

Trafford Children's Services Complex Safeguarding Annual Report

2022 – 2023



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Foreword

Welcome to Trafford's Children's Services Complex Safeguarding Annual Report 2023- 2024.

Our vision is for Trafford to be the best place for children and young people to grow up happy, healthy, with confidence, ambition and surrounded by love, care, and kindness. We want our children and young people to have the very best start in life and to thrive throughout their childhood and teenage years, and for families and carers to be supported to enable this.

We recognise that complex safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to our young people's experiences of significant 'extra familial harm'. We know that the relationships young people have with peers, adults, people in their neighbourhoods, professionals, or 'online', in all their environments can feature exploitation in varying forms. Sometimes parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and this can undermine family relationships.

Complex safeguarding often expands beyond the objectives of traditional social care and child protection systems and can be a scary time for young people, their parents and families, and professionals who are supporting them. The social workers in our complex Safeguarding team 'SHINE' and wider partners are committed to engaging with young people, and anyone who has influence over them to promote safety and stability wherever possible. We recognise that assessment and intervention within these other spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices that can be delivered using innovative and creative approaches. Greater Manchester's definition of complex safeguarding is,

"Complex Safeguarding is criminal activity (often organised), or behaviour associated with criminality, involving children and young adults (often vulnerable) where there is exploitation and/or a clear or implied safeguarding concern." (Complex Safeguarding Delivery Plan 2019).

Our principles are founded in relational practice and based on our 'EPIC' values of 'Empowerment, Person centred approaches, Inclusivity and Collaboration' and align with the GM definition and approach. Trafford is committed to working holistically and collaboratively with parents, carers, families, partners, and communities to achieve this vision, and to prevent abuse and exploitation, to protect children and young people, and to pursue perpetrators and bring them to justice.

1 Trafford Complex Safeguarding in Context

1.1 Our SHINE multi-agency complex safeguarding team was established in 2019 and works with children and young people who are known to be exploited, suspected to be exploited, or vulnerable to being exploited. The missing from home/care team are inextricably connected with SHINE, however the focus of this report is on SHINE.

1.2 Our SHINE team has is resourced with a Head of Service, Practice Manager, SHINE Advanced Practitioner, missing from home/care Advanced Practitioner, 4 social workers, young persons' missing coordinator, and 2.5 missing workers. The SHINE team is co-located with Greater Manchester Police, and our Trafford division have a dedicated complex safeguarding police team and information intelligence analyst. Our SHINE team has expanded, and the work that we do is further enhanced by our complex safeguarding specialist nurse, and trusted relationship psychologist.

1.3 SHINE sits within the Vulnerable Adolescent Service and is aligned with our young person's missing team, Youth Justice, and the Youth Engagement Service, including the Childrens Rights Service. This allows us to access advice from colleagues and partners across the adolescent service, including a speech and language therapist, children and adolescent mental health link worker, mental health counsellor, careers advisors, and all the '*talk shop*' resources.

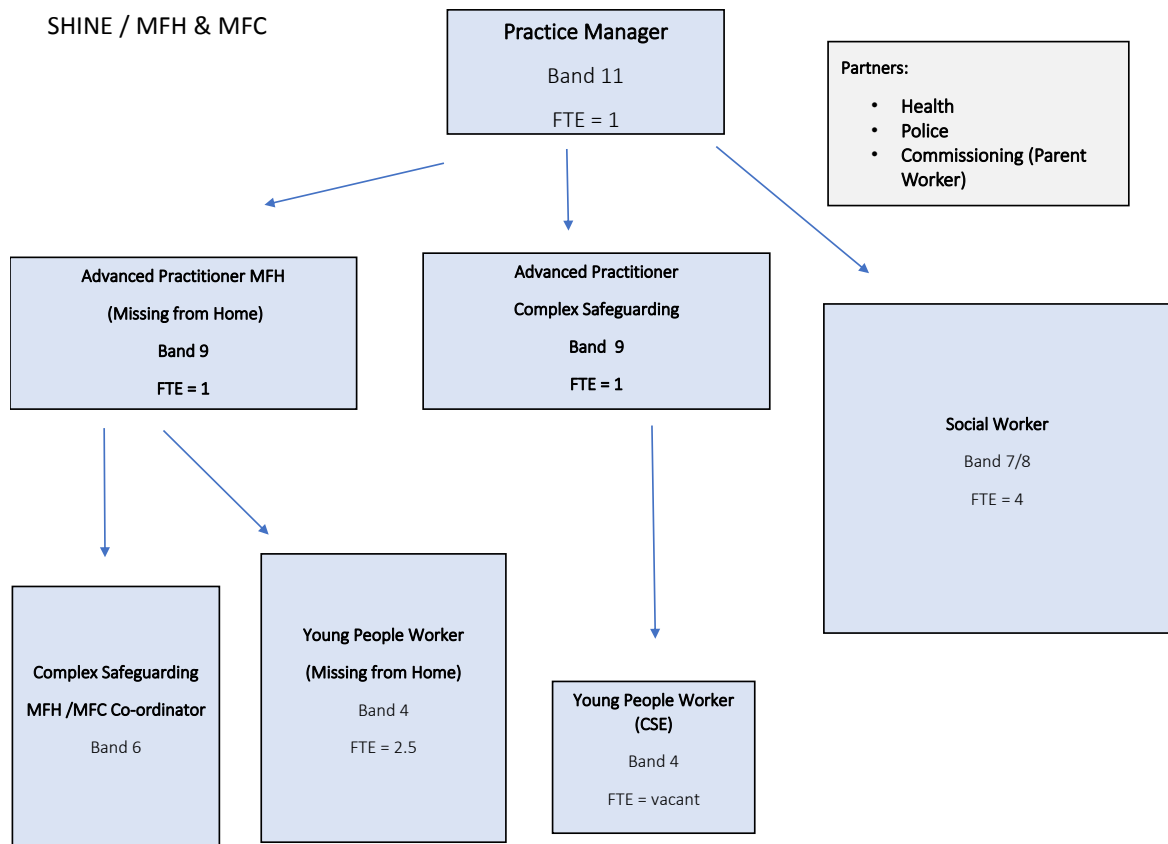
1.4 The accountability and governance framework for our SHINE team sits within the wider corporate structure: Ambitions for Children and Young People Plan [Ambition 7], Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership, Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding Executive, and Ofsted.

2 Staffing

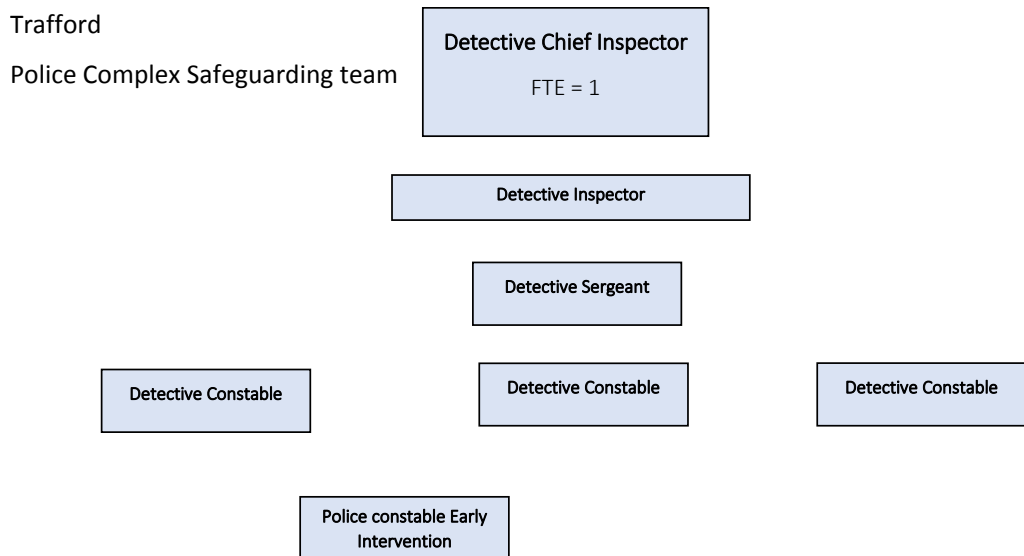
2.1 2022- 2023 saw some staff changes due to maternity leave and career progression. However, our retention rates have been high, and the number of interim staff low. In addition, the fact that the service has been co-located and included within a dedicated Vulnerable Adolescence Service means that we have been able to maintain consistent service delivery.

Our Practice Manager is interim, and we have had 1 interim social worker covering maternity leave. Our plan is to recruit to the Practice Manager post in November 2023, with a view to fill this post by April 2024. Staff movement has not impacted on our ability to support our young people.

SHINE, and Missing team structure



Greater Manchester Police, Trafford division complex safeguarding team structure.



Workforce Development

Through 2022 -23 we have clear focus on continuous professional training and development; recognising that Complex Safeguarding is challenging and nationally the research and evidence base continues to evolve. Our SHINE team took every opportunity during 2022 – 2023 to refresh and update their knowledge and skill set, so that we remained relevant to the evolving landscape of complex safeguarding. This has included:

- Maximising training opportunities and resources held centrally and provided by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Complex Safeguarding hub [GMCA], for example Assessment Training [March 2023]. GMCA, in union with a range of partners developed the 'Working to Increase Safety in Exploitation' [WISE] assessment model. We delivered the WISE training to our SHINE team and implemented this in place of the Risk Management Tool, as a specific contextual safeguarding assessment model. This supports us to work with young people from their perspective, and to reflect on the harm outside of the home and because of that we are more able to tailor our response to the young person, and their family.
- Creating a learning environment through our weekly SHINE team meetings, and bi-monthly full-adolescent service meetings which enabled practitioners to collaborate, reflect, and share good practice and resources. (See below)

Accessing and facilitating dedicating training and development sessions for example,

Vulnerable Adolescent day [31.10.22] Guests speakers 'Dignifi' facilitated this day supporting 'Sosa', a young adult who has lived experience of being exploited, cared for, and involved in youth justice to share his experience of services, and 'actual' case recordings from his files. Our service was supported to discuss and reflect on the impact that 'victim and child blaming language' can have on a young person at the time, and into adulthood. We subsequently encouraged workers to record 'case' notes using the voice of the child, and highlighting that in a different coloured font, which brings their view to life.

