



## **Local Government Act 1972**

**I Hereby Give You Notice** that an **Ordinary Meeting** of the **Durham County Council** will be held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 10.00 am** to transact the following business:-

1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2022 (Pages 5 - 14)
2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members
3. Chair's Announcements
4. Leader's Report
5. Questions from the Public
6. Petitions
7. Report from the Cabinet
8. County Durham Youth Justice Service, Youth Justice Plan 2022 - 2023 - Report of Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services (Pages 15 - 70)
9. Adoption of Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Report of Interim Head of Regeneration, Economy and Growth (Pages 71 - 76)
10. Motions on Notice

### **Councillor M Stead to Move**

Council recognises the assistance provided by the government to help County Durham residents with the cost

of living crisis including financial assistance to help with energy costs and the re-introduction of the pensions triple-lock.

Council further recognises the assistance we as a council have given this year by freezing the core council tax.

However, with inflation approaching 10%, we recognise there is more to do, and so council commits to holding a cost of living summit bringing together charities, the council and other bodies to co-ordinate plans to help residents.

Further, council calls on government to consider additional help for residents and to recognise that as a county covering 1000 square miles, with hundreds of communities, County Durham should have its funding allocation reviewed to take into account its rurality.

This would ensure as a council we are able to continue to protect frontline services for our residents with the additional funding a rural designation provides.

### **Councillor L Holmes to Move**

This council notes that eating disorders and excess weight are public health concerns for our county and considers that a whole systems approach is required to promote healthy weight by supporting people to reduce excess calorie intake and increase physical activity.

This council will continue to work across the whole system with our communities, families, education settings, employers, and the VCS to address food poverty and to increase access to affordable healthy food, to promote healthy food options and to promote and increase access to physical activity.

The Eatwell Guide is a policy tool used to define government recommendations on eating healthily and achieving a balanced diet.

Given the importance of healthy food this Council calls for partners across the whole system to work with government recommendations on healthy eating and adopt the Eatwell Guide as the standard they aim to achieve for their food offer.

### **Councillor C Hunt to Move**

Council notes the problems caused in our communities by the misuse of nitrous oxide and calls upon the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to respond to the Home Secretary's request to review the harm caused by nitrous oxide and better understand whether further restrictions on the drug are needed, including whether unlawful possession should be made an offence.

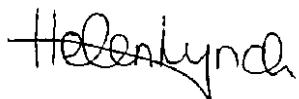
### **Councillor J Quinn to Move**

This council is to request that Livin and other social housing associations open an email address specifically for councillors to direct concerns and work, such as trimming of hedges etc.

#### 11. Questions from Members

**And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named act, I Hereby Summon You to attend the said meeting**

Dated this 12th day of July 2022



Helen Lynch  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

**To: All Members of the County Council**

This page is intentionally left blank

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At an **Ordinary Meeting** of the County Council held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 22 June 2022 at 10.00 am**

### **Present:**

#### **Councillor B Bainbridge (Chair) in the Chair**

Councillors J Rowlandson, A Batey, D Stoker, A Bell, D Freeman, O Gunn, S Zair, J Charlton, R Crute, L Hovvels, S Henig, S Robinson, E Adam, G Richardson, K Shaw, C Kay, C Hampson, R Ormerod, A Shield, A Hopgood, T Smith, W Stelling, A Surtees, R Bell, A Watson, M Wilkes, R Yorke, T Henderson, F Tinsley, B Kellett, S McDonnell, K Hawley, E Scott, P Sexton, A Simpson, D Brown, S Quinn, M Wilson, J Nicholson (Vice-Chair), I McLean, P Jopling, M McKeon, L Maddison, J Atkinson, C Martin, L Mavin, L Kennedy, R Manchester, B Coulter, J Higgins, D Wood, S McMahon, G Binney, E Peeke, R Adcock-Forster, J Quinn, J Miller, D Nicholls, N Jones, D Oliver, M Johnson, D McKenna, R Potts, P Pringle, J Purvis, A Jackson, G Hutchinson, C Hunt, I Roberts, K Robson, K Rooney, D Howarth, C Hood, L A Holmes, P Heavyside, A Hanson, J Griffiths, C Fletcher, L Fenwick, K Fantarrow, J Elmer, A Sterling, K Earley, T Stubbs, B McAloon, D Sutton-Lloyd, S Deinali, M Currah, S Townsend, J Cosslett, E Waldock, M Walton, J Cairns, M McGaun, C Bell, K Batey, V Andrews and C Lines

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Blakey, C Marshall, P Taylor, J Shuttleworth, A Savory, D Boyes, J Chaplow, D Hall, M Simmons, S Wilson, I Cochrane, L Brown, A Reed, P Atkinson, E Mavin, T Duffy, B Mois, P Molloy, D Mulholland, M Abley, J Howey, D Haney, M Stead, C Varty and R Charlton-Lainé

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair reported with regret the death of former Councillor and Honorary Alderman Bob Alderson. Bob was a Derwentside District Councillor from 1991 to 2009 and a Durham County Councillor from 2008 to 2014 representing the Burnopfield and Dilton Electoral Division. Members stood for a moments silence out of respect to Bob.

### **1 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2022 were confirmed by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Councillor Wilkes referred to page 12 of the minutes and informed Council that it was he who raised the point of order regarding a Member leaving the Chamber during a vote. The Council agreed that the minutes would be amended to reflect this.

**Resolved:**

That the Minutes, as amended, be approved.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items of business on the agenda.

## **3 Chair's Announcements**

The Chair outlined the following procedural points before the meeting continued:

- Members should be respectful to each other during the meeting;
- While robust debate was part of the democratic process, Members should respect the views of others and not point fingers during debate;
- Points of order could be made by individual Members if it was felt there had been an alleged breach of the Council Procedure Rules or the law, but once a point of order had been dealt with the decision was final and the matter would not be revisited;
- If there was to be a vote Members should be present in the Chamber to cast their vote.

Since elected as Chair of the Council the Chair had attended a number of events including a special Cathedral Evensong for Venerable Bede and visits to schools.

The Chair had attended events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, including the unveiling of a wonderful display on Gilesgate Roundabout created by the County Council's Clean and Green and Civic Pride Teams, with help from children from Gilesgate Primary School.

The Chair had also been joined by the Council's Armed Forces Champion Councillor Paul Sexton to raise the Armed Forces Day flag outside of County Hall, which symbolised Durham's unwavering support for forces personnel to mark Armed Forces Day on Saturday 25 June and Reserves Day which was 22 June.

## **4 Leader's Report**

The Council noted a report from the Leader of the Council as follows:

The Leader thanked everyone involved in the bid to be named UK City of Culture 2025 for all their hard work and for their enthusiasm, commitment and belief. Everyone did an amazing job and should be incredibly proud of themselves.

Sadly, Durham was not named as UK City of Culture 2025 and Bradford was awarded the title. The Leader congratulated them on their success.

While it was disappointing not to have been chosen, Durham should take great pride in having made it to the final four from an initial longlist of 20 bidding areas. That was a fantastic achievement in itself and the exposure County Durham received had been phenomenal, with significant regional and national media interest and support. Earlier this month, the Leader attended the launch of North East Screen, a prestigious event with leading industry figures from across the UK. Everybody the Leader spoke to knew about County Durham and about its City of Culture bid, demonstrating how participation in the award process had raised awareness of Durham regionally and nationally.

There was now a need to seize the moment and build on the enormous wave of public support which had been created, to make the most of the connections and relationships which had been built and harness the innovation and creativity that had come to the fore during the 10 months of the campaign.

Working with Durham University and Culture Durham, Durham was determined to deliver on the ambitious plans within the bid, creating a county of culture that attracted tourists from across the UK and beyond, delivered thousands of new jobs and improved wellbeing.

It was vital that culture remained at the heart of efforts to drive economic growth and level up the region.

With that in mind, it was the perfect time to look ahead at the many cultural events taking place across the county during the coming weeks.

Following the Platinum Jubilee weekend, Durham continued to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 70-year reign with a picnic and concert at Wharton Park. Durham would also be welcoming the Queen's Baton Relay on 14 July, ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Durham had a packed programme of events, from live street music to sell-out performances by world-renowned artists, as part of the annual Brass Festival, which once again coincided with the ever-popular Durham City Run.

With so much to look forward even in the short time before the next Council meeting, it was not hard to see that Durham truly was the UK's County of culture.

## **5 Questions from the Public**

Two public questions had been received from members of the public.

The first question was asked in person by Dr L Welch on behalf of 'Keep our NHS Public North East' and asked what Durham County Council is doing to promote local participation and scrutiny regarding decision-making by Integrated Care Boards. Councillor P Sexton, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services provided a response to the question, which would be posted on the Council's website.

The second question was from Mr N Kasch and related to the Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility as a future source of liability for the Council. Mr Kasch was unable to attend the meeting to ask his question, but Councillor M Wilkes, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change noted that he would respond to the question in writing following the meeting, and the response would be posted on the Council's website.

## **6 Petitions**

There were no petitions for consideration.

## **7 Report from the Cabinet**

The Council noted a report from the Cabinet which provided information on issues considered at its meetings held on 16 March, 6 April, 27 April and 18 May 2022 (for copy see file of Minutes).

## **8 Council Plan 2022-2026**

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which sought approval of the Council Plan covering the period 2022-2026 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Councillor C Martin, Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board informed Council that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had welcomed the opportunity to consider the draft Council Plan at its meeting on 17 June 2022.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board was keen to understand how performance against the objectives would be measured and

welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the developing and monitoring of the performance framework.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board also welcomed the inclusion of key performance indicators in the Plan which set out what success looked like and how it would be measured.

Members expressed the view that the cultural offer and actions outlined in the Plan should be built on and stressed the need to promote every aspect of the County's heritage.

In particular, it was important that the heritage and culture of all towns and villages was reflected within the Plan including The Story at Mount Oswald project which would bring together five collections for the first time at a flagship facility which would transform the way the history of County Durham was told.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board welcomed the inclusion of a fifth objective for the Council on the Environment and the parity given to the Ecological Emergency.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered and endorsed the change in approach to previous plans from appending the Council's equality policy to embedding the objectives within the Plan itself. It was suggested that the next iteration of the Plan include a link to the policy for completeness.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board understood that going forwards the Plan was to be refreshed every year and welcomed the opportunity to help shape the future of County Durham.

The opening date for The Story at Mount Oswald noted in the Plan was queried.

**Moved** by Councillor A Hopgood, **Seconded** by Councillor R Bell and

**Resolved:**

That the Council Plan 2022-2026 attached at Appendix 2 of the report be approved.

## **9 Motions on Notice**

The Chair informed Council that Councillor M Stead had requested his motion be deferred to the next Council meeting.

Councillor A Batey informed Council that she wished to alter her motion and **Moved** the following with the additional wording shown in italics:

I propose that the allocation of £125,000 awarded to the Council as runners up of the city of culture bid is topped up from the general reserve by £15,000 to a total of £140,000.

*Subject to the grant conditions confirming this is an appropriate use of the £125,000 grant awarded,* this money can then be distributed equally to each of the 14 area action partnerships across our county to ensure that the whole county benefits and is able to celebrate from the City of Culture runners up award.

Council **agreed** the alteration to the motion.

The Motion was **Seconded** by Councillor A Surtees.

A named vote on the Motion was requested.

### **For the Motion**

E Adam, R Adcock-Forster, V Andrews, J Atkinson, A Batey, K Batey, C Bihari, G Binney, R Crute, S Deinali, K Earley, L Fenwick, C Fletcher, J Griffiths, O Gunn, C Hampson, A Hanson, K Hawley, S Henig, J Higgins, L Hovvels, D Howarth, M Johnson, C Kay, B Kellett, L Kennedy, L Maddison, R Manchester, B McAloon, D McKenna, M McKeon, I McLean, S McMahon, J Miller, D Nicholls, P Pringle, J Purvis, S Quinn, I Roberts, K Shaw, G Smith, T Smith, A Surtees, F Tinsley, S Townsend, E Waldock, M Wilson, D Wood and R Yorke,

### **Against the Motion**

B Bainbridge, A Bell, C Bell, R Bell, D Brown, J Cairns, J Charlton, J Cosslett, B Coult, M Currah, J Elmer, R Fantarrow-Darby, D Freeman, Heavside, T Henderson, L Holmes, C Hood, A Hopgood, C Hunt, G Hutchinson, A Jackson, N Jones, P Jopling, C Lines, C Martin, L Mavin, S McDonnell, M McGaun, J Nicholson, D Oliver, R Ormerod, E Peeke, R Potts, J Quinn, G Richardson, S Robinson, K Robson, K Rooney, J Rowlandson, E Scott, P Sexton, A Shield, A Simpson, W Stelling, A Sterling, D Stoker, T Stubbs, D Sutton-Lloyd, M Walton, A Watson, M Wilkes and S Zair.

The Motion was **Lost**.

## 10 Questions from Members

### Councillor C Marshall

Further to a previous question to full council and a letter in which I referenced the Sniperley development sent to the Leader, could the relevant cabinet member please provide an update on the planning application for the strategic housing site at Sniperley? Is the Council at risk of non-determination? What costs are the Council exposed to and what is the risk of the extensive community benefits from the scheme being scrapped by the delays in bringing forward the planning application to committee?

Councillor C Marshall was not in attendance and therefore it was noted that a written response to his question would be provided.

### Councillor J Miller

Can the Cabinet member for Equality and Inclusion explain how the Poverty Action Plan addresses the concerns raised in the Food Action Plan Motion put forward to Full Council in September 2021?

