

# STOCKPORT

## *YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN*

### 2018/19

#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Youth Justice Plan headlines achievements against last year's plan and outlines the priorities, opportunities and challenges for the coming year. The work of Stockport's youth justice service delivery is monitored through the Youth Offending Services Partnership Board (YOS PB), which in turn reports through the Children's Senior Management Team and the Safer Stockport Partnership (SSP). Stockport Children's Safeguarding Board (SSCB) also receives updates and reports as required.
- 1.2 The Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a multi-agency service which focuses on Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support; it includes local authority staff and employees seconded from our statutory partners including Health, Police, and Probation (NPS). The YOS also has strong links and partnership arrangements with a number of other key agencies, services and third sector organisations; such as GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority), Housing, Social Care, Fire Service (GMFRS), Public Safety & Protection, HMCTS (Courts and Tribunal Service), and third sector organisations such as AIM, Respect, CERA Ltd. and Remedi (Engaging and Empowering Victims) amongst others.
- 1.3 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the Youth Offending Partnership's responsibilities in producing this plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:
- How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded
  - How the Youth Offending Service (YOS) will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
- 1.4 The Youth Justice Plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) for England and Wales and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.

## 2. CONTEXT AND PERFORMANCE:

- 2.1 Together with its partners Stockport YOS continues to realign resources in order to meet service demand and the requirements of the wider public sector reform agenda, which ensures transformation of essential services in a more pragmatic and evidence-based way whilst contributing to necessary efficiency savings and promoting best practice. The YOS is part of the 'Stockport Family' integration, which has brought together colleagues across the whole of children's services and partners from the equivalent services within the Foundation Trust.
- 2.2 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is responsible for monitoring the following 3 performance areas and Youth Offending Partnerships in each Local Authority must submit quarterly information against each of them. These are:
- **Reduction in First Time Entrants:** (young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time, either before the court or receiving a caution)
  - **Reduction in Youth Re-Offending:** (monitoring a select cohort of young people already in the youth justice system to determine if they re-offend, and if so, with what frequency)
  - **Reduction in the Use of Custody** (reducing the numbers of young people who receive a custodial sentence in a Young Offenders Institution, Secure Training Centre or Secure Children's Home)
- 2.3 Although there isn't a specific target, each YOS Partnership needs to show that they have achieved a continued reduction against each measure and this is closely monitored by the YJB/MoJ. It is a condition of the YJB Grant that it is used to achieve positive reductions in the 3 performance areas. The data is publically available and published on a quarterly basis by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).
- 2.4 Stockport YOS Partnership has managed to improve performance areas over the past 12 months when compared to other GM and North West authorities and nationally. The specific details for Stockport are:
- 2.5 The number of **First Time Entrants (FTE)** has **decreased by 26.7%** in Stockport over the past three years (Mar 2015 – **75 FTE** to Mar 2018 – **55 FTE**). Across the board there has been a decrease in 'rate of FTE per 100,000' since March 2015 (Stockport **24.8% decrease**, North West – **33.3% decrease**, National – **32.1% decrease**). Stockport's overall percentage reduction is lower than that seen nationally and in the North West, however, Stockport now has a '**rate of FTE per 100,000**' of **212**. This is lower than the North-West (252) and lower rate than the National (273) indicator.
- 2.6 The **Proven Rate of Re-offending**. The national re-offending rate, covering the 12 months Oct 15 – Sep 16 (**41.9%**) is marginally lower than the equivalent previous year's figure (**42.4%**). In comparison Stockport has seen a **decrease of 4.3%** between this years' figure (**36.3%**) and that of the previous year (**40.6%**). This puts Stockport below the national reoffending rate and also below the Greater Manchester (41.4%) and Statistical Neighbours (40.1%) reoffending rates.

The percentage measure of re-offending is also susceptible to wide variations as the cohort number reduces. Stockport's cohort of offenders in Oct 2008/Sep 2009 was **593** offenders, of which **37.6%** went on to re-offend.

The data from Oct 2015/Sep 2016 shows the cohort to have significantly reduced to **135** offenders with **36.3%** going on to re-offend. Statistically this is a modest 'percentage' decrease of young people that have re-offended however, the actual 'number' of young people that re-offend has significantly reduced: **223** 're-offenders' in 2008/2009 compared to **49** in 2015/2016. The actual number of 're-offences' reducing from **743** to **237**. The result of having a smaller cohort of offenders is that it takes only a small increase in offending to significantly impact on the percentage change. The reduction in the cohort numbers shows the positive impact of prevention delivered through the YOS early intervention programmes, which has significantly reduced the number of First Time Entrants into the criminal justice system. The cohort of young people that do re-offend, although reducing, remain the most challenging, complex and hard to engage group within Stockport and increased efforts are being made to target and address this.

- 2.7 The latest data issued from the YJB for **Use of Custody** shows that **5** young people from Stockport received custodial sentences in the year to June 2018. This compares to **18** young people the year before. Young people in custody often represent the highest risk and are also the most vulnerable group of young people in the criminal justice system. The 'Rate per 1,000 of the 10-17 population' was at a high point of **0.98** in the year ending March 2011 and has since **reduced substantially**. The Stockport rate per 1,000 of the youth population was **0.19** in the year to June 2018. This rate of this reduction is similar to the national rate. The most recent national rate is **0.33** and the North West rate is 0.37.

