



# Child CENTRED POLICING

## STRATEGY 2021-24



**HAMPSHIRE**  
CONSTABULARY

# INTRODUCTION

Hampshire Constabulary has a clear Purpose – delivering SAFER communities. Children and Young People make up a hugely significant community in Hampshire and Isle of Wight with over 400,000 children who live across the two counties.



Chief Superintendent  
**Rachel Farrell**

Prevention,  
Vulnerability &  
Partnerships

By virtue of their age or circumstance, they can be especially vulnerable and it is right that Hampshire Constabulary is relentlessly ambitious in ensuring, through the actions we take alone and in partnership, children and young people are SAFER.

Children and Young People will encounter the police for a myriad of different reasons and often at difficult times in their lives.

The way we police children and young people, whether as victims or offenders, can and will have a significant impact on their futures. We need to recognise they are not mini-adults, understand their circumstances and take a trauma informed approach. The way we interact and communicate, listen and respond to and make decisions regarding children and young people is critical in making sure this is a positive impact.

Whilst Children and Young People can be considered a community by virtue of their age, they are not a homogenous group.

They have a wide range of different backgrounds, experiences and are part of other communities, which also shape their culture and identities. We must understand and acknowledge their differences, actively seek out and hear their individual voices, recognise their individual vulnerabilities. Improving our engagement with young people will ensure they do not feel powerless in the face of authority. This will enable us to provide a policing service, which children and young people trust, keeps them safe and builds better future relationships and reducing future demand.

Making children and young people SAFER cannot be the work of the police alone. We have strong partnerships and partners who are equally committed to keeping children safer and improving their lives - but we cannot be complacent. We need to challenge and hold one another and our partnerships to account in order to be as effective as we can be and achieve as much as possible. Partnerships extend beyond the local and we need to have cognisance of, and seek to influence, national evidence based best practice.

There is a complex and ever-changing environment facing children and young people. There are new and emerging threats such as child exploitation, online grooming, violent extremism, knife, gang culture and county lines. A significant number of children live in families where domestic abuse, substance abuse or significant parental mental health issues are present and many suffer neglect and physical, emotional and sexual abuse within the home.



## Vision

To improve the quality of policing for children and young people by acknowledging their differences, recognising their vulnerabilities and meeting their needs.

In 2020, the global coronavirus pandemic has brought new challenges and vulnerabilities for children. Education has been disrupted, protective factors outside the home reduced as youth services, grass roots sports and social contact are stopped or made more difficult and as we face a global economic challenge not seen since the Second World War, many children will feel the impact of reductions in family finances and an inevitable financial squeeze on public services.

For the small proportion of children and young people who become offenders, we need an effective youth justice strategy with interventions that divert them away from the criminal justice system and support them to build fulfilling lives. We cannot forget however that a very limited number of young offenders do in themselves present a significant risk of harm to others and interventions must mitigate these risks and protect victims, who may often be vulnerable children themselves.

This strategy sets out Hampshire Constabulary's commitment to provide children and young people a first-class policing response that is child-centred and part of an integrated and effective partnership approach. This means we will put the voices and needs of children and young people at the heart of the services we deliver in order to make them SAFER. This strategy does not belong to a single portfolio, command or team. Its successful delivery is reliant on the whole of Hampshire Constabulary adopting its key principles and on leaders ensuring our relevant services, policies, procedures all align to its vision.

