CABINET

DATE	16th September 2026
REPORT OF	Councillor Samuel Grice – Deputy Leader and 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 09/26/01

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 2026/27 which sets out the shared ambition and priorities of the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice

Service.

2. Recommends that the plan is referred to and approved by Full Council.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Endorsement of the Youth Justice Plan 2026/27 to support the Youth Justice 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. The new Youth Justice Plan has been amended to include additional areas as requested by the YJB following a change in legislation regarding knife crime.

The new updated areas of focus are:

- Child exploitation NRM's and acquisitive crime
- Out of Court Resolutions (OOCR) and Deferred Prosecutions (DP)
- Knife awareness and Knife Crime
- Bail and remand
- Education with a focus upon SEND
- Prevention & turnaround
- Victims with a focus on child victims

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 2026/27

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

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

The Youth Justice Plan 2026/27 will be presented to Cabinet and then to Full Council for final endorsement and prior to publication.

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 01/04/2026 and ends on 31/03/2027 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 Children in Our Care 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 our care and care leavers are not overly represented within the criminal justice system.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS

Health agencies including public health are a key partner in delivery of best outcomes for children. The health and Well being of all children open to the Youth Justice service are assessed and reviewed by Health upon entry to the service, to ensure health needs or inequalities can been addressed.

With reference to the Health and Wellbeing strategy, the Youth Justice Plan will support the delivery of the following :

Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes

Disproportionality and child first principles are a key thread within the YJS delivery and partnership plan and focus upon early intervention and diversion form crime will help promote children to maximise their potential and encourage a pro social identity

9. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

Plan to be taken to Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel on the 10th September 2026.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Production and of the 2026/27 Youth Justice Plan is a requirement of the Youth Justice Board grant funding terms and conditions. The grant supports statutory and preventative youth justice activity and helps ensure that committed expenditure can be met without additional pressure on core Council budgets whilst ensuring value for money is driven through planned spend and activity.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 40(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ("the Act") provides that: (1) It shall be the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement for each year a plan (a "youth justice plan") setting out: (a) how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and (b) how the youth offending team or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.

Further, by section 40(4) of the Act, the local authority must submit their youth justice plan to the Youth Justice Board established under section 41 of the Act and shall publish it in such manner and by such date as the Secretary of State may direct.

In accordance with Regulation 4(1) and Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 the Plan is to be referred to Full Council for ultimate consideration and adoption.

12. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

No HR implications

13. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All Wards

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Youth Justice Plan 2026/27

15. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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

Cllr Samuel Grice
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

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YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

2026/2027

Our Children, Our Future

YJS Youth Justice Service
North East Lincolnshire

Our Children, Our Future

HUMBERSIDE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

YJB

NHS
Humber and North Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Probation Service
Yorkshire and the Humber

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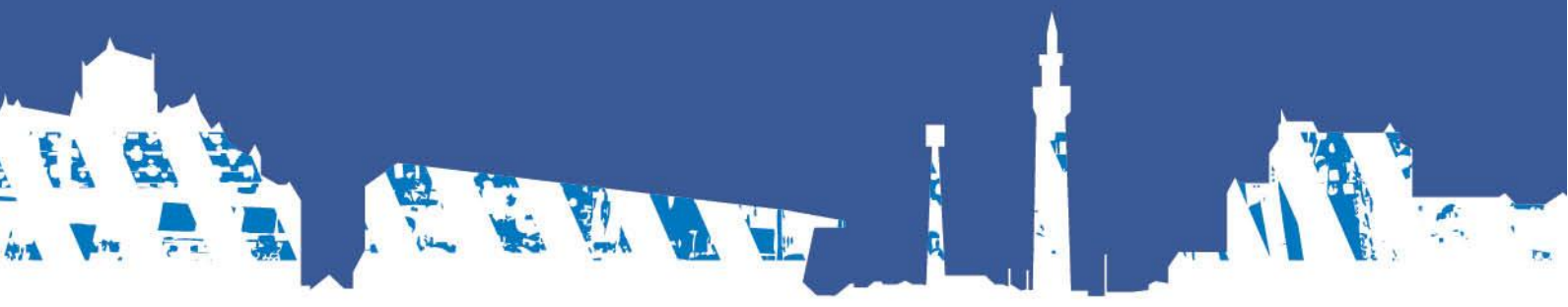
Introduction, vision and strategy



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Introduction, vision and strategy

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

As Chair of the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership Board, I am pleased to introduce our annual Youth Justice Plan.

Over the past year, we have continued to build on the positive work of the partnership with children and families. This has included the introduction of new resources for children, such as our *'Your Voice'* book, which has received positive feedback. We have also strengthened our victim offer through increased capacity, more robust systems and processes, and the delivery of a bespoke response tailored to individual needs.

Our refreshed priorities for this year are:

- Child exploitation, NRM cases, and acquisitive crime
- Out of Court resolutions and deferred prosecution
- Knife awareness and knife crime
- Bail and remand
- Education, with a focus on SEND
- Prevention and Turnaround
- Victims, with a focus on child victims

The Board is responsible for developing, delivering, and overseeing the Youth Justice Plan to ensure continued positive impact for children, young people, and the wider community. We remain committed to leading and championing these priorities, with a strong emphasis on prevention and diversion through a child-first approach. We also recognise the importance of understanding the diverse experiences of children and young people in shaping our strategies and services. Ongoing consultation with children, young people, and staff supports continuous learning and development.

I am delighted to present this plan and look forward to working together to achieve our objectives over the coming year.

Sharon Philpott

Chief Superintendent
Local Policing
North & North East Lincolnshire

Foreword by the Chief Executive of 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 with the partnership, this plan continues to build upon the progress seen in recent years.

In North East Lincolnshire, we are dedicated to ensuring every child receives the right support at the right time. Our vision and values ensure a Child First approach, keeping children at the heart of service provision and seeing the whole child, identifying/tackling the influences on offending and identifying and promoting the influences that help them to move to pro-social, positive behaviour. 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, with a greater focus upon early help, prevention and diversion. The work across the partnership will continue to champion the best outcomes for children.

Sharon Wroot
Chief Executive
North East Lincolnshire Council

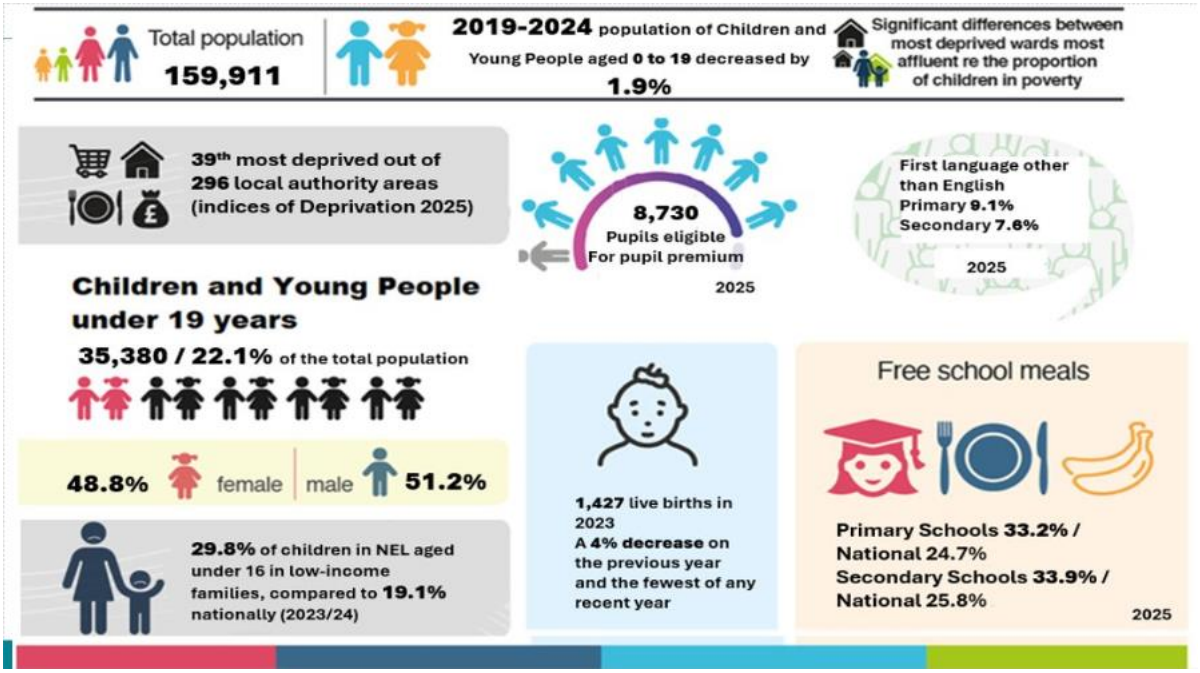
Executive Summary

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. 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 2025/26 and sets out our strong partnership commitment to early help, prevention and diversion. It outlines our commitment to removing a childhood from stigma and criminalisation. 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.

We have strengthened the Youth Justice Plan in line with the national reforms and the White paper with an enhanced response to prevention, child exploitation, repeat offending and vehicle crime, recognising these as key risks associated with serious violence and harm outside the home. Building on our Child First, and relational approach, we are strengthening multi-agency intelligence sharing, disruption activity and targeted interventions for children vulnerable to criminal exploitation and offending. We are increasing our focus on understanding the underlying causes of repeat offending, including trauma, unmet needs, school exclusion, poor attendance and adverse childhood experiences, whilst working alongside families and communities to build protective factors. In response to the national direction set out through the Government's reforms and focus on prevention, we are also developing a more coordinated approach to tackling vehicle crime, combining enforcement, education, diversionary activities and restorative interventions to reduce reoffending, improve community safety and support children to make positive and sustainable changes in their lives.

Local Context



Between January - December 2025, the Youth Justice Services worked with 169 children.

- Age range between 11 and 18 years (most common age was 15 years)
- 79% male, 21% female
- 94.7% White British
- 37% were NEET on entry to the service.
- 47% identified as having SEN (26% with an Education, Health and Care Plan)
- 56% had been open to children's social care at some point in their life.
- Most common type of crime was violence against the person.

Out of these 169 children they were subject to:

- 179 Out of Court Resolutions
- 45 Statutory Court Outcomes (21 children).
- 29 Prevention programme.
- 11 Voluntary programmes.

Vision and Strategy

Our Vision – 'Our Child, Our Future' using a Child First/Centred 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.

North East Lincolnshire has formally adopted the Marmot Place model to drive reductions in health inequalities. This Plan aligns with that model through commitments to address the wider determinant of offending, prioritise early intervention, and improving outcomes for our most vulnerable children and

families.

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.

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 desire for 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. Additionally, 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.

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

- ✓ Prevention and Diversion
- ✓ Prevent and reduce offending
- ✓ Restorative Justice/Principles
- ✓ Creating stronger and safer communities
- ✓ Trauma informed
- ✓ Childrens voices are heard and listened to.
- ✓ Relational practice

In the context of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, we are also committed to ensuring:

- ✓ Have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- ✓ A child-centred approach within a whole family focus.
- ✓ Assessments should be child-centred and responsive to the voice of the child.
- ✓ Work in partnership with parents and carers as far as possible.
- ✓ Central part to Targeted Early Help.
- ✓ Our outreach provision is central to 'universal services and community based early help'.
- ✓ Collaborative working with consistent and timely information sharing.
- ✓ Being identity and cultural aware.

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.
- ✓ Children will live successful lives and move on from their behaviour.

Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

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North East Lincolnshire

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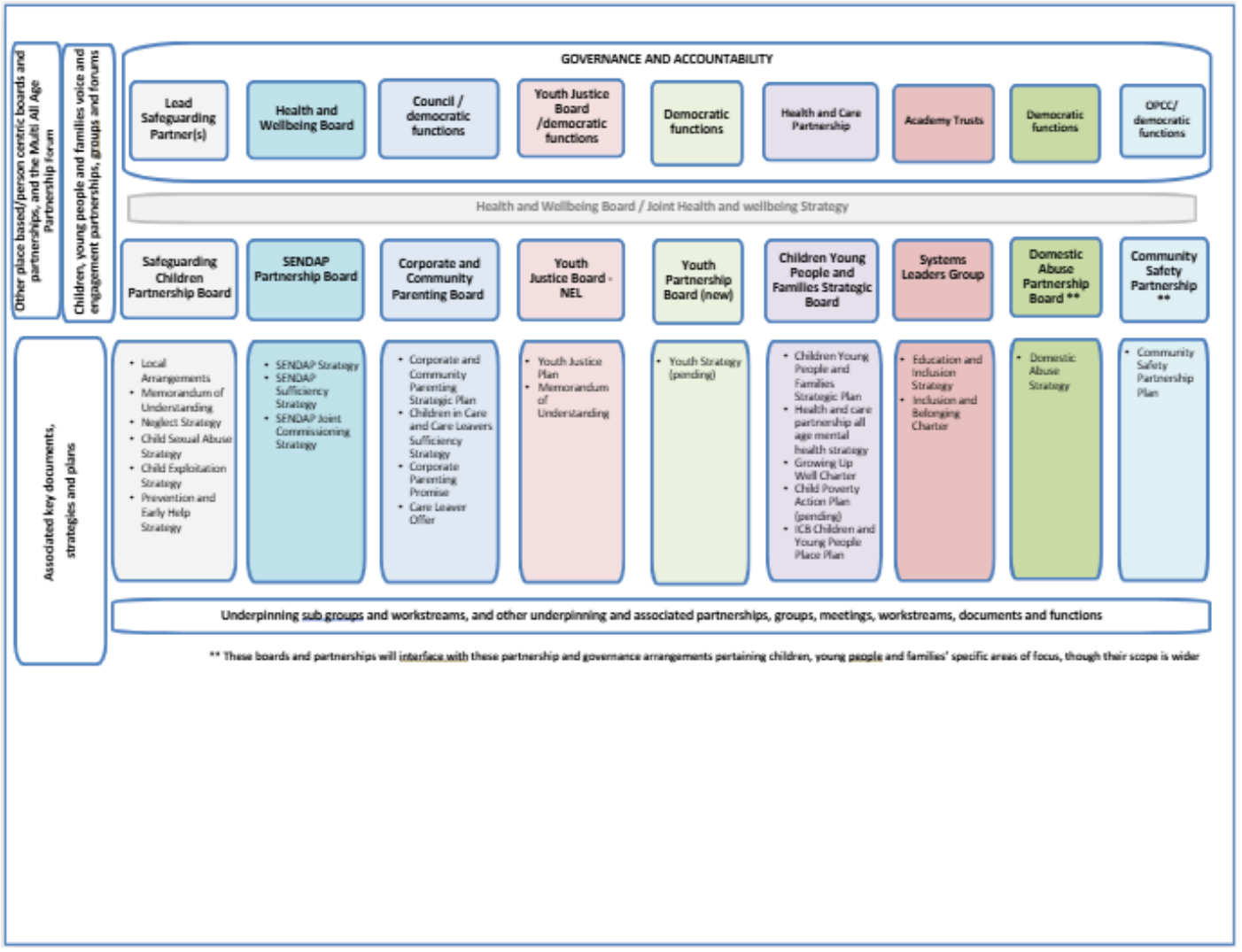
Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

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



Youth Justice Board:

The YJB meets quarterly and oversees strategic management, funding arrangements, partnership working and access to partner agency provisions. The board manages the performance of the whole justice system for children locally, through analysis of data (children and victims), with board members contributing data from their own agency as appropriate and 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 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 YJB 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.

The YJB KPI's will track senior partners contribution to the board. In 2025 there was 100% representation demonstrating senior leaders prioritisation of the Youth Justice Board.

Partnerships:

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

Humberside Police	**Education**	**Probation**	**Children's Social Care**	**Health and Wellbeing**
Two Police Officers, one being a High Harm Reduction Officer and one Early Intervention Officer are based with the YJS. These roles support decision making and reducing first-time entrants into the YJS. The High Harm Reduction Officer plays an important role in delivering targeted and tailored interventions to reduce reoffending and prevent further harm. The Early intervention officer is also central to providing early prevention support to children involved in anti-social behaviour.	One Education/ Young Peoples Support Service worker seconded to the YJS. This role is central in the delivery of advice and guidance but also a point of contact for any educational needs and supports the Key Performance indicator.	One Probation Officer and one Senior Probation Officer are our points of contact. This role is central in risk management and multi-agency public protection arrangements. The role also ensures smooth and timely transitions for children into adult services with 8 weekly meetings taking place.	Joint protocol in place between YJS and CSC both for Children in Care and Childrens Assessment and safeguarding 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.

				Service Level agreement in place with Aspiring futures to support children presenting with substance misuse difficulties.

North East Lincolnshire YJS have developed excellent joint working arrangements with colleagues regionally and nationally. Regional partnership arrangements includes, Reciprocal audit arrangements, 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 Channel and Prevent Panels.

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 Justice 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 10,441 attendees over 2025 with 910 sessions delivered and 3513 brief interventions delivered.

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 Justice Service has responsibility for Youth Justice, Family Help and Disability. 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 Service 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 three Practice Supervisors who oversee the service operationally and report direct to the Service Lead.

Update on the previous year

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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
Development of our Youth Justice Prevention Officer	• Prevention Panel TOR developed and key attendees identified. • Memo of understanding with CSP and YJS for ABC's • New ASB/Prevention referral to be developed (external agencies can refer). • All children and young people aged between 8-17 can be referred to the Prevention panel where there are concerns of ASB, concerning behaviours and vulnerabilities. The panel will equally consider hot spots of anti-social behaviour and frequent and persistent exclusions. • The Prevention Panel will seek to address not only ABC's, but ASB, Education exclusion information, Weapons Awareness Referrals and our Outreach Deployments.	ASB practise and guidance document to be reviewed in light of changes to processes.
Children in Custody and Concordat	• Increased connectivity between Custody, YJS and Children Services • Updated partnership agreements and Concordat protocol • Enhanced understanding of use of appropriate adult including recommissioning AA UK services for out of core hours. • Focus upon child first whilst in custody, including use of specific cells with full length window, availability for children to remain on a call to a chosen safe and activities for children such as fidget toys. • Increased oversight of children in custody including those in custody overnight and remanded to court the following day • Increased partnership working prior to decision for strip search. • Greater connectivity with out of hours services	Regular meetings remain in place between YJS Head of Service, Service Lead and custody Inspector to ensure best practice.
Victim Offer and Restorative Principles	• VLO increased to 37 hours a week to strengthen and create more capacity for victim work. • Victim Contact Assessments and Victim Safety Matrix's are completed with all victims. • Victim safety matrix's are shared with case managers and embedded into the child's assessment. • Victim Process Guide and Victim checklist available for the VLO.	• Embed the victim feedback and introduce a 'you said, we did' document. • Introduce a victim

	• Printed copies of the Victim's Code and the Under 18 version, as well as our Victim Leaflet are sent to all victims. • Home visits are undertaken to victims who fall under 'enhanced rights'. • Our VLO routinely has case discussions with the YJS worker attends out of court panels and pre-youth court meetings. • Monthly victim audits for quality assurance. • Victim safety in our child's supervision forms. • Victim Support are representing victims on the Partnership Board. • We have enhanced our victim data and have a live victim dashboard to show the current picture of our victims and any disproportionality. • YJS workers are routinely using the victim workbook as part of their intervention with children. • Victim feedback app with a reporting dashboard. • Processes in place for the Victim Contact Scheme. • Reparation is included in all children's plan including out of court resolutions. • Victim supervisions are taking place, with clear timeframes (high every 4 weeks and medium every 6 weeks). • Victim's who are High Risk are discussed in our High Risk Panel (Keeping everyone safe panel). • Child victims are able to access the same resources as children open to YJS, this includes work experience on our Bike Project and complete AQA qualifications. • Victim support poster has been created for Humberside Police to improve our consent rates. • YJS PC and the RJ Co-ordinator have attended Police stations to discuss the victim offer and ensure victims are fully informed when making a decision to consent to contact. • The victim's code has been delivered to the team during a teams meeting. • Reparation project leaflet is now in place and shared with children	newsletter, show casing good examples of victim and restorative practice. • Enhance our relationships with witness care. • Review of victim data and any areas of disproportionality.
Child First Principles Awareness	• The implementation of Child First Custody Sergeant reviews and the identification of Juvenile SPOCs demonstrate active engagement with the Children's Concordat.	To continue to ensure child first principles are understood and embedded across the partnership.

