

Youth Justice Briefing

Corporate & Partnerships O&S Committee

September 2022

Our foremost objective is to reduce the number of children who get into trouble, and wherever possible to divert them to positive support.

For the small cohort of children who present persistent or serious offending our Youth Justice Team works hard with families, schools and communities to find positive change.

Despite the severe challenges of austerity and Covid, substantial progress has been achieved in this -

Our Youth Justice Service is now located within the broader Early Help offer, supporting a single, coordinated pathway for children presenting risky or challenging behaviour.

Key principles of the national youth justice practice model have been blended with the advanced, child-centred & strength-based approach used by Children's Services, achieving consistency and transferability of our assessments, plans & interventions.

We have secured a leading role in the national development of NHS Framework for Integrated Care, with new funding to deliver more early prevention, targeted support and psychologically-informed support for high-need children.

Contents -

- **Performance**
- **Child first**
- **MAP update**
- **HCV Project including Xchange**
- **Themes for the future**
- **Case Example**

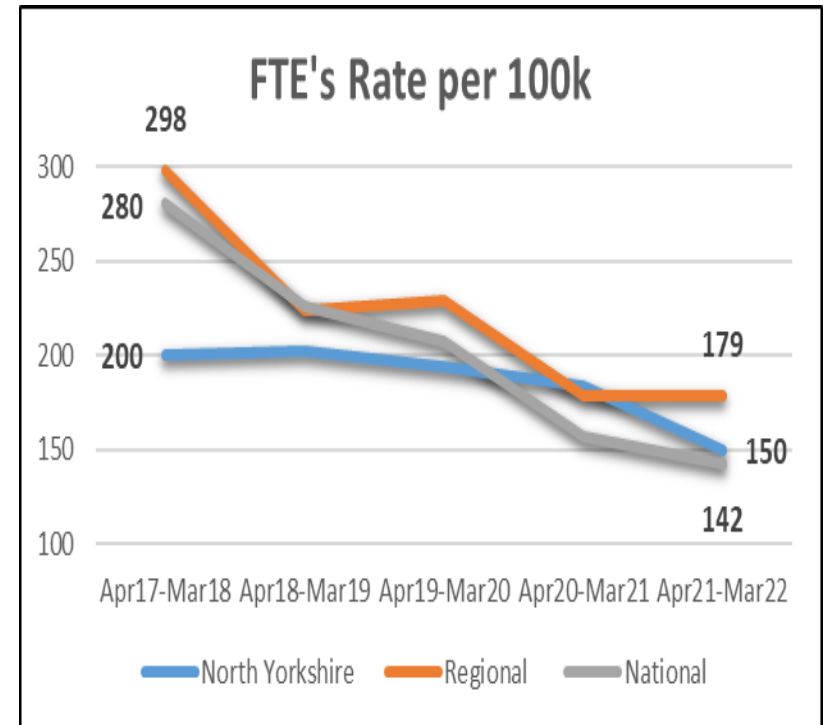
First Time Entrants (FTE's)

The rate of FTE's in North Yorkshire remained fairly static in the range 184-202 between 2017/18-2020/21.

However, a significant improvement was seen in 2021/22 with the rate decreasing to 150 (84 young people).

The current rate of 150 is the lowest seen in North Yorkshire.

To put the current number of 84 FTE's in some context – in 2007 there were 1,175 FTE's in North Yorkshire!

