

Safer Stronger

16 January 2024

Contents

Safer Lewisham Partnership *functions*

Including **Governance**

Draft **Strategic Needs Assessment**

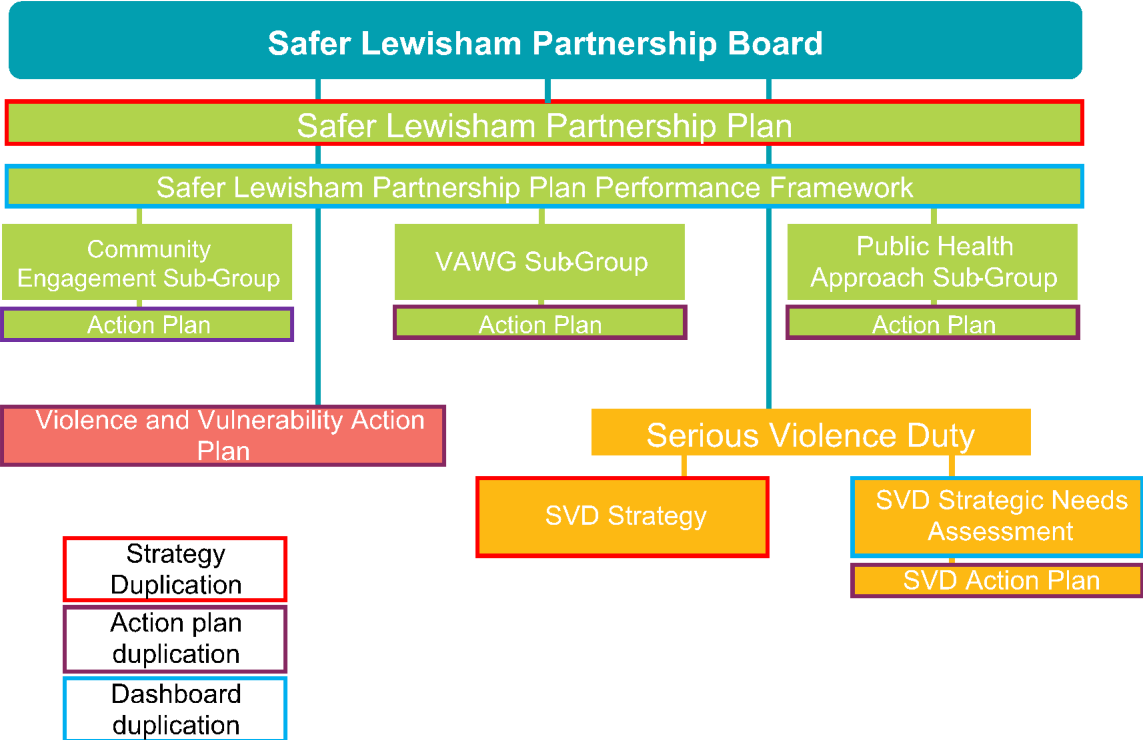
& an overview of **Assessment Tools** *used by Criminal Justice Agencies*

Safer Lewisham Partnership

Appendix 2 contains an overview of The Safer Lewisham Partnership functions, The impact of the current Plan including the Performance Framework, Risks, challenges, barriers and mitigations & Direction of travel

Governance

Current Governance



Proposed Governance



*To include relevant associated meetings for example, Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Partnership, Strategic Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) group,