## **STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE:**

- 3.1 The Youth Offending Services Partnership Board meets bi-annually and receives quarterly updates. It is represented by senior partners from the key agencies that contribute to the Youth Offending Service (Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support) to ensure that youth justice and related interventions are delivered in partnership across the borough. Current membership is comprised of:
- Director of Children's Services, Stockport Council (Chair)
  - Chief Inspector for Partnerships, GMP (Stockport Division)
  - Director of Education Services, Stockport Council
  - Head of Operations, NPS (Stockport & Tameside District)
  - Interchange Manager, CRC (Stockport & Tameside District)
  - Strategic Head of Place Management, Stockport Council
  - Children's Commissioning Lead, NHS Stockport, CCG
  - Head of Neighbourhoods (Stockport Homes Group)
  - Chair of the GM Youth Court Bench, (HMCTS)
  - Associate Director, HYMS (Pennine Care)
  - Service Lead for Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support, Stockport Council

- 3.2 Strong partnership arrangements continue to be reflected in the YOS' active participation at a strategic level locally, and collaboration across Greater Manchester (GM). The YJB, as the national body tasked with the delivery and oversight for youth justice, continues to provide direction and guidance for legislative changes, policy, effective practice and performance management.
- 3.4 Members of the YOS Partnership Board are well-represented strategically at a GM level and the Service Lead for Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support is responsible for a number of areas under the GM Youth Justice Transformation programme, such as 'children in police custody'. Close links are maintained with the GM Mayor's Office through the designated Deputy with responsibility for the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) portfolio and in consultation with the GM Directors of Children's Services and the GM YOS Heads of Service.
- 3.5 The YOS Partnership Board Chair receives regular reports in relation to the latest HMIP youth justice inspection reports, both individual and thematic. These are shared with the YOS Partnership Board as appropriate, however the findings contained within these and relevant JTAI reports are reviewed within the YOS Management Team (YMT) to improve performance and delivery as required. An example of this is the Desistance Thematic inspection that was published last year and went on to inform both the desistance and AssetPlus training delivered to all practice staff.

#### **4. RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY:**

The partnership contributions, YJB grant spend breakdown and YOS staffing and structure tables are contained in Appendices (1-4) at the end of the report. It is worth noting that the YJB Grant can only be used for developing good practice and research against the 3 outcome measures, as identified above, and not for 'business as usual'.

#### **5. YOS PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS AND DELIVERY:**

Targeted Youth Services are comprised of the following areas, which all contribute to the effective delivery of YOS partnership delivery across the Borough.

- **Youth Justice:** statutory provision for children and young people within the criminal justice system)
- **Early Intervention:** up to 12 month bespoke voluntary engagement working with young people who are at risk of entering the civil or criminal justice system. Focuses on diversion and engagement.
- **Targeted Youth Support :** a short-term (3 month) voluntary engagement to educate, inform and divert children and young people from behaviour that could place them at risk. This includes crime awareness and specific work with schools.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** civil enforcement and partnership interventions with children and young people causing youth disorder and harm in communities.

## YOUTH JUSTICE:

The following interventions are just some of the statutory functions that are undertaken through the YOS Partnership to ensure that children and young people receiving criminal interventions proportionate to their offence and ongoing support that will prevent them from re-offending:

***Out of Court Disposals (OOC)*** are delivered in a partnership approach between GMP and the YOS to divert young people involved in low level offending behaviour from entering the formal criminal justice system. Following an initial joint triage assessment by the YOS and GMP, young people are offered the opportunity to engage in restorative justice, and if necessary, access additional voluntary support offered through the YOS. If the young person successfully engages in an offence-focused intervention, they will avoid a criminal record. The intention of this process is better information-sharing between GMP and YOS, improved victim confidence and satisfaction and ultimately a further reduction in FTE. The process for Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions is now fully embedded and all referrals from GMP are checked by the YOS Police Officer to ensure that they are relevant referrals. Assessments are completed on all these cases to assess the young person's needs and a gatekeeping meeting is held, which includes the YOS Police Officer and Victim worker. Court Officers identify cases in Court which should have been considered for an OOC. The YOS are also engaged in a GM project which is developing OOC standardisation across GMP.

**Courts:** The closure of a number of magistrates courts means one GM Youth Court Bench now exists co-ordinating youth magistrates provision across GM.

Stockport still operate a youth court, one day a week, from Stockport Magistrates Court, and pick up additional work from East Cheshire and the High Peak, for which there is a recharge, but the main work across GM sits centrally within Manchester Youth Court and officers travel to deal with cases as required. Saturday bail and remand courts are co-ordinated across GM, and Stockport YOS are actively involved. The Chair of the Greater Manchester Youth Court Panel Bench is represented on Stockport's YOS Partnership Board.

***Restorative Justice:*** Restorative Justice and Reparation are key requirements for all young people working with the YOS; they form part of every AssetPlus and Onset assessment and can be a requirement within a Court Order as directed by Magistrates and Community Panel members. All victims of crime are contacted and offered an intervention; Face to Face contact with the offender is the first and foremost starting point of Restorative Justice. However, many victims prefer to choose from a portfolio of Community Reparation projects designed to give back to the local community. The projects are also put together in order to offer the offender a chance to gain transferable skills for the future. The YOS work flexibly, seven days a week, to ensure that Restorative Justice and Reparation are completed when it is needed and required.

The YOS commission Remedi (a specialist Restorative Justice provider) to oversee young people's engagement in making good their behaviour. Remedi provide a fully trained Restorative Justice Practitioner to engage with all identified victims. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 contact has been made with **66** victims. Of these, **38** victims have responded with **20** victims choosing to participate in indirect Restorative Justice and **3** victims wanting to

participate in direct Restorative Justice. The Restorative Justice Practitioner has, in total, completed **5** direct and **36** indirect in this period. Restorative Justice can take place on all active interventions; from early intervention triage to custodial sentences. During this period **31** victim awareness sessions have been undertaken. Victims involved in the process have expressed satisfaction and felt that it was a great opportunity for them to meet the young person that committed an offence against them and be able to discuss this and the effects that an offence had on themselves and others.

**Referral Order Community Panels:** The YOS have a team of 9 volunteers fully trained in Restorative Justice and Mediation Skills to operate 'Referral Order Community Panels', which facilitate and agree a community contract with the young person and their family when they receive a 'Referral Order'. The training has maximised their skills and increased the opportunity for direct mediation. Stockport is soon to be part of a wider Greater Manchester consortium of Referral Order Panel members that will all be trained to the same standard allowing a greater number of Panel members to work across the region. We will offer standardised training for Panel Members will offer greater consistency to those young people made subject to Referral Order who move between neighbouring Local Authorities.

