

<b>IMPROVING LIVES BRIEFING</b>	<b>TO:</b>	Improving Lives Select Commission
	<b>DATE:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
	<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Emma Ellis Service Manager Early Help: Youth Offending Team and Evidence Based Hub. Children and Young People's Services.
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-2021

## Background

1.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual Youth Justice Plan relating to their provision of youth justice services.

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the Youth Offending partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:

- How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded
- How the youth offending team (YOT) or equivalent service will be composed and funded
- How it will operate
- What functions it will carry out

The Youth Justice Plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State and reinforced within YJB Terms and Conditions of Grant 2019.

Statute requires the production of an annual plan, but the YJB welcomes plans that cover more than one year. Plans covering more than one year will require an annual refresh and updating of key information, particularly relating to finance, governance and key achievements from the previous year.

Plans should be developed to best fit specific local needs and references. Therefore, the YJB does not prescribe a specific template but does outline suggestions for considering how youth justice services are delivering against the three key performance indicators to, reduce first time entrants, reduce reoffending and appropriately minimise the use of custody. Plans need to demonstrate evidence of how;

- the service demonstrates a 'Child First' ethos and practice
- partner agencies work together to improve outcomes for children
- the needs of the cohort have been assessed to inform delivery decisions
- local priorities have been identified, planned and how these are to be met
- how services are measuring and reporting on impact
- risks to delivery are identified, responded to and mitigated against

The YJB also suggests a set of recommended sections as follows:

- Introduction
- Structure and Governance
- Resources and Value for Money
- Partnership Arrangements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks to future delivery against the youth justice outcome measures</li> </ul> <p>The Rotherham Youth Justice Plan has been developed in line with the above criteria along with other key local and national strategic plans and priorities.</p>
<b>What's Working Well</b>	
<b>2.</b>	The Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-21 has been approved and signed by the Chair of the YOT Management Board and Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The plan was presented at the YOT Management Board on 1 October 2019 and was signed off by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2019.
<b>2.1</b>	<p>The rate of First Time Entrants (FTEs) for Rotherham continues to fall significantly.</p> <p>FTEs has fallen over the last four years. In Rotherham we can see that the rate of decline follows a similar trend to that of the South Yorkshire Police &amp; Crime Commissioner (PCC) whereas that of our YOT family is less steep a curve suggesting that the other YOTs are not experiencing such a dramatic reduction in FTE as we have experienced, which is also evident in the national picture.</p> <p>It is believed that the lower rate in Rotherham is testimony to the work undertaken to triage and assess young people at an early stage prior to their entry into the Criminal Justice System at a Youth Caution level and above. The effect of this is that young people are assessed and diverted into a Community or Restorative Disposal or the new Outcome 22 (education) disposals and therefore dealt with more appropriately and proportionally.</p>
<b>2.2</b>	Rotherham is comparable to the South Yorkshire PCC which may suggest that there is consistency across the police force in how offending is tackled from a policing perspective. Although the number of young people in this cohort is relatively low, it is worrying that the number of reoffences per young person is increasing.
<b>2.3</b>	The management and oversight of risk in relation to serious harm and reoffending is improving through the Youth Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
<b>2.4</b>	Rotherham continues to have Custody rates that are well below national and regional figures. This marks the lowest rate of custody for five years and whilst our custody numbers remain low we continue to make improvements to our Intensive Supervision and Surveillance packages in order to offer a robust alternative to custody for sentencing and bail. In Q1 2019/20 we have had 3 Young People remanded to the Care of the Local Authority which places an additional requirement on the local authority to manage the risk in relation to the young person as a LAC.
<b>2.5</b>	The voice of young people is strong within the YOT (See 10a Youth Justice Plan) and young people attend and present at the YOT Board when available. Case studies are shared regularly, with Board Members and Youth Voice staff from Early Help attend Board meetings and work with YOT Staff and young people to shape the service.
<b>2.6</b>	<p>The Young Inspectors have inspected the YOT and the Eric Manns base on a number of occasions and continue to work with the YOT to improve our services.</p> <p>The Chair of the YOT Board continues to visit Youth Offending Institutes (YOI's) where Rotherham Young People are placed.</p>

## 2.7

The YJB Peer review in January 2017 noted;

“Rotherham YOT is performing well in relation to reducing reoffending and the use of custody and based on what partners told us it is well regarded and not seen as a service requiring significant remedial attention. Given the serious challenges facing the Council and its partners there was a risk that youth justice would not attract sufficient attention and be left to its own devices. However we did not find that to be the case and were impressed with the focus that partners in Rotherham had placed on the service and the local youth justice system despite other very pressing priorities.”

