

ISLINGTON

Safer School Partnership Protocol (ISSPP)



2023 - 2024

1 – Introduction

Islington Safer School Partnership Protocol (ISSPP)

Islington Safer School Partnership Protocol (ISSPP) is an informal commitment between Islington’s **Primary** and **Secondary** school settings and the **police** to work together to keep young people safe, reduce crime and the fear of crime, and improve behaviour in our schools and surrounding communities. Keeping our children and young people safe is the top priority for both Islington Council and our family of schools across both the primary and secondary school sector.

The partnership is a positive way for the police and all our schools to demonstrate their commitment to promoting a safe environment, to learn, and help prevent crime. A key strand of support will involve the **Safer Schools Officer (SSO)** team, regularly working in and across schools on a full-time or part-time basis.

2 – Aims

The aims of the Islington Safer Schools Partnership Protocol (ISSPP) are to:

- Provide positive **engagement** that builds trust and **confidence** between the school community (pupils, school staff and parents), the council, and the police.
- Improve **safety** and enhance **safeguarding** within the school and wider community.
- Develop **prevention** strategies to help children and young people deal with risk and where necessary, support victims of crime.
- Deliver early **intervention** and **diversion** initiatives.
- Promote **positive** pathways for young people.

These aims identify a target using general statements. The following **outcomes** will be measured to identify progress in achieving those aims.

3 - Outcomes

The **ISSPP** document sets out the information needed to promote strong partnership working between the police, council, pupils, school staff and parents. It will help develop good relationships based on trust and mutual respect. It will also provide a comprehensive overview of what will be required of all partners to achieve the outcomes our young people and their families deserve:

Outcome		Key Performance Indicator (KPI) How will we know? What will be measured?
1	Reduce victimisation, criminality and anti-social behaviour within the school and its community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victimisation/Criminal police data • School level offending data
2	Work with schools on ‘whole school’ approaches to supporting positive behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed Term exclusion data (days lost) • Classroom removal and internal exclusion data
3	Identify and work with children and young people at risk of becoming victims or offenders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance and Punctuality data • NEET data
4	Ensure the full-time education of young offenders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance and Punctuality data • KS3 assessment data / GCSE outcomes
5	Support vulnerable children and young people through periods of transition, such as the move from primary to secondary school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Year 7 indicators (Absence & FTE) • KS3 assessment data / progress towards targets
6	Create a safer environment for children to learn in.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student survey outcomes • Achievement data / OFSTED feedback

4 - Recommendations

School leaders and the **Islington Safer School Partnership (ISSP)** team have the joint aim to promote the safety of schools and the pupils attending them. This will involve the police being proactively involved with schools and their leaders, often in conjunction with other support workers and Islington Council.

The **Islington Secondary School and College Leader (ISSCL)** network and **Primary School Leaders** in partnership with the police have made the following recommendations to ensure closer links between all stakeholders and improve the information flow between the police teams, council officers and schools:

- 1) *Develop **closer links** between schools and local agencies including the Youth Offending Service (YOS) to reduce offending and problem behaviours.*
- 2) *Develop closer dialogue and **lines of communication** between council officers, school leaders, identified staff and the police.*
- 3) *Encourage area police commanders to review the key priorities for schools in **community their local policing plans**.*
- 4) *Ensure work across the partnership further supports and develops Islington’s work on relational, trauma-informed practices.*
- 5) *Ensure on-going support and **training for Safer School Officers (SSOs)** in partnership with school staff and council teams with a focus on trauma-informed practices.*
- 6) *Review **data-sharing arrangements** between police teams, schools, and Islington Council.*

- 7) *Encourage schools to run **regular surveys** of pupil victimisation, fear of crime and involvement in offending and bullying.*

5 - The ISSPP Programme

In a 2004 Youth Justice Board Survey, 64% of excluded pupils reported committing an offence over a 12-month period compared with 26% of those in a mainstream setting across the same period.

The **Central North** police team, which covers Islington and Camden, has **NINE** Safer Schools' Officers (SSO's) within the Safer Schools, Licensing & Partnership team. At the time of writing, there were **three** vacancies being recruited for.

The six active officers have been assigned to Islington's ten secondary schools as shown below. The officers are supporting the schools to help reduce the prevalence of crime and victimisation among young people in and around the school grounds and provide a safe and secure school environment for our young people at the start and end of the day and as they make their way to and from school.

Primary Schools will continue to have a named officer from the Safer Schools Team as is the current position. The team will continue to work alongside the local Safer Neighbourhood Team that provides visible policing for the area in which the primary school is located.

It is essential that our primary schools report matters of concern to either the named officer, Safer Neighbourhood Team and either 111 or 999 where an immediate response is needed.

