

# North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2023-2024



**Youth Justice Partnership**  
North Lincolnshire

# Annex A – Youth Justice Plan

<b>Partnership</b>	North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership
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## Introduction, vision and strategy

### Foreword by the Independent Chair of the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board

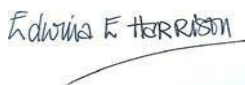
It is not always easy to motivate people around plans, but we really do try hard to do so in the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board. We do so by involving children and families, the Youth Justice Team and the Board members. We have reviewed our priorities and made some changes and will continue to monitor the impact throughout 2023-24.

During 2022-23 we have continued with the established model of having lead roles for the statutory partners on the Board, and they have made a significant contribution to this Plan as well as to the meetings. The success of this coordinated approach can be seen in the very positive performance data, which is reported regularly to the YJB, as well as through the excellent support across the agencies who work with children.

During the year we have welcomed attendance at the Board by representatives of the YJB regional team. We also welcome recent changes in the arrangements which will bring more contact and communication at local level. We are in a strong position to report on the additional 10 new Key Performance Indicators which have been introduced from April 2023.

As part of our commitment to transparency and to a learning culture we requested a Peer Review by the Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership. The team joined us in early March 2023 to look at areas which had been jointly identified beforehand. The process was positive and useful, involving children and families as well as practitioners and YJSPB members.

The Review team had not been gone long before we were notified that the long awaited HMIP inspection would take place in May 2023, although the report is not due to be published until autumn. This Plan incorporates any findings from these visits, and I hope that as well as learning about the achievements of the past year, you also find that it is a forward looking and interesting document.



**Edwina Harrison**  
Independent Chair  
July 2023

## Executive Summary

This Youth Justice Plan sets out the vision and priorities for North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership. The plan has been developed alongside partners and board members utilising development session discussions to ensure we are confident of the priorities set and assurance that the child first principle is fully embedded.

Children and Young people have been consulted and shared their views to support the plan.

The workforce has equally contributed and written some of the plan content, setting out the vision of the partnership and providing key updates from the last 12 months alongside their perceived priorities for the year ahead.

The plan builds on our achievements in 2022/23 and sets out our strong partnership commitment to early help, prevention and diversion and introduces new strategies that are being implemented across the region to strengthen this further. It outlines our commitment to reducing first time entrants, reducing re-offending and sustaining our current performance in ensuring children are diverted from custody.

During 2022/23 North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership have been subject to intensive external scrutiny through a Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership (YJSIP) Peer Review in March 2023 and subsequent HMIP Inspection in May 2023. Whilst awaiting formal publication, learning and reflection from these processes and the feedback received has supported us to compile a strong plan with added assurance for the priorities set to aid our continued development.

Localised priorities have been reviewed and updated. Individual partner board members have been identified as leads and have responsibility for providing regular updates at each board meeting outlining the progress against their lead priority area, ensuring accountability across the partnership board.

The plan sets out the local key priorities for 2023/24 as:

- **Prevention, Diversion and Out of Court,**
- **Reduction of Child Exploitation and Serious Violence,**
- **Transition to Adulthood process,**
- **Engagement in Education, Employment and Training,**
- **Improve the Emotional and Physical Health of children involved with youth justice,**
- **Children from groups which are over-represented (Diversity & Disproportionality)**

The plan summarises North Lincolnshire's Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) Approach and progress to date whilst outlining our ongoing journey and interface with other local and national strategic plans.

Risks and challenges are clearly defined in the risk log which identifies how we will seek to overcome barriers and challenges to ensure business continuity.

Finally, the plan outlines our ongoing work to strengthen and develop practice and assurance.

## Vision and Strategy

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) places a statutory responsibility on local authorities, acting with statutory partner agencies, to establish a Youth Offending Team (YOT). The statutory function of the YOT is to co-ordinate the provision of Youth Justice Partnerships. Section 40

of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out responsibilities in relation to the production of an annual Youth Justice Plan. It is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out:

- how youth justice partnerships in their area are to be provided and funded.
- how the YOT will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.

Under the auspices of the **Council Plan**, as a council and working with partners, we are ambitious for North Lincolnshire and we want our area to be the **#BestPlace** for our residents.

We are committed to ensuring that our children, young people and families are **safe, well, prosperous and connected**.

Our plan is aligned with existing policy initiatives including North Lincolnshire's '**One Family Approach**' (OFA). OFA, as endorsed by the Integrated Children's Trust, underpins the values, principles and how we collectively respond to the needs of Children and Families in North Lincolnshire. Through our One Family Approach, we will work together with schools as the primary partner, wider partners and the community to build on and further strengthen our integrated offer for all children and young people, so that they can **thrive in their families, achieve in their schools and flourish in their communities**.

We want our children and young people to feel loved, to feel warmth and care and to feel included and happy. We want to continue to move forward and be ambitious for our children, young people and families across the place and neighbourhoods of North Lincolnshire

Our statutory Youth Justice Partnership is situated in Children and Families within North Lincolnshire Council, and as a multi-agency partnership, it is an integral part of our integrated offer for children and families across North Lincolnshire. The Youth Justice Partnership and delivery of the Youth Justice Plan is overseen by the independently chaired Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board, at which there is high support and high challenge.

The Youth Justice Partnership aims to reduce and prevent offending by children and young people through a partnership approach that builds resilience. At the heart of the partnership is the belief that children and young people within the youth justice system should be seen as children first, which aligns with our One Family Approach, and which is demonstrated in our practice.

Traditionally known as a Youth Offending Service, the partnership demonstrated our commitment to 'Child First' and became a '**Youth Justice Partnership**' understanding that language describing children as 'offender' and 'young offender' serves only to "encourage the stigmatisation and criminalisation of children" and "reinforces a feeling of exclusion and discourages positive re-integration into society" (Youth Justice Legal Centre, 2020).

Over the next 12 months we intend to strengthen this commitment further aligned to our **children and families transformation** with a 'shine a light' focus on improving outcomes for children and young people with vulnerabilities and further development of our **integrated youth offer** ensuring help is provided at the right level by the right person using the fewest, best interventions.

The Youth Justice Plan clarifies our local youth justice arrangements, sets out the shared ambition and priorities across the Youth Justice Partnership and reinforces our focus on **system wide leadership** so that children are diverted away from the youth justice system wherever possible.

Our focus on both reducing and preventing offending, is enabled through early help, family



help and protection, health provision, education, training and employment opportunities and suitable accommodation. This is further supported through enabling and empowering children and young people to participate and engage in the young people's offer across the place and neighbourhoods of North Lincolnshire.

We utilise the Serious Youth Violence Stocktake and the Ethnic Disproportionality Toolkit, which supports us to address any issues of over-representation of particular ethnic groups and reflect on the partnership offer. The Serious Youth Violence Data toolkit is designed to help us identify gaps and strengths in the work we are doing to reduce serious youth violence.

In North Lincolnshire, all children and young people matter, and we are focused on ensuring extra care and commitment to those open to our Youth Justice Partnership. Through the collaborative work that we do, the determination of partners, we are making a positive difference and we will continue our focus on listening, learning, reviewing and adapting to improve outcomes for our children, young people and families.

## Local context

North Lincolnshire is a small Local Authority on the south bank of the Humber estuary, which borders onto North East Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. Scunthorpe lies at the urban centre of the area, which is otherwise predominantly rural, made up of a number of historic market towns and surrounded by large and small villages and hamlets, as well as an attractive countryside.

There are robust partnership working arrangements across the place of North Lincolnshire and the wider footprint, including across other Local Authority areas in the Humber region (North East Lincolnshire, Hull and East Riding), who share the same police force (Humberside Police). We also have strong relationships with local health providers (NLAG and RDASH) who are coterminous with other Local Authorities, and we have a strong interface with the Yorkshire and South Humber Integrated Care Board, through the North Lincolnshire Health and Care Partnership.

Living in North Lincolnshire, children, young people and families:

- can enjoy extensive footpaths, cycleways, open spaces, public gardens and parks, as well as a wide-ranging sport, leisure and cultural offer
- have access to house prices lower than the national average and good levels of employment, of which 40% of local jobs are classed as highly skilled.
- can benefit from above average quality early years and school settings.
- can benefit from an effective early help, family help and protection delivered by agencies committed to intervening early, supporting the whole family, and preventing escalation of need through the fewest, best interventions.

North Lincolnshire is home to 172,005 people (mid 2018 ONS population estimate). This has risen steadily since 2005 and is expected to continue to grow by a further 3.68% over the next 25 years. It is anticipated that there are 47,292 young people under the age of 25 years living in the area, of which 37,491 are aged 0 to 18.

North Lincolnshire is ranked as the 127th most deprived local authority area in England (of 326) (compared to a ranking of 120th most deprived in 2010). The most recent Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) show that the number of our Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the 10% most deprived areas in the country has reduced and the number of LSOAs in the least deprived areas has increased since 2010. 9% of the area's LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived nationally, and the main pockets of deprivation in North Lincolnshire are concentrated in the Scunthorpe urban area.

As at January 2022, there are 24,774 children on a school roll. In March 2022, 90% of schools are currently judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. 100% of schools have been judged by Ofsted to have effective arrangements for safeguarding children.

As at January 2022, 13.1% of the pupil population in North Lincolnshire were identified as having SEN support, with 3.1% having an EHCP. Nationally in 2021, 12.2% of pupils were identified with SEN Support, with 3.7% having an EHCP.

There are 79 schools in North Lincolnshire (15 secondary schools, 4 junior schools, 5 infant schools, 53 primary schools. Within which there are two special schools (one primary and one secondary). We also have a university technical college, an academy Alternative Provider and two colleges. 3 secondary schools have sixth forms offering a wide range of courses and quality post 16 provision. We also have a University Campus (UCNL), and four independent special schools two of which also provide post-16 provision.

The vast majority of our children and young people with SEND are educated in our mainstream early years 'settings, schools or colleges.

Between 2016 and 2022 the North Lincolnshire primary school black and minority ethnic cohort has increased from 15.2% to 17.7%, and in secondary schools from 11.9% to 14.1%.

As at January 2022 the proportion of children eligible for and claiming free school meals:

- In primary schools is 26.9% (national 21.6% -2021)
- In secondary schools is 25.2% (national 18.9%-2021)
- In special schools is 42.2% (national 43.2% -2021)

## Child First

The principle ‘**Child First**’ guides the work of the Youth Justice Board and underpins our work and values in North Lincolnshire. We recognise that children in the justice system often have multiple and complex needs and we will prioritise these needs and seek to identify any structural barriers they may face. Where possible, we seek to divert children from the justice system entirely and address these needs recognising that interventions focusing on the root causes of offending behaviour seeks to support safer communities with fewer victims.

For those who do offend, our core focus continues to be rehabilitation, tackling underlying causes of youth offending, and delivering a system that gives children the support they need to break the cycle of offending and build productive and fulfilling lives. ‘Child First’ is now an evidenced based approach to delivering youth justice and North Lincolnshire will continue to adopt and embed this approach across the partnership in line with our One Family Approach model.

### The guiding principle for the youth justice system

Child First means that all youth justice services...

<b>As children</b>	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.
<b>Building pro-social identity</b>	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.
<b>Collaborating with children</b>	Encourage children’s active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.
<b>Diverting from stigma</b>	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.

## Voice of the child

The voice of young people is at the heart of all we do. Young people’s views and experiences are central to our culture of listening, learning, reviewing and adapting to achieve improved outcomes. We acknowledge that our workforce is our greatest asset in achieving our ambition for children to thrive in their families, achieve in their schools and flourish in their communities.

Our Council Plan sets out our promise to the people of North Lincolnshire, including children, young people and families, that it will be the best place for our residents and that the people and place of North Lincolnshire will be safe, well, prosperous and connected. The voices of children are families are strong, they are listened to and acted upon throughout.

In North Lincolnshire we have an established range of mechanisms to ensure that the views of young people shape and influence developments, policy, practice and inform individual plans.



The **Children and Families Voice and Engagement Framework** articulates our local approach outlining:

- the scope of voice and engagement in North Lincolnshire.
- our commitment to engaging with children, young people and families and to enabling their voice to shape and influence all that we do.
- our engagement mechanisms and arrangements across Children and Families, the Council and the wider partnership.
- our core engagement activity.

Our **V&E Steering Group** and **Operational Group** bring together leaders and lead officers across children and families to ensure that:

1. voice is central to our work.
2. voice informs strategic development, policy, practice and planning.
3. we listen, take action and develop our offer in true partnership.

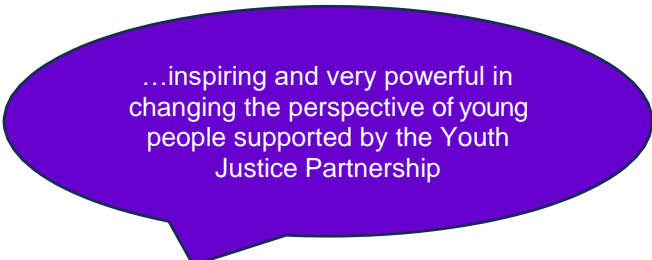
Children have been consulted to support the development of this plan, utilising their direct experiences of the support they have received and what we need to do to make this better.

The Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board has equally been hearing directly from children to enable their voice to make a difference to the provisions which are provided. The independent chair has had the opportunity to visit some of the groups that take place under the partnership and looks forward to future opportunities to hear directly from the children in the youth justice partnership.

Learning from COVID-19 we moved away from our traditional feedback forms and self-assessments and have been creative in our approaches including utilising digital platforms such as survey monkey to obtain feedback and support analysis of this.

Throughout 2022/23 we developed this further and have worked directly with children and young people to co-produce a series of short and impactful animations that can be used as a resource to explain the Youth Justice Partnership offer. Narrated by young people and using their words, the animations present young people's views of the YJP, how they found things and the difference it made.

The Board recently described the animation as:



...inspiring and very powerful in changing the perspective of young people supported by the Youth Justice Partnership

We utilise our framework, '**you asked, you said, and we did**' to demonstrate our response. Some examples of this in action include:

- We asked young people about the type of places and spaces they would like to access and following consultation undertook a mapping exercise of premises that were available and accessible. We identified existing spaces for direct work with young people that we will continue to develop in line with the views of young people.
- The YJP work closely with colleagues across the partnership to develop funding opportunities and co-ordinate a variety of projects based on what young people tell us they want.

Other key developments to enhance how we capture the voice of children and young people include:

- Feedback obtained through the YJSIP Peer Review and HMIP Inspection
- Children and Families quarterly thematic consultation
- Strengthened approach to quality assurance (feedback, consultation and observation to inform monthly audit activity)
- Children and young people are involved in recruitment.
- Media co-production projects – Not in our community, Animation, Lifestyle Project
- Group Work Projects and Positive Activities
- Strong partnership working with the North Lincs Voice and Engagement Team
- North Lincolnshire are signed up to the YJB Youth Advisory Network.
- Voice is a recurrent agenda item at the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board.
- DCS Assurance Events – focused on voice and participation.
- Questionnaires used to inform self-evaluations.

XXX was a pleasure to have as a YJP worker, she took the time to understand my child and his disabilities. She is an asset to the team.

My YJ worker "She comes to my school which is easier for me, she is nice, she respects me."

Child C said.... "the worker is great, very happy with the support, she is someone to talk to and really helps "

A parent said ". .... (the worker) is like one of the family"

## Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

### Governance and Leadership

Our statutory Youth Justice Partnership (YJP) is part of the Children and Families area within North Lincolnshire Council, and as a multi-agency partnership, it is an integral part of our integrated offer for children and families across North Lincolnshire.

The Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board (YJSPB) has an independent chair, Edwina Harrison who brings extensive experience to the role including senior management within youth justice and as a longstanding independent chair of the North Lincolnshire Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Edwina has a good understanding of the role, and work of the Youth Justice Partnership and provides confident leadership to the board.

The YJSPB meets quarterly and oversees strategic management, funding arrangements, partnership working and access to partner agency provisions. The Board receives quarterly management reports and closely monitors performance against the key performance indicators, staffing arrangements, generic workforce issues, and specific projects. The YJSPB also oversees action plans, policies, procedures and partnership protocols.

The Youth Justice Lead Officer reports quarterly and annually on new initiatives and financial issues that have budget implications for the overall expenditure. The line management of the Youth Justice Lead Officer falls within the remit of the Director of Children and Families.

The Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board interfaces with the wider strategic partnerships and boards within North Lincolnshire including the Children’s Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Resilience Board (CMARS), the Community Safety Partnership, Violence Prevention Partnership Board and the Integrated Care Board.

More recently, there has been a cross board development session which brought together the Safeguarding Adults Board, Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Childrens MARS Board, Community Safety Partnership and Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board. This aim of the session was to consider any cross-cutting priorities and workstreams. This session enabled board managers to map out who needed to be invited to a larger scale development session which is planned for the Autumn.

Locally, there is a culture of challenge and holding partners to account. There are embedded systems and processes for professional challenge across the safeguarding system and evidence of scrutiny and assurance arrangements in place at all levels across our safeguarding partner organisations. Anything that requires further escalation from the YJSPB will report to the MARS board.



Key aspects of the YJSPB include:

- Senior representatives attend the board who add value through support and challenge and ensure child first principles underpin practice at all levels of organisations.
- Regular well attended meetings and development sessions take place with board members to build on strong relationships between partner agencies.
- Lead roles group meets between board to maintain momentum and members work with specific Youth Justice team members.
- Subgroups are developed to resolve issues.
- Regular Performance and budget information underpins planning process.
- Thorough induction process is in place for new board members.
- Partnership advocacy and commitment to 'Child First'
- Engaging and incorporating the views of children to deliver a high quality, individualised responsive offer.

- Formulation and implementation of the Youth Justice Plan
- Strategic oversight of the standards for children in the youth justice system
- Leadership that promotes valuing, equality and diversity

## Partnerships

Section 39 (1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the co-operation of the named statutory partners to form a YOT. Section 38 (1, 2) identifies the statutory partners and places a duty on them to co-operate to secure youth justice partnerships appropriate to their area.

These statutory partners are:

- The local authority (this includes children's social care and education).
- The police.
- The probation service.
- Health.

The YJP is constituted of staff seconded from or employed by these agencies. To support the YJP, additional partners may also be recruited to provide specific provisions and support to children.

In North Lincolnshire, our One Family Approach aims to create a system that works for all children, young people and families where we work together to provide and commission an integrated offer for children and young people. We want to build on the collective strengths of our people and place to innovate and change through integration and system redesign.

In North Lincolnshire there is a comprehensive range of high-quality support offers in place to enable personalised and responsive provision for all children. The Youth Justice Partnership is an active member of the Humberside Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) which is attended by the Youth Justice and Children's Social Care managers and works closely with probation services, the police and partners to reduce offending.

North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership is also an active member of the Humberside Criminal Justice Board, Community Safety Partnership and Violence Prevention Partnership Board.

The Youth Justice Partnership is represented on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) panels, is a core member of the Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Group at the HSB Panel strategic and practitioner levels, part of the strategic group to develop our approach to Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) and part of the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) process.

The North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan is linked to a range of partnership strategies and plans including:

- North Lincolnshire Council Plan 2022-25
- Humberside Police and Crime Plan
- North Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership Plan (CSP)
- Risk Outside the Home Strategy 2022-25
- Helping Children and Families 2020-24
- Children's Commissioning Strategy 2020-24
- SEND and Inclusion Plan 2020-2024
- Humber Modern Slavery Strategy 2020-23
- CMARS | Policies, procedures and guidance
- Humberside Police Early Intervention Strategy

The Humber Violence Prevention Partnership is working with CSPs and other partners to develop a **Response Strategy** for serious violence. Each CSP will have its own Delivery Plan, forming part of the strategy, tailored to local needs.

Involvement in the criminal justice system can impact adversely on a child's life chances, intervening at the earliest point provides the opportunity to deliver partnership models of preventative work that consider risk outside the home, desistance, and the relational approach. In North Lincolnshire, our early intervention work is in partnership with the Drug Education Liaison Treatment Agency (DELTA), the Child Exploitation Team (CEIT), The Outreach Youth Offer and the statutory Youth Justice Team which currently forms 'The Youth Justice Partnership' and is overseen by the Joint Decision Making Panel (Diversion and Out of Court) and Prevention Allocations Meeting Panel.

The work encompasses a variety of themes, from substance misuse, exploitation, ASB, crime, domestic abuse, and emotional/mental health to ensure that a holistic programme of support is available to the young people.

#### **Other key partnership arrangements and activities include:**

- Working with partners to identify alternatives to remand and more robust community bail packages.
- Close partnership liaison to support the disruption of Organised Crime Groups who pose a risk to children in North Lincolnshire.
- A custody pathway that concentrates planning for young people at the point of entry to custody and provides immediate input on release re ETE, Health, Substance misuse, accommodation and family relationships.
- Working with partners to support vulnerable groups including children in and leaving care, children who are unaccompanied and seeking asylum, children identified as having SEND.
- Close links with the North Lincolnshire Fostering offer to identify alternative placements that avoid remands to custody, and provision of PACE beds.

#### **Service Level Agreement and Partnership Arrangement Review Process**

To assure effective partnership working, Service Level Agreements (SLA) exist between the Youth Justice Partnerships and key partner agencies, including police, probation, CAMHS and Children's Social Care with emphasis on Children in Care and substance misuse provision.

SLAs are subject to annual review and specify designated roles, accountabilities, responsibilities, recruitment processes, supervision, practice and delivery, and management of performance.

There have been a number of revised and developed protocols and agreements over the last 12 months including:

- Children in Custody Joint Protocol
- Prevention, Diversion and Out of Court Policy and Procedures
- Risk Management Policy
- Resettlement Policy
- Transitions Protocol

All SLA's and protocols/agreements are endorsed by the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board.



## Regional & National Partnerships

North Lincolnshire have developed excellent joint working arrangements with colleagues regionally and nationally. Regional partnership arrangements include:

- Reciprocal audit arrangements.
- Chair of Humber region quarterly head of service meetings.
- Joint Appropriate Adult arrangements.
- Consortium bid applications.
- Joint training.

## Board Development

The YJB expects local management boards to take responsibility for all aspects of youth justice partnership governance; to lead strategically across relevant partners and to ensure a high-quality offer is provided to all children. In 2021 the YJB provided updated guidance on youth justice partnership governance and leadership to support this. A self-assessment survey, alongside the updated guidance was circulated with all board members to review their role and contribution against the guidance.

Management board members are provided with information and training when important changes take place within youth justice or their locality which will impact on how the partnership operates and delivers its priorities. There is a robust induction in place for new board members which outlines the requirements of attendance at the board ensuring there is a commitment to regularly attend, to scrutinise, check and challenge information which is presented and contribute to oversight of the Youth Justice Partnership and its functions.

Annual board development/training sessions take place and there are plans for board members to attend a joint training session on trauma informed practice in the next 12 months.

