



## **Birmingham Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2017 - 2018**



National  
Probation  
Service



# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction to the Youth Justice Plan .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Purpose of the Plan .....	2
Background .....	2
What Works.....	4
Evidenced-based practice .....	5
<b>Structure and governance .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Partnership arrangements .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Review of 2016/2017 performance.....</b>	<b>8</b>
How we measure performance and quality .....	8
Performance against the three Youth Justice priorities .....	12
Asset Plus .....	16
Safeguarding .....	17
Children in Care .....	18
Public Protection .....	19
<b>Summary of 2016/17 priorities.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Offending Profile .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Priorities for 2017/2018 .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Resources and Value for money .....</b>	<b>35</b>
Funding .....	35
Remands to Custody.....	36
Value for money.....	37
Staffing.....	38
Training, Learning and Development.....	38
<b>Risks to future delivery .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Approval and sign off .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Working with children, young people and their families .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Glossary .....</b>	<b>57</b>

# Introduction to the Youth Justice Plan

## Purpose of the Plan

There is a statutory requirement in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40, for every local authority, after consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan. The plan must set out how local youth justice services are to be provided and funded. There is a requirement for the Plan to be submitted to the national Youth Justice Board and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.

The principal aim of the Youth Justice System, established by Section 37 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, is to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people aged 10-17 years. Local Youth Justice Services are delivered and managed through Youth Offending Services, which are multi-agency partnerships with statutory representation from local authorities (specifically Social Care and Education), the Police, Probation and Health. The model brings together a range of agencies with expertise in welfare and enforcement practices to improve outcomes. The majority of the services are prescribed by statute or policy.

Birmingham Youth Offending Service is the largest metropolitan Youth Offending Service in the country, and is identified as the most complex by the Youth Justice Board given its urban context. The service works in partnership to achieve the national Youth Justice strategic objectives which are to:

- Prevent offending
- Reduce re-offending
- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Increase victim and public confidence
- Ensure the safe and effective use of custody.

This plan outlines the governance arrangements, including the role of the Youth Offending Service Management Board, which ensures the statutory requirements are met. The Board has responsibility for overseeing the performance of the Birmingham Youth Justice Partnership against national and local outcomes, maximising its collective resources and contributing to wider priorities as set out in Council and partnership plans. Strong partnership working is essential across criminal justice and children's welfare services to ensure continuous improvements in outcomes related to the prevention and reduction of offending by young people, public protection and the safeguarding of children and young people. The plan outlines our current performance benchmarked against comparators, outlines the latest evidence on what works and outlines the priorities for 2017/18 which have been informed by self-assessment surveys by young people.

## Background

Birmingham is a richly diverse city with a population of over a million people and has one of the youngest populations of any European city. The latest census figures identify that over 26% (274,135) of the population is under 18 years and 58% of these are from minority ethnic backgrounds. There are

approximately 117,000 10-17 year olds. Birmingham is a city with areas of significant deprivation. As a result, although many children and young people achieve good outcomes, others face a range of challenges, particularly in terms of their wellbeing and staying safe.

Section 39 (1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the cooperation of the named statutory partners (Local Authority, Police, Probation and Health) to form a youth offending service, which includes staffing contributions from those statutory partners. The Service must provide the main supervisory elements of statutory youth justice services:

- Assessment and management of risk and safeguarding;
- Effective interventions.

This supports:

- Appropriate Adult Services and Pre-Court Interventions, including Cautions and Community Resolutions;
- Young people subject to civil and criminal anti-social behaviour contracts and orders;
- Young people remanded in custody and local authority care, and those requiring intensive bail support in the community;
- Court orders managed in the community, including the provision of a lay youth panel to discharge the responsibilities of Referral Orders;
- Parenting Contracts and Orders;
- Restorative Justice to support victims;
- Sentence planning for young people in custody and their supervision on release.

The youth justice system works by addressing risk factors such as family breakdown, educational underachievement, substance misuse, mental illness and building resilience is the best way to reduce a young person's risk of offending and re-offending. The National Audit Office estimated that, in 2009, offending nationally by all young people cost the economy £8.5 - £11 billion.

Birmingham is maintaining good performance against two of the three national youth justice indicators: reducing re-offending and reducing the use of the Secure Estate. Birmingham has sustained one of the lowest re-offending rates (1.12) of all core cities and is below the national average (1.27). This cohort included 921 young offenders, the largest of the core cities, with 35.8% reoffending: one of the lowest percentages of reoffenders of all core cities and below the national average of 38.0%. The number of young people sentenced to custody in Birmingham continued to fall year on year and is comparable with other Core Cities. However, the number of Birmingham young people who entered the youth justice system for the first time has increased in 2016/17 following a reduction in 2015/16. Nationally, whilst the overall number of young people coming to the attention of the youth justice system has fallen, the proportion of those with complex needs and high risk behaviours remains high.

## What Works

Recent HMIP research<sup>1</sup>, interviews with young people in the youth justice system and local practitioner intelligence supports the adoption of the principles of desistance training in supporting children and young people to move away from offending.

HMIP considers that desistance practice should take into account the wider social context of children and young people's behaviour and acknowledge the fundamental importance of trusting professional relationships as a medium for change. This includes individual empowerment and offering personalised interventions to each individual to remove structural barriers, including exclusions from education, training and employment. It also promotes engagement with the wider social context especially the family but also peers, schools, colleges and work, creating opportunities for change and constructive use of restorative approaches. The research of best practice and outcomes for young people also highlights the importance of enhancing social inclusion and promoting individual change, including addressing young people's sense of worth and identity whilst ensuring appropriate access to mental health and substance misuse services and developing skills to maximise opportunities.

Asset Plus, an assessment and planning framework, implemented nationally by the Youth Justice Board, contains materials premised on desistance theory and the practical application of desistance. The Service has implemented Asset Plus, which allows for the personalisation of desistance support for children and young people.

Addressing youth violence is a key target of the Youth Offending Service and its partners: understanding Risk and Protective factors is fundamental to our approach. Risk and Protective factors occur at the level of the individual, family and peer relationships, the community and society.

Research has identified the risk and protective factors that make youth violence more or less likely to occur and stressed the importance of protective factors. Protective factors within an individual or geographical setting have been identified as reducing the likelihood of youth violence

At the individual level, risk factors can include a history of involvement in crime, delinquency and aggressive behaviour; psychological conditions such as hyperactivity and conduct disorder; and the harmful use of alcohol and illicit drugs. At close relationships level, the risk factors include growing up with poor parental supervision, having experienced harsh and inconsistent discipline by parents, parental involvement in crime and associating with delinquent peers. Risk factors at community level include neighbourhood crime, gangs and a local supply of guns and illicit drugs, ease of access to alcohol; unemployment, high levels of economic inequality and concentrated poverty.

Protective factors may be distinct from risk and, as a result, can be considered to interact with risk factors to reduce their influence on the development of violent behaviour – for example a warm and supportive relationship with a parent will not address the family's low socio-economic status or parental substance misuse problem but it does buffer the child from the adverse effects of poverty or inconsistent parenting. Protective factors include low impulsivity, commitment of and to school, a warm and supportive relationship with a parent or carer, positive peer relations and positive aspiration.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/desistance-and-young-people/>

A comprehensive approach for preventing youth violence includes intervening at all levels to address risk factors and generate protective factors. Relationship based practice with young people and their families, effective parenting interventions, early childhood development, school-based life and social skills training, therapeutic approaches (such as cognitive behaviour therapies) and policies to reduce access to and the harmful use of alcohol and illegal substances have all shown promise in preventing youth violence. At community and societal level, community and problem-orientated policing, including reducing knife possession and the supply and distribution of drugs, effective approaches to reducing substance misuse and access to firearms aim to address wider risk factors.

## Evidenced-based practice

Birmingham Youth Offending Service and its broader partners deliver or commission a range of assessments, services and interventions informed by research and best practice.

Asset Plus, AIM2, Triple P Teen, Multi Systemic Therapy, Restorative Justice, Family Group Conferencing; Good Lives; Cognitive Behavioural Therapy; Strengthening Families, Cygnet training, Aggression Replacement Therapy; Dialectical Behaviour Therapy; Motivational Interviewing; Female Gender Specific Interventions.

These are embedded within a model of practice based upon 'Working with Complex Families Training, (Level 4 City and Guilds)', which has been delivered to practitioners alongside an equivalent for front line managers. The Birmingham Early Help and Safeguarding Partnership, established in September 2015, has adopted the 'signs of safety and wellbeing' framework and this is a key feature of the new Partnership's Early Help family assessment and Family Plan.

The Service has adopted a whole family response under the city's 'Think Family'<sup>2</sup> approach and is therefore able to engage with young people and their families earlier, delivering a systematic assessment of the young person within the context of the family, delivering evidence-based and restorative interventions within the context of positive family relationships, drawing upon the input of a range of disciplines through seconded staff (mental health, substance misuse, education link mentors, social workers and probation officers and police youth crime officers) and creating or supporting access to opportunity (education / employment) for all family members.

We continue to gather evidence of impact through direct feedback from young people and their families, distance travelled tools, including pre and post Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQ), alongside the regular case reviews and the intelligence developed within the Service.

It is widely recognised that there is a high prevalence of neurodevelopmental disorders amongst young people involved in the criminal justice system. In relation to special educational needs, research demonstrates that between 23 and 32% of young people in custody have a diagnosable learning disability (Hughes et al 2012) and research has remained consistent in identifying that approximately 1 in 5 young people who offend have an IQ of below 70.

---

<sup>2</sup> 'Think Family' is Birmingham's response to the national Troubled Families agenda

Furthermore, research has indicated that young people who engage in offending behaviour experience greater difficulties with executive functioning than their non-offending peers.

The Youth Offending Service has recently purchased the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, a cognitive functioning test considered to be the gold standard in this area, with the view to ensuring such difficulties in young people are recognised at the earliest available opportunity. Early recognition of such difficulties will also ensure the development of robust and bespoke intervention plans which are tailored to meet the specific needs of young people with special educational needs.

## Structure and governance

Youth Offending Services were established under the statutory provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act sets out the requirement for local Youth Offending Teams to comprise the four statutory agencies: The Local Authority (including Children's Services), Police, Probation and Health. The primary duty to ensure a Youth Offending Service, and appropriate youth justice services are in place, rests with the Chief Executive of the local authority.

Accompanying the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 was an inter-departmental circular on "Establishing Youth Offending Teams" that set out the requirements for a governing chief officer steering group. In 2004 the YJB published "Sustaining the Success: Extending the Guidance, Establishing Youth Offending Teams", which set down the requirements for steering groups to transfer into governing YOT Management Boards. The role and responsibilities of Youth Offending Teams and their governing Management Boards are regulated by National Standards.

**YOS Management Boards** are primarily responsible for:

- Providing strategic direction and delivering the principal aim of reducing offending and re-offending;
- Ensuring there is a collective response to preventing and reducing youth crime;
- Determining how appropriate youth justice services are to be provided and funded;
- Ensuring the effective delivery of justice services for children and young people;
- Ensuring that children and young people involved in the youth justice system have access to universal and specialist services delivered by partners and other key agencies;
- Ensuring that the services delivered reference the responsibility towards victims of youth crime.

Birmingham Youth Offending Service Management Board meets quarterly and is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality with the Head of National Probation Service, Birmingham, as Deputy Chair. Board members comprise representatives of each of the statutory partners, in addition to representation of the Chair of the Youth Bench, the Birmingham Voluntary Sector and other local partners.

Cabinet approval was given in January 2017 to create a voluntary **Birmingham Children's Trust** in the context of developing and sustaining good practice with a single focus on improving outcomes for Birmingham's most disadvantaged children and families. A shadow period (from April 2017 to March 2018)

has been put in place to test the governance arrangements between the Council and the Trust prior to full transition in April 2018. Cabinet approved a second report in July 2017 that included the services and resources that would transfer. This will include the resources and BCC staff within the Youth Offending Service who will be TUPE'd into the Trust. Staff continue to be well-managed and supported alongside intelligent commissioning with a focus on delivery. The Council will remain accountable for the welfare and wellbeing of children and young people and for improving outcomes. Through a Service Delivery Contract with the Council, the Trust will be responsible for determining how those outcomes of most relevance to its work are achieved and for the day-to-day running of Children's Services. There are no current plans to make any major changes to the organisational structure of the Children's Services including the current YOS operating model.

The Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board retains its role in ensuring the effectiveness of co-operation between agencies in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This recognises that the development of the Trust sits within a wider outcomes framework that must have regard for the wellbeing of all Birmingham's children and young people and for the associated outcomes to which all agencies, including the Trust, will contribute.

The Assistant Director responsible for the Youth Offending Service is also the strategic lead for the Early Help Strategy and is joint chair of the **Birmingham Early Help and Safeguarding Partnership**, co-ordinating early help services across the partnership, Family Support and the 'Think Family' Programme (Birmingham's response to the national 'Troubled Families' programme). Since August 2016, the Assistant Director is also one of the senior managers across agencies with specific strategic responsibilities under the Community Safety Partnership.

**Birmingham Youth Offending Service** has five multi-agency Youth Offending Teams based across the city; a city-wide alternative to custody Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) Team, a Court, Bail and Remand Team and a Sexually Harmful Behaviour Team which is targeted at children and young people aged 6 – 17 years. In addition to statutory partners based in the service (Probation, Social Care, Health and Police) there are co-located specialist staff supporting outcomes based in the Service including an accommodation officer (St Basils), substance misuse staff (Aquarius), training and employment mentors (SOVA) and a specialist in working with child sexual exploitation (Barnardo's).

## Partnership arrangements

The Youth Offending Service is a member of, or represented in, key partnerships and forums, providing the opportunity to highlight the needs and risks of those young people involved in the youth justice system, or at risk of entering it. These include the following:

- Birmingham Early Help and Safeguarding Partnership
- Safeguarding Children's Board
- Birmingham Community Safety, Police and Crime Board
- NEET Action Group
- Strategic Child Sexual Exploitation Sub Group
- Police and Schools Panels
- Substance Misuse Strategy and Commissioning Group
- Integrated Offender Management Strategic Group
- Prevent Strategy Group



During 2016/17 the Service has continued to build on partnership working by:

- Working collaboratively with the Multi-Agency Gang Unit to maximise opportunities to manage high risk offenders and increase interventions that reduce risk and vulnerability;
- Prioritising strategies to prevent and reduce anti- social behaviour and youth crime. The Service continues to support the city-wide School and Police Panels and working collaboratively with education colleagues in Birmingham City Council to improve school attendance and reduce exclusions.
- Fulfilling the requirements under the Service's 'Think Family' Investment Agreement, which includes achieving positive outcomes for families defined under the agreement including Department of Work and Pensions staff, to promote training and employment opportunities for young adults and parents within families;
- Working closely with colleagues in the Economy Directorate of BCC to support the Youth Employment Initiative. In 2016/17 this has enabled the co-location of 10 employment mentors to work intensively with young people who are NEET and in the Youth Justice system, developing partnerships with employment and training providers, thereby increasing the opportunities for young people through apprenticeships and other placement provisions, to improve outcomes;
- Delivering a restorative justice project with Centro aimed at young people who commit minor offences whilst on public transport;
- Seconding a worker into the Special School Consortium to continue to develop work under a 'Pathfinder' pilot with external funders and the University of Birmingham, aimed at preventing and reducing offending by this cohort.
- Resourcing a senior worker from the Service into the partnership arrangements at the 'front-door' Children's Advice and Support Service to share information relating to risk and vulnerability and to joint plan.

## Review of 2016/2017 performance

### How we measure performance and quality

The Service monitors the three Youth Justice Board national priorities: preventing young people entering the youth justice system; reducing re-offending; and reducing use of the secure estate.

In addition to the three national youth justice indicators, the Service's Management Board monitors the performance of other local indicators identified as significant contributors to achieving broader outcomes. This includes a young offenders' engagement in suitable full-time Education, Training and Employment (ETE) at the end of their order. The Service also contributes to the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment

The Service contributes data to the city-wide Children's Services data-sharing hub (Sentinel) which brings together, cleans and matches data from the Raise (Youth Offending), CareFirst (Social Care) and Impulse (Education) case management systems to provide a holistic 'single view' of a client's interaction with the various services. The range of data being collected and combined by Sentinel is currently being expanded to support the 'Think Family' agenda and the Service is engaged in this work.

