Camden Integrated Youth Support Services and Children's Safeguarding and Family Help

Protocol for joint working

Camden's Children and Learning Directorate uses relational practice as the foundation for all our work. Our integrative relational practice framework is based on our values, and to designed to help achieve the Directorates purpose: to work with children, families and communities to make a positive, lasting difference to their futures, so they have the best start in life.

We recognise the impact of structural inequalities on the lives of the children and families we work with and as a service we will embrace inclusive, anti-discriminatory and anti-racist practice based on our values and our mission to champion social justice.

Our practice framework centres on honest and compassionate relationships with those we serve and with each other. It is an expectation that all Directorate policies and procedures are implemented in line with our practice framework, and that any actions within policies and procedures reflect its ethics, values and practice expectations.

1 Policy statement

- Camden is committed to supporting children 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.

- Camden's policy is to ensure that children 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 children will receive an integrated service from Camden's Integrated Youth Support Service (including the Reducing Youth Violence Service, Youth Early Help, Participation and Progression and Youth Justice Service) and Children's Safeguarding and Family Help (CSFH).

2 Purpose of protocol

This protocol sets out the framework for joint working between IYSS and CSFH where a child is known to these services. It supports integrated service delivery by:

- helping workers in both settings to identify children 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 children are known to services
- ensuring inter-service co-operation in decision-making for children.

3 Principles

- Workers within services have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children 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 child 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 child's needs.

- Children are best looked after in their own families and where this is consistent with the child's best interests and the duty to protect the public from harm, all services will look to keep children at home.

- Services will promote joint working, including timely information-sharing and sharing of assessment information, in order to promote delivery of integrated services that achieve good outcomes for children.

- Where possible, the child'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.

- Services recognise that Children Looked After are more vulnerable to entering the criminal justice system and may face more challenges than their peers due to their status. For this reason, the protocol will aim to prioritise their needs and avoid them becoming criminalised where possible.

- Services recognise that many children accessing CSFH and IYSS 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.

- Due to disproportionality and 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-2024.pdf

4 Description of Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) services for under 18s

Camden IYSS offers open access and targeted support to children and young people, including positive activities and case work support for those who are at risk or vulnerable to getting involved in offending and gangs, or missing education etc.

Youth Early Help service (YEH)

The Youth Early Help (YEH) service is a voluntary (level 2) Early Help service working with children and children aged 10 to 19 with the aim of supporting them to stay safe, be healthy, remain in education, training or employment, become resilient and play a positive role in their communities.

The service offers open access/universal youth provision as well as targeted one to one support via casework for children and their families who are involved in (or are at risk of) crime or anti-social behaviour or disengaging with education or face other difficulties.

Further details of the Youth Early Help offer can be found at:
Home - Camden Rise - Camden Council

Youth Justice Service (YJS)

The YJS provides a statutory service that manages prevention, statutory, post-court services for those children aged 10 to 18 who are in the criminal justice system and are subject to:

- out of court disposals (community resolutions, youth cautions, youth conditional cautions)
- 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 children who are being released from custody, YJS will follow the Resettlement procedures and national guidance to ensure there is adequate support for children returning to live in the community and that their reintegration is effectively managed.

Children's Safeguarding and Family Help (CSFH)

CSFH 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 aged 0 to 18 who has been assessed as being in need.

Services are provided to:

- *children in need* (level 3) in order to help them reach a reasonable standard of health and development and support them to achieve good outcomes.

- *children at risk of significant harm* due to abuse or neglect (level 4): CSFH will follow the *London Safeguarding Children procedures.*

London Safeguarding Children Board: Child Protection Procedures

- *looked after children* who are provided with accommodation by Camden, including children who are remanded into local authority accommodation; please see section 11 for further details.

- *care experienced* children who have been looked after by Camden for 13 weeks since the age of 14 including time after their 16th birthday and are entitled to receive a *leaving care service.*

The CSFH eligibility criteria: 2553-9-thresholds-final.pdf

5 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 child or others. Where a referral is made in such an emergency, the assessment will be completed within 48 hours.

Referral to Youth Justice Service (YJS)

In general, the service only takes referrals from the Police or Courts once the child has entered the criminal justice system so CSFH or YEH cannot refer directly.