Board members met on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 to produce this plan and agree priorities for 2023/24. This session welcomed new board members and was equally attended by our newly appointed regional YJB representative.

## Resources and services

As an accountable and publicly funded body, the Youth Justice Partnership is committed to ensuring value for money via robust budget management and effective delivery. The partnership ensures that resources are deployed appropriately to meet the changing demands of a smaller convicted cohort, with increased preventative and out of court disposal interventions.

The Youth Justice Partnership continues to achieve a balanced budget comprised in the main from Local Authority core funding and the Youth Justice Board Grant, supplemented by partner contributions and additional grant funding opportunities. There is ongoing commitment from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to continue to support the work of the YJP in diverting from and preventing youth crime. The PCC has agreed core funding allocations until 2025 providing some level of stability and continuity. The continued funding will be subject to submission of regular reports on delivery of outputs and outcomes.

Recent communication from the YJB outlined that the YJB was delegated £92.5m for the 23/24 youth justice core grant, an uplift of 4.5% from the previous financial year.

The 4.5% uplift reflects a balance of the current fiscal challenges of all departments and recognises the complex, vulnerable caseload in youth justice and inflationary pressures faced by partnerships. Grant funding is not currently able to be confirmed for multiple years (due to the political and economic climate).

**Appendix 2** reflects the North Lincolnshire YJSPB Budget Costs and Contributions for 2023/24.

The Budget Costs and Contributions table clearly identifies additional funding opportunities that have arisen for 2023/23 including funding from the Home Office following the successful development of a Humberside Violence Reduction Unit (Violence Prevention Partnership).

This funding has been utilised to bolster our prevention, diversion and out of court offer, develop sports programmes to divert children and young people away from crime and ASB and further develop our outreach youth offer. This funding is temporary and therefore there are risks as the capacity and resource added to the team is currently on a fixed term basis.

North Lincolnshire have been granted the total sum of £241,948.46 for the period from December 2022 to March 2025 for the Turnaround programme. The annual breakdown of the grant amount is set out in appendix 2. This funding has equally enabled us to create additional resource and capacity in the team to deliver our robust preventative and diversion offer. Funding is equally being utilised to promote positive interventions with children and families to divert them away from the criminal justice system.

North Lincolnshire have worked in partnership with Humberside Police to receive additional funding from the Home Office GRIP funding. GRIP funding is a Home Office initiative aimed at cutting violence by giving additional funding to forces to support short-term suppression of levels of serious violence, as well as longer-term problem-solving strategies in hotspot areas. Through our effective partnership working Humberside Police have successfully obtained funding to commission a Virtual Reality Education Project in schools across North Lincolnshire and to purchase a detached mobile unit that will be gifted to the local authority to deliver interventions with young people in the community and aligned to our outreach youth offer.

North Lincolnshire will receive funding in 2023/24 to become a 'test and learn' pilot site as part of the Humber Coast and Vale Trauma Informed Youth Justice Pilot. There will be approximately £300k per year available to develop our model and work is ongoing across the system to consider how this funding will be utilised. The test and learn pilot will be funded for 2 years but the project is a total of 10 years and therefore a potential for funding to exceed.

## Progress of previous plan

### Case Management/Supervision

In line with the revised case management guidance, all children referred to the Youth Justice Partnership will be allocated a worker who is responsible for:

- engaging the child and building a positive relationship
- ensuring assessments are undertaken, kept up to date and regularly reviewed.
- ensuring any specific requirements of the court are addressed in the order, or if adjustments need to be made, taking appropriate action (e.g., variation of the order, change activity within the scope of the order)
- working with the child and their parents or carers to plan engagement and work to be undertaken.

- providing supervision through regular and agreed contact and being accessible to the child (and their parents or carers) throughout the period of contact with the YJP (includes maintaining contact with children who are remanded or sentenced to custody)
- reviewing the progress of the order when there is significant change (and at least every three months) with the child (and their parents or carers) and adjusting if a re-assessment or re-formulation of plans is necessary to achieve positive outcomes.
- managing transitions to adult or other providers
- managing closure of the order/contact with the child (including early revocation of the order because of positive progress made). In doing so ensuring that the child has their needs and rights met as well as any on-going support required to maintain progress beyond the end of an intervention

Over the past 12 months the workforce has experienced increased referrals into the partnership and vacancies have impacted on staff capacity. The plan for the next 12 months is to ensure all vacant posts are recruited to and that new staff are appropriately trained to deliver high level casework practice.

All staff are supported to complete the Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate (YJEP) if they don't already have this, and some staff have been supported to complete the Level 5 Youth Justice Foundation Degree to develop the knowledge and youth justice experience within the team.

All practitioners work in line with the standards for children in the youth justice system which provide a framework to ensure good practice and quality is maintained.

## **Standard 2: At Court**

The Court Team have continued to provide an excellent offer when advocating for the children and young people we work with. They adopt a child centred approach, while recognising the seriousness of certain offences, and recommendations for sentencing are proportionate. The team have been praised for the quality of their pre-sentence reports with Magistrates consistently minded to follow the recommendation of the report writer. Feedback is requested from the Magistrates following the completion of a report, to allow for challenge, and to highlight the good practice from the team which is celebrated.

Prior to each court sitting, a multi-agency pre-court meeting is held to ensure that everything is in place for the hearing. This includes ensuring the child and their parent/carers are able to get to the hearing, and they are supported with transport if not. In this meeting the offences are discussed, and recommendations are considered, including the request for a matter to be sent back for an Out of Court Disposal if deemed appropriate. Colleagues in social care are made aware of court hearings if a child is open to them i.e., Child Protection, Child in Need, Early Help to ensure all professionals involved with the child/family are available to support.

The court team have continued to strengthen their professional relationship with the court and advocate a trauma informed approach sharing their knowledge of the child and protected characteristics, which underpins the assessment of risk to the public and any relevant safeguarding issues. The team share knowledge of exploitation and are confident in presenting information to the court when there is a National Referral Mechanism referral in place.

The Court Team are skilled and experienced and keep up to date with relevant legislation, including the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act which brought about changes for sentencing, including the use of custody and remand. They utilise up to date policy and guidance including the YJB Case Management Guidance and revised legal CPS guidance.

## **Standard 3: in the community (court orders)**

### **Referral Orders**

Referral Orders continue to be utilised as a statutory disposal for children who are not deemed suitable for an Out of Court Disposal. As a partnership we advocate for children to avoid remaining in the court arena, however when this is not possible, we advocate for the child to receive a sentence proportionate to the offence, while considering the impact on victims. When a child we are working with becomes an adult prior to sentencing, there is communication with the Probation Service to ensure that sentencing reflects their age when the offence was committed.

Referral Orders directly involve the local community, by means of volunteer youth justice panel members and as beneficiaries of reparation. Referral Order panels conduct meetings in accordance with restorative principles and practice. These meetings enable children to recognise the consequences of their offending and to be accountable for their actions. A 'contract' is agreed between the child and the referral order panel. The contract will include a range of goals and activities, with the aim of supporting the child towards living a safe and crime-free life and making a positive contribution to society. Restorative interventions will play a vital role involving those harmed by the child's offence(s). The child's progress against the contract will be monitored by the youth offender panel through review meetings.

Referral Order panels continue to be completed taking into account the child's ability and learning needs. Whilst we advocate for the panels to be face to face where possible, each child is assessed individually and if it is deemed more appropriate to complete a shuttle panel, or virtual panel, this course of action will be taken. The positive use of technology is something that has been developed throughout the pandemic, and something we continue to utilise.

There continues to be a committed team of volunteers supporting with the panel meetings, and those who have been in the position for some time, have been excellent in supporting newly trained panel members. The panel members continue to adopt a child first approach and there is a strong focus on the wishes and feelings of the victims.

### **Youth Rehabilitation Orders**

Whilst we advocate that children are supported at the lowest level; over the past 12 months we have seen a small increase in the number of Youth Rehabilitation Orders imposed in court. These are for children who continue to offend and are deemed proportionate due to the nature of offending and risk posed.

Our court officers are highly skilled and trained in writing pre-sentence reports, incorporating recommendations which are routinely followed by the court. The wide range of requirements that can be attached to the Youth Rehabilitation Order are well understood and tailored to individual children and young people dependent on need and risk.

For children subject to Youth Rehabilitation Orders and turning 18 years old during the period, we ensure a smooth transition to the Probation Service, in line with our joint protocol and positive partnership working between the case manager and the seconded probation officer.

### **Volunteers**

The North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership support and invest in all their volunteers. The nature and requirement of the role require them to be over the age of 18. Many of our volunteers are recruited through our interface with our local college/university and are often



individuals are currently undertaking degrees who wish to gain experience of working with children and families and want to make a difference to the lives of children. The selection process of volunteers follows a rigorous and robust recruitment process to ensure that every volunteer is suitable for this role of working with children. Volunteer roles include restorative Referral Order Panel Members, Appropriate Adults.

The last 12 months has seen the main demand for volunteers to be appropriate adults for children who are being interviewed in police custody. All volunteers undergo extensive training including Foundation, Appropriate Adult and Referral Order Panel training, to ensure that they understand the One Family Approach and the importance of working under the child first principle when carrying out any intervention with children. They are offered the opportunity to shadow others already completing the role to instill confidence and provided with regular supervision to ensure their own safety and wellbeing, as well as to discuss any questions or concerns that may arise while carrying out their roles. In addition, refresher training is offered when there are any changes to policies and procedures, or they have been in the role for a significant period of time.

North Lincolnshire recognises the value of volunteers and the roles they undertake are core functions for the partnership. Training took place in December 2023 and this enabled us to deliver training to our neighbouring authorities' volunteers who share the same custody suite with us to ensure consistency of information shared.

Over the next twelve months we plan to further develop our structure to enhance the management, support and supervision volunteers receive. We also plan to develop the interface between our volunteers and the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board.

### **Risk Outside the Home**

The phrase 'risk outside the home' (ROTH) was incorporated into the December 2020 update of statutory guidance Working Together 2018, which tells us that 'alongside risks to children from within their family, children may also be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. This may include adults, groups of adults or locations that pose a risk to children. This may include schools and other educational establishments, peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online'. The North Lincolnshire Helping Children and Families Document reflects the changes in statutory guidance.

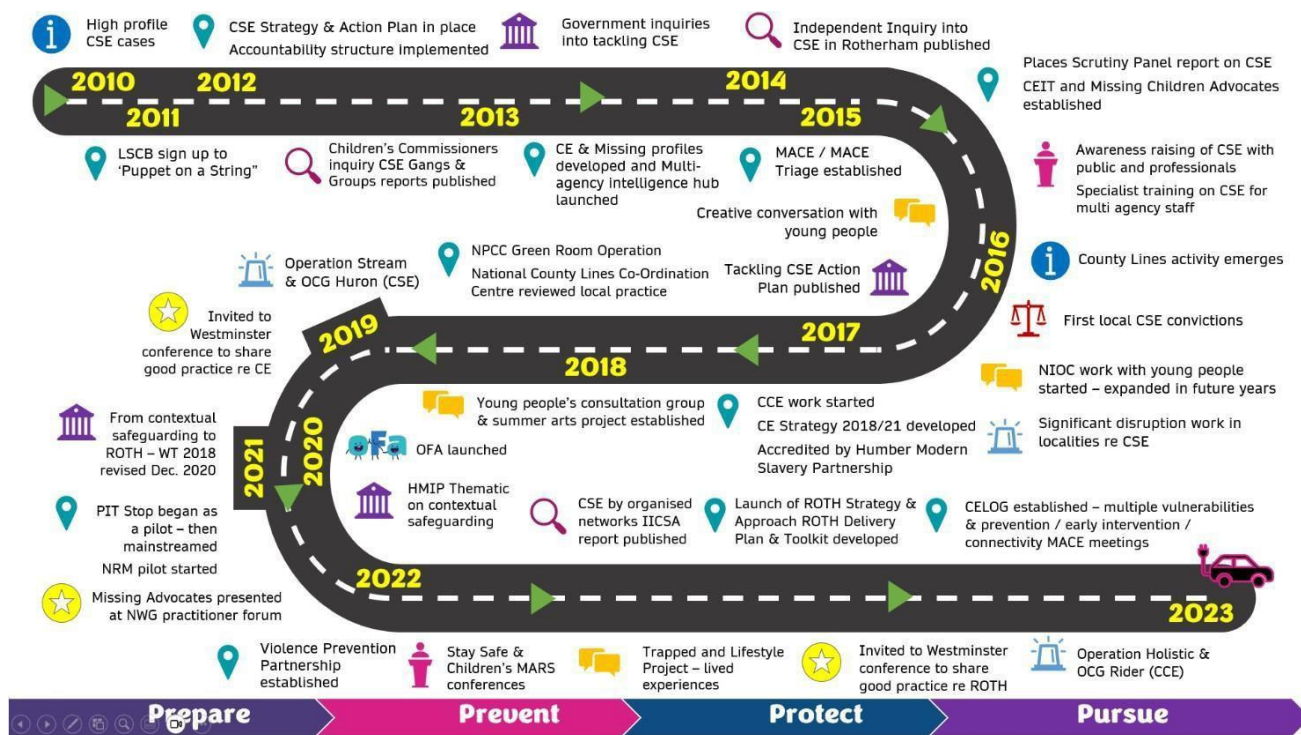
North Lincolnshire have been on a journey to further develop the multi-agency approach taken towards risk outside the home (extra-familial harm). Subsequently, following consultation with partners it was agreed to move away from the language 'contextual safeguarding' and move towards 'risk outside the home'. The rationale being to broaden our response to child exploitation in its widest sense incorporating:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Serious Youth Violence
- Child Trafficking
- Modern Day Slavery
- Online abuse
- Teenage relationship abuse
- Bullying
- Child on child sexual violence and harassment and harmful sexual behaviour
- Children vulnerable to radicalisation



The North Lincolnshire risk outside the home approach was formally launched in May 2022 and not only draws upon years of local learning and experience about ‘what works’, it has also been shaped heavily by the views of children, young people and families.

The roadmap below was developed to showcase the journey North Lincolnshire have been on to tackle risk outside the home, highlighting how we have adapted and shaped our practice following serious reviews, new legislation/guidance, and our commitment to continue to enhance this offer.



Within North Lincolnshire, there are longstanding robust strategic and operating frameworks to reduce the risks to children from outside the home. Our approach is based on the values and principles set out in our one family approach. We are strengths based and work in collaboration with our partners, children and families and the local community to utilise the range of resources and legislation available to us to understand the themes, trends and hotspots and focus our interventions early to prevent need from escalating alongside dismantling and disrupting organised crime to ensure children are protected from harm and the burden is placed firmly on the perpetrator and children are enabled to remain within their families and communities.

North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership have a range of experience in representing the local authority on a local, regional and national platform including showcasing best practice examples in relation to child exploitation. There are further plans for North Lincolnshire to showcase the strong partnership commitment to tackling child exploitation at the NWG conference in October 2023.

### Home Office – Devolved Decision Making for Child Victims of Modern Day Slavery Pilot

North Lincolnshire were successful in the bid to participate in a Home Office pilot ‘Devolved Decision Making for Child Victims of Modern Day Slavery’ which has enabled us to utilise our current safeguarding processes to make decisions on the National Referral Mechanism. The funding was utilised to develop a Modern Day Slavery Co-ordinator role within the authority that supports the co-ordination of referrals. The pilot is currently being evaluated and the Home

Office have confirmed that the pilot will be extended until March 2025. The pilot extension will enable further analysis of the local approach being taken and will inform national practice in the future.

The pilot has proved positive to North Lincolnshire developing a better awareness of modern day slavery across the workforce and enabling decisions about whether a child is a victim of modern slavery to be made by those involved in their care. Decisions made are multi-agency and closely aligned with the provision of local, needs-based support and any law enforcement response. The pilot has improved timescales in decision making and assurance that children are being recognised as victims first and foremost.

### **Safety Awareness Days**

The Youth Justice Partnership, Police and education continue to work together to deliver Safety Awareness sessions within schools across North Lincolnshire. This programme is an updated version of the Crime Awareness Day, which provided information to smaller groups of school children who were identified by the schools as needing some intervention.

The Safety Awareness programme aims to target a wider audience of school children, initially in secondary schools. The programme is delivered to children from years 7 to 11 and also includes alternative provisions. The programme is delivered to full year groups, with the option to deliver to smaller/bespoke groups where need is identified.

The programme is delivered by skilled practitioners from the Youth Justice Partnership, with support from education and the Police. There are a number of topics covered on a rolling programme including, Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation, County Lines, Youth Justice and Substance Misuse.

Humberside Police and YJP also teamed up to commission the award-winning author, Christina Gabbittas to educate primary school children in North Lincolnshire on the signs of being groomed, the dangers of drugs and the consequences of carrying knives. The "No More Knives or County Lines" lessons are delivered in a thought-provoking talk by Ms Gabbittas which delves into some situations some young people might experience at the hands of people trying to groom them. She uses a range of illustrated stories, poems and even an animated video to help get her message across. The lessons have also proved useful for teachers as it gives them an insight into what their children might be facing outside the classroom.

### **Trauma Informed Practice**

In 2021, an opportunity arose to bid for funding from NHS England's National Health and Justice Team, to develop a systems approach to enhancing support for vulnerable Children and Young People who have or may have experienced trauma or adversity and those at risk of encountering the Youth Justice System. Partners from across the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care System (formerly known as Humber, Coast and Vale) including Health, Local Authorities and the VCS worked together to develop this bid and ensure that its aims and implementation aligns with - and compliments - the broader transformation work already underway across the geography. Our bid was successful and 'The Children and Young People's Trauma Informed Care Programme' is one of 12 Vanguards delivering this work across the country. This work will be a 10-year programme which commenced in 2022 with ringfenced funding for the programme from NHSE. The Programme sits within the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Collaborative in the Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership.

The model of the 'The Children and Young People's Trauma Informed Care Programme' has two main aspects. One is delivering system change across the Partnership to develop and embed a consistent Trauma Informed approach across all partners working with vulnerable Children and Young People at risk of offending. The target cohort for years 1-3 are Children and Young People aged 10-19 who are at risk of becoming first time entrants or of reoffending in the Youth Justice System: The other is to test new interventions (known as Test and Learn sites) which divert young people from becoming first time entrants into the Youth Justice System.

North Lincolnshire plan to become a Test and Learn Pilot Site in 2023/24 and subgroups are currently meeting regularly to look at the model to be implemented.

All YJP staff have been trained in The Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC) Framework which is a flexible, components-based intervention developed for children and adolescents who have experienced complex trauma, along with their caregiving systems.

ARC's foundation is built upon four key areas of study: normative childhood development, traumatic stress, attachment, and risk and resilience. Drawing from these areas, ARC identifies important childhood skills and competencies which are routinely shown to be negatively affected by traumatic stress and by attachment disruptions, and which, when addressed predict a resilient outcome.

ARC is designed as both an individual-level clinical intervention, to be used in treatment settings for youth and families, and as an organisational framework, to be used in systems to support trauma-informed care. The concepts identified by ARC may be applied to individuals from birth through young adulthood and have been effectively used with youth with a range of developmental and cognitive functioning levels, and with a wide range of symptom presentations. Caregiver goals are designed to translate across many different types of caregiving systems, including primary (i.e. biological, kin, and foster parents), milieu (i.e. residential, group home), and organisational (i.e. teachers, youth program providers) systems of care.

The aim of the training is to help and support organisations to progress through the 4 stages below and ultimately become fully Trauma Informed:

#### Trauma-Aware

- Individuals and the organisation at all levels understand trauma, its effects and that behaviour is the adaptation that children needed to survive.

#### Trauma-Sensitive

- Individuals and the organisation at all levels can operationalise some concepts of a Trauma-Informed approach.

#### Trauma-Responsive

- Individuals and the organisation recognise and respond to trauma, enabling changes in behaviour and strengthening resilience and protective factors.

#### Trauma-Informed

- The culture of the whole system, including all work practices and settings reflects a Trauma-Informed approach.

## Violence Prevention Partnership

The Humber Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP) launched in July 2022 and exists to lead and co-ordinate the local response to preventing and reducing Serious Violence through a public health approach. It is one of 20 Home Office-funded Violence Reduction Units across England and Wales. North Lincolnshire YJP are an active member of the Violence Prevention Partnership Board.

The Serious Violence Duty was created by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

It requires specified authorities – local authorities, police, Fire and Rescue Authorities, the Probation Service, Youth Justice Teams, and Integrated Care Boards – to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.

The Humber VPP is working collaboratively with the specified authorities for the Duty and the four Humber Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) (North Lincolnshire, East Riding, Hull and North East Lincolnshire) to deliver a coordinated approach across the Humberside Police force area.

The Humber VPP has produced a Strategic Needs Assessment, setting out the drivers and extent of serious violence in the Humber area. CSPs will supplement this with annexes incorporating additional data and drawing out the key conclusions for their areas.

The Humber VPP is also working with CSPs and other partners, including North Lincolnshire YJP to develop a Response Strategy for serious violence. Each CSP will have its own Delivery Plan, forming part of the strategy, tailored to local needs.

As a result of the Serious Violence Duty, CSPs have a statutory responsibility to prevent people from becoming involved in, and to reduce instances of, serious violence. CSPs are governed by boards made up of the specified authorities and other partner organisations. The Humber VPP Board will lead the development of Humber-wide products and support collaboration across the area.

Information sharing is a core part of the Serious Violence Duty. The Humber VPP is supplementing CSPs' existing information sharing agreements by mapping and facilitating access to additional data and supporting collaborative work on data analysis.

## Prevention

North Lincolnshire have an established prevention offer which has recently been further enhanced through receipt of Turnaround Programme funding.

Prevention is support and intervention with children (and their parents/carers) who may be displaying behaviours which may indicate underlying needs or vulnerability. In practice this involves a tiered approach of early and targeted prevention. The aim being to address unmet needs, safeguard, promote positive outcomes and stop children entering the formal youth justice system.

**Early Prevention** is support for children (with no linked offence) to address unmet needs/welfare concerns, usually delivered by mainstream and the voluntary sector. The YJS Management Board may have an oversight role in monitoring and advocating on behalf of vulnerable children. YJS's may also share youth justice / adolescent expertise to improve outcomes for children.



**Targeted Prevention** is specialist support for children who have had some contact with criminal justice agencies but are not currently being supported through diversion, an out of court disposal or statutory order (this could include children who have had previous YJS intervention). This is to address unmet needs / welfare concerns. The aim is to improve outcomes through positive interaction while minimising harmful experiences for children.

North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership have a **prevention pathway** where any agency can refer a child/young person where there are emerging concerns.