**Unpaid Work (UPW):** As a result of the changes in Probation the delivery of Unpaid Work (Community Service) for 16/17 year olds was devolved to the YOS, this still remains the case. This means that the court can make an order with a requirement to complete between 40 and 240 hours UPW (minimum 4 hours per week for those in ETE and at least 16 hours per week for those not in ETE). In addition to the community benefit UPW offers it has an additional focus on providing the young person life-long learning, social engagement and interaction and transferable skills that can provide improved employability skills. In light of this the YOS has developed its 'Reparation and Unpaid Work Project Portfolio' and now works restoratively with 12 projects including Cheadle Mosque, Wellspring Homeless Centre, Manchester Rugby Club and Woodbank Community Centre. A part-time Restorative Justice Co-ordinator, commissioned through Remedi, is responsible for sourcing new projects, undertaking risk assessments and acting as a single point of contact for all community reparation and Unpaid Work projects.

**Junior Attendance Centre:** As a result of the 'Offender Management Act 2007 (Junior Attendance Centre) Staff Transfer Scheme 2015', the delivery of the Junior Attendance Centres was devolved from the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and is now the responsibility of the YOS. Stockport YOS currently commission The Military School to provide educational and physical activities for young people at the Attendance Centre, supported by YOS staff. The Military School aim to enhance the educational experience of all the young people they work with, placing them outside of their comfort zone and helping them reach and exceed their potential, by instilled respect and discipline into their daily lives.

The YOS continue to spot purchase the Cycloan project and other bike-related activities through CERACYCLOAN Ltd. who provide restorative and educational opportunities for young people to make good and learn new skills. Bicycles are donated to the project from a variety of sources, including the police, and are then restored and given to people in need, including victims of crime.

**Custody, Remand & Resettlement:** The main custodial institution that young people receiving a custodial sentence or remand are sent to is HMYOI Wetherby. It is recognised that Wetherby YOI is some distance from Greater Manchester, and that parents and carers struggle to make the journey due to the limited transport access. This is a real concern and discussed on a regular basis at the Greater Manchester Resettlement Forum. All children and young people who are received into the Secure Estate are given supervision through the YOS whilst serving their sentence, this is done in line with National Standards and based on the specific individual need of the young person. From point of entry plans are put in place which are working towards the young person's resettlement, including accommodation and education and training opportunities as appropriate. GMCA has funded a full-time Senior Social Worker based in HMYOI Wetherby, to specifically review the safeguarding needs of young people placed there from Greater Manchester (this averages about 60 young people). Stockport, along with the other GM authorities, receives monthly reports on the progress of young people in the custodial estate, this is also monitored locally at a GM level and through the Leeds Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB).

**Case Planning Forums (CPF):** Following recommendations from the HMIP Inspection in 2015 the Case Planning Forum (CPF) process was reviewed and a Medium Offender Panel Process (MOPP) developed to ensure that Team Leaders have enhanced oversight of medium and high risk cases. AssetPlus has now negated the need for the MOPP as all assessments are now countersigned by a manager which ensures enhanced oversight for all cases, including OOD and Voluntary Support cases. Multi-agency CPF forums continue on a fortnightly basis.

**Integrated Offender Management (IOM):** Following a review of the IOM model a decision was taken that given the model focused on adult offenders the YOS would remain linked with the unit but only attend meetings when invited. Given the developments around Youth Disorder and the panels associated with this, alongside the statutory processes such as CPF's, the cases that would have been referred to IOM remain a high priority and receive enhanced management oversight in a number of forums.

**Transitions:** The transition between youth to adult services forms part of the national and GM 'Transforming Rehabilitation' agenda. There has been a recent update to the 'Joint National Protocol for Transitions in England' alongside the reduction in NPS contribution to the YOS from 1 full-time post to 0.5 fte. Given this, there has been close liaison to assess what this means for each service moving forward and to develop a local agreement around the new protocol.

## EARLY INTERVENTION & TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT

Early intervention offers a bespoke package of up to 12 month intervention to children and young people to ensure effective diversion is put in place that will deter them from escalating into statutory services. Targeted Youth Support (TYS) is a shorter intervention, up to 3 months, which focuses on specific types of behaviour and offers interventions to children, young people, families and within schools. Both forms of intervention are voluntary and consent must be sought from the young person and their carer before engagement. This ensures that the needs of *vulnerable* children and young people are identified early and met by agencies and third sector partners working together effectively, in ways that are shaped by the views and experiences of young people themselves.

The YOS has been given the lead for YYS and this has gathered real momentum by ensuring a wide range of voluntary community-based programmes are delivered to children and young people who are referred to the service. YYS builds upon the successful YOS prevention strategy, delivers crime prevention programme in schools and a range of interventions to children and young people identified as being at risk of offending or anti-social behaviour, on the periphery of organised crime groups and other risky lifestyles. These interventions include football programmes, boxing projects, outreach and diversion activities and other locally devised schemes that all have the same aim of engaging young people, improving their life skills and preventing them becoming engaged in civil or criminal behaviour.

**Crime Prevention:** YOS have devised a programme that is delivered in primary and secondary schools and has been delivered to hundreds of children this academic year. It continues to be rolled out and schools can request bespoke programmes dependent on local need as required.

**Knife Crime:** The use of weapons and knives is an escalating national problem and one that it having a devastating impact on young people's lives. The YOS have recently commissioned a knife crime programme through GMCA funding and rolled out training and delivery. This programme is delivered on a one-to-one basis, in groups or to schools to ensure that children and young people are made fully aware of the consequences of carrying offensive weapons. A joint bid was out together through GM from the Serious Youth Violence Strategy funding and we have recently been informed that this was successful, so that will enable Stockport to build upon and enhance some of the existing initiatives it has in place.

**Arts Programmes:** The YOS were successful in securing national funding through Unitas to run a Summer Arts programme this year. This offered an intense programme over the summer holidays, which included a residential, developing a range of skills in a number of art mediums. This was targeted at young people who were assessed as likely to cause harm and distress within their communities over the holiday period and this ensured that they were fully occupied. Those young people who completed the course were presented with a certificate at an award ceremony, which their parents could also attend, at The Light cinema.

## **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:**

**ASB/Youth Disorder:** Together with police colleagues the YOS has taken an active lead for youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). Children and young people identified as causing ASB are now the subject of discussion at multi-agency panel, where appropriate actions and engagement are agreed, which includes civil enforcement as appropriate.