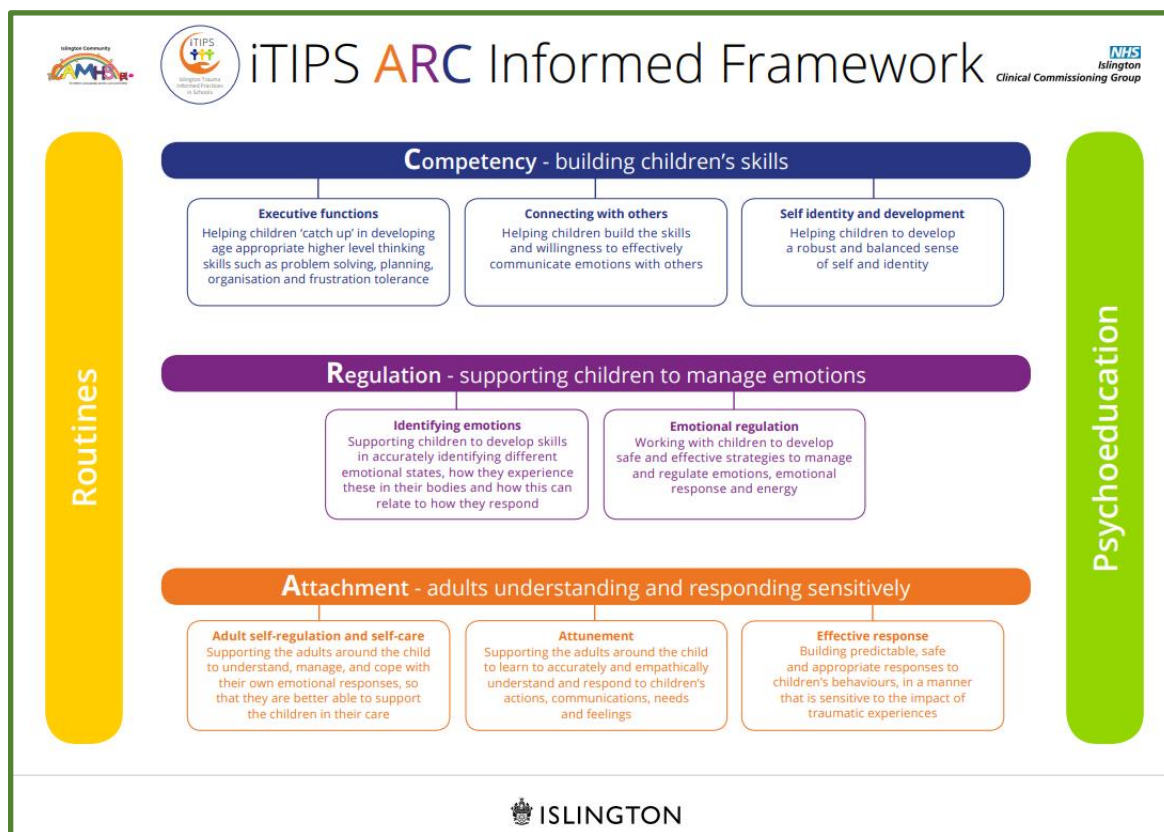
Islington Secondary School Safer School Officers - Rota

School/Setting	Safer School Officer	Assigned Days
Arts and Media School Islington	PC Abdul Kamara	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Central Foundation Boys' School	PC Kerry Hughes	Monday to Friday
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School	PC Gloriane Sukami	Monday to Friday
City of London Academy, Highbury Grove	PC Bernard Boyle	Monday to Friday
City of London Academy, Islington	PC James Caley	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Highbury Fields School	PC James Caley	Point of contact: Attends when required
City of London Academy, Highgate Hill	PC Paul Shalan	Monday to Friday
St Aloysius RC College	PC Vittorio D'Orsi	Monday to Friday
St Mary Magdalene Academy	PC Vittorio D'Orsi	Wednesday and attends when required
PRU New River College	PC Chris Gould	Monday to Friday
Beacon High School	PC Simon Vennall	Point of contact: Attends when required
Arts Xchange	PC Abdul Kamara	Point of contact: Attends when required

Islington Primary School Support

A considerable amount of work across a wide variety of school settings on **trauma-informed** approaches and belonging has taken place across many of the borough's primary schools in recent years. This work has focussed on considering behaviour as a communication outlet and supports schools to **develop relational services** that respond in a child / young person-centred way.

The **Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC)** framework below provides an overview of the focus and work currently being done with CAMHS, secondary and primary schools, early years providers and community groups.



The **Islington Youth Safety Strategy** refers to using contextual safeguarding to support work with children and young people at risk of crime. This approach considers the adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that may have led to individuals becoming more vulnerable. **Contextual Safeguarding** is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can often feature violence and abuse. This is an approach that school leaders are looking to develop through closer partnership working with the police and wider agencies.

Islington's primary school sector are keen to work closely with the police and wider agencies so that they can make a significant contribution to the prevention and response to youth violence. Highlighted below are a series of practical measures school leaders and **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)** will be looking to improve upon by working in close partnership with the safer school police teams:

- **The effective dissemination of both general information and intelligence about crime issues in the local area.**

This will be further improved by:

- Schools having access to a **Safer Schools Officer (SSO)** and the information they can provide. For example, checking for information when a school identifies concerns about a pupil. The school may well then use this information to decide on their actions, which may involve the **SSO** talking to pupils, doing home visits, or simply providing advice and guidance in support of the school's own responses.
- Reducing the variability in the support and information that **SSOs** provide in primary schools. Many primary schools are not aware of the **SSO service**.
- Continuing to provide e-mail updates from the council when there is a 'live' incident in any given local area.

- **Provide information when a family member of a pupil is involved in gangs or violence.**

This will be further improved by:

- Providing relevant information when siblings of any primary school pupil is involved in, or witness to, crimes or violence. In particular, older siblings of primary school pupils in secondary schools and sixth form colleges.