Within North Lincolnshire YJP, our early intervention work is in partnership with the Drug Education Liaison Treatment Agency (DELTA), the Child Exploitation Team (CEIT), and the statutory Youth Justice Team which forms 'The Youth Justice Partnership'. The work encompasses a variety of themes, from substance misuse, exploitation, ASB, crime, domestic abuse, and emotional/mental health to ensure that a holistic programme of support is available to children and young people.

Every referral is considered on an individual basis and will consider the presenting needs which helps to support the panel to identify the most appropriate agency to support the child/family and avoid duplication in line with our One Family Approach.

The prevention programme allows us to work with children on the periphery of exploitation, criminality or substance misuse. This is a voluntary programme and consent is required from the young person and parent, obtained by the referrer (and can include self/family referrals). Some examples (but not exhaustive) of prevention referrals include education, PITSTOP, or a request from SPOC/IMAP. Cases will not be discussed at the panel if consent has not been obtained.

An offence does not have to have been committed for a referral to the prevention programme. The referral can be based around intelligence, emerging concerning behaviours within the home, school or anti-social behaviour in the community. A prevention programme is not recorded on the police national computer.

At present, a SQAT assessment and intervention plan (or equivalent early help assessment/plan) is completed for children referred to the partnership for prevention. This supports practitioners to work with the child/young person and their family to determine areas of strength/key issues to focus the intervention around. However, there are plans to develop out prevention approach aligned to the Children and Families transformation and practitioners are going to pilot the use of the North Lincolnshire Early Help Assessment as opposed to a SQAT in readiness for the new YJB diversion assessment tool being mandated.

### **The Drug Education Liaison Treatment Agency (DELTA)**

The Drug Education Liaison Treatment Agency (DELTA) is a community-based offer delivered within North Lincolnshire and forms part of the Youth Justice Partnership. It provides an offer that will support young people, to reduce the harms their substance misuse (including alcohol) can lead to, with the emphasis on reducing the risk factors in relation to the development of problematic substance use in adulthood. Delta delivers a project supporting children and young people living in substance using families (Hidden Harm Project). As part of transitional arrangements, a robust multi agency protocol has been developed with the local adult substance misuse provider.

Since the Hidden Harm programme began in 2012, only 12 of the 460 children who have been referred to the project have gone on to become first time entrant evidencing the success of the programme and impact it has in diverting children away from the criminal justice system.



Referrals into DELTA regarding direct substance misuse by children and young people who have previously worked on the hidden harm programme are also low. Only 14 out of the 460 cases have been referred in relation to their own substance misuse, all 14 were for cannabis use.

DELTA adheres to North Lincolnshire's One Family Approach, in understanding the importance of practitioner's relationship with the young person/family and ensuring that the right offer is there at the right time using the fewest, best interventions. Delta will support other professionals working with families who require substance use information and/or support, this includes sharing of information, knowledge, skills and resources.

Cannabis remains the primary reason that young people are referred into the partnership, this mirrors national drug trends. Other substances feature as part of drug trends locally are MDMA (Ecstasy) Cocaine, Benzodiazepine (Diazepam, Pregabalin, Xanax)

The latest drug strategy 'Harm to Hope' promotes the importance of early intervention for young people and families at the greatest risk of developing difficulties with substance use either directly or indirectly. Part of this process is to ensure all children and young people are provided with high quality education on health and relationships to help to prevent the use of substances. Delta worked closely with Public Health colleagues and funding opportunities were explored and supported which has led us to develop an additional post who works directly with our transitioning young people (18-25) and closely with our partners in probation.

Drug Information Briefing Sessions (DIBS) are a joint venture between Police and DELTA to promote early intervention and diversion. These relate to children who are stopped and searched and found in possession of substances and rather than being referred to youth justice they are afforded the opportunity to undertake some sessions with DELTA in a bid to prevent further offending and support harm minimisation work to occur at the earliest opportunity. An assessment is completed on every child and therefore if there are any additional risks identified then these are considered holistically.

In the last 12 months, 41 young people have been referred for a DIBS session. Of the 41 referred, 36 have attended and participated in their session. 5 were returned back to the police as they were either uncontactable or declined to attend their session. We retain in line with GDPR demographic information to monitor cases for a further six months to ascertain if they come to the police's attention or are stopped again. To date, none of the 36 who completed their DIBS session have been re-referred.

Over the next 12 months, there are plans to expand the DIBS sessions to incorporate Nitrous Oxide. This is following the government taking the decision to control nitrous oxide as a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

DELTA have a specialist nurse attached to the team who works directly with children and young people. The Delta nurse is fully accessible to the Youth Justice Partnership and attends the Joint Decision Allocation Panel (JDAP) and completes health screening checks to identify any health needs to inform the assessment process. Referrals for more specialist support can be made directly to the Delta nurse.

The Delta nurse provides monthly health clinics, including a dental clinic and an asthma clinic. The dental clinic enables young people who are struggling to access a dental practice the opportunity to have access to the community dentist and be supported with referrals or signposting.

The asthma clinic was developed following a theme identified in relation to young people smoking cannabis and/or tobacco who have a diagnosis to provide additional support. The clinic is delivered in partnership by the Delta nurse and a specialist asthma nurse and takes place at the Ironstone Centre.

### **Child Exploitation Intervention Team (CEIT)**

The CEIT Team provide bespoke and innovative packages of support for children and young people who are at risk and/or vulnerable to Child Exploitation, this support is extended to other family members where needed.

CEIT consists of a skilled group of professionals who have expert knowledge of child exploitation, and their fundamental role is to work with children and families at the earliest opportunity to prevent increased risk or children being directly exploited. The CEIT team support with NRM submissions, mapping meetings, represent at MACE and are recognised across the partnership as individuals who can provide advice and guidance to other professionals when they are working with children and families where child exploitation is a feature.

More recently, CEIT have taken over the lead for the Home Office, Devolved Decision Making Pilot for child victims of modern day slavery. Over the last 12 months, the team have all been trained by the Home Office and are confident in providing advice and guidance to other colleagues and partners where required. The CEIT Senior leads on coordinating all the referrals and decisions made and supports monitoring of data and performance for NRM submissions.

Over the next 12 months, the CEIT team will be supported to have further training to increase their skills and knowledge further in relation to child criminal exploitation. The team will equally lead on supporting the workforce development offer and delivering child exploitation training and NRM workshops which are planned to become mandatory as part of staff induction. Referrals into CEIT and through the Youth Justice prevention pathway which supports the One Family Approach in North Lincolnshire and reduces the risk of duplication across partnerships. For example, taking a relational approach, the CEIT team also oversee youth justice prevention and diversion disposals to avoid the need to introduce another professional where this can be avoided. It has strengthened our partnership working and ensured we are working together to provide the best offer for children and families in North Lincolnshire to achieve the best outcomes.

In addition to holding cases, the CEIT team support with training and education and regularly go into schools to deliver bespoke group work and/or 1:1 intervention. The PITSTOP in place in North Lincolnshire supports us to identify problem hotspots and locations and captures key themes which support us to prioritise the provisions we target.

CEIT offer weekly group work sessions in the community which were named by young people and called 'Little Mix' and 'Teenage Kicks'. These are well attended, and children and parents provide positive feedback on the support these provide. CEIT also provide positive activities during school holiday periods to ensure children and young people are visible and engaged with activities that are raising their confidence and self-esteem.

### **Outreach Youth Offer**

The Outreach Youth Team is a group of detached youth workers who take a place based approach and work out of hours to maximise opportunities for engaging with children and young people, particularly those in the community who may be more vulnerable or who need help.

The Outreach Youth Team have continued to visit locations and hotspot identified in relation to anti-social behaviour or where concerns are present for children being exploited. The Outreach Youth Team work closely with multi-agency partners to develop an increased understanding about the local picture as this is consistently changing and have undertaken joint patrols with police partners and the safer neighbourhoods team to share practice wisdom and develop an understanding of partners roles within the community.

The Youth Justice Partnership continues to work closely with partners in the police. Operation Priam was developed which is a bespoke operation targeting vulnerable children identified at risk of child exploitation and is tasked through arenas such as MACE. Over the next 12 months, there will be further emphasis on the development of this offer.

There are also plans to develop Operation Python which will be tailored towards anti-social behaviour utilising a problem orientated policing approach. This operation will support joint patrols with safer neighbourhoods and the police to target hotspots/locations where there are high levels of ASB.

The outreach youth team has been reviewed in order to best meet the needs of children and achieve maximum impact. This has led to a re-shaping of the team, increasing the Assertive Outreach Worker posts who work evenings and weekends in the community. Recruitment activity has commenced, and visits are being made to colleges/universities to promote applicants.

Funding from the Violence Prevention Partnership has also been utilised to create a full time Senior Outreach Worker and a full time Assertive Outreach Worker who are going to lead on further enhancing the offer over the next 12 months. Home Office GRIP funding has also enabled Humberside Police to purchase a detached mobile vehicle which is currently being adapted and will be utilised by the outreach team.

The mobile unit will enable youth workers to travel to various hot spots/locations where there is a demand and enable youth workers to build meaningful relationships and positively engage with young people. The mobile unit will create a tool to get young people engaged with youth workers in areas that may not have had any provision. It will support our problem orientated approach enabling us to be flexible in the locations we visit and ensure a high visible presence in key locations where the need arises.

The mobile unit will be stocked with sports, craft, games and musical equipment for use in a range of settings to allow young people to be active, be challenged and a safe space to talk about the issues they face. Interior seating, internet access, facilities for providing drinks, gazebo and / or side extension when on site, are just some of the things on our wish list whilst the mobile unit /youth space in adapted.

The proposal of a detached mobile unit was favourable amongst the North Lincolnshire Youth Activity Partnership which has a strong representation from the VCS. It is anticipated that the unit will be utilised across the partnership and as part of the wider integrated youth offer.

A new community Positive Lifestyles project commenced in one of our rural villages, bringing together community members of all ages, finding common ground to develop a child friendly space and activities, whilst celebrating community cohesion and reducing ASB. The Outreach Team will expand this model of engagement across North Lincolnshire over the following 12 months.

## Harmful Sexualised Behaviour (HSB)

In North Lincolnshire, agencies are collaborating in a programme to provide a specialist offer to children and young people who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). This includes harm to other children, young people and themselves.

In addition, there is a HSB Panel, with multi-agency management representation. In general terms, the purpose of the Panel is to act as a steering group for the programme; act as the referral and allocation route for the HSB offer; and act as a source of knowledge, expertise and support for the practitioner team.

A number of the YJP workforce have been trained to complete AIM2 and AIM3 assessments and will hold HSB cases. There have been new dates booked and the training has been promoted to encourage new starters and partners from across the LA and externally to complete this and undertake this work.

## Reparation

We have seen an increase in the number of statutory orders imposed by the court in the past year. This has included both Referral Orders and Youth Rehabilitation Orders and an increase in the number of reparation hours to be completed.

Reparation when required should benefit the community or go some way to make amends for the offence that has been committed, it is also important that the young person is given the opportunity to take some pride in this activity, learn new skills and develop whilst also ensuring that this is meaningful and relevant. Reparation projects that have been utilised by the Youth Justice Partnership are tailored to the young person and their circumstances. This can include community based projects as well as work within the family home, particularly when a parent or family member is the identified victim or has been impacted by the child's behaviour.

Over the past twelve months, children open to the YJP were instrumental in developing an area of land, in the local area into a memorial garden. This is now a valuable community resource and will offer the opportunity for on-going reparation projects going forward as the YJP have taken responsibility for maintaining this garden. This project led to the young people and staff involved receiving awards for the hard work and dedication that they demonstrated throughout this project and resulted in two of the young people winning a PGL residential trip and attending an awards ceremony in London.

Children also participate in jobs around the house and care home settings which build relationships with family members and carers and allows them to support their families and gain a sense of achievement. Often, where this is utilised the parents/ carers have been the victim, so it provides the opportunity to not only build trust and positive relationships but also allows the young person to make amends to the direct victim of their behaviour, whilst being supported to do so by the YJP.

Whilst the benefits of reparation in the home are evident, the YJP recognise the importance of reparation benefiting either the direct victim and/or the local community and over the next 12 month we will seek to focus more on this aspect of reparation. Ensuring young people complete these activities in their local communities where possible through creative projects that will continue to be developed.



## Positive Activities

The Youth Justice Partnership run a number of individual and group activities to engage children and young people in positive activities.

The Boys Group was introduced in early 2022 where children / young people meet on a weekly basis and have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities. Some activities include fishing, bowling, go-karting, swimming, football and cooking sessions. The group is extremely successful and as such the decision was made to expand and split into 2 groups each week, allowing us to focus on these being age appropriate.

We incorporate learning into positive activities and invite guest speakers to provide inputs on certain topics at the start of the sessions before moving into the activity. We also incorporate life skills with them such as budgeting and cooking.

YJP staff have recently been trained to deliver 'The Girl I Want to Be' programme with the first group starting in summer 2023. This programme aims to support girls involved with the partnership, raising self-esteem, confidence and aspirations for this targeted group.

Funding from the Violence Prevention Partnership was utilised to purchase 10 VR headsets. Alongside utilising the headsets to support education in schools we will be using these within our group work and outreach sessions. The VR headsets can be uploaded with educational content alongside games that can be used in these settings.

The Youth Justice Partnership ran the summer arts college over 3 weeks in August 2022 and saw 11 children and young people take part and be successfully presented with their awards. A celebration event took place where Assistant Director Paul Cowling and Supt Paul French presented children with their certificates. Parents and carers were also present to see the work the children and young people had produced.



UNITAS have since ceased funding to support the summer arts project and therefore coordinators are being innovative and creative developing new projects that are running over the summer in 2023. These range from an accredited Summer Arts Course, Motor Bike Sessions, Outward Bound Day, River Boat Trip, Horse Riding, Swimming and Safer Water Classes, First Aid and Food Hygiene and some fun days out, all with the aim of preventing anti-social and offending behaviour through positive engagement and building self-esteem and is offered to all children / young people across the partnership.



## Lifestyle Project

The YJP supported a team to complete Lifestyle 2022. This team was made up of three young males aged 12-16 years old and the team name was TBZ. The project that they chose to undertake was to create a memorial garden in their community of Crosby and Park to offer everyone a place to regroup and reflect. The memorial garden was set up specifically to remember a young person who is the older brother of two of the team members who tragically took his own life in May 2021. The team raised funds through activities such as cake sales and wrote letters to businesses asking for donations.

This project took a lot of determination and teamwork from the group and the end outcome was amazing, a safe space for young people to share memories and to speak about mental health and any difficulties they are having. It also helped the young people enhance their skills in social interactions, practical work and planning.



“As a worker who supported this project from start to where we are now I am so extremely proud of our young people who are continuing to achieve more than they thought they ever could and will carry on making a difference in their community”



As an outcome of this project the team came runners up and won a 5 day stay at PGL Wales where they were able to take part in new activities and were supported by trusted staff. The team was also put forward for the National Crimebeat Awards and came third winning £1000 to expand and build the project along with an overnight stay in London and an open top bus ride around London. The next 12 months for this project will allow the young people to continue to develop and maintain the area to ensure that it reaches its full potential.

## SEND/Speech & Language

Children in North Lincolnshire identified as having SEND are supported via one of two ways:

1. **SEND Support** - this is where SEND needs have been identified which are, typically provided by schools.
2. **Education Health and Care Planning** - this is where more complex SEND needs have been identified, which has resulted in an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) statutory assessment, leading to an EHCP being agreed and developed.

In North Lincolnshire we have clear and strong processes to help identify and support children and young people's needs in our schools and settings.

As of January 2023

- 14 % of CYP in North Lincolnshire were identified as having SEND support,
- 4.3 % having an Education, Health and Care Plan.

A young person's SEND is considered within categories of need within EHCP planning. The current picture (2022 data) is demonstrated below:

Category	Cohort (Primary)	% (Primary)	Cohort (Secondary)	% (Secondary)
Specific Learning Difficulty	309	14.6%	327	17.6%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	301	14.2%	357	19.2%
Severe Learning Difficulty	2	0.1%	4	0.2%
Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	404	19.1%	529	28.4%
Speech, Language and Communications Needs	668	31.6%	131	7.0%
Hearing Impairment	30	1.4%	37	2.0%
Visual Impairment	21	1.0%	17	0.9%
Multi-Sensory Impairment	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Physical Disability	80	3.8%	62	3.3%
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	229	10.8%	297	16.0%
Other Difficulty/Disability	27	1.3%	50	2.7%
SEN Support but no specialist assessment of type of need	45	2.1%	49	2.6%

It is recognised locally that those children of primary age are often categorised as 'speech, language and communication needs' which translates to social, emotional and mental health within secondary. The challenge (in line with national research) is that the speech, language and communication needs remain but may be misperceived due to changes in presentation (perceived behaviour).

In April 2023 **49%** of young people supported by the Youth Justice Partnership (YJP) were identified as have SEND of these:

- **31%** were supported via SEND support
- **18%** were supported via an EHCP

Of those supported via an EHCP primary need was categorised as;

- **83%** Social Emotional and Mental Health
- **11%** Moderate Learning Difficulty
- **5%** ASD

We know that children with SEND are disproportionately represented within the YJP cohort (**49%**), when compared to the overall education cohort (**14.1%**). To ensure interventions are meaningful and that young people can engage their learning style, and need is pivotal to successful outcomes.

Where young people enter the YJP who do not have an identified SEND consideration needs to be given to if this is the case in the context of the assessment and interventions being undertaken. Where unmet needs are identified attempts should be made for these to be fully assessed to inform support moving forward.

Whilst as at April 2023, there were no young people supported by YJP who have an EHCP with a primary need of Speech and Language, speech and language is relevant for all and therefore is an integral element of assessment and planning.

### **What have we done so far?**

Workforce development across a number of areas has supported and strengthened SEND and speech and language support. For example:

- The YJP has an integrated Education Officer who has strong links with the SEND team and is the point of contact for consultation/ advice.
- The AssetPlus includes specific details regarding learning styles and the need for tailored interventions focusing thinking and building skills, ensuring this remains at the heart of planning.
- A previously commissioned speech and language pilot scheme informed how to further embed speech and language assessment and support into the YJP.
- The scheme, which had been designed to raise expectations and reduce barriers, had been made possible by collaboration between YJP staff, young people, parents, and carers. Three training sessions were delivered to understand speech, language and communication needs and develop practical interventions to support the young people.
- 6 young people attended 10 weeks of intervention after completing a pre-assessment which provided a profile of their key areas. Of the other six all attended the remaining sessions, which were differentiated for the different ability levels of the young people. There were some commonalities in the issues faced by the young people, and these included, comprehension monitoring, understanding words and solving people problems.
- Feedback from staff involved in the above pilot was that it had been excellent, and parents had indicated they would appreciate a bigger part in the work so they can continue to support beyond the programme, which was very positive. The voice of the child came out really strongly in their comments.
- DIP sampling has evidenced the positive identification of individual children's needs, regardless of 'medical diagnosis' leading to appropriate tailored interventions.
- Clear cut communication resources (with SLCN friendly language) were commissioned and are utilised by staff to support understanding and engagement.
- Youth Justice Partnership animation was co-produced and developed to explain to children and families what the partnership offers by other children who have experienced it.

Following the success of the YJP pilot, the project was replicated in two secondary schools and saw equal success through individual evaluation. It was noted that many of the young people needed to work on comprehension monitoring skills. They needed support with recognising when they did not understand and knowing what to do when things do not make sense. Another key area for many was solving people problems. Lots of support was needed to model how to use words to persuade, negotiate and problem-solve to prevent difficult situations. Most significantly, narrative skills were noted to be difficult for most of the young people. They found it difficult to tell their side of the story following an incident or to explain what had happened coherently. These young people struggled with attendance and expectations in school. Following the project key recommendations for each young person was relayed to each school for further follow up. Staff within the schools were provided with specific training to support speech, language and communication needs. Evidence from the project was utilised to support applications for Education, Health and Care Plan for a number of young people.

## Next steps:

Whilst speech and language (S&L) needs for children and young people open to the Youth Justice Partnership are a priority it is recognised that there is still further development required to ensure the offer is high quality and responsive for all children.

All staff were trained in speech, language and communication as part of the S&L pilot and this was further commissioned and delivered in June 2023 to ensure all staff had been refreshed or received this training.

A Lead Educational Psychologist is identified as the point of contact for YJP for consultation and support in relation to the identification, and support of SEND needs, including speech and language.

Both speech and language pilots have now concluded and been evaluated. The findings from both pilots is overseen by the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board to support next steps. It is recognised that the partnership would benefit further from dedicated speech and language provision. The board recognises this and over the next 12 months will continue to prioritise to ensure appropriate provision is sought and available to children supervised by the YJP and those children with identified vulnerabilities that make them more likely to become involved with the criminal justice system.

## Performance

The progress and performance of the Youth Justice Partnership is reported to each Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board for scrutiny, oversight and action.

The Youth Justice Partnership continues to provide an offer that make a difference for children, their families and the community as a whole. There is a continued focus on prevention from offending through holistic family approaches, working with children and their families to help them address the issues that lead to children and young people becoming involved with criminal and anti-social behaviour and focusing on building and developing the skills of children and young people. Staff have a clear understanding of how partnership delivery translates into performance and how individual roles contribute towards it. There is regular consultation with staff at all levels to ensure their understanding and commitment towards this.

Our fundamental aim is to promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. Our data provides evidence of the impact our partnership approach to prevention and early help has had demonstrated by our increase in prevention and diversion programmes.

There has been further development of the YJP performance data through the use of **Power Bi** (an interactive data visualisation software product developed by Microsoft). The visual data displayed in this plan has been extracted from the live power bi report which enables you to 'drill down' into the data and identify case specific data in a timely manner.

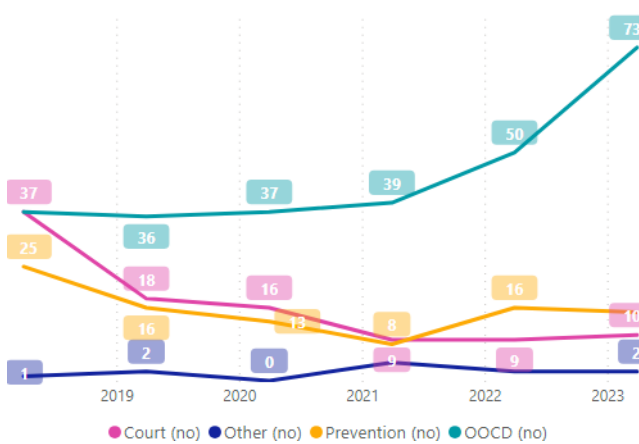
### **The percentage of programmes starting that are out of court disposals or prevention remain at a high level.**

Overall, 236 programmes (including statutory and out of court/prevention/diversion) have started in 2022/23. The total for 2021/22 was 214 programmes.

