

ROTHERHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE PLAN 2022-2023



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I. INTRODUCTION, VISION, AND STRATEGY

Welcome to the Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

Responding to young people that encounter the Youth Justice System as ‘children’ and not ‘offenders’ can enhance lives, reduce offending, promote safer communities and lead to fewer victims.

We have a clear **vision** for children and young people’s services in Rotherham, “*Working with Rotherham’s children, young people and families to be resilient, safe and successful*”, which aligns to our Council Plan.

Our Youth Justice Plan aligns with the key local partnership strategies including the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Plan, Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP) plan and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.

Our vision for the Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership is:

“To work together to prevent young people entering the youth justice system and to empower and support young people to achieve their aspirations”.

The Rotherham Youth Justice Service, through the governance and direction set by the Youth Justice Partnership Board, will retain a relentless focus on preventing young people entering the youth justice system, and when they do, we will work to the ‘child first’ principles to ensure the best possible outcomes for young people and victims of crime.

To achieve our vision, we will:

- Ensure our young people are supported and treated fairly
- Help and support young people and their families to recognise and build on their strengths and capabilities to fulfil their potential
- Encourage young people to repair the harm to victims and restore relationships within their communities to increase public confidence and safety
- Enable young people to be listened to and their wishes and feelings to be heard and acted upon

Our Youth Justice Plan provides the detail as to how the Rotherham Youth Justice Services Partnership Board (YJPB) intends to improve outcomes for children, young people, families, and communities over the next twelve months against the Police and Crime Commissioner’s three priorities.

- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Treating People Fairly

Following the HMIP Inspection in September 2020 we received our 2020 Inspection re-port. This contained 5 recommendations and our subsequent Action Plan, submitted in January 2021, contained 46 actions. The Youth Justice Partnership Board in Rotherham were swift to respond, and by January 2022 all 46 actions were completed.

In October 2021 we created a peer led group for young people with lived experience of the youth justice system to come together to share their views of services and the CHANCE group was created. The young people created the name which stands for Changing How Adults Notice Children’s Experiences (CHANCE) and they continue to tell us about their interactions with a wide range of services and institutions and how we can improve them.

In March 2022 we received a YJB Peer Review. The feedback and report were wel-coming, and we have taken forward 13 recommendations as part of our ongoing im-provement journey to be an outstanding Youth Justice Service.

In July 2022, the following name changes were agreed to reflect or renewed focus and ambition.

Rotherham Youth Justice Service (formerly Rotherham Youth Offending Team, YOT).

Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board (formerly Rotherham Youth Offending Team Board, YOT Board).

Our agreed **priorities** are encapsulated across five themes,

- Voice of the Child & Family
- Early Intervention & Prevention
- Education, Training & Employment
- Health & Wellbeing
- Quality of Practice

I look forward to another effective period of partnership collaboration and improved outcomes for our young people and families and I am very pleased to introduce the Rotherham Justice Partnership Board Strategic Plan for 2022/23.



David McWilliams

Chair, Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board

Assistant Director Early Help, Family Engagement & Business Support,
Rotherham Children's Service

2. LOCAL CONTEXT

Rotherham is a large minster town in South Yorkshire, England which along with its nearby settlements form the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham, with a population of 264,984 (ONS, mid 2020)

Rotherham has 57,453 children aged under 18 representing 21.7% of the local population (ONS, mid 2020).

We have 23% of children live in low-income families (England 18%).

Our Free School Meals entitlement rate is above English national average (23.8% compared to 21.6% at Primary, 21.4% compared to 18.9% at Secondary – DfE 2020/21).

We have 19.4% of Rotherham’s school age population is from BME background (England 35.1%) (DfE 2020/21).

- Over the last ten years we have seen a significant increase in the Eastern European Roma population (from Slovakia and Czech Republic since 2004 and Romania since 2014), concentrated in a few central neighbourhoods.

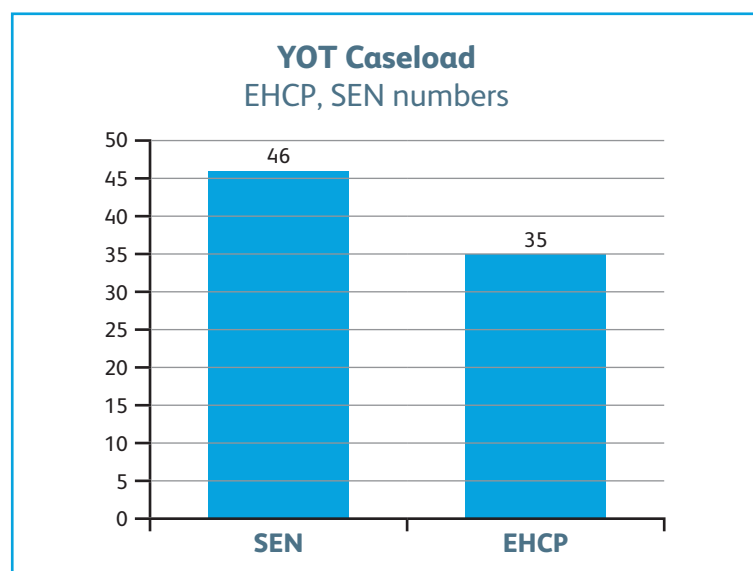
Current number of male and female children in Rotherham Schools

The table below reflects the number of male and female children residing in Rotherham and attending Rotherham schools (based on the Rotherham School Census 2021).

	0 – 4 years	5 – 9 years	10 – 14 years	15 – 17 years
Male	2329	8258	9116	2932
Female	2216	8134	8650	3136
TOTAL	4545	16392	17766	6068

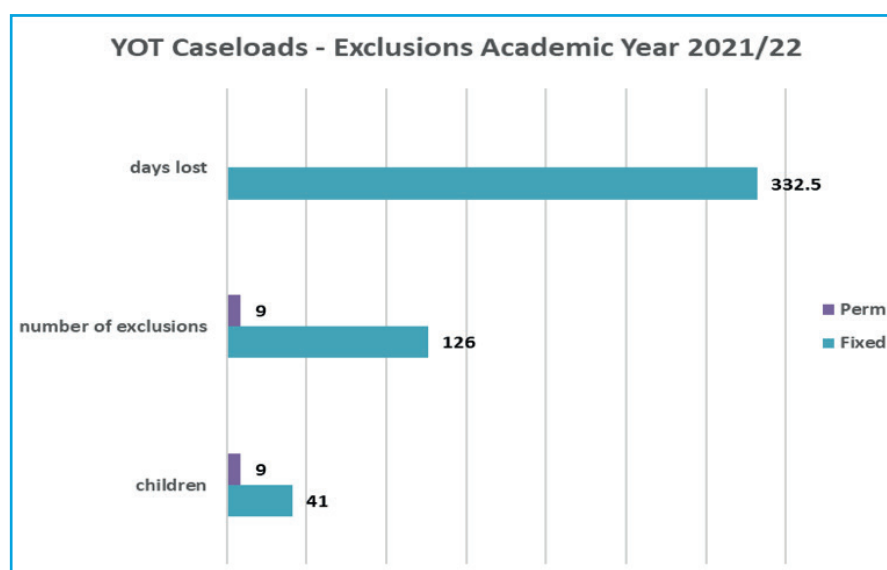
The table below shows the number of children residing in Rotherham, attending Rotherham Schools (Rotherham School Census 2021) that are currently on an Education Health & Care Plan Care Plan (EHCP), Special Educational Needs support or on No Special Educational Needs Support according to the Rotherham Schools Census 2021.

	10 – 14 years	15 – 17 years	18+ years
EHCP	919	312	52
SEN Support	2703	663	15
No SEN Support	14144	5093	351



The data for Q4 shows that 25.6% of the whole YJS caseload has recorded SEN (an increase from Q3 at 20.3%) with a further 19.4% having an EHCP in place (an increase from Q3 at 18.1%). Further analysis of the data shows that in the 42 cases (YCC and above) 13 young people (30.9%) had recorded SEN, with 11 (26.2%) who had an EHCP in place.

Current data (as at 30/05/2022) shows that of YPs of school years 6 - 14 1671 have EHCP's and there are a further 3992 requiring SEN support.



The Chart above shows exclusion data for 180 open Cases in Q4, 41 of these Children have received 126 fixed term exclusions (in academic year 2021/22), an average of 3.1 exclusions per child and an average of 8.1 school days lost per child.

Wider exclusion data for the borough shows that at the end of March there had been 2586 fixed term exclusions in the academic year 2021/22 for Year 6 to Year 11 young people. This figure is across a distinct group of 1065 young people giving an average of 2.4 exclusions per child (compared to 3.1 for children in YJ cohort at Q4) and an average of 4.9 days lost per child (compared to 8.1 for children in YJ cohort at Q4). 39 young people were permanently excluded from school during September - March 2022, 9 of these young people fall in the Q4 YJS cohort. The 9 permanent exclusions were all for secondary school age young people and 7 are now accessing education through Rotherham Aspire PRU, 1 is in Elective Home Education and the remaining young person was reinstated to his original mainstream school.

3. CHILD FIRST

Child First

Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.

Rotherham YJS are committed to the ongoing development of a trauma informed approach (TIA) following ongoing investment in organisational development, resources, training and support for staff to ensure an in-depth understanding. TIA approach has the primary task of supporting individuals to recognise/manage/recover from trauma, become more resilient and empowered to positive choices and achieve their goals.

- We ensure that everyone within the service feels and is, psychologically and physically safe. Promoting cultural/gender/identity awareness and working to identify and remove barriers to support.
- We take the time to build positive relationships, validate their experience and build trust with the practitioner and establish clear and professional boundaries.
- We utilise a strengths-based approach – what is going well, how can we build on current strengths
- We work collaboratively with the child and family, sharing responsibility for tasks to ensure that individuals have agency and are the agent of change.
- We provide young people and families with education and support to help them make informed decisions and develop problem solving skills.
- We undertake screening of all young people in relation to Speech and Language to support engagement and tailor interventions to their needs and ensure they are inclusive and developmentally appropriate.
- We have staff trained in the service who are able to provide trauma stabilisation; considers the impact traumatic experiences can have on our mind/body/life and develops practical skills to alleviate some of the distressing symptoms experienced, e.g. flashbacks, intrusive thoughts, nightmares, low-self-esteem, and depression.

Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.

We use strength-based assessment tools (EHA and AssetPlus) to identify strengths, goals and aspirations and we work in partnership with other agencies and utilise community resources to develop plans 'WITH' young people and families to empower them and build resilience.

We have recently undertaken refresher training in Signs of Success which provides a framework for our work with families, and we are working hard to embed this in our practice to improve the quality of assessment, planning and reviews.

We commission Remedi to deliver Restorative Justice and Victims services in Rotherham and we have recruited and trained new volunteers for Referral Orders Panels and have revised how we carry out panels to ensure that they are empowering and future focused for our young people.

We have created a pathway for support for our families to access Family Group Conferences to create stronger support networks and empower families to develop confidence and resilience.

Encourage children’s active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers

Participation is fundamental to ensuring the best interests of the Child/Young person are met. As set out in Article 12 of UNCRC, children and young people have a right to be heard on all matters that affect them. According to the YJB strategy, participation, for children is ‘an active, informed and voluntary process where they are able to express views and make decisions on issues that affect them.’

This process not only encourages greater motivation to engage but positive outcomes are more likely to happen. It is therefore paramount that Rotherham Youth Offending Services enable children’s and young people’s participation’ at all stages giving young people much more say in youth justice decisions that affect them, especially in regard to planning, delivery and evaluation of youth justice services that they receive from us.

Young People that use our services have access to a wide variety of platforms, giving them the opportunity to share their wishes, feelings and views regarding

- the service they have received
- their personal life- including family and friends
- education
- things they are passionate about, these platforms include:

Rotherham YJS uses a variety of resources and tools to capture the voice of young people and work closely with Early Help Voice and Influence Team and other partners to give Children and Young People opportunities to express themselves through Creative methods. Young People have access to an industry standard music recording facility in which their voices are captured through music and lyrics. Furthermore, our young people are encouraged and referred to work with partners in other creative mediums such as dance and drama.

Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion, and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

We have revised our Diversion and Out of Court Disposal Protocol with South Yorkshire police to ensure that young people are diverted from the justice system at the earliest opportunity and are working with our YJ neighbours in South Yorkshire (SY) to review the SY protocol to ensure that we have a consistent approach across the county.

We introduced a Triage and outcomes panel to ensure multi-agency decision making and work in collaboration with partners and Early Help to ensure access to the right support at the right time.

We have revised the Reducing Offending with Looked after Children Protocol and provided restorative justice training for the residential care home and foster carers to ensure that this cohort of children are not criminalised for trauma responsive behaviours.

We have delivered targeted prevention work with young people where ASB or risky behaviours have been identified which could lead to offending. We have worked in collaboration with our Outreach and engagement teams, pupil referral units and our Outdoor Learning Centre (Crowden) to deliver innovative and bespoke interventions as well as targeted outreach.

