**Serious Youth Violence Network Meeting**

**12th November 2019, 2pm-4pm**

**Attlee Centre, 5 Thrawl Street, London E1 6RT**

**Attendees**

Barbra **Mazur** Battersea Power Station Foundation

Laura **Sidwell** BBC Children in Need

Sally **Dickinson** Berkeley Foundation

Philip **Howard** Clothworkers’ Foundation

Joe **Heywood** Greater London Authority

Sarah **Willis** Hyde-Housing

Natalie **Fairplay** L&Q Group

Robert **Wyatt** London Borough of Hounslow

Chris **Lyon** London Borough of Sutton

Diana **Fitzwilliam** London Community Foundation

James **Banks** London Funders

Grace **Perry** London Funders

Olu **Alake** London Marathon Charitable Trust

Gary **Palmer** London Sport

Kawika **Solidum** London Youth

Lara **Rufus** National Lottery Community Fund

Sara **Parsonage** Social Finance Ltd

Deborah **Smart** The Social Investment Business

Elly **Heaton-Virgo** Young Ealing Foundation

Matira **Wheeler** Young Westminster Foundation

**Meeting Notes**

James welcomed all to the first Serious Youth Violence Network meeting. The aims of this network will be to see how we can work more collaboratively as a funders alliance.

It has been 18 months since London Funders launched the report [‘To Begin at the Beginning’](https://londonfunders.org.uk/resources-funders/london-funders-publications/begin-beginning-funders-response-serious-youth) . This bought together data and intelligence which lead us towards the principles shown in the report.

Sarah Willis (Chair), Successful Places Programme Manager, Hyde-Housing

Sarah acknowledged that there are many forums and talking spaces for SYV, but there also needs to be action – so spaces where we can agree actions to take forward and build momentum. She also asked participants to consider what they want from this forum and how we can develop a collaborative network tackling issues and topics relevant to our organisations and those we work with and fund.

**Presentations**

Joe Heywood – Data Scientist, Greater London Authority

* Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) was set up in 2018. This brings together specialists from health, police, local government, probation and community organisations to tackle crime and its underlying qualities.
* They required data and evidence to help make decisions to prioritise activities
* The data tool we created uses crime statistics and other sources i.e. London Ambulance Service, hospital admissions
* The data is structured in three levels; Category, Measure & Indicator
* Area prioritisation tool allows you focus on boroughs and wards, with different combinations of measures and groupings.

The tool has been used to help prioritise borough funding. We weren’t sure what public health indicators to include, so have kept crime and public perceptions for now.

Questions for Joe

Q. Is this available for public use / local authority use?

A. Not yet accessible outside of the GLA. Funding decisions for boroughs has however been communicated. We are hoping to make some version of the data available outside the GLA.

Q. Is this a snapshot in time, will it be uploaded again annually?

A. We are trying to keep consistent. Data over a whole year rather than a snapshot. We want to look at how things are changing and what the correlations are. There will be gaps were some data is available every year, some maybe a one off or taken every few years.

Q. Will there be a consideration of what other data sets can be bought in? I.e. 360 giving maps

A. Looking to include looking at 360 and what the GLA does. Not yet ready to incorporate other data sets.

Sara Parsonage – Associate Director, Social Finance

Sara presented on the risk factors for exclusions and school moves:

* Exclusion rates are rising, with 6,685 children excluded in 2017/18 – 70% higher than five years ago
* The amount is equivalent to entire secondary school of children being temporarily excluded each day…and permanently excluded each month
* Excluded children are much more likely to end up with poorer life out comes

Our approach to developing a response:

* Working in partnership with seven foundations
* Deciding on terminology across the board i.e. youth or county lines
* Working with local authorities to develop a response rooted in local context
* Looking at a response that isn’t a crime approach. As often crime statistics lead is to crim approach than thinking about anything else
* We are developing local infrastructure
* Delivering quality assurance for interventions
* And developing data and insights around cohorts

In practice we developing an understanding of ‘who’ is being excluded in specific local authorities

* Common Outcomes Framework: with a local authority we have co-developed a set of common outcomes
* Data analysis + User Research: exploring linkages with multiple vulnerabilities of children and the impact that varying form of exclusion can have
* What’s Next?: Over the next year we will be mobilising our pilot model to gather learnings for a national level

Data Analysis and user research

* We have conducted interviews and developed a hypothesis of risk factors for exclusion
* We have broadened the definition of exclusion to include other children who might be removed from mainstream education
* Boys are more likely to be excluded, but rate of school changes and exits are higher for girls
* Exclusions are highly focused in urban areas with the greatest deprivation
* Children with CSC contact are far more at risk of all exclusion / movement

Key takeaways

* Early intervention for those at high risk of exclusion
* Place-based local interventions. Most at-risk students fall in small geographical pockets
* Pupil’s experiences are more important than school policy. Exclusion rates are driven by the disadvantage of pupils, not the approach of the school
* Designing a response to exclusions based solely on exclusion data risks having a gender bias

Questions for Sara

Q. Where in the country is this data from?

A. We are just entering phase 2 so can’t release yet

Q. Are young people part of the co-production?

A. Yes. And will make sure we have the right people speaking to them. Voice of teachers and parents will also be heard, as they are also suffering trauma. Commissioning an independent organisation to look at this.