Councillor A Shield, Portfolio Holder for Equality and Inclusion thanked Councillor Miller for his question and provided the following response:

*Rising food, fuel and energy costs caused by geo political economic factors driving up inflation is undoubtedly having a significant impact on all households across our county, impacting most acutely on those more financially vulnerable households.*

*There are several mechanisms already in place to support those who face food insecurity across County Durham – some are Government funded, some are Council funded initiatives, some are being delivered by key partners and we also have the Welfare Assistance Scheme in place to support those without access to enough money to provide basic household essentials, including food.*

*One of the key actions in the Child Poverty Strategy is to increase take up of free school meals plus other pupil premium based benefits for those who are eligible, and we also work closely with the Foodbanks across County Durham plus charities such as That Bread and Butter Thing. The Chief Executive of that organisation will be attending the Poverty Action Steering Group next month to update us on the work they are doing at a national level to inform our local approach.*

*There is also a food partnership, Food Durham, which brings together key organisations within Durham, with the aim of reducing food waste, improving access to healthy, fresh food and to ensure that those struggling financially*

*have access to food. They have a network of organisations that deliver projects and initiatives around food and are developing a strategy which we need to align with as part of our partnership approach.*

*The current consultation exercises for both the refresh of the Council's overarching Poverty Strategy and Action Plan and the child poverty plan include actions which specifically address food security – however, the consultation process is designed to understand what more needs to be done to use the resources we have as a Council and through our partners, to go further. We have been keen to ensure that we engage with all our Area Action Partnerships to gain that vital local information and intelligence and build on local initiatives already in place to inform our strategy refresh.*

*The consultation responses will be brought back to cabinet in November with an updated strategy and action plan; this will include a specific food strategy to underpin the wider actions to address poverty.*

*I would urge all Members to put forward their views as part of the consultation process and to encourage the local community groups you work with, to do the same.*

*I also want to give some assurance that we are also looking at what we can do, using our Welfare Assistance Reserve, in line with our Poverty Strategy and Action Plan refresh, to provide more ongoing support to those residents that are struggling financially due to the current situation.*

### **Councillor L Hovvels**

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources Investment and Assets, please explain what the council strategy is to regenerate our ex-mining villages, by redeveloping or demolishing vacant buildings such as Blue Bell School in Trimdon Grange instead of leaving them to become a target for anti-social behaviour?

Councillor J Rowlandson, Portfolio Holder for Resources, Investment and Assets thanked Councillor Hovvels for her question and provided the following response:

*The council will be aware that we are currently in the middle of a process of developing the first Inclusive Economic Strategy for the county and as part of that process we have been undertaking a four-month conversation with key stakeholders, residents and communities.*

*Over 1500 people completed the questionnaire and a further 1500 people engaged in structured events during the consultation process. One of the key issues which has come out is the importance of creating attractive and*

*sustainable communities and this includes a number of former mining villages.*

*Members will be able to contribute to the next stage of development of the strategy in advance of Cabinet being asked to agree the final version in the autumn and I would expect Councillor Hovvels and other members will actively engage in the strategy process.*

*The issue of specific vacant properties across the county is one that we need to deal with on an individual basis and the relevant officers will contact Councillor Hovvels to discuss the issue in Trimdon Grange.*

This page is intentionally left blank

**County Council**

**20 July 2022**

**County Durham Youth Justice Service,  
Youth Justice Plan 2022 – 2023**



## **Report of Corporate Management Team**

**John Pearce, Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Services**

**Councillor Ted Henderson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children & Young People's Services**

### **Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

### **Purpose of the Report**

1 This report presents the Youth Justice Plan 2022/23 for information and comment and highlights some of the key achievements in reducing re-offending during 2021/22 along with areas for improvement which the Service will focus on during the current year.

### **Executive summary**

2 Production of a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement of the Local Authority under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and is one of the requirements of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) grant we receive. The plan must be submitted to the YJB by 30 June 2022 and will then undergo an approval process (with feedback) before finally being distributed to relevant bodies. The YJB has provided detailed guidance on the headings within the plan and the areas to be covered within each heading. Unlike previous years, the YJB requires the report to be submitted in the attached format, using the attached template.

3 At the time of producing this report, we are still awaiting notification from the YJB of the amount of YJB core grant for 2022-23. In addition, we are also still awaiting notification from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) of the amount of Remand Grant for 2022-23. We have, however, been informed that there will be a 'significant' uplift in the YJB grant this year. In addition, the Minister has written to all Youth Justice Services informing us of significant additional funding (total national funding will be £300 million over three years). This additional funding will be from

both the YJB and the MoJ in the form of grants for each Youth Justice Service, along with additional requirements in respect of programme developments and Key Performance Indicators. No further detail has been provided at this stage.

- 4 The attached plan, particularly the service improvement plan, has been developed prior to the announcement of the additional funding and new requirements. Therefore, the plan will be amended during the year as more information becomes available.

## **Key Achievements 2021/22**

### *Performance against National Outcome Measures 2021/22*

- 5 Data for the national outcome measures, produced by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and for both First Time Entrants (FTEs) and Re-offending, are based on data taken from the Police National Computer.

#### First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs):

- (a) Between October 2015-September 2016 and October 2020-September 2021, we have achieved a **64.2% reduction** in first time entrants to the youth justice system, from a rate of **410** per 100,000 10-17 year olds to **147**;

#### Re-offending

- (b) Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (April 2019 – March 2020 cohort) shows a re-offending rate of **33.5%** which is an **11.4% reduction** compared to the previous year. This is lower than the average England rate of 34.2%;

#### Use of Custody

- (c) Custodial Sentences:

Between 2013 and 2021 we have reduced the rate of custodial sentences from **0.73** to **0.13** per 1,000 10–17-year-olds;

- (d) The CDYJS rate per 1,000 10-17 population of 0.13 is higher than both the England and North East average rates of 0.10 and 0.06 respectively. This, therefore, remains a challenge for the Service to reduce, where appropriate, the use of custodial sentences. Each time a young person receives a custodial sentence, the role of CDYJS is reviewed to ensure that we have undertaken all appropriate tasks to ensure that custody is used as a last resort;

- (e) The most recent locally sourced information (April 2021-March 2022) shows **5 custodial sentences** which is a reduction of 5 from the previous year;

Remand Bed Nights: 5

- (f) The total bed nights for 2021/22 was **5 nights**. This is a **95% decrease** on the previous year. Each case where a young person is remanded to youth detention is reviewed and in all cases during the year, the remand to youth detention was considered appropriate due, mostly, to the seriousness of the offences but also due to the offending history of the young people.

*Work with Victims, including Young Victims*

- 6 Our work with victims of youth crime in 2021/22 has engaged a further 142 victims (both adults and young people) in restorative approaches. Our work with young people who are the victims of youth crime has provided dedicated support and an opportunity to re-build and restore confidence. The support group for young victims of all crime ('With Youth in Mind') has continued to develop and is now working with an average of around 35 young people at any one time throughout the year. Young people who offend have also engaged in 1,247 hours of unpaid work in and across communities in County Durham as a means of reparation.

*Targeting those young people committing the most offences*

- 7 The Service has continued to prioritise our work with young people who are persistently offending. The Service operates an enhanced, intensive, case management model for this cohort of young people. Each case is reviewed monthly by a panel chaired by the YJS Manager. Monitoring of this work has continued to show that whilst significant reductions in offending are sometimes difficult to achieve, it is possible to have a meaningful impact in reducing both the frequency and seriousness of offending.

**Recommendation(s)**

- 8 Council is recommended to:
- note the contents of this report;
  - receive the Youth Justice Plan 2022/23.

## **Background**

- 9 Youth Offending Teams (referred to in County Durham as ‘Youth Justice Service’) are statutory partnerships, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with the principal aim of preventing offending by children and young people. Local authorities are responsible for establishing a Youth Offending Team. Police, the Probation Service (NPS) and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) are statutorily required to assist in their funding and operation.
- 10 Local authorities continue to have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the partnership’s responsibilities in producing this plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:
  - (a) how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded;
  - (b) how the Youth Justice Service will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
- 11 This current plan covers performance for the period 2021/22 and provides service budgets, operational and strategic developments within the Service and partnership, service structure and the Service Improvement Plan for 2022 – 2023.
- 12 In accordance with statutory requirements, the plan was approved by CDYJS Management Board on 13 June 2022
- 13 The Youth Justice Plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State. The deadline for submission this year was 30 June 2022. After submission to the YJB, Youth Justice Plans are sent to Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP - lead inspectorate for YJS inspections) and are placed in the House of Commons library.
- 14 A copy of the updated Youth Justice Plan is attached as Appendix 2.
- 15 The Plan outlines how CDYJS will:
  - (a) reduce First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System;
  - (b) reduce re-offending by young people;

- (c) reduce the use of custody for both sentenced and remanded young people.
- 16 We are seeking to do this through:
- (a) improving the interventions we complete with young people;
  - (b) improving the quality of our assessments and plans;
  - (c) targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences;
  - (d) ensuring that we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us;
  - (e) continuing to improve our work with victims – both adults and young people;
  - (f) ensuring that volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we do with young people and victims;
  - (g) ensuring that case management systems and administration support provides the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities, victims, families and young people.
- 17 Alongside the formal plan which follows the specific template provided by the YJB, work is now taking place on a more accessible and shorter plan which will be shared with stakeholders when available.
- 18 HMI Probation is currently four years into a six-year inspection cycle. CDYJS and partnership are yet to be inspected under the current cycle. An Inspection Framework for Youth Offending Services was published in June 2020, which sets clear standards expected of the Youth Justice Service, to ensure the provision of a high quality, personalised and responsive service for all children and young people. Whilst there are many aspects of good performance contained within the current plan, the service is not complacent and is fully aware of the areas where practice needs to change, and performance improve. We are also mindful of the lingering impact of COVID on our services, partner agencies, young people and families. We have completed a robust, detailed self-assessment against the published inspection standards. This work has informed our ongoing quality improvement plans and the Service Improvement Plan for 2022/23.

## **Background papers**

19 Youth Justice Plan 2022 – 2023 (Appendix 2)

## **Authors**

Martyn Stenton Tel: 03000 268067

David Summers Tel: 03000 265999

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

The Youth Justice Plan ensures Durham County Council and statutory partners meet their legal implications to the partnership. Statutory requirements placed on the Youth Justice Service and the Management Board include: Complying with the statutory requirements laid out in section 38 to 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and other relevant sections of the Act; Complying with National Standards for Youth Justice (including returning the annual National Standards audit); Submitting required data to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in adherence with the relevant YJB data recording guidance; Approving the annual Youth Justice Plan.

### **Finance**

The Youth Justice Plan contains CDYJS partnership pooled budget and staff secondment/deployment arrangements for 2022/23. CDYJS budget comprises partnership funding, YJB funding and specific grant funding. The budget allocation is reviewed annually by CDYJS Management Board and all partners (Police, Probation, Health (ICB) and Local Authority) agree funding contributions for the following year. Under the terms of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998; DCC, Durham Constabulary, Probation Service and ICB are required to both contribute staff and provide funding for a pooled budget for operating costs. The total budget for CDYJS for 2022/23 is to be confirmed. The total budget for CDYJS includes the cost of staff seconded to CDYJS from partners.

### **Consultation**

CDYJS Management Board, partners, staff, young people, parents/carers have been consulted in updating the Youth Justice Plan. The portfolio holder for CYPS is briefed on it and the related inspection requirements for this service area.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

CDYJS is committed to meeting the needs of the young people, families and victims with whom we work. All staff have undertaken specialist diversity training for youth offending, speech language and communication needs training and, in addition, case managers have undertaken specialist diversity training for assessments. Diversity issues are a specific category on the checklist used by managers to countersign assessments and intervention plans. Over representation of any groups within the youth justice system is specifically covered in the plan.

## **Climate Change**

Not applicable.

## **Human Rights**

Not applicable.

## **Crime and Disorder**

The statutory function of CDYJS partnership is the prevention of offending by children and young people (Crime and Disorder Act 1998). The Youth Justice Plan provides detail on how the partnership will undertake those functions.

## **Staffing**

Staff establishment is included in the plan, in line with YJB requirements.

## **Accommodation**

All managers and staff in CDYJS have their main base in DCC, Crook.

## **Risk**

Risks to future delivery have been considered and are included in the plan.

## **Procurement**

Not applicable.

---

---

## **Appendix 2: County Durham Youth Justice Plan 2022 - 2023**

---

---

See attached document.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Youth Justice Plan

**Service:** County Durham Youth Justice Service

**Service Manager:** David Summers

**Chair of Youth Justice  
Service Board:** Martyn Stenton

## Contents

1. Introduction, vision and strategy .....	Page 2
2. Local context .....	Page 3
3. Child First .....	Page 7
4. Voice of the child .....	Page 8
5. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements.....	Page 9
6. Resources and services .....	Page 14
7. Progress on previous plan.....	Page 17
8. Performance and priorities .....	Page 21
9. Service improvement plan .....	Page 35
10. Evidence-based practice and innovation .....	Page 39
11. Sign off, submission and approval.....	Page 39
12. Appendix 1 – Management Board membership.....	Page 40
13. Appendix 2 – Service Structure Chart.....	Page 41

## 1. Introduction

This document is the updated Youth Justice Plan for 2022 - 2023. This plan is a statutory requirement of Local Authorities and is in two parts. The first part of the plan provides information about the performance of County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS) and Partnership during 2021-2022; whilst the second part details the plans in-place to ensure that the service continues to deliver a high, and continually improving, level of service for 2022-2023.

The plan for 2022-2023 follows a template and format provided by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and is one which we are required to follow. There are several uncertainties, currently, which directly impact on this plan. The grant from the YJB is unknown at the time of writing, the Remand Grant from the Youth Custody Service is also unknown. The government minister, responsible for youth justice, has written to each Youth Justice Service to outline planned increases in funding from the Ministry of Justice, alongside additional responsibilities for each service. The plan is for the increase in funding and additional responsibilities to become operational during 2022-2023. This will clearly impact on our Youth Justice Plan, so, the plan will be amended during the current year as required.

It is over two years since the first announcement of a lockdown to combat the spread of Covid19. The impact of the pandemic is still felt by the Youth Justice Service, young people and families with whom we work, partner agencies and the communities we serve.

It is pleasing to highlight in this plan the continued high level of performance and improvement during 2021-2022. The national measures of First Time Entrants (FTE) to the youth justice system; reoffending by young people dealt with by the police and courts; and the use of custody all show continued improvements in performance.

The review of performance during 2021-2022 also shows how CDYJS continued to innovate and continued to drive forward actions to improve performance, displaying a commitment to quality services. Clearly, the service is not complacent and there are areas where further improvement must be achieved, and they are laid out in the Service Improvement Plan for 2022-2023.

The strength of the partnership governing and supporting the work of the service is also clearly demonstrated in the plan, both in terms of the representation and seniority of Management Board members and through the many links with the range of strategies and partnerships which are provided by Management Board members.