However, the service does offer voluntary targeted intervention programmes for children who have had some early contact with the police, such as Turnaround, the Deferred Exclusion Programme (for those at risk of permanent exclusion) or the Voluntary Support Programme, in order to provide interventions to divert the child. CSFH social workers can contact the YJS for details of the programmes and eligibility criteria.

Referral to Youth Early Help (YEH)

- Most referrals to YEH will be new cases referred in from the MASH or cases that have been stepped down from CSFH where the case is being closed. For operational details on stepping down cases please refer to the *Early Help step down procedures.* step-down-to-early-help-procedures.pdf

- CSFH social workers can refer children to Youth Early Help for specialist targeted early help work where there are concerns that the child 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.

- If ongoing YEH support is needed for an open CSFH case, this can be requested via the *Request for Targeted Early Help Support* form.

- 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.

Referral to CSFH

YJS and YEH workers will refer children on to CSFH for a statutory social work service in a timely manner via the daily discussion meeting where the threshold has been met, for example;

- the child may be a child in need
- there are child protection concerns due to the child'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 child's offending behaviour
- the child is thought to be at risk of harm due to extra-familial harm (see sections 9 and 10 for details)
- the child needs to be accommodated or has been remanded into local authority accommodation.

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

- If the ***child is already known to CSFH*** (ie: open case) the worker should contact the relevant social worker to discuss the case and the joint working procedures set out in section 7 should be followed with a multi-agency planning meeting held within 20 days .

- If the ***case is closed or the child is not known to CSFH***, referrals will be made via the step up (escalation) and daily discussion procedures. For operational details on stepping up cases please refer to the *Step up from Early Help guidelines:* step-up-from-early-help-guidelines.pdf

- All ***child protection referrals*** for closed cases or where the child is unknown to CSFH 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. IYSS workers will follow the London Safeguarding Children procedures. London Safeguarding Children Procedures

- All ***child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation referrals*** must include a completed CSE or CCE risk assessment; please refer to the *Child exploitation procedures* for further details. child-exploitation-policy-and-procedures.pdf

- All requests for accommodation where a child has been ***remanded into local authority accommodation*** must be made to the manager of the CSFH Resources service. Please refer to the *Remands into local authority care procedures* for more details. remands-into-care-procedures.pdf

- All requests for accommodation where a child needs a section 38 PACE bed ***following refusal of police bail*** must be made to the manager of the CSFH Resources service. Please refer to the *London protocol for the provision of local authority accommodation for children held in police stations* for further details.. London-Protocol-for-CiC-plus-Concordat-website-vsn-02.07.19.pdf

- Where accommodation is needed, the YJS case manager will contact the Resources 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 child may present to others in the placement.

6 Transitional safeguarding and young adults over 18

Where a child known to CSFH as a child in need or subject to a child protection plan is approaching 18 and concerns remain that they will be at continued risk of youth violence relating to groups, gangs, exploitation and offending, these children can receive support from the Evolve team, part of the Reducing Youth Violence Service.

The team works with young people aged 17.5 to 25 where:

- The child is affected by or at risk from youth violence, gangs and exploitation
- The child agrees to working with the team
- The child is aged 18-25 OR aged over 17.5 and requires transitional support

The Evolve team provides one-to-one case management support for children under Camden's approach for safeguarding adolescents up to 25 years old. The team also provides case-level advice for professionals working with adolescents affected by youth violence and exploitation.

The Youth Violence and Exploitation Analyst based in the service works across the council to develop an understanding of youth violence, gangs and exploitation drawing on intelligence and learning from a range of sources to identify children at risk and providing context to the risk. This is to help develop the council's approach to contextual safeguarding and improve service delivery. For more information see Appendix 1.

A child who is care-experienced and receiving a leaving care service or known to SEND services will continue to have support from a social worker or personal advisor who will be responsible for safeguarding their welfare up to the age of 25.

7 Joint working practice

It is important that services work together to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved for children. Parents and children should be informed at the outset of the joint working arrangement and the need to share information between the services.

Joint supervision

- Standard practice expectations are that when a case becomes jointly worked between IYSS and CSFH, a joint reflective supervision space will be held between the social worker, allocated Youth services worker and their respective line managers.

- The purpose of the meeting is to reduce repetitive questions for children and families, support a better understanding of family dynamics and pressures and how to work responsively with the family. The meeting should enable sharing of information and provide updates on work carried out with children and families.

