

Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Annual Plan 2023 / 24

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Foreword by Chair of Sefton's Youth Justice Partnership

Having been Chair of the Sefton's Youth Justice for a year now, I am pleased to see greater partnership contributions to the Youth Justice Service (YJS). Our Cohort Profiles and audits have prompted in depth discussion and subsequent action by the Partnership. Education and Health Services in particular have created additional capacity within YJS to support vulnerable children and we will review the impact that this will make. We have strengthened our connections across the Partnership focusing on child voice and how we can promote this through the support of Sefton Community and Voluntary Services. The YJS move into wider Children's Services was welcomed by the YJS and partners, providing a greater level of assurance that Children's Service are aligned and well presented at the Partnership.

As a Partnership we remain concerned about the level of complexity across the cohort. We know from several audits and case studies that many children have had access to a number of services prior to entering the Criminal Justice System. We welcome the opportunities that the Ministry of Justice Turnaround Project will bring and look forward to the evaluations that will evidence what works to protect children from an early stage. We are grateful to the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership for the funding that has enabled the YJS to develop the Community Youth Connectors Project, which supports girl's emotional wellbeing having identified particular issues relating to girls within a case mapping exercise. This evidences our partnership response to youth justice case mapping and audit findings.

As a Partnership we are committed to delivering prevention work equipped with the knowledge of the impact of wider contextual safeguarding concerns such as domestic abuse, mental health and child criminal exploitation may have within the family unit. We understand the impact this has on children and siblings and have escalated our concerns to Local Authority senior leaders to influence current developments within the early intervention and prevention agenda. We are joined up with other partnership groups such as the Early Help Partnership, Sefton Safer Together and the Contextual Safeguarding Group to represent our Partnership and maximise opportunities to horizon scan and benchmark good practice. We also share our learning that we have achieved through our case mapping and audits.

Our performance against the National Indicators is pleasing although we recognise that some serious offences have been committed for which children have been remanded and sentenced to custody. Keeping children and our communities safe remains our priority. We welcome the new suite of Key Performance Indicators and how understanding our performance against these will enable us to make further improvements across the Partnership. We are committed to improvement and where necessary we will escalate barriers to platforms such as the Children's Improvement Board and Sefton's Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

The new Oversight Framework will provide external scrutiny which will further strengthen our overall awareness although I am confident that the YJS is aware of its strengths and areas to develop, which are articulated through the Service Development Plan shared with the Partnership. We further welcome the contributions from Jon Bradnum, the allocated YJB lead for the Oversight Framework. I am equally confident about the level of commitment and dedication by the whole Partnership to keep children safe, improve their outcomes and develop the Partnership further.

*Dawn McNally,
Superintendent Local Policing
Sefton, Merseyside Police*

1.Introduction, Vision and Strategy

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) requires each Local Authority to complete a Youth Justice Plan that sets out how local Youth Justice Services (YJS) will be delivered within the available resources. Sefton's Youth Justice Plan illustrates our ambition, plans and priorities for 2023 / 24. This plan will highlight achievements from last year and areas of work in development.

In April 2023, the YJS transitioned from the Communities Department into Children's Services. This transition is welcomed and has impacted on the team positively. We are now located in a new office within a main council building alongside Children Social Care Teams and Education. This has enabled the Team to forge stronger relationships with Children's Services colleagues and to be back in one team location. We recognise the benefits of agile and hybrid working, therefore there is flexibility for colleagues to work from home and other office locations, however office based working is the norm. This has supported team identity, learning and management support as colleagues are based together. We welcome senior manager support from Children's Services and we are led by the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, who has a children social care background. The Service Manager is part of the Senior Management Team and involved in the Children's Service improvement journey as well as reporting to the elected members for Children's Services and Education.

Our performance has remained stable across the last year. However, in March a child was convicted of a serious offence and was awarded a custodial sentence. This is the first time a child received a custodial sentence since early 2019.

Sefton YJS is committed to service improvement and we have delivered an Annual Audit Plan which has illuminated some good practice and areas to improve that have been escalated to the Youth Justice Partnership Board (the Board). The thematic audits have provided a much greater level of insight for partners and have also supported a funding bid for the Community Youth Connectors project which was put forward by the QA and Audit Officer, with manager's support. This followed concerns about girls emotional health and wellbeing and the new project offers early intervention for girls by connecting them with local offers and delivering emotional wellbeing support. The primary referrer is schools, and more is written about this at later in the plan (p16).

The Board is well attended by senior leaders from partnership agencies, who have received an induction so as to understand their responsibilities as board members. The Partnership is chaired by Dawn McNally, Superintendent of Local Policing for Sefton, Merseyside Police, who is a highly experienced officer with a strong understanding of Sefton as a borough and a wider partnership. Supt McNally brings welcomed robust challenge to the Board in addition to support for the Youth Justice agenda.

Sefton YJS has experienced some challenges across 2022 to 2023. We have experienced some unplanned absence in the team which has had a direct impact. Like wider Children's Services, we have experienced difficulty in recruiting qualified and suitably experienced staff, however we have welcomed two new case managers and have successfully appointed a new Operational Manager. After some months without a seconded Probation Officer we have welcomed a new officer for 0.5FTE.

1.1 Vision

The Partnership recognises the importance of having a vision that is ambitious and clearly identifies where our focus is. This Vision and Strategic Priorities were set in 2021 and were revised late 2022. Both remain relevant for our Partnership.

“Sefton Youth Justice Partnership is committed to working together to help children in Sefton thrive and to keep them safe. We will focus on preventing children from entering the criminal justice system, but when they do, we will strive to help them learn, make positive changes and build a more promising future.

Ensuring that we see children as children above anything else, we will listen to them and understand their individual needs and we will provide them with the best opportunity to succeed by drawing upon the full resources of our local partnership.

We also recognise that at times our children need robust support and supervision, and we will ensure we deliver a proportionate response to offending that helps keep our local communities safe and delivers justice to victims.”

1.2 Strategic Priorities

Our Partnership has collectively determined the Strategic Priorities that we work towards in our respective agencies and roles. These link to our vision and our operational planning and delivery should be influenced by these priorities.

- **Preventing offending & reoffending** - delivery of high quality, strength-based interventions across our partnership.
- **Listening to our children so we understand their individual needs.**
- **Continually reviewing and improving our services** - to ensure they meet the needs of our children and local communities.
- **Reducing inequality** and minimising the impact of custody and the wider criminal justice system.
- **Reducing the harm** caused by violent crime, criminal and sexual exploitation and association to gang culture.

At each Board, partners report on their achievements against one or more of these priorities outside of core business. This ensures that partners continue to focus on priorities.

We know that Sefton has issues with Organised Crime Groups who coerce and exploit young people into criminality. We welcome Sefton's new team My SPACE (Sefton Protection Against Child Exploitation) and we have developed a joint working agreement in how children will be managed that are within the youth justice cohort yet are presenting exploitation concerns. This is discussed further at page 23.

Throughout our involvement with the young person and their parents / carers, we ensure that they are at the heart of all plans and decision making and that they have a voice that is heard

and understood. We have adjusted our plans to ensure that they are child friendly and that the children co-produce their plans. Their voice is evident throughout the plans that support the young people to overcome barriers and enable them to achieve their full potential. We have met challenge regarding children's participation however have developed a survey to gain the views of children across the cohort and are working with our partners to develop ideas as to how to develop this area of work.

1.3 Local Context

Sefton is a metropolitan borough of Merseyside and its local authority is Sefton Council. The Borough consists of a coastal strip of land on the Irish Sea and extends from the primarily industrial area of Bootle in the south to the traditional seaside resort of Southport in the north. In the south-east it extends inland to Maghull. Sefton has an approximate area of some 155km².

Sefton has a population of approximately 275,899, with 24% of Sefton's population being 65 years old or over (65,463) and one in five being aged under 18 (54,098). Sefton is ranked 24th out of 309 local authorities for the number of residents aged 65 or over. Further detail is captured within Sefton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapters which are accessible via this link [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://sefton.gov.uk/jсна).

The most current population data we have is from Census 2021, which shows Sefton having:

- 71, 404 – Children & YP Aged: 0-24
- 27,017 – Children & YP Aged: 10-18
- 279,239 – Total residents

1.4 Cohort Profiles

Sefton Youth Justice Service have undertaken two cohort profiles during 22/23. The purpose of the analysis is to identify wider cohort themes and share with the Youth Justice Partnership to promote a shared response to the needs in the cohort. The cohort analysis completed in November showed an increase in Out of Court disposals with a total of 61% of the cohort, this reduced in the March profile with and increase in 5% increase in statutory orders.

Violence against a person remains the highest offence type across the cohort, a slight increase was seen in March cohort with 41% of the cohort having committed a violence offence. The May cohort highlighted knife crime as a concern, this has prompted further partnership consideration and has been raised through the Community Safety Partnership. The March 22/23 profile consisted of an older cohort with 54% aged 16 & 17, the younger cohort have more offences for violent behaviour compared to the 16 to 18 year olds who have more drug-related offences.

The cohort across the year shows over 50% of the cohort are living in the top 30% of the most deprived areas nationally. Over 30% live in the top 10%, this remains consistent across the cohort and highlights the wider familial needs. The level of need in the cohorts is representative of the number of children being supported through children social care plans, there has been an increase in cared for children and child in need plans. In comparison, the number of children and their families being supported through early intervention is low.

The prevalence of mental health concerns within the cohort across the year remains a focus of the Youth Justice Service and wider partnership. An average of 50% are currently experiencing

difficulties with their mental health, including attempt suicides and self-harm. In turn, this correlates with the number of children assessed as having high or very high safety and wellbeing in the Youth Justice Service.

Contextual safeguarding remains a priority for the Youth Justice Partnership, children at risk of exploitation and identified as having been referred through the National Referral Mechanism represents 25% of the cohort. There is ongoing partnership work through the contextual safeguarding sub-group to ensure multi-agency support awareness and support is being provided for children at risk.

The cohort profile raises awareness of the adverse childhood experiences of the children in the youth justice cohort, the cohort is presented to the youth justice partnership with the intention to provoke a partnership response to the cohort's wider needs. In respect of ACES, there continues to be an increasing incidence of domestic abuse and family relationship breakdown in the cohorts. There is wider awareness required to understand this further and the impact of domestic abuse and family dynamics on the children.

The latest cohort profile produced in March 2023 raised increased trends in children attending alternative provision and not engaged in the statutory offer of education. The cohort highlighted an increase in children aged 12-15 having a reduced offer of education and average attendance in mainstream being 47%. The profile also highlighted Maths and English educational attainment for 16 and 17-year-olds is a concern.

2. Child First

Sefton YJS has adopted a child first approach and will continue to evaluate whether the services we offer are child first and desistance focused.

The four child first principles and how we meet them are set out below:

1. **See children as children:** Our staff are trauma informed trained and evidence this within their assessments. We recognise that children have often experienced trauma that impacts on their wellbeing and behaviour. All of our work is child-focused and developmentally informed.
2. **Develop pro-social identity for positive child outcomes:** Our work focuses on the child's strengths and we actively seek to support the child in areas of interest for them. We recognise that education is a strong protective factor and work in collaboration with Education colleagues to ensure that children access their full education offer.
3. **Collaboration with children:** We encourage children's active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion. The child's voice is evidenced through the child's record and we are working hard to gain the wider voice to inform service decisions.
4. **Promote diversion:** We actively seek diversion opportunities and we welcome the opportunities that Turnaround brings in the context of understanding what works. We look forward to the evaluation of the Turnaround Project. We are developing our prevention functions and have received additional resources from Local Policing to support this. We have also bid to the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to fund a prevention project to support an overrepresented group, which we identified through our cohort profiles.

All of our engagement and interventions focus on supporting children to fulfil their potential and overcome barriers that they face. We undertake assessments to understand unmet need and utilise the strength of our partnership to deliver tailored interventions to support children. For example, our interventions focus on emotional regulation which will be further strengthened through our therapeutic offers. Due to exploitation concerns, we support children to understand what constitutes healthy relationship, what exploitation looks like and we deliver direct work relating to drug misuse. We raise the aspirations for children by focusing on their strengths and interests. We have excellent relationships with Sefton@work and Career Connect and make every effort to engage children in further education and skills development to promote their aspirations and pro social behaviour. We remain committed to Operation Inclusion to prevent children entering the criminal justice system and we are proud of our Out of Court Panel who review each child to ensure they get the right support. We have excellent links with Active Sefton and support children into positive activities through this service who also offer 1-2-1 support.

There is also a greater focus on exit strategies for children when they come to the end of their order or 'out of court' work. These strategies are well evidenced in children's records and include signposting and further offers of support,

3.Voice of the child

Sefton Youth Justice Service and the partnership have identified this as a key priority for 2023/24. The voice of individual children is captured well within their case records and throughout the child's plans. On an individual level, colleagues feel that the service captures the child's voice well, however it is more challenging to achieve this cohort wide or through their active participation in shaping our plans for the future. We are currently engaging with our voluntary sector to develop a plan for engagement, and the Service Manager has become a member of the Youth Voice Strategic Steering Group.

A key priority for YJS is to develop the level of children's participation. We have adjusted our plans and co-produce a child friendly version with the child so that they understand the plan. Children now receive a child friendly version of their plan so that they understand where they are up to and what to expect next. Across 2022, efforts were made to recruit a group of children to become consultees although we recognise that children can enter and exit the youth justice system relatively quickly and therefore a static group of consultees may not be appropriate. We sought advice from the Corporate Parenting Board's Making a Difference Group and reached out to young adults who were previous children with YJS. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful.

As the staffing strengths stabilise with newly recruited colleagues, a worker has been dedicated to developing youth voice and participation as a theme. We have developed an electronic survey however responses have been fairly low. We recognise that whilst a young person is within the service reflecting on their experience may be difficult. With this in mind a survey has been developed to gain feedback from young people who have transitioned to National Probation Service, this will enable a level of reflection once their involvement with YJS is complete.

4. Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

4.1 Sefton's Youth Justice Partnership

The Partnership is chaired by Sefton's Superintendent of Local Policing, Merseyside Police and provides governance for Sefton's youth justice arrangements. It links directly with other strategic boards including:

- Sefton Safeguarding Children Board
- Sefton Safer Together
- Children and Young People's Board
- Children's Improvement Board
- Corporate Parenting Board

The Board emphasises the significance of engagement and cooperation in the delivery of youth justice services. Partners represent a wide range of statutory and non-statutory organisations. The Board Terms of Reference and Membership are at Appendix A. The Board holds the YJS and partners to account by reviewing performance and service standards on a quarterly basis. Performance against the national indicators is reported to the Board and scrutinised by the Partnership. Progress against the YJS Service Development Plan is also reported at each board.

The Board has consistent attendance and membership. Education attendance and support has strengthened alongside Health input and support. Cabinet Members for Children's Services and Education are invitees who have offered support and provided welcomed challenge. Board members have been inducted so that they understand their responsibilities and the Inspection Framework. Partners are expected to understand the Strategic Priorities and provide examples as to how they achieve one or more of these, outside of their core business at each board. The operational staffing is shown at Resources and Services and the financial contributions are shown at Appendix B.

Since April 2023, the YJS is now located within Children's Services and is the responsibility of the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. A Service Manager operationally leads the service who has been in place for several years. The current remit of the Service Manager is currently changing due to the move to Children's Services as previously they operationally led other services in addition to YJS.

YJS also reports to the Cabinet Members for Children's Services and Education on a quarterly basis. At a regional level, the Sefton YJS is a member of the Merseyside Criminal Justice Board, the Youth Performance Improvement Group and the Merseyside Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel. Additionally, Sefton YJS is represented on the Merseyside Reducing Re-offending Subgroup, Merseyside Domestic Violence Strategy Subgroup, Hate Crime Subgroup, and the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Strategic Management Board. YJS also supports the Merseyside Child Death Overview Panel.

YJS supports Sefton's local priorities for young people captured in the Children's and Young People Plan and through the work of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership. YJS supports and contributes to the following thematic work streams which meet the objectives of the local priorities.

- Child Exploitation / Missing and Early Help Subgroups
- Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup
- Practice Review Panel
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Information Management and Governance Group
- Multi-agency Response to Threat Harm and Risk (MARTHUR)
- Children at Risk Multi Agency Conference
- Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Conference

4.2 Board Development

The Board has developed an understanding of the cohort as a result of our twice yearly Cohort Profile. This has encouraged partners to request further investigation of emerging trends or to explore concerns. The Board support the Annual Audit Plan which provides a thematic overview and assurance to the Partnership. Areas to develop are highlighted and included in the Service Development Plan, which is updated and reported quarterly. Performance reports and thematic audits enable the Partnership to monitor quality and effectiveness of the YJS partnership. Audits and case studies are reported at alternate partnership meetings with the Cohort Profile being a feature of the others. The case studies and audits that have been delivered over the last 12 months are:

- Female Cohort Mapping
- Out of Court Disposals (2 x quarterly audits, to continue to 4)
- Risk of Serious Harm and Safety and Wellbeing
- Serious Violence
- Violent Offences
- Transitions
- Victims
- Youth Justice Supporting Education
- Quality of Interventions (underway)
- Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System (underway)

The audits have developed the Board's insight and understanding of the cohorts needs which has enabled partners to act. As discussed at p16, the Female Cohort Mapping supported a Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership funding bid to commence the Community Youth Connectors which is proving to be a success and much needed project to support girl's emotional wellbeing.

The first quarterly Out of Court Disposal (Oct 22) audit highlighted some areas of concern that were addressed and performance improvement was evident in the second quarter (Feb 23). Workshops were held with the team to go through the audits so that all colleagues could learn from the findings.

The audits around Risk of Serious Harm and Violence sparked concern when it was identified that there were common characteristics across the cohort of children reviewed. An Extraordinary Board meeting was held on 19th April to review the findings in greater depth, so as to identify what was within the partners sphere of control, what was a barrier and what the agreed actions were to address barriers. Partners developed some short, mid and long term

ambitions which will be reported to the Board and the Safeguarding Children's Board. The presentation and case study were also shared with the Operational Partnership Group and practitioners views were captured in the report.

A report was submitted via the Partnership Chair to the Safeguarding Children's Board, Senior Leaders and Cabinet Members to raise questions to address systemic issues relating to the wider partnership's ability to intervene early and make a positive difference. At the time of writing, wider service reviews are ongoing within Children's Services.

To address concerns raised in the cohort profiles, Education colleagues engage in monthly discussions around each child receiving less than the 25hrs offer. In addition, Education has provided an Education Attendance officer 1 day per week to support the team as well as funding to recruit a full time Education Co-ordinator. Likewise, raising concerns around children's mental health at the Partnership has supported YJS to secure funding for a Mental Health Nurse two days per week in addition to a senior health colleague to offer consultation and direct work, one day per week. The YJS is grateful for the support from the Partnership.

For the year ahead, we will deliver Board development sessions. The first is booked for 5th July which will focus on the YJB Oversight Framework. We will also deliver sessions on the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System and revisit Child First Principles. The YJB lead for the North has kindly offered to support the Board to understand their key responsibilities.

4.3 Merseyside Youth Justice Services

Within Merseyside, there are six boroughs, and each has a YJS. Each YJS lead along with the lead for Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington YJS form the Greater Merseyside Youth Justice Strategic Leads Collaboration.

The YJS Leads meet every 8-12 - weeks and aim to:

- Promote value in all YJS functions and resource management
- Use strategic intelligence to develop an informed and collaborative approach to improve effectiveness and practice across Greater Merseyside
- Promote effectiveness regarding safeguarding and public protection across Greater Merseyside.

This group along with the Youth Performance Improvement Group (YPIG) are key forums for collaboratively driving forward developments in youth justice practice with our partners.

5. Progress on Previous Plan

Despite the challenges that YJS have experienced across the last year, we have achieved the following:

- Strengthened relationships across the Partnership and in particular with Education and Health Colleagues
- Engaged with Health through a Steering Group and supported recruitment relating to the Enhanced Case Management model due to commence in Sefton in June for YJS and MySPACE

- Continued to deliver quality services despite being under resources through unplanned absence and recruitment barriers across the last year
- Successfully transitioned into Children's Services under new leadership and co-located into new office space
- Managed some highly vulnerable, complex children and developed our learning around specialist areas including Counter Terrorism
- Received excellent feedback from the Courts relating to the quality of our Pre Sentence Reports
- Two colleagues received a Police Commendation as a result of their commitment and hard work relating to two separate vulnerable child who committed serious offences
- Successfully mobilised the Turnaround Project and was requested by the MOJ to support another Local Authority having demonstrated good practice in the mobilisation phase
- Recruited to and mobilised the Community Youth Connector Project which is proving highly successful
- Developed Partnership insight into the YJ cohort
- Delivered a series of case studies to the Partnership and other settings (Operational Partnership Board, Children and Young People Board, Suicide Prevention Group)
- Delivered training to CSC colleagues including the Newly Qualified Social Work Academy relating to YJS as a service but also findings from our case studies
- We have welcomed a 3rd Police Officer into our team to support with Prevention and Diversion
- We have prepared ourselves to report against the new KPI's including supported staff with Data Recording Workshops to ensure that we are ready to report against the new KPI's
- We have improved performance across Out of Court Disposals and will be tracking this across the next year
- Contributed to the mental health support snapshot produced by Public Health and delivered a dramatised training session to promote children's mental health awareness across the partnership
- Utilised our knowledge of the cohort to support funding bids to secure additional resources and encourage partnership support, in particular 1x day per week Education Attendance officer, 3.5 x days per week of Mental Health support.
- Welcomed a Volunteer Mentor into the service

6. Resources and Services

The YJS sits within Children's Services (since April 23) and utilises the Youth Justice Board Core Grant and partnership financial contributions to deliver core youth justice services. The grant and contributions including those from the PCC are solely used by the YJS in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The PCC grant supports the delivery of community resolutions to divert children away from the Criminal Justice System and contribute to safer communities. The YJB grant also supports staff development including contributions to the Collaborative Training Group which produces a plan signed off by Merseyside Youth Justice Services.

We use our grant, partnership resources and available resources to deliver youth justice services to reduce reoffending, prevent offending and reduce first time entrants, prevent children from custodial sentences and increase children's safety and wellbeing, In addition, the work that we deliver encourages children to access education, engage in further education, training and employment and support good health outcomes both physically and mentally. We continue to strive for improvement and review our services and performance throughout the year, primarily through performance data and service reviews through audits. We transparently report our performance to the Partnership as well as deliver workshops with the wider team. We work closely with our partners to identify areas to improve who support our wider performance.

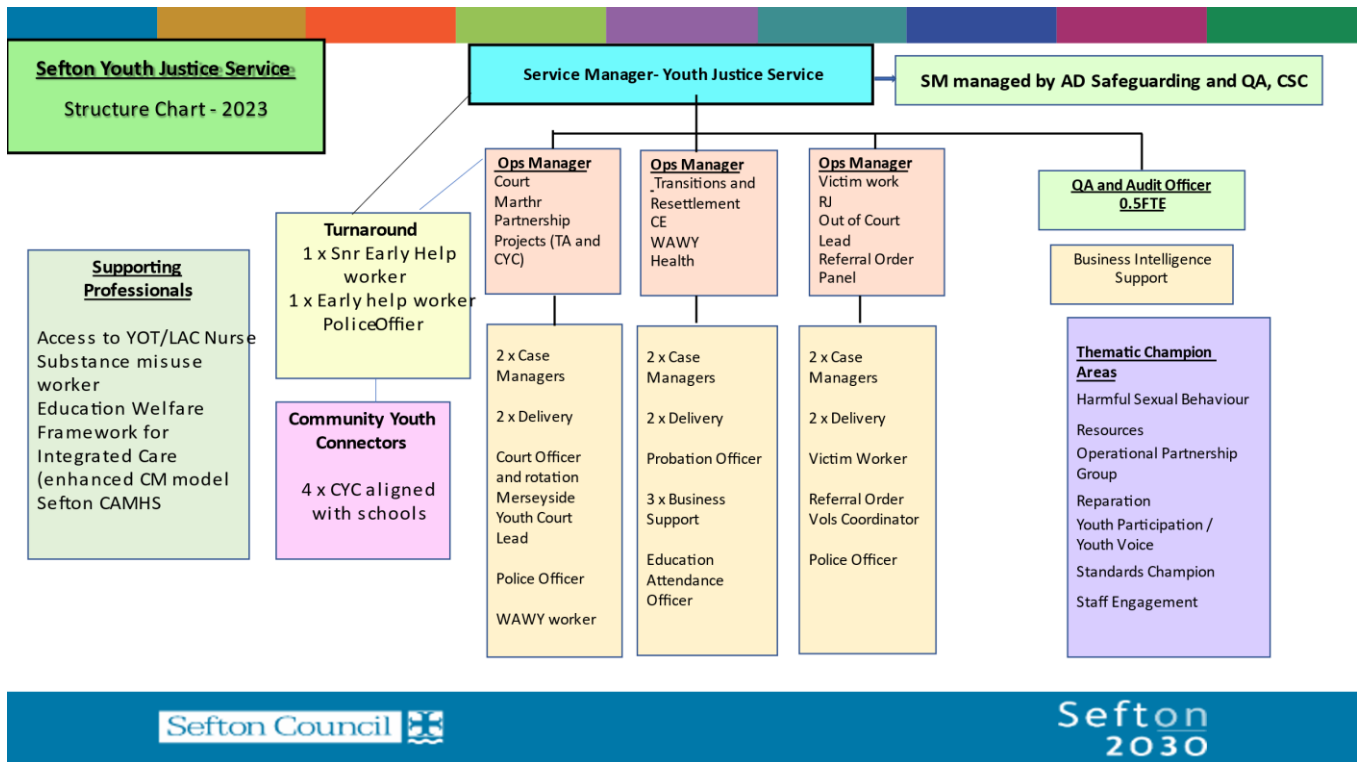
Our performance is detailed in the next section.

The Youth Justice Budget is shown at Appendix B.

The YJS Service Manager has statutory responsibility to lead the YJS and review budgets, service delivery, quality and performance. There is a continued commitment to service improvement which is mirrored by the YJS whole team. The wider team includes partners as highlighted in the Team Structure (below) demonstrating compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act.

The YJS structure (core grant YJS structure plus externally funded Turnaround and Community Youth Connectors projects) is illustrated at Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Structure Chart



The YJS management team comprising of a Service Manager and three Operational Managers has been stable with managers remaining in posts for a considerable time. One manager had long term sickness and is sadly no longer with us, therefore that work was absorbed across the management team during most of 2022. A step up opportunity was considered in October 2022 however there were existing Case Manager vacancies and recruiting to those was proving difficult, therefore the decision was not to offer the short term position to prevent destabilising the team further.

We have 6 Case Managers (including 3 social workers) and have welcomed two new colleagues in April and May of this year. We have 6 Delivery Staff with one colleague who has had long term sickness. We are in the process of recruiting a Victim and Restorative Justice Worker after a long term post holder retired in June 23. We have 0.5FTE QA and Audit Officer and access to support from the centralised Business Intelligence Team.

We have access to a Dedicated Cared For and YJS Nurse Service and drop in appointment sessions are convened across the borough, easily accessible for children. We have had six months without a seconded Probation Officer which was resolved in May 23 when we welcomed a new Probation colleague. We have good relationships with Career Connect and Sefton@work who support children into further education, training and employment and they are represented at the Partnership.