We are working with our Family Group Conference team and Evidence based hub to offer family intervention where the offending has occurred in the home. We recognise the need to assess and understand the wider factors impacting on offending and work with families to develop skills and confidence in managing behaviours without the need for police call outs.

4. VOICE OF THE CHILD

In October 2021 we created a peer led group for young people with lived experience of the YJS to come together to share their views of services and the CHANCE group was created – the young people created the name which means Changing How Adults Notice Children’s Experiences (CHANCE) and they told us about how the interactions they had with services influenced them. One young person told us how they experienced different teachers in school and how this made them feel/react, sharing this experience helped them to change how they interacted with the YP and as a result there were fewer school exclusions. Another YP told us how the CHANCE group helped them to develop confidence and be able to speak to other people, they have now also joined the police forum for YP and want other YP to have the opportunity to join the group, so they have created a poster and a promotional video to share with all YP to promote what CHANCE is about without the need for Case Managers to explain.

The CHANCE group is led by our Apprentice Youth Support worker who also has lived experience of the YJS and was responsible for the creation of the resettlement resource “Get out, Stay Out” which is now published on the YJB effective practice website and is widely used across the secure estate and Young Offender Institutes. The booklet is currently being evaluated externally to understand it’s impact and effectiveness.

Following the Covid pandemic, Public Health England recommended that local authorities capture the views of children and young people to establish the state of their mental health and wellbeing during lockdown. Rotherham worked alongside other local authorities in the Yorkshire & Humberside region, for the development of the first pandemic survey that would be offered to students at secondary school age. Rotherham continued with the capturing of the voice of young people around this subject. A second piece of consultation work was carried out in October 2020, to capture the views from young people around the impact of the pandemic and school closures and how these were affecting their health and wellbeing.

It was agreed that Rotherham would carry out a third consultation with students once the planning for restrictions to be lifted was announced. This would enable us to have a full picture of young people’s views from the beginning of the pandemic/lockdowns; their views 6 months into restrictions and finally their views once the vaccination programme and the planning for lifting restrictions were underway.

Prior to the launch of the third survey, the views of young people were captured around the questions in the survey and further questions were added at their request.

- What support do you feel should be available for young people to help with their mental health emotions?
- A question to establish the views of children who are looked after.
- During the pandemic/school’s closures have you received education around; Healthy Relationships; Sexual Health Education; Child Sexual Exploitation and Growing Up.

These questions, particularly those around mental health, have been incorporated into the annual lifestyle survey, which commenced in April 2022 and will be published around September 2022.

5. GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP, AND PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

The role of the Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board

The primary duty to ensure a YJS, and appropriate youth justice services are in place rests with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. The Partnership Board takes responsibility for:

- leadership and oversight of youth justice services
- contributing to local multi-agency strategies and work with local and national criminal justice organisations
- safeguarding children who receive youth justice services.

The role of the Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board is to:

- determine how the YJS is composed and funded, how it operates and what functions it carries out and oversee the appointment of a YJS manager
- understand the performance of the YJS and any challenges to service delivery and oversee and respond appropriately to the YJS's performance
- determine how appropriate youth justice services are to be provided and funded; and oversee the YJS budget
- oversee the formulation and implementation of the Youth Justice Plan and ensure that any action plans which comprise part of the annual youth justice plan or audits of performance are carried out
- have strategic oversight of Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System (2019) by satisfying themselves that appropriate systems and policies are in place to achieve positive outcomes
- participate in HMIP inspections of the YJS and any related follow-up activity

Our Ambition

Building on our Inspection findings from September 2020 our ambition is simple. We want to become an OUTSTANDING Youth Justice service.

The Board will ensure that there is a comprehensive range of high-quality services in place, enabling personalised and responsive provision for all children and young people.

We will develop an in-depth understanding of the characteristics of our children and young people, based upon a wide range of current and reliable information.

We will anticipate future demands and develop our understanding of the complexity and the diversity of cases, recognising the need to develop services which meet the specific needs of all children and young people.

We will ensure that there is a strong mix of targeted, specialist and mainstream services, providing the necessary range and depth of intervention to meet the full range of needs.

We will ensure there is sufficient flexibility and options to cater for those with chaotic and unstable circumstances, and the most vulnerable children and young people.

Robust evaluation and quality assurance will form an intrinsic part of service delivery, involving partners and other providers where appropriate, with a focus upon identifying good practice and aspects for improvement.

We will seek opportunities to provide integrated services and pathways of delivery, particularly for children and young people with multiple and complex needs.

We will promote understanding of the needs of our children and young people and provide advice to help other agencies and providers to make sure that their services are relevant and readily accessible.

We will ensure that there are clear and sound inter-agency protocols, referral processes and transitional arrangements, supporting a seamless approach to accessing services and that information is exchanged in a spirit of partnership.

To achieve our ambition, the Board will be:

- Innovative and creative
- Forward-looking and proactive
- Open and transparent
- Supportive, empowering, and inclusive
- Agile and responsive
- Collaborative and outward-looking
- Be child first and offender second in our approach

The Board will ensure that our staff within the YJS are fully empowered to deliver high-quality, personalised, and responsive service for all children and young people.

Leadership and Governance

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 set out the statutory requirements for the provision of Youth Offending Teams and a Governing Chief Officer Steering Group. The role and responsibilities of YJSs and their Management Boards continue to be regulated by the National Standards for YJS.

The YJS Partnership Board is fundamental in challenging and supporting the work of the Youth Justice Plan, alongside the performance and priorities of the team, ensuring that statutory partner agencies are also held to account and contributing effectively to the delivery of the outcomes. It considers not only the national youth justice strategic objectives, but also local indicators and themed reports, including benchmarking against inspection reports.

The YJS Partnership Board supports the YJS to overcome barriers and will also commission agencies and partners for bespoke work e.g., improving the voice of the child both within the YJS and the Board and since the arrangements for critical incident reporting no longer lie with the Youth Justice Board, reporting of these incidents also proceeds directly to the YJS Partnership Board.

The YJS Partnership Board is responsible for maintaining oversight of the budget, YJB Grant and any other funding, formally approving these on a quarterly basis, and seeking reassurance that the YJS complies with National Standards and information requirements for the secure estate.

The YJS is located in the Early Help Service, which forms part of the Children and Young People's Department. The Chair of the YJS Partnership Board is the Assistant Director of Early Help Services, who reports to the Director of Children's Services who, in turn, reports to the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Authority. The Chair ensures that the vital links are maintained to community safety, early intervention, and prevention, safeguarding and keeping children safe from harm via representation at key strategic boards.

A Service Manager is responsible for both the YJS and the Evidence Based Hub (EBH), which includes family group conferencing, outdoor education and oversight of the evidence-based programmes delivered borough wide. To meet the statutory requirements necessary structures and governance are in place within the Local Authority, as detailed below and shown in the structure appendices.

In Rotherham, our YJS works alongside statutory partners including Police, South Yorkshire Probation Trust, and the NHS, together with a wide range of contracted Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to achieve the national youth justice strategic objectives which are to:

- Prevent Offending – reducing first time entrants to the YJS
- Reducing the use of custody
- Reduce Re-Offending rates

Rotherham YJS is a multi-agency service comprising four statutory agencies: Police, Local Authority, Health and the National Probation Service. Each of these agencies has the statutory responsibility for resourcing and supporting the YJS Partnership Board. There are strong links with the voluntary and community sector which have significant roles in the delivery of the YJS priorities together with the strategic and operational expertise within CYPS and most importantly enabling the voice of the child to shape and influence the support and services received.

Partnership Arrangements

The YJS has developed and maintained a number of robust partnerships with statutory and non-statutory agencies. The Service Manager for YJS and the EBH works in partnership with South Yorkshire Regional YJS managers to ensure representation on a number of strategic forums, most notably;

- Local Criminal Justice Board, (LCJB)
- Strategic MAPPA Board
- Regional Reducing Re-offending Board
- Regional Restorative Justice/Integrated Offender Management
- Violence Reduction Unit – Executive Board
- South Yorkshire Child Exploitation Partnership Forum
- Violence against Women and Girls Forum

The Service Manager for YJS and EBH is also a representative at a number of local boards, including;

- Child Sexual Exploitation Silver Group
- PREVENT Silver Group
- MATAC – High risk Domestic Abuse Perpetrators
- Rotherham Children’s Safeguarding Partnership Board and sub-groups (including – Child Exploitation Delivery Group)
- Practice Standards Group.
- Serious, Violent and Organised Crime Silver Board

In addition, the YJS is a stakeholder in the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium with the Service manager attending strategic groups and the Youth Justice Operations Co-ordinator and/or lead worker attending the operational groups and practice forums feeding back to the wider team to ensure that the YJS is up to date with current trends and sharing of good practice.

The YJS has a close relationship with the voluntary sector, which is illustrated by the joint working undertaken with the Barnardo's Junction Project to assess and intervene in harmful sexual behaviours.

The boards attended by the YJS Service Manager, described previously, allow for regular check and challenge across the partnership and ensure that the YJS is aligned with wider children's services, community safety partnership, health and well-being strategy and regional commissioned services.

Partnerships maintained with statutory partners such as the Police, has resulted in joint decision making about out of court disposals based on YJS assessments and assisting in charge advice to CPS for sexually harmful offences.

Reparation and Victim Services are commissioned jointly between Rotherham, Sheffield and Barnsley YJSs. Performance and quality are reviewed quarterly by the respective YJS managers, and the service provided is good.

Rotherham YJS has a Risk Panel (YMARAC), which meets on a fortnightly basis with representatives from statutory partners; Police, Children's Social Care, Inclusion and Health and also additional agencies, as required, to ensure that internal and external controls are in place to;

- manage risk of re-offending
- manage risk of serious harm
- increase safety and wellbeing factors

To ensure the strategic and operational practice between YJS and partners, who contribute to specialist services to support children is functioning and managed effectively, the YJS reports to the YJS Partnership Board and the Safer Rotherham Partnership SRP).



6. RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Rotherham YJS makes effective use of the resource available, and the main resource is staffing and the YJB grant provides a core Youth Justice service, in keeping with section 39(5) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This includes qualified social workers, probation case managers holding high risk cases, case managers qualified via the youth justice foundation degree, BA Hons Degree in Youth Justice, or effective practice certificate. A copy of the current staffing structure is attached at Appendix 2.

An experienced case manager oversees all court work and staff are trained in risk and vulnerability assessment, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), as well as child protection, thus ensuring the YJS's compliance with grant conditions.

Workforce

The YJS's greatest resource is the staff team and we have experienced some turnover of staff in the last two years through retirement and professional development. Our recruitment process has been thorough and utilised the knowledge and skills of the partnership to appoint to the roles. These opportunities have attracted applications from professionals from a wide range of backgrounds.

We are developing our YJ Coordinator and senior practitioner through workforce development and mentoring support from the Youth Justice Sector Improvement Partnership.

There is a commitment to ensure that the nature and diversity of the workforce responds to local needs; we continue to seek opportunities to recruit and develop young people and adults with lived experience of the YJS who are essential to achieving our vision.

Workforce Development

To support the ongoing development of our YJ workforce we have introduced the role of senior practitioner within the YJ service. These posts provide additional capacity to focus on strategic priorities and operational delivery, a clear progression route for experienced YJ workers and provide greater capacity to deliver on the vision of the YJ Service and align with wider Children's Services.

The advantage of the YJS being located within the Early Help Service is the provision of further opportunities to make effective use of resources by joint working with Early Help and other colleagues, developing exit strategies and increasing the reach of preventative interventions and Early Help services.

We currently have one YJ worker undertaking the Social Work Degree Apprenticeship, alongside a secondment to our Child Exploitation team, and supports the priority of workforce development to have a 'grow your own culture'.

The YJS is committed to continued workforce development and ensuring that new and existing staff and managers are adequately trained and experienced. Staff and managers in the YJS are encouraged to pursue professional development opportunities that enhance the service offer to children and families as well as supporting professional development and progression.

Since March 2021 Rotherham YJS has recruited 4 new YJ Workers and a YJ Social Worker, all practitioners are completing/have completed the Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate; the qualification is endorsed by the Youth Justice Board and brings together the most up-to-date thinking, knowledge, research and evidence about what works in this field. The course is made up of six learning blocks, studied one at a time over 30 weeks. One of these workers is now undertaking the YJ Foundation Degree to further enhance their development.

Seconded Roles

The Seconded YJ Probation Officer (0.5 FTE) started in March 2022 after a vacancy for 6 months due to the reunification of Probation services and has recently completed AssetPlus training.

The Seconded Police Officer (0.8 FTE) joined the team in March 2020, a reduction in officer time (-0.2 FTE) but has been instrumental in the redesign of the out of court disposal triage and outcomes processes.

Rotherham YJS has access to Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Mental Health Provision through the local service however further discussions with the Clinical Commissioning Group are currently underway to look at service specific resourcing.

