



ECM Forum Meeting Fri 16 June 2023 10am to 12noon

Welcome and Introductions

Sharon Cotterall (Children and Families Development Officer – Sefton CVS) welcomed the attendees and all introduced themselves. There were 20 people on the call.

Child Exploitation in Sefton

Asif Esa – Children’s Social Care Sefton

[Click here](#) to view Asif’s PowerPoint.

Community Connectors and Turnaround Project

Sophie Williams – Turnaround Project Sefton Youth Justice

Sophie shared information with the group.

Community Youth Connectors – referrals from schools

The Youth Justice Service is delivering a new early intervention and prevention project . Community Connectors will work with girls, on a 1:1 consent based approach. They will act as a conduit between services, offering support to children to access initial sessions through empowerment and awareness.

They will identify the individual needs of the children through developing relationships with the child and adults known to the child. This approach will enable a holistic approach to support and empower the child and their family with the aim of breaking down barriers and increasing engagement with education, mental health support and the community offer. Our Connectors will also work with girls to reconnect them with their educational setting and support them to overcome barriers that may prevent this.

Eligibility for the project is as follows;

- young girls aged 8 – 15 years who;
- have difficulties with their mental health such as low levels of low mood and anxiety
- have poor school attendance as a result of poor wellbeing
- have difficulties with their relationships in school/home or/and the community
- are on the cusp of offending or displaying anti-social behaviour

Turnaround Project – referrals from our in house YOS police.

Ministry of Justice prevention initiative at Sefton Youth Justice, The Turnaround Programme. This programme is to support children and their families when a child has committed a criminal offence or anti-social behaviour at an early stage without them entering the criminal justice system. The child does not have to admit guilt but must be willing to engage and consent is also required from the child's parents /carers. Our role is to support children and their families. In order to do this, an allocated worker will work with children and families to deliver services based on their needs to prevent any further offending or risk taking behaviour.

Criteria;

The child has received one of the following: 10-17 yrs old

- Interviewed under caution following arrest or subject to a criminal investigation attending a voluntary interview
- Subject to No Further Action (NFA) decisions
- Subject to a Community Resolution
- First-time youth caution, not including conditional caution;
- Released under investigation (RUI) or subject to pre-charge bail (PCB)
- Discharged by a court; acquitted at court; and/or fined by a court
- In receipt of Community Protection Orders (CPO), Civil Orders and/ or Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) for anti-social behaviour.
- Referral received within three months of the above
- Not received Turnaround support previously
- Not open to Early Help (England) and receiving whole family support co-ordinated by a lead practitioner
- Open as a CIN with a clear unmet need, that Turnaround can meet as part of a co-ordinated plan
- Not previously on YOT statutory caseload

Workshop – What CE are we seeing in our communities

Sefton CVS – Facilitated by Sharon Cotterall and Georgia Ribbens

Members were split into two break out rooms see Power Point. [Click here](#) to view the powerpoint.

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/children-and-young-people/child-exploitation-ce-and-child-sexual-exploitation-cse/>

Group Feedback – here are some notes from the groups



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Do you see it in community or your agency?

- Violence against women and girls
- Sexual exploitation
- OCG's male perpetrators
- Unhealthy relationships
- YP thinking they are talking to Peers on line when it is adult males
- Criminal exploitation
- Drug debts
- Free cannabis leading to criminality
- YP with ASD/ADHD vulnerable to exploitation
- County Lines

What could we do more of to prevent it?

- Training for YP re healthy/unhealthy relationships
- Training for staff/volunteers to help them support YP
- Workshops to highlight risks on line with older men posing as YP
- More co-production and joint working
- Better information sharing
- Universal Prevention
- Education for parents
- More information of where to get guidance and help for staff sometimes it's just a gut feeling without hard evidence
- Knowing where to go for advice and guidance

Do you feel young people know enough about the risks?