Adolescent safeguarding [14.11.2022]. An all-day event which was facilitated by Research in Practice. This event engaged with up to 100 participants from social care and partner agencies. The purpose of this event was to encourage professionals to reflect on the balance between risks, rights, and relationships, and how we could support young people to feel safe and increase resilience in families. Our facilitator supported 'workshop' style sessions that encouraged an understanding of adolescent 'development, risk, attachment and 'choices', trauma, resilience, and relationship-based practice', and how we could get 'ahead of the curve' in terms of transitional safeguarding. The

approach offered through Research in Practice supported our understanding of how we work with adolescents, and a shift from 'managing risk', to thinking about the safety and stability of our young people. We have found that young people respond better when fewer controls are in place.

Our approach of learning from practitioners across the system through our service and team meetings has included:

- **Service meeting [September 2022]**. Carl Jacobs, our Youth Justice Victim Support and Reparation worker is a registered trainer with the Assessment Qualifications Alliance [AQA] unit award scheme and he delivered a presentation to SHINE. This is a unique way to record '*learner achievements*' through certification, often improving a young person's confidence, and motivation to learn and achieve. We have a high number of young people who have special educational needs, or are supported through an educational health care plan, and the AQA supports a learning culture and a sense of achievement outside of formal education. This is established in other areas of the adolescent service, and we need to continue to promote this for our SHINE young people.
- **Service meeting [January 2023]**, SHINE social worker Sussana Clapcott developed a 'visual intelligence map' model, which reflects the immediate and outward facing issues that our young people face. Sussana presented this at the full-service meeting, and it was well received. This visual representation helps us to see the young person first and foremost, followed by the risks and strengths. This was accepted as good practice for those young people who we are most worried about, and we implemented this model at our monthly assurance meeting, chaired by our Corporate Director of Children's Services, and Director of Early Help and Social Care.
- **Service meeting [March 2023]** Detective Sergeant Katy Southern leads the Trafford Police Complex Safeguarding unit, and presented information about the emerging trends of Urban Street Gangs [USG's], linked to Trafford young people and families, with some connectivity to Manchester. This has enabled us to have a better understanding of the evolving risks around criminal exploitation, and the links to violent and drug related behaviour, adult/peer associations, local '*hotspots*' and cross border activity.
- Police representatives from Trafford's Force Intelligence Bureau shared a presentation about how to formally submit intelligence. This has enabled SHINE workers to share intelligence which supports the police to disrupt exploitative behaviour, and pursue perpetrators.

3 SHINE Development Activity

3.1 SHINE has continued to mature during 2022-2023 and establish and embed professional relationships with colleagues and partners. We have focused on improving practice standards and working protocols with partners: we built on existing information sharing processes as well as introducing new arrangements. This has included:

- Strengthening and developing our practice standards
- Implementing the WISE assessment tool.
- Developing and enhancing the role of the multi-agency SHINE panel.
- Promoted interconnectivity between missing young people and exploitation.
- Enhancing our National Referral Mechanism process.
- Shared ideas with the 'data and systems' team to support an 'exploitation' workspace on the child's recording system.
- Adapted the audit tool to reflect and capture the practice within the missing team; and contributed and supported in the week of action [March 2023]. A summary of this activity is detailed below.

Practice standards / working protocols: we refreshed SHINE's operating protocol and practice standards in October 2022, and this is aligned with Children's Services threshold framework, Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership exploitation plan, Ambitions for children and young people plan, and the main principles and priorities in the Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding authority and executive. We have developed a specific complex safeguarding induction programme for social workers and partners who join the service and this in part may have contributed to our high retention rate.

WISE: The traditional social care assessment model, and the Risk Management Tool was used throughout 2022 until March 2023, when we implemented WISE. The risk management tool is no longer the main assessment and is now only used as a 'screening' tool to assist colleagues in social care to refer into SHINE. WISE was developed in partnership with 'Listen Up', the Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding hub, Children's Society, Greater Manchester Police, Barnardo's, the National Counter Trafficking Service, and the 10 Greater Manchester local authority complex safeguarding teams. This is as a strength based and inclusive assessment for safeguarding and exploitation and supports our relational model of working with young people, and their families.

SHINE Panel: We have worked with partners to expand the remit of the multi-agency panel, and this is now a mature and established governance arrangement for young people open to SHINE.

Professionals in this panel feel able to challenge one another, and not only consider referrals to SHINE but hear 3 monthly reviews for all young people open to us, consider what transitional safeguarding arrangements are in place for young people who are 17 +, and reflect on what young people need to sustain their health, wellbeing, and safety beyond SHINE and in their recovery.

Daily Risk Management meeting: This multi-agency meeting is facilitated by the police, and we worked together in 2022- 2023 to shape this forum so that it evolved from an information 'giving exercise' to a discussion, into action and activity for all young people who have been stopped and searched, arrested, missing from home or care, and / or who became known to the police within the preceding 24 hours. This enabled us to respond quickly to emerging risk and safeguarding concerns. It does not replicate the arising for our young people.

National Referral Mechanism [NRM]: A focus during 2022- 2023 has been to raise an awareness that young people who offend, can be the victim of child criminal exploitation, and to support them to be recognised as such with partners, and at Court. We worked with Barnardo's to develop the NRM process and we introduced pre-NRM multi-agency meetings. This gave us the forum to harness all the concerns that we have about a young person and has strengthened our submissions to the Home Office so that we increase the number of young people who have reasonable and conclusive grounds and can prevent criminalisation.

Young person example of section 45 defence

Child A is a 15-year-old male born in Afghanistan. He is of Muslim religion but not actively practicing which is his choice and is respected. He sadly has no family in the UK so is an unaccompanied minor seeking asylum. He has shared how his uncle helped him to come to England for a better life. He initially arrived in the UK aged just 12 years old in what must have been a harrowing journey across countries and in dangerous circumstances. He maintains strong bonds with his family in Afghanistan whom he loves very much and they too, love him. He has four brothers and sisters and a mum and uncle who still live in Afghanistan, and he has frequent telephone contact supported by his carers. His father worked for the police in Afghanistan and was sadly killed by the Taliban when Child A was aged seven. Child A has made his voice clear, to remain here in the UK due to the trauma and history he endured in his homeland and to seek asylum. Child A's foster carer offered him a solid foundation of love, care and security and he felt settled and cared for.

As a result of his lived experience Child, A was vulnerable in seeking a sense of belonging and identity to his homeland and a group of Afghan adults who were actively involved in drug related behaviours and organised criminal groups, sought that vulnerability out, and groomed and exploited him into criminal activity. Child A was subsequently referred into SHINE so that partners could work together to safeguard him, and he was added to the Assurance meeting between the Directors of Childrens Services, Early Help and Social Care, the Head of Service for Vulnerable Adolescents, and the Practice managers for complex Safeguarding and Youth Justice.

Child A was arrested for possession of drugs with intent to supply and found with tablets and a significant amount of money, and foster carer reported a change in his presentation appearing agitated and withdrawn. Child A shared with his tutor information that has significantly worried professionals with regards to Afghan men he was spending time with. Social care was concerned that Child A felt obligated to 'earn money' to send home to his family.

Complex safeguarding worked alongside Greater Manchester police in 2 operations with regards to the Adults in the organised criminal gang exploiting Child A, and on the understanding that he was a victim of modern slavery. Child A was arrested alongside the adults and gave a no comment interview. The adults were charged with modern slavery crime, and Child A was supported with a section 45 defence.

Whilst understanding and supporting GMP colleagues in the need to co-ordinate the operation to include Child A as he needed to be arrested at the same time as the adults so that they were not suspicious of his involvement, Directors were supportive of an approach which continued to see him as a vulnerable child.

As a result, the decision was made to support him to live elsewhere and out of the local area. This was to keep him safe and to enable him to see a future for himself away from exploitation.

Outcomes for Child A- Child A was moved to a different area, and is reporting to feel settled, safe, and happy with no further concerns around exploitation. Child A had a successful NRM submission, and section 45 defence. No charges were brought against him, and he was not criminalised.

Week of Action [March 2023] Our service has worked alongside Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership in the Week of Action. We delivered an exploitation awareness raising event at Broad oak and connected with 50 or more young people and their parents through discussion and sharing leaflets offering information and advice. Street talk delivered 2 lunch time sessions at 2 high schools, reaching a total of 200 young people in discussions around exploitation; Greater Manchester police and Manchester Foundation Trust attended a youth group and raised awareness at 6 high school designated safeguarding leads, and 2 residential children's homes. Greater Manchester Police executed a warrant in partnership with Manchester and made arrests with regards to the grooming of a Trafford child, and 580+ students responded to a survey asking about their understanding and experiences of exploitation. It is difficult to measure the direct impact that this has had on our young people but it was far reaching in Trafford and well received and has undoubtedly raised the profile of exploitation in the community, and education provisions.