- Providing clarity on whose role it would be to share information, and when information *could* or *should* be shared (for example, primary schools would often find it useful to know about reports on their pupils' older siblings, which may not have been habitually shared by the secondary school or SSO).
- **Develop the offer of targeted services and support available to work with primary school aged pupils around youth violence prevention, including the youngest pupils and clearly communicate the offer to schools.**

This will be further improved by:

- Providing support where schools are working with more vulnerable children and families in addition to more general work with schools to build trust. This might include lessons on the role of the police, topics such as, 'people who help me' or on staying safe (in a trauma informed, sensitive way), assemblies, open days and parents meetings.

6 - Risk Factors, Signs and Preventative Factors

This section sets out **risk factors** and tell-tale **signs** that may indicate pupils are at risk of becoming, or possibly already involved in, youth violence. It also covers some **protective factors**, which may reduce the chances of the child becoming involved in youth violence. By reducing or addressing the risk factors and increasing or encouraging protective factors, schools can reduce the risk of youth violence for their pupils, as well as having a positive effect on other important outcomes, such as mental health, attendance, and attainment.

These factors will be woven into all training that the council is able to provide the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in all schools that in turn will be passed on to school staff.

A) Risk factors

Risk factors indicate an increased likelihood that a pupil will become involved in youth violence. Young people don't just become involved in serious youth violence; lower-level symptoms present earlier, e.g., lack of concentration, bullying and behavioural issues, which may escalate if not addressed. Being aware of the risk factors can help identify concerns and situations where closer observation or early intervention may be helpful.

Some risk factors are better predictors of youth violence than others. Family-related risk factors like domestic violence and substance abuse are significant risk factors for younger age groups but these become less important with age, when peer groups have a greater influence. Being gang involved is a significant risk factor for either perpetrating or being the victim of youth crime. A large proportion of knife crime and other youth violence in the borough has been linked directly to gang involved young people or takes place in gang affected areas.

Sometimes a significant event may have a considerable impact on a young person's behaviour and mental wellbeing. Teachers, who know pupils well and see them daily, may be well placed to identify any changes occurring as a result of these events.

Although still responsible for their own actions, it is important to consider many children involved in or at risk of youth violence are not 'naughty' or 'bad' but vulnerable, at risk of exploitation and in need of support.

It is important that people working with children consider the individual child first rather than concentrating on the behaviours displayed.

Table 1 - Risk Factors

Child / Young Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a victim of bullying or violence • Positive attitude towards delinquency • History of vandalism or property damage • Involved in anti-social behaviour • Early involvement in crime • Previously committed other types of crimes • Having a perceived need for protection • Gang membership • Obtaining or carrying a weapon • Drug or alcohol misuse • Mental and emotional health problems • Physical illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication difficulties • Low IQ and learning disabilities • Low academic achievement • Low aspirations and expectations of success (both students and parents) • Low commitment to school • Temporary/permanent exclusion from school • Truancy and absenteeism • Running away • Alienation and lack of social commitment • History of cruelty to animals • Poor eating habits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly feeling rejected / alone • Feeling constantly disrespected • High daring • Rebelliousness • Anger traits • Aggression traits • Temper tantrums • Troublesome • Hyperactive and impulsive • Short attention span • Low self-esteem • Lack of guilt / empathy
Child's Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family conflict, breakdown and dysfunction (incl. domestic violence) • Child having to live elsewhere, taken into care or adopted • Hostile and rejecting relationships • Failure to adapt to a child's changing needs • Physical, sexual, neglect or emotional abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent or unclear discipline • Lack of parental supervision • Disengagement from family and services. • Lack of positive role models (incl. absent father) • Life changes (incl. birth of sibling, moving house, changing schools, transition to secondary school / sixth form) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental criminality • Parental alcoholism • Parental psychiatric illness • Family poverty • Death and loss (incl. friends) • Family member(s) or friend(s) are in a gang
Peers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deviant peer influences • Breakdown in or lack of positive friendships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peers involved in crime and/or antisocial behaviour • Peer rewards for antisocial behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying • Discrimination and stereotyping
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty or growing up in social housing • Living in a culture that strongly identifies success with material wealth • High unemployment and the need for money • Opportunity to make money • Homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster, accidents, war, other overwhelming events • Other young people in the area involved in crime and/or anti-social behaviour • Living in an area with an established gang problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norms favourable to crime • Other significant life events • Availability of firearms • Marijuana availability • Discrimination • Low neighbourhood attachment and community disorganisation

Girls, Youth Violence and Gangs

Girls' involvement with youth violence or gangs can often be overlooked. However, they often are involved in a variety of ways, and this can have a significant impact on their lives.

There are certain features of sexual exploitation that are unique to or exacerbated by the gang environment. Examples include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recording and distribution of images of sexual activity via mobile technology. • Cases of rape (single and multiple perpetrators) and other sexual assaults as punishment, a weapon in conflict and/or for sexual gratification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex as a means of achieving material gain. • Young women 'setting up' people in other gangs. • Sex in return for (perceived) status or protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex as initiation into the gang. • Pressure to engage in sexual activity. • Engagement in sexual activity due to fear of force, violence (physical and/or sexual) and intimidation.
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The exploitation of girls by male gang members is not always for sex, but can involve other exploitative roles, such as:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying, holding, and hiding weapons and drugs • Information trading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money laundering and banking • Hiring rental cars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honey traps
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Risk factors for girls are similar for boys. However, there are also additional risk factors for girls who are involved in violence and gangs:

- Social services and the police may well have been involved in their lives from the ages of 8-13 in relation to their behaviour
- Not all had been excluded; some had simply stopped attending and disengaged
- Many may have been victims of early sexual experiences that they regretted, having either been victims of sexual violence or exploitation under the age of 18.

