

Team Around Parkview School: An Innovative Partnership to keep young people safe

The Early Help Service has piloted a new way of working with schools which is being well received by all involved. In response to growing concerns about the risks associated with gangs and child sexual exploitation (CSE) in the local area, the staff at Parkview School have taken an assertive and proactive approach to seeking partnership support to reduce the impact of these risks for their students. To support the school to achieve this, the Early Help Service have led on and customised a 'Team Around the School', offering interventions tailored to meet their specific needs.

The partnerships that have been developed through this strategy include:

- Community Safety Team
- Targeted Response and Youth Justice Service
- Safer London
- Victim Support
- A Single Point of Contact (SPOC) in the Anti-Social Behaviour Team

The project began in May 2016 and with the strong support of the partners identified, the partnership has been able to successfully deliver the following activities:

- CSE Awareness workshops delivered to all Year Groups
- A 2 day CSE Awareness course targeted at Year 9 students
- A 10 week intensive CSE programme for their highest risk students, funded by the Healthy Schools Programme
- CSE and Gang Awareness workshop delivered to staff at their Inset day

Further work in development includes:

- A Young Men's group
- Bitesize sessions to staff to develop their resilience with responding to risk of Gangs and CSE;
- Parent Workshops covering risk of Gangs, CSE and Cyber Safety;
- A Parent's Forum to identify what they feel the most concerning issues are that their children face;
- Parkview School hold weekly meetings to review their vulnerable children's list and the Early Help Service will now attend these;
- The school hold fortnightly Safeguarding meetings for their highest risk students; Community Safety and Safer London will be represented at these meetings.

We are continually reviewing the impact of these work strands and expect to achieve specific outcomes that demonstrate clear evidence of:

1. A reduction in risk of Gangs and CSE amongst students defined by how confident they feel to make better, more informed choices;
2. Improved awareness and confidence amongst staff to respond to risks of Gangs and CSE;
3. Improved awareness and confidence of parents to respond to risks of Gangs and CSE.

Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

School have asked for Team Around the School meetings to be convened 3 times a year to review progress made and evaluate impact. If we can't fit one in before the end of term it will be in early Sept – depends on school's availability.

Potential outcome measures (to be finalised) are:

- Have any of the young people identified on the school's target list escalated through the CYPS/YJ system?
- Has the school identified any more young people at risk?
- Has there been a change in the need for Police attendance to the school site?
- Do school staff report feeling more confident in addressing CSE/Gang concerns?
- Do parents report feeling more confident in supporting their child with CSE/Gang concerns?
- Do young people report feeling informed to make better choices around CSE/Gang issues?