4 Quality assurance

4.1 Our quality assurance activity has continued to be strengthened and developed during the year. This is reflected in the range and breadth of quality assurance activity that has taken place . We have had surety of practice by internal and external quality assurance processes, using qualitative and quantitative data through 'case' file audits, monthly quality and performance reports and meetings, Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership scrutiny, a full Peer Review, monthly assurance meetings with the Corporate Director of Children's Services, and Director of Early Help and Social Care, Greater Manchester Combined Authority complex safeguarding quarterly insight and impacts framework report, and of course Ofsted.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection reported the following in their January 2023 report.

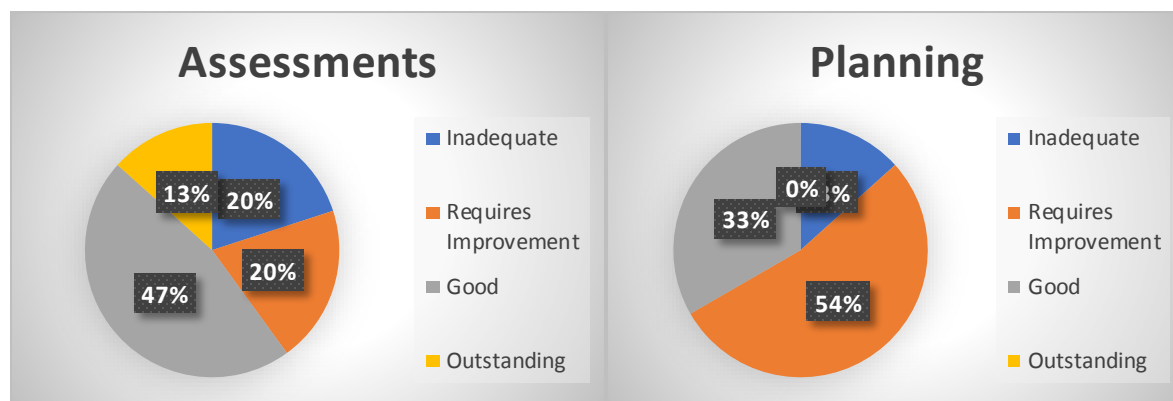
'The response to child exploitation is more robust. A relational model of social work practice, which is well regarded by the wider workforce, has been successfully implemented.

The child exploitation team 'SHINE' is a strength, due to the establishment of effective working relationships with key agencies who advocate for children who are hard to engage. This multidisciplinary team proactively supports children through a relational approach, which leads to the reduction of risk for some. Children continue to be monitored through multi-agency meetings after they are closed to the service. This means that the service can respond quickly if risks re-emerge. When children are missing from home, the missing-from home team has direct access to several key agencies to support children. These close working relationships ensure that children receive targeted support quickly'.

Case file Audit Activity

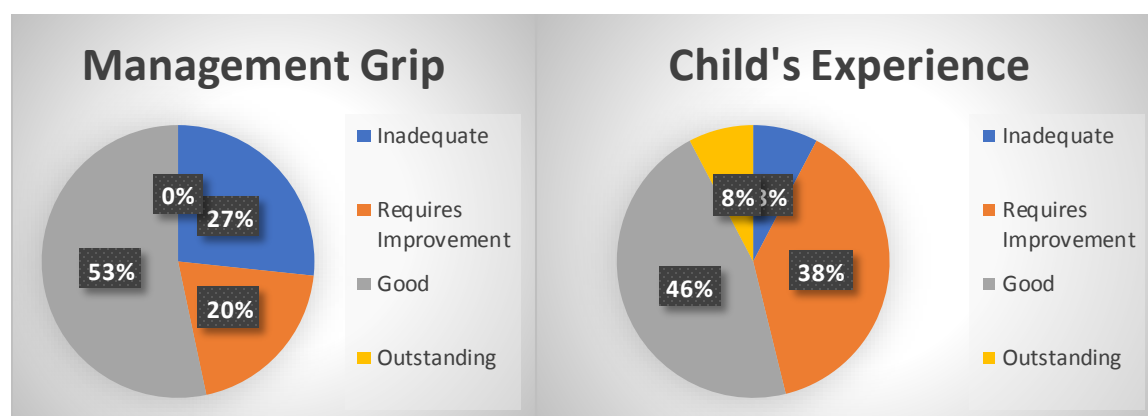
The service has continued to undertake full case file audits in line with the Children's Social Care Quality Assurance Framework. The number of audits completed has been lower than the agreed level. Increasing the level of compliance needs to be improved and this is an area of focus for 2023-2024.

The rate of compliance and completion of audits was adversely impacted by 0 audits being completed in quarter 1 of 2022 but the overall rate of compliance which was 60%. The new Head of Service for vulnerable adolescents started in post in July 2022, at the end of quarter 1 and this has led to improvements, 78% of the submitted audits were moderated. The service wide audit activity is reported across the vulnerable adolescent service.



- 60% of young people had a good or outstanding assessment; 20% were considered as required improvement, and 20% inadequate. Subsequently we implemented the WISE assessment tool and would expect to see an increase in the number of good and outstanding assessments in 2023- 2024.
- 54% of plans required improvement, 33% were good and 13% were inadequate because they were 'starkly written'. Subsequently our expectation is for young people to write their own plan, and / or for us to record their language. This was also something that was highlighted within the Peer Review and is an area of focus over the coming year.

Progress in this area has been noted with the writing of updates directly to young people which are used in the assurance meetings. In addition, members of the team attended the Greater Manchester wide training that included a session with "Lads like Us" which had a specific focus on lived experience.



- During 2022- 2023, 53% of audits identified that managers across the vulnerable adolescent service had a good grip, whilst 20% required improvement and 27% inadequate. This data relates more to another service area, and the management grip in terms of SHINE was seen as good, with well recorded personal and young person supervision. The management

and multi-agency decision making at the SHINE panel, through the Director/Manager monthly assurance meeting offers additionality in terms of management grip.

- In terms of the 'recording' of the child's experience, 8% of files were audited as outstanding and 46% good, although 38% required improvement and 8% inadequate. In terms of SHINE, most of the records do reflect the young person's voice and have been written from the young person's perspective and we have promoted the use of a 'coloured' type/font so that their voice becomes 'visible' in their own record.

5 Multi-Agency audit

5.1 TSSP completed a multi-agency audit in 2022 looking at 8 young people's record . The audit team consisted of partners across social care, youth engagement service, Greater Manchester Police, Health and Public Health, the Clinical Commissioning group, and Early Break [substance misuse service].

5.2 Partners agreed that the audit would consider the referral, assessment, application of thresholds and planning, outcomes for the child, the key workers understanding of the lived experience of the young person, and workforce and management.

5.3 The outcome of the audit highlighted several strengths: workers focused on the early identification of exploitation through discussion with the young person which led to earlier interventions; there was a clear understanding of how important trusted relationships are to young people; the right threshold had been applied and records were informative and detailed; SHINE workers were found to have a good relationship with partners, that led to action and activity from professionals; and the right forums were being used with good evidence of safety planning and the 'mapping' of intelligence.

5.4 Some recommendations were identified through the audit and in particular included raising the profile of the SHINE service across the service to ensure appropriate referrals were progressed. Action have been implemented to address this for example we have worked alongside Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership to raise the profile of SHINE through the 6 weekly exploitation sub-board, and the week of action; and we have used our trusted relationship professional to support staff to work with young people in a trauma informed way and to encourage participation and engagement.

6 Peer Reviews

6.1 We have been involved in the GM peer review process and the service was involved in the Peer Review in late 2022 and welcomed feedback in March 2023. The auditors are representatives from

the GMCA complex safeguarding hub, a manager from a neighboring GM Local Authority complex safeguarding service, GM Police, and a representative from Health.

The summary of the Peer Review findings is detailed below: (Summary of findings 2023)

Strengths

- SHINE has matured and multi-agency processes are robust and embedded.
- Social workers, managers and corporate leaders are committed to supporting a relational and dedicated approach to respond to exploitation.
- SHINE has continued to develop and improve and are more able to identify and intervene earlier to protect young people.
- Social workers continued to have protected caseloads maintaining an integrity to the 'ACT' principles.
- Response to immediate concerns about exploitation is swift because through the multi-agency daily risk management meeting, and duty system that is in place.
- Referral pathways through to SHINE, reviews, and case closure process are overseen by partners through a weekly 'panel' and there is good collaborative working.
- Information sharing between partners is strong, and this led to police being able to target exploitation and deploy disruption strategies against perpetrators including the use of Civil Orders [Slave & Trafficking] and prosecution.
- Partners are invested in the safety and wellbeing of the young person.
- There are detailed care plans between the Police and SHINE, in terms of 'Trigger plans' which clearly demonstrate pro-active safeguarding, promote safety and stability, and address key risk issues.
- SHINE social workers showed a good level of persistence, flexibility, evidence of direct work using strengths based, trauma informed and relational practice approaches to build trusted relationships and support young people who are susceptible and experiencing exploitation.
- The voice of the young person is reflected in recordings.
- There is good safety planning, some joint supervision and reflective management oversight recorded on the young person's file and reported on.
- Good leadership who works to ensure embedded learning.

Reflections

- The risk management tool [RMT] is not analytical.
- The recording from SHINE social workers on the young person's file is overwhelming and does not always reflect other agencies or provide evidence of 'mapping' or disruption activity.
- There is some evidence of victim blaming language and limited reference to adolescent development.
- The police systems record numerous 'records' for the same young person.
- Specialist nurse post is under-resourced and Education Health Care plans are not always shared with them.

