

COUNTY DURHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
(2019-2020)
&
SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN
(2020-2021)**

01 June 2020

Performance

1. National Outcome Measures 2019/2020 – Summary

Please note: Due to changes in operational priorities for the provision of performance data, at the Ministry of Justice, reports in respect of Youth Justice Services performance have been unavailable since February 2020. The performance information presented, below, is the latest available data.

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

Between October 2018 and September 2019, the rate of FTEs per 100,000 10-17 years population in County Durham is **213**, a 14.6% reduction on the previous year. This is lower than the national rate of 219 and is significantly lower than the North East rate of 299.

Reducing Re-offending

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (April 2017 – March 2018 cohort) shows a re-offending rate of **51.9%**. This is higher than both the National rate of 38.4% and the North East rate of 41.8%.

Given the consistently reducing size of the cohort of young people entering the youth justice system, the reoffending figure can vary considerably when compared to previous years.

Reducing the Use of Custody

Custodial Sentences:

The CDYJS performance during January – December 2019 showed a rate per 1,000 10-17 years of **0.09**, a reduction of 75% on the previous year. This is lower than both the National and North East with rates of 0.19 and 0.16 respectively. On each occasion a young person is sentenced to custody, the work of CDYJS is reviewed to ensure all appropriate work was undertaken.

Remand Bed Nights: 295

This is a 56.6% reduction on the previous year. There was also a reduction in both the number of young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation and the number of episodes when compared to the previous year – 11 to 4 young people and 13 to 4 episodes.

Further detail, to illustrate the above information, is provided below.

2. Work with Victims, including Young Victims:

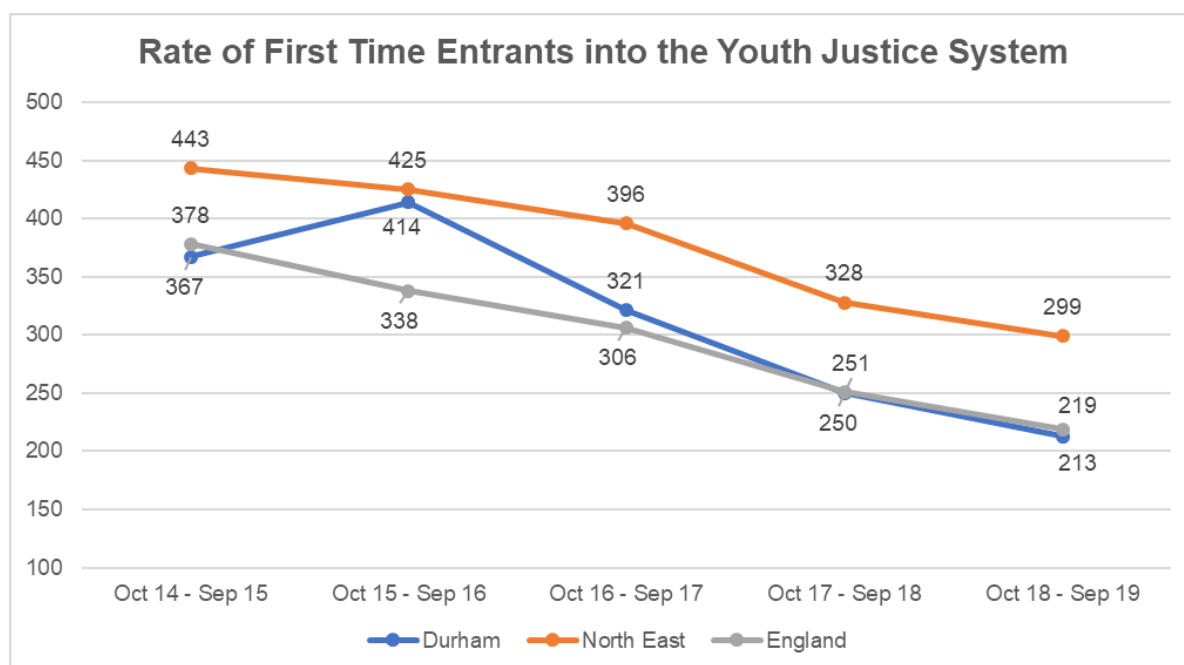
Our work with the victims of youth crime has engaged over **100** victims in restorative approaches. In particular our work with young people who are the victims of youth crime has provided dedicated support and an opportunity to rebuild and restore confidence. The support group for young victims of all crime ('With Youth in Mind') has continued to develop and is now working with an average of **30** young people at any one time throughout the year (annual total of **57** young people). Young people who offend have also engaged in almost

1,500 hours of unpaid work in and across communities in County Durham as a means of reparation. Sales of the items made by young people (Xmas Wreaths, Garden Planters etc) as part of their reparation, enabled us to donate **£1,000** to the Great North Air Ambulance and North East Autism Society – charities chosen by the young people themselves.

National Outcome Measures – Detail

Reducing First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs)

Data provided by the MoJ shows that between October 2014 and September 2019, we have achieved a **42% reduction** in first time entrants to the youth justice system, from a rate of **367** per 100,000 10-17 population to **213**.



The latest available locally sourced data (not MoJ approved data) shows 83 young people entering the Youth Justice System between April 2019 and March 2020 at a rate of **189** per 100,000 10-17 population – a further reduction.

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

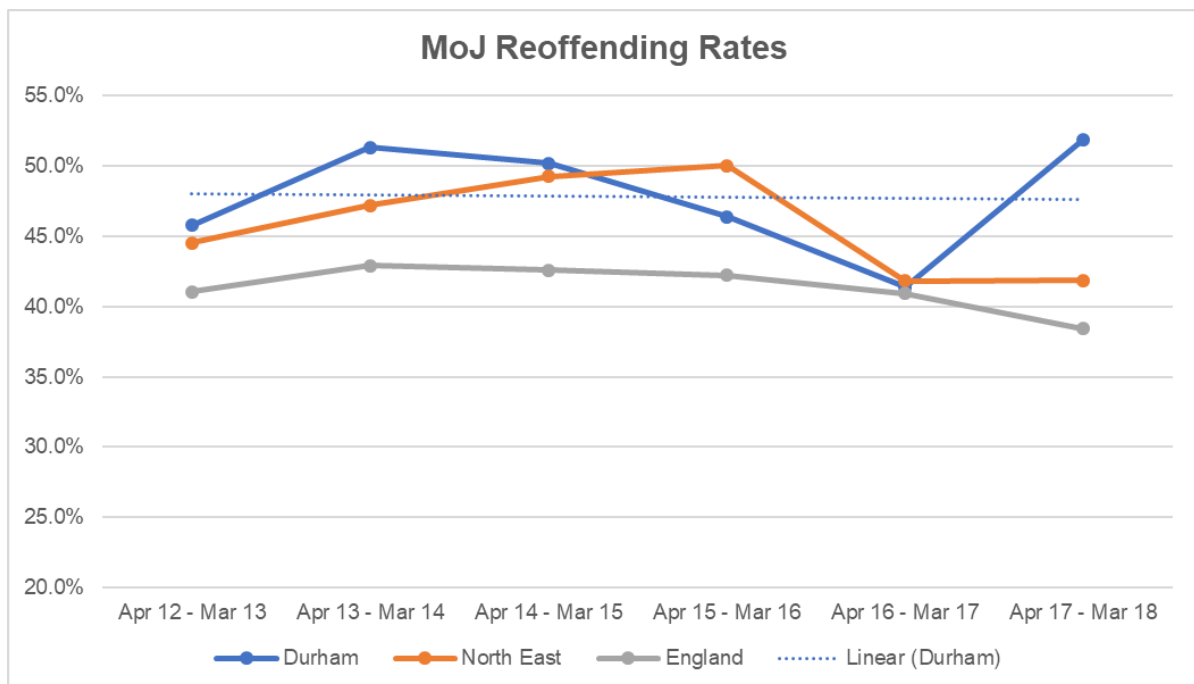
The measure counts any offences committed in a 12 month follow up period, where those offences are proved by a court conviction or out of court disposal in that period or in a further 6 months. This gives a methodologically robust measure of re-offending.

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 (April 2017 – March 2018 cohort) shows a re-offending rate of **51.9%**. This is higher than the both the North East and National rates of 41.8% and 38.4% respectively.

It should be noted that we are currently corresponding with the MoJ, due to concerns about the accuracy of this data.

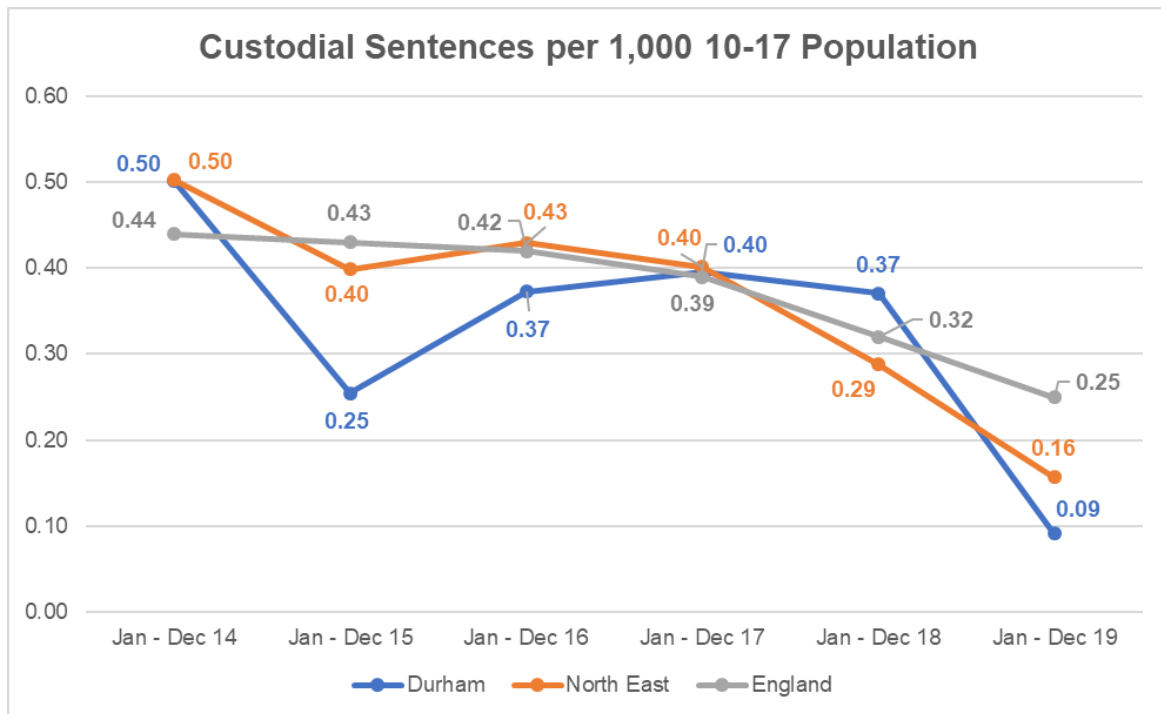
The rate of reoffending can fluctuate considerably due to the significant decreases, year to year, in the size of the cohort of young people. The graph below shows the fluctuating re-offending rates for County Durham since the April 12 – March 13 cohort, but also shows that the trend is a slight reduction in reoffending rates.



Reducing the Use of Custody

Between 2014 and 2019 we have reduced the rate of custodial sentences from 0.5 to **0.09** per 1,000 10-17 population.

The CDYJS rate of **0.09** is lower than both the North East and England rates of 0.16 and 0.25 respectively. 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 up to date locally sourced information (April 2019-March 2020) shows **4** custodial sentences which is a **73% reduction** from the previous year when there were 15.

Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation

Remand bed nights (Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation) at **295 nights** (1.4.19 - 31.3.20) saw a **56.6% reduction** on the previous year. There was also a reduction in both the number of young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation and the number of episodes when compared to 2018/19 – 11 to 4 young people and 13 to 4 episodes. CDYJS reviews each case and in all cases the remand to youth detention was considered appropriate due, mostly, to the seriousness of the offences but also due to the history of the young people. At all times we are in discussion with colleagues from HM Courts to review processes to ensure the time spent, by young people, remanded to youth detention is minimised as much as possible.

The work carried out during 2019/20 which has supported our Key Achievements has been:-

Reducing First Time Entrants (FTEs)

- Approved the use of AssetPlus assessment for all referrals for Out of Court Disposals.
- Embedded the multiple Pre-Caution Disposal processes
- Undertook an audit of National Standards for out-of-court work and developed an improvement plan
- Embedded out-of-court work as a routine consideration in all case auditing and improvement planning
- Included out-of-court cases in the Enhanced Case Management pilot
- Began the development of a programme targeting violence offences and out-of-court disposals

Reducing Re-offending

- Developed and undertook a pilot Enhanced Case Management programme, following a trauma recovery model
- Undertook research into violence offences and the causes and developed an action plan
- Researched and developed a profile for young people who are persistent offenders to improve our targeting of interventions
- Reviewed and amended our Persistent Reoffending cohort and the operation of the Reoffending Panels
- Audited our compliance with SLCN procedures and implemented an improvement plan based on the findings
- Delivered an extensive training programme based on the findings of a range of quality audits
- Expanded the roles of the health team based on experience of the client cohort
- Retrained staff in harmful sexual behaviour assessment and risk management procedures
- Improved the collation and use of feedback received from young people, families and other service users
- Refined and improved our quality assurance processes and quality auditing and the way in which we collate and use the findings
- Undertook an audit of national standards for young people who are sentenced at court and developed an action plan

Reducing Use of Custody

- Reviewed all cases where a custodial sentence was imposed and looked for learning opportunities;
- Undertook training, in conjunction with colleagues from Durham Constabulary and EDT, the process for transfer to Local Authority under PACE;
- Developed a regional process for feedback from Magistrates in respect of the service provided by CDYJS in court and jointly developed areas for improvement/review;
- Maintained a 6/7 day per week service, including experienced court officers available for Saturdays and Bank Holiday special courts;

- Maintained dedicated management cover for a 6/7 days per week service.
- Undertook an audit of national standards for young people in custody and developed an improvement plan

Work with Victims, including Young Victims

- Undertook a review of the 'With Youth in Mind' group and amended referral criteria and operating procedures based on the findings;
- Undertook research into the take-up of RJ by victims of violent offences and developed an improvement plan
- Reviewed and amended the Parenting programme for parents who are victims of their children's offending
- Reviewed and amended processes to improve the service we offer to victims and young people who offend through our restorative justice work;
- Further developed our group of mentors and 'leaders' all of whom are young people who have been victims of crime and expanded both the group size and the range of activities on offer;
- Improved the range of volunteering opportunities and the link between wider service volunteering opportunities and the young mentors/leaders
- Continued to work closely with the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (OPCVC) in the development of services for victims;
- Embedding new roles for volunteers in service delivery, including, panels, mentoring, independent visiting, appropriate adults, enhanced case management, out-of-court review panel, parenting programme and young victims of crime and having over 20 fully active volunteers;
- Expanded the Independent Visitor Programme for children looked after by the Local Authority – including the appointment of a dedicated Co-ordinator post
- Delivering our work in the communities where young people and families live;
- Delivering almost 1,500 hours of court ordered reparation/ unpaid work and raising over £1,000 for charity from young people's reparation work;

Work to meet Health Needs

- Maintained and embedded our multi-disciplinary health team working with the cohort of young people under CDYJS supervision
- Developed a pilot trauma recovery programme for young people meeting risk factor criteria
- Developed pathways for mental health & emotional wellbeing
- Enhanced our screening and health assessment processes for all young people subject to CDYJS supervision
- Expanded the roles of the health team based on experience of the client cohort

Business Continuity under Covid19 Restrictions

Like all services, CDYJS was significantly affected by Covid19 restrictions. Provision of services to courts, police, custodial institutions and supervision of young people in the community, as well as the provision of services to victims, were all ascribed 'key

service' status. As such, CDYJS operated on the principle that 'what we do will remain the same; how we do it will change'.