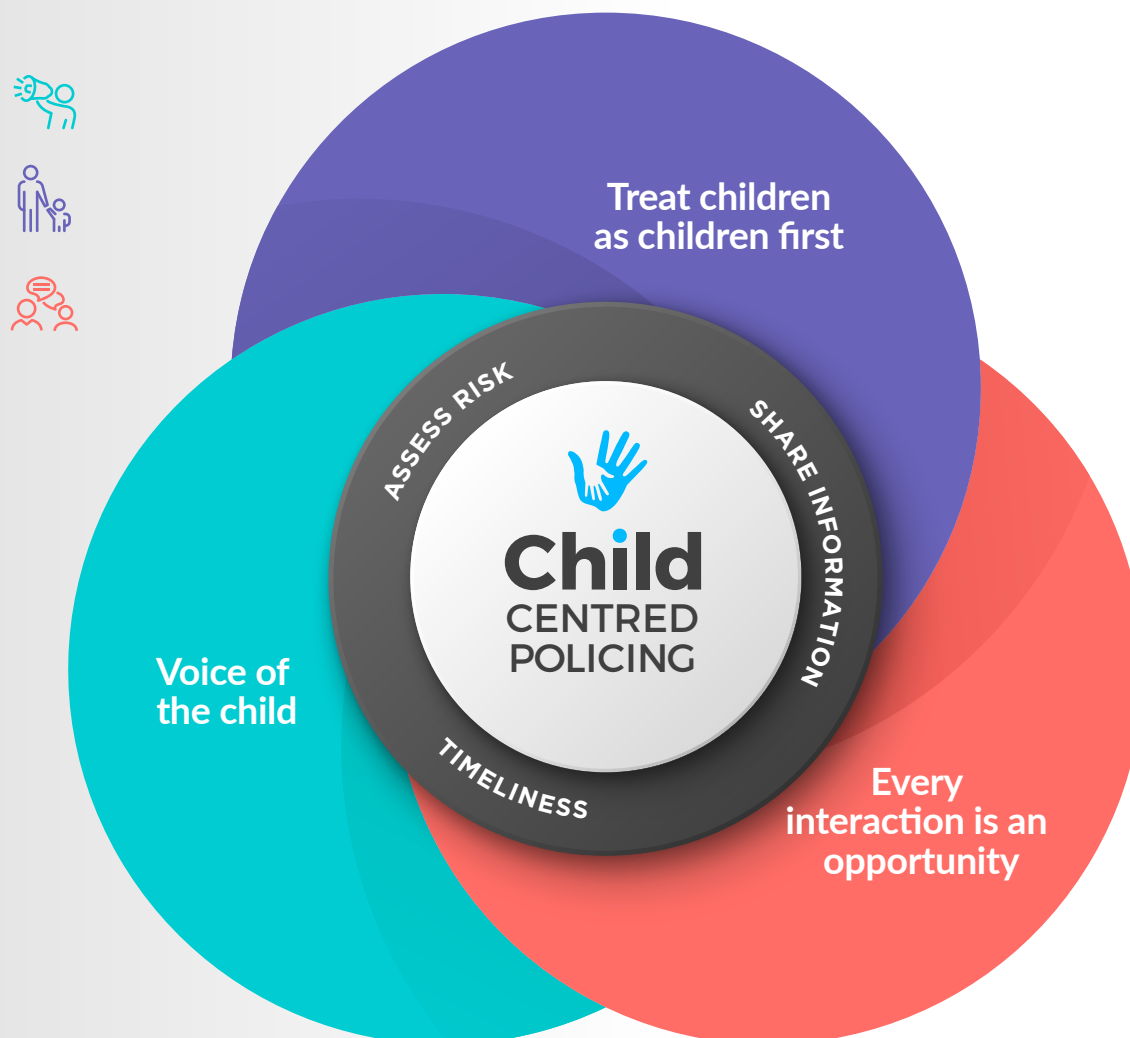
There is never been a more critical time to get this strategy right. It is not written for the bookshelf – it is written for action.

# KEY PRINCIPLES OF OUR CHILD CENTRED POLICING APPROACH

In order to deliver this strategy, there are six key principles we must embed in the culture of our policing response. It must be automatic, just what we always do.




There are three essential elements that must guide our thinking and three things we must do every time we interact with or make decisions about a child or young person. This is a truly child-centred policing response and is just as relevant to a child victim or perpetrator.

If we embed these principles in our culture and make them the core of our child centred policing response, this would have a significant impact in keeping children safe and supporting them in building better futures.





## Three things that must guide our thinking and action

<b>1. Treat children as children first</b> 	<b>2. Voice of the child</b> 	<b>3. Every interaction is an opportunity</b> 
<p>Children are not the same as adults, they do not think or behave the same and they have greater vulnerabilities – no matter how they look or act we must respect the fact they are children</p>	<p>We must always take the opportunity to ask about and listen to the views of children, this isn't just when they are the victim or the offender, it's also when they are impacted by another's crime or behaviour such as domestic violence. It is also not just about what 'is said'. It is also observing behaviour, interactions and seeing what is 'not said' – especially with babies and children who are non verbal.</p>	<p>Every time we interact with a child it's an opportunity to truly understand what is going on for them and to make them safer. Even if we have tried before, we are the paid professional and we need to try again – young people who have experienced trauma and challenging childhoods find it hard to trust, one day our listening ear, our acknowledgment, our actions could be what makes a difference.</p>

## Three things we must do

### 1. Timeliness

Time passes quickly in the life of a child, if we do not act in a timely manner, we miss the opportunity to have a positive impact, particularly when delivering effective interventions to prevent further offending. If we do not act in a timely manner, a child could be exposed to more harm.

### 2. Assess risk

Whether using prescribed tools or our own judgement, we must look beyond just what we see in front of us and assess the wider risk to a child or young person. We must be explicit and clear in recording this risk.

