

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

Executive

To: Councillors Douglas (Chair), Kilbane (Vice-Chair), Kent, Baxter, Lomas, Pavlovic, Ravilious, Steels-Walshaw and Webb

Date: Thursday, 10 October 2024

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on **1 October 2024**. The attached additional documents are now available for the following agenda item:

7. Community contracts to support early intervention and prevention in Adult Social Care (ASC) (Pages 1 - 18)

This report seeks approval to tender for 2 new services, the Advice and Information Service and the Supporting Independence Service.

The cover report for this item has been revised with revised text highlighted in yellow from the original report.

8. York Youth Justice Service Plan (Pages 19 - 78)

This report seeks the Executive's approval to take the York Youth Justice Plan to Full Council for approval.

This agenda supplement was published on **3 October 2024**.

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Meeting:	Executive Meeting
Meeting date:	10 TH October 2024
Report of:	Corporate Director of Adult services and Integration (DASS)
Portfolio of:	Cllr Lucy Steels-Walshaw, Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care

Decision Report: Community contracts to support early intervention and prevention in Adult Social Care (ASC)

Subject of Report

1. The City of York Council's (CYC) Adult Social Care (ASC) has previously had various contracts which enabled individuals to remain in their homes. These contracts were targeted at those who already had some more formal intervention or were close to needing more formal care and support.
2. This report asks approval to tender for 2 new services:
 - a) Advice and Information Service
 - b) Supporting Independence Service
3. The tender process request is made to provide a prevention offer to be delivered to support Adult Social Care for individuals who need some additional support to remain in their own homes. Local authorities have a duty to prevent, reduce or delay needs for care and support (Care Act 2014 s2) for all adults including carers; this means early intervention to prevent deterioration and reduce dependency on support from others.

Benefits and Challenges

Table 1 – Pros and Cons detail

Advantages (Pros)

- CYC will be fully compliant with CYC's Contract Procedure Rules and the current Public Contract Regulations 2015 by tendering both services on our e-tendering website portal called YORtender.
- Offers an important opportunity to offer a re-developed specification outlining clear expectations of service delivery and outcomes for our residents.
- Providers will progress through a neutral selection process with clear set obligations and the selection will be made based on a rigorous evaluation of what CYC requires.
- The new Contract will have an initial term of 3-years, with an option to extend for up to a further 2-years (5-year contract).

Disadvantages (Cons)

- Tendering services does not mean that there is a guarantee of Providers bidding for these services. However, York has a vibrant voluntary sector who would be capable of delivering these services.
- To complete the tendering exercise can be time consuming and will require commitment of staff resources from various departments including Legal, Commercial Procurement, Finance alongside ASC commissioners. The Open Procurement procedure will be used that will combine stages of the process and is a single stage procurement procedure to progress the receipt, evaluation and award of contracts in an open, fair, transparent process within an efficient timescale.
- These will be revised models of support therefore the incumbent provider may not wish to apply for the opportunity, however there is a vibrant market. This will be managed through the implementation process.

Key Risks

- Tendering the Service does not mean that there is a guarantee of Providers bidding for the Services, and this would lead to CYC not providing these services in line with the Care Act 2014.
- Timescales to reprocure the Service are sufficient currently but if there are delays within the process this may not allow sufficient time to embed the new service if there is a new Provider.
- Pension Scheme implications for the Advice and Information Service currently provided by Age UK York.
- TUPE implications for the Advice and Information Service currently Provided by Age UK York.

Policy Basis for Decision

4. The Commissioning Strategy, Market Sustainability Plan and the 10-year vision 'People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform

paper' clearly outlines that the Council will work with existing Providers within the market to provide sustainable, quality and value for money services.

5. The Care Act 2014¹, places a series of duties and responsibilities on local authorities to improve people's independence and wellbeing. It makes clear that local authorities must "*provide or arrange services that help prevent people developing needs for care and support or delay people deteriorating such that they would need ongoing care and support*"²
6. The proposal within this report covers two key aspects of prevention within the Care Act, 2014. The Care and Support Statutory Guidance³ states that "*primary prevention / promoting wellbeing services*" are,

"generally universal (for example, available to all) services, which may include, but are not limited to interventions and advice that:

- *provide universal access to good quality information...*
- *reduce loneliness or isolation (for example: befriending schemes...)"*

Statutory Guidance⁴ goes on to define "*Delay: tertiary prevention / formal intervention*" stating these "*are interventions aimed at minimising the effect of disability or deterioration for people with established or complex health conditions, (including progressive conditions, such as dementia). supporting people to regain skills and manage or reduce need where possible*"

This describes the purpose of the proposed Advice & Information and Supporting Independence Services

7. Advice & Information and Supporting Independence Services will directly support the achievement of The Council Plan 2023 to 2027, **One City, For All**, which sets a strong ambition to increase opportunities for everyone living in York to live healthy and fulfilling lives, as follows:

¹ Care Act 2014, [Care Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

² guidance, Care Act factsheets, 2016, [Care Act factsheets - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

³ Care and Support Statutory Guidance, Gov.uk, DH&SC, updated 28 March 2024, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

⁴ Ibid (n 3)

- a) **Health**-Improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities, taking a Health in All Policies Approach.
 - b) **Equalities and Human Rights**- Equality of opportunity
 - c) **Affordability**- Tackling the cost-of-living crisis.
8. A key priority in *Adult Social Care* is the continued development of our Home First Model where one of the 5 key priorities outlines in City of York Council’s (CYC) All Age Market Position Statement⁵ is to “*Move to a community asset approach of prevention and living well in older age.*”
9. The Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy⁶’s, 2022-32, sets out ‘Ten Big Goals’ within it and this proposal supports the strategy as outlined in the table below.

No.	Description	Action Plan	How
1	Reduce the gap in healthy life expectancy between the richest and poorest communities	Overarching priority which will be achieved if all other priorities are successful	Advice & Information and Supporting Independence Services
10	Reduce the proportion of adults who report feeling lonely	identify gaps in provision for those at greatest risk of loneliness	Advice & Information and Supporting Independence Services

Financial Strategy Implications

10. The £227k annual budget can be met from within existing resources. However, in order to cover off other contract pressures, the budgets managed directly by the Head of All Age Commissioning have been rebased which gives little flexibility to find future budget savings from this area.

⁵ All Age Market Position Statement, City of York Council, 2023-2025 [all-age-market-position-statement-2023-to-2025 \(york.gov.uk\)](https://www.york.gov.uk/all-age-market-position-statement-2023-to-2025)

⁶ Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, York, 2022-32, <https://www.york2032.co.uk/strategies-action-plans/joint-health-wellbeing-strategy-2022-2032>

Recommendation and Reasons

11. **Recommendation:** to approve the approach to commission, through a competitive tendered process, the following two services for a period of 3 plus 2 years:
- a) Advice and Information Service (value £100,000 per annum)
 - b) Supporting Independence Service (value £127,000 per annum)

Reason: The option proposed will comply with CYC's Contract Procedure Rules in terms of completing an open, fair, and transparent process as the market has not been approached since 2017. The procurement procedure is subject to the Light Touch Regime under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and will be completed as an Open Procurement Procedure.

Reason: The provision of the Advice & Information and Supporting Independence Services ensures the Council meets the statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 through prevention and delay.

12. **Recommendation:** To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Services and Integration ("**DASS**"), in consultation with the Head of Procurement and the Director of Governance to take such steps as are necessary to procure, award and enter into the resulting contracts.

Reason: This will enable the Contract Award to be implemented within the Procurement timescales.

Background

13. Adult Social Care funds a variety of community contracts to enable the Council to fulfil its duties and responsibilities so there is sufficient provision to improve people's independence and wellbeing as described in the Care Act 2014⁷.
14. These contracts are described in Annex A and have been under review.
15. The commissioned contract which provides the current prevention offer is an Older People Community Wellbeing Contract which ends 31st September 2024 with an agreed bridging service until 31st March 2025. This service has not been reprocured on the open

⁷ Care Act 2014, [Care Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

market since 2017 and other community prevention contracts have ended.

16. There will be an increase in those needing care, those providing unpaid care and those living with dementia as described in York's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment⁸ for adults over the age of 65:

Population	2020	2040
Living with dementia	2,927	4,291 (+47%)
Needing care	11,380	15,207 (+34%)
Providing unpaid care	5,271	6,592 (+25%)

17. All health and care services will be put under increasing pressure with an increased and ageing population. Population growth forecasts indicate:
- *The resident population of York is forecast to grow by approximately 35,000 between 2023 and 2033 with the largest percentage increases in the over 65's, an estimated additional 13,800 residents aged 65+ by 2033.*
 - The GP registered population is forecast to increase from 251,000 (currently) to 255,600 by 2033.
18. Population health forecasts indicate continued challenges on an already stretched system:
- In 2022, life expectancy for males declined from a peak of 80.2 years (2019) to 79.2 (2022), and for females declined from a peak of 84.1 years (2019) to 83.3 (2022). Male life expectancy in York has now crept below the national average for the first time (York is 75th out of 148 LAs).
 - The number of individuals living with multiple Long-Term Conditions is increasing in York, indicating increased and more complex health and care requirements for these individuals in future years.
19. Good, accessible information and advice are essential to enable people in later life to play a full part in their community, make informed decisions and be able to access the right services for them. Care and Support Statutory Guidance⁹ states; *"It is critical to the vision in the Care Act that the care and support system works to actively promote wellbeing and independence, and does not just*

⁸ York JSNA, April 2023 [JSNA | York Health & Wellbeing \(healthyyork.org\)](https://www.healthyyork.org/)

⁹ Ibid, (n 9)

wait to respond when people reach a crisis point.” It states prevention services include services that, “...provide universal access to good quality information...”

20. The current information/advice/signposting service currently provided by Age UK York received 5,444 enquiries in 2023/24 split between health/community care, benefits and finance advice and other general enquiries. This service offers and directs older people to services in the community who may not otherwise be computer literate and not know where to go for advice or support before coming to ASC.

information / advice / signposting	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
TOTAL no. of enquiries/actions recorded pa	4,281	5,646	6,504	4,872	5,847	7,118	5,444
Health / community care / non res & res care	1,760	2,033	2,316	2,066	2,043	2,092	1,781
Benefits / housing / legal	1,220	2,141	2,636	1,817	2,073	2,553	1,406
Other general enquiries	1,301	1,472	1,552	989	1,731	2,473	2.257

21. We know the population in York is aging, with an estimated increase of 50% for those aged 80 and over¹⁰. Social connection is a vital part of a good life and access to good information and advice plays a key role in this.
22. For those not able to leave their homes as often as they would like, to have the benefit of a regular befriender plays a role in their connections to the community and supports them to be less isolated. There are currently 85 matches with 61 waiting for a match (this involves assessment and finding volunteers to match with).
23. The impacts of not having social connection is well documented on a human level and the links between loneliness and poor health are

¹⁰ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, York, <https://www.healthyyork.org/>

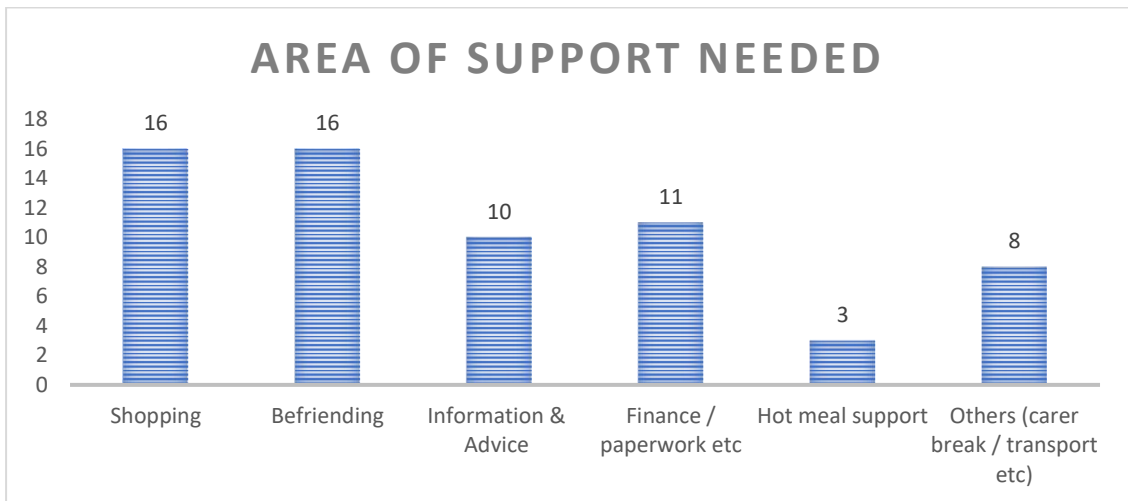
well established, the LGA comment in their report, Combating Loneliness¹¹, *“It is associated with higher blood pressure and depression, and leads to higher rates of mortality-comparable to those associated with smoking and alcohol consumption. It is also linked to higher incidence of dementia, with one study reporting a doubled risk of Alzheimer’s disease in lonely people compared with those who were not lonely. As a result of these health impacts, lonely individuals tend to make more use of health and social care services, and are more likely to have early admission to residential or nursing care.”*

Engagement around Future service delivery

Social Work and Local Area Coordinators survey May 2024

24. An online survey was sent to social workers and local area coordinators asking their views on gaps in community provision that are most important for the residents that are either supported by Adult Social Care (ASC) in their own homes or those who are supported by Local Area Coordinators in the community which would enable our residents to stay as independent as possible for as long as possible.
25. As well as receiving 16 separate responses from social workers to the survey the Team Manager also collated views and summarised as follows:
*“As well as identifying gaps to assist with shopping, loneliness, and paperwork we also struggle with transport and management of finances/ money- especially when cash is involved as this results in two workers having to attend.
....we have been referring customers to LAC’s but they do not have the capacity to pick up long term support work- they may be able to help with a one off situation but cannot sustain regular support due to the demands on their service.”*
26. Overall 18 social workers and Local Area Coordinators responded to the survey

