

Joint Diversionary Panel – Case Study A

Young person (Female - aged 16) – Referred to Panel for 2 x Assault

Overview/Concerns

- Assaults were domestic in nature; complainants were Mum and Step-Dad.
- Mum and Step-Dad wanting support but not wanting to criminalise A.
- Family open to Social Care over extended period due to concerns over parents ability to meet A's needs.
- Parents themselves have learning difficulties.
- A has witnessed persistent domestic violence between Mum and various partners.
- A functioning at cognitive level significantly below her age.
- Numerous previous incidents, all domestic in nature.
- Diagnosis of Autism. Suffering from heightened anxiety and an inability to emotionally regulate.
- Exploitation concerns linked to A's vulnerability.
- Previous positive engagement from A with agencies.

Benefit of Panel process

- Holistic view and understanding of complex family history.
- Ability to put a package of support/intervention in place without criminalising A.
- Opportunity to identify positive elements of engagement with agencies and to seek to build this into the plan of intervention.
- Ability to meet victim's wishes of not criminalising A whilst still being pro-active in terms of being able to put in place both consequences for the offences and support moving forward.
- Ability to build a restorative element into the disposal.

Impact and outcomes:

- A bespoke package of offence-focussed intervention was put in place; this differed from the non-offence specific support already in place.
- Allocated worker able to 'dovetail' support with other agencies in order to ensure a comprehensive approach to supporting both A and the wider family.
- Diversion away from formal criminal justice system and therefore avoided criminal record.
- Enhanced understanding post intervention of relationships, emotional regulation and improving communication.
- Additional support put in place from our Speech and Language therapist.
- No further Police incidents in the 3 months following Panel, compared to 14 in the 3 months before Panel.

Joint Diversionary Panel – Case Study B

Young person (Female - aged 17) – Referred to Panel for Criminal Damage (Arson)

Overview/Concerns

- Appeared at JDP in relation to an incident where she has been in a derelict building with two other youths. B has discarded a cigarette which has caused a small fire.
- Co-accused had denied the offence and matters not progressed. B made an admission.
- No previous offending.
- No previous concerns re: fire setting behaviour, ratified with Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue, education and social care.
- No other agencies involved with B.

Benefits of Panel process

- Holistic view and understanding of young person which led to an understanding that this was an isolated incident, no concerns flagged re: previous offending, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), social care, education, health services.
- Ability to put a package of support/intervention in place without criminalising B.
- Ability to refer to Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue service for bespoke fire awareness work.
- Outcome which did not criminalise and negatively impact on long term future.
- Detailed picture provided by Police in relation to nature of ASB incidents and impact that these are having on the community.
- Confirmation of the fact that there was no other offence related concerns and thus intervention could be solely focussed on referral offence.

Impact and outcomes:

- Diversion away from formal criminal justice system and therefore avoided criminal record.
- 1:1 specialist intervention delivered by Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue service.
- No further offending since Panel.