The Youth Offending Service performance framework has been developed to support individual case workers and managers in delivering quality interventions to young people and their families. A number of individual strands underpin this and many are supported by the Service's case management system:

1. Weekly workload sheets for individual case workers and managers, identifying pending and outstanding assessments, plans and reviews;
2. Monthly case file audits;
3. Audits of all cases where the young person has been re-arrested;
4. Quarterly performance reviews;
5. Feedback from other service and thematic inspections to the YOS Management Board.

### **Young people and their families**

In the period April 2016 to March 2017, the Service worked with 1601 young people on court ordered and preventative programmes, 728 (45.47%) of these were existing clients. This compares with 1369 young people of whom 666 (48.65%) were existing clients, in the previous year: an increase of 16.9% from 2015/16.

In addition, the Service worked with approximately 3500 parents and siblings under its 'Think Family' responsibilities.

## Age and gender

The majority of young people worked with during 2016/17 were male (1364, 85.20%). Females accounted for 237 clients (14.80%).

17 year olds were the most prevalent age in the Service's caseload. None of the above is significantly different from the previous year.

## Ethnicity

Those young people from a Black, Black British or Dual Heritage remain over-represented as a proportion of the clients of the Service, whilst the Asian or Asian British population is under-represented.

The Service's intervention programmes take into account the cultural and religious needs of the young person and their family observances as laid down in legislation and National Standards. The programmes promote better behaviour by young people, which is reinforced by the compliance and breach procedures. Group work establishes the opportunity for all young people to interact in a positive manner and Restorative Justice approaches ensure that victims are supported and young offenders can take responsibility for their actions. The Service engages translation services where necessary and has actively recruited staff with appropriate language skills to work with groups of young people who speak very little English.

The Service has taken a number of actions, including contributing to preventative work to reduce school exclusions and commissioning programmes to reduce gang affiliation, which are significant to this agenda, and is also working with faith-based organisations to address issues. The young black men's empowerment programme, 'The Journey', works with young black men by strengthening protective factors to enable desistance.

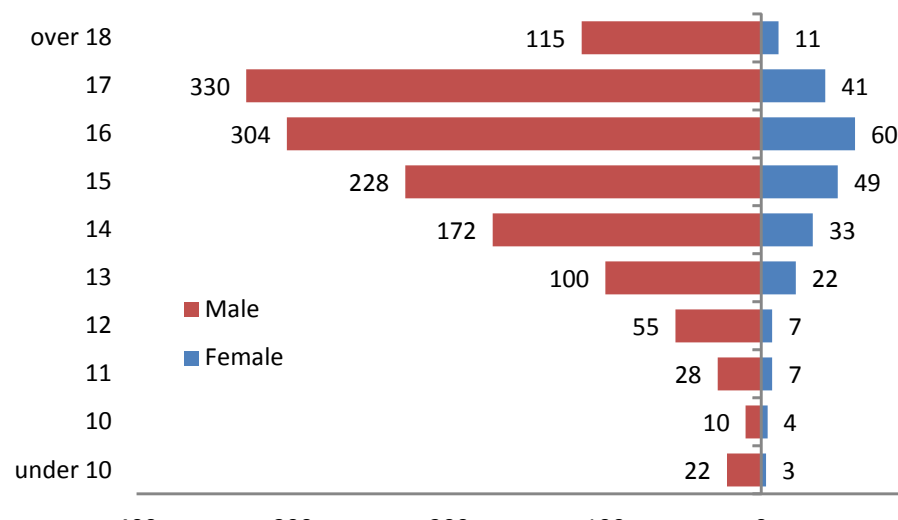


Figure 1: Number of clients worked with by Age and Gender, 01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

The Service runs interventions which are specific to British Asian/Muslim boys, which are designed to prevent radicalisation and promote greater life chances. Work is also on-going to reduce extremism by white young people.

	Number of young people	% of 10 - 17 population	Number of offenders	% of 10 - 17 offending population
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	39,459	33.5%	334	20.9%
<b>Black or Black British</b>	12,633	10.7%	315	19.7%
<b>Chinese or other ethnic group</b>	2,804	2.4%	37	2.3%
<b>Mixed</b>	9,936	8.4%	179	11.2%
<b>White</b>	53,042	45.0%	731	45.8%
<b>Mixed</b>	117,874		1596	

Figure 2: Ethnicity of clients worked with, 01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

## Performance against the three Youth Justice priorities

### Reducing the number of first time entrants

First time entrants (FTEs) are young people, resident in England and Wales, who received their first, caution or court conviction. The figures are presented as a number and as a rate per 100,000 of the 10-17 year local population.

The first time entrant rate rose between April 2016 and March 2017 to 512 young people per 100,000 compared with 475 per 100,000 in 2015/16. This rise of 13.7% is indicative of performance that is worse than the national average and core city comparators.

665 Community Resolutions were issued in the 12 month period; these do not count as substantive outcomes and therefore do not feature in the First Time Entrants figures. They are however, an alternative to the formal Youth Justice System. All Community Resolutions are assessed with the Police at a Joint Decision Making panel to identify whether the young person and/or their families need additional support provided through the Service's 'Think Family' responsibilities. This includes young people who have been excluded from school for significant behaviour problems

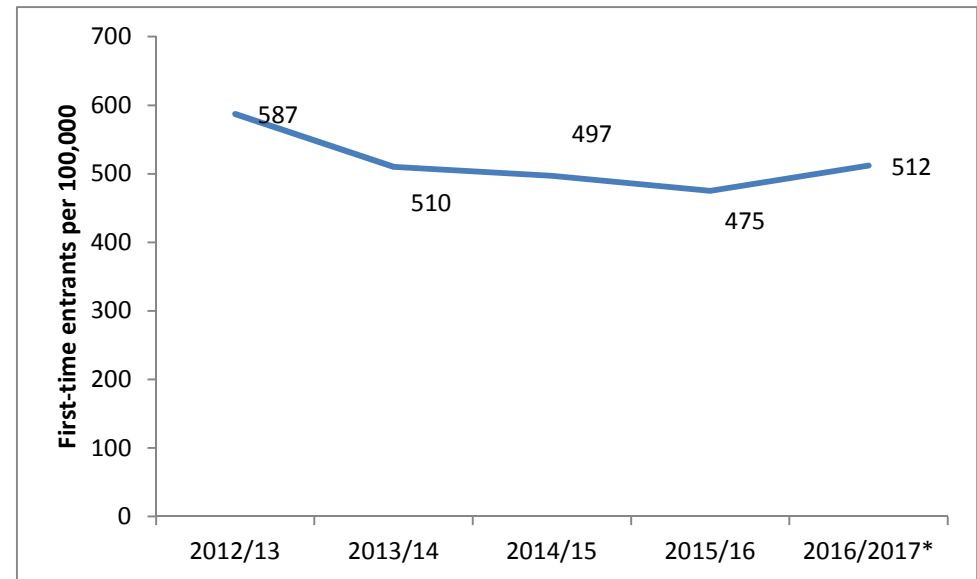


Figure 3: First-time entrants per 100,000 by year, 2012/13 – 2016/17

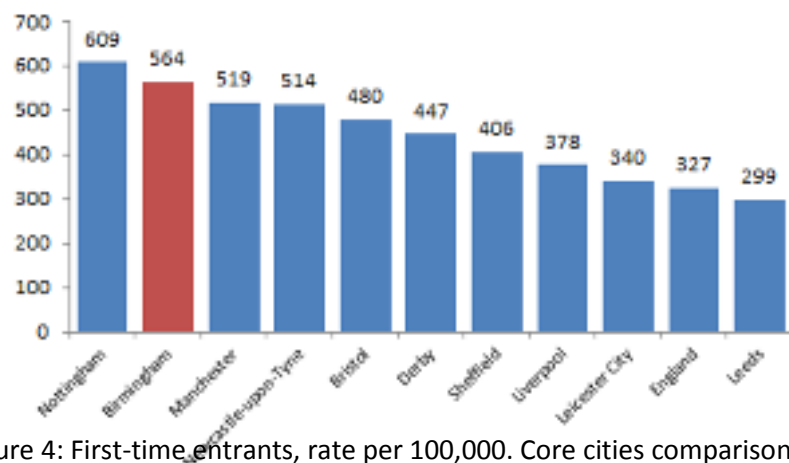


Figure 4: First-time entrants, rate per 100,000. Core cities comparison 2016/2017

The majority of first time entrants were aged 15-17, with 51.7% aged 16 or older. 98 (16.4%) of first time entrants were female. The most prevalent offences amongst first time entrants were Violence against the Person, Theft and Handling Stolen Goods, and Drugs offences.

Of the outcomes given to first time entrants, 52.3% received pre-court outcomes, 39.5% first-tier outcomes, 6.7% community penalties, and 1.5% were sentenced to custody.

## Reducing re-offending

A proven re-offence is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, reprimand or warning in the one year follow up or a further six months waiting period.

The national re-offending rate has risen and analysis is that the young people have more complex and challenging needs. However, whilst Birmingham is experiencing increasingly complex and more challenging young people it has sustained one of the lowest re-offending rates (1.12) of all core cities for the 12 month cohort July 2014 – June 2015 (latest Ministry of Justice figures) below the national average of 1.27.

Within this cohort were 921 young offenders, the largest across the Core Cities, with 35.8% re-offending, which was one of the lowest percentages of re-offenders of all Core Cities and compared with 38.0% nationally.

An analysis of Birmingham young people shows that those who re-offended were more strongly affected by the following risk factors than those who did not re-offend:

1. Lack of commitment including truancy;
2. Living in families under stress due to criminality, substance misuse, mental health issues;
3. Special Educational Needs;
4. Children in Care status;
5. Having a large number of previous outcomes;
6. Young people at risk of gang affiliation

Positive interventions include: offending behaviour programmes with a cognitive behavioural therapy focus; restorative justice; evidence based parenting programmes; young people supported to re-engage in education, training and employment and access to substance misuse and mental health treatment.

The Service delivers these interventions through their multi-agency staff and commission third sector specialist services for reducing gang affiliation (including support for Children in Care), services for young people on the autistic spectrum (specifically for those at risk of child sexual exploitation) and intensive mentoring to support engagement in education, training and employment. Robust transition arrangements with the Probation Trust for all young people approaching 18 are continuing to enable reductions in re-offending to be maintained into the adult system.

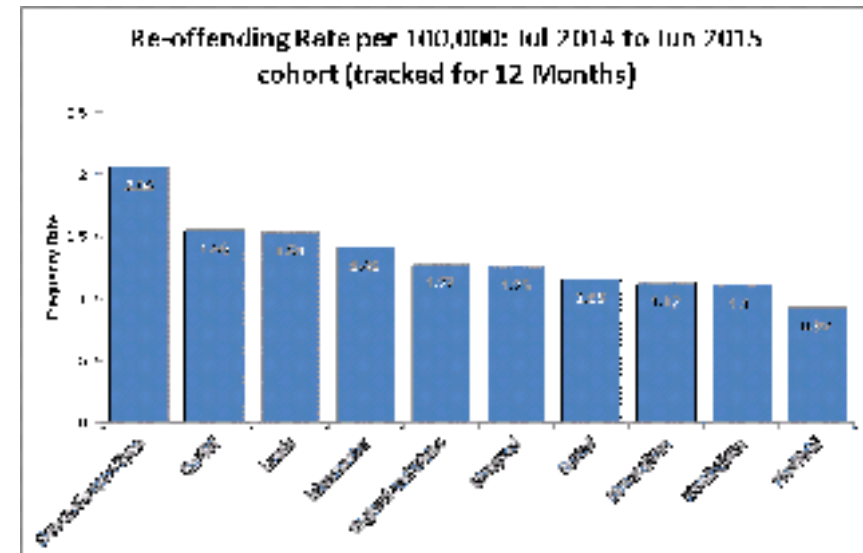


Figure 5: Average number of re-offences per offender, July 2014 – June 2015

## Reducing the use of the secure estate

### Custodial sentences

This indicator compares the number of custodial sentences against the 10 –17 year old population of a local area.

Birmingham has a higher rate of custodial sentences than the national average, although within the range of other Core Cities. The number of custodial sentences in Birmingham has fallen in the 2016/17 period to 96. This compares to 110 custodial sentences in 2015/16.

The majority (88.6%) of young people sentenced to custody were aged 15-17 and young males of either Black or Black British ethnicity or dual heritage backgrounds remain over-represented in comparison with the general population. 1.04% of those sentenced to custody were female.

The offence categories most likely to lead to custody were Robbery (32, 33.3%); Violence Against the Person (19, 19.8%); and Domestic Burglary (14, 14.6%), which together accounted for 67.7% of custodial sentences during the period.

Of the 96 custodial sentences made, 28 (29.1%) received up to 4 months detention, 60 (62.5%) from 4 months to 2 years and 18 (18.7%) over 2 years. This compares with 26 (23.6%), 61 (55.4%) and 23 (20.9%) respectively in the previous year.

The Service has an alternative to custody Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) programme, which is available to courts at bail and sentence stage and for young people released from custody and subject to licence. This programme includes 25 hours per week of intensive supervision and curfew enforced by electronic monitoring. During the period, 55 young people started on an ISS programme. Over the whole year, 209 young people were worked with by ISS on community-based programmes.

	Custodial sentences 01 April 2016 - 31 March 2017	10-17 population	Rate per 1,000 of the 10-17 population
<b>Birmingham</b>	96	117,343	0.82
<b>Bristol</b>	12	34,983	0.34
<b>Leeds</b>	31	64,225	0.48
<b>Liverpool</b>	49	36,724	1.33
<b>Manchester</b>	45	44,101	1.02
<b>Newcastle</b>	13	22,939	0.57
<b>Nottingham</b>	24	25,766	0.93
<b>Sheffield</b>	6	48,475	0.12
<b>England and Wales</b>	1784	4,885,713	0.37

Figure 6: Comparison of custody rates between Core Cities, April 2016 – March 2017.

### Remand bed nights

The Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 established the following remand framework:

- 17 year olds were made subject to the same remand framework as 12-16 year olds, meaning that they could be remanded into Local Authority Secure Children's Homes (LASCHs) or Secure Training Centres (STCs) if deemed vulnerable;
- All 12-17 year olds subject to a secure remand automatically received Children in Care status;
- From 1st April 2013, funding for all secure and custodial remands was devolved to Local Authorities, supported by a Youth Justice Board grant which has been reduced year-on-year

The primary offence type for which a remand to the secure estate can be made includes grave crimes including murder, attempted murder, rape, firearms offences, drugs and aggravated robbery.

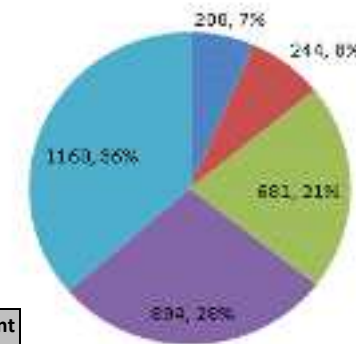
Young people from Birmingham occupied 3187 remand bed nights between 01 April 2016 and 31 March 2017. This was an increase on 2965 used in 2015/16. The total cost of the 2016/17 bed nights showed an increase of 38% over the 2015/16. A total of 55 young people were remanded to the secure estate between April 2016 and March 2017 which was a fall from 56 in 2015/16.

Establishment type	2015/16: Number of bed nights	2016/17: Number of bed nights	Difference
LASCH	78	323	245
STC	276	675	399
YOI	2611	2189	-422
Overall	2965	3187	222

Figure 7: Number of bed nights, comparison 2015/16 – 2016/17

An analysis of the remand data for 2016/17 identified that:

- The overall average length of a remand episode was 47.98 days (up from 43.6 days in 2015/16), with the average episode for those remanded to STCs (56.2 days) longer than for those remanded to YOIs (53.9 days).
- 98.1% (54 young people) of the remanded population were male.
- 42.8% (24 young people) were Black or Black British, compared to 10.72% of the local 10-17 population. These young people accounted for 57.0% of bed nights. This was an increase of 7 young people over the previous year.
- 93.6% of bed nights during the period were made in response to offences with a gravity score of 6 or above.



Age	Client count
13	1
14	5
15	11



- Robbery was the most common offence for which young people were remanded, accounting for 48.76% of bed nights, with violence and domestic burglary offences leading to a further 35.43% and 5.2% of bed nights respectively.
- 36.4.0% of bed nights were in relation to those aged 17: a cohort who, prior to 2012, could only be remanded to a YOI
- 2.4% of these were bed nights spent by 17 year old young men in STCs, which identifies issues relating to vulnerability and safeguarding.
- The number of young people by age was 13 years (1); 14 years (5); 15 years (11); 16 years (13); 17 years (25).