Q. Who else are you working with? APPG knife crime / exclusions etc?

A. That’s on s national oversight. We are bringing back through local accountability. Where’s the contextual decision making? Pulling together national oversight and advisory groups.

Sarah Willis, Hyde Housing

What can we do if we work differently together?

Undertaking strategic work to inform local approaches. Including, Youth Violence Commission, London Funders SYV Forum, VRU, HAYN and more.

A lot of the learning was viewing violence as a health problem, not as an isolated incident but from a health perspective it becomes a solvable problem. Working with people on the ground in local communities, to find ways to interrupt the transmission of violence and then put in programmes to support creating new social norms. Key is a long term vision, with long term funding/resourcing. Place based working has to have a hyper local solution with young people & the community at the heart; and for a longer period of time to make a real difference.

What we are doing:

* Employing the principles of: **interrupting the transmission**, preventing future spread and **creating new positive social norms**
* Working based **on data and evidence** of where there are high incidents of violence
* **Working with the community** and developing trusted relationships with local people who can be involved in the solution
* Building **partnership work** across a range of stakeholders
* Developing **solutions that tackle the root causes** – i.e. adverse childhood experiences looking at the domestic, education, environment, and personal aspects

We have been working with multi stakeholders including front line staff who deal with issues on our estates – e.g. meeting with local ASB officers, property managers, outreach youth workers, - people closest to the violence who see things on estates in an around estates – e.g. drugs paraphernalia, hidden guns/knives etc. Also working with schools, police, GPs, to ensure we are involving all stakeholders and local young people and communities.

It’s logical to work together on such a large scale problem but it can be difficult – everyone has their own organisational agenda and even neighbouring housing associations can have different priorities.

As part of the Housing Association Youth Network HAYN I have been leading work to establish a collective impact approach across 6-8 London Boroughs. We are now in the process of creating a backbone of various organisations (funders, local authorities, businesses, housing associations) to work together and agree high level strategic objectives and ways of working. This will then actively support local projects working in the hot spot areas with the highest evidence of violence that impacts young people and communities. Creating an ecosystem of local projects that ensure we with local people as part of the solution.

Questions for Sarah

Q. How do you encourage the young people to be part of the solution?

A. We had a young woman work with us on active research to explore youth voice and participation as part of her MA. Even the really good youth providers that work with us were not doing participation as effectively as they might have hoped. This can be due to lack of resource to better understand how to develop real participation. We are now employing her to train young people in participatory skills so that they can train adults in youth engagement and participation.

Q. CI models, what were the shared results, measurements?

A. We do measure impact and we are keen to extend this – Southbank University are doing a research piece to measure the effectiveness of our Lambeth place based project – Estate of Mine and we are talking to Centre for Youth Impact and looking at relational impact tools in order to measure things like youth outreach etc.

**What do we want to do next?**

Current problems

* Members feeding back, small grass roots organisations find funding inaccessible.
* Core funding comes up time and time again. Always have to be innovative and create new projects
* Gathering the evidence. WE know that we talk to small organisations and they tell us ‘when we do this it makes a difference’, but if we ask for evidence of how and why they struggle to produce it

Possibilities / Opportunities

* Expanding the network meetings to include other organisations, not necessarily funders
* If tools are accessible to everyone it is more valuable for the small organisations
* Seeing where money is, is there a mapping of it in the system?
* Place based - How do we facilitate / access lots of small groups and what infrastructure is needs to support it?
* Convening, sharing our work and learning. What are the commonalities what are others doing? How do we find them, linking into policy lessons?
* Practitioner and knowledge shared
* Funding to small localised groups and how that works in upskill or re-manage
* Policy & Influence
* The smaller groups to convene and facilitate.

Useful people to hear from / share learning with

* Youth participation, payment of young people how other organisations navigate
* NLCF – developing youth voice panel
* GLA – youth action group

**Any other business / Comments**

* What would the terms of the sub groups be? – to be decided on what they are and who chairs them
* Consistent participation from the group
* BBC Children in Need - operating in place and ‘multiplaces’ and aware there are a range of people interested in this. We are keen to convene funders who want to think about funding collaboratively to unpick the system and find the points where it will work.
* Young Ealing Foundation - looking at what London Youth are doing. Bringing together practitioners. Joining together lots of tiny organisations that are doing small projects.

**Further Resources**

To Begin at the Beginning, London Funders - <https://londonfunders.org.uk/resources-funders/london-funders-publications/begin-beginning-funders-response-serious-youth>

Children & Young Persons Network, London Funders - <https://londonfunders.org.uk/what-we-do/london-funders-e-bulletins/project-groups/children-and-young-people>

<https://londonfunders.org.uk/what-we-do/events-training/children-and-young-people-network-meeting-6>