

CABINET

DATE	16 th September 2025
REPORT OF	Councillor Margaret Cracknell Portfolio Holder for Children and Education
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Ann-Marie Matson, Director of Children Services
SUBJECT	Youth Justice Plan
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 09/25/01

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The Youth Justice Plan will contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Aims set out in the Council Plan ensuring children and young people:

- Grow up happy, healthy, safe in their homes with people who love them. Children and families can have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their communities.
- Reach their full potential through skills and learning
- Enjoy good health and wellbeing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that it is the statutory duty for each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out:

- how youth justice services in the area are provided and funded.
- how the youth justice service is composed and funded, how it operates, and the functions it carries out.

The Youth Justice Plan outlines progress achieved against last year and the priorities for the upcoming 12 months with the partnership leads for each area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Endorses the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 which sets out the shared ambition and priorities of the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Service.
2. Recommends and refers the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 to Council for approval and formal adoption.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Endorsement of the Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 to support the Youth Partnership Board to provide system-wide leadership and advocate the Child First principle and diversion away from the criminal justice system. This is in keeping with North East Lincolnshire's vision 'Our Children, Our Future' which aims to support children and young people to grow up happy and healthy, safe in their homes and communities, with people that love them.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

Annual Youth Justice Plans are an opportunity to review performance and developments over a single year period and plan for the next year. This allows partnerships to be able to respond to any changes that have taken place in the previous year, including new legislation, demographic changes, delivery of key performance indicators, and developments in delivery.

The planning and production of a Youth Justice Plan is beneficial to partnership working and partnership delivery to ensure the best outcomes for children.

The annual Youth Justice Plan considers local and regional priorities.

Over the last year there has been significant developments within the Youth Justice Service ensuring the progress and improved outcomes for children, this was recognised by North East Lincolnshire being moved to Quadrant one by the Youth Justice Board due to its performance and outcomes.

The new updated areas of focus are:

- Development of our Youth Justice Prevention Offer
- Children in Custody and Concordat
- Enhancement of our Victim Offer and Restorative Principles
- Improved awareness of Child First Principles across the partnership
- Education Training and Employment
- Reducing knife/weapons crime by children.
- Reducing re-offending by children and greater use of Outcome 22's
- Disproportionality and child's voice are a priority however this will be a golden thread throughout all of our interventions.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

Failure to support the Youth Justice Plan would result in financial loss to the local authority as the submission is a condition of the YJB grant. The YJB grant is used to fund service delivery which prevents children and young people from offending in the community. Failure to support would lead to a significant impact on service delivery and could increase the risk of anti-social and criminal behaviour by children and young people in the community.

The Youth Justice Plan provides an opportunity for the partnership to shape the direction of the delivery of youth justice so that it best meets the needs of the locality, children, families, victims and communities.

The plan allows the Authority to showcase progress made, the outcomes achieved and the areas we continue to develop. The publication of the plan allows us to showcase our continued commitment to children's positive outcomes and evidence our robust partnership working to achieve this.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not to support the Youth Justice Plan 2025/26

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Regular communications activity takes place and is supported by our lead member for Children's Services and Education.

The Youth Justice Service are required to publish Youth Justice Plans in line with relevant legislation.

The Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 will be presented to Cabinet and then to Full Council for final endorsement and prior to publication.

An accessible version of the plan is in development and will be published alongside the formal plan.

The Youth Justice Plan when approved will become a public facing document, therefore this allows for progress to be celebrated and will have a positive impact upon the reputation of the council. Areas of focus for the next year are evidenced openly which will allow for external scrutiny as any other public facing council document.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act outlines our statutory duty to prepare and submit an annual Youth Justice Plan. The plan must be written following the guidance published by the YJB and must be signed off by the chair of the management board. This duty is also outlined as a requirement of the terms and conditions of the YJB Grant.

As an accountable and publicly funded body, the Youth Justice Service is committed to ensuring value for money via robust budget management and effective delivery. The partnership ensures that resources are deployed appropriately to meet the changing demands of a smaller convicted cohort, with increased preventative and out of court disposal interventions.

The grant is provided by the Authority under its power in section 41 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Funding Period starts on 01/04/2025 and ends on 31/03/2026 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the Grant Funding Agreement.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

The Youth Justice Plan sets out the shared ambitions and priorities, which supports children and young people to be diverted from the youth justice system. Through partnership working and partnership delivery, it aims to meet the needs of the locality, children, families, victims and communities and ensure the best outcomes for children.

The Corporate Parenting Promise in North East Lincolnshire commits us to 'consider the impact of any decisions on looked after children and care leavers that we make as a Council'. One of the golden threads within the plan relates to disproportionality which highlights our commitment to ensure children in care and care leavers are not overly represented within the criminal justice system.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

The plan to be taken to the joint Communities Scrutiny Panel on the 8th September 2025

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications of the report, however endorsement of the 2025/26 Youth Justice Plan is required in order to meet the terms and conditions of the YJB Grant which is used to support service delivery.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The statutory obligations around the formulation of a Youth Justice Plan are set out in the above report.

10.2 By virtue of Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, it is the province of full council to formally adopt a youth justice plan.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Staff resources are required to implement the Youth Justice Plan, but this is accommodated within the existing workforce.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All Wards

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Youth Justice Plan 25/26

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Charlene Sykes, Service Director- Safeguarding Children, Youth Justice and Family help, Municipal Offices, Town hall Square, Grimsby.

Harriet Malkin, Deputy Service Director, Safeguarding, Disability and Interim Youth Justice, New Oxford House, George Street, Grimsby.

COUNCILLOR MARGARET CRACKNELL
PORTFOLIO FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

North East Lincolnshire

Youth Justice Plan

2025-2026



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Introduction, vision and strategy

Foreword by the Chair of the North East Lincolnshire Youth Partnership Board

As the Chair of the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership Board, I'm excited to introduce our annual Youth Justice Plan. Over the past year, we've been building on the positive HMIP findings from 2022 and working on areas that need improvement. This year, we've focused on strengthening our relationship with Children's Social Care. By collaborating closely with the new children's services leadership team, we're better equipped to deliver our 'child first' approach, which includes both statutory Youth Justice services and efforts to divert young people from offending.

Here are our refreshed priorities for this year:

- **Development of our Youth Justice Prevention Officer**
- **Children in Custody and Concordat**
- **Victim Offer and Restorative Principles**
- **Child First Principles Awareness**
- **Education, Training, and Employment**
- **Reducing Knife/Weapons Crime**
- **Reducing Re-offending and Greater Use of Outcome 22's**

Our board is responsible for developing, delivering, and overseeing the Youth Justice Plan to ensure we continue making a positive impact on young people and our community. We remain committed to leading and championing these priorities, focusing on prevention and diversion with a child-first approach. We also recognise the importance of understanding the diverse experiences of children and young people to shape our strategies and services. We continue to consult with our children and young people and work with our staff to ensure ongoing learning and development.

Notwithstanding some vacancies which we are proactively recruiting into, overall performance has been exceptional. This reflects the strong commitment, resilience and the collaboration of all partners delivering this plan, ensuring high standards have been maintained, as evidenced by our service moving into the top National YJB Quadrant

I'm thrilled to present this plan and look forward to achieving our goals over the coming year.



Paul French
Chair of NEL Youth Partnership Board

Foreword by the Chief Executive of the North East Lincolnshire Council

As Chief Executive of North East Lincolnshire Council, I am delighted to present our updated Annual Youth Justice Plan, developed collaboratively and closely aligned with our Council Plan, which continues to build upon the progress seen in recent years.

In North East Lincolnshire, every child and young person matters. We are dedicated to providing extra support to those engaged with our Youth Justice Service. Upholding our values, we believe that children who feel safe, loved, and connected within their communities are less likely to become involved in or remain within the Youth Justice system.

This plan outlines, as a partnership how we will continue to embed our aspirational vision for North East Lincolnshire Children's Services that places children at the heart and centre of all our work, with a greater focus upon prevention, supporting victims and restorative principles. The work across the partnership will continue to champion the best outcomes for children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SWroot'.

Sharon Wroot
Chief Executive
North East Lincolnshire Council

Executive Summary

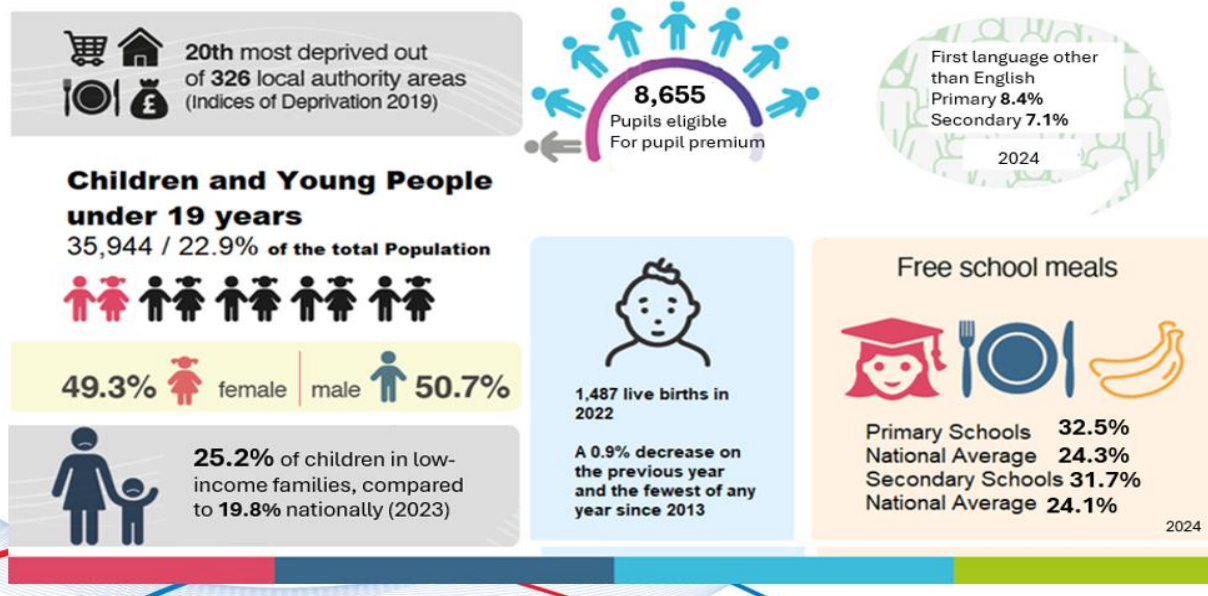
This Youth Justice Plan has been produced in partnership and sets out the vision and priorities for North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Service. Children and Young people have been consulted and shared their views to support the plan and feedback has been provided so they know the outcomes of the information they have shared. To ensure connectivity and interface between the partnership board and practice, the workforce have equally contributed towards the development of this plan and have shared their views on the progress made over the last 12 months and their views on the priorities for the upcoming year ahead.

The plan builds on our achievements in 2024/25 and sets out our strong partnership commitment to early help, prevention and diversion. It outlines our commitment to reducing first time entrants, reducing re-offending and sustaining our current performance in ensuring children are diverted from custody. Localised priorities have been reviewed and updated. Individual partner board members have been identified as leads and have responsibility for providing regular updates at each board meeting outlining the progress against their lead priority area, ensuring accountability across the partnership board.

Local Context

NO RESTRICTIONS

About our children and young people in... North East Lincolnshire



- Between January and December 2024, the Youth Justice Services worked with 197 children.
- Their age range was between 12 and 18 years, with the most common age being 14 years. 73% of these were male, and 27% were female. 91.8% identified as white British.
- 57% were NEET on entry to the service.
- 57% identified as having SEN (33% with an Education, Health and Care Plan).
- 44% had been open to Children's Social Care at some point in their life.
- Most common type of crime was Violence against the Person.

Vision and Strategy

Our Vision – ‘*Our Child, Our Future*’ using a Child First Approach – A Child First approach means putting children at the heart of service provision and seeing the whole child, identifying/tackling the influences on offending and identifying/promoting the influences that help them to move to pro-social, positive behaviour.

Our Strategy:

Local authority partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a Youth Justice plan relating to their provision of Youth Justice Services (YJSs). Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the Youth Justice partnership's responsibilities in

producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual Youth Justice plan, setting out how YJSs in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.

Children, young people and families are at the centre of all we do and we want North East Lincolnshire to be a place where our children can grow up happy and healthy, safe in their homes and communities with people that love them. We are ambitious for children's futures with a focus on learning and aspiration so they can be the best they can be.

We want children, young people, and families to be supported by a workforce that is passionate, compassionate, motivated, and proud of their work and who know, support and care for our children, families, and communities. We want our workforce to be supported by caring and knowledgeable leaders and colleagues and be supported to learn, develop, reflect on practice, and feel valued, appreciated, and respected. We will ensure the workforce have the tools and resources that they need to make a difference with everyone taking responsibility for their own learning, development and practice. In North East Lincolnshire, relationships unite us and we put children at the heart and of centre of our work. We are ambitious and we want to be innovative and collaborative to create lasting change. There is a commitment to ensuring the right support, at the right time by the right person. We are aspirational for ourselves, as well as our children and families, and we will hold each other to account with open and honest conversations in the context of a shared vision and thresholds.

In North East Lincolnshire, we want all children to be safe from harm and enjoy growing up in loving, caring homes, have the best start in life and a happy, healthy, fun childhood. We want them to, start school ready to learn, do well at all levels of learning and have the skills and opportunities they need to enjoy a bright future. We want children be part of an inclusive, compassionate, and thriving community, be listened to, involved in the decisions on their future and respected.

We are committed to ensuring a Child First Approach is implemented and central of our delivery to:



In the context of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, we are also committed to ensuring:

- Child centered approaches with a whole family focus.
- Collaborative working with consistent and timely information sharing.
- Ensuring the right support at the right time.
- Children are raised by their families and in their community

- Using clear, non-blaming language and avoid jargon with the families we work with
- Being identity and cultural aware
- Using Strengths based approaches.

Our statutory Youth Justice Service is situated within Children's Service's within North East Lincolnshire Council, and as a multi-agency partnership, it is an integral part of our integrated offer for children and families across North East Lincolnshire. The Youth Justice Plan clarifies our local Youth Justice arrangements, sets out the shared ambition and priorities across the Youth Justice Partnership and reinforces our focus on **system wide leadership** so that children are diverted away from the Youth Justice system wherever possible.

Collaborative working is essential to support children through their Youth Justice journey through early intervention, family help and protection, health provision, education, training and employment opportunities and suitable accommodation. The child's and family's voice must also be central to the work we deliver. We want children to live happy and successful lives, achieving their full potential and develop a positive identity. This will lead to fewer victims and safer communities.

How will we know we are making a difference?

- Children and families will tell us they are more confident about their future prospects.
- Victims feel supported and safe.
- Our key performance indicators will show improved outcomes for children and families.
- Quality assurance activity will demonstrate the impact of our work

Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

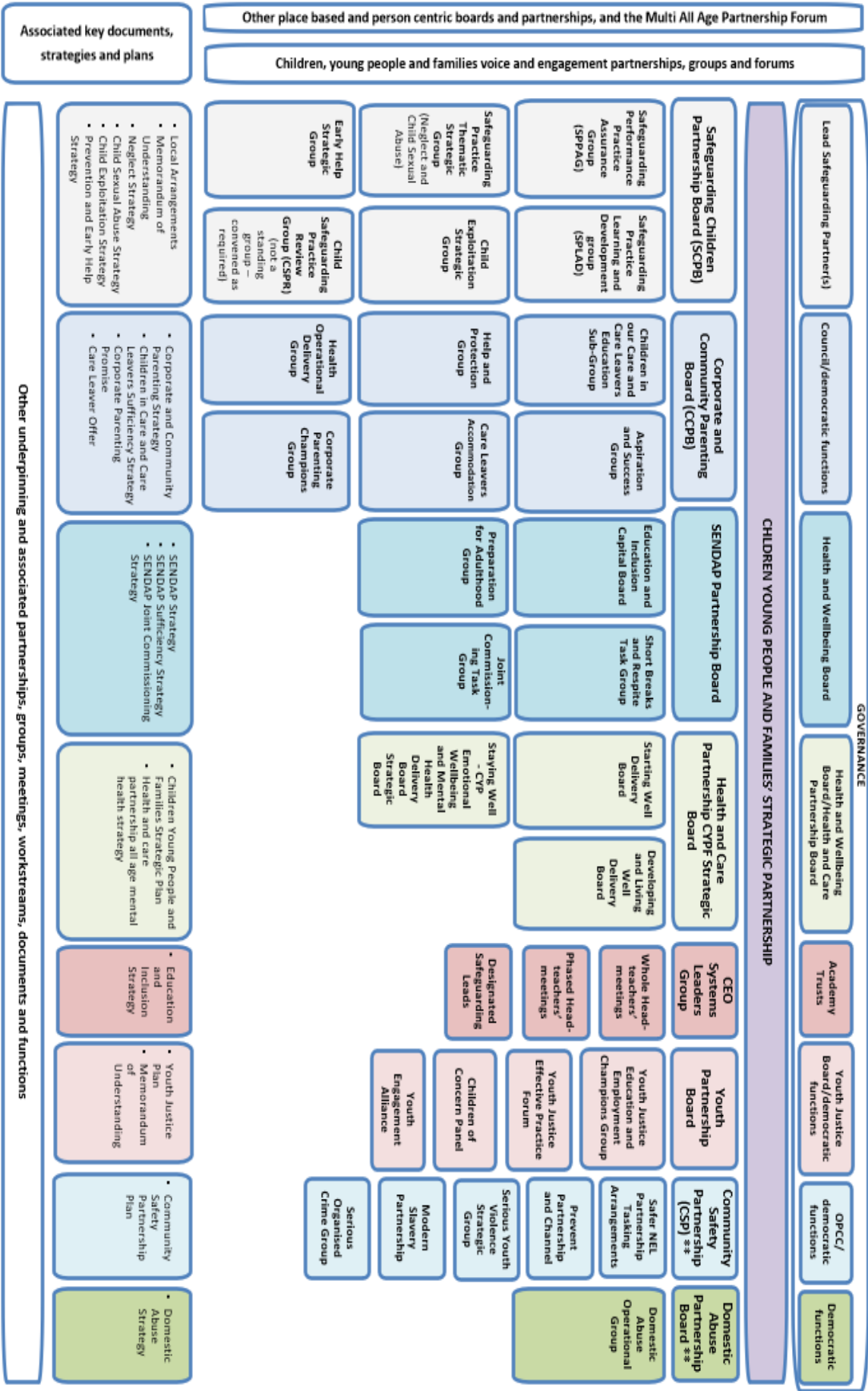
Governance:

North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Service (YJS) sits within the Children Services Directorate and is integral part of our offer to children and families ensuring the right support at the right time. The Youth Partnership Board (YPB) has a chair, Paul French who brings extensive experience to the role including senior management within Humberside Police. Paul has a good understanding of the role, and work of the Youth Justice Service, promotes child first and provides confident leadership to the board.