During the same period, 61 young people were remanded to Local Authority Accommodation for a total of 2953 nights as an alternative to a secure remand. The Service provided Bail Supervision and Support to 19 young people for 782 nights, and 18 young people were given an Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Bail programme for 1528 nights.

Figure 8: Remand bed nights and number of clients by age, 2016/17

## Asset Plus

The Service has been using the new national assessment framework 'Asset Plus' from September 2016. As detailed above, the framework is premised on desistance theory and the practical application of desistance. Given that 'Asset Plus' is a more comprehensive assessment tool than the previously used assessment, 'ASSET', all assessments now include not only indicators of the level of risk but also contextualises the impact of that risk. This allows for a more accurate assessment than was previously possible as it takes into account protective factors that could mitigate against the likelihood of committing similar offences again.

## Safeguarding

The Youth Offending Service continues to execute its duties under Section 11 of the Children Act (2004), which places a number of duties it (and the services contracted out to others) to ensure that the day to day business takes into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Service submits annual reports to the Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Board which indicates how safeguarding duties are being fulfilled.

Safeguarding training has been offered across the Service via the Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Board, as well as internal development and external training providers undertaking training across a range of vulnerabilities including:

- Safeguarding for Senior Managers;
- Child Protection and Early Help;
- Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing and Trafficked Children;
- WRAP3 and Prevent;
- ASSET Plus training
- Speech and Language training;
- Gangs;

Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) is a multi-agency front door using the principles of Right Service Right Time. The Youth Offending Service provides two part-time Senior Social Workers within the CASS environment, which has seen an improvement in:

- Timeliness and quality of YOS safeguarding referrals;
- A greater understanding around Remands to Local Authority Accommodation and Youth Detention Accommodation;
- An Increase in early referrals to the Sexually Harmful Behaviour Teams;
- YOS attendance at peer on peer abuse strategy discussions;

Within the Youth Offending Service all young people are screened for issues of safety and well-being. Between 01 April 2016 and 31 March 2017, 1601 young people were assessed for safety and well-being compared with 1369 young people in the previous year. 370 (23.1%) young people were identified as at a greater than 'Low' risk, requiring an increased response to mitigate that risk compared with 34.5% in the previous year. Responses include referrals to Children's Safeguarding Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health and substance misuse and alcohol treatment services.

The Head of Service has named responsibility for attending and supporting the work of key Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Board subgroups:

- Child Death Overview panel and;

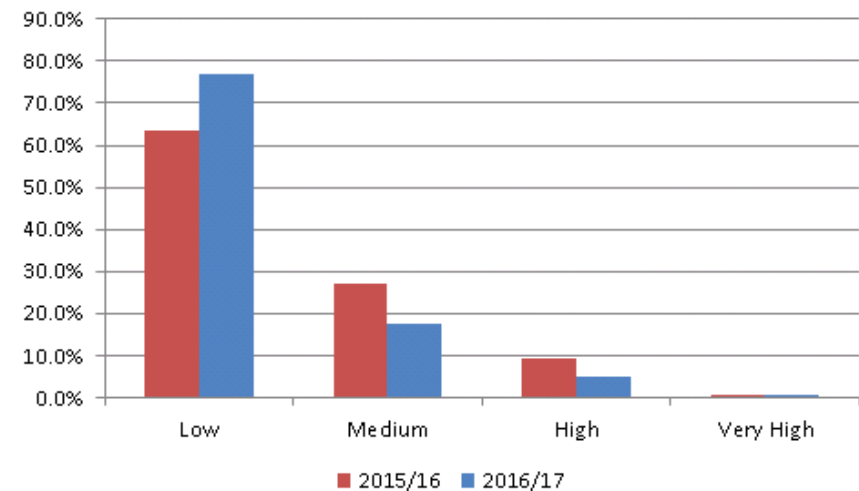


Figure 9: Assessed level of risk to safety and well-being, comparison 2015/16 – 2016/17

- Performance and Quality Assurance;
- CSE and Missing Operational Groups.

Certain risk factors may lead to a greater propensity to remain engaged in offending behaviour. By mapping data contained within the Asset core assessment, analysis has identified the incidence of the risk factors within the assessments completed.

For the young people worked with during the period April 2016 – March 2017, 5 risk factors were identified as each, in turn, affecting over 50% of the young people. The most common risk factors (figure 10) were broadly similar to those identified as affecting the young people worked with during April 2015 – March 2016.

For the young people sentenced to custody between April 2016 and March 2017, additional risk factors – each in turn affecting over half of the cohort – included: availability of drugs; lack of commitment, including truancy; parental involvement in/attitudes condoning problem behaviour and poor parental supervision and discipline.

The average Asset scores for young people sentenced to custody were higher in every category than those for young people who received non-custodial sentences.

Strengthening protective factors such as reasoning skills and employment prospects help mitigate against a young person remaining engaged in offending and diminish the effect of risk factors which are more difficult to change e.g. disadvantaged neighbourhood or family history of problem behaviour. Of the young people worked with between April 2015 and March 2016, 87.28% of those assessed were judged to have at least one protective factor.

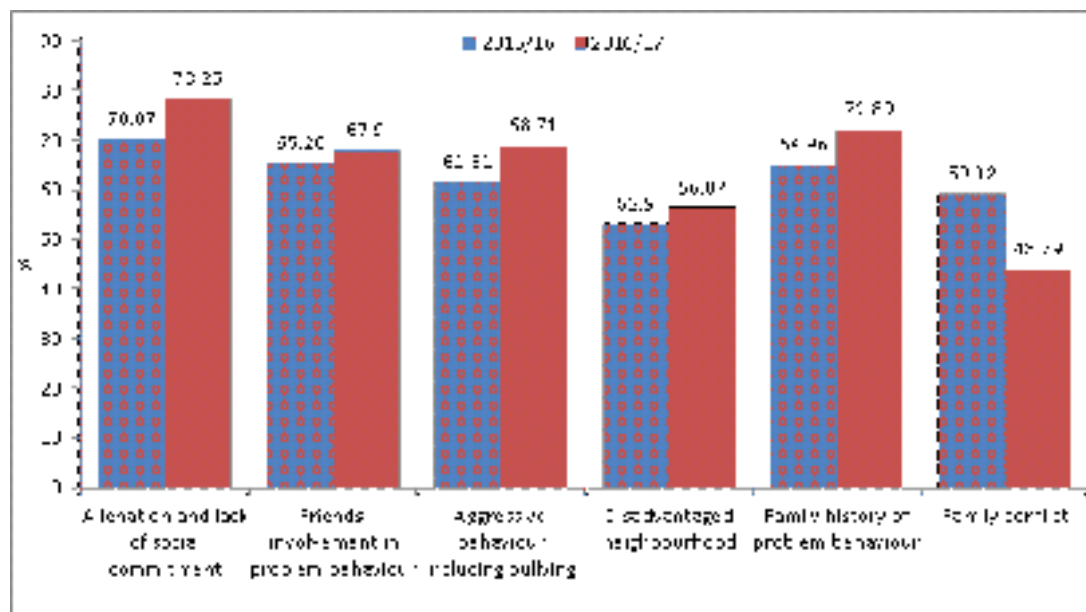


Figure 10: Significant risk factors, comparison 2015/16 – 2016/17

## Children in Care

National research has concluded that children in care are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system and recommends the use of restorative justice as an alternative form of behaviour management for minor offences. The latest Local Authority returns identified that 45<sup>3</sup> (5.14%) of the 875 children aged 10 or older who had been looked after for more than 12 months had a conviction or were made subject to a youth caution during the period 1st April 2015 - 31st March 2016, a small increase from 40 (4.6%) in 2014/15. This compares with the national average of 4.95%, and has been supported by Police and Crown Prosecution Service practices to reduce criminalisation of young people in care for minor offences such as criminal damage.

<b>Current</b>	104
<b>Previous</b>	159
<b>Never</b>	1338
<b>Grand Total</b>	1,601

Children in Care (CIC) are an especially vulnerable group and their prevalence in the youth justice system is regularly monitored and reported upon. Figure 11 shows that 263 young people were currently or had previously been looked after at the point of receiving a substantive outcome in 2016/17.

Young people with a history of being looked after were more likely to be sentenced to custody, with custodial sentences comprising 17.9% (19 young people) of all CIC sentencing, compared to 7.55% of those who had never been looked after. Despite the high proportion being sentenced to custody, young people with a history of being looked after only constituted 5.2% of First Time Entrants during the period. Young people with a history of being looked after were less likely to be in full time ETE at the end of their order (64.5%) than those who had never been looked after (76.9%). Of the young people remanded to the secure estate during the period, 10 (17.8%) were looked after at the time of remand. These young people accounted for 23.6% (661) of the 3187 remand bed nights during the period.

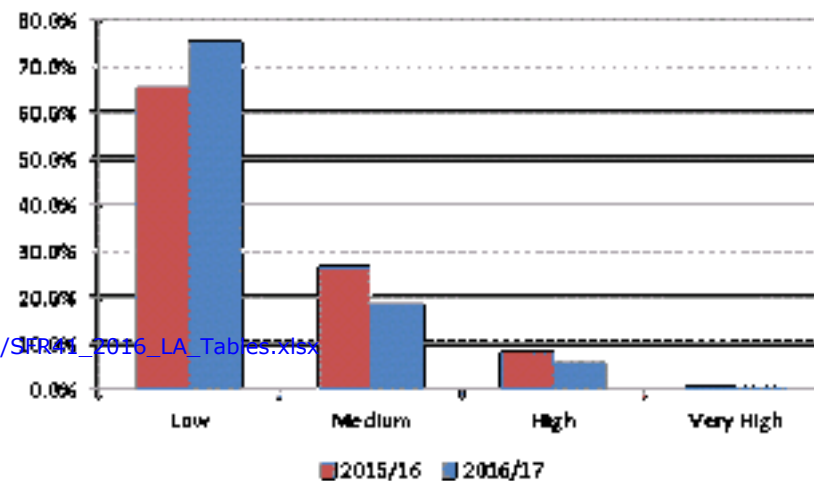
Figure 11: Children in Care status of offenders worked with, April 2016– March 2017

To ensure that children in care are not disadvantaged by being allocated to a new worker when a new placement moves them from one catchment area to another, the Service allocates a worker to them from their 'home' team and this worker is responsible for ensuring they receive the necessary support and intervention irrespective of where they are placed, either within the city or an out-of-city placement. In addition to Birmingham Children in Care, the Service also provides a service to other local authorities who place their young people within Birmingham.

In addition, work has been on-going to streamline the case review process across agencies into a single meeting to improve integrated working and avoid unnecessary duplication.

## Public Protection

The management of young offenders subject to court orders is a key responsibility of the Youth Offending Service. Those young people assessed as



<sup>3</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/594367/SR001\\_2016\\_LA\\_Tables.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594367/SR001_2016_LA_Tables.xlsx)

posing a higher risk to the public from re-offending or causing harm to others are subject to more intensive multi-agency arrangements to address concerns.

The Youth Offending Service continues to lead and chair local Risk and Vulnerability panels in each of the five area teams to discuss those young people assessed at medium to high risk of reoffending, harm and vulnerability. This allows the YOS to co-ordinate services for the young person to reduce risk and vulnerability.

The Service is responsible, within the Asset Plus framework, for completing assessments of the risk posed by young people and co-ordinates robust multi-agency plans for these young people. Compared with 2015/16, 2016/17 saw a decrease the proportion of the Service's caseload presenting other than a 'Low' risk to others from 500 (36.5%) in 2015/15 to 370 (23.1%) in 2016/17.

The Scaled Approach lays down, within National Standards, the levels of contact that each young person will be subject to and each young person is set

Figure 12: Assessed level of Risk to others, comparison 2015/16 – 2016/17



an 'intervention level' which is regularly reviewed within the 'Asset Plus' framework. Compared with 2015/16, 2017/17 saw a decrease in the proportion of young people being assessed on the Enhanced levels of intervention. Those young people requiring an Intensive level of intervention remained static. Those on an Enhanced and Intensive level require higher contact levels than the Standard intervention level.

## Youth Justice Board Serious Incidents Procedures

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) have implemented a revised system to update the Community and Safeguarding Public Protection Incidents (CSPI) procedures in response to the HM Inspectorate of Probation thematic inspection, which assessed the effectiveness of the reporting, monitoring and learning from the YJB's CSPI procedure and a YJB internal review. Key changes are the removal of discretionary notifications, the removal of the requirement to complete a Critical Learning Review or an Extended Learning Review, the addition of two mandatory safeguarding criteria ('Has sustained a potentially life threatening injury', 'Has sustained serious permanent impairment of health or development') and one additional Public Protection criteria ('Terrorist related offence'). Significantly, there is now a requirement to report all Public Protection incidences, whether the young person is under the supervision of the Youth Offending Service or not. This new requirement will provide additional partnership learning, as the majority of very serious or grave crimes over the past 2 years have been committed by young people not known or open to the Service.

## Integrated Offender Management

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) brings a cross-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together.

The Service is represented within the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Board, Strategic IOM Subgroup and IOM Operational meetings to ensure that the Youth ODOC (One Day One Conversation) case management meeting, is steered within a pan-Birmingham Strategy, in line with adult offender management, but recognising the differences in managing the risk of children and young people. Police Offender Managers are closely aligned to the Service and work in partnership alongside the YOT case managers with those young people who require more intensive engagement and management.

The Youth ODOC is chaired by the Youth Offending Service and vice-chaired by West Midlands Police. The two current cohorts of Youth ODOC are those who are deemed "Persistent and Priority Offenders," and those young people in the 'Deter' cohort to address concerns at an early stage and divert escalation into persistent offending and entrenchment.

The main interventions offered under the IOM Strategy are: drugs and alcohol, mental health services, education training and employment, accommodation and support, thinking attitudes and behaviour, family support and safeguarding and health.

The family came to Britain in 2010, relocating to Birmingham in 2012.

P and M were already involved in serious violent offending with their older brother and there had been a history of offending behaviour within the family. P continued to offend and received a custodial sentence.

On release the YOT worker and Police Offender Manager worked together sharing intelligence to manage the risks P posed to the community and to protect his mother from domestic violence.

They supported P to live independently with a support programme with a doorstep curfew that has reduced the seriousness of his offending although he continues to struggle with complying with the terms of his order.

The YOT and Police Offender Manager have a good relationship with the family and have engaged positively with M who has not re-offended since 2014 and supported the younger siblings to maintain their education placements and gain support from mental health and substance misuse services.

---

## Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are a key part of the government's strategy in protecting the public and are intended to help manage the risks presented by serious violent and sexual offenders. The four key functions of MAPPA are to

- Identify all relevant offenders;
- Complete comprehensive risk assessments that take advantage of coordinated information sharing across agencies;
- Devise implement and review robust MAPPA management plans;
- Focus available resources in a way which best protects the public from serious harm.

A pan-Birmingham level 2 youth MAPPP (Multi agency Public Protection Panel) is chaired by a senior probation officer (Violent Offenders) and a senior Police officer (Sexual Offenders).

## Summary of 2016/17 priorities

Outcome	Measure	Target for 2016/17	Outcome (2016/17)
<b>Reduce first time entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice system</b>	First time entrants to youth justice system (per 100,000 children)	5% Improvement Required 456 per 100,00	512 per 100,000
<b>Reduce Recidivism 12 month post completion</b>	Reduction in re-offending Reduce or maintain national average	Maintain current performance	(Jul 2014– Jun 2015 cohort) Binary rate:35.8% Frequency rate:1.12
	Reduction in re-offending rates for ODOC/MAPPA clients	47 young people tracked for 12 months (April 2016 – March 2017) <sup>4</sup>	38.29%
<b>Reduce the use of Custody</b>	Reduction in number of young people per 1,000 of 10 – 17 population sentenced to the secure estate	5% Improvement	0.82 (12.7% improvement from 0.92)
	Reduction in number of young people remanded to the Secure Estate	5% Improvement	55 (1.7% improvement from 56)
<b>Reduce the number of CIC in the YJS and re-offending by this group</b>	Reduction in number of LAC who re-offend	LAC re-offending congruent with city population	City = 35.8% LAC = 31.8%
	Young people looked after for more than 12 months given a substantive outcome.	Performance to be equal or better than national average.	Birmingham=5.14% National figure = 4.95% Core Cities =5.90%
	Improvement in proportion of LAC with arranged accommodation before release	Maintain	99.1%
<b>Increase the number of young people in the YJS engaged with ETE</b>	Percentage of young people of school age engaged in full time education at conclusion of order.	Increase performance to 82.4%	SSA=90.0%

<sup>4</sup> New target in 2016/17



Outcome	Measure	Target for 2016/17		Outcome (2016/17)	
	Number of young people post-school age engaged in full time ETE at conclusion of order	Increase performance to 75%		>SSA=73.03%	
	Distance travelled (improved and maintained) measurements pre and post order	5% Improvement Required	89.3%	Improved or maintained	90.0%
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Risk Management</b>	Further reduce risk levels pre and post intervention amongst young people within the youth justice system	5% Improvement Required	97.44% 2.56%	'Risk to Others'	Improved or maintained 96.53% Poorer 3.4%
	Further reduce vulnerability pre and post intervention amongst young people within the youth justice system	5% Improvement Required	92.29% 7.71%	'Risk to self'	Improved or maintained 97.58% Poorer 2.4%
<b>Improved Youth Justice Outcomes for BME young people</b>	Proportion of Black and Black British young people with improved youth justice outcomes reduces to average or below average population levels	5% improvement required from last year		11.10% (6% deterioration from 10.47%)	

## Offending Profile

The profile of young offenders in Birmingham is similar to the National Audit Office (2010) research, which identified that the risk factors most associated with those young people at risk of custody and re-offending were:

- Higher proportion had risks related to family relationships;
- Higher levels of truancy and NEET;
- Association with negative peers including gangs;
- Negative mind-set and attitude;
- High levels of substance misuse, including alcohol;
- Aggressive behaviour;
- Special Needs.