¹¹ Combating loneliness, A guide for local authorities, LGA, 2016
https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/combating-loneliness-guid-24e_march_2018.pdf



27. There was a wealth of verbal feedback including:

<p>Many of the customers we support have no internet access and due to hearing, memory issues or dexterity issues are unable to use the shopping lines from supermarkets. Many often do not have anyone who is able to support them with shopping.</p>	<p>People are unsure what is out there and where to find support not everyone is turned into technology.</p>	<p>Many clients need support to either get to the shops or help with carrying. Not just food or essential either ~ some want to buy clothes</p>
<p>Working with increasing numbers of isolated and lonely older people. This includes permanent residents of care homes who sometimes don't want to chat with other residents but enjoy a visitor who will let them talk about their past</p>		
<p>Early intervention and information is vital to encourage residents to access community resources/understand eligibility before requiring adult social care</p>	<p>carers report feeling overwhelmed with paperwork, particularly when having to deal with the 'cared for' mountain of social care/health documents, as well as their own and household paperwork.</p>	<p>Support with Bills/correspondence (this is an eligible care act need, "Maintaining Home" – low level support 1 hour per week as an example could prevent the need for paid for services.</p>
	<p>loneliness is a critical issue and people can get attached to care to manage these feelings when befriending referrals are closed as they are currently. Also an absolute gap in befriending services which will also support people with dementia</p>	
<p>There are current gaps to the befriending service which leaves some carers lonely and isolated, particularly those caring for adults with severe learning disabilities or</p>	<p>Previous wellbeing service to support with paperwork etc - I felt that we really</p>	<p>Many will attempt to do little jobs increasing falls risk</p>

advanced dementia or those in any caring role where companionship has gone	reduced the need for people to have care packages	when using ladders, drill to fix or repair things
The services identified help to prevent, reduce and delay the need for formal services and referrals. I can already see an increase in the number of referrals being made through the front door to the social work teams due to a reduction in the community-based resources available.		

Age Friendly York Operation Group, May 2024

28. As well as consulting with social workers and local area coordinators the commissioner also attended an Age Friendly York Operation Group meeting to discuss Adult Social Care’s community contracts.
29. The key areas of importance for funding were considered:
 - Reducing social isolation
 - Access to information and advice
 - Dementia
 - Falls prevention
 - Getting out and about

Customer feedback from the Older People Wellbeing Service-befriending satisfaction survey 2024

30. 33 people were surveyed in relation to be Befriending Service offered by Age UK York. Of the survey’s returned 92% were very satisfied with the service they received.
31. Comments included:
 - *Just nice to know you can talk to someone on phone or by person. It is lovely to know someone calling once a week*
 - *Since I am alone with no close family I value the weekly visits on those days that I don’t see friends, most of whom are elderly like myself and are limited in their ability to visit.*
 - *I think that I am less down/ depressed. X has cheered me up a lot. I wish I had met her before. Once again thanks to coordinator.*
 - *It is great to have a natter with him whilst enjoying a cuppa together. It is good to see & talk to someone life can be very lonely at times.*

Organisational Impact and Implications

Financial Implications

32. The cost to commission the services in this report is £227,000 p.a. The total cost over the full life of the contracts (3 plus two years) will be £1,135,000 and can be met from existing budgets.

Procurement Implications

33. There will be two separate services for Advice and Information Service, Supporting Independence Service to be procured and therefore CYC's Contract Procedure Rules and the current Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR's) in terms of completing an open, fair, and transparent process as the market which has not been subjected to an advertised tender opportunity to invite competition since 2017. The procurement procedure will also subject to the Light Touch Regime under the PCR's which applies to social care and health services and these procurements will be completed as an Open Procurement Procedure.

The tendering of the two services for an Advice and Information Service, Supporting Independence Service to award two contracts will need to comply with the current Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and with the total contract value of these two services exceeding the Light Touch Regime threshold of £663,540 which means an open, fair, transparent procurement exercise which is advertised through a published Contract Notice for suitable interested providers to express their interest would be required to be completed. This will ensure that the market of suitable providers of Community services of advice, information and supporting independence to support early intervention and prevention in Adult Social Care are invited to submit a tender response to encourage competition and that CYC receive Value for Money by evaluating suitable providers within the procurement exercise.

The Open procurement procedure will require ASC to develop and include appropriate evaluation criteria weightings for Quality and Price. Underpinning this procurement will be the principle of obtaining Value for Money for CYC and therefore a robust, suitable Price evaluation criteria will need to be developed and included within the tender documents to robustly assess how bidders will assign the total contract value because this information will be contained within the Contract Notice and tender documents that are published.

The legislation that governs procurement for the Public Sector is due to change from 28th October 2024 when the new Procurement Act 2023 will replace the current Public Contract Regulations 2015 and so if CYC decide to commence the Open procedure procurements for these two services until this date or beyond then there are a series of other procedures, notices and actions that will need to be completed which could impact on the timescales for the completion of the procurements.

Human Resources (HR) Implications

34. There are no HR implications for City of York Council.

Legal Implications

35. The proposals in this report will ensure the Council is fulfilling its duties and responsibilities in relation to people's independence and wellbeing under the Care Act 2014.

Health and Wellbeing Implications

36. Prevention in social care is about encouraging people to be more proactive about their health and wellbeing. It can increase independence and reduce or delay the need for care and support services.

A [consensus statement published in 2019 and updated in 2023](#) set out 5 principles to give all older people the opportunities and support they need to have a healthy and good quality later life, the first of these is: *Putting prevention first and ensuring timely access to services and support when needed.*

The services outlined in this paper and proposal for commissioning of advice and support together with early intervention and prevention support the public health principles to ensure that all people have the opportunity to live healthier for longer.

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

37. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is annexed to this report at Annex C. In summary, the results of the assessment are that overall, it is considered that the proposal will have a positive impact in creating fairer and more equitable community provision for the population of York.

Data Protection and Privacy Implications

38. The data protection impact assessment (DPIAs) screening questions were completed for the recommendations and options in this report and as there is no personal, special categories or criminal offence data being processed to set these out, there is no requirement to complete a DPIA at this time. However, this will be reviewed following the approved recommendations and options from this report and a DPIA completed if required.

Communications Implications

39. There are the usual stakeholder management challenges that we would associate with any tendering process and subsequent contracts, but we are confident that a cross-team approach and robust organisational processes that are in place can alleviate any significant challenges

Economy Implications

40. There are no economic implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Affordability Implications

41. This new model will be “*targeting our support at those who need it most, supporting communities to build on their own strengths and those of the people around them*” by investing in our residents and communities earlier we will ensure that if additional, more formal support, is required this will be at lower level or much later in a resident’s life journey. This support includes information and advice about financial support for those who may find it difficult to access services online.

Special Implications Officers

42. There are no specialist implications.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

Option 1 – Commissioning 2 new services (3 + 2 years) for:

- i. Advice and Information Service (£100,000 per annum)
- ii. Supporting Independence Service (£127,000 per annum)

(Preferred option)

43. **Reason:** The services will be remodelled from previous contracts to ensure an updated offer is available to provide services for those residents who are nearest adult social care's 'front door'. The services will meet all statutory requirements in relation to early intervention and prevention under the Care Act 2014.
44. **Benefits:**
- Advice and Information will still be available for those who are not digitally literate - good, accessible information and advice are essential to enable people participate fully in their community, make informed decisions and be able to access the right support for them.
 - Advice and information about support opportunities are crucial to help support carers in maintaining their caring role.
 - Expands community provision to enable people to remain independent for longer or to regain independence where appropriate.
 - Reduces/delays need for more formal support.
 - Enables strength based practice by assisting people to manage their own health and wellbeing in their own homes whenever possible.
45. **Risks:**
- No opportunity to develop and expand the current limited offer.
 - No Supporting Independence Service would increase isolation and loneliness with the potential impact of needing more formal support sooner.
 - Not having these services will put additional pressure on other parts of the system which could be at more costly levels as people hit crisis sooner.

Option 2: Collaborative model

46. **Reason:** CYC is keen to for new providers / voluntary sector to offer services in a collaborative way ensuring services offered fit the needs of the residents of York.
47. **Benefits:**
- Opportunity for expansion / innovation to allow development of a new service model.
 - Service will develop in line with local needs and priorities and will be available at a community level.
48. **Risks:**
- With the current available budget a collaborative model is a risk in relation to consolidated service offer.

Option 3: No services

49. **Reason:** Adult Social Care has finite resources and these services may evolve naturally within the voluntary
50. **Benefits:**
- Opportunity to make additional savings.
51. **Risks:**
- Not having these services will put additional pressure on other parts of the system which could be at more costly levels as people hit crisis sooner.

Commissioning Timeline

52. If the recommended approach is adopted the timeline for the procurement and implementation of these two services will be the following:

Pre-tender approval process	
Portfolio lead briefing	08-Aug-24
Corporate Governance Board MEETING	14-Aug-24
Report deadline for Exec/CMT	23-Aug-24
Forward Plan publish date	09-Sep-24
Exec / CMT MEETING	10-Sep-24
Executive MEETING	10-Oct-24
Tender Process	
ASC commissioning team to prepare tender documents (plus legal and procurement input)	Sept 24
Tender Process	Oct - Nov 24
Evaluation and award of contract	Dec-24
Implementation phase	Jan - Mar 25
New services commence	1st April 2025

Risks and Mitigations

53. Risks are regularly reviewed and managed with required mitigations and controls put in place to minimise likelihood and impact.

Wards Impacted

54. All wards are impacted.

Contact details

For further information please contact the authors of this Decision Report.

Author

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Telephone:	01904 554068
Report approved:	Yes
Date:	3 October 2024

Annexes

- **Annex A:** Summary of Community Services Contracts, including those that ended 23/24
- **Annex B:** Impact Assessment for Adult Social Care Reduced Funding for Community Contracts
- **Annex C:** Equalities Impact Assessment for Adult Social Care Community Contracts – Future commissioning options

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Meeting:	Executive
Meeting date:	10/10/2024
Report of:	Martin Kelly / Sara Orton
Portfolio of:	Cllr Bob Webb, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education

Decision Report: York Youth Justice Plan

Subject of Report

This report regarding the Youth Justice Plan is brought before Members for consideration and to seek approval. Guidance for the plan is as follows:

1. Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual Youth Justice Plan relating to their provision of Youth Justice Services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the Youth Justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each Local Authority, after consultation with their partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan should set out how Youth Justice Services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.
2. The plan addresses the functions assigned to the Youth Justice Service and outlines how the service aims to prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending.
3. The plan is required to outline how the service takes a strengths-based approach towards delivering a Child First justice system, as outlined by the Youth Justice Board.
4. Annual Youth Justice Plans are an opportunity to review performance and developments over a single year period and plan for the next year. This allows services to be able to respond to any changes that have taken place in the previous year, including new legislation, demographic changes, delivery of key performance indicators, and developments in service delivery. The planning and production of a Youth Justice Plan is beneficial to partnership working and service delivery to ensure the best outcomes for children.

5. Youth Justice Plans, in England only, must be signed off by the full council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'.
6. There are not any foreseeable issues with submission of this plan once it has been agreed. The Youth Justice Service require agreement at the soonest opportunity to ensure the Youth Justice Board can publicise the plan for York.

Benefits and Challenges

7. The Youth Justice Service have been submitting a Youth Justice Plan since the creation of youth justice teams in 2000, therefore the risks to the authority are minimal as we have experience in creating this document to the required standard of the specific guidance set by the Youth Justice Board. The benefit of agreeing the plan endorses the partnership vision and activity therefore allowing the service to continue to move forward. The plan is a requirement of the Youth Justice Board annual grant to the service.

Policy Basis for Decision

8. The plan is set out in a format that ensures compliance with the Council Plan, strategies and executive policies.

Financial Strategy Implications

9. The service is funded and a significant portion of our funding is from the Youth Justice Board, equating to £309,478 for 2024/2025. This plan is a condition of the grant. Without this funding stream, the Youth Justice Service could not maintain our level of service. Other areas of funding for the Youth Justice Service include the City of York Council, the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Health, Probation and the Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership. Further details of funding streams are laid out in the Youth Justice Plan.

Recommendation and Reasons

10. *The recommendation is to commend the Youth Justice plan to Full Council for approval..*

Background

11. The Youth Justice Plan is a requirement of the Youth Justice Board and submitted to the YJB for agreement in July 2024, publication of the plan happens later in the year. The Youth Justice Service require this plan to be agreed by the wider local authority and members. The plan is pivotal to ensure that the Youth Justice Service are working towards improving outcomes for

children and their families, showcase the work of the service and a component for Youth Justice Board funding.

Consultation Analysis

12. The Youth Justice Plan was created in collaboration with the multi agency Youth Justice Service management board. All board members have had sight of the plan and their requested amendments made. The final copy was presented at the most recent board in July 2024 and agreed.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

13. Members may agree and sign off this Youth Justice Service Plan, or request amendments. The plan has been submitted to the Youth Justice Board as required in July 2024, with approval from the Chair of the Youth Justice Service Management Board.