The Youth Partnership Board interfaces with the wider strategic partnerships and boards within North East Lincolnshire including the Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board, the Community Safety Partnership, Violence Prevention Partnership Board, Skills Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board. This interface

allow stronger connections with our partners and to have a line of sight on cross cutting priorities and reduces the likelihood of duplication.

Locally, there is a culture of professional challenge and holding partners to account. There are embedded systems and processes for professional challenge across the safeguarding system and evidence of scrutiny and assurance arrangements in place at all levels across our safeguarding partner organisations.



Youth Justice Partnership Board:

The YPB meets quarterly and oversees strategic management, funding arrangements, partnership working and access to partner agency provisions. The Board receives quarterly management reports and closely monitors performance against the key performance indicators, staffing arrangements, generic workforce issues, and specific projects. The YPB also oversees action plans, policies, procedures and partnership protocols. It is comprised of colleagues at senior level including; Probation, Police, Health, Children's Social Care and Education, also ensuring operational activity is brought to the board including children, parents, carers and victims voices are heard.

Following the HMIP Inspection of the YJS in 2022, organisational delivery which included governance and leadership, staff, partnerships and information and facilities were graded '**Good**' across the board.

The board has a Terms of Reference which identifies that the board must:

- Ensure that North East Lincolnshire's 'Our Children, Our Future', Child First, trauma informed principles and other child focused approaches are embedded strategically and operationally
- Oversee the performance of the whole justice system for children locally, through analysis of data and cases, with board members contributing data from their own agency as appropriate
- Take action to address any system wide performance concerns including over representation of specific groups of children; and when children are not receiving timely access to provision e.g. on resettlement and throughout transition processes
- Provide and commit sufficient resources, not only through seconding staff from statutory partners, but also by ensuring their contributions are sufficient to cover IT costs, suitable office accommodation and space to work with children.
- Be of sufficient seniority within their organisation to be able to comment on debates at the Board and make decisions committing their organisation to taking action and providing resources
- Be able to answer for their organisation's delivery of their commitments in any underpinning actions and priorities
- Ensure that actions agreed at the board are undertaken within their organisation and provide updates to the subsequent board meetings
- Nominate a single named substitute to represent them when required (on an exceptional basis) (at these times, each substitute will be afforded the same rights on the Board as the person they are deputising for during the period in question)
- Undertake an induction programme (to clarify roles and responsibilities and include briefing regarding Youth Justice Plan)

The YJB KPI's will track senior partners contribution to the board. In 2024/25 there was 100% representation demonstrating senior leaders prioritisation of the Youth Partnership Board

Partnerships

NEL YJS comprises of partners at both a Strategic and Operational Level through the Youth Partnership Board and service delivery in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The current Youth Justice Partnership Board membership can be found at Appendix 1. Current operational arrangements are:

Humberside Police	Education	Probation	Children's Social Care	Health and Wellbeing
One Police Officer and one Early Intervention Officer are Seconded to the YJS. These roles support decision making and reducing first-time entrants into the YJS. The Early intervention officer is also central to providing support early prevention to children involved in anti-social behaviour.	One Education worker seconded to the YJS. This role is central in the delivery of career advice but also a point of contact for any educational needs and supports the Key Performance indicator.	One Probation Officer is seconded to the YJS. This role is central is risk management and multi agency public protection arrangements. The role also ensures smooth and timely transitions for children into adult services.	Joint protocol in place between YJS and CSC both for Children in Care and Childrens Advice and Support Service. Designated social worker identified who provides strong connections and a point of contact.	Service Level Agreement in place with School Nurses to ensure physical health needs are met. One Cognitive Behaviour Therapist provides monthly clinical supervisions to children and supports with timely referrals into Navigo. Low intensity mental health support provided to our children by the JEFF team with three practitioners trained in this area. Service Level agreement in place for one Speech and Language Therapist who provides dedicated supervisions and assessments with children were required. Operation Reframe is launched with 'With You' (substance misuse service) to support streamlined diversions for children arrested for low level drug offences.

North East Lincolnshire YJS have developed excellent joint working arrangements with colleagues regionally and nationally. Regional partnership arrangements includes, Reciprocal audit arrangements, Chair of Humber region quarterly head of service meetings, Consortium bid applications and Joint training.

Locally NEL YJS are core members of a number of subgroups and arrangements that work to protect children, the community, and promote early intervention. These include; Safeguarding Children's Partnership, including the Safeguarding Performance Practice Assurance Group Meeting (SPPAG), Safeguarding Practice Learning and Development Group (SPLAD), Early Help Strategic Group and the Safeguarding Practice Thematic Strategic Group (Neglect and Child Sexual Abuse). In addition, the YJS is a key member of the Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Panel, Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) panel, Multi Agency Missing and the Chanel and Prevent Panels. The YJS are also a key contributor to the Corporate Parenting Board.

In NEL, we are of the firm belief that partnership working between the VCSE sector is to key to successful outcomes for children at risk of, or being within, the criminal justice system. To this end the VCSE are represented on the Youth Partnership Board and have played a key role in the formation of North East Lincolnshire's Youth Engagement Alliance. The YEA brings together VCSE organisations and statutory Youth Justice partners to ensure that activities, both in terms of geographical location, and by the range of diversionary opportunities available to children have the maximum impact in terms of outcomes for those deemed at risk of entering the criminal justice system and de-escalating from it.

The JEFF project, which is jointly managed by Youth Justice Services and Compass Go, commissioned through the ICB / NHSE also has a tier 1 representation from the VCSE, this involves several key VCSE organisations delivering universal positive activities at key times of the week in our most deprived neighbourhoods. The model is trauma informed and aims to offer brief interventions to help to minimise the number of children being referred to high level well being services. This network of organisations detailed over 11,000 attendees over 2024-2025.

Workforce overview:

NEL Youth Justice Service's staffing structure is shown on Appendix 2 including the reporting services and seconded partners.

Our Head of the Youth Service has responsibility for Youth Justice and Family Help. This role provides systems leadership across Children's Services with strategic responsibility for early help, integrated youth, edge of care and missing and exploitation. The line management of the Head of Service falls within the remit of the Director of Children's Services. This allows stronger connections between Youth Justice and Early Help including stronger exit planning and sustained support, alongside stronger connectivity to the wider Childrens agenda.

Our YJS is led by the Service Lead who has responsibility for Youth Justice and our Youth Offer and reports quarterly and annually on new initiatives and financial issues that have budget implications for the overall expenditure. We then have two Practice Supervisors who oversee the service operationally and report direct to the Service Lead.

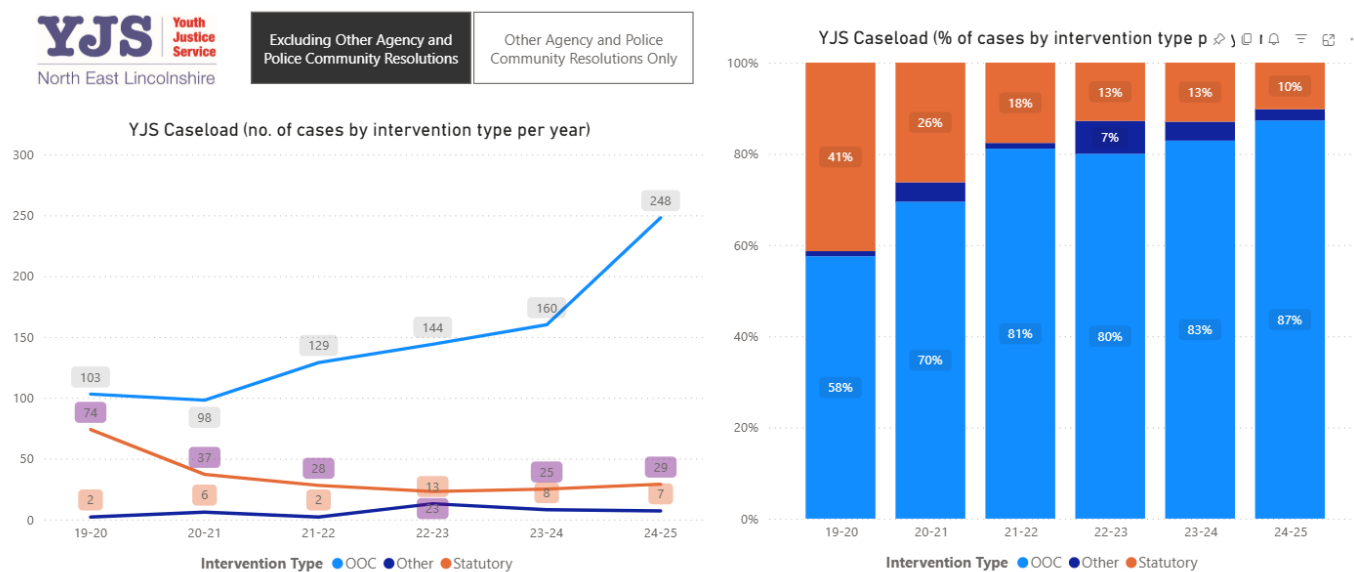
Update on the previous year

Progress on priorities in previous plan.

The table shows the progress of these and those in amber indicate ongoing actions and commitment.

Key Priority	Progress	Ongoing Actions
Better connectivity between YJS and Childrens Social care	Aligned to the transformation journey within children's services and changes in the leadership team there has been significant progress in the connectivity between YJS and Childrens Social Care inclusive of family help. This will remain an area of review however is considered completed given the progress achieved.	None, will remain under review within audit.
Further Development of our diversion and out of court offer	We continue to perform highly with our use of Diversionary outcomes. There have been significant improvements in our data recording. We are locally using the lowest possible outcomes for all children and will utilise these throughout a child's journey even if they are known to our statutory side. This is supported by Humberside Police and out of court referrals are made despite their history. Turnaround in NEL has seen a huge success with numerous children being supported and not re-offending. This is due to our holistic and tailored intervention plans.	The offer will continue to remain under review and be enhanced. This will be monitored and enhancements made as appropriate.
Reduction of child exploitation and serious youth violence	There has been significant work across the partnership to raise awareness of exploitation of violence, this has seen an increase in children identified as being vulnerable to and/or at risk of exploitation. Due to partnership efforts serious youth violence remains low.	This will remain a priority focus area within the Community safety partnership and is a priority area under the safeguarding children's partnership
Equality, diversity and Inclusion	At a national level addressing disproportionality is a priority for the Youth Justice Board. Over the past twelve months there has been a focus on upskilling the workforce in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion and better understanding disproportionality within the criminal justice system. Key members of the team have been identified as champions to lead on this agenda and support others in ensuring protected characters and diverse needs of our children, families are victim are recorded and responded to. The CIF is also used to ensure any needs and child first principles are considered by CPS before charging decisions are made.	We continue to review the Equality, diversion and Inclusion strategy, aligned to the wider council strategy. Alongside continuing training of the workforce, updating protocols to reflect best practice and introduction of the education sub-group.

Transition from childhood to adulthood	Processes have been strengthened to ensure timely and appropriate transitions, this includes earliest notification and allocation to the seconded probation officer. Numbers for transition remain low and therefore this will continue to be monitored in practice when the need arises.	This will remain monitored through practice assurance and audit.
Education, Training and Employment	We have made significant progress with our ETE following revised service level agreements and improved relationships with our education providers. The number of children in suitable education remain high, however there remains some challenges in relation to reduced timetables, NEET and our Post 16 cohort therefore this remains a priority area for us the upcoming year. A revised Education sub-group will be launched to have a deep dive into this and explore any themes which can be addressed strategically. The local authority's SEND and Alternative Provision strategy also seeks to address the processes around accessing supportive intervention placements in alternative provision, with the aim of returning more children to mainstream provision. September 2025 is the planned timeframe for the end of the commissioning process.	This remains as a priority area for the upcoming year
Improve emotional health and well being	The introduction of our JEFF project has seen a huge success and impact for children experiencing trauma on the cusp of entering the YJS, with both improved emotional well-being and reduced involvement with services/presenting behaviours. This has equally contributed to our small number of FTE's. The JEFF project continues to be in place until 2028, to support children where emotional wellbeing is an area of need. There has been significant training on trauma training and Shame training throughout the workforce. Planning and intervention will continue to be driven through the alliance and steering group meetings.	A continued line of sight within this area related to impact and outcomes for children will be achieved through the effective practice forum, audit and feedback.

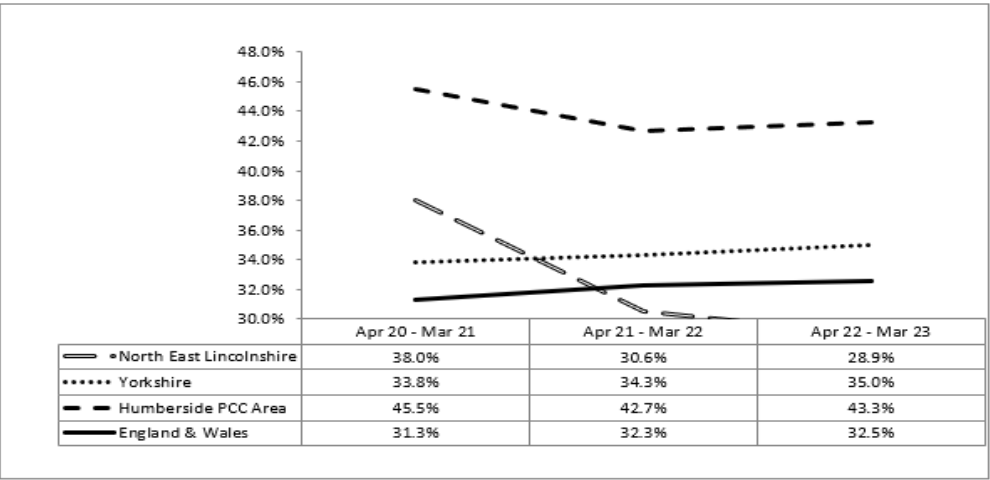


The latest published data is from the period January-December 2024 which saw 28 first time entrants and a rate of 178. This is below our family average and England rate. However this is an increase in the last year which has been impacted by the Crown Prosecution's Service who no longer recognise informal

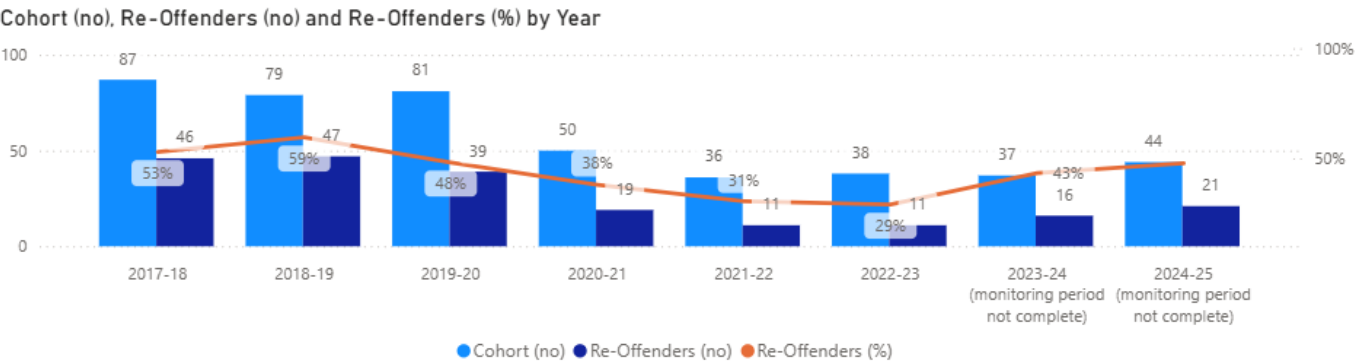
out of court disposals when charging decisions are made and NEL not being part of any Outcome 22 Deferred Prosecution Scheme.

Data indicates that the % of children re-offending is below comparators. Re-offending is measured by looking at a cohort of children (aged 10-17) who received a caution or sentence or were released from custody during a 3-month or 12-month period. All the children and young people in the cohort are tracked for 12 months to see how many reoffended and how many further offences were committed.

The latest MOJ data is for the April 22 – March 23 period which had a cohort of 38 children, of which 11 children committed 31 re-offences. This gives a re-offending rate of 28.9% and 2.82 re-offences per re-offender. This is a reduction from the last reporting year. In comparison the family group average was 35.5%, England average was 32.5% and the Humberside rate was 43.3%.



We are locally monitoring the subsequent periods and projecting an increase in our % of children re-offending, this is due to increased contact with the YJS, increasing risk of re-offending. This is collaborated by research.

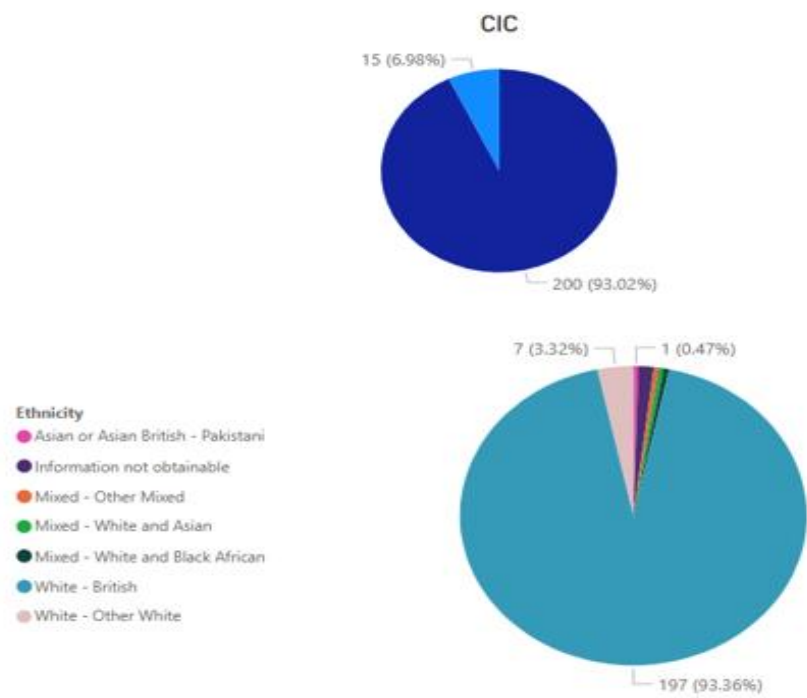


Disproportionality refers to a group’s over representation in a particular category, or differs substantially from the representation of others in that category. This can be for example age, gender, children in care or ethnicity.