## Proven Offences

In the period 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, 1954 offences were proven against 913 young people. This resulted in 1309 outcomes. In comparison with the same period in 2015/16, the number of offenders represented an increase of 2.3% (from 892), offences a fall of 2.1% (from 1995) and outcomes a fall of 6.0% (from 1394).

## Community Resolutions

Changes in the criminal justice system have displaced the disposal of some crimes from formal action through the CPS and courts to more informal processes to deal with low-level crimes and ASB. Community Resolutions are one such avenue, which allows police officers to bring offenders and victims together to find an acceptable outcome. It is implemented by the police to support a restorative approach. This approach also prevents young people who commit minor offences from receiving a formal criminal record which may disadvantage them in the future e.g. employment opportunities. The Service receives all Community Resolutions and triages them at a joint-decision making pre-court panel comprising YOS case managers and Police who agree interventions for those young people who most need it. .

In the period, 665 Community Resolutions were made for Birmingham young people. The top 3 crime categories for the 10 – 17 age range where a Community Resolution was used were Theft, Assault and Criminal Damage. Taking Community Resolutions and substantive outcomes as a whole (1974 disposals), Community Resolutions account for 33.6% of disposals relating to young people in this period. This is a decrease from 40.5% in the same period the previous year.

## Offences by type

The offence categories with the highest prevalence of offending were:

- Violence against the person;
- Motoring offences;
- Theft and handling stolen goods.

Although the most prevalent crimes were the same as last year, violence against the person, theft and robbery continued to show a reduction in number and proportion, whilst motoring offences has shown an increase. This has mainly been

Offence types	2015/16	2016/17	% change
Violence against the person	555	501	-9.73
Motoring	278	315	13.31
Theft and handling stolen goods	282	265	-6.03
Robbery	172	156	-9.30

Figure 14: Offences with the highest prevalence, 2015/16 - 2016/17

for no insurance and no licence offences and analysis with Police colleagues is identifying this to be linked with on-going Police action targeting nuisance bikers. Whilst it is the anti-social behaviour aspects that are causing the complaints, West Midlands Police are using criminal legislation to seize the nuisance bikes.

Overall, the 1954 proven offences were broken down as shown in Figure 15.

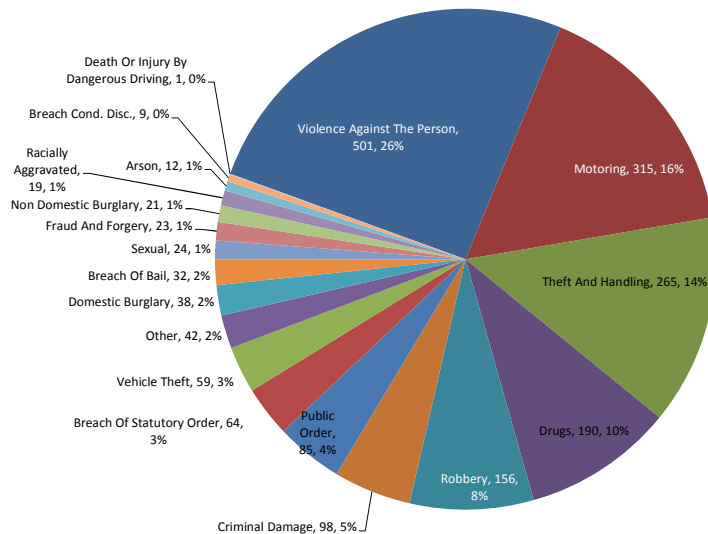


Figure 15: Proven offences by type, 01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

## Age and Gender

It is well established that young people with a criminal record have a more difficult and less successful transition into adulthood. It has also been researched extensively that the earlier a young person becomes involved in offending, the higher the risk of persistence. Young offenders and those who are violent at a young age also have an increased likelihood of becoming persistent, recidivist offenders and engaging in violent crime.

Children and young people are subject to criminal prosecution from the age of 10 and national figures show offending peaking at age 17, with a decrease thereafter. However, in 2016/17 local figures (Figure 16) show a peak at 16 years for young men and 15 years for young women.

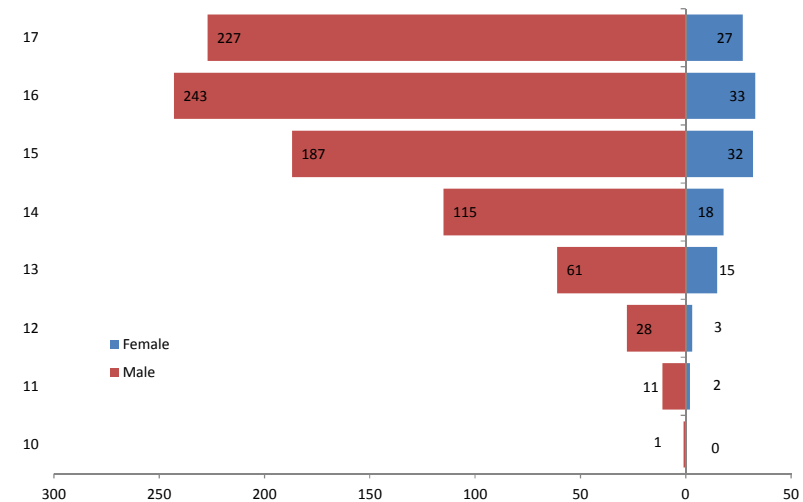
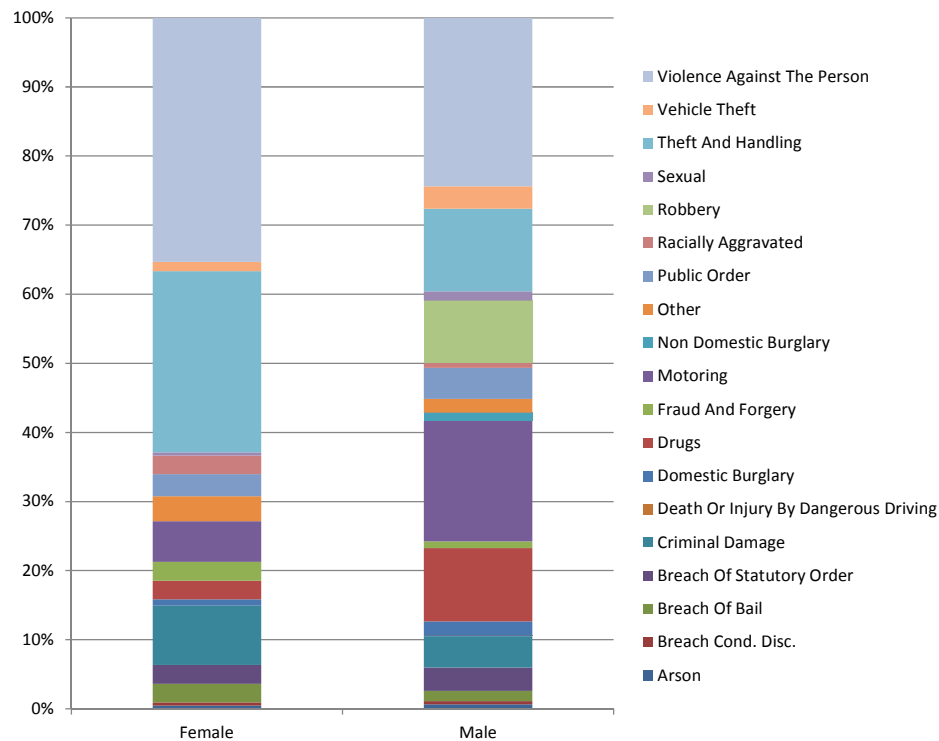


Figure 16: Proven offences by age, 01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

Offending remains a predominantly male activity. Young men accounted for 791 (86.64%) and young women 122 (13.36%) of the 913 young people who had offences proven against them in 2016/17. In 2016/17, of the 1954 proven offences committed, 1733 (88.69%) offences receiving a substantive outcome were committed by young men, 221 (11.31%) by young women. This gives a rate of 2.19 offences per person for males and 1.81 for females.

There is a difference in the nature of offences committed by each gender. Though the number of young females involved in offences is much lower than young men, young females have a far higher proportion of offences in the violence against the person category. The difference between the genders in all offence categories is shown in Figure 17.

## Ethnicity

The most recent data<sup>5</sup> to breakdown the 10 – 17 population by ethnicity has been used to analyse the number of offenders with proven offences in 2016/17 in relation to the overall 10 – 17 population of the city.

The Service continues to place a high priority on reducing disproportionality, both in terms of young people engaged in the criminal justice system and the use of the secure estate.

Black or Black British young people remain over-represented in the Criminal Justice System in relation to the general 10 - 17 population. The proportion of offenders from Black or Black British background increased slightly from 21.2% in 2015/16 to 21.8% in 2016/17. The Partnership continues to take action to reduce this over-representation including contributing to preventative work to reduce school exclusions and gang affiliation which is significant to this agenda

	Number of young people	% of 10 - 17 population	Number of offenders	% of 10 - 17 offending population
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	39,459	33.5%	211	23.1
<b>Black or Black British</b>	12,633	10.7%	199	21.8
<b>Chinese or other ethnic group</b>	2,804	2.4%	28	3.1%
<b>Mixed</b>	9,936	8.4%	99	10.8
<b>White</b>	53,042	45.0%	368	40.3
<b>Not Recorded</b>			8	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	117,874		913	

Figure 18: 10 – 17 years of age population: Number of offenders with proven offences by ethnicity, 01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

<sup>5</sup> Office of National Statistics Census 2010

## Outcomes

In respect of the 1954 offences proven between 01 April 2016 and 31 March 2017, 1309 outcomes were made. Of those outcomes, 1153 (88.1%) were made on young men and 156 (11.9%) on young women.

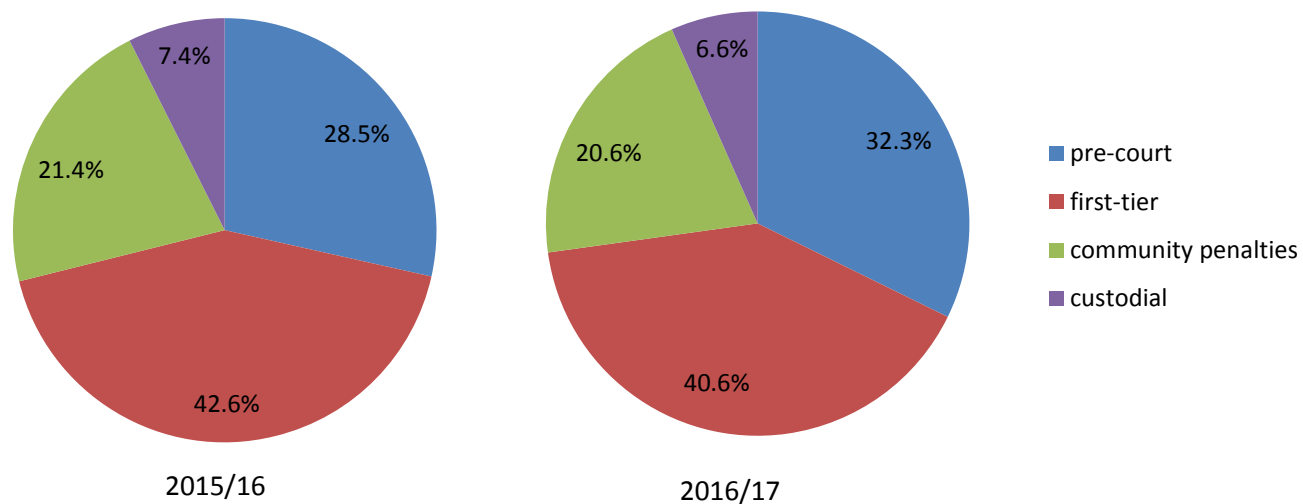


Figure 19: YJB Outcome Tier for proven offences comparison 2015/16 - 2016/17

The proportion of outcomes in each of the four tiers shows a small shift away from first-tier (court-based) penalties towards an increased rate of pre-court disposals, when comparing 2015/16 with 2016/17.

## Priorities for 2017/2018

The Partnership priorities have been informed by feedback from 370 recent self- assessment surveys completed by young people between 01 April 2016 and 31 March 2017:

- 53 (15.1%) reported living with others who got into trouble with the police.
- 185 (53.6%) had lost someone special from their life.
- 51 (14.5%) drank alcohol regularly and 83 (23.7%) used cannabis.
- 28 (8.0%) deliberately hurt themselves and 28 (7.9%) had thoughts about killing themselves.
- 234 (66.3%) often get angry and lose their temper.
- 184 (52.4%) had friends who got into trouble.
- 49 (14.0%) admitted to bullying, threatening or hurting other people.
- 185 (29.9%) felt they needed help with reading and writing.
- 262 (75.0%) wanted more training or qualifications.
- 170 (48.4%) admitted to truanting from school.