Organisational Impact and Implications

14. *[The following **implications sub-headings must be included**, with comments from relevant Service Areas. Decision Report authors are advised to work with relevant contacts at an early stage to allow appropriate input into the report.*
 - **Financial**, contact: Chief Finance Officer.
Richard Hartle: All of the activity proposed within this report and the Youth Justice Plan will be funded from the existing York Youth Justice Revenue Budget.
 - **Human Resources (HR)**, contact: Directorate HR Manager and Chief Officer HR and Support Services
Claire Wains/Lisa Pannitt: This plan has been submitted to HR for approval. There are no identified human resources/staffing implications for the year 2024-2025
 - **Legal**, contact: Head of Legal Services.
Frances Harrison: The Council has a duty, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate, implement, and publish a youth justice plan setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded. The plan must be approved by full council. The proposed plan is compliant with the legislation and relevant statutory guidance.

- **Procurement**, contact: Head of Procurement.
- **Health and Wellbeing**, contact: enquiries.publichealth@york.gov.uk
- **Environment and Climate action**, contact: Director of Transport, Environment and Planning, and Head of Carbon Reduction.
- **Affordability**, contact: Director of Customer and Communities.
- **Equalities and Human Rights**, contact: Assistant Director of Customer, Communities and Inclusion - every Decision Report must consider whether to have an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) and this section will include the key recommendations from the EIA or explain why no EIA is required.
- **Data Protection and Privacy**, contact: information.governance@york.gov.uk - every report must consider whether to have a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) and this section will include the compliance requirements from the DPIA or explain why no DPIA is required.
James Bailey: As there is no personal data, special categories of personal data or criminal offence data being processed, there is no requirement to complete a data protection impact assessment (DPIA). This is evidenced by completion of DPIA screening questions AD-08844
- **Communications**, contact: Assistant Director Policy and Strategy
- **Economy**, contact: Head of City Development.

Risks and Mitigations

15. There are no immediate risks identified.

Wards Impacted

16. All wards as the Youth Justice Service is city wide.

Contact details

For further information please contact the authors of this Decision Report.

Author

Name:	Sara Orton
Job Title:	Youth Justice Service Manager
Service Area:	Children's Services
Telephone:	07888 107889
Report approved:	Yes/No
Date:	22/07/2024

Co-author

Name:	
Job Title:	
Service Area:	
Telephone:	
Report approved:	
Date:	

Background papers

All relevant background papers must be listed.

A 'background paper' is any document which, in the Chief Officer's opinion, discloses any facts on which the report is based, and which has been relied upon to a material extent in preparing the report. See page 5:3:2 of The Constitution.

Annexes

All annexes to the Decision Report must be listed.

- Background paper:
- Background paper:

Any paper which is supplementary to the main report, and intended to be read with it, should be referred to in the report as an 'Annex ?'.

Each annex must be given a number or a letter, for example, 'Annex A', and be marked accordingly on the first page; also state which pages, if any, are 'exempt'.

For further information about Annexes and Confidentiality, refer to Report Writing Protocol.

- Annex A: Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Annex B: Data Protection Impact Assessment DPIA)

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City of York Council
Equalities Impact Assessment

Who is submitting the proposal?

Directorate:	Children's Services		
Service Area:	Youth Justice Service		
Name of the proposal :	Youth Justice Plan		
Lead officer:			
Date assessment completed:	18/07/2024		
Names of those who contributed to the assessment :			
Name	Job title	Organisation	Area of expertise
Sara Orton	YJS Manager	Youth Justice Service	Youth Justice
Nigel Pepper	YJS Practice Manager	Youth Justice Service	Youth Justice

Step 1 – Aims and intended outcomes

1.1	<p>What is the purpose of the proposal? Please explain your proposal in Plain English avoiding acronyms and jargon.</p>
	<p><i>York Youth Justice Service are required to submit a youth justice plan annually to the Youth Justice Board. This plan requires sign off and agreement, initially from the Youth Justice Service management board, and the wider authority</i></p>
1.2	<p>Are there any external considerations? (Legislation/government directive/codes of practice etc.)</p>
	<p>The plan is created from Youth Justice Board guidance and a requirement of grant funding</p>
1.3	<p>Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests?</p>
	<p>Local authority – receive funding for services Youth Justice Board – provide funding Service users – transparency in services</p>
1.4	<p>What results/outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom? This section should explain what outcomes you want to achieve for service users, staff and/or the wider community. Demonstrate how the proposal links to the Council Plan (2019- 2023) and other corporate strategies and plans.</p>

	<p>The plan is a requirement of funding which contributes to ensuring the City of York has a Youth Justice Service to work with young people aged 10-18 years who are offending or at risk of becoming involved in criminal justice services. This includes both statutory and voluntary interventions.</p> <p>The plan outlines the work completed by the service in the previous year, also the plans for the following year. This enables transparency in the service as it is made accessible to all through the Youth Justice Board publication. The proposal links directly to the Council Plan and wider strategies and plans, all of which are referenced within the Youth Justice Plan.</p>
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Step 2 – Gathering the information and feedback

2.1	What sources of data, evidence and consultation feedback do we have to help us understand the impact of the proposal on equality rights and human rights? Please consider a range of sources, including: consultation exercises, surveys, feedback from staff, stakeholders, participants, research reports, the views of equality groups, as well your own experience of working in this area etc.	
	Source of data/supporting evidence	Reason for using
	Consultation with the YJS management board	The Youth Justice Service are responsible to the management board, which is multi-agency and oversees the service
	Consultation with YJS staff	All YJS staff make a contribution to the plan, ensuring that all areas of expertise are covered
	Feedback from consultations	A draft version of the plan is presented to the YJS management board and all staff members to ensure validity and make any proposed amendments

Step 3 – Gaps in data and knowledge

3.1	What are the main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your proposal? Please indicate how any gaps will be dealt with.		
Gaps in data or knowledge		Action to deal with this	
There are no immediate recognised gaps in understanding or information. The service has been creating this type of plan since the year 2000, as this has been a requirement since Youth Justice Services were created			

Step 4 – Analysing the impacts or effects.

4.1	Please consider what the evidence tells you about the likely impact (positive or negative) on people sharing a protected characteristic, i.e. how significant could the impacts be if we did not make any adjustments? Remember the duty is also positive – so please identify where the proposal offers opportunities to promote equality and/or foster good relations.		
Equality Groups and Human Rights.	Key Findings/Impacts	Positive (+) Negative (-) Neutral (0)	High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)
Age	The YJS is age specific, between 10-18 years as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998	0	L
Disability	The YJS can facilitate interventions for those with disability and our building is purpose built to accommodate	+	L

Gender	The YJS works with all genders and has both male and female specific interventions and spaces available	+	L
Gender Reassignment	The YJS works with all young people, regardless of gender or reassignment	+	L
Marriage and civil partnership	N/A		
Pregnancy and maternity	The service can facilitate work with young people that are pregnant	+	L
Race	The service can work with young people of any race and have access to translation services where required	+	L
Religion and belief	The service can work with young people of any religion	+	L
Sexual orientation	The service can work with young people of any sexual orientation	+	L
Other Socio-economic groups including :	Could other socio-economic groups be affected e.g. carers, ex-offenders, low incomes?		
Carer	Young carers and carers of children are included within the Youth Justice Service	+	L
Low income groups	Low income groups are included within the Youth Justice Service client group	+	L
Veterans, Armed Forces Community	Children of the armed forces community and veterans are included in the Youth Justice Service	+	L
Other			
Impact on human rights:			

List any human rights impacted.	None		
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Use the following guidance to inform your responses:

Indicate:

- Where you think that the proposal could have a POSITIVE impact on any of the equality groups like promoting equality and equal opportunities or improving relations within equality groups
- Where you think that the proposal could have a NEGATIVE impact on any of the equality groups, i.e. it could disadvantage them
- Where you think that this proposal has a NEUTRAL effect on any of the equality groups listed below i.e. it has no effect currently on equality groups.

It is important to remember that a proposal may be highly relevant to one aspect of equality and not relevant to another.

<p>High impact (The proposal or process is very equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is significant potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or public facing The proposal has consequences for or affects significant numbers of people The proposal has the potential to make a significant contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights.</p>
<p>Medium impact (The proposal or process is somewhat equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is some evidence to suggest potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or across services, but mainly internal The proposal has consequences for or affects some people The proposal has the potential to make a contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>
<p>Low impact (The proposal or process might be equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is little evidence to suggest that the proposal could result in adverse impact The proposal operates in a limited way The proposal has consequences for or affects few people The proposal may have the potential to contribute to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>

Step 5 - Mitigating adverse impacts and maximising positive impacts

5.1	Based on your findings, explain ways you plan to mitigate any unlawful prohibited conduct or unwanted adverse impact. Where positive impacts have been identified, what is been done to optimise opportunities to advance equality or foster good relations?
<p>There are no immediate concerns around unlawful prohibited conduct or unwanted adverse impact. The plan provides positive impacts. The Youth Justice Board govern the content that the plan should address and over recent years this has focused on equality, enabling youth justice services to showcase their improvements</p>	

Step 6 – Recommendations and conclusions of the assessment

6.1	Having considered the potential or actual impacts you should be in a position to make an informed judgement on what should be done. In all cases, document your reasoning that justifies your decision. There are four main options you can take:
<p>- No major change to the proposal – the EIA demonstrates the proposal is robust. There is no potential for unlawful discrimination or adverse impact and you have taken all opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitor and review.</p>	

- **Adjust the proposal** – the EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. This involves taking steps to remove any barriers, to better advance quality or to foster good relations.
- **Continue with the proposal** (despite the potential for adverse impact) – you should clearly set out the justifications for doing this and how you believe the decision is compatible with our obligations under the duty
- **Stop and remove the proposal** – if there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you should consider stopping the proposal altogether. If a proposal leads to unlawful discrimination it should be removed or changed.

Important: If there are any adverse impacts you cannot mitigate, please provide a compelling reason in the justification column.

Option selected	Conclusions/justification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No major change to the proposal 	<p>This EIA as provided the opportunity to reflect on the plan and establish that there is no recognised potential for unlawful discrimination or adverse impact</p>

Step 7 – Summary of agreed actions resulting from the assessment

7.1 What action, by whom, will be undertaken as a result of the impact assessment.			
Impact/issue	Action to be taken	Person responsible	Timescale

Step 8 - Monitor, review and improve

8. 1	How will the impact of your proposal be monitored and improved upon going forward? Consider how will you identify the impact of activities on protected characteristics and other marginalised groups going forward? How will any learning and enhancements be capitalised on and embedded?
	This EIA will be monitored annually as the Youth Justice plan is updated on an annual basis

York Youth Justice Service Plan

Service	York Youth Justice Service
Service Manager/ Lead	Sara Orton
Chair of YJS Board	Martin Kelly

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1. Introduction, vision, and strategy

Welcome to the York Youth Justice Service strategic partnership plan, which outlines our commitment to collaborating with partners in the coming year to support some of the most complex and vulnerable children, young people, and their families in the city of York. Our goal is to provide quality services that lead to positive outcomes for all those we serve.

Over the past year, York Youth Justice Service have focused on diversion and prevention efforts, emphasising the importance of early intervention. Through effective collaboration with our partners, we have worked towards our common goal of reducing the number of children and young people entering the criminal justice system.

The plan is guided by the Youth Justice Service Management Board and has been created to ensure that our services meet the needs of our community, service users and victims. It will be reviewed annually to track our progress and make any necessary adjustments to better serve those that we work with. Thank you for joining us on this journey to make a difference in the lives of young people in York.

City of York Council Vision:

The City of York Council Plan: One City for All <https://colin.york.gov.uk/beconnected/about-cyc-and-york/the-council-plan/> incorporates four commitments for each and every one of us.

- Equalities and Human Rights
- Affordability
- Climate and Environment
- Health.

The Youth Justice Service also share the vision of the Children and Young People's Plan (<https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/downloads/file/159/cyscp-plan>), with a recognition that for many young people, children and families, York is a great place to live. We also understand that this may not be the narrative for all and there is a keen focus on the needs and diversity of the local population. The shared vision incorporates:

- Making York the best place to live and grow up for every child
- A place where children and young people understand their rights are active citizens who are involved in making York better
- A place where outcomes are good for all children but with a clear focus on closing gaps in outcomes for children and young people from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds

York Youth Justice Service Vision:

York YJS are closely aligned with our partners and share a vision across our wider services. As a criminal justice service, our focus for young people expands further and includes the following:

- York YJS believe in always putting the child first and we see children as children, we hear their voices and treat them fairly whilst building upon their strengths through use of Signs of Safety and trauma informed practice.
- York YJS aim to reduce offending, prevent re-offending and the use of custody and we strive to use evidence based, child centred, and preventative approaches to divert young people from the Criminal Justice System.
- York YJS connect with our communities and integrate young people into local networks to prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.
- We consider young people's networks and systems, ensuring relationships after service intervention are robust and supportive.
- York Youth Justice Service are part of the wider authority and partners. We strive to ensure collaborative working to secure positive outcomes for children and young people.

Strategy:

Reduce offending, prevent re-offending and the use of custody and we strive to use an evidence based, child centred, and preventative approach to divert young people away from the Criminal Justice System.

York Youth Justice Service were rated 'outstanding' by HM Inspectorate of Probation in 2022, highlighting York YJS as 'a skilled and committed staff team, ably led, and motivated by a strong management team. All are ambitious for children and unrelenting in their desire to improve the life chances of children'. Since the inspection, York Youth Justice continue to diligently uphold our aims of preventing offending and reducing re-offending, which is achieved through robust assessment, effective planning and delivery of both statutory and preventative interventions, with continuous service improvement as a focus. Our ethos remains that we can always develop and improve the outcomes for children in the city, through effective relationships with partners, hearing the voices of children and their families, and combined strategies with aligned goals.