ASB and Youth Disorder feature in both statutory youth justice provision and in the early intervention work. The GMCA Community Safety Grant has funded a wide range of programmes and diversionary activities that have impacted on ASB reduction. We work closely with partners within Public Safety and Protection (PSP) in developing recommendations for civil enforcement and court action as necessary. Both the Police and Place are represented at a senior level on the YOS Partnership Board.

**Youth Disorder Panels:** This panel meets monthly and is a full day multi-agency meeting co-chaired by Neighbourhood Police Sergeants and YOS Team Leader. The day is broken down into 5 sections to reflect neighbourhood policing areas and relevant staff attend to present on their own areas. The police provide up-to-date intelligence to the meeting which provides a 'ladder of intervention' identifying young people and incidents that have occurred. It will also highlight hotspot areas.

Based on the initial guidance set out in the ASB Strategy, which developed a traffic light system, children and young people are identified and discussed dependent on the amount of ASB they are alleged to be involved in. A joint action plan is devised and reviewed and this can range from a 'light touch' visit to the parental home, through to implementing a range of civil injunctions, including court action, to prevent the ASB. The RAG system was adopted with the intention of intervening where necessary at the appropriate level and enabling risk to be identified and signposted as required. This system also allows for de-escalation and children and young people will be removed from the 'ladder of intervention' if the ASB/Youth Disorder decreases.

\* Latest ASB police data (Oct 2018) shows a 6-month reduction of 18%, a 26% reduction when compared to last year and a rolling 40% reduction over a 3 year average. and there has been a 36% reduction over the past 6-month period.

## **CROSS-CUTTING DELIVERY THEMES:**

**Complex Safeguarding:** Safeguarding of children and young people is integral to the work of the YOS and evidenced in all our assessments, programmes and interventions. Strong links are in place with our partners, particularly Children's Social Care (CSC). The YOS is represented on the Integrated Placements and Education Panel (IPEP), where the movement of Stockport LA Children is discussed regarding accommodation and education. A Youth Justice Team Leader also sits on the Accommodation Panel where discussions are held regarding Care Leavers and the direct support that is needed to help them in this transition. All young people are screened as part of their assessment for vulnerability. At a strategic level the YOS Management Team are represented on the Stockport Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB) and the associated safeguarding sub-groups where they make an active contribution. At a GM level protocols are in place across authorities regarding the movement and transfer and caretaking of cases within the youth justice system and the YOS are part of the GM Training Partnership which ensures safeguarding is embedded within its training programmes. There are specific areas of vulnerability that warrant particular attention and a strong co-ordinated approach with partners, particularly the police, to ensure young people are safeguarded, these include:

The YOS contribute a 0.4 Officer into the Aspire (Complex Safeguarding) Team within the MASSH and we are represented on the Complex Safeguarding Board. Youth Justice Team Leaders sit on a number of groups including the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation Group (MASE). These functions are replicated at a practice level and all relevant staff are trained on the Phoenix Tool to identify child sexual exploitation (CSE)

There are a large number of young people open to the YOS who are placed here by 'Other Local Authorities (OLA's). Due to the chaotic lifestyles and complexities that these young people have experienced they tend to contribute to a high proportion of the 'missing from home' incidents reported to the police. The YOS have been active in supporting the development of the Missing Hub within the MASSH, which ensures that actions relating to missing children are co-ordinated centrally. The YOS second a 0.8 SW qualified Missing Co-ordinator into this team. The YOS are also represented on the Missing Panel.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and links to Serious & Organised Crime Gangs (OCG) is a rapidly emerging area of awareness and the YOS is critical in the identification of children and young people who have become involved and increased their vulnerability as a result. The YOS are actively involved in the CCE/OCG discussions and work with colleagues in the Challenger Team and Aspire. Awareness raising and training is being rolled out across services and YOS are working with colleagues on a new assessment for identification.

**Education:** Stockport YOS are committed to working with partner agencies to ensure that all our children and young people are accessing the best and most appropriate Education Training and Employment. The YOS Education Officer now has a base within the Education and Careers Guidance Service and works with those young people who are known to both services. This officer also spends one day a week at Highfields PRU.

The YOS Education Officer works directly with local schools, attending Team Around the School meetings. Due to the amount of schools in the borough, this is done through a RAG system whereby we attend all the Red schools, sporadically attend the Amber and receive the minutes for the Green meetings, this system is reviewed periodically to ensure that each school is receiving appropriate support from the YOS.

As well as the work in the community, the Education Officer attends specific planning meetings within the Secure Custodial Estate, to ensure adequate information is communicated and resettlement actions are devised in a joint way.

The TYS Team deliver regular 'drop-down' crime awareness days in schools and a Headteacher is represented on the Youth Disorder Panel. The Director for Education Services sits on the YOS Partnership Board and it has been agreed that the next Board will have a thematic focus on Education.

**Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):** There has been a particular focus through the YOS Partnership to ensure that the special needs of children and young people in the criminal justice system are recognised and intervention offered as needed.

'Achievement for ALL' are a national organisation, who amongst other areas have developed a focus on SEND and Youth Justice. They created a benchmarking tool which allowed services to self-assess themselves and submit their findings with the aim of achieving a 'Quality Mark' or 'Quality Lead' status if all the benchmarking requirements were met. The YOS Partnership set themselves the target of meeting the 'Quality Mark' by March 2019 and were successful in meeting the criteria for the award in September 2018. The next step is to reach the 'Quality Lead'.

Funding was made available through GMCA for early intervention in Youth Justice and as Stockport YOS had a well-developed prevention programme in TYS, it was agreed that this grant would be better utilised in developing a bespoke Health & SEND provision. This culminated in spot purchasing arrangements for a Speech and Language Therapist, an Education Psychologist, a Parenting Worker and a School Nurse.

A Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) works in the service (increasing soon to 2 days a week). This practitioner sits within the service and is working directly with our children and young people that have been identified as having significant speech, language and communicational needs (SLCN). This cohort of young people are identified through thorough assessment using AssetPlus and additional screening tools adapted through SALT. This offer is available to all young people within the service regardless of the intervention being provided. The therapist is also working closely with the service offering advice, support and consultation about how to work with those people not meeting the threshold for intervention but do have some SLCN.