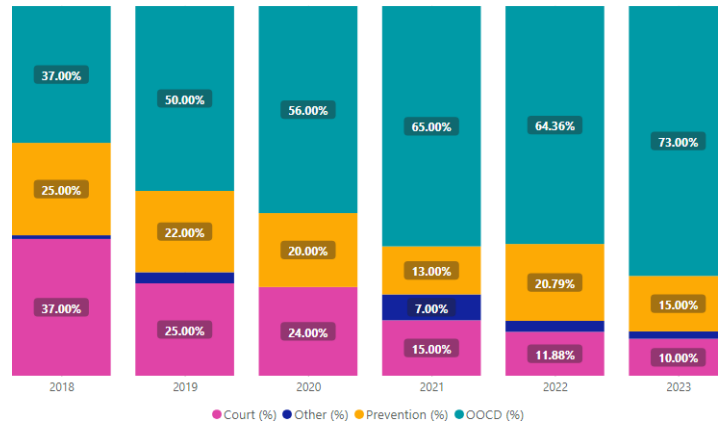
In 2021/22 there were 189 new out of court disposals/prevention programmes starting. 88% of all programmes starting. In 2023 this is 89% based on 211 programmes.

In 2022 Humberside Police updated their early intervention strategy and associated policies and procedures. In doing so, they made a conscious decision to inform the Youth Justice Partnership and consult on all children who commits an offence and moved away from imposing standalone police community resolutions. Whilst this has been a positive step forward to ensure oversight of decision making with holistic information the updated process has led to a significant increase in referrals coming through the Joint Decision Allocation Panel which can be demonstrated in the increase in out of court disposals in the below charts.

YJP Caseload (no)



YJP Caseload (%)

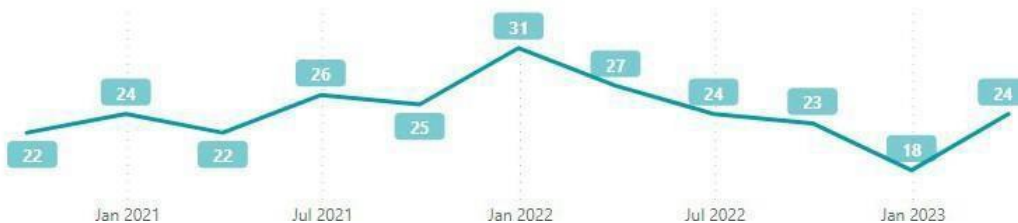


**The number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice system is lower than last year.**

Reducing the number of first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System is a key priority in North Lincolnshire. The Youth Justice Board measures FTE's as a rate per 100,000 of 10-17 years olds in our area.

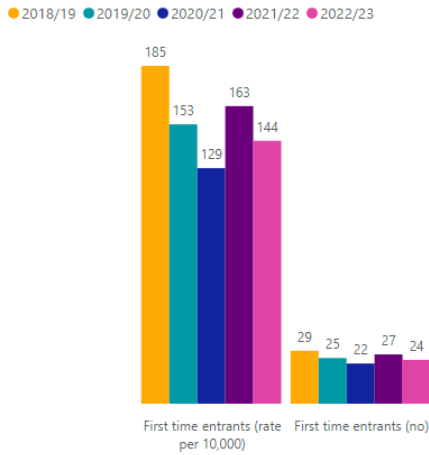
In 2021/22 there were 27 first time entrants, giving a rate of 163. This was higher than the England rate of 142. In 2022/23 there have been 24 first time entrants, giving a rate of 144.

Rolling year (no)

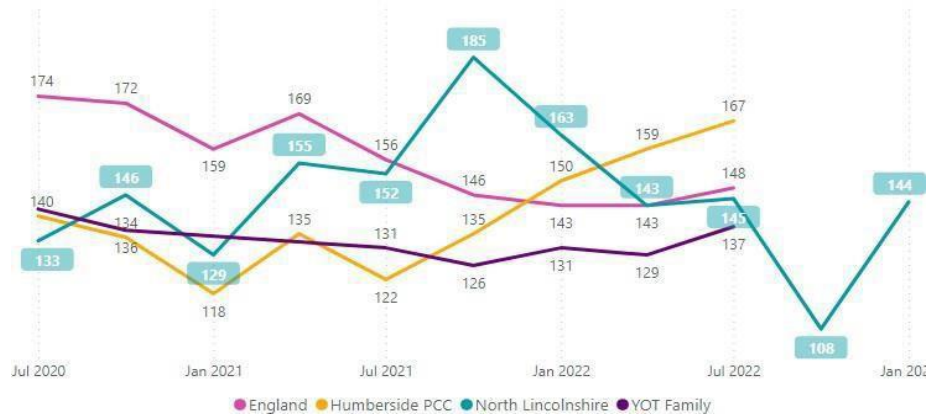




First Time Entrants, Number & Rate



FTEs Rate per 10,000, Rolling Year

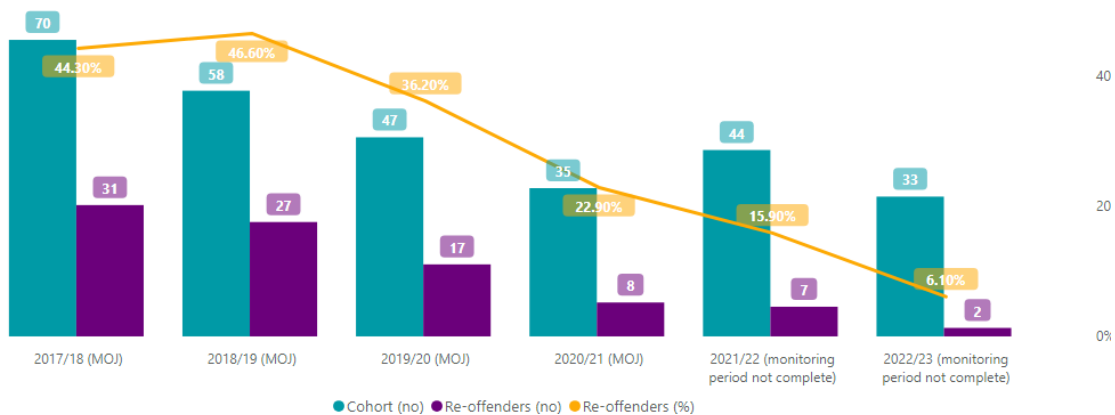


**Data indicates that the % re-offending remains below comparators.**

Reoffending is measured by looking at a cohort of young people (aged 10-17) who received a caution or sentence or were released from custody during a 3-month or 12-month period. All the children and young people in the cohort are tracked for 12 months to see how many reoffended and how many further offences were committed. The cohort are tracked for a further 6 months to allow for offences that may have taken place but for which the outcome is not known at the end of the 12 months.

The latest MOJ data for the July20 – June21 period had a cohort of 39 children, of which 12 young people committed 42 re-offences. This gives a re-offending rate of 30.8% and 3.5 re-offences per re-offender. In comparison the family group average was 30.8%, England average was 31% and the Humberside rate was 44.9%.

Re-offending cohort and %



We are locally monitoring the subsequent periods. The 2021/22 cohort is currently running at 15.9% (7 out of 44 young people re-offending) and the 2022/23 cohort is currently running at 12.1% (4 out of 33 young people re-offending); the monitoring periods for these cohorts are not yet complete.

We complete regular analysis of the re-offending cohort and complete a full audit on any child who enters this cohort to ensure any themes or learning is identified at the earliest opportunity. For example, we have recognised that a high proportion of the re-offending cohort are children in care, and this was subsequently taken to the board and other relevant strategic forums to discuss and take action.

Horizon scanning, we are predicting to see a slight increase in the re-offending profile for 2023/24. This is linked to activity targeting organised crime in North Lincolnshire and the disruption that has taken place. Subsequently, we have seen some increase in young people arrested for acquisitive crime, serious violence and drug related offences. These matters continue to be investigated.

North Lincolnshire have one of the lowest cohorts in our Family group which in turn makes our re-offending rate volatile.

The Youth Justice Partnership continues to prioritise reducing re-offending through:

- Adopting an effective method of 'live tracking' of children and young people currently being worked with and who are in the current reoffending cohort.
- Continuing to prioritise high quality interventions and whole family support, building resilience and creating change to reduce the likelihood of repeat offending.
- Enhancing the skills of children and young people through positive engagement and flexible packages.
- Reviewing assessment practice to see where improvements can be made in accurately identifying the potentially prolific reoffenders at the earliest stage.
- Quality assurance that as soon as young people are identified as more likely to re-offend their intervention plans are amended accordingly to reduce that likelihood.
- Team Managers are utilising the YJB Re-offending Tracker to keep well-informed of the make-up of the cohort and the characteristics of those who are re-offending in order to adjust provision accordingly to improve our re-offending performance.

## **Disproportionality**

### **The % of children in care offending remains low.**

North Lincolnshire have worked hard to ensure that children in the care of the local authority are not over-represented in the youth justice system and were awarded the runner up award in the Howard League Community Awards 2021 'Children in Care & Care Leavers' category.

This award recognises the work being done across sectors to:

- understand and highlight the factors leading to this over-representation.
- prevent criminalisation of this group of children and young people;
- and/or provide support to children in care, and/or care-experienced young people aged 25 years or under, who have been involved with the criminal justice system with a view to preventing further criminalisation.

In North Lincolnshire, we developed a joint protocol with Humberside Police on reducing criminalisation of children in care and care leavers. This has been reviewed in 2023 and endorsed by the board and ensures a trauma informed approach is taken when working with these children. The protocol is closely intertwined with our one family approach to ensure we work together as partners to prioritise vulnerable children, young people and adults and invest sufficient capacity and resources to reinforce our ongoing commitment for children and families who are at the heart of what we do.

The 10 point checklist is a key tool utilised when deciding what action to take when children in care offend in children’s homes. There are close working relationships between the YJP and our local children’s home and the Head of Children’s Provision is responsible for both provisions.

The % of children in care for a year or more and aged 10 or over who were convicted/youth cautioned for an offence was 2.8% (3 children) in 2021/22. For 2022/23 it is 3.1% (3 children).

During 2022/23, 21 programmes started for children in care (9% of all programmes starting, the same proportion as in 2021/22). These were for 17 children and 4 of the programmes were YCC or above.

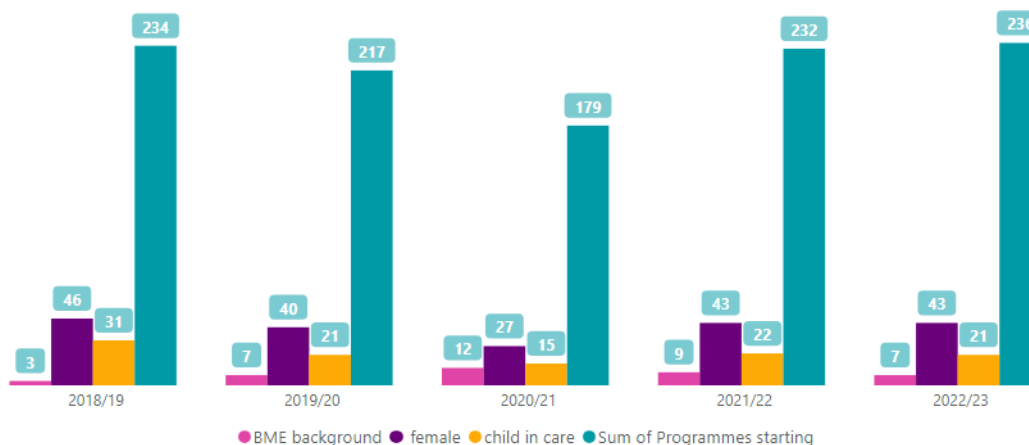
**The % of females is in line with last year.**

The proportion of open programmes which are female is 22% (22 young people). This is in-line with the 31/03/22 figure of 22% (17 young people). During 2022/23 the female offending population for statutory cases was 12% (4 out of the 33 programmes starting), in line with around 12% nationally.

It is understood that there are more females in the overall YJP cohort now as a result of more preventative interventions available to them. The implementation of ‘The girl I want to be’ group will promote a bespoke intervention package tailored to the female cohort. Other groups, such as ‘Little Mix’ equally focus on females.

BME background, female, child in care, Sum of Programmes starting

BY PERIOD



**The % of BME is not disproportionate within the youth justice population in North Lincolnshire**

The proportion of open programmes which are BME is 5% (5 young people). This is slightly higher than the 31/03/22 figure of 2.6% (2 young people). In 2022/23 the BME offending population for statutory cases was 0%, compared to around 28% nationally. For comparison, this group represents 8.7% of the North Lincolnshire 0-17 population (Census 2021).

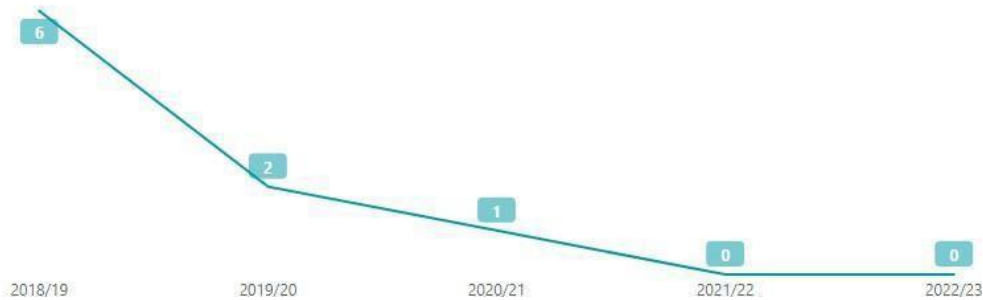
The proportion of open programmes which are White European/Other White is 5% (5 young people). This compares to the 31/03/22 figure of 7.8% (6 young people). In 2022/23 the White European/Other White offending population for statutory cases was 6% (2 out of 33 children). For comparison, this group represents 6% of the whole North Lincolnshire population (Census 2021).

**The number of custodial sentences remains low.**

Our custody rate continues to be below national and regional comparator groups. In 2021/22 and 2022/23 there were no custodial sentences.

There have been no remands to custody in the 2022/23 period.

New custodial sentences (no) by Period



Children who are identified at risk of custody are under constant review by the multi-agency partnership. Robust risk management meetings are undertaken to ensure close monitoring of the risk posed to themselves and others and plans are put in place readily to ensure that custody is only used as a last resort. More recently, the YJP have been asked to provide supporting information to the CPS at the point of charge to avoid unnecessary remands which has been welcomed by the partnership. The new CPS guidance has equally been shared across the partnership to ensure 'child first' is advocated and understood to support decision making.

### Young people in suitable accommodation remains high.

With regards to suitability of accommodation at the end of a young person's programme, this was 95% for 2021/22, compared with 84% in England and 84% in Yorkshire. In 2022/23 it is 100%.

### NEET/ECHP/SEN Cohort

#### Those in education, training or employment at the end of their order has improved.

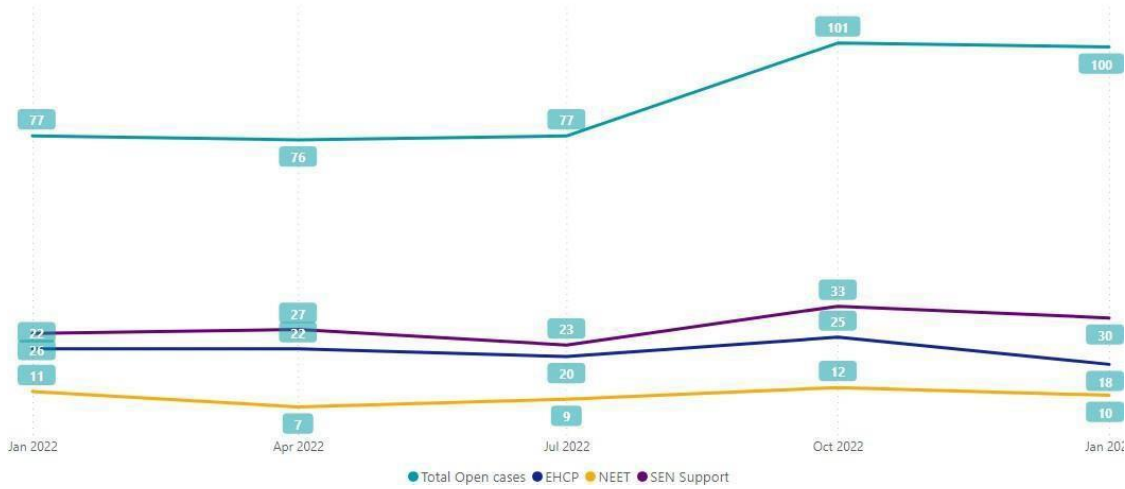
In 2023, 1,068 children have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) in North Lincolnshire (based on children attending primary, secondary & special schools), which is 4.3%.

In 2023, 3,515 children have SEN support in North Lincolnshire (based on children attending primary, secondary & special schools), which is 13.1%.

At 05/07/2023 18% of open YJP programmes (18 children) have an EHCP and a further 30% (30 children) have a recorded SEN need.

Data for ETE for the YJB is for young people supervised due to a DTO/YRO/RO who were in full-time ETE when their programme ended. The 2021-22 figure was 30% (6 out of 20), compared to 41% in England and 36% in Yorkshire. In 2022/23 it is 33% (6 out of 17, with 3 of the exceptions in part-time ETE). This compares to 28% in England and 36% in Yorkshire.

Open cases, EHCP, NEET and SEN Support



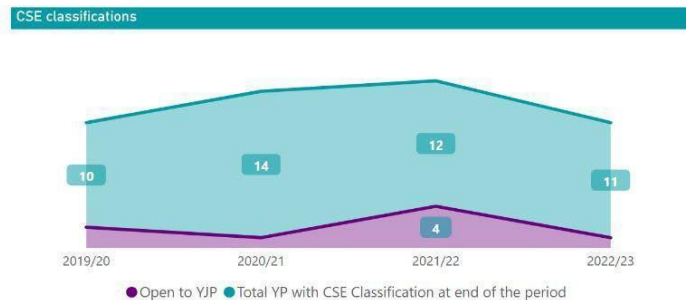
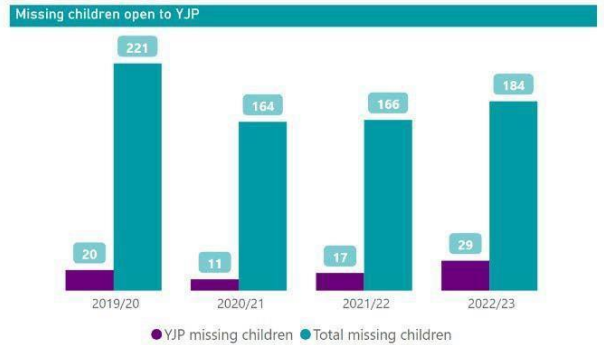
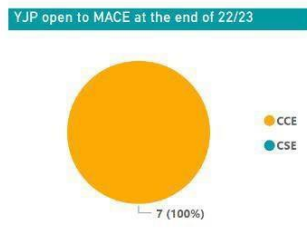
### Risk outside the home (ROTH)

There were 12 children open to MACE at the end of 2021/22. 10 were classified at risk of CCE and 2 were classified at risk of CSE.

At the end of 2022/23 there were 7 children open to MACE, all of whom were classified at risk of CCE.

There has been a slight increase in the amount of children reported as missing open to the Youth Justice Partnership. In 2021/22 this was 17 children out of a total 166 reported missing (10%). In 2022/23 this was 29 out of a total 184 reported missing (16%).

#### YJP ROTH

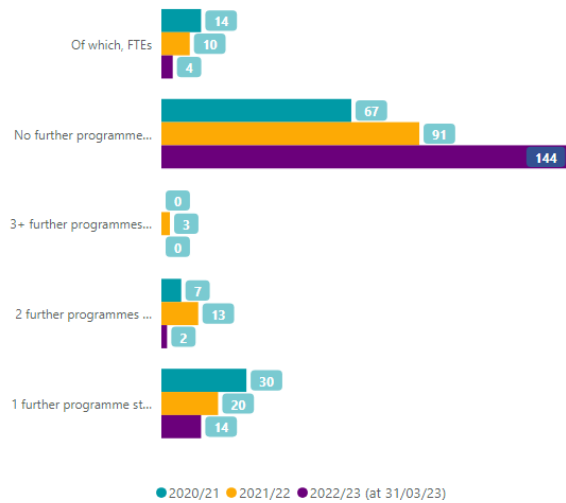




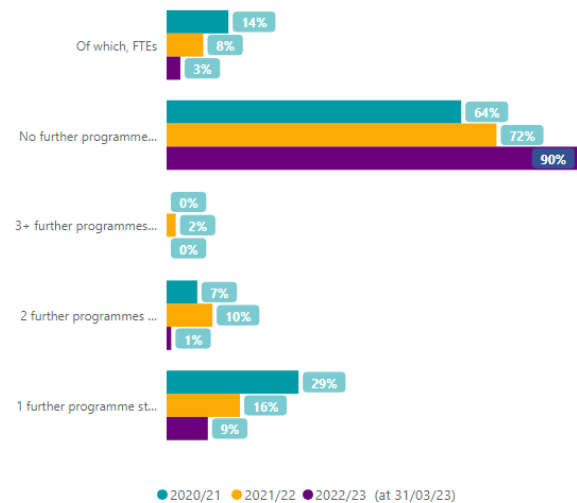
## Prevention and Diversion

In terms of Prevention & Diversion re-entrants, 7.9% (10 children) of those ending in 2021/22 have since become FTEs within 12 months. This is less than the 13.5% (14 children) or those ending in 2020/21. We are still in the monitoring period for the 2022/23 period. Thus far 2.5% (4 children) have become FTEs.

Prevention & diversion re-entrants for programmes endin...



Prevention & diversion re-entrants for programmes endin...



## Additional new key performance indicators

From 1 April 2023 youth justice partnerships will report on 10 new key performance indicators (KPIs) as part of changes to monitoring by the Youth Justice Board (YJB)

The youth justice system has developed significantly since the current set of KPIs were introduced, with the multi-agency model now much more firmly embedded. Whilst the number of children entering the system with a statutory disposal has fallen significantly, it is clear youth justice partnerships are working with increasingly complex caseloads.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) developed the new KPIs to improve the Youth Justice Boards understanding of how youth justice partnerships are responding to this different context and to reflect the areas that are strategically important in delivering effective help and support to children.

The new KPI's are:

- suitable accommodation
- education, training and employment
- special educational needs and disabilities/additional learning needs
- mental health care and emotional wellbeing
- substance misuse
- out-of-court disposals
- links to wider help and support
- management board attendance
- serious violence
- victims

North Lincolnshire case management system, Core+ was upgraded in July 2023 to support collation of data to support the new KPI's. The application and performance teams have been working closely together to ensure the system is correctly set up to do this.

