



Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-20



Foreword

I have pleasure in presenting the Gateshead Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2019/20. The Plan is part of our continued commitment to keeping the Youth Justice Board (YJB), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, partners, stakeholders, employees and the public informed of our work.

This Strategic Plan also provides an update on the key priorities set for 2019/20 and reports on the progress and achievements during the last year.

Gateshead Youth Justice Service (YJS) strives to engage and understand the young people they work with and offer interventions to prevent re-offending. It is an ambitious service which is also committed to providing the highest level of support to victims of crime.

We take a proactive approach to working with those affected by crime and deliver integrated, joined up services with shared objectives. This has had a positive impact on our performance and outcomes, illustrated by the downward trend in youth offending in Gateshead.

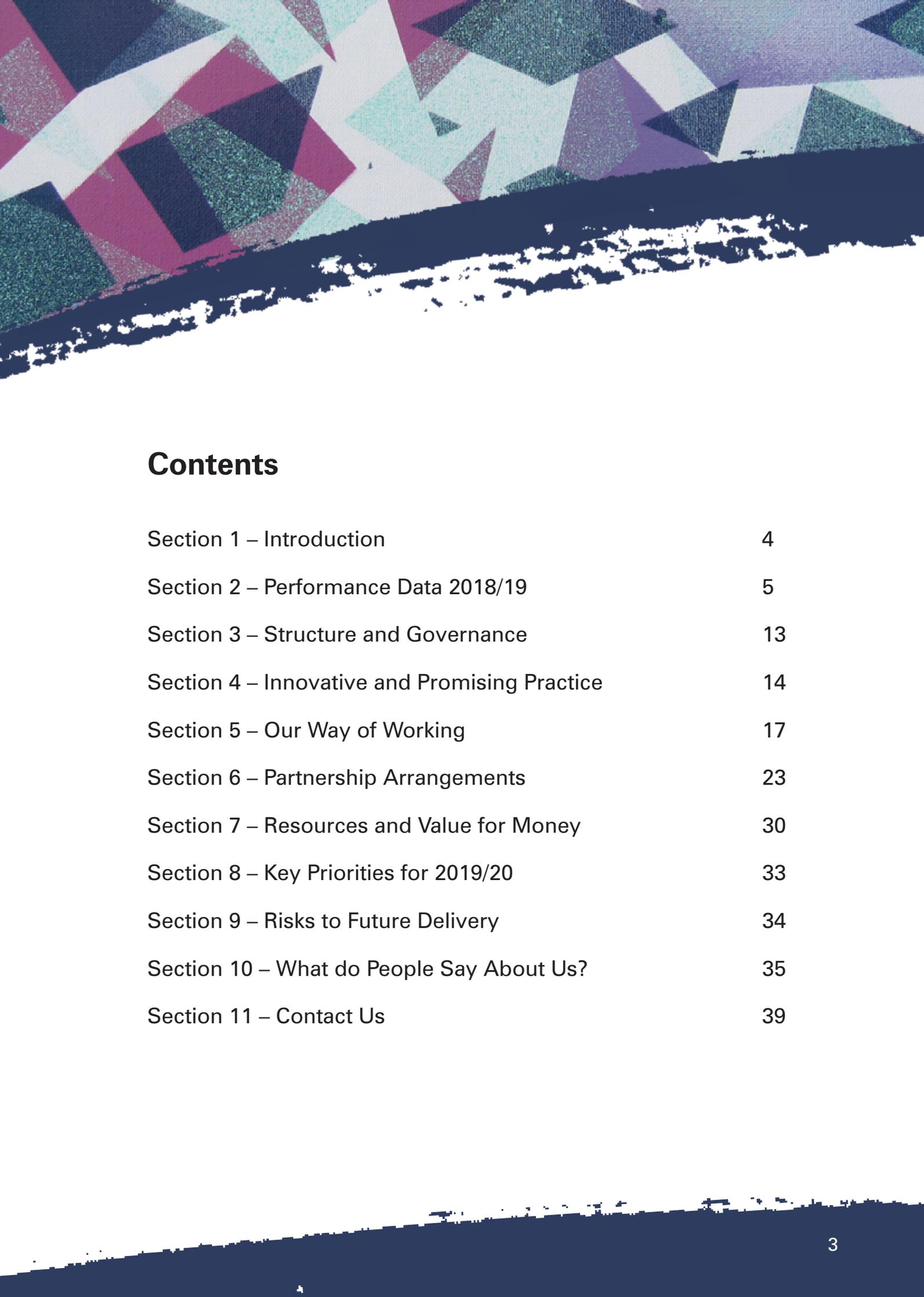
New ways of working have strengthened the continuum of care for all vulnerable children and young people who reside in Gateshead and ensure a prompt response to all concerns identified. As the YJS sits within the Early Help Service, interventions often involve a whole family approach. We continue to help children, young people and families build on their strengths, develop resilience and lead fulfilling lives.

We take pride in putting victims and young people at the centre of our work, and would like to thank those victims, young people, families and partners who have helped in the development of this plan and shaped its aims and objectives for the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those across the Youth Justice workforce and beyond who are working to achieve better outcomes for our children, young people and families to ensure that Gateshead is a place where everyone thrives.

Councillor Gary Haley
Cabinet Member
Children & Young People





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Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) places a statutory responsibility on local authorities, acting with statutory partner agencies, to establish a Youth Offending Team (YOT). The statutory function of the YOT is to co-ordinate the provision of Youth Justice Services. The Act also sets out responsibilities in relation to the production of a Youth Justice Plan setting out how youth justice services are to be provided, how the YOT will operate and which functions it will carry out.

This Youth Justice Plan is overseen by the Gateshead YJB. In May 2019 the Board agreed that Gateshead Youth Offending Team should be renamed to the Youth Justice Service, to ensure that young people are not labelled as offenders and to promote desistance.

During 2018/19 we restructured our Early Help Service. The YJS became part of the Specialist Support function within Early Help, alongside the Domestic Abuse Team, Supporting Children and Families and CAF Support Team. We have recently appointed a new Service Manager for YJS, following retirement of the previous postholder.

We are committed to the Board's Vision;

"A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims."

We continue to show strong performance and have continued to reduce the number of first-time entrants, resulting in fewer victims and more young people having the opportunity to lead positive lives as productive members of our community. The rate of re-offending in the Gateshead cohort is lower, demonstrating a positive picture against the regional and national figures.

We continue to use custody as a last resort, shown by the lower than the national and regional average numbers of young people in custody. However, we are aware that small numbers can be affected by factors outside of our control, which could lead to future changes in this indicator.

Our Plan is aligned with existing policy initiatives, including the Council's strategic approach of 'Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives', with five key pledges:

1. Put people and families at the heart of everything we do
2. Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance
3. Support our communities to support themselves and each other
4. Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the Borough
5. Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead



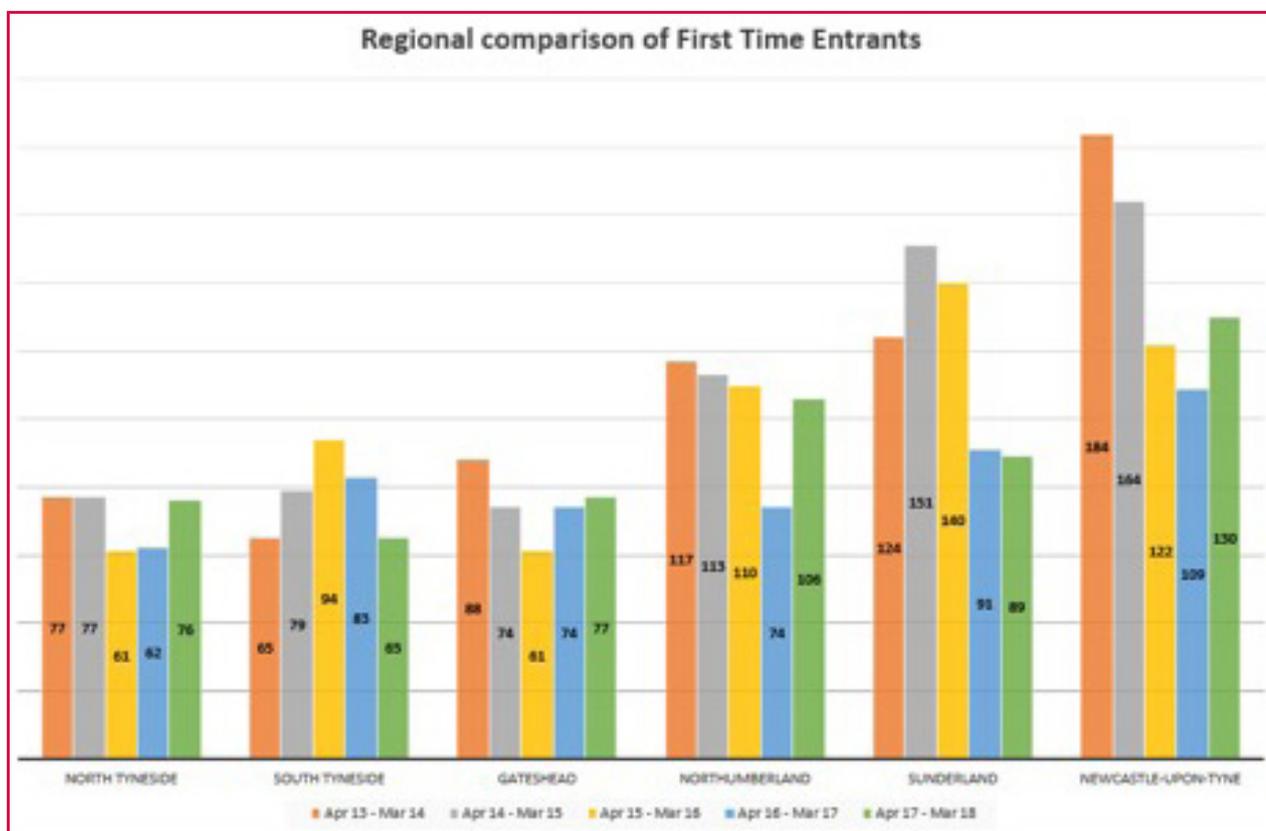
Performance Data 2018/19

Our Performance 2018/19

We use performance management to underpin our working practices, so that our staff understand and can manage their business effectively. Our service has a clear understanding of how service delivery translates into performance management and how individual roles contribute towards it. We have regular communication and discussions around performance at weekly and monthly team meetings, analysis and risk assessment of the active cohort on a weekly basis, a robust data monitoring and validation process and strong Case Management System Support.