### 3. Share information

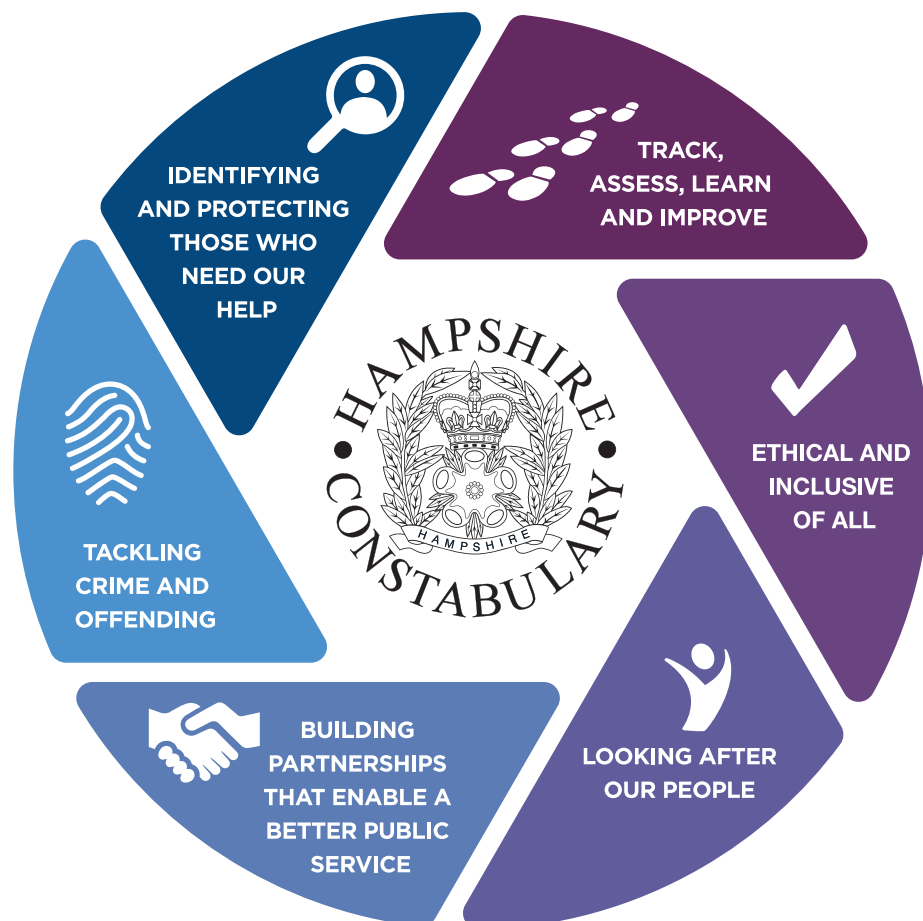
We must consider all the information available to us and share information with partners in order that the best decisions can be made regarding risk and necessary action. Failure to share information effectively is the single most prevalent issue in many Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.



# FRAMING THE STRATEGY

Hampshire Constabulary has long established six areas of focus which enable it to deliver its vision of SAFER communities.

By aligning this child centred policing strategy to our six areas of focus, we will concentrate our efforts on the areas that will have the greatest impact on improving the quality of policing for children and young people.



## Defining Children and Young people

For the purposes of this strategy, children and young people are defined as under 18, which accords with the age range considered in the majority of child related.

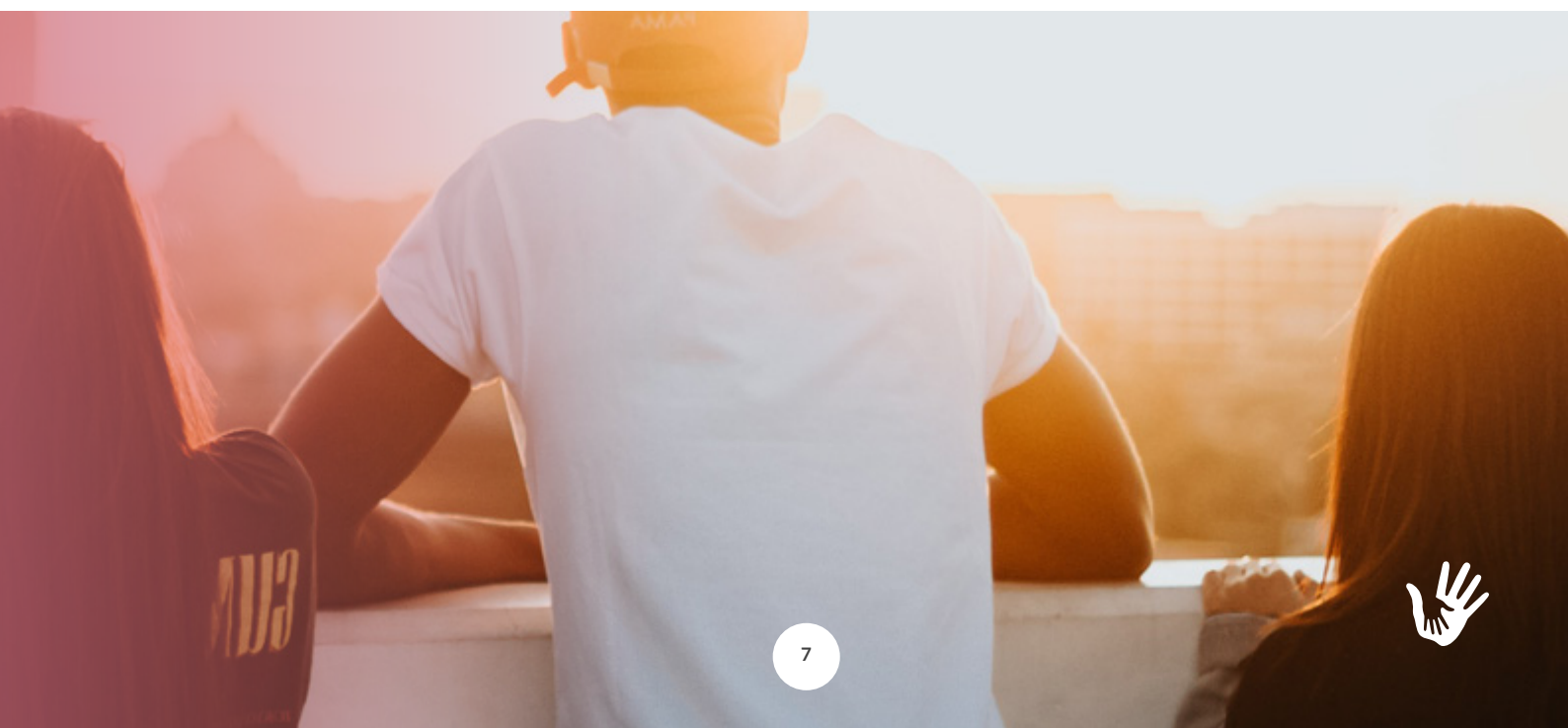
This strategy also recognises 18-24 is key age of adolescence where the brain is still in development, independence and socialising activity increases including experimentation with drugs, alcohol and sexual relationships. This makes this age group vulnerable through their own behaviours, or from

