



TRAFFORD  
COUNCIL



# Youth Offer & Street Talk January 2021



Trafford Youth Engagement Service

# Vision of the Service



**“Empowering young people to achieve a better tomorrow”  
(YES visioning day)**

**The Street Talk team will work in partnership with young people, communities and the voluntary sector to ensure every Trafford young person has access to a suitable youth offer that meets their needs, and that this offer is targeted to young people to improve equity of access.**

# Street Talk – Detached Youth Work

- **Detached youth work is a form of street-based youth work provision, which operates without the use of a centre and takes place where young people "are at" both geographically and developmentally**
- This is a universal service to young people which is targeted at areas of highest need and where young people choose to congregate.
- Although universal in nature – full time workers also carry a small caseload and deliver groups and projects to meet specific needs.
- Young people engaged by the team have a range of needs from universal to those receiving intensive support, with social care youth justice or other statutory involvement including those at risk of exploitation or who go missing from home.
- The majority of delivery March – October is in parks and on the streets in Trafford however during the winter months the team also deliver some centre based activities so young people have a safe and warm environment to meet other young people and engage in positive activities

# Street Talk – Aims & Objectives (2019-22)

1. Improve young peoples confidence and self esteem
2. Develop young peoples social and emotional skills
3. Improved mental wellbeing
4. Improve physical and sexual health
5. Diversionary activities & reduce criminal behaviour/activity (including violent/knife crime)
6. Educate young people about risks including alcohol and drugs
7. Reduction in young people becoming NEET
8. Increase early help activity and reduce escalation to statutory services.

# Development of Street Talk

- **April 2019** – Trafford Integrated Youth Offer (TIYO) launched Youth Trust resources brought in house to launch Council run Youth Service (detached youth work team)
- **June 2019** – Initial recruitment, consultation and engagement with young people including naming and branding of service
- **Nov 2019** – TIYO re-named Trafford **Youth Engagement Service** (YES) New Street Talk detached Youth Work service launched
- **To end of March 2020** – the service delivered over 100 Youth Work Sessions (5 nights a week) with 1187 engagements with young people including 17 targeted casework referrals
- **March 2020 – March 2021** – The Covid pandemic had a significant impact with limited initial delivery to June 2020 then the team concentrated on public health messaging, mental health support and responding to community safety and other community referrals.
- **March 2021 to date** – Refocused activity to project and group activities with the ability to measure longer term outcomes

# Street Talk April 2021-Dec 21 (Q1-Q3)

## Localities

- Street Talk engaged with a total of 1,555 young people Q1-Q3
- North 725
- West 651
- South & Central\* 179

\*please note an underreporting in central due to covid staff sickness this has been rectified for future reports

- Delivery concentrated in areas of higher deprivation e.g. Partington/Old Trafford/Lostock
- Young people across Trafford congregate in parks (many around Urmston/Flixton in the Summer months as well as Turn Moss) so the team target areas where these YP congregate
- Work in Central area (Sale West) was reduced after a firearm incident and risks to staff in Summer 21. **However Gorse Hill Studios and Foundation 92 are providing regular detached youth work in Sale West.**

# Issues raised by young people

All Street Talk sessions capture the reporting needs of young people. The following are the key issues raised by young people in 2021/22 to date:

- Emotional wellbeing & mental health
- Education & school
- Positive activities (something to do)
- Relationships and sexual health

An example of a (Informal education) project that was codesigned with young people to address these needs is the “Talking Nudes” project in Urmston.

# Locality projects 2020/21

Project	Location	Partnerships
Drugs, Alcohol and Community Safety	Urmston various parks	Community Safety GMP
Skate Park Project	Seymour Park, Old Trafford	Tuf*C
Identity / Mental Health / Self awareness	Partington	Your Housing / Grip Adventure
Arts project	Partington	Your Housing
“Talking Nudes” project – online safety / consent / healthy relationships	Urmston/Davyhulme/Flixton various locations	
Youth Club night	Broomwood, Altrincham	BluSci
Young Carers – issue based work (started 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 22)	Sale	Young carers Grip Adventure



# YP Case study & feedback

## Old Trafford Skate Park project:

One referral was made into Talkshop from this session, the young person was struggling with their mental health and sometimes self-harmed. They were also on a reduced timetable at school, one of the detached youth workers picked this referral up to deliver case work. The young person was supported in meetings with school and advocated on their behalf and they are now back onto a full timetable and said

**“You guys have helped me so much and I feel great about myself”**

The team said **‘It was a pleasure to see her with other young people at the skate park, sharing her skills and smiling.**