To include relevant sub-groups

Draft **Strategic Needs Assessment**

**Appendix 3 contains a
draft Serious Violence
Duty Strategic Needs
Assessment**

Serious Violence Duty *Consultation*

Who we spoke to

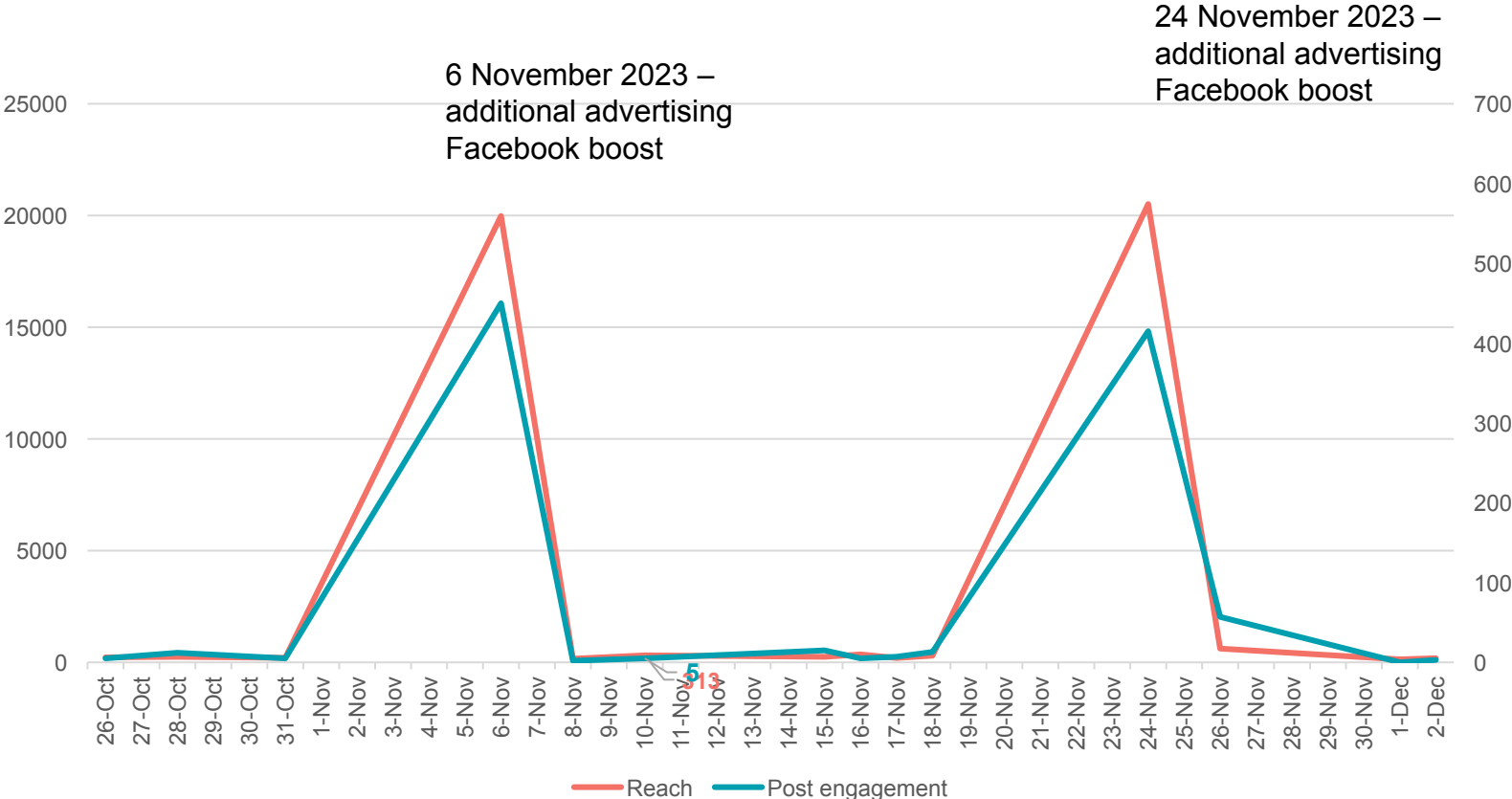
- Community conversations project – residents and visitors to the Borough, including young people aged 10-12 years old and their families;
- Community engagement forum – community leaders and voluntary services;
- Honor Oak Community Engagement event – residents and visitors to the Borough;
- Lewisham College and Goldsmiths University– students in Lewisham
- London Fire Brigade Community Space at Lewisham Shopping Centre - residents and visitors to the Borough.
- Sip and Talk group – discussion led by James Ross Hunter Foundation with parents/carers/communities at the TNG Sydenham
- Deptford Christmas Market - residents and visitors to the Borough;
- Deptford Family Event – local residents.
- Family Hubs – families with young children in the Borough.
- Public survey – open for 6 weeks to anyone who lives, works or visits the Borough.



Survey of people living in, working in and visiting Lewisham

- We surveyed local residents, visitors and those who work in Lewisham to find out about their experiences and concerns in relation to serious violence. Overall, we received **386** responses.
- The survey was promoted **28 times** on Facebook and Twitter/X. The overall reach of those posts was **61,750** individuals. A total of **1,402 engaged with the posts**.
- The biggest contributor to the above numbers was the additional paid-for advertising on Facebook. Two of those posts reached 40,490 individuals and were engaged with 865 times.
- The survey was also promote on other platforms like Instagram and Linked In. These do not have a click through / link mechanism, so posts here were predominantly for awareness.
- The survey was also featured in the **resident e-newsletter three times** to 27,000 residents. In total, there were over **500 click throughs** made to the survey from these three e-newsletters.
- This survey was also included in the Council internal newsletter.