those who might wish to influence and exploit them. It is a common age for young people to interact with the police and therefore police and partners need to develop innovative and effective strategies to address the needs of this demographic.

We will work with partners to address the needs of this cohort of young people, particularly in terms of creating opportunities to prevent offending and divert them away from the criminal justice system.

## Area of focus      Strategic Objective

<b>Identifying and protecting those who need our help</b>	Working together in partnership, recognise children who are vulnerable or at risk and respond effectively to protect them.
<b>Tackling crime and offending</b>	Identify, target and bring to justice those who seek to exploit vulnerable children or do them harm. With partners, ensure a coherent youth offending approach, which has a clear focus on intervening early to prevent young people being drawn into the criminal justice system but which also is effective in managing the small number of serious young offenders who cause, or who would cause, the highest harm to others.
<b>Building partnerships enable a better public service</b>	Strengthen existing and build new partnerships ensuring they are meaningful, help protect children and young people from harm and make a difference in building relationships between children and young people and the police.
<b>Looking after our people</b>	Enable our staff and officers to provide the best possible service to young people by equipping them with the knowledge, skills and tools required and ensuring a focus on the well-being and resilience of those in demanding and difficult roles.
<b>Ethical and Inclusive of all</b>	Build stronger relationships with children and young people by improving engagement and affording them the opportunity to hold us to account, shape services and influence our priorities.
<b>Track Assess Learn and Improve</b>	Promote a culture of persistent learning, using lessons learnt and analysis of performance to drive improvements that continually optimise the service we are able to provide to children and young people.



## Identifying and protecting those who need our help

Children and young people are not simply small adults. Their knowledge, understanding, emotional and physical maturity is different.

This can influence their ability to recognise danger, seek help or protect themselves. In young people, it can manifest in behaviours that may put them at risk from others or mean they take more risks themselves. As young people grow and develop, a whole range of negative environments and people, both inside and outside of their family, can influence them. This can lead to some children and young people being more vulnerable and in need of a tailored, thoughtful policing response.

Research demonstrates that without protective factors, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) could have a long lasting impact on children and young people. Together with partners, we need to be able to identify and understand which children have augmented complexity, trauma and vulnerability in their lives and are in need of additional support or safeguarding.

Children in Care are highly likely to have had ACEs and whilst most will go on to lead successful crime free lives, they still continue to be over-represented in the youth criminal justice system, and are often linked

to multiple missing episodes. Looked after children may also have a negative view of the police and other authority figures both through their experiences and perceptions of what has happened to them and inherited views from others. This all too often makes looked after children very vulnerable and a group where we need to be especially cognisant of our policing response ensuring it is child centred and trauma aware. With partners, we want to enable looked after children, who will have already faced adversities in their childhoods, to live fulfilling, crime and vulnerability free lives.

Every interaction we have with children and young people is an opportunity to build trust and to help them be Safer. This is why it is one of the key principles of this strategy. In order to truly protect children from harm our call handlers, response officers, neighbourhood teams, investigators, and indeed everyone else in our teams need to take those opportunities, using professional judgement to identify those at risk and then to use our resources effectively to protect them. Children and young people will not always be ready to receive our help and sometimes they will show that in challenging ways. We cannot let that deter us from trying to make a positive difference in every interaction.





## Objectives

Working together in partnership, recognise children who are vulnerable or at risk and respond effectively to protect them.

