

Youth Justice Health Needs Assessment

Why did we run this project?

We wanted to find out more about the physical, mental and social needs of children and young people known to, or at risk of becoming known to, the Hackney Youth Justice Service. We also wanted to make suggestions about how services provided by the Council could support and improve the physical, mental and social health of this group of people.

What did you do?

1

We read local and national policies describing how physical, mental and social health should be managed in Youth Justice Services and in the wider community.

We read local and national documents describing the factors which can make it more likely that a child or young person will become known to a Youth Justice Service, and those that can make it less likely.

2

3

We worked with other professionals to make maps of the Hackney Youth Justice Service, to understand how children and young people move through the process.

What did you do?

4

We collected information from other professionals and services, to understand the characteristics of children and young people who were arrested. We collected information on:

- How many children and young people were arrested;
- Information about these children and young people, such as whether they went to school, whether they lived at home and whether they had any health and social needs.

We also collected information on the characteristics of children and young people who became known to the Hackney Youth Justice Service. We collected information on:

- How many children and young people became known to the Hackney Youth Justice Service;
- Information about these children and young people, such as their age, ethnicity, gender and where they lived;
- Other information about these children and young people, such as whether they had ever had a Social Worker, whether they had any Adverse Childhood Experiences, whether they went to school and had ever been excluded, whether they had any Special Educational Needs or Disabilities and whether they were using drugs or alcohol.

5

What did you do?

6

We spoke to many professionals, parents, carers, children and young people about their experiences in the Hackney Youth Justice Service and how they felt health and wellbeing support could be improved.

We looked at examples of health and wellbeing support in other Youth Justice Services to find examples of good practice.

7

Prevention and early intervention

Making sure that risk factors are identified and dealt with early on, including at school

Improved accessibility of services

Making sure that all services are in a suitable location and are run by suitable staff

Addressing inequalities

Making sure that we act on the fact that certain groups of the population tend to become known to the Hackney Youth Justice Service more often than others

What suggestions did we make?

Data sharing and communication

Making sure that there is enough sharing of information between services

Follow up

Making sure that children and young people continue to receive the right health and wellbeing support when they leave the Hackney Youth Justice Service.

Thank you for your participation

We are very grateful for children, young people and their family members and carers who have participated in our focus groups and online survey.

They kindly told us about their or their children's health and wellbeing, and this helped us understand how useful or not useful health and social support have been in meeting the health and wellbeing needs of our children and young people.

Authors

This report was written by Freya Smith (GP Trainee), Yebeen Ysabelle Boo (Population Health Analyst) and Joia de Sa (Consultant in Public Health).

Acknowledgements

We would like to also thank the many people and organisations who contributed to this report.



Scan this QR code to see our full report