Survey of people living in, working in and visiting Lewisham

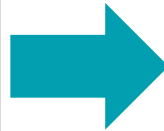


Learnings

The reach and engagement with the posts did not substantiate into survey completion. Hypothesis behind this as well as what we learned from this are as follows:

Hypothesis:

- **Structure of the survey** – once survey questions were answered, a page detailing support services was shown to respondents. If respondents closed the survey at that stage, their answers would not be submitted.
- **Sensitivity of the questions** – the survey asked questions of a sensitive nature, which respondents may not have felt comfortable answering.
- **Lack of trust in the Council** – other surveys put out by Safer Communities Service in the past, which were not on the Consultation Portal received much greater engagement.



Moving forward:

- Ensure the structure of the survey is **simple** and it is clear when it has been submitted.
- Consider if surveys of a sensitive nature can be posted on **MS Forms**, rather than the formal Consultation Portal.
- Consider how we work with **trusted community leaders** to promote engagement workstreams and develop trust between the Council and the community.
- Have longer Consultation periods

Next steps

We are committed to making engagement with the public a consistent part of all future service delivery, with work in the following areas currently underway

- Implementation of a Citizens Panel.
- Development of a Community Engagement Strategy.
- Liaison with the Policy and Communications teams to identify how we can ensure that surveys are more accessible.

Assessments

National Probation Service

Youth Justice Service

Context

OASys (Offender Assessment System) is not in itself a risk predictor tool but a clinical / dynamic assessment. The tool is widely validated and utilised across the Probation Service in England & Wales for all people on Probation. The OASys tool has been present in probation work for over 20 years, whilst risk predictor tools such as OGRS are internationally recognised risk predictors utilised within a range of criminal justice interventions.

AssetPlus is the YJB approved assessment tool and is mandated under YJB National Standards for Youth Justice Services for young people subject to out-of-court disposals (Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions) and community or custodial court orders. Although not mandated, it is also recommended that AssetPlus is used for prevention and triage cases.

National Probation Service

Offender Assessment System (OASys)

Probation Service

- OASys (Offender Assessment System) is not in itself a risk predictor tool but a clinical / dynamic assessment. The OASys asks practitioners to review risk of reoffending and likelihood of serious harm across various domains (i.e. accommodation, ETE, relationships) in order to assess where risk might be most acute.
- Risk predictor tools, such as OGRS or OSP support the practitioner in their clinical assessment by providing an approximated risk of reoffending in relation to static risk factors such as current age, age of most recent offence or number of convictions.
- As noted within the following information, these tools are widely validated and utilised across the Probation Service in England & Wales for all people on Probation. The OASys tool has been present in probation work for over 20 years, whilst risk predictor tools such as OGRS are internationally recognised risk predictors utilised within a range of criminal justice interventions.

Probation Service

Predictor scores % and Risk Category

The five core actuarial tools in OASys are:

- **Risk of Serious Recidivism (RSR)** - The RSR score estimates how likely someone is to be convicted for a new seriously harmful offence over a 2-year period beginning at the start of a community order or release on licence. If calculated for someone already under sentence, licence, or PSS in the community, it will cover the next two years from the assessment date.
- **Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS)** - This is a general predictor that uses only static factors, predicts offences of any type. It makes no differentiation between types of offending.
- **OASys General Predictor (OGP)** - OGP uses both static and dynamic factors to predict the likelihood of 'general' i.e., non-sexual, non-violent offending.
- **OASys Violence Predictor (OVP)** - OVP predicts the likelihood of violent type offences using both static and dynamic factors.

Probation Service

OGP and OVP predict general and violent reoffending more accurately than OGRS3.

OASys Sexual reoffending Predictor (OSP) - The OSP assess all adult males convicted of a current or previous sexual or sexually motivated offence. It produces two scores:

- OSP/C which predicts the likelihood of proven reoffending for a sexual/sexually motivated contact offence, and
- OSP/I which predicts the likelihood of proven reoffending for an offence relating to possessing or downloading of indecent images of children.