In order to manage the delivery of services under restrictions, we did the following:

- Categorized all young people & victims we worked with into two groups – 'High Risk of Harm and/or Vulnerability' and 'Standard Risk of Harm and/or Vulnerability'.
- Continued to provide face-to-face home visits (doorstep) for all people in the High-Risk Group. Undertook video intervention sessions for all people in the Standard Group.
- Worked with colleagues, both nationally and locally, in developing safe ways to conduct court hearings.
- Worked with Police colleagues to develop safe ways to conduct Police interviews with young people requiring us to act as 'Appropriate Adult'.
- Designed a suite of interventions, specifically designed for delivery with young people remotely.
- Designed a suite of reparation tasks for young people to carry out at home.
- Implemented daily management team meetings via Microsoft Teams.
- Developed and implemented a CDYJS communication strategy.
- Developed and implemented performance indicators to manage performance under 'lockdown'.

It is pleasing to note that a recent staff survey in CDYJS (with a 66% return) showed that 98% of responses felt that the service delivered under Covid19 restrictions was 'innovative, proactive and maintained adequate risk management'. In addition, most respondents thought that service morale amongst staff had remained positive, with a significant percentage reporting that they felt it had improved.

We are currently undertaking a survey of young people and parents/carers to ascertain their views.

The outcome of both these surveys, and other work, will be the development of a recovery and restoration plan (which must be submitted to the YJB by September 2020) identifying the activities and service delivery, undertaken during lockdown, we intend to carry forward into the future and learning in respect of the benefits of a greater range of delivery methods for interventions with young people.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2020 – 2021

Priority

1) Improving the interventions, we complete with young people

- Enhance quality assurance processes to improve the management information in respect of interventions being delivered
- Develop a suite of interventions specially developed to be delivered remotely
- Develop interventions to ensure they can be delivered by various means depending on the needs of the young person
- Develop our use of video as a means of communicating with young people and parents/carers
- Ensure greater coordination between 'On-street' restorative approaches and the out-of-court process

2) Improve the quality of our assessments & plans

- Provide training on 'Reviewing assessment after a change in circumstances'
- Provide staff briefing on completion of 'History of ASB/Offending' section.
- Provide training on Safety & Wellbeing for young people (specific to Asset Plus)
- Provide training on 'Analysis in Assessment'
- Undertake a re-audit of the quality of casework (including assessment)
- Provide training on 'Planning for Victim Safety'

3) Targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences

- Complete the review of the Enhanced Case Management pilot and develop an action plan based on the findings
- Further develop the Reoffending Panel and refine the areas considered

4) Ensuring we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us

- Continue to develop the collection, collation and reporting of feedback from all service users (individuals and agencies)
- Reapply for Investing in Children status
- Audit the impact of feedback on the development of our policies/procedures and produce an action plan to improve

5) Continuing to improve our work with victims – both adults and young people

- Review and develop 'With Youth in Mind' group for young victims of crime and ensure linkages with other programmes for victims of crime
- Audit our service to victims against the 'Victims Charter' and develop an improvement plan

6) Ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we undertake with young people and victims

- Reapply for Investing in Volunteers status
- Review the role of volunteer leaders in 'With Youth in Mind'
- Develop the 'Independent Visitor Programme' for children looked after
- Continue to develop the range of roles for volunteers in the Service
- Improve communication between volunteers and the service

7) 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.

- Ensure close working relationships between the Service and the Administration Team and the Management Information Team
- Procure a new database for the Service

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