North Lincolnshire have been preparing in readiness following the announcement of the new KPI's. Following announcement there was a board development to review the proposed KPI's and North Lincolnshire supported the consultation circulated.

A number of the new KPI's are already tracked manually through our local performance monitoring and those that weren't have been to support backdating the input when submitting our returns. A number of the KPI's are equally already reported on to the board and included in the performance detailed within this plan.

## Local Performance

In North Lincolnshire we place a strong emphasis on performance and have a strong performance team who are innovative and creative to ensure data and performance across children and families is captured to support the robust effectiveness, standards and regulatory framework relating to children and families.

Some examples of local performance we are collating in addition to the national KPI's are:

- Locally we are tracking those children who are classified at risk of child exploitation and have been reported missing. YJP data informs the Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) profile that has been developed in North Lincolnshire to enable us to have a more accurate picture of those children who are facing extra familial harm.
- In addition, we collate data on the amount of National Referral Mechanisms that have been submitted and there is a dashboard developed to identify themes and trends.
- We work closely with our colleagues in Humberside Police to collate data and request regular data and performance in relation to key area. Some examples include, use of strip search and stop and search. This is in line with the HMIP thematic inspection into the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system which provided the following recommendation:

*Police area forces should share with Youth Justice Management Boards local data on stop and search statistics, broken down by gender and age as well as ethnicity.*

- Following the introduction of Humberside Violence Prevention Partnership data sharing across the region has been enhanced further. A strategic needs assessment was developed utilising data and performance from across all YJP's to develop a regional profile for serious violence.
- Information sharing is a core part of the Serious Violence Duty. The Humber VPP is supplementing CSPs' existing information sharing agreements by mapping and facilitating access to additional data and supporting collaborative work on data analysis.

## Local Priorities and identified leads 2023-24

The Youth Justice Strategic Partnership reviewed the 2022-2023 Youth Justice Plan to consider progress, gaps, priorities and learning. Based on this, reviewing the performance information and anticipating developments as a result of the HMIP inspection the board has identified the continuing priorities for the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership to be:

Priority Area	Priority Lead
Diversion and Out of Court	Sharon Philpott Superintendent 5551 Humberside Police
Reduction of Child Exploitation and Serious Violence	Stuart Minto Head of Community Resilience – Governance and Communities NLC
Transition to Adulthood process	Nick Hamilton-Rudd Head of Probation – North & North East Lincolnshire
Engagement in Education, Employment and Training	Jemima Flintoff Assistant Director Education NLC
Improve the Emotional and Physical Health of children involved with youth justice	Helena Dent Commissioning Manager – Integrated Care System
Diversity and Disproportionality	Tom Hewis Head of Provision for Children NLC

The Youth Justice Strategic Partnership board has agreed that board members will continue to take lead roles in reporting to the board on key areas identified in the Youth Justice Plan. This will enable the board to have an overview of key wider partnership information so resources within the scope of the board can be better aligned to identified need with a view to achieving the above key priorities.

The expectation is that each board member with a key lead is responsible for:

- Identifying and leading key partners to together progress the priority,
- Providing data and performance linked to the priority area
- Agreeing the key issues, gaps, developments and actions needed.
- Overseeing the actions and progress.
- Developing links with the Youth Justice Team
- Reporting to the board

### Diversion and Out of Court (by Superintendent Sharon Philpott – Humberside Police)

Humberside Police were inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) between January and June 2022 and graded 'Outstanding'. The areas that would include young people are around preventing crime, treatment of the public and protecting vulnerable people. We are continuing our processes and policies that got us to this grading and always striving to improve further.

#### Standards 1: out of court disposals

The principal aim of the youth justice system, established by section 37 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, is to prevent offending by children and young people. It is recognised that most young people in North Lincolnshire never come to police notice for alleged criminal

matters, and of those that do commit offences, the majority of these will be less serious in nature.

Humberside Police and North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership have a joint Prevention, Diversion and Out of Court Policy and Procedures which has been endorsed by the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board. The policy outlines our partnership arrangements and commitment to child first and diversion from the criminal justice system wherever possible.

Evidence shows that the early criminalisation of children and young people can increase the risk of further offending, leading to their education being interrupted and leaving them with a criminal record. Almost three quarters of young offenders return to crime when they are released. This is increased when there is a lack of education.

Youth Justice Partnerships work with young people aged 10–17 years on diversion interventions (outcome 8 or outcome 22), youth conditional cautions YCC (outcome 2) and court orders (outcome 1).

In Humberside, YJP consultation is mandatory following any of the above outcomes, to enable us to deliver what is needed in the best interests of each young person.

The partnership work proactively to deliver child centred outcomes, to reduce the number of first time entrants into the Criminal Justice System with the Youth Justice Partnership Police Constable working in-line with national YJS PC profile, with enhanced awareness of Adverse Childhood Experience theory and Trauma awareness to help identify vulnerability and develop bespoke responses, supporting the use of the non-statutory crime outcomes to keep young people from entering the Criminal Justice System wherever possible, for example, by way of Outcome 8, Outcome 21 and 22 as necessary.

Outcome 8 (Community Resolutions) will be used in line with national NPCC guidance (October 2022) as a non-statutory out of court disposal – when dealing with an young person in an informal way when they have accepted responsibility for offending behaviour. Such outcomes can include elements of restorative justice and diversionary activity.

The Youth Justice Partnership supports the use of Outcome 22 in those cases where an admission of responsibility has not been made, differentiating these cases from other outcomes such as a Community Resolution (Outcome 8) or a Youth Caution where admissions is required.

Outcome 22 can be used for example in cases where it is assessed as necessary to overcome any identified lack of trust of the police, partners or criminal justice system by different community groups, and ethnic minority communities, in which it is recognised that any potential distrust, could result in a greater number of individuals from ethnic minorities receiving formal criminal justice outcomes, but where an informal, diversionary outcome is still believed to be appropriate to support and divert any such children and young people away from criminality and to change their offending behaviours.

### **Diversion and Out of Court Pathway**

Diversion is where children with a linked offence receive an alternative outcome that does not result in a criminal record, avoids escalation into the formal youth justice system and associated stigmatisation. This may involve the YJP delivering support / intervention that may or may not be voluntary and/or signposting children (and parent/carers) into other agencies. All support should be proportionate, aimed at addressing unmet needs and supporting prosocial life choices.

Humberside Police have recently updated their youth justice model to promote consistency

across the Humber region (North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Hull and East Riding).

Diversion and Out of Court work is overseen by the multi-agency **Joint Decision Allocation Panel (JDAP)** which is chaired by Youth Justice Managers and attended by police personnel and staff from across the multi-agency partnership including children's social care, family support, health, CAMHS, liaison and diversion, safer neighbourhoods, victim liaison, and Delta.

Locally it is agreed that all youth justice disposals should come through the Joint Decision Allocation Panel for consultation. This is to avoid the use of police alone community resolutions with no RJ due to local research demonstrating children who were issued with these disposals were more likely to progress to the formal criminal justice system.

The panel enables partnership agencies to screen all children to check if they or their family are known and allocates the case for assessment based on the recommendation in the referral. A decision will be made in relation to completion of a short quality assessment tool (SQAT) or Asset Plus assessment at this stage. However, North Lincolnshire plan to start utilising the YJB diversion tool from October 2023 in readiness for this becoming mandatory in April 2024.

Timescales are then set for an assessment to be undertaken (10 working days) and each case will then be discussed at the Joint Decision Out of Court Panel (OOC Panel) which is the panel where the outcome is agreed. In Humberside Police, the out of Court panels do not have representation by a Sergeant or above, therefore the decision making remains the responsibility of the ERO, informed by the OOC assessment and panel discussions which will be communicated within 5 working days of the panel.

In the event of any discrepancies regarding the outcome, Case Managers are responsible for sending a detailed rationale to the YJP PC and this is forwarded to the officer in the case (OIC). The template from the Out of Court Decision Panel is uploaded onto the YJP case recording system and the disposal outcome is clearly recorded utilising YJB published definitions to support consistency and clarity when distinguishing between the different diversionary outcomes. For example,

*Community Resolution YOT Involvement – Outcome 8*

*Other Information Action YOT Involvement – No Further Action Outcome 22*

*Other Information Action YOT Involvement – No Further Action Outcome 21*

*Other Information Action YOT Involvement – No Further Action Outcome 20*

There is an escalation policy to the rank of at least Chief Inspector in cases where an agreed decision cannot be reached.

North Lincolnshire have adapted a validation process to ensure correlation between the YJP case recording system and Niche (Humberside Police data recording system) to ensure that decisions reached through the local out of court processes are reflected on the case recording systems and in turn promote confidence in the data/performance presented to the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board. Where there are any discrepancies, these would be respectfully raised through the partnership arrangements.

When a decision has been taken to issue a Youth Caution or a Youth Conditional Caution and relevant conditions have been identified, the YJP PC will prepare the caution certificate. The relevant police officer (usually the YJP PC) will deliver the Youth Caution/Youth Conditional Caution, preferably within five working days.

The Youth Justice Prevention, Diversion and Out of Court Policies and Procedures are subject to annual review by the Youth Justice Partnership Lead Officer and Humberside Police



representative at the YJSPB.

Quality Assurance processes are embedded and the YJSPB representative from Humberside Police will provide a quarterly lead update report detailing key performance specific for diversion and out of court disposals and provide assurance that disposals being utilised are proportionate and there is no inappropriate overuse of specific disposals.

The Humberside OOC Scrutiny Panel is chaired by a member of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and attended by the force lead for out of court. The panel meets quarterly to review the use of out of court disposals and ensure these are consistent, appropriate and in line with policy and guidance. Findings are recorded in writing and shared with all members. Key themes identified from the scrutiny panel process will feedback through appropriate internal governance mechanisms, ensuring promotion of best practice and identifying potential police developments and training needs.

## **Diversity and Disproportionality**

Humberside Police currently has a performance dashboard which provides high level data on diversity and disproportionality. Work is ongoing to enable this to detail each LA area. The performance exceptions are scrutinised at a monthly performance meeting, with a focus on a joint problem-solving approach to tackle over-representation. Following the introduction of the YJB KPI's there will be further development to ensure this data and performance feeds into the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board.

## **Child First and Voice**

Humberside Police recognises the link between vulnerability and poor outcomes for our young people, this includes crime. We are committed to working with our partners to provide appropriate and timely outcomes for our young people. We understand the far-reaching consequences of journeying through the criminal justice system. In consideration of this, pathways have been built to ensure we interface more effectively with our Youth Justice Partners. These pathways take into account the national best practice from a number of sources including the following.

- National Police Chief Council
- College of Policing YJ Officer guidance
- Working together to safeguard children (2018)
- National Vulnerability Action Plan (2018)
- ACEs and Trauma Research (EIF)
- National Child Centred Policing strategy (2016)
- Humberside Police Victim Code Commitment

Humberside Police are committed to providing a child-centred approach to all children and young people to:

- Ensure the safeguarding of children & young people is at the heart of all we do.
- Provide dedicated and specialist offer to children and young people who are victims of crime.
- Fully support the National Police Chief Council's Policing of Children and Young People strategy's identified priorities:
  - Police Custody
  - Prevention of harm
  - Youth Justice & Criminalisation
  - Engagement & Relationship
  - Children in Care and Care Leaver

- Develop the understanding and application of theory around Adverse Child Experiences so as to identify vulnerable children & young people and to develop early help / early intervention responses.

As a partnership we recognise the importance of ensuring that our people are able to respond effectively to risks posed to children. We prioritise new and emerging threats such as child exploitation, online grooming, violent extremism, knife and gang crime and countylines.

### **Voice of the Child:**

It is vitally important that we build trust and confidence amongst children and young people within our local communities.

Young people want to be listened to and treated fairly. We must do what we can to be open, honest and transparent in our relationship with them.

Through our Neighbourhood Policing Teams, our Community Cohesion Officers, and through our Children and Young People's Independent Advisory Group – we will engage with Children and Young People to understand the impact of what we do and use their feedback to help inform how best we might improve our offer and delivery.

Every engagement with a young person will be treated as a positive opportunity to enhance our relationship with them, to understand their journey and to support them in accessing advice and support where appropriate.

### **Stop and Search**

We will ensure that when it is necessary to conduct a Stop & Search on a young person, this is carried out in line with our child centred Stop & Search policy which identifies the child as vulnerable and places safeguarding at the heart of the process.

Children and young people will be given information on how to provide feedback on the process and we will ensure that they are an integral part of our Young Persons Independent Advisory Groups.

We have invested in the development of Power BI, digital dashboards which provide an overview of Stop and Search prevalence across young people, which can be filtered by Local Authority area, and further including sub filtering around ethnicity, findings and outcomes.

This information is scrutinised at a monthly performance meeting to continue tackling improvements.

### **Partnerships**

Humberside Police lead a range of dedicated and placed based tasking processes, at a range of levels, including ward based beat planning, area placed tasking, and also the sub divisional Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group meeting. These mechanisms, include enhanced representation from colleagues from across the Community Safety Partnership, and seeks to deliver constant assurance of horizon scanning, the identification of emerging concerns and threats, in addition to supporting, tracking and holding to account the delivery of placed based interventions as necessary to solve problems, reduce threat and risk, and to safeguard vulnerable people.

In addition, Humberside Police is committed to ensuring appropriate attendance by our Neighbourhood Policing Commanders (Inspectors) and our dedicated OCG / Child

Exploitation meeting at key targeted meeting arrangements including MACE – of which Humberside Police are proud to co-chair in support of its' delivery and traction of action and activity.

This has allowed for the high intensity coordination of multiagency problem-solving activities, aimed at reducing risks, reducing vulnerability and delivering intervention that achieve sustainable engagement and reduction in offending / exposure to criminal offending.

### Horizon Scanning

The continued use and occurrences of antisocial and criminal use of motorcycles by small numbers of young people across North Lincolnshire continues to be identified through our proactive partnership scanning and analysis work, with illegal motorcycle use being seen to enable wider offending activities including violence, the supply of controlled drugs, and theft offences.

The challenges associated with this emerging concern not only include the threat / risk and vulnerability around illegal motorcycle use or the wider offending, but also expand to significant challenges of community impact and public trust and confidence in Community Safety partners.

Operation Yellowfin continues to be Humberside Polices' response to this challenge, supported by a place-based piece of high intensity problem solving through Operation Consequence including a reoccurring intelligence profile being developed and shared, in turn driving proactive activity.

### Reduction of Child Exploitation and Serious Violence (by Stuart Minto – Head of Community Resilience)

Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) remains a key priority for North Lincolnshire and the Youth Justice Partnership with a particular focus on reducing Youth Violence and both Sexual (CSE) and Criminal Exploitation (CCE). Although violence and exploitation numbers in North Lincolnshire remain low, the Partnership is committed to reducing the harm these issues cause to both individuals and communities.

The strategic approach to reducing Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation is set within the context of our **North Lincolnshire One Family Approach** which seeks to create **a system that works for all children, young people and families** where we work together to provide and commission an integrated offer for children and young people. Our ambition is for children to be **in their families, in their schools and in their communities** where help is provided early at the lowest level, to enable children and families to participate, find help online and in their networks and communities, to be resilient and stay independent.

There continues to be an unremitting practice, operational and strategic level focus on CSE CCE and Youth Violence across the partnership and the contexts and groups through which harm occurs. Across the partnership, practice continues to be strengthened around prevention, identification, early help, assessment, and intervention in relation to child exploitation to improve outcomes for children and their families.

In 2022 Humberside was awarded funding from the Home Office to establish a **Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP)** as part of the national Violence Reduction Unit programme. Strong links have been established with the VPP. The VPP has created opportunities to share data and analysis, commission joint projects and maximise the use of resources across North Lincolnshire. The Youth Justice Partnership is fully engaged with the programme and is

committed to delivering clear outcomes for young people around reducing violence and serious harm. There are clear links to the requirements around the Serious Violence Duty and strong partnership working focusing on both a people and place-based approach.

### **Child First and Childrens Voice**

There continues to be significant work across the partnership to ensure children and families' voices are heard, and children's lived experiences understood. Children remain at the heart of intervention and there has been progress seen in engaging children within community initiatives for example in both the YJP groups and on partnership walks in the community where the children who are vulnerable to or at risk of exploitation approach staff for a general discussion.

Engagement with children and young people by the police and partners as part of **Operation Holistic** which is an intensive partnership operation for children and young people experiencing CCE with each child being allocated a Police Officer within the proactive policing team to visit the child and their parents with either a YJP worker or Social Worker. The primary aim has been to increase opportunities for engagement with young people. This also provided opportunities for children to share their concerns, views and good news with those professionals to encourage trust should those children wish to share their experiences within a reachable moment.

Children's engagement with the YJP and education has improved alongside a reduction in the child exploitation vulnerability tracker scores for many children indicating the positive approach to engagement and understanding of children's needs. Children's views are gained at every stage within Children and Families involvement and their views help shape their plan.

For some children their views are understood more robustly given the relationship held with their workers and for the children who are supported by Children and Families, this relationship often takes time to build, to allow their full views and lived experience to be understood. There is a commitment from the partnership to ensure relationships are built to support and reduce risk of harm.

The Partnership has worked collaboratively with Humberside Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that we embed the "Child First" principles in our work and planning. We recognise the complex relationship between crime and exploitation and are committed to treating young people as victims and maximising the opportunities to break the cycle of exploitation and criminality using appropriate outcomes and through the Youth Justice prevention and diversion pathway.

Partners have developed and enhanced understanding of exploitation through continuous training and in particular a clear recognition of the effect that Adverse Childhood Experiences can have on young people as well as front line officer having an awareness of Trauma to help identify vulnerability and develop bespoke responses, supporting the use of the non-statutory crime outcomes to keep young people from entering the Criminal Justice System wherever possible, for example, by way of Outcome 8, Outcome 21 and 22 as necessary.

### **Data and Progress on Delivering Outcomes**

The number of young people identified as being exploited remains low, however the Partnership are committed to reducing the harm caused by exploitation and youth violence.

Over the last year there have been a significant number of arrests of high-profile individuals within Organised Crime Groups. There is ongoing work with partner agencies to engage with young people in specific geographic areas of North Lincolnshire. As a result of this targeted



approach increased visibility and intelligence gathering, offences involving violence with weapons have decreased over the previous period.

The dismantling of Organised Crime groups and ensuring an early intervention process to deter young people away from crime has seen some success. The arrest and remand of some key persons has resulted in the risk associated with OCG's reducing. However, the impact of Organised Crime means it is an ongoing priority area.

The partnership working and information sharing in this area continues to flourish particular in respect of identifying young people associated with CCE as identified by MACE and through the OCG Response structure. Concerns regarding young people involved in violent incidents have reduced through an integrated and effective partnership approach.

The partnership has a strong approach to the use of data and analysis with several targeted profiles being developed. The profiles remain dynamic and are updated regularly to ensure we have a good overview of current risk and associated issues.

### Child Exploitation Overview

**Child Sexual exploitation is reducing** - When reviewing the data for children who are open to a statutory plan and/or MACE for CSE there is a clear ongoing reduction since 2020, there has been significant work ongoing to provide assurance that children are identified early where concerns for CSE emerge, this is evident within the CEIT data and that the higher proportion of children open to CEIT are for CSE. It also has to be acknowledged that there has been a significant increase in online harm since 2020 which is reflected in the populations.

- A similar overall number of children were identified throughout 2021/22 as being at risk of or experiencing child sexual exploitation compared to the previous year.
- The number of children's cases discussed at Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings in relation to CSE during 2021/22 decreased by 43% to 8 children from 14 children in 2020/21.
- Very few children were reported as missing to the police set within the context of an overall reduction in missing incidents for all children. The majority of the children at 58% were not involved with the Youth Justice Partnership (YJP)
- The number of cases open to the Child Exploitation Intervention Team (CEIT) for CSE has shown a 25% decrease to 35 cases at the end of 2021/22 from 47 cases at the end of 2020/21. It is of note that practice continues to develop and the CEIT considers whether introducing a CEIT worker is the best option for the child or whether CEIT can support a professional who has already formed relationship with the child through providing guidance and resources. This is reflected in the reduction in the number of children on the CEIT caseload and is in line with the *One Family Approach*

**Identification of Child Criminal Exploitation is increasing** – as a result of increased awareness and training which has supported practitioners to become more confident in recognising the signs/indicators of CCE and responding accordingly, there has been a year on year increase for children identified to be criminally exploited. This has resulted in more children being supported through discussion at MACE alongside a statutory plan. There is a robust partnership offer to tackle CCE and innovative and creative practice continues to be utilised to ensure risk is reduced and perpetrators are identified and pursued.

- Despite the ongoing upward trend over the last few years a similar overall number of children were identified throughout 2021/22 as being at risk of or experiencing child criminal exploitation compared to the previous year.
- There was a 9% reduction in the number of children discussed at MACE meetings for CCE during 2021/22 at 31 children from 34 children during 2020/21. Few children were



reported as missing to the police set within the context of an overall reduction in missing incidents for all children. The majority of these children at 63% were involved with the YJP with an additional 14% having had previous involvement.

- The number of cases open to the CEIT for CCE has shown a 69% decrease to 12 cases at the end of 2021/22 from 39 cases at the end of 2020/21. This reduction is in line with the *One Family Approach*.

The majority of children known for sexual exploitation are female and the majority of children known for criminal exploitation are male, this is a consistent picture over the years. Gender bias is discussed with training, and this is a regular theme for consideration at MACE and the YJSPB.

Key themes identified for children experiencing/ at risk of exploitation across the children and families offer is that a high proportion have identified SEND/ EHC planning in place, and for those children over 16 years, many are NEET. A high proportion of children have also experienced family bereavement. These are themes that continues to be discussed in MACE and addressed within individual planning.

## Youth Violence

The development of the Violence Prevention Partnership in Humberside is a welcome approach to tackling Youth Violence. Numbers for Youth Violence in North Lincolnshire had traditionally been higher than the National and Regional averages (serious youth violence offences per 10,000 children aged 10-17 by YJS, YJS family, YJS region, PCC area and national average). Since 2019 this has changed with North Lincolnshire being significantly lower than the National and Regional averages. Despite the reductions we still recognise the significant harm that Serious Youth Violence has on individuals and communities.

- One issue of note is that Young People are as likely to be a victim of crime as they are an offender. In 2022 12% of crimes had an offender who was aged between 10 and 18. Also in 2022 11% of crimes had an identified victim who was aged between 10 and 18.
- Violence Against the Person Offences committed by Young People accounted for 13% of all Violent Offences in 2022/23 this was a very slight increase of the overall total.
- The main hotspot areas were in the Urban area of Scunthorpe with some links to the Night Time Economy.

## Progress in Last 12 Months

Partnership intervention through MACE and YJSPB meetings, including reviewing and implementing a range of disruption techniques, with the aim of reducing the risks faced by the children, has been successful in reducing risks and disrupting offenders in the community.

