

Serious Youth Violence (SYV) and Adolescent Vulnerability Practice Week is taking place to strengthen the local multi-agency response to serious youth violence by improving professional understanding, consistency of practice, and collaboration across the partnership. The week provides a focused opportunity to reinforce learning, share best practice, and ensure that safeguarding responses to children and young people at risk of, or affected by, serious youth violence are effective, trauma-informed, and aligned with statutory responsibilities.

### **Context and Need**

Serious youth violence remains a significant safeguarding concern locally and nationally, with children and young people often experiencing overlapping risks including criminal exploitation, contextual safeguarding concerns, adverse childhood experiences, and unmet health or wellbeing needs. These risks frequently sit across agency boundaries and require a coordinated, whole-system response.

Safeguarding activity, audits, and learning from reviews continue to highlight:

- The complexity of identifying early indicators of serious youth violence and exploitation.
- Variability in professional confidence and knowledge when responding to adolescent safeguarding risks outside the family home.
- Challenges in information sharing, professional curiosity, and coordinated decision-making.
- The need for consistent use of trauma-informed and child-centred approaches.

### **Strategic Aims**

The Serious Youth Violence Practice Week supports the OSCP's wider strategic objectives by:

- Strengthening early intervention to reduce escalation into serious harm.
- Embedding learning from local and national safeguarding reviews, inspections, and intelligence.
- Promoting a common language and shared understanding of serious youth violence, criminal exploitation, and contextual safeguarding.
- Supporting workforce development across all partner agencies.
- Reinforcing accountability and shared ownership of safeguarding adolescents.

### **Expected Outcomes**

The OSCP expects the Serious Youth Violence Practice Week to:

- Increase practitioner confidence and competence in responding to serious youth violence.
- Improve consistency of practice across agencies.
- Strengthen partnership relationships and communication.
- Embed learning that leads to earlier identification of risk and more effective interventions.
- Ultimately contribute to improved safety and outcomes for children and young people.

The Serious Youth Violence Practice Week reflects the OSCP's commitment to continuous learning, reflective practice, and collective responsibility for safeguarding adolescents. By focusing partnership attention on serious youth violence in a structured and collaborative way, the OSCP aims to strengthen the system's ability to protect children, reduce harm, and support positive life outcomes for young people.

**The expectation of attending practice week training is that attendees will complete training evaluations either immediately after a session or several weeks later.**