



# **Youth Justice Briefing for Corporate & Partnerships O&S Committee 14 Sep 2020**

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Her Majesty's  
Inspectorate of  
Probation

An inspection of youth offending services in

# **North Yorkshire**

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HM Inspectorate of Probation, June 2020

*“The YJS Management Board sets a clear vision and strategy, which is well communicated across the partnership and is evidence based. Partnership arrangements are mature and collaborative. Statutory and non-statutory partners are represented on the Board and attendance is good. Board members have sufficient seniority to make decisions and commit resources from their own agencies, and we saw evidence of this in the wide range of statutory and specialist services provided to YJS children. Business risks are understood and mitigated by senior leaders, with excellent use of performance data to inform strategic decisions and service delivery.”*

*“The partnership has an in-depth understanding of the issues and challenges facing the YJS children. There is a strong mix of targeted, specialist and mainstream services, with high levels of collaboration and shared responsibility across partners for addressing their complex needs. Out-of-court disposal work was good, with outstanding joint working between the YJS and the police. Overall, we found that there is a shared culture of making decisions in the best interest of the child, while considering the wishes of victims.”*

*“North Yorkshire YJS is very well managed, with strong governance arrangements. There are high levels of advocacy for YJS children across the partnership, with a culture of consistently striving for positive outcomes and supporting staff to be innovative. The YJS has retained its criminal justice specialism, yet managed to integrate effectively with wider children’s services, specifically Early Help and Looked After Child services. There are high levels of staff satisfaction and motivation, evidenced by the stable workforce within the YJS.”*

*“The YJS workforce has the full range of skills, knowledge and experience to develop trusting and supportive relationships with children and families. Staff are committed, creative and have high aspirations for the children they work with. There is a strong focus on capturing the views and perspectives of children and using them to shape service delivery. Feedback from children and parent/carers confirms that the work of the YJS is making a difference.”*



## Transition to Adulthood

What Are We Worried About?	What's Going Well?	What Needs to Happen?
<p>18<sup>th</sup> birthday is a 'cliff-edge' for support and protection.</p> <p>Brain development not complete until early 20's</p> <p>For young people exposed to many ACEs, maturation and integration much harder</p> <p>Many YJS children are 3-5yrs behind peer maturation.</p> <p>High prevalence of undiagnosed special needs.</p>	<p>Greater understanding through medicine &amp; science</p> <p>National policy leaning towards 0-25yrs but still with qualifications.</p> <p>Reinforcing our capacity to support special needs.</p> <p>YJS routinely delay transition where contrary to need.</p> <p>Excellent National Probation Service approach, led by NY</p>	<p>Re-engineer YJS workforce and practice model.</p> <p>Less focus on offending (only one symptom of wider social maladjustment).</p> <p>More focus on identifying hidden needs &amp; barriers, establishing proper support.</p> <p>Life coaching / mentoring approach to maximise recovery &amp; maturation.</p>



## Disproportionate Criminalisation of Looked-After Children

What Are We Worried About?	What's Going Well?	What Needs to Happen?
<p>Looked-after children are 5x more likely to be convicted of a criminal offence.</p> <p>Severe impact upon already vulnerable life-chances.</p> <p>Looked-after children also more likely to escalate to custody, or to become criminally exploited</p> <p>NY has all our own LACs in area, plus hundreds of children placed by other LAs</p>	<p>NY already a national leader, working on this for &gt;15yrs</p> <p>No Wrong Door have achieved huge reduction of internal crime reports.</p> <p>YJS training &amp; support for private care homes.</p> <p>NY Police very supportive.</p> <p>YJS Youth Outcomes Panel is diverting many LAC offences to unrecorded RJ outcomes.</p>	<p>Improve support and diversion for care leavers</p> <p>training and awareness in criminal justice workforce.</p> <p>Challenge placing LA's to fully support and safeguard their OOA LAC's in NY</p> <p>Effectively engage private care providers, and York LA.</p> <p>Agree Protocol, governance and reporting systems.</p>

## Education Access & Attainment

What Are We Worried About?	What's Going Well?	What Needs to Happen?
<p>Our turbulent, demanding children are often perceived as naughty, without SEND needs being identified</p> <p>Maintaining positive, inclusive access to statutory education is a challenge, especially in rural areas</p> <p>Schools are increasingly driven by Ofsted, exam statistics and league tables.</p>	<p>Driven from YJS Board</p> <p>Skilled, proactive Education workers using Thrive.</p> <p>Improving identification of special needs.</p> <p>Some schools trying hard to be inclusive and flexible</p> <p>NY Ladder of Intervention more effectively supports early positive action.</p>	<p>Explore options to incentivise and support inclusive schools.</p> <p>Earlier, better recognition of special needs.</p>

## County Lines Exploitation

What Are We Worried About?	What's Going Well?	What Needs to Happen?
<p>Urban gangs targeting 'soft' rural &amp; coastal communities.</p> <p>Building a market for hard drugs, fed by local crime.</p> <p>Using vulnerable children as couriers &amp; dealers.</p> <p>Recruiting &amp; exploiting local children &amp; vulnerable adults.</p> <p>Extremely ruthless and violent culture.</p> <p>Resilient, adaptive business model defeats disruption.</p>	<p>Strong local partnership work</p> <p>Exemplary systems to safeguard exploited children.</p> <p>Proactive work to identify and protect vulnerable children.</p> <p>Supporting local communities to resist gang infiltration.</p> <p>Good intelligence-sharing &amp; planning with NY Police</p> <p>Effective use of CERAT &amp; Nat. Referral Mechanism.</p>	<p>Review and improve effect of NRM designations.</p> <p>Systematic tracking &amp; follow-up for out-of-area children.</p> <p>More strategic disruption &amp; deterrence by urban Police</p> <p>Review cost/benefit of current prohibition model?</p>

## Custodial Detention of Children

What Are We Worried About?	What's Going Well?	What Needs to Happen?
<p>Our most vulnerable children are still being sent to custody too often.</p> <p>Quality and safety of secure environments is inconsistent and sometimes inadequate.</p> <p>In particular, the care environment of Wetherby YOI is a concern.</p> <p>Distance and absence present additional barriers to longer-term success.</p>	<p>We firstly strive to minimise the number of children sent to custody, and local rates have fallen very significantly.</p> <p>We actively engage and advocate for every NY child detained in custody, with considerable success.</p> <p>Constructive engagement with Wetherby YOI.</p>	<p>Advocate reform and improvement of the children's secure estate.</p> <p>Further improve our capacity to divert and contain challenging children.</p> <p>Invest further in influencing and improving Wetherby YOI.</p>