Martyn Stenton  
Chair of County Durham Youth Justice Service Management Board

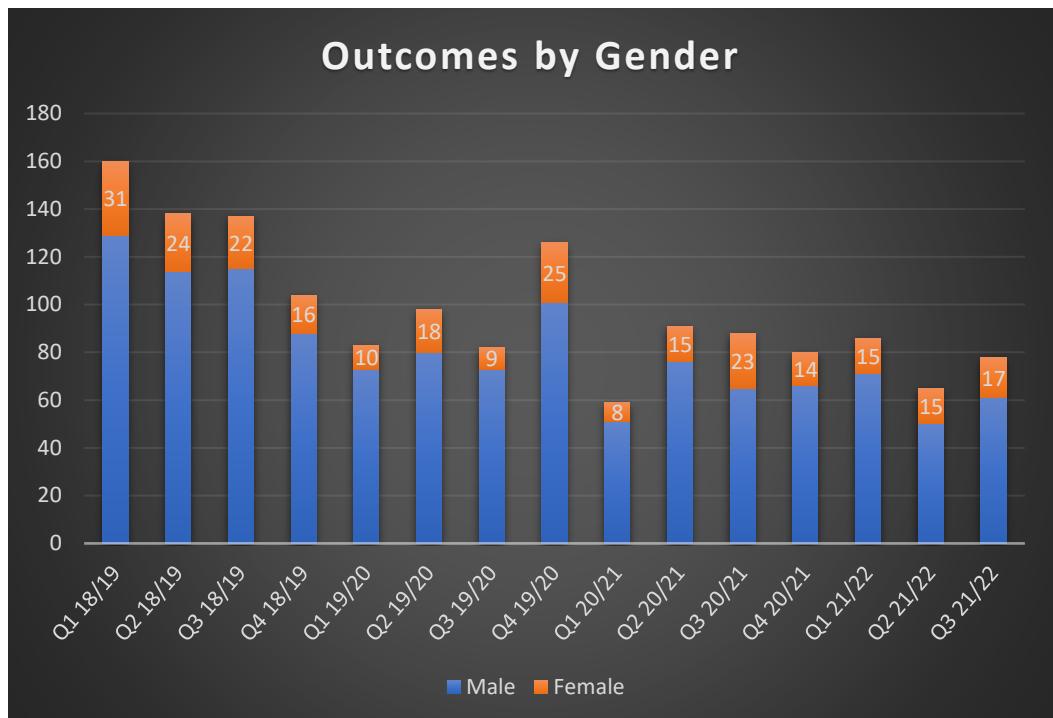
## 2. Local context

### General

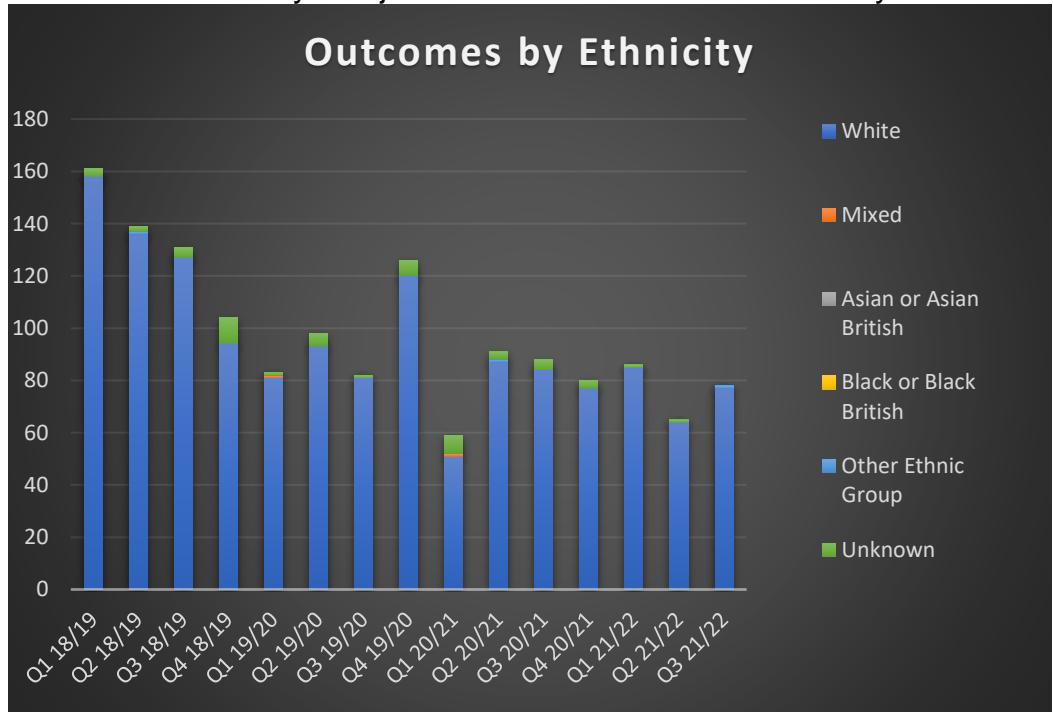
- County Durham has around 45,000 10 – 17-year-old young people.
- We have 21,000 children and young people living in poverty; however, we also have communities where almost half of children live in poverty. Childhood obesity is a persisting issue, with almost one in four 10–11-year-olds being obese; this is significantly worse than England.
- Admissions to hospital caused by unintentional injuries and deliberate injuries are significantly higher than England, at almost 1,500 admissions per year.
- 10% of children have a diagnosable mental health condition. That is around 10,000 children and young people in County Durham.
- GSCE attainment is similar to national averages. We have around 11,200 young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) at school which equates to 14.5% of all school pupils. This is not significantly different from England or the North East.
- Around 6% of 16-17-year-olds are not in education, employment or training, that is around 600 young people aged 16-17. This proportion is not significantly different to England or the North East.
- We currently have 3,363 children in need, including 330 children subject of a child protection plan, a rate of 32.8 per 10,000 children which is lower than the England rate and the North East rate.
- We currently have over 880 looked after children which equates to a rate of 87.5 per 10,000. This rate has risen over recent years showing an increase of over 50% since 2011 and is statistically significantly higher than England but significantly lower than the North East.

### Youth Justice Cohort

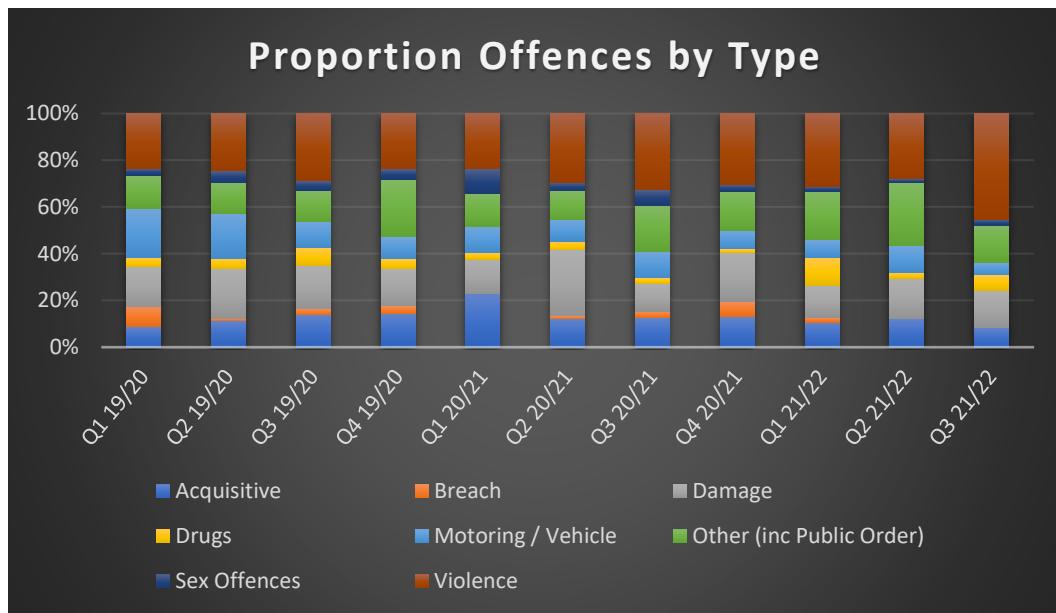
- Males account for 72.5% of offences committed by young people; whilst females account for 17.5%



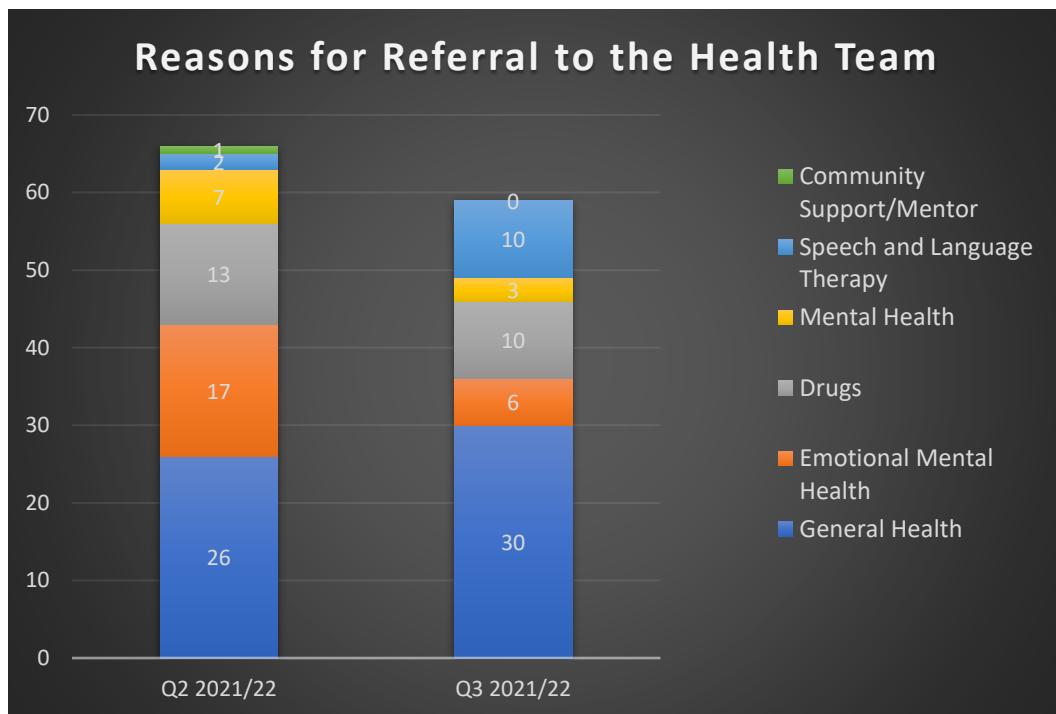
- 98.5% of the youth justice cohort are of 'White' ethnicity



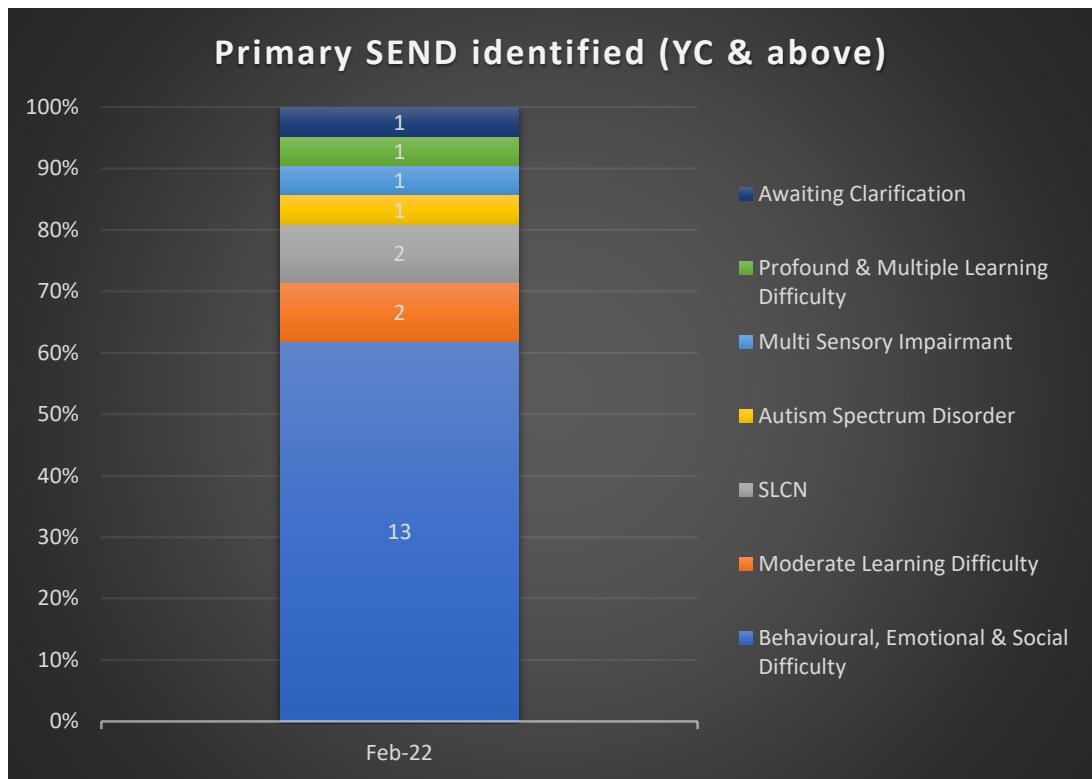
- Almost half of offences committed by young people are categorised as 'Violent' offences. The most common type of violent offence is 'Common Assault'. The next largest categories are 'Damage' (13%) and 'Public Order' (12%).



- The most common health needs of the youth justice cohort of young people are 'General Health' followed by 'Emotional Wellbeing/Mental Health' and Substance Misuse'



- The primary reason for identifying SEND in the youth justice cohort is shown in the table, below.



### **3. Child First**

County Durham Youth Justice Service promotes the four tenants of ‘Child First’ across everything we do, including in the following ways:

#### **‘See Children as Children’**

- We developed a bespoke suit of interventions based upon the level of maturity and understanding of the young person
- We vary our method of delivery to suit the individual
- We make allowances for the way young people react to situations, especially stressful situations
- We make clear that young people are still developing and have capacity to change
- All our plans are bespoke to the individual
- We produce holistic intervention plans with young people which consider their welfare and development as well as preventing offending

#### **‘Develop Pro-Social Identity’**

- We refer to young people we work with as ‘young people who offend’ NOT ‘young offenders’
- We recognise the stigma of negative, offending ‘labels’
- We reward positive actions by young people
- We develop plans that identify and build-on the strengths of young people
- We reiterate to young people that offending does not define their whole personality. Rather it is behaviour that needs to change.

