

## Case study - Reducing youth offending.

This case study looks at the joint working between the Specialist Family Support Worker - (SFSW) in Reducing Youth Offending and the Early Help Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

### Reason for referral:

The referral was in relation to a 12-year-old child (white male) who lived in Portsmouth with their mother and younger sister. The Police had been called following an incident of child to parent violence. During conversations the mother spoke about how she and the school had been struggling to manage her son's behaviour.

Initially an Early Help Assessment was completed. This highlighted further worries regarding the child, including:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

The child had allegedly been involved in the criminal damage of buildings, property and throwing stones at moving vehicles, other minor ASB had also previously been reported.

- **Theft**

Reports had been made to police that the child had stolen from a shop and from his mother.

- **Unhealthy friendships / joint enterprise**

The child was spending time with other young people known to police and other services. It was identified that others may have been exposing him to unhealthy behaviours.

- **Fire setting**

The child had been playing with lighters and setting aerosols alight in his bedroom. This had resulted in burnt curtains, bedding, mattress, and carpet.

### Intervention:

Following completion of the Early Help Assessment a plan was devised with the family and relevant professionals. This included some of the following areas of intervention:

- A safety mapping exercise was completed with the child to establish friendship groups and areas where young person frequents from both a safety planning and risk awareness perspective. The PCSO attends the Missing, Exploited, and Trafficked (MET) meeting and the Tactical Planning Meeting (TPM) and is therefore up to date with locations and people causing concern. This information gave an increased understanding of the risks the child was being exposed to by the friendships he was forming and the places he was spending his time.

- A Risk of Anti-Social Behaviour and Offending (RASBO) was completed. This explored all vulnerability factors, push and pull factors and potential risks of offending behaviour for this child. Through its completion, a clear plan of direct work was planned. This was carried out by both the SFSW and EH PCSO. The objective of this was to educate and help explore ways in which the risk could be reduced with no further police involvement.
- The PCSO delivered a session on what ASB is by utilising resources from the Safe4Me website. A graffiti board was used for the child to document what ASB means to them and what behaviours they may have displayed. Actions vs consequences were then discussed. The use of a story board using different types of people, places and behaviours were used to raise awareness and show how certain acts can have impact on not only the victim but the wider community,
- The PCSO delivered a session on theft, looking at the meaning of theft, the different types of theft and the legal consequences of being caught. The PCSO completed a consequential chain exercise to highlight the impact on both him, the victim and the wider community.
- The PCSO and the child looked at the safety map at each session and changed when necessary. Flip chart discussion was undertaken around what qualities a healthy friend has and how many of these are displayed by the friendship group at the time of the delivered session. PCSO explained 'Joint Enterprise'.
- The PCSO discussed a fire safety plan with the child and parent. The PCSO followed this up with a referral into Hampshire fire and rescue who have since completed further direct work with the child and home visit has been conducted with new bedding and fire alarms.
- UP2U sessions were also completed using the UP2U youth program. This included the subjects: My family, Push and Pull and the Influence of friends.
- After each 1:1 session, the EH PCSO completed with the child, a home visit was completed with the parent to discuss the outcome of the session. This ensured that the parent was fully aware of the area covered so they were able to continue the child's learning.

#### Outcome:

The child was able to show an understanding of the consequence of behaviours. The relationship between parent and child was reported to have improved with no further incidents of violence to his parent reported and no further ASB reported. The improved communication and knowledge also allowed the parent to manage behaviours in a positive way which reduced the push factors to leave home. Attendance has improved in school and the family continue to be closed to Early Help and Prevention and the plan is currently reviewed by the child's school.