

Youth Service Overview 2021

Northumberland Adolescent Service (NAS)

NAS is made up of services to meet the needs of all adolescents across Northumberland and includes:

- Youth Service
- Sorted Substance Misuse Service
- Youth Justice Service/Exploitation
- 14+/18+ Teams One & Two
- Accommodation Team
- Business Administration Team

Role & Function Of Services

Youth Justice Service:

- Delivers services to young people in both the Court and Out of Court arena
- We have measures in place to divert young people from entering the court arena for example – divert from court program and the Out of Court disposal panel
- We implement plans to divert young people from offending or reduce re-offending
- Work with young people aged 10-19

Exploitation:

- This is where adults take advantage of a/or a group of children/young people which places them at harm
- Our medium to high-risk cases are managed through the Missing Slavery Exploited & Trafficked arena which is led by Northumbria Police
- Missing from home episodes are a key indicator of exploitation and we therefore take a coordinated approach to Return Home Interviews
- Our Child to Parent Violence and Abuse project delivers support to young people and their families
- Our workers act in a support role to the wider social care workforce and are also available to deliver training to care teams/core groups/wider audiences within social care

14+/18+ Team provides:

- Supports Looked After children, 16+ Children In Need and Care Leavers up to the age of 25
- We work in partnership with wider agencies to ensure that there is an appropriate care team supporting each young person to ensure better outcomes
- We support young people to transitions into Adult services if appropriate

Accommodation Team provides:

- Responsible for ensuring young people are supported to access accommodation and maintain stability
- Provides support to homeless 16/17 year olds
- Work with housing partners and supported accommodation providers to progress referrals

Sorted Substance Misuse Service provides:

- Interventions for young people up to age 18
- The aim of the service is to provide direct harm reduction and support to young people who have complex needs with regard to substance use
- Sorted also provide advice, training and support to professionals to raise awareness and reduce the risks from substance misuse with young people

Overview of the Youth Service

The Youth Service provides support to young people in Northumberland and provides three distinct strands:

- Prevention
- Participation and Advocacy
- Early Help

The provision of universal youth services are developed and delivered across Northumberland which includes working in partnership with the Voluntary Sector

Through data analysis and feedback from partners, we determine where to deploy resources and will deliver sessions in these areas.

Prevention Services Across Northumberland

- Delivery of Detached Youth Work – Street-based engagement with young people, Centre based Youth Clubs and Virtual Online Youth Groups

How we approach the community

- We attend various meetings which includes many voluntary sector partners
- We attend the Victim Offender Location (VOL) meetings for the county

How we gather our information

- We listen to those living in the community on a regular basis and are able to support communities, families and complete one to one work with young people to address any specific issues
- We use a range of recording techniques to gather all our information
- We measure 4 outcomes to monitor progress: Young people are less isolated; supported to develop life skills; have access to opportunities and experiences which broaden their enjoyment, learning and horizons & young people have a safe space to explore their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing

What we do with the information we gather

- Information is used to help inform future service delivery
- We determine if we are meeting the needs of young people through the sessions we deliver and determine what new opportunities/activities we can offer
- Reports are written and shared with senior management and Corporate Parenting Advisory Group

Participation & Advocacy

Universal Participation through the following:

- Youth Cabinet and Parliament
- Make Your Mark national young people's ballot
- Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

Advocacy

Advocacy support offered to young people open to Children's Social Care to ensure their voice and opinion is heard

Performance Data:

85 referrals where young people have received a service in the last 12 months

110 responses received from young people through the young people's feedback form with young people rating the service they receive as 4.72 out of 5

229 statements from young people received via Mind of My Own App in the last 12 months

Participation & Advocacy

These are the groups we use to consult with young people:

Voices Making Choices (VMC) - We provide looked after young people a forum to express their views and wishes which helps to shape the services they receive

Regional Children In Care Council (RCIC) - Young people have been supported to share their views with the Regional Children in Care Council through the Voices Making Choices Group

Care Leavers Forum – Currently supports care leavers on a 1:1 basis to be able to express their views and wishes with the longer-term aim of creating a forum where young people can come together throughout the year to discuss the issues that matter to them – (currently virtual due to the covid pandemic)

Respect Equals Change - (REC)- 5 groups in 3 special schools, focusing on supporting young people to develop their ability to share their views and wishes

Northumberland youth service works closely alongside Young Carers Northumberland in providing a service for young carers across the county to be able to attend our service as well as providing training to raise awareness of identifying young carers and the support that is available for young carers.

Early Help - Missing

- Return Home Interviews (RHI's) are completed with children and young people who go missing
- Between January and July 2021: 45 Children and Young People have been missing on 121 occasions and this has included Looked after children, those on a child protection or Child in need plan as well as those not known to services.
- Northumberland's response to missing episodes are led by the Youth Service within NAS
- We have strengthened our multi agency working and now attend the regional missing network and have close links to the exploitation team. This provides a valuable outlet for sharing best practice and intelligence which is then used to proactively 'target' hotspot areas with a view to reducing missing episodes.
- Missing lead attends strategy meetings to ensure they have oversight of young people who may potentially go missing

Early Help – Targeted Youth Support

- 46 enquiries have been received through the Youth Service enquiry form requesting supporting for young people since November 2020
- Most enquiries come from, social workers, early help family workers, youth justice workers, exploitation team, and leaving care workers
- The early help strand lead attends Early Help HUB meetings, information is shared appropriately, and signposting is offered to professionals
- Common themes or topics raised by young people result in small groups sessions being held, for example; online safety, where young people have been supported to learn about how to remain safe online
- We have seen an increase in enquiries to support young people (and their families) in relation to their gender, identity and sexuality. Our youth workers are able to offer 1:1 support to those young people/families as well as linking them into the LGBT meetings we delivery virtually

Voluntary Community Provision Provided

We work in partnership with several voluntary sector groups and offer the following support:

- Advice and support to partnership sessions.
- Enquiries on funding – support Grow Your Own
- Training such as young carers identification and advice around safeguarding procedures
- Promoting links to other NAS services such as Sorted, Accommodation and Exploitation
- Supporting community events

Projects that we work with within Northumberland include, but not restricted too are: Prudhoe Youth Project, Cramlington Youth Forum, Amble Youth Project, YMCA Northumberland.

Any Questions?