Utilising the disruption toolkit has included taking measures such as the use of civil powers. and criminal offences including Child Abduction Warning Notices, Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, Closure Orders, increased police presence in hotspot areas and the issuing of warrants and searches as well arrests of suspected perpetrators. Such measures have disrupted offenders and increased children's safety.

There were concerns specific to CCE in identified hotspot areas, in response to this a partnership plan has been implemented and joint working between agencies undertaken to transform spaces including CCTV installation, an ANPR camera and partnership walks that are completed at different times. Intelligence is being submitted regarding those children and

adults seen and associates. This has been crucial in understanding the movements of those involved in specific operations linked to OCG's and has led to targeted disruption.

The wide-ranging partnership work has included actions to target alcohol and drug use and tackling possession has become a theme throughout both CSE and CCE. Actions have been taken through disruption work to address this via licensing, trading standards and through raising awareness across the partnership including across health and GPs. Delta have worked directly with young people or worked alongside professionals working with them to guide direct work undertaken by the children's trusted adults in the context of our One Family Approach.

There has been proactive work to dismantle, disrupt and prosecute adults linked to various Organised Crime Groups including a number of arrests, warrants, searches and ongoing investigations. This has also included the use of exploitation notices issued as part of Operation Holistic. Partnership responses have also been further strengthened to ensure the Section 45 Defence is discussed and known to children when arrested, and the local National Referral Mechanism (NRM) pilot has supported in strengthening the submissions of NRM's and the timeliness of decisions. Work across and with other local authority areas has also been undertaken to map and disrupt activity whereby children were being exploited into vehicle thefts.

### **Education Employment and Training**

Partnership work has focused on working effectively so that children are attending full-time education or are in employment or training. This is to increase positive outcomes for children and also ensure they are diverted away from those exploiting them and where children are not in full time education, they continue to be discussed within daily education meetings for a resolution. A number of children have either learning needs or an Education Health Care Plan for emotional and social development. Adjustments are made in relation to intervention as part of children's individual plans and across the partnership in order to create effective working relationships and to undertake meaningful intervention.

### **The Partnership Integrated Triage**

The Partnership Integrated Triage (PIT Stop) was piloted in March 2021 and has been mainstreamed into practice. PIT Stop is a daily partnership meeting to discuss children where a police incident or intelligence has been recorded which requires additional support but does not meet the level of need to be considered within specialist help and protection when aligned to the Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire 2020/24 document. This approach has been successful in ensuring that a number of children receive the right support at the right time, including through referrals to targeted help such as Delta, YJP, Family Support and CEIT. Children identified as at risk of or vulnerable to exploitation have been offered support at the appropriate level to meet their needs with the aim being to reduce the risks faced by them and to increase parents and carers knowledge of exploitation. Regular meetings have been held to ensure peer networks and locations are understood and wider disruption implemented where appropriate.

### **Children Reported as Missing**

All children who went missing during the year were offered Independent Return Interviews (IRI) and 97% of children took these up. North Lincolnshire's Multi Agency Missing Children meetings are embedded and robust in focusing on reducing repeat missing with action plans devised to complement statutory or early help plans and to initiate early help assessments or provide support. There is a well-established dedicated offer undertaking the functions of

IRIs by Missing Children's Advocates. There has been an increased focus on gathering intelligence through the MACE and Multi Agency Missing Children meetings. This has extended to refreshed raising awareness of the process for submitting intelligence to the police via the Children's MARS education and training programme and Children's MARS briefings being disseminated to a large communications network. This increases the intelligence submitted allowing a wider picture of children's daily lived experiences, including locations, hot spot areas and associates, therefore allowing additional disruption through individual planning and at MACE meetings.

The YJSPB is fully linked to the VPP and North Lincolnshire has benefited from additional resources to undertake targeted work with young people at risk as well as providing diversionary activities in universal settings. Sport and Arts programmes have been commissioned as well as engagement events and neuro diversity training.

Prevent Referrals remain low, but a very strong Channel Panel continues to meet monthly with a clear focus on reducing vulnerability to exploitation and radicalisation. There is good joint working with the CEIT Team, and the Channel Panel has commissioned additional support from Home Office approved Intervention Providers when required. Briefing and Training on Prevent is mandatory for all staff and yearly training for all Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools and educational establishments is in place.

### **Challenges and Further Developments for the next 12 Months.**

Partnership working remains strong and the ROTH strategic Group in conjunction with the YJSPB and the Community Safety Partnership have reviewed and developed a further Action Plan to tackle Exploitation and Youth Violence.

The 2023-24 ROTH Plan will have a continued focus on Disruption and Prevention. Key issues identified for 2023-24 include:

- The views and experiences of children, young people and families who are at risk of/experienced ROTH inform, influence and shape practice, help and strategy.
- To strengthen the interface with the Violence Prevention Partnership
- A review of our approach to Young People in Transition to adulthood.
- To strengthen the integrated youth offer and ensure there is direct link between the offer and reducing harm
- Offending is tackled and minimised through prosecution, disruption and law enforcement.

The partnership will continue to be focused on reducing risk and harm. We know that Crime is dynamic and ever changing and we will ensure we are responsive to these changes, issues such as cyber bullying, harassment and offences linked to social media are now included in our intelligence and has resulted in reports of violent crime rising both locally and nationally. The partnership recognises that we must respond to new crime types and an increase in reported crime across the area (in line with national trends) to focus our collective efforts to combat this.

### **Links to other Plans and Partnerships**

Keeping a close synergy with the strategic plans of our partners is key to the YJSPB to ensure we can work collaboratively on common themes whilst retaining focus on YJP business. The benefits of the partnership are most visible in this 'crossover' of work on common themes, and have been proud to be able to continue to work collaboratively to challenge, minimise and address crime and exploitation in North Lincolnshire. We will continue to work with the

Community Safety Partnership, the MARS Board the Safeguarding Adults Board, the Violence Prevention Partnership, and other significant boards and workstreams.

The Exploitation and Youth Violence priority is aligned with the CSP Plan the PCC's Police and Crime Plan as well as key national initiatives and plans including The Serious Organised Crime Strategy, Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Serious Violence Strategy, The CONTEST Strategy (Prevent and Protect) The 10 Year Drug Strategy and Modern Slavery Strategy.

## **Transition to Adulthood process (by Nick Hamilton-Rudd – Head of Probation – North & North East Lincolnshire)**

### **Standard 5: on transition and resettlement**

In order to ensure that a young person successfully transitions from the supervision of the Youth Justice Partnership to the Probation Service, it is critical that robust processes are in place to maximise the support to a young person. Transitions are a priority to the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership as we recognise the need for them to be safely managed, to put the child at the centre of the process and to enhance the opportunity for a young person to benefit from the rehabilitative requirements designed to prevent further offending. As such the transition process and protocol developed in partnership between the Probation Service and the Youth Justice Partnership are underpinned by the following principles:

1. Individual needs and safeguarding requirements will be recognised and addressed.
2. Children who are eligible for transfer will be identified and allocated to a Probation Practitioner at the earliest point.
3. Every child who could transfer to Adults and Health must have a transition plan.

Transition planning must focus on providing flexible and continuous help and support tailored to meet individual needs. This should include consideration of any diversity issues for every individual.

The Lammy Review (2017) highlighted the disparity in outcomes for Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals, particularly among young black males. Therefore, transition planning needs to take account of protected characteristics notably those included in the Equality Act 2010.

- Relevant information about children must be shared between child and Adults and Health before transfer.
- Child and adult justice partnerships will work together to achieve effective transfer outcomes, including maintaining interventions and progress.
- Children and their families/carers will be actively involved in planning for their transition and understand and agree the plans in place.
- Each transition will be reviewed, and relevant partners will seek continuous improvement, facilitating the journey towards a positive future and desistance from offending, building on skills, strengths and interests.

The YJP is responsible for the supervision of children aged 10 to 17 years of age who are sentenced by a court, in line with the YJB's Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System (2019) and Transition Case Management Guidance (2022).

Each case will require careful consideration, especially Children in Care, care leavers and those subject to MAPPA or extended supervision of Detention and Training Orders upon reaching the age of 18 in custody. The assessment information available in the case will be



reviewed, including more detailed assessment of mental health, substance misuse, speech and language, plus safety and wellbeing.

The North & North East Lincolnshire Probation Delivery Unit seconded a qualified Probation Officer to the YJP who acts as the lead contact with the PS, providing advice and recommendations on transitions to Adults and Health.

As part of our shared protocol, we will identify children under YJP supervision who will be eligible for transfer to probation services when they have turned 18 years. This will be as soon as the child is sentenced and will be noted in their sentence plan.

The YJP will advise the child and their parents/carers of the transition process to Adults and Health and involve and keep them informed at each stage. It is important to ensure parents/carers are involved, where appropriate, in discussions about transfer and in case transfer meetings where it is likely to assist the child's progress and engagement.

The YJP will ensure the child has a transition plan as soon as the need is identified and no later than when they reach 17 years and 6 months. The plan should focus on individual need, and identify the help that is most appropriate in meeting those needs. As a minimum the transition plan will address the following areas:

1. Provide advice and information to inform the child and their family about the adult justice system.
2. Seek the views of the child and incorporate them into their plan.
3. Listen to concerns the child may have and alleviate their anxiety.
4. Describe how the relationship with the allocated PS Probation Practitioner will be developed.
5. developed.
6. Recognise which provision in the YJP will/will not be available in the Probation Service and seek
7. to address any gaps.
8. Ensure health needs (emotional, mental and physical) are planned for and managed.
9. Ensure learning and communication needs are planned for and managed.

The YJP with the Probation Service are to review children who are approaching 18 and eligible to transfer to Adults and Health, monitor any cases, identify and manage any issues within the transition process and assist them to develop a trusted relationship with their new case manager.

Girls and young women who have offended tend to experience higher levels of home violence, sexual abuse, care history, education deficit, mental health problems, poor self- image and self-harm. Relationships and parenthood are more likely to be linked to their offending behaviour, as well as higher rates of coercion. Greater housing needs can also be apparent, as young women are often primary carers for children, and safe accommodation can be harder to find, particularly where women-only accommodation is required.

As per the Female Offender Strategy 2018, the needs of women in the justice system are different and distinct from males, and transition arrangements should take this into account. Three-way meetings and assessments with the young woman, the YJP and the PS Probation Practitioner should therefore take note of these characteristics. In addition, areas may also want to consider women only environments and the allocation of a female Probation Practitioner as factors which may impact on their experience of supervision.

Within North Lincolnshire young women transitioning from YJP to the Probation Service will be allocated to a specialist Women's Concentrator Probation Practitioner who will work with them to engage them where appropriate in the women's only provision offered by North & North East Lincolnshire Probation Service.



## Engagement in Education, Employment and Training (by Jemima Flintoff - Assistant Director Education)

The strength of leadership through a strong partnership and Board approach to maintain our young people in education, employment and training has been key to preventing young people from entering/re-entering the youth justice system. Through the education attendance framework there are meetings across the partnership that monitor children's engagement with their education provision

Staffing developments within the Virtual School through grant funded projects has helped to strengthen strong systems and case work with our most vulnerable groups. For example, Children in Care, Post 16 and Care leavers and recent developments for those who are child in need or child protection. Through strong collaborative working with the YJP, intensive challenge and support has been provided for those most at risk of poor outcomes, poor attendance, suspensions and NEET.

There is regular management oversight and quality assurance to ensure assessment and plans are robust and targeting young people who are not in education, training or employment. Data on education exclusions, attainment, destinations, and progress is used to inform and guide decisions. There has been a keen focus on building schools' capacity to manage both YJP and other children to maintain their education placement within mainstream provision.

Regular monthly meetings with YJP, education leaders and the assigned education officer to YJP ensures challenge is evident to support better school attendance, meeting need at the earliest opportunity and reducing suspensions.

There has been a significant amount of work undertaken in the last year to reduce those young people entering and within the Youth Justice Partnership who may have experienced fixed term suspensions or a permanent exclusion. Schools remain challenged and supported to ensure their most vulnerable young people have the appropriate support in place and that they remain in mainstream education wherever possible.

The Speech and Language Offer in North Lincolnshire has been strengthened through workforce development across several areas. This has strengthened and supported **SEND** and Speech and Language support. For example, a speech and language pilot scheme has been undertaken to consider how to further embed speech and language assessment and support into the Youth Justice Partnership. The scheme is designed to raise expectations and reduce barriers. Training sessions were delivered to understand speech, language and communication needs and develop practical interventions to support young people. A number of individual young people received a 10-week intervention which highlighted areas for future support and interventions and received excellent feedback. The Lead Educational Psychologist is a point of contact for YJP consultation and support in relation to the identification, and support of SEND, including speech and language.

SENDCos within schools and settings are supported to ensure the identification of need is accurate. There is an increased emphasis on there being a golden thread between needs, outcomes and provision within the assess, plan, do review process to ensure need is being identified and met at the earliest opportunity.

The weekly Vulnerable Children in Education multi agency meeting has been a key component in providing additional support and challenge to ensure aspirations are high for our young people, that access to education, employment and training is on everyone's agenda and to ensure any unmet need is identified and addressed to ensure best outcomes for each individual young person. There is a clear focus on engagement and building the skills of the young people to enable them to achieve their potential. Attendance at the meeting from key

YJP officers has ensured that the YJP cohort of those with poor school attendance, high suspensions and those who are or at risk of NEET remain a priority in all areas of support.

Regular case audits, thematics and multi-disciplinary audits have supported strengthened plans and challenge for the young people under the remit of the YJP.

A multi-agency 'cohorts' meeting provides an overview of specific cohorts of children within the youth justice population. The YJP has access to a comprehensive suite of data through a cohorts dashboard, which is analysed in deep-dive reports and provides a live update on all young people within the YJP. Opportunities to access data within the dashboard has been rolled out to key staff, alongside the assigned education officer.

Our priorities for the next 12 months are:

- Support schools and the YJP to enable a reduction in first time entrants to the Youth Justice system
- Further strengthen the SALT and Educational Psychologist resource for the YJP cohort.
- Identification of speech and language needs must also sit within the wider workforce understanding of positive interactions and the modelling of language and communication with our children and young people.
- Wider workforce input and support for settings/ parents and carers on children and young people's comprehension skills, executive functioning by Educational Psychology and ASET
- The next stage of the roll of speech and language training for staff not only with the YJP but other areas of Children and Families
- Develop information materials to raise awareness of speech, language and communication needs (SpLCn)
- Further developing partnership working with Speech and Language Services
- Pathways of support to be further developed in line with the graduated approach model.
- Support schools to identify children and young people at the earliest opportunity who would benefit from the Youth Justice preventative and diversionary programmes.
- Further improve the interface with the SEND offer – preparing for adulthood operational group and highlight those individuals on YJP cohort reaching adulthood within the next 12-24 months with additional needs, who are either transitioning from year 11 or into Adults and Health
- Challenge to reduce part time timetables for young people within the Youth Justice Cohort and challenge and support to see a significant reduction in the use of suspensions and permanent exclusions within schools.
- Ensure each young person within the Youth Justice system has the appropriate support to access GCSE qualifications.
- In line with our council values and One Family Approach, ensure that our young people are supported to achieve their aspirations and become an asset to our community and

have the best opportunities in life

- Through collaborative and partnership approach, focus on the 16+ offer for young people open to the YJP and identify sympathetic employers who will mentor and provide appropriate support within work placements with a view to long term employment opportunities.
- Continue to develop inclusion opportunities with mainstream pre-16 school settings for vulnerable young people including more bespoke curriculum and vocational offer (through SEND Capital Projects)
- Support schools to work within an ethos of whole school trauma informed and an act as champion to the social, emotional and mental health needs of these young people.
- Provide further opportunities to access aspirational activities to support EET, build confidence and positive outcomes.
- Review the job description and skill set for the education officer assigned to the YJP to provide additionality to the offer for YJP.

### **Improve the Emotional and Physical Health of children involved with youth justice (by Helena Dent - Commissioning Manager – Integrated Care System)**

The current top priorities reported to at the board are:

- Ensuring efficient and effective CAMHS provision into the Youth Justice Partnership
- To ensure local Youth Justice engagement with the wider Integrated Care Trust developments – including Trauma Informed Care
- To be proactive in identifying common themes and trends in the needs of children and young people working with the Youth Justice Partnership and respond proactively.

Health services are advocating child first principles and are committed to prioritising the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities and rights, through working within a formulation / strength based model.

Over the last 12 months the revised model of CAMHS support into the Youth Justice Partnership has continued to be embedded and the model has evolved with both the youth justice team, and the joint working with generic CAMHS offer. The CAMHS provision continues to offer 0.5 wte per week, which is being delivered. The CAMHS practitioner attached to the Youth Justice Partnership has been provided with a number of training and development opportunities to enhance the offer for the YJP cohort, this has included specialist practitioner trauma training to promote the trauma recovery model YJP practitioners have been trained in.

Clinical consultations are also embedded with the Youth Justice staff to discuss cases/ referrals and, when required, direct face to face assessments and interventions have been offered. In addition, the provision has also been able to offer urgent mental health assessments to some of the young people – this has ensured the young person was seen in an efficient timescale usually in 24 hours of the request being made. The governance and oversight of the model and input has also improved, with quarterly routine partnership meetings to continue to plan and develop the integrate the CAMHS model.

The CAMHS practitioner has continued to build strong relationships and partnership working with the CAMHS Neurodiversity pathway and has an improved oversight of the number of young people currently waiting for a Neurodiversity assessment.

Humber Coast and Vale ICS have been successful in securing a national youth justice bid, to which 3 test and learn sites have been supported in a project focusing on implementing Trauma Informed Care across Humber Coast and Vale. An opportunity is imminent for North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership to also submit a bid to become a test and learn site, with a focus on prevention and trauma informed care.

The Humber Coast and Vale Framework for Integrated Care is a collaboration of partners from across our six places within the ICS. The model for the 10 year programme aims to build on existing infrastructure to strengthen pathways and collaborative working while testing new models of delivery to improve outcomes.

As part of the Humber Coast and Vale Integrated Care bid additional training was sourced and all staff, including senior managers attended the ARC Trauma Training. This incorporated the 4-step model to becoming trauma informed (trauma aware, trauma sensitive, trauma response and trauma informed).

The vision is:

- To facilitate integrated trauma-informed systems that enable children and young people with complex needs to thrive.

The mission 2030 is:

- To effect cultural change through developing local, sustainable and trauma-informed children's emotional wellbeing offers by:
- working collaboratively to co-ordinate, integrate and deliver trauma- informed care
- genuine co-production with children and young people with complex needs, and their families, to develop integration and systems that are accessible and acceptable to them
- working with the child directly, through relationships with staff in the role of 'young people's champions' who are psychologically informed and well supported, have a positive view of young people and are able to understand them and who advocate for and support them effectively along their journeys.

Key Outcomes:

- Improved wellbeing
- Reduction in high risk behaviour (reduced FTEs and re-offenders)
- Reduced mental health concern
- Organisations are more trauma informed
- Improved purpose occupation (school attendance and exclusion)
- Improved stability at home

## **Diversity & Disproportionality (by Tom Hewis – Head of Provision for Children NLC)**

At a national level addressing disproportionality is a priority for the Youth Justice Board, reinforced

by the findings of the 2017 Lammy Review which recognised that systemic and institutional prejudices and stereotypes can lead to unequal treatment of children, often meaning that outcomes for children are less positive for children with diverse needs, for example:

1. Children from ethnic minority backgrounds involved in crime are often treated as adults.
2. When children are treated as adults, it can mean they are not being safeguarded properly.
3. Children from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding White minorities) were more likely than their White British peers to be stopped and searched by the police.
4. A lack of diversity among the people who work in the criminal justice system was thought to contribute to systemic racism.
5. Disparity can lead to unnecessary criminalisation of marginalised groups and mistrust of authorities.

## The Local Picture

Understanding and responding to the unique needs of children, particularly those that relate to their protected characteristics, is a priority for the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board in North Lincolnshire. Aligned to this priority is a commitment to preventing, identifying and addressing disproportionality across youth justice provision, aiming to achieve equity of access, equality of opportunity, and consistently positive experiences of receiving help and intervention.

Substantial progress has been made to develop practice, understanding, and oversight in this area including:

- Building diversity and disproportionality into the YJP Cohorts Meeting to ensure regular oversight of data and trends.
- YJB disproportionality toolkit used to support thematic analysis.
- All staff have attended disproportionality and unconscious bias training.
- YJB publications and other research routinely shared with staff and the YJSPB members.
- Peer Review had a key focus on diversity and disproportionality
- Senior Leadership Team attended intersectionality training
- Diversity and Disproportionality is intertwined into policies and procedures
- Further training 'Engaging with anti racism' has been commissioned to equip the workforce and organisation to have a deeper understanding of the challenges of disproportionality
- Continued focus on the diversity of the workforce and recruiting staff from diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds

In North Lincolnshire a disproportionality and diversity thematic review has been undertaken to help understand our current position, the areas of strength, and the steps for further improvements. The review found the following:

### Ethnicity

Children from Black and Asian ethnic minority groups make up 8.7% of the overall 10–17- year-old population of children in North Lincolnshire, 5% of all YJP programmes, and 3% of the offending population (those subject to statutory programmes or OOC). This means there is a lower proportion of children from a Black or Asian minority ethnic group who offend or who are working with the YJP than in the general population.



Currently White British/European/Other children make up 97% of the offending population (statutory and OOC) and 91% of the overall population of 10-17year olds, meaning that White British or European children are disproportionately over-represented in the cohort.

The proportion of open programmes which are White European/Other is 5% (5 young people). This is lower than the 31/03/22 figure of 7.8% (6 young people). This population represents 5% of all programmes starting in 2022/23.

### Gender

The proportion of open YJP programmes which are female is 22% (22 young people). This is in-line with the 31/03/22 figure of 22% (17 young people). The current female offending population for statutory cases is 12.5% (2 out of the 16 open). During 2022/23 the female offending population for statutory cases was 12% (4 out of the 33 programmes starting), compared to 12% nationally.

### Children in Care

There are consistently very low numbers of children in care who receive cautions or convictions. The % of children in care offending remains low. The % of children in care for a year or more and aged 10 or over who were convicted/youth cautioned for an offence is 3% currently (3 children).

There are currently 6 children in care on a programme due to a statutory/OOC outcome. Other

### Diverse Needs

Of the youth justice caseload 45% have at least one protected characteristic, 28% have substance misuse issues, and 43% experience emotional and mental health problems. Of the YJP caseload, 51% have a learning disability or difficulty, or an EHCP.