An Educational Psychologist works within the service on a commissioned basis to ensure the specific needs of offenders are addressed, as well as jointly delivering bespoke programmes for parents.

The YOS is represented on the Secondary Panel for Inclusion (SPI) and the Special Educational Needs Panel to ensure that children and young people known to the service are reviewed. YOS are represented on the Stockport SEND Practice Development Group and also sit on the SEND Strategic Steering group. These links and improved YOS practice around SEND are helping us to gain the Achievement for ALL 'Quality Mark'.

Case managers within the YOS are becoming more familiar with the process of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and aim to be involved in the reviews of all of our young people currently provided with an EHCP. This is supported by the on-site Information Advice and Guidance Team and the SEN Business Support Team.

**Mental Health:** Every young person is screened at the beginning of his or her involvement with the service and this is continually reviewed. For those young people admitted to the secure custodial estate a current emotional and physical health assessment is undertaken on admittance. Healthy Young Minds (HYMS) second a full-time Mental Health Practitioner to the service and Pennine Care are represented at a senior level on the YOS Partnership Board. There are a number of initiatives at a GM level to co-ordinate health and justice provision and there is an increased emphasis on neurological and brain-related trauma.

**Mentally Vulnerable Offender Panel (MVOP):** This fortnightly panel is attended by the YOS Mental Health Practitioner and/or Youth Justice Team Leader and reviews young people and adults in order to make recommendations to the Courts to either divert or charge. The Youth Triage process ensures identification of these young people at an earlier juncture either at point of arrest or whilst in the custody suite. MVOP is also the subject of a GM review which Stockport YOS are involved in.

**Physical Health:** Stockport Family arrangements have enhanced working arrangements with school nurses, improved information-sharing and health screening and an agreement for missed immunisations by those young people who are NEET can be provided by the school nursing team. We are in discussions regarding increasing the school nursing contribution to the service to ensure that other physical health issues, such as dentistry and GP registration are not overlooked.

**Substance Misuse:** YOS in partnership with MOSAIC (young people's substance misuse service) run bespoke drug and alcohol awareness sessions for young people identified as requiring such a service. We work particularly closely with Mosaic in increasing awareness amongst case managers regarding emerging substances that young people may be using to ensure that they can signpost young people for appropriate support. Young people are also referred on with regard to smoking cessation issues. All young people who require it are offered support to address their substance misuse and an age-appropriate screening tool is completed with all young people, this screening tool now sits within AssetPlus which gives more efficiency to the process.

**Parental Support:** The YOS are responsible for the management of Parenting Orders made within the criminal courts and therefore packages of support and enforcement are in place to ensure that voluntary programmes are available for parents who require it and that orders are managed effectively and progress reports are provided to the courts as required. Parenting support is also identified when civil enforcement for ASB is being

considered and additional packages of support may be put in place before the case comes to court to enable the parent to assist in desistance. The YOS spot purchase a 0.2 fte Parenting Worker to deliver individual packages of support and to be part of the delivery team for RESPECT Domestic Abuse programme. This worker is also developing a Trauma-Based programme jointly with the Education Psychologist.

**Domestic Abuse:** The YOS continue to deliver the RESPECT programme, a nationally accredited model that works directly with families and young people where there is adolescent abuse in a domestic setting. Additionally the YOS work with young people who are experiencing domestic abuse in close relationships. RESPECT is a group-led programme but an individual package of support can also be tailored as appropriate. The YOS have negotiated with Stockport Families First to expand the pool of staff that we have available to deliver RESPECT. Funding has been secured to deliver a training course which will aim to increase the number of families we can work with and reduce the current waiting list. We will develop a particular focus on families where this behaviour has led to the young person being accommodated. The YOS are represented at a senior level on the Domestic Abuse Steering Group.

**Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE):** Changes brought in through the 'Counter-Terrorism Act 2015' and 'Prevent Duty Guidance' requires Channel and Prevent to be statutory functions within all local authorities. The YOS are an active member of the 'Channel Panel', attending all Panel Meetings and offering advice and guidance on any children and young people open to Channel. The YOS have previously commissioned providers, and whilst there are no current arrangements in place around this, it is an option that we would utilise again should it be required. All YOS staff have completed an online workshop around PVE to recognise the early signs and vulnerabilities of young people being susceptible to extremism. Additional to this the Lead YOS practitioner is currently liaising with the Greater Manchester Police Prevent Officers to look at having additional and refresher training as and when needed.

**Hate Crime:** Stockport YOS are one of the members the Hate Crime Steering group and have been involved in the direction and implementation of specific messages being delivered to the community. Working with Remedi, a RJ-commissioned service, a lead practitioner has recently undertaken a significant piece of work around Hate Crime, which led to the development of a short film being made which offers a real insight into how Hate Crime impacts on victims and the community as a whole. This intervention is available to all children and young people that have identified as linked to Hate Crime whether it be as an offence-related incident or through held beliefs, thoughts, words or actions.

**Diversity and Participation (Voice of the Child):** The YOS Diversity and Participation Group continues to implement its Youth Feedback Forum which allows young people to give their views about the service, the criminal justice system and issues that affect them in their local area. These forums are held regularly throughout the year to ensure that consultation with young people is central to decision-making about service development. Feedback is gathered from children and young people and their parents/carers via an end order process. YOS Team Leaders undertake a final appointment with young people to

gather their views and a Business Support Team Leader contacts all parents/carers at the end of an intervention. These findings are collated and disseminated through the YOS 'Diversity and Participation Group'. In addition to this a functionality has become available in ChildView (the youth justice case management system) for feedback and this is currently being looked at by the YJ Team Leaders to see how service delivery can be improved.

Discussions are currently taking place with Coram Voice to develop a more formal feedback forum to ensure that the Voice of the Child is captured consistently and used effectively to shape service delivery. Peer Mentors who are ex-offenders work with the service and we have supported them through a 10 week Peer Mentoring programme. They are matched with suitable young people and develop a relationship to offer support, help build esteem, confidence and life skills with a role model who has had similar experiences. The GMCA Community Safety Grant has enabled us to commission a diversion and outreach service, though 'Families Against Violence' (FAV), this is supported and match-funded through Stockport Homes Group (SHG). The Head of Neighbourhoods from SHG is a member of the YOS Partnership Board and FAV have been asked to present to the Board at the next meeting with a particular focus on the Voice of the Child.