- Records of joint supervision will be recorded on both MOSAIC and ChildView systems using the joint supervision template (see appendix 2). The space will also support a shared understanding of the priorities, aligned assessments, plans and priority areas of support and agreeing any further actions. Joint supervision sessions will take place:

    - within 20 days of a child becoming open to both services
    - every 6 months
    - at closure of either service.

Shared assessment, planning and review

- The following assessments will be carried out in respect of children under this protocol:

    - Prevention and Diversion and Assetplus assessment tools are used by the YJS to assess children who are in the criminal justice system.
    - The Early Help assessment is used by YEH for children referred for an early help service.
    - The child and family assessment is used by CSFH to establish the level of need for a child referred for a social work service.

- Services recognise the importance of sharing relevant assessment information and aligning assessments and will respect each service's analysis of information and conclusions on their respective assessments.

- Services will share relevant assessment information on a routine basis and each service will carry out a risk assessment and share the findings where decisions are being made regarding;

    - referring to CSFH
    - stepping down cases to YEH
    - accommodating a child
    - returning a child home
    - pre-sentencing reports when a child may receive a custodial sentence (social workers will be invited to contribute information)

- when a child 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 that plans are fully integrated and jointly reviewed to ensure joint service delivery.

Service	Plan	Review meeting
YEH	EH Action plan	Team around the family meeting
YJS	Intervention plan Resettlement plan	Intervention planning meeting or Referral Order Panel Resettlement meeting
CSFH	Child in need plan Child protection plan Care plan Pathway plan	Child in need review Child protection conference/core group meeting Looked after child review Pathway plan review

Attending meetings

- For CSFH meetings, social workers should ensure the allocated IYSS worker is invited to all planning and review meetings as listed above.

- Where the allocated IYSS worker is not able to attend a meeting, they should either make arrangements for a colleague with relevant experience and knowledge to attend or provide a written report for the meeting.

- Intervention planning in the YJS is carried out with the child and their family via a planning meeting or Referral Order Panel and CSFH social workers would not normally be invited to these meetings.

- Social workers are likely to be invited to attend Resettlement planning meetings as required where a social care package is being devised to support the child to integrate back into the community.

Case management

- When working jointly with a child, IYSS will maintain case responsibility for offence-based issues and CSFH will have case responsibility for safeguarding and welfare issues.

- The network should ensure there is a lead professional appointed who is responsible for co-ordinating multi-agency responses and interventions and providing a point of contact for the child, their parents and the professional network. This will be either the CSFH social worker or the IYSS worker.

- A multi-agency planning meeting should be arranged by the CSFH social worker within 20 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 Youth worker/YJS case manager.

- IYSS workers and CSFH social workers should ensure that there is a high level of contact between the services and good exchange of case information.

- CSFH and IYSS 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 **any service** without consultation between the relevant team managers. Where there is disagreement concerning case closure or any other key case decisions, the YEH, YJS and CSFH service managers will be consulted.

- Where YEH is offering targeted or specialist support for a child at a request of CSFH, the allocated social worker will remain as the lead profession for the child/family. YEH should be invited to any meeting held by CSFH.

Recording

- 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 Childview and access to this system is restricted to YJS workers only.
    - CSFH and YEH record on MOSAIC with access by YJS limited to the purposes of checking the child's status and some recording.

- YJS social workers will be able to read limited information on MOSAIC and carry out a search of children who are referred to them to see if they are known to YEH or CSFH.

- Where a known child is receiving a service from both CSFH and IYSS, services will provide relevant information to the other service which will be recorded on the relevant recording system. Consent should be sought from the child 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 CSFH 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 CSFH holding CLA 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 CSFH social worker and the YJS worker will be uploaded onto the child's case record on both recording systems.

- Services should refer to the CSFH divisional recording policy for guidance on standards of recording on case records. Recording Policy and Guidelines

Joint strategic working groups

CSFH and IYSS have representatives on the following boards and groups:

- Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership and sub-groups
- Children and Learning Directorate senior management meetings
- Multi-agency Child Exploitation (MACE) group
- YJS Management Board
- Vulnerable adolescents strategy group.