York Youth Justice Service want to see young people achieve positive outcomes and fewer children and young people encountering crime.

We work collaboratively with our partners to ensure positive outcomes for children and young people with the City of York, supported by the Signs of Safety practice model and trauma informed practice to reflect a strengths-based approach to working with young people and their families.

2. Governance, leadership, and partnership arrangements

The Management Board plays a crucial role in providing strategic oversight of the Youth Justice Service (YJS) to ensure the delivery of high-quality, personalized, and responsive services for all children. Meeting every other month, the Board is well attended and includes representation from statutory and local partners. Committed to strong leadership and governance, the Board works to drive innovation and effectiveness within the YJS, supporting and challenging through solution-focused leadership aligned with the priorities of the Youth Justice Plan.

The governance and leadership in York have been recognised by HMIP as outstanding, with a strategy aimed at reducing offending and providing preventative services through effective partnership working. The Board's work involves translating strategic aims into operational practice, with a focus on understanding the children involved with the YJS through the utilisation of data, performance dashboards, comparison reports, and thematic reviews. Locally agreed targets to reflect the priorities within the plan are agreed and monitored by the Youth Justice Service Management Board.

Chaired by a director, the Board comprises of senior management representatives from various organisations including the Police, Office for Policing Fire Crime and Commissioning (York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority), Housing, Health, The Probation Service, Education, Clinical Commissioning Group, Early Help, and Her Majesty's Tribunal and Court Services. The Board takes a proactive and dynamic approach to youth justice outcomes, demonstrating a genuine commitment to the work of the YJS by providing necessary support and robust challenges where needed.

3. Local context

York is a relatively small walled city, spanning 272km² with a population of over 200,000 according to the Office for National Statistics Census 2021, an increase of 2.4% since 2011. (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E06000014/>).

York is the largest urban area in North Yorkshire and attracts an influx of tourists due to its history and well-known night-time economy. It also has a large student population due to the two Universities and Law College in the City. The local context of the city of York enables collaborative working with colleagues in neighbouring youth justice services, including North Yorkshire and East Riding, alongside key criminal justice providers like the regional Probation Service, North Yorkshire Police, and the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Partner relationships within the city are strong, supporting efficient multi-agency working.

The Youth Justice Service comprises of highly experienced practitioners, including Youth justice practitioners, Social workers, Probation officer, and Police officer. The service also benefits from a Speech and Language provision, Turnaround practitioner and Trauma informed practitioner.

4. Update On the Previous Year

Progress on priorities in the previous plan

The YJS plan for 2023 highlighted a keen focus on expanding our offer of prevention and diversion to wider services with the aim of reducing first time entrants into the criminal justice system. This has been upheld and our offer of Triage and Diversion is now far reaching within the city. The Turnaround provision has enhanced this offer further, through a Turnaround Practitioner focusing on those young people eligible for the scheme and providing additional capacity. Alongside these interventions, the Youth Outcome Panel has diverted young people away from the criminal justice system with the introduction of Route 22, based on the police Outcome 22.

Reducing re-offending was and remains a priority of the service. Use of the Youth Justice Board 'tracker tool' has proved invaluable to the service as this not only enables monitoring of re-offending, but also provides analysis and patterns of offending behaviour. The tool has been used to identify types and seriousness of behaviours, leading to identification of gaps in provision that have been addressed.

Child exploitation and county lines was a focus in 2023/2024. The Youth Justice Service collaborated with colleagues in the York Exploitation Team to ensure that vulnerable young people were safeguarded, heard, and understood. The Youth Justice Service manager sits on the National Referral Mechanism group to ensure that young people within the service are recognised as vulnerable when being exploited, coerced or victims of modern slavery, servitude or forced compulsory labour.

Restorative practice is embedded within the service and integrated with working with victims of crime. During 2023, this provision expanded significantly with the YJS Victim Liaison Officer (VLO) advocating on behalf of victims to ensure they received a high-quality service in line with the Victims Code of Conduct. The victim work increased to a point where the Youth Justice Service were able to train volunteers to assist with the workload. The VLO has facilitated restorative conferences and expanded the role to specifically include supporting young victims of sexual assault within schools. The VLO is an active participant of the Youth Outcome Panel, ensuring that outcomes are victim led and the voice of the victim is heard within the panel. The VLO is also a trauma informed specialist and brings trauma informed practice to working with victims of crime.

Harmful sexual behaviour remained a focus of the YJS during 2023 and the service continued to deliver NSPCC preventative training to all staff and partners to ensure that practitioners felt comfortable and able to work with this client group. During 2023, York Youth Justice Service saw an increase in those referred for harmful sexual behaviour. This may not have been an increase in incidents, but likely to be due to practitioners being more aware that the service was able to facilitate the referrals and work with more young people displaying harmful behaviours.

Reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of Looked After Children was high on our agenda during 2023 and addressed using the 10 Point Checklist to ensure that young people were not unnecessarily criminalised. This systemic approach to decision making was utilised in the youth

Outcome Panel and considers the over representation of Looked After Children in the criminal justice system.

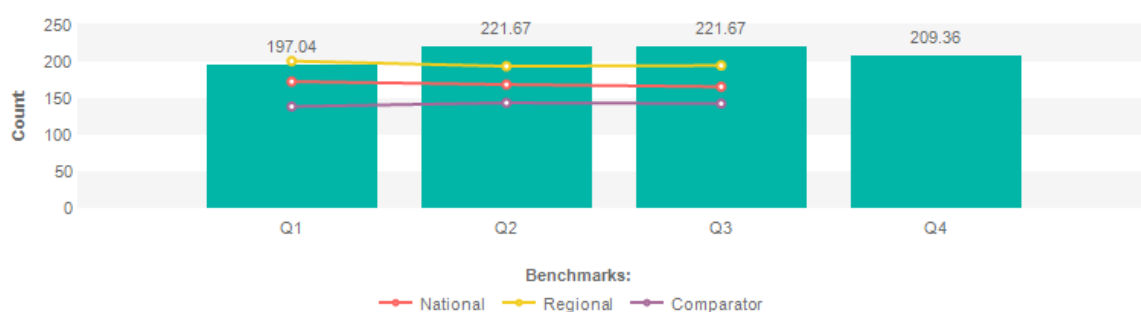
To ensure that children and young people’s broader needs are identified and assessed for appropriate support, the Youth Justice Service commenced training in Signs of Safety, the practice model adopted by the wider authority. This strengths-based approach aligns with the principles of Child First and changed our assessment and planning process. Assessments have more focus on strengths, alongside risk and this results in a truly holistic assessment. A further aspect of identifying needs is our trauma informed approach to practice. This ensures we are identifying the probable cause of behaviour and addressing the child’s needs, often stemming from earlier childhood. These facets correlate with ensuring that timely referrals to partners and services are made to meet the child’s needs at the earliest opportunity.

5. Performance over the previous year

First time entrants to the Youth Justice System

The number of First Time Offenders was slightly above comparator averages during 2023/24. There was an expected increase after the pandemic and the service work hard to ensure that children and young people are diverted from the Criminal Justice System where possible, through the Youth Outcome Panel and Triage and Diversion. Additional local factors include motoring offences now being counted whereby previously they were not, also the stance of the Crown Prosecution Service relating and those adjourned from court only receiving a Youth Caution or Youth Conditional Caution, making them first time entrants as the CPS do not recognise Outcome 22.

First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (per 100,000 10-17 year olds in York) - (Rolling 12 Month) (by Quarter) - 2023/2024

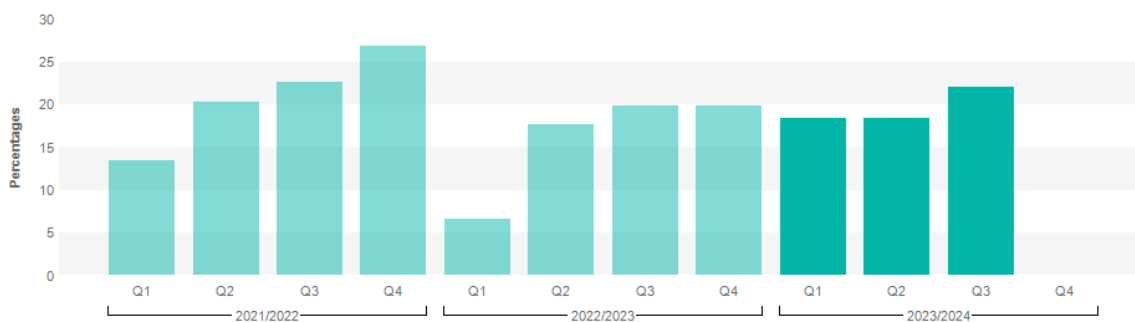


	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarterly Trend
First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (per 100,000 10-17 year olds in York) - (Rolling 12 Month)	197.04	221.67	221.67	209.36	

Proven re-offending

The re-offending data is a local measure that has been implemented due to the time lag encountered with Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board data. Re-offending of a fixed cohort of young people who received a substantive outcome are monitored at 3-month intervals. Reoffending performance in 2023/2024 shows some deterioration from 2022/2023. 22.2% of young people had reoffended after a period of 9 months, which is level with the same point in 2022/2023 and 2021/2022. Performance has considerably improved on 2020/2021.

% of 10-17 year old offenders who re-offend, measured at 3 month intervals to 12 months (Set 12 month cohort) - (YTD) (by Quarter) - Historic



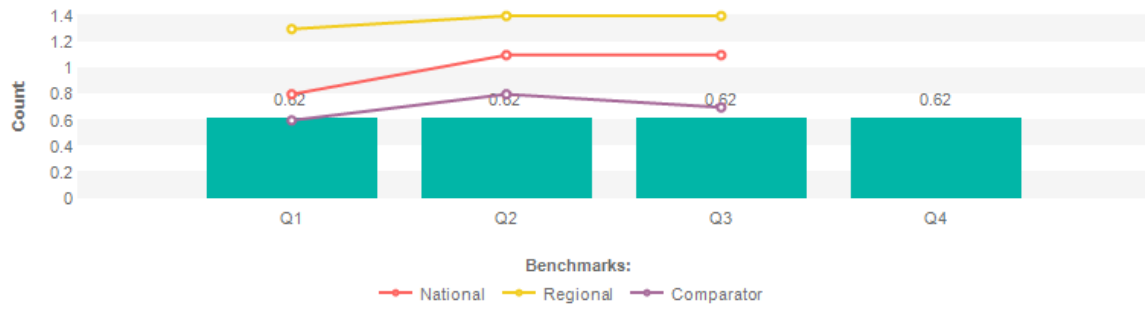
	Percentages			
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
2021/2022	13.64%	20.45%	22.73%	27%
2022/2023	6.67%	17.78%	20%	20%
2023/2024	18.52%	18.52%	22.22%	

Custodial sentences

York continues to see exceptionally low numbers of children and young people in custody. Within York, custody is monitored on a rolling 12-month cohort. At the end of 2023/24, one young person was sentenced to custody for a serious offence.

Coupled with Youth Detention Accommodation performance, this is a positive position for York young people and reflects good working relationships between the Youth Justice Service and the Courts.

Young people sentenced to custody (rate per 10,000 10-17 year olds in York) - (rolling 12 month cohort) (by Quarter) - 2023/2024



Young people sentenced to custody (rate per 10,000 10-17 year olds in York) - (rolling 12 month cohort)	Count				Quarterly Trend
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	

6. Risks and issues

RISK	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	ACTIONS
Exploitation of children	High	High	The YJS is involved with the multi-agency Child Criminal Exploitation panel to address such concerns and ensure actions are taken. York is piloting an NRM panel under the guidance of the Home Office and the service are part of the creation and implementation of devolving decision making to a local level. The service have a joint protocol with Children’s Social Care for working with County Lines. York YJS also have access to St Giles Trust exploitation project.
Potential Increase in Children and Young People in Care	High	High	The service work with colleagues in Children’s Social care to address challenges and are pivotal in the Prevention of Unnecessary Criminalisation of Looked after children protocol. The Youth Outcome Panel adheres to the 10 Point Checklist for Looked After Children and supports a restorative approach to working. York YJS are working closely with Together We Can around looked after young people.
Increased re-offending and serious offences	High	High	The service is focusing on prevention to address offending at an earlier stage to avoid further offences. Interventions are timely and appropriate, with a focus on meeting the needs of the child. York YJS have a focus on Serious Youth Violence and staff trained to use the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY) assessment which is designed to structure appraisals of violence risk and risk management

			plans for adolescents. York YJS are involved in the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty
Inspection readiness	Medium	Medium	The service continues to prepare for inspection under the guidance of the Management Board, using the National Framework for inspection. Our last inspection was September 2022.
Maintaining staff and business continuity	High	Medium	A business continuity plan is in place and regularly reviewed. Commitment to staff welfare is a high priority. Regular supervision is accessible, alongside staff training. As a small service, staff absence or leaving would have significant impact, though staff retention has been good.
Funding	Medium	High	Budget constraints always feature as a significant risk and the service would be at risk if we were to lose funding. Finance is a standing item on the Youth Justice Service Management Board agenda and explores ways of using reserves and developing service delivery in line with budgets.
Turnaround funding	High	High	Losing funding for Turnaround is a risk to the service as this reduces capacity to work with young people in a preventative capacity

7. Plan For the Forthcoming Year

Children and young people first

The concept of Child First in the City of York has not only been adopted but is deeply embedded in practice and culture as reflected in the HMIP inspection who found that ‘York YJS has achieved our highest rating by providing services to children consistently well and establishing a culture of putting the needs of children first. The culture was clear at operational and strategic levels and across the partnership. It has been developed and sustained over time and was impressive in how it translated into services for children’. York Youth Justice Service ensure to follow the four Child First principles by ensuring to prioritise the best interests of children, recognising their needs, capacities, rights and potential. This is achieved in the Youth Justice Service by always recognising the child and respecting their individuality.

