



# Lewisham Youth Offending Service

## NEWSLETTER

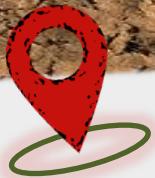
Parents/Carers/Guardians Edition

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☎ 020 8314 7474

### LYOS PARENT PLEDGE

*'We at Lewisham Youth Offending Service (LYOS) are committed to working in partnership with parents as we recognise that you are the experts of your children. We also understand some of the struggles that can come with parenting, and how challenging and lonely this can feel. LYOS would like to share ideas and work alongside you to ensure the needs of your child remain our main priority. We pledge to work with you in an open and honest way, to listen to your feedback without judgement or discrimination. We aim to be respectful of your time, and supportive to you and your child during your journey with us.'*



## \* \* \* WANTED \* \* \*

### LEWISHAM YOS PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

#### What Are We Looking For?

At LYOS we are committed to doing more to include Parent voices in our work with children, young people and families. We want to ensure that we are working together with parents across all areas of our service, and know that our efforts to do our best will only be successful if we have support from yourselves! We would like a Parent to join our **Youth Justice Management Board**, to help us and our key partners (police, education, children's social care) to help us shape our work with families and to keep us on track by focusing on the issues that are most important. We are also very interested in parents who would like to **volunteer to help us run groups for parents** to have a place and space to be listened to, get helpful advice, and receive support from people who have similar struggles and worries.

#### What We Need?

- ❖ An interest in how LYOS is working
- ❖ A desire to represent the local community and other parents
- ❖ Some spare time, local knowledge, passion and commitment
- ❖ The confidence to ask questions, challenge and offer suggestions
- ❖ Able to work well with others

#### What You Will Gain?

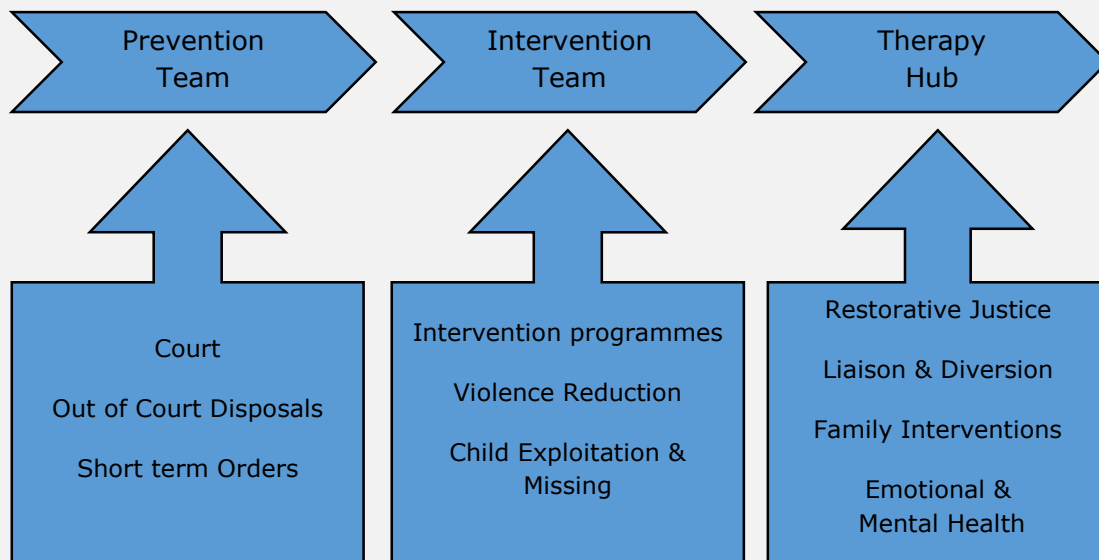
- ❖ The chance to make a difference to children, families and Lewisham's community
- ❖ Training and Development
- ❖ Ability to use your power and influence to help improve our service
- ❖ Offering support to other parents who are struggling and need a listening ear

If you are interested and would like to know more, please either speak to your child's YOS officer, or feel free to contact Manager, Serena Mullings.

☎ 0208 314 7474

## **\*\*Lewisham Youth Offending Service Restructure\*\***

The Youth Offending Service recently restructured our team. We wanted to ensure that we made the most of our potential to work with young people and their families in the most effective way within the community, in the office, virtually and with partnership agencies.



We understand that children who come into contact with us may have lots of worries and struggles at school, home and the community. In our new model we want to do more to think about families' strengths and plan how we work towards positive change together with the young person and those people closest to them.

## **Changes to the Law: The Offensive Weapons Act 2019**

- ❖ It is now illegal to possess certain weapons in **private places, including your home**. This includes items such as knuckledusters and flick knives.
- ❖ There will also be stricter age checks when buying knives in shops or online.

This means that young people (and adults) can now be arrested and charged if the police complete a house search, and find weapons in bedrooms etc. It's really important that both you and your child/ren are aware.

## **Staying Safe for the Summer** **6 Top Tips**

- 1. Stay connected;** Set time aside to connect with your child for daily check-ins, even just a cuppa or watching TV together.
- 2. Be aware of events in the community;** Acknowledge the effects of you and your child and be open to conversations which help to express their feelings if they chose to.
- 3. Family Time;** Have plans/timetable for each week that you and your young person agree on and have things to look forward (check out our activity suggestions).

**4. Identify supportive relationships with friends or family members** and encourage your young person to do activities with them. Also encourage your young person to let you know their whereabouts and expected times home via what's app if not by phone.

**5. Be aware/curious about their social media use** and have open conversations about online safety and what they post/share.

**6. Trust your own expertise;** you know your child best! Follow your gut instincts and keep communication channels open, in person, using face time and or texting.

## **Summer Fun Activities**

**Sports Summer Camp:** Free for 11-16 Years olds @ Bonus Pastor School ([ellen.stewart@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:ellen.stewart@lewisham.gov.uk))

**Rediscover Summer:** Ideas and suggestions for families to have fun safely during the summer ([Gov.uk](http://Gov.uk))

**Holidays Activities Programme:** Free activities and lunches for school-aged children and young people [aged 5-16 years – up to 19 for children/young people with Special Needs] ([HAFProgramme@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:HAFProgramme@lewisham.gov.uk))

**Lewisham Youth Clubs** ([www.youthfirst.org.uk/content/summer-holiday-schemes-across-lewisham](http://www.youthfirst.org.uk/content/summer-holiday-schemes-across-lewisham))