A monthly performance workbook monitors the key Youth Justice performance indicators and victim information. The findings of our performance clinic are scrutinised by the Strategic Director of Care Wellbeing and Learning. This method provides robust senior management overview, challenge and understanding of the service performance. In addition, regular audits of cases are undertaken by managers and by case management staff. Findings from these are used to inform case management improvement workshops.

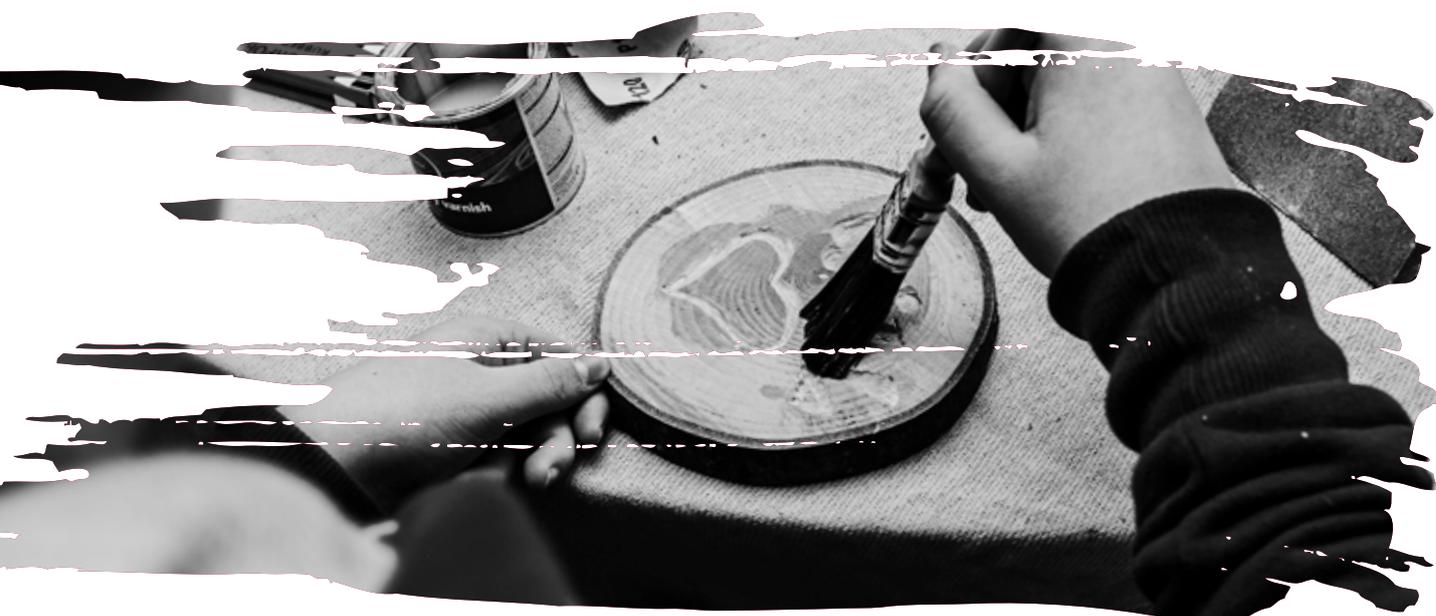
First Time Entrants (FTE) data source – Police National Computer (PNC)



The latest published data for the period 2017/18 shows that Gateshead has seen a 4% increase (three young people) in the number of FTE entering the Youth Justice System. When compared to the earliest period (2013/14), this is a -12.5% decrease. During the latest quarter (Jan-Mar 2019) there were nine FTE reported, compared to the same period for the previous year (10), this is a 10% reduction.

Gateshead FTEs	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number	89	73	62	75	77
Rate/100,000	503	424	366	442	452
PCC Northumbria area only	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number	655	659	588	500	544
Rate/100,000	532	589	491	416	450
North East	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number	1,176	1,099	977	903	830
Rate/100,000	514	487	437	403	368
National	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number	21,449	19,881	17,717	15,974	13,746
Rate/100,000	437	407	363	324	276

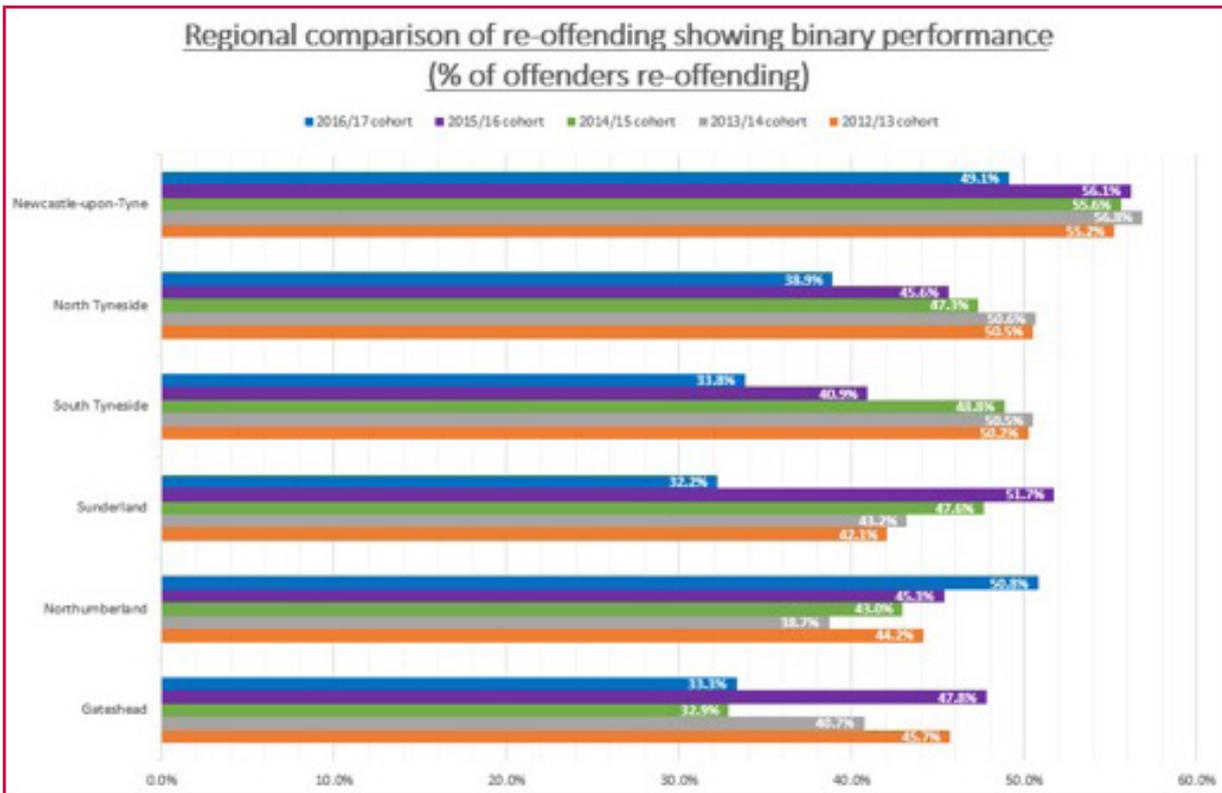
Please note that the numbers and associated rates of FTEs may change slightly when compared to previous years reports. This is due to the information source (PNC data) being updated and refreshed on a regular basis which can result in slight changes to past FTE numbers.



Re-offending Data Source – Police National Computer (PNC)

The most recently published 12-month re-offending data from the Police National Computer (PNC) for 2016/17 sets Gateshead's binary performance (% of young people who go on to re-offend) at 33.3%. When we compare the latest data to the previous year's (2015/16) of 47.8% the binary performance has improved by 14.5%.

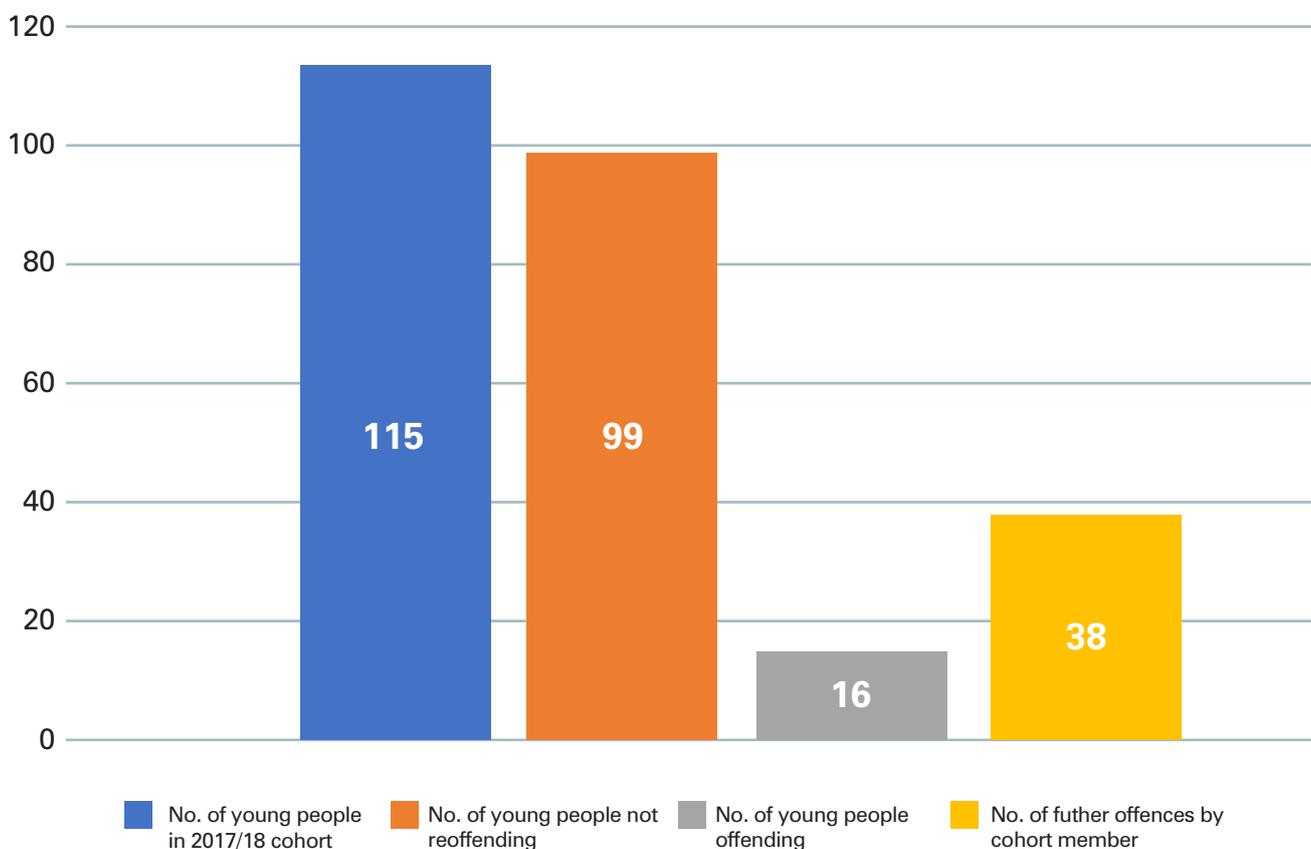
The latest binary performance of 33.3% is lower than both the Northumbria PCC regional average of 41.3%, and the national average of 40.6%.