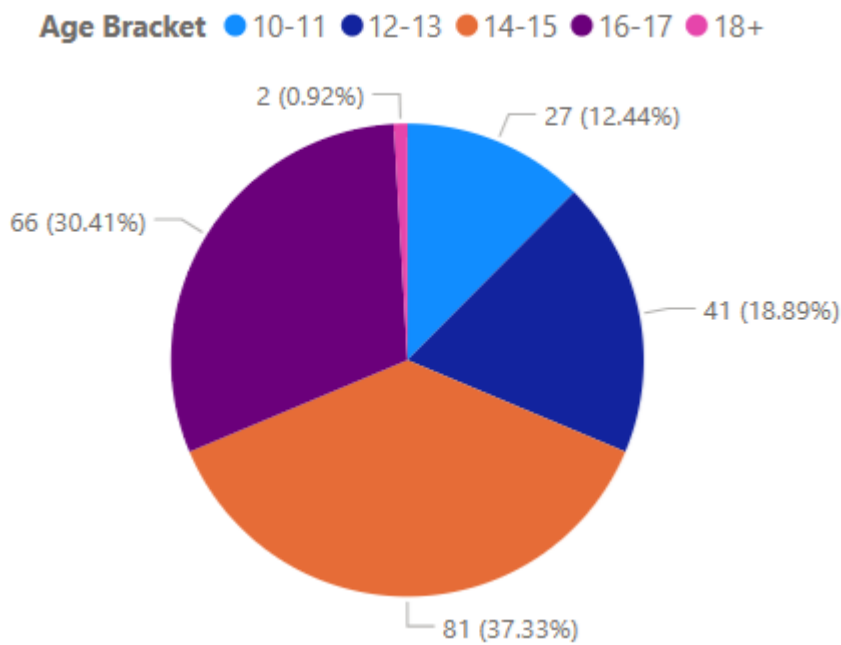
The development of the recording of all Diversionary outcomes has seen a slight increase in the number of females and children in our care. However, there is no evidence this is an over representation as this includes programmes where there is no YJS intervention attached (Outcome 20’s and 21’s) and when compared to the overall cohort.

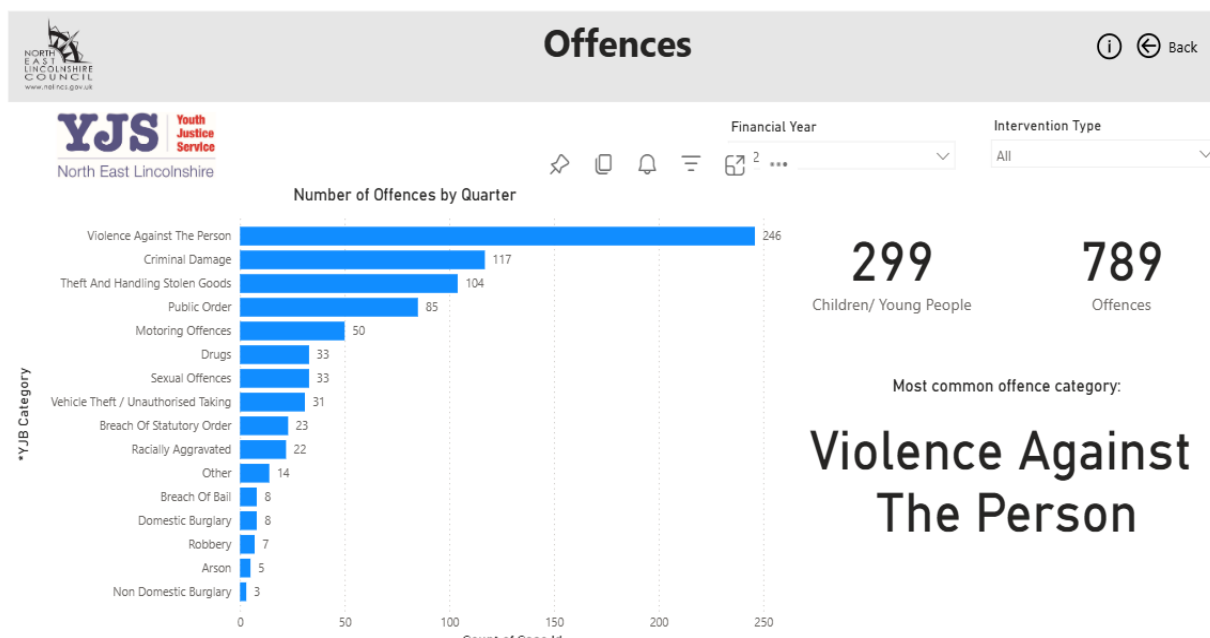
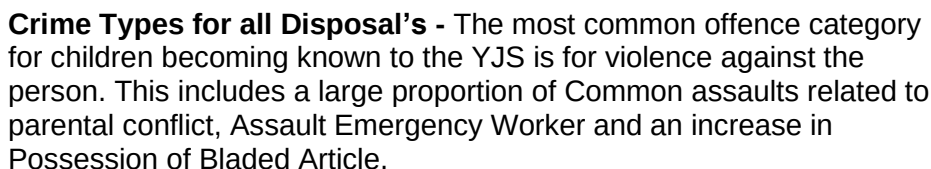
The introduction of the Child Information Form holds partners into account in ensuring the Crown Prosecution Service are aware of the full circumstances of children in our care before making charging decisions.





When considering age, our biggest cohort are 14-15 years, followed by 16-17 years. This coincides with high number of exclusions occurring for children within these age brackets. We intend to further explore this age group and how we can best support them through a key time in their development.





It is evident further work is required to reduce these numbers. The YJS now has direct access and referral routes to the DART Programme, Family Group Conferencing and Mediation to support family relationships. We are enhancing our Custody Profiles to ensure children are supported in custody and so the police fully understand their needs. A Weapons Policy has also been developed to address the increase in Children carrying knives and provided a tiered approach to universal and targeted intervention.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)

The KPI's were developed by the Youth Justice Board to reflect the areas that are strategically important in delivering effective help and support to children.

The YJS have significantly improved their data recording aligned to the KPI's with monthly reporting and data cleansing taking place. These are presented on our Power Bi Dashboard and presented to the Partnership Board.

KPI 1 – Accommodation:

Children and Young People in suitable accommodation remains high – In 2024/25 98% of children were in suitable accommodation. The 2% accounts for a young person (18 years) who was temporarily staying in a B&B until suitable accommodation was found.

KPI 2 – Education, Training and Employment (ETE):

The number of children in a suitable ETE at the end of their Programme remains high. Overall, in 2024/25 80% of children with a Programme ending in the period were in suitable ETE. This percentage has reduced from 2023/24 and refers to Post 16 children and those children permanently excluded from school. The dashboard allows us to monitor and review any key themes or issues that are raised locally via the Partnership Board and Education Sub group.

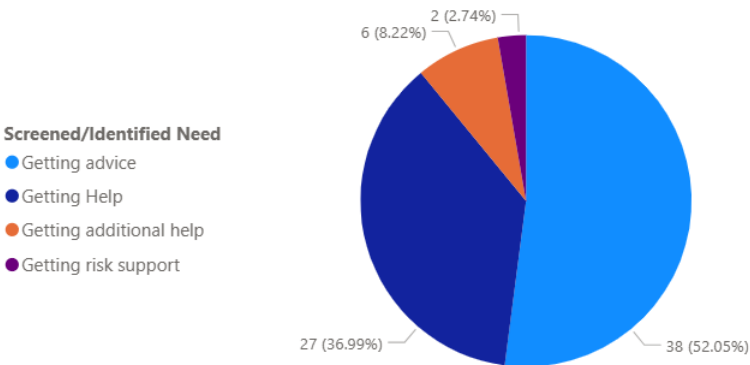
KP3 - Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)/Additional Learning Needs:

Data indicates there has been an increase in children with identified SEN and formal plans in place increasing from 7% to 39% in year 2024/25. This increase has been a result of greater understanding of our children's needs, ensuring plans/SEN support is in place and more accurate understanding.

KPI 4 - Mental health and emotional wellbeing:

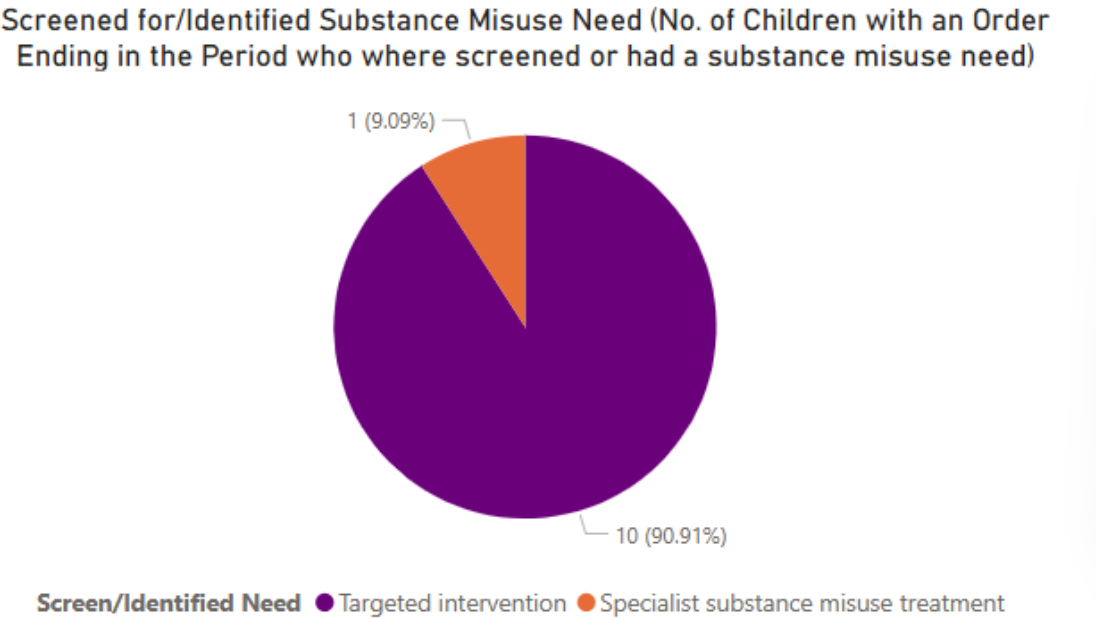
All children subject to YJS interventions are screened for any Mental and Emotional Wellbeing needs through the YJS approved tool. The graph below shows a breakdown of the screened/identified needs. The largest proportion refers to 'Getting advice' where practitioners will complete direct work with children using CBT resources provided through clinical supervision.

Children with a Screened/Identified Need Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Need by Type (No. of Children with an Order Ending in 2024/25)



KPI 5 - Substance misuse:

All children subject to YJS interventions are screened for any substance misuse needs through a tool developed with 'With You' (our local substance misuse team) and aligned to the YJB tool. This includes the levels of treatment Teir 1-4. Data indicates 70% were screened having an identified need, the majority of these have been Tier 1, followed by Tier 2.





Substance Misuse Screening Tool

Do you smoke?	YES	NO	(If YES, please complete below)	
	Type of smoke Brand of Cigarettes/Tobacco	How many/how often	Age when first started	Score
Tobacco				1
Heroin smoke				1

Are you currently or have you previously used any substances?

YES	NO	(If YES, please complete below)
-----	----	---------------------------------

Substance (only complete which is applicable)	How many times a week?	Amount used on average using	Age when substance first used	Score (please add up scores)
Cannabis	1			
Cannabis Vape	1			
Cocaine	2			
Ecstasy	2			
Amphetamine (speed, amzo)	2			
Heroin (Other opiates, drugs)	2			
Heroin	3			
Prescription (prescription) Benzodiazepine (serenely, Valium, Xanax)	4			
Opium (Heroin, cocaine)	4			
Crack	4			

Standard Consumption (score)	2				
Other					

Ever injected	YES	(A)	NO	(B)
If yes, have you injected a substance in the past 28 days?	YES	(A)	NO	(B)
TOTAL SCORE				

Alcohol Consumption				
How often do you drink alcohol? (If you have previously please specify all quantity of last)	Never (1)	Less than monthly (1)	Monthly (2)	Weekly (3)
Have you or somebody else been injured as a result of your drinking?	NO (1)	YES, but not in the last year (2)	YES, during the last year (4)	
Has a friend, friend, doctor or health worker been concerned about your drinking or suggest you cut down?				
Any answer other than 'never' please complete questions 1-7 on the Alcohol Screening tool below.				

1	How many standard drinks containing alcohol do you take on a typical day when you are drinking? (Standard drink is 1 unit of alcohol)	1-2 (1)	3-4 (1)	5-6 (2)	7-9 (3)	10+ (4)
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	Never (1)	Less than monthly (1)	Monthly (2)	Weekly (3)	Daily / Almost Daily (4)
2	How often do you have 6 or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion?				
3	How often during the last year have you found that you were not able to stop drinking once you have started?				
4	How often during the last year have you found to do what was suggested or you decided or your drinking?				
5	How often during the last year have you needed an alcoholic drink in the morning to get yourself going after a heavy drinking session?				
6	How often during the last year have you had a feeling of guilt or remorse after drinking?				
7	How often during the last year have you been unable to remember what happened the night before because you had been drinking?				
TOTAL SCORE					

Overall Score

Drug Use:

Score: Up to 3

Score: 4-6

Score: 8+

Alcohol Use:

Score: Up to 7

Score: 8-15

Score: 16+

Professional judgement – How concerned are you regarding the drug/alcohol or substance misuse?

1 - Lower risk

2 - Some concern

3 - Immediate danger

4 - Possible dependence

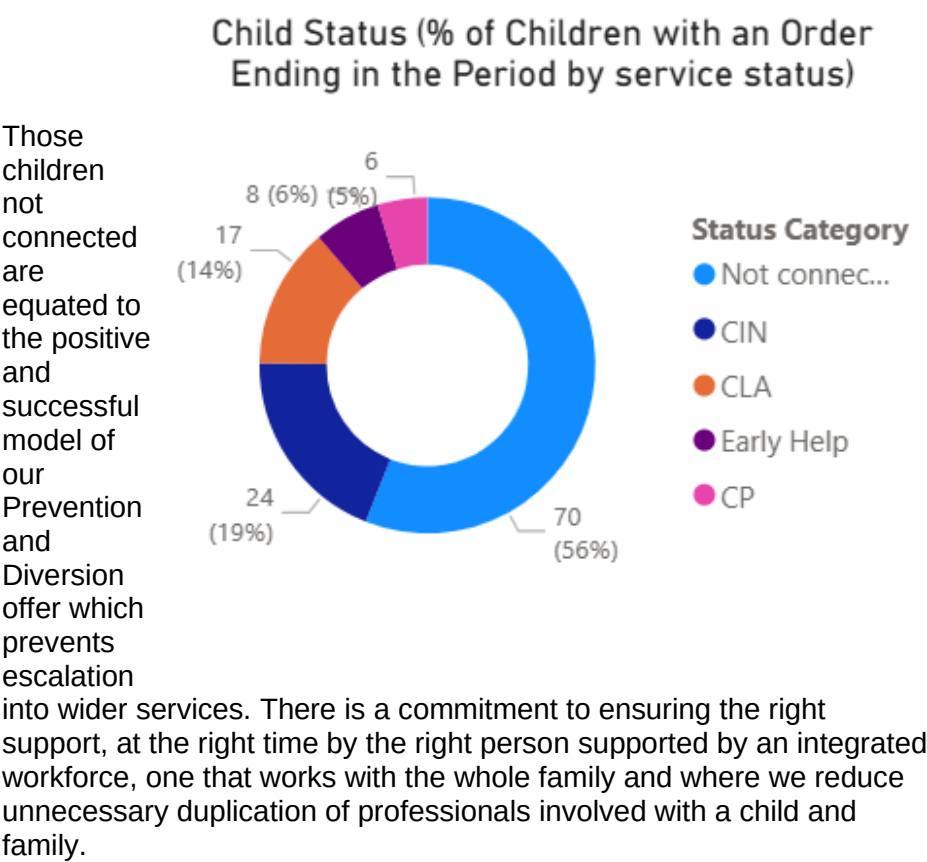
Should it be decided that an onward referral is required for drug/alcohol or substance misuse, consent is required prior to a referral being made, a joint visit can be arranged with a Young Person Recovery Advisor to discuss a referral with the clinic.

KPI 6 - out-of-court disposals

The % of children successfully completing their out of court disposal programmes is high. During 2024/25 there was a success rate of 91% of children successfully completing their out of court disposals. The 9% unsuccessful rate were due to re-offending and missing sessions/withdrawing consent.

KPI 7 – Wider Services:

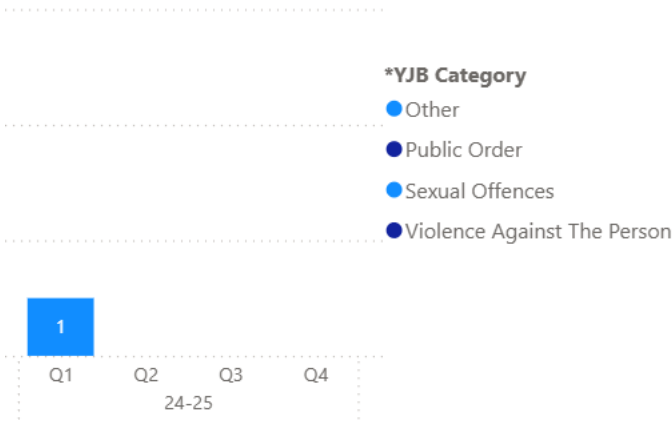
Over the period 2024/25 44% of children were linked to wider services. Breakdown is seen below:



KPI 8 – Management Board

Partnership representation at the Youth Partnership Board remains high. Positively 100% of statutory partners attended the Youth Partnership Board in 2024/25 demonstrating the positive partnership commitment to the board in NEL.

KPI 9 – Serious Violence:



The rates of children convicted for a serious violent offence in NEL are low. The YJB defines serious violent offences as an offence with a gravity score of 5 or more (including Drugs and Robbery) which results in a caution or sentence. NEL YJS have seen a significant reduction in Serious Violence offences over the last year. This is attributed by the positive support through Prevention and Early Help. Overall offences for violence over the last year have included Assault Emergency Worker, Parental/Carer Conflict and Possession of Bladed Article. This is being closely monitored to prevent further escalation.

