

GRAFT

A Home Office, Trusted Relationships Funded project.



Gaining Respect and Finding Trust.

Children don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.

Background.

North East Lincolnshire Council is pleased to announce a newly formed project that will work with children who are victims of Exploitation, Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery. The project is called GRAFT (Gaining Respect and Finding Trust)

The project is being developed following the successful grant provided by the Home Office as part of the Trusted Relationships Fund.

The specialist project will tackle the regional drivers of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), namely low aspiration substance misuse and involvement in the illegal drugs market. Interventions will be delivered by practitioners with small caseloads on a one to one and group work basis, alongside signposting to sports, arts and cultural activities. A dedicated NEET worker will address the connection between CCE and being in alternative education provision. Community mentors will help to build a richer picture of the nature of exploitation in the area, with a particular focus on exploitation of siblings of gang affiliated young people and those with no previous criminal record or engagement with law enforcement.

The project will adopt a trauma informed approach with the aim of helping victims achieve positive destinations in relation to education and leisure, aiding exit from exploitative situations and creating positive relationships with organisations and individuals that are not professionals working within statutory services.

The project is made up of the following positions:

- Team Manager – The position will oversee the day to day running of the project and will work with other team managers to ensure that the project operates a part of a wider system approach to CCE.
- Lead Practitioner –they will carry a caseload of young people who have been identified as beings victims of exploitation. Their skills knowledge and experience will enable them to support young people to attempt to exit exploitation. By attending multi agency meetings and being an active member of the wider CCE partnership they will contribute to wider system development in relation to early identification of exploited children.

- Families First Practitioner – They will deliver interventions to young people who are missing, exploited or trafficked. This may be on a one to one or group basis. They will use creativity and a risk informed approach to tailoring the interventions for the young people. Regular liaison with other relevant professionals and multi-agency working will be key in their day to day role.
- NEET Practitioner –this practitioner will seek to achieve positive destinations for children in relation to their education training and employment. Employing a range of skills in relation to engagement with young people they will also seek to advocate on their behalf to ensure that they are able to access ETE opportunities.
- Young Minds Matter EMDR therapist – Recognising that children who are exploited experience significant trauma, this post will work with children on the project to ensure that they are able to be supported in trauma therapy work to aid recovery. This work will continue for as long as is needed.
- Community Volunteer Co-coordinator – This role will ensure that the project creates links with communities and third sector organisations seeking to recruit and training volunteer mentors who will provide ongoing pastoral support to children who are missing exploited or trafficked.

Funding for the project has been provided for a period of four years but is subject to a spending review in April 2020. Therefore contracts for positions have been offered until April 2020. It is not envisaged that funding will be reduced from four years however.

The project sits in SAFER NELC and is closely aligned to the Youth Offending Service, CSC and Localities. It is part of a wider system approach to tackling CCE and compliments the lower level work that is undertaken by specialist vulnerability practitioners in Prevention and Early Help (Localities).

Principles of the Project

The following list includes a range of ways in which we seek to support and engage children who are open to the project and are being criminally exploited:

- We are interested, professionally curious, and listen to what the young person is saying. We hear it from a safeguarding perspective.
- We don't make judgements, especially in relation to their involvement in criminal activities.
- We advocate for the child or young person, and for the child protection processes to be followed. Our role is to ensure that other professionals come to understand the child's experiences and hear their voice.
- We challenge professional views which are oppressive, judgmental, or reject the need for a child protection response.
- We explain what is happening and why we might need to share information. This is very often with the police and so transparency is key to maintaining a trusting relationship.
- We ensure the child or young person is given choices. Throughout their experience of being criminally exploited, they will have been working with parameters of little or no choice, and therefore it is important that the child or young person is given the element of choice back. To this end, children on the project have control over location timing frequency and type of contact.
- We give children opportunities to see 'a life worth living' whilst respecting and acknowledging their lived experience.
- We use Brief solution focussed therapy as a method of looking at their strengths and future plans. We are creative in our approach and ask what the child or young person wants and needs.
- We tailor programmes on a bespoke basis to ensure that every child receives the best possible support for them.
- We work in a flexible and therapeutic way to best support the children's needs at any particular time.
- We provide specific support around accessing and maintaining involvement in education training and employment and seek to engage children in alternative leisure activities.
- We support children to make disclosures to the police regarding offences perpetrated against them.