#### **‘Collaboration with Children’**

- We promote volunteering and community involvement in our work with young people
- Our work with young victims of crime is led by young people
- Young people completing reparation choose the charities we will support
- See section ‘Voice of the Child’ for further information

#### **‘Promote Diversion’**

- We have a tiered approach to diversion from the criminal justice system
- We recently introduced a ‘triage’ tier of intervention to replace community resolutions with the aim of further reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system
- We operate a ‘Pre-Caution Disposal’ (PCD) whereby young people can access the full resources of County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS)

#### 4. Voice of the child

The views of young people are collected by CDYJS in the following ways:

- We undertake a short survey with young people at the end of every intervention session
- Ad-hoc surveys with young people on specific themes
- Manager reviews of cases with young people
- Referral Order panel reviews
- Re-engagement Panels with young people (for those at risk of breach/non-compliance)
- We undertake an on-going survey with young people who are victims of crime - 'Your Thoughts about Our Work'
- We develop Case Studies with young people to present to partners etc.
- Every group intervention or activity finishes with feedback from the young person
- All young people undertaking an assessment complete a self-assessment

The results of feedback and consultation influence service delivery in the following ways:

- The Management Board receive a report at each meeting collating the views of young people and development actions based on the information received are agreed
- Young people develop programmes of interventions for the WYIM group. This was introduced based on feedback received from young people.
- Interventions for young people who offend were both developed and amended in light of feedback from young people.
- The service has been awarded 'Investing in Children' status for 2022-2023.

The active participation of young people in their own assessments and intervention plans is a theme running through all CDYJS quality assurance work and remains a priority in the Service Improvement Plan for 2022/23.

Through our extensive work to improve our understanding of young people's communication needs, we have shaped our approach to ensure that young people's experience of CDYJS is as positive as possible and really helps to improve their outcomes. We have transformed the way we work and developed our own resources which ensure all young people can contribute to the work we plan and undertake with them. We now share these resources nationally and share our expertise through the provision of training throughout the country.

## 5. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

### Governance – Management Board

CDYJS is accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, chaired by the Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children, Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council. The membership and terms of reference of the Management Board are reviewed annually. Membership is at appropriate Senior Officer level.

The Management Board consists of:

- Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council (DCC) - Chair;
- Integrated Care Board – Deputy Chair
- Durham Constabulary;
- The Probation Service;
- Progression Team, DCC;
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC);
- Public Health, DCC;
- SEND and Inclusion, Education and Children's Social Care, DCC;
- Equality & Strategy, DCC.

Membership of the Board is regularly reviewed and each year the Board participates in an annual development session where it analyses its structure and functions and develops an improvement plan. The last development session was undertaken in March 2022.

Members of the management board are also members of a range of other partnerships relevant to the work of CDYJS. Board members are required to ensure that they represent the views of CDYJS in those partnerships as well as their home agency. During the annual development session, board members consider how this can best be achieved and what support they require to undertake this role.

The YJS Manager and Chair of the Management Board provide regular formal reports and updates to many of the partnerships to enable them to monitor performance and contribute to the improvement of services for young people who offend, their families and victims. In addition, Durham County Council's Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Committee also monitor performance against the three national outcome measures and receive annual presentations from both the CDYJS Manager and Chair of the Board on current performance and progress against the Youth Justice Plan.

## **Governance – Durham County Council**

CDYJS is line-managed, on behalf of the Management Board, by Durham County Council. The Service is part of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children Service (EHIVC), Children and Young Peoples Directorate. The Head of EHIVC is the Chair of CDYJS Management Board and the line manager of CDYJS Manager. The CDYJS Manager is solely responsible for CDYJS and is a Tier 5 Manager in Durham County Council.

EHIVC is comprised of the following services:

- One Point (Early Help, Prevention and Think Family Services)
- CDYJS
- Aycliffe Secure Services
- SEND and Inclusion Services.

In addition, the CDYJS Manager attends regular joint meetings with all managers from Children's Social Care and managers from Education. This allows for joined up services, planning and development.

- CDYJS is currently a member of the following strategic partnerships and the sub-groups of these partnerships:
  - Children and Families Partnership
  - Safe Durham Partnership (SDP)
  - Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP)
  - Local Criminal Justice Partnership (LCJP)
  - Strategic Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Board
  - Children and Young People Mental Health Partnership
  - Care Leavers Steering Group
  - Child Exploitation Group
  - Integrated Offender Management Strategic Group
  - Prevention and Early Help Partnership
  - Preventing Reoffending Group
  - Integrated Community Care Group
  - Strategy and Commissioning Group for Housing Offenders
  - Integrated Commissioning Team

In addition, CDYJS is represented on numerous other partnerships by members of the Management Board. This helps to ensure that the needs of young people who offend and the victims of those offences are therefore included in all relevant strategies and plans.

### **Agencies Staffing CDYJS**

The following agencies/services deploy or second staff to CDYJS:

- Durham County Council
- Durham Constabulary
- The Probation Service
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by ICB)
- Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by Public Health)
- Humankind (Funded by Public Health)
- North Tees and Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by ICB).

The Service staffing fully complies with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, including:

- Social Workers
- Probation Officer (no secondee, on temporary basis, from June 2022)
- Police Officers
- Police staff
- Health staff
- Education/Employment Advisor.

There is a range of other staff, for example:

- Managers
- Youth Justice Consultants
- Probation Service Officer
- Case Managers
- Victim Liaison Officers
- Family Support Officer
- Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) Officer

- Reparation Officer
- Administration staff
- Intervention Team staff who deliver a range of interventions with young people to reduce re-offending, including ISS, reparation, and out of court disposals
- Management Information Analysts

In addition, we have a dedicated, multi-disciplinary health team, comprising:

- 0.6fte Speech and Language Therapist
- 1fte Specialist Public Health Children's Nurse
- 2fte Health & Wellbeing Support Worker
- 2fte Substance Misuse Worker
- 0.5fte Clinical Psychologist.

In total 40 staff are employed by Durham County Council on behalf of the partnership and 12fte are seconded from partners (Durham Constabulary, National Probation Service, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT), Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT), Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Mental Health Trust (TEWV) and Humankind. See Appendix 2 for CDYJS Staffing Structure.

In addition to the staff covered above, there are 45 volunteers working with the service to deliver:

- Referral Order Panels
- Mentoring
- Work with Victims
- Work with Parents
- Independent visiting for children looked after

All staff and volunteers are trained in:

- Restorative Approaches/ Restorative Justice
- Safeguarding
- Speech, language, and communication needs

All staff and managers receive supervision with a line manager each month and an annual Performance and Development Review. From this, their development and training needs are identified and are then provided either through DCC staff development, partner agency staff development or sourced independently. The needs of the service also feed into the wider service workforce development strategy 2021-2023.

All volunteers are assessed annually and have access to the same range of training courses available to staff.

## 6. Resources and services

### **CDYJS is committed to the following principles:**

- 
- Prioritising front line delivery and core services to young people, families, victims and communities
  - Continuous quality improvement to improve practice with and outcomes for young people, victims, and communities
  - Ensuring young people are safeguarded and risk is managed
  - Ensuring Value for Money

Robust financial management, within CDYJS and overseen by DCC, is underpinned by regular budget reports to the Management Board, EHIVC Management Team and Finance colleagues, DCC.

### **Budget 2022/23**

CDYJS budget is comprised of the following contributions:

- Partnership cash funding (DCC, Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, TPS, ICB)
- Partnership staff secondments/deployments (Police, TPS, TEWV, H&DFT, NTHFT, Humankind)
- Youth Justice Board (YJB) Grant
- Youth Custody Service (YCS) Remand Grant
- Specific Grant Funding
- Each year the Management Board considers individual contributions and the budget for the following year is agreed.

- For 2022/23 the total value (staff & cash contribution) of the pooled budget for CDYJS is: **to be confirmed**

County Durham Youth Justice Service Budget 2022/23					
Agency	Staffing Costs	Payment in Kind	Other Delegated Funds	Total	
<b>Local Authority</b>				1,049,790	1,049,790
<b>Police Service</b>	167,560				167,560
<b>The Probation Service</b>	tbc		tbc		tbc
<b>Health Provision</b>	281,686		50,267		331,953
<b>Police and Crime Commissioner</b>			267,651 (incl Police cash funding)		267,651 (incl Police cash funding)
<b>YJB – Youth Justice Grant</b>			tbc		tbc
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			tbc		tbc
<b>Total</b>	<b>482,911</b>		<b>tbc</b>		<b>tbc</b>

Note:

- The Youth Justice Grant is used as part of partnership pooled budget to support delivery of our Service Improvement Plan to support work to reduce re-offending, first time entrants and use of custody.
- At time of producing this plan, both the YJB Grant for 2022-2023 and the Remand Grant (included under 'Miscellaneous' in the table) for 2022-2023 is unknown.
- 'Miscellaneous' includes the following: **To be confirmed**

The Management Board believes its resources represent good value for money and well-developed use of its collective pooled resources. Since 2014 the service has achieved a 63% reduction in first time entrants to the criminal justice system (FTEs); a 56% reduction in the number of young people offending and a 47% reduction in the total number of offences committed. In addition, the service has reduced the rate of reoffending by young people already convicted of previous offending by 11 percentage points since last year.

### **Youth Justice Grant (2022-2023): £ to be confirmed**

This ring-fenced grant is provided by the YJB to local authorities 'for the purposes of the operation of the youth justice system and the provision of youth justice services' ('Youth Justice Plans: YJB Practice Note for Youth Offending Service Partnerships', YJB, May 2017). The grant may only be used by the Local Authority to fund its Youth Offending Team with a view to achieving the outcomes detailed in the Service Improvement Plan.

## 7. Progress on previous plan

### **Service Improvement Plan 2021/22**

#### **Improving the interventions we complete with young people**

- Develop a suite of interventions for working with Harmful Sexual Behaviour and ensure staff are trained in their use.

Progress: On-going development work with partners

- Audit the impact of consultation with young people and service users on our practice.

Progress: Completed. Audit outcomes reported to Management Board and consultation methods varied considering outcomes

- Audit quality and develop an improvement plan for our response to self-harm and suicide attempts.

Progress: Completed. Improvement plan developed and actioned

- Consider how to ensure the resilience of the Skill Mill programme.

Progress: Completed. Programme part of national project

- Enhance Quality Assurance auditing and processes for the Intervention Team.

Progress: Completed. Quality Assurance processes amended to focus on outcomes for young people.

- Improve use of YJAF for young people in custody.

Progress: Completed as part of new database implementation.

- Implement full planning meetings in all statutory cases.

Progress: Ongoing as part of quality improvement work

- Review and amend our quality assurance processes considering new ways of working.

Progress: Completed. New Quality Assurance processes implemented

- Ensure greater integration of the health team into the whole service.

Progress: Completed. Process in-place for referral and review of health needs to team.

- Increase the range of reparation activities available for young people.

Progress: Completed. Range and type increased to include more social/charity focussed reparation.

- Improve the effectiveness of our work with Durham Works to improve the outcomes in respect of Education, Training & Employment.

Progress: Completed. Durham Works now part of Education Panel. Durham Works staff have access to CDYJS database.

### **Improve the quality of our assessments and plans**

- Continue to monitor and audit the restorative module of assessment.

Progress: Completed. Audit undertaken and improvement plan completed.

- Improve our planning for exit strategies to ensure that appropriate support for young people is in-place once support from the service is removed.

Progress: Completed. Exit planning is a focus for all intervention plans.

- Ensure full involvement of young people and families throughout the life of our intervention.

Progress: Completed. Audit undertaken identified evidence of increased involvement of young people in intervention plans etc.

- Improve assessment for Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) (multi-agency).

Progress: On-going. Quality improved through appointment of HSB Coordinator working across partners.

- Audit and develop improvement plan to ensure proper consideration and planning for desistance/protective factors.

Progress: Completed. Audit undertaken and improvement plan actioned.

- Trial a new assessment for out-of-court disposals which seeks to streamline the demands of the assessment in-line with the stage of the process.

Progress: Completed. Assessment developed and implemented.

- Audit and improve the experience of education for young people in CDYJS cohort.

Progress: Completed. Audit undertaken and CDYJS/Education Panel implemented.

#### **Target our resources on those young people committing the most offences**

- Implement the new Enhanced Case Management Programme with new Psychologist appointment

Progress: Not completed. It was decided not to progress with the ECM Programme. Psychology offer being developed across Durham and Teesside YOTs and Forensic CAMHS.

- Review and continue to enhance the panel process for young people who persistently offend.

Progress: Completed. Panels reviewed and changes implemented.

#### **Ensure that we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us**

- Continue to develop and improve the collated report provided to the Management Board.

Progress: Completed. Report amended and improved

- Audit the impact of feedback from young people and develop improvement plan if required.

Progress: Completed. Audit undertaken. Investor in Children award achieved.

- Introduce the use of Mind of My Own (MOMO) for CDYJS to make it easier for young people to engage with us.

Progress: On-going. To be introduced during 2022/23

#### **Continue to improve our work with victims – both adults and young people**

- Expand the amount and range of activities on offer for young victims.

Progress: Completed. Programme continues to develop and improve.

- Undertake overall review of our service to both adult and young victims.

Progress: Not completed. To be completed during 2022/23

**Ensuring that volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we do with young people and victims**

- Continue to develop the range of roles for volunteers in the Service.

Progress: Completed. Volunteers now involved in panels, mentoring, Independent Visiting, work with parents, work with victims.

- Develop the links between the Independent Visitor programme and other volunteering roles within the service.

Progress: Completed. IV programme now integrated into CDYJS provision.

- Scope the range of volunteering opportunities in the community for CDYJS cohort.

Progress: Not completed. To be completed during 2022/23

**Ensuring that case management systems and administration support provides the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities, victims, families, and young people.**

- Continue to develop the working relationship between the service and colleagues in administration and management information.

Progress: Completed. Scheduled review meetings with administration management and management information management undertaken.

- Install and implement the new case management database for the Service.