**Quality Assurance (QA):** The process of QA continues to be revised to improve practice. AssetPlus is now been fully integrated into YOS practice. AssetPlus has been live and operational in Stockport since March 2016 and the AssetPlus QA tool is used as an oversight tool on statutory cases and a locally developed tool for early intervention cases. Currently Stockport YOS are involved in the implementation of a nationwide Operational Manager Quality Assurance Training Programme. This is being devised in conjunction with the Youth Justice Sector Improvement Programme (YJSIP) supported by the Association of YOS Managers (AYM). It is anticipated that this programme will be rolled out nationally by the end of 2018.

**HMI Inspectorate & Audit:** HMI Probation (HMIP) are the lead inspectorate for inspecting statutory Youth Justice Services. A new inspection regime has been devised and this went live in May 2018. HMIP requested to use Stockport YOS as a training base for the completion of their own HMIP Inspector Training Programme. They had two separate training inspections in Spring 2018 over a 2 week period and informal feedback was shared which was positive and also gave areas for development. We found these training inspections to be of great help in allowing us to have an external view of our service provision and provided us with expert advice on how we could work to achieve better outcomes for our children and young people.

The HMI inspections are being called on a regular basis and they either consist on a one week inspection led by HMIP, or a 3 week Full Joint Inspection; which also involves Ofsted, CQC and HMFRS. Our GM neighbours, Manchester, have just been the subject of a 3 week inspection and there will be learning that we can gain from the findings when they are published, particularly as a large proportion of our work is GM based.

A number of audits for HMIP readiness have taken place; a GM Peer Review was undertaken over the summer, which the YOS Team Leaders led on, an internal audit took place against HMIP benchmarking and a service development day has been scheduled to review the current position and raise awareness. The findings have been reported to the YOS Partnership Board.

## **GM YOUTH JUSTICE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME:**

**Out of Court Disposal (OOC):** The GM Early Help & Diversion workstream aims to develop a consistent and standardised approach to ensure that all young people who receive an OOC have the same opportunities to engage and comply, regardless of where they live, and that the same consequences are in place should they choose not to engage. Working with GMP colleagues centrally in the Criminal Justice Unit at Force HQ has enabled a system to be developed that encourages and increases engagement amongst young people at the earliest possible opportunity to prevent escalation of offending behaviour.

**Courts:** The closure of a number of magistrates courts means one GM Youth Court Bench, co-ordinating youth magistrates provision across GM. Stockport still operate a youth court, one day a week, from Stockport Magistrates Court, and pick up additional work from East Cheshire and the High Peak but the main work across GM sits centrally within Manchester Youth Court. Saturday bail and remand courts are co-ordinated across GM, and Stockport YOS are actively involved. Stockport are represented on the GM Youth Court Users Group to ensure that provision is co-ordinated effectively.

**Children in Police Custody:** Following a GM-commission, led by Stockport, Child Action North West (CANW) are now commissioned to deliver Appropriate Adult services for children and vulnerable adults in police custody under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) across Greater Manchester. This operates everyday, including evening and weekends and has been very well received by GMP colleagues as it provides a single point of contact.

GMCA have commissioned a GM-wide Integrated Health Liaison and Diversion Partnership (IHLDP) to operate within all the GM Custody Suites and the Magistrates Courts. The purpose of this project is to ensure that trained mental health nurses assess each person for their mental health needs and liaison workers then divert them through to appropriate service. The Youth Justice Lead for Stockport is the GM lead for all 10 Youth Offending Services in overseeing 'children in police custody' and oversees this project delivery through regular contract meetings and reviews.

Under the National Child-Centred Policing Model, the decision has been taken by GMP to use this framework to focus on children in the criminal justice system. It has been agreed that 'children in police custody' will be the first area of review and Stockport, as the strategic lead for youth justice in this area, will be actively involved in the implementation and roll-out.

**Health and Justice:** The GM Health and Justice Strategic Board have highlighted the health needs of children and young people in the criminal justice system as a priority area for review. GM Heads of Youth Justice Services are actively involved in these proposals and implementation and the initial focus will be on trauma-based programmes and SALT.

**Custody and Resettlement:** Greater Manchester Resettlement Forum, which Stockport YOS attends, meets regularly to review the custody and resettlement needs of GM children and young people in the secure estate. GMCA currently fund a full-time Senior Social Worker based in HMYOI Wetherby, to specifically review the safeguarding needs of young people placed there from Greater Manchester (this averages about 60 young people). Stockport, along with the other GM authorities, receives monthly reports on the progress of young people in the custodial estate, this is also monitored locally at a GM level and through the Leeds Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB).

**Sexually Harmful Behaviour:** Throughout 2017 a training package was delivered across GM Children's Social Care (CSC) and GM Youth Justice Services. In Stockport there was a good take up of this training however, it was identified that we still needed further training for Social Workers in particular due to the necessity to have trained staff within each locality team. Funding has been secured locally for further AIM2 Assessment training to be delivered in Autumn 2018. There continues to be a GM focus on this work and a YOS Team Leader from Stockport is linked in with this.

In addition to the GM focus there has also been a greater emphasis locally for ensuring that there is a plan in place for young people displaying SHB and for AIM assessments to be undertaken as required. A Stockport SHB Operational Group has been set up chaired by the YOS, and reports to the QA Sub-Group of the Safeguarding Board to improve the focus on this work, particularly the relationship between CSC and Youth Justice when working with young people who display SHB. There has been an increase in consultations between Social Workers and YOS Team Leader to identify whether an AIM assessment is required.

## **7. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND RISKS TO FUTURE DELIVERY:**

Stockport YOS is actively involved in a number of GM developments that have impacted on the way we deliver services, and opened opportunities for further collaboration which have been widely taken up across the conurbation. The GM Children's Services Review, and specifically the Youth Justice Transformation programme has led to greater collaboration, joint commissioning and integration. Manchester Metropolitan University and GM Youth Offending Services have worked together to develop a 'Knowledge Transfer Partnership' (KTP) to provide research initiatives that seek to better understand the detrimental impact offending has on young people's lives and develop an evidence base to make a significant difference.

