

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

24th SEPTEMBER 2021

LSCSB UPDATE: WARNING ZONE

Background

1. This is the first time Warning Zone (WZ) has presented to the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board. This report is intended to introduce WZ to the Board and explore ways in which it (WZ) can contribute to strategies both current and upcoming to support safer communities.
2. In a normal year Warning Zone works with over 20,500 Children & Young People (CYP) - 10,500 children aged 10 and 11 (80% of primary schools in LLR) including many in the most vulnerable and disadvantaged situations, and over 10,000 young people aged 12 to 16 in LLR. We aim to **keep them safe, prevent online and offline coercion, increase their awareness of risk, and decrease the likelihood of choices that may lead to injury, death, personal harm, criminal records, bullying, anti-social behaviour, knife crime, incarceration, grooming, abuse, exploitation, county lines involvement, radicalisation and extremism.**
3. We do this in three ways, each of which increase critical thinking and resilience to coercion and push/pull factors:
 - We use our own interactive safety centre to educate children aged 10-11 years on all types of risks they will experience, taking them through lifelike zones covering areas such as: Fire in the home; Building sites; Electricity and sub-stations; Railways; Water, including lakes, canals, quarries and the beach; Arson and antisocial behaviour; Alcohol, vandalism and antisocial behaviour; Personal Safety, the body's response to something being wrong, knife crime and resilience to coercion; E-Safety, including phishing, online bullying, online exploitation and coercion, terminology, sharing and use of inappropriate images and live streaming, permissions required, online grooming, fake news, digital footprint, and coping after being bullied online (using over 75 volunteer visit guides). Themes such as peer pressure, criminal responsibility and consequences, resilience to coercion, talking to a trusted adult, being a good friend (Bystander/Upstander approach), and mental health and wellbeing are integrated throughout.
 - We also use the centre for when specific individuals are referred from the Children and Family Unit, more recently for cases of extreme online exploitation and high risk-taking behaviour. We explore the issues using our

zones and let the children and family members talk about and ask about anything that is relevant to them.

- We use a cutting-edge mobile presentation (Roadcrew) to deliver online safety, exploitation and anti-online radicalisation messages to children and young people aged 12-16 years in secondary schools.

We won the 2020 Midlands Enterprise Award for ‘Best Interactive Learning Experience – Leicester’

4. We enjoy extremely supportive and respectful partnerships, working on incorporating prevention and safety education on emerging issues, in collaboration with all relevant partners including the OPCC, the Police’s teams for Child Criminal Coercion, CYP substance abuse, and knife crime, Transport Police, the Violence Reduction Network, Road Safety Partnership, Prevent (counter radicalisation and terrorism unit), Fire and Rescue Service, National Rail, CrimeStoppers (Fearless), Leicester Rape Crisis Centre, Corporate supporters, and many other relevant stakeholders.

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

5. Over the past year we have carried out the following:
 - As well as directly engaging with almost 4,000 CYP in a year mostly in lockdown, we reached at least 1,500 children through ‘Zone Into Safety’ Modules. We created these 7 digital modules from scratch, for Year 6 teachers to use in the classroom. They have been designed so that they can also be used to complement a visit to Warning Zone:

MODULE		OVERVIEW
1	Dangerous Places	We take a look at some of the most dangerous locations, what you should know, and what could go wrong if you venture in.
2	Dangerous Fun	What are the most dangerous things we can do, sometimes done for fun, and the consequences.
3	Risky Places and Increasing Safety	Exploring the possible risks linked to places we go and things we do regularly, and how to stay safe and keep having fun.
4	Resilience to Coercion	How to recognise coercion, the consequences, and how to avoid it. Uses examples of peer pressure,

		criminalisation, isolation, exploitation, county lines and radicalisation.
5	Being a Good Friend	What is a real friend, and how do you keep each other safe? Bystander and Upstander approaches.
6	Trusted Adults	Identifying your trusted adults, what you go to them for, and what to do if you don't have one at the right time.
7	Mental Health and Wellbeing – Feeling Safe in Our Own Skin/Mind	Exploring the commonality of feelings, of feeling 'down' and how to respond. Also how we can make others feel down, being aware of that and avoiding it. Increased vulnerability to coercion.

- Approximately 5,000 young people reached through Roadcrew videos on misinformation and disinformation.
- At least 300 front line professionals reached through webinar session with Prevent on online radicalisation of CYP.
- At least 120 parents reached through our workshops for parents at Summer Open Days, many of whom learned as much as, or more than, their children.