- No

Thrive Network Sefton & Youth Voice Update

Sharon Cotterall – Sefton CVS

Thrive Network – meeting took place on 13 June, work continues for the Task & Finish Group looking at PE and how it can be more inclusive to improve mental health. Chris Debar from Active Sefton is leading on this piece of work supported by Georgia Ribbens and Sharon Cotterall. We recently had a meeting with Emma Hart from Inclusion to look at how we can work together on this.

The CWAN (Children with Additional Needs Network) is no longer in operation. The Thrive Network have agreed to have a standing item for SEND updates on the agenda. Member of CWAN have been contacted re this.

Sefton Youth Voice Strategic Steering Group - continues to grow membership with good representation from across the partnership now. We have set up an action tracker to keep up to date with progress. We have just developed a Survey Monkey with Young Advisors to support the Early Help Partnership in their review of Early Help in Sefton. Meetings take place bi-monthly for more information contact Sharon Cotterall Chair for the Steering Group.



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Information Sharing

VOLA - Digital Connectivity for Community Facilities Grants Programme

Stuart McGrory

Round 2 now open

Round 2 of [VOLA's UKSPF Digital Connectivity for Community Facilities Grants Programme](#) is now open for applications, from Monday 19th June 2023. Applications of between £2,500 and £10,000 are welcomed.

The application deadline is 5pm, Monday 17th July 2023.

All documents relating to the application process will be available on [VOLA's website](#) from 5pm on Monday 19th June. These include:

- Application form
- Application guidance
- FAQs
- Link to online map of local digital community facilities - so you can see what's already in your area
- Supporting, ward-level data on digital exclusion and deprivation - which will help you to understand local need and enable you to assert this in your application
- Slides and recordings from recent online briefing sessions

Interested applicants that were unable to attend the briefing sessions are strongly urged to look through the slides and watch the recordings before applying. Doing so will massively boost your chances of success! In Round 1, organisations that attended the briefing sessions generally submitted better quality applications than those that didn't and were more successful in receiving funding, with less ineligible costs removed from their proposed budgets.

In particular, the 'technical hints and tips' briefing gives some real food for thought and - as the title says - provides a wealth of extremely useful hints and tips to consider when setting up a community-access computer facility. Follow this advice and you will be able to set up a fit-for-purpose digital facility that will last a long time, reduce ongoing running costs (and IT headaches!) and ensure you cover your legal duty of care requirements.

Background to the fund

Funded through the Government's [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) (UKSPF), through the [Liverpool City Region Combined Authority](#) as the local Lead Authority, the fund support the creation of new, and improvement of existing community facilities where people can go to access computers and get online.

The overall purpose of the grants programme is to support voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector organisations to improve their public-facing IT (i.e. computer drop-in) facilities, and to create new facilities in areas of need, where there may currently be no, or limited provision.

The aim of the grants programme is to provide funding and support to:

1. Target neighbourhoods where there is currently a lack of community-based digital facilities to help local, VCFSE organisations to set up new computer drop-in facilities
2. Upgrade outdated and poor-quality digital kit and/or improve broadband connectivity in community facilities, where current equipment &/or connections can be evidenced as being poor
3. Increase capacity, by providing funding to purchase more digital devices, where current facilities are insufficient to meet demand.



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Please note: the fund is not about improving organisations' general IT infrastructure (i.e. it is not for kitting your staff/ volunteers out with new computers), and grants **cannot** be used to fund technical equipment that is purely aimed at recreational activities, or the direct delivery of digital skills training, other activities, or organisational overheads. **It is purely aimed at funding the 'kit and connectivity'.**

Further information is available on [VOLA's website](#). Please read the document and watch the recordings of the briefing workshops before posting any questions, as the answers to the vast majority of questions people will have will be covered in these.

Any questions please contact Stu

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Stuart McGrory

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VOLA Consortium,

Next ECM is Friday 29 September 2023 – Theme to be confirmed



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