



**Name of meeting:** Corporate Parenting Board  
**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021  
**Title of report:** Outcomes for Children Looked After involved with the YJS

**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 Children Looked After (CLA) subject to an intervention with the Youth Justice Service (YJS).

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	Signed by Elaine McShane, Service Director Family Support and Child Protection (on behalf of Mel Meggs, Director for Children's Services ) 11 March 2021
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 Justice Service has made in improving the outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA) who are involved with the Youth Justice Service.

We have developed closer working relationships with the wider children's services enabling us to provide better support to young people and their families which includes a protocol between YJS and Children's social care. Over the last twelve months we have seen a decrease in the number of children involved with YJS who are also looked after.

Additionally, the Youth Engagement Service (YES) has been developed and the Youth Justice Service is located within YES to enhance the support and service to young people at risk of or experiencing exploitation. YES is a newly formed team within Children's Social Care, created through bringing together the previous Youth Intervention Team (YIT), Risk and Vulnerabilities Team (R&V), Youth Justice Service (YJS) and Early Support Services. The aim is to provide a flexible and responsive service to reduce risks and vulnerability to child exploitation and episodes of missing from home and care.

There continues to be a relatively modest proportion of Kirklees CLA in the Youth Justice System. This equates to 11% of the entire cohort. The CLA cohort has a significantly higher successful completion of intervention rate (93%) in comparison to the wider YJS cohort.

Of this cohort the majority (85%) of children were in Education, Training or Employment (ETE) at the end of their involvement with the Youth Justice Service. Youth Justice practitioners work closely with key education and training staff across Kirklees utilizing the ETE Pathways

The highest proportion of main offences committed involved violence (39%). The reduction in violence offences remains one of the key objectives for the Youth Justice Service.

The Youth Justice Service will continue to work closely with colleagues in Children's Social Care and others to divert young people (including CLA) away from being prosecuted. 39% of the CLA cohort were First Time Entrants' to the Youth Justice System.

There were 37% of the children who were reported to be from a BAME background (with the wider population for Kirklees District children being circa 30% from a BAME background). Disproportionality has also been set by the Youth Justice Management Board as a strategic priority for 2021-25 and a subgroup of the YJ Board will shortly commence to help drive practice seeking to reduce disproportionality across Youth Justice services.

## **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

## **4 Improving Outcomes for Children**

The Youth Justice Service will be working with young people who are or have been exploited and those whose circumstances will expose them to risk of exploitation.

The Integration of YJS and co-investment with the Youth Engagement Service (YES) is to provide a service that is tailored to the needs and wishes of the child or young person, is child centred and takes a relationship-based approach. The YES will support the child and carers by offering direct work with young people and their families/carers, to inform, support, and empower. Often this will be achieved by being an additional service alongside the statutory plan. Within the YES there is a significant role for the Youth Justice Service. There is a real ambition to closer align the Youth Justice Service with the remainder of the Youth Engagement Service.

Youth Justice practitioners work closely with key education and training staff across Kirklees and although not having a dedicated education worker, do utilise the Employment Training and Education (ETE) Pathways and SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) and YJ Protocol with a focus upon Education Health Care Plans (EHCP). Kirklees YJS received 'Quality Lead' status from Education for All in 2019. ETE is regarded as being one of the key factors in diverting and keeping children away from offending and it is pleasing that this cohort have benefited from this joint working.

Where children are missing from education or at risk of exclusion or having difficulties finding a suitable placement, youth justice staff are represented on both the Single Point of Referral and Behaviour and Attendance Collaborative' (BACS) Meetings; where individual children are discussed, and a plan put into place to support them. The Virtual School is the key lead in terms of ETE Placements for young people in care and joint working here will also have a particular focus going forward.

A significant proportion of the children within this cohort have experienced abuse, trauma, and neglect. This directly impacts on their social, emotional, and physical development. The Youth Engagement Workers and Health and Wellbeing staff within the wider YJS and YES (Youth Engagement Service) Detached Youth Support Service provide trauma informed interventions, which can make a significant contribution toward a child's overall health and wellbeing. Additionally, we have recently recruited a senior mental health worker who will be seconded into YJS from CAMHS which will further support this work.

In terms of the Speech, Language and Communication element, the Youth Justice Service and YJ Management Board have challenged the CCG regarding the needs of the YJ cohort and this is currently being considered within the therapies review. It is hoped that the YJS will have an in-house provision working alongside the youth justice practitioners to deliver a service to those children with those specific and complex needs (SEND).

**4.1 Reducing demand of services**

Not applicable

**4.2 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

**5. Next steps**

- Improve ETE outcomes for children in the YJ cohort, specifically those who are also CLA
- A reduction in the use of violence and serious violence, with a sharper focus on serious violence in the CLA cohort
- Improved coordination and diversion for CLA at risk of offending
- Improved access to a range of health services to support desistance.
- Further integrate YES and contextual safeguarding practices.

**6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be noted.

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

Not applicable

**8. Contact officer**

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

Not applicable

**10. Service Director responsible**

Elaine McShane (Family Support and Child Protection)