	• A significant Child First success was the identification of critical vulnerabilities during risk assessments • Broader discussion within the Board, training and across the workforce regarding child first principles and what they mean in practice, including positive outcomes • Appropriate reflection and challenge regarding any practice which does not appear to uphold the principles to enable learning • Partnership training delivered by leading professional in child first. • Implementation of the High Harm officer to ensure positive relationship building and dedicated focus from Police	
Education, Training, and Employment	• We have refreshed the format of the EET/NEET scorecard, this is now an overview document which provides a summary of the current EET/NEET situation of all children on a statutory and voluntary order, this is broken down by national curriculum year and identifies the child's current education provider/status and for post 16 the current employer, education or training provider. • Introduction of the Education sub group and Operational groups; Data for children open to Youth Justice has developed to allow improved analysis and embed the actions set by the Education Sub-Group for the Operational Group. The Operational Group priority areas to report on to the Sub-Group are for children who have their education not deemed suitable in records, and those children whose education offer does not constitute a full-time offer. • Bespoke training has been offered to schools where children have been suspended or excluded to ensure child first application and promote continued suitable education. • Bespoke education packages have been authorised where appropriate and required to do so.	To continue to develop the new education groups to ensure positive outcomes for children.
Reducing Knife/Weapons Crime	• Trained lead safeguarding nurses, children's social care staff and attended team meetings with doctors / nurses from the ED department on our weapons awareness programme. • Delivered to over 1'000 children in classroom sized groups in this academic year. • Delivered to assembly with 70 Children at an Immingham primary school in response to a report of children there carrying weapons. • Delivered to all Year 7s in mainstream schools and Alternative Provisions, except one.	• To deliver to all Year 7 aged children in NELincs before summer term 2026. • To increase awareness of amber / red offer and

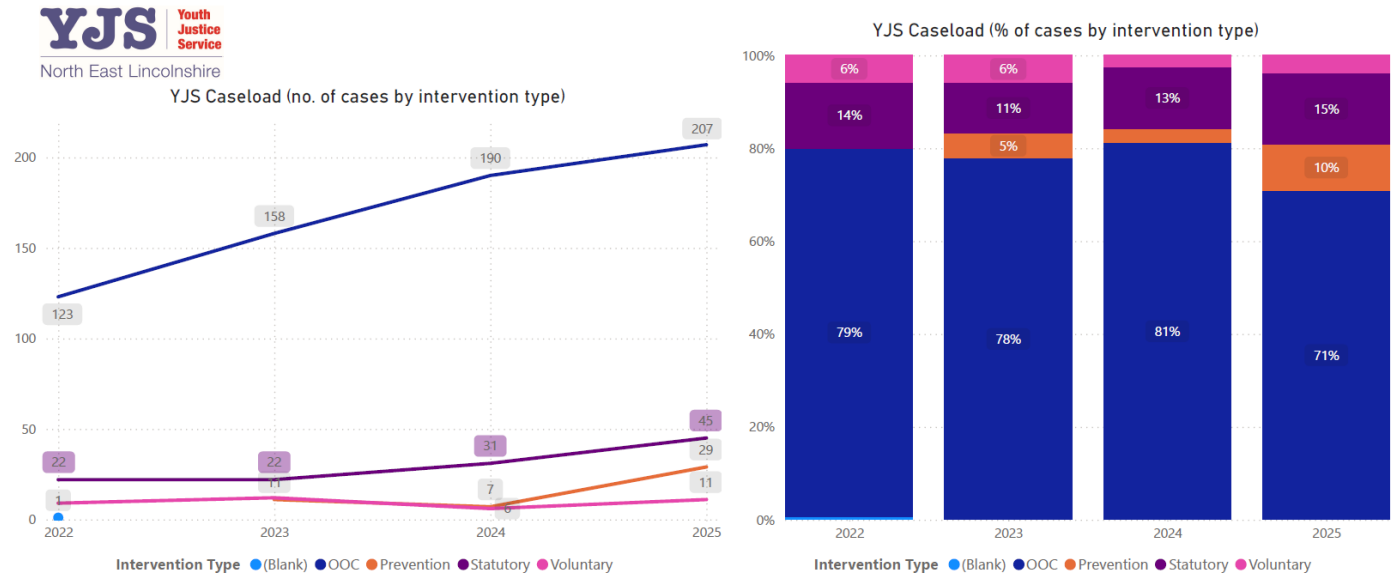
	• Enhanced our Amber and Red offer following training from Ben Kinsela trust. • Street First Aid session created and being trialled with children. • Bleed kits and weapons tubes left with schools & registered with the ambulance service. • Requested to be part of a best practice study by the Humber Violence Prevention Partnership. • Swapped all our knives in the centre for blunt ended knives and are encouraging provisions and parents to do the same.	increase referrals • To review the weapons following the knife crime guidance. • Ben Kinsella training for all YJS staff.
Reducing Re-offending and Greater Use of Outcome 22's	• Met with West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees YJS in October 25 to discuss their Deferred Prosecution 'Chance for Change' and how we can introduce this in the Humberside area. The impact of this programme has resulted in low re-offending figures, reduced FTE's and out of court resolutions being completed successfully. • Introduction of the High Harm Officer within Humberside Police they have responsibility of the children assessed as High Harm, and play a key role in the delivery of children's plans, having face to face contact, and supporting the core groups. • Developed and ready to re-launch a new and improved Child IOM in June 2026 to support children at the greatest risk of re-offending.	• Development of High Harm role • Re-launch of Child IOM June 26. • Deferred Prosecution scheme signoff and implementation of Outcome 23. • Re-offending to remain as a golden thread throughout our upcoming priorities.

Performance:

The progress and performance of the Youth Justice Service is reported to each Youth Justice Board for scrutiny, oversight and action. There are established mechanisms in place to ensure robust management and leadership oversight of our cohort and performance. This includes oversight of the re-offending live tracking tool, comprehensive reporting and data cleansing exercises and our Children of Concern Panel, Keeping Everyone Safe Panel and our Integrated Offender Manager programme. There is a dedicated data engineer assigned to the YJS to strengthen the way data and performance is presented.

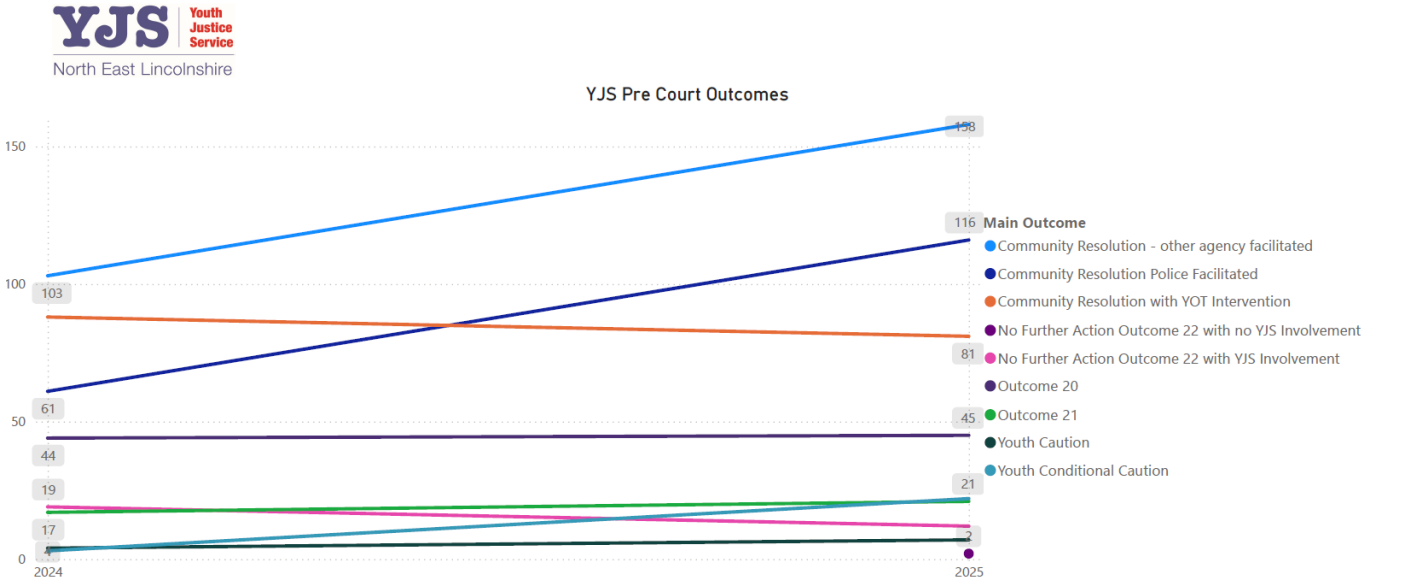
Local quality practice standards are in place and aligned to national standards which are monitored within the Children's Experience and Audit Meeting (CEAM). The CEAM involves 'leaders at every level' in the scrutiny of casework practice, including audits/thematic reviews and to provide a line of sight from senior leaders through to front line practice across the children and families that we work with. The YJS is also a co-chair of the Learning Audit and Development Group which supports the quality assurance in relation to specialist youth justice practice to ensure partnership arrangements facilitate the delivery of effective operational work to achieve positive outcomes and keep children, families and communities safe.

Our fundamental aim is to promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using prevention, diversion and minimal intervention.

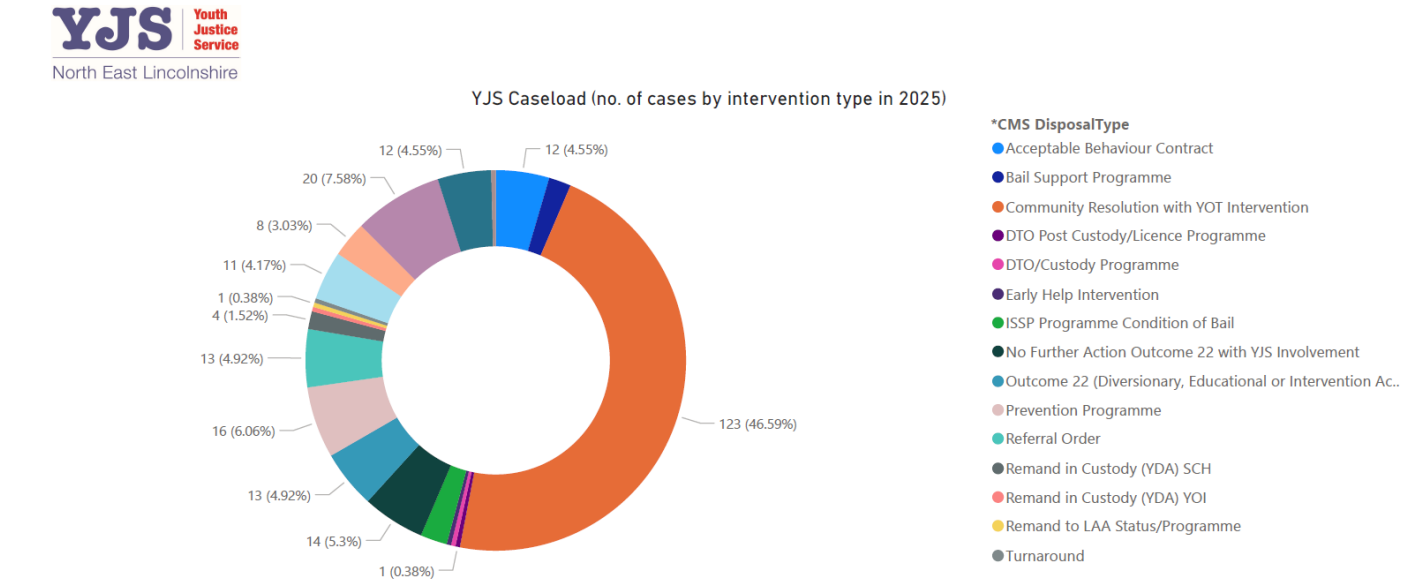


The percentage of programmes starting that are out of court resolutions remains at a high level. In 2025, 292 programmes commenced. 236 were out of court resolutions and prevention, 81% of all programmes starting. 45 (15%) were statutory outcomes. When comparing last years, the proportions have remained similar, however the number of individual children receiving interventions have increased with statutory court outcomes increasing from 31 to 45 (this equates to 21 children).

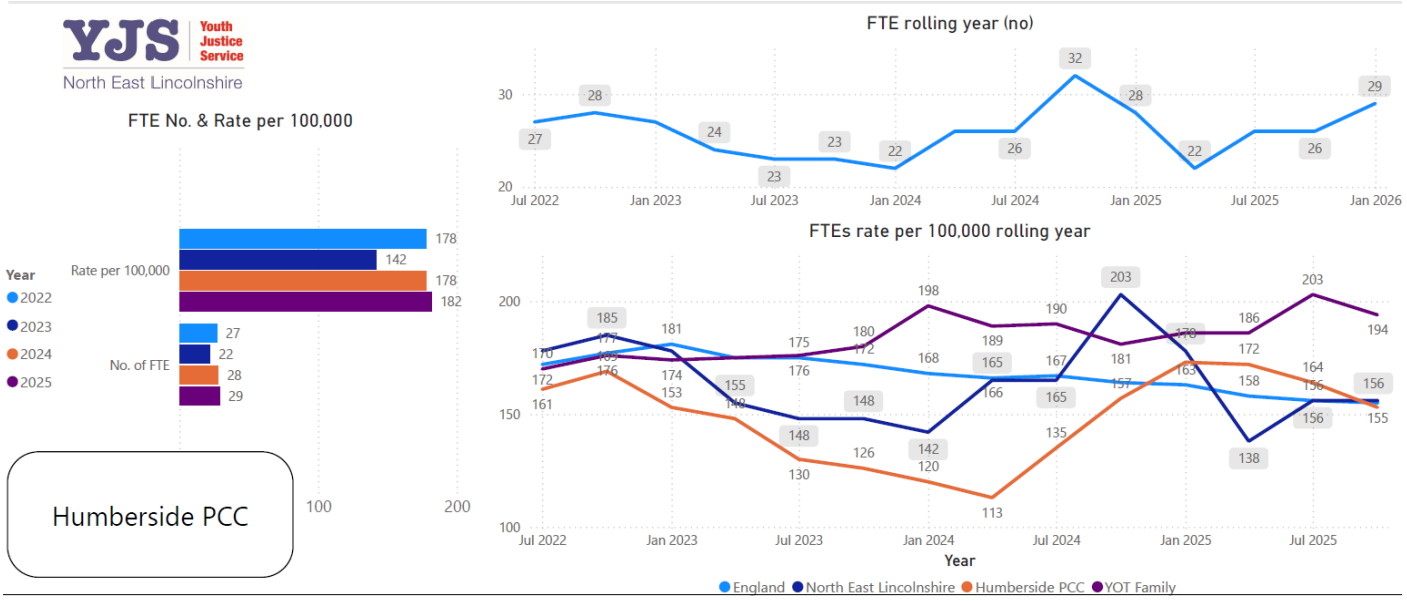
This below demonstrates the breakdown of out of court resolutions. Data shows a high percentage of out of court referrals received are Outcome 8's Community Resolutions, these have 3 tiers, police facilitated, other agency facilitated and with YJS intervention.



This below graph demonstrates the breakdown of prevention, out of court resolutions, statutory outcomes and voluntary interventions. Prevention programmes include both JEFF, ABC's and those subject to RUI/Pre-charge bail (Turnaround). These include Children not connected to an offence (incident recorded), and those connected to an offence. The data shows a higher percentage of outcomes are Community Resolutions and Outcome 22's.



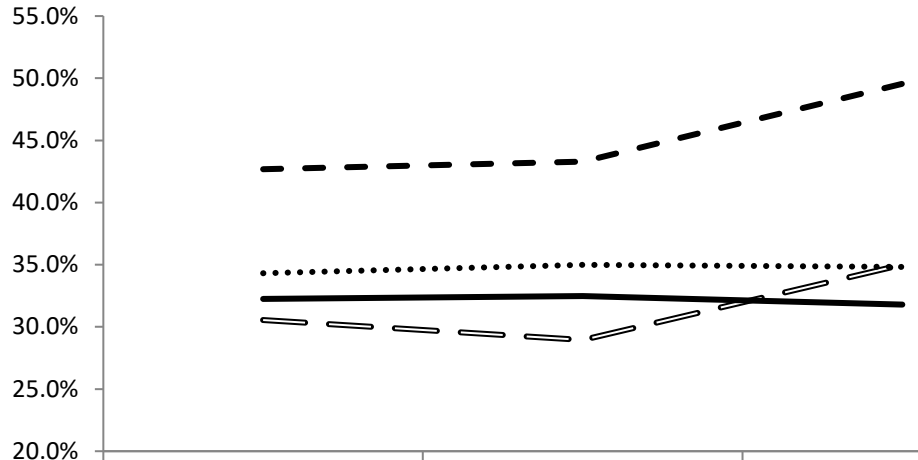
The number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system has increased by a small number this year. The Youth Justice Board measures FTE's as a rate per 100,000 of 10-17 years olds in our area. The latest published data (YDS Data) has been published for England & Wales January 2025 – December 2025. This saw a first time entrant rate of 182. This is below our family average and region rate. However, FTE's have increased by 1 from 28 to 29 (for the following Jan-Dec 2024 period).



This increase has been impacted by non-recordable driving matters and NEL (at the time) not having a Deferred Prosecution scheme.

Our data indicates that the % of children re-offending is increasing. 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 from April 23-Mar 24 has a cohort of 40 children, of which 14 children committed 79 offences. This gives a re-offending rate of 35% and 5.64 re-offences per re-offender. Re-offences per re-offender are showing an increase and higher than our family average, this is due to a smaller cohort of children actively re-offending. In comparison to our family average (36,6%) and Humberside's (49.6%) reoffending rate, we remain below but are higher than the

England average of 31.7%.



	Apr 21 - Mar 22	Apr 22 - Mar 23	Apr 23 - Mar 24
North East Lincolnshire	30.6%	28.9%	35.0%
Yorkshire	34.3%	35.0%	34.8%
Humberside PCC Area	42.7%	43.3%	49.6%
England & Wales	32.2%	32.5%	31.8%

We are locally monitoring the subsequent periods which is showing a gradual increase since 2021/22, likely attributed by Covid. During the period of 2025 we have seen an increase in a cohort of 47 children of which 22 children committed 167 offences, giving a re-offending rate of 46.8% and 7.59 re-offences per re-offender.

Re-offending remains a strategic commitment and priority for NEL with this being our principle aim under the Crime and Disorder Act.

There is a clear and graduated approach to children who repeatedly offend. This is delivered through the Youth Justice Pathway and is informed by assessment, intervention planning, level of contact, external controls and enforcement where required. The intensity of intervention is proportionate to the child's assessed needs, risks and strengths, whilst maintaining a balance between safeguarding and welfare and the need to protect victims and the wider community.

In North East Lincolnshire, a range of multi-agency arrangements support our response to repeat offending. These include the Children of Concern Panel and the Keeping Everyone Safe Panel, which provide oversight of children whose offending behaviour, vulnerability or exploitation concerns require a coordinated partnership response.

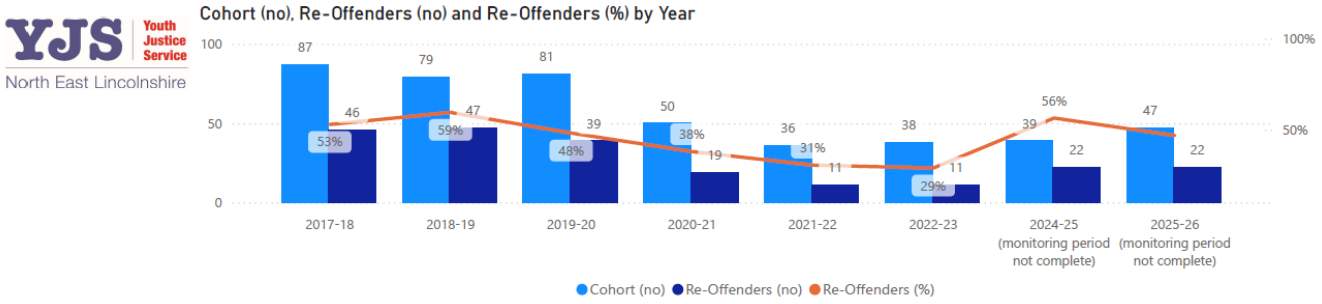
We also work closely with Humberside Police through Integrated Offender Management (IOM) arrangements. These arrangements are designed to respond to children whose offending is persistent and provide a multi-agency framework for enhanced oversight, supervision, support and intervention. The aim is to reduce reoffending, improve outcomes for children and young people, and protect communities from further harm.

Where a child is assessed as presenting a high risk of continued offending, they may be matched to the IOM cohort. In these circumstances a coordinated package of activity is implemented, including:

- Submission of a Police Protection Notice.
- Completion of a Child Information Form.

- Completion of a Child Custody Profile.
- Addition of relevant warning markers and intelligence flags to police systems.
- Creation of a police briefing sheet to support a focused deterrence approach and enable swift intervention.
- Establishment of a joint communication channel to support instant information sharing between agencies.
- Collation of outstanding investigations to support timely decision-making and case progression.
- Joint visits involving the allocated police officer and relevant professionals, including the High Harm Reduction Officer where required.
- Regular multi-agency review meetings, including weekly meetings where risk and need indicate.
- Twenty-eight-day workbook reviews overseen by Community Supervisors to monitor progress, intervention delivery and emerging risk.

This graduated approach ensures that as offending behaviour becomes more persistent, the partnership response becomes increasingly coordinated, intensive and focused on both accountability and support, helping children to make positive changes whilst reducing the risk of further offending.