Other funding (PCC) is geared towards prevention services with Youth Justice Workers based in locality teams, alongside other early help colleagues and police officers. It also resources our Evidence Based Hub (EBH) which oversees the delivery of evidence-based programmes including 'Triple P Parenting' and 'Parents as Partners' programmes and the education programmes developed specifically for young people including crime and consequences, educational sessions regarding sharing of images online (Be Share Aware) and knife crime programmes which can be delivered one to one or in groups.

Rotherham YJS has pooled resources and funding with VRU and SRP to pilot innovative targeted interventions in partnership with other agencies such as the Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) programme which was developed and delivered with our Outdoor Learning Centre and Alternative Provision to provide education, positive activity and increase aspirations whilst reducing risk associated with CCE.

2021-22 YJS Final Outturn to March 2022				
350110 - Pooled Budget To end of March 2022				
Cat	Description	Actual Spend to end March 2022	Full Year Budget	Variance
10	Direct Employee Exps	512,685.28	499,624.00	13,061.28
14	Indirect Emp Exps	7,584.25	3,264.00	4,320.25
20	Premises	800.00	0.00	800.00
25	Transport	6,154.68	6,800.00	-645.32
30	Supplies & Services	13,048.57	17,252.00	-4,203.43
75	Other Grants Reimbts & Contrib	-241,593.00	-228,260.00	-13,333.00
	Total	298,680	298,680	0

350030 - EH YJS YJB Grant				
Cat	Description	Actual Spend to end March 2022	Full Year Budget	Variance
10	Direct Employee Exps	388,963.10	355,163.00	33,800.10
14	Indirect Emp Exps	2,447.00	15,176.00	-12,729.00
20	Premises	42.70	0.00	42.70
25	Transport	1,237.80	4,842.00	-3,604.20
30	Supplies & Services	85,995.26	99,277.00	-13,281.74
70	Government Grants	-478,686.00	-474,458.00	-4,228.00
	Total	0	0	0

Extra YJB Grant Allocation of £4228 received December 2021



7. PROGRESS ON PREVIOUS PLAN

Priorities for 2021/22	Progress to date
<p>Ensure that Board members understand the specific needs of children known to the YJS and advocate on their behalf in their own agencies.</p>	<p>We have undertaken a series of development sessions with board members, provided case studies and detailed cohort data.</p> <p>We have a YJS Board member induction pack to ensure Board Members understand their role and responsibilities</p> <p>All board members are champions for youth justice in their agencies and clear on the YJS priorities, data and local issues and have an understanding across the partnership of the Rotherham YJS story and context</p> <p>We have a Youth Justice ‘jargon buster’ to enable board members to fully engage with board meetings.</p> <p>Presentations and case studies are routine so board members can see the impact of their work at the board and can receive restorative challenges when areas for improvement are highlighted.</p>
<p>Ensure the partnership understands the reasons for the significant number of Looked After Children known to the YJS, and reviews the policies and practices of all agencies to minimise the possibility of children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily</p>	<p>We have reviewed and update the Rotherham Reducing Offending for Looked after Children (ROLAC) protocol. We have revised our Local protocol for reducing offending with LAC and also the Police diversionary pathway for children in care. A young person friendly version of the protocol was also co-produced by young people.</p> <p>We have delivered presentations to Board Members and Corporate Parenting Board regarding looked after children known to the YJS.</p> <p>We have provided bespoke training in Restorative Justice for staff in residential care homes and foster carers</p> <p>All partners understand and adopt the Rotherham ROLAC protocol and review own agency policies and procedures to ensure that these are aligned with protocol for LAC.</p> <p>Profiling individual children to ensure that there is continued understanding of the LAC cohort in Rotherham, producing quarterly reports for the partnership.</p> <p>The impact of this work is that our looked after children are less likely to be criminalised due to recent the development of the Rotherham Multi-Agency Protocol, led by the Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board. This ensures that our Looked After Children are not criminalised or unnecessarily enter the youth justice system. As a result, we have seen a reduction in the number of looked after children who are known to the Youth Justice Service. We continue to monitor our performance in supporting Looked After Children and reducing FTE and reoffending rates within this cohort.</p>

Priorities for 2021/22	Progress to date
<p>Undertake a comprehensive health needs analysis of YJS children to better understand the health provision being delivered and what needs to be developed</p>	<p>We have completed an analysis of health needs across the young people in the YJS in Rotherham and used this data to inform a revised pathway for children with improved access to SALT, CAMHS and 0-19 services. We have good relationships with specialist services such as sexual health providers and substance misuse teams.</p> <p>Working with South Yorkshire Police and Liaison and diversion services we have improved the pathway for assessment for children in police custody.</p> <p>Work in partnership with the VRU and adopt the Public Health approach re: prevention</p> <p>Ensure that YJ is a key part of Integrated Care system (South Yorkshire Bassetlaw) and ensure commissioning arrangements provide clear pathways and services for children in the YJS.</p>
<p>Review the quality and accessibility of education, training and employment provision for post-16-year-old children known to the service.</p>	<p>We have completed a skills audit to identify gaps in provision, accessibility and/or barriers to inclusion and ensure that commissioning arrangements are in place to meet these gaps.</p> <p>Met with existing post 16 providers to develop pathways for YJS young people.</p> <p>Undertaken Contextual Safeguarding training with post 16 providers to promote inclusion and increase desistence.</p> <p>Ensure representation at the people and skills working group to ensure YJS cohort are considered in economic recovery planning.</p> <p>Provide opportunities to YJS Cohort via ESF pathway.</p> <p>Regularly review the ETE needs of the YJS cohort in Rotherham to ensure sufficiency and barriers to engagement.</p>
<p>Review the quality of risk of harm work and improve the effectiveness of management oversight in all cases</p>	<p>We have successfully introduced a Youth Multi-Agency Risk Panel (YMARAC) to review and manage risk in the community and ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child.</p> <p>The YMARAC identifies any MAPPA eligible cases and ensures the process is effectively captures and records decision-making regarding level for all MAPPA eligible cases.</p> <p>HARM Matrix & Signs of Safety Language Training has been provided for all staff and embed into process the use of HARM Matrix and signs of safety language</p> <p>Developed a Joint Working Protocol for YJS/Early Help & Social Care Teams to provide clarity around roles and responsibilities for joint worked cases and development of plans for young people.</p> <p>Audit activity takes place monthly and shows evidence of good quality YJS practice and management oversight in all risk of harm work across YJS delivery as well as improvement in assessment, planning and reviewing.</p>

Priorities for 2021/22	Progress to date
First Time Entrants	<p>We have introduced a triage and outcomes panel to ensure multi agency decision making for out of court disposals and diversion.</p> <p>We have reviewed our diversion protocol with South Yorkshire Police to increase the number of children who are eligible are assessed for an out of court disposal.</p> <p>We continue to monitor FTE levels and scrutinise ourselves regarding decisions both internally and across South Yorkshire.</p> <p>We work with CPS to identify young people who would be suitable for diversion to identify them early and reduce unnecessary court appearances.</p> <p>Strengthen access to positive places within communities / centre-based provision with a stronger focus on outreach and delivering within communities and utilise mentoring opportunities in partnership with Levelling the playing field.</p>
Re-offending	<p>We utilise the live tracker for monitoring re-offending to ensure that the priority group are effectively supported, and that the likelihood of re-offending is managed through case management and multi-agency support.</p> <p>We utilise a range of education programmes that have been developed to encourage young people to develop consequential thinking skills and support informed decision making. Young people have told us that they have valued the education alongside the development of relationships.</p> <p>Through the triage and outcomes panel we have increased the number of parents accessing Evidence based parenting programmes and Family Group Conferencing from YJS Cohort.</p> <p>Collate and report data using the live tracker to monitor re-offending rates for diversion outcomes to enable the partnership to identify any risks or barriers which are contributing to re-offending.</p> <p>We regularly review the impact of current intervention and education programmes in relation to re-offending.</p>
Custody and resettlement	<p>We supported a young person to develop a personal booklet for YP in custody with details of services, ETE providers and health information to help with resettlement. The resource Get Out Stay Out! has been supported through the S&WY Resettlement Consortium to have a wider reach and now features on the YJB Resource Hub. The initiative has been picked up nationally by HMPPS who are exploring how this can be used in the young adult custodial estate.</p> <p>We continue to monitor custody rates and produce good quality pre-sentence reports with alternative to custody proposals.</p> <p>Review of Rotherham's resettlement data through interrogation of the S&W Yorkshire Resettlement consortium data sets.</p> <p>Provide training for Staff and Board Members to embed the 'identity change' work from the S&W Yorkshire Resettlement consortium.</p>

Priorities for 2021/22	Progress to date
Contextual Safeguarding	<p>The Service Manager for YJS and Evidence based hub is the deputy Channel Panel chair.</p> <p>A performance scorecard has been developed by the service considering Missing activity, children at risk of CSE and CCE.</p> <p>Professionals have an ongoing level of awareness around contextual safeguarding through partnership training and events.</p> <p>Reviews of risk assessment around the high and medium risk cases take place on a three-monthly basis to ensure that the interventions offered by the Evolve, YJS and fieldwork services, in conjunction with disruption by the police, is working to reduce the risk.</p> <p>We are represented at the South Yorkshire child exploitation partnership forum to ensure a county wide approach to sharing good practice and emerging themes.</p> <p>We have implemented a single pathway for Child exploitation using best practice from HMICFRS / Safeguarding practice review report publication 'Hard to Escape' and 'Both sides of the coin' and other models of good practice to ensure our response to victims of CE is consistent, child focused and protective.</p>
Serious Youth Violence	<p>We utilise the YJB Serious Youth Violence Toolkit to understand local demographics and profile of our cohort. We work with the Violence Reduction unit to ensure the YJS is working in partnership with all agencies to prevent and respond to violence in homes, schools and communities.</p> <p>We offer the CEASE programme to young people to explore healthy relationships and carry out direct intervention with those young people who are displaying violent or abusive behaviours within a relationship.</p> <p>All high-risk domestic abuse reports to MASH are progressed to a MADA (Multi Agency Domestic Abuse) meeting by 11am on the day of receipt to ensure a safety plan is in place immediately. This will be particularly relevant where the perpetrators and victims are young people and will ensure more timely support.</p> <p>The Service Manager for Rotherham YJS and Evidence Based hub is the county YJS representative at the VRU Executive Board and there are strong links with the community safety team</p> <p>We are working with the Safer Rotherham Partnership and Violence Reduction unit to prepare and implement a Serious Violence strategy in line with the new duty.</p>

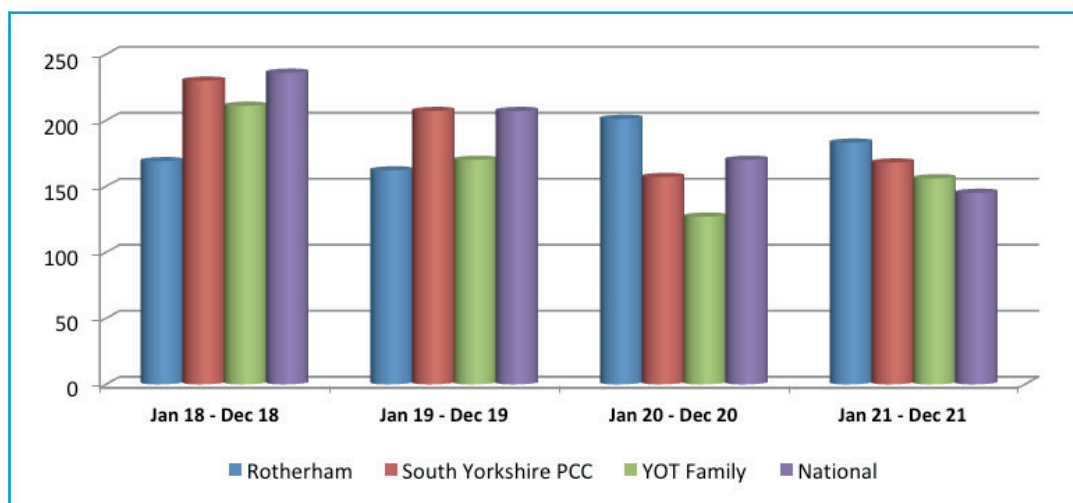
Priorities for 2021/22	Progress to date
<p>Raising factors for desistance in relation to Education, Training & Employment.</p> <p>Raising aspirations, attainment, and attendance.</p>	<p>We work closely with inclusion services and Schools to ensure young people have suitable education in place to Y11. 'Barriers to learning' programme has been developed and delivered to encourage EET post 16 and is delivered by our Early Help Outreach Teams.</p> <p>We continue to review and report exclusion data to the YJS Partnership board on a quarterly basis and we work closely with the Virtual school Heads and inclusion teams and YJS attends the monthly inclusion panels for primary and secondary schools to offer alternatives and early intervention to children at risk of exclusion.</p> <p>We are ambitious for all of our children and work closely with colleagues in Early Help to offer opportunities based on the young person's skills and interests to increase participation and aspiration.</p>
<p>Performance and Quality</p>	<p>We have developed a detailed analysis of the cohort we work with and ensure that the board is aware of the nature of this cohort.</p> <p>We undertake multi-agency audits and learning for quality assurance of Early Help Assessments & have implemented a peer audit process for AssetPlus assessments with findings and key themes presented to partnerships.</p> <p>We had a focussed Practice Learning Day in April 2021 to review the quality of provision in the YJS and the feedback was positive.</p> <p>We work alongside EH and Social Care teams to ensure a coordinated approach to intervention and prevention as well as in respect of Child Exploitation. Development of Joint Working Protocol between YJS/Early Help & Social Care Teams</p> <p>We commissioned a peer review with YJSIP in March 2022 to review our progress against 5 Key Lines of Enquiry.</p>
<p>Service User Voice</p>	<p>We ensure that the Board understands the experiences of young people, parents and those affected by crime in Rotherham and develop improvement actions based on this feedback. We have conducted Surveys with Young people to seek their feedback and views about our service and we routinely contact families and young people through the Audit process.</p> <p>Developed a local young person focus group (CHANCE) to obtain service user feedback to influence policy and practice.</p> <p>Refreshed referral order panel processes and paperwork to ensure greater participation and future focused and recruited and trained additional volunteers enhance our panel offer.</p>

Priorities for 2021/22	Progress to date
Workforce Development	<p>We are committed to ongoing learning and development for our Workforce and training completed includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AssetPlus refresher Training for all staff and AssetPlus QA Training for Managers and Senior Practitioners • Signs of Success – Advance Practitioner training and Whole service training • AIM3 Assessment and Intervention Training • Trauma informed practice and trauma stabilisation workshops • Mentoring training through Levelling the Playing field. • Effective Practice Certificate in Youth Justice included in the Induction programme for new starters • Youth Justice Foundation Degree • Exploitation and County Lines training • YJSIP mentoring for the YJ Operations coordinator to develop skills and experience. • YJ Operations coordinator and Service Manager undertaking Level 7 Management qualifications • Additional YJS workers trained in Court following a programme of shadowing and commissioned training. <p>Trauma informed Practice - continued workforce development through ongoing training and commitment to embedding this in practice.</p>



8. PERFORMANCE AND PRIORITIES

Preventing young people entering the youth justice system; Reducing First Time Entrants (FTE)



Number of First time Entrants (FTE) to Criminal Justice System by Outcome Type and LAC status	Q4 (Measure – April 21/March 22)	
	Total (52 YPs)	LAC (3 YPs)
Youth Caution	10	0
Youth Conditional Caution	17	1
Referral Order	17	2
Other Outcome (Discharge, Fine etc)	8	0

The table above breaks down the outcomes for FTE for 12 months ending Q4 (based on local data), 10 (19.2%) Youth Cautions, 17 (32.7%) YCC, 17 (32.7%) Referral Orders and 8 (15.4%) other outcomes. From a detailed look at the data the prevailing offence across all outcomes were for violence against the person (55.8%).

Other offences across all FTE outcomes included 11 motoring offences/vehicle theft, 3 drugs offences, 3 criminal damage, 2 sexual offences, 1 public order, 1 robbery, 1 Arson and 1 'other' (Hoax/abusive or malicious calls).

Outcomes/Offences 2021/22

Offences by type 2021/22		Number of disposals/substantive outcomes received by children 2021/22	489
Arson	2	Community Resolution – other agency facilitated	16
Breach of bail 2	2	Community Resolution Police facilitated	113
Breach of Statutory order	5	Community Resolution with YOT intervention	129
Criminal Damage	95	Outcome 21	87
Drugs	40	Outcome 22	67
Fraud and forgery	1	Youth Caution	11
Motoring offences	34	Youth Conditional Caution	18
Non Domestic Burglary	6	Total out of court disposals received by children	452
Other	34	Compensation Order	1
Public order	38	Conditional Discharge	6
Racially aggravated	7	Disqualified from Driving	2
Robbery	3	Fine	4
Sexual offences	108	Referral Order	23
Theft and handling of Stolen Goods	34	Youth Rehabilitation Order with ISS	1
Vehicle Theft/Unauthorised Taking	4	Total court disposals received by children	37
Violence against the person	198		
Total offences	612		

The outcomes data for 2021/22 suggests there is more work to be done to prevent children entering the formal criminal justice system.

There has been an increase in Referral Orders in comparison to 2020/21 (15) whilst Youth Rehabilitation Orders have reduced (7). We also see an increase in Out of Court Disposals in comparison to 2020/21 from 320 to 452, although numbers of those receiving Youth Cautions/Youth Conditional Cautions have reduced from 46 in 2020/21 to 29 in 2021/22.

Our priority remains to continue improving our First Time Entrant rates and will focus on whether any of the children receiving Youth Cautions or other formal Disposals could have been avoided by increased use of Youth Restorative Interventions. In relation to the cohort, 2021/22 saw an increase in cohort size (353 to 489) but a significant reduction in offences (612) in comparison to 2020/21 (1157). 2021/22 saw a slight reduction in violent offences with violence against the person accounting for 32.4% of offences in comparison to 2020/21 where this rate was 35.6%.

Since July 2019 we have aligned YJS prevention work by introducing the Early Help Assessment into the YJS for cases in a prevention arena (YRD and YC only) in order to embed a whole family approach. Every assessment includes an assessment of risk, safety and wellbeing as well as desistance factors. The new process has now been implemented. We have introduced a triage and outcomes panel to ensure there is multi agency decision making and opportunity for diversion to wider services where appropriate.

We continue to use the YJB AssetPlus assessment tool to assess young people where the disposal is YCC and above and the following chart shows detail regarding the characteristics of children subject to statutory (YCC and above) interventions in 2021/22.

Children in Cohort 2021/22 Characteristics (those subject to a YCC or above)	42
Substance Misuse Concerns	17
Mental Health Concerns	15
Speech & Language Concerns	20
Special Educational Needs identified	14
Education, Health and Care Plans	9
NEET 9	9
Children in need (current or previous)	18
Child Protection Plans (current or previous)	19
Looked after children (current or previous)	6
CCE/CSE	4

Reducing re-offending

Nationally monitored priorities: Reducing Reoffending

Chart 2a

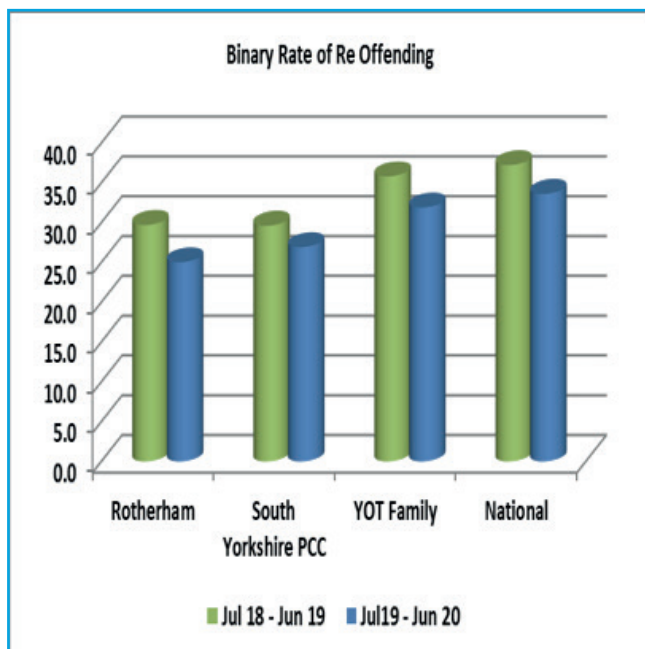


Chart 2b

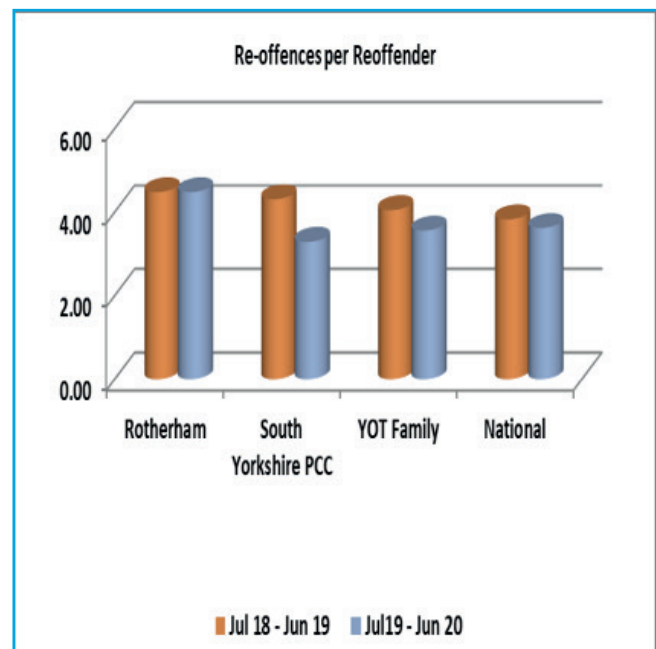


Table 2c

	Binary Rate of Reoffending		Reoffences per Reoffender	
	Jul 18 - Jun19	Jul 19 – Jun 20	Jul 18 – Jun 19	Jul 19 – Jun 20
Rotherham	29.7	25.0	4.47	4.47
South Yorkshire PCC	29.6	26.9	4.30	3.28
YOT Family	35.8	31.9	4.04	3.55
National	37.2	33.6	3.82	3.61

The latest re-offending statistics from the Quarter 4 YDS information relate to the period July 2019 to June 2020. The Charts above show that the Rotherham binary rate of re offending have reduced in line with National trends and are lower than the South Yorkshire PCC and the comparative YJS family however, the re-offences per re-offender remain static.

Re Offending Live tracker – Cohort based on 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

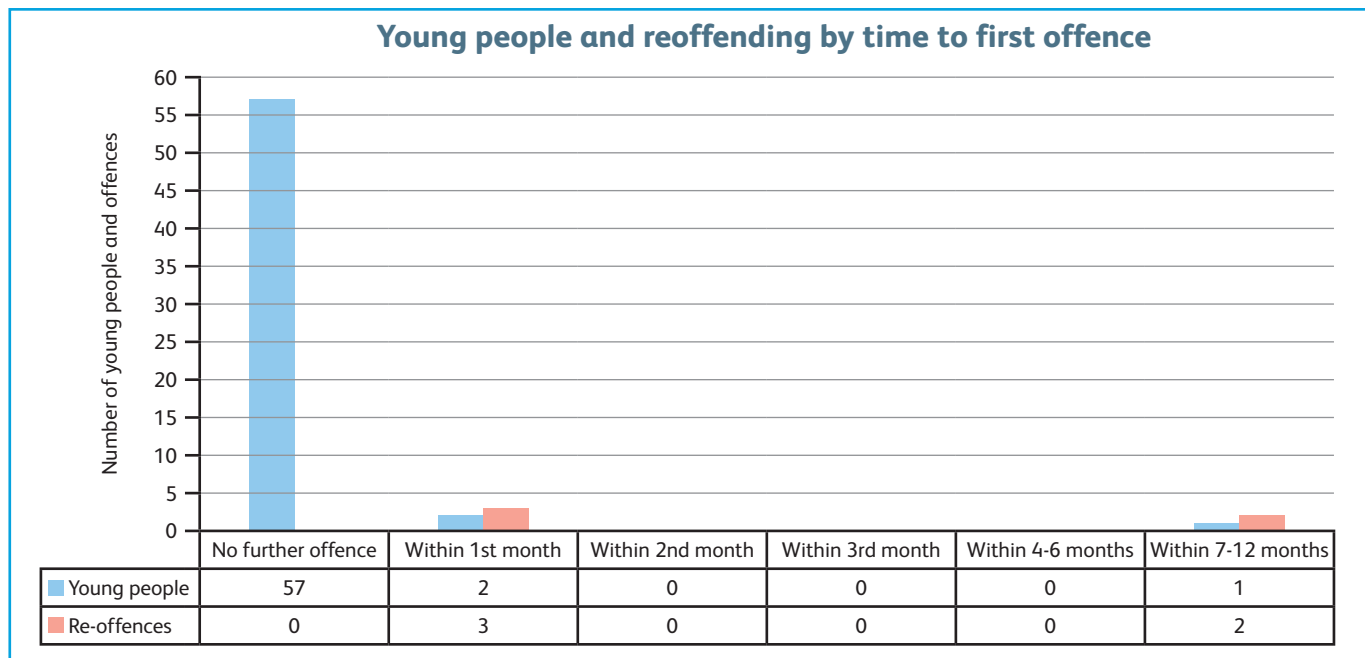


Chart 3a

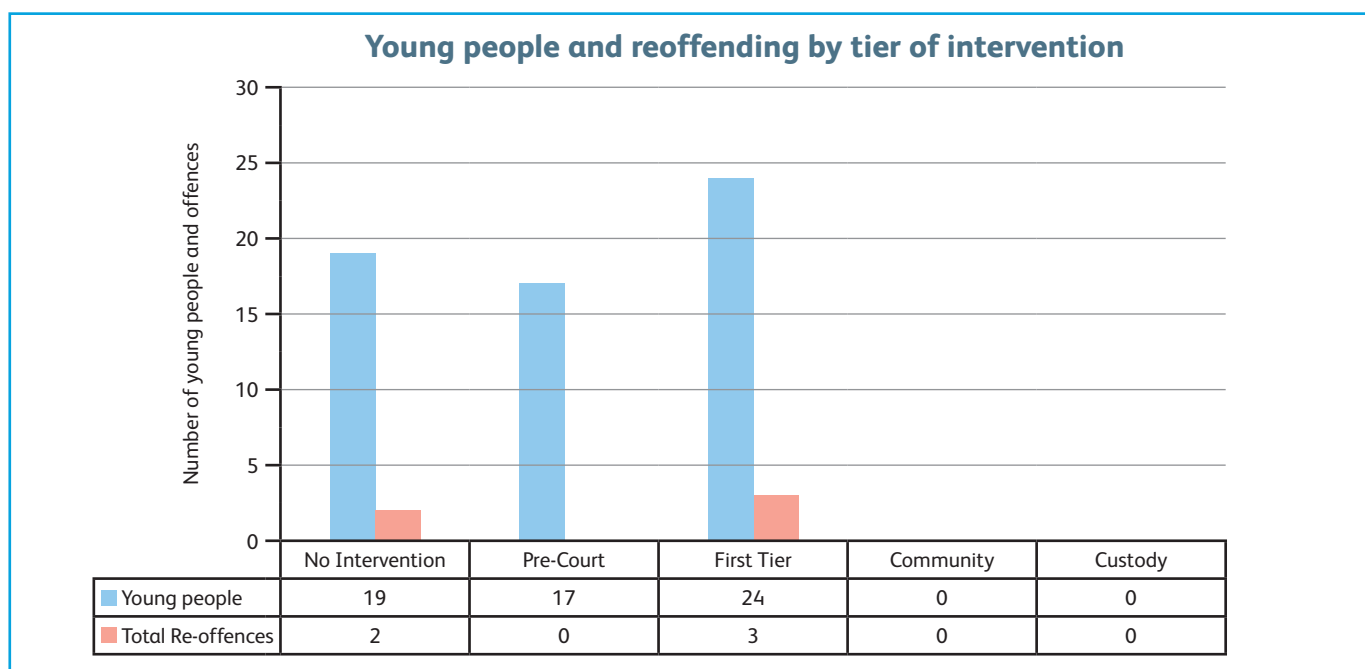


Chart 3b

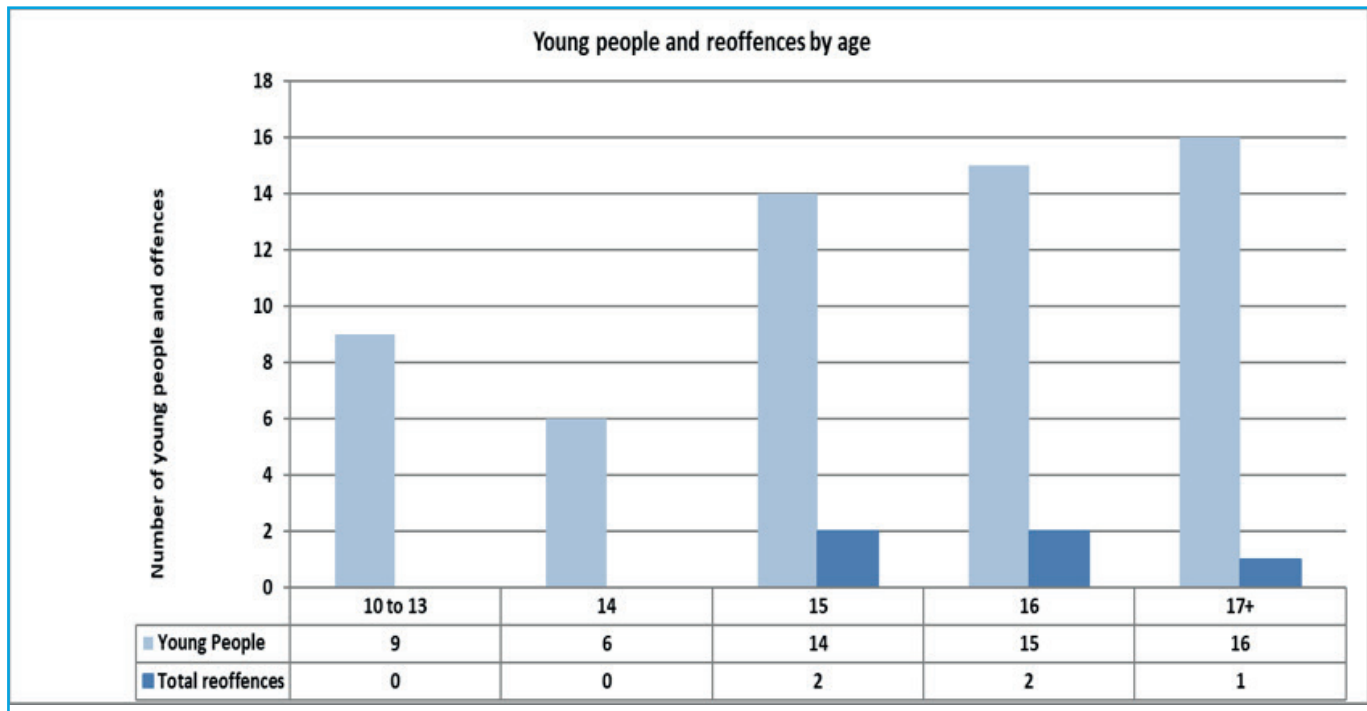


Chart 3c

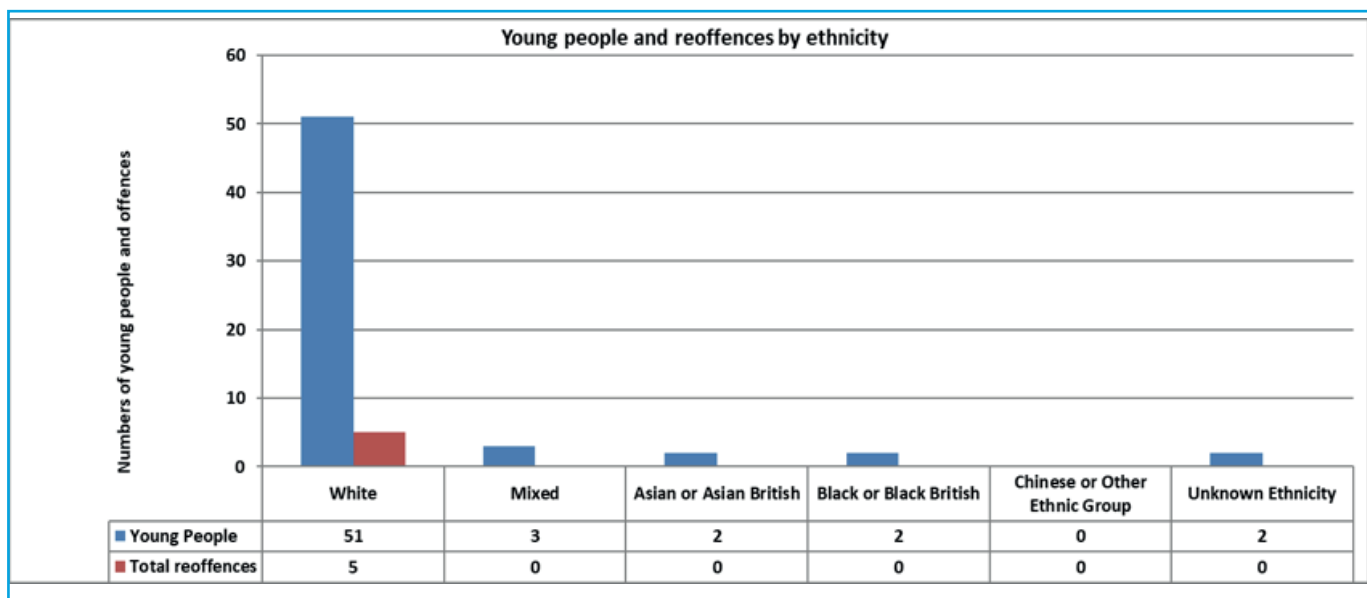


Chart 3d

From the charts displayed above (Charts 3a-3d) from our live re-offending tracker between the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 we can see that a total number of 5 re-offences (3 re-offenders) were committed during this period, and it refers to 60 young people eligible for tracking during the 12 month period.

Chart 3a shows us that of these 60 young people 57 (95.0%) had no further offences from the original offence date therefore the remaining 3 (5.0%) young people were responsible for the 5 re-offences in this time frame.

Chart 3b shows the cohort of young people by Intervention tier. The chart shows that 2 of the 5 re-offences (40.0%) during this period was committed by 1 young person who received a Youth Caution, a further 2 of the 5 re-offences were committed by 1 young person who received a Referral Order whilst the remaining 1 re-offence was committed by 1 young person whose original sentence was deferred.

The data in Chart 3c shows us that 2 of the 5 re-offences (40.0%) were carried out by a YP who 15 years was old, 2 (40.0%) were committed by 1 young person who was 16 years old with 1 (20.0%) re-offence in the 17+ year old category.

The local tracker shows us that of the 3 young people responsible for the 5 re-offences:

- 3 out of 3 are male and white
- 2 out of the 3 was currently looked after
- 2 out of the 3 committed 2 reoffences
- 1 out of the 3 committed 1 reoffence
- 3 out of the 3 committed reoffences deemed 'less serious' (gravity matrix score) than their original offences

Nationally monitored priorities: Reducing the use of custody

Chart 4a

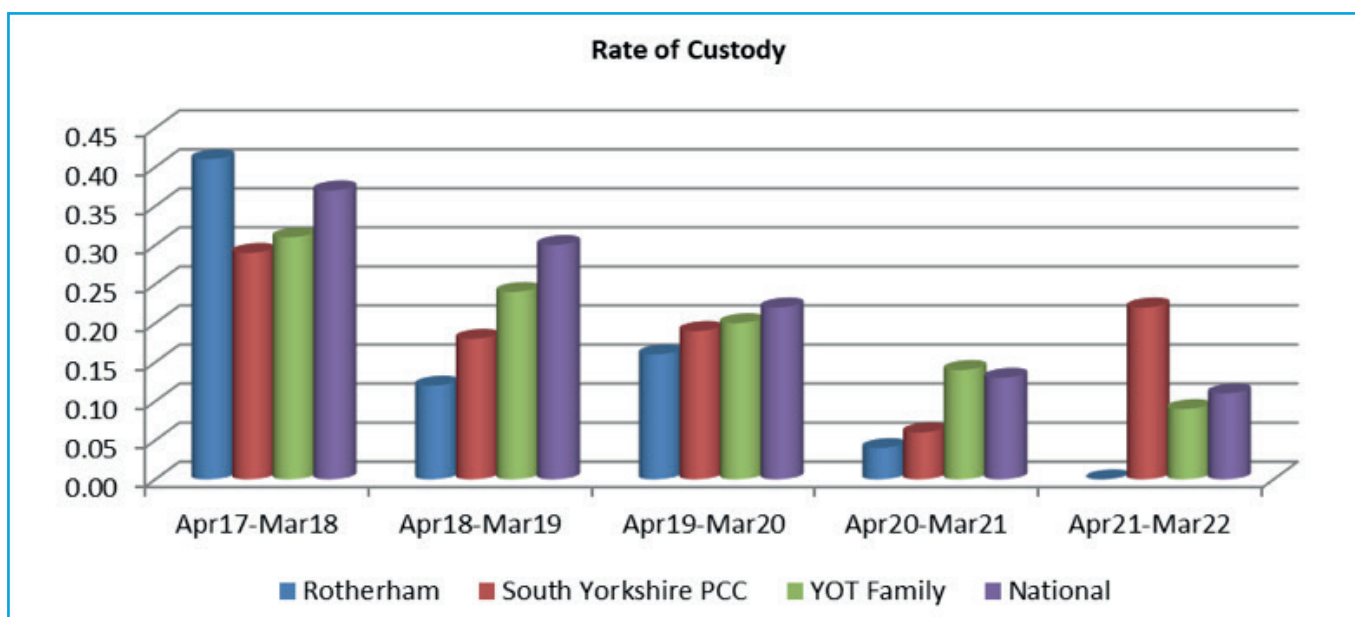


Table 4b

Rate of Custody	Apr 17-Mar 18	Apr 18-Mar 19	Apr 19-Mar 20	Apr 20-Mar 21	Apr 21-Mar 22
Rotherham	0.41	0.12	0.16	0.04	0.00
South Yorkshire PCC	0.29	0.18	0.19	0.06	0.22
YOT Family	0.31	0.24	0.20	0.14	0.09
National	0.37	0.30	0.22	0.13	0.11

Rotherham continues to have Custody rates that are well below national figures, (see Charts 4a and 4b) and, at present, have no young people in custody either sentenced or on remand.

National standards

The New Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System were introduced by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) on the 1st of April 2019. Youth Justice Service's and their respective Management Boards were tasked with undertaking a "baseline self-assessment" that allowed a six-month period for implementation of the New Standards and a further six months for self-assessment against the New Standards.

Our approach to the self-assessment consisted of:

- Determining whether policies were being implemented as intended.
- Assessing how often Policies, Codes of Practice are being used and how accessible/practical and up-to-date they are.
- Determining if changed circumstances e.g., new legislation are reflected within YJS documents.
- Determining Self-Assessment bandings based on the judgement criteria,
- Development of an appropriate Action Plan.

Operational Self-Assessment – Case Sample Specification

The period of this self-assessment dates between the 1st of September 2019 and the 31st March 2020. The YJS Partnership Board and Management Team were tasked with the analysis of the quality of work and the respective case management as defined in the National Standards.

For the operational element of the self-assessment, we asked that analysis of 20 relevant cases (where possible) open during that period and where appropriate the same cases have been used across the Standards, only 3 cases met the criteria for Standard 4 and therefore all 3 were included in the sample.

The cases which were selected for each Standard can be provided upon request.

At the Extra Ordinary YJS Partnership Board meeting held on 22nd June 2020 the findings were presented and examples of good practice along with areas for development were identified. These are contained within the supporting evidence and detailed in the action plan. The grading for both aspects for the Self-Assessment were agreed by the Board and are recorded below.

Standard	Strategic Grading	Operational Grading
1 Out of Court Disposals	Good	Good
2 At Court	Good	Good
3 In the Community	Good	Good
4 In Secure Settings	Good	Good
5 On Resettlement and Transition	Good	Good

A further self-assessment will be undertaken in January 2023

Audit Activity

In Q4 ending March 2022, a total of 18 cases were audited, including 10 Domain 2 (Post Court) cases and 8 Domain 3 (Out of Court) cases. Of the 18 cases audited the following findings were made: Overall the average grading for the YJS Case Files audited is 7 (Good) for the case file and, also when considering how confident the service is that they are responding to the child/young person in the most appropriate and effective way. The Audits scored 7 (Good) for assessment, planning, implementation, and delivery also.

Assessments sufficiently analyses how to support the child or young person's desistance, and how well the assessment of risk and safety and well-being is sufficiently analysing how to keep the young person and others safe. Planning focuses on supporting the child/young person's desistance, keeping others safe, and keeping the young person safe. Audit evidenced that regular reviews are undertaken which are well-informed, analytical, personalised and involves YP and Parent/carer.

Learning / Action

Following audit, Partnership Managers and Senior Practitioners carry out analysis of the findings and use this to inform remedial action, personal development, wider training, and service development. There were 18 actions identified from audits (individual worker and team level), these are tracked by the service. The assurance arrangements for YJS will be considered alongside wider CYPS assurance framework to inform development of our quality assurance processes.



9. CHALLENGES, RISKS AND ISSUES

Contextual Safeguarding - Child Exploitation

After reviewing our pathway using best practice from HMICFRS / Safeguarding practice review report publication 'Hard to Escape' and 'Both sides of the coin' and other models of good practice to ensure our response to victims of CE is consistent, child focused and protective we have changed the RAM (Risk Assessment Meetings) to MACE (Multi Agency Child Exploitation). This was to bring us into line with Regional and National practice and terminology. The purpose of MACE is to provide identification and assessment of children at risk of child exploitation. The meeting promotes information sharing across a variety of agencies to highlight vulnerabilities, threats, and to establish and reduce risk by increasing safety around a child/young person.

In July 2021 Rotherham YJS supported an exploitation pilot which concluded in January 2022, seconding a YJ Worker to the EVOLVE team to highlight the strength of combining sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation into one pathway and one team which has now been adopted as a permanent approach. The YJS is located with the Evolve Team, police, social workers, missing advocates and Barnardo's to support better partnership working.

The ongoing partnership work highlights that we are not complacent about CSE or CCE and recognise that given the contextual nature of the harm, there is a need to work as a team around the child and family to mitigate the risks. Any new or current cases where there are issues emerging about risk are fed into the weekly intelligence meeting to support a partnership approach to disruption and risk management as well as strategic Silver and Bronze meetings regarding Organised Crime and Serious Violence which report to the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

Serious Youth Violence

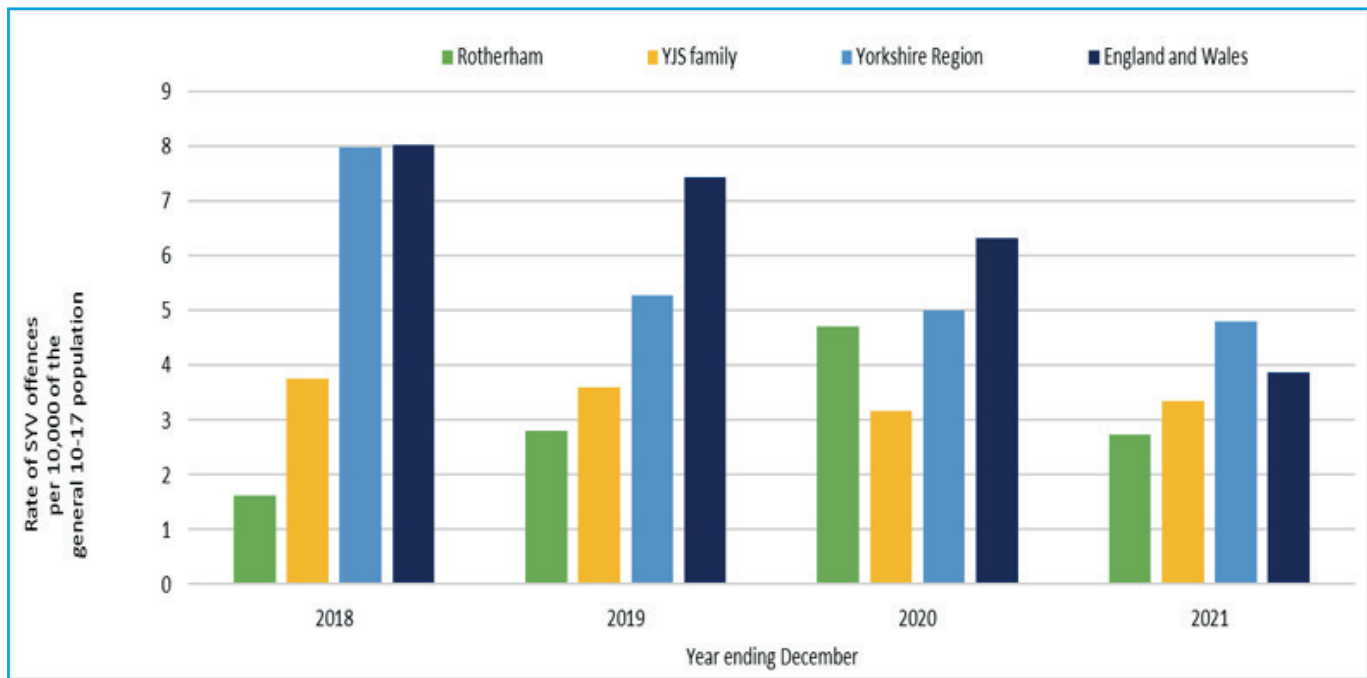
Violence is a universal problem, and the direct and indirect consequences of violence are broad, extending beyond victims and perpetrators to families and communities, it takes place within different contexts and situations and transcends culture, race and socio-economic status. Whilst the effects of violence are experienced broadly by society, there exists a range of factors that increase the risk of its occurrence in people's lives, such as living in a household with domestic abuse, adverse childhood experiences, neglect, sexual and physical abuse, poor and inadequate housing, substance abuse (including alcohol) and poor mental wellbeing.

Whilst the act of violence can be an offence in and of itself such as homicide, serious assault and knife and gun crime, violence or the threat of violence is also a by-product of an assortment of crime types such as personal robberies, kidnapping, false imprisonment and blackmail. As outlined in the 2018 national Serious Violence Strategy, too frequently young and other vulnerable groups of the population are targeted or caught up in serious organised crime and within the hidden recesses of exploitation, such as 'county lines' drug dealing where violence is a constant threat or reality for those trapped in that world.

Youth violence is broadly defined as violence that takes between individuals aged 10 to 29 years old. It can take many forms (i.e., physical and non-physical) and occurs most often in community settings between acquaintances and strangers (World Health Organisation, 2020). Youth violence is a key public health priority. It is multi-faceted and takes many forms, so it is necessary to reduce risk and promote protective factors at individual, relationship, community, and societal levels.

In Rotherham we are working with community safety partnerships and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to improve partnership working, analyse the data and ensure that our strategy is based on emerging evidence of effective practice. We currently offer a range of preventive programmes to raise awareness and educate young people, professionals and families using a public health approach.

The rate of serious youth violence offences per 10,000 children aged 10-17 by YJS, YJS family, YJS region and national average

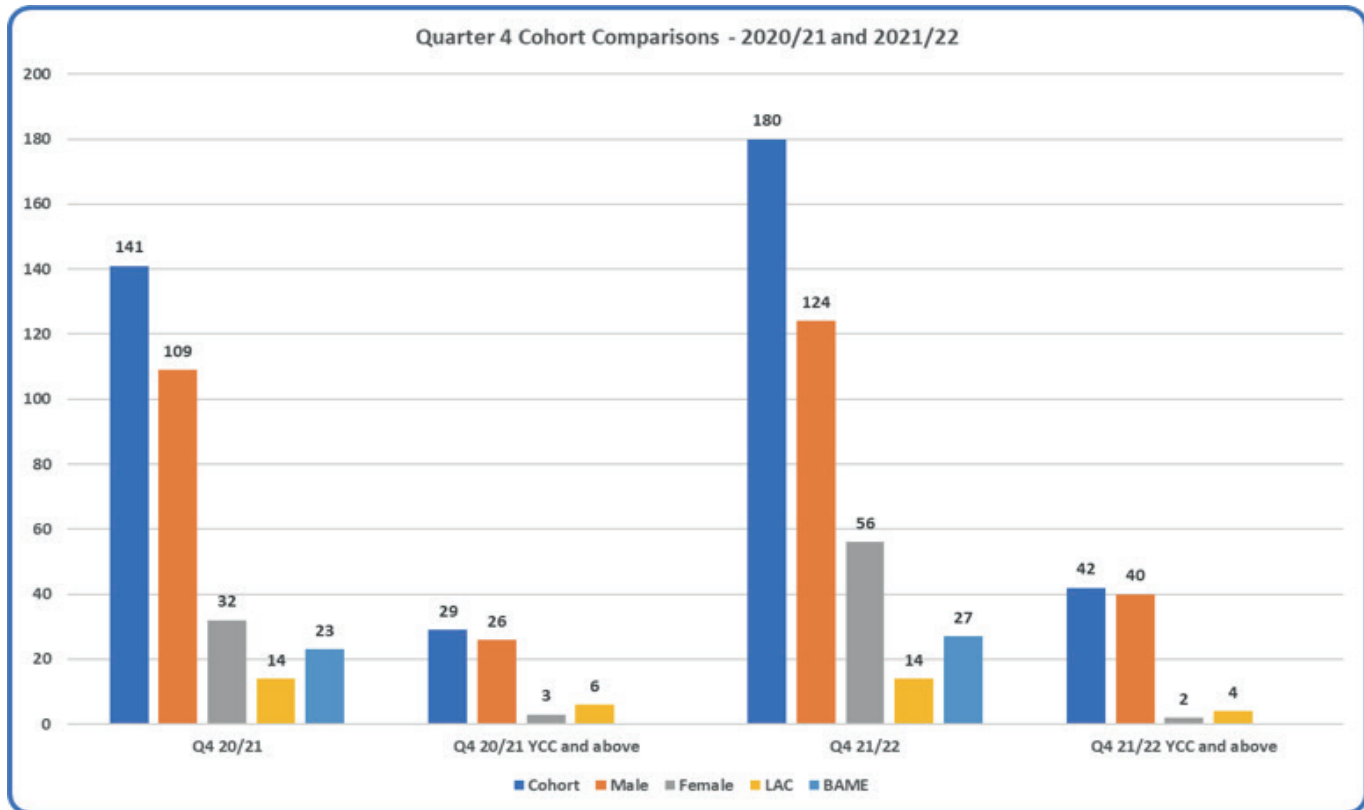


The Data outlined in the above table indicates that rates of serious youth violence incidents have increased since 2018, although, there is a reduction in the year ending December 21 and the actual numbers of serious youth violence offences by children in Rotherham are low and below YJS family, Yorkshire and National comparison numbers.

