

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

17th MARCH 2023

LSCSB UPDATE: WARNING ZONE

Background

1. Warning Zone (WZ) presented to the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board for the first time in September, 2021. The report can be found via the following link:
<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s163846/Warning%20Zone%20-%20LSCSB%20partner%20update%20report%20Warning%20Zone%20240921.pdf>
2. This latest report is intended to update the Board on progress since then and explore ways in which WZ can contribute to strategies both current and upcoming to support safer communities.
3. 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.**
4. We do this by increasing 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, county lines, knife crime, unhealthy relationships 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 approximately 100 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 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 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 teams for Child Criminal Coercion, CYP substance abuse, and knife crime, Transport Police, Leicestershire County Council Healthy Homes, the Violence Reduction Network, Road Safety Partnership, Prevent (counter radicalisation and terrorism unit), Fire and Rescue Service, CrimeStoppers (Fearless), Corporate supporters, the Lord Lieutenants and High Sheriffs (current and past) of Leicestershire and Rutland, and many other relevant stakeholders.

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

5. See Powerpoint presentation

Coming Year

6. See Powerpoint presentation

Measuring success

7. 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 inputs do result in the outcome of a decrease in the likelihood to take risks, and increase in the awareness of risk.
8. 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.

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

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

10. Our aim is that CYP lower the likelihood of behaviour and 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.

11. Partners can help by ensuring what Warning Zone is 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.

12. We would also appreciate help with Volunteering:

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

13. Some schools have more children with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), child criminal coercion and drug dealing.

Recommendations for the Board

14. That:

- The Board notes the report and presentation;
- Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) consider utilising the services provided by WZ when dealing with community safety matters both as preventative and problem solving strategies.

Officer to contact

Elaine Stevenson, CEO Warning Zone

Tel: 07952 561 395

Email: ceo@warningzone.org.uk

Appendix

Powerpoint presentation slides