### Priorities:

- Ensure officers and staff are always professionally curious, think beyond the immediate situation presented and are able to recognise risk and neglect faced by children; which is then always recorded explicitly, shared appropriately and responded to effectively.
- Listen, observe and respond to the Voice of the Child to ensure we empower children and fully understand their concerns, wishes and perspectives thereby producing better outcomes from interactions and interventions with children who are at risk.
- Continue our shared multiagency approach to building a workforce that understand the impact of adverse childhood experiences and ensuring the services we build are trauma responsive.
- Working in partnership, identify, understand and address what drives children to go missing in order to prevent this happening and, by tackling those who would seek to exploit them, reduce their vulnerability when they are missing.
- Work in partnership to ensure professionals, communities and families recognise the signs, report concerns and work together to prevent children being drawn into extreme ideologies or terrorist related activities.

## Tackling crime and offending

In tackling crime and offending, there are two important areas for this strategy to focus. The first is obviously those who offend against children and the second, children and young people who become offenders themselves. Our action in both these areas are equally important in keeping children safe from harm and enabling them to live meaningful, crime free, lives.

### Those who offend against children

A significant number of children are not safe within their own homes. Behind closed doors, they are subject to neglect, emotional, sexual and physical abuse. They may grow up in a toxic environment of domestic

abuse, substance abuse or poor parental mental health, which exposes them to risk. Unborn babies, babies and children who cannot communicate verbally or who have very few opportunities to be seen by others outside the home are especially vulnerable. For these babies and children, partnership work is key including intelligent maternity services, safe sleep campaigns and baby bruising protocols.

Police and partners have the significant challenge of effectively identifying which children are most at risk of significant harm and this has been even more challenging in 2020 with the Covid19 Pandemic,

with many children not routinely in education, or accessing grass roots sports and youth clubs meaning many of the protective factors or opportunities have been curtailed.

There is a vital connectivity between this strategy and the homicide and serious violence prevention strategy, which rightly has child abuse as one of its four key pillars. Others seek to target children online or through child sexual and criminal exploitation and they are in even more sophisticated in the methods they use and calculated in the children they target.

Hampshire Constabulary and partners have robust processes to manage statutory offenders, whilst this reduces risk, it cannot eliminate risk.

An even greater challenge is perhaps identifying and managing those not subject to statutory orders who may only come to our notice through intelligence or as suspects, often in lower level offending or suspicious incidents. The use of partnership intelligence and our force and district processes to identify and manage these offenders is key; including the use of civil orders.

## Objectives

Identify, target and bring to justice those who seek to exploit vulnerable children or do them harm.

### Priorities:

- With partners, bring to action the HIPS wide Child Exploitation Strategy, driving tactical delivery to ensure those engaged in perpetrating all forms of child exploitation are identified and brought to justice. Through crime prevention measures such as Operation Makeshift, create a hostile environment for them to operate.
- Keep developing technology and systems that will enable us to identify and bring to justice those who target, abuse and exploit children on line.
- Work with partners to build on mechanisms to identify all types of abuse within the home with particular emphasis on neglect, sexual abuse and preventing the negative impacts of children growing up with a backdrop of domestic violence.
- Ensure robust management of statutory offenders who have the potential to continue to offend against children and improve systems and processes to identify and manage those not yet convicted but who pose a significant risk to children and young people.



### Children and Young People who offend

Offending by a young person is often an indicator of vulnerability. It's vital police and partners can intervene early with a mind-set that recognises the impact of ACE and trauma and seeks to understand what has happened to a young person to lead them to offending or create the potential for them to offend. A child who grows up repeatedly exposed to domestic abuse for example, is a greater risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of abuse, a child who is neglected by parents or carers may be a greater risk of exploitation.


This understanding must drive interventions aimed at recognising children at risk and preventing them from becoming offenders or further offending. Early help hubs, youth services and diversionary trauma-informed interventions, including police custody itself, are essential. We must take a public health approach and get upstream where we can.

Our partnership approach to youth justice must ensure young people only enter the criminal justice system for the right reasons and at right time. Where possible and in partnership, we must explore other evidence based

options first. Unnecessary criminalisation of children and young people can have an impact through their life and has a wider cost to society. Where circumstances dictate and arrest is justifiable we aim to do that in a trauma informed way. We will ensure our custody and criminal justice processes are child centred, trauma informed and wherever possible, tailored to individual needs in order to maximise the opportunity to give a young person alternative life choices.

With austerity lasting well over a decade, youth provision has been squeezed. With further financial constraint to come, partnerships must work together to identify gaps and provide services that mean 'out of court' disposals are available and effective in preventing further offending.

There are a small minority of children and young people whose offending causes, or risks, the highest harm to others. Often this harm may be towards other children or vulnerable people. This may include terror, violence, drug or sexual related crime. For this cohort of offenders, the criminal justice system is likely to be appropriate and there needs to be more intensive and meaningful intervention that not only seeks to deter them from offending but is also very cognisant on protecting the public and preventing future victims.



Every interaction we have with children and young people is an opportunity to build trust and to help them be Safer.

## Objectives

With partners, ensure a coherent youth offending approach, which has a clear focus on intervening early to prevent young people being drawn into the criminal justice system but which also is effective in managing the small number of serious young offenders who cause, or who would cause, the highest harm to others.