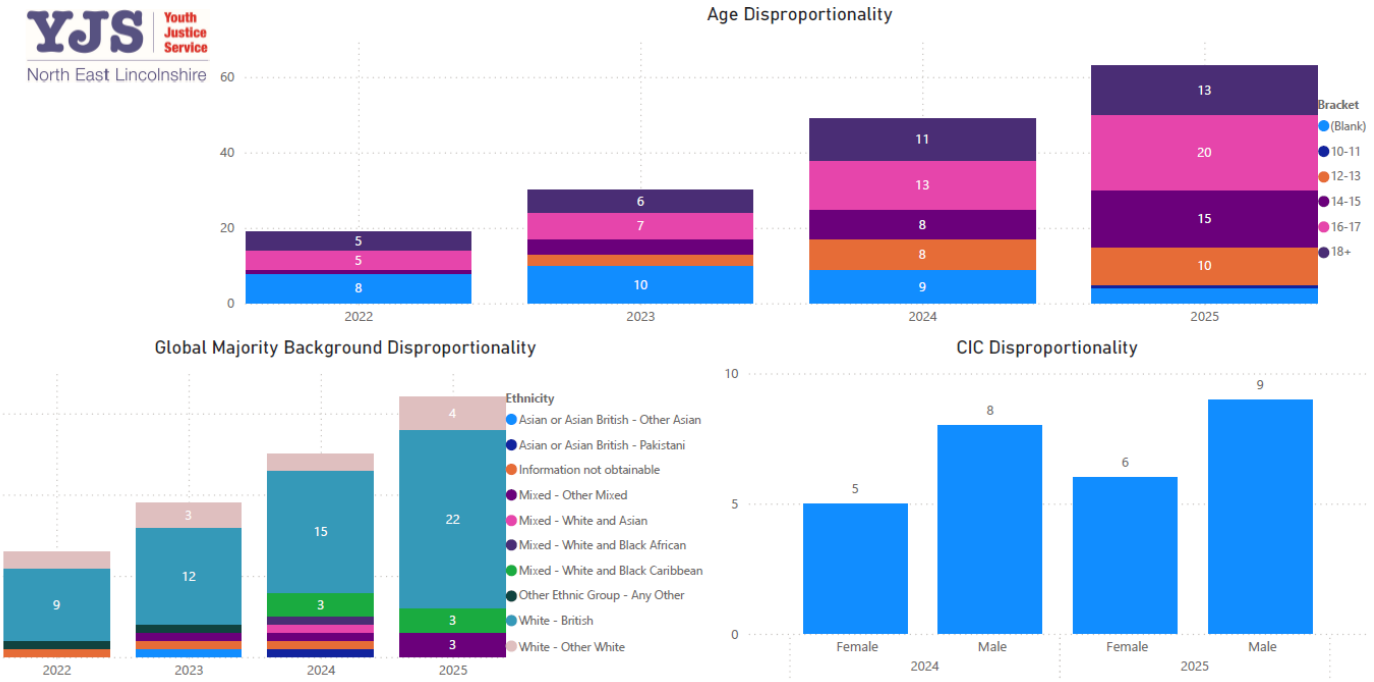


Disproportionality refers to a groups over representation in a particular category, or differs substantially from the representation of others in that category. This can be for example age, gender, children in care or ethnicity.

Children from the global majority are not overly represented in the youth justice system in North East Lincolnshire

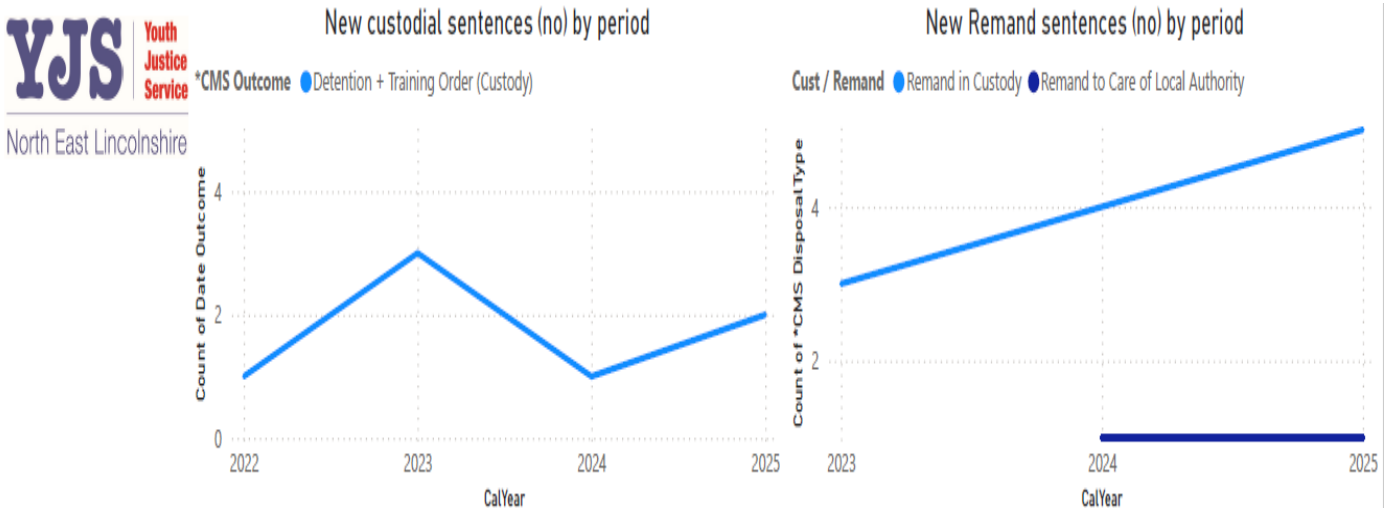
For children in care who offend within their care home settings, there is a strong emphasis on corporate parenting responsibilities and adherence to our joint protocol designed to prevent the unnecessary criminalisation of children in care. This recognises that these children are often among the most vulnerable and that behaviour should, wherever possible, be managed through restorative, relational and supportive approaches rather than criminal justice responses. The Child First framework complements this approach by promoting a balance of high support and high challenge, safeguarding the child and others while fostering positive identity development, resilience, accountability and long-term desistance from offending. This aligns with local partnership arrangements that seek to ensure that children in care do not enter the criminal justice system prematurely or disproportionately compared to their peers.

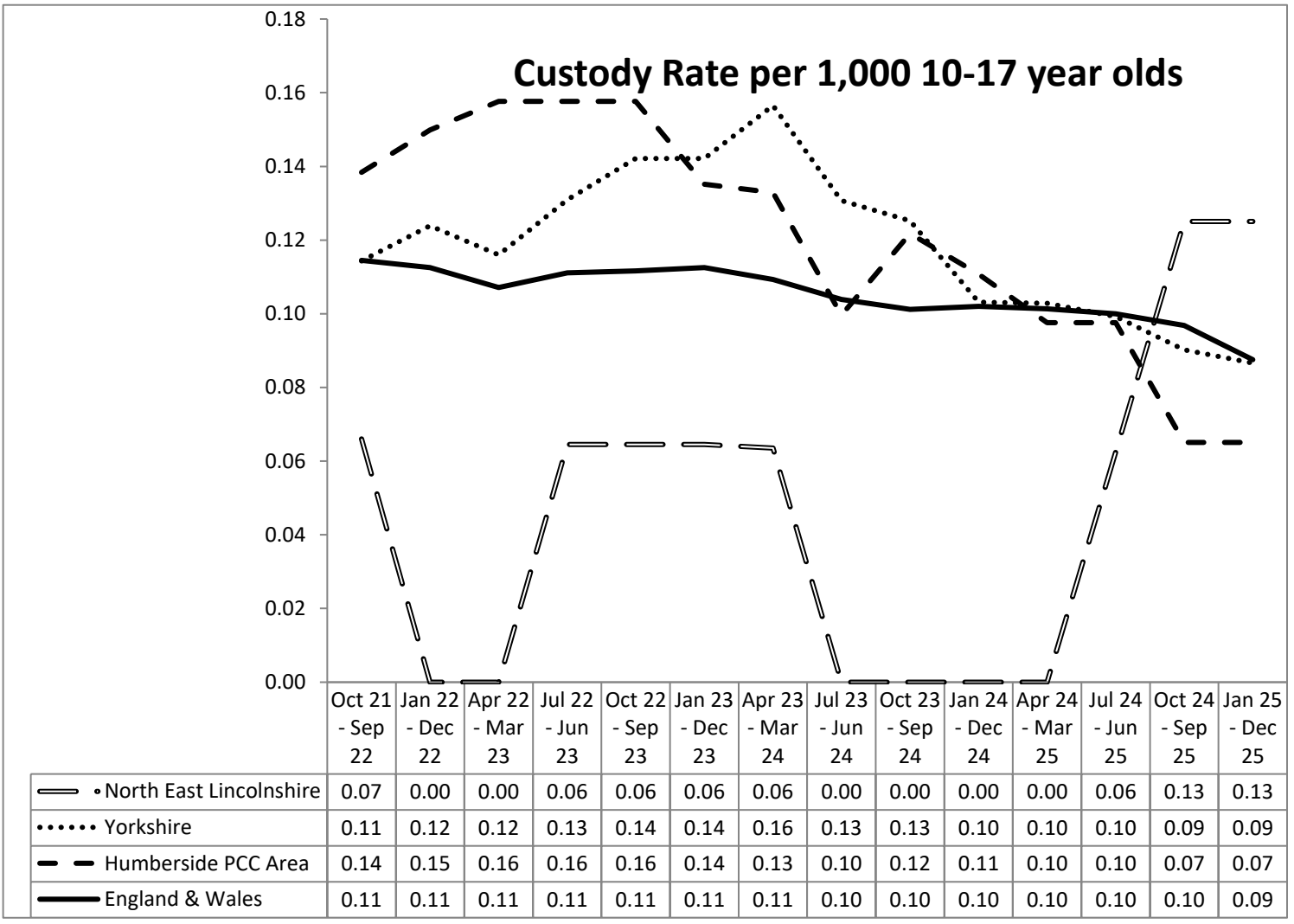
When considering disproportionality, the number of females involved with the YJS has reduced when comparing data to 2025 from 2024, although males has remained very similar. The highest age range in 2025 is 16-17, which is the same to 2024. In terms of the global majority, the data continues to show NEL YJS have low numbers and there are no disparities in terms of children's backgrounds. The number of our Children in Care cohort has increased in the last year, increasing from 13 to 15. This equates to Remand status's by the Courts.



The number of custodial sentences and children on Remand in North East Lincolnshire has increased during 2025. The number of children sentenced to custody during this period has increased by 2 (0 in the previous year). This gives a rate of 0.13 per 1,000. This is higher than our family, region and England average of 0.09. These 2 sentences however equate to 1 child. As NEL population is much smaller this heightens the custody rate. Remands to YDA and RLAA also increased, equating to 3 children.

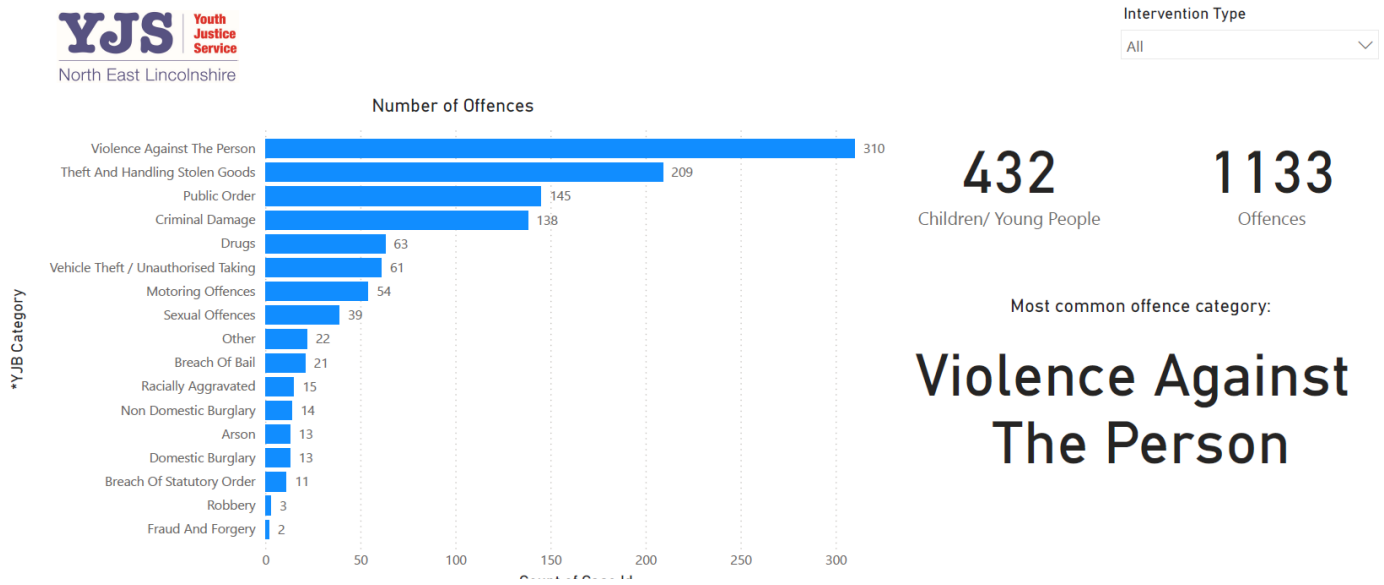
The populations regarding re-offending and Remand are understood by the partnership and in large are related to offences committed in the context of exploitation, by children who are subject to NRM conclusive grounds decisions.





	Oct 21 - Sep 22	Jan 22 - Dec 22	Apr 22 - Mar 23	Jul 22 - Jun 23	Oct 22 - Sep 23	Jan 23 - Dec 23	Apr 23 - Mar 24	Jul 23 - Jun 24	Oct 23 - Sep 24	Jan 24 - Dec 24	Apr 24 - Mar 25	Jul 24 - Jun 25	Oct 24 - Sep 25	Jan 25 - Dec 25
North East Lincolnshire	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.13	0.13
Yorkshire	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.13	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.09
Humberside PCC Area	0.14	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.14	0.13	0.10	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.07
England & Wales	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.09

The most common offence category for children becoming known to the YJS is for Violence against the person (majority common assault), this is followed by Theft/Handling Stolen goods and Public Order. The number of Theft Handling Stolen goods has increased significantly - linked to acquisitive crime and exploitation. The number of children involved with the YJS and the number of offences has also increased in comparison to previous years.



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.

KPI 1 – Accommodation:

Children and Young People in suitable accommodation remains high – In 2025 99% of children were in suitable accommodation. The 1% accounts to a child who was temporarily staying in a B&B until suitable accommodation was found.

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

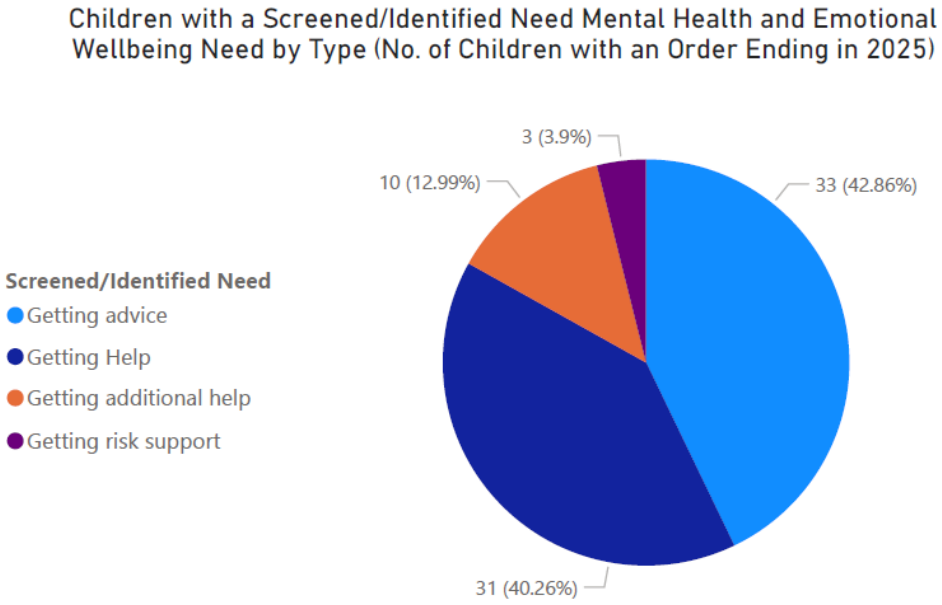
The number of children in a suitable ETE at the end of their Programme remains high. Overall, in 2025 80% of children with a Programme ending in the period were in suitable ETE. This percentage has reduced from 2023/24 and refers to an increase in children being electively home educated. The data allows us to monitor and review any key themes or issues that are raised locally through our Education Operational and Strategic Subgroup, to the Youth Justice Board.

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 55% during 2025 (29% in 2024). This increase has been a result of greater understanding of our children's needs, ensuring plans/SEN support is in place and more accurate recording.

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. Over 2025, 89% children actively participated and where screened with identified needs. 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.



KPI 5 - Substance misuse:

All children subject to YJS interventions are screened for any substance misuse needs through a tool developed with our local substance misuse team and aligned to the YJB tool. This includes the levels of treatment Teir 1-4. Data indicates 92% were screened having an identified need, the majority of these have been Tier 1, followed by Tier 2.

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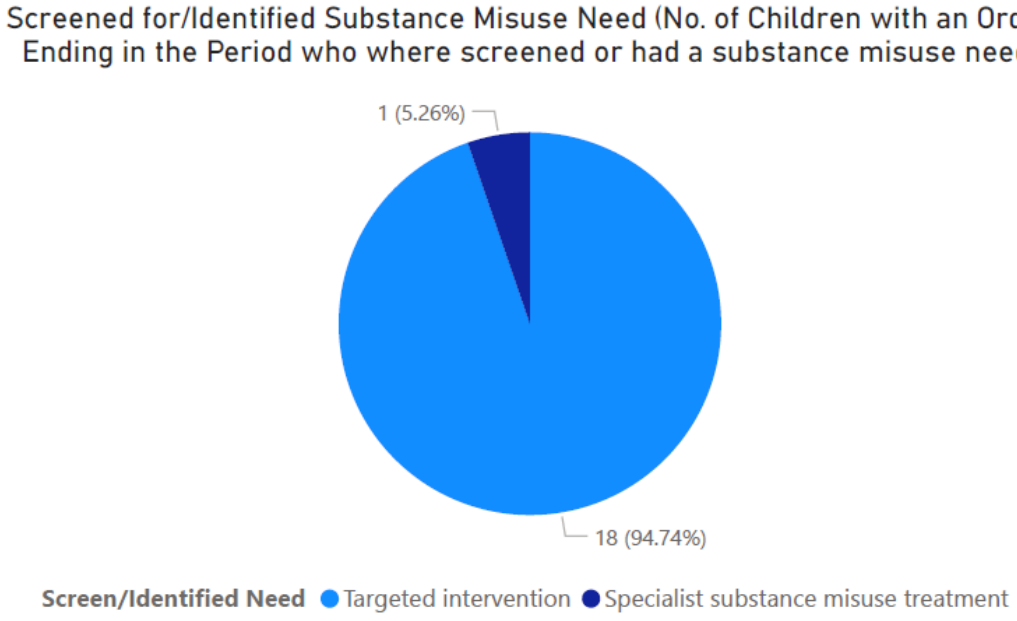
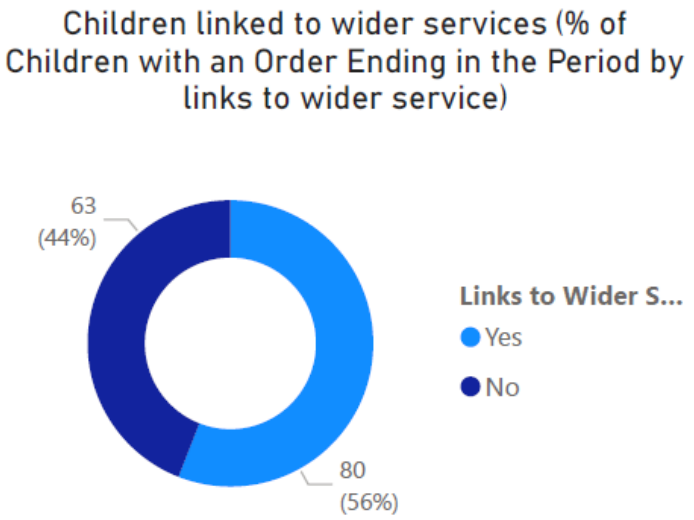


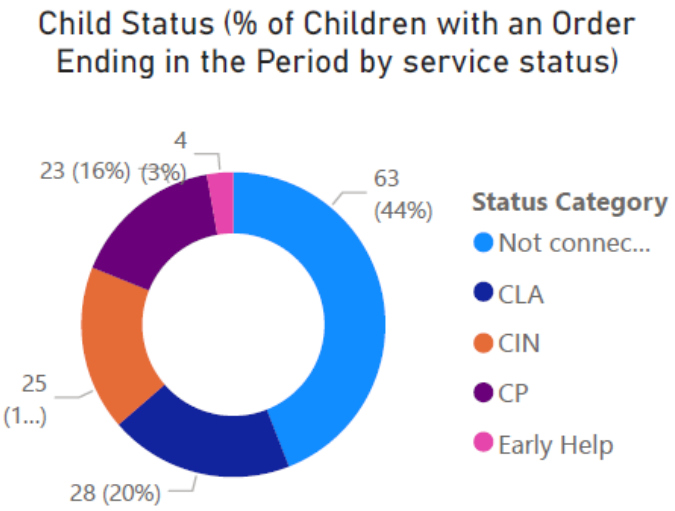
KPI 6 - out-of-court resolutions:

The % of children successfully completing their out of court resolutions is high. During 2025 there was a success rate of 81%. This has taken a slight decline from the previous year (90%) and equates to a cohort of children associating together and engaging in repeat behaviours resulting in further referrals.

KPI 7 – Wider Services:

Over the period 2025 56% of children were linked to wider services. Breakdown is seen below:





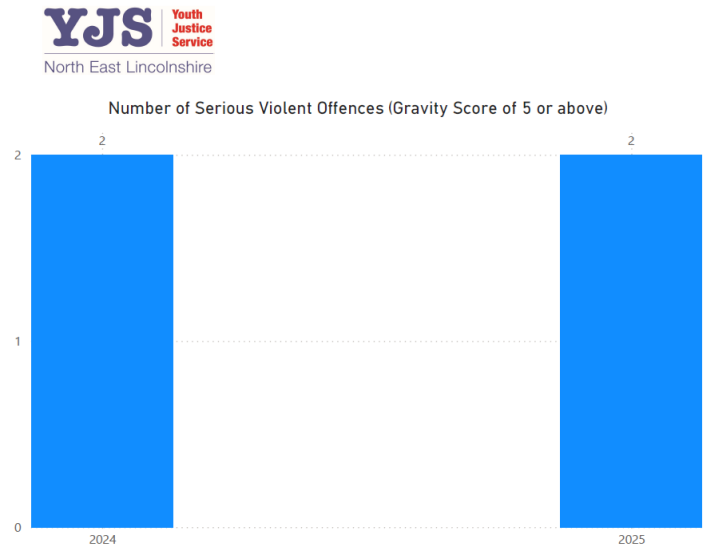
Connectivity between services shows similar data to previous years with just over 40% not connected to other services. This coincides with the higher proportion of out of court resolutions. There is a commitment to ensuring the right support, at the right time by the right person supported by an integrated workforce, one that works with the whole family and where we reduce unnecessary duplication of professionals involved with a child and family.

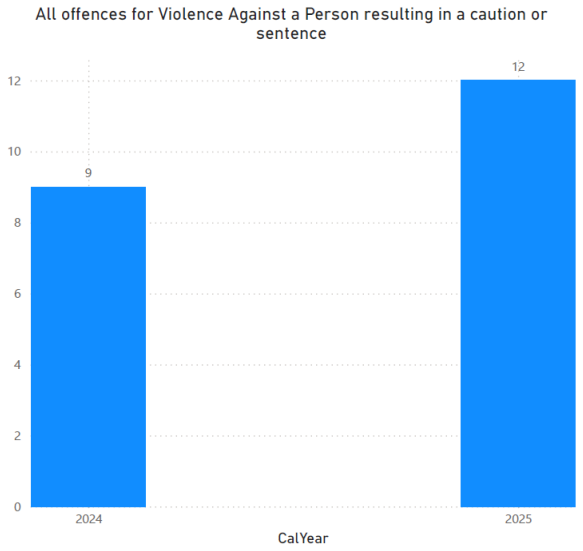
KPI 8 – Management Board:

Partnership representation at the Youth Justice Board remains high. Positively 100% of statutory partners attended the Youth Justice Board in 2025 demonstrating the positive partnership commitment to the board in NEL.

KPI 9 – Serious Violence:

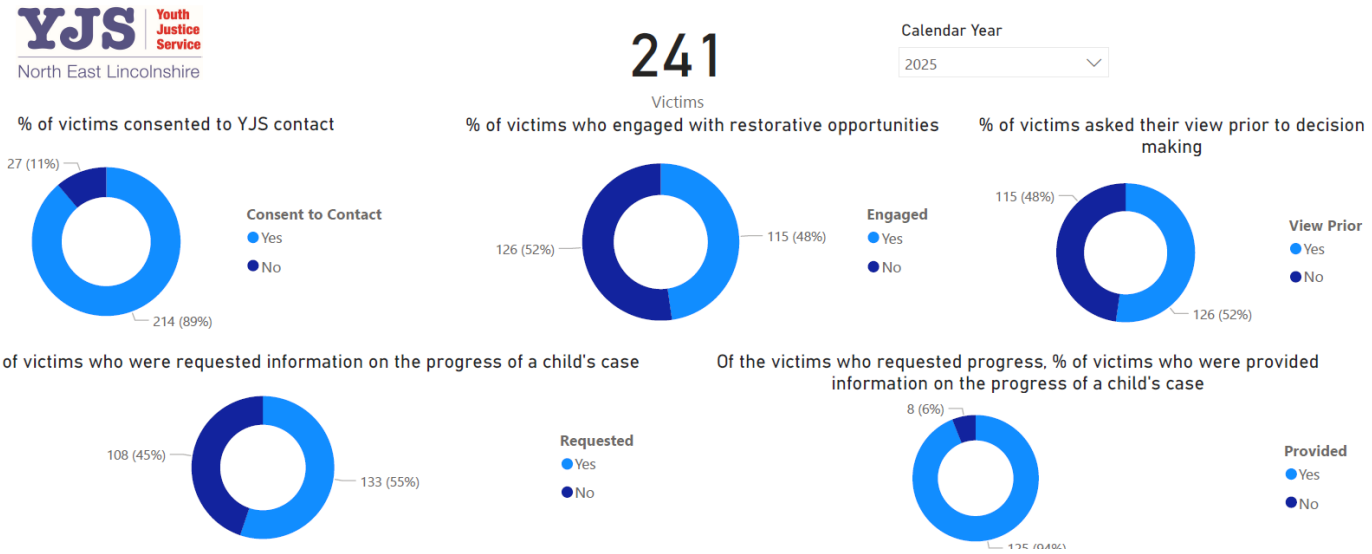
NEL YJS continues to see a reduction in Serious Violence Offences. Overall offences for Violence over the last year have predominately included Assault Emergency Workers, Parental/Carer Conflict and Possession of Knife.



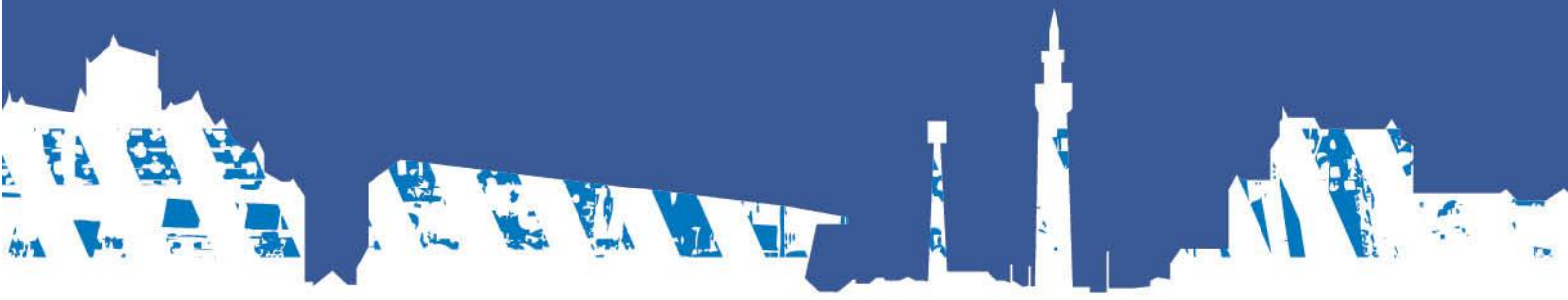


KPI 10 – Victims:

Victim KPI data shows of the victims who consent to YJS contact are actively engaged with Restorative Justice opportunities, their views are presented for decision making and they are frequently updated.



Risk and Issues



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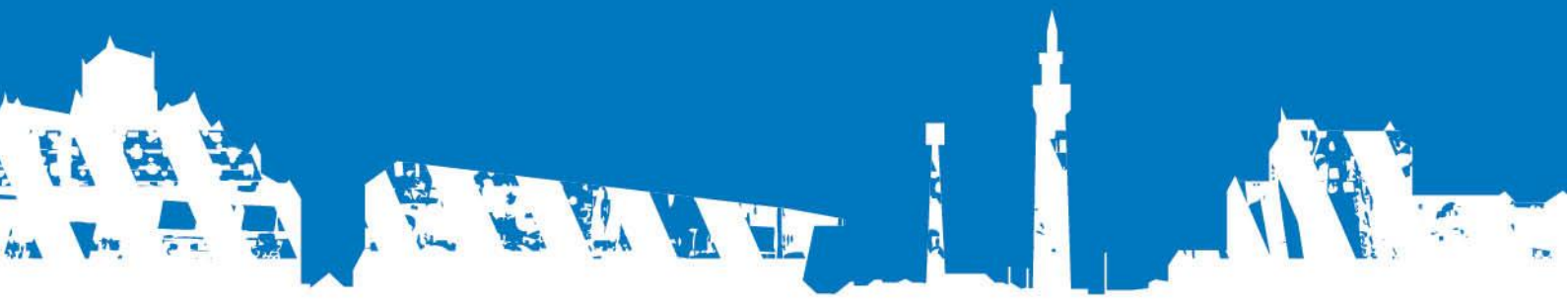
Risk and Issues:

Increase use of Remand/Custody	Increase in First Time Entrants / Re-offending rates.	Increase in Sexual Offences
NEL YJS have been seen a noticeable increase in repeat children re-offending with children subject to Bail ISS, RLAA and RYDA. 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 to give the courts the confidence to allow children to remain in the community, including remand foster carers, 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 and introduced a child integrated offender manager programme. The new knife crime guidance is also likely to see a further increase in FTE's. Our continued development of our Prevention offer will help 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 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 and Forensic CAMHS where specialist support is required.
Seconded Probation Officer within the YJS	**Children who are exploited.**	**Change of Case Management System**
The Probation Service rescinded our seconded probation officer in December 2025 following operational demands and the need to maintain core probation functions. To prevent children not receiving the right transitional support, we continue to have the same probation officer as our specific point of contact, alongside the senior probation officer. 8 weekly meetings are scheduled to review children pending transition and the SPOC will be allocated the child transitioned to create consistency.	NEL YJS have seen a rise in children experiencing active exploitation both through drug supply and acquisitive crime. This is a primary factor for children who are seen within our cohort or repeat offending and remands. As a partnership there has been a increase in training and therefore increase in identification. We continue to ensure disruption of exploitation via the MACE partnership.	Following a delay, NEL YJS are due to change case management system in Autumn 2026. 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



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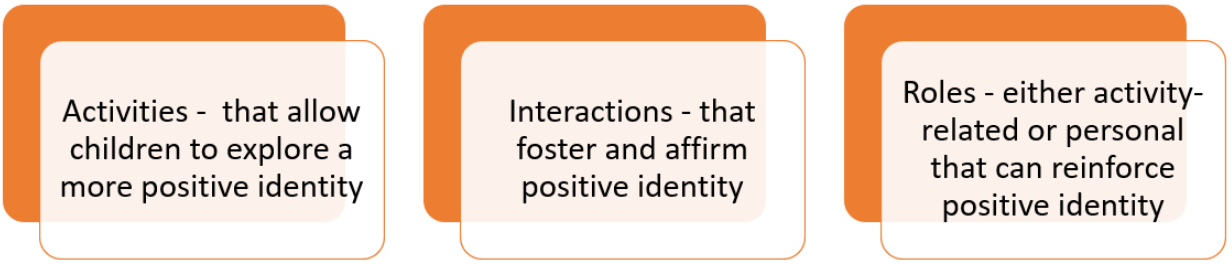
Plan for the forthcoming year:

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 a description of 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 the word 'risk' when determining children's levels of harm. 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.

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.

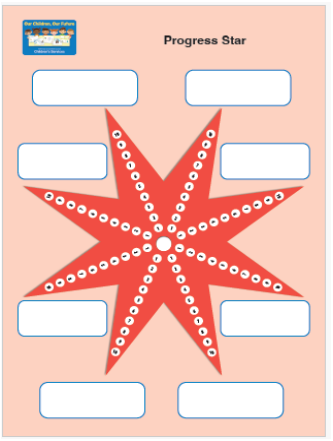
D – Diverting from Stigma – Removing stigma and promoting children being removed from the Criminal Justice System and minimal intervention.

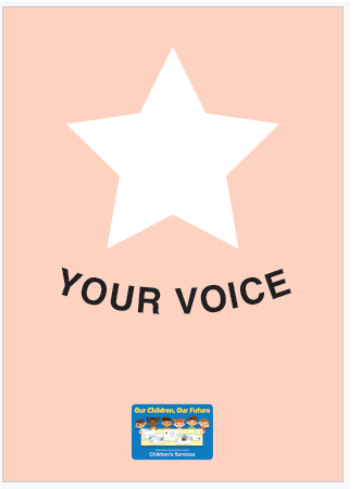
NEL YJS has a comprehensive Prevention and Diversion offer to prevent children entering the Statutory arena. This is evidenced by the high proportion of our children being subject to Diversionary outcomes and a high proportion of these being successful in their interventions and refraining from further behaviours. Here at NEL YJS we are committed to Child First and have commissioned Michael O'Connor to deliver

training to our team, wider partners and undertake audit activity.

Child's Voice:

We have introduced a Feedback, Engagement and Participation Strategy. The strategy defines how we gain the wishes, feelings and feedback from our children, parent/carers and victims, allowing their voices to be seen, heard and responded too.





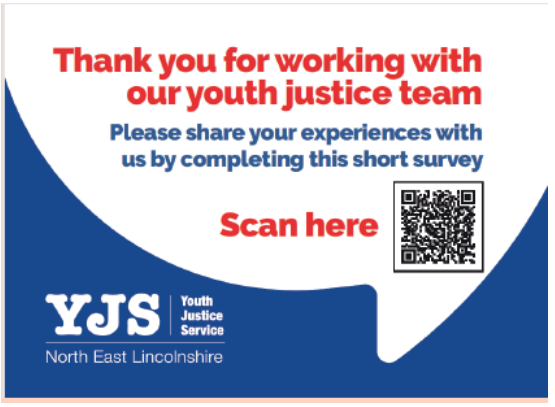
The methods we use to achieve this include the below:

Children, Parent and Carers:

- YJS Induction Booklet – 'Your Voice'.
- Leaflet Guides for Police Custody, Court and Resettlement.
- YJB approved Self-assessment tools, including, start, review and end.
- Screening tools for Speech, Language and Communication, Physical and Mental Health, Substance misuse
- Personalised Support Intervention plans.
- Progress Star embedded into the Your Voice booklet.
- Final survey score and thoughts at the end of intervention.
- Compliments, Suggestions and Complaints.
- Certificate of Completion.
- My Journey Closure Information Letter.
- YJS Exit Survey Questionnaire.
- Monthly Audits by the Service Lead.
- North East Lincolnshire Participation and Feedback evidence.
- Resettlement Promise Evaluation Form (custody only).

Victims:

- Victim Leaflets – including additional support and complaints procedure.
- Personalised Contact Assessment including safety matrix.
- Monthly Audits by the Service Lead.
- My Journey Closure Information Letter.
- Victim Feedback survey questionnaire.



Next steps are the additional feedback from the Your Voice Booklet is all combined into the 'You Said, We Did' document every 6 months. This feedback is too shared with the YJS Team, wider CSC colleagues and the Youth Justice Board. The same process for 'You Said, We Did' applies for Victim Feedback and will be presented separately.

Our exit questionnaire seeks to explore a child's and their parents/carers understanding of YJS involvement, if they felt listened to, if they were involved in their planning and if things have got better for them.

Across January to December 2025, responses show a consistently positive picture, describing support as helpful, respectful and relationship based. The reporting period captured 79 responses, however, there were only 54 completed surveys, giving an overall completion rate of approximately 68%. Completion was much stronger in January to July 2025, where 31 of 35 responses were completed (89%), than in August to December 2025, where 23 of 44 responses were completed (approximately 52%). Taken together, the findings suggest that we are having a strong, positive impact for those who engage, particularly through listening, practical support, improved confidence, better family relationships and reported progress in children's lives.

Feedback overall across 2025 suggests that NEL YJS contributed to improved outcomes for children in both personal and practical ways. In the first reporting period, 100% of children said things had got better for them, with comments describing reduced offending, improved mood, learning new skills and moving on from difficult situations. Children reported outcomes such as not being arrested, staying out of trouble, gaining employment, improving emotional wellbeing and developing discipline. In the later reporting period, children continued to describe practical benefits, including support with CV writing, positive activities, gym vouchers, bike repair and increased confidence.

Listening was a standout strength throughout the year, with the January to July report stating that 100% of children said their worker listened to what they had to say with one respondent adding;

I was listened to and was given an outsider view about how I could deal with certain situations.

The August to December report also identified that 100% of children who responded said support helped and workers listened with one child stating;

she was really good and helped me through it each step of the way

Other comments included;

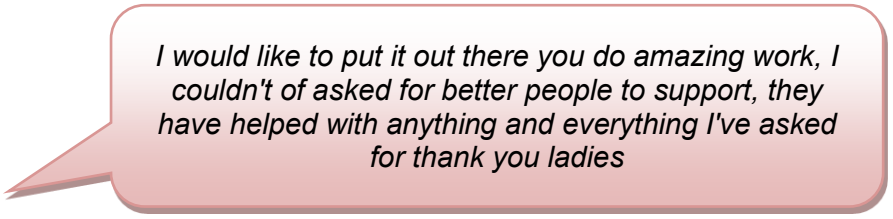
- ***" Learnt a lot about myself".***
- ***"I started boxing as discipline and to manage emotions".***
- ***"Learnt how to keep out of trouble and stopped me getting a criminal record".***
- ***"Learnt more in depth about alcohol, but I already knew about consent".***
- ***"Putting an end to a bad situation"***
- ***"Haven't been arrested since"***
- ***"Haven't done anything wrong in 7 months"***
- ***"Working"***
- ***"Mood has improved"***
- ***"Supportive and understanding"***

Voice of the Parent

Parent and carer feedback across the year also points to strong positive impact. In January to July 2025, 100% of parents/carers said they understood why the service was involved, 100% said they were listened to, and 100% said things had improved at home since intervention/support. In August to December 2025,

parent/carer feedback was again reported as fully positive, particularly in relation to communication, involvement and outcomes. Across the year, this indicates that in NEL we equally invested in improving family experience, confidence in the service and relationships at home.

Qualitative feedback adds strong evidence of impact. Throughout the year, respondents described practitioners positively and highlighted relationships as central to success. Comments referred to workers being a ***"good help",*** helping children to move on from difficult situations, listening carefully, improving confidence and supporting practical steps forward. Family comments also praised practitioners for going above and beyond with one parent/carer stating:



With another parent adding

This feedback evidences the relational model of support is one of the service's strongest features and a key factor in the positive outcomes reported.

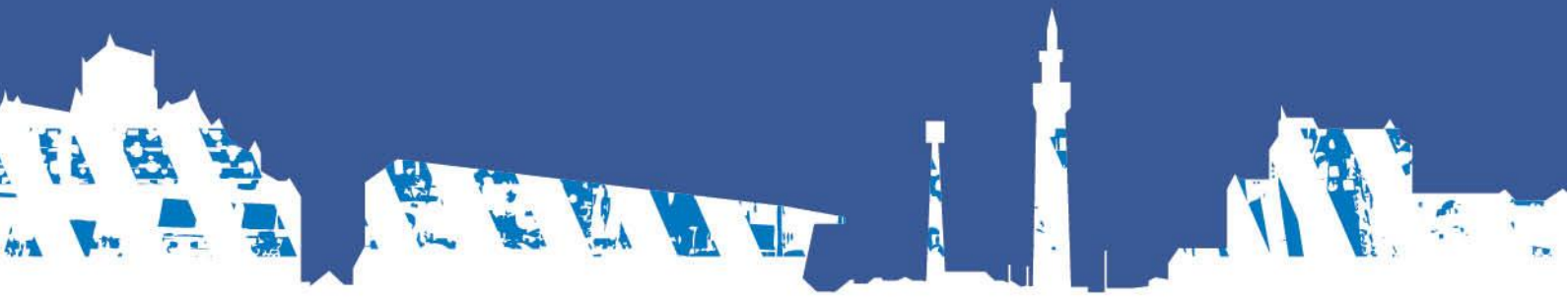
Resources and services

A table with indicative budget costs and contributions for 2026/27 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.

Our Youth Justice Service now has a fully staffed, dedicated and passionate team. Our data and performance, evidence that despite an increase in children and offending, we continue to perform highly and provide a positive and supportive service to our children, families and victims. In November 2025 under the Youth Justice Oversight Framework, the Youth Justice Board agreed that NEL YJS continues to meet the criteria to allocated as Quadrant 1 service.

Workforce Development



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Board Development

Since the last annual plan, there has been an appointment of a new Chair; Sharon Philpot who was nominated and approved during the board in March 2026. This was following the Former Chair moving into a different role. Following the new appointment, there will be 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 is in attendance, as well as the Service Lead. We have also introduced a Youth Justice Board Newsletter to wider Children's services colleagues to update all on the progress against the priority areas identified in the YJ plan.

To strengthen the partnership additional partners have been identified to attend the board, including Victim Support, Mental Health Services, Courts and a Headteacher.

Next steps are:

- 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.
- Undertake training available when important changes take place include legislation and guidance, which will impact on how the partnership operates and delivers its priorities.
- Board development day to focus on Child First and improving outcomes for children.
- 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

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.