Offending behaviour is frequently a byproduct of trauma and we ensure to respond to children appropriately, consistently and with compassion to truly understand their needs and how we can provide appropriate and effective support.

York Youth Justice Service have adopted the City of York Signs of Safety model to ensure we are promoting children’s strengths and capacity to develop their prosocial identity for sustainable desistance. Within York, the ethos is to promote a positive childhood for children growing up in the city. This is achieved within the Youth Justice Service through a robust preventative approach, diversion from the criminal justice system and enabling children to be seen and understood as children, whilst also ensuring safer communities and fewer victims of crime.

Children are encouraged to actively participate and engage within society, with a focus on the community accepting young people as children, rather than labelling them as offenders. York

Youth Justice Service have a focus on community cohesion, reflected in our Restorative Justice Offer and reparation activities.

A focus of the service is to promote a childhood removed from the justice system to ensure children and young people are not stigmatised due to contact with the justice system. This is achieved through our robust prevention and diversion offer within the city.

To enhance the Child First approach, York Youth Justice Service have collaborated with the Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust as a pilot project for the Humber and North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Trauma Informed Care Program. This has enabled the service to recruit a Trauma Informed Practitioner to address childhood trauma and promote the best interests and rights of the child using trauma informed interventions and a strengths-based approach.

Voice of the child

The City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership (CYSCP) continues to support that every conversation starts with the child and commit that all partners across the city support children and young people to understand their rights, to have a voice and to realise their rights. The partnership has developed a pledge to ensure commitment to understanding the lived experience of children and young people and based this on the four general principal articles of the United Nations Conventions on Rights of the Child (UNRC):

- Non-discrimination (article 2)
- Best interest of the child (article 3)
- Right to life, survival, and development (article 6)
- Right to be heard (article 12)

The Youth Justice Service adhere to this commitment and recognise that meaningful involvement of children and young people is a key component of the Local Authority. To ensure this, the Youth Justice Service actively involve children and young people's voices, both directly and indirectly in service delivery. This is achieved through gathering children's voices through assessments, forums, and direct work. Over the past year, young people have been active participants at the Youth Justice Service Management Board, enabling partners to hear young people directly and respond to any challenges and needs presented. The voice of the child remains high on the agenda of the Youth Justice Service, and we understand the benefits of hearing children and using their views to shape service delivery within the City.

8. Resources and services

York YJS is funded centrally and with a range of partner agencies providing funding and staff contributions.

These contributions are used to deliver youth justice services, in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The Youth Justice Board grant, partner contributions and available resources will be used to deliver statutory services and prevention within the city. Services will include:

- Statutory duties including all Orders
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour Service
- Prevention – Triage and Diversion
- Out of Court Disposals and the Youth Outcome Panel
- Child to Parent Violence
- Victim Liaison Service
- Substance Misuse service
- Speech and Language Service
- Forensic Panel
- Reducing re-offending (tracking tool)
- Probation support
- The Turnaround Programme
- Health
- Provide training to partners including Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Trauma Training
- AQA non vocational qualifications for young people

We believe these services produce improve outcomes for young people within the city as we are addressing behaviours at the earliest opportunity with the preventative element, in turn reducing the pressures on statutory services and entry into the youth justice system.

9. Board Development

The YJS management board has undergone evolution over time, maintaining a focus on Youth Justice and strategic leadership across key partners to ensure the delivery of high-quality services to children and young people. The board oversees the service's vision, ensuring not only compliance with required standards but also the provision of an innovative and creative service for young people in the City of York. Proactively addressing any gaps in provision, the Board ensures that the YJS has the necessary resources and is dedicated to supporting desistance and positive outcomes for children effectively.

In response to HMIP's recommendation to further consult with children, families, and carers, the management board extended invitations to young people, carers, and victims of crime to attend meetings. Board members actively seek to understand the YJS, its roles, and responsibilities through management reports and discussions with YJS representatives about their work.

10. Workforce Development

The culture of learning is strong in York and staff are supported to seek training opportunities through the comprehensive offer of the Workforce Development Unit. Staff are required to complete mandatory training and specialist training is also provided, including training around Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Trauma Informed Practice and presently undertaking Ambit training. Recently the entire staff team have also received training on the new case management system and comprehensive training on the use of Signs of Safety, which is ongoing. Staff members have also been provided the opportunity to complete the Youth Justice Degree and Social Work

Apprenticeship and we are hopeful these opportunities will continue over the coming year. During the HMIP inspection it was noted that York provides a robust training package for staff and highlighted the innovative training packages available. During 2024/2025, the service will upskill further in trauma informed practice, enhanced by the introduction of a Trauma Informed Practitioner to the service. We are in the process of implementing AQAs into our service offer, therefore staff will be trained on delivery of this educational provision.

Alongside training offered, York Youth Justice Service also deliver training to staff and partners through the Workforce Development Unit. This includes Harmful Sexual Behaviour training, Trauma informed practice and training to Appropriate Adults.

11. Evidence based practice and innovation.

Substance misuse

York Youth Justice Service provides a specialist substance misuse service for young people identified in need of support. The substance misuse specialist has well established links with North Yorkshire Police, enabling young people to access awareness and harm reduction interventions to avoid criminalisation if arrested for a drug offence for the first time. These interventions are delivered collaboratively with North Yorkshire Police and the Youth Justice Service through police Operation Choice. Every young person working with the service is offered support and screening enables needs led targeted or specialist interventions to take place. The service also utilises the local substance misuse offer of drug and alcohol support services for young people in the community. Feedback from young people includes gaining increased knowledge about the risks of substance misuse and feeling sessions 'inspired and motivated them to make a positive change'.

Trauma informed practice

Trauma-informed practice is essential when working with young people who are involved in crime, exploitation, or have experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Working with Trauma is an integral part of working with young people who've experienced adversity. Knowledge, awareness, and practical measures can help build constructive relationships with children and other service users, leading to better outcomes. York Youth Justice Service are in the process of recruiting a Trauma Informed Practitioner to ensure that the service is truly trauma informed and this is embedded into our practice, with a focus on working with inter-generational trauma through direct working with parents and children. The service presently has three ARC champions, and all team members are trained in trauma informed practice.

Education

The service has recently signed up with the AQA Unit Award Scheme to become an AQA centre, enabling use of UAS units and accredited certification to support intervention programmes with young people. The scheme will allow students to engage with learning and have their achievements formally recognised, whilst building a portfolio of certificates that may be used for future employment to evidence their knowledge and skills. The aim of this scheme is to boost young people's confidence and motivation, whilst encouraging them to engage in future learning.

Skills for employment

With the assistance of Turnaround funding, York Youth Justice Service have created a 'skills for work' resource at Moor Lane Youth Centre. This resource is a carpentry workshop where young people can learn about carpentry and develop life skills for the future. This intervention aligns with restorative justice as young people can create pieces that are distributed within the community.

12. Priorities

Priorities for York Youth Justice Service include, but are not limited to the following:

- Prevention and Diversion to reduce first time entrants
- Reducing Re-offending
- Responding to Child Exploitation and County Lines
- Restorative Practice and holistic approach including supporting victims of crime
- Addressing harmful sexual behaviour across the city
- Reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of Looked After Children
- Ensuring children's broader needs are identified and assessed for appropriate support
- Making timely referrals to ensure the needs of the child are met
- Working in a trauma informed manner to address issues at the root cause
- Providing non vocational qualifications to young people

Prevention and diversion remain at the forefront of our practice within York. This will be achieved through use of interventions including Triage and Diversion to ensure that young people are diverted from the criminal justice system where possible. Presently Triage and Diversion is our most used outcome within the service. Turnaround has been used as a preventative strategy. Within York we have a Turnaround Practitioner, with a focus on working with schools in the local area. Though this funding will cease in March 2025, York Youth Justice Service will sustain a robust preventative offer through Triage and Diversion. The Youth Outcome Panel is another preventative solution whereby North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Youth Justice Service and York Youth Justice Service work collaboratively to ensure that Out of Court Disposals decisions are robust, victim led and in the interest of the child's needs. This panel seeks to ensure that interventions are not over prescribed and aligns with the Youth Justice Board child first model.

Prevention schemes correlate with reducing re-offending, as the aim of prevention is to provide support at the earliest opportunity. In York, the Youth Justice Board tracker tool is funded by the Office for Policing Fire Crime and Commissioning (York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority). This tool ensure that the service can analyse and consider re-offending in an in-depth manner. Through the identification of patterns of behaviour and offending, the service can ensure that we provide interventions that are appropriate and meet the needs of children and young people.

Exploitation and county lines offences are addressed in the city and York has an Exploitation Team situated in Children's Social Care. York Youth Justice Service work closely with this team to ensure that young people are safeguarded appropriately. The service also has access to the new exploitation service provided by St Giles Trust. The manager of the YJS sits on the National

Referral Mechanism panel, ensuring that young people who may be exploited or at risk of modern slavery are recognised and understood. The social worker for the service also sits on weekly meetings with the Exploitation Team to ensure that exploitation is addressed regularly.

Restorative practice is embedded within the service. The Victim Liaison Officer leads on restorative practice and has worked tirelessly to ensure that young people and victims of crime have the opportunity for mediation sessions where requested. Restorative justice also regularly takes place, with reparation schemes such as working with the local church to receive donations of clothing and distributing to families in need. Young people will be participating in a community garden project within the local area to ensure a space for residents. Every year the service works with the Spirit of Christmas charity, including wrapping donated presents and presenting these to children in the city during the festive season. Presently the young people are assisting North Yorkshire Police with a questionnaire that considers how to engage young people with the police.

The service has worked with young people exhibiting harmful sexual behaviour for many years, though our offer within the service has increased. All practitioners are trained in delivering AIM 3 assessment and NSPCC preventative interventions, with specialist workers able to deliver more specific assessment and intervention, such as working with children aged under twelve. During 2024/2025, the service will continue our statutory and preventative work with these young people, though we also aim to deliver harmful sexual behaviour training to wider partners, including schools.

We continue to have a focus on the unnecessary criminalisation of young people who are Looked After. The Youth Outcome Panel advocates the use of the 10 Point Checklist to ensure that young people are treated fairly, and their situation considered when decision making. Within York we have Together We Can, an initiative with a dedicated multi-disciplinary team, based within the children's home, that provides a wraparound package of assessment, support, and intervention. It offers young people, who are assessed as being 'edge of care' and their families intensive outreach support to prevent young people becoming looked after.

It also provides residential care and support for a very small cohort of young people, who are at significant risk and extremely vulnerable and where some time in residential care would be beneficial. This provides the young person and their family some much needed time and space, often taking the heat out of the situation and enabling the outreach team to assess the viability of returning the young person to live within their family network, into foster care or independence.

Ensuring that children's broader needs are identified and assessed for appropriate support is to be achieved through the use of robust assessment, alongside the Signs of Safety practice model to ensure a strengths-based focus on young people working with the service. In York we use Asset Plus as an assessment tool and will be introducing the new prevention assessment designed by the Youth Justice Board for other interventions. We recognise that Youth Justice assessments can be prescriptive in nature if used without considering the broader needs of the child, therefore ensuring to take a trauma focused approach assists in a more holistic approach, considering family, contextual safeguarding and community.

13. Standards for children

The Standards for Children- in the youth justice system replaced the previous *National Standards for Youth Justice (2013)*.

Self-assessment outcomes from April 2024:

Standard	Strategic self-assessed results	Operational self-assessed results
NS1	Out Of Court Disposals	OUTSTANDING
NS2	At Court	GOOD
NS3	In the Community	GOOD
NS4	In Secure Settings	GOOD
NS5	On Transition	GOOD

The Standards for Children (2019) are informed by the ‘Child First’ principles, that have guided the Youth Justice Services approach, which has maintained an approach and plan that is informed by up-to-date theory and recognised practice. A recent example of this is that York Youth Justice Service has secured fixed-term funding to employ a Trauma Informed Practitioner to develop the Trauma informed approach of York Youth Justice Service, and the wider partner services that we work alongside.

A key principle of the Standards for Children is to divert children and young people away from the youth justice system. York Youth Justice Service has seen a shift in the case work it is undertaking since it was last inspected, the service are now working alongside more children and young people on a voluntary basis that have been referred in from partner services to divert them away from the criminal justice system. This has seen a maintained 80-20% split of case work being centred on prevention, carried out on a voluntary basis. Subsequently we have had to shift focus and skills to work with sometimes a much younger age range, with prevention work on our Triage and Diversion schemes attracting referrals for an increased number of children between 10-12 years old.

York Youth Justice Service is a relatively small service and we have always worked with children and young people on an individual needs lead basis, delivering both voluntary and statutory interventions. We focus on bespoke plans to ensure the child’s needs are met. The intervention plans we agree and deliver with children and young people, their families and carers are centred on their assessed direct needs, and we have developed our assessment processes around risk of harm, safety and wellbeing and likelihood of offending in all areas of our work.

