

# Custody Audit report

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## Main offences

8 young people – violence

6 young people - sexual harm

1 young person- robbery linked to homelessness

# Planning the audit

Following the impact of the Custody Project, the Care Leavers Service Management Team undertook an audit of all 15 care leavers in custody in July 2024.

The rationale for the audit was to understand the experiences of young people in custody including :

- The offending factors, when they started and what interventions have taken place.
- What additional factors might there be such as learning needs.
- How the young person has been assessed and supported.
- How we are working with the young person to plan for their future.

# Key Findings - Strengths

- Pathway Planning is robust, forward thinking, aspirational and is done with the young person's input.
- Visits are regular and have a purpose.
- There is recent evidence of building support networks.
- There is evidence of agencies working together to plan for release.
- The impact of building links within prison can be seen as part of the Custody Project, particularly for one young person.

# Key Findings - Areas for improvement

- The impact of not being in education from a young age, in particular, for children with additional needs, putting in place interventions to try and prevent future offending.
- Identifying indicators for future violent behaviours which can result in offending and considering the impact of domestic violence, neglect, alcohol or substance misuse and mental health issues. Consider the interventions and support that could prevent the impact being acted out in violence towards others.
- Ensure staff in the Care Leavers and CLA services are equipped to understand familial sexual abuse, the stages and ages of this and the impact of this on young adults who have been the abuser.
- A lack of stability for any of the young people, including changes in social worker, YPA's and where they live. Creating stability should be at the heart of all decision making and strategic planning.
- Networks are limited and some family networks tend to continue to be troubled relationships. Embed the use of Lifelong Links and Peer Mentoring with a focus on young people with SEND, children who are not in school or who are starting to display behaviours which may result in them committing offences.
- Ensure multi-agency planning for release is evident in all cases, develop an expectation for planning meetings to be held with the probation and prison services.
- When links are made within prisons visits are easier to arrange and more support is in place for the young person. Continue to develop the Custody Project which may take different forms in each prison.
- Ensure the new finance process is used to evidence consistent support for young people in custody such as with clothing and pocket money.

# Actions

- A multi-agency group is to be set up to review data around when CLA stop attending school and to create a multi-agency approach to addressing this at an early stage.
- Meet with YOT and convene a multi-agency group to consider the current offer and work together to build on this
- Further develop the understanding of CLA and Care Leavers staff of the impact of sexual harm, particularly where this happens between children within the same family.
- Build on the Lifelong Links and Peer Mentoring work focussing on young people not in education and young people beginning to show offending behaviours. Understand these young people from YOT and virtual school.
- Ensure meetings are happening with the prison and probation services, for care leavers in custody, to plan their release and to review their wellbeing and support networks.
- Identify lead YPA's to link with each prison and work with a prison link worker to build the offer for care leavers
- Use the new finance process to evidence requesting pocket money, clothing and other items.
- Develop an offer which is used throughout the care leavers service.
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