Priority	Why is this important	What do we know?	What will we do?	How will we know we are making a difference?
<b>Reduce First Time entrants into the youth justice system</b>	Involvement in offending is hugely detrimental to young people's ability to achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being	<p>The number of FTEs rose in 2016/17</p> <p>15-17 year olds made up the majority of FTEs</p> <p>The most prevalent offences were: violence, theft &amp; handling and robbery</p> <p>665 community resolutions were issued in 2016/17</p>	<p>Develop partnership understanding of the young people entering the YJS for the first time.</p> <p>Strengthen our understanding of those young people at risk of or from gang affiliation. Ensure partnership referrals are made to the newly established Gang Operational Group.</p> <p>Work alongside the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner to invest and commission services that prevent youth violence and involvement in gang affiliation</p> <p>Support the SEMH Pathfinder aimed at meeting the complex needs of this group and preventing offending</p> <p>Explore the custody triaging service</p>	<p>Reduction in FTE</p> <p>The number of referrals to the YOS joint decision making panels</p> <p>The number of young people referred to court who have received a pre-court intervention</p> <p>Engagement and successful completion of preventative programmes</p> <p>Consistent decisions for community resolutions and First Time Entrants</p>

Priority	Why is this important	What do we know?	What will we do?	How will we know we are making a difference?
			<p>for early identification of need and prompt referral into services</p> <p>Think Family interventions to identify siblings at risk and to support diversion</p> <p>Review decision making and guidance for Police and CPS for community resolutions and entry into formal youth justice system.</p>	
<b>Robust Safeguarding and Risk Management Processes</b>	<p>Many of the young people involved in the YJS have also been victims themselves and are vulnerable.</p> <p>Effective offender management and safeguarding arrangements protect the public and young people in the YJS.</p>	<p>In 2016/17 1601 young people were assessed for safety and well-being compared with 1369 young people in the previous year. 370 (23.1%) young people were identified as at a greater than 'Low' risk compared with 500 young people in the previous year</p>	<p>Ensure that the improved assessment framework, Asset Plus, is fully implemented and the benefits in relation to improved assessments and intervention planning are realised</p> <p>Continue to invest YOS resources into the CASS (front door) to improve information sharing and joint planning</p>	<p>Reduced vulnerability and risk levels pre and post intervention amongst young people within the youth justice system</p>



Priority	Why is this important	What do we know?	What will we do?	How will we know we are making a difference?
<b>Reduce Recidivism</b>	Lower re-offending rates protect the public and increases young people's life chances.	<p>Offending is predominantly a male activity 86.64%, with young woman accounting for 13.36% of offenders.</p> <p>Offence categories with the highest prevalence are: violence, motoring offences and theft &amp; handling stolen goods.</p>	<p>Utilise the improving quality of information to ensure that our assessments are accurate and that interventions are timely, targeted and focussed on the areas of identified risk.</p> <p>Further develop and implement the YOS 'Think Family' model, building resilience and ensuring that young offenders are viewed in the context of their families and that the needs of other family members are identified and managed.</p> <p>Ensure that the highest risk young people receive our most intensive interventions and risk management arrangements (Inc. ISS, ODOC/MAPPA)</p> <p>Ensure that the Courts maintain confidence in the YOS's ISS programme.</p> <p>Statutory partners to undertake a review of the broader universal offer for this cohort</p>	<p>Maintain current performance – below national average reoffending rate.</p> <p>Reduction in frequency.</p> <p>Reduction in risk factors at end of intervention</p> <p>All young people most at risk of re-offending have access to partners' universal offer.</p>

Priority	Why is this important	What do we know?	What will we do?	How will we know we are making a difference?
<b>Reduce the use of custody</b>	A decrease in the use of custody should be a direct result of reducing a young person's escalation through the YJS and/or a reduction in violent crime.	<p>Birmingham has a higher rate of custodial sentences than the national average though the number fell in 2016/17 to 96 compared to 110 custodial sentences in 2015/16</p> <p>The offences most likely to lead to custody are robbery, violence against the person and domestic burglary.</p> <p>Once in the criminal justice system, Children in Care (CIC) are more likely to receive a custodial sentence (17.9%) than those who have never been CIC (7.5%)</p>	<p>Undertake analysis of young people remanded or sentenced to the Secure Estate with YOS Management Board partners for shared ownership</p> <p>Continue to invest in the YOS's Bail and Remand service to ensure that robust bail support packages are offered as an alternative to the use of YDA where appropriate.</p> <p>Ensure those identified as highest risk of re-offending receive intensive support, supervision and surveillance (ISS) and Integrated Offender Management to minimise risk</p> <p>Increase take up of non-secure accommodation, where appropriate, for purpose of PACE</p> <p>Work with partners to address the issue of disproportionality in relation to the use of custody</p>	<p>Numbers of young people remanded and sentenced to custody</p> <p>Reduction in serious youth violence</p> <p>Successful completions of bail support packages</p> <p>Successful completion of ISS programmes</p>

Priority	Why is this important	What do we know?	What will we do?	How will we know we are making a difference?
<b>Improve Youth Justice outcomes for BME young people</b>	Being treated discriminately can have a significantly adverse impact on a young person's view of themselves and their outlook on life. This is compounded for those within the CJS who are more likely to receive negative outcomes.	Black or Black British and dual heritage young people remain over-represented in the CJS	Review data and interventions in relation to the BME cohort in order to improve our understanding of their journey through the YJS  Review current partnership actions to reduce disproportionality  Re-commission specialist interventions for young people at risk of gang affiliation and/or serious youth violence.	Percentage reduction in BME young people entering the YJS and receiving custodial sentences to below average BME population
<b>Increase the number of young people in the youth justice system engaged in Education, Training and Employment</b>	Being in education, training or employment helps to build resilience in young people, thereby reducing the likelihood of them offending/reoffending	Young people with a history of being CIC are less likely to be in full time ETE at the end of their order 62% than those who had never been CIC (72%)  84% of school age young people worked with during 2015/16 were in ETE by the end of their order and 62% for those post-16.	Youth Employment Initiative mentors will support engagement with training and employment  Continue to invest resources to improve ETE provision to YOS NEET young people.  Review all young people without full time access to education or not attending and raise with Education colleagues at BCC	Number of young people post-school age engaged in full time ETE at conclusion of order  Distance travelled (improved) measurements pre and post order  All young people in the Youth Justice system have appropriate provision and are supported to attend.

## Resources and Value for money

### Funding

The Youth Offending Service partnership's overall delegated funding for 2017/18 is £8,153,930 in line with funding for 2016/17, with the exception of a small decrease in Police and Crime Commissioner funding and an increase in Local Authority funding of £196,961 to fund a 1% agreed pay award and superannuation contributions for Local Authority Funded posts. However, incremental pay increases for both time served or as a result of performance reviews were unfunded and have been funded within existing budgets.

During 2016/17, the Service faced budget reductions of approximately £500,000 from the Youth Justice Grant and the national re-modelling of the Probation Service. This required a change to the Service's operating model and the Service reduced by 21 posts in 2016/17. This included sharing specialist staff across teams, for example victim workers. The Service now has 48 case managers reduced from 64 with increased caseloads per case manager averaging 16 young people and families.

Probation, Health and Police partners continue to second staff into the service and the cash contributions from the Police and Probation have been confirmed for 2017/18 at the same level as 2016/17.

The Service continues to receive 'Think Family' funding of £640,000, as part of an Investment Agreement, to take on additional responsibilities related to whole family interventions and continuing engagement with families post the statutory order, where outcomes have yet to be met. This funding has continued at the same level as 2016/17. Whilst this has increased workloads, it provides significant opportunities to increase family resilience and improve outcomes.

The Police and Crime Commissioner funding has been confirmed for 2017/18 via Birmingham Community Safety Partnership of £180,481 from the Home Office. This has been reduced from 2016/17 by £94,147 but enables the Service to support restorative justice interventions, extended the Service's knife crime programmes and therapeutic work with young people engaged in sexually harmful behaviour. The CAMHS Transformation Board have agreed to fund two posts on a permanent basis to extend the sexually harmful behaviour team to young people with communication difficulties who are not in the Youth Justice System.

Maintaining funding levels is becoming an increasingly difficult challenge for the Service in the current economic climate. All statutory partners are facing funding cuts within their own organisations. At this point it is not clear what, if any, savings the Service may be required to deliver in the future. For

Partner	Staffing (£)	Payments in Kind (£)	Other Delegated Funds (£)	Total (£)
Police	382,000			382,000
Police and Crime	180,481			180,481
Probation	273,398	4,081	30,000	307,479
Health	253,327	-	-	253,327
Local Authority	3,518,455		845,741	4,364,196
Youth Justice Board	1,915,430		300	1,915,730
Other sources of	672,447		78,270	750,717
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,195,538</b>	<b>4,081</b>	<b>954,311</b>	<b>8,153,930</b>

2017/18, the Youth Justice YOT Grant and the Junior Attendance Centre Grant have been merged into one grant. There was a marginal increase of £7,630 in this grant for 2017/18. The uplift in this grant does not take account of the 1% pay award and superannuation costs. This has to be funded out of the pooled budget.

## Remands to Custody

The total funding from the Youth Justice Board and the Local Authority for remands in 2016/17 was £632,435. The total cost of remands for 2016/17 was £887,915, a shortfall of £255,480. Overall the Youth Justice Board Remand grant has been reduced by £399,134 in the last five years including a reduction of £83,266 for the current financial year 2017/18. The service is currently holding six front line vacant posts as a mitigation measure in response to this budgetary pressure.

Remand funding Partner	Funding 2017/18 (£)	Funding 2016/17 (£)	Variance
Local Authority - BCC	147,997	141,056	6,941
YJB - Remands	408,113	491,379	(83,266)
<b>Total Remands</b>	<b>556,110</b>	<b>632,435</b>	<b>(76,325)</b>

There has been an increase in the cost of bed night prices of £69,965 for 2017/18. Both these factors along with the increased usage in bed nights for Secure Training Centres and Secure Children's Homes are adding to the pressure on the Remands budget. This in turn is having an impact on the overall budget of the Service. The projected overspend taken from the above and from analysis of the first three months of 2017/18 is £529,133.

Establishment type	2015/16: Cost of bed nights	2016/17: Cost of bed nights	Difference in cost of bed nights from 2015/16
Secure Children's Home	43,602	185,402	141,800
Secure Training Centre	137,172	318,600	181,428
Youth Offending Institute	462,147	383,913	-78,234
<b>Overall</b>	<b>£642,921</b>	<b>£887,915</b>	<b>£244,994</b>

## Value for money

The YOS Management Board is overseeing the allocations for 2017/18 on behalf of the Chief Executive in order to continue to deliver effective services to meet statutory responsibilities. Staffing costs make up a significant part of the YOS budget from statutory partner funding:

- The Local Authority and Probation contributions fund the statutory duties of the Service including: court officers, social workers, YOT officers and Probation Officers who risk assess, write court and Referral Order reports and carry out statutory interventions and enforcement activity with young people subject to court orders. Both agencies also fund specialist project staff required to provide statutory interventions and meet national standards.
- The YOS business support is provided through the Directorate Professional Support Service (PSS) from funding originally transferred from the YOS budget in 2014/15. PSS funding of £548,935 for 2017/18 will provide a significantly reduced business support service that has been tailored to best meet the needs of the Service.
- The Local Authority funds a Sexually Harmful Behaviour team, which works with young people from 8 years to 17 years, their parents and guardians, to reduce their risk to others and to themselves. This service will recently receive additional funding of £60,000 from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) via Forward Thinking Birmingham, which will go towards ensuring that the team can continue to meet the needs of this particularly vulnerable cohort of children. This additional funding will be used to increase psychological assessments and interventions and develop services in relation to work with young people with learning difficulties. The local authority also funds a statutory Appropriate Adult service.
- Police funding contributions enable the secondment of Youth Crime Officers who contribute significantly to offender management and support intelligence to reduce re-offending and identify and respond to vulnerability i.e. child sexual exploitation or trafficking issues. Contributions also support the pooled management arrangements.
- Health contributions fund the secondment of clinical nurse specialists and access to psychiatry and educational psychology consultations. This ensures enhanced pathways to mental health screening and interventions for young people to reduce their risk of harm to others and to themselves i.e. self-harm.
- Birmingham, as a result of its size, has higher numbers of young people involved in the Youth Justice System or at risk of entering it. The Police and Crime Board therefore supports a comprehensive package of interventions that provide additional support to these children and young people. These interventions provide evidence based support including to young people not yet in the formal Youth Justice system. The interventions are commissioned or delivered by the Birmingham Youth Offending Service. This funding does not fund posts delivering the statutory YOS functions.

## Junior Attendance Centres

During 2015 the responsibility for the operation of Junior Attendance Centres (JACs) was transferred from the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to local authorities through schemes made under the Offender Management Act 2007. There are two centres located within Birmingham, both of

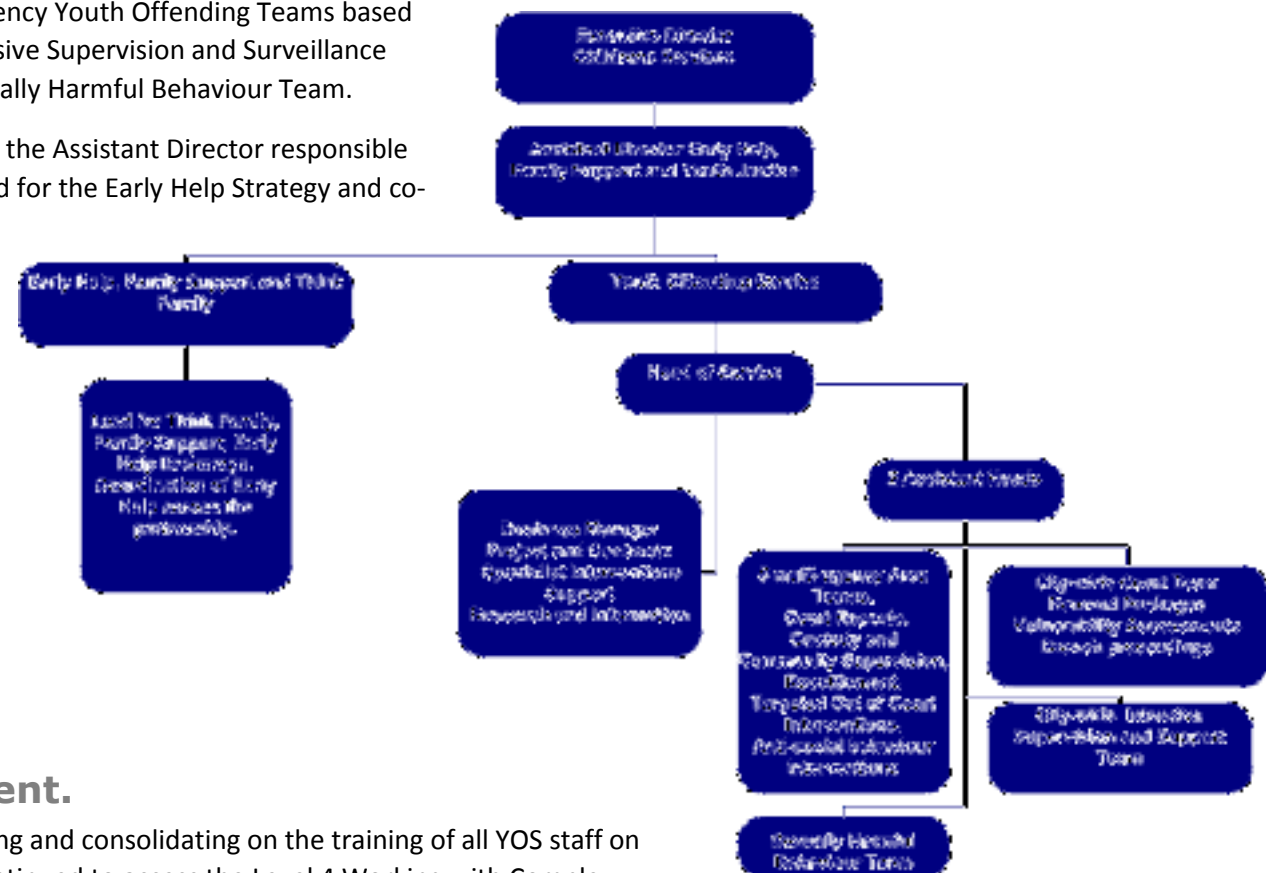
which are run from Youth Offending Team buildings. The complete budget for JACs was also transferred to Local Authorities and this is achieved through grant payments via the Youth Justice Board. For 2016/17 Birmingham Youth Offending Service was allocated £116,432, which funded the operation of the JACs in accordance with the requirements set out in the JAC Operating Model produced by the YJB, and in support of the statutory aim of the youth justice system to prevent offending by children and young people. Over the coming year the Service will work towards embedding the centres into the broader operations of the Service and seek to develop the provision to support broader outcomes for the young people accessing them.

## Staffing

Birmingham Youth Offending Service has five multi -agency Youth Offending Teams based across the city; a city-wide alternative to custody Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) Team), a Court, Bail and Remand Team and a Sexually Harmful Behaviour Team.

The Service sits within the Shadow Children's Trust and the Assistant Director responsible for the Youth Offending Service is also the strategic lead for the Early Help Strategy and co-ordinating early help services across the partnership, Family Support and the 'Think Family' Programme (Birmingham's response to the national 'Troubled Families' programme).

Under the new future operating model, the Service has set its average caseload per worker at between 12 and 15 families. However, difficulties in transferring cases to Probation has meant that the Service has had to continue to operate group sessions to maintain National Standards.



## Training, Learning and Development.

Throughout 2016/17 the main focus has been supporting and consolidating on the training of all YOS staff on the new YJB assessment tool, ASSET Plus. Staff also continued to access the Level 4 Working with Complex

Families training designed to support working with whole families. Staff have regularly accessed the Safeguarding Children Board training with an emphasis on Child Sexual Exploitation and selective 'champions' from each of the teams have received training on the Sexually Harmful Behaviour assessment tool AIM2.

All staff have received training on the new Early Help Assessment and Our Family plan and the supportive Signs of Safety and Wellbeing tools to give staff appreciative enquiry and scaling questions to assist in their assessments. At a successful YOS Conference in March 2017 there was key learning on the gang landscape across Birmingham and presentations from key partners along with informative workshops led by YOS staff on effective family working, parenting, trauma and restorative practice. These workshops are being continued within the Service throughout 2017/2018.

All Managers have completed or are due to commence the Advanced Diploma in Systemic Supervision to develop systemic ideas and transform them into supervisory practices. It includes education and learning theory as well as systemic supervision texts and explores a range of supervisory models.

The Services Training Needs Analysis has also identified the need for MAPPA refresh training and this is being arranged, in conjunction with the MAPPA support Unit, to take place this year.