B) The signs and what to look for

Below is a list of examples of indicators and changes in behaviour, which may indicate that a child or young person is involved in gang activity or are experiencing sexual exploitation. However, as with the risk factors, while they can be helpful in identifying concerns, displaying a number of these signs does not necessarily translate to involvement.

Signs of gang involvement

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden loss of interest in school. Decline in attendance or academic achievement • Graffiti style 'tags' on possessions, schoolbooks, walls • Writing post codes on books • Constantly talking about another young person or adult who seems to have a lot of influence over them • Holds unexplained money or possessions or cannot explain where large sums of money have gone • Expressing aggressive or intimidating views towards other groups of children or young adults, some of whom may have been friends in the past • Started using new / unknown slang words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started adopting certain codes of group behaviour e.g. ways of talking and hand signs • Signs of sexual exploitation e.g. pregnancy, abortion (perhaps forced), sexually transmitted infections and injuries • Sudden change in appearance – dressing in a particular style or 'uniform' similar to that of other children they hang around with, including a particular colour • Signs of psychological effects of exploitation – e.g. depression and suicide attempts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child withdrawn from family • New nickname • Dropped out of positive activities • Unexplained physical injuries • Scared when entering certain areas • Stays out unusually late without reason • Increased use of social networking sites • Concerned by the presence of unknown youths in their neighbourhoods • Broken off with old friends and hangs around with one group of people
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Signs of sexual exploitation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic drug dependency (particularly crack/heroin) • Expressions of despair e.g. self-harm – cutting, overdosing, eating disorders, sexualised risk-taking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal injuries, multiple sexually transmitted infections, miscarriages and/or terminations • Running away (missing from home/care) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overt sexualised dress/attire • New and unexplained possessions/receipt of regular ‘gifts’
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C) Protective factors

Protective factors reduce the likelihood of a child or young person becoming involved in youth violence. Like risk factors, they will not necessarily prevent the young person from becoming involved in youth violence but can reduce the probability. In preventing youth violence, schools will be looking to promote these factors and provide support to all pupils, while particularly focusing on those most in need.

Table 2: protective factors

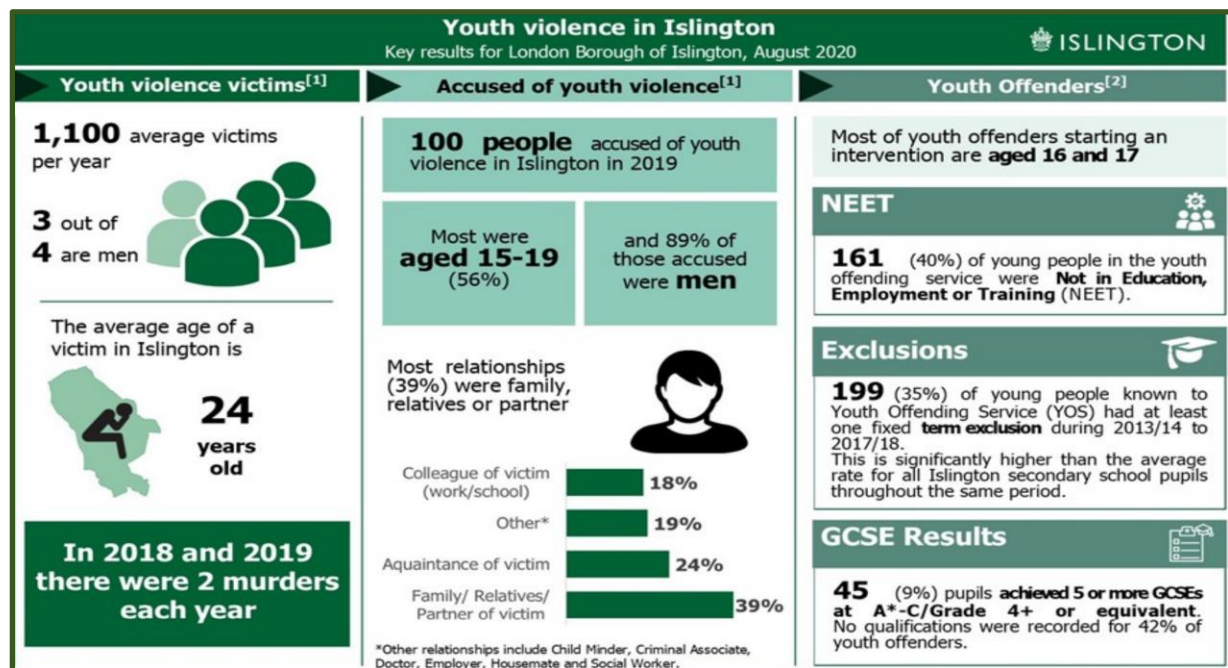
Child / Young Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive/prosocial attitudes • Good communication skills, sociability • Humour • Low impulsivity • Good cognitive skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to reflect • Being a planner and having a belief in control • Problem solving skills and a positive attitude • Experiences of success and achievement • Ability to self-regulate attention, emotions, and behaviours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule abiding behaviour • High academic achievement • Secure attachment experience • Belief in the moral order • Faith or spirituality
Child's Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable family structure • Good family management • Infrequent parent–child conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive long term relationship or the absence of severe discord • At least one strong parent-child relationship (or, when not available, a surrogate caregiving figure) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affection • Clear, consistent discipline • Support for education
School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High morale school with clear, positive policies for behaviour, attitudes and anti-bullying • ‘Open door’ policy for children to raise problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A whole-school approach to promoting good mental health • School opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive classroom management • A sense of belonging
Peers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive peer influences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with prosocial peers 	
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low economic deprivation • High standard of living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good housing • Opportunities for valued social roles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider supportive network • Range of sport/leisure activities