- We do not remove the offer of service due to non-engagement and children on the project will receive support for as long as they want.
- We work with a range of multi agencies to ensure that the child's needs are met, understood and risk managed.
- We ensure that all children on the project have access to mental health wellbeing support.
- We use evidence based practice and research to inform and tailor our approach to working with exploited children.
- We access specialist training programmes to support best practice.
- We see strength in the young people and seek to empower them to have aspirations.
- We put primary emphasis on the building of a relationship with a young person where they know that our only interest is to support and advocate for them.
- We consider that consistency, transparency and genuine interest in the young person is imperative to maintaining positive change for the children.
- We ensure that all agencies are informed of the work that is being undertaken and the wishes of the child.
- We recognise our young peoples lived experiences and use personal narratives to build hope for the future.

All of the above principle feed into our wider objective of criminally exploited children being recognised as victims and treated as such. Most pertinently in relation to any criminal proceedings, safeguarding and modern day slavery.

The below details in a pictoral logic model the operating functions of how the team operates and seeks to achieve improvements for the children receiving support.

This details our delivery model:

Item	Details
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<p>1. WHY (rationale/theory/goal)</p>	<p>The primary goal is to help YPs who are currently being exploited to exit their exploitative situation. However, experience has shown that this is extremely difficult, especially in cases where the YP has been entrenched with OCGs for many years. Hence, whilst exit remains the main goal and will be attempted with all YPs, in cases where it proves infeasible, the goal is to safeguard YPs and provide them with support (safe place to sleep, meals, etc.)</p>
<p>2. WHO (recipients)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All YPs aged 18 or below at the time of referral to the Operational Vulnerabilities Meeting (OVM), where the panel considers whether the GRAFT project is required to support exit. ● This includes YPs from other areas that are being trafficked into NE Lincolnshire. <p>OVM uses the following criteria to determine eligibility for the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk Level at time of referral to OVM following initial screening. ● Intelligence surrounding involvement with mapped OCGs.
<p>3. WHAT (materials)</p>	<p>The materials used are based on the need of each individual YP. However, there are certain materials that are used with all YPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ‘Which Way’, a CSE and substance abuse educational resource (DVD) The National Working Group (NWG) assessment, a life document used to track changes and personal characteristics of YP over time. ● Therapy sessions (potentially using Goodman’s Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire). The therapist will start in January.
<p>4. WHAT (procedures)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Referrals come through OVM, which decides whether YP requires GRAFT or another allocated resource. ● All YPs in the program are offered a trusted relationship with both a professional practitioner (temporary) and a mentor (long-term). ● The practitioner will reach out for an initial informal meeting to start building the relationship.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thereafter, the practitioner will make contact at least three times per week. • Core activities: “Which way”, help the YP identify goals and positive activities and create opportunities for them to engage in them. • The practitioner also helps the YP take stock of where they are educationally compared to where they would like to be, and help them identify educational goals, make plans, and help them find appropriate courses. • The practitioner builds up a chronology of the YP’s life (life-mapping), schedules home visits if appropriate, and frequently re-evaluates the YPs risk-level. • YP is matched with a mentor, who increasingly takes over as the YP’s main point of support, while the relationship to the practitioner is phased out. They act as a positive role model, work with the practitioner in identifying positive interests and creating opportunities, and do anything else that helps the YP develop in a more positive way.
<p>5. WHO PROVIDED (implementers)</p>	<p>Direct providers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCE GRAFT Practitioners • Volunteer mentors (ideally involved as long as YP needs) • Band 7 EMDR therapeutic practitioner • Volunteer coordinator <p>Indirect providers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public services (police, education, health) • Voluntary and community organisations (sporting clubs, businesses, community orgs) • Local businesses (by offering training)
<p>6. HOW (mode of delivery)</p>	<p>The corner-stone of the program is the individual meetings with the CCE practitioner and the mentors.</p> <p>Additional elements are the referrals into work, sports and cultural activities, and education.</p> <p>Trauma informed practice underlies all contacts.</p> <p>The overall approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsive to risk monitoring/level of safeguarding needed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrated into wider safeguarding network ● Uses trauma-informed practice ● Restorative -- incorporates YP voice & influence, comes from place of understanding ● Signs of Safety model of working ● Recognises YP as victim, not criminal ● Relies on positive reinforcement ● Non-engagement does not lead to cessation of services ● Recruit staff and mentors that believe in approach
<p>7. WHERE (location)</p>	<p>YP and practitioner choose meeting locations with practitioner/mentor.</p> <p>Safe places to meet will be determined in each case.</p> <p>Police intelligence will be used to inform risk around attendance at addresses etc.</p> <p>Meetings will take place at a wide variety of sports arts and cultural venues.</p> <p>Young person will be supported to attend a variety of other professional appointments if required.</p>
<p>8. WHEN and HOW MUCH (duration and dosage)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practitioners will attempt at least three contacts per week. Meetings with the practitioner will gradually be phased out. ● Frequency of mentor meetings is more flexible in relation to young person's needs.; the relationship with the mentor is meant to last for as long as the YP needs it (potentially life-long).
<p>9. TAILORING If the intervention was planned to be personalised, titrated or adapted, then describe what, why, when, and how.</p>	<p>Interactions between the YP and their practitioner and mentor will be based on a bespoke plan (a mix of constant elements and variable ones, see section 3) depending on the needs of each YP.</p> <p>One element of variation that cannot be controlled for is the personal dynamic between a YP and their practitioner and mentor. To minimise this, practitioners will be trained to ensure that they are consistent in their overall approach.</p>
<p>10. MODIFICATIONS</p>	