There is strong evidence that school and education-based interventions are effective in preventing youth violence and that Bystander programmes (e.g., Mentors in Violence Prevention) and relationship programmes such as CEASE, and evidence based Parenting training/education are promising.

Rotherham YJS work with partners to support Operation Keepsafe which is a multi-agency initiative that enables a proactive response to children and young adults that are at risk due to being unsupervised and/or vulnerable due to risky situations that they find themselves in. Operation Keepsafe is centred around the Local Authority, police and wider partners carrying out assertive outreach and engagement across areas identified, through intelligence, as posing a risk.

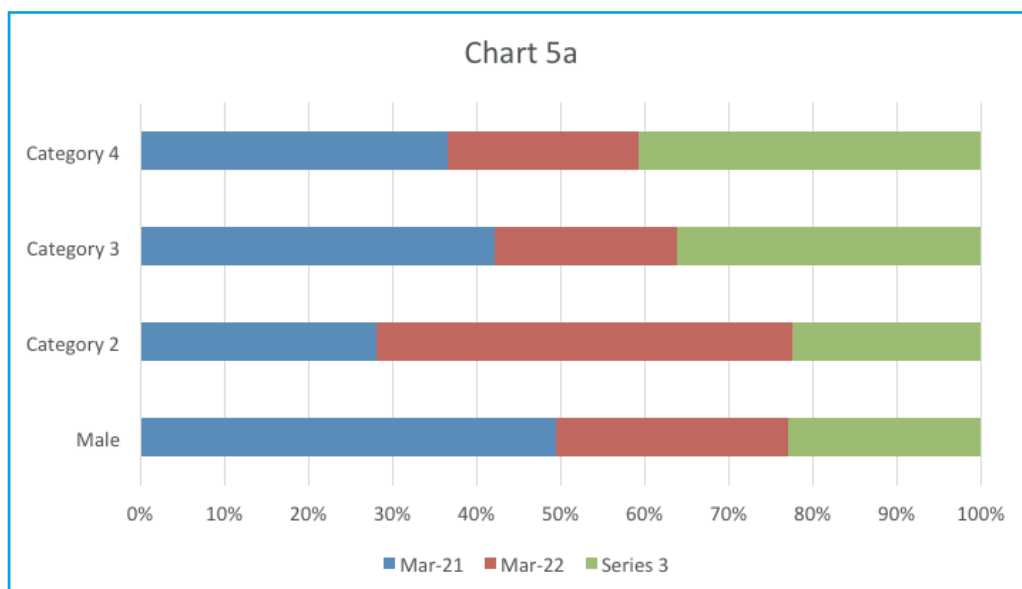
Disproportionality – Cohort Demographics



There has been an increase of 39 Young people over the past 12 months within the cohort YJS Cohort with 180 compared to 141 for the year ending March 2021 and an increase of 2.7% of those on YCC or above in 2022 (based on any YP on caseload during Q4 for both periods).

We have seen an increase in total outcomes for females in 2021/22 (31.1% of the whole cohort compared to 22.7% in 20/21) however of the 56 females in the cohort only 2 (3.6%) were on YCC or above orders, 25 (44.6%) were for diversionary outcomes.

We continue to monitor the outcomes for our Looked after children (LAC) and of the 12 (6.6%) young people in this cohort only 4 (9.9%) were on YCC or above compared with 20.7% for the same period ending 2021. The chart above shows 14 LAC however 2 of these YP were other authority LAC, placed in Rotherham (both in the OOC/D/diversion cohort)



BAME including 'Other' ethnicity = 23 (16.3%)

The charts below show a comparison of the ethnic composition of YJS population (children who received a youth caution or court sentence) with its region and with its local 10-17 population (2011 census).

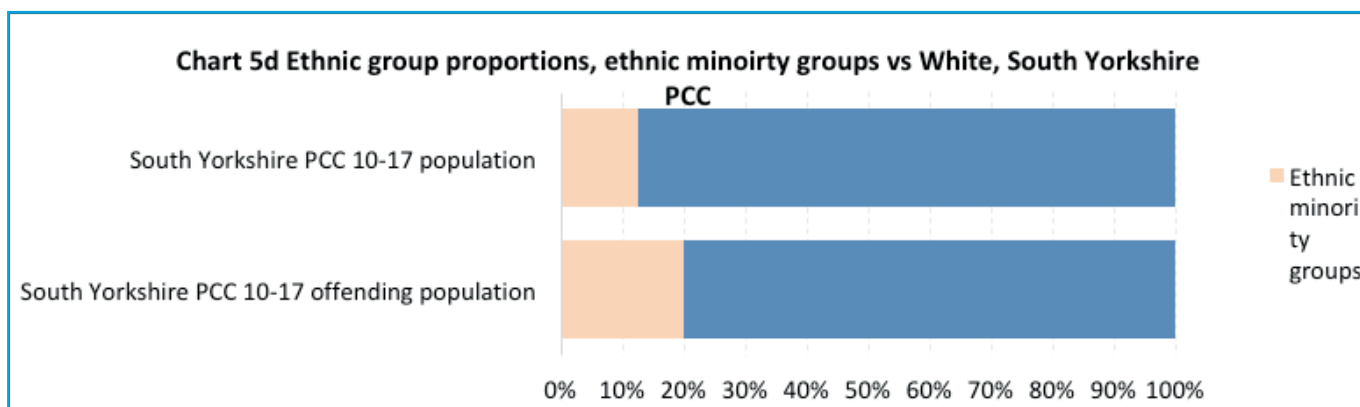
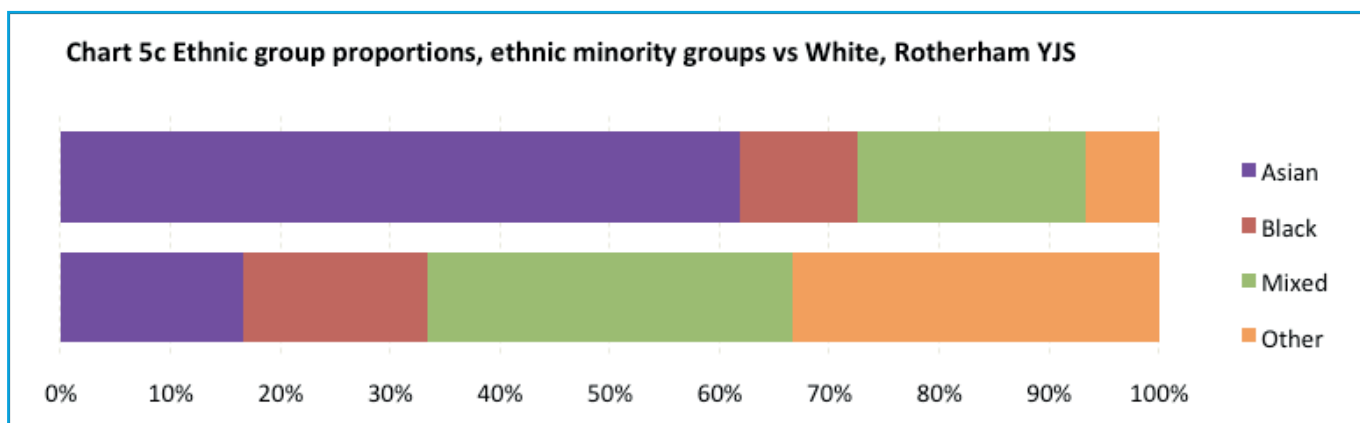
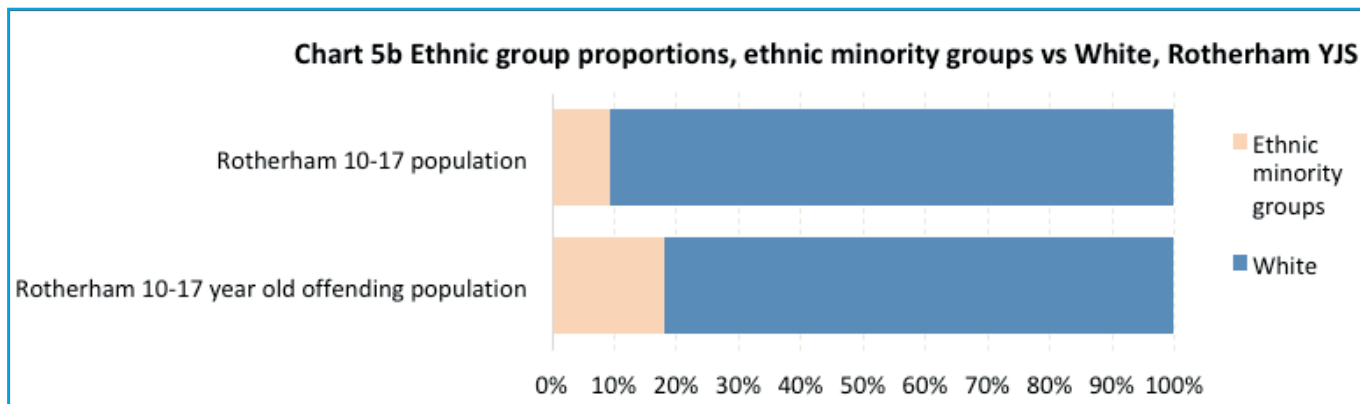


Chart 5a and 5c show a comparison between the proportion between the White ethnic group with the ethnic minority groups at the YJS and region respectively. Chart 5b shows a comparison of the ethnic groups that are used to make the ethnic minority group at Rotherham YJS and region respectively.

Please note that as the ethnic minority groups group contains data from all ethnic groups (Asian, Black, Mixed and Other).

In Rotherham YJS White children are under-represented and ethnic minority groups children are over-represented when comparing the offending population with the 10-17 population. White children make up 82% of the offending population and 91% of the 10-17 population (based on 2011 Census data). Ethnic minority groups children make up 18% of the offending population and 9% of the 10-17 population (based on 2011 Census data). The most over-represented ethnic group are Other children. They make up 6% of the offending population and 1% of the 10-17 population.

The levels of young people from a BAME background in the current cohort is monitored across all of the national youth justice strategic objectives. We continue to examine the data across the partnership to understand the range, quality and effectiveness of services and interventions delivered to black and mixed heritage boys, with the aim being to identify good practice and make recommendations for improvement where needed as data and research show that this group of children are significantly over-represented in the youth justice system and have poorer outcomes than their peers.

We utilised the findings from the recent HMIP BAME thematic inspection to learn from innovation and good practice across the sector. We are challenging ourselves to understand how we as the local strategic partnership are addressing the over representation of black and mixed heritage boys in the justice system? How staff within the YJS are empowered to deliver high-quality, personalised and responsive services that meet the needs of Asian, mixed heritage and other boys? How our profile of staff, managers and volunteers support the delivery of high-quality services for black and mixed heritage boys and reflect our diverse communities?

We are working with the YJB and Alliance of Sport to implement mentoring through 'Levelling the Playing Field' we have identified a number of mentors in Rotherham who will support young people in the community and are working in partnership with voluntary and community sector agencies to identify and engage young people in Early intervention.



10. SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board commissioned a YJB Peer review which took place in March 2022. Four Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs) were established:

- Whether the partnership understands the needs of the YJS cohort and its role in setting the priorities for the YJS
- The role of the partnership in relation to risk management of justice involved children
- Looked after children and the disproportionate numbers in the YJS cohort
- Early help partnership working and the impact this has locally on first time entrants.

Over twenty focus groups took place over the 3 days with representation from the Youth Justice staff team as well as Youth Justice Partnership Board Members, RMBC elected members, colleagues from across Rotherham Council, Early Help, Inclusion, Education, the Virtual School, Children's Social Care, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), South Yorkshire (SYP) Police, Voluntary & Community Sector, Housing, the Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP), Community Safety, the Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC) office, Resettlement Consortium, Young People's CHANCE Group, Probation, Remedi, EVOLVE, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), Outdoor Learning, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Outreach and Engagement (O & E), Voice & Influence and Special Education Needs Disability (SEND).

Across the four agreed KLOEs, the reviewers spoke of 'golden threads' which they felt were evident and consistent in their interactions with staff and partners. These included:

- A genuine child / young person-centred approach in Rotherham at both a strategic and operational level across all aspects of the wider youth justice system.
- A strong focus on early intervention and prevention in supporting the reduction of risk
- We found there was a clear system to support risk management through the local Youth Justice Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference MARAC (Y-MARAC).
- Strong integration of the Youth Justice Service into other operational areas such as inclusion panels, Evolve, practice leads, Out of Court decision making
- Joint supervision, where Early Help and Social Care are involved with children and families.
- A Culture of early intervention and keeping children out of Court
- A very real and tangible, positive, innovative, and passionate 'culture'
- Staff know the young people well and are passionate advocates
- The CHANCE Group is exceptional and something to be proud of, along with Devon our Apprentice Youth Support Worker
- Evidence of the voice of the child in shaping service
- Highly impressed with engagement and commitment of the workforce
- Cohesive values across organisational layers
- Approachable management team and visible senior leaders
- Confidence in the staffing team is evident from management and partners
- Genuine partner relations at operational and strategic levels – clear shared language and mutual respect

- A Child centred Board and children at the heart of decision making
- The reviewers were impressed with the strength of our relational partnerships and the role of elected members

The peer review team made the following recommendations which have been accepted by the Youth Partnership Board:

- Develop a new Vision for the partnership and agree priorities going forward.
- Youth Justice Partners to embed the new LAC Protocol (Reducing unnecessary criminalisation of children) and consider where the operational monitoring of the strategy will be owned, tracked and reviewed.
- Understand and respond to an increase in First Time Entrants (FTE).
- Explore how the partnership can expedite Health pathways and access to health and wellbeing support for children & young people open to the Youth Justice Service.
- Strengthen the Education, Employment and Training Offer for Youth Justice young people
- Develop how data is presented to the Partnership Board to ensure improvements within the youth justice system can be driven by the partnership to adopt a problem-solving approach to issues and challenges.
- Enhance Board oversight of effectiveness of Out of Court Disposal decision making across the partnership.
- Appoint a Vice Chair to the Youth Justice Partnership Board.
- Review National Standards and Identify and develop operational thematic leads within the Youth Justice Service.
- Strengthen current quality assurance arrangements through thematic partnership audits.
- Review the partnership sharing and escalation processes and include in new working agreements.
- Review the Youth Justice Service's Risk Management Policy and clarify the role of the wider partnership (for example, CAMHS, Education and the Police) and their input into child specific risk management plans.
- Workforce and partnership development including the induction for staff (including secondees), volunteers and partnership board members.



II. EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND INNOVATION

Children, young people, and families benefit from our Early Help Evidence Based Hub, which was established to strengthen existing delivery of validated group programmes.

The Hub is designed to support children and families with validated, evidence-based programmes that we 'know' work as they are endorsed by the Early Intervention Foundation and evaluates successfully with participants. Families have access to a range of support with parenting, sleep, barriers to learning and parental conflict and they can access this online as well as in person. Families tell us that they are better off as a result and our pre and post evaluation questionnaires show positive change.

Within Early Help and the YJS we utilise restorative conferences to repair relationships and improve communication in families and we are exploring good practice in utilising family group conferencing with other Local Authorities. We have, in conjunction with the Violence Reduction Unit, commissioned Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) training for the YJS staff, residential care staff and Early Help workforce to ensure the evidence-based approach is trauma informed and consistent to de-escalate behaviours.

The evidence-based hub work with partners to coordinate and facilitate a wide range of evidence-based programmes including Triple P (0-12 and Teen), Parents as Partners and Family Links. The aim of these programmes is to develop parental confidence, improve relationships, reduce conflict and increase emotional wellbeing. We have also recently expanded our Family Group Conferencing (FGC) service to support and empower families to grow and utilise their support networks to promote safety and sustainable change Rotherham YJS work alongside our Edge of Care (EoC) team who provide support to families in Child in Need/Child Protection (CIN/CP) planning and where it is likely that care entry is imminent without intensive intervention or where it is considered safe to work with a family to reunify children after a time in local authority care.

Where Child to Parent Violence has been/is a feature, we deploy Non-Violent Resistance (A systemic approach) to support parents in understanding and non-violently challenging behaviour. Whilst all members of the EoC team are trained in NVR, most are trained to Advanced/supervisor level. NVR had been adapted to suit this particular context with generic "groups" available to all families via referral, through to individualised one to one training for families within the Edge of Care Cohort. Recognising that Trauma is a feature in family systems we have added a Psychoeducational framework of sessions to the beginning of NVR, recognising that traumatised parents often struggle to recognise/respond to the trauma of their children, this is a foundational building block to our work and will soon be developed to a standalone course. This work focuses on recognising trauma, how to regulate uncomfortable feelings and provides a means of "understanding" where behaviours may come from. We have a clinical psychologist within the EoC team who, alongside the team manager, is trained to intermediate systemic family practitioner level, in this remit we work with families where there are relational difficulties following a systemic family therapy approach, this allows families to speak openly about the issues that often lead to violence/confrontation and to reduce this over time by improving family dynamics.

Rotherham YJS is an active partner in the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium which has been in place since 2014. Its remit is to improve resettlement outcomes for the children in the nine youth offending services in the area. This has included the introduction of resettlement clinics, improved multi-agency partnership work, increased advocacy for the children in custody and an accommodation agreement standard for children. The Consortium worked to overcome the challenges presented by the pandemic including maintaining good communication with the secure settings and also providing information for children leaving custody on the potential impact of the pandemic on their release.

Originally funded through the Youth Justice Board the Consortium is now supported by the nine Youth Offending Teams in South and West Yorkshire, and the links developed, and partnerships made continue to enhance the resettlement work of the local youth justice services. The Consortium has a range of strengths, including; enabling joint working and standard setting at a strategic level, providing an operational managers forum to share effective practice and problem solve, offering a combined voice when responding to changes in national policy or consultations, enabling sharing of resources between areas for a relatively small cohort e.g. group work sessions and importantly providing an evidence base which allows data comparison through the resettlement tracker.

The Consortium objectives are:

- Understand the cohort and analyse need through work with key academic institutions/organisations
- Raise the standard of the 'resettlement offer' across South and West Yorkshire including improving take-up of ROTL
- Work with local, regional and national government to deliver required change
- Ensure appropriate allocation of resources in accordance with identified need and ensure best value
- Communications – provide stakeholders with timely and relevant progress updates
- Undertake performance monitoring and evaluation as required by Strategic Group
- Identify and share effective practice in the consortium and nationally
- Raise awareness of the work of the 'value added' through work undertaken in custody
- Continue to share learning from the Constructive Resettlement Pathfinder

The objectives are developed from an understanding of the issues which impact on resettlement as identified through the Consortiums Annual Cohort Analysis. Data from all nine Youth Offending Teams is collated and analysed to consider the trends and information around local resettlement issues and is shared with partners including the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Rotherham YJS have also analysed data at a local level to support resettlement in our local area.

The collective work of the Consortium gives a focus on a small, but complex and vulnerable cohort who could cost the public sector a considerable amount if their offending continues and also provides a platform for obtaining funding on a regional basis e.g. the SEND Department of Education work, Nuffield Research, Pathfinder Grant.

In 2019, the Consortium was awarded YJB Constructive Resettlement Pathfinder status to support other areas to develop a similar approach. A Pathfinder Co-ordinator was seconded to the Consortium to develop training programmes around Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift. Staff are included in training and development opportunities organised by the Consortium and best practice is shared across the Consortium.

All staff from Rotherham YJS took part in the Phase 1 training offered which was an introduction to Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift. The training introduced practitioners to the concept of Constructive Resettlement and the role Identity Shift plays in transforming a child's future. The training drew upon research undertaken by Professor Neal Hazel (Criminology and Criminal Justice at Salford University & YJB Board member) and Beyond Youth Custody (NACRO) and offered a comprehensive overview of the key principles of Constructive Resettlement and how it supports a positive Identity Shift in children. Practitioners and managers also took part in the Phase 2 training which considered how the Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift principles can be put into practice.

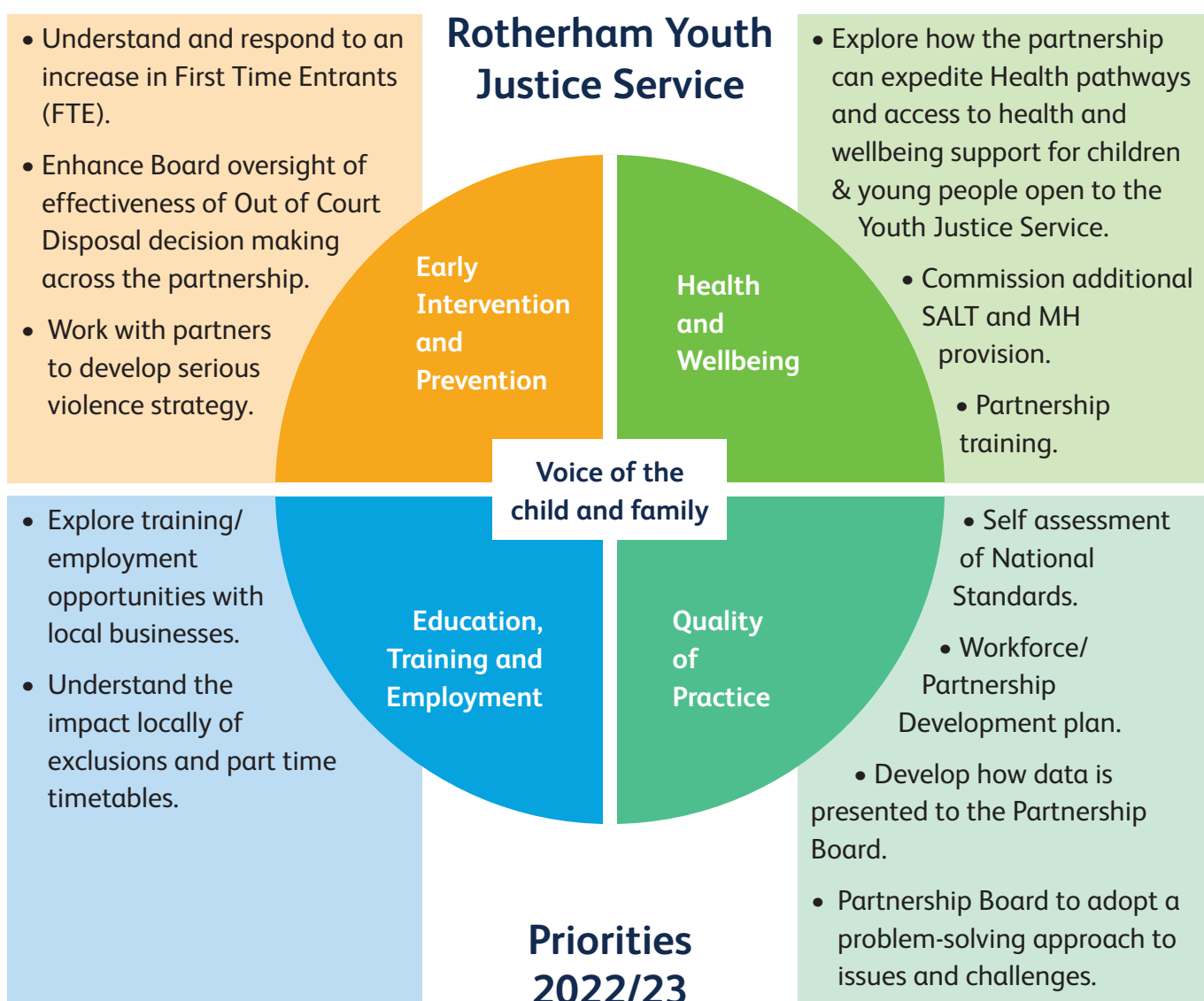
Rotherham YJS remain engaged with the work of the Consortium at both a Strategic and Operational level and are seeking to embed the resettlement principles within its work.

12. LOOKING FORWARD

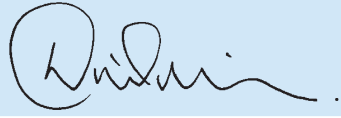
Priorities for 2022/23

Our priorities for the year 2022/23 have derived from a series of engagement sessions with our young people, workforce, volunteers and partnership board who, together, have agreed that these will be our focus.

There will be a detailed action plan to track and monitor our progress and the plan will be reviewed quarterly by the Board.



13. SIGN OFF, SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL (Page 16 of the Guidance)

Chair of YJS Board	David McWilliams
Signature	
Date	14/07/2022

14. APPENDIX I

(Page 10 of the Guidance) Outline of full board membership, including attendance, job title of the board member and dates of board meetings should be included in Appendix 1

15. APPENDIX 2 – SERVICE STRUCTURE CHART

(Page 10 of Guidance) should include details of the staff roles in the YJS and the reporting arrangements for the Head of Service. Information on the links to the data analyst should also be included. There should be a separate table in the appendix recording the ethnicity, sex and known disability of staff.

16. COMMON YOUTH JUSTICE TERMS

ACE	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long-lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Antisocial 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.
RYJS	Rotherham 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
EOC	Edge of Care
FGC	Family Group Conferencing
CYPS	Children & Young People's Services
RMBC	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
SYP	South Yorkshire Police

RYJPB	Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board
SRP	Safer Rotherham Partnership
RSCP	Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership
EBH	Evidence Based Hub
CHANCE	Changing How Adults Notice Children's Experience
YOI	Young offender institution

