

Youth Justice Update

Achievement for All in partnership with Association of Youth Offending Team Managers

December 2020

1 The Youth Justice SEND Quality Mark and Quality Lead Accreditation Process

In April 2018, a direct outcome from the two-year DfE contract “Securing better outcomes for children with SEND in the youth justice system” (April 2016-March 2018) was the establishment of a two-step Quality Assurance framework that supported high-impact evidenced-based partnership working within Local Area Partnerships (Education and Children’s Services, Social, Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups, and of course, Youth Offending Services).

Working in close partnership with the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers, Achievement for All has now quality assured **nearly fifty youth offending teams** across England, leading to sustained improved provision, diversion and liaison impacting directly and indirectly on an estimated five thousand children and young people per year in youth justice pathways, or on the edge of criminality,

Every single Team has valued the process, leading to more positive HMIP and Ofsted Area Inspection outcomes- twenty area partnerships are now coming up for redesignation after three years of effective practice, with Quality Mark partnerships aspiring to attain Quality Lead status.

This brief news item explains more: <https://afaeducation.org/news/yj-update-sept2019/>

Youth Justice SEND Quality Lead Area Partnerships: Buckinghamshire, County Durham, Milton Keynes, Nottinghamshire, Sheffield, Southwark, Staffordshire, Stockton-on-Tees, Warwickshire, West Berkshire, Wakefield, Havering, Blackburn with Darwen, Kirklees, St Helens, Knowsley, Oldham, Stockport, Enfield, Croydon, Haringey

Youth Justice SEND Quality Mark Area Partnerships: Birmingham, Brent, Cheshire East, Islington, Lancashire, Salford, Somerset, Bedford and Bedfordshire, Southampton, Slough, Wiltshire, Stockport, Telford and Wrekin, Gloucestershire, Manchester, Nottingham City, Hackney, Norfolk, Westminster, Worcestershire, Hillingdon, Shropshire

December 2020 most recent sign-ups: North Somerset, Lincolnshire, Middlesbrough/South Tyneside, Medway, Coventry, Tameside and Blackpool

2 The Youth Justice SEND Bubble: Interactive Learning Platform

FREE ACCESS FOR EVERY YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE IN ENGLAND AND WALES
Over 2000 registered users (December 2020)

Since January 2017, Achievement for All, in partnership with Association of Youth Offending Team Managers, host and continually update a leadership development and professional training platform to support the awareness, knowledge and practice development to secure better outcomes for children and young people with SEN in the youth justice system.

In March 2019, we added a module unit focussing on **the impact of trauma and neglect**. In April 2020, after needs were expressed from front-line professionals in response to the Covid crisis, we added a comprehensive suite of resources aimed at **understanding social and emotion resilience**, self-esteem and self-efficacy.

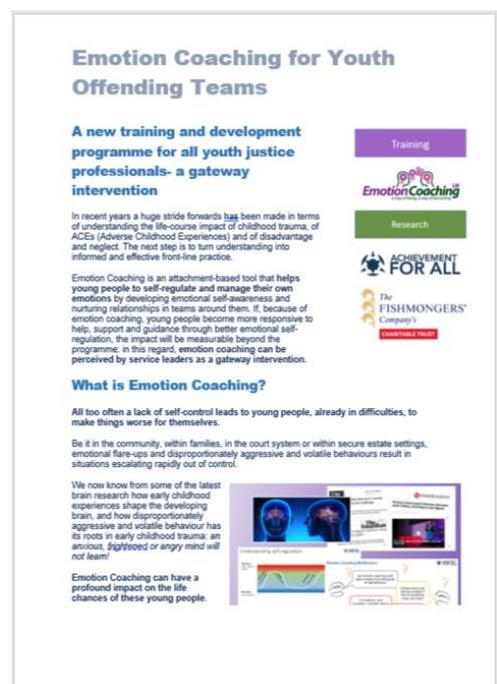
Our work around the country has highlighted a growing move towards **strengths-based, “Child First” thinking** which aims to create a positive, forward-looking culture and practice around the child and family. This will be our line of enquiry and material development focus for 2021.

3 Emotion Coaching in youth justice

Achievement For All has worked hard to support education and youth justice settings in moving from **trauma-awareness to effective trauma-informed practice**. Following on from the DfE contract, Achievement for All has identified, and invested in, **Emotion Coaching** as having a profound impact on building effective relationships and helping young people to mitigate the impact of childhood trauma, whatever the causes or reasons.