### Priorities:

- Wherever appropriate, work with partners to divert children and young people from offending to early help and interventions that identify and mitigate the root causes and support them to address criminal behaviours and shape a more positive future.
- In order to maximise opportunities to deliver speedy and meaningful interventions that prevent further offending, prioritise children and young people who offend so investigations are timely and have a single case officer from the most appropriate team.
- Recognise the impact custody can have on children and young people, continue to develop a trauma informed practice in our custody centres and connect to supportive and diversionary services to maximise the chances of a positive impact from this significant intervention.
- For those young offenders who pose the greatest risk of harm to themselves and others, work with partners to develop and deliver effective high intensity interventions to reduce the risk these young people present and provide opportunities for them to desist from offending.

## Ethical and Inclusive of all

As children grow up the experiences and views of their family, peers, community and own lived experiences shape their opinions of the police. Young people from BAME backgrounds are disproportionality represented in the youth criminal justice system with, nationally, a staggering 51% of children in custody in July 2020 from BAME backgrounds despite only making up 14% of the population (Law society review). Young people must be able to see transparent, ethical and fair use of police powers, officers and staff that seek to understand them and who reflect the wider communities they serves.

Young people need see a police service that understands and works for them. That is why children and young people are an important part of

our Legitimacy Strategy and connections between legitimacy and child centred policing are paramount. Every single interaction we have with a child or young person is an opportunity to build trust and legitimacy and that is why it is the heart of the key principles we want to adopt across our entire workforce.

It is important that we have the trust and confidence of children and young people as much, if not more so, than any other community. Our success in protecting children who are vulnerable relies on their willingness to trust us and turn to us for help. If we improve engagement and relationships with children now, they will likely need us less in the future.



With partners, we can break cycles of neglect, abuse, trauma and offending which of course reduces demand and improves the lives of children for generations to come.

To understand the impact of what we do and to improve services so they meet the needs of and protect children, we need to have open and transparent means of communication. To break down barriers we must understand how young people like to communicate, use technology better and recognise that sometimes a partner or third sector organisation can aid communication.

Although the Covid19 pandemic has changed the way we have to do things currently, as a service we will continue to develop and invest in schemes such as the Police Cadets and Mini Police. Community Courts give young people the opportunity to be decision makers in outcomes for suitable first time young offenders. These schemes provide opportunities for children and young people from all backgrounds, especially those vulnerable to crime and social exclusion, to engage with and work alongside the police. This improves mutual understanding and promotes good citizenship.



## Objectives

Build stronger relationships with children and young people by improving engagement and affording them the opportunity to hold us to account, shape services and influence our priorities.

### Priorities:

- Deliver an inspiring force wide training and awareness programme to embed the key principles of this child centred-policing strategy.
- Ensure officers and staff in all ranks and roles have a robust program of CPD and where necessary, they have the appropriate licence to practice. Where beneficial, develop training and CPD across partnerships to ensure shared understanding and focus.
- Support officers and staff who are regularly exposed to traumatic and difficult investigations or incidents in the course of their work to protect children with psychological screening and strong focus on wellbeing support.

## Building Partnerships that enable a better public service


Keeping children safe cannot be achieved by the police alone. Legislation has influenced and directed policing and other agencies to work in partnership to safeguard and act in the best interest of children for many years. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on police and other key people and bodies to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions they have the regard for to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Children and Social Care Act 2017, is intended to improve support for looked after children and care leavers, promote the welfare and safeguarding of children, and make provisions regarding the regulation of social workers.

More recently, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 was published. This was following the Wood Review, which provided further learning and opportunities to continue building new safeguarding arrangements. These changes have now been embedded across the four Hampshire Local Safeguarding Children's Partnerships at a board level, executive level and within many of the sub-groups but there is always room to strengthen our arrangements particularly in working other crime reduction partnerships such as Violence Reduction Units (VRU) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). This Child Centred Policing strategy builds on the foundations of that commitment to work together and learning that has evolved over that time.

Partnerships should not exist for partnership sake; they have to make a difference to the overall level of service to the public. To achieve this they must have an overall shared purpose, a culture of professional challenge, and desire to keep improving. We need to evidence what works and we must be open, transparent and honest. We have to see the perspectives of others but we cannot become an amorphous, homogenous group, it is important to play our individual roles. Nobody else can be the police or use our powers just as we are not leaders in education or social care or experienced third sector advocates for children. Indeed, we are stronger because of our individual parts. Sometimes we will have different perspectives and this is necessary and healthy.

As well as developing existing partnerships, we should be open-minded and seek to develop new ones where there is an evidence base that they will help us deliver the objectives of this strategy.



If we look after our people, they will be able to look after children and provide them the very best policing service.



## Objectives

Strengthen existing and build new partnerships ensuring they are meaningful, help protect children and young people from harm and make a difference in building relationships between children and young people and the police.