The scores are calculated based on static data recorded about the current offence and criminal history, others include various dynamic risk factors. The scores are provided as percentages and/or in bandings (Low, Medium, High, Very High), across 1 and 2 years (the 2-year score includes the first and second years, not just the second year). For RSR, it will also indicate whether the static (brief) or the static/dynamic (extended) score has been calculated.

Probation Service

The bands are summarised in the table below.

Bandings for OGRS 3, OGP and OVP, with likelihood of proven reoffending within 2 years

Band	OGRS3: 2 year %	OASys General reoffending Predictor (OGP): 2 year %	OASys Violence Predictor (OVP): 2 year %	RSR
Low	0 - 49	0 - 33	0 - 29	0-3
Medium	50 - 74	34 - 66	30 - 59	3 - 6.8
High	75 - 89	67 - 84	60 - 79	6.9+
Very High	90 - 99	85 - 99	80 - 99	N/A

Probation Service

The samples on which OASys have been validated do not suggest that predictor scores operate differently for women and those from minority ethnic groups. However, research on this topic will continue. RSR, OGRS3, OGP and OVP all take into account the sex of the individual by reducing the scores of women.

Statistically, those convicted of sexual offences – especially those convicted of offences against children - tend to score **low** on all measures predicting likelihood of proven reoffending. This is in part because these individuals tend to be older and have fewer sanctions in their criminal history, but a current sexual offence is associated with lower overall and nonsexual violent proven reoffending even after accounting for these differences. Against an overall average 2-year OGRS3 score around 50%, those with a current sexual offence against a child average just 11%.

Both criminal history and proven reoffending rely upon offences being brought to justice. While there is a gap between proven and actual offending for all types of crime, particular concerns exist around sexual and domestic abuse offences being under-reported and the difficulty in successfully prosecuting those who commit these offences. This means that some individuals who do not have a lengthy criminal history may appear low risk in terms of their overall likelihood of proven reoffending but the offence analysis and/or other information will indicate a higher potential risk of serious harm, should further offending occur.

Youth Justice Service

AssetPlus

Youth Justice Service

AssetPlus is a comprehensive end-to-end assessment and planning framework for use with children and young people across England and Wales by youth offending teams* and the secure estate. It aims to identify strengths, needs, risks and issues and to facilitate the planning of appropriate interventions for young people who have offended or are at risk of offending, both in community and custody.

**In Lewisham, youth offending is managed by the Youth Justice Service (YJS)*

Assessment informs a range of activities within the YJS and secure establishments and aims to make sense of an individual's behaviour in the context of their unique circumstances. It can inform predictions about future behaviours and safety and well-being, aid professional judgement and guide decisions and actions. Youth justice practitioners strive for excellence in delivering high quality assessments and plans with all children and young people that they work with.

Youth Justice Service

Within the specific context of youth justice, the key tasks in assessment are:

- Collating information from a range of sources
- Recording information
- Analysing information
- **Judging and/or predicting future behaviours**
- Presenting conclusions
- Sharing Information
- Reviewing assessments
- Transferring information