The risks to delivery against the 3 outcome measures of Reducing First Time Entrants, Reducing Re-offending and Reducing the Use of Custody, may be impacted through pressure to deliver core statutory functions with a reduced budget, meaning less focus on early intervention and prevention. A watching brief is kept on rising crime levels as this is bound to have an impact on resources and the ability to sustain services.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the report be noted.

Anyone requiring further information should contact:

**Jacqui Belfield-Smith:** Service Lead for Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support

Tel: 0161 474 4789

Email: [jacqui.belfield-smith@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:jacqui.belfield-smith@stockport.gov.uk)

*Signed:*

**Chris McLoughlin**

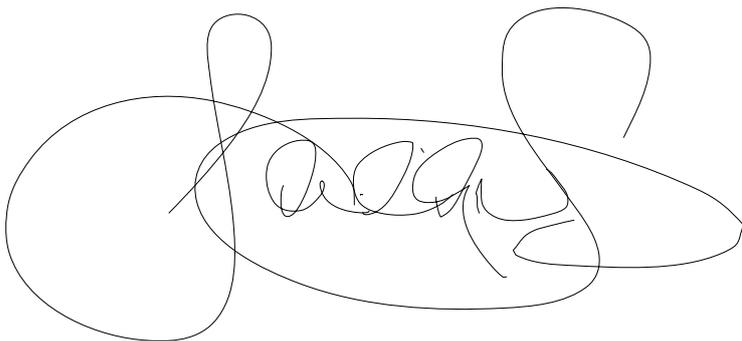
*Director of Children's Services (SMBC)*

*Chair of the YOS Partnership Board*

*Date: TBC*

**Jacqui Belfield-Smith**

*Service Lead: Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqui Belfield-Smith', enclosed within a large, irregular oval shape.

*Date: TBC*

*Appendix 1:*

**Partnership Contributions to the Youth Offending Partnership  
Pooled Budget 2018/19**

| <b>Agency</b>                        | <b>Staffing costs (£)</b> | <b>Payments in kind – revenue (£)</b> | <b>Other delegated funds (£)</b> | <b>Total (£)</b>  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Local Authority</b>               | <b>£0</b>                 | <b>£0</b>                             | <b>£528,987</b>                  | <b>£528,987</b>   |
| <b>Police Service</b>                | <b>£44,106</b>            | <b>In kind</b>                        | <b>£0</b>                        | <b>£44,106</b>    |
| <b>National Probation Service</b>    | <b>£24,000</b>            | <b>In kind</b>                        | <b>£5,000</b>                    | <b>£29,000</b>    |
| <b>Health Service</b>                | <b>£43,593</b>            | <b>In kind</b>                        | <b>£0</b>                        | <b>£43,593</b>    |
| <b>Police and Crime Commissioner</b> | <b>£0</b>                 | <b>£0</b>                             | <b>£45,000</b>                   | <b>£45,000</b>    |
| <b>YJB Good Practice Grant</b>       | <b>£0</b>                 | <b>£0</b>                             | <b>£365,262</b>                  | <b>£365,262</b>   |
| <b>Other***</b>                      |                           |                                       |                                  |                   |
| <b>YJB (JAC)</b>                     | <b>£0</b>                 | <b>£0</b>                             | <b>£33,327</b>                   | <b>£69,753</b>    |
| <b>YJB (Remand)</b>                  | <b>£0</b>                 | <b>£0</b>                             | <b>£26,426</b>                   |                   |
| <b>Unitas (Arts)</b>                 | <b>£0</b>                 | <b>£0</b>                             | <b>£10,000</b>                   |                   |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>£111,699</b>           | <b>£0</b>                             | <b>£1,014,002</b>                | <b>£1,125,701</b> |

## **Appendix 2:**

### **STOCKPORT YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE:**

#### **YJB Good Practice Main Grant funding (not YJB JAC or Remand Grants)**

Section 41(5) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out that the YJB has the power to make grants, with the approval of the Secretary of State, to Local Authorities or other bodies to develop good practice and commission research to such practice. The grant is given in order to contribute towards achieving the following outcomes:

- Reduction in youth re-offending
- Reduction in first time entrants
- Reduction in the use of youth custody

In order to satisfy audit requirements YOS partnerships need to demonstrate that the grant is spent on activity which relates to the terms of the Act, developing good practice and research.

‘Developing good practice’ can include both new developments and improving existing areas of work. The grant can be used for this period but should be transferred to other funding streams once it becomes business as usual.