7 - Tackling Problem Behaviours

The Islington Safer School Partnership Protocol (**ISSPP**) provides a strategy built on co-ordination and partnership working between schools, police and other agencies involved with young offenders to create the conditions necessary for mounting an effective response to the rising tide of problem behaviours we currently see in our communities. Schools cannot tackle these issues in isolation.

Wide ranging and detailed statistical and survey evidence on youth offending and its effects, makes clear that youth offending accounts for a significant proportion of total offending. There is little doubt, particularly amongst school leaders, that truancy, disaffection with school and offending are all closely linked.

The 2020 dashboard below provides an insight into the scale and issues we all face, and the importance of strong engagement and early intervention with young people in all our school settings:



8 - Delivering on the ISSPP Recommendations

The following recommendations require clear and defined actions from several stakeholders as outlined in the action plan below. The effective delivery of these important actions has been captured in the **ISSPP Delivery Plan** and will be reviewed annually by the **Education Board**. There will also be a standing agenda item at every **ISSCL** meeting for school leaders, the council, and the police to raise any on-going concerns and share successful best practice.

The Recommendations

- 1) *Develop closer links between schools and local agencies including the Youth Offending Service (YOS) to reduce offending and problem behaviour.*
- 2) *Develop closer dialogue and lines of communication between school leaders, identified staff and the police.*
- 3) *Encourage area police commanders to review the key priorities for schools in community policing plans.*
- 4) *Ensure work across the partnership further supports and develops Islington's work on relational, trauma-informed practices.*
- 5) *Ensure on-going support and training for Safer School Officers in partnership with school staff and council teams.*
- 6) *Review data-sharing arrangements between police teams, schools, and Islington Council.*
- 7) *Encourage schools to run regular surveys of pupil victimisation, fear of crime and involvement in offending and bullying.*

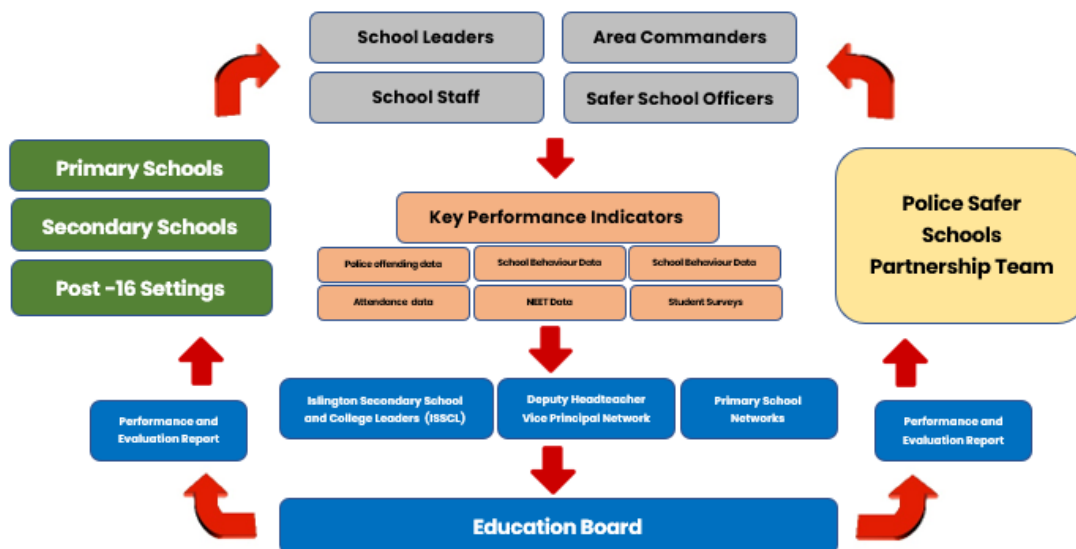
Islington Safer Schools Partnership Protocol (ISSPP) Delivery Plan