### **Strengths:**

- In North Lincolnshire children from black and ethnic minoritised groups are underrepresented within the youth justice cohort, bucking the national trend.
- Children in care rates of offending remain low.
- Diversity data, and the resulting focus on disproportionality, is well embedded within the North Lincolnshire YJP data and performance reporting.
- The YJSPB routinely have oversight of the data, profile, key issues and comparators to ensure leaders are aware of the NL profile and take action to address any matters of disproportionality.

### **Areas for Further Consideration / Learning:**

- The data and performance reporting for the YJP would be strengthened with a wider range of diversity characteristics able to be reported on and analysed, ideally reflecting the full list of protected characteristics.
- Disproportionality analysis could be further strengthened by again being shown alongside equivalent data from other children and family cohorts.
- Implementation of the new YJB Key Performance Indicators will support further development of data and performance ensuring disproportionality is consistently captured across the partnership and can be reviewed by the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board.

- North Lincolnshire YJP's response to diversity would be strengthened through development of a bespoke diversity strategy

The Disproportionality Thematic Review also considered the quality of practice in relation to understanding and responding to diversity:

### Strengths:

- Learning styles are routinely identified and considered, with interventions being carefully tailored to maximise engagement and reflection.
- Child first principles are evident – the recording across most cases brings the child to life, in many cases showing warmth and real care.
- Trauma informed approaches are evident within most case records clearly demonstrating the time and commitment taken by case managers to build meaningful relationships with children. Voluntary support is offered to some children whereby their statutory intervention is due to end but risk is still assessed as high and/or the intervention plan has not been fully completed. This supports the Understanding ethnic disparity in reoffending rates in the youth justice system recommendation for the YJB to consider an extension of statutory intervention timelines to extend and/or explicitly allow flexibility in deadlines to facilitate improved relationship-building and more effective interventions.
- The child's voice and experience underpins assessments and plans. This is further strengthened where a whole family approach is taken to consider the holistic needs of the family and the wider diverse needs and how barriers can be removed.
- Easy access to and routine use of translation and interpreters for children and their parents where English is a second language
- Loss and bereavement is clearly recognised as an important potential traumatic event and given appropriate weight in assessments and plans. There is clearly a good understanding of the range of the local offer to support children who have experienced loss.
- The child's diverse characteristics are considered across the Asset assessment, rather than in just one section. In the best examples this strengthens how these factors are analysed, and what they mean for the child and the resulting plan.
- There is strong evidence of trauma-aware practice, which helps to draw out the unique needs and experiences of children, thus strengthening the focus on diversity.

### Areas for further consideration / learning:

- The recording of disproportionality and disparity in some cases could be strengthened with a consistent focus on how barriers or prejudice experienced by children and their families are overcome or challenged. To enable this, the Asset+ in some instances could also be strengthened with further analysis of the child's diverse characteristics in terms of what it means for the plan and intervention.

## Other priorities

### Restorative approaches and victims

Our victim procedures are written in accordance with the Ministry of Justice Code of Practice for Victims of Crime 2021, Youth Justice Boards National Standards 2019 and Restorative Justice Guidance (England and Wales).

The revised Code of Practice for Victims of Crime was introduced in April 2021 which

introduced 12 new rights for victims. The Victims' Code sets out the minimum level of services victims can expect from criminal justice agencies. It details what each criminal justice agency must do for victims and the timeframe in which they must do it. It applies to all criminal justice agencies including Youth Justice Partnerships.

The introduction of the Code of Practice and the new victim rights has been welcomed and is encompassed in every victim contact. In accordance with the Code of Practice every victim who has consented to share their details are contacted, their views and impact sought and a Restorative Justice intervention offered.

Over the last 12 months we have continued to adopt a restorative approach within our practice, providing victims with a voice and empowering them. Our assessments and plans consider victims views, their safety, and the impact of the harm they have been caused. A restorative approach can help the victim and the child move forward and draw a line under past events.

Below is some feedback from a victim who was supported to attend a Restorative Justice Meeting:

"I feel I now have some peace and the overwhelming feeling of anxiety I had has now gone. I don't look at XXX as an enemy for what he did, and I believe we will be ok and friends again in the future. Since the incident and before the meeting I felt we were strangers. I'm happy the meeting happened".

The Victim Liaison Officer has a positive partnership with the seconded Police Officer. In cases where victim information is missing on referral forms/consent hasn't been gained, they will always endeavour to contact the Investigating Officer to revisit with the victim as to whether they are happy for their information to be shared and be contacted by VLO. This has assisted in increasing engagement between the VLO and the victim.

North Lincolnshire's Victim Liaison Officer has good relationships with other VLO's in the region and will regularly meet to offer support and guidance to each other in their roles.

### **Detention in police custody**

Humberside Police will try and deal with children (10 – 17 years) outside of the main custody environment (including either at a Police Satellite Station if operationally viable or in the child's home). This will take into account officer safety and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The intention of this principle is to avoid arrest where possible.

As part of the Youth Custody protocol, signed up to by all key organisations, all alternatives to arrest will be explored before a child is arrested and taken into custody where a victim can be successfully safeguarded.

Children and young people should only be taken to a custody suite when they have been arrested for offences as outlined above, where the risk of threat and harm merit detention, or where the risk is lower, only to secure and preserve evidence. Where this is necessary, they should be adequately supported by their responsible local authority or care setting.

Furthermore, as part of the joint protocol, Humberside Police will also ensure overnight stays for children in custody will only occur when absolutely necessary. Local Authorities and Police will work together to ensure that legal duties are met and that we fulfil the roles we play to

ensure that concordat responsibilities are achieved.

When a child has been arrested the same rights that apply to adults apply to children. Their rights must be explained to them in the presence of an Appropriate Adult. These include:

- The reason for arrest and for being detained
- The right to free legal representation
- Seeing records and documents about arrest and detention
- Right to remain silent
- A phone call to inform someone of their arrest
- Medical help
- Right to read the Codes of Practice
- A written notice detailing their rights in custody (interpreted in chosen language)

The joint protocol for children in custody was endorsed by the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board and Children's MARS Board and outlines the expectations and considerations for:

- Children on the edge of care
- Racial Disproportionality
- Children in Care and Care Leavers
- Modern Day Slavery
- Child Exploitation
- Strip Search
- Appropriate Adults

Through the development of the youth custody tracker, Humberside Police will account to the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board on youth custody rates, overnight detention and post charge custody on a routine basis. In the last 12 months we have seen the attendance of the Police Custody Inspector who has presented at the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board and reported on development and embedding of the protocol, performance, in addition to any support or challenge that is needed.

There are regular meetings between lead officers across Children and Families, including out of hours provision and Humberside Police custody leads to ensure compliance with PACE and National Policy and monitoring of the joint protocol, including appropriate adult provision.

## **Standard 4: in secure settings**

### **Custody and Remand**

The number of custodial sentences in North Lincolnshire remains low with no children sentenced to custody during 2022/23 or 2021/2022 evidencing that use of custody is consistently low in North Lincolnshire.

There was one remand to Youth Detention Accommodation during this period, however there were specific circumstances that led to strong advocacy and challenge the next day resulting in the child's release from custody.

The use of custody remains low in North Lincolnshire due to the factors outlined below;

- Partners consistently taking a One Family Approach, with a commitment to children remaining in their families, schools and communities.
- Robust and intensive support is offered at an early stage which can help avoid

escalation through the courts. This allows for a focus on preventative work and the family as a whole.

- Use of robust Bail and community remand packages that provide holistic support to the young person. This can include Bail Support and Bail Support with ISS.
- Building resilience through supporting young people in their education, training and employment and ensuring that these, form part of the Bail or sentence plan to help ensure on-going engagement.
- Robust alternatives to Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation packages (including remand Foster Care and bail support).
- Use of the early guilty plea where appropriate.
- Dedicated Court Officers that are well trained and experienced and knowledgeable in the court arena and in managing both bail Support Programme and Sentenced children.
- Ability to offer robust assessments and interventions to young people to ensure that they can be safely managed in the community.

### **Constructive resettlement and the use of custody (including remands)**

North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership adopt the 'child first' principle and work hard to divert children away from the criminal justice system. We continue to advocate that the use of custody, for children is used only, as a last resort. This is evidenced through the continually low use of custody in North Lincolnshire.

Whilst this is positive, it's important professionals are still clear on their roles and responsibilities for supporting constructive resettlement should they become involved with a child in this situation. The YJP recently delivered a workshop about resettlement as part of the workforce development briefings offered to all staff across children and families.

The resettlement of children from custody is a statutory responsibility of local authorities, in partnership with other functions. Whilst in practice, the planning and co-ordination of custodial sentences is led by youth justice partnerships, there is a clear role for other partners such as children's social care, education and health. All of which are actively involved in this process in North Lincolnshire. Though no children have been resettled, these agencies are aware of their responsibilities should this be required.

The North Lincolnshire Resettlement Policy has been further reviewed in April 2023. This allows both YJP and partner agencies to remain fully informed and updated on required changes and developments in practice to ensure that if a child was to be sent to custody, the supervising staff and managers are fully aware of how best to support the young people and make resettlement a clear priority from the point of sentence.

It is imperative that partner agencies are also aware of these procedures. Therefore, the Resettlement Policy was developed jointly by both the YJP and Children and Families. In addition, a Designated Social Worker has been identified, who has a level of responsibility for all children in custody. This Social Worker is trained and has extensive knowledge of this area in terms of partnership responsibilities for young people in custody and is available to the YJP as required.

During the next 12 months North Lincolnshire YJP will develop a point of contact at Wetherby YOI in order for the partnership to remain updated regarding any changes in procedures and policies within the secure setting. This will ensure that if and when a child is remanded, we are fully up to date with expectations for both the YJP and the secure placement.



## Standards for children in the justice system

The Lord Chancellor's Standards for children in the youth justice system were published in 2019. A baseline self-assessment against these standards was undertaken in 2020-2021 and submitted to the YJB. Correspondence was received from the YJB in June 2023 advising that the self assessment would be undertaken again but that this would be against one of the selected standards for 2023/24. It was outlined that through selecting just one Standard it reduces the burden on the partnership in a year when there are a number of substantial changes being implemented to drive improvements in outcomes for children. It also means that time and attention can be given to the quality and accuracy of the self-assessment.

The Standard selected is 2: At Court. Guidance on the content and process of the self-assessment is anticipated and we will be required to submit our self-assessment by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

Our current progress on the standards has been weaved through this plan with standard 1: out of court disposals and standard 5: on transition and resettlement being two of our agreed priorities as a partnership.

North Lincolnshire were subject to robust external scrutiny against the standards between April-May 2023 following HMIP inspection announcement. Our final report will be published in September 2023, but our development plan incorporates the areas for continued development.

### Quality Assurance Framework

As a learning organisation, with a growth mindset, we are committed to a culture of listening, learning, reviewing and adapting, underpinned by high challenge and high support across the workforce. We have an established Children and Families Assurance Learning and Development Framework which enables assurance and oversight of the Youth Justice Partnerships statutory responsibilities.

Under the auspices of our Assurance Learning and Development Framework, the YJP has an established monthly cycle of case audits and practice observations undertaken by relevant leaders and managers. Overall areas of good practice and themes for learning and practice development are fed into the monthly Children's Social Care CAM order to inform learning and practice development.

Whilst the YJP is part of the wider children and families QA framework, there is a bespoke audit tool utilised to ensure focus is given to YJP statutory functions. There is equally a thematic timetable to ensure a 'shine a light' focus on key areas including (but not exhaustive), serious violence, re-offending, first time entrants, child exploitation, weapon related crime.

### Internal audit

The YJP had an internal audit carried out as part of the 2021/2022 Audit Plan. The overall objective of this audit was to provide assurance that an effective control environment is in place. In particular, it was designed to provide assurance on the effectiveness and compliance to legislation following a change in management and process.

The audit provided assurance on the controls in place to meet key objectives and mitigate risks including:

- there is a partnership in place with the appropriate governance as set out in the MOJ guidance.
- there is a management board with the relevant terms of reference to hold the

partnership to account.

- there is a local plan delivery plan that has been agreed, performance in relation to it is reported to the board.
- there is an inspection regime in place that reflects guidance for Youth Justice Boards setting out performance to be measured.
- data is securely held and handled.
- there is a comprehensive process for capturing all required data and ensuring that it is accurate and timely for submission nationally and locally.
- performance is reported and action plans in place where performance is less than target measures and to drive improvements across national, regional, and local themes; and
- grant spend is in accordance with the conditions set.

The audit concluded:

- **There were no identified areas for improvement.**
- **Substantial assurance on the effectiveness of the YJP**
- **Residual risk as low**

## Workforce Development

In North Lincolnshire we are committed to having a highly skilled workforce that are able to meet the needs of our children and families. Our workforce consists of qualified social workers, nurses, police officers, and practitioners who are educated to degree level in relevant subjects e.g. criminology, youth justice, social care. We have an emphasis on a learning culture in North Lincolnshire and ensure staff feel valued, listened to and supported.

The 'One Family Approach' reinforces our approach to integration and our staff are afforded the opportunity to work across the different offers available. Whilst this enables us to demonstrate our commitment to partnership working, this equally upskills the workforce and supports better understanding of key roles and responsibilities across the children and families offer.

All staff and volunteers have regular access to training. The majority of staff have completed the Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate qualification and new staff are encouraged and motivated to do so. This is role specific and reflects the risk and complexity of working in youth justice.

Staff are trained in other key areas such as:

- Harmful sexualised Behaviour (AIM2/3 and Good Lives)
- Restorative Justice
- Safeguarding Children
- County Lines
- Risk outside the home
- Transitional Safeguarding
- Child Exploitation
- Domestic Abuse
- Child Development
- Diversity
- Disproportionality

All staff receive regular supervision and appraisals, and ongoing career development is

encouraged through this process. All new starters also receive a robust induction package.

More recently, staff have been encouraged to utilise the YJB skills audit tool which was designed to help youth justice practitioners to reflect on their practice, in particular to identify potential gaps in their knowledge, behaviours and skills and thereby to gain access to more targeted training. The Youth Justice Board's Resource Hub provides a platform for practitioners to access a range of tools and resources that support ongoing knowledge and development.

Training needs are regularly reviewed and most often linked to the Youth Justice Partnership's key priorities. This has included practitioners attending training on:

- Modern Day Slavery – including Section 45 Defence and the National Referral Mechanism.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's).
- Deprivation of Liberty and The Mental Capacity Act.
- Disproportionality and Unconscious Bias.
- Racial Awareness
- Resettlement.
- Trauma Informed Practice
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs
- Child First Effective Practice

Regular workshops are often also facilitated to provide staff with the opportunity to refresh their skills and knowledge, for example Asset Plus workshops and report writing workshops.

## Evidence-based practice and innovation

For the purpose of this plan the definition of evidence-based practice is 'integration of the best available and accessible evidence with professional expertise, in the context of working with children in contact with the youth justice system'. Its purpose is to promote effective practices and achieve positive outcomes for children. This includes systems, ways of working or specific interventions which are based on the best available research, are child focused and developmentally informed.

### Revised Case Management Guidance

In 22/23 the YJB published revised case management guidance, with final sections on custody and resettlement and out-of-court disposals due to be published as part of phase 2 in the summer of 2023. This has been rewritten to reflect the evidence base. North Lincolnshire YJP will disseminate the revised guidance to support the workforce to put this into practice and improve outcomes for children.

### Children and Families Transformation

Work has been undertaken to refine transformation governance and reporting arrangements, which are overseen by the Children and Families Transformation Board and underpinned by a transformation plan, delivered through four key working groups in relation to Family Help and Protection, Children in Care and Care Leavers Experiences, Education and Inclusion and Workforce.

A priority workstream was established to build on and continue our transformation journey and respond to the significant national policy directives, including but not exhaustive, the Independent review of children's social care (IRCSC), Child Protection (CP) in England, the

SEND and Alternative Provision green paper and the Working Together to Improve School Attendance Guidance.

## **Risk Outside the Home**

North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership seek to deliver best practice across the partnership will regularly adopt innovative and creative approaches to support best outcomes for children and families. This has been recognised on a national platform with North Lincolnshire presenting at a Westminster Conference and NWG Child Exploitation Partnership and Practice Learning forum. Following these presentations, we have been invited to attend and present at the NWG National Conference being held in October 2023.

North Lincolnshire were also recognised by the County Lines Co-ordination Centre for our forward thinking and approach being taken towards risk outside the home. This recognition at a national level saw The Children's Society and British Transport Police share the approach.

Operation Holistic is another good practice example of how partners have worked collectively to respond to threat and risk in relation to child criminal exploitation in North Lincolnshire. The partnership sought advice and guidance from national colleagues from The Children's Society, National Working Group and Metropolitan Police to utilise innovative disruption tactics to aid safeguarding of vulnerable children known to be being exploited by an Organised Crime Group. An internal evaluation of this operation was completed, and key themes, outcomes and impact was presented at the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board and MACE. This was recognised as best practice due to the reduction in risk and positive impact and was endorsed as an approach that could be replicated in the future.

Over the last 12 months, we have replicated this approach implementing Operation Holistic 2 and Operation Roderick to tackle and disrupt organised crime groups who are exploiting children. This has seen the utilisation of modern day slavery legislation and a number of adult perpetrators subsequently receive lengthy custodial sentences. The partnership are currently working closely together to consider Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders to aid further disruption and portray the message that child exploitation will not be tolerated in North Lincolnshire.

## **Virtual Reality Technology**

An innovative project, which uses virtual reality technology to help young people to make the right decisions to avoid youth and knife violence, is being rolled out across schools in North Lincolnshire.

In partnership with Humberside Police, we intend to launch violence prevention work in schools through the virtual education programme 'Virtual Decisions'.

Virtual Decisions films enable participants to experience multiple dilemmas and illustrate the impacts of choices. Participants can experience the consequences of their decisions through the use of high-end VR headsets, which incorporate haptic feedback and 180° social interaction to immerse participants in unique scenarios.

Virtual Decisions has been successfully piloted nationally, including by Greater Manchester's Violence Reduction Unit who are further expanding this in more schools across the local area.

A separate co-production project has also commenced to develop our own local VR films with children and young people. Consultation is currently taking place to agree the topics and plan next steps.

## Development Plan

In North Lincolnshire, all children and young people matter, and we are focused on ensuring extra care and commitment to those open to our Youth Justice Partnership. Through the collaborative work that we do, the determination of partners, we are making a positive difference and we will continue our focus on listening, learning, reviewing and adapting to improve outcomes for our children, young people and families.

As part of our commitment to transparency and to a learning culture we put ourselves forward for a Peer Review that was conducted between February and March 2023.

The Peer Review was not an inspection and was a voluntary process to explore matters identified by North Lincolnshire YJSPB, with agreed key lines of enquiries, which lead to a summary of findings carried out by trained peers and supported by the Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership (YJSIP) and the Association of YOT Managers (AYM).

The peer review was a unique opportunity for us to gain a fresh perspective from peers alongside collaborative support in improving our local youth justice offer. The peer review was a supportive, yet challenging process and the report received following the peer review reflected the findings and supported us to produce our development plan.

It was agreed with the Independent Chair of the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Strategic Management Board, Edwina Harrison that the PRT would be asked to examine the following key lines of enquiry:

- 1. Do the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board members and key stakeholders actively lead and champion youth justice within their own service areas, and is it having the desired impact?***
- 2. What is the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership's interface with, and contribution towards education, employment and training and how do they know it is making a positive difference for children?***
- 3. How well the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Early Help offer is integrated into the Family Help offer of the Council and its partners and are there opportunities to identify and engage any other potential stakeholders to improve outcomes for children?***
- 4. The 'golden threads' throughout the Peer Review are the voice of the child, anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice, disproportionality, and diversity and to what extent that informs the quality, impact and the outcomes for children and young people known to the youth justice system in North Lincs?***

Following on from the peer review, a development plan was produced which enabled us to identify key actions and track progress. The development plan is overseen by the YJSPB and key actions included:

- YJSPB TOR was reviewed and headteacher representative was identified to attend the board.
- Dedicated Educational Psychology was identified for the YJP.
- Development of a bespoke YJP Diversity Strategy.
- Re-introduction of OOCSD Scrutiny Panel process.
- Development of the YJSPB – including consideration of re-branding to be more inclusive of the current integrated youth offer.
- Quality assurance activity to review practice and length of time children and open to the partnership on prevention/diversion disposals.



## HMIP Inspection

North Lincolnshire were notified by the HMIP of their intention to carry out an inspection on 31<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Fieldwork took place between 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The inspection was part of the HMIP's programme of youth justice service (YJS) inspections. North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership (YJP) were inspected across three broad areas: the arrangements for organisational delivery, the quality of work done with children sentenced by the courts, and the quality of out-of-court disposal work.

The HMIP inspection report is expected to be published week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Following publication, a formal development plan will be implemented to support continuous improvement of the partnership.

## Remaining a Youth Justice Partnership

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has suggested that language describing children as 'offender' and 'young offender' serves only to "encourage the stigmatisation and criminalisation of children" and "reinforces a feeling of exclusion and discourages positive re-integration into society".

In 2021 we re-branded and became a 'Youth Justice Partnership'. However, following our recent peer review and HMIP inspection there was a suggestion that the YJSPB might want to consider renaming the Youth Justice Partnership to be more inclusive of the current 'Adolescent Youth Offer'; as the model includes early intervention, youth outreach work and a substance misuse offer, as well as youth justice, therefore the current terminology is not truly representative and could be misleading to children, families and other stakeholders.

At present we have a Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board that carries out all youth justice statutory functions. However, the landscape of the board has changed over the years and incorporates the overarching integrated youth offer for children and young people recognising issues pertaining to this cohort of children overlap with other agendas and vulnerable groups.

The YJSPB will need to consider whether a further re-branding exercise needs to occur to support a better understanding of the board functions whilst still maintaining its focus on the statutory functions required.

## Independent Review of Children's Social Care

North Lincolnshire was one of the local authorities that contributed towards the research to inform the independent review of children's social care report published by Josh MacAlister in May 2022. Whilst the report provides some significant recommendations to consider it also creates some great opportunities to continue to review, develop and strengthen our offer to children, young people and their families. North Lincolnshire's Director of Children and Families responded promptly to the report and the establishment of a delivery transformation board for Children's Social Care was set up to consider our response to the proposed developments that seek to strengthen outcomes for children and families.

## Thematic Inspections

The findings and recommendations of thematic inspections are regularly reviewed within the Youth Justice Partnership and updates are provided to the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board. Learning is utilised to inform practice and development.

