. If the matter is urgent, professionals can make a child protection referral to the MASH by telephone and follow up with a written referral within 48 hours. CSSW will carry out a child and family assessment and take appropriate action needed to safeguard the child under statutory child protection procedures. The allocated social worker will be the lead professional for the child.</p> <p>Where there are high levels of concern around radicalisation, the Police must be informed.</p>

Appendix 2

**Contacts**

**CSSW**

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**YJS**

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