Over the period 2025 there have been numerous training opportunities taken place across Youth Justice and young and safe. This includes:

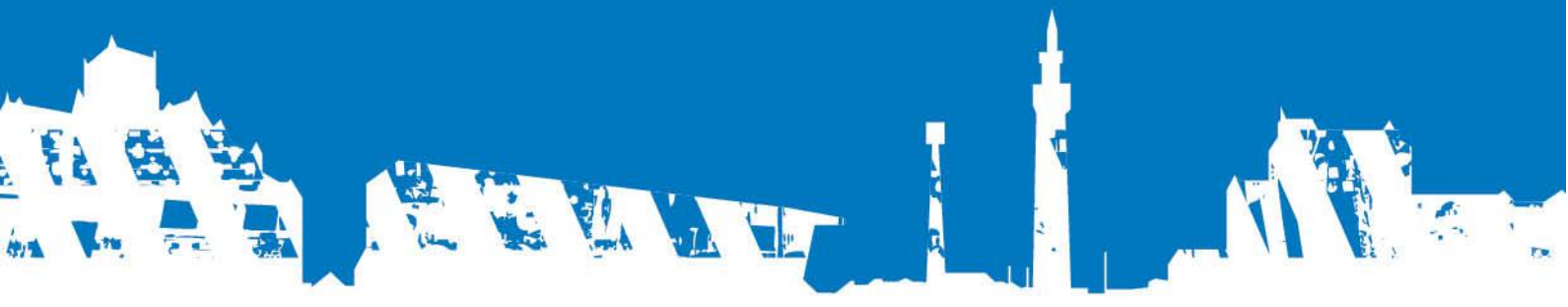
- Concordat on remand for children.
- Refresher of HMIP inspection framework.
- Silver Bullet assessment training.
- Youth Justice Effective Practice Award
- Elklan accredited speech, language and communication training.
- Child First Principles
- AIMS 3 refresher

Priority Training over the next year:

- Ben Kinsella Weapon's Awareness
- Neurodiversity Training
- Solution Focussed Therapy
- CBT Training for Victim Workers
- Clinical Supervision Training for Practice Supervisors

NEL YJS have its own Supervision and Quality Assurance policy. The policy applies to all Youth Justice Staff including Secondees. Supervision and quality assurance play an important role in supporting staff in challenging Youth Justice circumstances. 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. We also carry out a comprehensive skills audit each year and use this to identify and meet the development needs of staff.

Knife possession guidance



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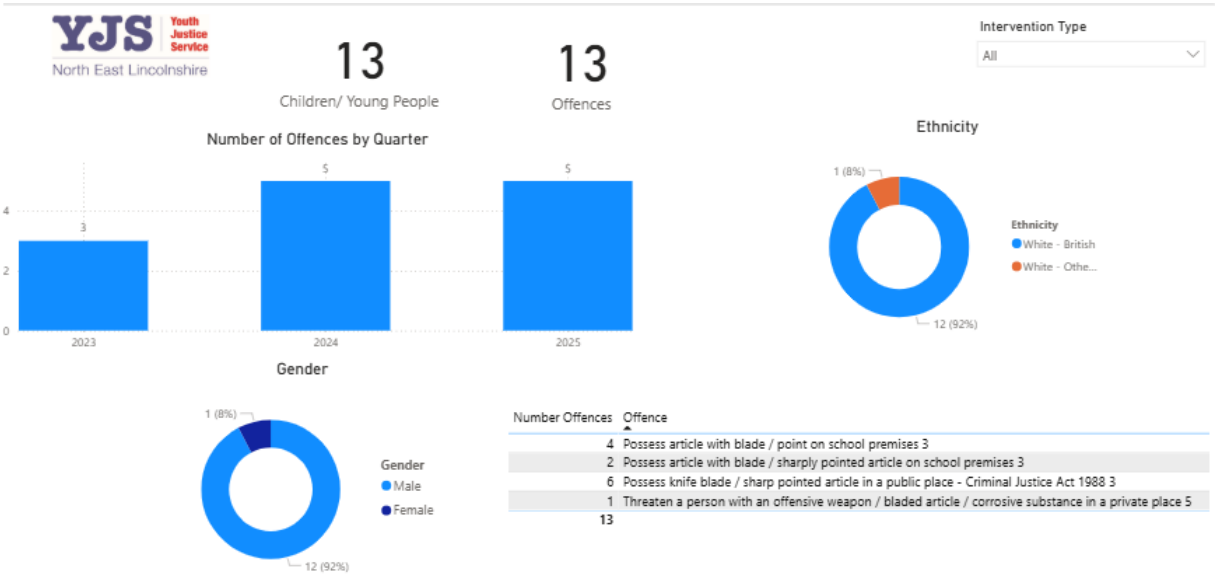
Knife possession guidance:

NEL are committed to the new knife crime guidance with this being a key priority area for the upcoming year. Although our data shows low numbers of knife crime, this has increased and remained the same over the last year. Additionally, our local Adolescent Lifestyle Survey showed that the top issue that children felt was important to them and they wanted to see improve over the coming year is ‘Reduce knife and violent crime’. As part of the NELs Big Conversation, the majority of children responded to being asked why children and young people carried weapons with ‘to stay safe’ and ‘because they are scared’.



Focused Deterrence approaches have a high impact on violent crime and are estimated to reduce violent crime by 33%. Focussed deterrence combines both enhanced enforcement and tailored holistic support. The new Guidance for child knife possession offences compliments this approach and applies to all police forces and Youth Justice Services (YJS) across England and Wales.

As part of the new guidance, the following processes are now in place:

- Upon receipt of referral YJS Police Officer to send referral straight to Practice Supervisor and Service Lead on same working day and where possible allocate the same day to a practitioner or within 1 working day.
- Referral to be discussed at the next triage for assurance/line of sight.
- Daily Police Power Bi data to be sent to the YJS to track any children named in a knife crime offence.
- Internal tracking of the 1 day offensive weapon notification to ensure a timely referrals.
- For children where a charge is likely, we will offer voluntary support while waiting court hearing.
- Ben Kinsella training to be arranged for the team.
- Knife Crime scrutiny panels to be embedded into the existing OOC scrutiny panel.
- Police investigation timeliness to be 28 days maximum.
- Police custody staff to consider pre-charge and post charge bail conditions for those arrested of possession matters to engage with the YJS.
- Keep a record of all decision outcomes related to knife possession.

Locally, NEL have their own Weapons Awareness Policy and procedures which covers a universal and targeted amber and red offer of intervention. All children referred to the YJS will receive a strand of this offer subject to their

level of needs and harm. In addition, the virtual reality resource ‘Redemption’ around drugs and knife crime is an interactive resource to help educate children on the dangers and consequences of a carrying a knife. It is equally important to cover a holistic assessment of need and consider and address the reasons why the child is carrying in the first place. CBT (cognitive behaviour therapy) approaches have a high impact on reducing violent crime. This is based on the idea that negative or impulsive thoughts and behaviours might make someone more likely to lash out or act aggressively. CBT aims to help children and young people become more aware of these negative thoughts and learn to change or manage them. All YJS practitioners are CBT trained to work with a child to explore how their assumptions relate to reality, better understand other people’s behaviour and motivations, and use problem-solving skills to cope with difficult situations.

Evidence-based practice and innovation

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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. To support our children, the whole YJS team have been trained by a specialist speech and language training who worked in secure children's home and this was specifically related to children involved in the justice system. The whole team have also undertook The Box training delivered by the royal college of speech and language therapists which is part of new staffs induction programme.

To enhance our offer we 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.

Specific trained staff have learnt to read these screening tools and to filter out those that may need some extra support. These are returned to practitioners 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. We have 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 have commissioned a speech and language therapist (SALT) who is able to offer staff monthly supervision to support with these screening tools. 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 Chatterbug / NHS services.

Any children that undergo an assessment with our SALT, will be provided a child friendly document explaining the outcome and recommendations to the parent and child. Explaining how this may affect their life and strategies to support them in navigating the world with a SLCN. We also use Communication Passports for wider partners to understand these in a professional setting, particularly in the court setting.

Additionally, NEL have commissioned Chatterbug Speech and Language Therapy to provide two essential services:

- **Early Communication Builders (ECB)** will provide a comprehensive range of services to support children's speech, language, and communication development at both universal and targeted levels. These services will actively involve practitioners, educators, and parents across NEL.
- **The Mastering Communication Programme** is designed to provide comprehensive speech and language assessment, therapy, and support for children and young people aged 5-18 with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) or those undergoing assessment (NEL YJS can refer our children direct to this programme).

During 2025 NEL YJS screened 97 children:

- 21 have had no issues highlighted.
- 23 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.
- 13 have required further investigation – such as further discussions with school / parents.
- 34 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 had already received diagnosis that explained the difficulties highlighted through the screening tool

meaning that they would not have benefitted from any further assessment.
- 2 were recommended to consider support from other services for example The JEFF Project.

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

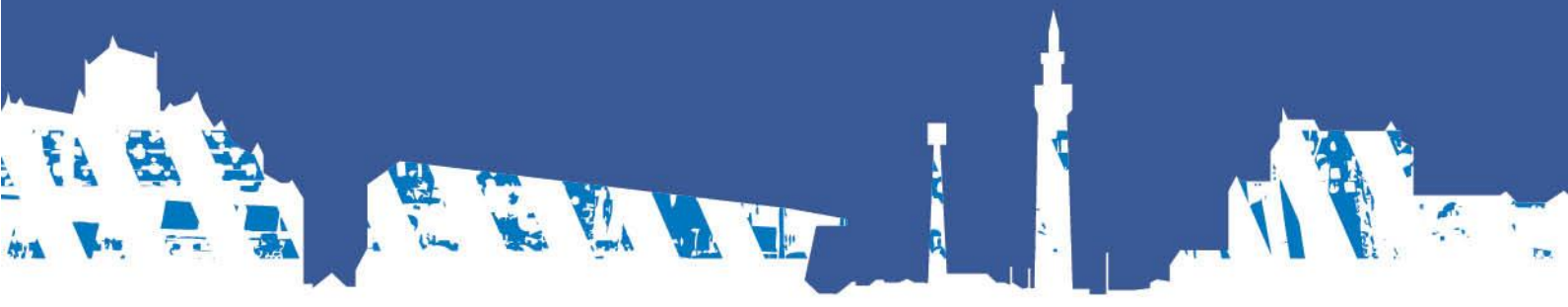
The trauma informed approach considers and explores the reasons for children's behaviour and seeks to explore ways to prevent this using case formulations to discuss their thoughts, emotions, physical signs and behaviour. It moves away from blame, shame and stigma of the individual to understanding and 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 have updated our advertisement for panel members, and this is featuring as 'role of the week' on the NELC website. The advertisement also features on Children's Social Care weekly newsletter to reach a further audience. Our priority now is to review our training material to ensure it is updated in line with any developments to commence training for interested volunteers.

Evaluation



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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 Summer 2026.

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

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Priorities for the coming year

- **Child exploitation NRM's and acquisitive crime by Harriet Malkin (YJS/CSC)/ Sarah Petrow (Police)/ Nicola Burnett (Police)**

We will tackle Child exploitation, effectively utilise the powers of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and review acquisitive crime patterns.

In order to achieve this we will:-

- Work collaboratively between all partners to identify children vulnerable to and at risk of exploitation at the earliest opportunity, ensuring earliest intervention at the right time.
- Deliver targeted interventions for children, families and locations identified as vulnerable to child exploitation and acquisitive crime.
- Strengthen the strategic partnership approach to enhance the response to children and criminalisation of children within this context.
- Strengthen community engagement by working alongside schools, youth services, community groups and partner agencies to raise awareness of build safeguarding networks
- Promote prevention, education and early intervention through workshops, awareness campaigns and direct work with children and families to reduce vulnerability and prevent escalation.
- Share information effectively to build a clear understanding of vulnerability, risk and offending behaviour linked to child exploitation and acquisitive crime
- Promote the use of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to ensure children who are victims of exploitation received safeguarding, support and protection.
- Disrupt offenders, organised criminality and location associated with the exploitation of children and acquisitive offending
- Improve professional awareness and training to support the recognition of indicators of exploitation, modern slavery and criminal exploitation and in turn increase intelligence submissions to improve the exploitation profile.
- Use a child first and centred approach to ensure a clear understanding of any risks faced by children within the realms of exploitation.
- Monitor outcomes and review partnership activity to ensure safeguarding responses remain effective and proportionate
- Continue to utilise the Multi Agency Child Exploitation meeting and Child Exploitation strategic group to progress disruption and overcome and develop resource and practice.

- **Out of Court Resolutions (OOCR) and Deferred Prosecutions (DP) by Mark Peasgood (Police)/ Paul French (Police)**

- We treat Children as Children first and foremost.
- We identify unmet needs and build pro-social identity.
- We prevent offending while dealing with children at the lowest appropriate level.
- We divert children from unnecessary criminalisation and permanent records.
- We support Victims of Crime.

In order to achieve this we will:

Police Processes:

- Ensure Officers in the case (OIC) and Evidence Review Officers (ERO) have access to and adhere to policies around OOCR and DP.
- EROs are to use the Child Gravity score matrix when considering outcomes but also understand this can

be step outside in the interest of Child First principles.
- All Children are referred to Youth Justice Partners in a timely manner and when possible before Outcomes have been delivered to the child.
- Children involved in knife possession or knife related crime are dealt with in a timely manner and in line with the Government Guidance for child knife possession offences (published Feb 2026).
- Victims are to be kept updated through the Victim code of Compliance. This will be at least every 28 days or at key points in the investigation.
- Victims are fully explained what victim support services can offer and consent is sought to enhance the offer that is given to them.
- Out of Court and Knife Crime Scrutiny will take place quarterly. This is chaired by the Office of Police and Crime commissioner and has representatives from across the criminal justice and victim support sectors.

Youth Justice Processes:

- Work with Police as subject matter experts to advise and guide to deliver the best outcomes for children and victims.
- Work with Children to build plans and make them Child Friendly so they full understand and relate to interventions.
- In assessing the Child SEND and Neurodivergent needs are considered and when needed support or referrals are completed.
- Create pathways for children to build pro-social identities. These will focus on their strengths and how they can contribute in a meaningful way to their communities.
- When a deferred prosecution is delivered a timely assessment takes place and intervention starts at the earliest point.
- Deferred Prosecution is a pause in the delivery of a criminal justice outcome if intervention and diversion is completed. This is to be managed by YJS with support from Police and failure to complete are escalated.
- All victims who have consented to their information being shared are contacted and offered bespoke victim support taking in to account Vulnerabilities and Protected Characteristics.

- **Knife awareness and Knife Crime by Claire Jacobs (Police)/Zoe Grindle (YJS)**

Knife crime and awareness is a strategic priority for the Youth Justice Partnership Board. Knife crime can have a detrimental impact on people's lives. It affects public safety, community confidence and health outcomes.

The MoJ has identified possession of a knife as the most common knife crime offence committed by children. More than 99% of knife offences are for possession alone.

There are many reasons children carry knives, the main reasons being:

- Fear and victimisation
- Social status
- Exploitation
- Deprivation
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Social media

Every child that is referred to the YJS for carrying a knife will have a mandatory intervention plan with a child centred approach.
The aim to:

- **Protecting life and reducing serious violence**
  Preventing violence early is a core responsibility for policing and local authorities. It is equally important to cover a holistic assessment of need and consider and address the reasons why the child is carrying in

the first place.

- **Improve the impact on communities and fear of crime**
  Even where incidents are relatively low, knife crime creates significant fear within communities making them feel unsafe.
- **Safeguard children and vulnerable people**
  Many children carrying knives are themselves vulnerable — influenced by fear, exploitation, gangs, peer pressure, county lines activity, or social media conflict.
- **Explore links to wider criminality and exploitation**
  Knife crime is often connected to organised crime, drug supply, robbery, exploitation, and anti-social behaviour.
- **Take a Public health approach**
  This means focusing not only on enforcement, but also prevention, education, youth engagement, mentoring, schools work, and support services.
- **Educate children and save lives**
  Knife awareness help challenge myths such as ‘carrying a knife keeps me safe’.

We will do this by:

- Provide mandatory youth diversion where appropriate or take a focussed deterrence approach to reducing harm.
- Intervening as early as possible. NEL have their own Weapons Awareness Policy and procedures which covers a universal and targeted amber and red offer of intervention. All children referred to the YJS will receive a strand of this offer subject to their level of needs and harm.
- The virtual reality resource ‘Redemption’ around drugs and knife crime is an interactive resource to help educate children on the dangers and consequences of a carrying a knife.
- Humberside police have officers dedicated to early intervention and working within the school setting, as well as high harm officers- who develop close working relationship with those at risk of exploitation and offending to ensure as a multi-agency we can break down barriers and reduce harm.
- In NEL there is a multi-agency approach in areas identified as hotspots for knife crime and serious violence with initiatives such as hotspot policing/ knife crime concentration fund and OP Mastery being undertaken with dedicated activity and patrols to tackle the issue. This includes problem solving plans linked to victims/ suspects and locations that are identified.
- Future plans to work closely with the A and E navigators within the local hospital to identify children who come into the medical setting- so intervention and support can be put in place to protect the child.
- By 2026 all YJS will be trained by the Ben Kinsella Trust on knife crime awareness training. This training seeks to prevent knife crime through education, campaigning, and collaboration, guided by its mission to build a society free of knife crime.
- Supporting victims and vulnerability individuals.
- Strong partnership working.

- **Bail and remand by Zoe Grindle (YJS)/Marie Cotter (CSC)/ Clair Tindle (Police)/ John Roberts (police)**

Bail and remand services should ensure that children:

- are detained by police for the minimum necessary time
- are not held in a police cell overnight unnecessarily
- are not subject to unnecessary or inappropriate police bail
- attend court as required
- understand the conditions and requirements of court bail (particularly bail supervision and support).
- have maximum access to community support which are credible to the court, so that children are only remanded in custody as a last resort.
- are supported to reduce the likelihood of offending on bail and future attendance at court.

In order to achieve this we will:

In the police station:

- Police will ensure early notification to Children Services of a Child in custody.
- Ensure every child has access to an Appropriate Adult and Legal advice.
- Custody Inspectors will review any strip search carried out on a Child in custody.
- Ensure children are released on bail unless the criteria is met under Bail Act 1976 and section 38 of PACE 1984.
- Custody Sergeants will ensure an early discussion with Children Services should a remand be considered.
- Ensure other measures are put in place to enable the granting of bail, for example;

if the police are considering refusing bail, we will consider obtaining a suitable bail address and/or by offering a bail supervision and support package.

- Children who are denied police bail will be transferred to local authority non-secure accommodation (unless specific criteria apply which indicates the transfer should be to local authority secure accommodation).

In Court:

- When in court the YJS will provide a written report in collaboration with wider partners identifying how the child can be managed in the community as an alternative to a custodial remand (bail supervision and support with or without intensive supervision and surveillance).
- Enhance our intensive supervision and surveillance programme and accommodation options.
- Thereby proposing a community alternative to custody which has the confidence of the court.
- Assess potential risks to the child and others to weigh up safety and well-being concerns with protection of the public.
- If a child is refused bail, they should be remanded to local authority accommodation.
- Children's services will decide and provide the most appropriate placement for the child. This can include for them to stay with family or friends (if assessed as appropriate), a (remand) foster placement or a children's home
- Even if these conditions are met, a custodial remand should only be used where it is absolutely necessary.
- Every child who is remanded to Local Authority Accommodation or Youth Detention Accommodation becomes a child in our care. Children of 10 and 11 years must be remanded to local authority accommodation.
- Begin to plan for the child's resettlement instantly on the presumption they could be released at any time.

- **Education with a focus upon SEND by Rachel Revell (Education)/Joe White (Education)/Karen Linton (Education)**

Education is a key protective factor for children, in addition to being their legal right and the passport to a successful future. School attendance, behaviour and exclusions are known to be key early indicators of wider vulnerabilities that can increase the likelihood of a child becoming known to Youth Justice Services in their lifetimes, which the Board recognise to be important to our strategic aims.
We recognise that SEND can both become a barrier to education, and a factor that increases susceptibility to exploitation and criminality, and maintain this as a priority focus and an area of continued investment in North East Lincolnshire. Synergy with the SEND Reforms and our Youth Justice Partnership are essential, with strategic initiatives continuing to be integrated to drive support at the earliest opportunity.
Children who cease to be of statutory school age, and their status of education, employment, and training is another key aspect that the Partnership retain oversight of, with the understanding that diversion to paid employment or a form of education can be one of the most effective strategies to reduce future criminality.

There will be a continued focus on delivery of training to education colleagues to understand the connectivity between education and outcomes and children engaged within the YJS, alongside reporting to the board in respect to populations and outcomes, this will then formulate any additional areas of focus required.

- **Prevention & turnaround by Nicola Knapton (YJS)/Lynne Macpherson (YJS)**

Prevention and Turnaround services should ensure that children:

- Are identified early to maximise the impact of any intervention
- Provided with targeted intervention that is personalised to their needs
- Interventions are delivered by the right service.
- Prevent labelling and stigmatisation of children.
- Supported in identifying and working with their interests in a strengths-based approach
- Informed of the consequences and outcomes of their behaviour and the impact on their future
- Are given opportunities and experiences equal to that of other children
- Provided with a pathway way from the criminal justice system through Choices programme
- Are provided with mental health and wellbeing support at the earliest opportunity
- Are given mental health and wellbeing strategies in line with CBT practices
- Discussed by a multi-agency panel in order to find the correct support and intervention for that child.

In order to achieve this we will:

In the community:

- Ensure that all children are given appropriate information and guidance on relevant issues and worries
- Actively seek out children in their own spaces to build relationships and offer support
- Provide a safe space with trusted adults where children can access through drop in
- Respond to areas of ASB to prevent children becoming involved with the police or being arrested
- Ensure that we have a strong, stable workforce of appropriately trained youth workers
- Ensure that we build relationships and work closely with other agencies, including third party youth services
- Refer children to appropriate support services
- Share information with other services, particularly if we are concerned about their safety or the safety of others.
- Actively engage with the community to offer assurance
- Develop community links to connect children with local support networks and positive activities
- Children in the community will be given a voice to ensure provision is youth led

- Provide youth activities in children's local communities
- Develop & facilitate peer to per support groups for children to ensure they have ongoing support.

In Schools:

- Provide schools with information and support in accessing mental health, wellbeing and behavioural support
- Enhance our work with schools to identify children at risk of exclusion
- Thereby preventing children from exclusion and increasing their risk of criminal behaviour
- Deliver sessions within schools to educate and inform children about specific areas of concern allowing them to make informed choices
- Provide schools with a pathway for mental health and wellbeing, weapons and ASB support for individual children.

In 1 to 1 support

- Create an individualised support plan for each child and their level of need
- Assess potential risks to the child and others to weigh up safety and well-being concerns with protection of the public.
- Work with families to actively invite parents as part of the solution
- Use evidence based interventions that are inline with the child's understanding
- Give children a voice in decisions about their support
- Quality assure and hold regular supervision of work with children to ensure a consistent high quality collaborative approach for every child
- Where required children will undergo an assessment to ensure we understand their needs
- Children will be given a voice in decision making and agreeing what support they feel they need.
- Children will be given means to feedback and reflect on the support they have received and its strengths and weaknesses
- Children will be treated with a Trauma Informed and Child First approach
- Provide drop in sexual health advice and screening
- Provide drop in careers and training advice
- Provide drop in Alcohol and substance misuse support

Turnaround funding offers the opportunity for us to enhance our prevention provision; this is a youth early intervention programme led by the Ministry of Justice. The programme provides multi-year funding to Youth Justice Services (YJSs) across England and Wales enabling them to intervene earlier and improve outcomes for children on the cusp of entering the youth justice system. This additional funding enables YJSs to support a cohort of children not on their statutory caseload.

As a well-established national programme, Turnaround uses early intervention and prevention to support government commitments to halve knife crime in a decade and to intervene earlier to stop children being drawn into crime, as well as tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB). Turnaround principles acknowledge the complex needs of children on the cusp of the justice system, focusing on addressing the root causes of offending through offering a structured, whole family approach delivered by YJSs.

In order to ensure this support is impactful and to address unmet needs and welfare concerns, we will:

- Use the Youth Justice Board PDAT assessment to gain a full understanding of the child's needs.
- Ensure the child and their parent / carer, family have the opportunity to be involved in the decisions and planning of what the support will include.
- Ensure the support provided through the programme uses evidence-based interventions to achieve positive outcomes for children.

- Offer access to speech and language screening and follow up assessments and intervention if required.
- Offer access to referral to wider services which other children supported by YJS have to address concerns around substance use, emotional and mental health wealth being.
- Offer support around education training and employment to ensure relevant provision is in place as evidence-based research tells us this is a protective factor to support children in abstaining from future repeat behaviours
- Offer access to positive activities within the local community which offer opportunity to build pro social identity.
- Ensure that regular supervision of children supported by Turnaround takes place to review the plan and ensure it is meeting the assessed needs.
- Continue to provide the required data to the Youth Justice Board to track the impact and outcomes of Turnaround support.
- Ensure the Turnaround data is available to the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership Board for review of service impact and delivery.

- **Victims with a focus on child victims by Katie Barraclough (YJS)**

NEL YJS continues to ensure that victims and those harmed are provided with support and advice to promote victim's confidence in the Criminal Justice System. We take a broad view of work with those in our service. Whilst we support victims through the referrals to our Victim Liaison Officer (VLO), we also recognise there is a victim for every child we work with, who may not be in contact with us but has rights under The Victims' Code of Practice. A victim's voice is central to all work of the YJS, including prevention, diversion and statutory orders.

To achieve this:

- The Youth Justice Board will have a strategic role in understanding the profile and characteristics of victims in NE Lincs to help inform our victim work and wider crime prevention agenda. Our latest data is showing an increase of child victims, 25% of our victim cohort is children. This data tells us we have work to do to ensure we fully understand this peer-on-peer behaviour and that all members of our community feel able to ask for help when they have been the victim of a crime and access the relevant support. We want children to thrive and recognise being the victim of a crime can have a detrimental impact on childhood. Within this we are developing "You Said, We did" based on victim feedback.
- We are reviewing our Victim Strategy which will include "breaking the cycle" as we know from extended learning reviews that being the victim of crime, particularly violent crime, increases the likelihood of going on to cause harm to others and entering the youth justice service.
- There are 4 designated members of staff overseeing the victim delivery and ensure the service fulfils its responsibilities under The Victims' Code of Practice; Service Lead, Practice Supervisor, Restorative Justice Co-Ordinator and a Victim Liaison Officer.
- Our RJ Practitioner and Victim Liaison Officer are trained in restorative justice and undertaken training to support complex and vulnerable victims, including child victims.
- We have taken a whole team approach to strengthen our understanding and subsequent practice in relation to victims, including completing training workshops on supporting victims and safety planning to ensure our assessments and plans are robust to ensure victim safety is reflected. We need to ensure this training is embedded without practice.
- Across 2025/2026 the service has been working closely with seconded police colleagues to promote victim participation in the service offer.

- Through reflective case review, audit activity and Keeping Everybody Safe Panel we ensure that victims, particularly those vulnerable victims including children, are considered in our work with children and that there are robust plans in place to ensure victim safety.
- We have increased our victim contact levels by reviewing our methods of communication and ensuring we have a worker who leads on victim engagement. This is to ensure a victim's contact with our service is timely, effective, inclusive, transparent and a positive start to a healing journey that gives the support they need to process what has happened and begin to recover. Where the victim is a child and we are struggling to make contact, a letter to the child and parent will be sent with a date and time for a home visit with an "opt out" option, should they wish to not have the appointment.
- Where a child victim is open to partner agencies, ensure there is strong partnership working.
- We have strengthened our package of support for child victims, including access to our resources and positive activities to improve positive outcomes for the victim.

Standards for children

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North East Lincolnshire

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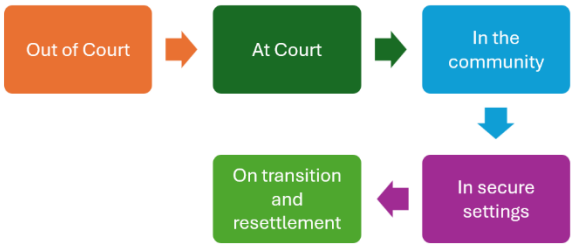
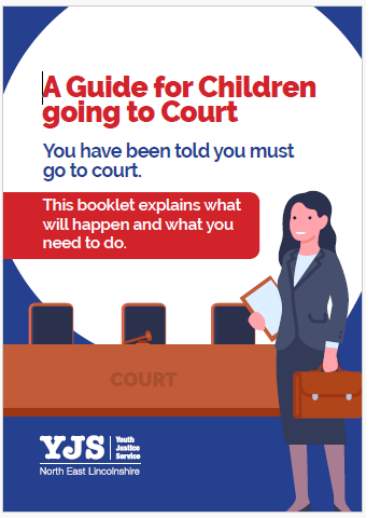
Standards for children:



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'. We have implemented changes following these findings and confident we are meeting the standards for children in court, including pre-youth court meetings, child first report templates, thorough case management recording, and ensuring the child and parent/carers understand what is happening to them.

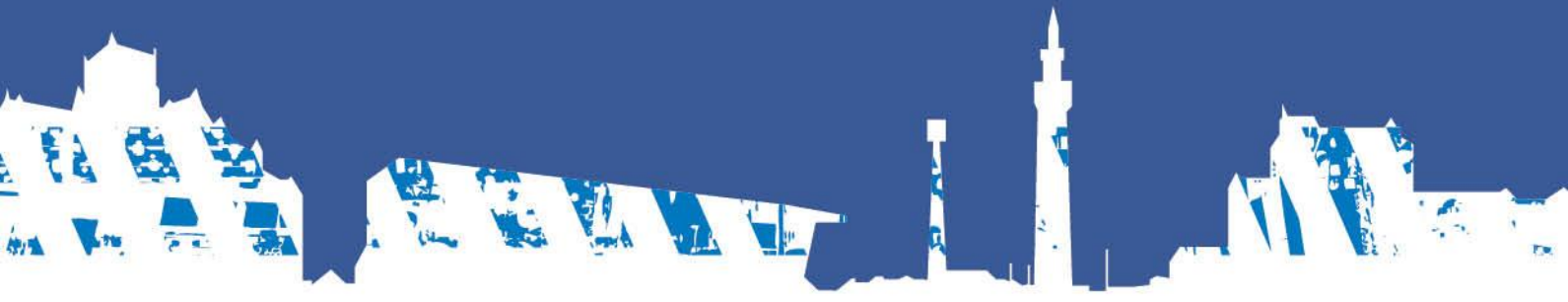
Over the last year and following an increase in children attending court, we have also developed a guide for children going to court. This explains what happens and what you need to do, including advice for parents and carers. These are accessible in our local police station to give to children when a charging decision is made in police custody.



Positively, in September 2025, The Youth Court Bench Book was updated for magistrates sitting in the youth court. A key change in this, was that all defendants under 18 are now referred to as a 'child' or 'children. This change reinforces the approach required for children in the criminal justice system. The book also gives guidance on granting adjournments to consider out of court resolutions who indicate an admission in a case (not previously having done so).

Future plans for the upcoming year and for us to undertake a self-assessment of the victim's code.

Service development



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Service development

NEL have an overarching Improvement Plan which is a combination of the 2026-27 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 Bord Strategic Plan 2024-27 and areas for service development will mirror our priorities for the coming year.

National Priority Areas

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North East Lincolnshire

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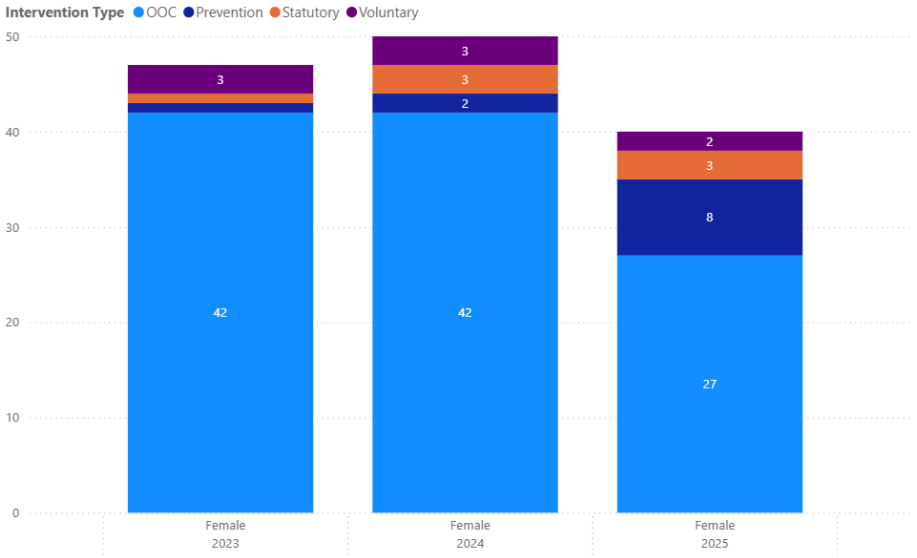
National Priority Areas

Children from groups which are over-represented.

Positively our data shows the number of girls in contact with the Youth Justice Service has decreased over the last 3 years. The number of prevention cases has however increased which evidences how intervening at the earliest possible stage prevents further escalation in the system.



There has been a huge focus on supporting girls and reducing there contact with the YJS. We are part of the Violence against women and girls quarterly meeting. Through this we have acquired access to the Hollie guard personal safety app, which is available to girls when needed. In addition, 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 which supports girls with staying safe online, healthy relationships and peer on peer support. This runs alongside our Virtual Reality resource film '15' – this is a 15 minute film based on 3 girls, a day in their life and explores social media, misogyny, bulling and peer pressure and how these can all affect girls.

Policing

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North East Lincolnshire

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Policing:

NEL/Humberside Police have introduced 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.

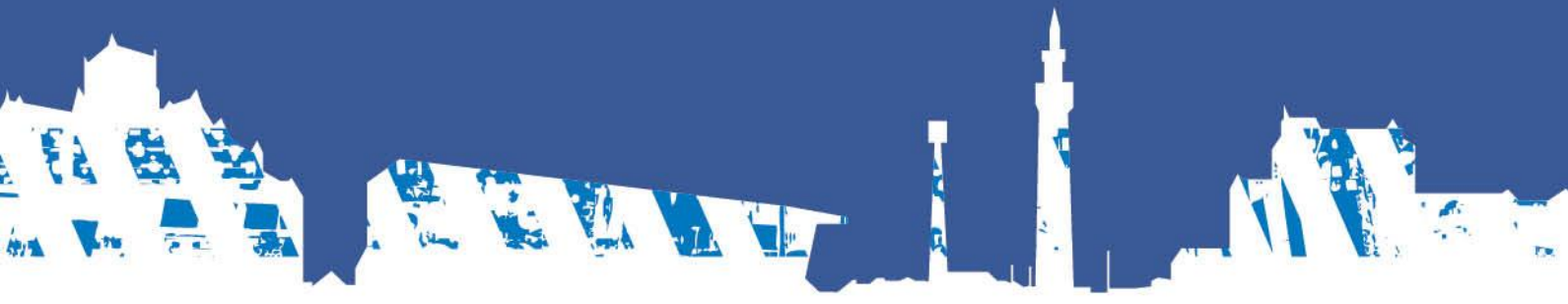
NEL YJS has a dedicated Early Intervention Officer who supports children on the verge of contact with YJS. They sit within our Prevention Panels, Triage Panels, Pitstop and Youth Integrated Offender (IOM) Manager meetings. The purpose is to promote better longer-term outcomes and for children to build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

We have recently re-launched the child IOM programme 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 two dedicated full time Police Officers, one being a High Harm Reduction Officer. The YJS PC's 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. Our High Harm Officer is key in the delivery, oversight and supervision of our Statutory Cohort and regularly attends Risk Meetings and Strategy Discussions and is part of children's intervention plans to support in reducing harm and re-offending.

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), Bronze OCG Meeting and Children in Custody Partnership to scrutinise childrens circumstances who are repeatedly arrested, unnecessarily detained or strip searched. Challenges remain regarding the use of the Concordat Act and children being unnecessarily detained in custody due to no PACE beds being available. We continue to challenge these decisions locally alongside CSC and reviewing our options to secure a PACE bed to ensure overnight stays are avoided.

Prevention



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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, Early Help and Safer Towns and Communities) including the following:

Harmful Sexual Behaviour:

Children and families within North East Lincolnshire receive early intervention around sex and healthy relationships through multi-agency Team Around the Family support. Team Around the Family support can draw on healthy relationship resources, advice and signposting by the local Check Me Out and Not in Our Community campaigns and websites. School Nurses run drop-in sexual health clinics across several secondary schools, providing access to sexual health advice as well as clinical support.

Where children need additional support, preventative intervention is delivered through targeted Family Help and Out of Court diversion work, diverting children towards healthy sexual behaviours. The Greater Lincolnshire Integrated Sexual Health Service provides advice, STI testing and treatment.

A multi-agency AIM Pathway Panel oversees work with children who have displayed Harmful Sexual Behaviours and are in the greatest need of support. Trained practitioners within the Youth Justice Service and GRAFT Team carry out specialist AIM3 assessment and interventions, to reduce the likelihood of further exposure to the Criminal Justice System.

Quarterly training is available to the partnership to support practitioners respond to needs around healthy relationships and sexual behaviours.

Data:

The number of children opening to targeted Family Help for work around Harmful Sexual Behaviour in 2025-26 was more than twice as high than 2024/25. This reflects a change in working with the whole family where targeted needs are identified.

There has been a year-on-year decrease in the number of children considered at AIM Pathway Panel from 26 in 2024/25 to 17 in 2025/26. This reflects a change in the panel criteria make sure the right children were being heard and the panel is focused on children who need specialist assessments.

The number of AIM3 Assessments carried out has increased compared to 2024/25 and is consistent with previous years, indicating that threshold changes still capture the right children.

Exploited and Missing Children:

There is a multi-agency approach to child exploitation in North East Lincolnshire, including early intervention by agencies such as schools, Humberside Police, Young & Safe, the Youth Justice Service, targeted Family Help, the Youth Alliance, and Anti-Social Behaviour process.

NEL have a specialist team; GRAFT (gaining respect and finding trust) who work with children and families to reduce the risk of harm outside the home and harm from child exploitation. This includes specialist support for children experiencing exploitation and out of court diversion work where children have been referred for offending. The GRAFT Team is currently integrated into the Youth Justice Service and work closely with the High Harm Reduction Officer and the Intensive Family Help team supporting children on the edge of care.

Children who are reported missing are offered independent conversations and support. Signs and indicators of exploitation are explored and prevention planning agreed with families. Information is routinely shared with the YJS so we are aware of missing reports.

NEL YJS and GRAFT are represented at the Multi-Agency Missing Children meeting and Multi-Agency Child Exploitation meeting.

Data:

The number of children supported by targeted Family Help for child criminal and sexual exploitation concerns, and associated vulnerabilities such as going missing, anti-social behaviour and offending behaviour, has remained stable. 95 children were supported in 2025-26 compared to 99 the year before. The number of missing reports in 2025-26 has increased 21% compared to the previous year, whilst the number of children who were reported missing only increased slightly. In the same time, 37% of missing reports led to the identification of a child being at risk of exploitation, indicating that as a partnership we have improved identification of hidden missing episodes, especially for those children at risk of exploitation.

PoI-Ed - This is a West Yorkshire Police education programme, written by teachers, for teachers in schools and youth and community organisations. Its purpose is to keep children safe by developing their understanding of risks, consequences and the law and to develop their resilience and ability to help and support each other. It also offers Outcome 22 resources for YJS to utilise in their intervention delivery.

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. We have teamed up with Eski to create 3 new films:

- **Wrecked** – harm and consequences of riding illegal motorbikes
- **15** – social media, misogyny, bulling and peer pressure
- **Redemption** – drugs & knife crime

The trailer can be watched here: Power of Know Virtual Reality Films - Trailer

Choices – A one-off intervention for children identified as being at risk of contact with the YJS through school exclusions, anti-social behaviour warning letters or low-level offences. It provides targeted support on issues linked to their behaviour, helping children make more informed choices and signposting them to additional support where needed.

Detached Youth Work - Youth workers work on foot, mountain bikes and a vehicle to access parks and open space to engage with children and young people in areas identified for youth ASB/criminality. The workers roles are to divert and signpost children to other support networks, youth centres and help them get involved in what 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 children and 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 having secured additional funding through the Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP). The additional funding has mean 20 sessions are run every week at various location across NEL. This includes gymnastics, netball, and dance for Immingham Oasis students. There is also funding for each child to support the purchase of any equipment or kit needed to participate, which also includes female sportswear and sanitary products.

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 resolution or statutory order (this could include children who have had previous YJS intervention). This area is more focussed upon 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 discussed within our Prevention Panel to decide on the most appropriate action.

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 targeted interventions.

Duke of Edinburgh:

The Duke of Edinburgh award (DofE) in NEL is targeted to support the most vulnerable children and young people in the area, especially those with SEND and an EHCP's. DofE gives children and young people the chance to prove to themselves what they're capable of and there's no limit to what they can achieve. Each child/young person builds their own DofE programmes – picking their own activities and choosing which cause to volunteer for – in order to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE Award. YJS has been working closely with DofE to ensure this is accessible to children and equally our younger victim cohort.

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 2025/26 99 referrals were made to the JEFF project. 73 of these were deemed appropriate with 84 children accessing the service. 85% of children receiving an intervention exited in a planned way, with 42 children reported improved outcomes in both well-being and presenting behaviours.

Diversion

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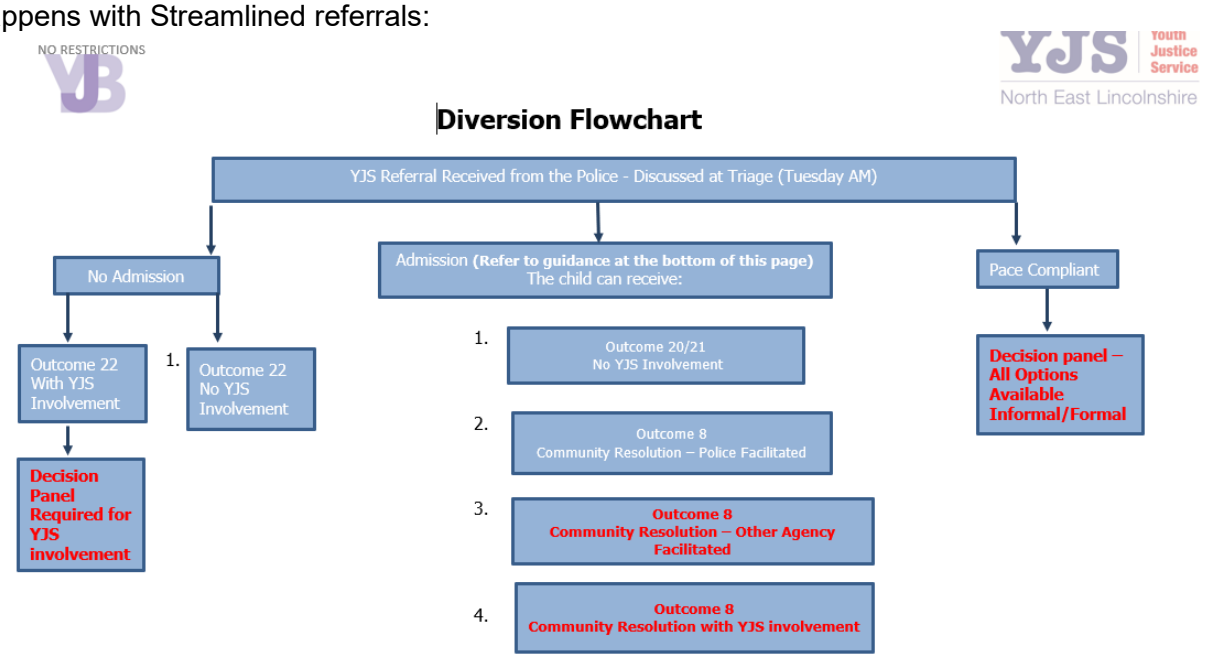
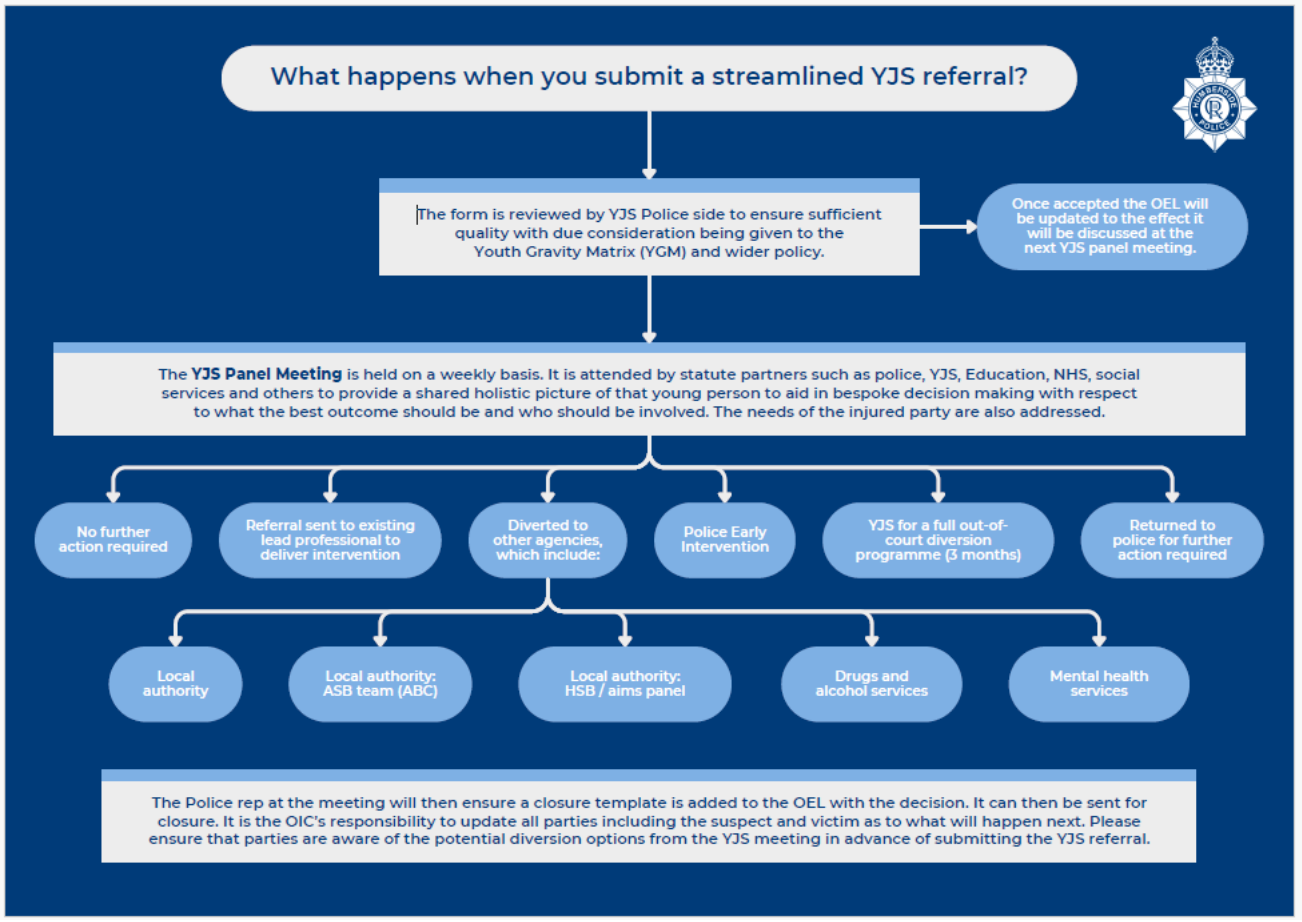
Diversion:

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.

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:



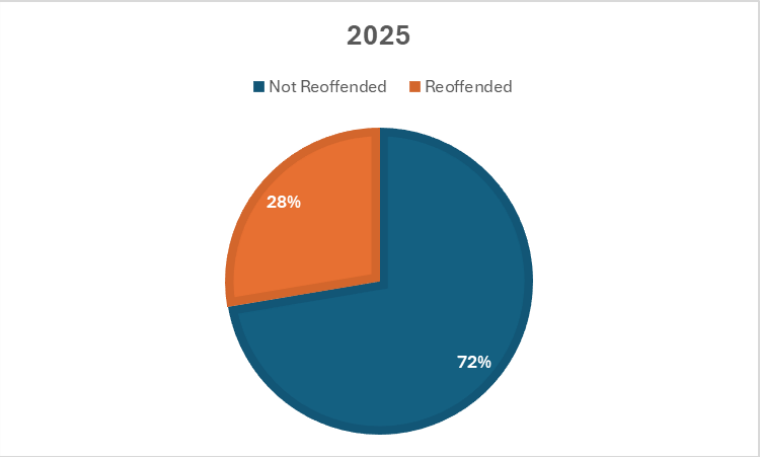
Options 1 and 2 - Child has no previous history, isolated incident – not in the public interest, dealt with via other agencies/school policy or sexting and/or referred directly by police to interventions. No Decision panel required.
Option 3 – Child requires additional support suitable for Prevention Pathway (ABC's & JEFF), full assessment and Decision Panel required.
Options 4 - Child has an emerging pattern and requires a full assessment and Decision panel.



To ensure the effectiveness and appropriateness of Diversionary outcomes, the following scrutiny arrangements are in place:

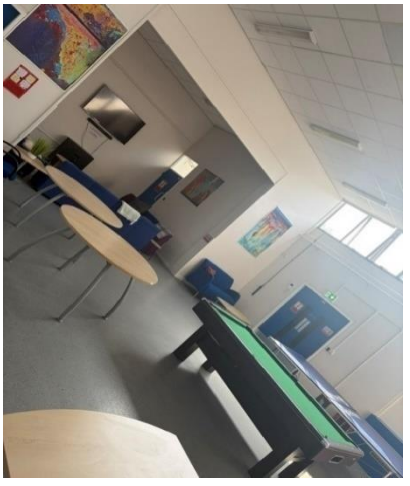
- Separate panels are arranged with the YJS PC and Practice Supervisor to monitor engagement with out-of-court resolutions and agree action to be taken in the event of non-engagement.
- The monitoring of consistency and quality of decision making for out-of-court and statutory resolutions will be a focus in the Learning, Audit and Development Group.
- Out of court resolutions are subject to scrutiny arrangements through the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Out of court resolutions will then contribute directly to the Youth Partnership Board (YPB).

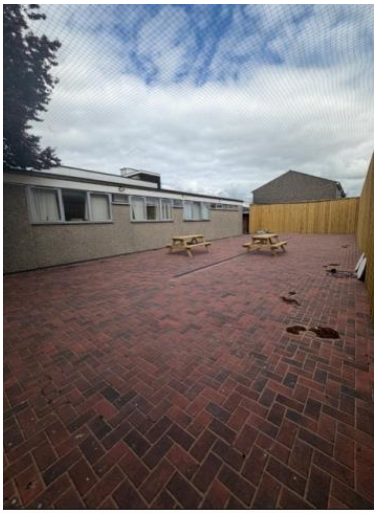
In NEL Diversionary outcomes have a high success rate with more than half (72%) of the children successfully completing and not going on to re-offend. Our vision for the upcoming year to improve the re-offending rate and as such this is identified as a priority area. The introduction of Deferred Prosecution Scheme Outcome 23 will hopefully support this and give more children access to diversionary opportunities at the earliest opportunity when no comment interviews are made.



Safe Haven Hub for our children and young people based at the Youth Justice Building – in March 2026 the Safe Haven relocated to the Youth Justice Building. This offers a warm child friendly home feel and a Safe Haven. There is a huge range of services and activities to ensure we have eliminated any structural barriers they face, including:

- Free Clothes/Toiletry shop including hygiene and beauty products.
- Sexual health drop ins – Practitioners are C-Card trained.
- Careers advice – to support children with education, training and employment.
- Quiet rooms – for children who need space and privacy.
- Youth Club Theme 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.





The Youth Justice Building is recognised 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 were also successful in our bid to the Better Youth Spaces to create an outside area for children. This area will be used by a multi-agency team including YJS, Prevention services, Education Services, Exploitation team and Duke of Edinburgh. We have been gaining the voices of children to design this area during their Reparation sessions. Our children would like basketball hoops, football goals, dodgeball and gym equipment. They have also been working on rules for the outdoor area to ensure that everything can be enjoyed in a respectful way. The children have helped to design and build boards for the basketball hoops.

Education:

A NEET practitioner from Young People's Support Services (YPSS) 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. The YJS Service Lead currently sits on the wider Employability Forum for NEL.

There is a joint Work Plan in place (refreshed October 2025) which encompasses the role of wider education services and YPSS and includes the following priorities:

- Reduce the number of young people working with The Youth Justice Service who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).
- Increase the number of young people who secure a positive destination.
- Develop awareness of all post 16 options available including, apprenticeships, further education, employment and higher education
- Raising the aspirations of all young people.
- Remove barriers that prevent successful engagement in the future.

We have a Strategic Education Sub Group which reports to the Youth Justice Board, including the Deputy Service Director (DSD) for Inclusion, Deputy Service Director for Skills, Employability & Education Transport, Deputy Service Director for SEND, Social Work Service Lead, Service Lead Family Help, Humberside Police, and the Service Lead for the Youth Justice Service.

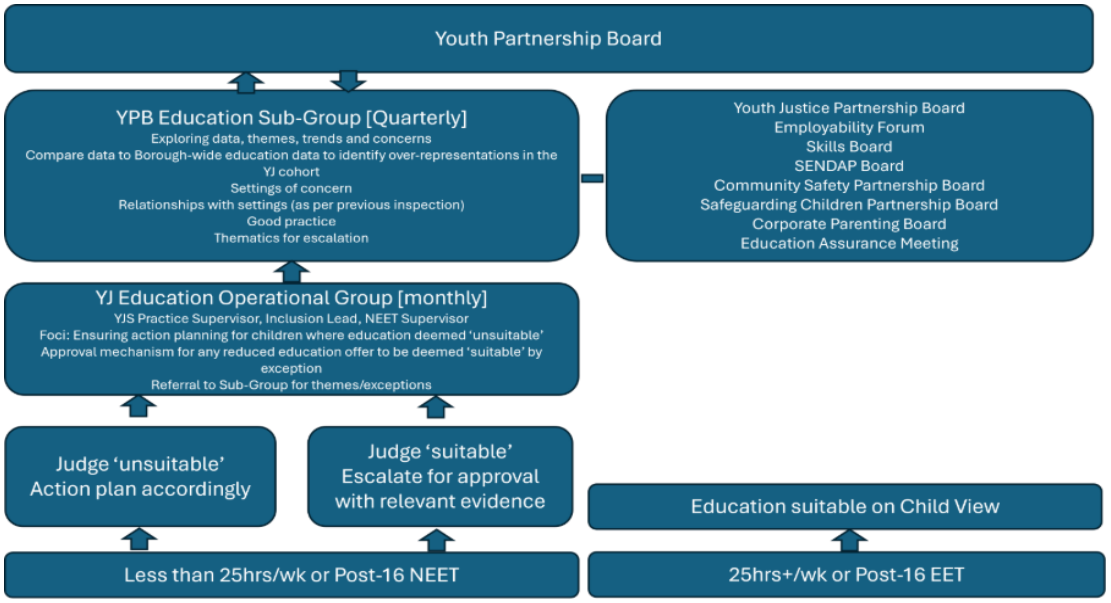
As part of the assurance process to the Sub Group, an operational group meets monthly with the following remit (also demonstrated in Appendix 1 below):

- To ensure action planning is in place where education has been deemed unsuitable
- To identify more broadly children who would be considered at risk of exclusions or their education needs not being met, and establish actions
- To serve as a decision-making body to deem an education offer suitable in the rare instance less-than-full-time education be appropriate
- Highlighting examples of good practice to share to the partnership
- Identify where escalation may be required to strategic leaders in the Board's Education Sub-Group

A monthly overview is produced which identifies the current education, employment and training status of all children known to the YJS either on a voluntary or statutory order and enables any appropriate actions to be implemented.

North East Lincolnshire Community Educational Psychology are employed via a standing Service Level Agreement to provide specific support to practitioners working with children to support their understanding of a child's SEND and wider needs and offer targeted advice and guidance to the service.

Education are represented routinely on the Youth Justice Service Prevention Panel so that preventative opportunities to intervene in a child's life where early identifiers such as declining attendance or exclusion from school may be present. Combining this detail with partnership intelligence allows the right targeted intervention at the lowest and earliest level to be co-ordinated.



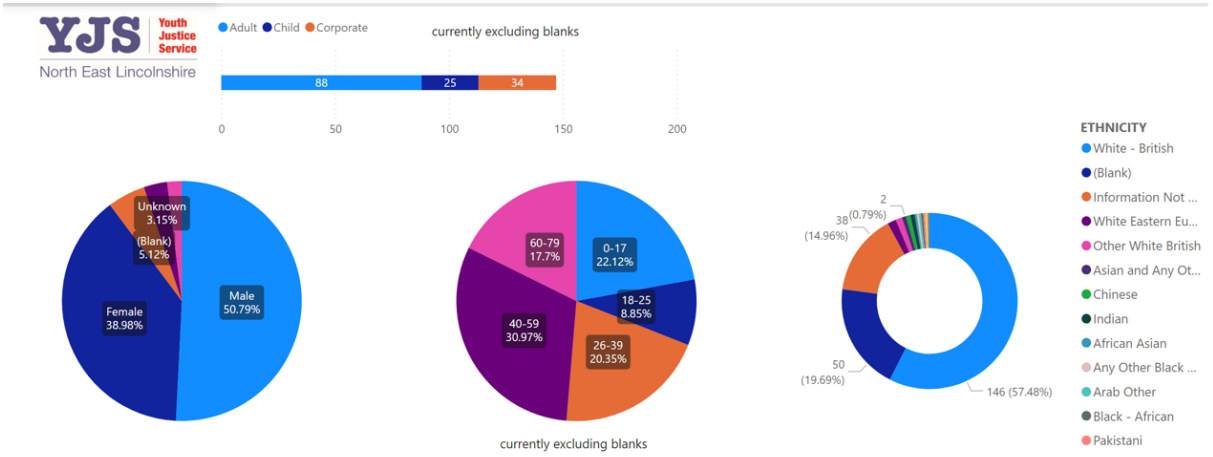
Restorative approaches and victims:

The protection of identified and potential future victims is fundamental in keeping everyone safe. The Restorative Justice Co-ordinator and Victim Liaison Officer lead on supporting victims in line with the Victims Code of Practice.

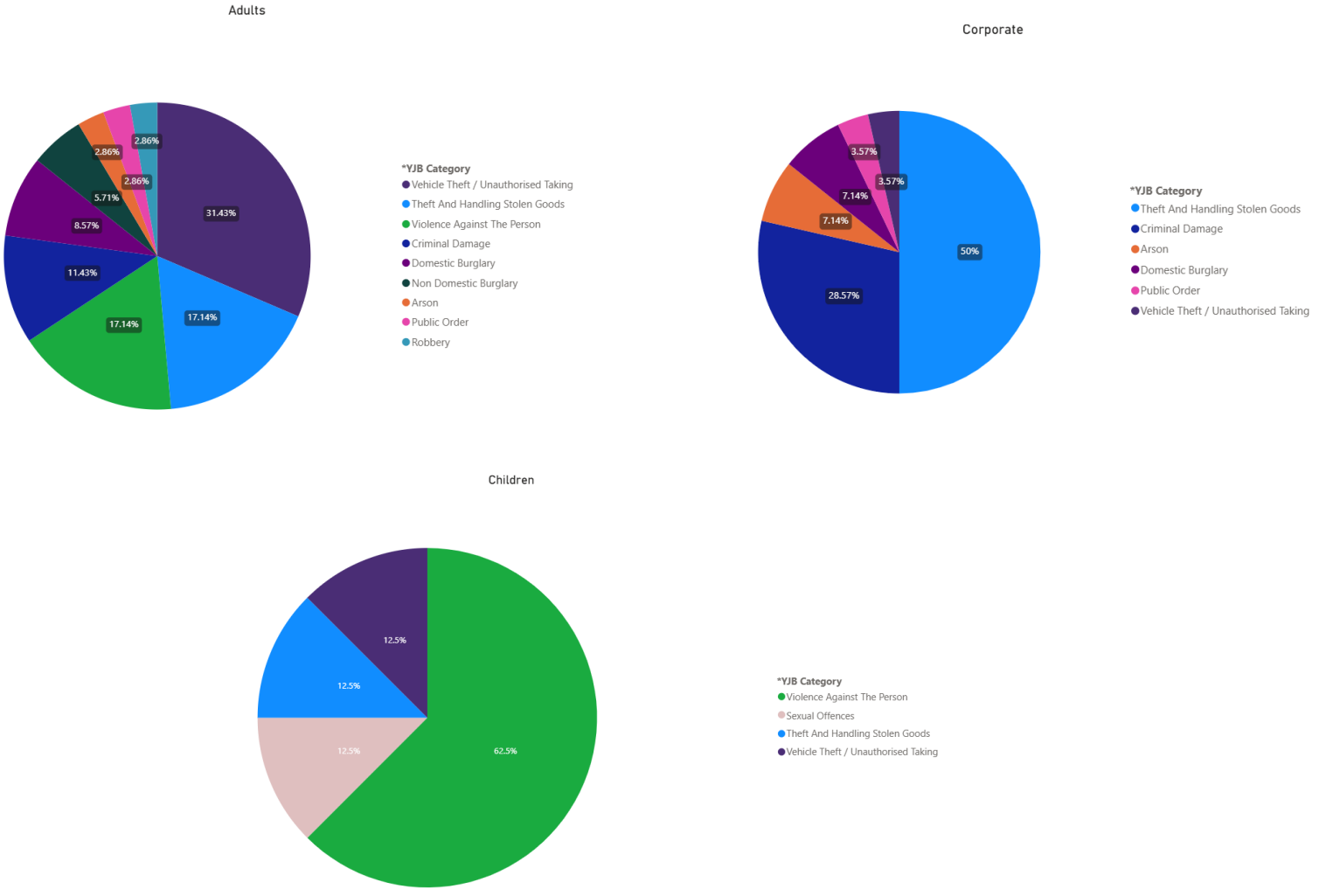
Each victim is contacted and where there is consent, an initial contact assessment is completed to assess the victims' individual needs including static and dynamic factors. This considers how the victim is feeling, their own well-being, support network, any protected characteristics and if they are a repeat victim. A victim safety matrix (with scoring) is then completed to determine the level of harm to the victim and the frequency of contacts/updates, equally depending on the wishes of victim.

A safety plan is routinely completed with each victim regardless of their overall level of concern, however those with a rating of high and victims with enhanced rights, particularly children are all offered a face-to-face assurance visit (usually at home) and will be contacted akin to the level of concern. These safety plans are routinely share with the YJS practitioners so these can be factored into external controls and intervention planning. Where appropriate, non-contact and exclusion conditions will form part of children's plans whether these are mandatory through the court, or voluntary through out of court resolutions.

There has been ongoing work to develop case level data for our victims. Case level data shows higher proportion of victims are adults, aged between 40-79 years. Child victims equate to 22% of the overall victim percentage, and 23% corporate victims. Ethnicity shows white British being the majority. Gender suggests males are slightly higher to be victims than females.



The below shows the offences each victim type are likely to be victims of:



Through scrutinising our victim data our next steps are to secure panic alarms for both child and adult victims and further licences for the Hollie Guard app. We additionally aim to work more closely with our community safety partnership to explore primary, secondary and tertiary responses, including early intervention of education in schools around violence, and wider communication with the community around basic crime prevention (theft and motor vehicle offences).

For our child victims, we have extended our offer to ensure that they have the same opportunities as the children who are working with the YJS. This includes access to positive activities by providing passes and support with attending Duke of Edinburgh. As a priority our Restorative Justice Coordinator and Victim Liaison Officer will also be undergoing CBT training and accessing clinical supervision sessions to support our child victims in particular.

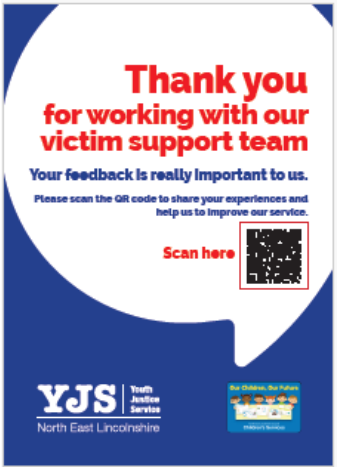
Restorative justice empowers victims and gives them a voice in the criminal justice process, helping them to move on with their lives. To ensure that victims have choices in restorative processes, we have the following interventions available.

