

MPS Safer Schools Officers – Briefing Note

There are currently 2.3 million young people (YP) in London, representing 25% of the overall population, and this will increase by 2020. Safer Schools Officers (SSOs) form part of the BCU Youth Team (Neighbourhoods) which also consist of Youth Engagement Officers (YEOs) and VPC Co-ordinators. The MPS currently has 630 Safer Schools Partnerships in place with Schools and Colleges across London.

Objectives

To meet Mayoral Commitments, the MPS Business Plan and address high harm offending, Schools officers' activity should be focused around following three core principles:

Deter, Detect and Divert.

Schools officers will deliver a sustained and familiar visible presence that:

- * Minimises the risk of Anti-Social behaviour (ASB), serious youth violence (SYV) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- * Increases actionable intelligence on weapon carriage and storage, and the times, places and events that present risk of serious youth violence
- * Significantly reduces the number of young victims of violence
- * Increases engagement with YP, parents and teachers
- * Provides reassurance to YP, parents and the wider community
- * Deliver early intervention and diversion through restorative approaches and multi-agency referrals
- * Deliver targeted prevention messages on High Harm, High Risk topics
- * Schools officers will perform weapon sweeps of

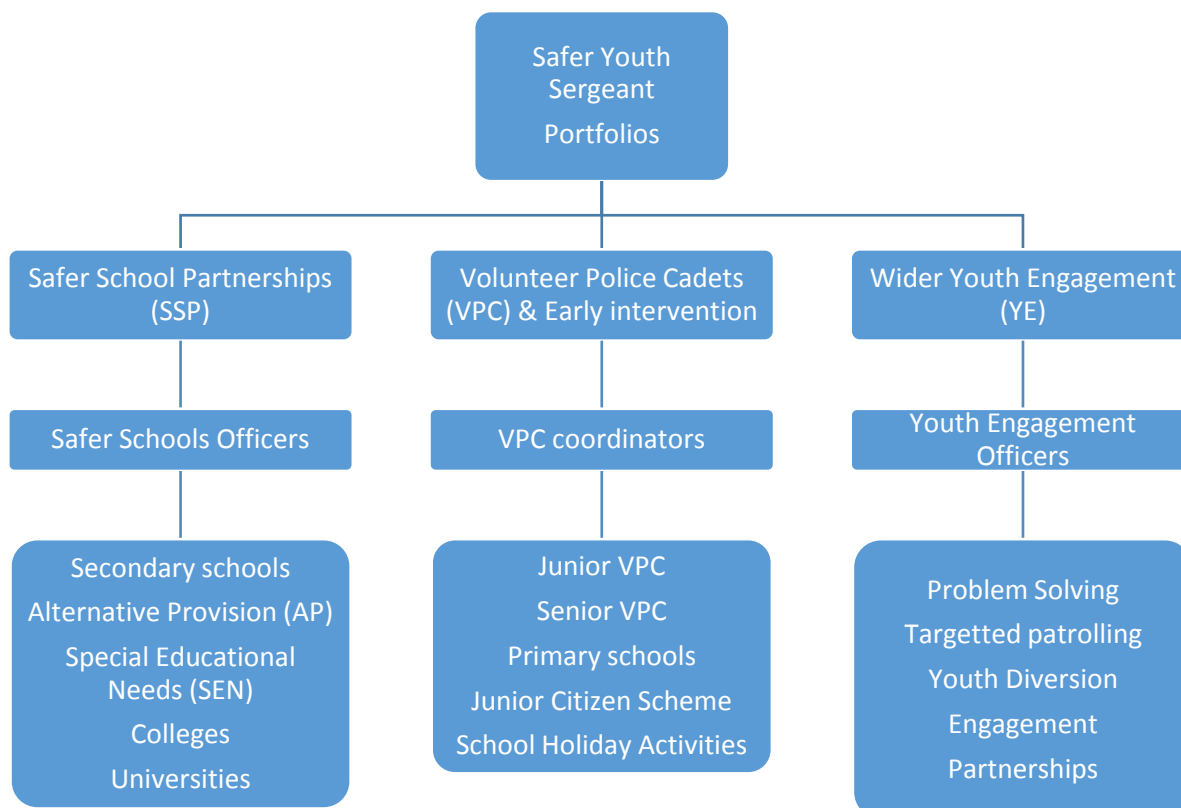
SSOs will deploy between 1500-1800 hours each weekday in and around schools, colleges and key transport routes and interchanges to provide visible reassurance and prevent violence offences.