KPI 10 – Victims:

The percentage of victims consenting to be contacted by the YJS and engaging in restorative justice opportunities remains high. Data demonstrates that victims are contacted in all cases and a high proportion engage in restorative justice processes as seen below:

233

Victims

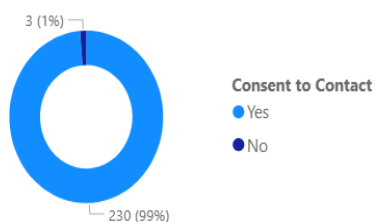
Financial Year

24-25

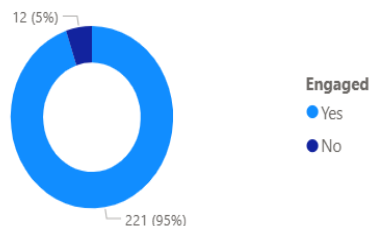
Quarter

All

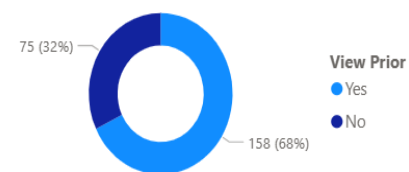
% of victims consented to YJS contact



% of victims who engaged with restorative opportunities



% of victims asked their view prior to decision making



% of victims who were requested information on the progress of a child's case



Of the victims who requested progress, % of victims who were provided information on the progress of a child's case



Risk and Issues

Increase use of Remand/Custody	Increase in First Time Entrants / Re-offending rates.	Increase in Sexual Offences
NEL YJS have been seen a steady increase in repeat children re-offending with children subject to Bail ISS and RLAA conditions. Numerous NEL children are also linked to MACE who are therefore at greater risk of serious offences. This could present as a financial risk and more children experiencing secure environments. The partnership will work closely to use creative ways to promote engagement and enhance community bail packages including tailored intervention plans, levels of contact and support from intensive family help team. Reports to inform decision making in court will be high quality and balance the welfare of the child and likelihood of harm to the community/victims.	NEL have seen a slight increase in FTE's and re-offending rates. The partnership will explore ways to scrutinise data including thematic audits to have a deep dive into our cohorts. We continue to locally track re-offending rates and review those children at greatest risk of re-offending during our quarterly children of concern panel. There continues to be local challenge to the Crown Prosecution Service in relation to decision making for informal out of court disposals. We have met with the Local Criminal Justice Board to bring together a proposal for the introduction of a Deferred Prosecution Scheme in the Humberside Area. We will also seek to promote child first across all partners and stakeholders. Our Child First Conference will allow us to reach partners far and wider across the Criminal Justice System. Our development of our Prevention offer will also ensure children receive support at the earliest opportunity to prevent escalation.	A rise in the number of children being arrested for sexual offences has been noted and is being closely monitored. NEL YJS currently have a child on remand for Sexual offences. NEL YJS will monitor and review all children arrested for sexual offences and submit serious incident notifications were required. We will work closely with Family Help to ensure children receive the right level of support at the right time and timely referrals are made to AIMS Panel where specialist support is required.
Inadequate judgement from Ofsted (ILACS)	Workforce pressures and capacity	Change of Case Management System

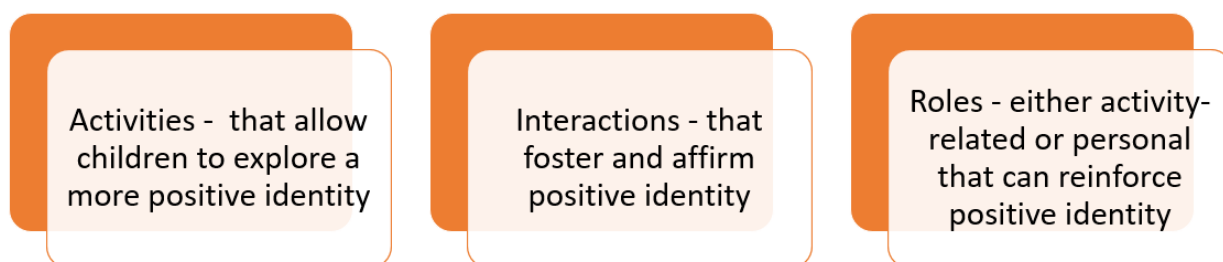
There is currently a high level of focus from OFSTED within Childrens social care and Family Help services within North East Lincolnshire due to the 2021 grading of "inadequate. There are regular focus visits and all areas of concern are being addressed through a strategic improvement and transformation plan with overall ownership with the Director of Children's Services. Monitoring visits have shown significant progress including senior leads being highly visible, workforce stability improvement, fewer changes in social workers, children and families received the right level of support when they need it, and key partners being involved in the improvement agenda including YJS. There has been improved better connectivity between YJS and CSC resulting in this being removed as a priority area for the upcoming year.	The wider service review has resulted in staffing pressures whilst the review was completed and vacancies recruited to. To prevent drift and delay for those awaiting a service NEL YJS have been fully committed to identifying gaps and resources during this time and have used creative ways to ensure children receive the same service. This has included utilisation of our Prevention offer, group work and working closely with our partners.	NEL YJS are due to change case management system in Summer 2025. We are part of the pilot group for System C Liquid Logic. This will be a challenging time during migration and training all staff on a new system. We will ensure we are regularly updated with progress and ensure appropriate plans are made to make the transition smoother.

Plan for the forthcoming year:

Child First

Child first is the guiding principle for the Youth Justice Sector and underpins the Standards for Children alongside the Case Management Guidance.

A Child First approach means putting children at the heart of what we do and treating children as children, supporting that shift to a Pro-social identity by giving children Fresh AIR:



Below are the four tenants of the Child First Principles (known as ABCD) and describe how we are meeting these principles:

A – As Children – This means prioritising the best interests of children and recognising their needs, capacities, right and potential. All work is child focused and acknowledges structural barriers.

This includes being identity aware and here at YJS we are mindful of the language we use and messages we are sending to the child, and the messages they are sending us. It is important to know that the language used to describe children and young people can disempower them and impact their identity and ability to trust others. As a service we have moved away from all negative language and ensure children are invested in their plans and that the process isn't just happening to them. We have introduced Personalised Support Plans, Child First Appropriate Language Tool Kits' and removed negative language from our supervision forms to rename these 'Keeping Everyone Safe Panel'. Addressing 'risks of harm' to the child or others is crucial to provide the safe space for child development and for victims and potential victims, but stigma can be reduced if this understood in more positive terms like keeping everybody safe/safety for others.

B – Building a Pro-Social Identity – Promotes children's individual strengths to develop their pro-social identity and future focused.

Children being supported by the NEL YJS have access to a numerous range of activities and resources to ensure structural barriers are eliminated and they have opportunities to be children and succeed. This includes, gym/boxing/swimming, passes, cooking classes, sexual health, education/career advice and reparation projects including the bike project and woodwork. NEL YJS team are trained in Relational/Restorative Practice and this is central to our work.

C – Collaborating with Children – Ensuring children are invested in their plans, engagement and wider social inclusion.

We ensure our support is both personal and structural using the 5 C's; Constructive, co-created, customised, consistent and coordinated. All YJS Practitioners utilise tools to gain the child's voice throughout various stages of their intervention. A real strength of NEL YJS is their ability to form positive and trusted relationships with our children. To form intervention planning and collaboration with children, all practitioners complete the following Personalised Support Plan:

D – Diverting from Stigma – Removing stigma and promoting children being removed from the Criminal Justice System and minimal intervention.

NEL YJS has a comprehensive Prevention and Diversion offer to prevent children entering the Statutory arena. This is evidenced by the high proportion of our children being subject to Diversionary outcomes and a high proportion of these being successful in their interventions and refraining from further behaviours.

Here at NEL YJS we are committed to Child First and have developed in house training where all practitioners have been trained in this. The vision is for this to be delivered across the entire CSC workforce and utilise the Child First Self-Assessment Tool Kit with our internal and external partners.

<u>Who are you?</u> - daughter - sister - friend - Evie - girlfriend - grand-daughter	<u>Who do you want to be?</u> - Kinder Person - Calmer - more Social - wife - no kids - good money - wealthy
<u>What are your strengths, interest and goals?</u> - getting my head down and realising when im out of line. - No lying.	<u>How are you going to get there?</u> - avoid peer pressure - manage emotions - be more positive. - Hobbies.

* School.

* Weaknesses :

Child's Voice:

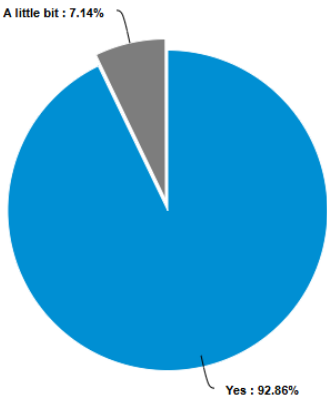
Following the HMIP Inspection May 2022, it was identified that, although we sought children's views and used these to inform their order, we could do more to monitor and evaluate their progress and to gain feedback to improve the service. NEL YJS have developed their own feedback app which is accessible through a QR code. This is for both Children and Parent/Carers. This is presented on a Dashboard and the vision is for this to be presented in a monthly report to the Partnership Board. Monthly audits are also undertaken by the Service Lead where the child's and parent/carer views are taken. By assessing each individual as part of a child's programme and the families we work with, we will be able to gather evidence regarding 'what works' and what doesn't. This will enable us to build an evidence base, improve our programmes and resources and to replicate what is successful in other areas.



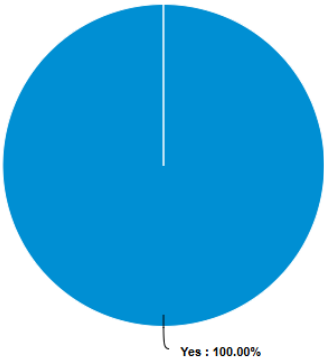
Following the merge of Out of Court and Statutory Youth Justice Service there are future plans to develop a combined Your Voice Booklet in line with our Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) policy, which will include direct work tools aligned to Youth Justice.

The App asks children questions around a child's understanding of YJS involvement, if they felt listened to, if they were involved in their planning and if things have got better for them. Below shows there has been 100% positive feedback in relation to these questions asked

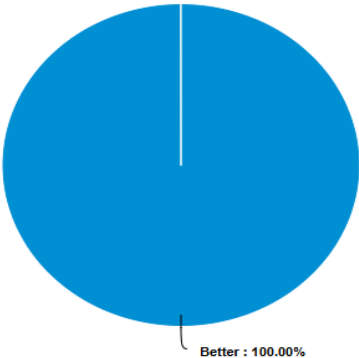
Did you understand why you were working with the Youth Justice Service?



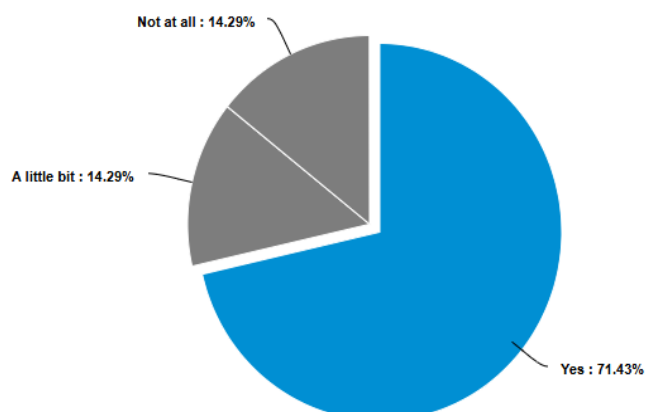
Did your worker listen to you and what you had to say?



Since working with Youth Justice have things got better or worse?



Were you involved in planning what you did with your workers?



Children's responses on the app around their thoughts on how the intervention went, any new skills learnt include:

Voice of the Child

Kept me out of trouble and
doing my CSCS course

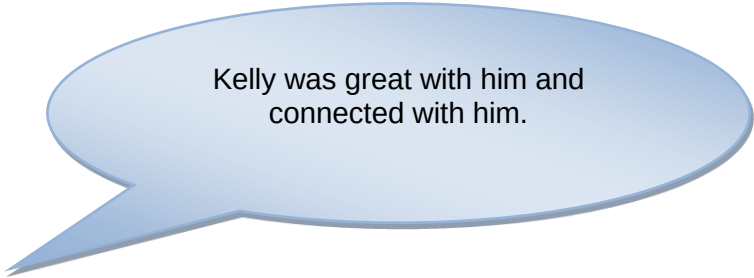
I've learnt now to keep out of trouble
and stopped me from getting a
criminal record

As bad as the situation was, I really
enjoyed working with Olivia

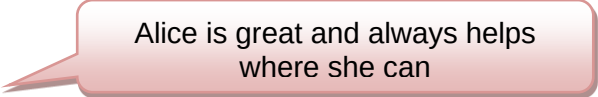
I've learnt a lot about myself

'it was so lovely to work
with you

Voice of the Parent



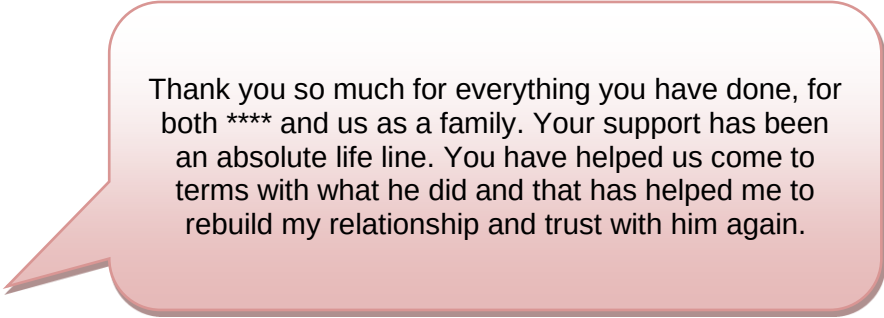
Kelly was great with him and connected with him.



Alice is great and always helps where she can



I was kept informed throughout



Thank you so much for everything you have done, for both **** and us as a family. Your support has been an absolute life line. You have helped us come to terms with what he did and that has helped me to rebuild my relationship and trust with him again.

Resources and services

A table with indicative budget costs and contributions for 2025/26 can be found in Appendix 4.

The North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Service is funded by the Local authority, the Youth Justice Board and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners grants, with a range of partner agencies providing funding and staff contributions. These contributions are used to deliver Youth Justice services, which aim to reduce offending and reoffending, support the priorities outlined in this plan and provide the best outcomes for children, young people, families and victims. The YJS continues to pursue external funding opportunities to expand our delivery and new initiatives. For example we are exploring additional funding through the VPP to broaden our Weapons Awareness delivery.

Youth Justice Services have a dedicated passionate staffing establishment as detailed within the HMIP report.

'There is a stable workforce across both Youth Justice and early help. Staffing levels are sufficient and workloads manageable. The service analyses data on current capacity and workloads, which enables it to respond quickly if there are changes' – Our data and performance, evidence that despite the review of service, we continue to perform highly and provide a positive and supportive service to our children, families and victims. In February 2025, under the Youth Justice Oversight Framework, the Youth Justice Board agreed that NEL YJS meets the criteria to allocated as Quadrant 1 service.

Board Development

Since the last annual plan, there has been an appointment of a new Chair; Paul French who was nominated and approved during the Board in August 2024. This was following the Former Chair moving into a temporary new role. Board members were asked to approve Paul French, Divisional Commander for Humberside Police as the new chair of YPB. Mr French shared his previous experience of the Youth Partnership Board and expressed his eagerness to take on this position. Paul recognised the strategic interface between his current role as Chair of the Community Safety Partnership in NEL. Following this, there been a revised Terms of Reference, a review of the agenda, and a revised list of attendees. As stated the new Board Chair is Chief Superintendent for Humberside Police and consists of representatives of the four statutory partners; the Local Authority, Health, Police and Probation. To represent the YJS team the Head of Service and Service is in attendance, as well as a Practice Supervisor.

The following actions have been identified are being embedded:

- Robust induction process for new Board Members, which outlines the requirements of attendance at the board ensuring there is a commitment to regularly attend, to scrutinise, check and challenge information which is presented and contribute to oversight of the Youth Justice Service and its functions.
- Training available to Board Members when important changes take place include legislation and guidance, which will impact on

- how the partnership operates and delivers its priorities.
- Borad development day held on 25/03/2025 which included Anti-Racism and Disproportionality training.
- Board members co-produce the Annual Youth Justice Plan and agree the priorities.
- Increasing the operational activity between the board and front line delivery, including presentations/case studies/voice of the child/victims.
- Partners bring their own data to discussion, particularly education, health and the police.

Workforce Development

We recognise that our Children's Services workforce is our greatest asset to contribute to the transformation of our offer to children, enabling children, young people and families to have positive experiences and outcomes. Across Children's Services, there is an ongoing commitment to listening, learning, reviewing and adapting to contribute to our vision 'Our Children Our Future'. We are also ambitious for children and young people's futures, with a focus on learning and aspiration so they can be the best they can possibly be.

Our Workforce Development Strategy 2024/27 sets out our commitment to and expectations of the Children's Services workforce. It provides the overarching framework for our collective workforce development outcomes and priorities and clarifies how we will know when we have achieved success.

There have been some challenges to staff in the last 12 months following a Review/Restructure of the Service area. This has meant that, at times, the team has not been fully staffed, and workloads have increased as a result. It is anticipated the team will be fully staffed by July 2025 therefore there will be a focus of training new staff members.

Over the period 2024/25 There have been numerous training opportunities taken place across Youth Justice and young and safe. This includes:

- 'The girl I want to be' by The Goldiggers trust (to enhance our girls group offer)
- Restorative/Relational Practice Training
- ARC Trauma Training
- Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool training
- Child Gravity Matrix
- Disproportionality/Cultural Awareness – *this has been highly thought of with themes including adultification and intergenerational trauma being embedded into our assessments and delivery.*

Priority Training over the next year:

- The MoJ have published a new concordat on remand for children, training has been arranged for 14/07/2025.
- Refresher of HMIP inspection framework.

- Silver Bullet assessment training.
- Youth Justice Effective Practice Award
- Elklan accredited speech, language and communication training.
- Child First Principles
- AIMS 3 refresher

Positively, the YJS staff who remain in the team, are longstanding, and passionate about the work they deliver with children. There are progression opportunities with numerous staff being promoted over the last year. YJS staff are thoroughly supported by monthly supervisions, appraisals, clinical supervision, team meetings and peer on peer support. All practitioners are champions and developed specialisms in specific areas. This has given them more responsibility and opportunities to support the wider partnership.

Feedback from the HMIP Inspection identified that although we had a supervision policy it was not specifically pitched around Youth Justice. Therefore, a YJS supervision policy is in place and is being reviewed. We carry out a comprehensive skills audit each year and use this to identify and meet the development needs of staff.