6.4 Response to findings from the Peer Review (2023)

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement a detailed action plan to respond to the Peer Review findings was put place and has been progressed. Actions that have been progressed include:

- The development of a risks and strengths pictorial map for the young people we are most worried about.
- Implementing the complex safeguarding WISE assessment model.
- The SHINE panel has evolved as a multi-agency governance forum for referrals, reviews, and closures.
- SHINE social workers use the Trusted Relationship professional to 'formulate approaches' so that our practice is trauma informed.
- We have asked that SHINE social workers 'consolidate' and summarize their recording on the child's file so that information is more accessible and visible.
- We are working with our 'Business Intelligence Unit and Systems Team to enhance the electronic recording system, to have a designated space to record information. This will support with the recording of activity from partners.
- The SHINE panel minutes, and assurance meeting documents reports on actions and activity from partners, and this is now recorded on the young person's file.
- GMP have put a process in place to prevent the duplication of records.
- The specialist nurse has access to Education Health Care plans through the child's recording system.
- Training was delivered by Research in Practice with regards to adolescent development and safeguarding.
- Further consolidation and training around adolescent development, victim blaming language and alternative approaches to adolescent safeguarding will be planned for quarter 4 of 2023.
- SHINE have developed training for partners in conjunction with the Safeguarding Board training offer.

7 Performance data

7.1 As part of the agreed GM processes the SHINE service reports on agreed Insight and Impacts data. This involves reporting on the difference that the service's support and interventions has made in relation to an agreed set of measures. This information is not only reported through the GM Complex Safeguarding Executive but is shared through Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership, and internally through our established performance routes.

The 5 key outcomes reported remain as listed below.

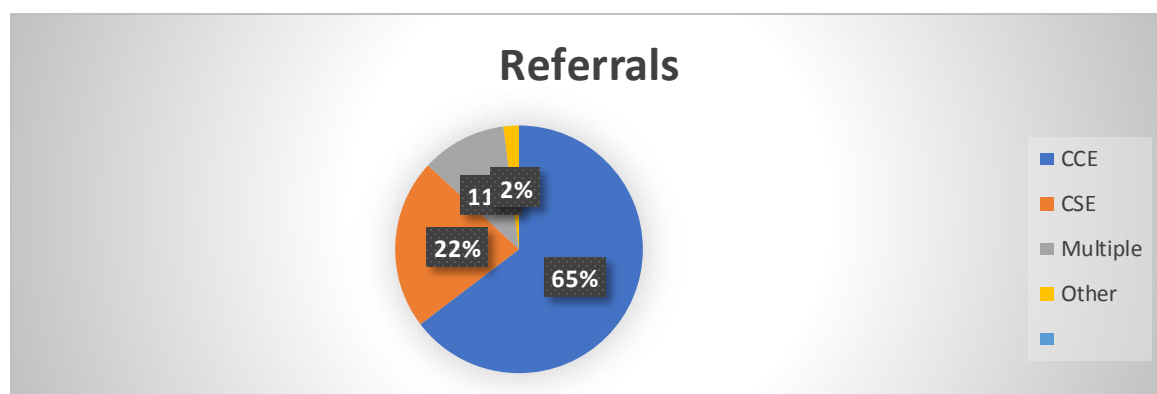
- 1) Level of threshold when referral is made, i.e. Early Help, Child in Need, Child Protection (as awareness increases the level of need should be captured earlier in the long term).
- 2) Re-referral rates into the Complex Safeguarding teams.

- 3) Proportion of young people on case closure who are re-engaged with education, employment, and training.
- 4) Proportion of young people who, on case closure are in stable accommodation.
- 5) Proportion of young people who, on case closure, have established at least one positive, trusted relationship.

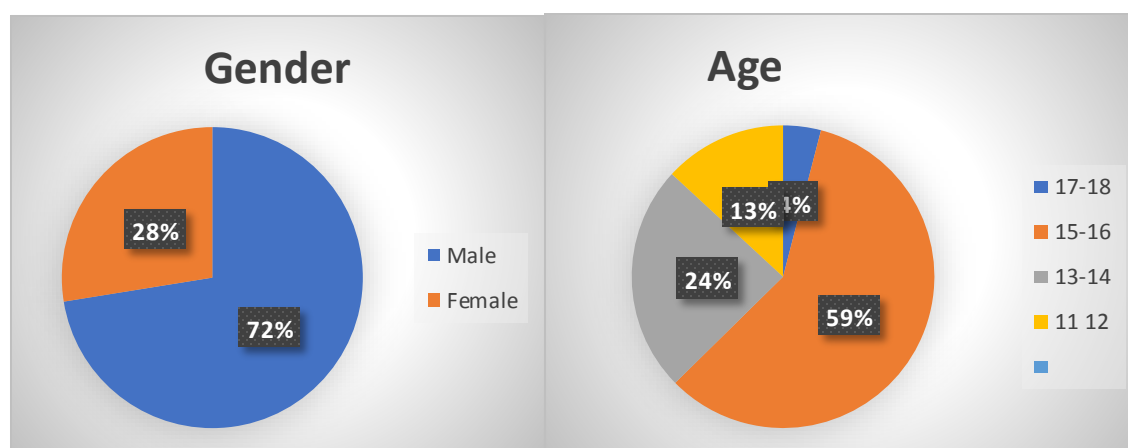
The section below provides a summary of the outcomes as an average (2022-2023)

7.2 Referral information

The SHINE panel has heard 45 referrals between July 2022 and March 2023.

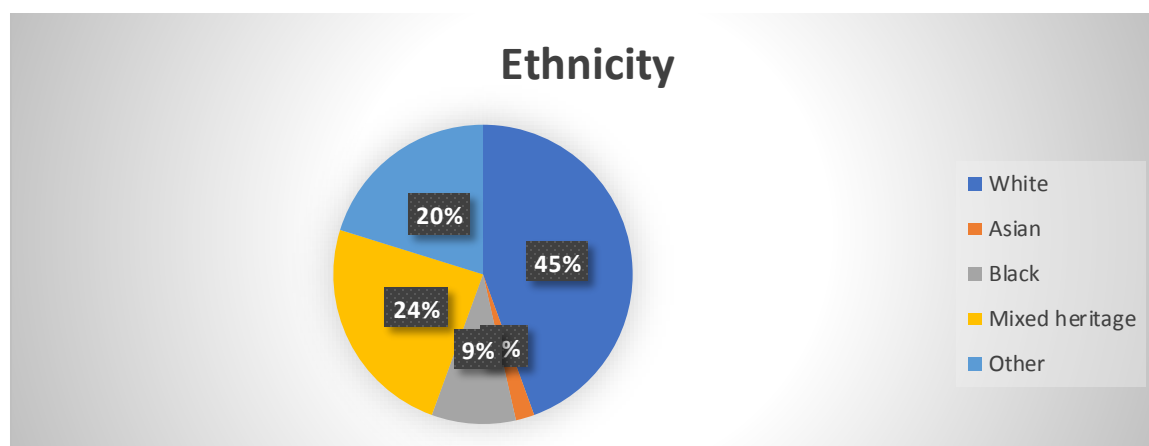


The data shows that more young people were referred to SHINE for child criminal exploitation rather than child sexual exploitation, and there is also a slight increase in combined criminal and sexual exploitation. Within Trafford we have seen a rise in incidents involving knife crime and drug related offences which may be a contributing factor to this increase. However, we are also aware that regionally and nationally there has been an increased focus on Criminal Exploitation and County Lines.

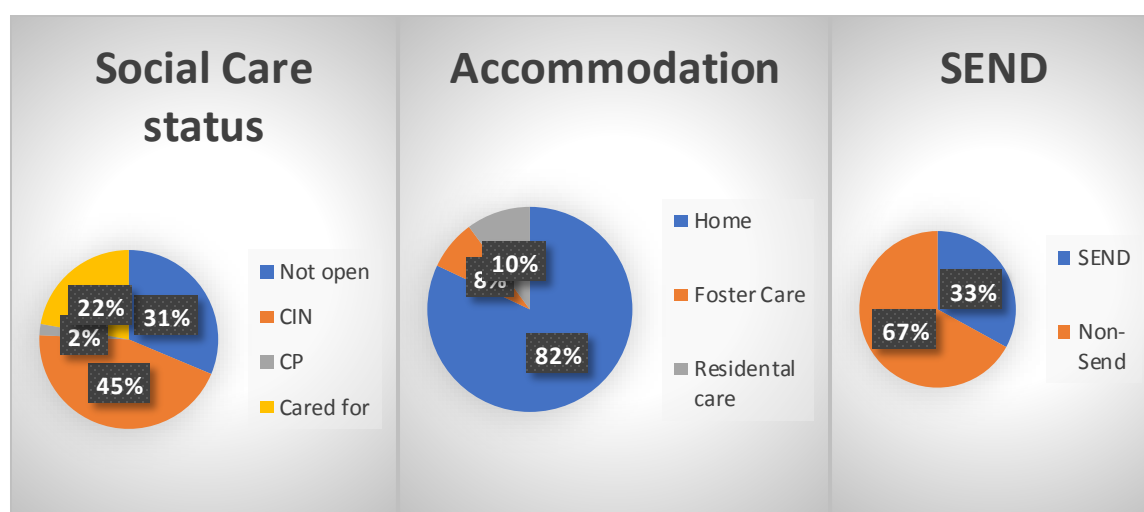


More males than females were referred into SHINE, which corresponds with the increase in the exploitation of young males into child criminal exploitation. 13- to 16-year-olds have dominated the referrals into SHINE, although notably there was a small number of young people who are 11 and 12

years old [6]. Positively we have had a focus on prevention, and earlier intervention, and there are higher numbers of young people who are 'suspected' of being exploited, and/or 'vulnerable' to exploitation than those who are 'known' to be exploited.



