



**Name of meeting:** Corporate Parenting Board  
**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
**Title of report:** Outcomes for Looked after Children involved with the YOT

### Purpose of report

To inform and update Corporate Parenting Board (CPB) about the level of offending by Looked after Children, and the improvement in outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC) subject to an intervention with the Youth Offending Team (YOT).

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Elaine McShane (for Mel Meggs) – 2.9.19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Not applicable
Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a>	Cllr Viv Kendrick (Children)

**Electoral wards affected:** not applicable

**Ward councillors consulted:** not applicable

**Public or private:** Public

**(Have you considered GDPR?)**

Yes GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

## 1. **Summary**

This report is to update on the progress the Youth Offending Team (YOT) has made in improving the outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA) who are involved with the YOT.

During 2014 the YOT became aware of the significant disparity in outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA) dealt with by the YOT, compared with the general YOT population. Fewer than 30% of CLA successfully completed their intervention with the YOT compared with almost 70% of the general YOT population. It should also be noted that historically Kirklees had performed relatively poorly in terms of the proportion of CLA who offended.

In response to the above we took the decision to create a small team of CLA specialists who would take all cases at the YOT involving CLA. Also for the past five years the YOT has worked with Kirklees residential children's homes to increase the use of "restorative justice" as a way of dealing with most minor crimes that occur within the homes. This approach has now further developed so that the restorative team within the YOT work with the residential sector to encourage a more general restorative approach to dealing with all issues and problems that may arise.

Further details and outcomes are outlined in section 3.3 below.

## 2. **Information required to take a decision**

For information only, no decision required.

## 3. **Implications for the Council**

### 3.1 **Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)**

Not applicable

### 3.2 **Economic Resilience (ER)**

Not applicable

### 3.3 **Improving Outcomes for Children**

The YOT created a small team of staff who were all social work qualified YOT Officers that took responsibility for all CLA YOT interventions. The reasons for this were basically two-fold: firstly, developing greater expertise and skills in the additional processes required when working with CLA; secondly, to improve and develop liaison and joint working with other agencies (e.g. residential sector) and staff (e.g. Children's Social Workers and Residential Staff).

Because of the historic concerns about the poor outcomes for CLA in the YOT we wanted an objective measure that we could use to measure performance. As a result in 2015 we started to measure successful outcomes at the end of a young person's intervention. A successful outcome is defined as completing an order without re-offending or being returned to Court in breach and being resentenced.

In the year April 2015 to March 2016 29% of CLA successfully completed their intervention, while 70% of the general population did so. The aim of the YOT was to bring outcomes for CLA more in line with the general population.

There was a gradual improvement which resulted in 2017- 2018 in the successful outcomes for CLA being better than for the general population.

Last year, 2018 – 2019 66% of CLA successfully completed their interventions and whilst it was marginally lower than the general population of 77% it remains significantly higher than the 2015 -2016 baseline.

There has also been a reduction in the percentage of 10-17 year old LAC who are convicted of an offence, Last year the Kirklees figure was 5.48%. We believe this to be comparable to the national average, based on last available data from 2016.

Over the past 5 years the YOT's Restorative Justice Team has been working with the residential sector to encourage the use of restorative justice to deal with minor offences that occur within children's homes. This is basically where, with the agreement of all parties, a young person is given the opportunity to make amends (reparation) for their offence rather than going through the criminal justice system.

This work with children's homes has been broadened from just using this approach for minor offences to using restorative processes as a general problem solving method involving all parties.

The benefits for all of this approach are perhaps best summed up by a quote from a Senior Residential Care Officer at a Kirklees Children's Home to a YOT Restorative Justice worker

*"Thanks you for coming up and spending time with me going through bullying and the restorative approach. From your support and knowledge I was able to create and implement a specific bullying and restorative approach tool designed for our residential children's home"*

The current case load of young people being supervised by the YOT is 112. Of these, 13 young people are CLA (11.6%) Clearly CLA are over represented at the YOT compared to CLA in the general population.

Residential circumstances differ for CLA that are supervised by Kirklees YOT. The chart below details the numbers and the residential circumstances.

Residential Circumstance	No
Kirklees CLA residing in Kirklees	4
Kirklees CLA residing out of area	4
Out of area CLA residing in Kirklees	5

Of the 4 CLA residing in Kirklees, 3 are placed in residential care and 1 resides at home.

The 4 Kirklees CLA residing out of area 3 are resident close by in other towns and cities across West Yorkshire and 1 is placed outside of West Yorkshire, and are all placed in residential care.

The 5 CLA residing in Kirklees originate from a number of towns and cities nationwide. The YOT are currently planning a bespoke training session for foster carers to ensure that our foster carers have the same opportunity as residential care home staff to learn more about restorative justice approaches.

#### **3.4 Reducing demand of services**

Not applicable

#### **3.5 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

### **5. Next steps**

- a. YOT to continue monitoring CLA performance in terms of outcomes and offending relative to the general YOT population so that we are quickly aware of any developing concerns.
- b. YOT to maintain current level of resources for CLA (specialist YOT Social Workers).
- c. YOT restorative justice workers to continue to support residential sector by delivering training and advice on the use of restorative practices in children's homes. YOT to make available and deliver specific training to foster carers.
- d. YOT to update Corporate Parenting Board with a similar report in September 2020

### **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be noted.

### **7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

### **8. Contact officer**

Richard M Smith  
[Richardm.smith@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:Richardm.smith@kirklees.gov.uk)

### **9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Not applicable

### **10. Service Director responsible**

Elaine McShane (Family Support and Child Protection)