We have two Police Officers embedded within the team one is funded through Supporting Families. We have welcomed a third Police Officer who will support the developing prevention offer through the Turnaround and Community Youth Connectors projects and will support children accessing MySPACE. We have three Business Support colleagues with only one person joining us after another colleague left after many years of service.

We have access to substance misuse workers (Change Grow Live, previously We are With You) and during the latter part of 2022 We are With You were prepared to second a member of staff to our team, however, were unable to successfully recruit. We also work alongside Venus who are a local charity offering Youth Justice therapeutic support which has been popular. In addition, the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership has provided some funding for therapeutic support which has enabled Alderhey to second a member of staff for two days a week. This member of staff will deliver consultation for staff, assessment and direct work for children.

We also welcome an Education Attendance worker (provided from Education Excellence) who will provide support to YJS, this arrangement commenced in May 23.

We have very recently recruited a new volunteer to be a Mentor for children, they are a trained Learning Coach and are committed to supporting children to fulfil their potential. This volunteer is in addition to the Referral Order Panel who we are grateful to for their time and dedication.

6.1 Turnaround

In December 2022 we successfully mobilised the Turnaround Project, which is a Ministry of Justice funded project designed deliver early intervention and improve outcomes for children on the cusp of entering the youth justice system. This has enabled Sefton YJS to work with a cohort of children not currently on our statutory caseload or supported through our Out of Court process. The link to the guidance which contains all information relating to the programme and eligibility is here [Turnaround Programme Guidance](#) .

Sefton YJS does not already have a bespoke prevention service within the team therefore there was a requirement to quickly create posts, recruit and secure all the necessary strategic and operational support to mobilise the project and deliver services to a target number of children within the first quarter. We achieved this and developed pathways to quickly identify children that met the eligibility criteria for the project. We have worked with external providers to deliver creative and innovative services that are new offers for the YJS.

We have further strengthened partnership arrangements with Police and Children Social Work colleagues in developing the referral pathways into Turnaround. Whilst the cohort sits outside the core YJS cohort, the vulnerabilities mirror those that children on statutory orders experience. This has prompted conversations with senior leaders relating to the current early intervention and prevention offer for 10-18 years old and how this can be strengthened to meet this cohort's needs.

6.2 Community Youth Connectors

In 2022, we successfully bid for £145k funding from the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to deliver a service to girls who experience emotional wellbeing concerns and are at risk of offending and other risks such as exploitation. This bid was produced in response to concerns that were raised following a case mapping audit of girls in the YJS cohort. We found that a number of girls, particularly from the Southport Area had self-harm and emotional wellbeing concerns and this was shared with the Partnership.

The funding enabled the recruitment of 4 Community Youth Connectors, resources and an Awareness Raising Event for children with emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns. The Event was delivered in March 23. The Connectors are in place and aligned with schools in

the north and south of the borough that were identified as those schools were girls with concerns were attending as well as linking to the demographics for areas of deprivation.

The project has been welcomed by schools and the Connectors are actively involved with a number of girls (approx. 40 at the time of writing) and their families who are benefitting from support around wellbeing, self-care and coping strategies. It has been noted early on that the transition into Secondary School is a particularly worrying time for girls and the Connectors have been able to offer support at transition stage and accompany girls on visits. Girls knowing that the Connectors are also working in their soon to be Secondary School is a comfort for them, knowing support is available with a trusted professional.

The intention for the year ahead is to present a further bid to extend the offer to schools in the central part of the Borough and to include boys too.

6.3 Resource Risk

Sefton YJS does have some gaps, particularly with embedded partners although we do have access to partner's service as already noted. We do not have a Business and Performance Manager although the 0.5FTE QA and Audit Officer and access to support from the centralised Business Intelligence Team enables some of those functions to take place.

There are further risks relating to the capacity within the Educational Psychologist team to support YJS despite us having access to funding. Capacity issues are widespread across many sectors including Educational Psychologists who have also experienced difficulties in recruitment. Venus has also experienced capacity issues and from March 23 were unable to accept referrals until the end of May. This was mitigated through triage arrangements where the most urgent referrals were accepted during this time.

Our substance misuse work was previously delivered by We Are With You. For approximately 1 year, we had no dedicated worker despite attempts to recruit. The contract has now changed to Change Grow Live and they have just recruited a worker who will be dedicated to our team.

7. Performance

This section covers our performance which has been stable across the last year. We are aiming to maintain stability and perform well across the new Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). This section also provides a narrative relating to the new KPI's.

First Time Entrants Actual Numbers Oct 21 to Sept 22

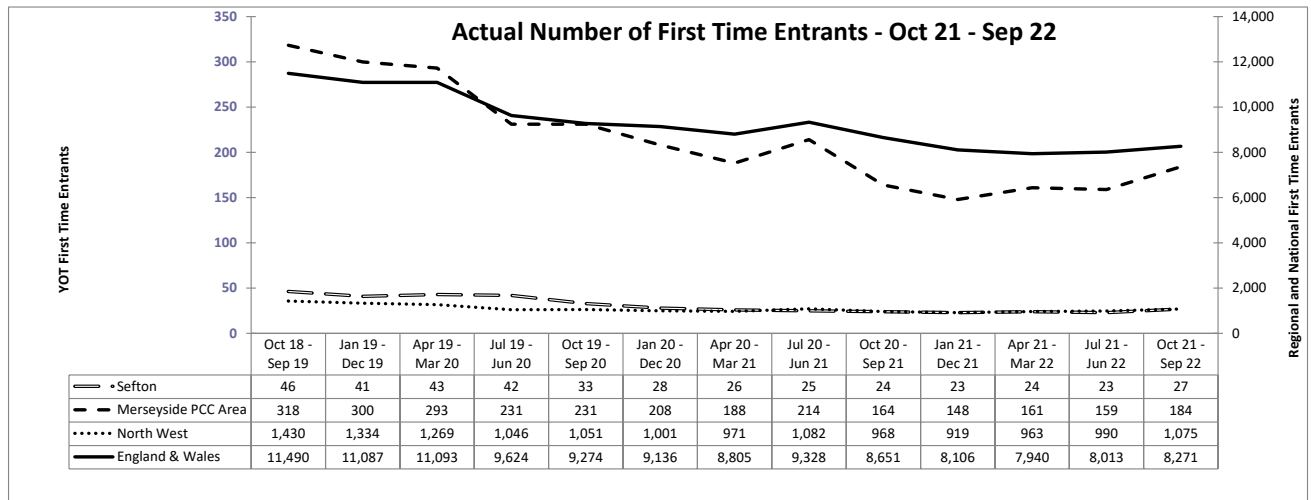


Chart 1.

Chart 1 shows a decrease in the number of FTE's. During the period of Oct 21 – Sept 22 there were 27 FTE's compared with 24 during Oct 20 – Sept 21 a reduction of three.

Custody Rate (per 1,000) – January 22 to December 22

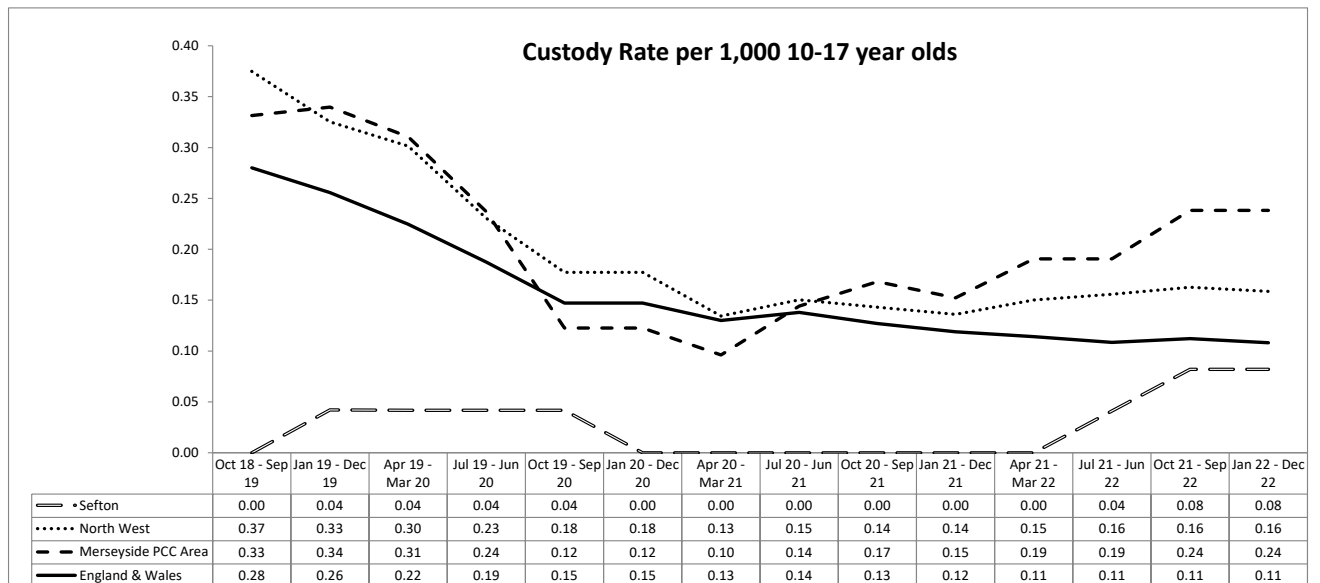


Chart 2.

Chart 2 shows during January 22 to December 22 there were 0.08 young people sentenced to custody, an increase of 0.08 compared with the same period during the previous year.

Reoffending Rate – April 20 to March 21

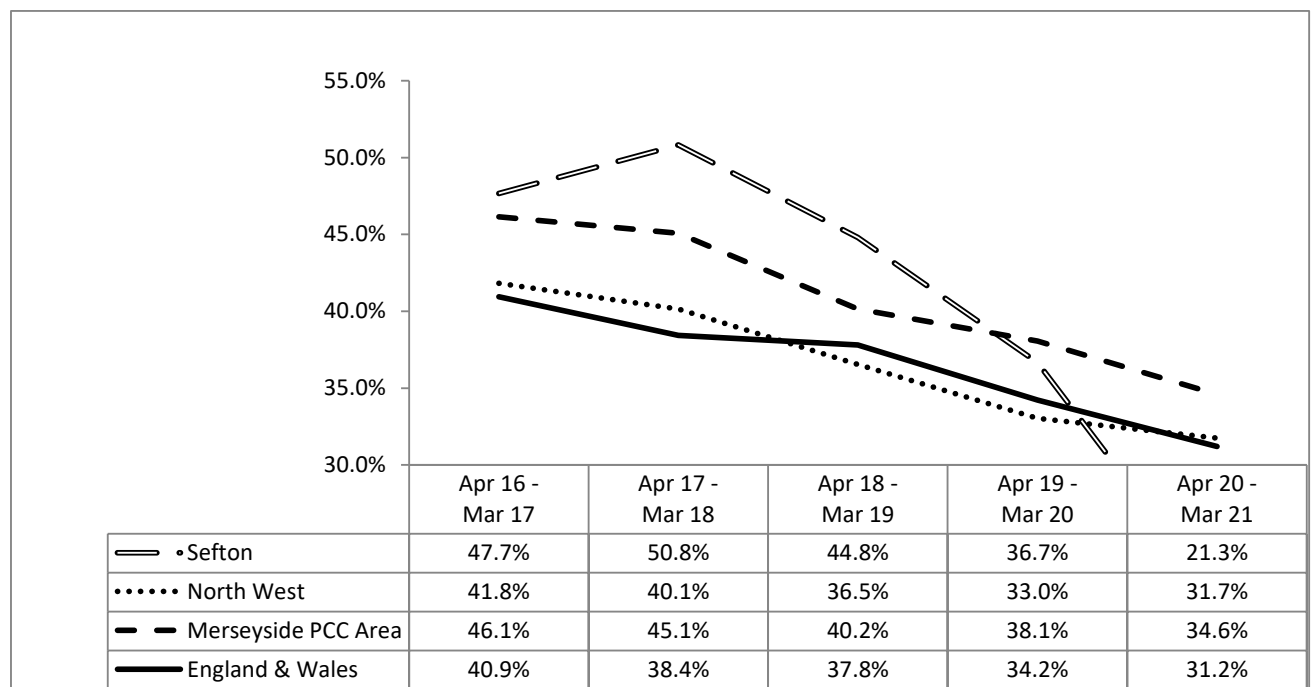


Chart 3.

Chart 3 shows during April 20 to March 21 Sefton's reoffending rate was 21.3% the lowest rate of the over the last five years.

New Key Performance Indicators for 2023/24

From April 2023 the Youth Justice Board (YJB) requires YJS's to record and report upon a set of additional KPI's. Due to delays in system upgrades the first submission of additional KPI's to the YJB has been postponed until August 2023.

Suitable Accommodation

Recording suitability of accommodation has greatly improved, however, a few cases are being recorded as Unknown. To assist with consistent and accurate recording a KPI recording checklist including recording instructions has been circulated to staff and monthly KPI data quality reports are supplied to managers. Case managers and delivery staff will require guidance from managers in deciding if accommodation is suitable or unsuitable and ensuring any new staff members are trained on Child View.

Education Training & Employment

Sefton Local Tracking 2021/22 to 2022/23

First Time Entrants (FTE's)

First time entrants to the criminal justice are classified as offenders, who receive their first reprimand, warning, caution or conviction. Figures 1 and 2 show during 2021/22 and 2022/23 there were 17 FTE's. In 2021/22, 13 FTE's received a statutory outcome and 4 received a non-statutory outcome compared to 2022/23 where 15 FTE's received a statutory outcome and 2 received a non-statutory outcome.

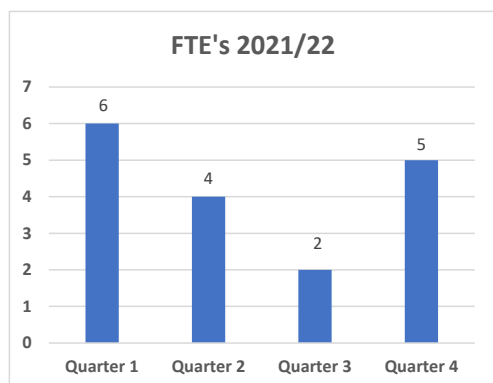


Figure 1.

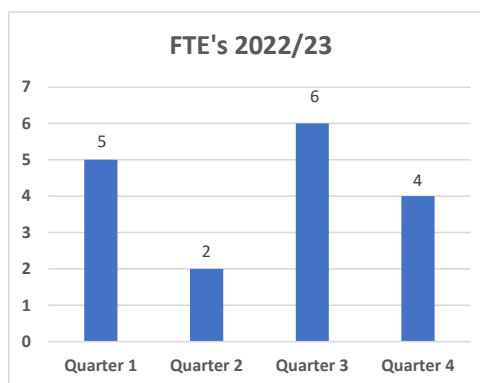


Figure 2.

Offence Types	No. Offence Types 2021/22	% Offence Types 2021/22	No. Offence Types 2022/23	% Offence Types 2022/23	% Increase / Decrease
Assault	5	29%	7	41%	12%
Murder	0	0%	1	6%	6%
Possess knife / offensive weapon in a public place	4	24%	3	18%	-6%
Motoring Offence	4	24%	1	6%	-18%
Robbery 6	2	12%	1	6%	-6%
Possess a controlled drug of Class B - Cannabis / Cannabis Resin 2	2	12%	2	12%	0%
Use threatening / abusive / insulting words / behaviour with intent to cause fear of / provoke unlawful violence 2	0	0%	1	6%	6%
Send by public communication network an offensive / indecent / obscene / menacing message / matter 2	0	0%	1	6%	6%
Total No. of FTE's	17		17		

Figure 3.

Figure 3. above lists offence types committed by FTE's during 2021/22 and 2022/23.

During 2021/22 five (29%) FTE's committed an offence involving assault, compared with seven (41%) during 2022/23, a 12% increase. One FTE during 2022/23 committed murder, this FTE was not previously known to Sefton YJS.

During 2021/22 four (24%) FTE's committed an offence involving a knife/offensive weapon compared with three (18%) during 2022/23, a 6% reduction.

Custody Rates

Custody Rate is the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence. During 2021/22 there were no children sentenced to custody. Figure 4. shows during 2022/23 there were two children sentenced to custody, one during Q1 2022/23, this child was from another local authority and has been entered due to statistical accuracy. The child in Q4 was the responsibility of Sefton, previously unknown to Sefton YJS and sentenced to 8 years for murder.

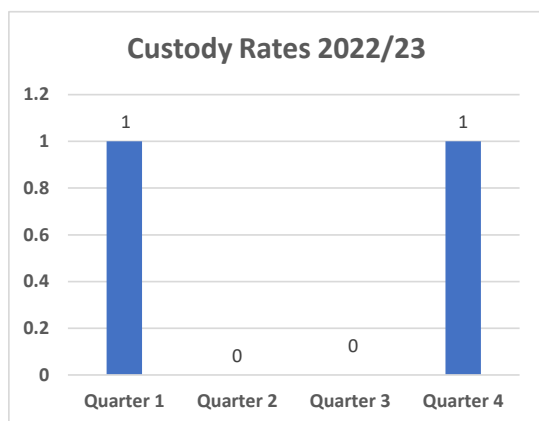


Figure 4.
Re-offending Rates

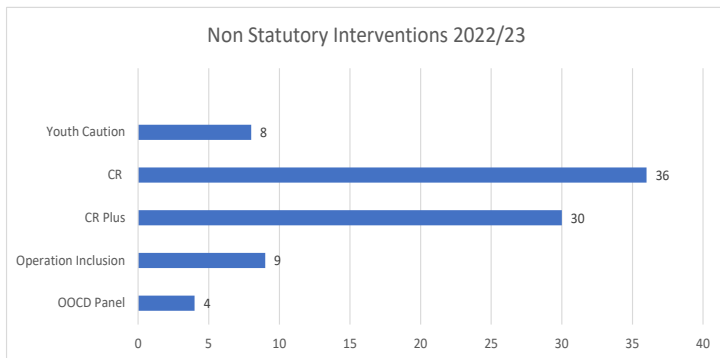
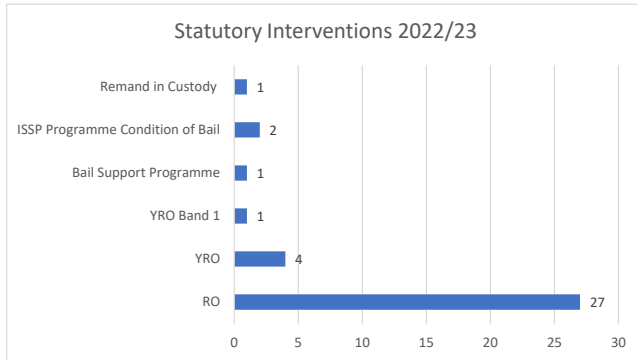
Re-offending is defined as the percentage of those young people who have re-offended from an identified cohort of first offenders. Figure 5. identifies cohorts from January to March of the previous financial year and monitors those young people at three monthly intervals.

January to March Informal Actions / Outcome 21	2017/18 Cumulative Year	2018/19 Cumulative Year	2019/20 Cumulative Year	2020/21 Cumulative Year	2021/22 Cumulative Year
COHORT (Triage entrants Jan-Mar previous fin-year)	50	45	49	0	17
Number of offenders at 3 months - Apr to Jun Percentage	5 10.0%	2 4.4%	1 2.0%	0 N/A	0 N/A
Number of offenders at 6 months - Apr to Sep Percentage	8 16.0%	5 11.1%	6 12.2%	0 N/A	1 5.9%
Number of offenders at 9 months - Apr to Dec Percentage	9 18.0%	5 11.1%	8 16.3%	0 N/A	0 N/A
Number offenders at 12 months - Apr to Mar Percentage	10 20.0%	6 13.3%	9 18.4%	0 N/A	1 5.9%

Figure 5.

2020/21 saw the introduction of Outcome 21's, there were none recorded on Child View for the period January to March 2020/21. During January to March 2021/22, 17 Outcome 21's were recorded and tracked at three monthly intervals. During Q1 2021/22 (at 3 months) none of the young people had reoffended, during Q2 2021/22 (at 6 months) one young person reoffended, during Q3 2021/22 (at 9 months) none of the young people had reoffended and during Q4 2021/22 one young person reoffended. A cohort of 13 triage entrants have been identified from January to March 2022/23 and will be tracked over the following 3, 6, 9 and 12 months.

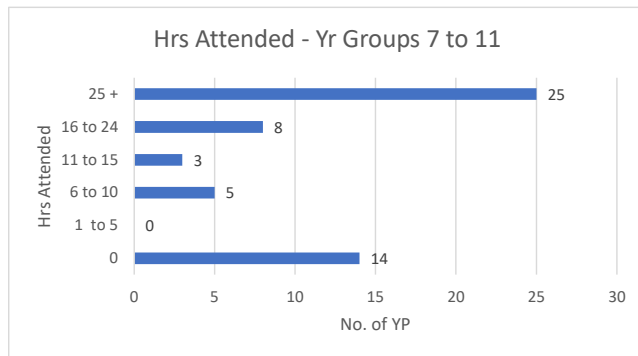
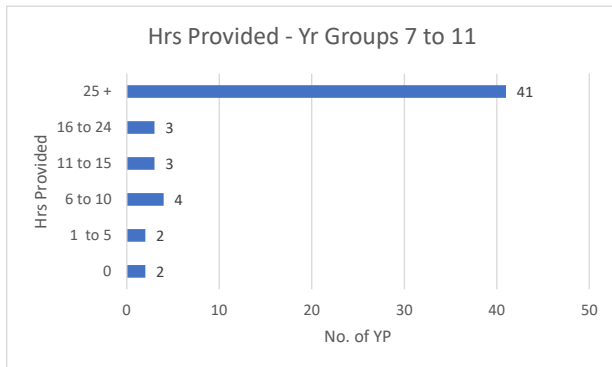
Interventions 2022/23



During 2022/23 there were 126 open interventions with Sefton YJS. The majority of statutory interventions were RO's with 27 (75%), the majority of non-statutory interventions were made up of CR Plus and CR's with 66 (73%). There were four young people who were referred to panel but did not engage, therefore they are showing non-statutory intervention chart as O OCD Panel. The age range of young people engaged with Sefton YJS during 2022/23 were between 12 and 19 years old. The largest ages ranges were 15 year olds with 26 (21%), 16 year olds with 25 (20%) and 17 year olds with 39 (31%). The yearly cohort of Sefton YJS during 2022/23 were predominantly white-British males.

Sefton YJS have utilized the Outcome 22 for a diversionary intervention to substance misuse services. During 2022/23 89 children have been referred to We Are With You.

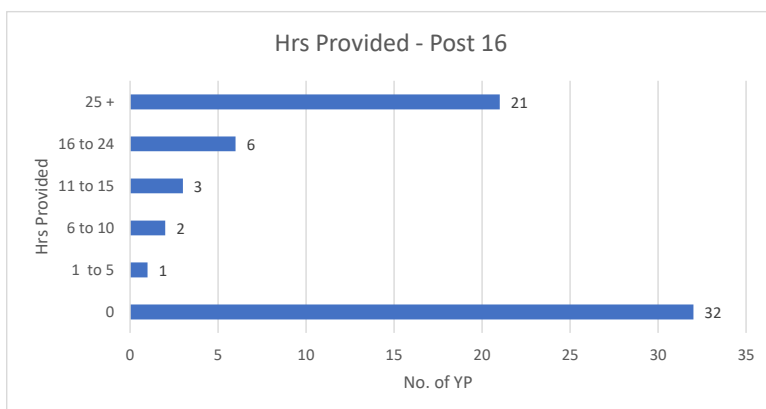
Education



During 2022/23 61 (48%) of the cohort were in school year groups seven to eleven. 2 (3%) were provided zero hours, 12 (20%) were provided one to twenty four hours, 41 (67%) were provided 25 plus hours. In total 53 (87%) were provided between 1 and 25 plus hours. Data for 6 (10%) of young people was unavailable due to them being out of borough or home educated.

During 2022/23 61 (48%) of the cohort were in school year groups seven to eleven. 14 (23%) (3%) attended zero hours, 16 (26%) attended between one to twenty four hours, 25 (41%) attended 25 plus hours. In total 41 (67%) attended between 1 and 25 plus hours. Data for 6 (10%) of young people was unavailable due to being out of borough or home educated.

Post 16



During 2022/23 65 (52%) of the cohort were Post 16. 32 (49%) were recorded as having zero hours recorded, 12 (18%) were provided between 1 and 24 hours and 21 (32%) were provided 25 plus hours.

Post 19	No. of YP 2022/23	% of YP 2022/23
Employed	7	11%
Apprenticeship	2	3%
Training Course	5	8%
Further Education	34	52%
NEET	15	23%
Data Unavailable	2	3%

During 2022/23 65 (52%) of the cohort that were Post 16, the above table shows identifies their ETE types. 7 (11%) were employed, 2 (3%) were on an apprenticeship, 5 (8%) were attending training courses, 34 (52%) were in further education, 15 (23%) were NEET and 2 (2%) their data was unavailable.

SEN Levels

SEN Level	No. of YP 2022/23	% of YP 2022/23
EHCP	32	25%
SEN Support	6	5%

During 2022/23 32 (25%) of the cohort had a current EHCP in place and 6 (5%) were receiving SEN Support in school.

CSC Status

SEN Level	No. of YP 2022/23	% of YP 2022/23
Child In Need	24	19%
Child Protection Plan	8	6%
Child in Care	12	10%
Early Help Plan	18	14%

During 2022/23 24 (19%) of the cohort were Child in Need, 8 (6%) had a Child Protection Plan, 12 (10%) Child in Care and 18 (14%) had a current Early Help Plan.

8. Priorities

8.1 Disproportionality - Ethnicity - Sefton has a predominantly white British cohort which for some areas would be a disproportionate representation. Sefton has previously been a borough with low ethnic minority populations which is reflected in the cohort with 90% white British.

8.2 Mental Health Concerns

Sefton YJS has recognised the disproportionality in relation to females experiencing mental and emotional wellbeing difficulties. Identifying this has led to a successful bid for the Community Youth Connector project as already discussed.

In addition, YJS coordinated additional funding for the SWAN Counselling Service in the north of the borough for girls. We are grateful to our health colleagues for this funding which support girls from YJS and Early Help referrals.

Having escalated our concerns around children's mental health, we have secured Violence Reduction Partnership funding for a secondee from Alderhey to deliver a therapeutic offer 2.5 days a week. In addition a senior health colleague will deliver 1 day weekly drop in sessions for staff to seek support for individual children that they are working with.

We will also access the Enhanced Case Management model through the Framework for Integrated care provision for YJS and MySPACE. This is a new area of work for Sefton and is still very much at the early stages with a referral pathway and eligibility criteria being determined.

We have strengthened the feedback loops with Health so that we can understand subsequent health actions and referrals and can integrate any learning from their engagement with the child into our practice.

8.3 Prevention and Diversion

The YJS delivers preventative interventions within all statutory and non-statutory plans in the context of preventing reoffending, reducing the risk of harm to self and others and developing the child's strengths. The prevention offer includes bespoke assessments to address specific need including AIM3, AIM Technology Assisted and Under 12 assessments and interventions which YJS have been trained to undertake and Education Psychologist assessments to inform a tailored plan. This will be enhanced further when the Clinical Psychologist offer is in place through the Framework for Integrated Care. All plans focus on diverting children away from criminal activities and influences.

Until the Turnaround and Community Youth Connectors projects commenced there was no separate prevention team within YJS. We welcomed the Turnaround funding from the MOJ and can already see the value that this strong prevention offer brings. The value of this offer has been raised with senior leaders as there is potential to develop a wider youth offer to prevent outcomes such as entering the youth justice system. We have made links with local policing teams to engage in their prevention activity. Local Policing have provided us with a 3rd Police Officer who will support our prevention focus. They will support Turnaround cases and also children who are accessing MySPACE from a prevention perspective, delivering direct work and engaging children into diversionary activities.

The Local Policing Strategy called Evolve designed to tackle gangs was developed by Merseyside Police was launched Sefton in early April, with a particular focus on an estate in the central area of the Borough. The principles of Evolve are Clear, Hold, Build with the intention to protect the community from crime, violence and exploitation. Partners are leading the way to improve the look of the area as well as targeting adults who are committing offences and exploiting children. Evolve includes a full range of partners and residents. Their focus is to improve the living, working and recreational environment for residents, opportunities for young people, help with employment, assistance to access funding, health issues, crime prevention and security advice. Residents will be active in saying what improvements they would like to see and where.

The wider council offer an Early Help service which has also transitioned into Children's

Services. The Service Manager for YJS sits on the Early help Partnership and the Service Manager for Early Help has agreed to sit on the Youth Justice Partnership. Given the anticipated changes as a result of transitioning into Children's Services there is scope to develop the Youth Offer incorporating Early Help, Youth Services and Youth Justice. These conversations have commenced and more change is expected over the coming year to enhance the youth offer.

8.3.1 Youth Service

Sefton has a Youth Service which sits within the Communities Department. The below highlights the Youth Service offer which is shared with children who engage with YJS.

Outreach - Staff go to local hotspots and engage with young people in the areas, signpost to local activities/Youth Centres.

Youth Bus - Staff go into local areas and work with children and families, they can also deliver projects in local areas. Projects include Street Cooking, Forest School Projects. Diversionary Activities at specific points in the year (Halloween/Bonfire etc). The team deliver some Exploitation Awareness and have access to the video screen on the bus to show informal educational videos. Staff deliver Stay Safe work to regular attendees. Staff understand and will make MASH referrals where there are concerns.

New Beginnings – this referral based service officers 1x Night per week in Bootle. 1x School Session Meols Cop. The sessions deliver a safe space for young LGBTQIA + young people. The team provide a youth work setting covering topics such as sexual health, healthy relationships, drugs and alcohol awareness, exploitation as well as delivering project work such as working with partners at The Open Eye Gallery and The Atkinson. Young People also take part in Liverpool City Region Pride and are always involved in Youth Voice Activities and consultation. This service also provides support for parents/carers in the past as a holistic approach.

Sexual Health (Inclusive Program) This programme can be delivered in schools over a number of weeks as well as Family Wellbeing Centre. The age group of from 13yrs plus due to nature of subject matter.

ASB Awareness Project (Project delivered in schools) This is a project that has been co-produced with children, the aim of this is to raise children's awareness of ASB and reduce it in the community.

Youth Voice/Consultation Activities (across all sessions) Children's views are requested to inform decision making and improve services for children so that we understand their needs.

Open Access Sessions - These sessions are available to anyone age 11-19 (age appropriate groups) We also have a Junior session (8-11). These sessions are aimed at engaging children in projects and activities where they are guided on topics including Exploitation, ASB, Drugs/Alcohol Awareness, Healthy Relationships and Healthy Lifestyles. Junior sessions are aimed at supporting children through transition from primary school to secondary school as well as some of the other activities listed above.

Mental Health Awareness - While we are not mental health trained professionals, we do across all sessions have awareness on how to support and talk positively about mental health. We are able to support children using resource books to discuss topics such as self-harm, body image, self-esteem and can use activities to help promote positive mental health. All staff are aware of the mental health support that is available to children and can signpost to Kooth.

Street Doctors – We have worked Merseyside Violence Reduction Unit to obtain login access to Street Doctors which will allow us to educate children using these resources online as well as delivering face to face sessions.

8.3.2 Police Prevention Project

Our police colleagues have been successfully running a DJ course since May 2022. The children identified for the course were recognised as being at risk of exploitation and were not engaging with their education offer. Ten children attended a weekly course and engaged in two hour training sessions. The children have shown dedication week in week out with regular attendance including during half term school breaks for a full day funded session. The behaviour and attitude of the children during the sessions has been excellent and they received positive feedback from the college regarding their attitudes, behaviour and commitment to learning. As part of the funding the children are provided with money for public transport as well and an evening meal.

The project's hair and makeup course commenced January 2023, the course was 13 weeks long and included a full day tuition during half term. This course was targeted at girls at risk of sexual exploitation and partners were able to nominate children to participate. Again the success of the course has been remarkable with fantastic attendance, behaviour and engagement from the students. Two of the girls nominated were not attending school yet they attended every week and fully participated with the course. The college also took the course on an excursion to Harvey Nichols in Liverpool City Centre where they were given a make-up master class and received a goody bag of products. A number of the girls completing the course are now looking to start with the College in September as full time apprentices. Part of the funding allowed the College to purchase hair and makeup kits for every child which they were presented with at the showcase.

Both courses were aimed at our higher risk children who are traditionally come with additional needs and poor behaviour. The courses show that with the right activity children will engage well, behave and show commitment. The fact that all the children have had to use public transport every week and make their own way to the course is a credit to the commitment and dedication they have all shown.

“She Inspires” Chief Constable & Police and Crime Commissioner 2023-24 Football Festival.

A select number of local schools from across Merseyside will be invited to participate in the award-winning “She Inspires” Chief Constable & Police and Crime Commissioner Football Programme.

Funded by the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner and delivered by Liverpool FA, Liverpool FC Foundation and Everton in the Community, the initiative will offer inactive and hard to reach female pupils in Years 8&9 (2023-24 Academic Year), the

opportunity to receive weekly coaching sessions, complete FA Qualifications and receive bespoke CPD Workshops designed to boost self-esteem, enhance leadership skills, confidence, self-worth and teamwork. The programme, which is completely free of charge, will begin in the new academic year.

At the Festival there will be opportunities for pupils to engage with various departments of the Police, Fire Service and NHS, along with Mode Training, Everton in the Community, LFC Foundation and Liverpool FA, all of whom will have activities for the girls to get involved in.

8.3.4 Virtual School

The Virtual School works in partnership with the Youth Justice Team to champion the education, employment and training of our young people. Cared For young people who are known to the service have a Personal Education Plan as part of their care planning. For other young people, we have focused on assessment of need, including commissioning Educational Psychology assessments to ensure that education needs are known and can then be provided for. Moving forward, there will be increased resource allocated to working with schools and EET providers to ensure that young people who are known to the YJS have the right support to access services and prepare for an adulthood in which they can be fulfilled, economically independent and contribute to society.

8.4 Education

To support children and young people to achieve positive outcomes, the work Sefton Youth Justice Service undertakes with schools, academies pupil referral units, alternative provision and colleges is key. Our links with the School Support Service has been strengthened along with work to support inclusion, increased tracking of data has enabled this to be recognised as a partnership response. Monthly Education Review meetings have been established during 2022/2023, providing a forum to discuss support for children who are not in receipt of the statutory offer. The case mapping and cohort profiling completed by the YJS during 2022/23 has promoted healthy challenge and encouraged partnership working through increased scrutiny of the educational offer for children and young people in the YJS. During 2023/24 there will be a significant focus on children with special educational needs disabilities (SEND), especially for those with education, health and care plans (EHCPs), and those who are cared for by the Local Authority. The support of the virtual schools and education support officer will enable additional advocacy and challenge to ensure children and young people are being supported to achieve their educational outcomes and aspirations.

The role of the school attendance support worker within the Youth Justice Service includes:

- tracking school attendance, suspensions and exclusions and those young people who have reduced education provision.
- Providing information to young people and their parents about schools and the education service.
- Being a point of contact between the education services and the Youth Justice Service and assisting staff to liaise with the individuals in schools and Services within Education Excellence Services.

The Education representatives on the partnership board will provide strategic oversight of the quality of Education provision for the Youth Justice cohort of young people.

8.5 Victims and Restorative Approaches

Sefton has a dedicated victim worker and an operational manager has thematic responsibility. We place emphasis on supporting victims and each victim is contacted and offered support. An independent volunteer contacts victims at the end of their involvement with YJS to obtain feedback on their experience of the support they have received from the YJS. All feedback received has been positive, some examples are shown below. The Victim Worker attends the Out of Court Panel to support decision making and Risk and Welfare Management Meetings relating to children, to ensure that victims needs and wishes are shared.

Here is some information relating to victim work 2022 – 23:

- Statutory Orders 34 Non-Statutory 62
- 26 are corporate victims
- 70 individual victims
- One face to face restorative meeting took place
- Victims who wanted further contact - 22 statutory & 39 non-statutory
- Further support has been offered on 11 statutory & 10 OOC.
- There are 5 victims who have been subject to an offence committed by more than one offender.

Victim Feedback Snapshot

- “Great all round”
- “Very good service and informative”
- “Informative, I am rooting for the young person to do well” [Corporate victim](#)
- “Kept informed and the outcome was good”
- “Very satisfied at the speed it was dealt with” [Corporate victim](#)

Further support is offered for additional safety and well-being support, during 2022/23 there has been no request for additional support from other agencies. It is apparent from the involvement with victims that wider agency involvement in some instances is already in place and victims make the worker aware of this.

During 2022/23 11 letters were written to victims by children and the caseworkers supported the children to complete for the victim worker to hand deliver the letters. The offer of the face to face restorative justice has been made for all cases, although only one face to face has been completed. This is an area that requires further development to encourage engagement in restorative justice processes, for both children and victims. We value the importance of this and understand the impact it can have for both parties.

8.6 Serious Youth Violence

Sefton YJS completes a full cohort profile twice yearly. Violence tends to be the top offence closely followed by drug related offences. The Partnership has oversight of the cohort and has specifically requested audits to enhance the Partnership’s understanding.

In January 2023, a case study relating to a snapshot of children with a high or very high rating for Risk of Serious Harm and those involved in violence offences was delivered to the Partnership. This focused on the characteristics of the children and their lived experience. In April 23 an Extraordinary Board was held to discuss the findings in greater depth and the case

study was shared with the Operational Partnership Group in May which has already been discussed

Serious Violence Duty - The YJS is working in partnership with Community Safety to ensure that Sefton complies with the Serious Violence Duty. The Violence Reduction Partnership is in the process of completing a Strategic Needs Assessment for the Merseyside region which will include the voices and views of children, across each of the 5 boroughs. Crest Advisory were commissioned to assess readiness for Merseyside and produced a rating of ready and engaged, moving towards maturity. The development of the Serious Violence Strategy will take place throughout 2023. Merseyside Police have arranged workshops during Summer to develop this agenda further.

8.7 Exploitation

Child exploitation remains a concern for Sefton. In 2021, as part of the Safeguarding Children Partnership arrangements the Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup commenced and in January 2023 the YJS Service Manager agreed to be the Vice Chair. The purpose of the group is to ensure effective multi-agency action is taken to address the exploitation of children and those who go missing. Partners have a responsibility to develop an approach to contextual safeguarding and provide assurance to the safeguarding partners about the effectiveness of those arrangements.

8.7.1 MY SPACE (Sefton Protection Against Child Exploitation) and links with YJS

My SPACE is a wraparound exploitation service for Sefton young people who are at risk of significant harm through sexual and criminal exploitation. The new team provides an intensive intervention service to young people focusing on:

- Educating children around the risk of exploitation and grooming
- Diverting children into positive activities and opportunities.
- Disrupting exploitative relationships and CE locations and hotspots.
- Support prosecutions for any perpetrators of child exploitation.

My SPACE team also works in close partnership with colleagues from other organisations including Merseyside Police, Sefton's YJS, Alderhey Framework for Integrated care team for emotional and mental health support and PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation). The team will focus on children going missing and will complete interviews upon their return. In addition, the YJS have agreed for one of the Team Police Officers to support MySPACE to deliver prevention interventions.

8.8 NRM Referrals

Sefton YJS monitors and records National Referral Mechanism (NRM's) through the recording system. NRM's are included within the cohort profiles to enable the partnership to identify and respond to trends showing within the profile linking NRM's with CE and wider intelligence through MySPACE. MySPACE team will ensure that for children they are working with that do not access YJS will be flagged as being referred to the NRM.

8.9 Safer Knives Scheme

Sefton has worked with the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to develop the Safer Knives Scheme. This is a knife replacement scheme for families to receive rounded end knives in return for pointed knives, which will reduce the potential to cause harm by stabbing. Sefton YJS in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership will propose that partners utilise the Serious Youth Violence Toolkit to develop learning and improve practice across the partnership.

8.10 Prevent

Following a benchmark exercise carried out by the Regional Home Office Advisor, Sefton's benchmarking performance has improved significantly over the last 12 months. The benchmark exercise has highlighted the following areas in which the prevent sub-group will focus on for the next 12 months.

- Focus their work for 2023/24 on training, awareness raising and communications. The Communications Team have been invited to assist Community Safety Team colleagues in the creation of a communications strategy that accompanies the SST Strategy. Comms and awareness raising around Prevent will form part of this communications strategy.
- With regards to training a building block approach is proposed. Firstly, an e-learning package, provided by the Home Office, which will be mandatory for all staff to take annually. This course takes approximately 30 minutes and provides a very general overview of the Prevent duty and what everyone's responsibilities are. Secondly a more in depth, focussed, classroom-based session for frontline staff that visit residents in their own homes. This is envisaged to cover all Childrens and Adults Social Care staff and any other discipline that carry out home visits.
- there is a small amount of assurance work to be done with regards to IT systems and that suitable system flags appear should a member of staff be carrying out inappropriate searches around radicalisation. We also need to be clear on what support we would offer a member of staff found to be carrying out such searches.

8.11 Released Under Investigation

Up until recently, Sefton YJS did not intervene with children who are Released Under Investigation (RUI) however through the Turnaround Project, RUI children can be referred for support and this is an area to develop in the context of wider youth prevention. We have tracked data relating to Sefton's RUI's and are currently analysing which of those children access a service. This is to understand the number of children who do not have any access to services. In the meantime we have contacted the Ministry of Justice to request addition funding to expand the Turnaround Project and exceed our current target,

8.12 Detention in Police Custody

Detentions that extend beyond 15hrs are monitored via a pan Merseyside scrutiny group which is attended by the Emergency Duty Team who links in with the YJS Service Manager and shares information relating to any such detentions. The Local Policing lead shares information

relating to the trend of >15 hrs detentions across Merseyside to highlight emerging issues. During office hours, YJS can attend police custody setting to be an Appropriate Adult (AA) and likewise the Emergency Duty Team for out of hours. Sefton also has a volunteer who is AA trained and can attend where available for out of hours work. Sefton does not have an emergency bed arrangement.

8.13 Remands

Sefton has had very few children remanded to a Secure Children's Home or a Youth Offenders Institute. In 2022, there were two children from Sefton remanded, one child was subsequently convicted to custody and the other after a short period on remand returned to the community and successfully transitioned to Probation services in early 2023. Sefton currently (May 23) has one child (17.5yrs) remanded at Wetherby awaiting trial for a serious offence.

Sefton YJS has had some excellent feedback from the court relating to the quality of our Pre Sentence Reports (PSR's). We are proud of this and know that children previously expected to be sentenced to custody have been sentenced to a community order due to the depth and quality of our PSR's.

8.14 Use of Custody

Since 2019, Sefton has not had a child serve a custodial sentence until March 2023. We have also maintained very low remand numbers. In March this year, a child was convicted of murder and was previously not known to the Youth Justice Service although was involved with Children Social Care. It was agreed at May's Partnership Board that this child would be subject to a multi-agency review to understand the child's needs in greater depth and points in time that services could have prevented a poor outcome. It was further agreed at the Practice Review Group (subgroup of the Safeguarding Partnership) in May 23 that there would be merit in conducting a review and at the time of writing considerations are being made to commission and external provider, jointly funded by the Safeguarding Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership.

8.15 Constructive Resettlement

Sefton YJS has a Resettlement Policy in place that clearly outlines timescales and responsibilities of all professionals involved in supporting a young person in custody and planning a smooth, effective and robust resettlement plan upon release. Sefton YJS strives to keep young people out of custody as such as possible, and consequently we have very low custody rates, which translate to very low numbers requiring resettlement plans. One person was sentenced to custody in March 23 and their release is not expected in the immediate future. This policy remains untested as it has not been implemented. However, we have had one child who was remanded during 2022 and the Case Manager assessed the Resettlement Policy when the child left the secure estate, however this was limited as the child was cared for by the local authority and all relevant plans were in place in accordance with National Standards. The Resettlement Policy has been reviewed and remains in place.

9. Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System

In 2020, Sefton YJS completed a self-assessment for standards for children in youth justice in line with the implementation of the new standards. We will undertake assessment work

throughout 2023 and as part of our commitment to improve practice we are already auditing out of court work quarterly. We currently audit 12 cases and will increase this to 20 cases per quarter and review the standards for this area too.

In addition, we have planned the At Court standard to be reviewed this year. We are in the process of creating champions for each standard, which will include statutory Board members overseeing and scrutinising the particular standard and linking in with the Operational Manager and Practitioner champions. The Board Chair has already agreed to champion In the Community and the Probation Board Member will champion Transition and Resettlement.

10. Workforce Development

Sefton with other Merseyside YJSs is part of the Collaborative Training Group where we pool resources to deliver cost effective training. Each year, YJS managers agree an annual training plan for staff. This enables Sefton YJS to identify gaps in knowledge based on our cohort profile and plan to enhance the team's skills. Staff are expected to undertake Sefton's mandatory training which is corporately scrutinised. Staff were consulted when developing the training plan so that they were integral in producing the training plan. Ad Hoc training occurs throughout the year where those opportunities arise.

Introduction to Restorative Practice	Equality and Diversity	Drugs and Alcohol Awareness	Safeguarding Adults Awareness	Using GPS in the Youth Justice system
Health and Safety	Safeguarding CYP	Information Compliance, Sharing and Guarding	Online Safety	LGBT+ training by CAMHS
Climate Change	SALT	MAPPA awareness	SAVRY Workshop	Triple P Online Programme
Neglect Awareness	Working with Change Training	Identifying & Managing Risk of HSB & Peer on Peer Abuse	Sexuality and Gender Identity Awareness	Pornography, Sexting and Online Safety for children
Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Awareness	Domestic Abuse (Engaging with CYP) Child Sexual Abuse & Sexual Offending Training	Graded Care Profile 2	Hear My Voice Training	Cyber Risks (Safeguarding Children)
Contextual safeguarding	Building Positive Relationships'- RPC (Reducing Parental Conflict)	Afta Thought – Power of the Partnership	AIM 3 technology assisted HSB	Afta Thought Children Mental Health Awareness
Next Steps Intervention	MHFA level 3	Understanding the role of the rainbow Centre and SARC	Disrupting exploitation	Rockpool ACES
“the million pieces experience” delivered by lads like us	Protecting all young people: equity and inclusion in prevention	Sefton's direct work tools	Early Help Module	Mental Health First Aid

YJS staff will have access to a wider training offer as are part of Children's Services which is implementing a suite of actions to develop services which includes workforce training. There is a wide range of training available including the below which YJS staff access, examples below show access over the last year:

In addition to the training offer, we deliver YJS Team development sessions. For example, after each Out Of Court Audit was share the findings engage in discuss regarding the findings. The Team is briefed on the Cohort Profiles so that they understand the emerging issues and can contribute to service developments in response to children's needs.

Sefton's Corporate Learning Centre are in the process of defining a specific training offer for each role including mandatory training. The YJS Service Manager is part of the Training Steering Group that meets Quarterly. Service Managers for children's services have had a full planning day to map out essential and desirable training.

In addition to the training offer, the workforce has engaged with the following:

- Out of Court workshops
- Data Recording sessions
- Monthly Full Team Meetings – including guests such as Elected Members, Senior Leaders, SEND Inclusion
- Operational Partnership Group
- Consultation – Steve Bore
- Safeguarding Partnership 7 minute briefings and SWAY briefings

10.1 Staff Welfare

Some staff are trained in Mental Health First Aid which supports the children we work with. In addition, it supports us all in the workplace. At the request from staff, we have introduced Staff Welfare monthly bulletins and snapshots of individuals so that we can understand each other as people which is particularly relevant with having several new starters including case managers, new project members and partners. We have given each other permission to have check ins to see how colleagues are feeling. The whole team embraces this approach which develops our supportive and forward thinking culture.

11. Evidence Based Practice and Innovation

11.1 Evidence of Improvement

- We have reassessed the OOC assessment tool on two occasions involving the whole team. Revisions were made to ensure the assessment was comprehensive and consistently used to understand the child, the risks that surround them and analysis. We continue to audit the quality of OOC disposal work.
- Our OOC processes are more consistent including how share information with children and parents and how we address non-compliance.

- We have embedded QA and Audit processes which has enabled us to deliver a greater depth of insight to the team, Board and Partners, identify areas of improvement and additional support for the team.
- Audits have revealed good quality analysis and workshops have been undertaken with the team to ensure colleagues understand the requirements and differences between information and analysis. Managers oversee the quality of analysis within their monthly supervisions and a separate audit on analysis has been undertaken.
- We are reviewing our interventions in line with the Youth Endowment Fund toolkit.
- We are obtaining feedback from children and families within individual cases yet need to do more relating to consulting children and families on service improvement.
- Our Risk Management and Policy Document is reviewed annually.
- Our Joint Working with CSC Policy has been reviewed in line with our move into Children's Services and joint working agreement are being developed with new teams (My SPACE)
- We have negotiated with Partners to increase the specialist resources within the team, with particular regard to Education and Mental Health
- We have a strengthened Court process and have a dedicated Court lead to advocate for Sefton at the Merseyside Centralised Youth Court
- We produce a bi-annual Cohort Profile which is shared with the Partnership. Emerging issues are explored through further audit and shared with the Partnership, Operational Partnership Group and the team.
- QA and Audit identifies good practice and areas for concern, these inform our Service Development Plan

11.2 Cohort Profile and Audit

The team are briefed on the Cohort Profile (highlighted at p7) so as to understand the wider issues across the cohort as well as the specific concerns within their own caseload. There are two representatives on the Operational Partnership Group that enables leaders to include the voice and views of the wider operational workforce when addressing cohort concerns. Likewise, the workforce is made aware of the thematic audits that take place which enhances their understanding of that analysis.

11.3 Staff Dedication to Child First Principles

Two Youth Justice Staff (an Operational Manager and Case Manager) were awarded a Chief Superintendents Commendation in November 2022 as a result of their tireless efforts with two particular children with increased levels of complexity. Those colleagues went above and beyond with wider partners to implement the child first principles. One child was convicted of terrorist related offences yet was managed within the community as a result of the robust offer from YJS, rather than be sentenced to custody. The officers had managed a lengthy bail package prior to conviction, and managed and supported the child and their family throughout. The child has successfully completed their Referral Order.

The commendation also included the same officers efforts with an exploited child and their wider family which was highlighted by the Partnership as best practice. The partnership, coordinated by YJS officers successful supported the family to move away from the area and engaged the child back into education. The child has not re-entered the criminal justice system.

11.4 Evidence of Excellent Partnership Work

The Inspector overseeing the YJS Police Officers for Merseyside delivered a presentation at the YJ Partnership Board and the Early Help Partnership Board. This highlighted the effective collaboration and problem solving approach when supporting a child who had entered the youth justice system however was exploited which impacted on the whole family. The partnership collaboration produced a highly child centred and protective plan for child and family, which led to overall safety and no further offending.

11.5 Good Practice Analysis

We value the expertise and knowledge that the YJS Team holds and recognise the necessity to explore good practice to support less experienced colleagues develop. As such, the team have commenced Good Practice Analysis. This essentially means that when a good outcome has been achieved, we will review this to determine what was good i.e:

- Was it the approach of the worker / integrated approach of partners?
- Was it the specific intervention implemented?
- Were we bystanders and the outcome would have been achieved anyway?

We will share and embed the learning particular where there is new practice that can be replicated.

In addition, we share good practice examples at the team meeting, recent examples highlighted a heartfelt letter of apology that a Delivery Worker supported a child to write himself following an assault. Another example was a child friendly end plan update for an out of court piece of work, which highlighted how well the child engaged with the worker after initial reluctance. This was discussed at the team meeting to raise the Case Managers creativity in working with the wider family in order to engage the child.

11.6 Community Youth Connectors and Turnaround

This is a strong example of innovative practice in direct response to analysis of the YJS Cohort (p7). We are monitoring the cases and practice of the team and raising this with Senior Leaders, particularly as Children's Services has renewed focus on prevention and transformation. We are using the evidence from the project to bid for further funding to extend the project right across the borough and include boys in the offer.

The Turnaround project has in its early stages highlighted a cohort of children that are not open to assessment and tailored offers. We are sharing the learning from this cohort as leverage for a greater youth prevention offer as the wider council reviews Early Intervention and Prevention. We are building a strong evidence base to support suggestions that would prevent children meeting poor outcomes and end up in the youth justice system. This includes joint work relating to response to Domestic Abuse in partnership with Children Social Care colleagues to understand the 'all age pathway' as domestic abuse is prevalent across the cohort and the individuals' historic and current traumatic experiences.

11.7 Mental Health First Aid Pilot – Turnaround

In partnership with an external provider, Turnaround staff are piloting Mental Health First Aid training for children in Secondary School who can be Mental Health Advocate for their school peers. Primary age children will receive 'Mini Medics' training and will be wellbeing advocates for their peers too.

11.8 Interventions Audit

How we embed learning from our audits has focused attention of YJS on early engagement with children at the point of allocation and how this supported continued engagement for child and family. We deliver increased scrutiny of out of court work (quarterly) as part of our prevention offer and include this in our performance management and monthly tracking system.

11.9 Operational Partnership Group (OPG)

The OPG includes representatives from the organisations who are members of the YJS Partnership. A Senior Probation Officer chairs this group.

The purpose of the group is:

- To improve outcomes for young people who have entered or are at risk of entering the youth justice system.
- Collectively develop services to support young people.
- Develop a set of shared objectives across the partnership.
- Share learning, challenge and innovate and problem solve.

There is a vast pool of expertise across the partnership therefore bringing operational partners together moves away from the traditional top-down approach, to developing ideas with colleagues who understand the practicalities of front-line delivery. We recognise the to work together better to effective use of resources, challenge practice and innovate to promote changes where we need to. Partnership business is shared at the group, and we have canvassed opinion and thoughts on wicked problems to optimise the talents of the group. Discussion has galvanised operational partners and enabled good working relationships to flourish. The Partnership recognises that where complex issues require a greater degree of analysis and thought, the OPG is the ideal venue to develop insight.

12. Service Development Plan

Our Service Development is at Appendix C. The updated plan identifies the achievements of the service and some outstanding issues from across the last year. A key aim for us going forward is to complete the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System self-assessment. We have completed the Out of Court (OOC) Standard and identified some good practice and actions to be delivered. OOC work is scrutinised on a quarterly basis. Our plan also incorporates local targets that relate to audit findings and local priorities. A key area of focus for the coming year is Child Participation and wider Child Voice. This links directly with the YJB Strategic Plan (2021-24). We are also utilising audit findings and cohort profiles to advocate for strengthened youth prevention services to offer early intervention to children before they come to the attention of the criminal justice system.

