

Sefton YJS – Youth Connectors Programme

[keywords: *young people, female offenders, mental health, wellbeing*]

Overview

Sefton’s Youth Connectors are a small team of female youth workers assigned to schools in the area to provide 1-2-1 support and mentoring to girls aged 8-15 years whose behaviour and/or mental health places them at heightened risk of offending, or criminal and sexual exploitation. We found that many girls in this group were not accessing the support available to them. The Youth Connectors work with teachers and others, including social care and early help workers, to identify those in need of their support, and focus on improving their engagement in school and integration within the family, enhancing their mental wellbeing, increasing their emotional resilience, improving their awareness of keeping safe, and supporting their engagement with wider support services. At the time of writing (October 2024), the programme has been introduced in 13 schools across the area.

Its impact

We have seen a range of benefits from the programme, including: improved confidence, interpersonal skills and emotional regulation among the young people involved in the programme; reductions in truancy and antisocial behaviour; and strengthened key relationships, especially within the home.

What’s special about it

We believe this is a unique approach not happening anywhere else, which brings important and significant benefits to an especially vulnerable group.

Wider applicability

We believe this could be of benefit across the country. The programme does require funding for the Connectors, but it brings significant savings in other areas and we believe the benefits significantly outweigh the costs.

Further information

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See also: [YJB Resource Hub entry](#) (with links to further details)