Introduction

Executive Summary • February 2017

St Mary’s Hospital Youth Violence Intervention Project Year 2 Evaluation Report

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 Youth Violence Intervention Project (YVIP) at St Mary’s Hospital. A three-year evaluation of the impact of the YVIP on these desired outcomes is based on quantitative and qualitative data including risk assessments carried out by Redthread Youth Workers, hospital attendance records, case studies, feedback from young people, ED staff surveys, and feedback from other relevant agencies who work in the field of youth violence in London.

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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).

Redthread is engaging with a high-risk group of young people who are substantially at risk of violence, injury and involvement with crime.

The choices and lifestyles of these vulnerable young people have a lasting impact on their wellbeing. Following their initial contact, in addition to feedback from partner agencies, Redthread re-evaluates the potential of the teachable moment to significantly impact on the lives of young people who are receiving treatment.

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. Reduction in their risky lifestyle, including reduced involvement in violence and crime (as victim or perpetrator), is supported by feedback from partner agencies.

Summary finding: Redthread is engaging with a high-risk group of young people attending St Mary’s Emergency Department as a result of violence-related injuries, including those related to sexual exploitation and violence-related injuries.

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 (as victim or perpetrator), including reduced involvement in violence and crime (as victim or perpetrator).

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 ED at least once in the last 5 years as a result of an assault reported that they had attended on at least one other previous occasion in the last 5 years as a result of an assault reported that.
- 71% were involved in crime, either personally or by association (55% in 2015).
- 65% were involved in violence, either personally or by association (65% in 2015).
- 74% involved in violence, either personally or by association (65% in 2015).
- 29% said that they initiate violence on others (23% in 2015).
- 41% (39%) directly witness violence regularly or occasionally in their neighborhood.
- 17% (11%) did so in school or college, and 10% (6%) at home.
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- 17% (11%) did so in school or college, and 10% (6%) at home.
Trust in relationships within a relatively short period of time.

The benefits of a range of sources that help to reduce their risk. This stems from the quality of the relationship, the Redthread youth worker and the development of a trusting relationship. 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.

Redthread youth worker 2016.

Follow up data shows that young people who engaged with VYIP 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 reattendance rate at St Mary’s due to further assaults has reduced from 1 in 2 to 1 in 35 since the introduction of the VYIP.

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.

Our evidence strongly suggests that the ‘Teachable moment’ exists and enables, and increases the willingness of young people to access support from a 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 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.
- 71% had less violent attitudes, 27% had remained the same, and 2% had more.
- 61% had reduced involvement with crime, either personally or by association, 37% had a reduced involvement with violence, either personally or by association, 13% had increased.
- 59% had reduced involvement with violence in their neighbourhood, school or college, or home, 28% had unchanged risks and 13% had increased risks.
- 7% had increased violent attitudes.
- 94% had reduced involvement with violence, other personally or by association.
- 31% had seen a reduction in their total risk score, 15% had remained the same, and 54% had increased.

Individual changes in total risk scores

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Individual changes in total risk scores
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: Al-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 services where these exist. There are signs of both increased access to planned services and reduced attendance at ED.

- Re-introduced young people to statutory services who had previously been unknown to them and have since improved existing relationships with statutory services where these exist.
- Re-introduced young people to agencies and services where these exist. The signs of both increased access to planned services and reduced attendance at ED.
- Take up of other health services (for 31%) and other agencies (for 46%).
- Overall satisfaction among the 53 and 48 young people (respectively) who had feedback from other agencies. Strengthening the willingness of the young people to engage constructively.
- Improved attendance at ED of young people (20%) and other agencies (46%).
- Re-introduced 1,000 young people at 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.
- Redthread youth workers agreed initial action plans with 95% of young people at 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.
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- Redthread has been able to introduce some young people to borough’s statutory services and external agencies where these exist. There are signs of both increased access to planned services and reduced attendance at ED.
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- Take up of both health services (for 31%) and other agencies (for 46%).

The rate of re-attendance at ED for reasons other than further violent
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 relationships they have with Redthread and the support they receive. However, obtaining meaningful feedback...

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

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:

- 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 and knowledge for individual young people (with their consent).

- 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.

- There is still much work to be done to improve data sharing at the strategic level.

- Further work on cost effectiveness of the service:

- On-going work with MOPAC to maximise the evidence available for both evaluation and additional feedback from young people and:

- 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.