Numerous studies have shown that young people from Black and Minoritised groups are often 'adultified' and do not have the same opportunity to access complex safeguarding services. Our SHINE data reports that 36% of our young people in 2022-2023 were from minoritised groups and whilst ordinarily this higher representation could be viewed negatively, it is assuring to know that there are no barriers in our referral process. Notably we had a higher representation from young people of mixed/dual heritage, which is also consistent with the GM complex safeguarding teams, and Youth Justice, as is the low number of those of Asian heritage. We will implement specific cultural awareness training in 2023-24 so that our practitioners are more equipped to support our young people from minoritized groups in a way that is culturally relevant, recognising diversity.



Referrals during 2022-2023 show that many of our young people were supported through child in need rather than child protection, and live at home with their families, whilst small numbers of young people were cared for and live in residential care [4] or foster care [3]. Data suggests that

colleagues in social care teams, and partners have shown a better understanding of extra familial harm during the initial assessment stage, and this leads to referrals to SHINE at an earlier stage, so we have an opportunity to prevent, or reduce the grip that predators and perpetrators have on our young people.

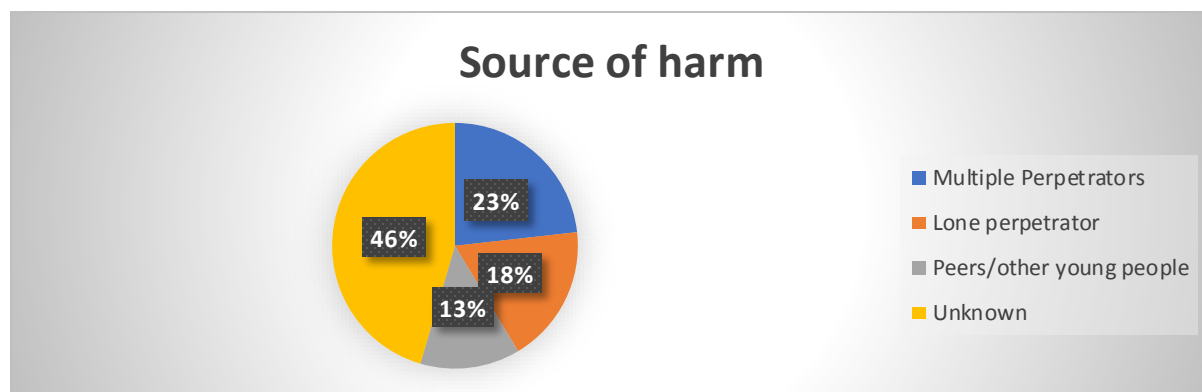
On average a third of young people open to SHINE were assessed as having additional needs, including special educational needs, or learning disabilities. Young people who have experienced trauma and have additional needs are potentially more susceptible to exploitation. Our SHINE workers maintain a relational and strengths-based approach and have used our trusted relationship professional to understand and incorporate different approaches to communicate and engage our young people. We work alongside colleagues and partners to contribute to the Education Health Care plans.

8 Caseload information

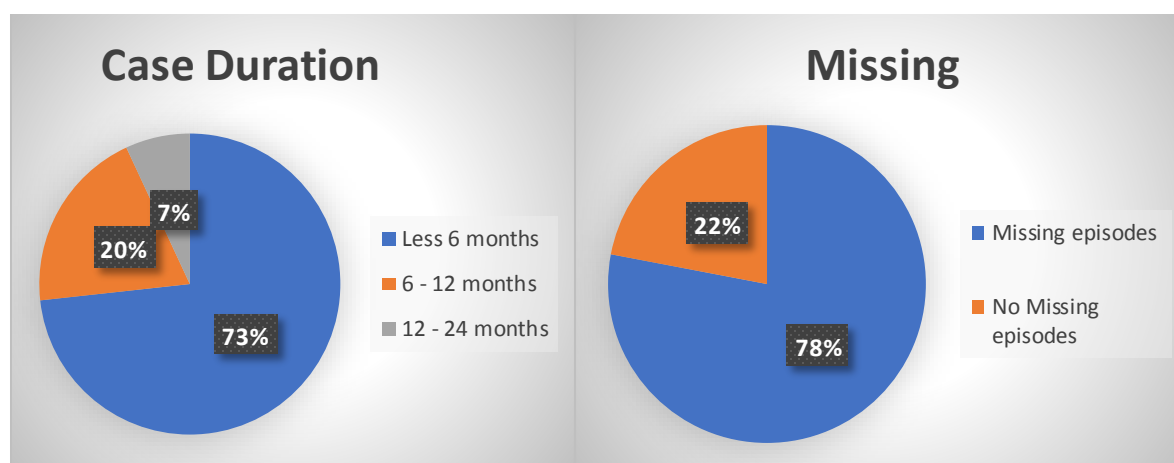
8.1 Professionals who make up the multi-agency SHINE panel consider all referrals into service and decide as to whether there is enough evidence, to agree allocation to the specialist service. Not all referrals were progressed to allocation in 2022- 2023, but the professionals involved with any young person who did not meet the SHINE criteria was subsequently offered advice, and / or signposted to other support services.

8.2 At the end of Q4 (March 2023) there were 35 young people being supported by SHINE, with an average number of 31 throughout the year. It is positive that we have maintained protected caseloads during this time which enabled us to work intensely with our most vulnerable young people. Risks have changed, and notably in 2022-2023 we recognise that more young people experienced 'on-line' abuse [14%] through '*grooming*' and '*sextortion*'. This activity is harder to detect and take action against as it needs the young person to disclose such activity and coercion.

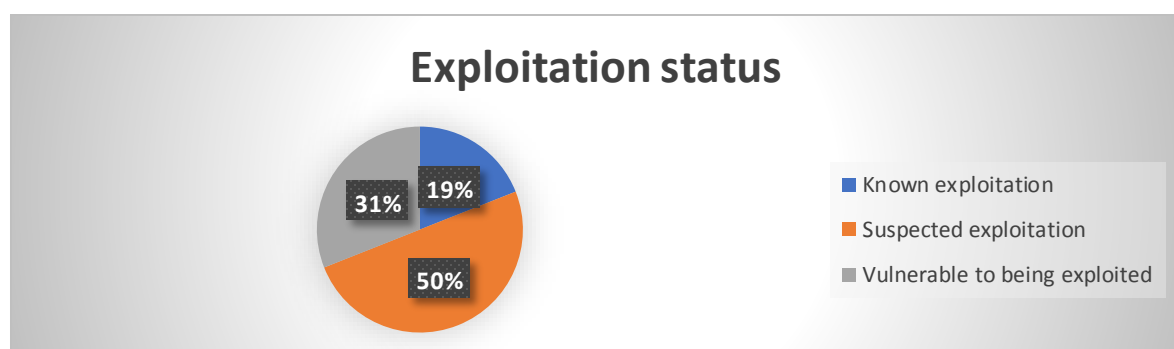
8.3 The most significant source of harm to young people open to SHINE was '*unknown*', or '*reported as unknown*' because young people felt unable to disclose information for a variety of reasons.



We have worked determinedly and collaboratively with our partners to understand who the groups of perpetrators are, and notably there was an increase in 'multiple perpetrators'. A key part of this activity has involved working with GMP colleagues and the introduction of individual maps showing the connections between young people and known adult associates. This development has helped us better understand the level of risk and activity such Urban Street Gang associations. We know that young people often feel a strong 'pull' to peers and moving into 2023- 2024 SHINE have started to incorporate an approach of working with the young person, alongside peers to widen our reach.

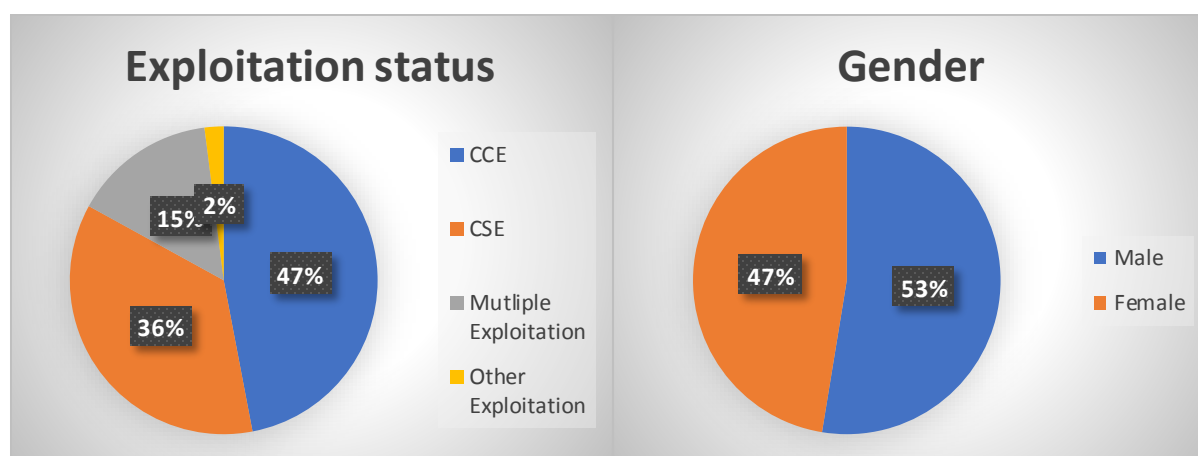


Most young people were open for short and intensive interventions that lasted less than 6 months and this is linked to those who are 'vulnerable to or suspected of exploitation' as these young people will often require less intense intervention.