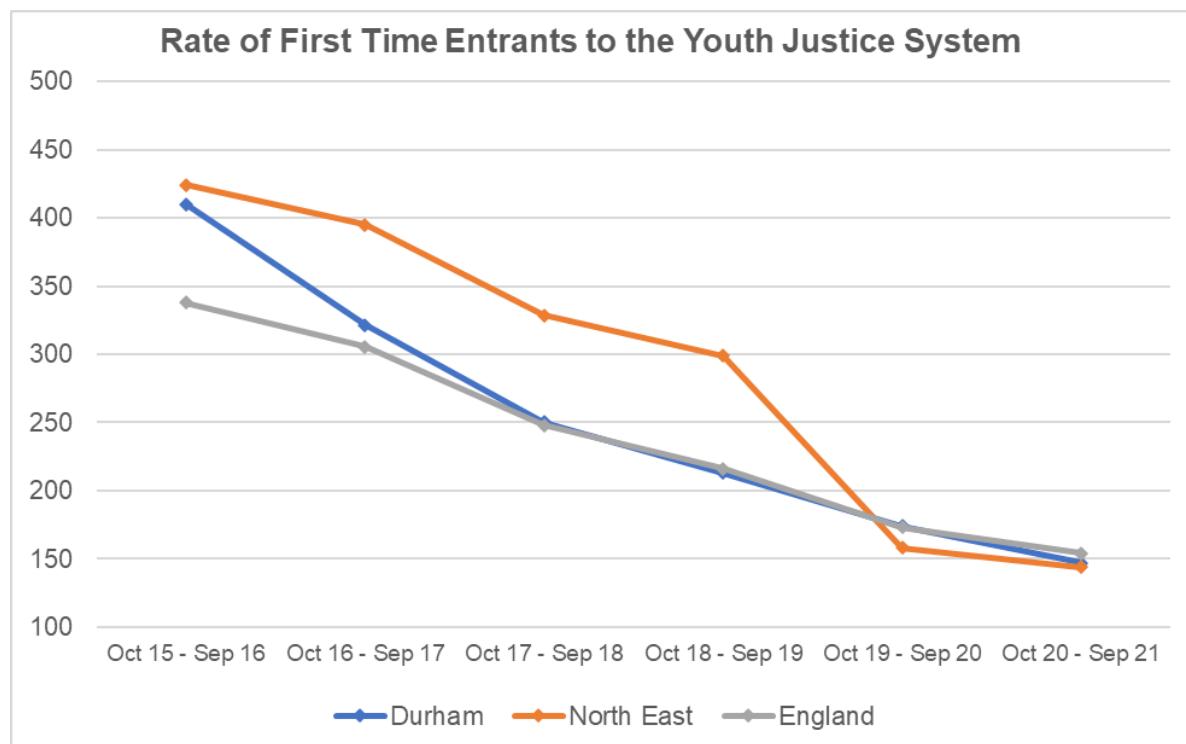
Progress: Completed. Database implemented and operating.

## 8. Performance and priorities

### Review of Performance against Key Indicators

#### First Time Entrants

Between Oct 2015-Sep 2016 and Oct 2020-Sep 2021, we have achieved a **64.2% reduction** in first time entrants to the youth justice system, from a rate of **410** per 100,000 10-17 year olds to **147**.



The latest available locally sourced data shows **58** young people entering the Youth Justice System in 2021/22 at a rate of **125.1** per 100 000 10-17 year olds.

#### Reducing Re-offending

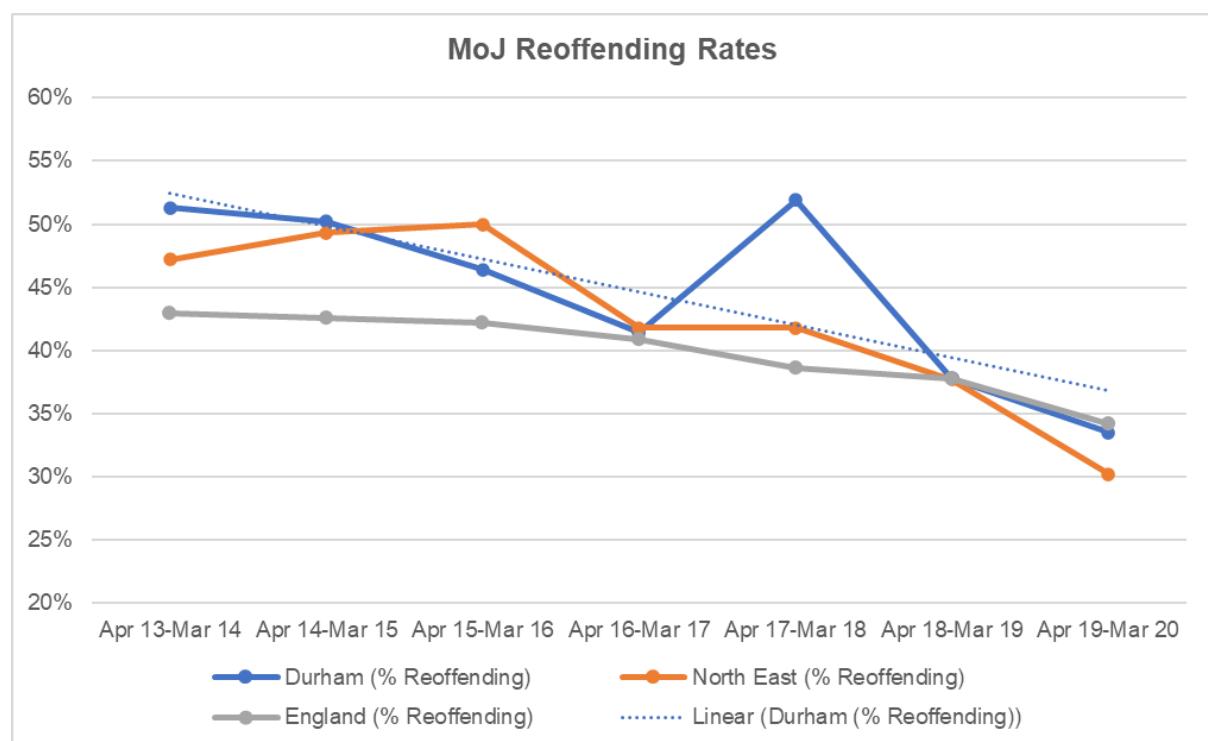
This measure, provided by the MoJ, provides a rate of reoffending of a cohort of young people who:

- Receive an out of court disposal (N.B. This does not include the Pre Caution Disposal)
- Receive a court conviction
- Were discharged from custody.

The measure counts any offences committed in a 12 month follow up period, where those offences are proved by a court conviction or out of court disposal in that period or in a further 6 months. This gives a methodologically robust measure of re-offending. All data is taken from the Police National Computer (PNC) and is summarised before distribution to youth offending services/teams.

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (Apr 2019 – Mar 2020 cohort) shows a re-offending rate of **33.5%** which is an **11.4% reduction** compared to the previous year. This is higher than the average North East rate of 30.2% but lower than the average England rate of 34.2%.

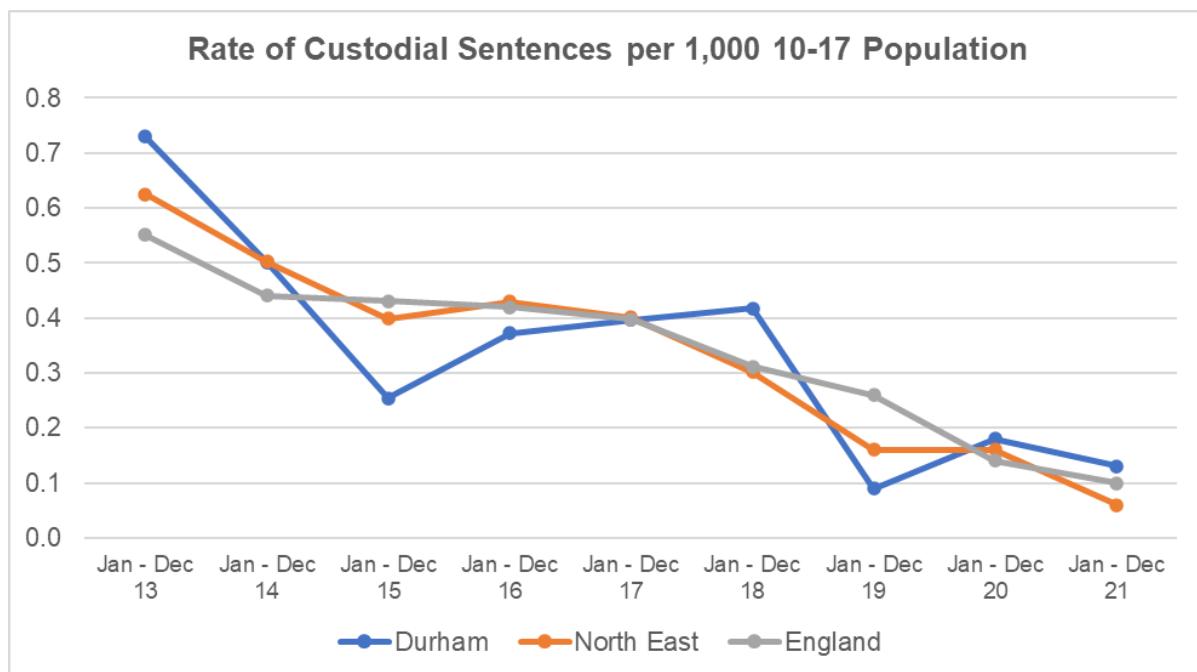
The rate of reoffending can fluctuate due to the significant decreases, year to year, in the size of the cohort of young people. The graph below shows the fluctuating re-offending rates since the April 2013 – March 2014 cohort, but also shows that the trend is a reduction in reoffending rates.



## Reducing the Use of Custody

Between 2013 and 2021 we have reduced the rate of custodial sentences from **0.73** to **0.13** per 1,000 10-17 year olds.

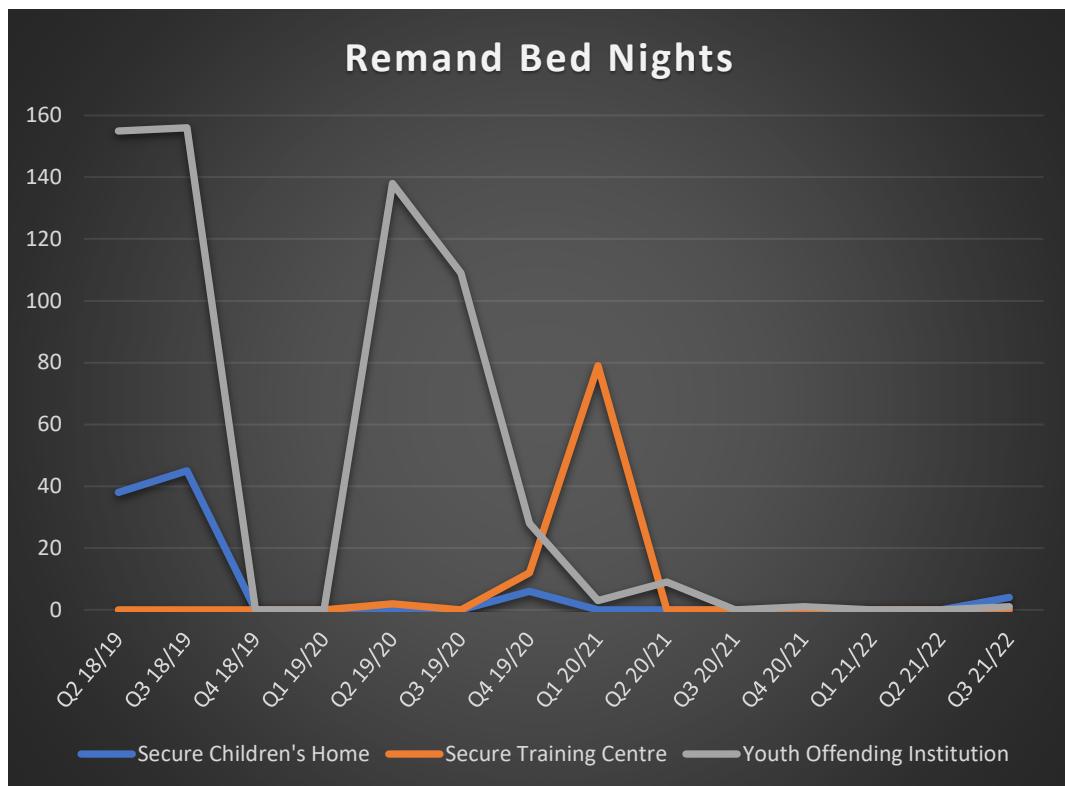
The CDYJS rate per 1,000 10-17 population of 0.13 is higher than both the England and North East average rates of 0.10 and 0.06 respectively. This, therefore, remains a challenge for the Service to reduce, where appropriate, the use of custodial sentences. Each time a young person receives a custodial sentence, the role of CDYJS is reviewed to ensure that we have undertaken all appropriate tasks to ensure that custody is used as a last resort.



The most recent locally sourced information (April 2021-March 2022) shows **5 custodial sentences** which is a reduction of 5 from the previous year.

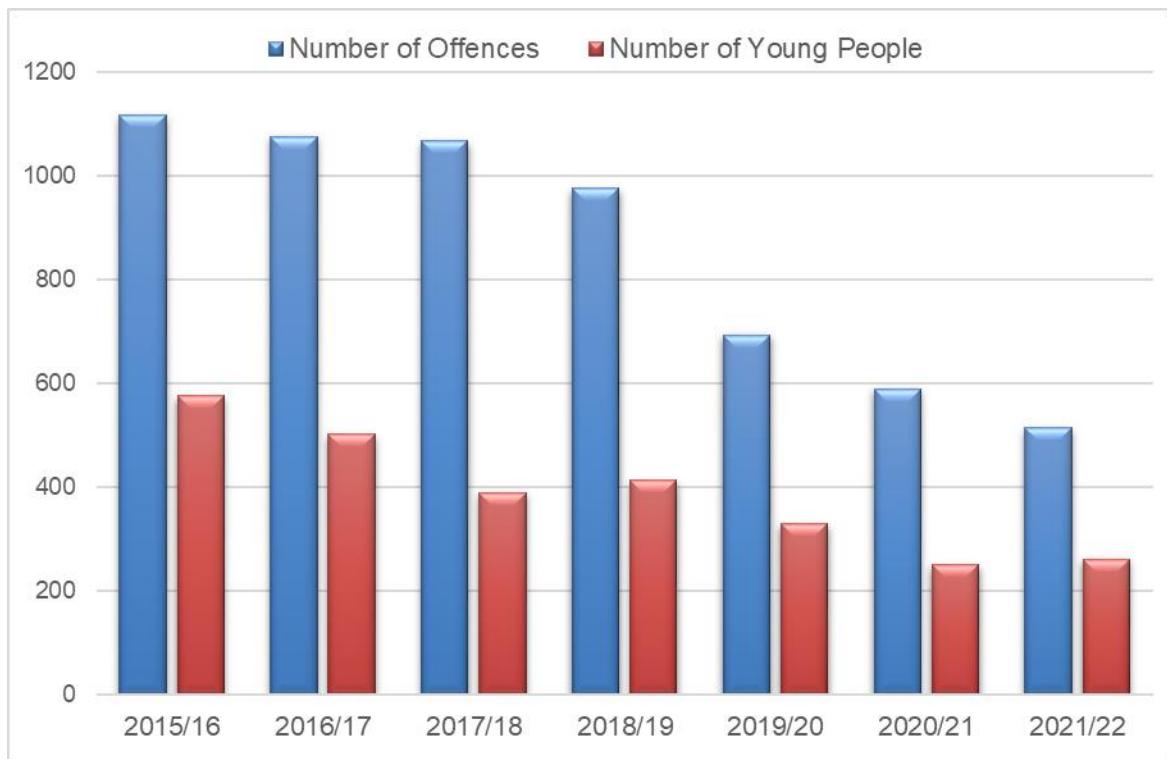
## Remand bed nights (Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation)

The total bed nights for 2021/22 was **5 nights**. This is a **95% decrease** on the previous year. Each case where a young person is remanded to youth detention is reviewed and in all cases during the year, the remand to youth detention was considered appropriate due, mostly, to the seriousness of the offences but also due to the offending history of the young people.