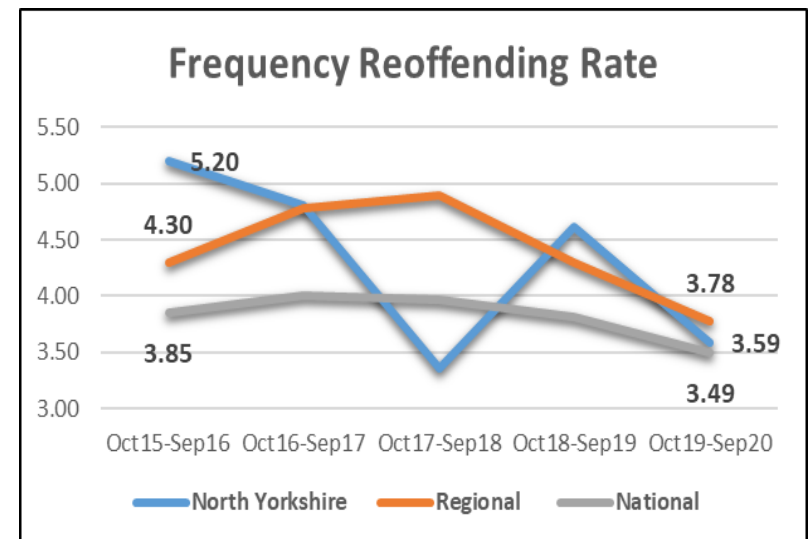
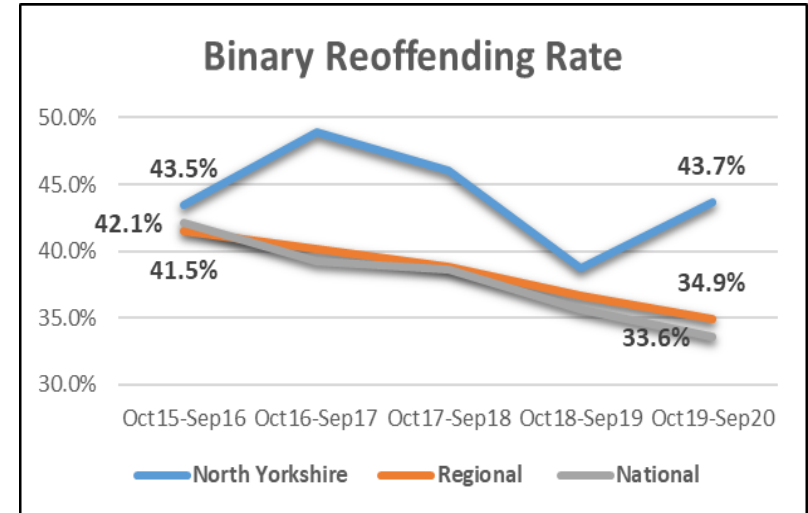


Re-offending

The binary rate of re-offending remains stubbornly high North Yorkshire and remains above the regional and national rate.

Our data tells us that young people from the Town and Eastfield areas of Scarborough are significantly over represented in offending cohorts.

There is also an over representation of girls in North Yorkshire offending cohorts when compared to national data.

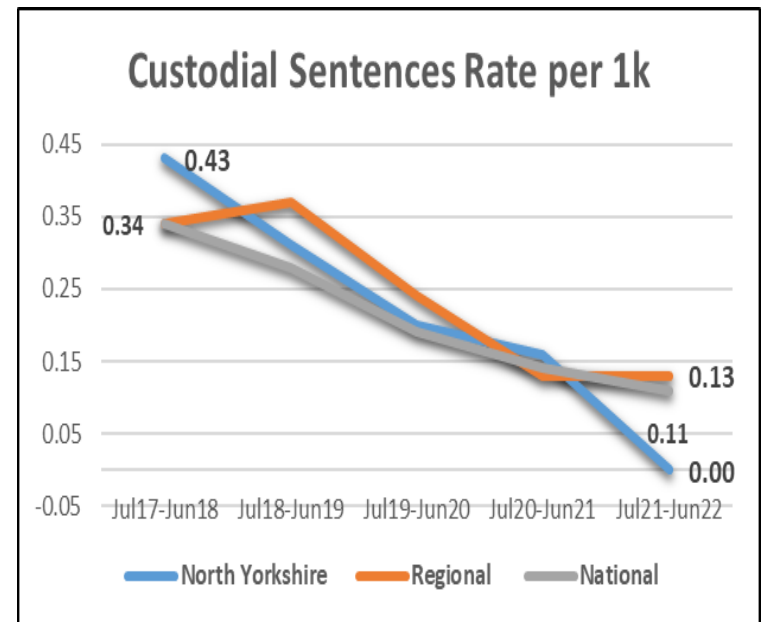


Custodial Sentences

The rate of Custodial Sentences has decreased significantly over the last 4 years – at a faster rate than seen regionally and nationally.

In the year ending 30.06.22 no young people received a Custodial Sentence in North Yorkshire.

In 2018, YJS recognised the unacceptably high custodial rate and set out an improvement plan to reduce custodial outcomes, with the Youth Justice Board, with agreement of the Management Board



Child First

Our North Yorkshire practice model is fully engaged with Child First values. We distinguish children from adults and treat them with special care, recognising their young lives and potential.

Our practice model builds and extends this approach in three key aspects –

- We use systemic, family-centred practice to support positive change within the child's parent/family/carer network.
- We work in a simple, transparent and collaborative style.
- We apply these values and working methods across all children & family services. Using one common framework of practice fosters continuity, consistency and participation.

My Assessment and Plan (MAP)

We are one of three high performing LA's who were granted permission to devise and pilot locally integrated assessment and planning systems.

MAP is now very well established in everyday practice, and familiar to our partner services.

We are confident that this concise family-centred and strengths-based approach is defensible and effective, and our internal performance monitoring is very encouraging.