To ensure we have oversight of the Standards for Children (2019), the service has a Quality Assurance Plan in place that identifies key audits of casework and practice. Full case file audits are undertaken regularly, as well as combined joint audits with neighbouring youth justice services for example completing MAPPA Level 1 Audits. An example of in-house audit process is that any new court ordered intervention is audited at the six weeks from sentence period. These audits are combined on a six-monthly basis to report to the YJS management board in the form of a report that can identify any themes of practice that need adjustment, this is then approached by staff development days and policy change if required. A recent JTAI mock audit took place where the Youth Justice Service were required to provide evidence of cases related to serious youth violence.

14. Service Development

Nationally the number of children entering the youth justice system has decreased dramatically over the last decade, as has the number of children in custody. (YJB strategy for delivering positive outcomes for children by reducing and creating safer communities 2024-2027).

As highlighted previously in this Youth Justice Plan prevention and diversion interventions are undertaken either on a voluntary basis, or through the local Youth Outcome Panel arrangements in the county and account for the majority of the current Youth Justice Service caseload. As the quote above highlights our statistics do match a national picture, particularly around the use of custody for young people coming under the services supervision.

York Youth Justice Service are continuing to develop our Trauma Informed approach to working with children, young people and their families in line with 'Child First' principles. We have secured funding to employ a Trauma Informed Practitioner to develop our service approach and aim to change element of our practice and processes. Staff development has focused on identifying appropriate training to develop our teams' skills and understanding around this area of knowledge.

The Youth Justice Board have developed a national assessment to be used by all youth justice services from April 2024. The assessment tool will be mandatory and used for all out-of-court disposals. The assessment tool has been developed so that it is suitable for prevention and Turnaround cases, but it will be optional whether services use this assessment for those children. York Youth Justice Service have created a full suite of assessments to address out of court disposals, including a robust Triage and Diversion assessment which is our voluntary intervention scheme. This was recently updated to include a Turnaround assessment. Incorporating the new assessment tool will be a key development for our staff and our service in the coming months.

York Youth Justice Service does not experience a high turnover of staff, we do enjoy the stability of a well-established team of professionals from a diverse background who are keen to develop their skills and knowledge as practitioners. Seconded staff are well as established professionals in the team and responsible for developing practitioner skills through effective practice sessions and general advice and guidance. With the shift towards prevention and diversion,

the service has experienced working with a young age range. Over 2024/2025, the service will concentrate on creating age-appropriate interventions for this age group.

As we have a close working relationship and sit under the Children Social Care directorate, the service has benefitted from accessing significant training, including the implementation of the *Signs of Safety* practice model. We have also accessed training around Trauma informed Practice, as well as accessing National Autism Awareness training, both of which will enable our staff team to deliver training to other partner services. This enhances our staff team knowledge and skills in developing and delivering proportionate and appropriate interventions to children and young people in the future.

The Youth Justice Service, Victim Liaison Officer (VLO) has developed the victim offer within the service over the last 5 year, through direct work with victims of crime and those young people that have caused harm. Over 2024/2025, the VLO will focus on working with the Pupil Referral Unit in York to develop Restorative Justice and victim work within the establishment. The victim offer can now also accept referrals from partners, including schools and Children’s Social Care.

The service has a keen focus on education within the city and work closely with schools, though also understand that some young people do not thrive in the educational environment. On this basis, in 2024/2025 the service is introducing AQA’s to our syllabus by becoming a centre through UAS, enabling the introduction of non-vocational qualifications for young people. This will enhance their capacity to secure employment as it displays motivation to succeed and engagement with education.

HMIP Outcomes:

York Youth Justice Service Fieldwork started September 2022	Score	32/36
Overall rating	Outstanding	
1.	Organisational delivery	
1.1	Governance and leadership	Outstanding
1.2	Staff	Outstanding
1.3	Partnerships and services	Outstanding
1.4	Information and facilities	Good
2.	Court disposals	
2.1	Assessment	Good
2.2	Planning	Outstanding
2.3	Implementation and delivery	Outstanding

2.4	Reviewing	Outstanding
3.	Out-of-court disposals	
3.1	Assessment	Good
3.2	Planning	Good
3.3	Implementation and delivery	Outstanding
3.4	Out-of-court disposal policy and provision	Outstanding
4.	Resettlement¹	
4.1	Resettlement policy and provision	Outstanding

Though York Youth Justice Service received an Outstanding outcome from the HMIP inspection in 2022, we recognise the necessity to continue to make improvements and develop the service further to ensure that we remain an outstanding service as we move forwards.

15. National priority areas

The demographics of the City of York differs to many other cities in the United Kingdom and our focus over the coming year is based on what we understand about children that may be considered over-represented within the city. The YJS and partnership strive to ensure that all children are prioritised, though also track data on those known to Children's Social Care, children excluded from education, children identified as Special Educational Needs and children from Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller backgrounds to monitor and understand over representation. During 2023/2024, York saw an increase in females within the arena of youth justice, predominantly for offences of violence. The Youth Justice Service Management Board have a particular interest in these females and have scrutinised case studies to gain a thorough understanding. The service has based their approach to working with females on research and understand the importance of relationship-based practice, also the use of a safe space to undertake the work. The HMIP inspectors outlined 'work with children from travelling families was very good, with knowledge, skills and relationships having been built over time'.

16. Policing

Relationships between North Yorkshire Police and York Youth Justice Service are mature and positive. Police colleagues play an active role on the Management board, also the Youth Outcome Panel is chaired by a Police Inspector. The service benefits from a Police Constable (PC), who is highly pro-active in her approach and has a sound knowledge of youth justice. Some examples of the innovative work completed by the police officer within the service include: A complete rewrite of ABC contract for use by PCSOs and Safer Neighbourhood police constables to ensure a holistic approach and positive focus. This new approach provides the opportunity to enable police officers and young people to work together to identify factors against offending behaviour, whilst also providing guidance on referral pathways into other services. To enhance this approach further, leaflets were created with the guidance of a Speech and

Language therapist to help young people to understand outcomes. Moving forwards, further leaflets will be created to explain everything linked to police contact.

The YJS PC contributes to the Youth Outcome Panel assessment procedure, by profiling the young person based on previous offending history through a trauma informed lens. Out of Court disposals are delivered by the YJS PC, accompanied by direct intervention work. The role also incorporates data analysis that informs emerging trends and appropriate interventions.

The service is keen to promote improved relationships between young people and the police, therefore the YJS PC delivers sessions including 'a day in the life of a Police Officer', using multiple choice scenarios that take the young people through a typical shift as a Police Officer, highlighting responsibilities and risks, and how care for victims can be overshadowed by the need to deal with reckless behaviour from others.

Operation Divan is a police initiative, based on intelligence regarding the use and carrying weapons. The YJS PC delivers interventions that highlight legalities, risks and dangers of carrying weapons.

Information sharing between York Youth Justice Service and North Yorkshire Police is well developed and effective, though daily information shared from the Police system. This includes information pertaining to arrests, voluntary attendees and urgent briefing items.

The service has a robust intelligence sharing process in place, whereby Youth Justice staff will feed information directly to the PC, who then enters details into the wider police system.

To ensure information is shared with wider police officers, the YJS PC holds a secure spreadsheet to enable officers to view who is working with the service and the type of intervention or Order in place.

The YJS PC links in with all police teams to ensure they are well versed in communicating and dealing with young people. This extends further through providing direct training to officer recruits in the arena of youth justice.

The YJS PC facilitates training of Appropriate Adults, alongside a YJS practice manager and volunteer manager.

The YJS PC is trained in AIM3 assessment and intervention and facilitates training to CID regarding AIM3 assessments which can be carried out prior to Crown Prosecution Service advice, to better inform their decision.

17. Prevention and Diversion

As alluded to throughout this plan, prevention is a priority area for York Youth Justice Service which we have successfully focused on for the past five years. Prevention and early intervention prove predominant factors in reducing the likelihood of young people entering the criminal justice system. The approach of intervening prior to this critical point, increases the opportunities for young people in the future. Our prevention offer is strong, with Triage and Diversion being our most utilised intervention. The diversionary element of Triage and Diversion ensures that young people on the periphery of offending behaviour are also offered support. This is further supported by the City of York Early Help offer. Turnaround enhanced this provision

further, through recruitment of a Turnaround Practitioner providing increased capacity in numbers of young people receiving intervention.

The Youth Outcome Panel is a mature and recognised method of making informed decisions for out of court disposals within the City of York, ensuring that all young people placed before the panel receive an intervention from the Youth Justice Service, ranging from Cautions to Outcome 22 disposals.

18. Education

York YJS have established positive links with education providers within the city and the introduction of the Turnaround provision strengthened this further. The service has a positive relationship with the Police Liaison Officers within schools and regularly work collaboratively, particularly in the area of prevention and sharing information. Schools benefit from accessing the YJS Victim Liaison Officer, for advice, guidance and some direct work. A representative from Education sits on the YJS management board and York benefits from working closely with the Virtual Head of schools, for those young people that are not in mainstream education. The YJS continue to have positive links with the Special Educational Needs team. As part of the YJS's close links with both Primary and Secondary schools across the city, the Education, Training and Employment lead sits on the monthly panels of both the Fair Access and Learning Support Hub meetings. These meetings give providers direct access to advice and guidance around behavioural issues of young people within schools and where applicable, the YJS can then feed into agreed packages of support for those young people at risk of permanent exclusion due to Anti-Social Behaviour within school communities, through both the Turnaround, Triage and Diversion programmes. The idea behind this process is to provide early intervention to minimise the risk of permanent exclusion.

For those young people on any YJS programmes, including Turnaround and Triage and Diversion whose attendance and participation at school is impacted by trauma or anxiety. The YJS can offer Talking Therapy (Drawing and Talking) sessions within the school setting. This is aimed at building the resilience of the young person within the setting, whilst also supporting improved engagement and participation. Working collaboratively with schools strengthens the support network for the young person by creating a team around the family approach, also enabling the YJS to support school plans for young people such as the My Support Plan and/or Education Health and Care Plan.

19. Restorative approaches and victims

York YJS offer to victims continues to increase, ensuring that victims are empowered and have a voice within the criminal justice system. Victim voice is central to all work of the YJS, including prevention, diversion, and statutory orders. The Victim Liaison Officer works tirelessly to advocate for victims and help them move forwards in their lives, through safety planning and support. The service also recognises that many children are victims of past experiences and utilise trauma informed practice to ensure such issues are addressed and worked with.

20. Serious violence, exploitation, and contextual safeguarding

The Serious Violence Duty commenced on the 31st January 2023 and requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence that occurs in the area and implement strategy to address it. These authorities include police, justice, fire, and rescue, health and local authorities. The Home Office definition of serious violence refers to:

- Violence
- Violence against property
- Threats of violence

The definition is not limited to physical violence, so includes domestic abuse and sexual abuse, but does not include terrorism. Locally it has been agreed to keep the definition broad and include violence against women and girls. This profile will be reviewed annually.

A strategic needs assessment has been conducted in conjunction with the Office for Policing Fire Crime and Commissioning (York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority) for the partnership area and a response strategy developed by January 2024. The Office for Policing Fire Crime and Commissioning (York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority) have discretionary power to monitor local performance of the partnership against shared objectives. York YJS have low-level occurrences of serious violence compared to other major cities, however, will be immersed in the duty. Voluntary Bail Support is offered to all young people within the city involved in serious crimes, including violence. Individual officers within the team attend MARAC`s on behalf of YJS and the YJS Probation Officer attends MATAAC`s and MAPPA Meetings to ensure multi-agencies management of those considered high-risk offenders. Young People who are assessed of displaying a high risk of serious harm are also consulted with the FCAMHS service for further guidance and advice. Exploitation is also a consideration and York YJS work closely with other external agencies to ensure that information and intervention is provided to those young people at risk of exploitation. These include the attendance of Strategy, RAM and MACEM meetings all lead by Children`s Social Care as well as further multi-agency network partnerships with Trusted Relationship and Hand in Hand. York YJS have two social workers set within our structure, who work with young people considered to have higher complex needs including those at risk of exploitation. The YJS manager sits on the National Referral Mechanism panel in York and the Channel Panel.

21. Detention in police custody

Detention in police custody remains an area that the service focus on. During 2024, the YJS increased our capacity for Appropriate Adults (AA) to North Yorkshire Police by extending the hours where an AA is available, also ensuring that a YJS manager is available 7 days per week until midnight to provide support to our police colleagues. After midnight, the service uses the Emergency Duty Team. In the event of concerns about safeguarding and welfare, such as County Lines, the YJS have a protocol in place with colleagues in Children`s Social Care to ensure the welfare of the child and a focus on their release. We ensure to be compliant with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE).

22. Remands

In York, children subject to remands to Local Authority accommodation and children subject to remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA) remains exceptionally low. Though the numbers are low in the city, the use of remands is considered by the partnership and any cases are discussed in the management board when they arise.

23. Use of custody and constructive resettlement

The National picture of the use of custody has significantly decreased, which is reflected in York. We recognise and understand the impact on children's lives when they receive a custodial sentence, such as disrupting their education and fracturing relationships with families. Use of custody in York is low, though occasionally happens with highly complex and often vulnerable young people being placed in the custodial environment. To address this from a strategic perspective, the Youth Justice Service management board have a comprehensive understanding of this cohort of children and address cases relating to custody through detailed case studies that outline the history of the young person, including social care history and educational attainment. The operational partnership with the courts in York is a particular strength and Pre-Sentence Reports provide robust assessment of young people that may be sentenced to custody. When bail packages are suggested, York YJS ensure to provide bespoke interventions that ensure young people, and the community are safe. Further to this, York YJS have devised a process whereby AIM 3 assessment is available prior to charge and have a service level agreement in place with North Yorkshire Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to provide a report to assist the CPS in their decision making.