Evidence-based practice and innovation

Speech, Language and Communication:

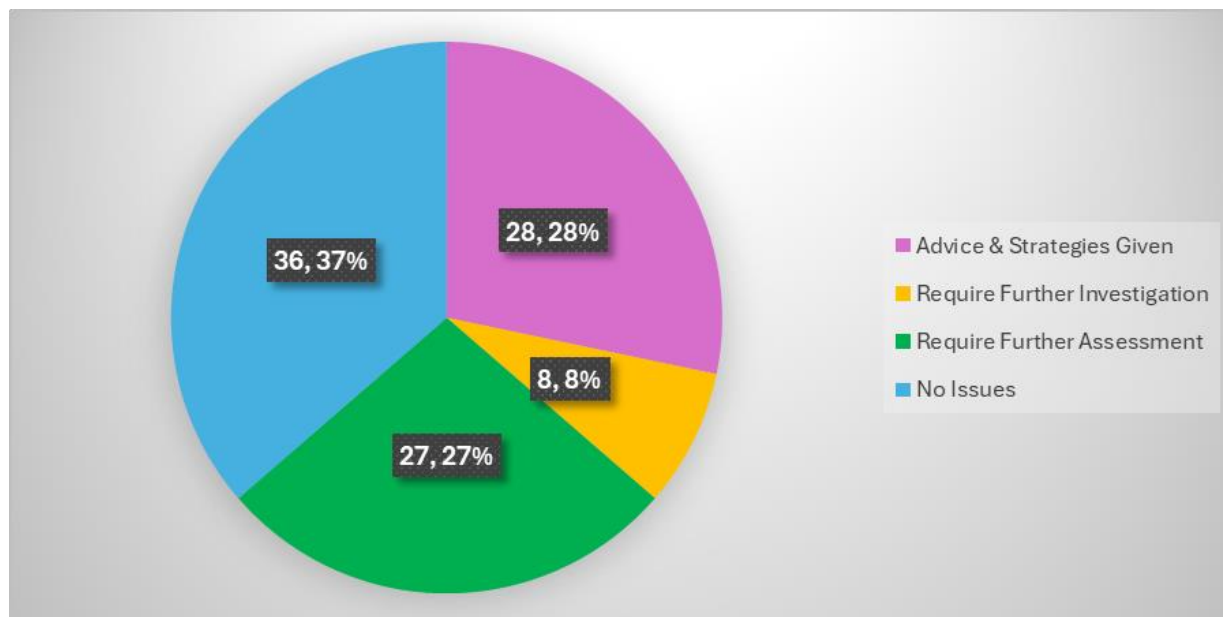
Research shows that children convicted of a criminal offence are much more likely to have another conviction within 12 months if they have an undiagnosed language need. Due to the national shortage of therapists and the backlog in the NHS we were unable to recruit or utilise partner agencies. Alternatively, we creatively trained Youth Justice Staff, Young People's Support Service and Park House (Alternative Provision). The training was specialist speech and language training specifically related to children involved in the justice system and was delivered by a therapist who worked in a secure children's centre. The whole team also undertook The Box training delivered by the royal college of speech and language therapists. This training is now part of all new staffs' induction programme to ensure we maintain a high level of knowledge of SLCN across the service. We also purchased an improved screening tool from Durham Youth Justice Service that was developed by their speech therapist. This consists of interactive cards that ask children questions relevant to their life. Lots of 'it's hard' responses mean there could be an issue that warrants further support or investigation.

The trained staff have learnt to read these screening tools and to filter out those that may just need a bit of extra support. These are returned to staff with strategy sheets – with tips and advice that they can use to help support a children through their order and also advice for parents and schools around how they can help them. Over the last year we have built a library of tools and supporting materials for children with specific SLC needs to aid staff in customising any intervention work to fit their needs.

We employ a speech and language therapist (SALT) who is able to offer staff monthly supervision. All the screening tools that are deemed as needing further specialist advice are taken to this monthly meeting. We

go through them with the speech and language therapist who will advise on next steps. This could be support and advice to practitioner and parents or it could be for them to have a further assessment by the SALT and / or a referral to NHS services.

During 2024/25 we have screened 103 children:



- 36 have had no issues
- 28 have had advice and strategies given to support them through their intervention and education. This can be specific to how we should contact them, how to format worksheets but also includes advice for parents on how to support their child, such as games they can play together.
- 8 have required further investigation – such as further discussions with school / parents.
- 27 have required further assessment. YJS have commissioned the SALT to complete a full SLCN assessment or they have been referred on to Navigo for intellectual Neurodevelopmental assessments or referred on the NHS SALT service
- 4 either declined the service or were not in a position at this time to take part.

A number of the children assessed by the YJS SALT have been diagnosed with developmental language disorder (DLD). Children with DLD will have difficulty expressing themselves verbally or understanding what is said to them. The disorder often starts in early childhood but persists into adulthood and can cause many difficulties in life. In a national study of 145 children within Youth Justice service, three in five were found to have DLD and none had been diagnosed before the study.

Poor language skills may make it hard for children to take advantage of services designed to help them avoid reoffending. These services often involve talking through what happened, listening to victims and expressing regret. If children are unable to participate fully because of DLD, they may be more likely to reoffend or be breached for non-compliance. Those children that were diagnosed with DLD were

assessed as functioning well below their chronological age, many of them functioning within the primary school age group.

The SALT has developed a letter to the child that goes alongside the official report explaining to them what their diagnoses means for them in a language they can understand. It also tries to negate any feelings of shame or inadequacy linked to a diagnosis by highlighting the child's strengths .

Work has continued building relationships with SEND partners in NELincs and YJS are now included in any new SLCN initiatives and provided with new resources from our SEND team. YJS have also developed a pathway for children that have an EHCP and have flagged up as some concerns on their screening tool. They can now be referred through to the SEND team to be seen by their SALT. This allows them to access further assessment and support and to have their EHC updated to include any new SLCN's.

Future plans

Over the next 12 months, we plan to develop the SALT assessments into a child friendly document that explains the outcomes to parent and children. Explaining how this may affect their life and strategies to support them in navigating the world with a SLCN. We intend to create packs for each child diagnosed with SLCN to enable them and their families to understand their diagnosis and to increase the use of Communication Passports for wider partners to understand these in a professional setting. Sadly, none of the NHS referrals submitted have resulted in any form of service. YJS would therefore like to develop support for those children using other creative ways.

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT)

North East Lincolnshire utilise and access the Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit which provides an overview of existing research on approaches that supports and assists practitioners around intervention programmes that been evaluated and shown to improve outcomes for children and young people. CBT has been rated as highly effective approach with a high reduction in behavioural difficulties.

In NEL all YJS Practitioners have completed the 3 day trauma training which focuses on the trauma recovery model, assisting practitioners to care and guide a children towards recovery. It looks at child development and attachment. All Practitioners are also Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) trained and are provided with monthly Enhanced Clinical Supervision. Within this, an individualised case formulation is created to support the identity shift, and practitioners

CASE FORMULATION
To be completed collaboratively by therapist and patient, although therapists may wish to explore their own analysis alone, before working jointly.

The Problem(s): Here write the problem, as simply as possible, e.g. "Depression". Not what you see on the cover, e.g. "Not a friend".

Self harm

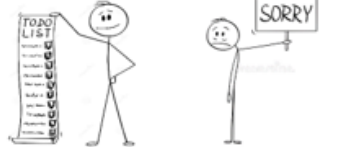
From here on down you will consider the Be-BEST factors at every stage.

Predisposing factors: Any factors predisposing this person to have the above problem. Genetic factors for example. <u>Abuse</u> <u>Self-esteem</u> <u>Being in care</u>	Positives: What has the person 'got going for them'? Assets that might be usable in therapy. <u>+ nice personality</u> <u>+ clever</u> <u>+ knows what needs to be done</u> <u>+ Support network</u> <u>+ Career aspirations</u> <u>+ open to engaging</u>
Precipitating factors: Any factors which may have precipitated the problem - 'triggered it'. <u>X Fall outs with mum to partner</u> <u>X Flash backs</u> <u>X bad time anniversary of death</u>	
Perpetuating factors: Any factors that are 'keeping it going'. These may include predisposing and precipitating factors, but will probably include others also. <u>Lack of positive activities</u> <u>Lack of Education / training</u>	

The Plan: Here write your plan to resolve the problem(s). This will explicitly address or utilise predisposing factors, precipitating factors, and positives. A good plan will have a minimum number of interventions, all of which are clearly relevant.

X go to my emergency box and use other ways and do things to keep me occupied to take my mind off things
X If I do cut myself I will call for help

utilise trauma informed practice in their interventions and day to day work.

This is a words and pictures for *** to help him understand why he has been excluded from school, why people are worried about this and what we need to do to get *** back into school again. 	People are worried about *** behaviour at school because he was not listening to teachers, shouting, getting angry and making threats. *** also got so angry one day that he was restrained, and he bit a teacher. The teacher had to go to hospital and get an injection as well as some medication because bites have nasty germs. ***, his mum and dad and the school were sad when *** was excluded and arrested. 	When things like this happen, it makes school unsafe for everyone including you. The teacher did not want to restrain you and was upset he had <u>do</u> this. All the school, and your mum and dad want, is for you to be happy and safe. Everyone around you knows you are a bright and clever young boy who is really caring and kind. 
Everyone around you, wants you to go to school so you can be with your friends, learn new things, and get some qualifications so you can go into the Royal Air Force when you grow up. 	Before you go back to main school, we need to make sure we all work together to make a plan. This is so you don't do the same thing again and that you are getting all the support you need. This plan will look at what you can do to make things better by saying sorry and making something for the school. It will also look at ways to help you follow the rules, not lash out at other children and teachers, and learn how to keep calm. 	This plan will then be shared with the chosen school so everybody knows what help you need to return to main school so you are happy, safe and so you can achieve your dreams when you grow up. 



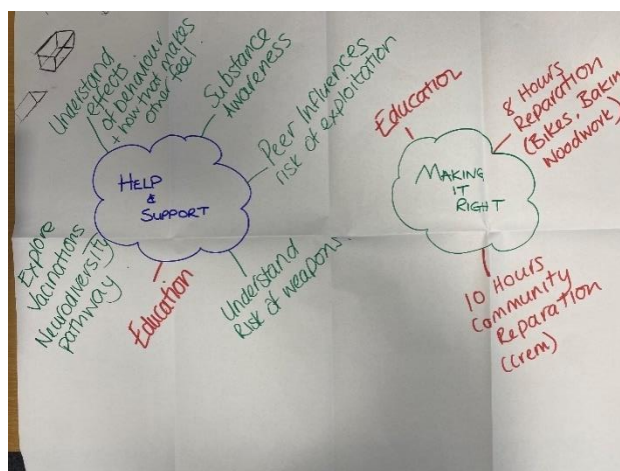
The trauma informed approach considers and explores the reasons for children’s behaviour and seeks to explore ways to prevent this using case formulations to discuss their thoughts, emotions, physical signs and

behaviour. It moves away from blame, shame and stigma of the individual to understanding and informed working, by asking 'what happened to you?' rather than 'what is wrong with you?'. We have our own resources dedicated to this including direct work with the child to ensure their voice is at the centre of this including safety planning using words and pictures and 3 houses. We have also adapted our interview rooms, so they are more comfortable for children with ice breaker games including Jenga and card games to aid discussion.

Recruitment of Volunteers:

In NEL we value and appreciate our Volunteers. They are central to the Delivery of Referral Order Panels. Our volunteers are all appropriately trained and are engage children in the development of their Referral Order Contracts. This allows children's voices to be heard and so they are invested in their plans. Volunteers create help and support maps with children so the panels are fully restorative, and children are more likely to successfully complete their contracts.

We currently have less Panel members than we did during 2024/25 with 5 in post and one additional volunteer. A priority for the upcoming year is to recruit more volunteers in line with our Restorative Principles which is a priority area for us.



Evaluation:

All Youth Justice Staff are required to complete the Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate to support them with their practice.

In addition to completing monthly internal audits, there are reciprocal audit arrangements with our neighbouring Youth Justice Services throughout May and June 2025.

Thematic audit programme is also embedded including FTE's, Re-offending, Keeping Communities Safe, ETE, Disproportionality, Voice & Engagement, Protected Characteristics, Victims, Resettlement, AA, Serious Violence & Exploitation & Transitions. This will help us understand our cohort, any increase in rates and how we can work jointly with our partners to reduce this. The Service Lead is a key member of the Out of Court Scrutiny Panel to ensure that quality, outcomes, and consistency of decisions are achieved.

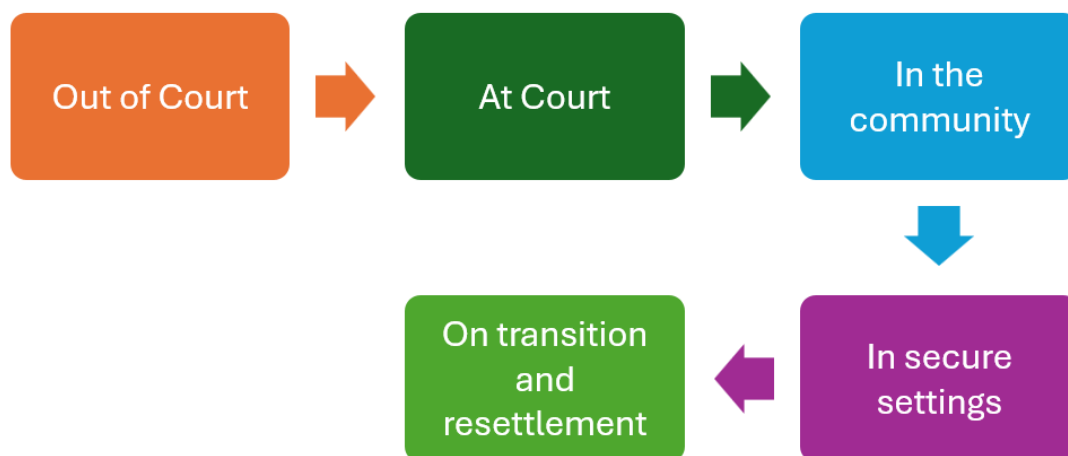
Priorities for the coming year:

Key Priorities – 25/26 YJ Plan 	Actions 	Who by: 
Development of our Youth Justice Prevention Offer	• Introduction of a Prevention Panel. • Development of a tiered approach to ASB. • Pathways embedded for different offers, for ABC's, Choices, Exclusion Prevention and JEFF. • Education data to be captured during Prevention Panel. • Dedicated education worker. • Promoting Haven and increasing access to all children. • Girls Group. • Detached youth work in hot spot areas. • Fair Play Football • Youth Engagement Alliance • Horizon Youth Zone	Zoe Grindle/Paul Caswell
Children in Custody and Concordat	• Children in Custody Joint protocol. • Memorandum of Understanding under Concordat with Humberside Police and NELC. • Concordat training to be delivered to partners. • PACE Bed to be identified. • Custody Profiles. • Recruitment of Appropriate Adults/Volunteers.	Harriet Malkin/Colin Jarrett
Enhancement of our Victim Offer and Restorative Principles	• Dedicated Victim Liaison Officer. • Dedicated Victim's Champion within ASB Team.	Katie Barraclough/Paul Caswell

	• Restorative Justice Co-ordinator to oversee Victims and RJ. • Promoting Victim Safety • Supervision of victim cases. • Protected characteristics and monitoring of any themes whereby victims decline to participate. • Tailor victims' programmes to individual needs. • Safety Matrix/Individual plans. • Victim to be included in child's plans, assessments and decisions. • Victim audits. • Increased involvement from police and corporate victims in RJ processes. • Compliance with victim's code of practice. • Recruitment of volunteers.	
Improved awareness of Child First Principles across the partnership	• Child First Self-Assessment Tool Kit to be piloted within education settings and Humberside police. • Regional Child First Conference. • Child First Training to be delivered to workforce. • Children's voices and feedback to be presented to the Partnership Board	Joseph White, Harriet Malkin and Gary Foster
Education Training and Employment	• To reduce the number of permanent exclusions and suspension rates • Ensure every young person known to Youth Justice Services or early intervention is in a safe and ideally registered education setting to receive their education • Improving relationships with Post 16 education providers. • YJS at attendance at Employability Forum and Skills Board. • Continuation and embedding of Quarterly Education Sub-Group	Nicola Knapton/Karen Linton/Joseph White

	• Education Governance/Escalation Pathways to be embedded. • Post 16 NEET Programme with AQA's attached.	
Reducing knife/weapons crime by children.	• Development of Weapons Awareness Policy. • Be-Safe Weapons Awareness pathway – universal offer to schools, alternative provisions. • Parent information forms. • Virtual Reality film available to partners. • Resources from Not in our Community. • Targeted Amber/Red offer based on levels of concerns. • Ben Kinsella Training to workforce. • Knife tubes/bleed kits available in safe havens and schools. • Staff to be trained in First Aid. • Safety plans. • Knife Swap (to round ended knives) programme. • Serious Youth Violence 4P plan aligned to the overall 6P Plan. • Quarterly data from CSP to show all children involved in serious violence including victims.	Lynne Macpherson/Paul Caswell
Reducing re-offending by children and greater use of Outcome 22's.	• Child IOM and dedicated Police Officers to children. • Children of concern panel. • Child Gravity Matrix Awareness. • Use of lower outcomes. • Outcome 22 Deferred Prosecution Scheme to be explored.	Zoe Grindle/Marks Peasgood
Disproportionality is a priority however this will be a golden thread throughout all of our interventions.	• Workforce Strategy/Policy to be developed.	All board members/partners.

Standards for children



In June 2023 NEL YJS we were notified that a self-assessment would be undertaken in the area of 'At Court'. The self-assessment was completed in partnership and initially considered our local strategy, policy and procedures, the quality and how far these followed case management guidance. The second part of the self assessment looked at practice and the partnership came together to review and audit cases falling into the period 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023 with an overall rating as 'good'.

Areas of Strengths consisted of; Effective Magistrates Court Protocol allowing strong relationships with the courts. They trust the recommendations and guidance that is provided to them both orally within open court and in written documents including pre-sentence reports, breach reports bail packages and information for court reports. Crown Prosecution Service guidance published in May 2023, outlined the importance of taking a 'Child First' approach within the court arena. The Youth Justice Service has also embedded the 'Child First' practice within our work in the courts and several changes have been made to practice. These include the new pre-sentence report template which outlines the assessment of the child first and the presenting behaviours latterly. Negative language has also been removed within all pre-sentence reports and all documents provided to the court. Areas to improve consisted of; the impact of victims need to be clearer and taken into count and further improvement was required to ensure children and families understand and participate in the court process and greater evidence of decision making prior to court. NEL YJS has introduced standardised paperwork to reflect the work undertaken at court and detailed recording during pre-court meeting discussions.