The pilot MOU has been extended to 31 Mar 2023. During this year we will work with the national Youth Justice Board and Department for Education to develop and complete an independent evaluation of My Assessment Plan as part of the development of an alternative assessment.

Humber Coast & Vale Youth & Justice Pilot

We have secured a leading part in development of national pathfinder services for complex, high-need children in the youth justice system or at risk of entry. The Youth Justice Service and other local partners will develop advanced, trauma-informed practice with complex, high need children

Implementation is progressing well. Additional funding has been provided to extend North Yorkshire Youth's "Change Direction" prevention/diversion offer, and also to maintain our "Trusted Relationships" targeted mentoring programme.

We are in discussion with the Humber Coast & Vale ICS and NHS England to clarify performance reporting and evaluation arrangements.

Mind of My Own

Mind of My Own are the national leaders in the development of online engagement with young people supported by children's services.

We additionally secured a one-off grant from the HCV pilot to develop a bespoke "MoMO" offer for the young people involved with youth justice

We have co-developed the extension with young people to design a bespoke MoMO package named "Xchange."

This development is now complete and the new system has recently been launched to YJS practitioners.

We expect this to provide much better quality of insight into young people's wishes and feelings, both individually and generally. We will bring a detailed report to the next YJS Management Board meeting and demonstrate the final product.

Skills4Work

Skills4Work continues to provide transformative entry-to-work opportunities to vulnerable, higher need school leavers.

They receive training, skills and qualifications to enter mainstream employment, and local communities receive a range of environmental and maintenance services (thanks to generous support from AngloAmerican).

Skills4Work operates as a commercial trading enterprise, a small business striving to win customers and earn income, but we do not realistically expect to recover all of our costs.

We have sufficient reserve funding to continue for several years on this basis, but for long-term viability we would like to reduce the trading deficit. The local government review may provide us with an opportunity going forward to explore a more sustainable model of delivery.

Looking forward

During 2022-24, our partnership will manage the Local Government Reorganisation journey, seizing opportunities to improve the coordination and delivery of services.

We will work with the national Youth Justice Board and Department for Education to develop and complete an independent evaluation of My Assessment Plan.

We will hold and improve progress on reduction of FTE's and Custody, while driving forward decisive actions to reduce re-offending. We will deliver this by the four key principles -

- Prevention & Diversion
- Integrated, Systemic & Relational Practice
- Education, Training & Employment
- Tailored Support for Higher Need Groups

Case Example

Anne, a 16-year-old female, received a 6 month Referral Order for Common Assault against a female peer in a disagreement relating to an ex-boyfriend. Both of Anne's parents and the wider family have a history of offending and this will have played a part in creating Anne's own values and beliefs.

The Court imposed a Restraining Order and so restorative work between the two females was not appropriate. As part of her Referral Order contract, it was agreed that Anne would make something special for the staff and pupils at the Pupil Referral Service (PRS) as a thank you for the help they had given her.

Anne wished to make a bug hotel to go in the garden area of the PRS and spoke very highly of the staff and her experiences at the PRS. It was clear that she had put a lot of thought and creativity into the project and she was keen to make something a bit different from the normal rectangular or square bug hotels. Once the frame was constructed, Anne took control of artistic direction of the project, with assistance to help her to learn the skills needed to realise her ideas.

Although Anne's attendance was sporadic at times (she also has a part-time job, helps look after a younger brother, and sometimes lacks motivation) when she did engage she was superb.

She followed instructions, working safely and methodically and importantly, asking lots of questions, thinking of options and planning ahead. These elements, combined with her polite, respectful and positive attitude made the sessions really rewarding.

Case Example

Underpinning the woodwork sessions was the constant support and encouragement of Anne's Youth Justice Officer (YJO), who went the extra mile on numerous occasions to motivate, encourage and praise Anne for her work. We know from conversations with Anne, that she greatly values this support.

Anne was accepted onto a Media Make Up course despite the college initially having reservations regarding her convictions. However, the positive feedback provided by both YJS & the PRS helped the college with their decision. Being accepted onto the course was an achievement, as no one else in the family has taken higher or further education.

Again, at times, her college attendance has not been great for some of the reasons highlighted above but the YJO is totally committed to providing all the support that Anne requires to make a success of her course. The college describe Anne as super talented and very capable of achieving and have no issues regarding her behaviour 'she is doing really well – lovely student.'

The staff at the PRS were delighted with the bug hotel, which they will place in their garden. Anne has been invited back to take part in a careers day where she will tell the current PRS Year 11's about the make-up course she is doing.

Thank you for your time and interest