## Viewpoint

At the end of their involvement, all young people are invited to complete an anonymous 'Viewpoint' questionnaire about their experience with the Service. The vast majority of respondents stated they had been consulted on the content of their sentence plan and understood what was required of them. Learning needs, difficulty explaining and understanding things were cited as examples of issues that made it harder for some young people. Some young people highlighted concern about travelling to their appointment through places where they did not feel safe. When asked 'does the YOT help you feel safer' 85% of young people felt the YOT did.

Whilst 16% expressed concerns about their Substance Misuse, of those 86% felt that their situation had improved due to their engagement with the Service. There were many examples of young people re-engaging with education or commencing training or apprenticeships as a result of the work carried out with their worker. 96% felt that they understood what would make them more likely to avoid offending and that the work that they had undertaken with the Service made them realise that changing their behaviour was possible. At the end of their involvement, 97% identified that they were a lot less likely to offend.

## Auditing

The YJB has a responsibility to monitor adherence to National Standards on behalf of the Secretary of State. National Standards in Youth Justice define the minimum required level of service provision consistent with ensuring: delivery of effective practice in youth justice services; safeguarding of children and young people who come into contact with youth justice services; and protection of the public from the harmful activities of children and young people who offend. A range of National Standards were measured during 2016/17 by self-audit.



The self-audit indicated that Standards had been met (with improvements) and that in the vast majority of cases there was good evidence to indicate that correct procedures were being followed. The self-audit also indicated that staff and managers had a positive relationship with young people and their parents and a good working relationship with staff from agencies including the Police, National Probation Service and the Secure Estate.

Similarly, the self-audit indicated that work with victims was positive, that staff were well qualified and experienced and that the Service procedures were in line with the Restorative Justice Council guidance and National Occupational Standards.

Following the introduction of ASSET Plus, the YJB have developed a new ASSET Plus audit tool, which focuses primarily on the content and processes of the assessment. Audits are now taking place using this tool to measure the quality of the ASSET Plus assessments and Family Plans.

## Case File Audits

The Service's performance management approach seeks to emulate the HMIP Inspection process as closely as possible to ensure that the concept of continual assessment is embedded within practice.

In order to pull together all of the quality assurance strands, the YOS Quarterly Performance Meeting is used to provide the main focus. This, in turn, informs the YOS Board, the YJ Plan and the information supplied to the Youth Justice Board. The Team Improvement Plan is used as the focus for the Quarterly Performance Meetings and assists in providing a consistent agenda for the meetings:

- Actions from the last meeting;
- Feedback and reporting on the current data;
- Actions for the next quarter.






The Team Improvement Plan is owned by the Team /Deputy Managers and allows the YOTs to focus on the improvements needed across each quarter and turns the data and performance reports into a series of practical actions

## Risks to future delivery

Service Objective	Risk Description	Controls to Manage Risk
<b>Prevent children and young people from entering the criminal justice system.</b>	Further reduction in targeted prevention funding will have an impact on outcomes; in particular this will lead to an increase in First Time Entrants (FTE).	<p>The YOS Board monitors trends in FTEs on a quarterly basis to establish any themes for increased partnership working.</p> <p>Work collaboratively with schools and relevant partners to reduce exclusions and identify those young people most at risk of entering the Youth Justice System</p> <p>Good partnership working increases the Early Help offer to effectively target evidence based interventions for those children in need and most at risk of offending.</p> <p>YOS will continue to support the 'Think Family' Programme, encouraging Schools, Partners and Districts to identify families who meet the criteria and would benefit from early support.</p>
<b>Ensure children and young people are protected from harm and are helped to achieve.</b>	The poor economic outlook impacts on education and employment opportunities for young people.	<p>Improved partnership working with Children's Social Care and Family Support Services will reduce the negative impact on young people's lives and ensure that support is given to families to be successful and achieve.</p> <p>Vulnerability management plans are reviewed regularly and YOS Board take action to collectively support young people.</p>
<b>Reduce Re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18.</b>	<p>Reductions in funding will have a negative impact on outcomes.</p> <p>Reduction/instability in ETE team resources is likely to have an effect on the educational attainment of young people at risk of re-offending, thereby increasing the risk of re-offending.</p>	<p>YOS Board will continue to monitor outcomes data and ensure targeting and quality of work to reduce re-offending is robust by YOS and broader Partnership.</p> <p>The introduction of YEI mentors to support post 16 into training and employment will increase the number of successful destinations, build resilience, thereby reducing the risk of re-offending</p> <p>YOS Board to review the reduced education hours for any young person within the Youth Justice System</p> <p>YOS to maintain its focus on identifying funding to support the engagement of young offenders in education, training and employment.</p>

Service Objective	Risk Description	Controls to Manage Risk
<b>Minimise the use of Remand and Custody for children and young people.</b>	Low level use of remand and custody is not maintained.	<p>Service will maintain close liaison with sentencers in relation to sentencing options and the availability of YOS programmes and services.</p> <p>YOS Management Team reviews use of custody cases to identify partnership learning.</p> <p>Joint work with Children's Services will minimise the impact, including enhancing the provision of alternatives to remand and custody.</p> <p>'Think Family' interventions will provide enhanced support to complex family issues.</p>
<b>To improve victim satisfaction and public confidence.</b>	<p>Service and partners fail to learn from a serious incident.</p> <p>Reduced Public Protection.</p>	<p>Ensure lessons from serious incidents are shared with partners to increase preventative work and continue to be integrated into practice improvements in conjunction with relevant partners.</p> <p>YOS and partners' actions to learn lessons from serious incidents are monitored for completion at the YOS Management Board.</p>
<b>Reduced YOS funding across a range of statutory and non-statutory partners</b>	Funding streams from statutory partners are reduced in line with partner savings. The Service fails to meet its investment agreement for 'Think Family' and the funding is reduced. There is a cumulative effect from reductions.	<p>Ensure that contributions are targeted effectively to key priority areas and continue to demonstrate good outcomes and best value to all partners and funders.</p> <p>The Youth Offending Service Management Board monitors the impact of any reductions in savings.</p>
<b>Increase in complexity of case loads</b>	<p>Overall risk and complexity of cases managed by the Service is heightened leading to increase in offending and risks to the public, increase in vulnerability issues including self-harm and poorer outcomes.</p> <p>Lack of effective transition arrangements between the YOS and the National Probation Service/Community Rehabilitation Company resulting in increased workload in the YOS.</p>	<p>Additional training and development is carried out across the service.</p> <p>Work collaboratively with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide effective approaches and interventions to reduce serious youth crime</p> <p>YOS will continue to review its evidence-based programmes for the 'Early Help' offer to ensure young people and families' access available interventions delivered or commissioned by the Service and through partners.</p> <p>Robust actions are taken between YOS and National Probation Service/Community Rehabilitation Company to transfer case responsibilities in a timely manner, utilising the Ministry of Justice Y2A portal.</p>

## Approval and sign off

Senior partner name	Role	Signature	Date
Councillor Tristan Chatfield	Chair YOS Management Board Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality		
Neil Appleby	Head of Probation, Birmingham, National Probation Service		10 October 2017
Councillor Brigid Jones	Cabinet Member for Children's, Families and Schools		
Andy Couldrick	Chief Executive, Birmingham Children's Trust		12 October 2017
Dawn Roberts	Assistant Director, Early Help, Family Support and Youth Justice		10 October 2017
David Coles	Associate Director of Commissioning Maternity, Children & Young People, NHS		13 October 2017
Chris Johnson	Chief Superintendent West Midlands Police		10 October 2017

# Appendix 1: Working with children, young people and their families

## Restorative Practice

The Role of the Restorative Practice workers is to make contact with victims in order that their views and wishes can be taken into consideration. This takes place, where possible, prior to the offender being sentenced.

Since 2014, new legislation empowered courts to consider Restorative Justice activity and, where appropriate, defer passing sentence on a young offender to allow that to take place. As a consequence, the Service's processes and procedures were adapted to accommodate these changes. This resulted in staff from the Service making contact with victims shortly after the offender has been arrested to provide support.

90 staff were trained as Restorative Practice Facilitators at the beginning of 2015/16 to support these changes. In addition, the Service's six Restorative Practice workers underwent additional training to gain a BTEC qualification and become recognised trainers under the auspices of the Restorative Justice Council.

In the period 01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017, out of 853 relevant programmes closing, 428 victims of young offenders were identified and 179 (41.8%) took up the offer of an intervention. 61 (38.6% of those who disclosed their age) victims were 17 or under. There were high levels of feedback from victims and all identified that they were satisfied with the service that they received.

G was the victim of an assault by 3 other girls.

The focus of the work with G was to help support her with her concerns and fears and to seek answers via a Restorative Intervention. After in depth discussions with one of the girl's (the main instigator of the offence) and her parents, an agreement was reached with G's consent, to participate in 'shuttle mediation'.

The result of the mediation helped the perpetrator to identify the harm she had caused and also to empathise with G.

As a result the victim was satisfied that the young person was genuine in her remorse and readily accepted the apology that was delivered through this process.

## Reparation

The Service offers a variety of reparation schemes which are designed to allow offenders to 'payback' to the victims and the community.

- Graffiti removal: The Service works in tandem with City Council provision and young people remove graffiti from public areas, parks and buildings
- Ring and Ride: Young people attend at the local garage and clean some of the contracted vehicles that provide transport for older people and those with mobility issues.
- Allotments: Young people are instructed in the growing of vegetables and the produce is donated to local food banks.
- Safer Travel: The Service works closely with Centro and National Express to make young people who commit crimes on the buses and trains more aware of the effect of their actions. Young people undertake victim awareness sessions and attend the National Express garage where they clean buses and remove graffiti from bus stands.

- **Unpaid Work:** The Service continues to commission the local Community Rehabilitation Company which provides the placement for 16 and 17 year olds who are made subject to an unpaid work requirement as a part of their court order. Individual placements are identified in shops, factories and other work places and are supported by an educational provision which is designed to allow young people to acquire basic qualifications.

## Anti-Social behaviour

The Youth Offending Service's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Support Team is a city-wide service with a small staff team providing support across the five area teams. The team works with young people aged between 10-17 years subject to an ASB sanction, including an early warning letter, and Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC). In addition, the team works with those made subject to an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) or a Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order (CRASBO) and, since new legislation came into force, Civil Injunctions (replacing ASBOs) and Criminal Behaviour Orders (replacing CRASBOs). This has also brought about additional statutory responsibilities for the team as positive requirements are attached to both the Civil Injunction and Criminal Behaviour Order and further civil sanctions are a consequence of breach of these orders.

The Team delivers a service which complements and builds upon the already existing local processes developed to tackle anti-social behaviour. Where the Police, Housing Departments and Registered Social Landlords make the decision to use an enforcement measure on a young person who is committing anti-social behaviour, a referral is made to the team to undertake a comprehensive assessment of need followed by an appropriate support package for the young person and family. Where 'Think Family' referrals are made the ASB worker has been identified as Lead Professional to co-ordinates the 'Family Plan' process, in cases where our Housing partners are experiencing capacity issues. The ASB staff have effectively engaged in partnership working with the Safer Estates Forums; sharing information and carrying out direct work with young people engaging in anti-social behaviour that are not within the formal Youth Justice system.

The Team supports work on Gang Injunctions and is responsible for carrying out assessments of those young people in relation to risk and vulnerability. Parenting assessments and interventions are also routinely part of the response with referrals into the Service's parenting programmes.

70% of young people receiving ASB intensive work desisted from further anti-social behaviour and were resettled back into education and training. Those who continued were dealt with through statutory processes in the courts.

## Parenting

Parenting interventions are used to reduce risk factors such as harsh or erratic discipline, poor supervision and conflict at home, and to strengthen protective factors such as constructive supervision and supportive relationships. Parenting workers with the Service utilise the *'Triple-P'* Positive Parenting programme as the main evidence-based programme. The Parenting workers also work closely with the Restorative Practice workers to provide young people, their parents and victims with Family Group Conferencing in the context of supporting:

- Bail Support packages
- Alternative to custody programmes
- Resettlement of young people leaving custody
- Parents to develop parenting and supervision skills.

Where more intensive work with families is required, the Service can draw upon the Multi Systemic Therapy team. Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) is a goal-oriented, comprehensive treatment programme designed to serve multi-problem youth in their community. It is a family-focused and community-based treatment programme that has been the focus of several major research studies and demonstrated clinical and cost-effectiveness for youth with complex emotional, social, and educational needs. All interventions are designed in full collaboration with family members and key figures in the child's life.

The service worked with J and his mother A. J had been exhibiting both verbal and physical aggression to family members, was engaging in crime and anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhood, and misusing substances. J had poor attendance at his educational placement.

The MST Therapist supported A in developing a safety plan for the family home and skills in early intervention and de-escalation to reduce aggressive behaviour in J. Clear guidelines were set with J and A in relation to school attendance and staying out late. A rewards and consequences plan was put in place to reduce substance misuse and family activities to improve relationships with family members and reduce the unstructured time that J had that was contributing to the anti-social behaviour.

Over a 15 week period, all of the goals were met; verbal and physical aggressions were significantly reduced, including a reduction to damage at the family home. Attendance at school improved and an apprenticeship was identified for J starting in September. There was a sustained reduction in substance misuse over the period, and J's desire to spend time with his anti-social peers was replaced by increased family interaction and increased supervision.

Parent R was made subject to a 6 month parenting order. There was conflict between the young person, M, and his father, due to R's disapproval of his son's peer associations and his absconding from home for lengthy periods.

When identifying the strengths within the family it was clear that R loved his son very much, but had very high and unrealistic expectations for his son's future. M felt his father's expectations were unrealistic and not worth trying to achieve.

Work over the 6 months focused mainly on family mediation and learning new communication techniques. By the end of the intervention both R and his son reported noticeable improvements within their relationship and a lot less conflict.

As a result M's absconding ceased and he has spent more time at

MST work with young people at risk of custody or care on a range of issues including:

- Anti-social presentation or offending behaviour.
- Aggression/difficulties in relationships with various systems (e.g. family, school, police)
- Lack of clear family rules or expectations
- Lack of clear incentives or consequences for behaviour
- Low supervision and monitoring by family
- Risk of school exclusion due to behavioural difficulties
- Going missing or staying out late.

## Education, training and employment

The engagement of young offenders into positive education, training and employment is an integral protective factor to reduce re-offending and is a priority objective for the Service. We continue to use the support of dedicated ETE engagement mentors who are focused on raising young people's aspirations, building confidence and supporting them to engage in ETE.

Overall, the Service continues to perform well against the national average and other Core Cities and work with schools and education providers continues to reap rewards with 90.4% of **school age young people** whose order closed during 2016/17, being in education by the end of their court order.

It is clear from an analysis of the Birmingham Youth Offending Service cohort that disproportionately high numbers of young people known to the Criminal Justice System are attending Special schools, Alternative Provision or have been permanently excluded. There is a particular concern that the recent high levels of permanent exclusions might have a detrimental impact on educational engagement whilst pressure on spaces in the Pupil Referral Unit centres is being managed.

The YOS continues to work collaboratively with Birmingham SENAR to support the Priorities of the SEND Strategy. The YOS participated in the recent review of SEND Services, particularly around the SEMH cohort, which has informed the work of the Inclusion Commission. The YOS are also working closely with SENAR to implement the new legal framework for those with SEN in Custody. There is an established fortnightly meeting between SENAR and YOS where all young offenders sentenced to Custody with SEN are tracked, to ensure they are being provided with an appropriate Education in accordance with their Education Health and Care Plan. This Process established in Birmingham has been lauded in the Youth Justice SEN 'bubble' as an example of Best Practice in the Country.

In response to the Ring fenced Apprenticeship offer from Kier Construction, the BCC Employment and Skills team provided funding for a short Pre apprenticeship programme for 10 young people referred from the YOS and Care Leaver Service. This 6 week pre apprenticeship was delivered by South and City College and supported by YOT SOVA offering "in Provision" mentoring support.

Out of the 6 young people who successfully completed the course and gained their CSCS Construction site card - 4 Young offenders were offered Apprenticeships after a successful work experience trial. move

Recent research by the YOS has evidenced a higher concentration of multiple complex needs for those that are disengaged with mainstream schools, and a correlation with higher levels of recidivism. In response to this, the Service seconded their Senior Education Social Worker to lead on a SEMH Pathfinder project to offer sustained support to young people and families with multiple complex needs; through the release of specially trained school based staff.