Recommendation	Actions		
	Schools	Police	Council/Other
1) Develop closer links between schools and local agencies including the Youth Offending Team (YOT) to reduce offending and problem behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link school staff to support YOT teams with 'get back into school' strategies for students Deliver high Quality Ed Psych training for school staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated YOT education officer to link with school Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust safeguarding guidance for senior leaders around excluded students Senior Leaders Network (SLN) to provide High Quality SLCN training for school staff
2) Ensure the Safer Islington Partnership (SIP) Violence Reduction Strategy action plan priority on Youth Safety has a robust focus on the support that all stakeholders can provide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) to provide regular training and updates on the following risks students may be vulnerable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County lines trafficking Repeat offending within the youth and criminal justice system Violence, abuse, and exploitation. Spotting the signs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular focus from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Safer Schools Officers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention, Identification, Engagement Diversion, Support, Protection Disruption, Enforcement & Prosecution Robust intelligence on each of these to inform planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council officers to facilitate an effective Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) network that will provide a working group to advise schools leaders (ISSCL), deputy headteachers (Senior Leader Network) and the Safer School Officer (SSO) team Provide regular updates on impact against the Violence Reduction Strategy to the Education Board.
3) Develop closer dialogue and lines of communication between school leaders, identified staff and the police.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Balaam and Sally Pymont to be point of contact for all school leaders: julie.balaam@met.police.uk, sally.pymont@met.police.uk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Balaam and Sally Pymont to feedback on concerns at ISSCL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council to continue to facilitate a strong ISSCL network. Senior Leader Network (Pastoral Deputy Heads) to review termly impact and on-going concerns
4) Borough Command Unit (BCU) to include schools in tasking and coordination plans to respond to emerging issues affecting schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islington Secondary School and College Leaders (ISSCL) network to ensure a half-termly dialogue with the BCU to inform on-going strategic planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure continued strong links with ISSCL to inform planning across the borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate close partnership working between school and college leaders and the police
5) Ensure work across the partnership further supports and develops Islington's work on relational, trauma-informed practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite allocated SSO to join trauma informed staff training Invite SSOs to relevant team around the child / school meetings to explore support for vulnerable children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure effective opportunities for SSOs to reflect on ways of supporting traumatised children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing support for trauma-informed ways of working through the iTIPs programme (in schools, early years, and community settings)
6) Ensure on-going support and training for Safer School Officers in partnership with school staff and council teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the trauma-informed aims are included in annual staff training programmes. Ensure that all schools support effective engagement of the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) working group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit to regular liaison with the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) working group to help inform training needs for the Safer School Officer (SSO) team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide close links through the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) working group with the police to help inform training and professional development.
7) Review data-sharing arrangements between police teams, schools, and Islington Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School data managers to capture termly data that will support efforts to target support. Data to be shared with the DSL Working Group to inform planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police to share data with the DSL Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register of students in each school with severe absence, risk of NEET, EHE, PNIFT Education. Multi-Agency 'Pupils not in Full-Time Education' monthly panel meeting for each school/year group. Early Identification support. This might include RONI data support across KS2 – KS3 transition. Share Year 7 cohort data with police teams.
8) Encourage schools to run regular surveys of pupil victimisation, fear of crime and involvement in offending and bullying.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include survey themes as part of the PSHE curriculum School Councils and the LA's Youth Parliament to draft proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police to receive an overview of surveys conducted to inform planning at BCU level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the collection and circulation of qualitative information captured at ISSCL, SLN and DSL Working Group 3-yearly health related behaviour questionnaire

9 – Performance and Evaluation

Monitoring the evidence of impact

The following cycle outlines how the delivery of the recommendations will be reviewed and their resulting impact on the outcomes we are all looking to achieve.



10 - Islington Youth Safety Strategy for 2020–2025

Islington Youth Safety Strategy for 2020–2025 builds on the successes achieved in recent years, focusing on new initiatives, innovations, and models to ensure that Islington remains a national leader in youth safety.

The strategy sets out the plans of the council and the partnership to make Islington safer.

Below is an overview of the numerous programmes and initiatives with contact details to support young people across the borough.

[Islington Youth Safety Strategy](#)

[2020-2025](#)

Services and Support for Vulnerable Children, Adolescents and Families in Islington

The following section provides information on universal, targeted and specialist services, as well as information in relation to additional support for children, young people and families who are worried about youth crime, knife harm and sexual and/or criminal exploitation in Islington.

With ever increasing concerns from young people and their families in various parts of the borough, the following information provides, students, families and school staff with the opportunities, support, and services available for children and young people in the borough. This may help them respond to those in the local community who may have been affected by recent incidents and/or who may need support for other reasons.

11 - Directory of Support

More information on any of the following listed below can be obtained by contacting the Family Information Service on fis@islington.gov.uk or 020 7527 5959

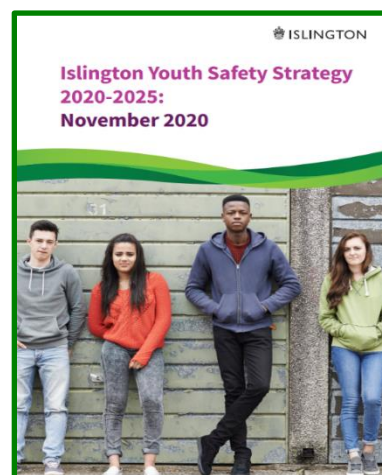
Concerns about a child in need of help and protection, please phone the **Children's Services Contact Team** (CSCT), the single point of contact for all services for children, young people and families in Islington who may need extra help and support.

Contact: **0207 527 7400**

To **report crime** in an emergency call **999**. Use **101** at other times

Crime Stoppers can be used to report crime anonymously: Call **0800 555 111** or use the online form:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/giveinformation-anonymously>



1. Early Help and Support for Families

Bright Start 0 - 5

Bright Start Islington offers activities and services for under-fives and their families including health visiting, stay and play programmes, parenting support and help to find work. Most are free, or low cost. There are 16 Children centres in Islington. Visit www.islington.gov.uk/brightstart

Bright Futures 5 – 19

Bright Start 5 - 19 provides a flexible response to families who need help with areas such as education, employment and parenting support with children aged 5 – 19. They work closely with universal services such as schools. They offer a Helpline for families from 9-5 on Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) on 0207 527 4343 or earlyhelp@islington.gov.uk.