Service development

NEL have an overarching Improvement Plan which is a combination of the 2024-25 Youth Justice Plan, 2023 National Standards Audit, 2022's HMIP recommendations/action plan and the Youth Justice Oversight Framework. We have refreshed our priorities following the Youth Justice Board Strategic Plan 2024-27 and areas for service development will mirror our priorities for the coming year. As part of our vision and commitment to seeing children as

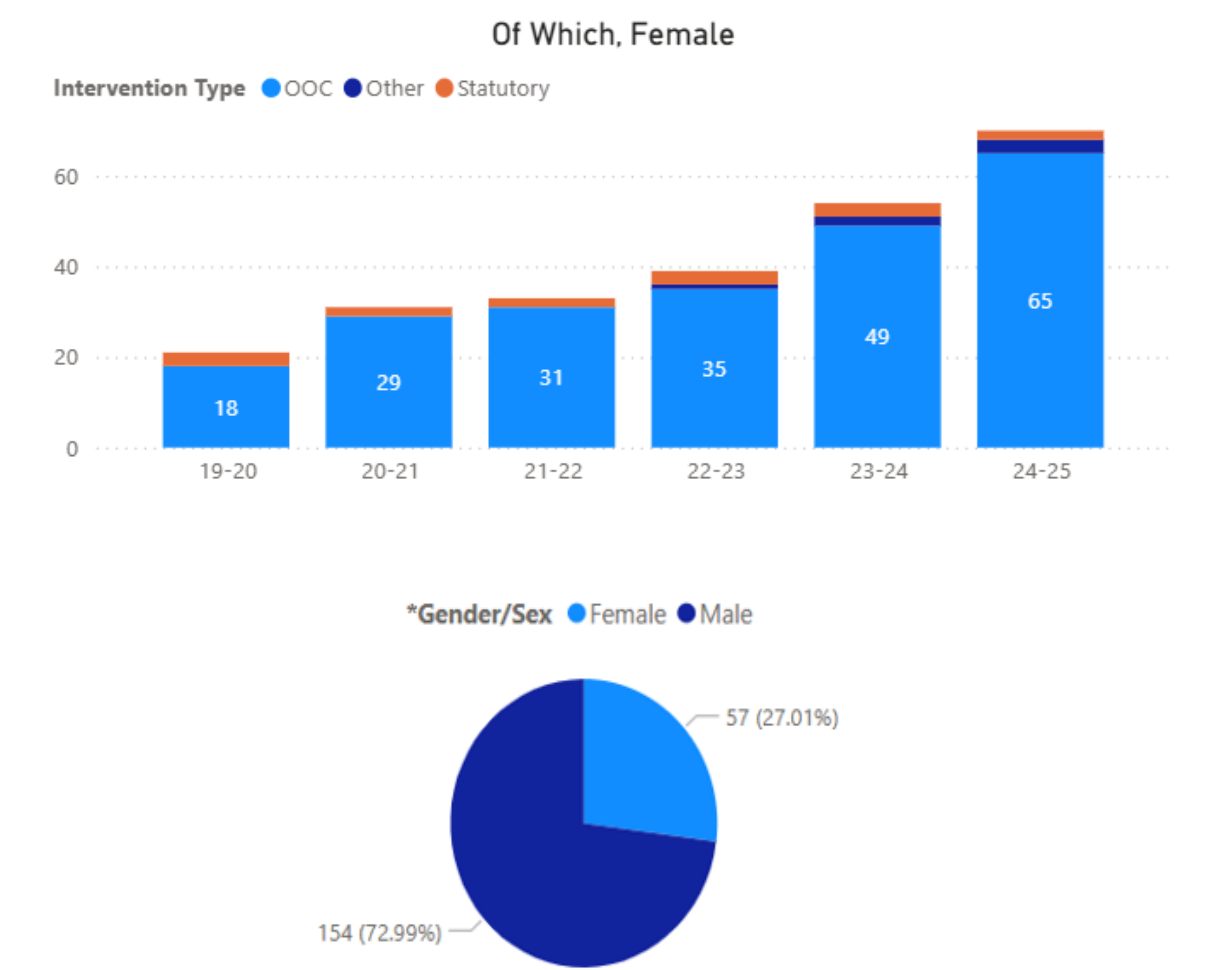
children we will also be implementing writing to the child. Our development of our Prevention Offer and tiered approach to Youth Justice we will also be ensuring the 3 tiers are fully merged with shared recording systems and drives.

National Priority Areas

Children from groups which are over-represented

As detailed within NEL HMIP inspection in 2022 ‘The service needs to analyse its data in more depth to understand the cohort of children and explore any trends, such as the high proportion of girls receiving out-of-court disposals’.

During the period 2024/25 the number of girls receiving out of court disposals has increased, however this includes all diversionary outcomes the YJS has not facilitated. On the contrary, data shows girls remain underrepresented in NEL, whereas boys remain over presented when the general NEL population is 50/50.



In response to the HMIP recommendations, 4 Practitioners have been trained in ‘The Girl I Want To Be’ and a Girls Group has been created. This is an 8 week course held at The Haven Centre from 6.30-8.30pm. This runs alongside the VR Film Project. 3 groups have been completed and were a huge success. The third group commences in June 2025. The

group focuses on empowering girls, aspirations and what it means to be a girl, and their identity. The group also ends with a promise, for example a retail voucher, meal or cinema ticket.



There is further work planned across YJ and Y&S to ensure tailored interventions are available to bespoke cohorts e.g. boys, ages and ethnic minority.

Recent feedback from the Girls Group:

Any more comments -

I love them all

Any more comments -

Everyone is amazing

Policing:

NEL/Humberside Police are introducing an Early Intervention Strategy 5-year plan - this covers the wider system we have around children at each contact with the police incorporating a trauma informed approach. Our Neighbourhood Policing Teams are focused on the delivery of problem orientated policing which incorporates both Early Intervention and Crime Prevention. This includes collaborative working with YJS, CSC, Community Safety Partnerships, Health as well as Child Safeguarding Boards.

NEL YJS has a dedicated Early Intervention Officer who supports children on the verge of contact with YJS. They sit within our Triage Panels, Pitstop and Youth Integrated Offender Manager meetings. The purpose is to promote better longer-term outcomes and for children to build positive relationships with the police.

We have recently launched the Youth IOM scheme where there is a focus on Neighbourhood Policing having a trusted relationship with children, but also to co-ordinate investigations and enforcement, for example use of a voluntary interview rather than arrest. The aim is to reduce re-offending by children, reduce first time entrants, avoid unnecessary use of custody and create fewer victims.

NEL YJS also has a dedicated full time Police Officer – their role is to ensure the Service is



notified and kept informed of decisions involving children. The YJS PC is central in the arrangements and delivery of our Diversion offer and sits within our Triage and Decision Panels. The YJS Police Officer is also key in the delivery, oversight and supervision of our Statutory Cohort and regularly attends Risk Meetings and Strategy Discussions providing advice and guidance to YJS and our partners.

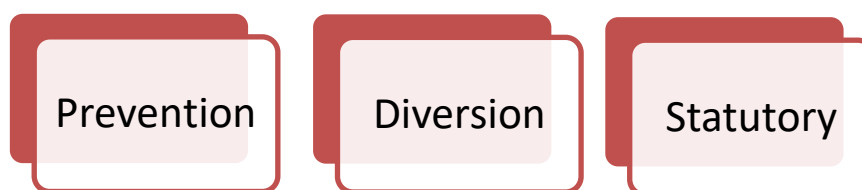
Strategically a number of Policing meetings are also attended on a regular basis by Youth Justice Senior Management, this includes Tactical Tasking Crime Group (TTCG) and Children in Custody Partnership to scrutinise children in children who are repeated arrested, unnecessarily detained or strip searched.

Current challenges relate to long periods of Release Under Investigation requirements which result in delayed justice, and also overnight stays in custody due to no PACE beds available. We continue to challenge these decisions locally alongside CSC to ensure overnight stays are avoided.

Prevention:

The main aim of Prevention is to address unmet needs, safeguard, promote positive outcomes and stop children entering the formal Youth Justice system.

NEL YJS has 3 Tiered approach to working with Children and Young People:



Prevention takes the form of:

Early Intervention – unmet needs/vulnerabilities (sits between YJS/Young, Early Help and Safer Towns and Communities) including the following:

Harmful Sexual Behaviour:

Our local offer and Practice Guidance around Harmful Sexual Behaviour have been refreshed in the last year. Children and families receive early intervention around healthy relationships and sexual behaviour through multi-agency Team Around the Family meetings.

Additional educative and preventative intervention has been delivered through targeted Family Help and Out of Court diversion work, diverting children towards healthy sexual behaviours. Children in greatest need have received specialist assessment and strengths-based intervention through our multi-agency AIM Pathway Panel, reducing the likelihood of further exposure to the Criminal Justice System.

Partnership training on identification and response to Harmful Sexual Behaviour has been delivered to support practitioners in taking early action to prevent patterns of need developing.

Next steps

- Continued development of our workforce around targeted and specialist HSB assessment and intervention.

- Development of our performance, data and reporting framework.

Data

In 2024/25:

- 54 children were supported through targeted Family Help around Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual exploitation.
- 109 children received a Child and Family Assessment by a social worker which identified risk of Harmful Sexual Behaviour.
- 23 children were supported through AIM Pathway Panel with all receiving advice and direction for involve practitioners and 74% receiving additional assessment or intervention at specialist and targeted level.
- Reporting has been established through the SCP Early Help Strategic Group and we continue to develop towards an Annual Report.

Missing/Exploitation:

Children experiencing or vulnerable to exploitation continue to be supported by our targeted Family Help offer and integrated GRAFT team which focuses on harm outside the home.

GRAFT and the Young & Safe prevention team have developed creative resources using immersive virtual technology to effectively educate children to identify risks of harm outside the home. New exploitation processes are being embedded across the partnership which has led to the successful disruption of organised crime and county lines, resulting in the reduction of child criminal exploitation. Partnership training has been refreshed, along with bespoke training being delivered to public and VCSE partners to improve identification and response. Post-missing support has been reviewed to focus on supportive, relational conversations leading to an increase in take up of Missing Catch Ups (Return Interviews).

The Exploitation Strategy has now been created and launched, alongside the Child Exploitation Strategic group with key partners in attendance. This seeks assurance from MACE and the Multi-Agency Missing Children meeting through routine reporting.

Next steps

Development of a media campaign around criminal and sexual exploitation to support the community in identifying and reporting exploitation concerns.

Continued development of the local exploitation profile and performance reporting, including an Annual Report on Missing Children.

Data

In 2024/25:

- 99 children were supported through targeted Family Help around Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation and associated issues, including going missing, anti-social behaviour and offending behaviour.
- Take up of Missing Catch Ups (Return Interviews) has increased from 60% to 77% over the year.
- **Power of Know** – Virtual Reality – Not in Our Community – This entails targeted group work with children to be part of, and develop films to educate themselves and others on a particular area of need. These films are created in conjunction with the local needs of the area and children through surveys and direct work. 3 films are currently being created on weapons, girls and motor vehicles.
- **Choices** - A one off intervention where children are identified at 'risk' of contact with the YJS, either through school exclusions, anti-social behaviour warning letters, or low level offences. This includes targeted intervention around a specific subject

associated to their behaviour to encourage the child to make more informed choices or understand and sign post to additional support if needed.

- **Be Safe** - Weapons Awareness Programme - Yearly delivery of weapons awareness assemblies within local schools or when requested by the schools or if intel is received that there may be an issue with weapons in certain areas or schools. These are delivered in partnership with Humberside Police. Individual young people are identified for one-to-one work if required.
- **Priam Visits** - Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation patrol, deployed to welfare visits and disruption tactics within hot spot locations for county lines/missing.
- **Python Visits** - Joint operation with Humberside police, patrolling hot spots for ASB within the borough between 1700 – 2200 hrs Friday and Saturday evenings.
- **Detached Youth Work** - Youth workers work on foot, mountain bikes and a vehicle to access parks and open space to engage with young people in areas identified for youth ASB. The team will develop consultation with young people around ASB, activities they would like in their area.
- **Youth Bus** – A mobile unit that visits weekly, provides a safe place, activities, access to informal education, advice and guidance, sign posting to service, safeguarding. Access to play stations, wi-fi, phone chargers and more
- **Youth Alliance** – All local youth providers including VCS, come together to discuss opportunities for young people, joint funding options to improve services, how we can support each other to deliver and to share best practice.
- **Fair Play Football league** – The ASB team deliver the Fair Play football league across several VCS organisations across the borough. This is funded through the OPCC - Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP). This project engages with approximately 300 children per week, bringing a number of teams across the network on a quarterly basis to play in a competitive tournament led by the YMCA.
- Targeted Prevention (including Turnaround) is specialist support for children who have had some contact with criminal justice services but are not currently being supported through diversion, an out of court disposal or statutory order (this could include children who have had previous YJS intervention). This area is more around children who are already on our radar and includes the following:
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts – This process follows a tiered approach and follows the principles of a child first principles, by using non punitive engagement rather than damaging punitive sanctions such as Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO). The ABC order is more about you should, rather than you can't, with an emphasis on positive activities. All ABC's are referred through a Safer Communities SPOC box and if deemed acceptable allocated to a practitioner to develop an intervention plan.
- Release Under Investigation /Pre-Charge Bail – Where a child has been arrested for an offence and there are clear underlying needs that require targeted support to prevent escalation into the YJS, we will offer targeting interventions.

Jeff ((Journey to Enrichment, Fulfilment and Friendship)



- The project provides early intervention, low-intensity mental health and emotional wellbeing support to children in North East Lincolnshire. Designed to prevent escalation into the Youth Justice Pathway (YJP) working collaboratively with key organisations to provide systemic care. The project has demonstrated significant success in supporting emotional wellbeing and diverting young people from formal justice services. Through a trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate approach, the JEFF project has delivered positive mental health outcomes and supported children in building resilience, contributing to safer communities and healthier developmental trajectories.
- Over the period of 2024/25 169 referrals were made to the JEFF project. 133 of these were deemed appropriate with 109 children accessing the service. Out of these 84 children reported improved outcomes in both well-being and presenting behaviours.

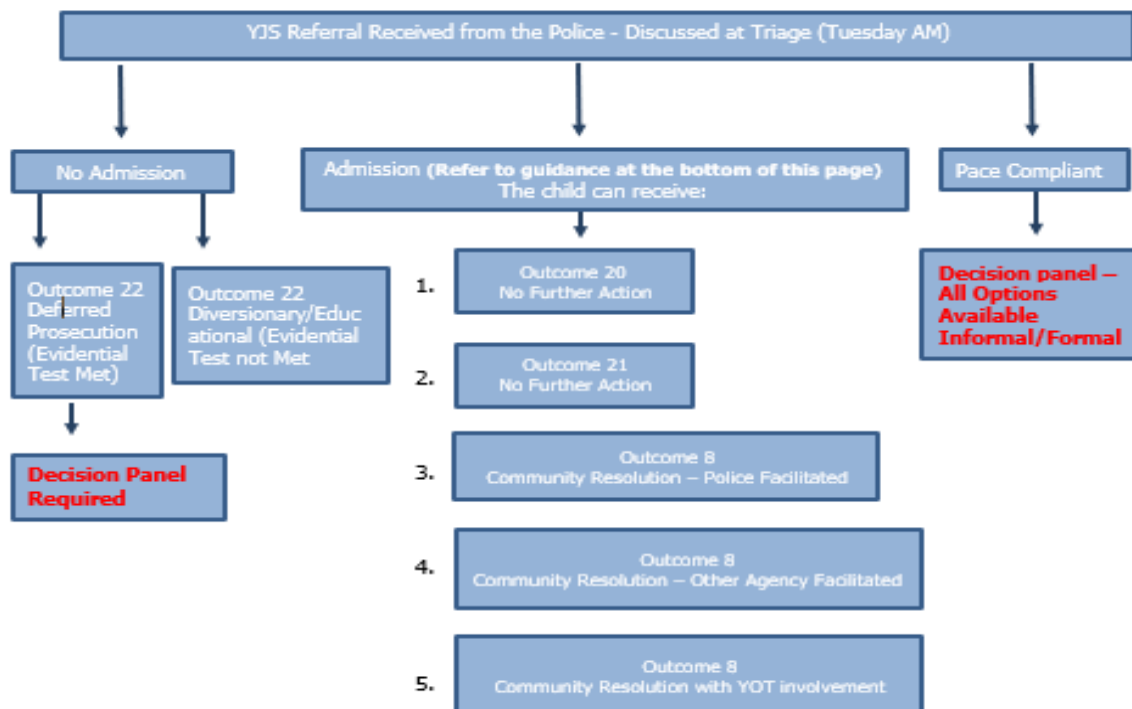
Diversion:

Diversion is where children with a linked offence receive an alternative outcome that does not result in a criminal record, avoids escalation into the formal Youth Justice system and associated stigmatisation. In NEL YJS the following Diversionary Outcomes are administered, delivered and recorded:

- Outcome 8 - Community Resolution – Police Facilitated
- Outcome 8 - Community Resolution – Other Agency Facilitated
- Outcome 8 - Community Resolution – with YJS involvement
- Outcome 20 – No YJS involvement
- Outcome 21 - No YJS involvement
- Outcome 22 – Educational – Evidential test not met - with YJS involvement
- Outcome 22 – Deferred Prosecution – Evidential test met - with YJS involvement

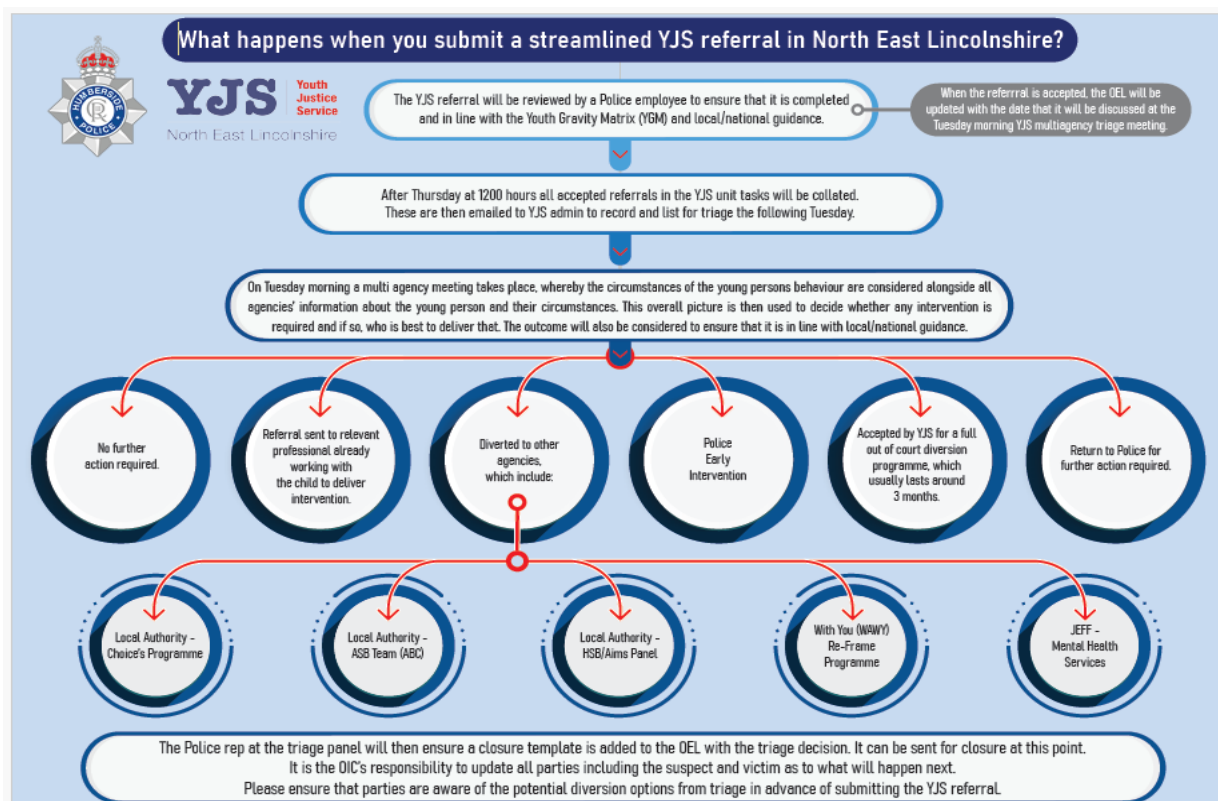
NEL YJS receives referrals from Humberside Police and these are discussed at our weekly Triage Panel. Below is the flow chart/processes that aid decision making during Triage alongside the Child Gravity Matrix, and what happens with Streamlined referrals:

Triage Flowchart



Admission:

Options 1 and 2 - Child has no previous history - dealt with via other agencies/school policy or sexting.
Options 3 and 4 - Child has no previous history, isolated incident or only requires a single intervention.
Options 5 - Child has an emerging pattern and requires full out of court assessment.