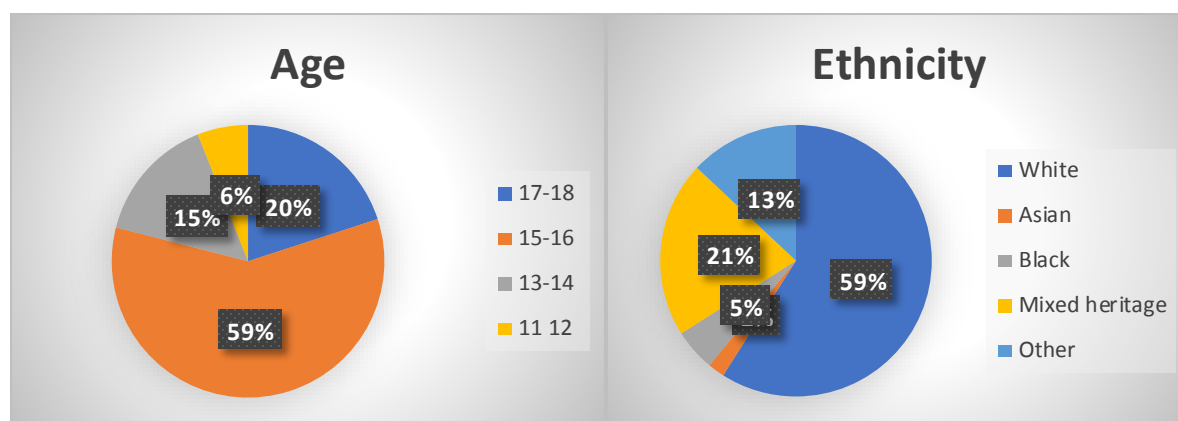
There are the ‘critical’ few who were supported by SHINE for over a year, because of actual exploitation, and due to the complexities and ongoing risks, for example those who are missing often. Our SHINE, Missing and Police complex safeguarding team are co-located and this supports the sharing of information and a broader understanding of the connectivity between missing, and links to exploitation.

As noted in the referral section, SHINE have more referrals at an earlier stage which is positive and our caseload information in 2022- 2023 reflected this. We have worked with young people to support them at the earliest opportunity. The audit completed by Trafford Strategic Safeguarding Partnership highlighted the need to reflect on our thresholds, so positively during 2022-2023 the caseloads reflect us to be intervening with those who are vulnerable to exploitation.



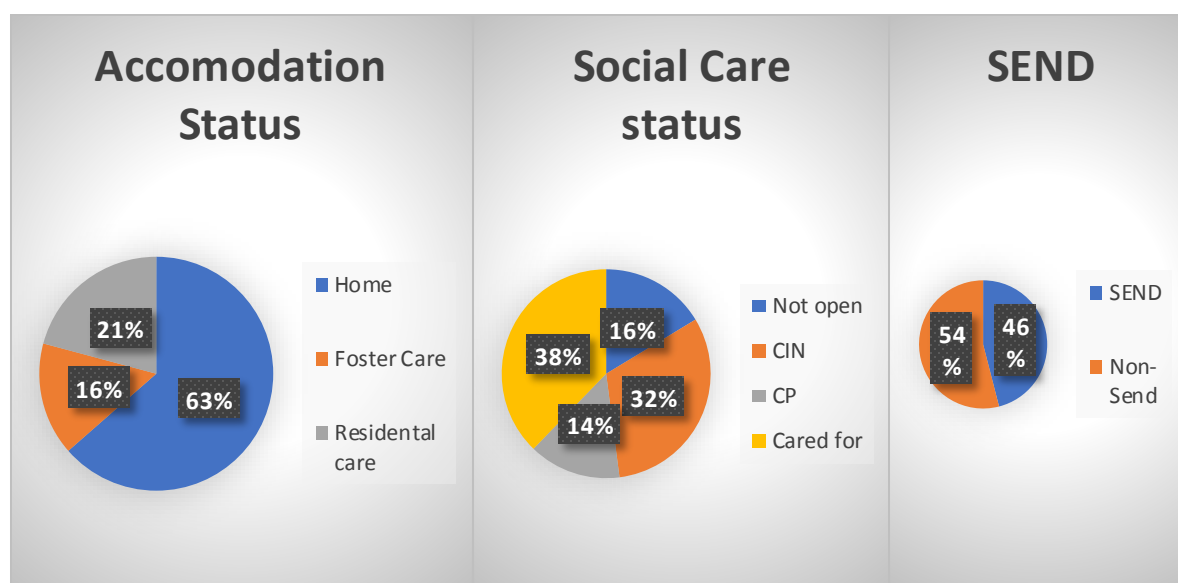
The caseload data suggests a more balanced picture in terms of gender, although boys were slightly higher, linked to being groomed into ‘gang’ type behaviours, and criminality and 2022-2023 saw a growth in caseloads involving child criminal exploitation. Whilst 73% of referrals were male, and 65% for criminal exploitation, the actual caseload information showed a male cohort of 53%, and 47% for criminal exploitation. The SHINE panel recognised that not all the young males that were referred were exploited into criminality, and some of their behaviours were typical to adolescent development.

However, SHINE also recognised that some young people were heavily entrenched in ‘gang’ related behaviours, and sadly those who were exploited also became exploiters. It does not alter the fact that they are a victim, but they may need specialist support. One of the aims for 2023- 2024 is to explore what services and resources are suitable for this small cohort of young people.

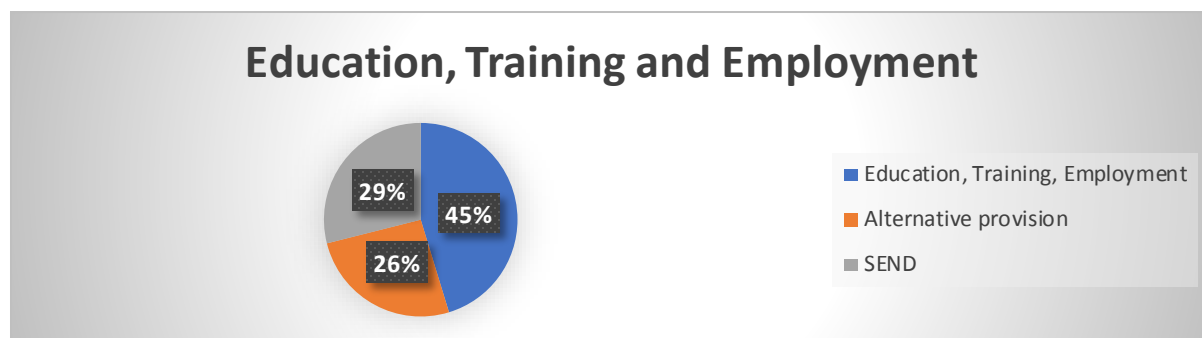


Our caseloads in 2022 – 2023 in terms of age, reflected the referral information with most young people being 15- 16 years old, although we accepted fewer 11- 14-year-olds, as noted above for what was considered 'typical adolescent' behaviour with no evidence of exploitation.

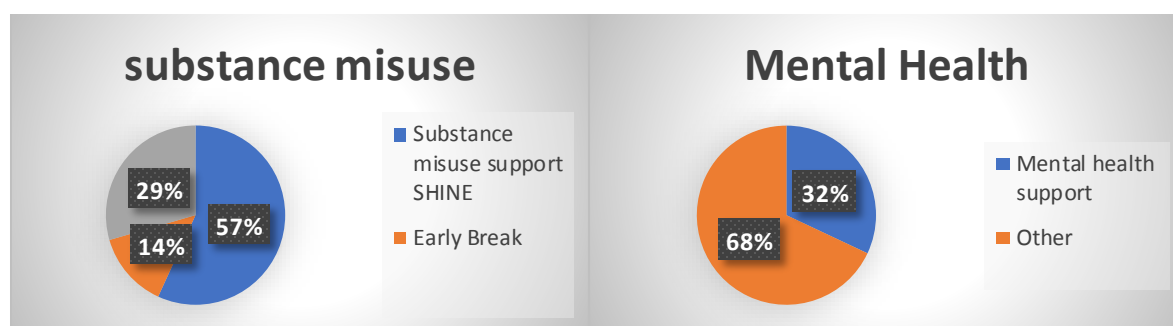
Our caseloads in terms of ethnicity reflected a slightly higher number of young people from mixed heritage backgrounds and slightly fewer of Black heritage.



There are more young people open to SHINE who are not supported through statutory plans [child in need], and in 2022-2023 the cohort was 31% which showed that we offered support earlier. The number of young people that had stable accommodation was reported at 100%, although some caution should be given to the definition of 'stable' as this includes young people who are supported across different care arrangements, and it is our interpretation not theirs.

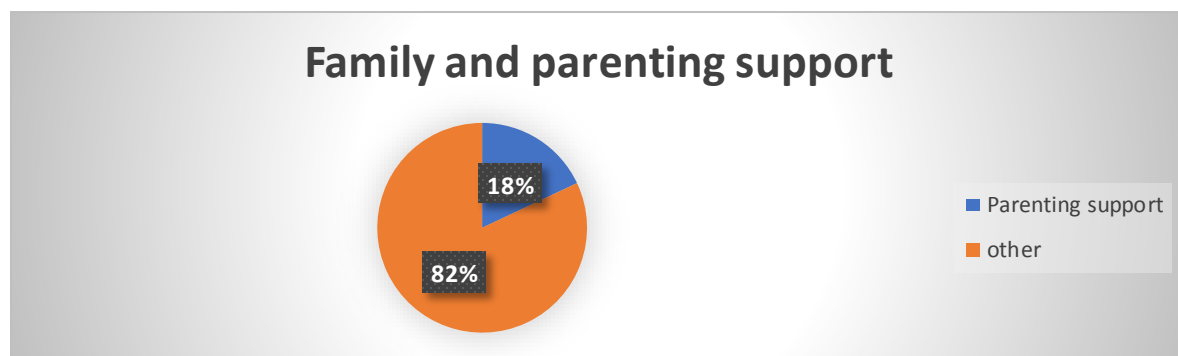


The number of young people who had re-engaged in education/ training/employment in 2022-2023 was reported at 94% which is positive, although this does not reflect whether that was sustained. On balance nearly half of the cohort of young people open to SHINE were attending either school, college, or training, whilst just over a quarter were in alternative provision.