We know the challenges faced by young people leaving custody, such as accommodation and have therefore ensured the policy, provision and pathway in York is high quality and evidence based. Resettlement focuses on individual need and personalised support to keep the child safe and manage risk of harm. Partners, such as Social Care, Health, Education and Housing understand their role in resettlement and provide services swiftly. The service benefits from access to specialist youth homelessness workers and a representative from Housing sits on the management board. The YJS undertake joint work with the secure estate and have named contacts at HMP Wetherby and Adel Beck Secure Children's Home. The management board actively review resettlement cases and address any barriers to effective resettlement. HMIP rated York's resettlement policy and provision as outstanding, highlighting 'the case we assessed evidenced meeting the child's individual needs, keeping the child safe and effective use of transitions to adult probation services, to manage risk of harm'.

24. Working with families

It is widely acknowledged that family relationships and young people's living arrangements and/or environments are background factors in offending behaviour. The available research indicates that family interventions can lead to improvements in family relationships and reduce recidivism. Good parenting interventions help to build self-confidence and awareness of how important effective parenting is. This is not only to prevent children from becoming involved in the justice system, but so that they may go on to lead productive and successful lives.

They can also increase the child's confidence and resilience and empower parents and carers in addressing complex issues. Parents are important in fostering and promoting a child's pro-social identity. Parenting support can reassure parents and carers and help them to understand what 'good enough' parenting looks like. In York we seek to engage family members at every stage of the young person's involvement with services and aspire to a collaborative approach ensuring families understand the goals and action plans implemented by the service. We aim to equip families with the support and tools that they need to promote, build, and maintain a positive relationship with their child as well as help them achieve meaningful change.

This takes place at the start of any intervention by ensuring their consent and co-operation to work alongside them as well as in conjunction with other services through the exchange of information. The voice of parents and carers is also captured at the beginning and regular intervals of any intervention via self-assessment and then regular updates on progress or challenges are relayed during home visits. In York the importance of family work is recognised however we are also aware of service limitations and pressures and consequently this is an area in need of development. The addition of a dedicated family/parenting worker would prove beneficial and ensure that the most challenging, risky, or vulnerable young people's families are provided with additional support and resource to help strengthen resilience and reduce recidivism. The YJS have strong links with wider services and do work collaboratively with Children's Services teams including Early Help and Exploitation teams to try to provide as robust a package of support as is required following assessment.

25. Serious violence, exploitation, and contextual safeguarding

The Serious Violence Duty commenced on the 31st January 2023 and requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence that occurs in the area and implement strategy to address it. These authorities include police, justice, fire, and rescue, health and local authorities. The Home Office definition of serious violence refers to:

- Violence
- Violence against property
- Threats of violence

The definition is not limited to physical violence, so includes domestic abuse and sexual abuse, but does not include terrorism. Locally it has been agreed to keep the definition broad and include violence against women and girls. This profile will be reviewed annually.

A strategic needs assessment has been conducted in conjunction with the Office for Policing Fire Crime and Commissioning (York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority) for the partnership area and a response strategy developed by January 2024. The Office for Policing Fire Crime and Commissioning (York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority) have discretionary power to monitor local performance of the partnership against shared objectives. York YJS have low-level occurrences of serious violence compared to other major cities, however, will be immersed in the duty. Since the introduction of the **Home Office Serious Violence Duty** (January 2023), the York and North Yorkshire Office for Policing, Fire, Crime and Commissioning have worked with partners to provide a definition of serious violence that reflects issues found within the local area, and the impact and prevalence of different types of serious violence. Therefore, for North Yorkshire and York, the following crimes are included in our definition of serious violence and

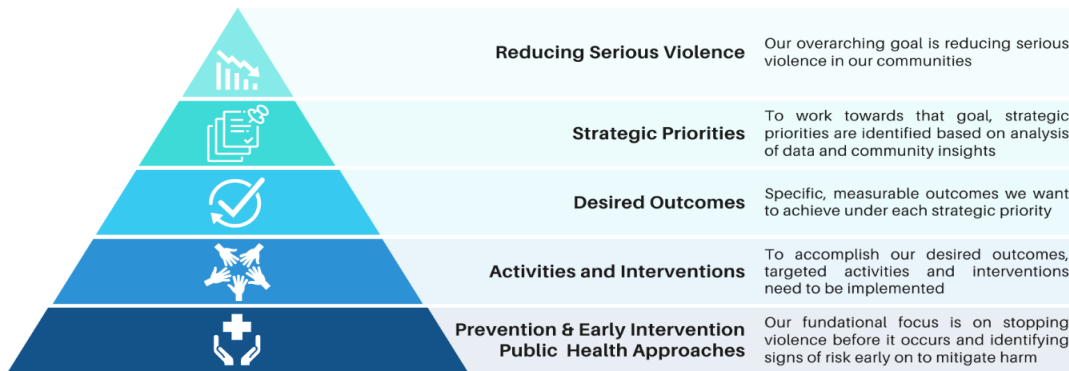
were used during the Strategic Needs Assessment which can be found at: [Serious Violence Duty - Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire \(northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk)

- Homicide
- Violence with Injury
- Domestic Abuse
- Rape and Sexual Offences
- Weapon Related Violence; including Weapon Possession
- Arson Endangering Life
- Stalking and Harassment; non-domestic

North Yorkshire and York aims:

- To understand the extent of violence throughout North Yorkshire through the analysis of characteristics, patterns of behaviour and the impact on the wider community.
- To establish the risk factors that increase the likelihood of violence, and how these factors can be reduced through prevention, diversion, and early intervention.
- To establish effective interventions in a variety of settings and monitor the impact on reducing serious violence these interventions produce.

North Yorkshire and York Serious Violence Duty - Our Response to Serious Violence



The below graph outlines a local reduction in serious violence crimes since 2022/2023 and further details can be found at <https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/how-can-we-help/community-projects/svd/>

Offence Category	2022/23	2023/24	Difference	% Difference
Arson	26	31	5	19%
Homicide	5	0	-5	-100%
Serious Sexual Offences	680	574	-106	-16%
Possession of Weapons	398	377	-21	-5%
Rape Offences	525	367	-158	-30%
Violence with Injury	5,613	4,845	-768	-14%
Total	7,247	6,194	-1,053	-15%

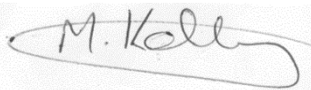
Exploitation

York YJS work closely with our colleagues in City of York Council's Exploitation Team to ensure we have robust structures to support those young people that may experience exploitation. We ensure that information is shared effectively, and intervention is provided to those young people at risk of being criminally exploited. The YJS manager sits on the National Referral Mechanism panel in York and a YJS practice manager attends the Channel Panel to ensure the service have a focus on radicalisation or potential extremist activity.

Safeguarding

York YJS work closely with the City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership (CYSCP) and ensure that YJS staff understand the complexities of contextual safeguarding.

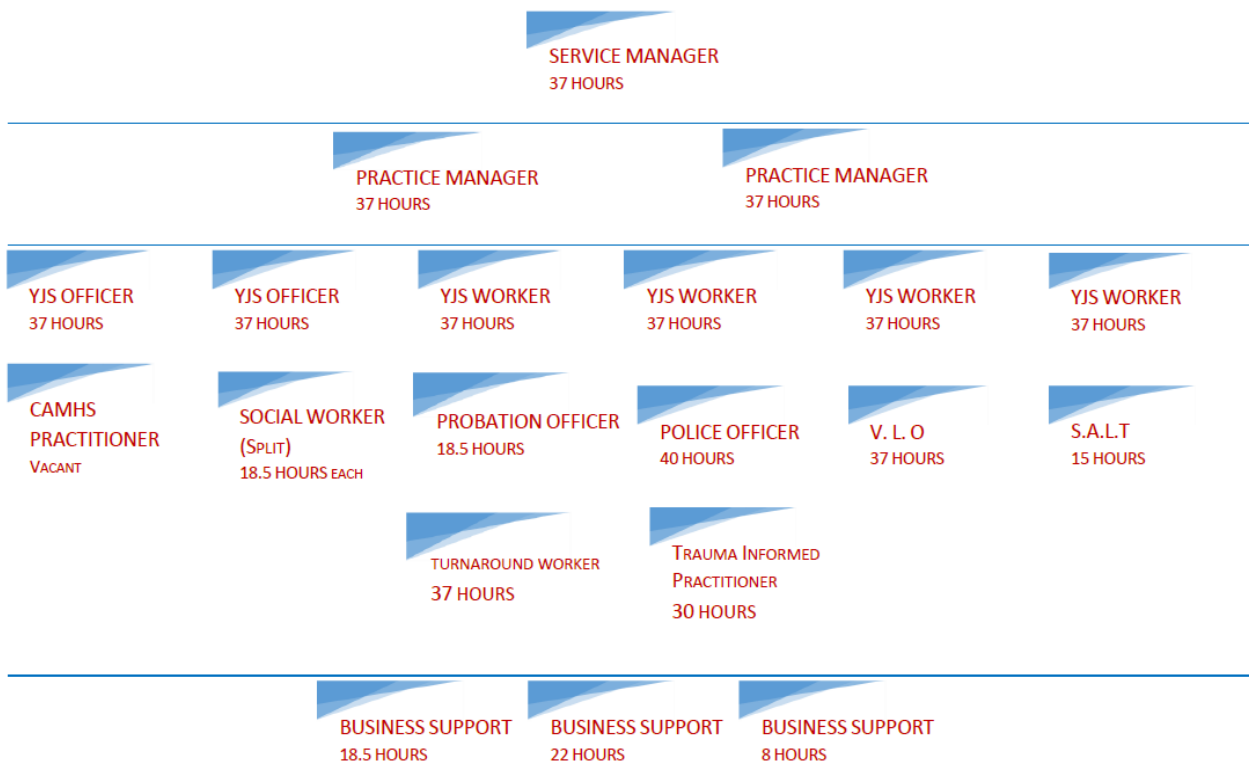
26. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board - name	Martin Kelly
Signature	
Date	1/7/2024

27. Appendix 1 – Service Structure Chart



YORK YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE – ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



The staffing structure outlines the core staff members within the YJS. Complimenting this further includes the volunteer service, including Appropriate Adults, Referral Order Panel Members and Victim Volunteers. The YJS regularly host students on a Social Work Apprenticeship whilst they are in their placement. The YJS manager reports directly to the Director of Safeguarding for the City of York Council.

28. Appendix 2 – Budget Costs and Contributions 2024

Agency	Staffing Costs	Payments in kind	Other delegated funds	Total
Youth Justice Board	244,952		63,707	308,659
Local Authority	188,584		49,046	237,630
Police		48,277		48,277
Office for Policing Fire Crime and Commissioning (Y&NY CA)	71,692		21,356	93,048
Probation	3,707	17,171	1,293	22,171
Health	38,589			38,589
Welsh Government				0
Other				
Total	547,524	65,448	135,402	748,374

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Youth Justice Plans

YJB Practice Guidance March 2021

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Context and legal framework

Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice (YJ) plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth offending partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:

- how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded
- how the youth offending team (YOT) or equivalent service will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.

The YJB recognises that planning within the current context is extremely challenging. The sector has responded remarkably but the impact of Covid-19 for children is still yet to fully emerge. Early indications are that for many it has been devastating, and that in 2021 partners must work together to put plans in place to mitigate the negative impacts of the last 12 months.

There are many unknowns and ongoing difficulties that emerged in 2020 that are challenging the delivery of youth justice services and may limit some elements of delivery. However, a year on, many services have settled into adapted ways of working. The planning and production of a Youth Justice Plan is beneficial to partnership working and service delivery to ensure the best outcomes for children.

We also recognise that each local area will have its own governance and oversight arrangements for the completion of statutory plans, and that some aspects of this 'sign off' may need to be completed after the required date of submission to the YJB. Therefore, it is acceptable to gain an "*in principle agreement*" from youth justice partners (Management Board) and sign off via the Chair of the Management Board as a minimum requirement for submission to the YJB.

The YJ plan must be submitted to the YJB and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State. We request that YJ plans be submitted to the YJB by **30th June 2021**, by e-mailing YJB CBU CBU@yjb.gov.uk.

Your YJ plan can be submitted at any time. The 30 June 2021 is the date by which your plan must be submitted to ensure timely payment of your Youth Justice Grant for 2021/22.

Annex A includes a summary outline of grant requirements against terms and conditions to support services understanding of minimum compliances.

Child First

You will be aware that the YJB's vision is of a Child First youth justice system, which we define as a system where all services:

- Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children
- Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society
- Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers
- Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system

We are satisfied that the evidence supports this as the best approach to achieve better child outcomes. Much of this is explored in the recent research by Loughborough University alongside UKRI, Child First Justice¹– the research evidence base.

Whilst many of you will be employing a Child First approach to a greater or lesser extent, we want to build capacity within the sector further. We recognise that systemically this is a long-term vision which requires policy and legislative changes at the centre, which we are seeking to influence as set out in our strategic plan². We also recognise that this vision extends far beyond the youth justice system into mainstream services and beyond and again are working to re-frame youth justice across government.

However, there is much that can be done within the existing system within local arrangements and the content of plans should reflect your activity in working to achieve the above vision.