Haven Centre – Safe Haven for our children and young people:

NEL YJS and Y&S Team are proud to introduce our new Haven Youth Centre on Queen Street, Grimsby. The centre offers a warm child friendly home feel and a Safe Haven. There is a huge range of services and activities to ensure we are eliminated any structural barriers they face, including:



- Free Clothes/Toiletry shop including hygiene and beauty products.
- Sexual health drop ins – Thursdays 4-7pm with qualified nurse. Practitioners are also C-Card trained.
- Careers advice – Wednesdays 1-5pm to support children with education, training and employment.
- Quiet rooms – for children who need space and privacy.
- Youth Club Nights/Games room – Glow parties, discos, pool, table tennis and a place to socialize.
- Specialist Substance Misuse Support – With You provided on site support and consultations.
- Girls Group – to empower girls and increase confidence/life skills.
- Life skills – fully equipped kitchen for cooking/baking.

From March-December 2024 181 individual children attended the Haven centre 474 times. The Haven is also seen as a safe place by children and is a core part of the 'ask for Haven' developed by the Young & Safe Team and partners in the youth

engagement alliance. We are also working closely with The Youth Zone which is due to open in Autumn 2025. Youth Zone are running their youth development group every Tuesday at the Haven and planning timetables to prevent duplications when the Youth Zone opens in Autumn. The Youth Zone are also now attendees at the Youth Alliance.

Education:

A NEET practitioner is seconded to the YJS offering impartial careers related advice and guidance, signposting to relevant staff/services to ensure children and young people are supported, regardless of where they are being educated, including those educated at home. They Liaise as appropriate with the Education, Health and Care Plan Co-Ordinator to ensure needs are being met as per the child's plan and specifically support those young people who are NEET back into EET. The NELC Inclusion Team also continue to liaise with schools with regards to those at risk of exclusion and promote liaison with appropriate YJS workers and wider partnership working to promote attendance and best outcomes for children. There is a refreshed Partnership Agreement in place which encompasses wider education services and includes the following:

- Attend the weekly Aspire meetings which discuss potential school moves and exclusions. Aspire list is cross referenced to YJS cohort.
- Signpost to relevant staff/services to ensure young people are supported, regardless of where they are being educated, including those educated at home, to external agency support as required e.g., support with emotional wellbeing. Liaise as appropriate with the Education, Health and Care Plan Co-Ordinator to ensure needs are being met as per their plan.
- Ensure that part-time timetables are meeting need and challenge as necessary.
- Offer quality and impartial information, advice, and guidance to young people.
- Offer NEET Practitioner support to young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET to re-engage them back into a positive outcome.
- In partnership with The YJS team help and support young people to become work ready through giving information advice and guidance about career options and brokering support of more specialised services where appropriate.
- Ensure young people are aware of the Lincs2 portal and know where/how they can access this.
- Assist with applications for apprenticeships, learning or training opportunities and ensure The YJS are aware of recruitment events, skills fairs and open evenings.
- Assist young people in the creation of a Curriculum Vitae (CV).

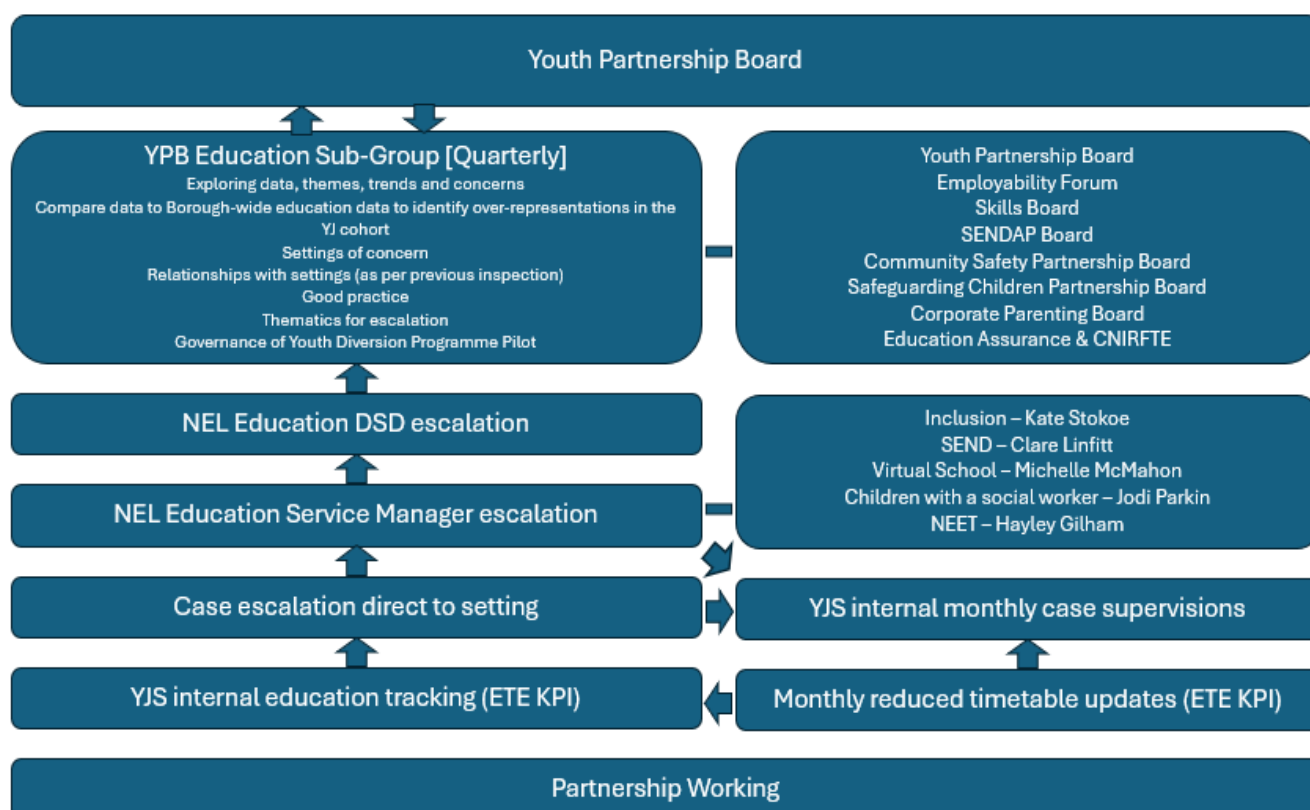
Edge of Education

Young & Safe have a dedicated Prevention Practitioner who works in collaboration with SEND and Inclusion to provide support to Children with Education Health Care Plans who are on the edge of education to prepare them to re-engage with education. This includes activity-based visits as well as vocational.

Following the HMIP Inspection and recommendation of 'there needs to be clearer established pathways to raise concerns about educational placements and provision for YJS children' an Education Champions Group was established. However after careful consideration and review of this meeting, this will be replaced with a more formal 'Education Sub-Group' that reports to the Youth Partnership Board. The remit of the sub-group will be (with an accommodating flow chart of escalation routes):

- Exploring data, themes, trends and concerns
- Compare data to Borough-wide education data to identify over-representations in the

- YJ cohort
- Settings of concern
- Relationships with settings (as per previous inspection)
- Good practice
- Thematics for escalation to YPB, or for exploration at the request of YPB.
- Governance of Youth Diversion Programme Pilot
- Governance of YJS reports on ETE and SEND
- Information feed-ins to other boards and sub-groups to promote the YPB agenda



Restorative approaches and victims

Restorative justice empowers victims and gives them a voice in the criminal justice process, helping them to move on with their lives. At NEL YJS we contact all victims of youth crime across the diversion and statutory service and embed their thoughts and wishes into children's assessments, intervention plan and throughout their order. A minimum expectation of any victim contact is a telephone call or letter to ascertain their initial thoughts, provide information and ascertain if they wish to be involved in the restorative process.

NEL YJS is committed to the aims of timely justice but recognises that victims should not feel pressurised into deciding in accordance with the timescales of the criminal justice system. As per the new YJB Guidelines less emphasis is now placed on facilitating face to face meetings as it has been recognised that this is not suitable or desirable for most victims. Instead emphasis is placed on encouraging any victim involvement to increase their sense of control and empowerment. To ensure that victims have choices in restorative processes, YJS have the following

interventions available.

- Direct Reparation to the victim.
- Generalised reparation to the community arranged by the YJS.
- Indirect mediation – such as shuttle mediation.
- Direct mediation.
- Victim impact statement.
- Restorative conferencing.
- Youth Justice Panels.
- Letters of explanation / apology.
- Victim empathy work to be carried out with the child.

In 2024/2025, 233 victims were contacted, 95% of these asked to be involved in some way. Many of these made statements addressed to the child describing how the child's behaviour has impacted and effected their lives. Many received letters of explanation or took part in shuttle mediation with the child. We also requested restrictions, exclusions, and no contacts to keep victims safe. We are committed to further developing work to be undertaken with victims and recognises that this is integral to a repositioning of the public perception of the Youth Justice system.

Victim safety is paramount, and each child is risk assessed as to their likelihood of reoffending and safety of others, including their attitudes towards the victim. This information is then used to complete a Victim Safety Matrix which records the risk of further incidents towards the victim. If the risk is medium or high, we will implement safety measures, such a restrictions and exclusions to ensure the victim is protected.

We have improved our victim impact work with children to help them to take responsibility for their actions and further empathise with their victim. To implement this, we utilise a 'Thinking About victims' programme. This is created by speech and language therapists and helps children take responsibility for their actions. We have adapted this to fit with our local needs and adapted the language to work with the Child First principles. Alongside this we created a guide to writing a letter of apology and 2 AQA qualifications that can be gained by completing the work. This is relevant to children on both diversion and statutory programmes.

Our dedicated Victim Officer completes service audits in line with the promotion of the Victim Code by the MOJ and introduction of the Victim Domain. This has helped identify strengths and areas for improvement and ensure the service is complying with the nationally set victim codes. We have identified several actions for the proceeding year which is highlighted as a priority area for us.

Future plans

There is clear evidence that many children involved in the criminal justice systems have themselves been victims of crime at some time in their life. Moving forward we hope to look further into this link and work with child victims specifically to break this link and help them navigate the feelings and emotions involved by being a victim of crime.

We understand the importance of the victims voice being seen and heard

throughout the child's intervention and so we will be running continuous professional development sessions for assessment writers to ensure that they are able to identify victims and take their thoughts and feelings into account and to ensure they are fully involved. Steps are being taken to ensure victims are fully represented throughout the YJS structure from the Victim Officer being involved in decision making meetings, to victims represented at the Youth Partnership Board.

Reparation

NEL YJS offer reparation and positive activities for all children. We offer a variety of projects tailored to children's ability and interests whilst helping them to learn new skills and payback to the community. All children can gain a range of AQA qualifications for the work they do, therefore making them more employable in the future. All these qualifications are added to a CV that they receive along with certificates at the end of their work. Below are a selection of projects and feedback.

Nunny Farm

Our children have been supporting the project with tasks based around general maintenance of the farm, including strimming and weeding, bagging up manure and litter picking. As well as benefiting the community, it is also a great environment for our children to spend time in.

In addition to working at the farm, our young people have also been supporting the project by making Christmas trees in the workshop. These are on sale to the public in the Farm Shop, with all funds raised going back into the project.



Crematorium

Our children have been supporting with the general maintenance of the crematorium and painting woodwork.

Woodwork

The YJS has been commissioned by local councillors as part of their ward funding to make bird, hedgehogs and bug boxes. These will be placed in parks and gardens around the ward as part of their environment agenda.





Recycle Cycles

The cycle project continues to go from strength to strength with children regularly requesting to work on this project. We have a waiting list for bikes which demonstrates that the project is both in demand and much needed in this area. We have developed a range of AQAs that can be achieved whilst working on the bike project which will improve a child's employability, such as workshop health and safety, correct use of tools, basic mechanics etc.



Recycle Cycles

We recycle bikes, all kinds of bikes.

Do you have an old unwanted bike or bike bits?
Do you know someone who needs a bike?

We transform old bikes. We strip them down, check for damage and alignment, clean them up and reassemble with serviced and new components.

We donate them to someone in need - adults or children who need a bike to get to work or school, want to get fit or reduce their travel costs and are not able to meet the cost of a brand new bike.

All work is done by young people from the Youth Offending Service as part of their work towards paying back to their community. They are fully supervised by trained mechanics, learning new skills while taking part in a worthwhile project that benefits others.

Refurbished bikes are fully safety checked.

For more information, or to request or donate a bike please contact:

Lynne Macpherson,
Safeguarding and Youth Offending Service
on 01472 325252
lynne.macpherson@nelincs.gov.uk



Newsletter

In order to keep everyone informed and advertise the good work children do in the community we now create a Reparation Newsletter that is sent out to all practitioners and partners showing the work achieved over that year.

Reparation Newsletter



YJS Youth Justice Service
North East Lincolnshire
December 2024

Reparation is a fundamental part of the Referral Order and a key element in every panel contract. Where possible reparation should be based on the victims' wishes, otherwise, reparation can be to the wider community. We endeavour to offer a range of local community reparation programmes, consisting of activities that the children may carry out for the benefit of the community.

Reparation also works best when meaningful and therefore, we encourage each child to be involved in deciding the kind of reparation that they will do. In addition to completing their reparation hours and paying back to the community, all reparation projects give the children opportunities to achieve AQA certificates, to enable them to build a record of achievement they can take away with them at the end of their Referral Orders.

See below for the range of projects our children have worked on throughout this year.

Recycle Project



This project runs due to the public's generosity in donating old/unwanted bicycles. These are repaired and given to children and adults in need of transport to college or work. Children have the opportunity to learn new skills by working through a safety checklist, often replacing everything on the bicycle from the brakes, chain and tyres to new handgrips and lights. There is also the opportunity for children to achieve an AQA in bicycle workshop maintenance.

This year the YJS have repaired and gifted nineteen bicycles, as well as carried out numerous repair requests from the Leaving Care Team and Children's Services

Workshop

Our children have the opportunity to support various community projects by completing their reparation hours in the workshop. Over the year our children have made bird boxes, which are now placed all over Grant Thorold Park.

Bird and bug boxes have been gifted to Nunny's Farm, as well as creating wooden animal silhouettes, which will be used for chalk boards on their animal pens at the farm.

Again, the children involved have achieved various AQA's around workshop health and safety and basic woodwork skills.



Projects in the Community

Cooking for the Homeless - Hope Street Centre





The Youth Justice Service have supported Harbour Place's Hope Street Night Shelter since it's opening in 2018 by donating food made by our children during reparation cooking sessions. The items baked range from cupcakes to quiches, which have enabled the children to both develop new skills and achieve AQA's in food hygiene and safety. In addition to the food donations, we have also had one child complete their thirty-six hours of reparation on the site. They have attended on a weekly basis and helped in the kitchen preparing food, serving food and hot drinks to the service users, as well as assisting with cleaning up after the sessions.

Nunny's Farm is a not for profit organisation that works with the local community to provide educational opportunities and animal care to the wider area. Our children can attend and support with tasks around the general maintenance of the farm, which has included weeding the grounds and mending/painting fencing of the animal pens. As well as learning new skills, it is also a great environment for our children to spend time and experience the animals themselves.

One of our children also completed a bespoke project and upcycled a post box for the Farm. They sanded, primed and painted the post box in the farm colours, which now takes pride of place on the site. Below is an example of the silhouettes created in the workshop and are to be placed outside the pens for the visitors to leave positive messages






Grimsby Crematorium

In the months of May/June/July/August our children have been paying back to the community by contributing to the maintenance of Grimsby crematorium. The project has been maintaining the Memorial Garden by painting the pergola and repairing and painting the benches and planters.

By supporting with these tasks, our children are freeing up the NE Linc's council's staff time and resources, which benefits the community, as well as contributing to a nice environment for people paying their respects to their loved ones





Serious violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding:

In 2024/25 there have been significant developments in the partnership working relating to Child Exploitation and the wider context of risk outside the home. These developments have seen a revision to the exploitation risk assessment tool that can be utilised by social care, Youth Justice and wider partners including universal services. Internal forms have been updated alongside a refresh of the Terms of Reference for the Pre-MACE and MACE meetings.

The Pre-MACE and MACE meetings now have a wider professional attendance to maximise disruption of offenders, locations and address arising themes.

There has been an increase in children identified for discussion with the Pre-MACE and MACE meetings, this is attributed to the increased training offer and awareness raising across the partnership. Work is ongoing to further enhance awareness and community reporting through the development of a media campaign. For those children identified to be vulnerable to, at risk of or experiencing exploitation, there is an enhanced, co-ordinated

partnership response, however where possible need is met at the lowest prevention level in line with the child's best interests.

There is excellent connectivity with the police to understand the exploitation offending profile through regular OCG meetings, alongside individual offenders being raised within the MACE arena. The exploitation strategy was launched at the end of 2024 and a exploitation strategic group has been established to ensure delivery of the strategy, with all key areas well into delivery.

This meeting reports into the Safeguarding Childrens Partnership, where Exploitation remains a key priority area. In relation to Serious Youth Violence, the numbers of children involved within this remain low, partnership working including visibility of staff in the community alongside educational opportunities, continues to have an impact upon children and their families.