Thematic reports have included:

- HMIP Thematic Review of the work of youth offending services during COVID-19.
- Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery.
- Reducing the number of BAME young people in the Criminal Justice System.
- 'Ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in the youth justicesystem.
- Contextual Safeguarding in a youth justice setting.
- Information obtained from attendance at the Youth Justice Board Bitesize sessions facilitated throughout the pandemic.
- Proposed changes to HMIP Inspection Framework.
- Child First Justice: the research evidence-base report.
- HMIP Annual Report.
- A joint inspection of education, training and employment services in youth offending teams in England and Wales

Examples of actions taken as a result has included:

- The Youth Justice Partnership (YJP) utilised the thematic review during COVID-19 to measure against our own practice. This enabled us to identify our own areas of strength and learn from others to aid our development.
- The YJP continue to take an active role in the North Lincolnshire Multi Agency Child Exploitation Board (MACE), considering CCE in all cases and are proactive in ensuring referrals to the National Referral Mechanism are made where appropriate.
- North Lincolnshire made a successful bid application to participate in the 'Devolved Decision Making for Child Victims of Modern Day Slavery'.
- Improvement actions have been developed from HMIP inspections.
- Disproportionality and unconscious bias training was delivered to the partnership.
- Development of strategy for North Lincolnshire's approach towards 'Risk Outside the Home' (ROTH).
- A decision to incorporate exploitation in its widest sense within the ROTH Strategy encompassing Serious Youth Violence & Knife Crime.
- Enhanced use of the YJB Disproportionality toolkit and Serious Youth Violence Toolkit.
- Resettlement workshops were delivered to the team to improve confidence in their assessment and planning to ensure appropriate attention is being given to support children returning to the community.
- Development of a Speech & Language Pilot jointly between YJP and Education
- Priority focus on the education offer for children and young people working with the YJP – in particular the use of suspension.

### **Youth Justice Board Business and Strategic Plan 2023-24**

As alluded to, North Lincolnshire has adopted and embedded the 'Child First Principle' as endorsed by the YJB Strategic Plan. This plan has been utilised to inform North Lincolnshire's annual youth justice plan acknowledging the need to work collaboratively to improve opportunities for children.

The YJB has committed to increasing stronger leadership and improved guidance to drive system improvement. Already, North Lincolnshire have noted increase oversight from the YJB which was welcomed in the form of having the Head of Innovation and Engagement for Yorkshire and Humberside attend and represent at the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board and YJB representatives attending and contributing to a regional head of service meeting we have implemented in the Humber region.

There have been a number of consultations received by the Youth Justice Board in recent

months, including the proposed changes to Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board members utilised a recent development session to review the proposals and compile a partnership response.

This Youth Justice Plan is closely aligned to the national priorities of the Youth Justice Boards who have outlined their commitment to becoming an anti-racist organisation by internally challenging our systems, policies and processes and working alongside stakeholders externally. The YJB commissioned training for the workforce and North Lincolnshire have booked the same training for our workforce which is due to be facilitated in October 2023.

### Learning from serious incidents

In 2021, the YJB reviewed how intelligence about serious incidents occurring in the community was gathered as part of its statutory responsibility for oversight.

This highlighted that without a notification process of serious incidents in the community the YJB has limited oversight of these serious events. This limits the effectiveness of timely and appropriate responses both locally and nationally, the deployment of practical support and, when required, ministerial liaison. It also limits collation of national data where a fuller picture of performance, trends, themes, and lessons learnt could be extracted.

In June 2021, the YJB introduced a voluntary serious incident notification process and North Lincolnshire adopted this process and referred any incidents through during this period.

Following a review of the voluntary notification procedure and consultation with the sector, the decision was taken to make Serious Incident notifications across England and Wales mandatory from the 1 April 2022. A local serious incident policy and procedure were developed and shared with the workforce and managers to ensure full awareness of the expectations.

The Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board ensures robust oversight over any reportable incidents with a recurring agenda item at each meeting. The Youth Justice Partnership Manager will provide anonymised reports for the board where appropriate and appropriate reflection and learning is considered for any cases.

Youth Justice Partnerships should notify the YJB of a serious incident if a child:

- Is charged with committing one of the following notifiable incidents outlined below, (a full list of reportable incidents is included at Annex A)
- Attempted Murder/Murder/Manslaughter
- Rape
- Grievous Bodily Harm or Wounding with or without intent – section 18/20
- A Terrorism related offence

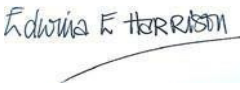
Or

- Dies while on the YOT caseload or up to 20 calendar days following the end of YOT supervision.

## Challenges, risks and issues

**Appendix 3** details North Lincolnshire YJP's **risk log** and outlines the current challenges, risks and issues recognised by the Youth Justice Partnership. The risk log summarises what actions are being taken to address existing issues and challenges and what proposed action may be needed to address potential risks should they emerge.

## Sign off, submission and approval

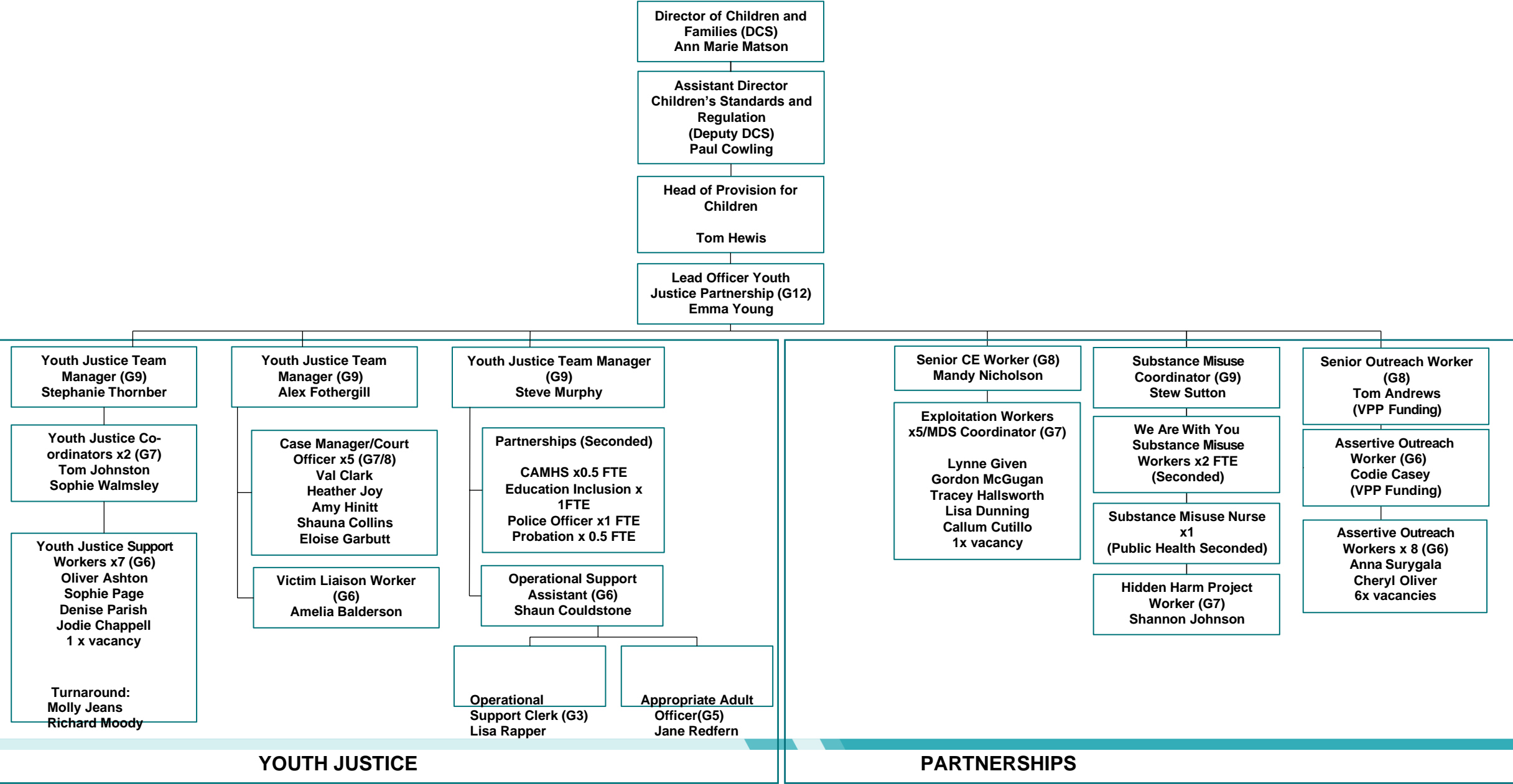
Chair of YJS Board - name	Edwina Harrison
Signature	
Date	07/08/2023

1. Appendix 1 – Staffing Structure

# Youth Justice Partnership Structure Chart

August 2023





**YOUTH JUSTICE**

**PARTNERSHIPS**

**Appendix 2: Partner contributions to the Youth Justice Partnership budget 2023/24**



**2. Appendix 2 – Budget Costs and Contributions 2023/24**

Agency	Staffing	Payments in kind – revenue (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Local Authority	Education and Inclusion Officer  Designated Social Worker  Dedicated Education Psychology Hours  Information /Performance analysis dedicated support		£254,000	£254,000
Humberside Police	Seconded Police Officer		Included within the CSP allocation	Included within the CSP allocation
Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Remand Payment			£53,691	£53,691
Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Turnaround Project	2 x FTE Youth Justice Support Worker		£99,889.62	£99,889.62
National Probation Service	Financial contribution to YJP  0.5 FTE Seconded Probation Officer		£5,000	£5,000
Heath (CCG)	0.5 FTE Seconded CAMHS worker		£16,405	£16,405

**Appendix 2: Partner contributions to the Youth Justice Partnership budget 2023/24**

OPCC (via Community Safety Partnership)	1 x FTE Hidden Harm Worker		£85,000	£85,000
Youth Justice Board Grant			£413,985	£413,985

Other LA Substance Misuse	3 x seconded FTE Substance Misuse Workers		£88,000	£88,000
OPCC - Violence Prevention Partnership	1 X FTE Senior Outreach Worker 1x FTE Assertive Outreach Worker	£4,629	£73,832	£78,461
Home Office – Devolved Decision Making Pilot	0.5 FTE Child Exploitation Intervention Worker		£19,784.00	£19,784.00
Total:			£1,109,586.62	£1,114,215.62



### Appendix 3 – Risk Log

### Appendix 3: Risks to Future Delivery

Risks to the delivery of this plan and to the performance of the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership against statutory locally agreed indicators is given below and scored against the following scale.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Risk	A (1-5)	B (1-5)	C (A+B)	Action to Mitigate Risk	D (1-5)	E (1-5)	F (D+E)
	Likelihood	Impact	Score		Likelihood	Impact	Score
<p><b>Reduction in revenue</b></p> <p>The impact of any reduction in revenue alongside an increase in need and complexity of the children, families and communities we work with would present significant risk to future delivery.</p> <p>Community Safety Partnership (CSP) funding allocation arrangements have progressed to a bidding process. As the partnership develops there is a</p>	3	4	7	<p>Exploration of additional sources of funding through opportunities to bid in relation to key developments.</p> <p>Develop additional resources through joint initiatives with partners and review of delivery arrangements.</p> <p>Ensure that partnerships are kept up to date with progress regarding the process for making applications for CSP funding.</p> <p>Applications to be made in good time.</p>	2	2	4

risk that the funding may be repurposed for other activities in line with the CSP outcome based plan.							
<p><b>Increased use of Remand and Custody</b></p> <p>Significant reductions in custody rates have continued to be achieved. However, due to the small cohorts, there is a risk this may increase.</p> <p>The number of children remanded in custody continues to be low, although a spike was noted in 2020/21 for children charged with drug offences and linked to child exploitation. There is a cohort of children linked to MACE who are at greater risk of being remanded in custody due to the serious nature of their offences. This can present a financial risk.</p>	1	4	5	<p>High quality reports to inform the court on sentencing options.</p> <p>Custody only used as a last resort, court officers to utilise LASPO (Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012) and criteria and direct alternatives to custody.</p> <p>Disproportionality concerns to be appropriately challenged.</p> <p>There is a clear process, including the children's Concordat for access to Remand and PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence) beds when needed with immediate access to this when needed.</p> <p>Foster carers offering PACE beds have received a briefing to assist them to fulfil the role effectively. Selected foster carers have also undertaken Appropriate Adult training.</p> <p>New CPS guidance has been published and is utilised in line with 'child first'.</p>	1	4	5



<p><b>National Guidance, review and legislation</b></p> <p>The potential impact of any legislative changes, the delivery of services to meet new requirements and the resulting impact on the service to ensure effective delivery.</p>	4	3	7	<p>Managers to keep staff informed of any developments, including through the provision of written staff briefings, team meetings and training to present any challenges or risks as opportunities for development. To review and develop in line with the ongoing responses to national requirements.</p> <p>The YJB have notified us of their intention to implement a new diversion and out of court assessment tool from April 2024. A draft version has been circulated and a workshop was delivered to the team to review this. The final version is anticipated to be circulated in October and North Lincolnshire intend to start utilising the assessment tool prior to this becoming mandatory in April 2024.</p>	2	3	5
<p><b>Sentencing white paper: A smarter approach to sentencing</b></p> <p>Introduction of longer periods in custody for the most serious offences.</p>	3	4	7	<p>Managers to keep staff up to date on the guidance and to ensure paper is carefully considered when considering sentencing options to the court and within Pre-Sentence Reports ensuring that the Child First principle is maintained.</p>	3	4	7
<p><b>Changes to the Cohort</b></p> <p>Whilst in North Lincolnshire, the numbers of children entering the youth justice</p>	3	4	7	<p>The YJP remains committed reducing First Time Entrants through prevention and concentrating resources on more intensive provision for the cohort whose offending is more entrenched and complex.</p>	3	3	6

<p>system continue to be low and there are well established local frameworks embedded to address these, there are a small number of children with more complex needs who are vulnerable to offending and repeat offending including through exploitation.</p> <p>Whilst North Lincolnshire prioritise prevention and diversion in line with the child first principle there needs to be a continued line of sight on the quality of statutory work.</p>				<p>Robust oversight of the statutory cohort ensuring quality and consistency of management oversight.</p> <p>Robust oversight of the quality of statutory work, especially in relation to assessing, planning and reviewing.</p> <p>Develop new models of working with adolescents, including development and expansion of opportunities to build community based positive activities and engagement.</p> <p>Child First principle to be advocated across the partnership to ensure victims of criminal exploitation are recognised as victims and not offenders.</p> <p>Appropriate referrals made to the National Referral Mechanism to identify victims of exploitation.</p> <p>Established ROTH Strategic Group and Child Exploitation Lead Officer Group utilising data/performance and classifications to fully understand the cohort and identify emerging themes.</p>			
<p><b>Increase in First Time Entrants (FTE)</b></p> <p>The number of FTE to youth justice continues to reduce in North Lincolnshire. However, as more young people are</p>	3	4	7	<p>Ongoing focus on preventative work to ensure children are appropriately offered a prevention intervention or Community Resolution.</p> <p>Continuous development of our early intervention and prevention pathways.</p> <p>Ongoing commitment with partners to ensure children only enter the criminal justice system if necessary.</p>	2	2	4

<p>successfully diverted away from the Criminal Justice System via early intervention work, those who remain are increasingly complex with greater and challenging needs.</p> <p>Whilst the partnership works with less children on post court disposals there is a risk that this could be interpreted wrongly and YJP caseloads seen as smaller than they are. Prevention and out of court work is significantly increasing and therefore caseloads appear stable but are changing more frequently.</p>				<p>One Family Approach practice model ensuring 'right person, right time, using fewest best interventions'.</p> <p>Close monitoring of data/performance indicating how many children and families are supported at all levels of need.</p> <p>Interventions are in line with the scaled approach and are proportionate and necessary.</p> <p>Regular review of our out of court policy and procedures and escalation to the board where necessary.</p>			
<p><b>Rise in re-offending figures</b></p> <p>Due to the small and decreasing numbers in the cohort, the reoffending rate</p>	3	4	7	<p>Close monitoring of the data through the live tracking tool and local police data to ensure close monitoring and action taken the reduce this.</p> <p>Cohorts Meetings to understand any themes developing and appropriate horizon scanning.</p>	2	3	5

has been more volatile.				Young people with the highest risk of re-offending are given the most impactful sentences and appropriate levels of supervision.			
<p><b>Access to specialist services that support children's emotional and mental health.</b></p> <p>A health profile conducted identified that a number of children open to the Youth Justice Partnership have experienced a number of Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma throughout their childhood. There is a risk that their needs will not be met without specialist services to support their emotional and mental health.</p>	3	3	6	<p>Close liaison with ICB Board lead to develop the local health profile and identify gaps.</p> <p>Priority within the Youth Justice Plan and regular updates reported to each board.</p> <p>Exploration of local resource.</p> <p>Ongoing roll out of Trauma training to develop staff skills in trauma informed practice.</p> <p>Become a Trauma Informed 'Test &amp; Learn' pilot site linked to the Humber Coast and Vale, Youth Justice bid.</p> <p>Identified CAMHS specialist to support the children referred to the Youth Justice Partnership.</p> <p>Seconded CAMHS worker to have appropriate access to training and development opportunities.</p>	3	4	7
<p><b>Disproportionality</b></p> <p>Whilst North Lincolnshire has low numbers of children from</p>	1	3	4	Training priority was identified in 2021 to ensure the team received training around unconscious bias and disproportionality. Partners from neighbouring authorities have were invited to attend this training to	2	2	4

<p>mixed and BAME ethnic backgrounds it is recognised that nationally these groups are over represented in the CJS. Whilst our figures may be low it is acknowledged that this could still be present in the low number of children we come into contact with presently.</p>				<p>ensure the consistent message across the Humber region.</p> <p>Further training has been commissioned for 2023 on diversity, racial awareness and disproportionality.</p> <p>Diversity and Disproportionality is a priority for the board and a diversity strategy will be developed.</p> <p>Managers to keep staff up to date on thematic reports and any issues identified through the YJSPB.</p> <p>Local monitoring via YJB Disproportionality toolkit.</p> <p>Data/performance to be monitored quarterly at each board and through established cohorts meetings.</p>			
<p><b>Cyber Security</b></p> <p>Services have adapted and have become more available digitally. Following COVID-19 this has accelerated further with more of the workforce delivering their roles online and planning greater collaboration and integration work with partner organisations. Therefore, reviewing and</p>	2	4	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IT security training programme is cascaded to the workforce via boxphish which educates on a variety of IT security topics to help staff identify and prevent cyber attacks - securing your organisation's data. Training is mandatory and reviewed through supervision.</li> <li>Security and Data breach policy and processes are in place for the LA.</li> </ul>	2	3	5



<p>reinforcing current cyber security arrangements is a key priority for local authorities.</p> <p>A cyber incident can be very disruptive, leading to the loss of data, as well as disruption to the running of council functions.</p>							
<p><b>Operational Pressures Escalation Levels</b></p> <p>There has been a number of staff leave the team which has led to some staffing pressures across the partnership whilst recruitment is undertaken.</p> <p>During this time there has been an identified risk to the partnership delivery through reduced practitioner and management capacity.</p> <p>Despite timely recruitment activity,</p>	3	4	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment activity takes place in a timely manner</li> <li>• Advertisement on YJB bulletin to promote knowledgeable and experienced candidates</li> <li>• Diversity statement within adverts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion across the workforce</li> <li>• Robust workforce training and development offer to support staff retention.</li> <li>• Supervision and Appraisal process to support ongoing career development (inclusive of PCEP/YJSIP training)</li> <li>• One Family Approach – Integrated Children and Families offer working to achieve best outcomes for all children irrespective of which area people work in</li> </ul>	1	2	3

<p>there has been a recognised reduction in the quality and quantity of applications and people qualified for specialist roles applying.</p>							
<p><b>Management Capacity</b></p> <p>Some of the management team are new role and the management team is still developing. Leaders must ensure that managers have the appropriate training to develop their skills to oversee high quality case management practice.</p>	3	4	7	<p>The presence of new managers is recognised and all managers have been subject to a thorough induction process.</p> <p>Training and development opportunities have been made available to all managers, including the social work apprenticeship scheme, ILAM Level 5 Management qualification and the front line management course facilitated through the Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership.</p> <p>Team Managers are invited and encouraged to attend the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board although it is recognised that there needs to be further work to ensure better connectivity between the board and the workforce to ensure this translates into effective case supervision.</p> <p>There is oversight of management capacity via the YJSPB and oversight of audit activity to promote quality and consistency of management oversight of practice.</p>	2	3	5

				Audit moderation is also undertaken via the NL quality assurance framework.			
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## Common youth justice terms

<b>ACE</b>	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
<b>AIM 2 and 3</b>	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
<b>ASB</b>	Anti social behaviour
<b>AssetPlus</b>	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and adolescent mental health services
<b>CCE</b>	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
<b>CSE</b>	Child Sexual Exploitation
<b>Children</b>	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
<b>Child First</b>	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
<b>Child in Care</b>	Child in Care, where a child is in the care of the local authority
<b>CME</b>	Child Missing Education
<b>Constructive resettlement</b>	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
<b>Risk outside the home</b>	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
<b>Community resolution</b>	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an

	admission of guilt
<b>EHCP</b>	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
<b>ETE</b>	Education, training or employment
<b>EHE</b>	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
<b>EOTAS</b>	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
<b>FTE</b>	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
<b>HMIP</b>	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
<b>HSB</b>	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
<b>JAC</b>	Junior Attendance Centre
<b>MAPPA</b>	Multi agency public protection arrangements
<b>MFH</b>	Missing from Home
<b>NRM</b>	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
<b>OOCD</b>	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
<b>Outcome 22/21</b>	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
<b>Over-represented children</b>	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
<b>RHI</b>	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
<b>SLCN</b>	Speech, Language and communication needs
<b>STC</b>	Secure training centre
<b>SCH</b>	Secure children's home
<b>Young adult</b>	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
<b>YJS</b>	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This



	reflects the move to a child first approach
<b>YOI</b>	Young offender institution
<b>MACE</b>	Multi Agency Child Exploitation
<b>JDAP</b>	Joint Decision Allocation Panel
<b>SYV</b>	Serious Youth Violence
<b>CIN</b>	Child In Need
<b>CP</b>	Child Protection
<b>YJP</b>	Youth Justice Partnership
<b>CEIT</b>	Child Exploitation Intervention Team (service that sits under the YJP)
<b>OYS</b>	Outreach Youth Service
<b>DELTA</b>	The Drug Education Liaison Treatment Agency – targeted substance misuse service working with children and young people
<b>CMARS</b>	Children’s Multi-Agency Resilience & Safeguarding Board
<b>OFA</b>	One Family Approach
<b>TTCG</b>	
<b>YJB</b>	Youth Justice Board
<b>RJ</b>	Restorative Justice
<b>Safer Neighbourhoods</b>	Internal community safety team in North Lincolnshire
<b>IOM</b>	Integrated Offender Management
<b>ICS</b>	Integrated Care System
<b>HCV</b>	Humber Coast and Vale
<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicator