



# North Tyneside Youth Justice Plan

## 2023 – 2024

Service	North Tyneside
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## Introduction, vision and strategy

The priorities for the year ahead have been developed based on what our performance data and analysis tells us, what our partners tell us about their priorities but most importantly what young people, families, victims and communities tell us matters to them. We are a learning service and will continue to strive to learn and develop, not only looking internally but also regionally and nationally for the very best practice that this having a positive impact.

In North Tyneside we are passionate about prevention and our Youth Justice Service plays a key part in this this crucial work. We want to continue to build on the success of our Out of Court processes, which have achieved a significant reduction in the number First Time entrants to the criminal justice system over the last four years. We will do this by embedding both our Divert and Turnaround programmes into our out of Court work and by merging this into our wider Early Help offer.

As a management board and wider partnership we recognise that youth violence is a strong area of focus for us, within a context of low offending and re-offending rates. Linked to this we also recognise that young people are disproportionately the victims of violence and we are keen, from a safeguarding perspective to work together as a partnership to reduce both incidents and the number of young people who are victims. Two of our key priorities for the year ahead address these worries. A further two priorities are around how we further build on the protective factors of Education, Employment and Training and the Health and wellbeing of young people with additional needs.

As a management board we want to express our thanks to the service for their continued drive, energy and commitment and we look forward to supporting, challenging and helping them to deliver against the priorities in this plan.

Julie Firth, Director Children's Services

## Overview

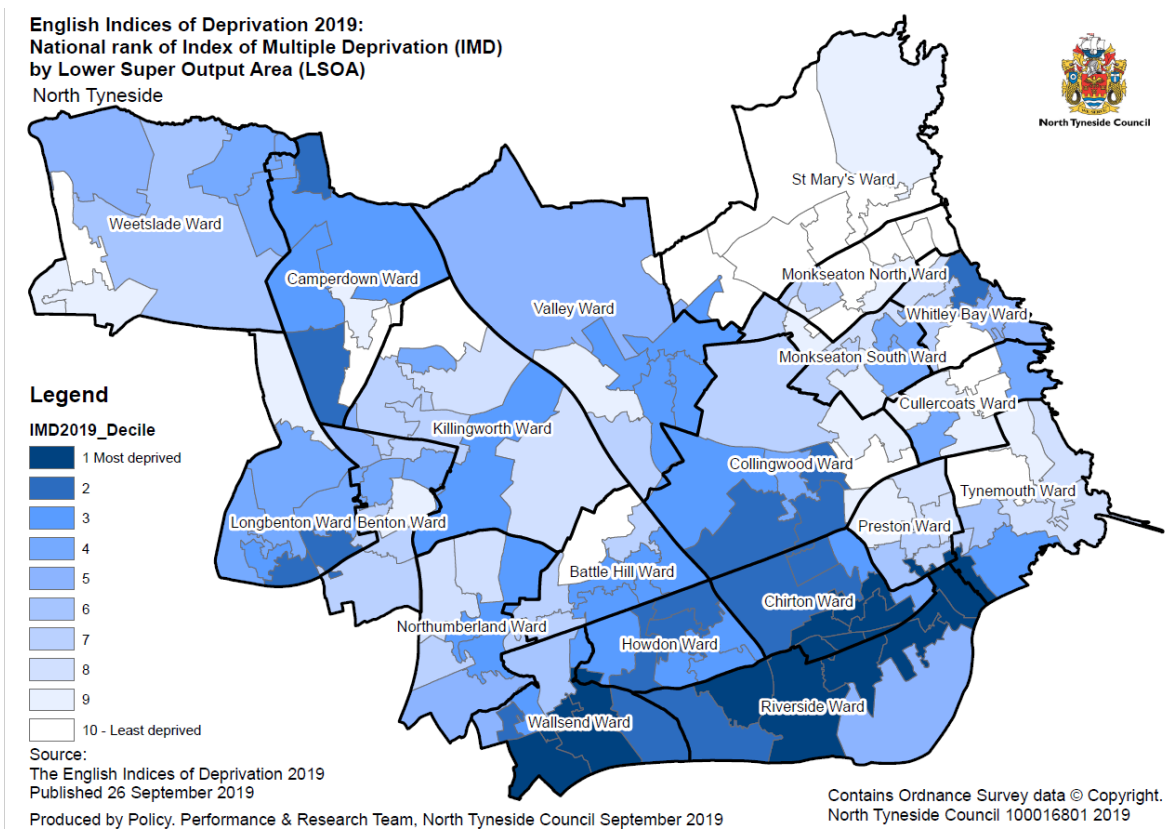
North Tyneside has a population of 209,151 and the population is projected to grow by 5% overall by 2030. The proportion residents of over the age of 65 is projected to increase by over 20%, over 75's by over 30%, and over 85's by 15% and fewer children.

<b>Working Age Groups</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total Population</b>
0-15 (Children)	17,982	19,353	37,335
16-64 (Working Age Population)	66,027	62,576	128,603
65+ (Retired)	23,699	19,514	43,213

North Tyneside has a relatively small black, Asian and other ethnic minority community population, which accounts for 5.2% of the overall population.

## Key socio-demographic issues

North Tyneside is one of the least deprived areas in the North-East and deprivation has reduced compared to the rest of England, however some areas of the borough particularly in Wallsend, Riverside and Chirton Wards continue to experience persistently relatively high levels of deprivation. Just over 20% of these areas in North Tyneside are ranked as being in the most deprived 20% in England. These areas of deprivation are linked to fewer years of living in good health, lower life expectancy, lower participation and attainment in education post 16 years old.



The 0-18 population in North Tyneside is 43,914, of which the 10-17 population is 19,018.

Through the revision of the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan, 4 key areas were identified for the period 2023/24. These were identified following a comprehensive needs assessment which incorporated information specifically for the 10-17 YJS cohort. The offending data for North Tyneside identifies violent crime at 50% of all offences committed but this includes all adult data. This reflects the current primary offence type within the YJ cohort. However, it is only when these offences are analysed that a true picture emerges. This is addressed later.

## About the Youth Justice Service

The Youth Justice Service sits within the wider Children, Young People and Learning directorate within the local authority.

The Director, Children's Services provides strategic leadership and chairs the Youth Justice Management Board.

The Youth Justice Management Board oversees the development and operations of the service, with strong representation from all key partners. The YJ Board provides effective oversight of delivery of the Strategic Plan, and challenge, support and scrutiny regarding performance and quality.

North Tyneside Youth Justice Service is a relatively small multi-agency team, which comprises a manager, two team leaders, seven case workers, probation officer, a restorative justice worker, clinical psychologist, speech and language therapist, police constables, connexions advisor, and performance advisor.

## Our Partnership Vision and Priorities

The Children and Young People's Partnership has a shared vision and passion, which is to:

*"Make North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all, including those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged, or disabled, have the best start in life"*

Our outcomes framework for Children's services focuses all of our activity from a child and young person's perspective, with the objective that they are able to say:

- I am Safe
- I am Healthy
- I have Opportunities
- I have a Voice
- I am Happy

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-24 sets out 5 key strategic priorities. They are:

1. All children will have access to appropriate health and wellbeing services at the right time
2. Develop and deliver a Serious youth violence strategy and plan
3. Further development of prevention into the pathway for children on the edge/cusp of the YJS
4. Every young person will have access to appropriate ETE that meets their needs
5. A comprehensive and consistent service will be available to all victims

## Child First

In line with the Youth Justice Boards Strategic Plan 2021-24 North Tyneside's Youth Justice Service (YJS) is committed to:

- See children first, offenders second and champion the needs of children throughout our work.
- Listening to children and their families/carers.
- Ensure that the services and interventions that are provided are inclusive, through challenging discrimination and promoting equality.
- Ensuring that children are offered every opportunity to achieve their potential and make positive changes.
- Building positive and trusted and strength-based relationships with children.

The YJS has embedded into practice a child first approach which ensures all interactions and interventions reflect the individual needs of the child and builds upon strengths.

The YJS invested in a Trauma informed approach in 2019 via both a comprehensive training programme and the appointment of a Clinical Psychologist. This position was initially via a secondment agreement with CAMHS but in May 2022 this position was made permanent directly within the YJS and is now an embedded offer.

The Out of court procedures implemented in November 2019 supported the child first approach reflected in a multi-agency decision making panel following the assessment being completed. This process ensures that the decision is made using all agency information and is heavily focused on building upon desistance factors. The impact has seen a continued on the rate of first-time entrants, level of positive engagement (98%) and the rate of reoffending within the out of court cohort.

All of the YJS documentation, leaflets and information given to parents, carers and children have been produced in collaboration with the speech language therapist.

## Voice of the child

The YJS has worked consistently to ensure the voice of the child is reflected in all of the work undertaken.

In 2022 the self-assessment was amended with input from children to make them more child friendly with the aim of increasing the completion rate but also ensuring the voice of the child was clear. The changes have resulted in a high completion rate which is copied directly into the out of court assessments and reflected within the final agreed plan.

We continue to work with the Childrens participation team in North Tyneside who have identified young people in the youth justice system as a key group and as such have just appointed a new worker who will have the YJS as a key responsibility. Where appropriate we negotiate an advocate via the participation team.

The service invites all children (and parents) regardless of the length of time involved with the YJS an option to complete a survey monkey at the end of involvement. This process produces collated information relating to the individual questions and gives an overall rating for the child experience. This information is discussed monthly within the managers meeting and quotes received are shared with workers using a "Board of positivity" which is in the main office full of quotes. The gathered information is presented to the Management Board on a biannual basis.

The questions we ask the children and young people are:

- Do you understand why you were working with the Youth Justice Service?
- Do you think you had a say in your plan and what you were asked to do?
- Do you think your worker and the staff at the YJS listened to you and took you seriously?
- Do you think the work we did with you included things that are important to you?
- What do you think worked well?
- What do you think we could do better?
- On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being very poor and 10 being excellent), what would you score your experience with YJS?



- Why did you choose that number?

We also ask the following to the parents/carers:

- Do you understand why your child was working with the YJS?
- Do you think the work included things that are/were important to you and your child?
- Do you think you were listened to and supported?
- What do you think worked well?
- What do you think we could do better?
- On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being very poor and 10 being excellent), what would you score your experience with YJS?
- Why did you choose that number?

In North Tyneside there is a strong participation team which promotes the voice of all children across the borough with a specific focus of children in our care and children with additional needs. There is a dedicated workers that works with the YJS to ensure the children within the service are represented as a specific group.

North Tyneside has just launched “Year of the voice of the child” which is being overseen by the Participation team.

The plan is to facilitate a year of promotion and activities around the voice of the child. This will include all the work that is currently done as standard across the authority, but also to increase opportunities, value and understanding of children’s and young people’s voices across all services, partners including schools and the VCSE community.

There activity over the year is clearly focused on gaining understanding of children’s experiences across as many services as possible and has the following key activities:

- Youth Democracy refresh
- Annual Conversations
- SEND Participation
- Children’s voice in play
- Celebration events and conferences

- Staff training

## **Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements**

North Tyneside had benefitted from a strong appropriately senior YJ Board membership for a three-year period. This enabled evidence against the roles and responsibilities of the board in respect of both the Modern YJ Partnership and revised Youth Justice Service governance and leadership.

The management board is directly responsible for:

- Determining how appropriate youth justice services are to be provided and funded;
- Overseeing the formulation each year of the youth justice plan;
- Agreeing measurable objectives linked to key performance indicators as part of the youth justice plan;
- Ensuring delivery of the statutory aim to prevent offending by children and young people;
- Giving strategic direction to Youth Justice Service Manager and Youth Justice Service Team;
- Providing performance management of the prevention of youth crime and periodically report this to the Safer North Tyneside Partnership;
- Ensuring that Standards for children in the Youth Justice System and the Child First ethos are embedded across the whole service and audits are completed within required timescales;
- Promoting the key role played by the Youth Justice Service within local integrated offender management arrangements;
- Advocate on behalf of the YJS within their own service areas and beyond, specifically supporting the YJS to overcome barriers to effective Multi-Agency working;
- Oversight of all data submissions to the YJB ensuring timeliness, especially conditions set out in the YJB grant;
- Ensuring the recommendations outlined in HMIP inspection reports/thematic are addressed and monitored at board meetings

To aid this, the board has a clear set out Terms of Reference.

## Board Development

The board receives comprehensive performance reports, exception reports as well as presentations from staff and partners to enable an understanding of not only the positive outcomes for children but where the challenges and blocks are.

The service undertakes an annual development day which focuses on looking forward and planning priorities for the forthcoming year. This includes the staff team to aid a complete and joined up understanding of the services vision.

Through partnership development days, we have reviewed our progress, understood the lived experience of young people, assessed our performance against key indicators and National Standards. As a result, we have developed the following, emerging priorities.

- A Out of Court Process development to include a prevention programme
- B Develop specific services for young victims of crime
- C Support young people with additional Needs / Education. Training and Employment
- D Informed approach to Serious Youth Violence
- E Improve access to Health and Wellbeing

The management board comprises of the statutory partners, Police, Local Authority, Health and Probation, and in addition has representation from the lead Cabinet Member, Department of Work and Pensions, Headteacher, Violence Reduction Unit, Employment and Skills.

For all new board members there is a comprehensive induction process which is delivered by the head of service.

## Resources and services

The 2023/2024 terms and conditions of the Youth Justice require assurance that they will be used exclusively for the delivery of youth justice services. The grant is exclusively used to deliver against the core objectives of the Youth Justice system.

At the point of writing this plan, there has yet to be a conclusion to the YJB grant allocation. Whilst difficult to effectively plan forwardly, reassurance has been given that there will be no change to the 2022/23 allocation.

The ring-fenced funding via the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to provide a targeted prevention programme, has been extremely welcomed which has enable the service to expand its delivery to those children on the cusp of entering the Youth Justice system. This funding is a testament to the successes of the Youth Justice Services and ability to effectively work with the ever increasingly complex children involved in antisocial behaviour/offending/exploitation. In addition, the Office of the Crime and Police Crime Commissioner also supports the prevention work undertaken which compliments the MOJ target group.

North Tyneside YJS will comply with National Standards, data reporting and providing mandatory documents for the placement of young people in the secure estate. This will include maintaining and updating a case management system as required with the youth justice system through Connectivity. AssetPlus is the assessment and planning framework used by North Tyneside YJS where required.

In absence of a grant settlement for 2023 to 2024, the below reflects the YJS budget for the period 2022 to 2023 but has updated information regarding funding via the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The staffing of the service is compliant with the minimum staffing requirements set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and is attached in the appendix 2.

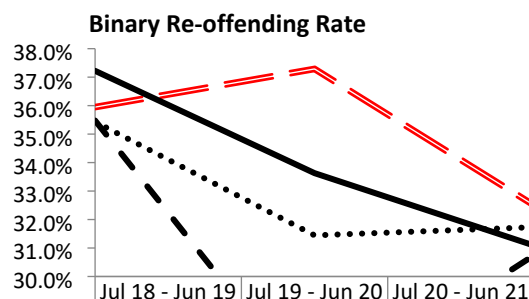
## National Key Performance Indicators

North Tyneside Youth Justice Service reports comprehensive performance information on a quarterly basis to our Management Board and partners, which is presented at Board meetings and to the staff team. Alongside the three key indicators we report on a range of information which evolves with the priorities of the service. We also produce thematic reports where the data indicates further information is required, and at the request of the Management Board.

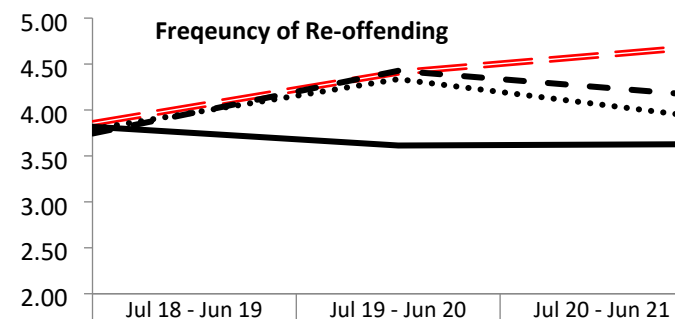
- **Re-offending Data – Ministry of Justice**

**Binary Re-offending Rate:** The below graphs show the most recently published Ministry of Justice binary re-offending rate which is 32.5% based on the 12-month weighted yearly cohort for the period July 2020 to June 2021. In terms of regional / national and family comparisons, our numbers are slightly worse for this published period.

**Frequency of Re-offending Rate:** Our frequency rate is higher than the regional, national and Northumbria comparisons, with a frequency rate of 4.69 (meaning each young person who has re-offended has committed an average of 4.69 offences).



— North Tyneside	35.9%	37.3%	32.5%
..... North East	35.4%	31.4%	31.7%
- - Northumbria PCC Area	35.5%	25.8%	30.7%
— England & Wales	37.2%	33.6%	31.1%



— North Tyneside	3.85	4.41	4.69
..... North East	3.79	4.34	3.92
- - Northumbria PCC Area	3.74	4.43	4.16
— England & Wales	3.82	3.61	3.63

Whilst this is the official data, this no longer represents our cohort. Only approximately 15 to 20% of our caseload now receive statutory/substantive outcome and are counted in this outdated indicator. These are also the most complex of cases who are most likely to re-offend and more prolifically.

### Live Tracker Data – 2021/22 Cohort

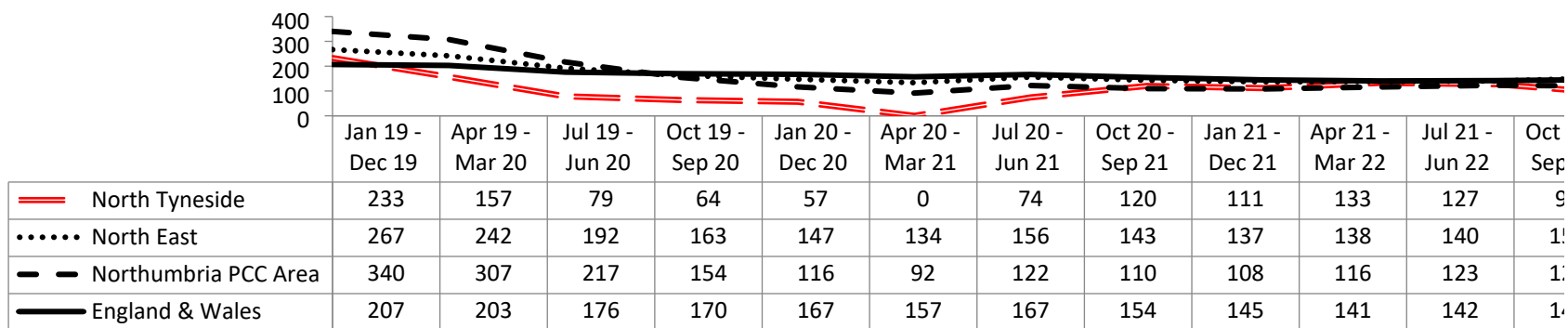
To properly track our re-offending, representing our entire caseload (i.e. those with non-substantive out of court disposals who form 80 – 85% of our current cohort) we have a live tracker. We have just concluded the tracking of the April 2021 to March 2022 cohort and have achieved a binary re-offending rate of 23.5%, with 41 out of the 174 young people having committed a further offence and a frequency rate of 2.6 offences per re-offender.

Only 14 of the 41 have received a substantive outcome, most re-offences were dealt with by an additional out of court disposal.

- **First Time entrants**

In the April 2022 to March 2023 period we had a total of 16 first time entrants in the youth justice service (local data). This is a slight reduction in comparison to 21/22 when we had 20 first time entrants. North Tyneside’s FTE rate has been very low for a few years now. The introduction of out of court panels in 2019 has enabled the diversion of young people to a non-substantive out of court disposal and intervention, and our low rate of re-offending as shown from the live tracker above, shows this to be successfully diverting the majority of young people out of the criminal justice system. The below chart shows the most recent YJB data taken from the Police National Computer (PNC). Our rate at the time of publishing was lower than Regional and National rates.

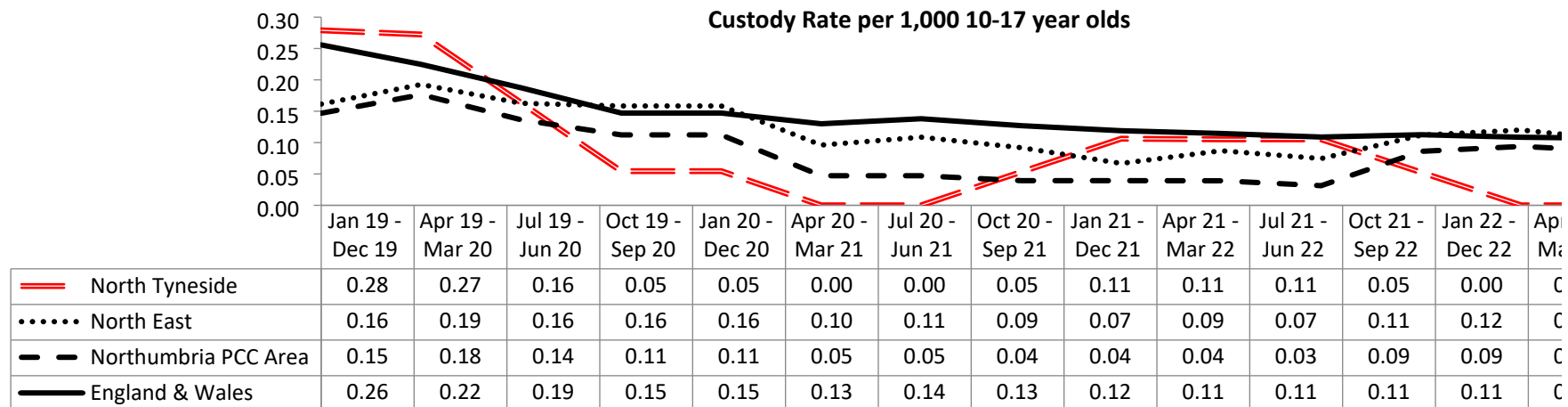
Rate of FTEs per 100,000 10-17 year olds - Jan 22 - Dec 22



- Use of custody**

We continue to have a very low rate of the use of custody within North Tyneside, with **0** custodial sentences in the 22/23 period. Wherever possible, robust community interventions are offered as an alternative to custody for young people.

In the previous annual period there were 2 sentences. Our custodial rate is currently better than the National and Regional averages. The below graph shows the custody rate per 1,000 10 – 17 year olds. Our current rate is 0.00. We aim to keep the use of custody as low as possible.



**Additional key performance indicators (from April 2023)**

- Suitable accommodation**

We have not previously reported on suitable accommodation to our Management Board but welcome this indicator. We know that the numbers of young people placed in unsuitable accommodation in recent years has been very low.

- Education, training and employment (ETE)**

We currently report to our Management Board on the numbers of young people in each quarterly report who are in ETE which is broken down by type. In recent years we have seen an increase in young people placed in Pupil Referral Units, something we monitor closely and has been on average 40% of each quarterly cohort. We have relatively small numbers of young people out of education, but report on those at the starts and ends of the intervention. We also report on current attendance and have also seen a drop in attendance in our cohort in the recent years and since the start of the pandemic in particular. It will be very useful to have some comparator data in these areas.

- **Special educational needs and disabilities/additional learning needs**

We currently report on young people with either an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or who receive Special Educational Needs Support (SEND Support) at school. We have seen increases in the numbers of children with additional educational needs, as high as almost 70% of the cohort in some quarters in 22/23 and on average around 50% of the cohort.

In terms of re-offending, we have identified that 31 out of the 41 young people that re-offended (live tracker data) had either an EHCP or SEND Support, so this is something that is high on our agenda.

- **Mental health care and emotional wellbeing**

Currently we report on the numbers of young people who have an identified mental health need at the point of assessment. This is defined as a mental health need requiring further intervention – a referral on to a relevant service, or those already receiving support. On average around 45 – 55% of the cohort are identified as having mental health needs.

- **Substance misuse**

We already report on the numbers of young people who have an identified substance misuse issue at the point of assessment. This is defined as an issue requiring further intervention – a referral on to a relevant service, or those already receiving support. On average around 40% of the cohort are identified as having issues around substance misuse.

- **Out-of-court disposals**

We report on all outcomes. Since the introduction of out of court panels in 2019 we have seen a continued shift in diverting young people via non substantive out of court disposals and this aspect of work now forms the bulk of the Youth Justice Service cohort, with 80 – 85% of interventions being out of court. In 22/23 we saw a very small increase in outcomes by around 4% in comparison to 21/22, so our work has been relatively consistent.



- **Links to wider services**

Each quarter we provide a breakdown of young people who are currently or were previously Children in Care, on a Child Protection Plan and who have Child in Need status. This does vary from quarter to quarter. We also look at those open to early help currently and who have a previous early help assessment, those who have a 'Supporting Families' case flag and those who are have a current Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referral. We also report on those with Child Criminal or Sexual Exploitation concerns.

- **Serious violence**

Violent offences are our top committed offence by young people in North Tyneside. We track this and provide a breakdown each quarter for the Management Board. The majority of our offences are below the gravity score threshold to be considered as serious violence (only 4 out of 93 in 22/23 were a 5 or above). We complete a regular 'violent offences' report which looks in detail at the nature of the offences committed, who they are committed by and who the victims are to ensure we have a full understanding of this in the Borough.

- **Victims**

We have little reporting around victims and welcome the new KPI to enable us to focus on this area. We have been without a Restorative Justice Worker for 2 years, but are currently recruiting into this role which will assist us to collate better data around this area of work.

## Local performance

In North Tyneside, there are no defined local performance targets apart from the National Key performance Indicators. There is however an expectation from the Management Board that there is a detailed performance report is compiled that reflects the children worked with. This enables the Board members to be sighted on any changes and emerging trends/issues as well as areas of strong performance. The report covers the following that covers the following areas:

1. Key Performance Indicators Summary
2. YJS Live Re-offending Tracker Data April 2021 to March 2022
3. Outcomes
4. Nature of Offending
5. January to March 2023 Cohort Data

6. Risk Register
7. National and Family Comparator Data
8. Divert from Charge
9. Turnaround and Divert

Attached is the annual performance report for the period 2022 to 2023 which looks at the full annual out turn for the 3 Key performance indicators and the latest quarter wider performance. This outlines the range of information gathered, analysed and presented to the Management Board.



Performance%20Report%20April%202022

## Children from groups which are over-represented

It is evident that within North Tyneside the ethnicity of children is predominately white British. The service has completed the disproportionality toolkit which identified that there were no concerns regarding the ethnic composition.

Historically the children in our care were a significant overrepresented group and whilst there is still children involved with the service, the use of out of court and diversionary programmes, we have seen a significant reduction in the overall number. The YJS seconded Police officers fully understand the complex needs of this group and as such are responsive to minimising the need for any formal intervention and look towards the care team to incorporate any work required. Obviously, there are occasions where this is not an option, but this is based upon gravity and risk led.

The OC2 return for the period 2022 to 2023 was 0.6% against a high of 23% seven years ago. This reduction is also a testament to the partnership practice the YJS has with colleagues in children's homes and the work they do to take a child centered restorative approach.

The performance data evidences that children with SEND make up approximately 50 to 60% of the cohort within any quarter period. This has slowly increased over the last 5 years during which time the overall number of children the YJS has worked with has reduced. Again, further compounding the increasing complexities and needs of the children we work with.

The YJS has a seconded SALT therapist who has worked in the service for 15 years. They have an exceptional understanding of the complex needs of the children and as such, work flexibly to offer screening, assessment and intervention where required. She also provides regular training to staff and a training programme is delivered to all new staff including casual staff. This aspect of work is a golden thread throughout the service.

## **Prevention / Diversion**

The YJS has been delivering a successful Diversion programme for a period of 4 years. This followed extensive work across the Northumbria Police area and required to collaboration of six YJS's.

The framework was agreed and since that point all six have been delivering an Out of Court programme which enables children to be fully assessed and appropriate and proportionate disposals used to address risk but to also take a wider family approach.

The impact has been noticeable with a continued reduction in first time entrants which also includes a significant reduction of children in our care receiving substantive outcomes. In 2015 the O2 return 18% of children in pour care received a substantive outcome and in 2022/23, that figure was 0.6%. Notwithstanding the performance impact, the approach is the correct one, where appropriate to ensure our children do not have offences recorded that may impact on their future career opportunities.

The basis of the OOC programme requires a partnership approach whereby a comprehensive assessment is completed including self-assessments from both the child and parent.

This assessment is then discussed at a weekly panel meeting which has the following representation:

- YJS Team Leader
- YJS case manager
- Police
- Early Help

- Speech, Language communication lead
- Clinical Psychologist
- Volunteer Panel Member

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) in December secured funding ringfenced to YJS nationally to deliver a focused prevention programme called “Turnaround” this programme governance arrangements are via the YJS Management Board and as such the Board receive updates regarding the development.

The funding is secured until March 2025 and has attached a target number of children to work with. The basis of the programme is aligned to the Supporting Families programme, whereby the expectation is to work with the whole family to effect change. There is no specified approach so its up to local arrangements to identify the children. There is however strict inclusion and exclusion criteria, but the base line is the child is on the cusp of becoming involved in the Youth Justice system or involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB). The Northumbria Police area is one of 10 identified as having the highest rate of ASB and received further funding via the Prime Ministers Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan. This has increased the level of funding for North Tyneside but with an increased target number of children and families to work with

The YJS is in the latter stages of employing two Prevention workers who will deliver the programme for North Tyneside. As an interim arrangement, YJS case workers have been providing the service.

In addition to the MOJ funding, Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit have funded the Northumbria YJS’s to deliver a “Divert” programme. Again, this is specific to those on the cusp of the formal system but there is no inclusion or exclusion criteria. This funding stream is also until 2025 and instead of potentially conflicting with Turnaround, in fact compliments perfectly as it means that the YJS has the means to offer a prevention programme to all children deemed or identified as at risk.

There will be quarterly reporting on both programmes and the YJS will review and assess the impact via performance reports to the Management Board.



Guide to OOC  
North Tyneside.doc



Flow Chart  
Turnaround 22.3.23.ppt

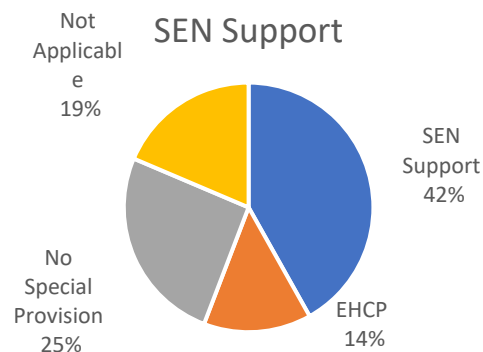
## Education

The YJS has yet to submit data for education as per new KPI requirement, but Education has been a key focus for the management board and as such, has contained within the quarterly performance reports comprehensive information.

The information has aided understanding as to the educational needs of the YJS cohort which includes:

- ETE Placement by type
- Attendance information including those receiving the required hours
- Analysis of NEET children
- SEN and EHCP
- Suspension/exclusions
- Disability
- Speech and Language

It is evident through the data set that the YJS has a high rate of children with SEN/EHCP and as such this is a core aspect of the 2023/24 delivery plan. This rate is also reflective of the authority as a whole.



The YJS has a connexions advisor attached to the service which enables an appropriate response to any changes to the child's circumstances and ensures preparation for those transitioning from formal education.

The addition of a Speech and Language therapist provides a direct assessment and or intervention to children as well as consultation for workers. This provides the evidence needed to advocate for appropriate resources/approaches within the school environment as well as providing the child with personal strategies.

## **Restorative approaches and victims**

Restorative approaches remain a central aspect of the work undertaken. There has been a void of a defined Restorative Justice / victim worker due to the existing postholder taking up the social work apprenticeship scheme, but this will be addressed and a replacement in post by September 2023. In absence of a dedicated worker, the tasks have been undertaken by the seconded police officers as well as the two YJS Team Leaders. All case workers have delivered community payback with children on a one-to-one basis or within small groups. Victim views are gathered and form a part of the Out of Court assessment and delivery plans with the same for court orders.

The service will be reporting all work with victims as part of the new KPI requirements.

## **Serious violence and exploitation**

The YJS Management Board commissioned an exception report in February 2023 on violent offences as violence is the predominant offence committed by children in North Tyneside and has been for the last 2 year period.

The Management Board needed to understand the nature of the offending as the categorisation of “violent” offences covers a wide range of behaviour and actions but does not necessarily reflect seriousness.

The report outlined in detail the offence gravity, characteristics, and demographics of the cohort. It gave the board reassurance that the level of serious youth violence is low however recognised that it had increased. However, there remains a small cohort of children who commit serious violent offences and the YJS holds monthly risk management meetings for those children identified as either high or very high risk of causing harm. The YJS currently has no children open to either MAPP level 2 or PDP.

The YJS is well signed on the Serious Youth Violence Duty and has a key objective for 2023/24 activity to complete a child focused Strategic Needs Assessment to complement to regional one currently being completed by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

This will ensure that there is a clear understanding of the specific characteristics associated to children who are either involved in or at risk.

The YJS Manager sits on the VRU operational group representing the six Northumbria services. This ensures the voice of youth justice remains a focus within operational objectives.

In respect of children Released under investigation (RUI) the YJS been sighted on the number of children currently RUI for violent offences however, this has reduced since the reintroduction of police bail. The means to offer intervention for this group is now available and forms part of the Turnaround programme cohort.

In respect of exploitation, there is a small group of young people who are identified as being at risk of, or subject to extra-familial risks, often leading to involvement with Children's Services and sometimes with intervention from specialist services.

In response, we have developed and strengthened the service offered to young people at risk of exploitation with the introduction of the Future Steps service. The service focuses exclusively with matters of contextual safeguarding and exploitation. The service is closely linked to Keeping Families Connected and the Youth Justice Service, whilst utilising the experiences and knowledge of wider services of the council and agencies across the Borough.

Future Steps work intensively with children identified within the Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked procedures, (MSET) arrangements and via Chanel. This team also link in with adult services to address and meet the needs of those children transitioning and to also look at the wider picture regarding adults both exploiting and being exploited.

The Future Steps service consists of:

- Team Leader
- Youth Justice Worker

Future Steps went live on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 and is managed by the Youth Justice Service manager. The service works with about 12 children at any time children using a child centred approach. In conjunction to the direct work with children, the service has forged and

developed working practice with the regional exploitation hub, local safeguarding arrangements and has established transition practices to adult social care.



Future Steps  
Strategy.pdf



North%20Tyneside%  
20Youth%20Justice%2

## Detention in police custody

Across the Northumbria Police area, over the last 5 years there has been a concerted focus on children detained in police custody with the aim to drive down numbers and to only use detention where absolutely necessary.

18 months ago, Operation Harbinger was introduced by Northumbria Police, also known as the Golden hour. This practice requires the custody sergeant to contact the Local Authority to obtain any relevant information that may aid the period of detention of the child such as additional needs. This has proven beneficial in which some occasion, has resulted in the child being de arrested.

In conjunction to this, Northumbria Police produce a comprehensive performance report which outlines in detail all information regarding every child detained. The custody Chief Inspector is an active member of the Northumbria Heads of Service meetings whereby all custody issues and developments are discussed.

North Tyneside has in place a robust Appropriate Adult service which is available 365 days per year and a full 24-hour service. This provision has been in place for 5 years and is managed by the YJS.

The YJS has a pool of 16 casual Appropriate Adults that cover all out of hours requests. The induction for all new Appropriate Adults has three strands to it, that being:

- Introduction to Youth Justice
- Communication session, delivered by the SALT worker.
- The role of the Appropriate adult, which is delivered along with the custody Inspector at the Police station including a visit to the custody suite to familiarise them with the environment.



There has been a drive to ensure that all children detained have their rights and entitlements read as soon as possible regardless of the proposed time of the PACE Interview. This requires the Appropriate Adult to often attend the police station on 2 occasions for the same child. This is deemed as best practice.

North Tyneside YJS is also contracted by Northumberland Count Council to deliver their Out of Hours service and has done so for a period of four years.

There is a regional Concord which is in the process of being reviewed.



Protocol for the  
Provision of Local Aut

## Use of Custody / Remand

The use of custody in North Tyneside has remained low over the last three years. In the period 2022/23, there were no custodial sentences and one remand to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA).

Wetherby any remand to YJA or where a custodial sentence is issued, the YJS review every case to assess if any further work could have been undertaken or missed opportunities to reduce the likelihood of custody.

It is acknowledged that there are occasions where an unknow child commits a grave crime that ends up with a custodial sentence and for those cases, a local review is undertaken from a partnership perspective.

## Constructive resettlement

The use of remand into Youth Detention Accommodation and Custodial sentences for children in North Tyneside is and has remained low for many years. This in part is a reflection of the low level of serious offending but also due to the relationship with court and trust that where proportionate, risk informed and proposed by the YJS, the use of community sentences/bail are high. This is reflected in the 2022 to 2023 data which indicates zero sentences.

It is rare that a child is detained for whom the YJS is not involved which ensure the service is sighted and well placed to understand the needs of the child and the factors associated to their offending and requirements for a successful resettlement plan. It is clear that resettlement starts at sentence/remand, and as such work commences at that point.

North Tyneside was part of HMIP Thematic inspection on Resettlement in 2019 which recognised the work of the service by including the case inspected as an example of good practice.

The service does not have a service specific Resettlement policy but did contribute to the regional North East Resettlement policy which is attached.



Youth Justice  
Resettlement Policy 20

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## **Standards for children in the justice system**

The service undertook a National Standards Audit in September 2022 that focused on standard 1 “Out of Court”. The service included the HMIP inspection criteria to gain a broader understanding and assessment of the work carried out. This followed a self-assessment undertaken in May 2022 which had a specific focus on the Management Board responsibilities. The findings enabled the board to reflect on how they met the standards and what was required to improve.

The findings of the “Out of Court” audit were presented to the Management Board which given the results, gave assurance to the Board that the compliance and quality of the work being delivered was assessed overall as outstanding.

The findings were translated to the workers collectively and then on an individual basis reflecting again on what was working well and what needed improvement.

This area of work was identified as good within the HMIP Inspection 2021 and since that point, processes have been strengthened.

The work within the Out of Court arena is further outlined within the “Prevention / Diversion” section of this plan including the practice protocols in place.

All assessments undertaken by the YJS, those being both Out of Court and Statutory, are quality assured and dip sample cases are assessed against both National Standards and HMIP inspection criteria. Compliance against the Standards achieved by the service were clearly reflected in the outcome of HMIP Inspection in April 2022, as was the child first ethos.

The service will be completing the National Standard audit as required in September which focuses on standards 2, At Court.

## **Workforce Development**

All YJS staff receive monthly supervision and have a current IPR. It is through this process where specific workforce development needs and opportunities are identified to be undertaken over the 12 month period.

Additional to this, the analysis of the YJS cohort is considered in respect of emerging themes and new innovation which is then incorporated into the wider Children’s Services workforce development delivery plan.

Available to all staff is a comprehensive and expanding online library and webinars of practice which all are invited to attend. The YJS also spot purchases webinars from specific providers to ensure current thinking and practice can be revised and updated.

All YJS staff have the offer of clinical supervision via the Clinical Psychologist attached to the service and encouraged to do so especially for those more demanding or stuck cases.

In respect of succession planning, staff are identified through their IPR as “aspiring managers” and are then offered the opportunity to undertake the ILM Leadership apprenticeship program.

Based upon analysis of cases of harmful sexual behaviour, the YJS commissioned AIM to deliver technology assisted HSB as this behaviour constituted the majority of all cases having been dealt with over the last 24 months.

The YJS will be commissioning specific training around risk identification and risk management planning during the 2023/24 period.

## Evidence-based practice and innovation

Through analysing the data sets and characteristics of the children and parents, The YJS is always seeking to be creative and responsive to changing needs and offence types.

A core aspect of any meaningful work is the learning styles of the children as well as being responsive to any identified additional needs.

To this end the YJS has a seconded senior Speech, Language therapist and a fulltime Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist. This combination creates a robust approach not only to undertake assessments, but to deliver direct therapeutic work to the children but has also created a culture of consultation for core YJS case workers. Both aforementioned are involved in all risk management meetings as well as the Out of Court procedures.

A recent case where a ASBI was being sought on a child, both defence and prosecution sought the input of the SALT worker in respect of the wording of the requirements to ensure the child and parent could understand the terms of the ASBI and the implications if breached. The court adjourned for this to occur.

The impact that SALT brings to the work undertaken is nationally recognised however there is little research specific to the needs of those children in the YJS. On that basis, we have embarked on discussions with Northumbria University research team to look at what opportunities are available to undertake regional research. The terms of the research have yet to be agreed but in principle, this is a piece of work that would be extremely useful.

The Violence reduction unit education team, committed to delivering a virtual reality intervention to the YJS specifically in respect of knife crime. This intervention was well received by the children attending. This was done on a one to one basis with children who were assessed at risk of knife crime or proven. This due to capacity was withdrawn early 2023 and since that point, the YJS has started to seek a means to accessing and or purchasing the virtual reality headsets to continue this work stream.

The use of art in delivering work to children in North Tyneside is extremely well established and has been available via the Summer Arts programme and more recently the more flexible Arts programme which has enabled the service to deliver across the whole year.

## Service development plan

The service delivery plan has been devised based upon the analysis of performance, the characteristics of the children worked with and emerging/best practice.

Strategic Delivery Objectives 2023 - 2024

What do we want	What will we do	How will we know
<p>Out of Court Process development to include a prevention programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed the Prevention Service (Turnaround and Divert) into the out of court process.</li> <li>• Dovetail the Prevention Service into the wider Early Help offer</li> <li>• Evaluation and Review of the impact of the Out of Court Diversion Process, alongside Regional Partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children on the cusp of becoming involved in offending/statutory services diverted in a timely manner</li> <li>• Improved outcomes for our Looked After Children.</li> <li>• Reduction in disproportionate groups being criminalised.</li> <li>• A full evaluation undertaken to ensure a consistent and proportionate disposal is delivered both within North Tyneside and across the Northumbria Police area</li> </ul>
<p>Informed approach to Serious Youth Violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To produce with partners a local Serious Youth Violence Strategy.</li> <li>• Represent the 6 Northumbria YJS's on the Violence Reduction Unit, Serious Violence delivery group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational Strategic partnership response to violence in place.</li> <li>• Children are represented in strategic and operational regional responses to serious violence.</li> <li>• Level of serious violence remains low</li> </ul>

<p>Improve access to Health and Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy to ensure there is an integrated health response for all children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YJS Clinical Psychologist integrated into the Broader offer re Health and Wellbeing to increase the YJS offer.</li> <li>• Access to the HIVE Team offer around developmental trauma to support the impact of this on those involved with YJS.</li> <li>• Access to the LINK Psychoeducation Programme to help young people understand why they respond the way they do and how to regulate emotions.</li> <li>• Children receive the right intervention in a timely manner.</li> </ul>
<p>Develop specific services for young victims of crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will undertake a full review of the practice relating to the young victims following a specific report commissioned on the nature of violent offending. This report identified a higher rate of young victims against adult victims.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear and timely victim consultation procedures in place reflective of age.</li> <li>• Higher rate of “take” up by young victims.</li> <li>• Specific age-appropriate support services and pathways in place</li> <li>• Improved confidence in the impact RJ can provide.</li> </ul>

<p>Support young people with additional Needs / Education. Training and Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenge exclusionary barriers</li> <li>• Support parents to advocate for best fit provision.</li> <li>• All children screened re SALT and offered assessment where necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YJS actively pursues creative training and education opportunities</li> <li>• Maintain high performance / low NEET figures</li> <li>• All children's additional needs are identified and acted upon.</li> </ul>
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## Challenges, risks and issues

It needs to be acknowledged that the cost of living crisis is having a direct impact on the families and children we are working with. The inter relationship between low income and acquisitive crime is well documented so we need to be sighted on the potential for an increase in children coming to the attention of the youth justice system.

The landscape of youth justice is changing and has been over the last 3 years to which a high proportion of all work undertaken is now within the Out of Court arena which is absolutely the right direction of travel if the child first principle is applied.

Given the Out of Court disposals and panel process have been operational for four years, with the six YJS's across the Northumbria Police area all signing up to the agreed practice protocol.

Whilst consistency is important across the Northumbria area, it has become apparent that there are slight variations in the way the Out of Court process is operating and it is evident that there is variation in the initial decision making process undertaken by the seconded Police officers, then subsequently the collective agreed disposals within the panel meeting.

In addition, there has been no review of the arrangements or analysis regionally that the approach is the correct one having the impact expected. In North Tyneside we can confirm the Out of Court process has assisted in a further reduction in First Time Entrants and the rate of reoffending is low as per performance reports.

As with the Out of Court procedures, the Divert from Charge procedures have been operational for 2 years, again without any formal regional analysis or review as to the impact.


Therefore, it is agreed that a full partnership review will take place to consider both Out of Court and Divert from Charge procedures.

In North Tyneside there has been an increase in the number of children in our care. The impact of this creates pressure on appropriate placements for children. Whilst there is a wide range of internal provision, the Local Authority has to commission services which at times means that a child is placed out of borough. In the main when this occurs it is usually within the Northumbria area so means that we can continue direct case management. However, this does at times raise challenges in respect of accessing the necessary services. In addition, it is evident that at times providers are not experienced or resilient enough to work with and care for some of our most complex and challenging children.

This is a national situation and one that locally we endeavour to be mindful of whenever decisions are being made.



## Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board - name	Julie Firth
Signature	
Date	30/06/2023

### Appendix 2: Budget Costs and Contributions 2023/24



PX Service Structure  
november 2022.pdf



Staff composition of  
the YJS for 2023.docx



YJS by gender and  
ethnicity 2023.docx



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