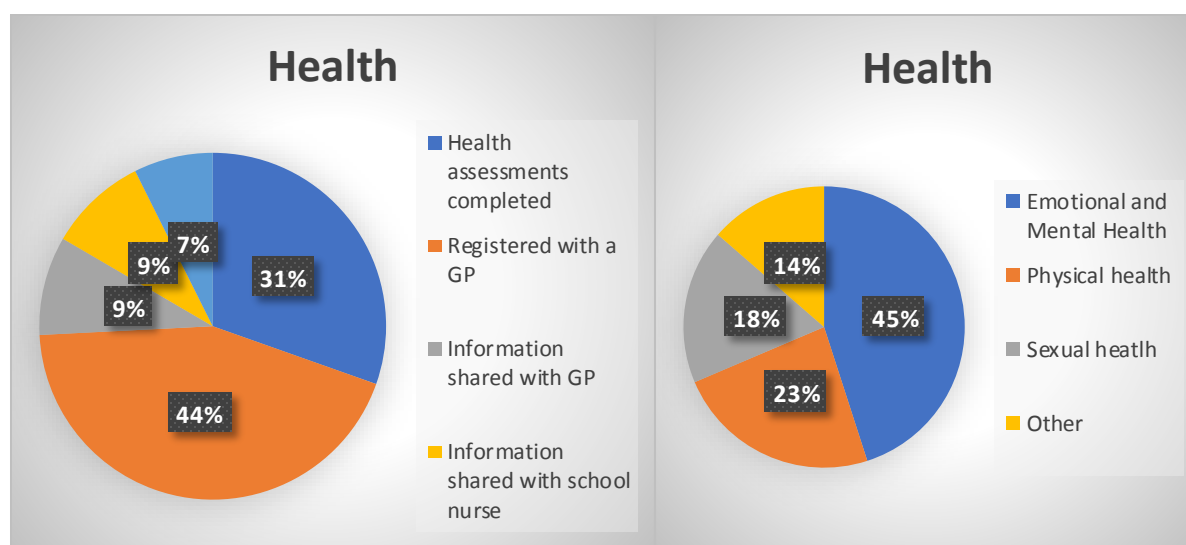
Substance misuse was a feature for 69% of young people open to SHINE in 2022-2023. What we know is that this can be linked to childhood trauma, peer pressure, child criminal exploitation through organised criminal activity and county lines and some young people use drugs or alcohol to 'self-medicate' and escape their reality; to manage their mental health, or emotional wellbeing, or because they are recruited by exploiters through the exchange and supply of drugs. Many of our young people used their SHINE social worker for support, however, some accessed specific substance misuse services, or self-reported using other sources for help.

SHINE has a specialist nurse who also offers support and advice around substance misuse from a primary health perspective, and a trusted relationship psychologist who supports social workers to support the young person using a trauma informed approach.



18% of the parents or carers of our SHINE young people accessed wider parenting support services in 2022-2023, for example their SHINE social worker, lead social worker, a parenting worker, trauma therapy or family group conferencing. SHINE workers understand how important it is to engage parents, families, and carers to build resilience and better relationships and plan on commissioning in specific parenting support services in 2023- 2024.

The number of young people who disclose a trusted relationship was 91% in 2022 – 2023 which is positive, although only 18% of those reported that this was from parents whilst 82% from others which includes professionals and peers. We hope to improve the relationship between young people and their parents through providing the specialist parenting support.



93 young people were open to the complex safeguarding specialist nurse in 2022-2023 and a good percentage of those had health assessments, although some were completed by the school nurse, or cared for children’s nurse. All young people were offered sexual health support, but not all accepted that. Most young people were registered with a GP, and the specialist / school nurse shared information about the young person when appropriate. A small number and critical few had to attend A & E having experienced miscarriage, abdominal pain, asthma, assault, fractures, and intoxication or ‘overdose’.

Young people open to SHINE are most likely to have a range of complex needs that impacts on their mental and emotional health or are diagnosed as neurodiverse [ADHD] [Autism] [SEND]. The data indicates that many of our young people have anxiety, and some have psychosis, and it is not clear the extent that COVID pandemic has impacted on our young people's mental and emotional health. Some of our young people experienced physical health issues such as Asthma, Eczema, Epilepsy, Melasma, and Enuresis. 'Other' health needs are around weight, sleep difficulties, chest pains, allergies and speech and language.

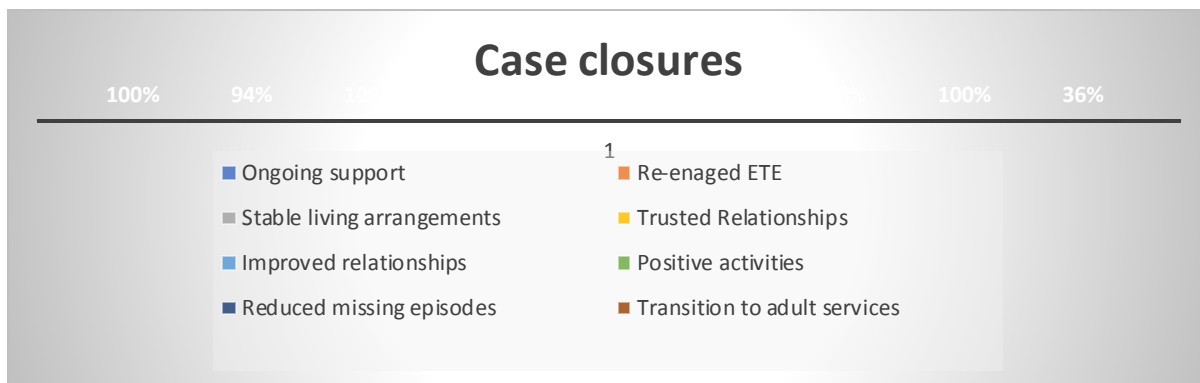
9 Closure information

9.1 The data suggests that SHINE provided a good and effective service in 2022 – 2023 and made a difference to some young people. The multi-agency panel evolved during this time and demonstrated good governance and decision making through oversight of referrals, reviews, and closures. 33 young people were closed to SHINE in 2022- 2023, and the data suggests that our interventions did make a difference as we only received 11% re-referrals into our service during 2022- 2023.

9.2 As they were closed to SHINE all young people had the opportunity for support from other services and had stable living arrangements; many had re-engaged with some form of education, training, or employment and most had a trusted relationship, or reported that their relationships had improved with peers/family/carers and professionals. Most young people had reduced missing episodes compared with the 3 months prior to being open to SHINE, and 3 months prior to closure.

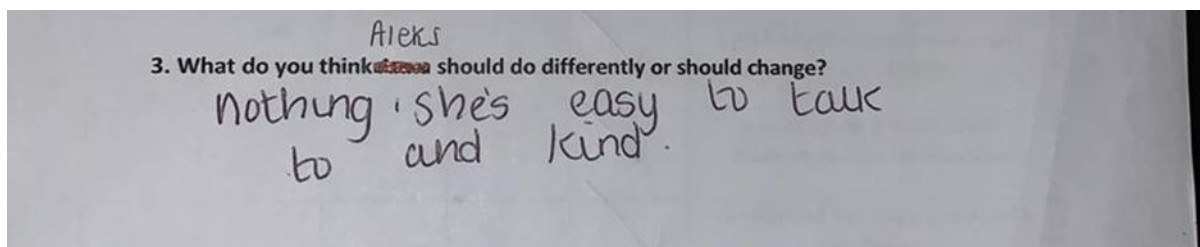
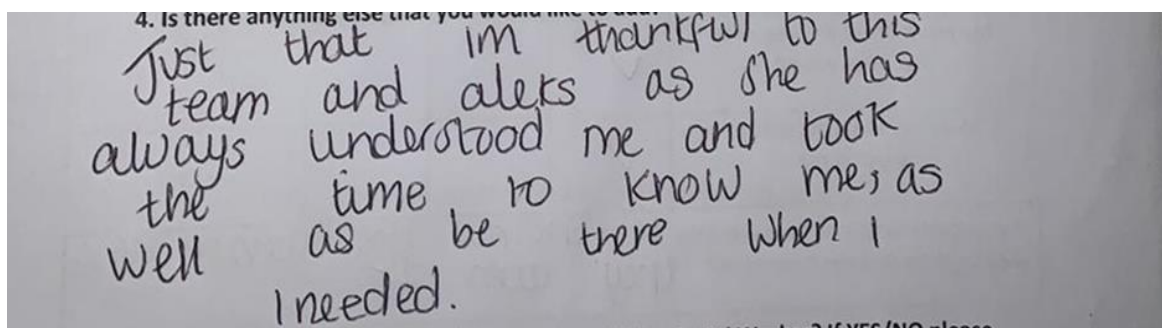
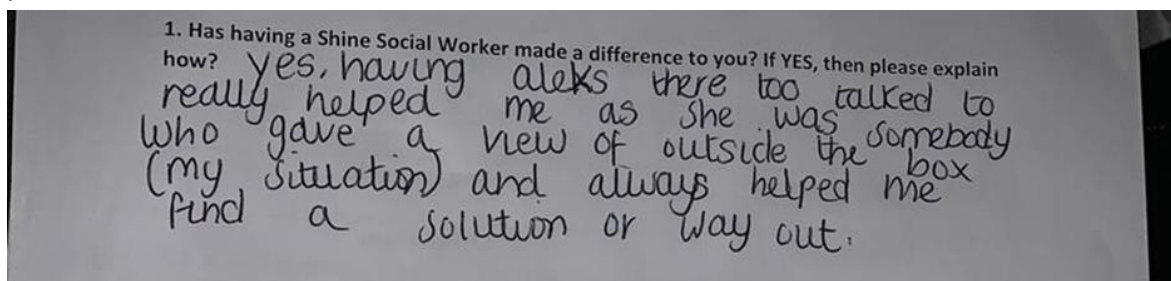
The SHINE panel had a representative from Adult Social Care for all young people who were aged 17 years and 6 months, and this enabled good transitional and signposting arrangements into '*adolescent adulthood*'.

