

Youth Justice Service

Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment



PEOPLE



PROMOTE



PROTECT



PROVIDE



PARTNERSHIP



Purpose

- NICE defines a Health Needs Assessment as:
“a systematic method for reviewing the health issues facing a population, leading to agreed priorities and resource allocation that will improve health and reduce inequalities”
- This health and wellbeing needs assessment was undertaken to understand the health needs of young people in contact with Leicestershire Youth Justice Service to inform future service provision

Methods

- Audit of AssetPlus assessments for young people with a programme start date during 2022 (n = 120)
- Health and wellbeing survey completed by young people (n = 30)
- Youth Justice Staff survey (n = 24)



Home and Family Life

77% of young people had experienced parental **divorce/separation**
19% of young people did not live with either birth parent

Concerns about **suitability of accommodation** recorded in **39%** of cases
Instability a concern in over half of these cases

Concerns about **care provision** recorded in **48%** of cases
Parental/carer mental health a concern in **40%** of these cases

Concerns of a risk to a **young person's safety** in **51%** of cases
Witnessing domestic violence recorded in over half of these cases (underestimated - likely >50%)

56% of young people were currently (13%) or previously (43%) identified as a **child in need**

57% of females (57%) were identified as being **at risk of sexual exploitation**



Health and Wellbeing

Concerns the young person was putting their **health at risk** were recorded in **40%** of cases
Substance misuse (59% of cases with concerns) and **risk-taking behaviour** (47% of cases with concerns)

Substance misuse recorded in 68% of cases

| | | |
|-----------|-----|-----------------------|
| Cannabis: | 60% | |
| Alcohol: | 31% | (~2/3 AUDIT score 3+) |
| Tobacco: | 18% | |

46

Referral to Turning Point recorded in 6% of cases
 A further 11% declined support

Substance misuse as a form a **self-medication** recorded in **32%** of cases



Speech, Language, Communication and Neuro-disability

84% of young people had at least one concern identified through screening

| | |
|---|-----|
| Social skills difficulties (inc. Autistic Spectrum Disorders) | 71% |
| Understanding spoken language | 56% |
| Speaking | 50% |
| Non-verbal | 51% |
| Education Needs & Learning Disability | 48% |

Frequent specific issues

| | |
|---|-----|
| Have difficulty thinking about the thoughts/feelings of others? | 50% |
| Have difficulty following spoken instructions/only follow part of them? | 46% |
| Professional/family member concerns about communication skills | 43% |



Special Educational Needs

38% of young people had a Special Educational Need identified (prevalence likely underestimated)

| | | |
|---|-----|---------|
| Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulty (BESD) | 18% | |
| Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (including Asperger's) | 16% | [? 31%] |
| Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) | 8% | [? 60%] |
| Reading and/or writing difficulties (including Dyslexia) | 6% | [? 10%] |
| Moderate, Severe or Specific Learning Difficulty (MLD/SLD/SpLD) | 5% | |
| Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) | 4% | |

80% of those with SEN had an EHCP, Statement of SEN, or LDA:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) | 67% |
| Statement of SEN | 11% |
| Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) | 7% |



Mental Health

Mental Health screening identified **at least one concern** in **83%** of young people

23% of young people had a formal diagnosis of a **mental health condition**

48% had **concerns** about mental health expressed by a **professional** or **family member**

45% had longstanding symptoms of **overactivity, inattention, or impulsivity**

31% had a **history of self-harm**

17% had previously **attempted suicide**



Education

25% of young people were **not in education, employment, or training**

~**50%** of young people had **literacy** and **numeracy** levels **below age-related expectations**

But, numeracy and literacy levels were not recorded in 25% of cases

50

30% of young people were considered to have **unidentified/undiagnosed needs or difficulties**



Young People's Survey

54% rated their **physical** and **emotional health** as **good or very good**
16% rated their **emotional** health as **bad or very bad** (3% for physical health)

53% consumed alcohol (most did so less than once a week)

67% vaped at least 3 times a week (57% every day) → **20%** wanted to quit
37% were current smokers → **45%** wanted to quit

80% were **current or previous drug users** → **40%** used **every day**; **18%** were **concerned**

63% were **sexually active**; **23%** always used a **condom** or other **contraceptive**

70% reported experiencing the **death or someone close to them** (23% recorded via AssetPlus)

63% reported **problems sleeping**

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