The project has also established a multi-agency team comprising of DWP Think Family Employment Adviser, Special School Nurse, Aquarius Substance Misuse Worker, SOVA 16+ Mentors, Employment Service Officer and a mental health specialist will join the project in September 2017. The project is led by a Senior Education YOT Social Worker.

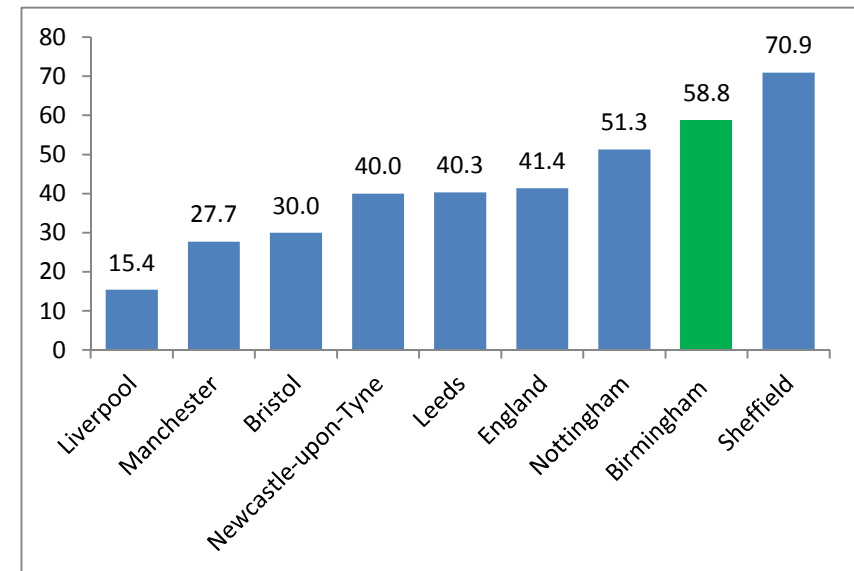


Figure 20: Percentage of all young people in full-time education, training and employment, 2016/17



The Pathfinder is aligned with the City's Early Help offer and works closely with Family Support and Think Family Team.

The project, in partnership with Lankelly Chase Foundation and Higher Education Institutions, is undertaking a 'Theory of Change' approach to some of the City's most complex needs families. The project offers a relational model of sustained support throughout school life and beyond; working with families who have had long periods of involvement with many statutory agencies; and focuses on brokering trusted relationships, with school based Pathfinder workers acting as a conduit to introduce other sources of support from multi-agency professionals.

In September 2017, the project will be extending its work to mainstream schools, as well as SEMH provision, and will have 19 Pathfinder school based staff across 12 schools in the City. A planned phase 2 and 3 of the project will increase this number and reach over the next two years.

It continues to remain a difficult challenge to enable our **Post-16 NEET cohort** to secure education, training or employment with only 62.5% of young people above school age being engaged in ETE by the end of their court order. Despite the introduction of the Raising of the Participation age, the process of 'selection' for Post 16 ETE opportunities clearly creates a barrier to engagement for the marginalised YOT cohort. This is due not only to their offending history, but also because they often achieve poorer academic outcomes at school. The situation is not helped by the limited funding levels for Post-16 education and training provision. This funding does not correlate with the intensive support needed for this cohort for them to successfully re-engage in education.

To help overcome this barrier to engagement, the Service has again looked to identify innovative provision and potential employers who are willing to offer employment opportunities for our cohort. This year we were particularly pleased to work in partnership with Kier Construction and the BCC Employment and Skills team. Kier agreed to offer up to 8 ring-fenced apprenticeships across several sites in Birmingham for Care Leavers and Young Offenders.

The Service is currently benefiting from the support of the Youth Promise Plus initiative for the Post 16 Cohort. This provides dedicated Intervention workers to engage young people in ETE, with aspiration to introduce enhanced innovative offers of Entrepreneurial support for our cohort, and engagement initiatives such as boxing sessions to develop healthy lifestyles, and improve motivation and attitudes for the workplace.

In addition, the YOS will continue to commission SOVA to provide mentoring support for the School age young people. The Romanian Romany Mentoring support is being expanded to ensure continued crucial support for this particularly vulnerable cohort. There are also plans to introduce accredited numeracy and literacy qualifications through the offer of one to one tutor support delivered at the YOT venues and in the local community.

	Statutory School Age (%)	Above Statutory School Age (%)
Deteriorated	19 (4.1)	71 (14.6)
Maintained or Improved	447 (95.9%)	415 (85.4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>486</b>

Figure 21: 'Distance Travelled': ETE status, 01 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

## Substance Misuse

Cannabis and alcohol are the main substances used by young people in Birmingham. Despite national trends, Class A users presenting for treatment are low and a relatively small number are identified as new psychoactive substance ('legal highs') users. Since May 2016, when the Psychoactive Substances Act came into force, none of these drugs are legal to produce or supply.

'Aquarius' provides the substance misuse provision for the Service and a named substance misuse worker is provided for each of the five area teams. These workers also attend risk and vulnerability panels and contribute towards the Service-led intervention plans. In addition to individual sessions, 'Aquarius' also provides interactive group-work sessions, designed to help engage young people in structured treatment and ensure harm reduction and safe practices information.

The number of referrals to 'Aquarius' in 2016/17 were 907, a rise of 1.3% from 2015/16, with 1572 young people receiving brief interventions (some on more than one occasion) and 797 more structured treatments. This has been mainly due to a new working model which has included a higher level of community outreach provision. The Youth Offending Service is the highest referrer into these services.

## Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Forward Thinking Birmingham [FTB] in partnership with the Voluntary Sector, Beacon, The Children's Society, Priory and Worcester Adult Mental Health Services has a range of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services ranging from the age 0-25, that aim to support children and young people who are experiencing emotional and mental health problems. Children and young people's mental health disorders affect 10-20% of children and young people. Common mental health disorders and difficulties encountered during childhood and the teenage years include:

- ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder);
- Autism and Asperger Syndrome (the Autism Spectrum Disorders, or ASD);
- Emotional and behavioural problems;
- Conduct Disorder;
- PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder);
- OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder);

17 year old young man referred for concerns about anxiety and impact of mental illness in older siblings. Missed initial appointment and 10 days later FTB YOS worker agreed to the case workers request for the young person to be seen when he attended his YOS appointment that afternoon.

Case worker reported concerns over 4 days that the young person was very emotional, tearful, expressing guilt and was not sleeping. On arrival the young person was quite upset, Manager and Case Worker supported mother and sister, whilst FTB YOS worker assessed young person with a YOS worker for support.

FTB YOS worker conducted a mental state and risk assessment at this appointment, young person was minimising all concerns presented with odd thoughts and beliefs which indicated some thought disorder. On speaking to the family this assessment was supported and a further appointment was set for the following morning. On reassessment a clearer picture of thought disorder was established and consultation and working on a harm reduction plan with D he was able to reduce his cannabis use over a period of time.

The Aquarius intervention focused on the short and long term effects of cannabis and alcohol use, on both physical and mental health and also the laws around drinking and taking drugs. The Aquarius intervention team, as per FTB YOS worker referral made to the Early Intervention Team. As per FTB YOS worker was a Non-Medical Prescribing Nurse and in consultation with a Psychiatrist, medication was offered and a prescription provided to the colleagues he was able to access a Youth Music project. This helped reduce the time that D had with his peers, which contributed to a reduction in his drink and drug use. Also working in conjunction with the SOVA mentor D was able to access a place at Solihull College. Relapse prevention work completed the intervention.

An alert system was put in place for the total home by the YOS Youth Crime Officer highlighting vulnerability and over the next three days this young person was admitted to a place of safety on two occasions, and on the second admission was placed in hospital.

D has not reoffended.

- 
- Depression; Eating Disorders; Bullying; Anxiety.

FTB have a dedicated team of clinical staff working within the Youth Offending Service who work alongside the staff to offer screening and identification and treatment of mental health difficulties of young offenders to reduce the range of risk factors that can cause young offenders to be more at risk of emotional and developmental problems. By building an individual's resilience, improvements are seen in their ability to cope with situations that may lead to offending.

FTB aims to improve the mental health and emotional well-being of children, young people and their families and to improve the level of knowledge and awareness of mental health issues among the wider staff group.

The Clinical Nurse Specialist posts reflect the specialised clinical qualification in the domain of Child and Adolescent Mental Health. Whilst not essential, post holders have specialist training in dedicated therapeutic approaches to intervention, assessment of complex mental health need and advanced skills in multi-disciplinary working. This role includes the assessment, clinical formulation and delivery of interventions to meet complex mental health needs.

The YOS team have been trained alongside the clinical dedicated staff in the use of SAVRY (Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth) and in DBT (Dialectic Behavioural Therapy) which can assist those with suicidal tendencies and those who have experienced deep trauma in their past. They also offer cognitive behaviour therapy, brief solution focused therapy, family work and neuro developmental interventions.

The clinical team staff provide a core set of skills which means that they can accommodate all emergencies regardless of who is available for the assessment and are able to work flexibly to meet the needs of the young person.

Current on-going caseloads are approximately 150 across FTB YOS staff. This includes one of the staff members being a non-medical prescriber. 85 cases are currently under a prescriber being treated for ADHD and ASD with a small proportion being treated for co-morbid psychiatric conditions, mainly depression or mood dysregulation. Over 65% of the cases are neuro-developmental - mainly ADHD and ASD.

The case study highlights key strengths:

1. Immediate mental health assessment with case worker having the ability to co-ordinate support for assessment in the form of additional staff members
2. Ability, with parental consent to identify vulnerability to local police via YCO as this young person was leaving the family home unsupervised and was acting erratically so vulnerability was the focus not criminal arrest when encountered.
3. Referral to Early intervention team and access to place of safety.
4. Electronic record system in FTB allowed via mobile access to record details of need clearly for all health teams.
5. Youth Offending Case worker able to highlight signs and symptoms of acute change in mental state to request urgent assessment

## Sexually Harmful Behaviour Team

The Sexually Harmful Behaviour Team is a small but key safeguarding team hosted and funded through the Youth Offending Service and Clinical Commissioning groups that undertakes risk assessment and therapeutic intervention to prevent and reduce sexually harmful behaviour in partnership with key agencies including Children's Services, Youth Offending Services, Police, CPS and schools. The service works with young people from 7-17 years either on a voluntary or statutory basis. Between 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017, 102 young people new referrals were received. During this time, the team worked with 161 young people (including existing cases) and had an average caseload at any one time of approximately 40 cases. In addition, the team continues to provide advice and support to other professionals.

Referral Source	Number (%)
Children's Services	44
Education	43
Police	9
Primary Health	2
Housing	1
Community Mental	1
Youth Offending Service	2

Children and young people who sexually abuse usually exhibit common life experiences and individual traits that contribute to development and future behaviour. Early intervention and therapeutic work can target these areas and promote change in family systems and the behaviour of children. Families and carers are essential to this work and are actively engaged throughout SHB interventions. Protection of victims is comprehensively assessed at all stages. The team also provides training and consultancy to other professional agencies and carries out preventative work in schools in order to promote appropriate behaviour.

- 90% of young people referred to SHB were engaging in some form of harmful behaviour (sexual and/or non-sexual) at the point of referral.

CF first came to the notice of the SHB team after pleading guilty to sexual offences against a younger family member. The SHB worker completed a full assessment and provided the Court with a detailed assessment and proposal for a programme of work. The Court acknowledged this and sentenced CF to a Community Sentence.

Since sentencing CF has worked with SHB on completing a Good Lives Plan to identify what needs his offending behaviour were trying to meet and to consider more appropriate ways to meet his needs in the future.

CF has engaged well throughout the programme and reported that he found the support extremely useful. CF has since reengaged in education, has engaged with the Prince's Trust, and no further offences have been reported.

- At the point of case closure, following a programme of work from the team, 99% of young people were no longer engaging in the referral behaviour.
- 92% of young people reported that work with SHB had helped them understand more about healthy sexual relationships and how to stop SHB.
- 89% of parents reported that SHB work had helped them understand and manage their young person's behaviour "much better".

What is very apparent from the numbers and sources of referrals, that the team is placed within the correct space to work with those young people to avoid unnecessary criminalisation of children and young people when an educative programme can be put in place prior to the young person reaching court and statutory interventions.

Over the past 12 months the team has continued to develop partnership working with other key agencies and has provided training to the Police and Educational Psychology Service. The SHB team has continued to formalise partnership working with Barnardo's projects around those at risk of sexual exploitation victims of sexual abuse. This has also been presented to the National Working Group (NWG).

In relation to young people diagnosed as on the Autism spectrum, the Sexually Harmful Behaviour team now has a full-time Autism Specialist in post that also provides training and consultancy to the whole Youth Offending

Service. The availability of this provision ensures that the service is able to identify and respond to the individual needs of each young person.

There are an unprecedented number of referrals in to the team and consequently the threshold for accepting referrals has continued to increase. The team is now working towards developing a charging model whereby other agencies would buy in services from the team. These services would include assessment of young people, therapeutic intervention and training on understanding and responding to SHB.

The name of the team will also be changed to the Harmful Sexual Behaviour team to reflect current research and practice and to encompass both sexually abusive behaviour and sexually problematic or concerning behaviour. In January 2017, the team gained additional capacity funded from NHS commissioners to increase specialist staff within the team for children and young people on the autistic spectrum and those with learning difficulties.

## Gender Specific Programme

The Female Gender Specific (FGS) unit within the Youth Offending Service has been developing since 2013. Whilst this programme is managed by the Service, the intensive activity provided is additional to core work and has been delivered in an integrated way through Youth Offending Service preventative staff and two co-located part time Barnardo's workers.

The Community Safety Partnership funding supports the FTE of one member of staff to ensure out of hours support is available.

The Service has developed a robust model of identifying and screening young women at risk or involved in CSE and has trained staff as lead champions in each team. This has ensured there are specialist skills available to support non-specialist staff in assessment and intervention planning for all young women.

An examination of the data relating to young women within the service highlighted the following areas:

- The Unit works with the most complex or hard to engage cases, initially identified through a YOS assessment and the Child Sexual Exploitation Assessment (SARAF tool used nationally). The seriousness and frequency of offending, vulnerability of young women, mental health concerns and substance misuse have thus formed part of the criteria for acceptance onto the programme. The programme supported 49 females in 16/17 and there is a current waiting list which is regularly risk-assessed with clear pathways into the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.
- 75% had been sexually exploited or were at risk of sexual exploitation.

This has resulted in:

Y was open to the Service on a 12-month YRO, she was a Child in Care and had previously been a victim of CSE.

Y returned to live with her mother and siblings however was not in education or training and reported she used alcohol and substances to combat feelings and emotions of past experiences.

At the start of her order her engagement was slow and she needed lots of texts and calls to remind her of appointment times and more often than not she arrived later than planned. Due to the holistic nature of the GSP programme they were able to accommodate her when she arrived.

The team started to see her once a week to build relationships and through her life story work identified interventions around Healthy Relationships, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Awareness and supported her to access substance misuse services.

The team identified the right support for her to build her confidence.

10 months on Y is no longer self-medicating with substances, her relationship at home with family has improved. She is no longer a victim of CSE.

She has secured full time employment in a call centre and

- Specialist and flexible provision that allows young women and girls to return to see staff in the Unit for help / reassurance to keep on track post order.
- Beneficial effects of partnership between the voluntary and public sector (Barnardo's and YOS).

The Unit utilises a programme based on well researched and validated model 'Oregon's (USA) Guidelines for Effective Gender Specific Programming for Girls (2000)' which advocates a holistic approach to working with young women, to manage both high risk behaviours that place the public and victims at risk, alongside safeguarding and welfare needs.

## Appropriate Adults

The Service is responsible for ensuring that support is offered to all young people, aged from 10 to 17, who are arrested and detained at a Police Station where a responsible adult cannot attend.

In October 2013, following a High Court ruling, changes to the Codes of Practice were made that extended the provision to include those young people aged 17 years. During 2016/17, 161 Appropriate Adults were provided by the Service, including 44 for those aged 17.

The Appropriate Adult attends to safeguard the welfare of the young person and to ensure that processes in keeping with the PACE Codes of Practice are adhered to. The service is staffed by volunteers supported by a full-time co-ordinator and is available to all Police Stations across the city. Out-of-hours co-ordination is covered on a paid contract basis and the Service works closely with colleagues from Social Care and Health in respect of the corporate parenting of Children in Care. The Local Authority has a duty under Section 38 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to accept the transfer of children who have been charged and denied bail from police custody to local authority accommodation. This has recently been re-enforced by the issuing of a concordant by central government. Work is on-going with Police and Children's Services to ensure that appropriate accommodation is available.

## Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Incidences of aggression from children towards their parents can be viewed as part of normal child development and dealing with such issues present opportunities to learn and develop for both parent and child. Child to parent abuse goes beyond the everyday experiences of children "hitting out" at parents, which can happen for all sorts of medical, developmental and situational reasons and is therefore outside the parameters of abusive behaviour. It also goes beyond "one off" incidents.

Child to parent abuse is rarely recognized as domestic violence, but uses many of the same patterns and tactics of power and control as in adolescent and adult intimate relationships. Put-downs, threats, intimidation, property destruction, degrading language and physical violence are used to gain power and control over the other person.

The Service has begun to roll out the 'PACT' programme which aims to:

- reduce incidents of child to parent abuse
- increase safety within families
- promote positive relationships within families
- improve outcomes for families e.g. improved school attendance, entry into employment

PACT consists of a twelve-session programme for parents and teenagers, delivered in parallel. The last session is delivered jointly with both parents and their teenagers. The programme is multi layered and weaves together cognitive behavioural therapy and skills development, in a restorative practice framework, with family safety and respectful family relationships at the centre. It is designed to create a safe and respectful environment to enable learning on the programme to be integrated into family life. The programme addresses the young person's abusive and violent behaviour and reduces the instances of abuse and violence by developing a more effective relationship between parent/carer and young person.

## Gangs and Serious Youth Violence

The recent Community Safety Partnership 'Serious Organised Crime Local Profile 2017' on the gang landscape within Birmingham, gives a clear picture of the devastating impact gangs are having on local communities in Birmingham. There are currently 26 Organised Crime Groups (OCG's) that operate in Birmingham, often in areas of deprivation and unemployment, where they are able to carry out their activities. The south of Birmingham, in particular, has seen an increase in the levels of violence, with some young teenagers carrying weapons and wearing stab vests whilst others are afraid to go out in their local community. Police intelligence has linked the violence to gang activity and as a consequence, there are major operations across Police and partners to disrupt and deter this activity including civil interventions (Gang Injunctions) and offender management. There has also been an increase in the reports of sexual violence linked to gang activity where the victim and the perpetrator are children. Children's Services have facilitated a number of complex strategy meetings to agree risk management and protection plans. Children and young people who experience trauma or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are more likely to be associated with gangs, and are also more likely to be coerced, corrupted, debt-bound, groomed and exploited, or even offend unwittingly if they have multiple vulnerabilities.

Children and young people continue to be exposed to the risk of involvement in gang activity and serious violence and this is echoed in the National Crime Agency report (November 2016) on gang violence, drug supply and county lines, which identifies the systematic exploitation of vulnerable young people. The report highlights that gangs typically exploit children to deliver drugs using intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming. Birmingham is identified as one of the areas where this is taking place. Whilst the report acknowledges that the true scale of the exploitation of children by gangs is unknown, it concludes that there are likely to be many children and young people who fail to be safeguarded. The Youth Offending Service now applies the

S was sentenced to an Intensive Supervision and Support (ISS) programme at the age of 15 and whilst he complied with his Order, he committed further offences and received another Order.

Despite continued efforts to desist this Young Persons offending behaviour, it was clear that this was linked to Gang Affiliation and as a result he was open to the Multi-Agency Gang Unit for increased offender management.

S was then the victim of two stabbings and the target of a drive by shooting.

Using a multi-agency approach S and his family were moved out of Birmingham. With a well-co-ordinated handover to an out of borough YOT, S successfully completed his ISS, completed a plastering course and is now in the process of seeking employment.

He is now 19 and has not offended for 2 years.



Gangs Matrix, developed by Barnet Local Authority, to all young people engaged with the Service (including those on pre-court disposals) to identify those likely to be involved in or on the periphery of gangs. 76 cases were identified as at risk, the majority of which had not come to the attention of the Service for gang related concerns.

In 2016 The Police and Crime Commissioner established a Gangs Commission to review the issue of gangs in Birmingham with engagement from community groups, feedback from young people and families and statutory agencies including the Youth Offending Service, . The Commission's report will be published shortly. In order to ensure that there is a timely proportionate response to the significant concerns related to gang activity in the city, a new multi-agency governance structure has been put in place comprising of a strategic board jointly chaired by a West Midlands Police Superintendent and Assistant Director, Children's Services, which focuses on reducing the harm relating to Serious Organised Crime and gang activity. Membership includes representation from the Police, National Probation Service, Birmingham City Council, Community Rehabilitation Company and Birmingham Children's Services. The Strategic Board reports directly to the Police and Crime Board. A comprehensive multi-agency city wide gang's strategy is being developed that will determine the partnership approach to addressing the issue of gangs. Developments in relation to this strategy has been made in consultation with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that it is cognisant and in- line with the findings and recommendations of the Gangs Commission.

The strategic board has formed a Pan Birmingham Gangs Operational Group, which held its first meeting in July this year and is a coordinating, tasking and decision making multi agency panel that shares information around individuals and their networks and agree action plans that offer early help, specialist interventions and enforcement. The Panel focuses on those young people identified as high risk of gang or serious group violence, either as victims or perpetrators, and is exploring all options available to reduce harm, including referral to community organisations to provide specialist mentoring/support services and mediation. The operational group has close links with existing multi-agency arrangements, including MAPPA, the MARAC, the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Programme, the Children's Advisory Support Service (CASS) and Early Help Services.

## Robbery and Knife Crime Intervention

Weapons offences include possession of offensive weapon, possession of a bladed article, possession of a firearm imitation or real, knife-enabled robberies or theft from person or aggravated burglary. Self-defence and fear are the most frequently cited reasons for carrying a weapon.

The Service delivers a Knife Education Programme to every young person that comes to the attention of the Youth Justice System and to those identified as vulnerable or at risk by partners and a more specific intervention programme for young people who have committed any weapons offence knife crime or those identified by other agencies as at risk, for example, pupils excluded or at risk of exclusion as a result of bringing a knife or bladed instrument to school who do not receive a community resolution, caution or court disposal.

All young people are engaged in consideration of the consequences of carrying weapons and young people are encouraged to repeat these messages to their peers to amplify the effect of the education programme. The positive interaction with young people builds resilience and protective factors to improve problem solving and life skills. Young people carrying knives but not in the formal court system are both challenged and supported to reduce their risk and vulnerability, supporting children and young people to move away from negative peer groups and maintain or improve their education, training and



employment opportunities and become a more positive member of the community. The impact of this approach is evident in the post intervention assessment which shows a stable or improved ETE position for all young people that pass through the intervention.

The YOS delivers interventions that tackle knife carrying among young people who offend as part of a court order who are convicted of any offence where a knife, or the threat of a knife, is a feature. In 2016/17, 173 young people went through this Knife Possession Programme (up from 152 young people in 2015/16) showing improved identification of young people not charged with knife offences who nevertheless were in possession at the time ('knife enabled' offences). Of those 106 going through the programme in 2015/16, 6 young people were subsequently re-convicted of offences involving knives within the following 12 months. In addition, the Service runs a specialist programme "Knife Means Life", which is part of our statutory work and integrated within a 25 hour per week supervision and surveillance programme funded by our statutory grant.

The Service also works in partnership with Street Doctors (a national charity working through medical students) who teach young people to deliver basic first aid skills and give young people the opportunity to talk to ex-offenders and victims of knife crime. West Midlands Police support the programme with officers and speakers.

## Preventing Violent Extremism

The Service continues to work in partnership at both a strategic and operational level as a member of the Birmingham PVE Strategy Board, communicating closely with both the Birmingham City Council PVE Coordinator and 'Channel' Coordinator, as well as working directly with the Security and Partnership Teams, being a member of the 'Channel' panel and with local community-based and voluntary groups.

This close working relationship has allowed the Service to align itself with national strategy and interpret this to a local level, in addition to being aware of emerging trends locally. The Service's strategic lead for PVE is an Assistant Head, who is supported operationally by a PVE Coordinator.

The Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) programme assesses young people who may be vulnerable to violent extremism (Islamic extremism or right wing extremism) and responds by implementing safeguarding measures in order to support the young person. The programme offers individuals an opportunity to air their views, thoughts, frustrations and concerns in a safe environment allowing the young person to both develop and gain resources through active engagement and discussions.

The Service responds to developments within the 'Prevent' threat, allowing staff to gain an understanding of the Prevent strategy and their role within it; to use existing expertise and professional judgement to recognise vulnerable individuals who may need support; and to ensure that local safeguarding and referral mechanisms are known to professionals. For those that require relevant additional multi-agency oversight, the Service continues to ensure good quality referrals into the

L was making remarks of an extremist nature that were causing concern to both YOT and college staff. He was on a court order for robbery offences committed in 2015.

The Counter Terrorism Security and Partnership team shared with YOT that his father had a Facebook profile where L was brandishing a machinegun with the words 'Taliban'.

A home visit was carried out by the YOS Prevent Co-ordinator and his father explained that his residence in Afghanistan had been taken over by the Taliban and he was totally opposed to the regime. However he was trying to provide a safety net for his family as the Taliban monitor people's on-line profiles. The machine gun had been owned by the family in Afghanistan. L's father took down the profile.

L engaged positively in sessions with the Co-ordinator around his extremist language. He is a very bright young man who was getting confused with politics and his understanding of religion. L has stopped making extremist comments and is focusing on his musical skills that were recognised by his YOT officer and is pursuing this as a positive goal in his leisure time. He has not re-offended since 2016.

'Channel' Panel to ensure there are appropriate mechanisms and interventions in place to support vulnerable individuals, including those which require additional multi-agency oversight.

## Accommodation

Most young people who approach the Service requiring support with accommodation do so because of the breakdown in their relationship with their parent/guardian. In the majority of cases, this is due to their offending behaviour and the impact it is having on other siblings/family members within the household.

Additionally, some cases require accommodation where a young person may need to move because of 'gang affiliation' or they have committed an offence within the local area and require an alternative bail address.

The Service has access to specialist accommodation for young offenders through 'Supporting People' funded provision provided by Trident Reach Housing Association. This provision comprises 10 fully supported bed spaces, 9 semi supported and 4 training flats. These placements come with wrap around support for young people in relation to Education, Training and Employment, physical and emotional health, life skills and independent living. The Service also has access to an emergency bed space, provided by St Basils, at an alternative venue.

In addition, the Service benefits from its partnership with St Basils Youth Hub, a multi-agency response to youth homelessness in Birmingham, which provides quality prevention advice and easy access to important statutory services. St Basils has a full range of prevention, accommodation, support and engagement services as well as services which aim to ensure young people develop the skills and have the support needed to move on successfully.

St Basils also has 24 supported accommodation projects in Birmingham providing over 350 bed spaces for homeless young people, and these are accessed where appropriate by the co-located accommodation officer.

The Service continues to work with its partners to ensure suitable accommodation is secured for all young people on release from custody.

M was a very self-conscious young man with low self-esteem who had become involved in offending and as a result had become estranged from his family. M could not manage his finances well and didn't eat healthily. M admitted that he was struggling with dealing with his past issues.

M was supported through the Accommodation Pathway Service (APS) where he was able to build a positive relationship with his worker to the point where he felt able to divulge issues he had carried with him since he was a child that had held him back through his teenage life and led him into criminal activity. A support plan was put in place to develop M's social and independent living skills and through which counselling was provided to deal with his past issues.

Through the support offered, M's confidence grew, particularly as he worked through the plan put in place and saw that he was able to achieve the goals that he had set for himself. The more his confidence grew the more he began to gain control over his life.

M had never known his father and this was one of the issues that had troubled him since he was a child. M hadn't seen his father since he was four years old and through the support M received he was able to establish contact with his father, who lives in the north of England. Upon the successful completion of his court order, M moved permanently to live with his father where he has continued to desist from offending and is in employment working in his father's business.

## Appendix 2: Glossary

**Absolute discharge:** Discharges are given for minor offences at Court. An 'absolute discharge' means that no more action will be taken.

**Bail Supervision and Support:** Bail Supervision and Support (BSS) is an intervention provided by the YOT to help ensure a young person meets the

requirements of bail. The young person may additionally be electronically tagged.

**Bed night:** measure of occupancy one young person for one night in the secure estate.

**Breach of statutory order:** Is an offence of failing without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirements of an existing statutory order.

**Community Sentence:** When a court imposes a community sentence, the young person carries out this sentence in the community. Community Sentences in the Youth Justice System include Youth Rehabilitation Orders.

**Criminal Behaviour Orders:** Civil orders (which replaced ASBOs), designed to prevent someone causing “harassment, alarm or distress”. Breach of an order is a criminal offence, punishable by up to 5 years in prison (2 years for juveniles).

**Detention and Training Order (DTOs):** Detention and Training Orders (DTOs) are determinate custodial sentences which can last from four months to 24 months in length. A young person spends the first half of the order in custody and the second half released on licence. If they offend while on licence, they may be recalled back to custody.

**Disposals** may be divided into four separate categories of increasing seriousness starting with out-of-court disposals then moving into first-tier and community-based penalties through to custodial sentences.

**First-tier penalty:** This is an umbrella term used for the following orders made at court: Referral Orders, Reparation Orders, bind over, discharges, fines and deferred sentences.

**First Time Entrants:** First time entrants to the criminal justice are classified as offenders who received their first caution or conviction, based on data recorded by the police on the Police National Computer.

**Intensive Supervision and Surveillance:** Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) is attached to a Youth Rehabilitation Order and has been set as a high intensity alternative to custody. ISS combines a set period of electronic tagging, with up to 25 hours per week intensive supervision. ISS is aimed at young offenders on the custody threshold and has to be considered as an option before a custodial sentence is given. ISS may also be attached to conditional bail.

**Parenting Orders:** Parenting Orders aim to prevent offending and anti-social behaviour by reinforcing parental responsibility.

**Pre-sentence report:** This is a report to the sentencing magistrates or judges containing background information about the crime and the defendant and a recommendation on the sentence to assist them in making their sentencing decision.

**Proven offence:** A proven offence is defined as an offence which results in the offender receiving a caution or conviction.

**Remands:** Once the court has denied bail, there are three remand options:

1. **Remand to local authority accommodation:** A young person may be remanded to local authority accommodation. This remand may be accompanied by electronic tagging.
2. **Court-ordered secure remand:** A court-ordered secure remand allows courts to remand young people into Secure Children’s Homes or Secure Training Centres. This provision applies to any 12-14-year-old and to 15-16-year-old girls. This also applies to 15-16-year-old boys who are deemed vulnerable by the court and for whom a place is available.
3. **Custodial remand:** If the court is not satisfied that imposing community-based bail will ensure compliance, or if the offence is serious, or if the young person frequently offends, then it may order a remand in custody. This applies to 15-16-year-old boys not deemed vulnerable by the court.

and 17 year old boys and girls.

**Restorative Justice:** Restorative justice is an approach to justice that focuses on the needs of the victims. Victims can take an active role in the process, whilst offenders are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions.

**Section 90/91 of the Criminal Court Sentencing Act (2000):** Any young person convicted of murder is sentenced under section 90. A section 91 sentence is for young people convicted of an offence other than murder for which a life sentence may be passed on an adult. The court shall, if appropriate, sentence a young person to detention for life.

**Secure estate:** There are three types of placement in the secure estate. These are Secure Children's Homes (SCH), Secure Training Centres (STC) and Young Offender Institutions (YOI):

1. **Local Authority Secure Children's Home (LASCH):** Secure Children's Homes in England are run by Local Authorities and are overseen by the Department for Education in England. They generally accommodate remanded or sentenced young people aged 12-14 and girls and 'at risk' boys up to the age of 16. They can also accommodate young people placed by Local Authorities on welfare matters.
2. **Secure Training Centre (STC):** There are four purpose-built Secure Training Centres in England offering secure provision to sentenced or remanded young people aged 12-17. They provide a secure environment where vulnerable young people can be educated and rehabilitated. They are run by private operators under contracts which set out detailed operational requirements.
3. **Young Offender Institution (YOI):** Young Offender Institutions can accommodate young people and young adults who offend from between the ages of 15-21 years old.

**Substantive Outcome:** Is an umbrella term referring both to sentences given by the court and pre-court decisions made by the police

**Self-harm:** Self harm is defined as any act by which a young person deliberately harms themselves irrespective of the method, intent, or severity of the injury.

**Youth Offending Service (YOS):** The Youth Offending Service comprises of seconded representatives from police, probation, education, health and social services, and specialist workers, such as restorative justice workers, parenting workers and substance misuse workers.