Professionals should refer via CSCT **0207 527 7400**.

VRU Parental Support Project

This is a pilot project which is funded by the London Violence Reduction Unit to improve outcomes with a focus on families in Islington and Camden. It comprises of an eight-strand project of multi-level parent/carer community based, peer-to-peer support including direct support to children and families, and free online training for parents/carers. For more information or to make a referral contact:

VRUREFERRALS@Islington.gov.uk

Minority Matters

Minority Matters is a grass roots organisation supporting black and minority ethnic communities in Islington. It provides education programmes, parent/carers peer support groups and support to vulnerable families with children and young people who are affected by county lines and knife crime.

Contact: 0207 272 0039 / info@minoritymatters.org.uk

2. Specialist services and support

Children Social Care - Children in Need and Children Looked After

The Children in Need (CIN) Service undertakes a broad range of work with children in need and their families. CIN works with children and families who require additional support as well as with children and young people who need protection. The Children's Services Contact Team is part of CIN. Contact: **0207 527 7400** (CSCT)
The Children Looked After (CLA) provides a multi-agency service for looked after children. The core function is to achieve good outcomes for looked after children, reducing the gap between outcomes for them and those of children in the community.

Contact: **020 7527 7000**

Islington Youth Justice Service (YJS)

Support for young people aged 10-17 to prevent them from offending or re-offending. Islington's YJS works with youth justice services and specialists from partner agencies such as the police, schools, health and probation services and voluntary organisations. It supports young people who are subject to court orders or bail support packages and supports parents and victims of young offenders. Contact: **0207 527 7050**

Exploited and Missing Team

Provides advice and guidance in relation to children at risk of exploitation, gangs, child sexual exploitation (CSE), harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), modern slavery and human trafficking, including county lines.

Contact: **020 7527 8051**

Integrated Gang Team (IGT)

The IGT works with group/gang violence-affected young people aged 10 to 24 involving the police, children's services, youth and community, youth offending and probation services, the NHS and specialist voluntary agencies. The IGT also provides individualised support, group work and consultancy to staff as well as prevention work for siblings of those involved in gangs.

Contact: **07710 854048** or IGT@islington.gov.uk

Domestic Abuse: Solace Women's Aid

Solace offers a range of services to women, men and children experiencing or escaping domestic violence including emergency refuge accommodation, floating support, telephone and face to face advice, and advocacy.

3. Targeted services for young people at risk

Targeted Youth Support (TYS)

TYS provides key working interventions with local young people and their families e.g. behavioural support and preventing school exclusions, triages (which have been issued to divert young people from the youth justice system), anger management, early intervention, positive relationships, as well as focussing on keeping safe in the community and online.

For more information, contact the Targeted Youth Support team:

Contact: **0207 527 7050** / TYS@islington.gov.uk

Children and Young People Social, Emotional and Mental Health Services

Services and support for children around social, emotional mental health including Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), TYS Counselling and the Brandon Centre can be accessed via the Children Services Contact team:

Contact: **0207 527 7400**

YCSMAS – Youth Counselling & Substance Misuse & Alcohol Service

YCSMAS is a holistic health service integrating two specialist teams – The TYS Youth Counselling Service and IYPDAS (Islington Young People Drug and Alcohol Service). This service has been created in response to the growing number of young people referred for counselling and/or substance misuse support with comorbid presentations.

Youth Counselling offers 6 – 8 (extended up to 12 sessions for complex needs) weekly counselling sessions (integrative talking therapy) with the same counsellor. Creative, trauma informed, and solution focused ways of working are implemented alongside talking therapy if helpful for the young person. This service can also offer consultation and advice to families and professionals and advocacy and sign posting for young people.

Substance and Alcohol Misuse offer one-to-one targeted support and treatment to young people affected by drug and alcohol issues. This service can also support families impacted by a young person's drug and alcohol issues and can provide peer professional support and consultation to partner agencies engaged with young people in need.

The YCSMAS service can see young people aged 12yrs – 21yrs who live or study in Islington. YCSMAS also accept referrals for young people with learning needs up to the age of 25 years. **Both services are free and confidential.**

Referrals can be made by:

Contact: YCSMAS@islington.gov.uk Calling: 0207 527 5099 or 07825098200

Mentoring programme for 5 – 11-year-olds (Chance UK)

Chance UK is an early intervention organisation that supports children experiencing emotional and behavioural difficulties. The children worked with are at risk of educational exclusion, anti-social and/or criminal behaviour in adolescence and early adult life. The offer empowers children to develop their skills, confidence, and life aspirations through a year-long mentoring programme.

Contact: **020 7281 5858** / To refer: <http://www.chanceuk.com/refer-a-child/>

Mentoring programme for 11 – 17-year-olds (Wipers)

Wipers mentoring service supports young people aged 11 – 17 to access and actively engage with support, as well as providing highly structured and positive activities which can open up new possibilities for young people, and help provide a bridge to education, training and employment.

