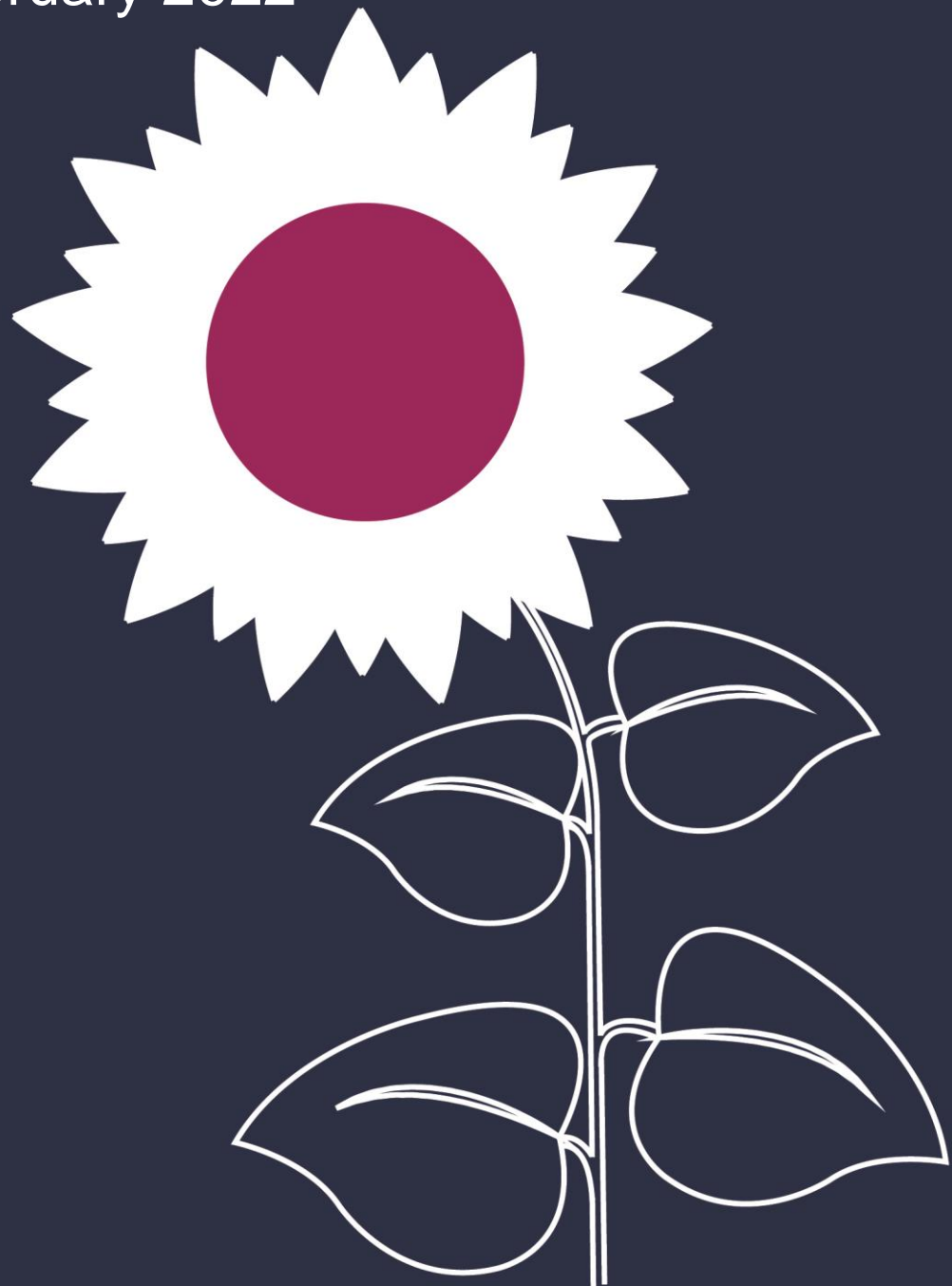


# Protocol between Next Steps and Youth Offending Service

Tri x 4\_8\_6 February 2021

Review February 2022



# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this Protocol is to clarify arrangements between the Stoke-on-Trent Youth Offending Services and Early Intervention and Children's Social Care in relation to work with care leavers subject to Youth Offending Services' Preventative Interventions, Community Sentence, Detention and Training Orders or Section 90/91 Orders.
- 1.2 The Protocol is also supported by the Information Sharing Protocols between the Youth Offending Services and EICSC.