## Number of Young People Offending and Offences Committed

We have achieved a **54% reduction** in the number of offences committed, from **1118** in 2015/16 to **515** in 2021/22, and a **55% reduction** in the number of young people offending, from **576** in 2015/16 to **262** in 2021/22. This includes **all** offences committed by young people aged 10-17 years, resulting in a Pre-Caution Disposal (PCD), out of court disposal or a court conviction.



The work carried out during 2021/22 which has supported our Key Achievements has been:

➤ **Reducing First Time Entrants (FTEs)**

- Developed and introduced the VISIT Programme (Early intervention programme for children who come to the attention of the Police for violence for the first time). The programme is funded by the Youth Endowment Fund.
- Introduced a new assessment process that allows us to collate data on young people who offend for the first time
- Embedded a review process, with Durham Constabulary, for out of court decision making involving a community member
- Developed a suite of intervention programmes that can be delivered remotely
- Introduced new monitoring/data arrangements as a result of changes in practice due to lockdown
- Ensured greater coordination between ‘on-street’ restorative approaches by police and CDYJS interventions
- Developed the use of video for communicating with young people, including the provision of laptops.

➤ **Reducing Re-offending**

- Developed methods of working with young people remotely – provision of laptops, development of special interventions to be delivered remotely
- Provided training for staff to assist them in undertaking assessments and deliver interventions remotely
- Developed and implemented a model of assessing level of risk and designing approach, taking into account lockdown, to supervision of each young person
- Provided training to staff in elements of assessments, based on findings from quality assurance processes
- Amended our process for consulting with young people to take account of lockdown
- Re-applied for, and were successful, with Investing in Children status which helps us to ensure we listen to voices of young people and that their opinions influence our decisions
- Increased and improved the psychology/emotional wellbeing input from the County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group
- Reviewed, amended and launched new multi-agency Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) procedures on behalf of Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Provided over 20 multi-agency briefings on the HSB procedures
- Improved links with the multi-agency safeguarding hub
- Procured a new case management database for the Service for implementation during 2021/22.

➤ **Reducing Use of Custody**

- Maintained the panel review process for young people who receive custodial sentences
- Reviewed our processes for resettlement of young people from custody following recommendations from HMI Probation thematic inspection
- Maintained a six day per week service, including experienced court officers available for Saturdays and Bank Holiday special courts
- Maintained dedicated management cover for a six days per week service.
- Researched and reviewed the use of breach and resentencing to ensure it provides the highest quality service to courts and to young people
- Took the lead in the development of a regional approach to quality auditing for cases.

## **Work with Victims, including Young People who are Victims of Crime:**

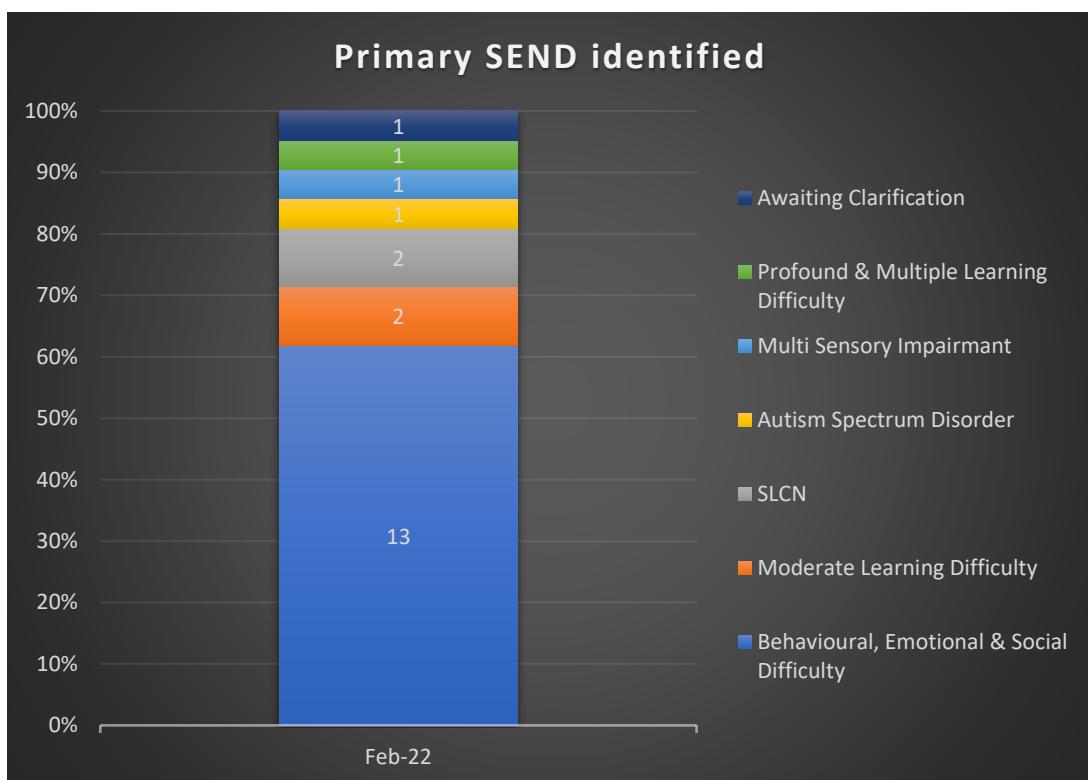
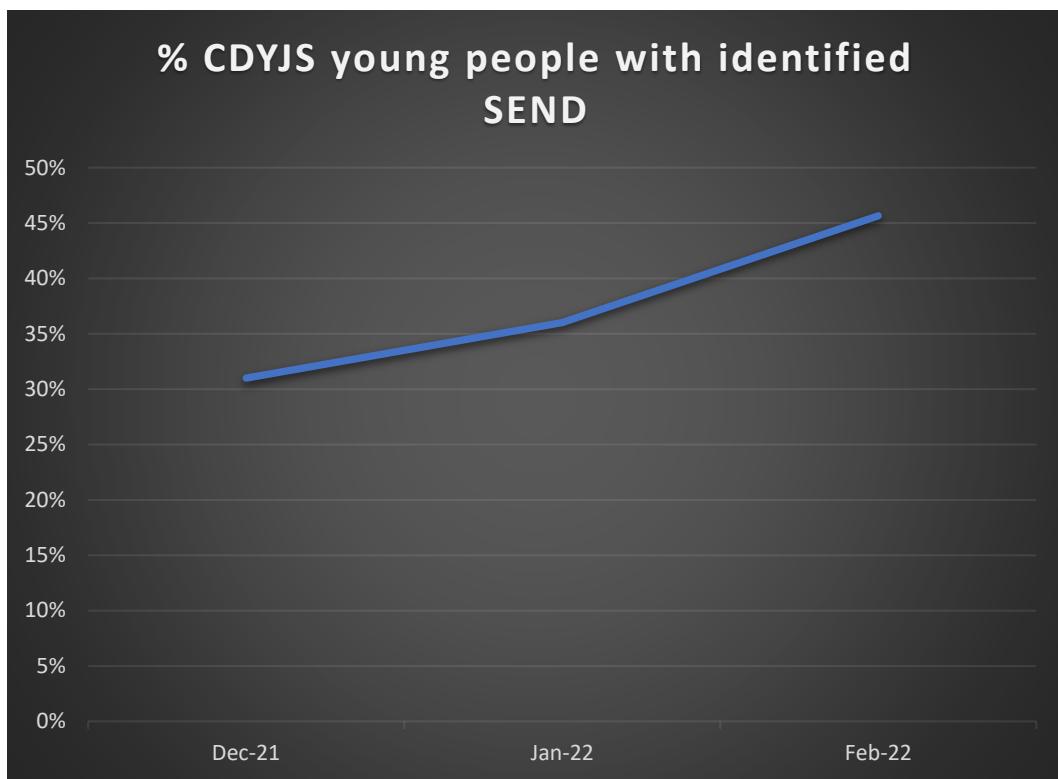
Our work with adults and young people who are victims of youth crime in 2021/22 has engaged a further 142 people in restorative approaches. Our work with young people who are the victims of youth crime has provided dedicated support and an opportunity to re-build and restore confidence. The support group for young people who are victims of all crime ('With Youth in Mind') has continued to develop and is now working with an average of around 35 young people at any one time throughout the year. Young people who offend have also engaged in 1,247 hours of unpaid work in and across communities in County Durham as a means of reparation.

## **Targeting those young people committing the most offences**

The service has continued to prioritise our work with young people who are persistently offending. The Service operates an enhanced, intensive, case management model for this cohort of young people. Each case is reviewed monthly by a panel chaired by the YJS Manager. Monitoring of this work has continued to show that whilst significant reductions in offending are sometimes difficult to achieve, it is possible to have a meaningful impact in reducing both the frequency and seriousness of offending.

## **Priority Areas 2022/23:**

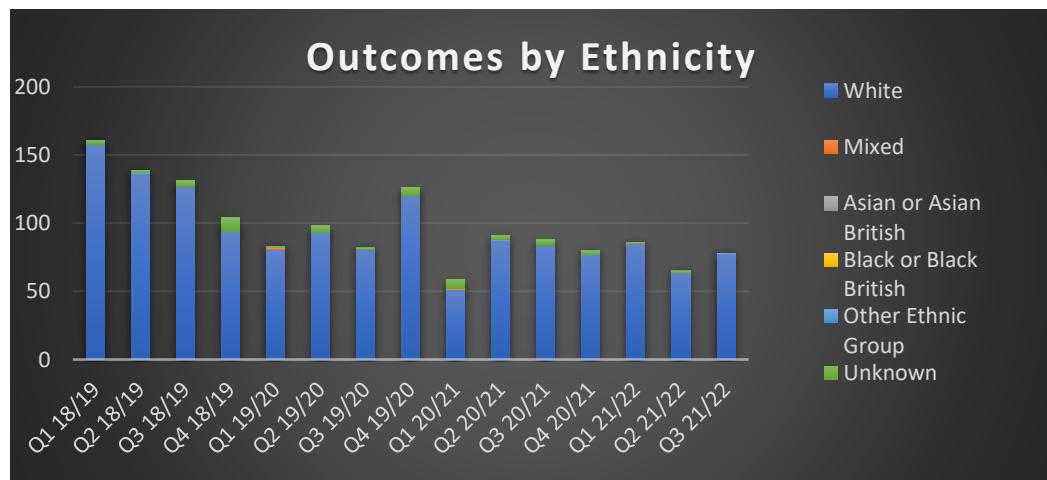
### **Education**

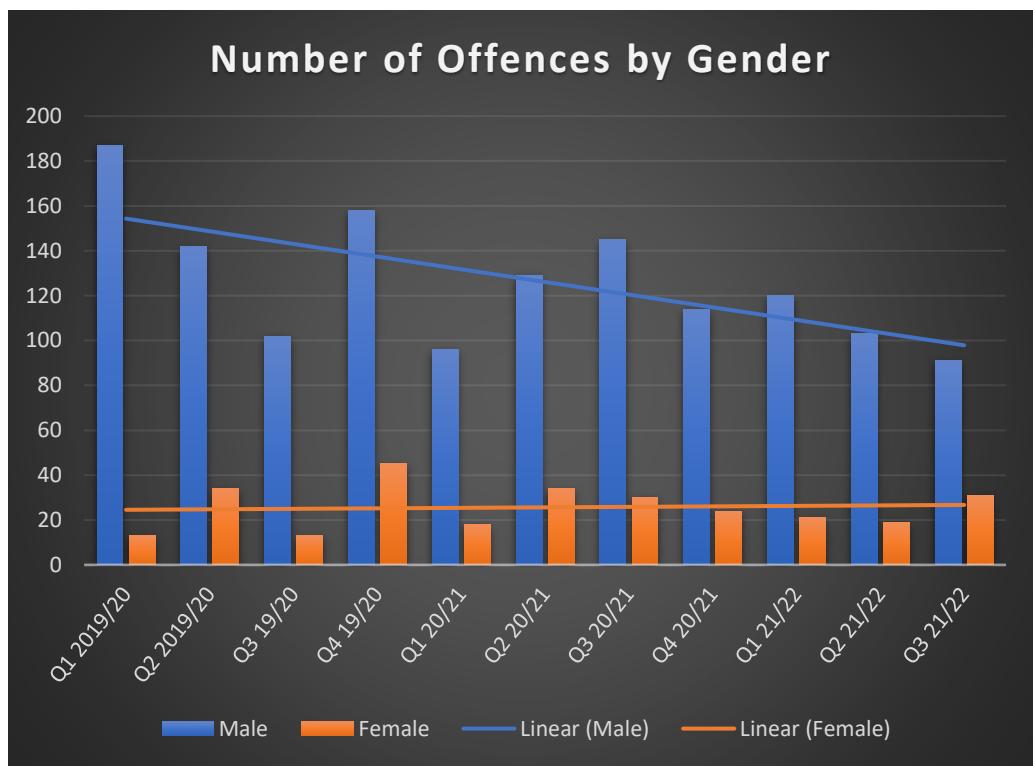
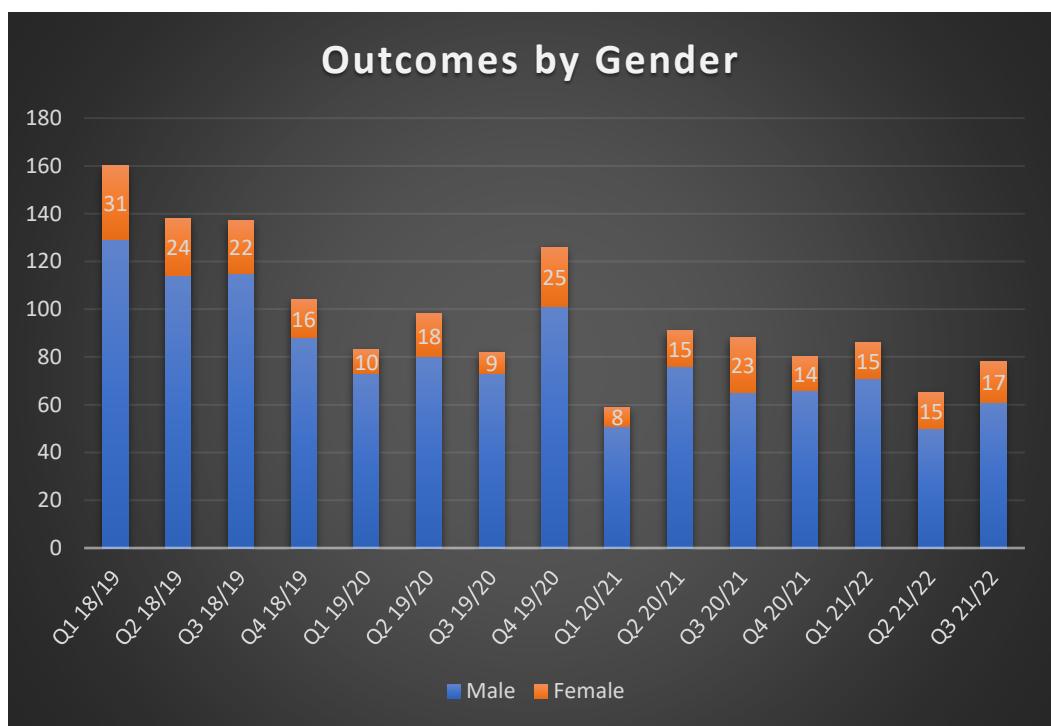