¹ Child First Justice: The research evidence-base can be viewed online here, https://repository.lboro.ac.uk/articles/report/Child_First_Justice_the_research_evidence-base_Summary_report_/14153162

² YJB Strategic Plan 2021-2024. You can view the strategic plan online here, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966200/YJB_Strategic_Plan_2021_-_2024.pdf

How to produce your plan

The YJB recognise that there are many mature multi-agency partnerships across England and Wales, who have years of experience in leadership and governance of youth justice services. These services often have their own individualised and local approach to production of their YJ plans. However, as the landscape is constantly fluid some partnerships have newly formed governance arrangements and newly appointed Chairs and Heads of Service. We therefore offer this advice on '*How to Produce your Plan*' as a guide.

The Management Board should govern and own this process; it is their opportunity to collectively shape the direction of the delivery of youth justice so that it best meets the needs of the locality, children, families and communities. Opportunities for wider participation, significantly where children and their families can themselves shape and influence the delivery of your service is also strongly encouraged.

YJ planning process – what might it include?

The Management Board (led by the Chair) should take the lead for planning, beginning with a planning session, with contributions from all partners. The planning process may include the following:

Reflect and plan

- Looking back to learn from the past and recognise achievements, consider plans based on what is known now and horizon scans to base plans in context
- Consider current performance, this may include performance data against local and national indicators, self-assessment against Standards for Children in the youth justice system³, other existing improvement plans
- Identifies and understands the needs of children in the justice system within the cohort, and identifies where the priorities are to support good outcomes
- Considers key risks, issues and challenges, and plots key milestones

Consult

- Involve input from children and families, enabling the voice of the child and user feedback and participation
- Consults with staff and volunteers, particularly regarding, improvements to service delivery and identifying learning and development needs of the workforce to support performance improvement and better outcomes

Engage wider strategic partnerships

- Consider the, regional and national context the partnership is operating in. What is the strategy and vision of key stakeholders within which the YJ Plan will 'sit'?
- Looks for support from the sector and takes the opportunity to plan across wider areas – PCC area, CCG footprint, regional, devolved political area
- Takes on board relevant wider strategic plans, (including perhaps, Police and Crime Plan, Local authority plans (Children and Young People Plan for example), VRU/CSP/LCJB/Public Health Plans)
- Is shared with partners for feedback and amendments

³ Standards for Children in the youth justice system, can be viewed online here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957697/Standards_for_children_in_youth_justice_services_2019.doc.pdf

Content of the YJ Plan

Statute requires the production of an annual plan, the YJB also welcomes plans that cover more than one year. Where YJ plans are covering more than one year, the YJB recommend an annual refresh and updating of key information, particularly relating to available resources, governance and key achievements from the previous year.

Plans will cover both strategic and operational elements. The wider strategic picture should be captured, whilst outlining also the key business activities that will be undertaken by services to achieve wider strategic aims.

Partnerships producing a longer and more strategic plan covering a number of years, often supplement their strategic plan with a more detailed operational business plan. It can be the case that the strategic element of the YJ plan can often remain the same over a longer period of time (the YJB Strategic Plan can offer an example).

In the Crime and Disorder Act it states, the YJ Plan should set out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded as well as key information about the Youth Offending Team (YOT). The plan therefore, should seek to include all services that contribute to the prevention of offending of children in their local area, as well as describing how the YOT itself operates and what functions it will carry out. This can be achieved through descriptions of operational partnership approaches across a local area, and the strategic links that underpin them.

The YJ Plan should set out the **direction and strategy of youth justice services**, describing how in particular, quality services will be provided to ensure positive outcomes for children and improvements in performance indicators, in particular:

- reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system
- reducing the use of custody
- reducing reoffending rates
- locally agreed performance indicators that evidence positive outcomes for children

The YJ Plan should describe how **leadership and governance** is set up to monitor the **quality and effectiveness** of youth justice services across your area.

Revised Standards for children in the youth justice system were implemented from 2019, and self-assessments against these standards were carried out by all local partnerships and submitted to the YJB in 2020. The planning process for your YJ Plan should align the gaps or areas for improvement your partnership has identified through the self-assessment process alongside an action plan to address any areas of improvement.

The local governance arrangements are likely to focus on the YJ Management Board or equivalent, but where appropriate descriptions of wider governance and leadership should be included.

Effective governance and leadership requires quality information being made available to all key partners. It is important to understand the needs and diversity of the local children's population, to devise and deliver appropriate individual and personalised services. The YJ Plan should contain information on the needs of children in the local area, including:

- a profile of offending by children, including a breakdown by gender, age, ethnicity, looked after status, types of offending
- how the needs of your cohort have been assessed to inform delivery decisions
- how the service demonstrates a Child First ethos and practice. In doing this you may wish to focus upon each of the four Child First tenets (outlined above) individually and consider plans to implement work within each. For example, under the first tenet, how you might plan to move away from offending behaviour programmes towards a model of working which focus on a child's individual strengths and build positive behaviours and sense of identity.

Other key information to consider in your YJ Plan should reflect your local context. We include suggestions alongside areas where we also wish to drive improvements across the system below. Understanding approaches to these also enables us to capture emerging and existing good practice, to share more widely and in support of advising Ministers.

- what the staffing of the youth justice service looks like, what the **workforce learning and development** needs are, and how they will be met
- what is known about **child criminal exploitation** in your area, and any initiatives or plans the partnership has in place to work together to address and prevent the harm arising from exploitation of children (information on serious violence should be considered as part of this)
- what is known about any groups of **over-represented children** in the youth justice system in your area, and any initiatives or plans the partnership has in place to work together to address this
- what local partnerships are doing to ensure effective services are available for **constructive resettlement** for children leaving secure estate and settling back into the community, or transitioning across to adult secure estate or community services
- what the partnership and key stakeholders regard as **effective practice** in youth justice. What aspects of their service delivery and design have contributed to, and resulted in their key achievements
- how youth partnerships hold education to account over levels of exclusion from schools/colleges, referrals to **Elective Home Education** and the provision and delivery of **EHCP's** (Education, Health and Care Plans), and how decisions are being monitored, challenged and addressed to ensure

that the actions of all education establishments are appropriate and in the best interests of children

- what local partnerships are doing to prevent children who are at risk of offending from being progressed into the formal youth justice system, and what they are doing to divert children who have offended from being escalated further through the formal youth justice system

Suggested structure

To aid YJ partnerships in the process of production of a YJ plan, an outline structure has been suggested below:

Introduction, vision and strategy

A forward or statement introducing the plan from the Chair, or a senior representative of the local authority, confirming that the plan has been developed and agreed across Youth Justice partners, works well as evidence of governance of the plan.

Having an executive summary outlining the key points in the plan, including opportunities, risks and challenges, works well. This provides a focus on key priorities going forward and key achievements from the last year.

Outlining the vision and strategy of the local partnership at the beginning of the plan, sets the overall tone of the narrative to follow, and gives a wider perspective to the detail of the rest of the plan. This offers the opportunity to develop your own child first vision that all partners are committed to and shapes activity towards achieving it.

Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

This section should provide an overview of how the partnership is meeting statutory requirements for the oversight of youth justice services. It should contain a description of the local governance arrangements for youth justice services, outlining how the youth justice management board links in with other governance boards, or groups with relevant oversight responsibilities and shared aims.

A description of the partnership arrangements at both an operational and strategic level, that contribute to support for children in the justice system. As a multi-agency partnership, youth justice services must contain specialists, or access to specialist provision for children being supervised, this includes Police, health, education, social work and probation as a minimum. A description of operational partnerships should include confirmation that this is the case, in addition to describing the workforce available to deliver statutory youth justice work.

Resources and services

Your YJ plan will need to provide assurance that the YJB grant will be used appropriately (as described in the Terms and Condition of Grant).

In this section you are required to include details of:

- how the YJB Grant will be used
- partnership resources that contribute to the aims and expected outcomes of the plan

A description of effective and efficient use of resources should be linked to performance and outcome measures set out in the plan:

- e.g. 'we use our grant, partner contributions and available resources to deliver these services and we believe they produce the following benefits and outcomes. Our performance will be improved in 2021/22 by.....'

Performance and priorities

This section should contain a summary of key performance targets, as a minimum describing what current performance looks like and what the partnership is aiming for in the future. Performance against the nationally measured targets should be captured in the plan. Partnerships should demonstrate an understanding in their plan of how they are performing in reducing:

- use of custody, (in both remand and sentencing)
- first time entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system
- reoffending

Local performance targets are encouraged, and local data to measure these targets are also welcomed as a useful way of overcoming the challenges to delays in national data.

Capturing the key priorities for the period is an important aspect of the plan. In challenging times, partnerships cannot always deliver on all they would wish to, so focusing on key priorities and stating these in your YJ plan helps to inform key actions in the business plan or improvement plan section.

Responding to the pandemic and recovery from COVID-19

This section should follow on from the Recovery Plans submitted in 2020/21, and:

- include a summary of the ongoing challenges of delivering services during the pandemic and through to recovery, including any specific changes to ongoing service design or delivery
- describe lessons learned from delivering services since March 2020 and any specific responses to the findings from the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) Covid19 thematic⁴
- review of the 2020 Recovery Plan submitted to the YJB and any actions or learning arising from that plan.

Challenges, risks and issues

This section should include:

- An outline of current challenges, risks and issues to local YJ services
- What actions are being taken to address existing issues and challenges
- What proposed action may be needed to address potential risks should they emerge

We recognise that during this period of delivery there may be crossover between the challenges, risks and issues identified in the section above and in this section

YJ Plans should also consider a response to key findings from any relevant local inspections, HMIP thematic inspections, reviews or learning exercises that have taken place in the last 18 months including:

- Learning from any serious incident reviews reported locally
- Improvement actions from HMIP inspections, including thematics
- Improvement actions from other relevant inspections of statutory partners that may impact on YJ services

⁴ A thematic review of the work of youth offending services during the COVID-19 pandemic can be viewed online here: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/11/201110-A-thematic-review-of-the-work-of-youth-offending-services-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic.pdf>

YJ plans should consider a local response to key findings from:

- YJB conclusions published in early 2021 around 'Ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in the youth justice system'⁵
- consider findings from the HMIP annual report⁶ published in November 2020

Service business and improvement plan

It is important during the preparation of your YJ Plan that you consider and capture detail around the following:

- What key improvements to youth justice services and outcomes for children are needed and how they will be delivered
- What benefits will be delivered and what success will look like
- What development of the workforce in 2021/22 and beyond looks like
- How the partnership will improve. What action will be taken?
- What support is needed to improve? How will Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership (YJSIP)⁷ be used to improve?
- How the YJB Strategic Plan 2021-24 will influence your local plan?

⁵ Ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in the youth justice system, can be viewed online here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952483/Ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in the youth justice system.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952483/Ethnic_disproportionality_in_remand_and_sentencing_in_the_youth_justice_system.pdf)

⁶ HMIP Annual Report: Inspection of youth offending services (2019-2020), can be viewed online here: <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/yar2020/>

⁷ Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership (YJSIP), can be viewed online here: <https://yresourcehub.uk/youth-justice-sector-improvement-partnership.html>

Sign off, submission and approval

YJ Plans must be agreed by your partnership and signed off by the Chair of the board **before** submission to the YJB.

YJ Plans can be submitted to the YJB at any point but we request that approved plans are submitted by **30th June 2021**.

YJ Plans should be submitted by e-mailing the YJB CBU team at CBU@yjb.gov.uk.

If there is wider sign off, scrutiny or governance required for your YJ plan taking place after the 30th June, your plan can be submitted as long as the management board Chair has approved the plan. The 'sign off' by the Chair is an indication that the wider management board have approved the submitted plan.

The Heads of Innovation and Engagement covering your region/Wales are available to review and consult on locally approved plans. Should feedback from the Heads of Region/Wales be sought, we advise consultation on a draft version take place as early as possible and before formal submission.

The YJB regards the plan as a public document and will make your plans or its content available to anyone making a reasonable request. We would also encourage you to consider making your plans available online.

The YJB recommends that you consider the production of a summary version for the general public and a simplified and accessible version for children.

While the YJB provides grant to local areas, it is neither a signatory to the plan nor directly responsible for its contents. Consequently, neither the YJB nor the Ministry of Justice logo should appear on the document.

Annex A – Summary outline of grant compliances

The below replicates Annex 3 within the YOT Grant Terms and Conditions. Grant payment is made to the Local Authority as one lump sum when all the compliances set out below have been met. Payment will be made on condition that the following information will be provided by the timescale indicated. A failure to provide this information could result in the YJB on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice requiring that the grant payment be returned.

31 May 2021	Submission of the signed audit certificate for the previous year's 2020/21 Youth Justice Grant	Send to: YJBGrants@yjb.gov.uk
30 June 2021	Youth Justice Plan	Send to: CBU@yjb.gov.uk copied to your relevant Head of Region or Wales
30 June 2021	Submission of a signed agreement of Conditions of Grant (e-signatures are now acceptable) – an email submission to the YJB must be copied to other signatories and state explicitly that the other signatories have agreed to conditions.	Send to: YJBGrants@yjb.gov.uk
31 July 2021	Submission of the planned overall income and workforce data for the YOT through YJ application framework	Contact: InformationandAnalysis@yjb.gov.uk
As per Data Recording Requirements (DRR) ⁸	Submission of quarterly YOT case management and AssetPlus data via Connectivity	Contact: InformationandAnalysis@yjb.gov.uk
31 May 2022	Submission of the signed audit certificate for this year's 2021/22 grant	Send to: YJBGrants@yjb.gov.uk

If YOTs are experiencing delay/difficulties with any of the above, contact with their relevant Head of Region/Wales is essential.

⁸ Data Recording Requirements, can be viewed online here:
<https://yiresourcehub.uk/data/item/669-data-recording-requirements-for-youth-offending-teams-april-2021-to-march-2022.html>

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