## 2 Role of the Youth Offending Services

- 2.1 As established under **Sec.38(4)** of the **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**, Youth Offending Services will either directly provide or coordinate the provision by others of services to children/young people (up to 17 years) to prevent offending and re-offending. These include the following:
  - Preventative work with young people identified as being at risk of offending using the ONSET referral system.
  - Pre-court services
    - ✓ Appropriate Adult services under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
    - ✓ Bail Provision
    - ✓ Final Warnings.
  - Court services including the provision of pre-sentence reports (PSR's) and court duty.
  - The supervision of offenders aged 10 – 17.
  - Provide services for young people who are victims of crime committed by young people.
- 2.2 The primary purpose of the Youth Offending Services is to prevent offending. In order to do so the Services will use the ASSET assessment tool to identify any risk factors that may relate to the risk of offending and develop a related plan of intervention.

## 3 Role of Early Intervention and Children's Social Care

- 3.1 The **Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000** sets out the local authority's duties, powers and responsibilities towards young people leaving care. These include the following:
  - To be responsible for eligible young people aged 16 – 17 years who are still in care and looked after for at least 13 weeks from the age of 14.

- To be responsible for relevant young people aged 16 – 17 years who have left care, but who were looked after for 13 weeks from the age of 14 and were still looked after on the 16th birthday
- To be responsible for former relevant young people aged 18 – 21.

3.2 In order to discharge its responsibilities to eligible and relevant young people EICSC will:

- Develop a Pathway Plan by the young person's sixteenth birthday or at the latest within 3 months of their sixteenth birthday based on a formal assessment of need.
- Assess and meet needs.
- Provide financial support. Ref. [Leaving Care Financial Policy and Procedures](#)
- Provide the services of a social worker/ Personal Adviser – Ref. [Leaving Care Procedures](#).
- Assess Housing needs and ensure the young person has access to suitable accommodation
- Stay in touch with the young person.

## 4 The Children Act 2004

4.1 The Children Act 2004 established that it is the responsibility of all those working with children and young people to endeavour to ensure that children and young people are supported to achieve outcomes and to work together with children and young people and their families/carers to this end.

4.2 Children and young people receiving services from more than one practitioner should experience a seamless and effective service designed to assist them.

4.3 The Act established the role of the Lead Professional to:

- Act as a single point of reference for the child and family, and to build a relationship with them based on trust.
- Engage the child and family in making choices, to help them navigate their way through the system and to effect change.
- Co-ordinate the delivery of the actions agreed by the involved practitioners, and ensure that children/young people and families receive an effective service which is regularly reviewed.
- Reduce overlap and inconsistency in service provision.

4.4 When a young person is subject to safeguarding procedures, or is in care, or is a care leaver the lead responsibility for the young person lies with the allocated social worker and EICSC

## **5 Arrangements for Joint Working between Early Intervention and Children's Social Care and Youth Offending Services**

5.1 Both services recognise that by working together children and young people are more likely to achieve.

5.2 To facilitate joint working EICSC will:

- Inform the Youth Offending Services of eligible and relevant young people in Stoke-on-Trent.
- Inform the Youth Offending Services of any young people moving to Stoke-on-Trent for whom services are being provided on behalf of another authority.
- Invite the Youth Offending Services to Pathway Planning meetings.
- Ensure that plans and reviews reflect the need to prevent offending.
- Ensure that the Youth Offending Services are informed of any material changes for the young person through regular, timely liaison between the social worker/ personal adviser/social work assistant in EICSC and the Youth Offending Services Practitioner.

5.3 The Youth Offending Services will:

- Inform EICSC if eligible or relevant young people offend, become subject to Priority Prolific Offender arrangements, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts or Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.
- Inform EICSC of any applications by other Youth Offending Services to transfer the supervision to Stoke-on-Trent of young people who may be eligible or relevant young people from another local authority.
- Inform EICSC if a young person known to them is arrested or is due to appear before the Court to enable the Lead Worker to attend the Court hearing and/or;
- Inform EICSC of the outcome of Court appearances and any bail conditions or remands to custody.
- Ensure that EICSC are informed of any material changes for the young person through regular, timely liaison between the Youth Offending Services Practitioner and the Social Worker/Personal Adviser/social work assistant in EICSC.
- Contribute to Team Around the Child Meetings and ensure that the plans arising out of these meetings are consistent with and complementary to Youth Offending Services plans for young people and roles and responsibilities are defined.
- Invite the Lead Worker from EICSC to planning and review meetings in the Secure Estate to ensure that any sentence planning and resettlement plans are consistent with the Pathway Plans.