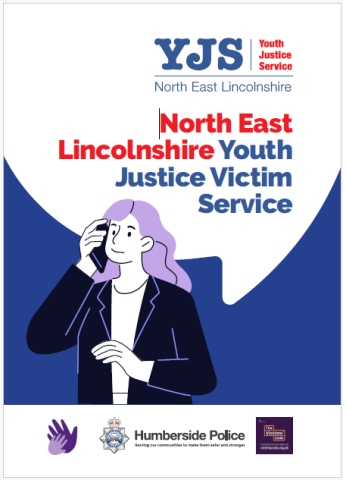
- Direct Reparation to the victim.
- Generalised reparation to the community arranged by the YJS.
- Indirect mediation – such as shuttle mediation.
- Direct mediation.
- Victim impact statement.
- Restorative conferencing.
- Youth Justice Panels.
- Letters of explanation.
- Victim empathy work to be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

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.

We have introduced an Information Support Leaflet to help victims understand their rights and what support is available to them. We have equally introduced a feedback app to gain the views of victims to improve future delivery.

Additionally, our Service Lead 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.





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. The poster shows selection of projects the children can have access too

Restorative Justice Newsletter

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 1st edition of our Restorative Justice Newsletter. New editions will come out every quarter and will be shared internally and with our partners, showcasing examples of Restorative Justice practice and victim involvement.

REPARATION

All of our children complete reparation as part of their intervention. This allows for children to repair harm that has been caused, indirectly or directly to victims. Reparation also allows for our children to take accountability, strengthen their empathy and build new skills for their futures.

This process is victim- led as direct reparation is our starting point. If the victim does not want to be involved or has no suggestions for reparation, this will be completed on an indirect basis.

Our indirect reparation projects include donating wood work, bikes, arts and crafts, food donations and increasing local pride by litter picking in the community.

FEEDBACK REGARDING A CHILD

"The child has enjoyed baking and making Christmas cards for the residents of harbour place. She has been reflective about the lived experiences of the more vulnerable residents in our community who access harbour place for support. She also enjoyed hearing feedback from a staff member about the residents enjoying a treat that has been donated, when they arrive at harbour place in the evening."

This child has recently successfully completed a 6 month referral order. She used her reparation as an opportunity to reflect on her progression throughout her time with the Youth Justice Service. She wanted to do something nice for homeless people and worked well with her case worker to turn this idea into reality. She created the flags in the cupcake to recognise how well she has done and how much her life has changed.

Newsletter

In order to keep everyone informed and advertise the good work children do in the community, we create a Reparation Newsletter that is sent out to all practitioners and partners showing the work achieved over that year. Our vision over the upcoming year is to include victims views and experiences within this.

Serious violence, exploitation and Harm outside the home

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North East Lincolnshire

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Serious violence, exploitation and harm outside the home:

In 2025/26 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 included wider strategic governance via the Child Exploitation Strategy, Delivery plan and strategic group, the strategic group reports to the SCP where exploitation remains a key priority area. The Pre-MACE and MACE meetings have continued to expand their representative 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 alongside enhance intelligence submissions with the CSP creating a video on how to complete submissions. A child exploitation co-ordinator has also recently been appointed who will work with the partnership to continue developments relating to harm outside the home. 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.

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:

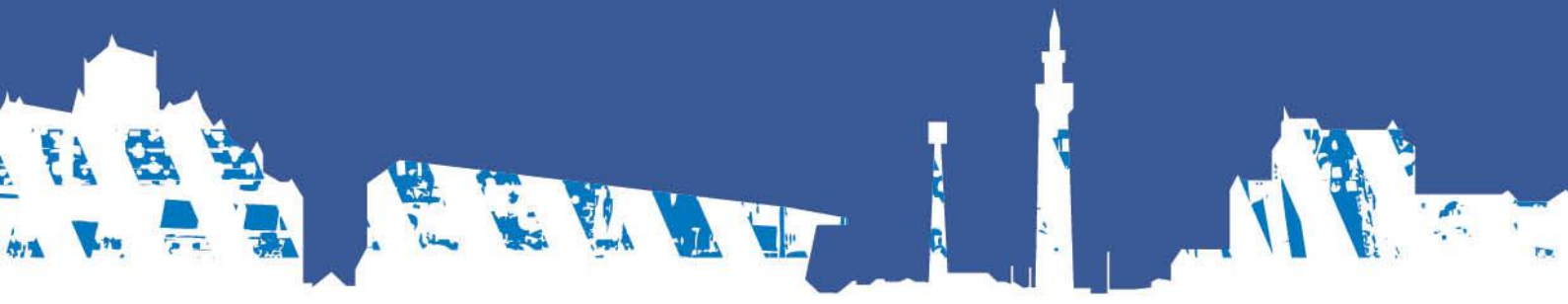
During the period of 2025, NEL YJS submitted 4 Serious Incident Notifications, 2 related to Grievous Bodily Harm, 1 Rape and a Death of a Child. None of these incidents were related to exploitation. One resulted in a Remand but not a custodial sentence, 1 case was dismissed and 1 the child received a community sentence.

The learnings and common theses within these incidents where the timeliness of information sharing and intervening early. They also highlighted the importance of appropriate bail conditions and support, and safeguarding.

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, having developed a Serious Youth Violence 4P plan which compliments the wider overarching strategy.

In addition, NEL YJS are represented on the monthly Channel 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 2025.

Detention in police custody



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Detention in police custody

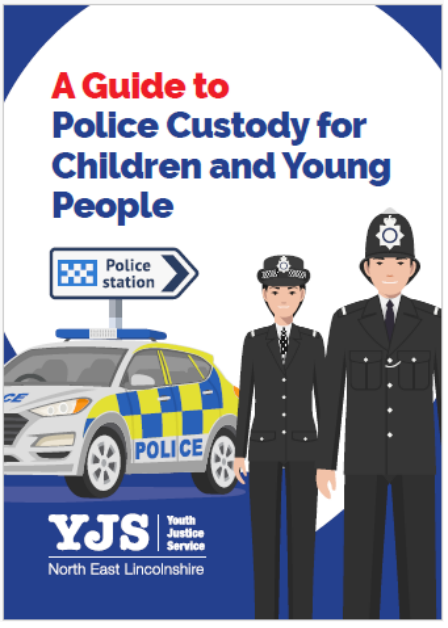
NEL YJS are committed to ensuring children detained in police custody are for the shortest possible time, both in the interests of justice and the child. We have worked closely with Humberside Police and Children's Social Care colleagues to introduce a Children in Custody Joint Protocol, to ensure we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

Within NEL, we provide Appropriate Adult (AA) services during office hours and commission AAUK out of hours, weekends and holidays. We are members of the National Appropriate Adult Network and our RJ Co-ordinator trains the team and keeps everyone up to date with any key changes in guidance. AA's 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. Parent/Carers and CSC are notified 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. Over the last year, there has been partnership training to ensure the Police, YJS and CSC know their roles and responsibilities around this.

Our 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 Emergency Duty Team is provided by the Local Authorities Children's Social Care. NEL YJS provide services to Saturday Courts which are held in Hull Magistrates Court. During 2025 we saw an increase in children appearing before the Saturday Court. The majority of these children were detained on breach of court bail.

NEL have additionally seen an increase in the number of children arrested over the last year, we have introduced a guide to help children understand what happens to them and their rights and this is accessible in the police station. Over the upcoming year, our vision is to reduce this by strengthening our prevention offer, embedding a stronger emphasis on voluntary interviews and reviewing our options to secure a PACE bed to ensure overnight stays are avoided where appropriate.

Remands

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Remands:

Remands for NEL YJS over 2025 have increased. 3 children were remanded to Local Authority Accommodation followed by Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation on 6 separate occasions. These remands related to persistent acquisitive crime and serious specified offences of Robbery.

Prior to their remand, all children where subject to Bail Intensive Supervision and Surveillance with electronic curfews and GPS exclusion zones to protect victims and future victims.

NEL YJS strongly advocate that no child should be remanded in custody unless absolute necessary and the presumption is bail/remain in the community. However, on these occasions the court were of the view no package would reduce the risk of re-offending. As part of the upcoming priorities, we will be exploring stronger community-based options for children to reduce the likelihood of remand alongside strengthened disruption of exploitation which has featured for these children.

NEL YJS have strong relationships with our local court who trust and support our representations. This is accounted to:

- Multi-agency meetings held at the earliest opportunity to ensure a robust community resolution 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 childs 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

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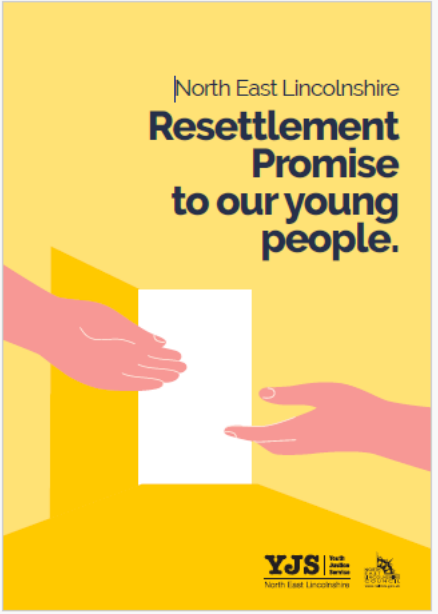
Use of custody and constructive resettlement

NEL YJS continue to work closely with the National Probation Service, CSC, Education, Health, Recovery Partnership, Secure Estates and other YJS's to improve and enhance our Resettlement offer to children entering and leaving the secure estate. During 2025, 1 child was sentenced to 2 periods in custody (concurrently).

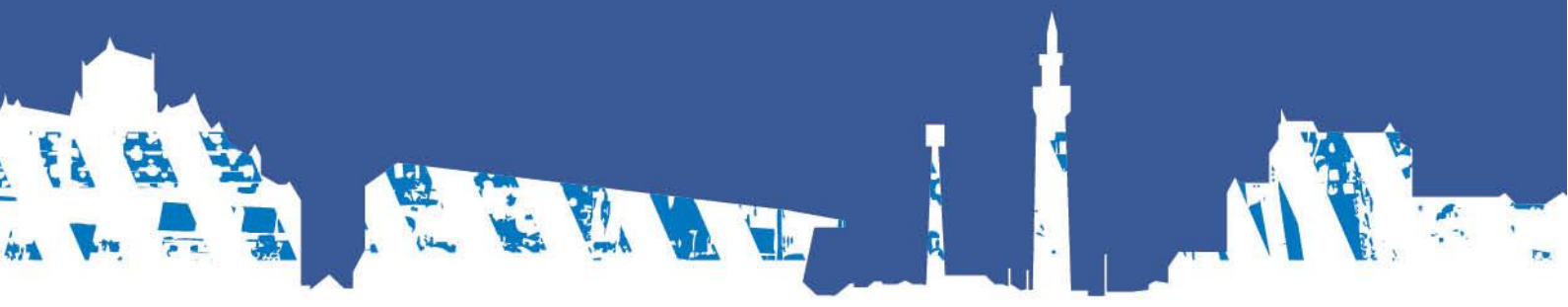


'NEL Resettlement Promise' is fully embedded and is given to each child when they are either remanded, or sentenced to custody. This identifies the 7 pathways to Resettlement and holds each service accountable in providing the right support to support to children in the secure estate has seen better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

Our Evaluation form allows to see if we met out promise and how we can learn and improve outcomes for children. These are presented to the Youth Justice Board to provide opportunity for multi-agency response to ensure a collaborative approach to the resettlement of children and consideration as to how local arrangements can be improved.

NEL YJS have developed a Joint Working Protocol with Children's Social Care 'implementing the resettlement of children in custody'. It clarifies the roles and responsibilities of accountable parties to formally agree decisions around contact and planning. Youth Detention Accommodation should be a last resort for children and other options should be considered such as a Remand to Local Authority Accommodation. Additionally, when a child is remanded or sentenced to custody, resettlement is a priority for all and this protocol supports how professionals should work together to support the child. The protocol also covers the national accommodation standard and the importance of ROTL.

Working with families



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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 and Solihull Parenting for example. 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.

We continue to work 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	Sharon Philpott
Signature	
Date	19th June 2026

Appendix

YJS Youth Justice Service
North East Lincolnshire

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
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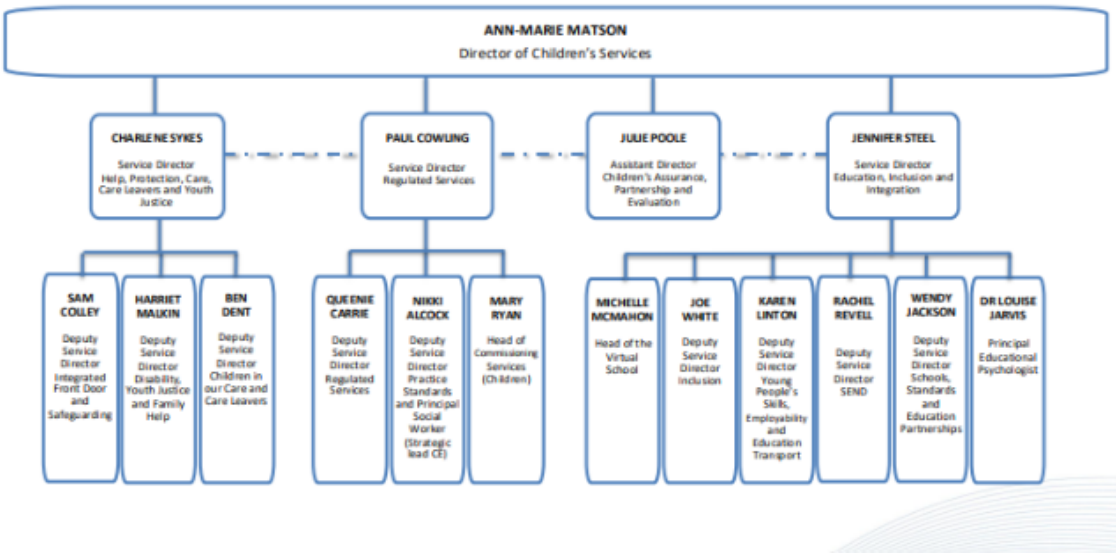
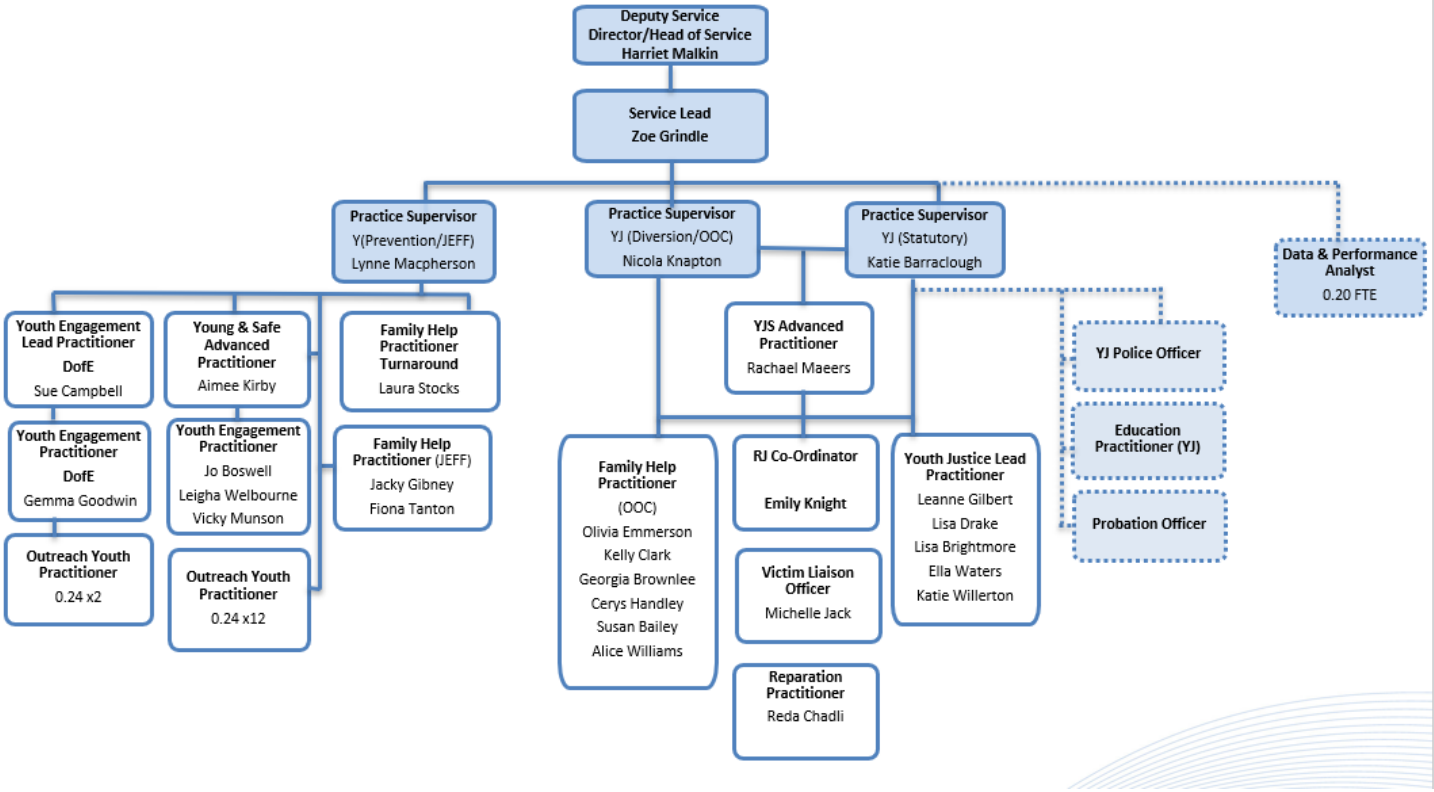
Appendix 1: Youth Justice Board Membership

Title	Agency	Status
Divisional Commander for the South Bank	Humberside Police	Statutory Board Member - **Chair**
Director of Children's Services	North East Lincolnshire Council	Statutory Board member
Superintendent	Humberside Police	Statutory Board Member
Assistant Director – Families, Mental Health and Disabilities	Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (HNYICB)	Statutory Board member
Service Director Education, Inclusion and Integration	North East Lincolnshire Council	Statutory Board member
NELC Chief Executive	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
Service Director Safeguarding, Youth Justice and Family Help	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
Deputy Service Director, Youth Justice, Family Help and Disability	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
Portfolio Holder. Children's and Education	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
Service Director, Regulated Services	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
Town Centre Manager/ HOS for CSP VAWG	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
Service Lead Youth Justice	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
Deputy Service Director Skills and Employability	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
Deputy Service Director Education and Inclusion	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
Deputy Service Director for SEND	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
VPP Programme Manager	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside/Humber VPP	Non Statutory Board member
Children & Young People's Co-ordinator	Voluntary Community Sector	Non Statutory Board member
Oversight Manager	Youth Justice Board	Non Statutory Board member
Head of Service	Recovery Partnership	Non Statutory Board member
Area Manager	Victim Support	Non Statutory Board member
Headteacher	Oasis Academy	Non Statutory Board member
CAMHS Assistant Director	NAVIGO	Non Statutory Board member
Assistant Director, Children's Assurance Partnership and Evaluation	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member

Head of Public Health Nursing	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
Associate Director of Public Health	North East Lincolnshire Council	Non Statutory Board member
	Court Representative	Non Statutory Board member

Appendix 2: Staff structure





Staffing of the YJS by sex and ethnicity

Role	Sex	Asian/Asian British	Black/Black British	Mixed/Multiple Ethnicity	White	Any other ethnic group	Not recorded
Managers	Male						
	Female				4		
	Not recorded						
Practitioners	Male			1	1		
	Female			1	30		
	Not recorded						
Administrators	Male						
	Female				4		
	Not recorded						
Sessional	Male						
	Female						
	Not recorded						
Students/Trainees	Male						
	Female						
	Not recorded						
Volunteers	Male						
	Female				5		
	Not recorded						
Total	**Male**			**1**	**1**		
	Female			**1**	**43**		
	Not recorded						

Appendix 3: Budget cost and contributions 2026/27

INCOME	Youth Justice Board[1]	Local Authority	Police	Police and Crime Commissioner	Probation	Health	Welsh Government	Other[2]	Total
Cash	£459,077	£974,408		£92,264	£5,000	£279,009		£132,631	**£1,942,389**
In-kind			£149,600		£18,372				**£167,972**
Total income	£459,077	£974,408	£149,600	£92,264	£23,372	£279,009	**£0**	£132,631	**£2,110,361**

1. This includes *all* 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	£459,077	£1,488,119	**£1,947,196**
All other costs	£0	£163,165	**£163,165**
Total expenditure	**£459,077**	**£1,651,283**	**£2,110,361**

Notes:

Turnaround grant is £72,593 & other income from Schools for Duke of Edinburgh & Evolve = £33,500 & £25,538 from Education contributions. Total £132,631. Probation in kind due to ongoing vacancy and police in kind increased due to additional post.

YJS Youth Justice Service
North East Lincolnshire

Our Children, Our Future

HUMBERSIDE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

YJB

NHS
Humber and North Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Probation Service
Yorkshire and the Humber

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