11. HOW WELL	
12. Actual: If intervention adherence or fidelity was assessed, describe the extent to which the intervention was delivered as planned.	

What do we do to keep young people and ourselves safe?

Children:

- We provide children with mobile phones that have tracking facilities if needed with consent from the child.
- We ensure that children have credit on their phones.
- Where there is imminent threat to life we provide 24 hour support.
- We provide bus passes.
- We advocate and support for re-location in cases where there is a threat to life.
- We work with the police to identify safe places for relocation.
- We work with young people to identify their safety zones.
- We use brief solution focussed therapy for them to identify safety, what this looks like? what does it feel like for them?
- We support children in making disclosures through modern day slavery.
- We ensure that children's basic needs are met, providing food, clothes, somewhere to sleep etc.
- We work with parents to educate on safety for example 'what three words'.
- We share intelligence with the police in relation to locations hotspots, trends and perpetrators.
- We see young people in their identified safe locations and times.
- We provide taxi transport to allow them to leave an area without being in public.
- We provide transport to and from locations for appointments.
- We provide access to crisis mental health support.
- We support and arrange medical appointments.

- We advocate using the young person's voice and to ensure safety measures are appropriate.
- We support them to access other alternative leisure and lifestyle activities.
- We maintain full confidentiality in relation to child's networks.

Project staff:

- We don't attend initial visits alone and ensure established relationships before visiting alone.
- Some visits will never be conducted alone due to risk assessment.
- We work with police partners to check addresses prior to visiting.
- We don't visit certain addresses based on risk assessment.
- We arrange meetings in public spaces where there is an assessed risk.
- We adhere to the council's lone working policy and implement buddying as part of the normal working day.
- We ensure that we know the plans for the day for each individual member of staff.
- Attendance at certain addresses where there is identified risk means we park a significant distance from the address to protect car reg etc.
- Transportation of children is risk assessed and procedures are implemented.
- We have open conversations about us knowing that they carry knives and requesting that when in our company they don't carry.
- We work closely with the YOS police officer to assess risk in relation to each child's networks and alter working practices accordingly.
- We undertake regular supervision to ensure we monitor vicarious trauma.
- We undertake daily debrief following contacts and significant events.
- Whilst providing out of hours support to children the practitioners have manager support and contact.
- We liaise with our police OCG team colleagues regarding specific risk from individuals or groups.
- We adhere to the council's social media protocols in relation to privacy settings and usage.

What are our children saying?

I'd rather be carrying a knife and caught by the police, than be caught without a knife by the people I don't want to see.

You've done more for me in two days than other agencies have in two years.

GRAFT is loads better than the other services

I smoke weed to help me sleep because I don't wanna think about the things ive seen

Im not a drug dealer im just trying to survive in this life

We are not a gang we are just a group of friends

I trust no one

Im fucking 16 I shouldn't be homeless.

You've listened to me in a way no one has ever listened.

I don't deserve the treats you give me.

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