

● **St Mary's Hospital Youth Violence Intervention Project Year 2 Evaluation Report**

Executive Summary • February 2017

Introduction

The Youth Violence Intervention Project (YVIP) at St Mary's was started in 2014, following the success of similar projects at King's College Hospital, and St Thomas' Hospital, and with the support of Charitable funding, the Home Office and the London Mayor's Office of Police and Crime (MOPAC).

The intention of these projects is to make use of the unique 'teachable moments' which occur when the young person has attended ED as a result of a violent assault; there is evidence that youth work support at the 'teachable moment' can be effective in helping young people change their risky lifestyle.

NPC Associates were appointed in 2014 to undertake a three year evaluation of the impact the project has on improving the outcomes for young people attending St Mary's Emergency Department and Major Trauma Centre, involved or at risk of involvement with violence and/or sexual exploitation. This is the Executive Summary of the report on the first two years of the evaluation.

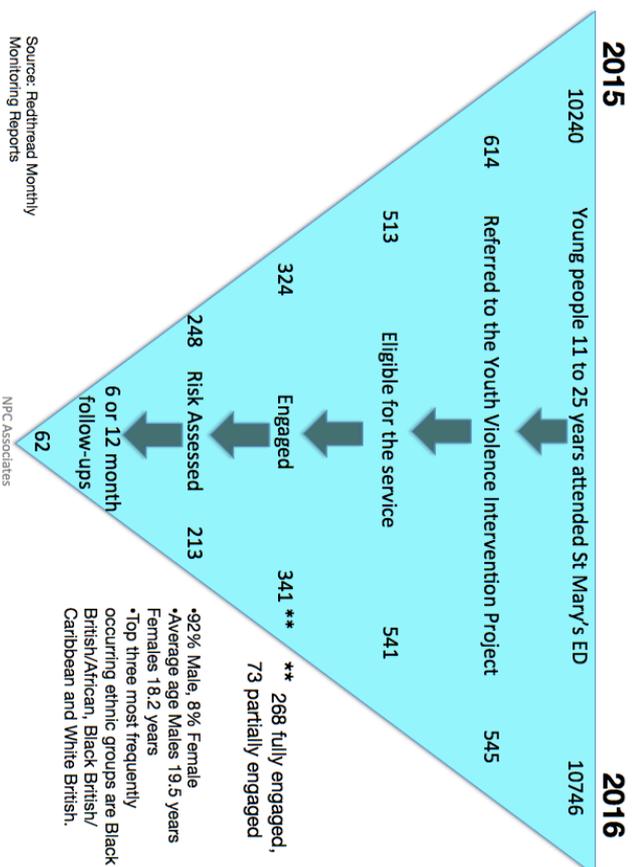
In July 2014, a workshop was held involving many of the key stakeholders involved at that time, which resulted in the agreement of the desired outcomes for the YVIP. The evaluation of the impact of the YVIP on these desired outcomes, is based quantitative and qualitative data including risk assessments carried out by Redthred Youth Workers, hospital attendance records, case studies, feedback from young people, ED staff surveys, and feedback from other relevant agencies that work in the field of youth violence in London.

Summary of Findings to Date

Outcome 1: Young people who have attended St Mary's Emergency Department as a result of violence-related injuries, including those related to sexual exploitation, will be supported by Redthread to achieve a reduction in their risky lifestyle, including reduced involvement in violence and crime (as victim or perpetrator).

Summary finding: Redthread is engaging with a high-risk group of young people attending St Mary's following violent incidents. The evidence available after the first two years suggests that the project is helping the young people to reduce the risks they face and their involvement with violence and crime in the months after their initial contact. In addition, our feedback from partner agencies re-affirms the potential of the 'teachable moment' to significantly impact on the choices and lifestyles of these vulnerable young people.

