**Police Public Protection Notifications (PPN) for Youth Violence and Child Criminal Exploitation**

*Background*

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board conducted a Multi-Agency Audit of the case files of Young People who had committed or been the victim of a serious violent offence. Colleagues from Police, Health, Youth Justice, Youth Service, Education and Children’s Social Care all examined their work with a child in the year preceding the incident, including what they knew about any risk of violence. The findings were stark, and in many cases there had been multiple missed opportunities to intervene early because information on indicators of risk had not been shared.

If you want to undertake a similar audit in your area, here’s a draft audit tool which will get you started:



*What are PPN’s for YVCCE?*

Following the audit, the Knife Crime PPN was introduced. A PPN is the tool used by police when making a safeguarding referral, traditionally used to highlight risks posed to children by adults - Domestic Violence or Substance Misuse for example. Widening its use to Youth Violence meant that officers needed to consider it safeguarding risk if a child involved was involved in a knife related incident (either as a victim, alleged perpetrator or as a witness) and complete a notification into the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. Later on, serious drugs related offending was added to the scope, given this is a key indicator of exploitation.

*“Seeing violence as an indicator of vulnerability, and agreeing it was relevant for Children’s Services to be made aware of it, was a turning point in being able to identify and support children at risk of violence and exploitation.”*

Since its introduction, an audit was completed on a sample of the PPNs from 2021, which highlighted good practice as well as opportunities to reduce duplication and ensure appropriate and consistent action is taken upon notification of risk at all levels (not just at Tier 4 safeguarding threshold). New policy and guidance were produced and a flowchart developed which may be helpful when considering implementation in your local area:





Key lessons:

* *OIC’s need receive consistent messages about the circumstances in which a PPN should be completed. In Nottinghamshire the YJS supported the co-delivery of training to frontline officers.*
* *Local Authority Social Care need to have reached a decision about factors which mean a violent or drug related incident is an indicator of harm which would warrant a Social Care Assessment – and this needs to be communicated to Social Workers and Managers in the relevant teams.*
* *YJS should be invited to be included in S47 Strategy Discussions relating to incidents of violent crime as they are likely to hold additional information/insights.*
* *There needs to be a pathway for those children who do not meet threshold for a CSC assessment – in Nottinghamshire we have established a Youth Support Panel which considers PPN referrals alongside other referrals for early intervention, and allocates to youth workers, Early Help Family Services, Education support or Schools Officers and Crime Prevention Services according to need.*