Coming Year

6. We plan to increase our focus on CYP being increasingly coerced into drug dealing (county lines), knife crime, online exploitation and grooming, online radicalisation, online bullying and hate, and other emerging issues that put them at risk of harm, a criminal record or incarceration. We are working in partnership with the Violence Reduction Network (VRN) to redesign our Personal Safety Zone to focus on resilience to coercion, county lines, knife crime and online hate, appropriate for 10- and 11-year olds.
7. Children are also increasingly at risk of being harmed, injured and killed through railway trespass (including live social media streaming of dangerous behaviour on railways) and electrocution on railways. We are working with the Transport Police to update our Railway Zone.
8. We have started to work with Leicester Rape Crisis Centre to explore their programme for 13 year olds on peer to peer sexual harassment to adapt and develop messages and activities appropriate for 10 and 11 year olds.
9. We will be incorporating Fearless as an additional path to a way out, for children on the periphery of being criminally coerced.

Measuring success

10. This is something Warning Zone has been grappling with for some time. We are good on indicators of delivery, interactively assessing new learning on the day, customer satisfaction and very positive perceptions of partners and the wider community, but it has been historically difficult to directly attribute the impact of such a preventative input. For example, the incidence of arson has decreased significantly over the past 2 years, but we cannot directly attribute this to our work at Warning Zone.
11. The easiest measurable outcome would be the short term decrease in the probability of CYP to take risks that would lead to injury, death, crime, exploitation or coercion, both offline and online. We have not yet carried out pre and post visit 'Knowledge Attitude and Perception' study data collection, as we offer an interactive, 'no pens and paper' experience. In the briefing session before the children enter the zones, they are asked knowledge-based questions about aspects of safety and criminality, which are then revisited in the debrief session at the end of the visit. In E-Safety they do an interactive 'Who Wants to be an E-Safety Expert' quiz using clicker pads, based on the 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' game format to check their learning and attitudes. This reiterates to the children that they have learned many new life skills, which they then usually pass on to their households. Also, we use Risk Meters throughout, to review the children's attitude, awareness and understanding of risks in each situation explored in the zones.
12. Currently the timing of the day visits does not allow for a more formal data collection session at the start of the day, and at the end of the day to facilitate deeper outcome measurement.
13. Also, we are interested in the longer term impact of the outcome of 'less likely to take risks that will cause harm to themselves or others', and recently worked with Leicester University on research that concluded our input do result in the outcome of a decrease in the likelihood to take risks, and increase in the awareness of risk.
14. We have measurable indicators for delivery at the Warning Zone safety centre, with the assumption that the outcomes on increased awareness of risks and consequences will result in the impact of decreased harm.
 - Percentage of beneficiaries scoring 5 out of 5 on their evaluation form (sent to school after their visit - 99% of respondents score 5 out of 5 for visit experience criteria, achievement of learning objectives, and direct relevance to PSHE curriculum).
 - Percentage capacity fill – i.e. percentage of available visits taken. This is usually 99%.
 - Number of schools that visit per academic year.

- Percentage of primary schools in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland that visit per academic year – usually 80%.
- Number of pupils that visit per academic year.
- Percentage of schools in most disadvantaged areas that visit per academic year.
- Number of disclosures by pupils per academic year.
- Number of active volunteers - Over 70 fully trained, active volunteers (aged 16 to 80), with the following impact:
 - Increase in employability skills for student and job-seeker volunteers;
 - Increase in social and professional engagement for older volunteers, ensuring well-being and continued personal development;
 - Employee engagement for volunteers from corporate donors.
- Percentage of Guiding Sessions covered by volunteers.

15. We are continually open to and exploring ways to further evidence our outcomes and impact.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

16. Our aim is to lower the likelihood of CYP behaving in a way and making choices that result in harm to themselves and others, reducing the impact and costs for emergency and other services, and increasing their confidence to be resilient to coercion and decreasing their vulnerability to grooming, and knowing who to talk to when things go wrong.

17. Others sitting around the room can help by ensuring what we are all doing is integrated and consistent, and that there are consistent and effective responses to CYP reaching out for help when on the periphery, or entrenched in, criminal coercion. WZ is an extremely engaging interaction for Year 6, as Roadcrew is for 11 to 16 year olds.

18. We would also appreciate help with Volunteering:

- HR departments could include the option of volunteering at Warning Zone as part of the information pack for staff nearing retirement;
- Volunteering with WZ as part of staff development and organisational social responsibility.

19. Some schools have more pupils with Adverse Childhood Experiences, child criminal coercion and drug dealing.

Recommendations for the Board

- The Board note the report and presentation.

- CSPs consider utilising the services provided by WZ when dealing with community safety matters both as preventative and problem solving strategies.

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