We note that we need to work to increase the feedback from young people, parents, and carers as a priority in 2023-2024, although we provide examples from 2022- 2023.



Feedback from a young person

Trafford are not always successful but do endeavour to collate direct feedback from the youngperson, parent, or carer when the decision is made to close the case.



Feedback from a young person

1. Has having a Shine Social Worker made a difference to you? If YES, then please explain how?

yes i feel like she's there if i need her and i have someone i can talk too.

2. What is different about having a Shine Social Worker than other people you have worked with?

I feel like Aleks is someone i can trust telling anything too, unlike Ashley he doesn't listen to what I need ~~support~~ support with, unlike Aleks, she is willing to help me with anything and put it forward.

3. What do you think Anna should do differently or should change?

HER PAY Check!!
NEEDS A RISE.

4. Is there anything else that you would like to add?

A pay rise.

5. Do you want to continue working with your Shine Social Worker? If YES/NO please explain why? I love Aleks :)

Yes

10 Conclusion and areas of activity 2023 – 2025

10.1 In summary SHINE has continued to mature as a service. We have good multi agency processes in place to share information about all young people who come to the attention of the police within any 24-hour timescale. Our SHINE panel multi agency decision making governance arrangements for referrals, reviews and closures is robust and open to scrutiny and challenge. We have maintained practice integrity, and work with young people using persistence, determination, and care to build trusting relationships with our young people.

10.2 Our quality assurance processes give us a better understanding of our assessments, planning management grip and young person’s experience, although there is scope to further adapt the audit tool so that we capture specific measures around exploitation and missing, and this will be a focus in 2023 – 2024. This will enable us to target our resources at the right area.

10.3 The performance data gives us an insight into the impact that our service has on young people, their parents, and families, certainly around referrals, caseloads, and closures and indicates that we are delivering an effective service. We need to shift some focus to increasing the feedback that we get from our young people, parents, and carers so that their voice can shape our service going forward.

10.4 We will continue to work to embed all areas of progress that we have made in 2022-2023 going forward into 2023-2024. However, target areas are referred to in the plan below.

Staffing and workforce development			
What do we want to achieve.	Activity	Professional Responsibility	Timescales and outcomes.
To promote service stability	Recruit permanent Practice Manager	Head of Service Recruitment team	April 2024. There will be a permanent practice manager in place
We want a workforce that is kept informed about the evolving landscape of exploitation	Bi-monthly Service meetings to share good practice and any feedback from learning. Share GMCA Training/resources.	Head of Service Practice Manager GMCA TSSP Safeguarding Board	2023- 2024 SHINE workforce will continue to feel supported and have up to date knowledge of complex safeguarding

	Promote TSSP training.		
Quality assurance and SHINE performance			
What do we want to achieve.	Activity	Professional Responsibility	Timescales and Outcomes
We want to have a good understanding of our young people's experience of exploitation, and missing so we can target our resources at the right areas.	Work with the children's improvement team to develop the audit tool to reflect specific measures around practice / process exploitation and missing. Submit audits and moderations as per the quality assurance framework.	Practice Managers Head of Service Children's Improvement team.	2023- 2024 We will have a better understanding of the key areas of practice that we need to develop.
We want to hear what young people, parents and carers have to say about exploitation, and the SHINE service	Audits will include a 'conversational' reflection between the auditor/ moderator and the young person, parent / carer	Practice Manager Head of Service Young person/Parent/Carer	2023 – 2024 We will increase the number, and quality of the feedback that we get from young people, parents / carers so we have a better understanding of how to shape our service.
We want to understand what the early indicators of exploitation are, so we can offer the right support to Early Help and Schools	We will complete a Thematic audit. audit of 10 young people open to SHINE, to understand the early indicators. We will develop a model, that offers an approach / advice and	TSSP exploitation sub-board. Head of Service Practice Manager Advanced Practitioner	March 2024 We will have completed our thematic audit and understand early indicators of exploitation. 2024-We will develop an offer to support our Early Help and

	support for Early Help and Schools		Schools to identify and understand the early indicators of exploitation, and how to respond to risks and concerns.
Innovation and collaboration			
What do we want to achieve.	Activity	Professional Responsibility	Timescales and Outcomes
<p>We want SHINE, colleagues from across children’s social care, and partners to have a good understanding of adolescent development and exploitation / missing.</p> <p>This will include the impact of victim blaming language.</p>	Develop a training offer, and deliver briefings to locality social work teams, and partners.	<p>Advanced Practitioner</p> <p>Practice Manager</p> <p>Head of Service</p> <p>TSSP</p>	<p>2023- 2024</p> <p>Our quality assurance activity will show that we have a collective understanding of adolescent development.</p> <p>Our audits will show that we record using a child and young person focus.</p>
We will capture the exploitation and missing information for our young people in one space so that we are more able to use this space as a ‘mapping’ exercise	To work with the Strategic Lead of children’s performance and ‘system’s team so that we can develop a dedicated exploitation space.	<p>Head of Service</p> <p>Practice Manager</p> <p>‘LCS’ systems team</p> <p>Children’s Performance team.</p>	<p>2023- 2025</p> <p>The dedicated workspace will enable us to capture all of the relevant information to inform the mapping of risk/strengths.</p>
We want to promote safety and stability and support parents to support their child and protect them from extra familial harm.	Commission in parenting support services.	<p>Commissioning</p> <p>Head of Service</p>	2023 – 2024 we will have parenting support services who will work with our parents, carers, and families to offer 1-1 guidance, support and intervention so that

			they are better able to respond to safeguarding concerns around exploitation.
<p>2023 – 2024/25</p> <p>‘MyPlan’: Trafford recognises that many young people face harm outside of the family home, and some parents are doing all they can to protect them. Traditional social care responses through child in need, and child protection may be less effective for those young people and parents, because they often feel unheard, judged, and frustrated. Critically the <i>MyPlan</i> model is a brave and bold alternative approach, and it has been co-designed in collaboration with young people, parents, and partners. <i>MyPlan</i> will step outside of the traditional response, and away from Statutory frameworks for the critical few during a 12-month pilot, which is nearing implementation.</p> <p>The focus for work within the MyPlan model will be a whole family approach, with a view to safeguarding adolescents through supporting families to be resilient, and to shift the focus away from control, and risk management, to promoting safety, stability, and resilience.</p>			

Appendix 1

Feedback from parent/carer

Sent: 13 October 2023 12:37

To: McDonnell, Anna <Anna.McDonnell@trafford.gov.uk>

Subject: Thank you

Hi Anna,

Nothing can be enough to say thank you for everything you have done for us! We will truly miss you. Not only have you been the best support for [X] but for me too. You have gone above and beyond for [X] and we will never forget the support you have give us.

Best wishes

[X]

Feedback from a professional

Hi

"I have just chaired the pre NRM meeting for one of [A's] cases (CHILDEB) and wanted to share the following feedback from LW professional, who attended the meeting.

She shared that the CHILDEB's mother feels very supported by the professional group around the family and in particular by [A]

LW shared that [A] has been instrumental in driving the plans forward for CHILDEB and she is the only professional that he feels he is able to talk to, which is a clear indicator of how [A] has developed such a trusting relationship with him. [A] very clearly is able to bring his voice to the meetings

In the meeting it was clear that [A] had a really comprehensive understanding of CHILDEB concerns and presenting needs which was also supported by other professionals. The outcome from the meeting is a really succinct NRM referral with key partners providing further expert evidence, which will further support CHILDEB who potentially is at risk of becoming criminalised due to the actions of others

Well done [A] and was lovely to be in the meeting to hear such lovely words about your dedication to CHILDEB

RT

Feedback from two young people via 'RAP' music about their SHINE social worker [consent was sought to share this]



VID-20221102-WA000.mp4



josh - made it happen v2.mp3

Example of a farewell letter from SHINE social worker to a young person they had been working with for many months.

Date: 03rd April 2023

Dear Child B,

What can I say it has been an absolute pleasure being your Shine Social Worker. I want to thank you for allowing me to get to know you over the last 11 months, spending time with me and trusting me. I have really enjoyed our sessions and getting to know all about you. I really appreciate that trusting a new professional was something that you were nervous about but thank you for giving me a chance.

I am honestly so proud of you, and I hope your confidence continues to grow. You are so capable of many things; you just need to remember this and believe in YOURSELF. You have had a lot to manage

on your little shoulders, but look, you continue to be you, which is incredible! I will also have fond memories of listening to your songs, you dancing away in the passenger seat and having a good sing – AMAZING, you are meant for the stage!

I am very sad that our time together has come to an end, but please remember how well you are doing, and you have lots of people around you who want the best for you sweetheart. You have my phone number and you know it would always be a pleasure receiving a phone call from you Missy.

“You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think”

Wishing you all the best in your future, you are amazing.

Lots of love,

A
