



County Durham Youth Justice Service Introduction



County Durham Youth Justice Service

County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS), a statutory multi-agency partnership, is part of Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council, and is managed by them on behalf of the partnership. Active links are maintained at both strategic and operational level to Criminal Justice, Community Safety and Children, Young People and Families arenas.

Strategic Purpose of CDYJS

- To prevent re-offending by children and young people;
- How the Youth Justice Service (YJS) will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
- To be achieved by delivering specialist interventions;
- Underpinned by safeguarding and public protection

*"I'm pleased I have apologised for what I did and had support to do it.
Thank you"*

(Young Person)

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;

Clinical Commissioning Group – Deputy Chair

Durham Constabulary;

National Probation Service;

Progression Team, DCC;

Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (OPCVC);

Public Health, DCC;

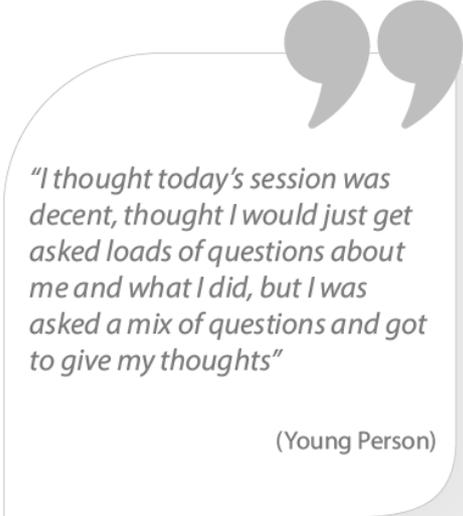
SEND and Inclusion, Education and Children's Social Care, DCC;

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 2021.

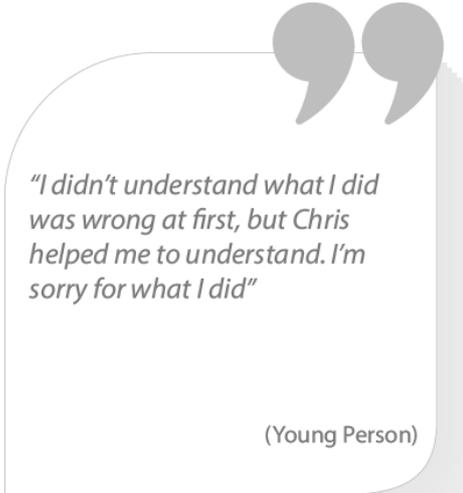
Members of the management board are also members of a range of other partnerships relevant to the work of CDYJS. Board members are required to ensure that they represent the views of CDYJS in those partnerships as well as their home agency. During the annual development session, board members consider 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 YJS Manager and Chair of the Board on current performance and progress against the Youth Justice Plan.



"I thought today's session was decent, thought I would just get asked loads of questions about me and what I did, but I was asked a mix of questions and got to give my thoughts"

(Young Person)



"I didn't understand what I did was wrong at first, but Chris helped me to understand. I'm sorry for what I did"

(Young Person)

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 (EHIVCS), Children and Young Peoples Directorate. The Head of EHIVC is the Chair of CDYJS Management Board and the line manager of CDYJS Manager.

Agencies Staffing CDYJS

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

Durham County Council

Durham Constabulary

National Probation Service

Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by CCG)

Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by Public Health)

Humankind (Funded by Public Health)

North Tees & Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by CCG).

Budget 2021/22

CDYJS budget is comprised of the following contributions:

- Partnership cash funding (DCC, Police, OPCVC, NPS, CCG)
- Partnership staff secondments/deployments (Police, NPS, 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 2021/22 the total value (staff & cash contribution) of the pooled budget for CDYJS is: £2,860,870

The Management Board believe this represents very 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.

Service and Staffing Structure

62 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.

There are 40 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

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

Social Workers

Probation Officer (NPS)

Police Officers

Police staff

Health staff

Education/Employment Advisor.

There is a range of other staff, for example:

Managers

Youth Justice Consultants

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 Consultant Clinical Psychologist.

The Voice of Young People

Young people play an active role in the work of CDYJS. Their feedback and involvement have helped to shape the Service Improvement Plan 2021/22, our response throughout the Covid19 pandemic and the priorities included in this Youth Justice Plan.

The service has numerous ways of obtaining young people's views, including:

- E-survey for all young people working with CDYJS
- Feedback on each intervention undertaken
- Ad hoc feedback on specific themes
- Manager reviews of cases with young people
- Referral Order panel reviews with young people
- Every assessment includes a self-assessment by the young person
- Re-engagement Panels with young people (for those at risk of breach/non-compliance)
- With Youth in Mind – young victims' consultation and engagement group.
- Structured interviews with victims by CDYJS volunteers.

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 2021/22.

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.



*"The work today has taught me that it was wrong what I did and made me think of the consequences if I offended again, as peer pressure made me do it.
Lesson learnt!"*

(Young Person)

Work with victims, including young victims

Our work with the victims of youth crime in 2020/21 has engaged a further 137 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 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 1366 hours of unpaid work in and across communities in County Durham as a means of reparation.

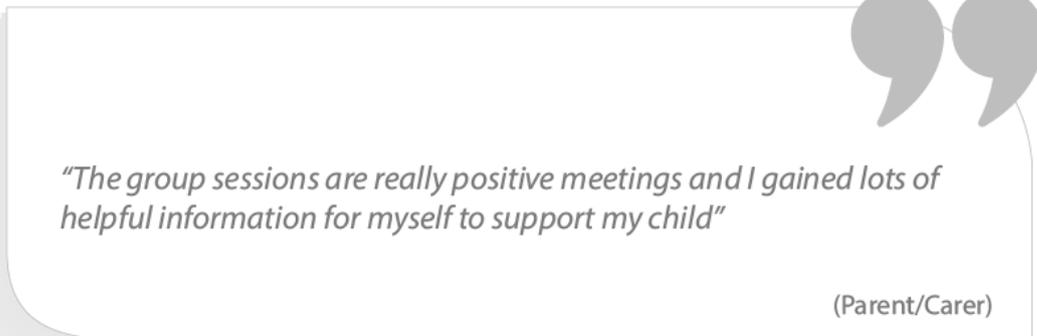


"Thanks for bringing Dan down. I'm glad to have met him and to see he is a young man who made a mistake. I didn't know much about this type of meeting (restorative conference) but it is definitely a good idea. Thank you"

(Victim of offending)

Work with Parents

CDYJS works with the parents of young people who have offended. We provide individual and group sessions for parents. All our work is based upon supporting parents and working in partnership, NOT blaming parents for their child's offending.



"The group sessions are really positive meetings and I gained lots of helpful information for myself to support my child"

(Parent/Carer)

National Recognition

During 2020/21, CDYJS was awarded a Children & Young People Now Award for our service to parents of young people who are victims of their child's behaviour. We were praised for our innovation and dedication to providing support for parents who, otherwise, felt they were alone in their experiences. CDYJS allows parents the opportunity to share their experiences and learn, from each other, how to do things differently.

In addition, we have once again achieved the award of both Investor in Children and Investor in Volunteers

"I just wanted to thank you so much for your help and support with Sarah. It feels so good to have someone who I can talk to and feel reassured that there are people out there who care. Sarah is loving the support too"

(Parent of young victim of offending)



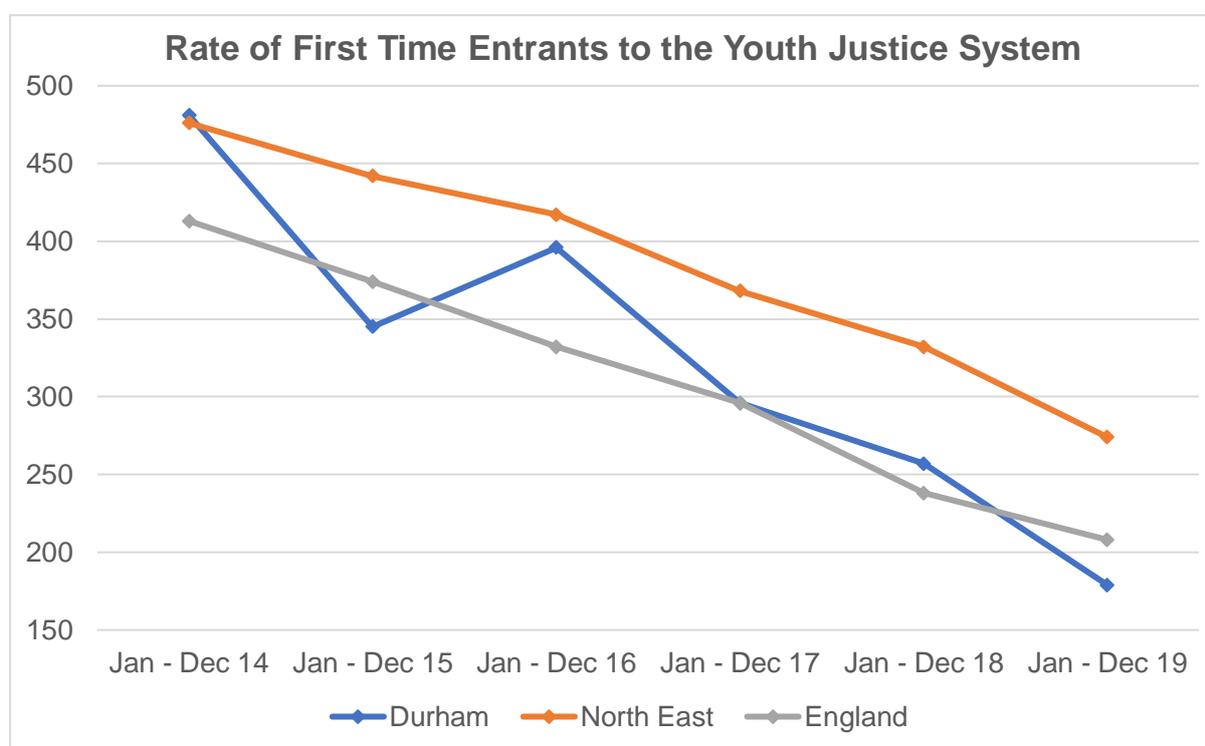
Current Performance

The performance of the Youth Justice Service and partnership is currently monitored by three nationally imposed measures and a range of local measures.

The three national measures are:

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

Between January and December 2019, the rate of FTEs per 100,000 10-17 years population in County Durham was 179, which is lower than both the England rate (208) and that of the North East Region as a whole (274).

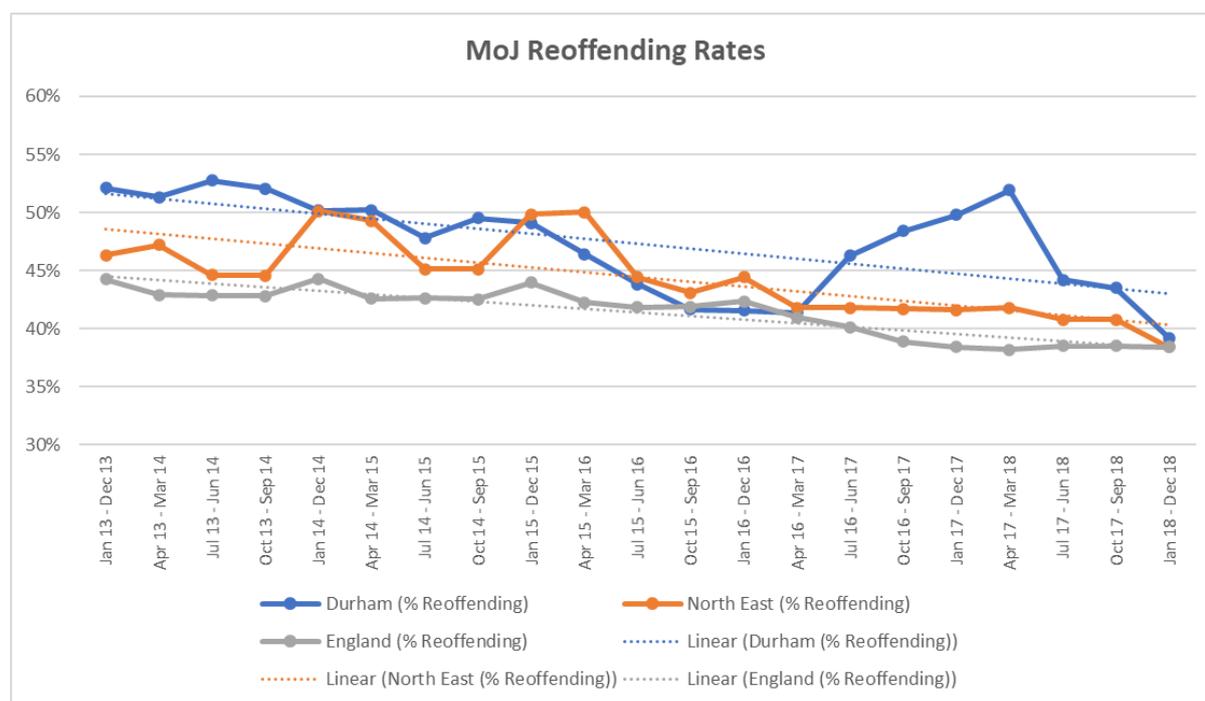


*"Just want to say thank you for your advice. I sent Mark a text yesterday praising him for something he'd done and I got a text back off him saying 'thank you mam love u'!
It's the little things!!*

(Parent)

Reducing Re-offending

Ministry of Justice data (Cohort derived January to December 2018) shows a re-offending rate of 39.2% which is a reduction of 10.6 percentage points compared to the previous year (49.8%). This rate is marginally higher than both the National and North East rate of 38.4% but shows a much greater rate of improvement.



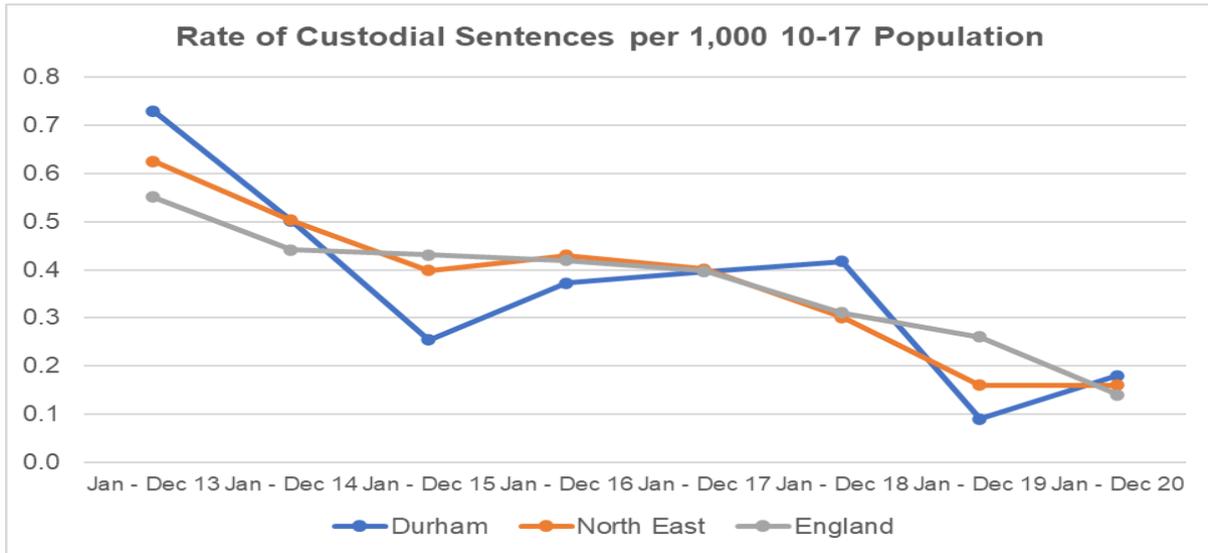
Reducing the Use of Custody

Custodial Sentences

County Durham Youth Justice System (CDYJS) performance has seen a big reduction in the last two years compared with previous years with a rate 0.18 per 1,000 10-17 year olds during January– December 2020 (compared with 0.42 in 2018). This is marginally higher than both the National and North East averages with rates of 0.14 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: 92

This is a 69% reduction on the previous year (295 nights). The 92 nights relates to just 4 young people, all of whom ultimately resulted in custodial sentences.

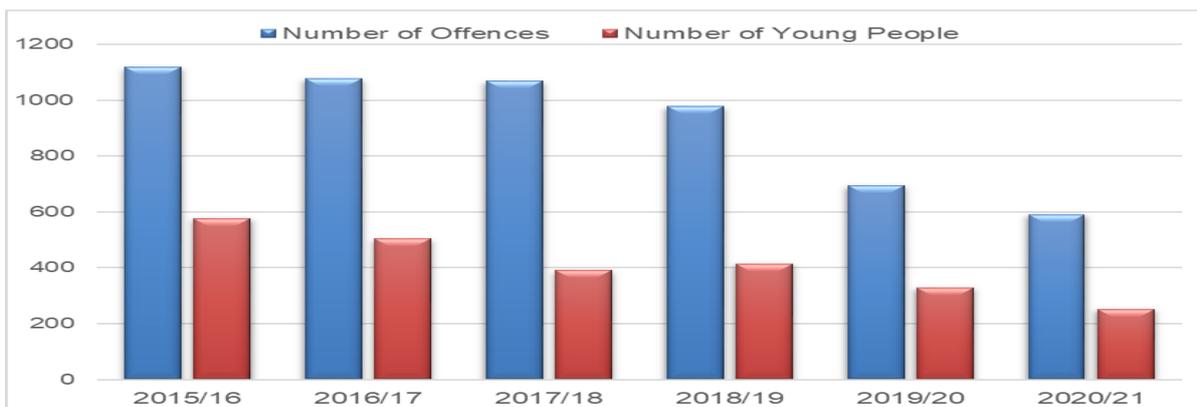


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Number of Young People Offending and Offences Committed

We have achieved a **47.2% reduction** in the number of offences committed, from 1118 in 2015/16 to 590 in 2020/21, and an **56.4% reduction** in the number of young people offending, from 576 in 2015/16 to 251 in 2020/21. This includes **all** offences committed by young people aged 10-17 years, resulting in a Pre-Reprimand Disposal (PRD) 2008 - 2013 / Pre-Caution Disposal (PCD) 2013 onwards, out of court disposal or a court conviction.



CDYJS Statutory Functions

Provision of:

Case management of Court Orders (Community and Custody) in line with National Standards for Youth Justice

Out of Court Disposals

Specialist assessment based on criminogenic factors and desistance

Interventions to reduce re-offending

Court staffing (Youth, Crown, Remand Courts including Saturday and Bank Holiday working)

Bail Supervision functions

Appropriate Adult service for Police interviews (PACE)

Pre-Sentence Reports for Courts

Community Volunteers (Referral Order Panels)

Recruit, train, manage, supervise, and deploy volunteers to carry out statutory functions

Referral Order Panel Reports

'Prevention' services to prevent youth crime

Anti-Social Behaviour escalation supervision

Service to victims of youth crime (both young people and adults)

Delivery of court-ordered reparation to community and victims

Delivery of Unpaid Work requirements (16/17 years old)

Transition services to NPS/CRC

YJMIS data / management info to Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice regarding youth justice cases

Parenting Orders imposed in the Youth Court (Criminal Matters)

Case management of Harmful Sexual Behaviour – young people under 18

Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA)

Resettlement of young people after custody

Duty to:

Comply with National Standards for Youth Justice

Comply with arrangements for multi-agency public protection (MAPPA)

Comply with relevant legislation

Cooperate with MAPPA/DSCP/SDP (CSP)

Provide and support a Management Board

Produce and deliver an annual Youth Justice Plan

Provide assistance to persons determining whether Youth Cautions or Youth Conditional Cautions should be given

Cooperate with Children's Services to improve wellbeing of children and young people in County Durham

Additional Functions

Provision of Out of Court Disposals (service delivery)

Provision of Think Family / Stronger Families

Manage safeguarding and risk management inherent in all the above

Team Around the Child (TAC) / Team Around the Family (TAF)

Assessment, Planning Interventions, Supervision (APIS)

Offending Behaviour Programmes (OBPs)

Contact Details

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County Durham Youth Justice Service



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