13. Challenges and Risks

The risks (and opportunities) that Sefton are currently considering are reported as follows:

13.1 Move into Children Services

YJS is now part of Children's Services which means the service is part of the overall improvement journey. This overall is an opportunity. The Service Manager is now part of Children's Services Senior Management Team. Leadership is delivered by the Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and ultimately responsibility rests with the Executive Director of Children's Services. From an early state there is a clear integration with Children Service colleagues as we are located within the same area of the building which has created seamless working relationships. One particular challenge relates to the location of the team as the corporate building is less ideal for delivering interventions with children and has a strong corporate image which could inhibit engagement. However the team has access to a number of locations across the borough and will see children in the own community.

13.2 Budget Pressures

Continued budget pressure across the partnership creates risk to YJS should funding reduce which could influence staffing. Any further reductions in staffing would reduce YJS ability to meet the needs of the cohort and impact compliance with National Standards and Inspection Frameworks.

13.3 Recruitment

It has taken considerable time to recruit to suitably skilled and qualified Case Manager vacancies within the team. After nearly six months we have successfully recruited to two vacancies, although the vacancies themselves create additional pressure to existing colleagues.

13.4 Legislative Changes

Recent changes in ISS legislation could present a risk in working with the most vulnerable children. Whilst the changes adopt a child friendly approach with a greater degree of flexibility for YJS's, it remains a means to strengthen a community sentence to reduce the risk of custody. The removal of a minimum of contact hours for example could indicate a relaxation of the scheme and therefore have less impact on the child's learning having committed a serious offence.

13.5 Increase in Key Performance Indicators

YJS's have commenced data collection to report against the new KPI's, the first report being due in August. However, systems providers were not able to support data collection and have seeming been placed in a position to quickly amend systems to enable YJS's to fulfil the new reporting requirements. This has created increased testing for new system versions which has impacted on the capacity of the team. Further upgrades are expected which will again impact on capacity which could impact on performance, albeit relatively short term.

13.6 Children's Mental Health

Sefton has previously reported that many children with YJS experience mental health issues, in particular we have identified a number of children who have at some point in their lives attempted suicide. Whilst we have utilised this information to secure additional funding for a prevention service, this is limited and therefore more is required to deliver a wider prevention service. Current health provision does not meet demand therefore Sefton YJS has sought support using MVRP funding from Sefton CAMHS to have workers within the team.

To raise awareness of children’s mental health concerns across the partnership, the Community Youth Connectors coordinated a training session utilising a AFTA Thought (training delivered through drama). They have also raised awareness of their service through the Early Help Partnership and Every Child Matters Forum.

13.7 Inspection Readiness

YJS features in not only HMIP inspections but Ofsted Inspections of Children’s Services and also Joint Targeted Area Inspections too. YJS also acknowledges the findings of other HMIP inspections and will discuss these from a ‘true for us’ perspective although capacity impacts our ability to continually practice this. The new Assistant Director has been briefed relating to HMIP Inspection Frameworks and the Children’s Services Senior Leadership Team are well versed in inspection frameworks and preparedness. The Chief Executive has received a report from the YJS Service Manager relating to the framework, feedback from the YJB and where we see ourselves in the context of strengths and areas to develop.

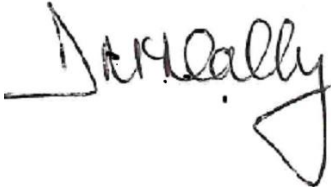
The YJS Service Manager attends the Northwest Heads of Service briefings to receive further information and link with colleagues to support Sefton’s preparedness as well as look at other Local Authorities inspection findings to develop ideas and make comparisons. We will continue to reflect on the Standards to ensure compliance and monitor our performance against the Service Development Plan. The YJS Service Manager attend the Northwest Head of Service meeting to maintain connections with youth justice colleagues; at this meeting HMIP are periodically invited to share information.

13.8 Immediate Justice

At the time of writing, the specification for Immediate Justice has just been published. Sefton YJS including the relevant Assistant Directors has highlighted concerns relating to the punitive nature of the proposal. Our concerns have been raised with the Board Chair. Sefton suggest that the specification does not sit well with trauma informed, child first principles and regard the approach as a risk to engaging the child in restorative and developmental work. This is not to suggest that Sefton YJS does not value reparation, as Community Reparation is something we are committed to developing. Instead, Sefton YJS suggest that reparation should be beneficial to the community, support the child’s learning and be empowering for children to do a piece of work that they can be proud of.

14. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board	Dawn McNally (Supt. Local Policing Sefton)
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Signature:	
Date:	27 th June 2023

Appendices

Appendix A - YJB Terms of Reference

Appendix B – Financial Contributions

Appendix C – Service Development Plan

Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Terms of Reference

Role and Purpose

The Sefton Youth Justice Partnership brings together the statutory partner agencies as identified in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and non-statutory partners who make a significant contribution to:

- the effective delivery of youth justice services in Sefton and
- the achievement of the right outcomes for young people

The purpose of the board is to ensure that the Youth Justice Service and the collective and individual efforts of partnership organisations:

- reduces offending, re-offending and the use of custody in line with the national objectives of the Youth Justice Board
- deliver key functions effectively with children and young people on the edge of or within the criminal justice system including:
 - Engagement in education, training and employment
 - access to suitable accommodation provision
 - access to substance misuse services
 - access to health services

The role of the Partnership is to:

- Work effectively as a partnership to ensure that the delivery of youth justice services reduces offending, re-offending and the use of custody and positive outcomes are delivered.
- Support, challenge and hold the Locality Service Manager, the Youth Justice Service and partner organisations to account for the delivery of agreed outcomes and plans.
- Consider the needs of the children and young people within the service and represent the needs of the YJS to their respective organisations to ensure co-ordination and value for money.
- Oversee Performance against key outcome indicators.
- Provide a strategic overview of the work of the YJS and promote positive outcomes in the context of the youth justice system and Children's and Young People Plan
- Provide support and guidance to YJS to ensure it engages with local and national priorities, promotes equality and maintains diversity.

- Improve outcomes for Children, Young People and the Community
- Promote the work of the YJS and advocate this work through their own services.
- Ensure that Children and Young People who receive Youth Justice Services are Safeguarded.
- Flag up risks or blockages to the delivery of youth justice prevention priorities.
- Ensure children and young people involved in the youth justice system have access to universal and specialist services delivered by partners and other key agencies.

Objectives

- Agree, and monitor the implementation of the annual Youth Justice Plan ensuring that it complements the council and partners youth justice objectives.
- Agree an annual budget including in kind contributions and to provide support for additional targeted funding to meet identified and agreed need.
- Oversee the performance of the YJS, providing strategic guidance and challenge, and hold the service and partners to account when necessary.
- Agree the protocols, contracts and service level agreements between YJS and partner agencies.
- Provide a forum for the discussion of community issues which impact upon or are affected by the work of YJS.
- To be a forum for the exchange of youth justice information between partners and YJS to promote a pro-active approach to partnership working.
- Listen to and consider the views of service users, victims of crime, sentencers and wider community.
- To ensure that the YJS is contributing to the thematic outcomes within the Sefton Children and Young Peoples Plan
- Promote a culture of learning and lessons from community safeguarding & public protection incidents that meet the YJB serious community Incident criteria, including inspection findings and internal/ external reviews of cases.

Membership of the Partnership

The Board shall comprise:

- a representative from each of the statutory partners
- a representative from any other partner providing resources.
- co-opted members

The Partnership may co-opt representatives of agencies involved in criminal justice, representatives of the community, representatives of the voluntary sector involved in youth offending work and any other individual who in the view of the Board would have a contribution

to make to the effective operation of the Youth Offending Service. Co-options shall normally be for a minimum of two years.

Conduct of meetings

- Meetings will be held quarterly.
- A quorum shall be 3 statutory partners plus a representative of Chief Executive of Sefton Council.
- Any subgroups established by the Partnership will be reviewed annually to ensure that the role and purpose of the group is still relevant.
- Partners may nominate substitutes.
- Chair will be Sefton's Area Commander Dawn McNally, Merseyside Police from August 2022.
- Agenda papers to be forwarded to the Administrator 1 week prior to the meeting for consideration by the Chair.
- The meetings will last no longer than 3 hours.
- All members will commit to reading the papers prior to the meeting to enable them to challenge and ask questions about the information/issues raised.
- Progress and Performance Reports presented to the Board will be sent to the Chair of Sefton Safeguarding Children's Board

Standing Agenda Items and Reports

Standing items on the agenda to include key strategies, performance and budget decisions and safeguarding.

Youth Justice Partnership (Revised August 2022)

Organisation	Role	Name
Merseyside Police	Chair	Dawn McNally
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Children Social Care	Joe Banham
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Communities	Simon Burnett
Sefton Council	YJS Service Manager	Rosanna Stanley
Sefton Council	YJS Operational Manager	Adele Maddocks Moirra Adams
Probation Service	Head of Liverpool and Sefton Probation Senior Probation Officer	Janet Marlow Martin Gay

Sefton Council	Assistant Director Children's Social Care	Joe Banham
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Education Excellence Virtual School Head	Tricia Davies Deps – Tracy McKeating Mary Palin
Sefton Council	QA and Audit Officer Business Intelligence	Amie Clarke Suzie Mossman
Merseycare	Director of Operations	Maria Sumner
Sefton@Work	Employment & Skills Manager	Claire Maguire
Sefton Council	Administrator	YJS Business Support
Sefton Council for Voluntary Services	Deputy Chief Executive	Nigel Bellamy
Change Live Grow	Agency Lead	tbc
Secondary Schools	Head of Chesterfield High	Kevin Sexton
Alder Hey	Head of Camhs	Vicky Killen
Venus	Agency Lead	tbc

Appendix B - **YJS Financial Contributions for 2022/23 (incl. Variance with 2021/22)**

Agency/Funding Stream	Payment in kind 2022/23	Cash Contribution 2022/23	Payment in kind 2021/22	Cash Contribution 2021/22	Variance 2022/23 to 2021/22
Youth Justice Grant – Good Practice Grant		375,752	0	375,752	0
Merseyside Police Crime Commissioner	0	65,000	0	65,000	0
Merseyside Police	1 fte Police Officers (42,893)	0	1 fte Police Officer (42,893)	0	0
Merseyside Probation Trust	0.5 Probation Officers' (26,712)	5,000	0.5 Probation Officers' (26,712)	5,000	0
Health – Clinical Commissioning (North & South Sefton)	1.6 Band 6 (63,115)	25,371	1.6 Band 6 (63,115)	25,371	0
Sefton Council		£1,218,123		£1,198,613	£19,510
<u>Total</u>	<u>£132,720</u>	<u>£1,689,246</u>	<u>£132,720</u>	<u>£1,669,736</u>	<u>£19,510</u>

Sefton Youth Justice Service Development Plan January 2023 (updated June 23)



Foreword

This plan provides one framework to be clear on how we will ensure outcomes for children and young people in Sefton continue to improve, and we achieve our aspiration for children and young people. The plan aligns with the Youth Partnerships Vision and Priorities whilst acknowledging and responding to development areas identified over the last year.

This plan is focused on setting the direction and strategy of the youth justice service and setting out how improvements will be made in performance indicators, in particular:

National

- Reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reducing re-offending rates
- Reducing the use of custody

Local

- **Preventing offending & reoffending** through delivery of high quality, strength-based interventions across our partnership
- **Listening to our children so we understand their individual needs.**
- **Continually reviewing and improving our services** to ensure they meet the needs of our children and local communities.
- **Reducing inequality**, and minimising the impact of custody and the wider CJS
- **Reducing the harm** caused by violent crime, criminal and sexual exploitation and association to gang culture.

The plan builds on the developments and strengths of the Youth Justice Service during 2021/22, a greater emphasis on data and quality assurance has enabled the team and wider partnership to understand the complexities and needs of the children and young people. The partnership has been an asset, with the Operational Partnership Group providing additionality to the Youth Justice Partnership Board to drive practice, bring challenge and accountability.

Governance

The governance of the service development plan is through the Youth Justice Partnership, the plan will be reviewed within YOT Management meetings. Barriers to progress or delivery will be identified through management meetings and highlighted to the Youth Justice Partnership, this will be reported on a quarterly basis.

All actions will be RAG rated to demonstrate progress of outcomes and impact:

Progress Status	
<i>Red</i>	<i>No progress towards completion. Needs evidence of action being taken & consideration of timescale.</i>
<i>Amber</i>	<i>Delayed, with evidence of plan to get back on track</i>
<i>Green</i>	<i>Progressing to time, clear evidence of progress</i>
<i>Blue</i>	<i>Completed</i>

Youth Justice Standards 2022/23

Aim 1: Reduce the Number of First Time Entrants

How will we know?	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target completion	Comments and progress
FTE figures will reduce, children will not re-enter Criminal justice system. There will be an increase in children accessing Early Help Services and a reduction in Children open	To work in partnership with agencies to divert children away from the criminal justice system. Through quality assessments, appropriate interventions will be implemented to identify the right service to support the young person and their family require.	Assessment-To ensure children are adequately assessed the OOCB assessment has been revised, this will be reviewed in January 2022 to consider the impact on practice.	Teams Manager and staff within the Youth Justice Service.	April 2022	Completed

to Children Social Care.	<p>Assessments will provide a greater level of analysis, this will consider the previous trauma, keep child and others safe and support desistance.</p> <p>Work with agencies using the Out of Court Policy to utilise out of court interventions, this will include Operation inclusion.</p>				
		Interventions- audit the Interventions to ensure an appropriate to areas of need identified in the assessment, individualised for each child and the local offer is shared with young people.	Teams Manager and staff within the Youth Justice Service.	Q4 and scheduled in the audit plan	May 2023 update- This remains outstanding, to be completed June 2023
		Partners- Where children are identified as high risk they are managed through risk management meetings.	Teams Manager and staff within the Youth Justice Service.	Ongoing	May 2023-High risk case mapping completed and presented to YJPB. Partnership meeting held to complete reflective practice review and consider partnership response to findings.
		Exit Strategy- Where there are unmet needs a MASH referral will be made for consideration of further support through Early Help.	Teams Manager and staff within the Youth Justice Service.	Nov 2022	May 2023- Strengthening of YJS prevention offer through turnaround is being reviewed
		Quality Assurance- A dip sample of five OOC cases to be completed monthly. Manager QA processes to be reviewed to ensure effective management oversight of out of court cases.	Quality Assurance and Audit Officer Amie Clarke Team Managers	Quarterly Ongoing Oct 2022	Completed Ongoing auditing per month
		Provide quarterly Operation Inclusion data within the	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman	Ongoing	Completed

		performance report and monitor performance within the Youth Justice Management Board.			
		Undertake a review of assessment and monitoring process for Out of Court Disposals (comparing with regional/family of YJS where information is available).	Quality Assurance and Audit Officer Amie Clarke Team Managers	Ongoing	

Aim 2: Reduce rates of reoffending

How will we know?	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target completion	Comments and progress
Performance data will show a reduction in re-offending in Sefton.	Young People receive a high-quality service in YOT. Assessments and Plans are of a high quality, identifying and responding to the individual needs of the Young person.	Cohort profile completed quarterly, shared with the board and team. Data to be utilised to identify themes and specific areas and young people who are entrenched in offending behaviour.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman	Ongoing	May 2023 update- Cohort profile presented to YJPB May 2023 highlighted concerns in relation to educational offer & engagement in the cohort.
		Safeguarding & risk characteristics- Local High-risk case mapping for young people known to YOT, CSC and partner agencies.	Quality Assurance and Audit Officer Amie Clarke	Feb 2022	Completed

		Risk Management- Template to be revised to reflect best practice in other YOT's. Escalation process of non-attendance to be formalised.	Service Manager Ros Stanley & Team Managers	March 2023	May 2023 update- Remains outstanding due to capacity. Escalation of non-attendance is ongoing. Deadline extended to reflect capacity UPDATE: other YJS risk templates were reviewed and Sefton's captured more detail. Further risk templates to be reviewed
		Recruitment of referral order panel members to reflect the training.	Team Manager Moira Adams	Complete	Completed
		Further development of the reoffending live tracker to enable a responsive approach when CYP have reoffended.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman & Quality Assurance & Audit Officer Amie Clarke	Ongoing	Ongoing-four reoffending tracking reports have been completed to provide oversight.

Aim 3: Reduce the use of custody

How will we know?	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target completion	Comments and progress
Sefton will maintain their performance in this area. Tracking of bail packages will enable deep dive audit into partnership response	Sefton YJS will work with Courts and Partners to offer an alternative to Custody if the risk to others seems that an alternative to Custody can be used.	Practice review to be held to review practice on two remand cases and two bail support.	Team Managers & all staff	Feb 2023	Completed
		Resettlement Policy to be signed off by YJPB.	YJPB members	April 2023	May 2023 Resettlement plan reviewed – sign off by board required

	High Risk Management meetings are chaired by Service Manager, escalation is followed where non-attendance is a feature.			
	Quarterly reporting on referrals to CSC where safeguarding concerns have been raised for the young person.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman	Ongoing quarterly	Quarterly reporting ongoing- including information from referral page with outcome of the referral.
	Representation and contribution to multi-agency meetings to create joined up working (MACE, vulnerable persons group, high risk case mapping, MARSOC)	Team Managers	Ongoing	May 2023 update- Child exploitation processes are currently under review in Children's Services. Further information needs to be gained. YJS attend daily missing and intelligence meeting with Sefton's multi-agency exploitation team
	CSC/YJS joint working protocol is updated to reflect implementation of new practices i.e daily missing/CE updates, NRM and risk management arrangements.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	June 2023	May 2023 update- There has been a delay in YJS transitioning to Children's Services. Until structures are agreed the updates will not be completed, this will enable current practice and structures to be relevant and up to date.

2. Improving practice and performance through Quality Assurance	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target Completion	Comments and progress
	Quality Assurance is effective in ensuring management oversight has an impact on case management and practice.	Full Cohort profile to be reported to the board bi-annually and reviewed at team meetings.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman	Ongoing	Completed
	All Quality Assurance is supported through a framework intended to be responsive, identify strengths and development areas with children at the forefront of practice.	Quality Assurance workshops to be delivered quarterly	Quality Assurance and Audit officer & Business Analyst	Ongoing	Completed
	Performance improves as a result of effective quality assurance and develops a culture of learning and reflection.	12 month auditing schedule is implemented	Quality Assurance and Audit officer Amie Clarke	Oct 2022	Completed
		Learning from CLR's to specifically cover management oversight and boarder learning workshop with YOT team.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	Feb 2022	Completed
		QA framework to be revised to reflect additionality of case mapping, cohort profile & Child First approach. Quarterly QA process to continue.	Quality Assurance and Audit officer Amie Clarke	April 2023	May 2023 update-QA framework will be reviewed to consider quality assurance processes and additionality of auditing through management. Transition to Children's Service will be considered in the approach taken to enable alignment where this is appropriate.
		The breakdown of YJS data held within Childview is analysed to account for CYP age, sex, ethnicity and other relevant factors,	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman	April 2022	Completed

		to identify disparities that have the most impact across all aspects of CYP lives.			
		Youth Justice Partnership Group induction to be held for new members.	YJP Chair Service Manager Ros Stanley	April 2022	Completed
3. Ensuring all children have an appropriate education offer	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target Completion	Comments and progress
	All children have an appropriate Education, training or employment offer. They are supported to access opportunities and achieve positive outcomes. Through data, the YJPG are able to recognise themes and trends that are triggers for poor educational outcomes. YJPG are responsive to what the data is showing us.	Implementation of referral process to Education Service Manager to strengthen a young person's attendance at school. Monthly education review meetings to be held with education service Manager and YJS	Service Manager Ros Stanley Service Manager Tracy McKeating	August 2022	May 2023 update- Education officer will manage and track any children with EHCP & less than statutory school offer. June 23 – Education Coordinator funding agreed – post yet to be recruited
		Education & Post 16 audit to be completed.	Service Manager Tracy McKeating Career Connect Sarah Vaughn	April 2023	May 2023 update- Planned for Qtr2 audit
		Continue access to Career Connect advisors to support young people at risk of NEET.	All Case Managers Service Manager Sarah Vaughn	Ongoing	May 2023 update- Monthly meetings for post 16 offer have not been established -this remains outstanding. YJS Operational Manager attends Career Connect NEET conference on a monthly basis
		Review of children in alternative provision to ensure they have an adequate offer.	Service Manager Ros Stanley Service Manager Tracy McKeating	Dec 2022	May 2023 update-An education officer now supports YJS 5 hours per week and funding

					has been agreed for additional resource.
		Cohort analysis to include ETE, education offer and attendance figures.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman	April 2022	Complete & ongoing twice a year
		Secured attendance and contribution at the Board.	YJP Chair Service Manager Ros Stanley HOS Education Excellence Tricia Davies	Ongoing	Tracy Mc Keating and Mary Palin from Education Excellence now board members. Data is being shared between services to enable increased communication for children identified as not receiving appropriate education offers.
		Education Excellence Service Manager to attend YJS team meeting to share attendance support pathways.	Service Manager Ros Stanley Service Manager Tracy McKeating	March 2022	Completed
4. Improving the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target Completion	Comments and Progress
	All children and young people have access to services that support their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Professionals adopt a trauma informed approach to understand adverse childhood experiences which may impact on the child.	Secure a dedicated mental health specialist within YJS.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	July 2022 Extended to March 23	May 2023 update-YJS have secured support from an advanced clinical practitioner 1 day a week and mental health nurse two days per week for MDT approach.
		Consideration for additional funding to support ongoing services from Educational	Service Manager Ros Stanley	October 2022	Funding has been secured on a short-term basis to enable

	Pathways and partnership working are well established to support engagement and removed potential barriers to access.	Psychologist and Clinical Psychologist.			EP support. This is only available until March 2023, longer term solutions need to be considered.
		Referrals to mental health support agencies to be reported on quarterly, where CYP do not meet the criteria an explanation of this and alternative will be evidenced.	Business Analyst Suzie Mossman YJS staff	Completed April 2023	Monthly performance reports are produced to track referrals. Thrive framework is being utilised in KPI's- Integrated Care Team.
		Board development day planned to focus on the emotional health and wellbeing offer for young people in Sefton.	YJP Chair Service Manager Ros Stanley	Feb 2022	Completed
		Mental Health Case Mapping exercise to be completed and reported to board.	Quality Assurance and Audit Officer Amie Clarke	Jan 2022	Completed
5. Provide effective parenting support to promote positive relationships	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target Completion	Comments and progress
	Exit strategy via MASH/Early Help to ensure that young people remain linked into the local community with corresponding support to maintain motivation to desist. Children and their families know how to access additional support, this reduces the escalation of risk and number of young people open to Children Social Care.	Parenting offer to be increased within the YJS.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	April 2023	May 2023 update: Additional staff have been trained in ACES and good practice from turnaround is being reviewed to increase group activities.
		Funding to be utilised for access to teen triple p.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	Completed-April 2022	
		Understand the extent of child on parent violence within the YJS cohort and develop links with SWACA	Case Managers, Team Managers & Quality Assurance & Audit Officer	April 2023	COPVA pathway in place to support this area. System monitoring

		service. Audit to be undertaken to consider prevalence of COPVA in cohort & YJS response to this.			needs to be implemented to have oversight of the number of referrals and how we are responding to this. May 2023 update: Audit delayed to be include in Q2 23/24
6. Promote the health and wellbeing of young people	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target Completion	Comments and progress
	Children's attendance at appointments improves and they access the support they require.	Health performance report to be presented quarterly around number of YP seen, timeliness and outcomes.	Team Manager Adele Maddocks	Quarterly due June Board	Health report being provided to quarterly board
	Children can access support in a timely manner and engage to improve health outcomes.	Monthly drop in sessions in each locality to be implemented to support timeliness of appointments.	Team Manager Adele Maddocks	Ongoing	Drop ins have been established, monitoring of this is required to understand the impact for young people Monthly report will be requested on drop in attendance and impact.
		Monthly performance meetings with We are With You and YJS Team Meeting.	Team Manager Adele Maddocks WAWY Manager	Ongoing	Interviews took place without appointment RS has escalated to review next steps May 2023- Service procurement has been renewed to a new provided and the CLG have recruited to a new post who will be dedicated to YJS
7. Ensure the	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target Completion	Comments and

victims voice is heard					progress
	In accordance with the Code of Practice April 2021, Victims will be well supported through the YJS.	YJS recording system to be fully utilised to enable data to be reported to YJPG.	Team Manager Moira Adams	Feb 2023	May 2023 update-Victim KPI data included in management performance reports
	Increase the feedback received from victims to ensure we are responding to their needs	Victim feedback to be collated at final contact. Victim feedback survey.	Team Manager Moira Adams Quality Assurance and Audit Officer Amie Clarke	End December 2022	May 2023 update-Panel member is contacting victims to receive post support feedback.
		Case Studies to include a section on Victim engagement/experience & feedback.	All YJS team	Completed	May 2023 update-Case study template has been designed and two case studies completed in Q4. One case study per quarter will be completed.
		Victim workshop to be held with YJS to promote greater focus on restorative practice & inclusion in planning.	Team Manager Moira Adams	March 23	May 2023 update-Victim workshop on hold due to recruitment
8. Listen to our children and include them in shaping our service	Desired Outcome	Actions	Actions Owner	Target Completion	Comments and progress
	Young People's participation is valued, we seek their views and have them at the heart of what we do. Young People feel safe to engage and give ideas on how we can do things better. YJS and partners will promote a	Assessment and Plans to use child-friendly language, highlighting CYP strengths and protective factors and utilising their 'factor for desistance', including partner support available around the CYP.	All YJS team	Ongoing	Completed-Plans have been amended to reflect child first approach. May 2023 update-Young persons survey completed, responses used to inform service development 23/24 &

	Child First approach.				included children who identified they would like to be further engagement in consultation and service development
		Engage with Sefton's Making A difference group to initiate initial engagement group led by young people.	Service Manager Ros Stanley	March 2022	May 2023- Youth voice was raised in May YJPB, subsequently YJS Service Manager has engaged with Youth Ambassadors through CVS to progress this
		Young Peoples survey to be embedded in practice within the YJS.	All YJS team	Ongoing	Completed-Electronic survey has been reviewed-QR code has been developed to improve accessibility and take up. The process for collating this information requires review. Leaflets and posters for two new prevention projects will enable greater feedback.
		Co-production of a YJS branding designed with a group of young people.	Comms & YJS team	March 2023	May 2023 Children engaged in a digital group will support with branding and graphics development
		Development of a YJS webpage on Sefton Councils website.	Quality Assurance & Audit Officer & Sefton Comms	March 2023	May 2023 update: Support from comms and a digital officer

					has been agreed. Plans are in place for a webpage and digital offer
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Document Ownership	
Owned by:	Ros Stanley: Service Manager Youth Justice Service Sefton Council
Policy written by:	Ros Stanley: Service Manager Youth Justice Service Sefton Council
Date written:	January 2023 (updated version April 2023)
Review	Live document: Management review and YJP

Common youth justice terms

Please add any locally used terminology

ACE	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has

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

SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
YOI	Young offender institution