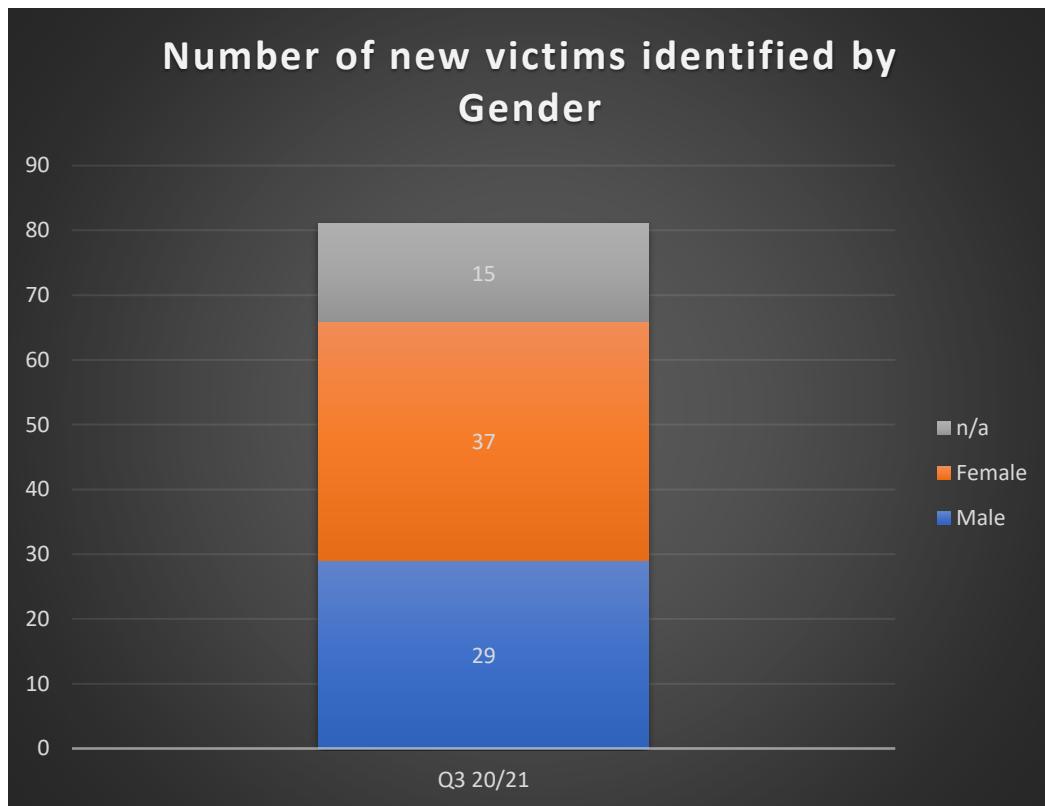
- The DCC Education Service, SEND Service, Durham Works are all represented on CDYJS Management Board
- The Management Board is currently identifying a representative for the Secondary Schools and colleges across the County.
- We operate a joint panel between CDYJS Managers, Virtual Head, Durham Works, SEND Casework, Education Safeguarding Lead, Alternative Provision Coordinator.
- The panel meets monthly and considers education performance and individual cases.
- We are developing a suit of performance measures.
- CDYJS has input to all education behaviour and inclusion panels.

### Nationally Over-Represented Children in the Youth Justice System

- There appears to be no evidence of over-representation of any group by ethnicity. Nor is there any disparity between the local population by ethnicity and the youth justice cohort.
- The Service has adopted a policy on working with Children who are Gypsy, Roma or Traveller.
- The number of offences committed by males continues to fall each year, whereas the number of offences committed by females in increasing slightly.
- The Service has developed resources for working with girls and has delivered interventions in girls only groups.
- Most young people in the cohort of those that have offended are male; however, most identified victims are female. We will be exploring this statistic further to gain greater understanding.
- The percentage of looked after children in CDYJS cohort is: **15%**
- We are presently undertaking an audit of our processes with care colleagues with a view to improving our services







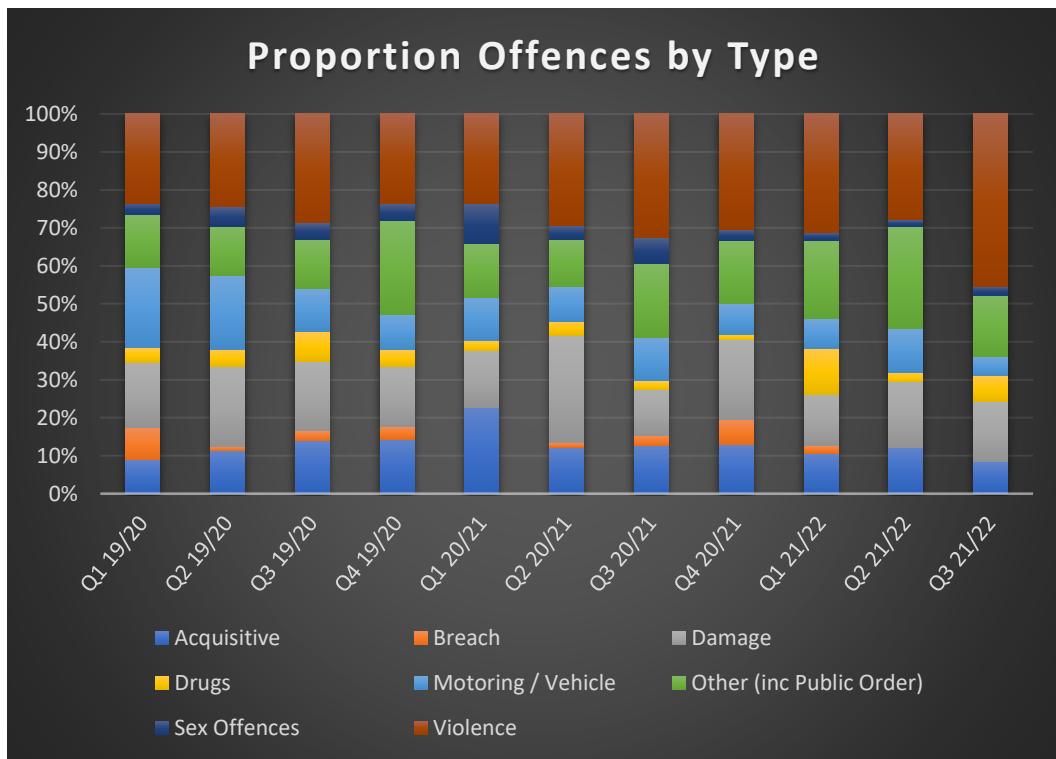
## Diversion

- CDYJS operates a diversion process in conjunction with Durham Constabulary.
- The process is:

Community Resolution (Maximum of 2 in 12 months) – ‘Triage’ (CDYJS) – Pre-Caution Disposal (CDYJS) – Youth Caution (CDYJS) – Youth Conditional Caution (CDYJS).

- Durham Constabulary refer young people to CDYJS from Triage onwards. For those young people for whom ‘Triage’ is appropriate, a standard intervention based around understanding consequences of offending is offered, along with ‘sign-posting’ for any other identified issues. Young people receiving a Pre-Caution Disposal will be assessed using our bespoke assessment and an intervention programme developed, using all of the service’s resources as required. Young people receiving a Youth Caution and Youth Conditional Caution will be assessed using AssetPlus and an intervention plan developed accordingly.
- Reporting of performance is included in the performance reports presented to the Management Board each meeting.

## Serious Violence & Exploitation

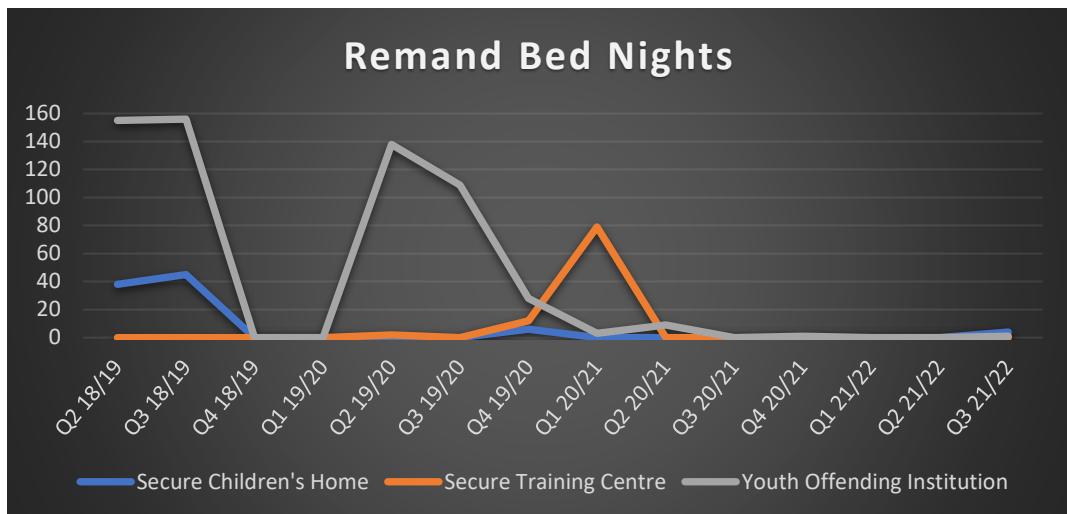


- Violence offences, as a proportion of all offences committed by the CDYJS Cohort, are increasing and violence offences account for almost half of all offences.
- Within the category of violent offences, the most common offence is Section 39 Assault (common assault), followed by Assault Police Constable and then Section 47 Assault (actual bodily harm).
- Whilst 'serious violence' represents only a small proportion of violent offences, given the increasing proportion of violent offences overall, the service considers violent offending as a priority issue. Additionally, offences of possession of a knife have increased by 60% - though this represents an increase from 10 to 16 offences only. Violence offences by females has increased during 2021-2022 which also leads CDYJS to consider violence by young people to be a priority area.
- We have developed specialist interventions in respect of violence offences.
- County Durham does not have a gang culture like some other areas of the UK. However, exploitation of young people for various reasons remains an issue.

- The Service is represented on the Child Exploitation Group and attends the weekly case planning forums. The Service makes regular case referrals to these meetings.
- The Management Board provided additional funding to employ a Young Person Harmful Sexual Behaviour Coordinator for County Durham.
- CDYJS will contribute to review of causes of all aspects of child exploitation to better understand the drivers for this.
- All young people under the supervision of CDYJS receive an intervention on healthy relationships
- All staff are trained in recognising and working with young people at risk of exploitation
- CDYJS is undertaking a follow-up audit on the quality of our work in respect of exploitation.
- All staff in CDYJS are trained in recognising and working with young people at risk of radicalisation. The service is represented on relevant partnerships and works with partners to supervise young people convicted of Terrorist Act offences and/or under the Prevent strand.

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

- The rate of custodial sentence (rate per 1,000 10-17 years old) is **0.13**. This rate is greater than both the regional average and the England average
- See previous section for actions to reduce the use of custody, including remands.
- The number of custodial offences in the preceding 12 months is **6**. This represents a **27% decrease** on the same period in the previous year.
- The service has adopted a Resettlement Policy and delivers constructive resettlement through our Health Team, Education Panel, Joint Homelessness Protocol (16-18 years) (Housing, CYPS and others), Durham Works (Post 16 Training).
- All young people are released from custody with appropriate accommodation.
- All young people receiving a custodial sentence are reviewed throughout their sentence by a panel chaired by the Service Manager.
- The total number of Remand Bed Nights for 2021/22 is: **5**



## 9. Service improvement plan

- CDYJS has developed a Quality Improvement Group (QIG) which identifies issues requiring improvement, undertakes quality audits and compiles improvement plans based on those audits.
- We developed a bespoke tool for collating recommendations from HMIP inspections, both thematic and individual services. The QIG considers all recommendations for their relevance to CDYJS and, if appropriate, we action plan against the recommendation.
- Current priorities for the QIG include audit and improvement plan for exploitation; improvement plan for self-harm/suicide; planning for full-case quality audit.
- The Service Improvement Plan is produced by the Management Board after consultation with young people, carers/parents/families, adult and young victims, partner agencies, CDYJS staff and partnership bodies.

**The Service Improvement Plan for 2022/23 is:**

### **Improving the interventions, we complete with young people**

- Develop a suite of interventions for working with Harmful Sexual Behaviour and ensure staff are trained in their use
- Implement full planning meetings in all statutory cases.
- Appoint a Harmful Sexual Behaviour Coordinator working across all relevant partners
- Undertake a quality audit in respect of our work with exploitation and develop bespoke interventions
- Develop a 'psychology offer' with colleagues in neighbouring YOTs and Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Review & amend process for transfers from Police Custody to Local Authority Accommodation
- Consider all custodial sentences in the Reoffending Panel
- Review practice in respect of young people in care & offending
- Review our offer in respect of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) & mental health and develop an improvement plan
- Review and Update the Health Needs Assessment for Young People who offend.

