

OUTREACH PROJECT

2023



SERVICES

New Horizon Youth Centre offers holistic support to young people in need, covering:

- Accommodation advice and support
- Counselling and health support
- Education, training and employment
- Emotional and physical well-being

YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

The **Outreach Team** offers **pan-London** services to young people (16-25) who have offended or who are affiliated with or impacted by youth violence, including:

- Intensive Casework
- Access to the Day Centre
- Prison & street outreach
 - Access to Satellites
- Emergency Intervention

Referral routes into **Outreach** services:

- Self referrals
- Professional referrals

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES YOP

- **Reduce** re-offending
- **Enable** young people to move from NEET to EET
- **Reduce** nature/violence of offending
- **Improve** communication skills and engagement
- **Improve** relationships, **decrease isolation** and **increase safety**
- Offer **safe and stable** housing relocation



OUR APPROACH



- Deliver 1-1 services in the community via assertive outreach
- Support and encourage young people to engage with services at NHYC
- Work in prison 1-1 and on the wings
- Mental and emotional health support



BARRIERS TO ENGAGEMENT

History of non-engagement

Often there is a history of what professionals often refer to as “non-engagement”.

This often takes the form of a YP not conforming or meeting the expectations and timeframes set by the worker or the service.

Often these YP are those who's lived experience of trauma creates barriers to forming meaningful relationships in their personal lives, yet services put the expectation that they meet a professional and automatically form a meaningful relationship within a set timeframe or support will be withdrawn.

This approach can often confirm their pre-conceived narrative about professionals i.e. “they don't really care” “it's just a job, they only do it for money” “where were you when I really needed you” etc. This in turn makes future engagement more challenging.

It is therefore our job as professionals to actively attempt to engage the YP and acknowledge that it just may not be the right time for them to engage but leaving a door open for them to be fast tracked to support when they are ready might make the world of difference.



SAFE LOCATION

When working with this client group a major barrier to engagement is often surrounding safety;

With a number of YP who have experienced the trauma of being victims of serious youth violence or those who's, lived or witnessed, life experiences have resulted in increased anxiety and hypervigilance.

The outcome of this is often that their world becomes confined to particular areas and in some cases their particular road/ estate.

This in turn creates barriers to completing face to face work with these YP. For some, the only way they know how to feel safe outside their area is; within their peer groups and/ or with a weapon.

For us to be able to ensure that they feel safe we have to provide a location and travel routes for which they do not feel threatened enough to feel the need to carry a weapon.



SAFE LOCATION - PLANNING

For this to happen our safety planning must identify:

safe locations

safe methods of transport to the location

confirmation that there will be no other YP in that location at the time they would have issues with
ensuring they have a safe route home.

As professionals this means:

liaising with venues i.e. youth hubs

being aware of local tensions and personal issues with individuals or groups

being available and contacting the YP to inform them of any changes to plans or making them aware of what to
expect on the day

informing them that the plans to meet have not been shared with anyone outside the team other than the staff at
the hub

checking that the plan in place is sufficient to make the YP feel safe enough to attend without the need for them
to take safety planning into their own hands.





YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS DIFFERENTLY

The homelessness statistics for this group often do not reflect the true picture and levels of need

Young people are more likely to sofa surf (hidden homelessness), this has been impacted by COVID as they are less able to do so

Young people in prison often say they have an address so they can be released

Young people are exploited because of their homelessness – via CCE, CSE and other forms of exploitation and abuse

Potential risk factors for future homelessness are often present for children under 18



nhyouthcentre.org.uk | [@NHyouthcentre](https://twitter.com/NHyouthcentre)

KEY MESSAGES

There is a need pan London for young people specific SAFE emergency, short and long term accommodation

In 2017/18 it was estimated that 84,000 young people in England approached their LA due to being homeless or at risk. For 52% no documented support was provided. In 2019/20 the figure was 121,000.

It is critical that children and young people know their rights as early as possible

1 in 10 people sleeping rough are under 25 and **43%** of young Londoners recently interview said their primary concern was not having a stable place to live