Contact via TYS: **0207 527 7050** and info@wipers.org.uk

Abianda

Abianda provides The Star Project, a specialist 12-session one-to-one service for gang affected young women aged 16-24. It includes support to develop healthy relationships, prevent sexual violence and exploitation and

other Violence against Women and Girls issues in the context of gangs, reducing risk for gang-affected young women.

Contact via TYS: **0207 527 7050**

St Giles Trust

St Giles Trust is a national charity that supports people facing severe disadvantage into sustainable employment, homes and the appropriate support they need. They offer a personalised, client-centred approach to build young people's skills, increase their confidence and help them to turn their lives around. Islington has three St Giles Key Workers based in Targeted Youth Support and the Integrated Gangs Team working with young people up to 18 years old.

- Specialists in supporting young people who are gang affected
- Support to access employment-related training and education

Contact **0207 527 4114** / or TYS@islington.gov.uk

Improving young people's lives through awareness (IYLA)

Islington's Targeted Youth Support service, Exploitation and Missing team and the Integrated Gangs Team are working together as the IYLA Project to offer awareness raising and training to council services and partners across the borough. IYLA offers comprehensive training, workshops and development support with a focus on subject specific safeguarding issues or local concern, such as exploitation risks to young people, to schools, youth clubs and other agencies across the borough.

Contact: IYLA@islington.gov.uk for more information and/or to request a training form.

Ben Kinsella Trust

Provides workshops and programmes that educate children and young people about the consequences of carrying a knife and how to make positive choices to stay safe.

Location: 245 St John St, Clerkenwell, EC1V 4NB

Contact: 07712 306103 or e-mail sophia.antoniazzi@benkinsella.org.uk

Victim Support

The Victim Assessment and Referral Service (VARs) is available to offer initial support and information to anyone affected by crime. They'll assess support needs and refer to local schemes for ongoing support.

Contact: Freephone 0808 168 9291. Lines are open 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 5pm on Saturdays.

Jigsaw – GC

The council have commissioned **Jigsaw**, a local community youth organisation, to deliver detached youth work and engagement in the Highbury & Islington area and other prioritised locations based on partnership intelligence.

The detached youth work will take place every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoon between **3pm - 6pm** for a 10 week period from Monday 30th January 2023 (excluding school holidays).

The youth work involves:

Coordinating and holding meetings with local schools to assist school staff with preventing the congregation and large gatherings of young people.

Meeting with **Safer Neighbourhood Team, Community Safety Team, and Park Guard** to coordinate the offer and facilitate the sharing of information.

Engaging and speaking with young people in the prioritized locations to find out any issues of concern, raise awareness of youth services and positive activities and signpost them to services and support if required

Visiting local youth and community centres to support young people to engage in activities across the borough.

Engaging young people in evening youth work and positive activities planned across the week at Platform, Lift, Mary's and with Arsenal in the community

Sharing intelligence to safeguard and protect young people.

Contact: info@jigsaw-gc.com

Arsenal in the Community

Vision/Mission: Sense of Belonging: Helping Individuals and Communities thrive.

Arsenal in the Community is the community arm of Arsenal Football Club. They draw on Arsenal's role as a Premier League club with very deep roots in their local community, particularly Islington to inspire, create opportunities and support the development of young people.

The organisation works in local primary and secondary schools as well as local community hubs across the borough. This includes the dedicated community sports and educational facilities at their headquarters, The Arsenal Hub on Benwell Road. The community projects are funded by Arsenal as the parent club and the Premier League Charitable Fund, who together invest over £1 million to support delivery in the local community. The key areas of focus include:

- Youth Engagement
- Education
- Work Skills & Employment
- Mental Health
- Disability sport
- Tackling Loneliness & Isolation

4. Universal Play and Youth Services in Islington

Islington has a wide and impressive range of facilities and services that are free for all children and young people regardless of their level of need that are inclusive and welcoming, providing children and young people with safe spaces to meet their friends or make new ones and to connect with skilled play or youth workers. There are 12 excellent adventure playgrounds that are open year-round and free at the point of access; state of the art youth provision at Lift, Platform and Soapbox; and a wide range of clubs and groups across the borough offering everything from sports and art through to cooking and music production. All commissioned organisations deliver earliest help through high quality play and youth work, enabling children and young people to learn about themselves, their peers, the local community and the world around them. Programmes are designed to support children and young people's physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing

Contact: **020 7527 5959** for more information.

Adventure Playgrounds

In Islington there are 12 free, safe, open-access adventure playgrounds for children aged six and up, including one playground especially designed to support children with SENDs. Adventure playgrounds are unique spaces which allow children to play freely and whilst having fun, children learn to assess risk, negotiate relationships with others and explore their place in the world. More details can be found at [Adventure playgrounds | Islington Council](#)

In relation to our youth spaces there are a number that can be accessed as - and these include **Youth Work and Youth Spaces**.

Youth work is not about the activities that take place, its importance is in the trusting, voluntary relationship between the youth worker and an individual or group of young people. This leads to better informed choices, changes in activity and improved outcomes for young people. In Islington, there is a huge range of youth work opportunities taking place in small local clubs and community groups through to larger youth hubs such as Lift, Soapbox and Rosebowl. The best place to find information is on [izzy info](#), which is the council's directory for young people and those who support them.

To sign up to receive the Islington Youth Safety Bulletin providing regular updates on services, events, training and reports please contact: youthsafety@islington.gov.uk

Appendix A

Directory of Contacts