All too often, troubled children and young people lack control over their basic emotional states (*an extremely common expression of childhood trauma*), making bad situations worse. And a frightened, angry or anxious mind *will not learn*.

Emotion Coaching gives front line professionals a powerful tool to apply and develop, helping children and young people self-regulate more effectively, and become more receptive other - in that regard, **Emotion Coaching can be described as a gateway intervention**.



Emotion Coaching for Youth Offending Teams

A new training and development programme for all youth justice professionals- a gateway intervention

In recent years a huge stride forwards has been made in terms of understanding the life-course impact of childhood trauma, of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and of disadvantage and neglect. The next step is to turn understanding into informed and effective front-line practice.

Emotion Coaching is an attachment-based tool that helps young people to self-regulate and manage their own emotions by developing emotional self-awareness and nurturing relationships in teams around them. If, because of emotion coaching, young people become more responsive to help, support and guidance through better emotional self-regulation, the impact will be measurable beyond the programme: in this regard, emotion coaching can be perceived by service leaders as a gateway intervention.

What is Emotion Coaching?

All too often a lack of self-control leads to young people, already in difficulties, to make things worse for themselves.

Be it in the community, within families, in the court system or within secure estate settings, emotional flare-ups and disproportionately aggressive and volatile behaviours result in situations escalating rapidly out of control.

We now know from some of the latest brain research how early childhood experiences shape the developing brain, and how disproportionately aggressive and volatile behaviour has its roots in early childhood trauma: an anxious, frightened or angry mind will not learn!

Emotion Coaching can have a profound impact on the life chances of these young people.

Training
Emotion Coaching
Research
ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL
The FISHMONGERS' COMPANY
EVIDENCE BASED

4 Fishmongers' Company Charitable Trust Developments

In July 2019 Achievement for All secured a multi-year grant from Fishmongers' Company's Charitable Trust. We are now into the second year of working with seven London Local Authority teams to develop Emotion Coaching practice in youth justice settings:

Tower Hamlets/City of London; Southwark, Hackney; Westminster; Lambeth; Islington; Camden

This recent Blog explains more: <https://afaeducation.org/blog/world-mental-health-day/emotion-coaching-as-a-gateway-intervention/>

It is particularly pleasing to see how frontline practitioners are adapting to the demands of telephone conversations with extremely vulnerable and challenging young people, reflecting deeply on the emotion coaching toolkit and how it can be effectively applied (short example here).

Connecting with a non-compliant young person 4:36 https://youtu.be/XMXM_I-73Ag

Other Youth Offending Teams around the country are keen to adopt Emotion Coaching or have expressed interest in doing so (**St Helens, Bexley, Barnsley, Bristol, Norfolk, West Berkshire** to name a few).

Here is an example of the new material created, funded by Fishmongers' Company's Charitable Grant, focussed on emotion coaching in youth justice settings, and highlighting the different ways of dealing with emotions.

This was created in response to feedback from participating teams.



Scenario
YP arrives for an important review meeting 20 minutes late... storms in, slams the door, sinks into chair, no eye contact

SELECT A RESPONSE PATHWAY

- EMOTION DISAPPROVING
- EMOTION LAISSEZ FAIRE
- EMOTION DISMISSIVE
- EMOTION COACHING

CLICK ON IMAGE or

https://res.afa3as.org.uk/EmotionCoaching/EC_Scenarios/index.html

5 Future Emotion Coaching Possibilities

5.1 Potential of impact within secure schools and secure estate

The Fishmongers' sponsorship may enable the possibility of trialling Emotion Coaching techniques within the Secure Estate. Contact with Medway and Feltham has been problematic. However, we have recently made a positive contact with a member of the Youth Justice Board who has learned of our work (Sharon Gray). She is excited by our offer and has agreed to broker connections into both Feltham and the Secure School development being led by Oasis.

5.2 Potential of impact beyond youth justice teams

We are alert to the potential of this work developing successfully into alternative provision and PRUs (Pupil Referral Units) and have case studies of success with EC projects sponsored by Virtual Heads:

Individual Case Study: <https://afaeducation.org/media/1793/ec-yp-case-study-for-emotion-coaching-2-sw.pdf>

6 Safer Sport Partnerships

In May 2018 Achievement for All established a highly effective partnership with the community sports charity and social enterprise StreetGames, and for the past three years have given them a "Core Strength" learning programme to support their summer "fit and fed" activities in London and Newcastle.