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 whilst they are in custody to protect the child or child's interests. Ordinarily, an Appropriate Adult would be the child's parent or guardian unless they are disqualified from doing so, or their social worker where they are known to CSFH. For children looked after this is likely to be their foster carer.

- IYSS and CSFH jointly commission a voluntary service for 10 to17 year olds in need of an Appropriate Adult in Camden Police cells in cases where parents or foster carer are not present.

- However, if the child 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 child on request by the police.

8 Information sharing

Information sharing forums

- The IYSS and CSFH will discuss high risk cases, new police intelligence and overnight arrests on a daily basis within the Daily Risk Briefing (DRB) and Gangs Risk Briefing (GRB). This will inform onward referrals and actions such as strategy meetings or referrals to multi-agency panels and plan actions in response to incidents.

- Where the IYSS has a specific safeguarding concern and is unclear on thresholds or the need for a formal referral to MASH, the allocated IYSS 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.

- The Youth Violence and Exploitation Analyst based in the Reducing Youth Violence Service works across the council to develop an understanding of youth violence, gangs and exploitation and is responsible for the collation, analysis and dissemination of information relevant to the management of extra-familial risk, such as locations of concern, gang-relationships and peer associations. This information will be shared with relevant front-line professionals within a number of forums, including strategy meetings, CCE response meetings, MACE & HRVP.

Information to be shared on allocated cases

IYSS will provide CSFH with the following information:

- offending history and notifications to the police
- dates and times of court appearances
- bail to return dates

- offence details
- relevant information from Assetplus including information on the level of risk posed by the child, their wellbeing and any risk of reoffending
- the child's bail and remand status.

CSFH will provide IYSS with the following information:

- the child's assessed status under the Children Act 1989 and any changes to this status, including accommodation
- the child's story and why CSFH are involved
- details of any court orders under the Children Act 1989 that are in place with regard to the child
- the long-term plan for the child following assessment and how the case will be managed (ie: child in need, accommodation under section s20 etc)
- dates of reviews and other professional meetings
- details of involvement of any other agency with the family, including parents
- any changes of the child's placement.

9 Working with children at risk of extra-familial harm

- Extra-familial harm describes the forms of harm and exploitation arising from children's community or peer group or on-line, rather than from their home environment. Further information can be found in the CSCP guidance: CSCP-extra-familial-harm-and-child-exploitation-guidance.pdf

- YJS assess the child's safety and wellbeing as part of the AssetPlus assessment. Where risk assessment shows the child may be at risk, a referral should be made to MASH where a decision will be made on the most appropriate level of intervention.

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

- Cases where the child is being groomed for exploitation or are experiencing exploitation will be referred to CSFH 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.* child-exploitation-policy-and-procedures.pdf

10 Working with children affected by gang activity and youth violence

Where IYSS is working with a child affected by gang activity, a referral will be made to CSFH where:

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

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

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

Where CSFH social workers are concerned that a child 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.
- IYSS will be able to provide information of the service's involvement with the child and whether there are concerns about gang associations.
- The Youth Violence and Exploitation Analyst can share intelligence from the borough police with regard to the child's possible gang affiliations; this must be done via a formal request for information.
- District Housing Offices may have information on children 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 child 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. For more information see Appendix 1.

11 Children looked after

Policy statement

- Children looked after (CLA) are disproportionately represented within the criminal justice system as they are more likely to be prosecuted for low level crimes. Camden's policy is to reduce the criminalisation of CLA and staff are expected to follow the *Reducing the criminalisation of CLA* protocol: reducing-criminalisation-of-lac-protocol.pdf

- Both CSFH and IYSS is a corporate parent to all Camden CLA and all workers will ensure their practice reflects Camden's corporate parenting standard. Camden has designated the status of protected characteristic status to care experienced children and this should be reflected in worker's practice.

- When working jointly with a looked after child, IYSS workers and social workers should follow the *Looked after children in contact with youth justice services* policy: Looked After Children in Contact with...

- Where children are remanded into local authority accommodation or secure accommodation by the criminal courts they will be considered Looked After and will be subject to all CLA statutory processes up until the point they are sentenced. In these cases staff should follow the *Remands into local authority care* procedures: remands-into-care-procedures.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 procedures to secure an address wherever possible.

Role of CSFH

Statutory services for CLA and care leavers are delivered by the Corporate Parenting Service. 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 child is receiving a high standard of care and that Camden is fulfilling the corporate parenting role.

