

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Andy Walker, Young Adder Partnership Manager
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 March 2022

## YOUNG ADDER

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To present a report on the work of Young Adder.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to gain an understanding of the work of Young Adder.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure Scrutiny oversight and to provide the opportunity for further questions and continued Member involvement.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

### 5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is

- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

### 6.0 Background information

#### 6.1 Adder (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery)

Funded by the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Adder pilot will run for just over two years initially, starting Nov 2020 and ending March 2023.

Blackpool has been chosen as one of five pilot areas due to the high rate of drug related deaths and drug related crime. Blackpool is the only pilot with a Young Adder.

6.2 The overarching aims for Young Adder are:

- A reduction in the rate of drug deaths in each project location within three years.
- A reduction in the prevalence of drug use within each project location within three years.
- A reduction in the level of drug related offending in each project location within three years.

6.3 A multi-disciplinary team consisting of Streetlife, Blackpool Football Club Trust, NHS, Adolescent Service and Effective Pedagogy Solutions (EPS) has been created from these local agencies to provide a coordinated approach to work with young people with high levels of drug use and those involved with drug related offending.

6.4 The criteria to access Young Adder is based on:

- Aged 25 and under
- Drug use
- Offending behaviours
- Physical and Mental Health
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness/sofa surfing/temporary accommodation
- Recent non-fatal overdose
- Individuals who do not engage well with services

6.5 **How Young Adder works (the offer)**

Young Adder works on a 'Trauma informed model.' The wider multi-disciplinary team includes specialist substance misuse support, sexual health, lived experience team, meaningful activities, individual employment support, police and probation.

The aim is to take the service to the young person and put them at the centre so they can make informed decisions using the "AMBIT" approach. Young Adder will work intensively with young people without the need for lots of appointments and will work with them in what they consider to be a safe environment.

Young Adder's foundation is to build a relationship and trust, to ensure it is a consistent presence. If young people don't attend activities, or if they withdraw for a time, their case will not be closed. Once they have been enrolled onto Young Adder and have engaged appropriately, they are on for the life of the project, what may change is how the team works

with them as they develop.

6.6 **One of the aims is to work in a different way and to influence System Change.**

Young people are equal partners and they are highlighting any barriers they have in engaging with existing systems. Young Adder aims to identify blocks, with plans to remove them and interrupt cycles of behaviour.

A significant element of the project is aimed at meaningful activities, engaging young people in divisionary provision whilst working on informal education to progress and sustain their development.

Attached at Appendix 4(a) is a poem written by a staff member that gives a little insight into the work of the Young Adder team.

6.7 *Excerpts from a review undertaken in November 2021 from Young Adder partners including notes from a Strengths and Weakness exercise:*

**Is Young Adder doing a good job for you?**

Police – Yes it is. There is a marked reduction in crime across the ADDER cohort and trust and knowledge is increasing between the two teams.

Probation – Yes links are good and we know what support people are getting. All YP are allocated adders!

Sexual Health – Yes, significant uptake in YP contraception.

Mental Health Services – Yes referrals work well and the YP turn up.

DWP – 100% success rate with YA clients and helps YP access all the help they need. Also, YA team makes many enquiries which shows the care they take with YP.

Blackpool CF Community Trust – Access to education and training and a good use of the building.

Strategic – Clear evidence, not just from today, that this is a much better way of working and a much better use of funds and better outcomes for young people.

## 6.8 **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats of Young Adder (SWOT)**

### **Strengths**

Team Work, including being a very supportive Young Adder team  
Communication across the YA team  
Small caseload meaning time can be spent with young people (YP)  
Co-ordination  
Mutual respect between YA worker and YP  
Trust between YP and key worker  
Trust with other services  
Rapid response – referrals dealt with quickly and key work is responsive too  
Equal partnership between YP and YA worker  
Support around YP not YP having to find support from other services  
Passionate – genuine enthusiasm to help  
Flexibility (mentioned several times)  
Plenty of options for YP and support from partner agencies  
Responsible  
Calm and feel supported  
Time to do activities, a unique luxury in services where people are busy  
Strengths based and so confidence building  
Diverse team – multi-agency  
Lack of targets to allow for innovation  
Multi Agency support gives staff confidence in the support they can offer  
Firm but fair  
Rewarding – Staff feedback on evaluation  
Non-Judgemental way of working  
Faster routes into other services – partner agencies on speed dial!  
Partner agency support and resources (even those not funded by Adder) – true collaboration  
Good partner agency understanding  
Helps break cycle  
Good outcomes  
YP see other side of services, that they are here to help.  
Kindness  
Away Days  
Willingness to try new things  
Shared Goals, led by YP  
YP involvement  
Multi Agency Meetings

## 6.9 **Weaknesses**

Timescale for project – very short – only 16 months left

What happens to YP when they leave Adder?

What happens to YP when Adder finishes?

Recording activity in different places

Vicarious trauma and staff compassion fatigue

Replacing staff – Housing and Mental Health turnover

YA workers struggle to say no

More funding needed for more activities

Sometimes YP can be demanding and this can be stressful for staff

Weekends and evenings – no service, so what can be done? (It was noted that weekend work had been tried but attendance was low and then was nil)

Staff don't turn phones off

No base that is Adder-specific. Streetlife premises are excellent but if a YP gets 'timed out' that means they cannot access them. Boys and Girls Club is ideal but there is a cost associated with that. (*This has been addressed*)

## 6.10 **Figures:**

Young people actively engaging currently - 21

Young people appropriately referred - 40

The difference is due to none or withdrawn consent, left the area and reduced support required.

6.11 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## 7.0 **List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 4(a) – Member of staff poem.

## 8.0 **Financial considerations:**

8.1 Young Adder is funded by 22% of the whole Adder budget, with partners being funded individually to supply workers to contribute. Young Adder is in receipt of £30,000 for the Meaningful Activities budget.

## 9.0 **Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.