Redthread Youth workers at St Mary's are engaging with a group of young people who are substantially at risk of violence, injury and involvement with crime:

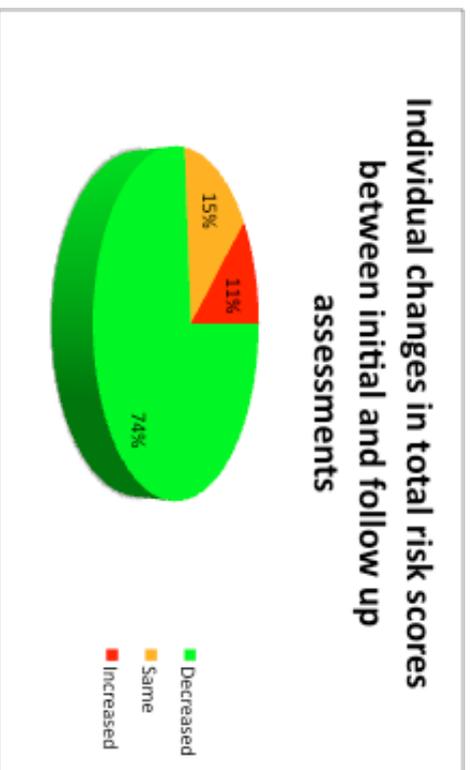


- The 213 young people risk assessed in 2016 were at greater risk than the 248 risk assessed in 2015. The results below show the 2016 risk assessments with 2015 in brackets.
- 1 in 7 of those who had attended as a result of an assault reported that they had attended ED on at least one other previous occasion in the last 5 years as a result of an assault.
- 71% are involved in violence, either personally or by association (55% in 2015)
- 65% were involved in crime, either personally or by association (55% in 2015)
- 68% said that they react violently if violence is inflicted on them (52% in 2015)
- 29% said that they initiate violence on others (23% in 2015)
- 41% (39%) directly witness violence regularly or occasionally in their neighbourhood, 17% (11%) did so in school or college, and 10% (6%) at home.

'Such patients require so much more time than we can offer in ED. Also ED is not a very conducive environment in which to explore such sensitive and emotional subjects. Added to that the immaturity of the person involved makes these patients so very complex and vulnerable. The Redthread team play such a vital role in these individuals lives at a time of crisis.' **staff survey 2016.**

'Other agencies all have agendas which are only partly relevant to young people. I like to feel we have a holistic approach and they feel cared for and supported and when they leave here feel the issues that are important to them will have been addressed.' **Redthread youth worker 2016.**

Follow up risk assessments for 62 young people who had engaged with Redthread in the period Nov 2014 to July 2016, showed that the majority had reduced the risks that they faced since their initial assessment with Redthread 6 or 12 months earlier, as shown below:



- 74% had seen a reduction in their total risk score, 15% had remained the same and 11% had increased
- 59% had a reduced involvement with violence, either personally or by association, 28% had remained the same and 13% had increased
- 37% had a reduced involvement with crime, either personally or by association, 61% had remained the same and 2% had increased.
- 71% had less violent attitudes, 27% had remained the same, and 2% had more violent attitudes
- 59% of young people saw a reduction in their risks associated with violence in their neighbourhood, school or college, or home. 28% had unchanged risks and 13% had increased risks.