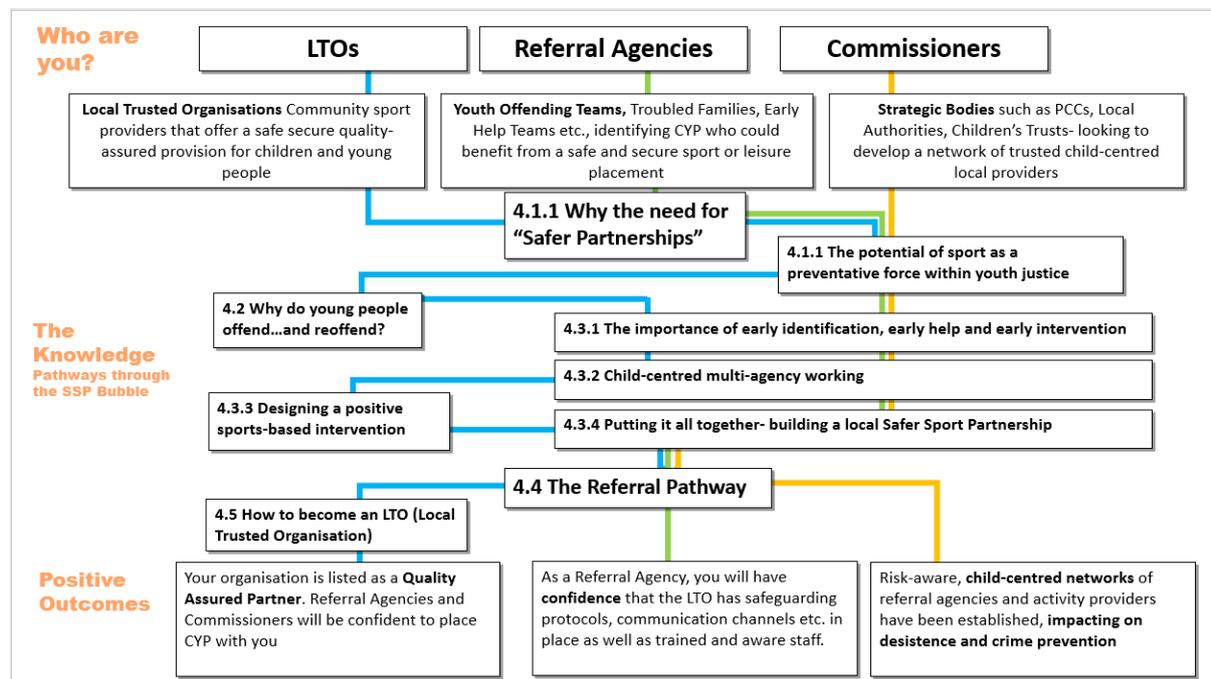
As a consequence, children and young people from disadvantaged communities get a structured programme for developing skills for learning, skills for employment and skills for life intimately bound into their programme of activity and hot meals throughout the summer recess.

Sport and sport participation is often linked with many transformational possibilities:

- Sport for Personal Development
- Sport for Inclusion
- Sport for Gender equality
- Sport for Lifelong Learning and Employment
- Sport for Physical Well-being
- Sport for Mental Health
- Sport for Policy Development
- Sport for Economic Development
- Sport for Peace Building
- Sport for Cohesion and Integration
- Sport for Healthier Ageing

Together with the StreetGames and researchers from Loughborough University we have built a comprehensive professional development resource that explores **the power of sporting participation to reduce offending behaviour in children and young people.**

It examines and explores the possibilities, the practice, and the partnership working imperatives that need to be considered when youth justice professionals and community sports providers work together around identified children and young people.



The Covid crisis has somewhat delayed developments, but we are keen to continue this work as soon as we are able.

7 Covid-19 Deep Leadership

New for September 2020 We are also offering to youth offending teams a specially configured leadership support and development programme.

Public sector leaders have been challenged and stretched in an unprecedented way due to the Covid-19 crisis. From education settings (Executive Heads, Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers) to Youth Offending Team Leaders, from Children's Services to housing, social services, health and care: levels of stress and anxiety can become toxic and debilitating.

This is a unique and powerful leadership development and support programme that explores the social and emotional aspects of leadership in extreme circumstances: supporting not only the growth of individual leaders in terms of personal resilience and stress management, but also helping leaders to put social and emotional wellbeing at the very heart of their teams, their organisations and their professional networks and communities.

Learn more here: <https://afaeducation.org/coaching-programmes/deep-leadership/deep-leadership/>

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