# Feedback from young people and parents

- “It is a good idea to have an open space that we can come to talk to youth workers”
- “Speaking to someone in school can make it look obvious there is an issue in your life, it is very chilled here so we don’t feel under any pressure”
- “I feel that I can talk openly about issues I am facing, I cannot do this at home or with some of my friends”
- “My daughter is usually quiet shy and does not like to participate with social activities, since the art projects (Partington) my daughter is more socially engaged and I have seen a positive attitude change in her, this is a great support network to have in the community. For years we have asked for support for our children and community and to see we are finally being listened too is such a nice thing. I hope it continues”
- “As a parent there is only so much we can do to support our kids, they need fun youth workers to open up to and feel they are being supported”

# Partnerships & wider Youth Offer

- The Street Talk team work with a wide range of VCS groups and commissioned providers as well as statutory agencies across Trafford so that youth offer provision is enhanced and not duplicated including.
- Detached street based work with Early Break and Foundation 92 (funded by Serious Violence Fund)
- Partnership delivery with Tuf\*C, Grip Adventure, Your Housing and other groups.
- Close working with Community Safety and GMP to target areas of need including ASB
- Work with partners including the Community Collective to develop the Youth workforce of the future
- Gorse Hill and Tuf\*C are represented on the YES steering group
- Boys and Girls Club of GM and Screamin' Wheels – there have been initial discussions to coordinate Youth Work Activity across Partington once the centre is redeveloped – completion due Spring 2022

# Serious Youth Violence Mentoring & Detached Youth Work

- SYV funding has been used to supplement the work of the Street Talk Team with an additional worker funded to Oct 22 and increased sessional activity across the borough. Street Talk also work closely with Foundation 92 & Early Break to coordinate delivery. Staff are trained to have conversations and group discussions around carrying knives
- Two recent incidents that led to the very sad loss of 2 young lives has recently highlighted the importance of this work, with a specific need to focus on the 11-13 year olds prior to behaviour becoming entrenched.
- **In 2020/21 over 40 Young people have received mentoring from Youth Justice mentors funded by the Serious Violence fund with the following outcomes:**
  - 11 Perm exclusions avoided with comprehensive package including mentoring support for violence/knife incidents in school
  - 97.5% EET rate (only one Post 16 young person was NEET July 2021)
  - Only 7.5% (3 YP) went on to commit an offence and none involved knives or serious violence.

It's likely without this work that the frequency and seriousness of events could be worse and that despite entrenched behaviour amongst some older teens there is a lot of positive work and successes with a large cohort of at risk young people.

# Gaps in provision / Issues

- **Staffing** – Both across the region and within Trafford there is a serious shortage of qualified/experienced Youth Workers (this is being reported by VCS partners as well). This has led to gaps in the amount of sessions able to be delivered and constant recruitment rounds
- **Pandemic** – The pandemic has delayed some of the mapping and development work of the service over the last 2 years as staff prioritised public health messaging & ASB in 2020/21. During much of this period large groups were not allowed so work was limited in scope.
- **Localities** – Although much of the work is based on staff going to areas of need and where young people congregate there is a need to map all the local provision and develop the offer in some areas e.g. Sale Moor and Altrincham Town Centre are areas for development in 2022. Areas of deprivation and high need will continue to be targeted.

# Objectives and timescales

- **Launch of the new Mobile Unit – Feb/March 22.** Jointly funded by Hotel Football and Trafford Council the new vehicle will shortly be available to increase the scope of work we can do across the borough.
- **Youth Work training & future workforce** – The Service Manager and partners from the Community Collective are working with Trafford College and other providers to develop training routes and support to grow the workforce including new apprenticeships launching Summer 2022.
- **Mapping** – With the support of partners and via consultation with young people, Street Talk will undertake a further mapping exercise to identify localities with gaps in provision **by May 2022** so these areas can be targeted for Street Talk work in 22/23
- Areas already identified as additional priorities from Spring **22** delivery include **Sale Moor and Altrincham town centre** (leisure centre & transport hubs)
- **Visioning day in Summer 2022** with young people and partners to develop a new shared vision and ambitious objectives for the service for 2022-24

# Celebrating success



- The Youth Engagement Service has recently been successful in securing **2 ESF programme bids worth over £300K**. Staff will be working intensively with 230 young people aged 15-24 to support them into employment education and training. The projects are directed at vulnerable groups including Care Leavers & SEND YP who are over-represented in the NEET group.
- The Youth Engagement Service including our Street Talk team have successfully passed the **Matrix Accreditation** which is the national quality award for providers of Information Advice and Guidance (the Assessor met with over 40 young people, staff and partners as part of our 3 day assessment).
- The **new youth work mobile** unit is fully fitted out and branded and will be on the road in the next few weeks.