- * The MPS Children & Young People (C&YP) Strategic Plan provides a focus on the areas of risk and harm that affect YP the most, from SYV, Gang involvement, Weapons and knife crime, to domestic abuse (Op Encompass), hate crime, Sexual offences, CSE, Extremism and radicalisation.
- * The Youth Engagement & Crime Prevention plan for each BCU/Borough enables supervisors to strategically plan yearly activity and target areas of risk and harm for YP at key times.
- * With the new YEO role, we plan to enhance partnership working with Youth Offending Services (YOS) & YP within the system to prevent recidivism. Through the YEOs, SSOs will utilise diversion schemes more effectively to deal with those on the cusp of offending as well as persistent young offenders.
- * We will refresh the Safer Schools Activity Matrix to refocus SSO problem solving and enforcement activity in schools and Pupil Referral Units on violent crime and high harm offending. For example, enhance SSO input into the Gang Matrix, proactively identify gang members and those on the periphery of gang membership in schools (siblings of gang members, girls in gangs, etc.), proactively identify habitual knife carriers through support of ad-hoc searching in schools, screening arch operations and weapon sweeps, etc.
- * The VPC is the Mets diversion programme for YP with over 5,100 cadets. We actively encourage referrals into the VPC programme from SSOs, YOTs and youth partner organisations. 30% of cadets are defined as vulnerable. 57% are BAME.
- * The VPC on every borough will continue to perform monthly smart water operations, weapon sweeps and test purchasing Operations to combat CSE (Op Makesafe), the sale of weapons (Op Sceptre) & alcohol to those under age.
- * We have a resource hub of corporate educational presentations in which over 590 officers currently have access. It contains presentations on county lines, Trident inputs on gangs and consequences, knife crime, etc. The delivery of these presentations is targeted through the use of the Youth Engagement & Crime Prevention plan and emerging local issues identified by SSOs

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Local	<p>Every school has a named contact</p> <p>SSOs are assigned to priority schools (reviewed regularly)</p> <p>Number of SSPs</p>
Tackling High Risk, High Harm offending	<p>Number of CRIMINTs</p> <p>Intelligence led targeted patrols at key times</p> <p>Number of weapon sweeps in and around schools</p> <p>Number of screening arch operations</p> <p>Number of knives and weapons found</p> <p>Number of Stop & Searches</p> <p>Increase referrals to diversion schemes</p> <p>Number of referrals to YOTs</p> <p>Number of referrals to diversion schemes</p> <p>Number of referrals to the gangs unit</p> <p>Number of restorative approaches in schools</p> <p>Number of targeted presentations in schools</p> <p>Facilitation of preventative projects in schools</p> <p>Contribution to Volunteer Police Cadets</p>
Confidence	<p>Increased confidence amongst young people</p> <p>Contribute to BCU social media & wider community messaging</p>

Structure of a BCU Youth Team (corporate model)



Appendix

MPS Safer Schools Officer - A Day in the Life

MORNING/AFTERNOON	
ACTIVITY	PURPOSE
Intel/Crime System checks	CRIS, CRIMINT, Merlin, IIP for information sharing with schools (Operation Encompass).
HV Patrols	Visible presence on way & outside of schools to reduce ASB, SYV and crime.
Assembly presentation	Distribute targeted MPS messages. Engagement, crime prevention & enforcement.
Planned operations	Knife arch operations and weapon sweeps - work with gangs unit (Op sceptre, Autumn Nights)
Deal with crime (reactive & proactive)	CSE, drugs, county lines, identify habitual knife carriers, identify gang associates, problem solving / action on emerging issues. Arresting, Interviews, RJ, CR, referrals (YOT, diversion schemes, VPC), presentations, return to school interviews.
Assist investigations	Liaise with CID, SNT, gangs unit. Take statements, provide further info, victim care, obtain CCTV, etc.
Intelligence gathering	Identify habitual knife carriers, gang associates and siblings, emerging community issues.
Engagement activities	Facilitate presentations. Utilise the Youth Engagement & Crime Prevention Plan yearly themes (Hate crime, CSE, etc. & MPS messages). Break time patrols, workshops.
Information sharing	Safeguarding/Intel gathering to support enforcement activity
Partnership meetings	MASH, social inclusion, diversion projects etc.
Advise school staff	Safeguarding issues, crime prevention, problem solve emerging issues, searching and screening.
Safeguarding	Truancy patrols, home visits, support use of MOPAC knife wands to tackle knife crime.
After school patrols	ASB, high visibility, crime prevention with SNT, TfL/Safer Transport at transport hubs. Stop & Search where appropriate
EVENING/WEEKEND/HOLIDAYS	
Volunteer Police Cadets	Working with YE officer/VPC coordinator to run Junior VPC units (Utilising YOT and school referrals). Assist at Senior VPC meetings. Assist Test purchase operations
High visibility patrols (hotspot locations)	As directed locally, SSOs will support MPS policing operations e.g. Op Spectre, Autumn Nights, Op Venice