The drive to ensure serious violence remains low, will have a continued focus through the CSP with continued connectivity to the YJS.

Learnings from serious incidents

During the period of 2024/25 NEL YJS submitted 3 Serious Incident Notifications, all 3 related to Grievous Bodily Harm. In all 3 of these incidents there were no links to exploitation, no weapons were used, and the violence was via their hands and head. None of these incidents resulted in a custodial sentence. One of these incidents occurred in 2022 and two in 2023. One child was dismissed at Court, one was sentenced to a 12 Month Referral Order via a PSR and the other turned 18 during proceedings and sentenced to an 18 Month Community Order with NPS.

The learnings and common themes within these incidents were the significant delay in charging decisions and lengthy periods of being released under investigation. These findings correspond with the Publication of the 2024 Serious Incidents Annual Report;

- Nearly a third (32%) of all serious incidents take over 180 days from offence to charge, highlighting significant delays in the justice process.
- Improving the timeliness of police investigations and charging decisions for child suspects could help prevent further serious incidents. Ensuring appropriate bail conditions and support, specifically safeguarding, for children released under investigation is crucial for their safety and the protection of others.

The YJS hold a monthly meeting to discuss Children who have been arrested for offences of a Gravity Score of 5 to ensure robust oversight and monitoring for any serious incident notifications. Children can be offered voluntary support under our 'Turnaround/Targeted Prevention' offer. The YJS are also working closely with Safer Communities to look at the quarterly data presented to the CSP, development of the SYV 4P Plan and recommendations from the JTAI report. Workshops/briefings will also be developed to educate our partners around the recommendations and learnings.

In addition, NEL YJS are represented on the monthly Chanel Panel Meetings which is a multi-agency approach to safeguard, support and protect children, and vulnerable adults at risk of radicalisation, extremism, or terrorist related activity. No terrorism related offences have been referred to NEL YJS during 2024/25.

Detention in police custody

NEL YJS are committed to ensuring children detained in police custody are for the shortest possible time, both in the interests of justice and the child. We have worked closely with Humberside Police and Children's Social Care colleagues to introduce a Children in Custody Joint Protocol to meet the needs of children in custody and to ensure we are fully compliant with the Concordat.

Within NEL, we provide Appropriate Adult services during office hours and commission AAUK out of hours, weekends and holidays. These are used when parents or any other identified adult are unable to attend. We promote and encourage wider family first and foremost before attending on their behalf. Children detained in custody are able to have welfare visits and calls from YJS/CSC and have access to the Liaison and Diversion Health Worker, where a child is presenting with emotional wellbeing concerns. The child is screened, and any concerns are shared directly with YJS and CSC. These visits and support are equally important when a child is strip searched. We have worked closely with Humberside Police to ensure strip searches are only used when necessary and to ensure children's safety. CSC are notified before (where possible) and Police protection notices are issued immediately after. This allows the partnership to reflect and discuss any additional support children may need following this.

The Joint Protocol also covers where children have been denied bail and a transfer to local authority is requested. We have been working closely to ensure children are only detained when necessary and often challenge secure decisions. Often these challenges have been successful and where appropriate, we often provide tight packages of support for children to be released to their home address or to a family member. When there is a secure request, escalation routes are followed, and contact is made to Secure Children's Homes for any child needing secure accommodation. There is partnership training scheduled this Summer to ensure the Police, YJS and CSC know their roles and responsibilities around this.

The Children in Custody Partnership has been in place since 2023 which allows us to explore trends, detention times and challenge any secure decisions. This also allows us to provide 'Custody Profiles' to Humberside Police providing a pen picture of the child, their diverse needs, identified workers, and most appropriate ways to engage them to ensure their time in custody is both smooth and supportive.

NEL Out of Hours Duty is provided by the Local Authorities Children's Social Care. NEL YJS provide services to Saturday Courts which are currently held in Hull Magistrates Court. During 2024 4 children were detained and appeared before the Saturday Court. On each occasion all children were bailed from court and not remanded. This is being closely monitored over the upcoming year with a noticeable increase in Saturday court appearances.

Remands:

Remands for NEL YJS have remained an all time low over the last 5 years. During the period 2024/25 one child was remanded in Custody and one child was Remanded to Local Authority Accommodation. The child on Remand remains in the secure environment currently due to the serious nature of their offences. The

child was Remanded to his home address (from November – December 2024 with an ISS package in place from YJS and our CSC colleagues. This Remand was swiftly removed following one months period of positive compliance and the threshold therefore no longer being met.

NEL YJS strongly advocate that no child should be remanded in custody unless absolute necessary and the presumption is bail/remain in the community.

We have strong relationships with our local court who trust and support our recommendations and ability to manage children in the community. This is accounted to:

- Multi-agency meetings held at the earliest opportunity to ensure a robust community disposal with our partners contributing to this plan, including education.
- Commitment and support from the families we work with to ensure their children do not experience custody.
- Bail Support Packages offered as an alternative with or without ISS depending on level of risk and suitability.
- Comprehensive reports to the court outlining the child's lived experiences and welfare.
- Dedicated Court Officers that are well trained and experienced and knowledgeable in the court arena and in managing both bail support programme and sentenced children.

Use of custody and constructive resettlement

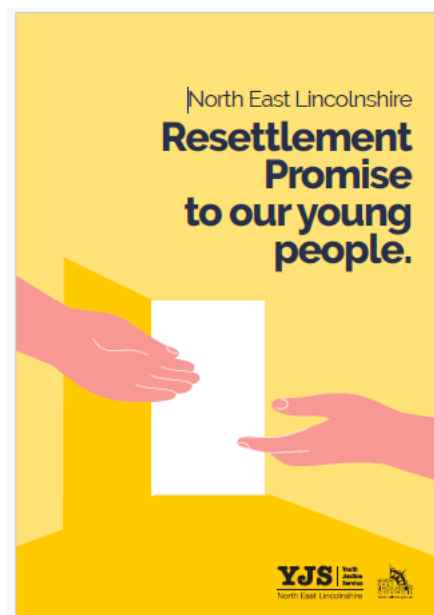
NEL YJS continue to work closely with the National Probation Service, CSC, Education, Health, With You, Secure Estates and other YJS's to improve and enhance our Resettlement offer to children entering and leaving the secure estate. Positively during the period 2024/25 no child was sentenced custody.

'NEL Resettlement Promise' is fully embedded and is given to each child when they are either remanded, or sentenced to custody. This identifies the 7 pathways to Resettlement and holds each service accountable in providing the right support to support to children in the secure estate has seen better outcomes for children, particularly in relation to their accommodation.

Our Evaluation form allows to see if we met our promise and how we can learn and improve outcomes for children.

We have developed our own in-house training package to promote, educate and embed our resettlement offer and delivered this to staff and partners. To further embed the ethos of constructive resettlement, arrangements were made for London's Resettlement Partnership Strategic Manager to deliver training to staff and partners.

The National accommodation standard has been introduced for children on release from custody. The Youth Custody Service Resettlement and Reducing Reoffending team have worked with partners in order to achieve this standard and are currently working with the YJB to incorporate this into the Case Management Guidance. The accommodation standard



includes; planning for accommodation as soon as the child enters custody, the child is placed at the centre of decision making, all agencies work together to identify accommodation 6 weeks prior to the earliest release date, escalation routes to be followed but the DCS must be notified 4 weeks prior to release and ROTL should be utilised to support successful planning. This will be embedded into our policy and training package.

Working with families

NEL Youth Justice Service is part of our Safeguarding and Early Help umbrella. We are closely aligned to our family hubs and they play an important role in our Prevention and Diversion offer. This includes undertaking direct work with children and families in our local hubs and signposting to events and support available. We can directly refer children and families to services provided by the hubs including; Whose in Charge, Triple P and Solihull Parenting. We are also able to access Mediation/Family Group Conference Services and those programmes aimed at supporting parental conflict and witnesses domestic abuse.

We work closely with parents, carers and the wider family network taking a whole family approach. Where required, practitioners will support parents and siblings to avoid multiple professionals becoming involved with the family or duplication. This has included supporting with accommodation and mental health.

Over the last year we have worked closely with Children's Social Care and our hubs to introduce Parenting Contracts to support parents with boundary setting, routines and consequences.

The YJS Deputy Service Director is also the responsible of Family Help in North East Lincolnshire which provides consistency across the services.

Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board – name:	Paul French
Signature:	
Date:	30/06/2025

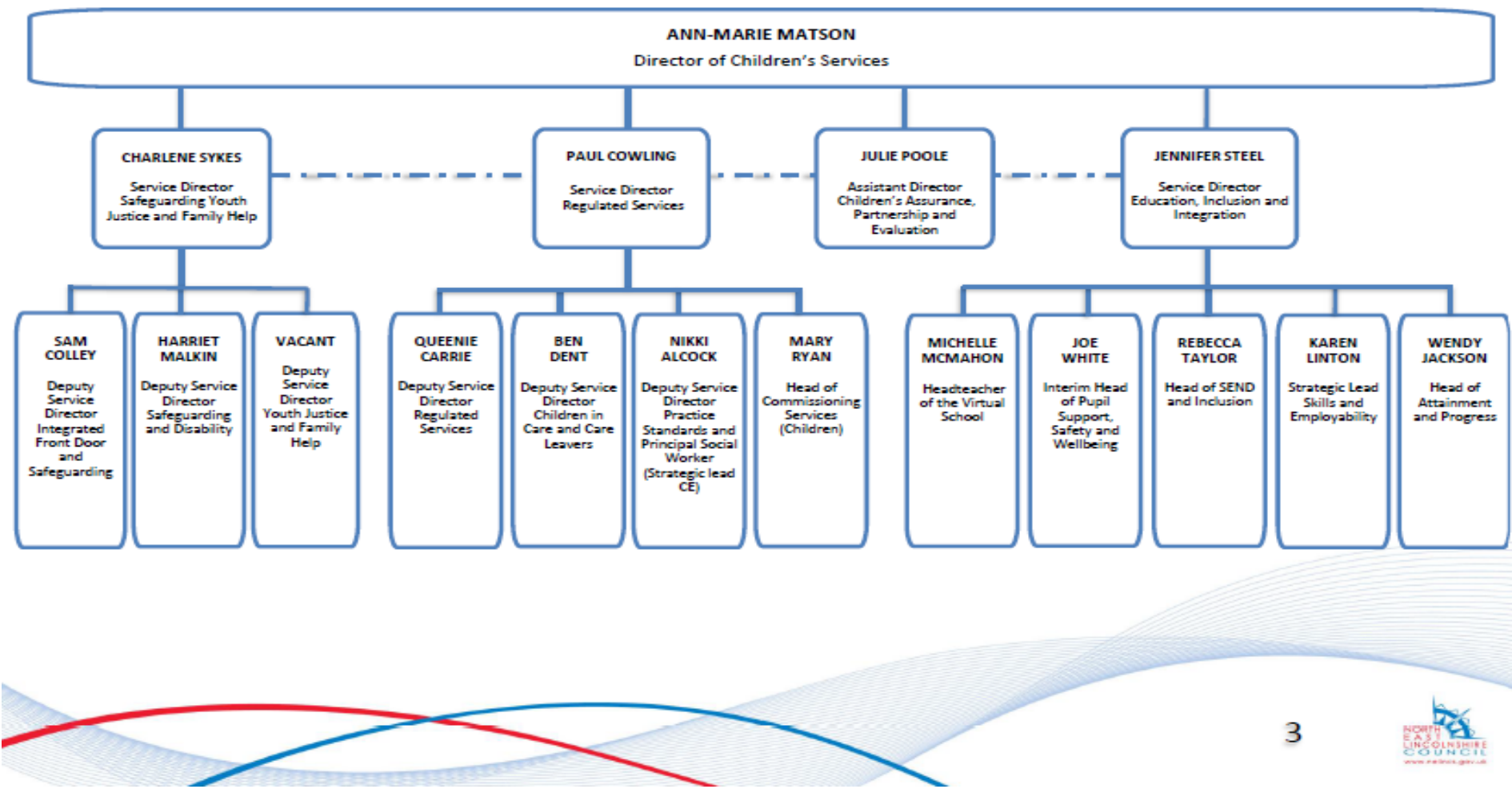
Appendix 1

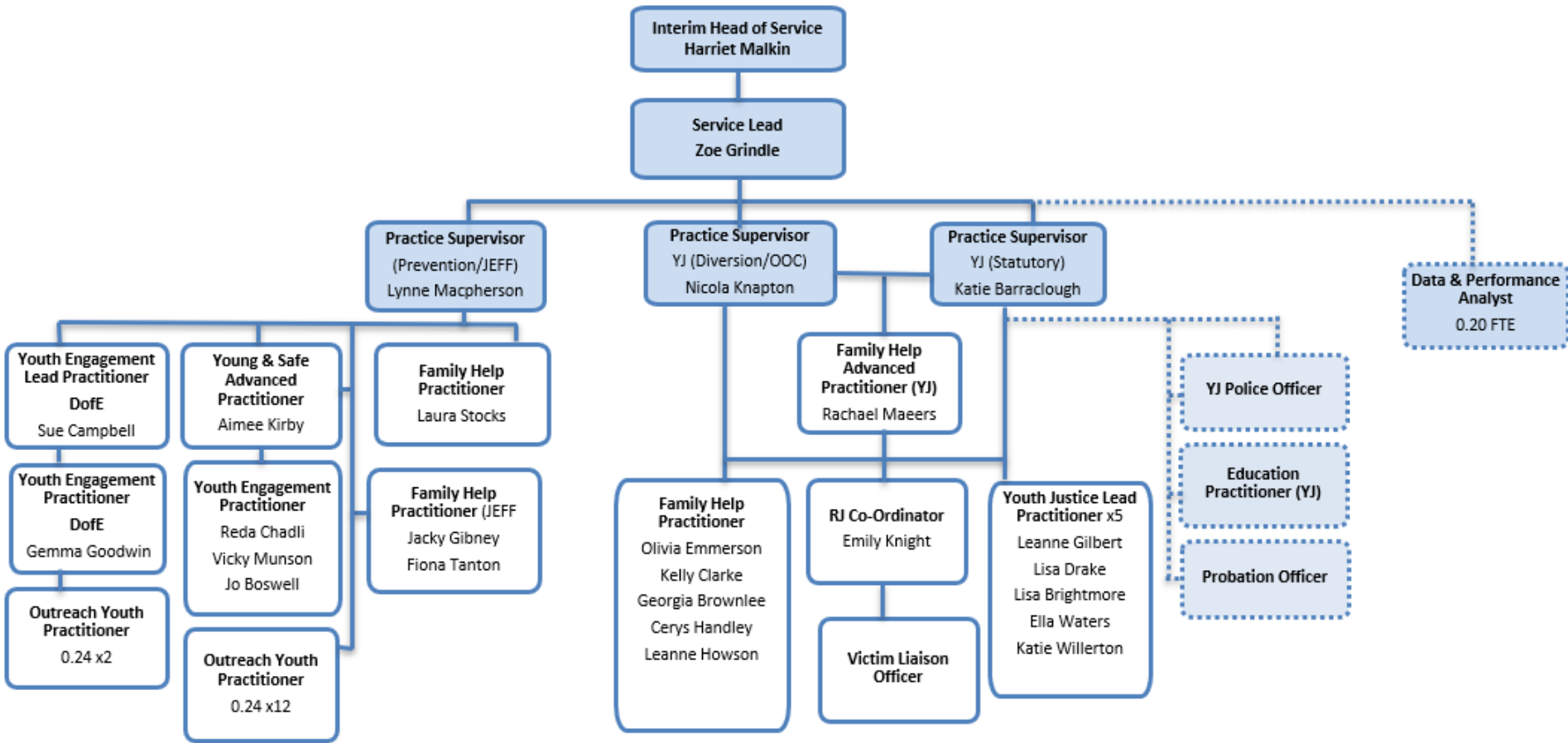
Youth Justice Partnership Board Membership:

Commander	Humberside Police
Superintendent	Humberside Police
Head of Service	National Probation Service
Children's Health Commissioner	NHS Integrated Care Board
Director of Children & Families	Children's Social Care Services NEL Council
Service Director Education, Inclusion and Integration	NEL Council
Service Director - Safeguarding, Youth Justice and Family Help	Children's Social Care Services NEL Council
Youth Justice Service Manager	NEL Council
Chief Executive	NEL Council
Strategic Lead Skills and Employability	NEL Council
Youth Justice Board Regional Advisor	Youth Justice Board
Head of SEND and Inclusion	NEL Council
Team Manager	Voluntary Community Sector
Head of Service -Safer Towns and Communities	NEL Council
Head of Service	With You

Appendix 2

OFFICIAL





Appendix 3

INCOME	Youth Justice Board ¹	Local Authority	Police	Police and Crime Commissioner	Probation	Health	Welsh Government	Other ²	Total
Cash	£459,136	£836,608		£90,455	£5,000	£278,383		£103,020	£1,772,602
In-kind			£70,700		£35,130				£105,830
Total income	£459,136	£836,608	£70,700	£90,455	£40,130	£278,383	£0	£103,020	£1,878,432
1. This includes <u>all</u> grants received from YJB.									
2. This includes all funding received from any source other than the statutory partners listed; e.g. Turnaround grant. Details should be recorded in the Notes below.									
EXPENDITURE ⁴	Youth Justice Board ³	All Other Funders	Total						
Salaries	£459,136	£1,216,274	£1,675,410						
All other costs	£0	£203,022	£203,022						
Total expenditure	£459,136	£1,419,296	£1,878,432						
3. Figures provided in sheet (1a), <u>plus</u> sheet (1b) if applicable.									
4. Income in-kind should be included in expenditure.									
Notes:									
Turaround Grant = £72,592.69 & Other Income from Schools for Duke of Edinburgh & Evolve =£30,427.47 Total £103,020.16									

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
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
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.
Child First	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
Child in Care	Child in Care, where a child is in the care of the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Risk outside the home	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an

	admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training or employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	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
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	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
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre
SCH	Secure children's home

Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation
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	service.
YJS	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
YOI	Young offender institution
MACE	Multi Agency Child Exploitation
OOC	Out of Court
SYV	Serious Youth Violence
CIN	Child In Need
CP	Child Protection
YJP	Youth Justice Partnership
GRAFT	Child Exploitation Intervention Team in NEL
OYS	Outreach Youth Service
WAWY	We Are With You – targeted substance misuse service working with children and young people
CMARS	Children’s Multi-Agency Resilience & Safeguarding Board
YJB	Youth Justice Board
RJ	Restorative Justice
Safer	Internal community safety team in North East Lincolnshire
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
ICS	Integrated Care System
HCV	Humber Coast and Vale
KPI	Key Performance Indicator