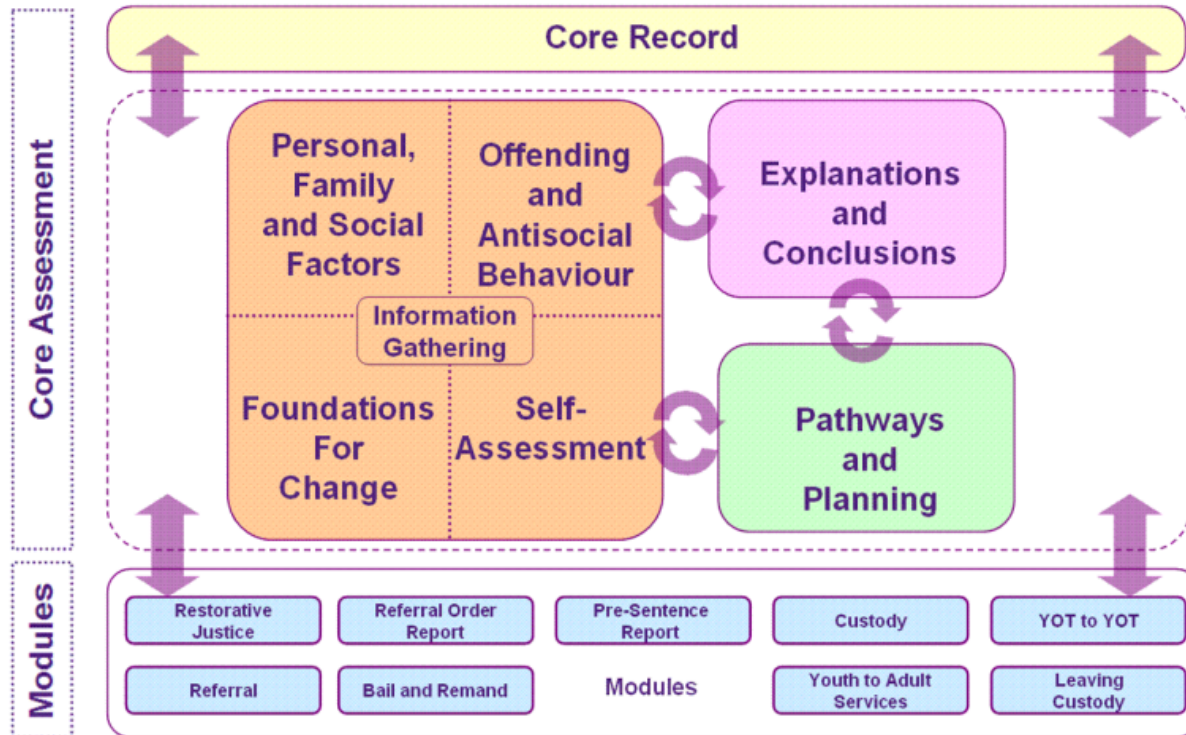
Youth Justice Service

Judging and/or predicting future behaviours

The gathered and verified information should be used to understand and explain the young person's behaviour and judge the likelihood and impact of future criminality, future harmful behaviours and potential adverse outcomes for a young person's safety and well-being. These judgements and predictions include statistical information about the likelihood of certain behaviours occurring, e.g., reconviction. Descriptions of the behaviours and adverse outcomes in terms of what might happen, when, who may be affected, and imminence of adverse outcomes or behaviours are also produced.

Youth Justice Service

AssetPlus Framework



Youth Justice Service

YOGRS is the youth justice system specific version of the Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS). OGRS estimates the probability that offenders with a given history of offending will be re-sanctioned for any recordable offence within two years of sentence, or release if sentenced to custody. In the youth justice system (YJS), the term sanction is used to refer to convictions and out of court disposals (O OCD). Whilst the calculation cannot be defined as absolute for an individual young person, it provides a percentage calculation of reconviction in comparison to a similar cohort.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) have produced the algorithm and reference data underlying OGRS, and have verified it as suitable for use in the YJS. The inclusion of YOGRS in the AssetPlus framework will help to promote greater alignment with OASys (National Probation Service's assessment framework), which will be of benefit for young people who move into adult services.

Youth Justice Service

1. YOGRS considers the impact that the variable of age, for the youngest group of offenders, that of 10 and 11 year olds has on likelihood of proven reoffending
2. YOGRS accounts for the additional variable of 'offence free time', the time between the last sanction and the time of assessment
3. The data underpinning the YOGRS algorithm has been updated, taking into account more recent data, and data relevant to young people
4. YOGRS is simplified by specifying only the 2 year likelihood of proven reoffending, as opposed to the 1 and 2 years of earlier versions

Youth Justice Service

As outlined above, the calculation for YOGRS is derived from a combination of factors, each of which contributes to a greater or lesser degree, to the overall likelihood of proven reoffending. Each factor in the calculation will generate a number, positive or negative, which contributes to the overall score. Some factors will be derived from system data, some from AssetPlus data, and some from a combination of system data and research-based reference data. It is the interplay of these factors that generates an overall percentage of likelihood of reconviction of the young person, within the two-year period following the latest sentence date or the date the young person will be released from custody.

Youth Justice Service

To mitigate against any potential bias, Lewisham YJS use the Trauma Informed, Anti-Racist, Restorative in Approach Service approach (TIARRA). This mitigates Advanced Childhood Experiences (ACE's), inequalities and contextual factors. In addition, effective management oversight is provided, which takes into account the unique demands of an individual case, and the skills, knowledge and experience of the case manager.

Management oversight provides professional curiosity, encourages practitioners to exercise respectful uncertainty and critical thinking, addressing any misplaced professional optimism, taking a balanced and informed view of a case.

This promotes defensible decision-making and enables the case manager to feel confident and supported to manage risk and identify appropriate interventions and responses.