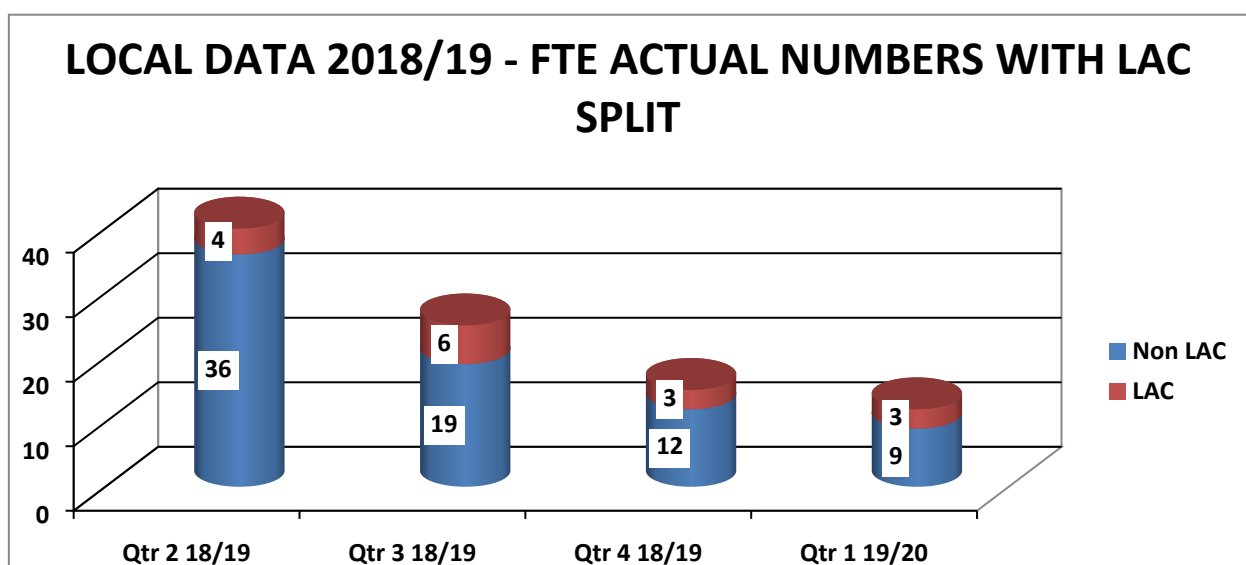
“The last 12 months has seen a successful transition whereby the YOT partnership has re-established itself in its own right rather than being subsumed within the Safer Rotherham Partnership. There is unanimous agreement that this was the right thing to do in order to promote a more dedicated and young person focussed partnership.”

“The success of the transition has been greatly assisted by the commitment and energy of the Chair whose leadership is valued by board members and whose determination to engage a wide and interested membership is starting to pay off. We saw evidence of enthusiastic and energised board members who are keen to learn and want to contribute. It was also very evident to us that board members know Rotherham well and wish to bring their differing perspectives of the issues facing young people and local services into the Board’s agenda and seek purposeful and creative solutions.”

“The board will be helped in this by the inclusion of what we described as its ‘Additional Features’ – that is members beyond the statutory partners who are not routinely seen in YOT Management Boards nationally.”

## What are we worried about

3. The LAC status of the offending cohort continues to increase as a percentage from 20% in Q4 18/19 to 25% in Q1 2019/20, but represents just three young people due to the low numbers of young people in the cohort (**Chart A**). We continue to work closely with colleagues in CYPS LAC Team to review this and improve outcomes for this small cohort.

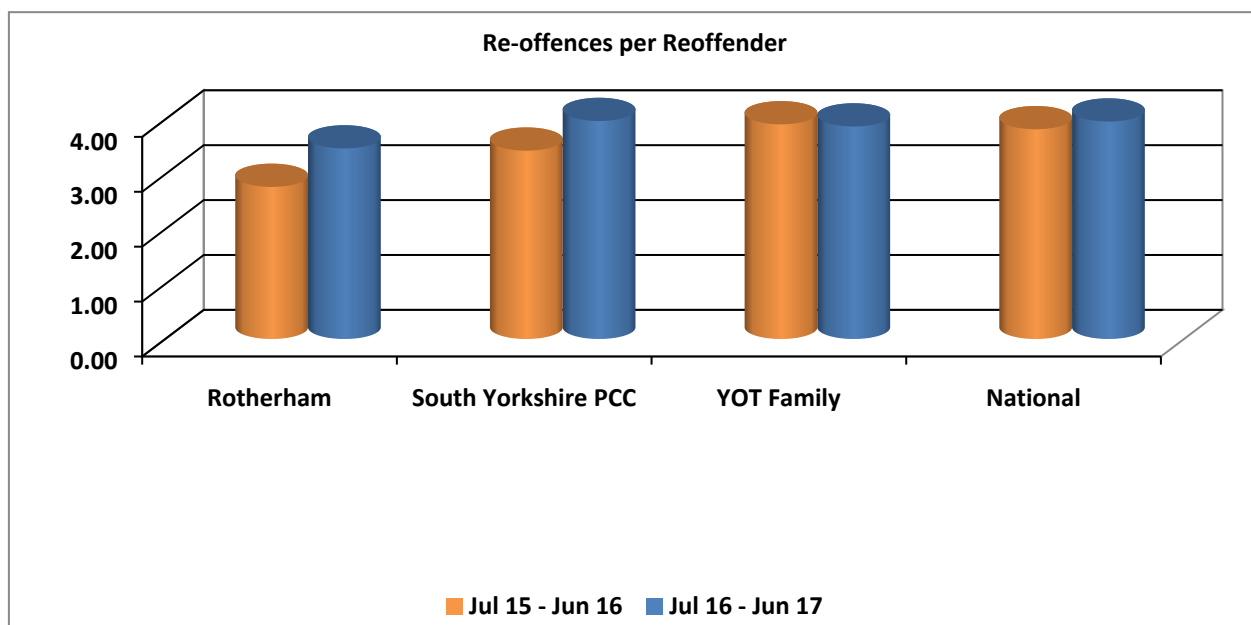


**CHART A**

**3.1**

Reoffending rates continue to be a worry across the Youth Justice System and it is widely acknowledged that this cohort of young people continues to be the most challenging with entrenched behaviours and complex needs.

We have begun to review our current provision to ensure that we, as a YOT, adapt our interventions and delivery in order to reduce re-offending. In order to do this we need to strengthen factors for desistance by increasing aspirations and motivation to change. Work has commenced in this area and YOT young people now have access to short term counselling support offered via Early Help, a rolling programme is being developed to commence in January 2020 and a targeted 'Barriers to Learning' programme to increase motivation to reduce the number of NEET young people. YOT staff are encouraged to support families to attend the range of parenting programmes available through the Evidence Based Hub.

**CHART B****3.2**

The YOT has had a stable and static workforce for many years, but the recent Early Help review has created opportunities for some staff to move and for others to fulfil personal ambition or seek flexible retirement. Whilst this creates some challenges in terms of meeting the increasing service demands with a reduced workforce, it also provides an opportunity to recruit new workers who bring with them experiences from elsewhere and learning to be shared across the workforce.

**What are we going to do about it**

- 4.** Accompanying the Youth Justice Plan is a detailed Action Plan that addresses the key priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner, The Safer Rotherham Partnership and the YOT Board. Progress will be measured and reported to the board at quarterley intervals.
- 4.1** As we try and better understand the needs of our young people to achieve better outcomes, our local data identifies that (as of 18 June 2019) 2.6% (13 young people) have an Education Health and Care Plan, (EHCP) in place, 24.3% (25 young people) have identified Special Education Need (SEN) and 63.1% is not reported, but could be

	<p>unknown/undiagnosed rather than not present.</p> <p>Of the 13 young people with an EHCP, 6 of these (46%) fall into the post 16 category.</p> <p>The YOT Service manager and Head of Service for SEND and inclusion have begun discussions about how to achieve better outcomes for these young people and strengthen existing processes.</p>
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## **Appendix A: Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-2021**