To support joint working, CSFH will:

- liaise with the allocated IYSS 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 CLA who are assessed as being at risk of offending
- participate in IYSS reviews of voluntary and statutory work and interventions
- ensure that the IYSS worker is invited to and can participate in CLA 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 child 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.

Role of IYSS

The YJS has an advanced practitioner responsible for being the lead on CLA-YJS cases, providing coaching to case managers and acting as the point of contact for CLA 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 child is looked after by Camden and make contact with the allocated social worker
- where a child is being remanded into local authority accommodation or secure accommodation, make appropriate referrals to CSFH in line with the remands policy

and procedures

- liaise with the allocated CLA social worker to discuss the case and obtain a copy of the care plan and share relevant assessment information
- attend and contribute to CLA 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.

12 Children looked after in custody

Remands

- Children remanded into youth detention will automatically become looked after children and joint working will need to focus on managing the transition between the community, custody and resettlement.

- 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.

Custodial sentence

- 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 CSFH regarding the benefit or need for 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. CSFH will be invited to contribute to resettlement planning for any child who was previously looked after by Camden.
  enhanced_constructive_resettlement_practice_guidance-3.pdf

- Details of case management procedures for looked after children leaving custody can be found in the *CLA in the criminal justice system* practice guidance. cla-in-the-criminal-justice-system-practice-guidance.pdf

13 Care experienced children

- IYSS will work with relevant children (care leavers aged 16 and 17 who have since left care) and will liaise with CSFH social workers and personal advisors to ensure the service is fully involved in the pathway needs assessment and planning and review mechanisms in order to address the child's offending behaviour.

- IYSS will continue to work with care experienced children aged 18 and 19 (former relevant children) if the child 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 IYSS worker will be responsible for any transition to adult probation services and will notify the social worker when this transfer is taking place. All children who enter custody will receive an offer of support from the Enhanced Constructive Resettlement Team (ECR) who work with children in custody and then on release, beyond any YJS intervention, or turning 18 years.

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

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

14 Quality Assurance framework

- Both CSFH and IYSS have quality assurance practices in place including audit programmes and case review mechanisms, with which we are aiming to strengthen the quality of integrated service delivery and joint working.

For details see the Children and Learning Quality Assurance Framework policy: quality-assurance-framework-january-2025.pdf

- The Quality Assurance Leads Meeting brings together all quality assurance leads from across children's services including CSFH and IYSS/YJS in order to monitor practice standards and the quality of joint working. (Link here when finalised)

- CSFH and YJS have put in place a programme of remand audits to monitor standards of practice and joint working in cases where young people are remanded into Camden's care and become looked after.

15 Other Information

- Responsibility for looked after children in the cells at court remains with the CSFH 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 child is looked after, it is best practice for the CSFH social worker and foster carer to be available in court in order to liaise with the court.

- As corporate parents, CSFH 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 child. 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

Multi-agency forums

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

Out of Court Disposal Panel

Statutory out of court disposals such as Community Resolutions, Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions are available for low level offences. Children referred to the panel will have been arrested for offences and the case is sent by either the Police or the Court for the Panel to consider whether an out of court disposal is appropriate. The YJS manages all out of court disposals but the Police hold responsibility for the decisions made by the Panel.

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

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

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, CSFH, Education, CAMHS and Police.

Where a child known to CSFH 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.

Gangs and serious youth violence strategy/Bronze Group

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 CSFH 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.

Youth Violence & Exploitation Analyst

The Youth Violence and Exploitation Analyst works across the council to develop the understanding of youth violence, gangs and exploitation. The Analyst draws on intelligence and learning from a range of sources to identify children and young people at risk, give context to risk, and improve service delivery.

The Youth Violence and Exploitation Analyst is responsible for the collation, analysis and dissemination of information relevant to the management of extra-familial risk, such as locations of concern, gang-relationships and peer associations. The Analyst updates front-line professionals with information related to youth violence, gangs and exploitation. In addition to this regular communication, information gathering and sharing is a constant two-way process and happens in a number of forums, including strategy meetings, CCE response meetings, SIGs, MACE & HRVP.