### Priorities:

- Work with the OPCC, the Youth Commission, youth IAGs and other youth groups to find ways to connect with children and young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, from BAME or other communities with protected characteristics and those with lived experiences of policing; all of whom may be seldom heard. Through these connections, create ways children and young people can scrutinise our activity and help us develop practices reflective of their needs.
- In conjunction with our internal legitimacy strategy and key partners, understand and address the disproportionality of children from BAME backgrounds in the youth criminal justice system.
- Continue to develop opportunities for children and young people to be involved in policing through initiatives such as Mini Police, Cadet Schemes and Community Courts.

## Looking after our people

The success of this strategy will not be delivered by the, albeit important, strong systems and processes we develop or the words we write on a page. It will be delivered by our people who embrace its key principles and put children and young people at the centre of their police work.

It is imperative that we support our officers and staff by providing the right knowledge, skills and training to enable them to keep children safe and bring to justice those who would cause them harm. The College of Policing has recently increased programmes and accreditation for officers leading and investigating in areas of vulnerability and child abuse. We need to ensure our staff have the right accreditation and up to date licence to practice. CPD has been challenging in 2020 when the Covid19 pandemic has meant traditional methods of delivering learning have not been

possible. We have innovated and met this challenge by introducing flexible online learning such as PODs (Policy Optimisation Drops). We need to continue to innovate in this area.


If we look after our people, they will be able to look after children and provide them the very best policing service. It takes fortitude and commitment to work in areas where you are regularly exposed to the abuse of children or actions of offenders who cause them the most harm. We have made huge progress with our wellbeing strategy and have a good programme of providing psychological assessment and health and wellbeing support. We cannot be complacent, we need to make sure our leaders and managers are looking after their teams and we do not let things slip in the business of the work. It is as important as the work itself.

## Objectives

Enable our staff and officers to provide the best possible service to young people by equipping them with the knowledge, skills and tools required and ensuring a focus on the well-being and resilience of those in demanding and difficult roles.

### Priorities:

- Work with OPCC and partners to ensure there are effective commissioning strategies and clear priorities, working collaboratively to maximise potential funding and provide effective interventions, which reduce the impact of crime on the most vulnerable children or prevent them becoming adults who offend.
- Reflecting on learning from the Wood review and Working Together 2018, work with partners to ensure we augment our safeguarding arrangements, building stronger committed partnerships with clear and unifying purpose.
- Value the strength in local partnership arrangements but also connect and build on opportunities to pool learning and resource with a two counties approach where strategic ambition and desired outcomes align.



Our performance is really important but our understanding of success should be shaped by what is in the best interests of children and young people.





## Track Assess Learn and Improve

No matter how good our plans or how strong our intentions, we need to be able to understand if they are making a difference. Building a comprehensive, accurate and effective performance framework, which focuses on children and vulnerability, has been a challenge in recent years but with the potential of Power-BI we are making progress. We need to keep building on this so we have performance information that will be able to be responsive and agile so we can put our resources in the right places and see where we need to make improvement. Our performance is really important but our understanding of success should be shaped by what is in the best interests of children and young people.

We know to have a truly richer picture we need to be much better at sharing partnership data and understanding our data together so we can shape

what we need to do collaboratively to improve our services and ability to make children safer. We will scan best practice locally and nationally, evaluate initiatives and develop datasets to ensure we direct resources accordingly.

Child safeguarding is rightly subject to inspection and scrutiny across all the many agencies and partnerships, which have responsibility in these areas. We welcome this and strive to learn from what ourselves, other agencies and our partnerships are doing well and strive to do better in areas where we do not meet the standards expected. We need to ensure our own internal and partnership scrutiny processes and systems to track and deliver the recommendations from Child Safeguarding Practice and other statutory reviews mean we learn lessons and deliver tangible improvement.

### Objectives

Promote a culture of persistent learning, using lessons learnt and analysis of performance to drive improvements that continually optimise the service we are able to provide to children and young people.

#### Priorities:

- Embed the learning from Child Safeguarding Practice, Domestic Homicide and MAPPA reviews as well as other police and partner review and inspections.
- Continue to develop a performance framework that makes best use of police and partner data, allowing us to recognise what we are doing well and identify opportunities to do better.
- Improve our practice and partnerships by looking beyond ourselves to harness good practice and understand the evidence base of what works. Be ambitious for the best practice we can lead.

# GOVERNANCE, MONITORING AND SCRUTINY

The head of Prevention, Vulnerability and Partnerships (PVP) command, is responsible for the delivery of this strategy.

Governance is provided by the Harm and Vulnerability Strategic Governance Group (H&VSSG) chaired by the ACC responsible for Local Policing.

