

West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit

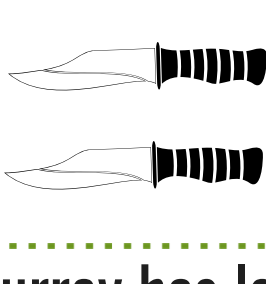
Horizon Scanning Bulletin #6

1 Youth (in)justice and the COVID-19 pandemic



2 Leeds Council appoints first female British Asian health chief

3 #Life or knife



4 Covid: Worries about parents' drug and alcohol use soar



5 Surrey has lowest rate of imprisoning women thanks to rehabilitation scheme

6 What a criminal record can mean for access to higher education



7 Understand us: exploring young adults views and experiences of policing

8 Funding cuts hitting UK youth services



9 Youth Endowment Fund - grant round opens April 19



10 New WY-FI report: Closing the revolving door

1 Youth (in)justice and the COVID-19 pandemic

Serious concerns for the safety and well-being of children and young people are multiplying due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has called for children's urgent release from prison. Evidence demonstrates that incarceration can aggravate existing health conditions and result in new health issues, such as depression, suicidal thoughts and post-traumatic stress disorder.

This paper draws on findings from a larger study involving 25 qualitative interviews with policy makers, practitioners and researchers working in youth justice and utilises Victoria in South East Australia as a case study. It argues that this holistic approach can promote children's rights and crucially attend to the physical and emotional well-being of children and young people, compared with the current arrangements

2 Leeds Council appoints first female British Asian health chief

Councillor Salma Arif is set to become the first female British Asian member of Leeds City Council's top decision-making body, keeping an eye on the health of the city. The trailblazing councillor has opened up about growing up in Harehills, taking on the male-dominated world of local politics and her plans for the health portfolio in Leeds.

3 #Life or knife

#LifeorKnife - the choice is yours is a resource for young people, parents and teachers in the West Midlands. The campaign explores the consequences of knife carrying.

Watch a video of James Brindley's parents talking about the effect the loss of James has had on them, and convicted murderer Saddam Essakil's message about life in jail.

This campaign from West Midlands Police is all about choice – young people always have a choice, even when they don't feel they have. Watch the video of ex-gang member Omar Sharif talking about how he turned his life around.

4 Covid: Worries about parents' drug and alcohol use soar

There has been a dramatic rise in the number of children needing help because their parents are misusing drugs and alcohol, a charity says. NSPCC Wales have made 572 substance misuse referrals to police and agencies in the past 10 months - a rise of 72% since the pandemic began.

5 Surrey has lowest rate of imprisoning women thanks to rehabilitation scheme

Figures released by the Prison Reform Trust show that the imprisonment rate for 2019 was just nine per 100,000 women in Surrey, the lowest rate in the country. By contrast, the police force area with the highest imprisonment rate was South Wales with 62 per 100,000 women. Surrey's low rate can be attributed to two schemes which have been successfully rolled out across the county over the last five years.

6 What a criminal record can mean for access to higher education

Researcher Charlotte Brooks looks at how a criminal record has an impact on application to and study in higher education. She argues that access to educational opportunities is an important part of the rehabilitation process, benefitting the individual themselves, their family and wider society. Brooks goes on to highlight how criminal records can be considered a widening participation issue and also discusses some of the ways in which universities can make higher education more accessible for people with criminal records

7 Understand us: exploring young adults views and experiences of policing

Revolving Doors Agency publish the results of two national surveys of young adults' views of policing. They argue that the surveys highlight the new generation's changing attitudes towards policing, crime, and justice. Young adults today expect the police to understand their personal circumstances and show compassion towards them. They want police officers to be able to identify their health and human needs and divert them away from the criminal justice system and into support. It is vital that the police leaders listen to young adults, particularly those with lived experience of the criminal justice system, understand their concerns, needs and expectations and co-create the future of policing in collaboration with them.

8 Funding cuts hitting UK youth services

UK youth services are failing to meet increased demand during the pandemic while facing a rapid decrease in funding, a report has revealed. The research from UK Youth, a leading charity for the sector, into the impact of Covid-19 on youth services found that 66% of the 1,759 organisations surveyed said there had been an increase in demand.

Despite this greater need for their services, 83% reported that their level of funding had decreased while 64% said they were at risk of closure in the next 12 months.

9 Youth Endowment Fund - grant round opens April 19

The Youth Endowment Fund exists to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. This is done by finding out what works and building a movement to put this knowledge into practice.

The question the YEF are aiming to answer through this grant round is:

Which diversion approaches work best at preventing 10 to 17-year-olds from becoming involved in violence?

The YEF are aiming to identify around 10-20 programmes that are ready for robust impact evaluation or could be supported to reach this point within two years. Applications open 19 April 2021.

10 New WY-FI report: Closing the revolving door

'Closing the Revolving Door' is a new report from West Yorkshire - Finding Independence (WY-FI). The report focuses on young people and parents experiencing multiple disadvantage.

The report recommends that multi-agency, person-centred support needs to be available earlier on in a person's journey. It also recommends that risk assessments should be trauma-informed and focused on identifying vulnerability. Services also need to understand the trauma from child to adult services and the extra support that might be needed for that individual.

Thanks for reading. If you have any suggestions, comments or submissions for inclusion, please send them to:

WYVRU.KnowledgeHub@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk