

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

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Youth Offending and Partnership Working with Schools

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MIDDLESBROUGH  
**CHILDREN**  
M A T T E R

# Who are Youth Justice and what do they do?



- Youth offending teams supervise 10–18-year-olds who have been sentenced by a court, or who have come to the attention of the police because of their offending behaviour but have not been charged – instead, they were dealt with out of court.
- YOTs are statutory partnerships, and are multidisciplinary, to deal with the needs of the whole child.
- We are required to have staff from local authority social care and education, the police, the National Probation Service and local health services
- The Youth Justice Board (YJB) provides some funding to YOTs. The YJB also monitors our performance and issues guidance about how things are to be done (for example National Standards)
- HMIP are our regulating body

Youth Justice Service's have **3 national outcome measures**;

- to reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system
- to prevent re-offending by children and young people
- reduce the use of custody for young people (both sentenced and remanded).

Currently, Youth Justice Services are not required to collect data in relation to educational attainment, truancy or exclusion from school. However, there are some new requirements being introduced.

## What do we know about the link between education and young people in the criminal justice system?

- 2016 Charlie Taylor commissioned to Review Youth Justice. He stated **education needs to be central to our response to youth offending** after finding that too many children in the youth justice system had been out of school for long periods of time through truancy or following exclusion and half of 15-17 year olds in YOIs have the literacy or numeracy levels expected of a 7-11 year old
- One Education in 2017 reported that;
- approx 90% of young people in the youth custody population had been excluded from school at any one time, compared to 3-5% of general population
- 63% of boys and 74% of girls had been permanently excluded
- 40% of young people had not been to school since they were 14
- 90% were not attending before they reached 16 years old.
- As of 1 August 2022, just over 25% of the young people open to STYJS were Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET). (There is no data currently available in relation to young people open to the service who have been excluded).

## Current and proposed data capture

- Currently, there is no requirement for Youth Justice Services to collect data in relation to young people's educational attainment, truancy or exclusion from school.
- Key changes being introduced including;
- Key performance indicators (KPI's) being proposed by the Youth Justice Board to capture 'Suitable education, training and employment (ETE)'. In future, Youth Justice Services will be required to capture data in relation to;
  - the percentage of children in the community and being released from custody with a suitable ETE arrangement
  - the percentage of children who have an identified SEND need, and of that the percentage who are receiving support'.
- Recommendations from the HMIP ETE Thematic report. The YJB should 'revise their national indicator of ETE engagement to one that provides a more meaningful measure of performance' plus 7 recommendations for YJ Management Boards to take forwards (Appendix 2 of the Scrutiny Panel report)

## Conclusion

- Clear need for an improvement in the educational experience and outcomes for young people involved in, or at risk of being in, the criminal justice system.
- Evidence that young people in the youth justice system require a joined up response to exclusions, truancy and attainment.
- The local authority and the Youth Justice Service need to work collaboratively going forwards to ensure the Government, Youth Justice Board and Inspectorate expectations can be met.
- There is a need to develop a framework that focuses on prevention where young people can be identified with low attendance in YJS so extensive support can be put into place

## Next steps

- One of STYJS strategic priorities in 2022/23 is to ‘ensure that the YJS contributes to supporting those young people at risk of exclusion’.
- Youth Justice Services will be measured upon a new set of KPI’s and STYJS plan to;
- put in place monitoring systems to ensure that young people and those at risk of exclusion are tracked and supported to access services they need
- monitor assessment processes for young people identified as at risk of exclusion to ensure that these include effective plans to engage them in ETE
- Conduct audit activity of ETE processes
- The YJS Head of Service will also work with the Management Board and Heads of Service within the Education Directorate to take forward the recommendations from the HMI Probation thematic report. This will include;
- Introducing new data sharing agreements to enable pupil level data to be captured and reported upon
- Implementing tracking and monitoring systems to analyse and evaluate data in the future with the overarching aim of reducing exclusions and improving the education experience and outcomes for young people.