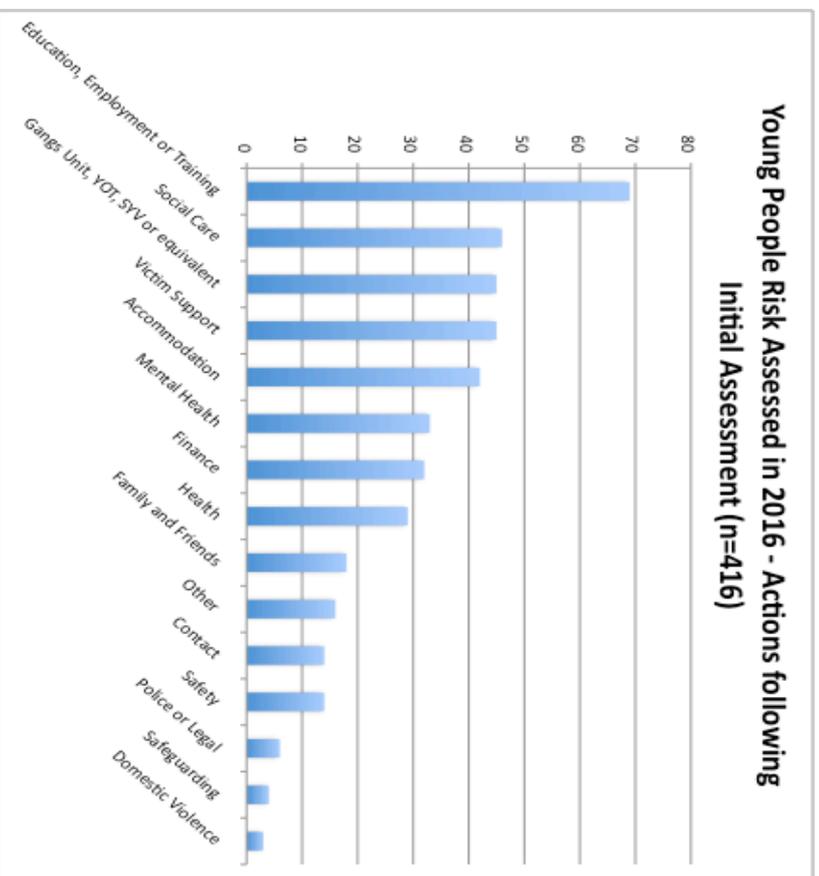
Hospital attendance data shows that Young people who engaged with YVIP following an assault, appear to be less likely to be involved in repeat assaults, compared to a similar group of young people prior to the introduction of the service. The one-year re-attendance rate at St Mary's due to further assaults has reduced from 1 in 21 to 1 in 35 since the introduction of the YVIP.

Our evidence strongly suggests that the 'Teachable moment' exists and enables, and increases the willingness of, young people to access support from a range of sources that helps to reduce their risk. This stems from the quality of their relationship with the Redthread youth worker and the development of a trusting relationship within a relatively short period of time.

Feedback from external agencies was overwhelmingly positive particularly in relation to the quality of the work of the Redthread youth workers, the impact on their own work with the referred young people and the improved outcomes for these young people as a result.

Outcome 2: At-risk young people will have been supported by YVIP to access appropriate supporting services in a planned way.

Summary Finding: Redthread youth workers have used the ‘teachable moment’ to introduce or re-introduce young people at risk to appropriate supporting agencies and/or services where these exist. There are signs of both increased access to planned services and reduced attendance at ED.