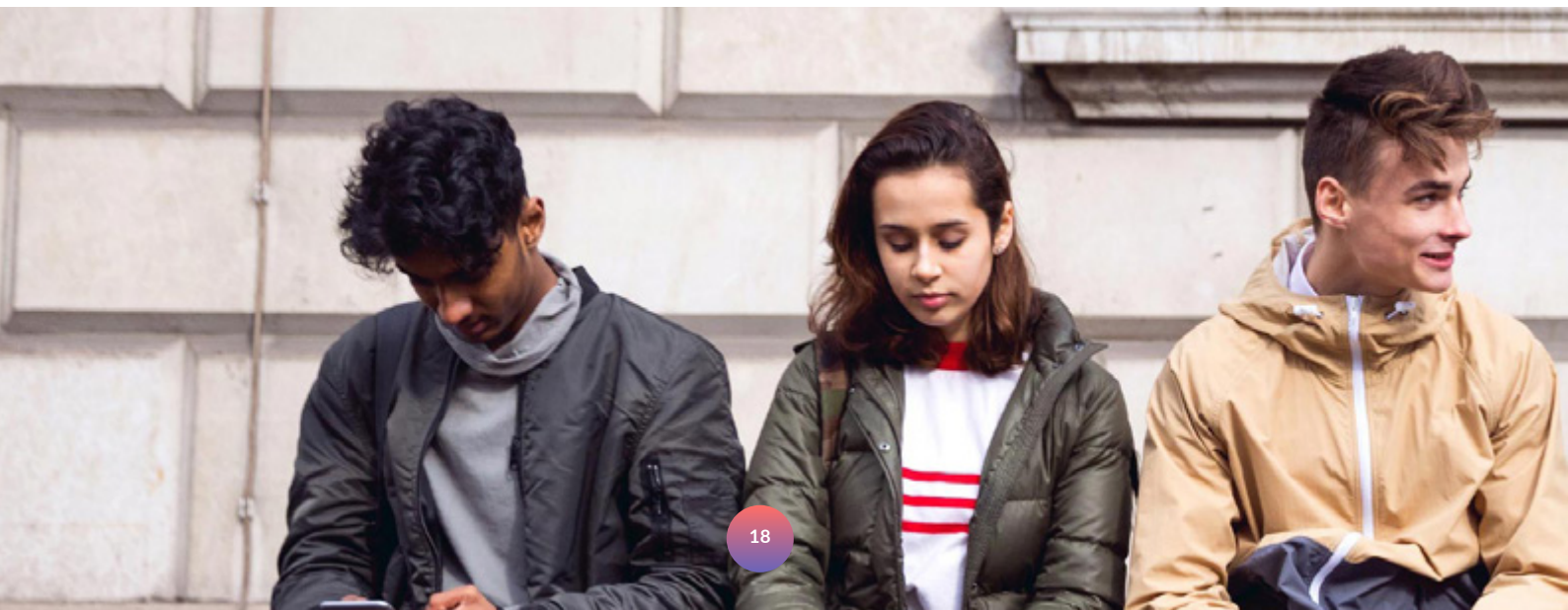
There are a number of other Force strategic governance boards to whom this strategy is paramount and where there will be natural governance and accountability for some of its priorities or performance.

- The Force Legitimacy Board oversees disproportionality in the criminal justice system and community cohesion.
- The Homicide and Violence Reduction Strategic Governance Group has four pillars of work, each of which can and do impact on children.
- The Local Policing and Crime and Criminal Justice Collaboration Board (formally portfolio boards) provides an opportunity to ensure cross command working required for the delivery of this strategy.

- The Review Oversight Panel chaired by ACC Crime and Criminal Justice ensures learning is embedded from the various statutory reviews including child safeguarding practice reviews, domestic homicide reviews and MAPPA reviews.

In addition, this strategy requires a partnership approach. Partners have been engaged in its development and cooperation and progress will continue to be made and discussed at local and HIPS Pan Hampshire Children's Safeguarding Boards and our Pan-Hampshire Trauma Informed executive Board.

The annual Force Strategic Assessment considers explicitly the risk to children as both victims and offenders through details analysis of specific crime types and vulnerabilities. Control Strategy leads are obliged to ensure children, young people are an explicit consideration of their four P's plans and that there is an alignment to the principles, and priorities of the Child Centred Policing strategy.



Force Performance Group will provide scrutiny in respect of force-level performance issues. Through the development of a richer performance framework, this strategy will also enable more transparency of performance in respect of crime that affects children, offending by children and young people and the success measures of this strategy.

A number of other performance mechanisms exist including area performance meetings and scrutiny panels. We will also look for opportunities for external scrutiny and feedback.

## Definitions

**Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)** are stressful events occurring in childhood including: • domestic violence • parental abandonment through separation or divorce • a parent with a mental health condition • being the victim of abuse (physical, sexual and/or emotional) • being the victim of neglect (physical and emotional) • a member of the household being in prison • growing up in a household in which there are adults experiencing alcohol and drug use problems.

**Contextual Safeguarding** recognises that as young people grow and develop a whole range of environments and people outside their family influences them. For example, school or college, in the local community, in their peer groups or online. Children and young people may encounter risks in any of these environments. Some of the different contexts are inter-related and can mean that children and young people will encounter multiple risks. Contextual safeguarding looks at how we can understand these risks, engage children and young people and help keep them safe.

**Trauma Informed Policing** A trauma-informed approach represents a new way of working across health and human services. It includes: • Recognising the signs/symptoms of trauma • Acknowledging the impact of traumatic experiences • Actively seeking to avoid retraumatisation • Integrating an understanding of trauma in organisational policy and practice.







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