The Analyst also produces regular intelligence products that are disseminated across services in IYSS and CSFH. This includes the monthly Camden Gangs Map, which gives an overview of the key gang relationships and current SYV trends, and the weekly SYV-Gangs-Exploitation Overview, which gives an summary of key intelligence reports from across the borough.

Serious Youth Violence Incident Response

The RYVE Service leads on the response to serious youth violence incidents where the victim is aged over 18 and strategy meeting is not held. A multi-agency Serious Incident Group (SIG) is held, coordinated by RYVE and usually involving MPS Gangs Partnership Team, Community Safety and the Probation Service. This meeting coordinates the response for the young person and their family, associates and peers of the victim or suspect, and the community. Where a strategy meeting is held following a serious youth violence incident, the RYVE service helps to coordinate the community response.

Camden Gangs Partnership

The RYVE Service is a member of the Camden Gangs Partnership. The Camden Gangs Partnership describes the collaborative multi-agency work between the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the Probation Service and Camden Council (RYVE & Community Safety). The aim of the partnership is to reduce gang-related harm. This is achieved by preventing and responding to gang-related violence, safeguarding those exploited by gangs, and disrupting gang-related criminality. The work of the Camden Gangs Partnership also facilitates a greater understanding of the broader youth violence and exploitation picture in Camden.

The Gangs Partnership holds a daily Gangs Risk Briefing, which shares intelligence and assigns actions relating to children and young people who are open to the MPS Gangs Partnership Team. The Youth Violence Analyst is regularly tasked with sharing information about children and young people with their professional networks. Lead professionals are also notified when their child or young person is opened or closed to the MPS Gangs Partnership Team.

Youth Safety Task Force Strategy

Camden has a Youth Safety Task Force which oversees our response to Gangs and Youth Violence. The focus of the Taskforce is a reduction in violence involving Camden's children and young people. To ensure children and young people feel safe in Camden and children and young people and their families trust those in positions of authority.

There is a three-tier strategy to effectively manage this approach. They are :

- **Prevent:** Providing young people, parents & professionals with information that raises awareness, helping them make positive choices and building resilience
- **Identify and Support**: Identify, refer and support vulnerable young people at risk of violence, while also enabling parents and professionals to provide necessary support
- **Disrupt and Enforce**: Ensure Camden's safety by disrupting youth violence patterns, inhibiting grooming and targeting, and enforcing appropriate measures based on intelligence from partner agencies

Camden Gangs Partnership Team

Since the deletion of MPS Gangs Violence Matrix , the Central North Gangs Partnership Team has developed a new way of working, 'Active Assignment', that will continue the partnership's key aim of reducing gang-related harm.

The Camden Gangs Partnership describes the collaborative multi-agency work between the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the Probation Service and the Reducing Youth Violence and Exploitation (RYVE) and Community Safety Services from the London Borough of Camden.

The aim of the partnership is to reduce gang-related harm. This is achieved by preventing and responding to gang-related violence, safeguarding those exploited by gangs, and disrupting gang-related criminality.

A multi-agency approach increases the range of tools available to meet the aims of the Partnership, allowing professionals to explore how best to reduce risk. Examples include:

- Better information sharing and intelligence building
- Support for gang members, young people affected by gangs and others at risk
- Disrupting exploitation and gang activity through improved enforcement tactics

The work of the Camden Gangs Partnership also facilitates a greater understanding of the broader youth violence and exploitation picture in Camden.

MACE group

The Multi-agency Child Exploitation group (MACE) is an operational group with representation from a variety of agencies, including CSFH 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 children they work with for whom there are concerns about child sexual exploitation or child criminal exploitation both as victim and perpetrator.

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.

Appendix 2 Joint supervision record

Date of meeting:

Attendees:

Background information/history

Details of YJS involvement

Include date open, details of interventions and current status

Details of CSFH involvement

Include date open, details of interventions and current status

Current situation/incidents/risks

Reflection & Analysis

Next steps (decisions &actions)

Date of next joint supervision

Appendix 3

Contacts

CSFH

MASH team:	020 7974 3317/4094/4446
CLA service:	020 7974 7217/8
Managers:	020 7974 6586
Care experienced service	020 7974 6169
Managers:	020 7974 1319/1286
Resources team:	020 7974 3520
Manager:	020 7974 3538

YEH

YJS	020 7974 6181
Duty worker:	020 7974 1261

Prevent Co-ordinator: 020 7974 1475