Gateshead's Proven Rate of Re-offending	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Re-offences/re-offender	2.83	2.57	3.49	3.69	3.51
% Re-offending	45.7%	40.7%	32.9%	47.8%	33.3%
PCC Northumbria area only	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Re-offences/re-offender	3.14	3.45	3.9	3.91	4.56
% Re-offending	48.2%	47.7%	48.2%	49.8%	41.3%
North East	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Re-offences/re-offender	3.42	3.58	3.96	4.04	4.45
% Re-offending	43.3%	44.5%	44.9%	44.4%	41.8%
National	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Re-offences/re-offender	3.25	3.41	3.61	3.78	3.9

Latest Offending Data of 2017/18 Community Resolution and Triage Cohort

Current offending of 2017/18 Community Resolution/Triage cohort



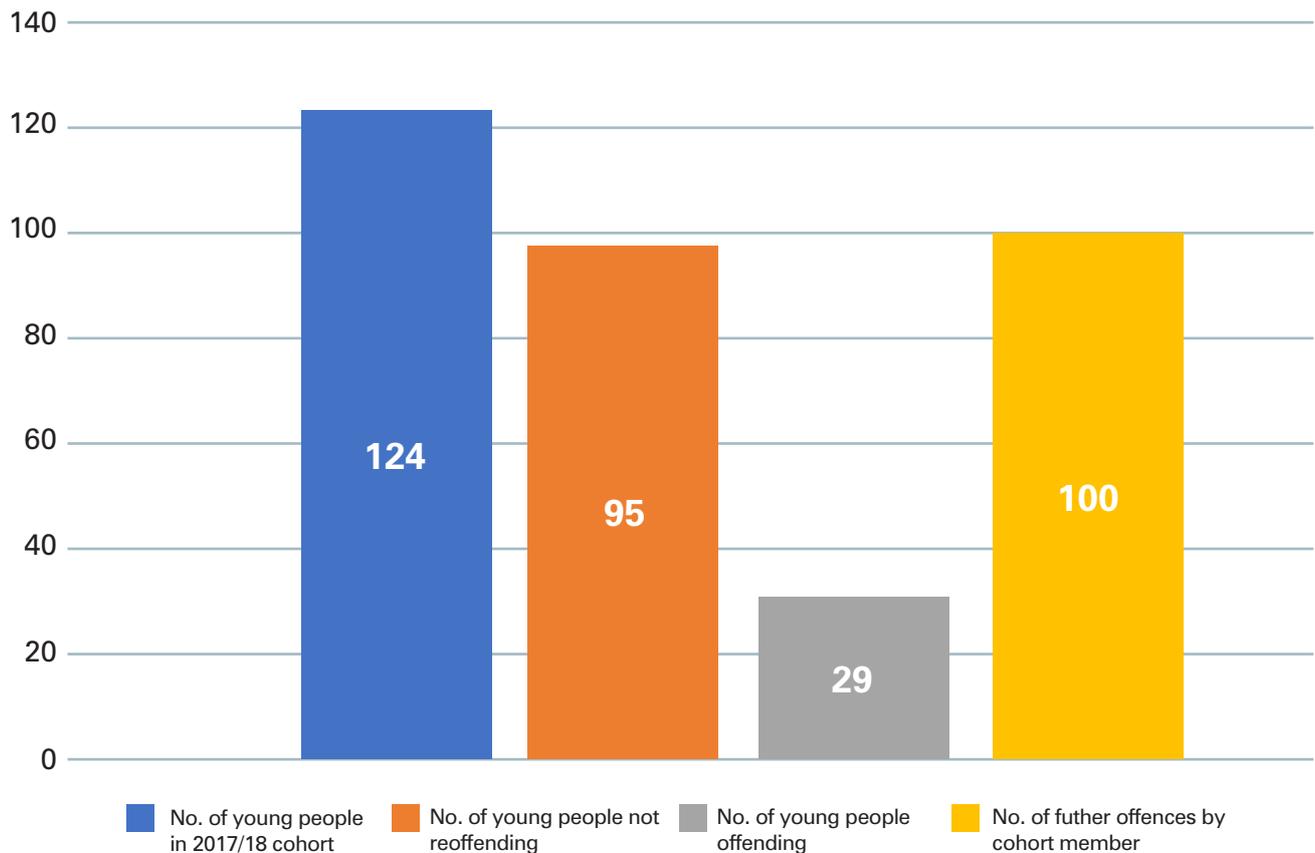
Latest offending data relating to those young people receiving either a Community Resolution or Triage Intervention during 2017/18 shows our reoffending rate at 14%. This is a +7% increase when compared to the previous year's cohort, binary performance is currently at 14%.

Of the 115 young people within this cohort, 16 young people have so far gone on to offend, committing a total of 38 offences.

Using a monthly tracking tool, we can track the offending of this cohort that enables the YJS to review the current YJS intervention plan in place to prevent the likelihood of those young people within this cohort becoming First Time Entrants (FTE).

Latest Offending Data of 2017/18 Live Tracker Cohort

Current offending of 2017/18 Live Tracker Cohort



Latest offending data relating to those young people receiving either a youth caution or court disposal during 2017/18 shows the reoffending rate at 23%. This is an 8% increase when compared to the previous year's cohort, binary performance is currently at 23%.

Of the 124 young people within this cohort, 29 young people have so far gone on to offend committing a total of 100 offences. From the 29 young people re-offending, five young people (4%), were responsible for committing 54% of the 100 further offences.

Like the Community Resolution and Triage Cohort we can track those young people who received either a Youth Caution or court conviction for a period of 18 months. Upon refreshing the cohort offending data, the YJS management team review those cases each month to ensure the plan in place is robust and includes the necessary objectives to prevent further offending.

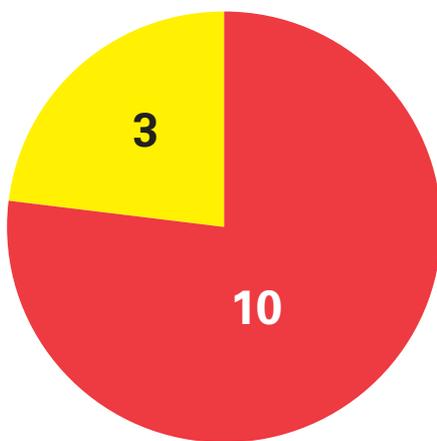
Active Cohort Analysis

We regularly track those young people within each re-offending cohort monthly. We also identify which cohort members are open to a YJS intervention on a weekly basis, using the risk register report. This is a breakdown of cases open to the YJS that includes the latest case level data relating to many factors such as: Likelihood of re-offending (LOR), Risk of Serious Harm (ROSH), Looked After Child (LAC) status, Child Protection (CP) involvement, Troubled Families involvement.

The charts below are a snapshot as of May 2019 that outlines the types the risks associated with those active cohort members, currently open to a YJS intervention.

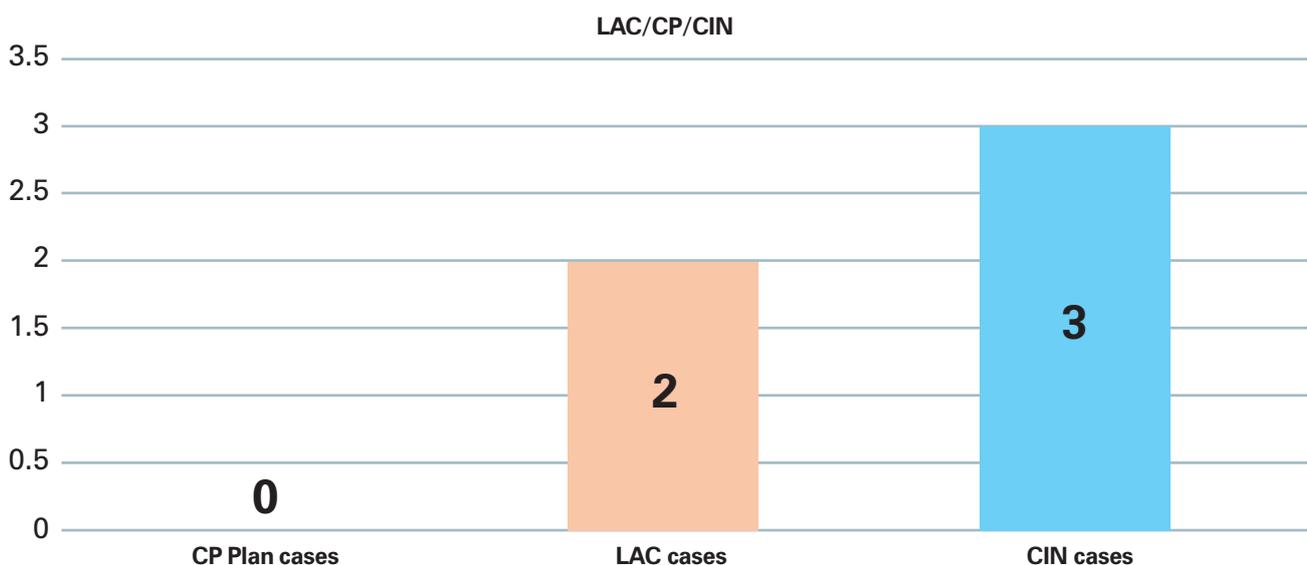
From the original combined cohort of 239 members being tracked, 45 had committed further offences since entering the cohort. Of those members that had reoffended (45), 13 or 29% were open to the YJS as of May 2019.

FamiliesGateshead Involvement



77% (10) of active cohort cases are allocated to the FamiliesGateshead Programme

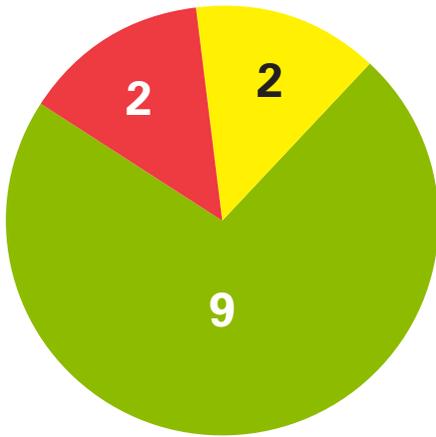
- Active cohort cases with FamiliesGateshead involvement
- Active cohort cases without FamiliesGateshead involvement



24% (three) are identified as a Looked After Child (LAC)
15% (two) are identified as a Child in Need (CIN)
No cases (0) are subjected to a Child Protection Plan

Latest Offending data of 2017/18 Live tracker cohort

Likelihood of re-offending



15% (two) of active cohort cases were recently assessed with a high likelihood of re-offending

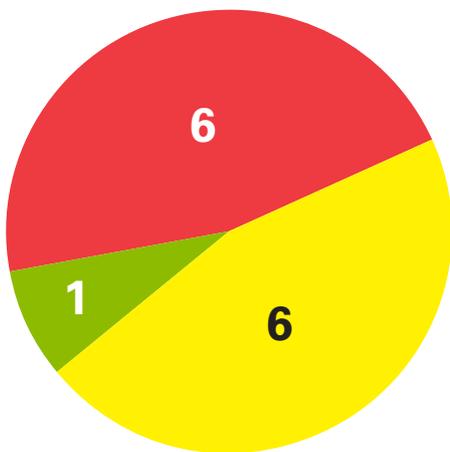
15% (two) were assessed with a medium likelihood of re-offending

70% (nine) were assessed with a low likelihood of re-offending

■ High likelihood of re-offending ■ Medium likelihood of re-offending ■ Low likelihood of re-offending

NB: the likelihood of re-offending is based on many factors such as: gender, age, prior conviction severity and frequency.

Risk of serious harm



46% (six) of cases have a high risk of serious harm rating

46% (six) of cases have a medium risk of serious harm rating

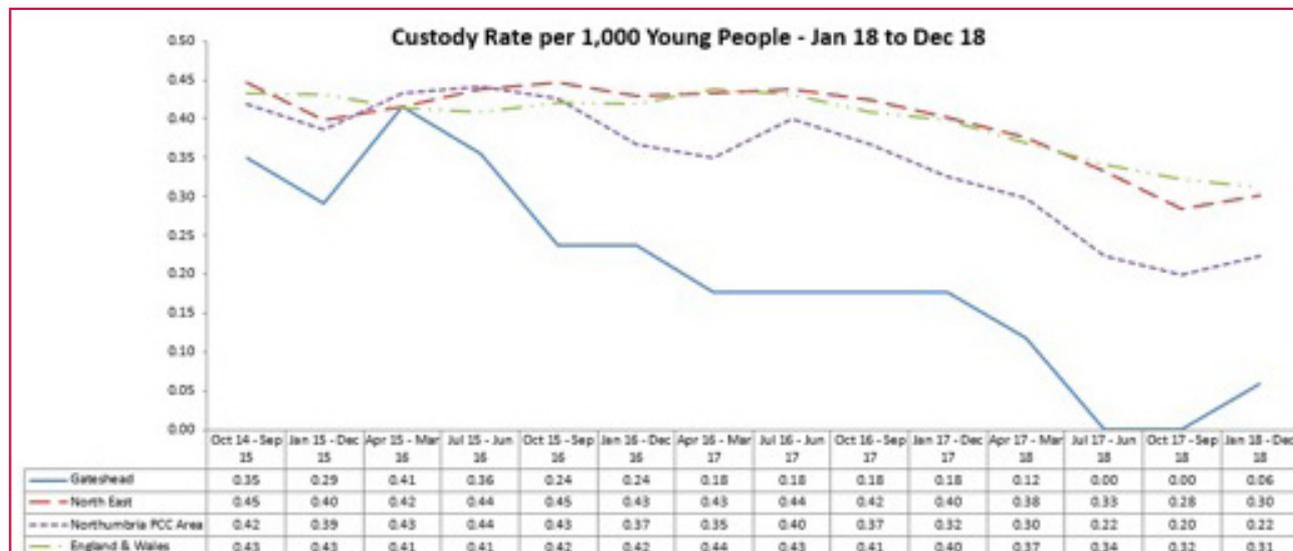
8% (one) of cases have a low risk of serious harm rating

■ High risk of serious harm rating ■ Medium risk of serious harm rating ■ Low risk of serious harm rating

NB: The Risk of Serious Harm Level is based on a "Yes" response to any of the questions in the indicators of harm section within the assessment.

Custodial Sentences – Data source Case Level Data

The latest YJB published data for Jan-Dec 18 shows the 12-month rate of Custody for Gateshead at 0.06, this represents one custodial sentence in the 12-month period compared to two custodial sentences in the same period of the previous year. This is below the Northumbria PCC and regional average for this period (0.22), and below the national average (0.31).



Gateshead continues to reduce the number of custodial sentences given to young offenders using alternative interventions to custody.

Looked After Children

There were 20 cases of Looked After Children (LAC) who were sentenced to a YJS intervention throughout 2018/19, which is the same number of LAC offenders when compared to the previous year (2017/18).

12 LAC (60%) were subjected to a Section 20 order (single period of accommodation), eight LAC (40%) were subjected to a Care Order, and no-one was subject to an Interim Care Order.

Restraints in Secure Accommodation

During the period of 2018/19 there were no instances of restraints being used by custodial establishments. Any incidents would be reported to the YJB. The YJS Team Manager also attends the regional Resettlement and Case Management Improvement Group meetings, where restraints are monitored and where necessary further investigation undertaken.

Ethnic Background of Young People Receiving Youth Cautions or Convictions During 2018/19

Young people from a white ethnic background accounted for 97% of all those receiving a youth caution or court conviction in the year ending March 2019. Those from a Gypsy/Roma ethnic background accounted for 1% and those from a mixed ethnic background accounted for 1%. Young people declaring themselves as any other ethnic group accounted for 1%. This is in line with the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) census report for Gateshead.

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Structure and Governance

The YJS is part of the Care, Wellbeing and Learning Directorate within Gateshead Council, and is accountable to the YJB. The Board sits every two months and reviews the annual workplan, ensures the appropriate services are in place and has oversight of the budget. All key partners are represented on the Board and if appropriate the Board will extend its membership to other partners to ensure the progression of a specific development issue.

The Board is currently reviewing its terms of reference and has refreshed its membership to ensure appropriate representation. The Board will develop a greater level of scrutiny and challenge, to hold the service to account.

The YJS also reports into Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), to update and seek the views of members on the annual strategic plan as well as progress against priorities and performance indicators bi-annually, most recently in June 2019.

The YJS also reports into Children and Young People's Portfolio and the Gateshead Community Safety Board.





Innovative and Promising Practice

Out of Court Disposal Panel

The YJS have developed an Out of Court Disposal Panel process. The primary purpose of the Panel is to ensure joint decision making between the Police and the YJS in relation to all out of court disposals, except for Police-led community resolutions.

The purpose of the Panel is;

- To reduce the possibility of inappropriate repeat cautioning and unnecessary formal entry to the Criminal Justice System for at risk groups such as Looked After Children and children with additional needs.
- To promote the use of Restorative Justice in diverting young people from the Criminal Justice System, whilst addressing the causes of their offending behaviour.

Responses to youth offending must be proportionate and defensible. The views of the victim should be an integral part of the process and an important factor in determining the seriousness of the offence. The victim's views alone however, will not be conclusive in determining the appropriate disposal.

During 2019 we will develop an Out of Court Disposal Panel Scrutiny process. We will use partners and volunteers to review the decision making of the Out of Court Disposal Panel. This will ensure defensibility of those decisions and challenge future practice. Recommendations and learning from this process will help inform future service delivery. It will provide constructive scrutiny at an organisational and individual level to promote best practices, identify potential policy or staff development needs and more effective working practices between agencies. It will work to ensure the voice of victims are heard through the out of court disposal process and provide challenge where it appears not to have been considered. The results of these audits will go to the Board so senior management and partner scrutiny of the process is achieved.

The intention of the Panel is to provide transparency and accountability and increase public understanding, confidence and trust in how the YJS uses out of court disposals. There is a particular focus on the delivery of appropriate and proportionate justice, ensuring redress for victims of crime as well as addressing the root causes of offending behaviour.

Volunteers are an integral part of the YJS and enable the delivery of Referral Orders. The YJS will develop the opportunities that are afforded to volunteers by working with them to provide scrutiny of the Out of Court Disposal Panel and having representation on the Board. By working with volunteers in innovative ways it will help the service to ascertain the views of others within the community.

Involving volunteers will reflect and build a bridge between us and the community we serve and potentially engage clients in different ways. Volunteers in Gateshead bring a range of qualities, skills and expertise, we value our community and their experiences, we want to invest in their future by training volunteers. The development of volunteers in the YJS is a key area to explore in the coming year.

Respect Young People Programme (RYPP)

The YJS have trained six staff in the Respect Young People Programme within the YJS, which focusses on interventions with young people who use violence and abuse in close relationships. This 12-week programme work with young people and parents, both separately and together, to make a family agreement and build on strengths. The programme can be used for children aged 10 – 18 who display violence and/or aggression or coercive behaviour toward a parent, grandparent or carer on a regular basis.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma

We have developed a good understanding around identifying trauma, and over the next 12 months need to work on providing effective interventions. We are implementing an Enhanced Case Management (ECM) model, which is a form of trauma informed practice. Adverse Childhood Experiences and the impact of trauma are routinely identified in assessments and recorded under significant life events. Where trauma is identified every effort is made to ensure this is explored and support is offered within the young person's plan.

We feel trauma informed practice is an important area of practice which views the child first, offender second. Trauma informed practice will be evident in our local services, and we will;

- Improve children's resilience to trauma.
- Improve social outcomes e.g. relations with others, engagement with services and activities.
- Reduce offending and re-offending levels.
- Reduce incidences of non-engagement and breach.
- Reduce entry to custody.
- Improve resettlement outcomes.
- Improve transitions between youth and adult services.
- Strengthen multi-agency working.

Training has helped to develop an understanding of the development and attachment consequences of trauma. It has helped to support casework and helped practitioners to identify young people who need clinical assessment and support. Staff supervising young people need support and the flexibility to work with traumatised young people effectively. Trauma-informed approaches accept the child and take their experiences into account, but do not excuse and accept all behaviour. Taking responsibility, and holding back from acting on impulse, are the kind of life skills a trauma informed approach aims to develop. Over the next 12 months further development in this area will ensure the trauma recovery model is used to inform intervention with young people. Practitioners need flexibility, so they can tailor their plans, build trust and stabilise young people and prioritise the most urgent needs.

Viewpoint

The YJS is working with Viewpoint to use a digital platform to gather the views of young people and their parents/carers and to access service specific information alongside national organisations.

Viewpoint believe that all children and young people in the Youth Justice System should have:

- The opportunity to get involved in decisions about their care and supervision.
- Access to the services they need, “a say in how those services work.”
- The YJB goes onto highlight the importance of local services, “preventing crime and addressing the needs and concerns of victims” and argues that services, “are more likely to be effective if they are informed by and codesigned with young people.”

The YJS completes exit interviews with young people and carers at the end of their interventions. The questionnaire is designed to gather feedback from parents/carers of the young people who we work with. The results enable us to improve our service to ensure we are providing the best possible intervention for young people. We value thoughts and feelings of our service users and welcome any suggestions about how we can improve our service. These interviews are going to be conducted using Viewpoint software. For all young people, including those who have experienced trauma or who have learning disability, they may have difficulty expressing their experience in words, and expressing sensitive, embarrassing or stigmatizing behaviours can be particularly difficult. International research shows that computer mediated environments are helpful in obtaining information about sensitive subjects. Feedback from this interview can be used quickly to inform service delivery and make changes when appropriate.

Viewpoint will also provide performance data which can be aggregated to identify trends, this information will be fed into the Board. Viewpoint is essentially a communication medium. It enables children and young people to directly communicate their attitudes, behaviours and experiences by completing interactive questionnaires in a safe, easy to use and confidential environment similar to that of social networking.

The YJS is also working with Viewpoint to create a QR code which young people and parents can scan. This will enable them to view information regarding the YJS, relevant external agencies and national organisations. This is currently in development but aims to provide an opportunity for information to be easily available using an innovative approach.

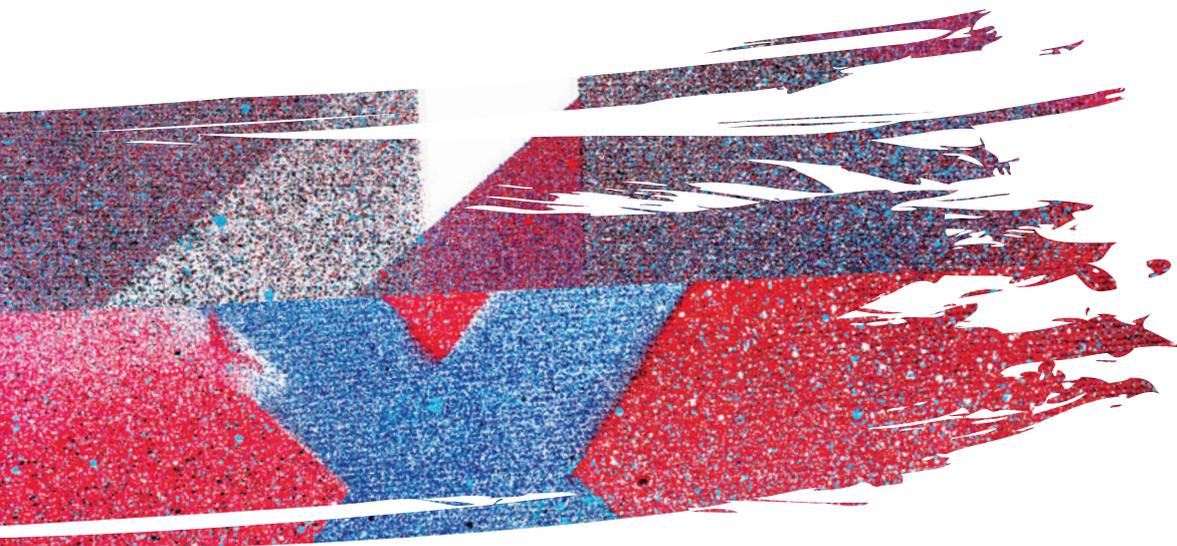


Our Way of Working - Restorative Justice

In 2018 the YJS successfully renewed the Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM) award for a further three years, until February 2022. YJS have trained all practitioners and volunteers in restorative approaches through the recognised Restorative Justice Facilitator training. Additional training for case management staff will take place later in 2019. As a restorative service it is recognised that the skills and knowledge gained through this training can be used in all disposals and it is an effective method of working with young people to reduce offending. It is key to involve young people in restorative conversations to improve outcomes for victims of their offending. In line with the YJB's Strategic Plan, we work to prevent offending to create safer communities with fewer victims and reduced fear of crime.

We have a Victim Liaison Officer based within the case management team who works closely with team members and regularly discusses outcomes for both victims and young people. The needs of the victim are met whilst taking into consideration the circumstances of each young person and any realistic possibilities for a restorative outcome. The views of victims are heard in our Out of Court Disposal Panel and information about victim impact will be considered before decisions are made at Panel. This means victims feel involved in the process and can let decision makers know how they were affected by a crime, as well as have their voice heard regarding the outcome and conditions for the young person.

It has enabled the Panel to make more informed decisions since they have both information on what a young person might need to reduce their offending as well as information regarding the views and needs of the victim. It has been particularly useful in formulating reparation activities both direct and in the community.



Restorative Conferences - Case Studies

Church – Criminal Damage

The three co-accused received community resolutions for Criminal Damage. They all attended the church where the offence occurred with their mothers where we met with the Priest. He spoke first about the impact of the damage and how much it had cost the church (£88) to repair and then the time it had taken to make the roof safe (installing security measures). The Priest was concerned about the safety of the boys climbing on the roof and the consequences for them of offending. He told them how disappointed he was in their behaviour (he knew all the boys). Each boy then spoke about their actions and how they had been bored and had climbed on the roof for something to do.

They admitted that throwing and damaging the tiles was wrong and they had no good reason for doing this. They all said they would never do anything like this again and said they were sorry. Both mothers spoke to the boys and reiterated the consequences of their behaviour, reminding the boys that all the community who use the church have been affected as their donations have had to be used to pay for the damage. When the boys replied to the comments from the Priest and their mothers, they suggested helping at the church and all the boys agreed they will attend on a Saturday with one of their mothers to clean leaves from the car park and to wash the Priest's car.

Dangerous Driving

Following the restorative conference, the young person was asked for his feedback he was very satisfied with all elements of the process and he commented that, "I never thought I would be sat in an office talking to a policeman about my actions." The Police Officer said the meeting was very good and commented that he liked, "being able to offer friendly advice from a Police perspective in a relaxed environment." He said he learnt that the young person "seems to be a sensible lad who made a bad mistake."



Criminal Damage

The young person completed Direct Reparation, he removed the graffiti that he was responsible for.

He was very apologetic and remorseful for what he had done and said that he hoped that it would not affect his future career.



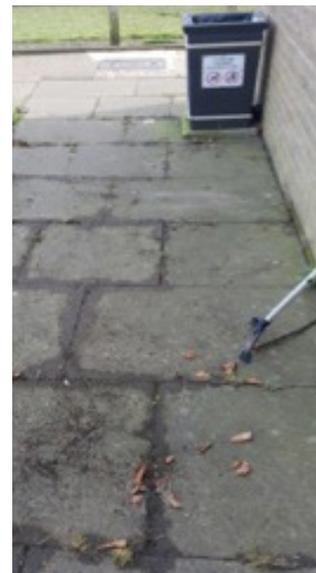
Assault PC

The young person received a Triage for this offence, she was remorseful and wished to apologise to the officer she assaulted (no injuries caused). The meeting was very positive with the officer explaining his role and his concerns about her behaviour and not wishing to hurt her when he restrained her. The young person said the thing she liked most about the meeting was that they both had the chance to say their points. About the officer she said that, "he's alright and he didn't want to do what he did, but he had to as it's his job and for the way I went on."

Criminal damage to Social Club (firework set off in the entrance)

Both youths received Youth Cautions for this offence and agreed to meet with the committee members. The YJS held two meetings with three committee members and both youths agreed to write a letter of apology to the club members and complete direct reparation at the Club.

One youth tidied the outside area, litter picking, clearing footpaths and cutting back shrubs. The other youth cleaned and painted the changing rooms.



Criminal Damage

This young man completed two hours Direct Reparation at his home by the request of the victim. He cleared the front garden, again, at the request, of the victim



Medical Centre

The young person age 14 years old had been responsible for graffiti on the outside of a recently painted medical centre. After contacting the practice manager, it was agreed that the young person would repaint the wall using paint provided by the medical centre.

The young person completed direct reparation being supervised to paint over the graffiti. The medical centre was pleased with the result and thanked us for organising the reparation.



The Angling Club

In April 2019 a young person admitted being with 5-6 peers at the pond and that some of his peers were lighting fires. He states that these were just small fires that they quickly put out. He admitted that he then started a fire and that damaged grass land at the pond. The young person received a Triage intervention for the offence.

The Angling Club said the damage cost them money to repair and it also stopped the use of that area for a few days. They welcomed the young person completing direct reparation in the form of litter picking at the pond area.

This was duly organised. A representative from the Angling Club stated "The reparation work carried out made up for the damage caused. The situation was handled very well from the YJS and contact was made on various occasions and dealt with in a very professional manner from start to finish."



The Book Project

We were glad to be able to contact the YJS after we moved towards the end of last year as we needed plenty of help to get the books stamped and on the shelves for our Borderline Books. We had a number of young people coming to help - some of whom we would have given permanent volunteering jobs without hesitation.

We only wish that more young people enjoyed reading - or that if they have difficulties with reading, there was a chance to help them over that and thereby give them much better chances to veer away from offending and into work in the future. We would be very willing to help with that as well.





Partnership Arrangements

Some of the young people involved with Youth Justice Services are the most vulnerable children in society and are at greatest risk of social exclusion. 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015' highlights the need for Youth Offending Services to work jointly with other agencies and professionals to ensure that young people are protected from harm and to support them to achieve more.

The YJS is represented by our Service Director on a wide range of partnership boards and we contribute to their action plans and strategic direction. These include the Local Safeguarding Children Board which reports to the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Community Safety Board. The Northumbria CONTEST Panel has representation from the Strategic Director of Care, Wellbeing and Learning who represents the YJS. The Service Director also attends regional Youth Justice meetings.

Gateshead Community Safety Board – Adam Lindridge, Communities and Environment, Gateshead Council

"The Specialist Support Team Service Manager is an active member of the Gateshead Community Safety Board.

Community safety is a key priority within Gateshead - and by putting people and families at the heart of everything we do, we are confident we can work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead, making it a place where everyone can thrive."

Strategic Priorities 2019/20

Our Community Safety Board has identified the following themes that will be prioritised for 2019/20:

Anti-Social Behaviour

Tackling issues of anti-social behaviour and environmental crime continues to be one of the biggest areas of concern identified by Gateshead residents.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse continues to have a detrimental impact on individuals, families, children and wider society.

Harms from Substance Misuse

The harms caused by drug and alcohol misuse continue to cause significant problems for vulnerable persons, communities and places within Gateshead.

Hate Crime, Tensions and Community Cohesion

We will continue to raise awareness of hate crime and provide relevant support/guidance to victims as well as monitoring local tensions to ensure we engender cohesive and integrated communities. safeguard vulnerable persons who have the potential to be drawn into this area.

Preventing Violent Extremism

The threat of terrorism continues to be ever-present. We need to continue to work collectively to safeguard vulnerable persons who have the potential to be drawn into this area.

These are the areas where we feel we can collectively make a bigger impact by working together.

It is important to note that whilst the Board has chosen to focus on these priorities – our partners will continue to tackle crime and disorder issues identified within their own operating practices. The Board also remains flexible enough to be able to respond proactively to emerging risks and threats not linked to these priority areas.

Activity that we have undertaken throughout the last 12 months linked with young-people/offending:

Serious and Organised Crime – we have been included in preventing people getting involved in serious and organised crime activity, strengthen our protection/response to it as well as continuing to work collectively to pursue and disrupt the criminals behind it.

Reducing Re-offending – we have continued to work collectively to provide appropriate support/enforcement to change behaviour and divert offenders. The introduction of a revised approach to Integrated Offender Management and the Complex Offender Panel has allowed us to help identify, respond and stop persistent offending across the Borough. Both of these multi-agency approaches have strong links to the work overseen by the Youth Justice Board.

ASB – Community Safety partners continue to make proactive use of the tools and powers available in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Community Protection Notices, Civil Injunctions and Closure Notices/Orders have all been used to good effect in the last six months. This has included the first civil injunction taken out in Gateshead against a young person for persistent anti-social behaviour.

Platform Outreach Project – we have commissioned the young people’s substance misuse service for Gateshead to deliver the Platform Outreach Project. The project involves workers visiting hotspot areas for youth disorder and offering advice and guidance on the harms of substance misuse and the effects their behaviour has on residents and the local community.”

Trailblazer Programme – Gateshead - Chris Piercy, CCG

“The Trailblazer Programme is working with primary and secondary schools in Gateshead with the aim of providing earlier care for children and young people who may be experiencing mild to moderate problems, or those who experience sub-threshold symptoms of mental health problems, which tend to be outside the scope of NHS-funded mental health services.

We are currently in the first wave of the programme and have two Mental Health Support Teams (MHST), each consisting of four trainee Educational Mental Health Practitioners, working alongside 31 schools in Gateshead.

These teams will be working with teachers and school staff to identify children and young people with emerging mental health needs, as part of a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.

The implementation of MHST’s in schools and colleges was set out in the Green Paper for Transforming Children and Young People’s Mental Health.”

Domestic Violence - Chris Piercy, CCG

"As part of the Action Plan that accompanied the Domestic Homicide Review into Alice Ruggles which was commissioned by Gateshead Community Safety Board, there were several recommendations including:

- The Community Safety Board to seek assurance all relevant local agencies and partners understand the risk of perpetrators accessing electronic devices in respect of domestic abuse.
- Outcome: Improved understanding with frontline staff and practitioners. Better awareness of techniques and methods used by perpetrators.

The Review demonstrated that more needed to be done to raise awareness and change attitudes towards stalking and that it was crucial to offer appropriate and timely help and advice to victims of stalking, to their families and friends, and to professionals. Technology can often play a fundamental role in stalking and, as the case of Alice demonstrated, its impact is often underestimated and poorly understood. It was anticipated that the learning points and recommendations will provide a platform to help national, regional and local agencies to implement measures designed to prevent what happened to Alice from happening to others.

As part of this an awareness session was delivered to staff at both Riverside and Ridley House. It is anticipated that the session will be delivered to the Partnership Forum and Patient Forum and possibly alongside the Trail Blazers into higher education facilities."

Mental Health – Chris Piercy, CCG

"A recent review of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) across Newcastle and Gateshead has been undertaken, this has led to the redesign of provision resulting in the creation of a new Single Point of Access (SPA). The aim is to make referring into the service easier and streamlined for professionals, families and young people by creating one entry into services.

A new pathway has been developed for those children who are at risk of or are involved in offending are more vulnerable to psychological distress but do not necessarily present with mental health difficulties. The new pathway aims to ensure that these children and young people get access to the right service to meet their needs, at the right time when they need it."

Parental Conflict Programme – Kim Knowles, Targeted Family Support, Early Help

"The Government's Improving Lives Strategy introduced a new focus on tackling the impact of parental conflict on children, with the aim that this will become mainstream, alongside support for parenting. Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is leading a national Reducing Parental Conflict Programme to embed evidence-based support to tackle parental conflict in local areas and improve outcomes for children. A new national Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) Programme, announced in 2017, funded until 2021 to support both the supply and demand for evidence-based interventions at a local level. Gateshead hold the Referral Gateway and are offering support to practitioners across the region to develop an understanding of what parental conflict is, facilitate discussions with parents to offer support to identify conflict in their relationships and to refer them onto interventions."

Corporate Parenting – Jill Little, Looked After Children, Children and Families

“The YJS works alongside Children’s Services Looked After Children’s Team to ensure that young people open to both teams have co-ordinated plans to avoid duplication and to ensure the young person’s needs are met. Both teams are co-located, and this provides easier communication which ensures the young people are supported in the most effective way to try and avoid their escalation through the systems. Each service attends planning and review meetings so the most up to date information is shared and there is a shared responsibility across the case management of the young person.

The YJS sit on the Corporate Parenting Partnership and the Looked After Children’s Service Manager has a reciprocal arrangement to ensure the needs of the LAC offending cohort are represented. Gateshead Youth Justice Service and Looked After Teams recognise the need to work together and with other services to promote the recovery, resilience and wellbeing of young people and to work together to prevent unnecessary criminalisation. Restorative approaches are used by Police in Gateshead to avoid young people becoming involved in the criminal justice system for matters that can be dealt with by an alternative method. The number of LAC young people in Gateshead re-offending cohort is 9% this is lower than the national and statistical neighbourhood cohort.

Local Authority, Region and England

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	-	Changes from previous year
390	Gateshead	8.10	5.50	6.40	6.10	3.70	5.00	9.00	6.00	4.00	-	-2.00
980	Gateshead	9.70	9.20	9.40	8.20	7.60	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	-	-1.00
	Statistical Neighbours	10.47	10.10	9.41	8.14	8.94	7.75	7.38	6.60	5.29	-	-1.31
970	Gateshead	7.90	7.30	6.90	6.20	5.60	5.00	5.00	4.00	4.00	-	0.00

Education – Jeanne Pratt, EducationGateshead

“Education in Gateshead has a strong working relationship with the YJS; this includes among other education providers our secondary schools/academies, PRU and primary schools. The YJS continue to actively support the fair access process with information provided to the secondary Pupil Placement and primary Fair Access Panels; supporting the educational placements of some of our more difficult children and young people. The process seeks to reduce exclusions and support some of our most vulnerable children and young people including the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. More recently there has been representation on the Education Inclusion Panel; where the education for children and young people who have been permanently excluded or who are medically unfit to attend mainstream school is agreed. In addition, the YJS are represented at the Complex Pupils meeting. This half termly meeting looks at the needs of our most complex pupils from a multi-agency perspective to ensure the most appropriate educational pathway is provided.”

Children Young People's Service

We have access to three consultations per month with two mental health clinicians. During these sessions CYPS and our Youth Justice worker discuss cases and determine the best pathway for the young person. This could include a clinical assessment followed by treatment or being signposted to other services which can meet the young person's needs. Each month CYPS provide agreed thematic training for Youth Justice staff.