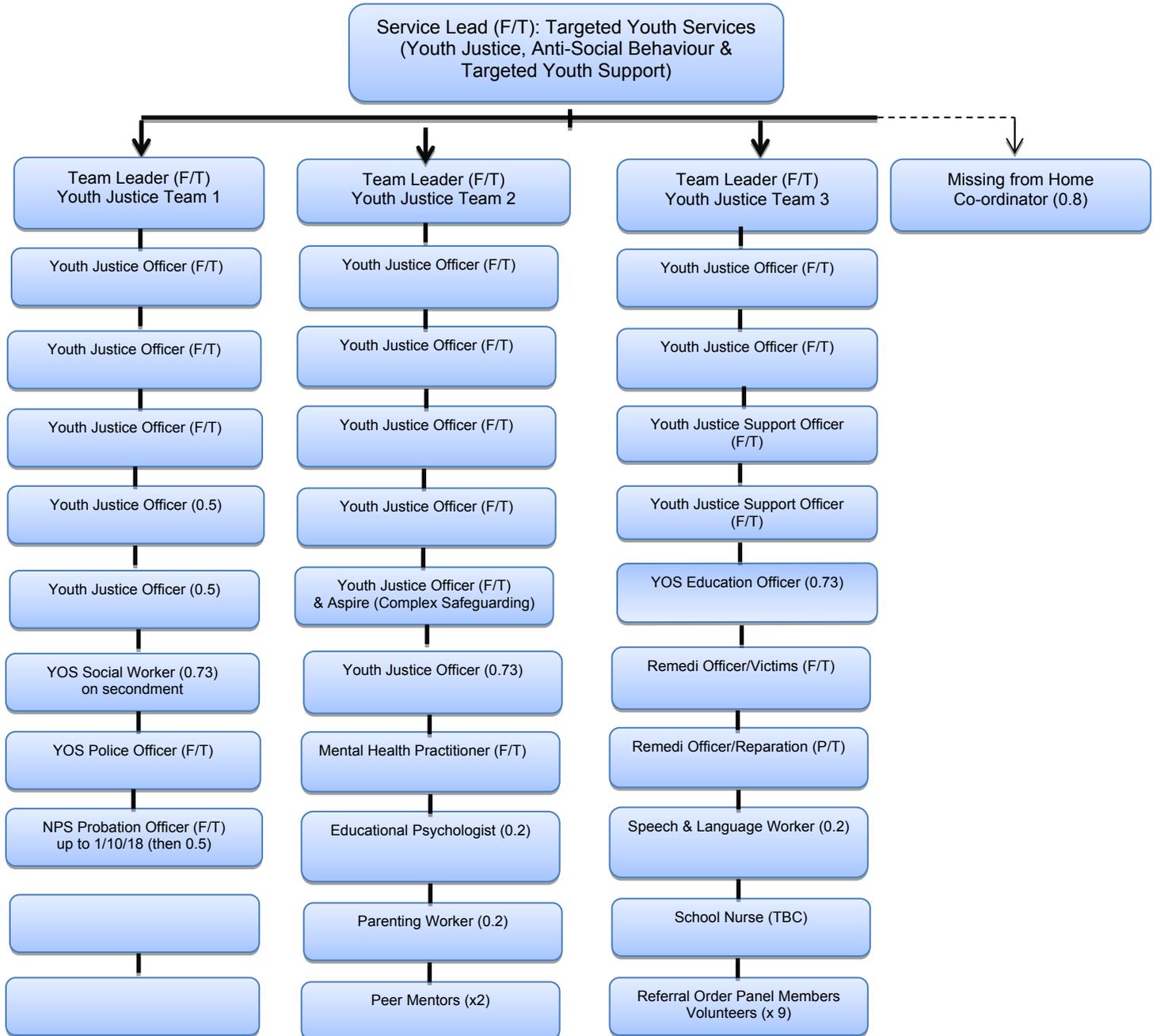
‘Research’ can include any cost relating to new enquiries or work to establish an evidence base to support interventions that contribute to effective practice.

**£365k**

| Outcome Indicator   | Areas for improvement/development  | Activity  | Indicative Cost |
|---|--|---|-----------------|
| Reducing Reoffending<br>Reducing Use of Custody                                 | Develop analysis, programmes and interventions to address cohorts that have been identified through the reducing re-offending toolkit. | Deliver targeted interventions that specifically relate to young people identified in the re-offending cohort and those with factors that place them at risk of entering the cohort. Develop programmes through YOS specialist officers.  | <b>£35k</b>     |
| Reducing Reoffending<br>Reducing First Time Entrants                            | Quality assurance and development of evidence based practice   | Implementation of a revised QA assurance process both within service, across Stockport Family and with GM partners.   | <b>£20k</b>     |
| Reducing First Time Entrants  | Targeted Youth Support   | Implementation of Targeted Youth Support offer to children and young people at risk. A range of interventions to offer targeted interventions both in-house and with third sector partners, to provide creativity and flexibility to suit the different learning styles and diverse needs of each individual child. | <b>£50K</b>     |
| Reducing First Time Entrants  | Youth Disorder & ASB   | Development of the Youth Disorder programme at a placed-based and Boroughwide level. Working jointly with the police and other key partners to assess, review and intervene with children and young people identified as causing anti-social behaviour within the authority.  | <b>50k</b>      |
| Reducing Reoffending<br>Reducing First Time Entrants<br>Reducing Use of Custody | Sexually Harmful Behaviour   | Assessment, planning, interventions and delivery of training/consultation/expertise in partnership with the third sector to ensure evidence-based programmes are delivered to young people with sexually harmful behaviour. Work towards a GM SHB core  | <b>£30k</b>     |

|   |   |   |              |
|---|---|---|--------------|
|   |   | hub.  |              |
| Reducing Reoffending<br>Reducing First Time Entrants<br>Reducing Use of Custody | Missing From Home, Care and Education                   | Strategic co-ordination and contribution to all elements of the missing process throughout the development of the Missing Hub. In-kind contribution missing process. Additional interventions for children and young people placed in borough from 'Other Local Authorities' who are open to YOS.   | <b>£50k</b>  |
| Reducing Reoffending<br>Reducing First Time Entrants                            | Complex Safeguarding                                    | Seconded YOS SW to work part-time within with Aspire (Complex Safeguarding Team) to champion the needs of young people who offend and are at risk of child sexual exploitation and/or other forms of complex safeguarding.  | <b>£30K</b>  |
| Reducing Reoffending<br>Reducing Use of Custody<br>Reducing First Time Entrants | Police Custody  | Strategic and operational focus with partners in GMP to reduce the numbers of young people held overnight in police custody. Includes improving PACE arrangements and maintaining a strategic GM oversight.<br><br>Development and roll-out of the GM Appropriate Adult contract and the GM Integrated Health, Liaison and Diversion Partnership. | <b>35k</b>   |
| Reducing First Time Entrants  | Develop and implementation of the Arts Trail            | Delivery of the Arts Trail across Stockport, supported through additional Unitas funding. Delivering arts-based programmes and community-based interventions for children and young people at risk.   | <b>20k</b>   |
| Reducing Reoffending<br>Reducing Use of Custody                                 | GM Children's Services Review. Youth Justice workstream | Contribution to the GM children's services review (YJ workstream) at a strategic and operational level to scope the commissioning and integration processes across Greater Manchester.  | <b>£45k</b>  |
|   |   | <b>Overall Total</b>  | <b>£365k</b> |

**Stockport Youth Justice Services 2018**



Business Support and Data & Research provide support to YOS but do not sit within the structure as these functions