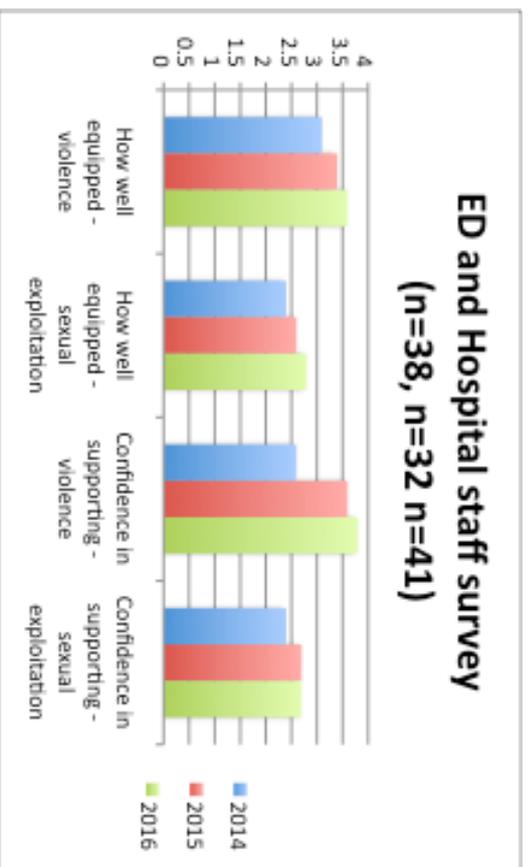


- Redthread has been able to introduce some young people to Borough’s statutory services who had previously been unknown to them and have also improved existing relationships with statutory services where previously the young person refused to work with them.
- Redthread youth workers agree initial actions plans with 95% of young people risk assessed, including referral or follow-up actions with multiple agencies such as integrated gang units, education, primary health, mental health, housing, liaison with police and legal services etc.
- Of those with Action plans, a third of young people were assessed as having no contact with services that would benefit them.
- Feedback from other agencies strongly suggests that Redthread strengthen the willingness of the young people to engage constructively with other agencies.
- Take up of both health services (for 31%) and other agencies (for 46%) improved amongst the 39 and 48 young people (respectively) who had follow up risk assessments.
- The rate of re-attendance at ED for reasons other than further violent incidents of young people risk assessed in 2015 was 1 in 8. This compares to a rate of 1 in 5 in the baseline audit of 2012/13. This result is statistically significant at the 95% level.

- The outcome for young people is dependent upon the availability of effective local services, which are enhanced by Redthread's intervention at the teachable moment.
- Young people report very positively on the relationship they have with Redthread and the support they receive. However, obtaining meaningful feedback continues to be an ongoing challenge.

Outcome 3: There will be an increased awareness, understanding and engagement by ED staff with young people attending with violence related injuries including those related to sexual exploitation.

Summary finding: ED staff are extremely positive about the youth violence project, readily refer young people to it, and have increasingly said that they feel better equipped and more confident in dealing with young people who have experienced violence since the Redthread youth workers have become part of the ED team.



- Over the first two years ED staff progressively demonstrated an increase in how well equipped and confident they felt in supporting and engaging with young people attending as a result of violence and sexual incidents.
- The proportion of referrals that came directly from hospital staff has increased significantly since the commencement of the project, with very few young people only identified by Redthread themselves searching through ED triage records.
- Hospital staff gave overwhelmingly positive feedback about the approach, contribution and value of the Redthread youth workers.

'Feels secure that the people we are discharging are not just discharged straight back into the big bad world that brought them in here. There is only so much we can do regarding their social circumstances, before Redthread we would have discharged to GP or Children's Social Services, not that secure, now we know someone keeping an eye on them.' ED Consultant 2016

Outcome 4: Collaborative working and sharing of data between relevant agencies will have improved.

Summary finding: Data is now being collected comprehensively for those who engage with YVIP, and data and information are being shared effectively at operational level with partner agencies. However, there is still a need to improve data sharing at the strategic level.

ISTV (Information Sharing to Tackle Violence) datasets, are now being collected and recorded completely for 98% of young people who are risk assessed in 2016 (and 90% in 2015). This data was not being collected prior to the initiation of the Redthread service. Agencies report very positively on the sharing of information and knowledge for individual young people (with their consent) but there is still scope for improvement in the sharing of anonymised statistical information. There are very strong working relationships between the Redthread team and the Safeguarding team within Imperial as a whole including St Mary's Hospital, resulting in a robust process to ensure all vulnerable young people are identified and supported appropriately.

Next Steps

The findings from this report will be used to inform Redthread and St Mary's Hospital about the progress of, and learning from, this project to date, and to demonstrate to key funders and stakeholders the progress against the desired outcomes.

The third and final report will be produced in March 2018 at the end of the third year of the project and although much of it will utilise similar data and evidence as the first 2 years we also wish to ensure the following are addressed in greater detail:

- Further work on cost effectiveness of the service;
- Additional feedback from young people; and
- On-going work with MOPAC to maximise the evidence available for both evaluation