National Probation Service

We have a full-time seconded Probation Officer within the team and receive a funded contribution towards administration. The current seconded Probation Officer has been in post for 18 months. The previous secondee is now back at the National Probation Service and is working with young people transferring between services. This has helped the young people to understand the different services and support them to comply with the requirements of their order. When a young person turns 18 years old the services available to them change. To help support young people and workers a directory of services is being developed by the Probation Officer within our team, this will be available for use soon.

Northumbria Police – Alan Pitchford

“The YJB have a very good and well-established working relationship with Northumbria Police. This relationship has continued to grow and develop over the past 12 months and has seen the appointment of an additional YJS PC, which is indicative of how highly Northumbria Police view the work of the YJB.

Following research in other areas of the country in to how interventions relating to young people are managed, the YJS has introduced a Panel which will sit in relation to out of court disposals for young people. This Panel will consider all aspects of the young person's life prior to deciding on which is the most appropriate intervention for that young person. Northumbria Police feel that this approach will better address the needs of the young person in a holistic way and in turn will help reduce the chances of the young person reoffending.

The YJS PCs continue to attend the weekly operational meeting where all relevant partner agencies attend to decide on their collective priorities for the week ahead. This meeting allows any young persons, who may be coming to an agencies attention, to be discussed and will allow the YJS PC to conduct some early intervention to prevent that young person entering the criminal justice system.

In the past year the YJS have been successful in a joint bid with the other local YOTs to secure some significant Home Office funding to deter young people away from serious violence. This funding will provide diversionary and educational activity to young people at risk of being involved in serious violence and will further enhance our already close links with Northumbria Police.”

County Lines

“County Lines” is a term used by the Police to describe a growing practice among criminal gangs: when demand for drugs fails to meet the supply in major cities, gangs travel to remote rural areas, market towns or coastal locations in search of new customers. Historically there has been no intelligence of “County Lines” activity in the Northumbria area. There are indications that this is changing and that this activity is becoming an issue. The accurate recognition and reporting of “County Lines” is key to successful combating this activity and protecting those affected by it. We work with Police and partners to gather and share information to help build a local picture and safeguard vulnerable children and adults.

Operation Encompass

Northumbria Police began implementation of Operation Encompass in 2014 and it has been core business across the whole force area since 2016. The concept is simple; each time Police deal with a domestic abuse incident which involves children, a referral is made to the school of the child before 9.30am on the next school day. This enables the school to assess the needs of the child and provide support within the school environment. Each school has identified two Operation Encompass leads.

Operation Encompass: The Next Steps

Northumbria Police and OPCC approached the Operation Encompass organisation and Barnardo’s with a proposal to pilot this programme of work as a collaboration.

This new project seeks to provide a whole system approach to tackling domestic abuse and provide primary prevention and early intervention and support for vulnerable children in a safe environment, using school safeguarding liaison officers.

You Only Live Once

The You Only Live Once (YOLO) project funded nationally by the Home Office has been launched across the Northumbria Police Force area. In Gateshead, we work with Newcastle and Sunderland Football Foundations, Street Doctors and the Police and Crime Commissioners Office to prevent children becoming involved in knife crime or other forms of serious violence. The Police co-ordinate referrals to the project, children will be assessed (by the Police and our service) and if suitable will be offered regular mentoring (from the football foundations) to reduce the risk of offending.

We have a case manager who is the conduit between the Police referral, and following assessment, the referral into the mentoring programme. A home visit and screening are completed for each young person referred into the Service.

Operation Divan - Knife and Weapons Youth Early Intervention Guidance

The Police, Gateshead Council and partners, aim to identify and support young people under the age of 18, where there is information or intelligence to suggest that they may be carrying or involved in the possession of a knife or other weapons.

Operation Divan aims to educate young people at the earliest opportunity, to reduce the number carrying weapons, raise awareness of the consequences and to reduce the risk of doing so. We signpost where support is available to those young people that are involved.

Police Officers should be informed of any persons under the age of 18, who are identified via a recorded incident, intelligence submission or crime report as being involved in, but not prosecuted for ANY weapons offences or those who are believed to be potentially in possession of a knife or other weapon. This includes where reports/referrals have been made by schools or other partners. Home and/or school visits will then be conducted with that named person with an appropriate adult present (i.e. parent/guardian). The purpose of the visit is to educate that young person and discuss the risks posed both to themselves and others and to help reduce the potential for harm to themselves or others. During the meeting engagement will be carried out with the individual to highlight the risks and consequences in relation to possession of knives and weapons. They will be also be given guidance in relation to Police powers of Stop and Search, the young person/appropriate adult will also be handed relevant reference material.

Accommodation – Behnam Khazaeli, Commissioning and Quality Assurance

“A new model for the provision of supported housing for young people aged 16 to 25 years of age was developed through 2016 and 2017, with new services commencing in July 2018.

The strategic review of supported housing in Gateshead commenced in June 2016. The review included work with experts by experience and the market to consider new delivery options. In November 2017 the decision was made to progress the procurement of new Supported Housing services for young people, aged 16 to 25, based on an agreed service model. These services, termed “SAILS”, commenced in July 2018 and offer a range of provision, including on-site psychological interventions for young people with mental health or complex needs.”

SAILS

There are four providers offering six distinct services within the model:

- Needs Assessment Service – “Front Door” service located out of the 20-bed provision at Eslington House in Teams; includes in-reach and out-reach assessment. Service provided by Changing Lives.
- Shared Living Service – located out of the 13-bed provision at Alexandra Road Centre (formerly Oakwell); 24-hour support for medium to high need and includes on-site clinicians. Service provided by Home Group.
- Semi-Independent Living Service – located out of the 4-bed provision at Poplar Crescent; non-24-hour support for medium to low need. Service provided by Home Group.
- Dispersed Housing – four properties located in central and east Gateshead; four hours of floating support per week for medium to low need. Service provided by Home Group.
- Supported Lodgings – eight to 12 placements for LAC or Care Leavers with medium to low need in the homes of host families. Service provided by Barnardo’s.
- Taster Flats – 30 properties located across Gateshead, two hours of floating support per week for low need, including Care Leavers. Service provided by The Gateshead Housing Company.

Resources and Value for Money



The table below shows how the funding for the core YJS has changed between the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20, and how the current year's funding will be spent. Regular revenue monitoring meetings take place with the budget holder alongside audit regulations and checks which remain in place to ensure that the Council has a system for monitoring YJB Grant Conditions.

Core YJS

	2018/19 Budget			2019/20 Budget			Difference £'000
	Cash £'000	In-Kind £'000	Total £'000	Cash £'000	In-Kind £'000	Total £'000	
Income							
YJB Grants	383	0	383	382	0	382	-1
Police	0	54	54	0	79	79	25
Probation	5	44	49	5	47	52	3
Health	62	27	89	62	29	91	2
Gateshead MBC	616	0	616	596	0	596	-20
	1,066	125	1,191	1,045	155	1,200	9
Expenditure							
Salaries	1,011	125	1,136	1,007	155	1,162	26
Activity	42	0	42	23	0	23	-19
Overheads	12	0	12	14	0	14	2
Equipment	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
	1,066	125	1,191	1,045	155	1,200	9

Remand

	2018/19 Budget			2019/20 Budget			Difference £'000
	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Cash	In-Kind	Total	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Income							
YJB Grants	36	0	36	45	0	45	9
	36	0	36	45	0	45	9
Expenditure							
YOI Recharge	36	0	36	45	0	45	9
	36	0	36	45	0	45	9

The YJB grant is unchanged and specific grants for restorative justice and unpaid work have not been received for some time.

The Police and Crime Commissioner YJS Grant is no longer automatically allocated, so is not shown in the budget, although bids may be accepted for specific project work. The YJS has a full-time seconded police officer and a second short-term secondment.

The National Probation Service contribution is unchanged at £5K, in addition to which the services of a full-time seconded probation officer is received and unchanged from previous years.

The cash contribution the YJS receives from health has maintained at the same amount, alongside staff provision at a similar level.

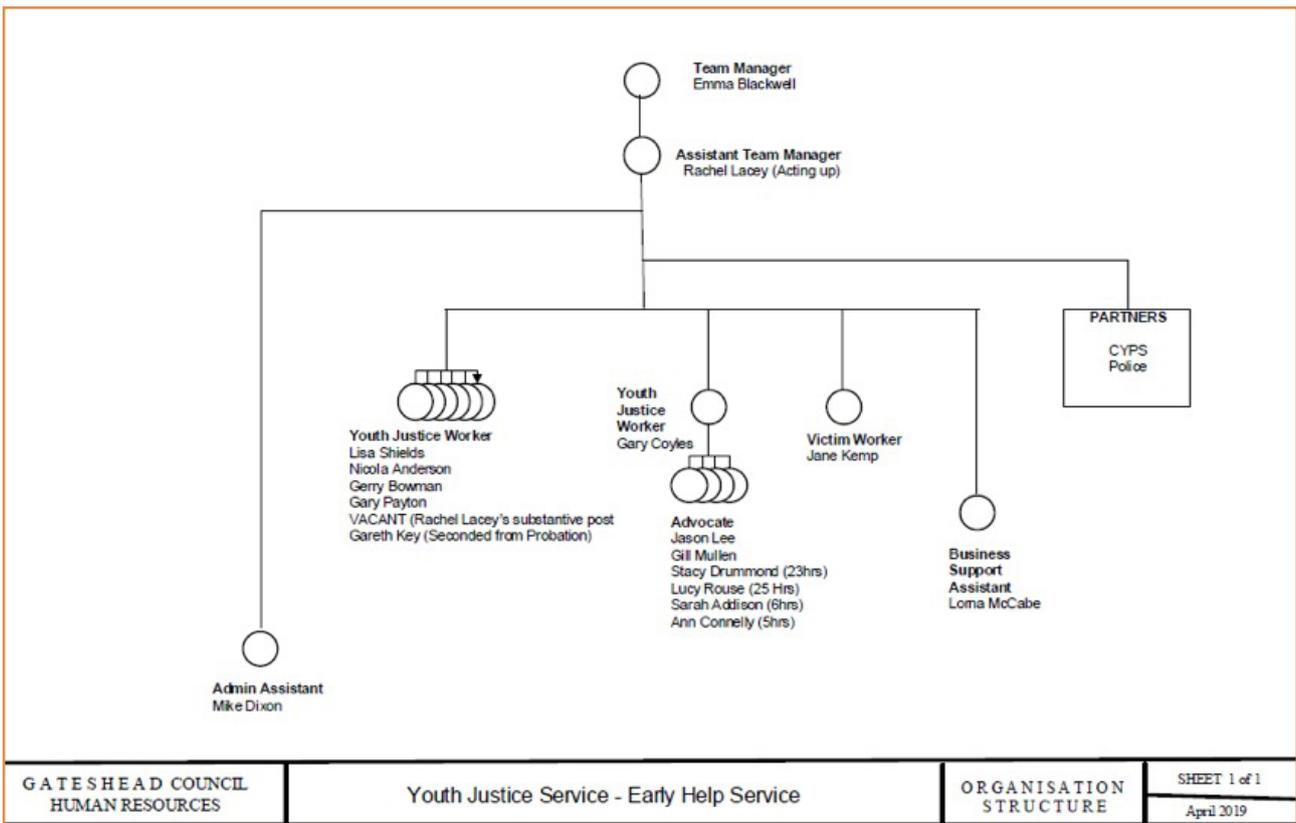
Remand

The increase in remand grant is due to the time lag in reflecting remand bed usage in recent years. The amount allocated would fund 186 nights in a youth offending institution at £240 per night, or 73 nights in a secure training centre at £612 per night.

We have previously successfully managed young people in the community under bail conditions, and therefore generally have a low use of the remand budget.



YJS Staffing Structure



Volunteers

We currently have a diverse team of 19 active volunteers who perform the role of community representatives on “Referral Order Panels”, as set out in the Criminal Evidence Act (1999). They have varying experiences of the criminal justice system and have all received appropriate training to carry out their roles. A number of our volunteers have been working with us over several years to help provide PACE. Retention of volunteers within YJS continues to be strong. More recently, volunteers have been involved in the newly developed Out of Court Disposal Panel and will be central to the scrutiny process which is currently being developed. Volunteers are part of the YJB and will be engaged in future development work.

Key Priorities 2019/20

- To further strengthen the YJB, through development sessions which will include reviewing the terms of reference in line with YJB guidance.
- To set up a scrutiny panel for Out of Court Disposals which will report into the Board to improve accountability. The scrutiny panel will include Board members and volunteers to provide more objectivity and independence.
- To develop a digital forum where young people can access information and support through mobile technology.
- To further develop case audits to include trauma informed working and Enhanced Case Management approaches to ensure this new learning is incorporated into assessment and planning of cases.
- To increase the identification of speech and language difficulties of young people and develop effective methods of addressing these.





Risks to future delivery

- As more young people are successfully diverted away from the Criminal Justice System via early intervention work, those who remain are increasingly complex with greater and challenging needs.
- If the low-level use of remand and custody is not maintained, pressure is placed upon the secure accommodation budget. Remand costs remain an area of risk as this is dependent on several factors mainly outside of our control, including the nature and seriousness of the offences committed where alternatives to custody may not be appropriate. Future remand costs cannot be reliably forecast.
- Statutory partners continue to have significant budget reductions to absorb and this may in turn reduce their capability to maintain YJS funding contributions and/or lead to removal of seconded staff in the future.





What do people say about us?

We recognise that the views of young people and victims are extremely important as this can improve and inform service delivery and outcomes for clients. Twice a year the Board receives feedback from young people, parents/carers and victims. This information is used to identify areas of development and to challenge practice at a strategic and operational level. The service proactively offers every young person, parent or carer and victim the opportunity to take part in an exit interview.

Victims

Every identified victim is contacted by the Victim Liaison Officer to be offered support and the opportunity to take part in the restorative process. Each victim is given the chance to feedback by an exit survey at the end of the intervention. If a conference takes place all parties are asked to complete an evaluation form. The YJS also receives feedback from groups and organisations which it has supported through reparative projects.

What some victims have said about their experience of the service:

"The whole process was very satisfactory, and it was seen through from beginning to the end and I was updated throughout the whole process. I felt listened to and made to feel that my views matter."

"Thank you for sending this form and the letter enclosed. The Victim Officer who contacted us was very nice, easy to talk to and understood our comments regarding what had happened and how we wanted the boy concerned to know how we felt. The letter from him made us feel better to know your service is helping him in a positive way."

"I was satisfied because we were listened to regarding a restorative job relating to the incident."

"The service was very good with prompt contact from the YOT who explained everything. The reparation was arranged quickly and without hassle. The young person did everything that I asked."

"I was pleased to receive a letter of apology."

Following a face to face restorative conference a young person said, ***"I found this good because I feel I can move on and also that I am not thinking about it all the time. It was a really good experience, they explained everything to me."*** The victim of the same conference said, ***"I hope this (the conference) has helped the young person to reflect on his actions and can move on and make a better life for himself."***

Parents

The YJS completes exit interviews with parents and carers to ensure that we can improve our service following their comments or views. Information from the most recent report indicates all parents and carers understood why their child was subject to intervention and they all had a say in what their child was asked to do as part of their plan. Every parent or carer understood the plan and agreed with it.

Parents and carers felt that they were listened to and their views were taken seriously, they felt they were included in their child's intervention. Where education and substance misuse issues were identified all parents and carers felt that their child had received help with this. Parents and carers largely felt that where offending behaviour and victim impact interventions were completed that their child had showed an understanding of this work and the impact of their behaviour on others.

88% felt their child would make better decisions in the future.

"I think the YOT have been great, and his case manager has really turned my son around. Reparation staff have also had a positive effect on my son's behaviour."

"Everything was smashing, case workers A and B both obviously have a lot of life experience with these types of kids, Case worker A maybe more as he is older!"

"The case manager was brilliant, he talked to him and supported him throughout his order. He attended court on each occasion and that was good."

"The case manager was easy to talk to, he spent time getting to know my son and they had a good relationship. The case manager worked with me and my son and my family and helped to support us through the intervention, we only wish it had been over a longer period."

Young Person Feedback

Young people finishing their interventions with the YJS are asked to share their views. In the last reported period all young people understood why they were working with the service. Over 95% of young people felt their views were taken seriously and understood the consequences of not attending for appointments. Where accommodation and substance misuse were identified as an issue for the young person in all cases the young people felt they got the help they required. Young people who completed offending behaviour work felt that it was helpful, and 96% of young people felt the victim awareness work they had completed helped them understand the impact on the victim.

The exit interview data shows that young people in Gateshead feel they are listened to, they found staff helpful and that due to the interventions they had completed their situation had improved and they would make better decisions in the future.

Young people's views and opinions are central to our work. We ensure that we listen to young people at all stages of their interventions with us. These are some of the comments the young people have made;

"I believe that writing an apology is fair as I have done something bad."

"My views are that they (Gateshead Youth Justice Service) have been fair with what they have chosen me to do and I respect it."

"I think that this will really help me and will show me never to do this again."

"I just want to thank you for making me feel welcome in the meetings we had, and it is very easy to get along and express how I feel, thanks."

"Everything has gone alright, I haven't got into any more bother, I think it's because of this (YOT)."

He went on to say that he had a good relationship with his case manager and could talk to him because he trusted him.

"Proper happy, it has changed my life."

Case Study 1

The young person stated that he had an excellent relationship with his case manager and that he felt that he had helped him a lot over the past two and half years. He said that he had been pushed to do things that he wouldn't do himself through his case manager motivating, encouraging and believing in him and that he couldn't explain or show how much he appreciated it. The young person spoke about the 'sh*t' he went through and described this as his worst time and the first person he turned to was his case manager who helped him and was there for him.

The young person stated that despite going through some difficulties with the Service he understood that they were trying to help him and where they were coming from and he knows that he could talk to anyone in the team. The young person spoke about his reparation sessions and felt that his reparation worker made the sessions so much better as she was "straight to the point, good craic and fun" which made it easier, but understood the importance of giving back to the community and paying back due to his bad behaviour.

Case Study 2

The young person was 14 years old and had been involved in an assault against a peer. When asked about the intervention work she had completed she said that the work had a massive impact on her, "she had not realised the harm she could have done and the impact on the victim." She said that she had "built a good trusting relationship with her case manager and had liked the opportunity to talk to someone, people (in the YJS) cared for me and wanted to help." She said that because of our Service she had "changed a lot, about my behaviour and attitude, I think it has really helped us." As part of reparation she had been involved in planting tomatoes and bean seeds, she said she "had really liked it, I enjoyed being away from everything and doing something different, I didn't realise tomatoes came from seeds."

Views of Young People who have been in custody

Young people in the secure estate often have complex needs and difficult behaviours. It is recognised that there are challenges in the secure estate around violence and self-harm and to be proactive we engage with young people in custody about these issues. We have a low use of custody; however, when young people are placed in secure facilities the ongoing responsibility to the young person should continue and support is offered to them throughout their entire sentence. Young people in custody have their voices heard in planning meetings and using advocates. In addition, we have provided additional safeguarding procedures and checks. Each young person in custody is visited by a manager to ascertain their views on their safety, welfare, needs and wellbeing. This provides robust oversight of the young person's needs whilst in custody and to ensure that any issues which are identified can be swiftly addressed by the management of the secure facility. The Board monitor these interviews to ensure the young person is listened to at each stage of their sentence.



Contact Us

Gateshead Youth Justice Service
Early Help
Civic Centre
Gateshead Council, NE8 1HH

Our opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday	8:30am – 5.00pm
Friday	8.30am – 4.30pm
Saturday Reparation / Constructive activity and on call Court	8.30am – 4.30pm
Sunday ISS / constructive activity – as required	8.30am – 4.30pm

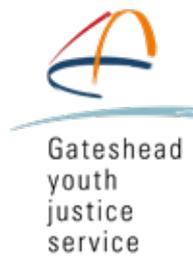
Tel: 0191 433 3000 • Fax: 0191 433 4548

Service Manager

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How to find Gateshead Youth Justice Service





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All images in this publication are taken from artwork created by young people known to Gateshead Youth Justice Service.

