

**Public Report**

Improving Lives Select Commission

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Improving Lives Select Commission – 25 July 2023

**Report Title**

Rotherham Youth Justice Service Progress Report

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

Yes

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

To update the Improving Lives, Select Commission on the Rotherham Youth Justice Service since the previous update on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

- Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023 Action Plan Progress
- Youth Justice Board Peer Review
- Youth Justice HMIP Inspection Action Plan

**1. Purpose of Report**

This report provides a summary of progress made by Rotherham Youth Justice Service against,

- The Action Plan submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in January 2021 following the HMIP Inspection in September 2020.
- Progress against the 'Areas for Consideration,' from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Sector Led Improvement Peer Review, undertaken in March 2022.
- An update on the actions within the Youth Justice Service Plan 2022-23 Action Plan.
- Key Priorities for the Youth Justice Plan 2023-2024

The accompanying presentation will also highlight recent performance trends and focus on an area of good practice.

## 2. Background/key Issues

### 2.1 Progress against the Youth Justice Plan 2022-23

2.2 The action plan contains 35 actions (which includes the 13 'areas for consideration' from the YJB Peer Review).

2.3 A summary of progress is provided in the table below. \*See appendix A

Action may exceed original target date	0
Action progressing and on track	0
Action completed	35
Action planned but not started	0

### 2.4 Youth Justice Board Peer Review

Rotherham Youth Justice Service Peer Review took place over 3 days (29th – 31st March 2022).

Four Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs) were established by the Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board prior to the review:

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

2.5 The review identified areas of 'strengths' and areas for 'consideration.' The Youth Justice Partnership Board welcomed and accepted the review findings in full and agreed an improvement plan containing 13 actions. The plan is tracked through the Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board, Children and Young People's Services Programme and Performance Board, Evidence Challenge Panel and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's (RMBC) Audit Committee.

2.6 A summary of progress is provided in the table below. \*See Appendix B.

Action may exceed original target date	0
Action progressing and on track	0
Action completed	13
Action planned but not started	0

### 2.7 HMIP Youth Justice Inspection Report September 2020

Rotherham Youth Justice Service were inspected by HMIP in September 2020 under the Small YOT (Youth Offending Team) Inspection Framework. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the inspection was conducted remotely. The Inspection report was published on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

2.8

The Overall judgement was Requires Improvement and HMIP report made five recommendations:

**The Chair of the YOT Management Board should:**

1. *Make sure that Board members understand the specific needs of children known to the YOT and advocate on their behalf in their own agencies.*

**The YOT Management Board should:**

2. *Ensure the partnership understands the reasons for the significant number of Looked After Children known to the YOT, and reviews the policies and practices of all agencies to minimise the possibility of children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily*
3. *Undertake a comprehensive health needs analysis of YOT children to better understand the health provision being delivered and what needs to be developed*
4. *Review the quality and accessibility of education, training and employment provision for post-16-year-old children known to the service. The YOT Service Manager should:*
5. *Review the quality of risk of harm work and improve the effectiveness of management oversight in all cases.*

2.9

An Inspection Action Plan was produced and submitted to HMIP in January 2021. The Action Plan contained 46 actions to address the 5 recommendations and the areas requiring improvement, including actions for partners across the wider youth justice partnership.

All 46 actions were signed off as completed by the Children & Young People’s Services (CYPS) Evidence Challenge Panel and the Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board (RYJPB) meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, one year and a day from when the Partnership Board submitted the Inspection Action Plan to the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

2.10

**A summary of progress is provided in the table below. \*See appendix C**

Action may exceed original target date	0
Action progressing and on track	0
Action completed	46
Action planned but not started	0

2.11

**Youth Justice Service Plan 2023-2024**

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the Youth Offending Partnership’s responsibilities for producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with 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 Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2023-24 is a one-year statutory plan. It is a requirement of the Youth Justice Grant and follows a prescribed format. It was submitted to the Youth Justice Board on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2022. It follows the previous Youth Justice plan in adopting a child first principle.

<p>2.12</p> <p>2.13</p>	<p>The Youth Justice Partnership Board agreed at the Board Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 to continue with the priorities</p> <p>The 2023 – 2024 plan aligns with 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 in seeking to achieve the same overarching outcomes as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner’s priorities.</p> <p>The plan has a coproduced vision for the Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership, which is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>To work together to prevent young people entering the youth justice system and to empower and support young people to achieve their aspirations.</i></b></p> <p>The priorities within the plan were developed over two Youth Justice Partnership Board away days and are captured across five themes,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voice of the Child &amp; Family</li> <li>• Early Intervention &amp; Prevention</li> <li>• Education, Training &amp; Employment</li> <li>• Health &amp; Wellbeing</li> <li>• Quality of Practice</li> </ul>
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### 3. Recommendations

<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>That the Improving Lives Select Commission note the contents of the report and the progress of the Youth Justice Service in completing the three accompanying action plans.</p> <p>That the Improving Lives Select Commission note the offer to engage with the CHANCE Group and the offer to visit and observe aspects of the Rotherham Youth Justice Service duties.</p>
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### 4. Accompanying Information

	<p><b>Does the report contain Appendices? Yes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotherham Youth Justice Service Action Plan 2022-23</li> <li>• Youth Justice Service HMIP Inspection Action Plan</li> <li>• Youth Justice Service Peer Review Areas for Consideration Plan</li> <li>• Youth Justice Partnership Board Performance Report (Q4 Data)</li> <li>• 23-24 Youth Justice Plan Priorities</li> </ul>
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**If Yes, how many  
Appendices**

**5**

**List of Background Papers:**

Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023  
Rotherham

HMIP An inspection of youth  
offending services in  
Rotherham December 2020

**Lead Officer:**

David McWilliams, Assistant  
Director, Early Help, Business  
Support & Family  
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<sup>i</sup> The Rotherham Youth Justice Partnership Board approved the name change from Youth Offending Team (YOT) to Youth Justice Service (YJS) on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022