### **Improve the quality of our assessments and plans**

- Continue to improve the quality of assessments in respect of Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Embed assessment tool for Pre-Caution Disposal and ensure collection of all relevant data/information

- Improve the quality of our assessment in respect of education, especially in respect of links with SEND casework colleagues.

### **Target our resources on those young people committing the most offences**

- Develop a ‘psychology offer’ with colleagues in neighbouring YOTs and Forensic CAMHS
- Review functions of CDYJS Teams to ensure optimisation of resources
- Review and develop the transition process between CDYJS and Probation Service

### **Ensure that we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us**

- Review our methods of collection of young people’s views and develop an improved collated report
- Ensure greater use of staff feedback
- Introduce the use of Mind of My Own (MOMO) for CDYJS to make it easier for young people to engage with us.
- Increase the range of partner agencies submitting feedback

### **Continue to improve our work with victims of crime – both adults and young people**

- Undertake overall review of our service to both adult and young people who are victims of crime and produce improvement plan

### **Ensuring that volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we do with young people and victims**

- Continue to expand the Independent Visitor programme
- Expand volunteering opportunities for young people in CDYJS cohort

### **Ensuring that case management systems and administration support provides the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities, victims, families, and young people.**

- Continue to embed CDYJS database
- Expand the dashboard of performance measures considered by the Management Board and Management Team.

## **Workforce Development**

The service has developed, as part of Early Help, Inclusion & Vulnerable Children workforce development:

- A Workforce Development Strategy
- A Workforce Development Plan
- A Workforce Development Pathways document
- A Supervision Policy

These documents cover the development of staff at all levels of the service from induction to on-going professional development. In addition, the service works with partner agencies who have seconded/deployed staff to CDYJS, to maximise the potential for joint training and access to a full range of training opportunities.

## **Management Board Development**

The Management Board undertakes an annual development session (each March) in addition to quarterly Board meetings.

These development sessions always include consideration of actions to improve the effectiveness of the Management Board and the consideration of priorities for the service in the forthcoming year. An example of the latest Management Board Development agenda, is shown below:

## COUNTY DURHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE - MANAGEMENT BOARD DEVELOPMENT SESSION

**Tuesday, 1 March 2022, 10.30am – 1.00pm  
Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham  
(Please note: the meeting is 'in-person' only)**

### AGENDA

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Management Board Terms of Reference** Paper Attached
- 3. YJS Governance & Leadership (YJB)** Paper Attached
- 4. CDYJS Priorities 2022-2023** Presentation
- 5. Conclusion**

Areas for board development identified by the board are:

- Review & amendment of the Terms of Reference (completed at Board meeting 17.3.22)
- Expand membership to include Head Teachers representative
- Board members to present their (and agency) role in preventing youth crime
- Improve visibility of board members to staff in service
- Develop performance reporting to be more outcomes focussed
- Develop vision statement for service and share widely
- Board members to develop greater insight into operational issues for service
- Board members to ensure sharing of information/issues within their agency

These development actions will be included in the improvement plan actions and updates considered by the Management Board at each meeting.

## 10. Evidence-based practice and innovation

- We are developing a ‘Psychology offer’ for the youth justice cohort in conjunction with Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (Forensic CAMHS & Liaison and Diversion) funded by the Integrated Care Board.
- We continue to develop resources for working with young people with speech, language or communication needs and we continue to provide training in the use of these resources to Youth Offending Services nationally and to other children’s services locally within County Durham.
- We developed the ‘Visit Programme’ – funded by the Youth Endowment Fund – to target interventions for young people who had come to the attention of the police for several violence incidents but ‘No Further Action’ (NFA) was the outcome. This programme was based on local research that identified a cohort of young males who were regularly arrested by the police for violence but, most commonly, victims declined to progress matters resulting in NFA outcome.
- We have developed our interventions for parents of young people who offend, particularly for parents who are victims of their child’s offending.

## 11. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board - name	<b>Martyn Stenton</b>
Signature	To be added to submitted version
Date	16/06/2022

## 12. Appendix 1: Management Board Membership

### **Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council (DCC)**

- Head of Early Help, Inclusion & Vulnerable Children – Chair
- Head of Children's Social Care
- Strategic Manager SEND and Inclusion
- Education Safeguarding and Vulnerability Lead

### **Progression Team, Durham County Council**

- Progression Coordinator

### **Public Health, Durham County Council**

- Public Health Strategic Manager

### **Integrated Care Board**

- Commissioning Delivery Manager – Deputy Chair

### **Durham Constabulary**

- Deputy Chief Constable

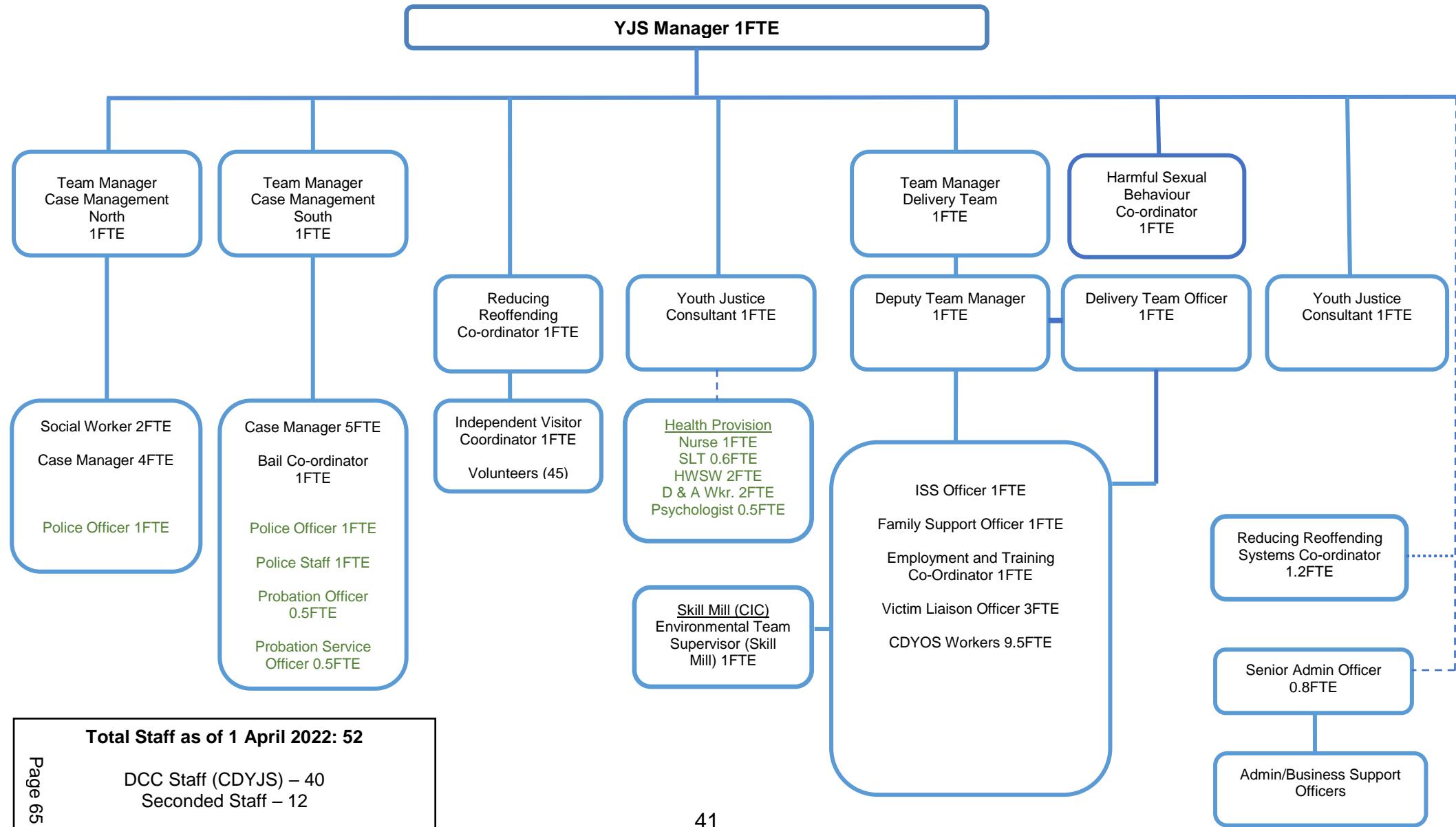
### **Probation Service**

- Head of County Durham and Darlington Probation Delivery Unit.

### **Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner**

- Chief Executive

## Appendix 2 – Service Structure Chart



**Total Staff as of 1 April 2022: 52**

DCC Staff (CDYJS) – 40  
Seconded Staff – 12

Green = staff seconded/deployed into CDYOS as partner contributions  
----- = staff line managed outside of CDYJS

## Common youth justice terms

### ACE

Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long-lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices

### AIM 2 and 3

Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour

### ASB

Anti-social behaviour

### AssetPlus

Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour

### CAMHS

Child and adolescent mental health services

### CCE

Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity

### Children

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 looked-after</b>	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by 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>Contextual safeguarding</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>O OCD</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

This page is intentionally left blank

**Full Council**

**20 July 2022**

**Adoption of Cotherstone Parish  
Neighbourhood Plan**



---

**Report of Geoff Paul, Interim Head of Regeneration, Economy and Growth**

**Councillor Elizabeth Scott, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Barnard Castle West Ward

**Purpose of the Report**

1 To formally 'make' (adopt) Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

**Executive summary**

- 2 The parish council for Cotherstone have produced a neighbourhood plan which has passed independent examination in 2021.
- 3 On Thursday 7 July 2022 a referendum was held for this neighbourhood plan and it was overwhelmingly approved by voters. The Council must now make the Plan so that it formally becomes part of the statutory development plan for the Neighbourhood Area.

**Recommendation**

4 Council is recommended to agree that:

- (a) The Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan is formally made (adopted) by the Council to become part of the statutory development plan; and
- (b) The Head of Legal and Demographic Services be authorised to take all necessary steps to affect the adoption of the Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan including the publicity requirements contained in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

## **Background**

- 5 The 2011 Localism Act introduced measures for local communities to prepare neighbourhood development plans. A detailed legislative framework for undertaking neighbourhood planning was set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. To date the Council have made eight Neighbourhood Plans: Whorlton and Westwick, Great Aycliffe, Sedgefield, Witton Gilbert, Durham City, Lanchester, Oakenshaw and Cassop cum Quarrington. A number of further plans remain under preparation.
- 6 To meet the relevant statutory requirements, a referendum was held in Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Area on the 7 July 2022.
- 7 A neighbourhood plan, once made, becomes part of the statutory development plan which includes the County Durham Plan and is used for determining planning applications.
- 8 Neighbourhood Plans must be prepared in accordance with legislation, which sets down a number of key stages including statutory consultations and examination by an independent examiner. Subject to a positive examination outcome, the plan proceeds to a referendum. Where a neighbourhood plan is successful at referendum it is a legal requirement to bring the plan into force within eight weeks of the day after the referendum (by the 2<sup>nd</sup> September in this instance).

## **Cotherstone Neighbourhood Plan**

- 9 The Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan relates to the whole of the Cotherstone parish area. The group have progressed the Plan through the statutory consultation stages and the examination ran from September to November 2021. This was undertaken using written representations. The final report was formally submitted to the County Council on 23 February 2022.
- 10 The Examiner concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan met all of the statutory requirements however a number (4) of recommended modifications were needed to enable the Plan to satisfy the 'Basic Conditions' and proceed to referendum. These were carried out and the Plan was sent to referendum. It was declared that 90.63% of votes (from a turnout 160 people, or 29% of the electorate) were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **Next Steps**

- 11 A formal Decision Statement will be issued in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations

2012. This will be published on the Council's website and installed in appropriate locations such as County Hall and the Parish Council Office in the neighbourhood plan area. Copies will also be sent to those who have commented on the plans.

## **Conclusion**

- 12 This Neighbourhood Plan sets out new policy requirements for Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Area. When made it will form part of the development plan. The modified plan has received the support of the local community at referendum. It is therefore the case that the Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan must be 'made' (adopted) by the County Council to become part of the statutory development plan.

## **Background papers**

Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/38566/Cotherstone-Neighbourhood-Plan-Referendum-version/pdf/CotherstoneParishNeighbourhoodPlan.pdf?m=637891665856270000>

Declaration of result for the area:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/40312/Declaration-of-Result-Cotherstone-Neighbourhood-Planning-Referendum-07-July-2022/pdf/Declaration-of-Result-Cotherstone-Neighbourhood-Planning-Referendum-07-July-2022.pdf?m=637928802606600000>

Examiner's Report for the Plan:

[https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/37386/Cotherstone-Parish-Neighbourhood-Plan-examiner-s-report/pdf/Cotherstone\\_Parish\\_Neighbourhood\\_Plan\\_examiner's\\_report.pdf?m=63781995005500000](https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/37386/Cotherstone-Parish-Neighbourhood-Plan-examiner-s-report/pdf/Cotherstone_Parish_Neighbourhood_Plan_examiner's_report.pdf?m=63781995005500000)

## **Author**

Graham Black

Tel: 03000 263422

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 require local planning authorities to make a plan that has been supported at referendum within eight weeks of the day after the referendum. The decision to adopt the plan is also subject to a right of legal challenge.

### **Finance**

There will be no financial implications from making the neighbourhood plan unless the making of the neighbourhood plan is legally challenged.

### **Consultation**

The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to statutory consultation requirements of the Town and Country Planning England – the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

The Examiner's report confirmed that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and would appear to have neutral or positive impacts on groups with protected characteristics.

### **Climate Change**

The Neighbourhood Plan Policies aim to protect valued local green spaces and promote more sustainable design.

### **Human Rights**

Human Rights implications have been carefully considered. It is not considered that there will be any unlawful interference with any person's human rights and insofar as there might be any interference, such interference is considered to be justified and proportionate having regard to the public benefit arising out of an adopted neighbourhood plan. The Neighbourhood Plan has been considered by an independent examiner in accordance with national law and it is considered that the public interest in adopting the plan outweighs any impacts upon private rights.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None identified.

## **Staffing**

None identified.

## **Accommodation**

None identified.

## **Risk**

The Council has a legal duty to make the neighbourhood plan and if the recommendations are not implemented the Council will be in breach of this.

## **Procurement**

None identified.

This page is intentionally left blank