



# STOCKPORT YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2020/21



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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## OUR VISION:

*We want Stockport to be the best place for children to grow up happily, healthily, with confidence, ambition and surrounded by love, care and kindness. We want them to have the very best start in life and to thrive throughout their growing up and beyond. We want families to be supported where necessary to provide this care and we believe that families are the best place for most children to grow up. This board is committed to support ways of working and programmes to enable families to look after their children safely and with confidence.*

*We know that all families need support from time to time, and some families need extra help at times, and this is particularly true for children who become known to, or are at risk of becoming involved in, crime and anti-social behaviour. The YOS Partnership Board will focus on getting **‘the right support at the right time’** to children and families who are struggling. This help might be in relation to a variety of early help needs, from practical and financial support, through to additional special educational needs and emotional wellbeing through to transitions into adulthood.*

## INTRODUCTION:

- 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 Leadership Team (SLT) and the Safer Stockport Partnership (SSP). Stockport Children’s Safeguarding Partnership (SSCP) also receives updates and reports as required. The Youth Justice Plan is a key document on the Council’s Forward Plan; therefore, it goes through full democratic processes for scrutiny and comment before final approval.
- 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 and secondment arrangements with a number of other key agencies, services and third sector organisations; such as GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority), Stockport Homes, Social Care, Aspire Complex Safeguarding, Public Safety & Protection, HMCTS (Courts and Tribunal Service), and commissioned projects through third sector organisations that include: AIM (Sexually Harmful Behaviour project), Respect (Domestic Abuse), Coram Voice

(Participation), CERA Ltd. and Remedi (Engaging and Empowering Victims) amongst many 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 Justice & Targeted Youth Support 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.

## CONTEXT AND PERFORMANCE:

- 2.1 The global impact of Covid-19 has made this year one that none of us will forget and the impact at an international, national, regional and local level has been significant, however, together with our partners and key stakeholders we have also seen some of the most creative, productive and imaginative responses to ensure that service delivery can be sustained, whilst ensuring that everyone is kept safe.

The YOS is proud to be 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 NHS 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 Performance data is collated and submitted quarterly through the Youth Justice Board (YJB), publicly available and published on a quarterly basis by the Ministry of Justice

(MoJ). This year, however, there has been no data published since the beginning of lockdown, so we are unable to produce reliable comparative data until this is released. The service has continued to submit data quarterly as required and it is hoped that this will be publicly available in the near future.

- 2.4 There has been a significant focus this year from the YOS Partnership Board to put less emphasis on national data and instead focus more on local information which allows us to be proactive and forward-looking when understanding the demographics of children known to the youth justice system in Stockport and across GM. Arrangements have been put in place with Business Intelligence locally and we have created a Tableau Dashboard function which provides local analysis based on the current caseloads.
- 2.8 Stockport YOS Partnership Board and other key partnerships continue to be briefed, as relevant, on the national HMI Probation (HMIP) Inspection programme of Youth Justice Services and work through the YOS and associated partners on learning and development in preparation. A number of GM Youth Justice Services have now been inspected by HMIP, including Manchester, Oldham, Bury/Rochdale.

Earlier this year, based on the HMIP criteria, an internal audit was carried out on based on each of the 3 HMIP Domains (Governance/Leadership, Post-Court casework & Pre-Court casework). In addition, a YJB National Standards Audit was completed against the 6 National Standards areas (Police Custody, Out of Court Disposals, Court, Community, Secure and Transitions.) and members of the YOS Partnership Board have been identified to act as Champions against each area. The findings from both Audits have formed an overarching 'Improvement Plan' which is reviewed regularly. The YOS Partnership Board take ownership of the headline areas for improvement which have been identified within a 'Risk Register'.

- 2.9 **Appendix 1** of this plan sets out the **Youth Justice 'Recovery Plan'** as required under the Terms and Conditions of the YJB Grant. It details elements of the recovery through the lens of the 6 YJB National Standards area, however the wider Youth Justice Plan will give more specific details regarding content and delivery. Reference will be made to measures that have been put in place to ensure continuation of certain programmes and interventions to sustain service delivery but some of this will be implicit because the Covid recovery model is not resolved and subject to constant change.

## STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE:

- 3.1 The **Youth Offending Service Partnership Board** meets quarterly. It is represented by senior partners from the key agencies that contribute to the YOS (Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support) to ensure that youth justice and related interventions are delivered in partnership across the borough.
- 3.2 Members of the YOS Partnership Board support the YOS in overcoming any barriers to effective multi-agency working. There have been a number of recent changes on the Board, including new representatives from HYMS, Stockport Homes and Stockport Family. The Terms of Reference were reviewed again this year and ensure that the board receive regular information that enables them to make an effective contribution to delivering the key youth justice outcomes and also to hold the YOS and partners to account for their operational performance and outcomes. The Board has a clear 'Vision' as detailed within this plan and the revised Terms of Reference and operates to a 'High Strength, High Challenge' model in line with Stockport Family principles for working with children and families.
- 3.3 The YOS Partnership Board held a 'Meet The Board' conference off-site pre-lockdown in January 2020 to enable the service (team leaders, practice staff, commissioned services and panel volunteers) to 'meet the board', hear the key messages and to understand how the priorities that govern the Board are met. It also gave the Board the opportunity to hear from the service and roundtables were facilitated that focused on specific areas; including health, child exploitation, out of court disposals, education, training & employment and targeted youth support.

Current YOS Partnership Board membership is well represented and comprised of:

• Director of Children's Services, Stockport Council (Chair)
• Cabinet Member (Children, Families & Education) Stockport Council
• Chief Inspector for Partnerships, GMP (Stockport Division)
• Director of Education Services, Stockport Council
• Assistant Chief Officer, NPS (Stockport & Tameside District)
• Director of Place Management, Stockport Council
• Children's Commissioning Lead, NHS Stockport, CCG
• Director of Operations (Stockport Family) Stockport Council
• ASB Services Manager (Stockport Homes Group)

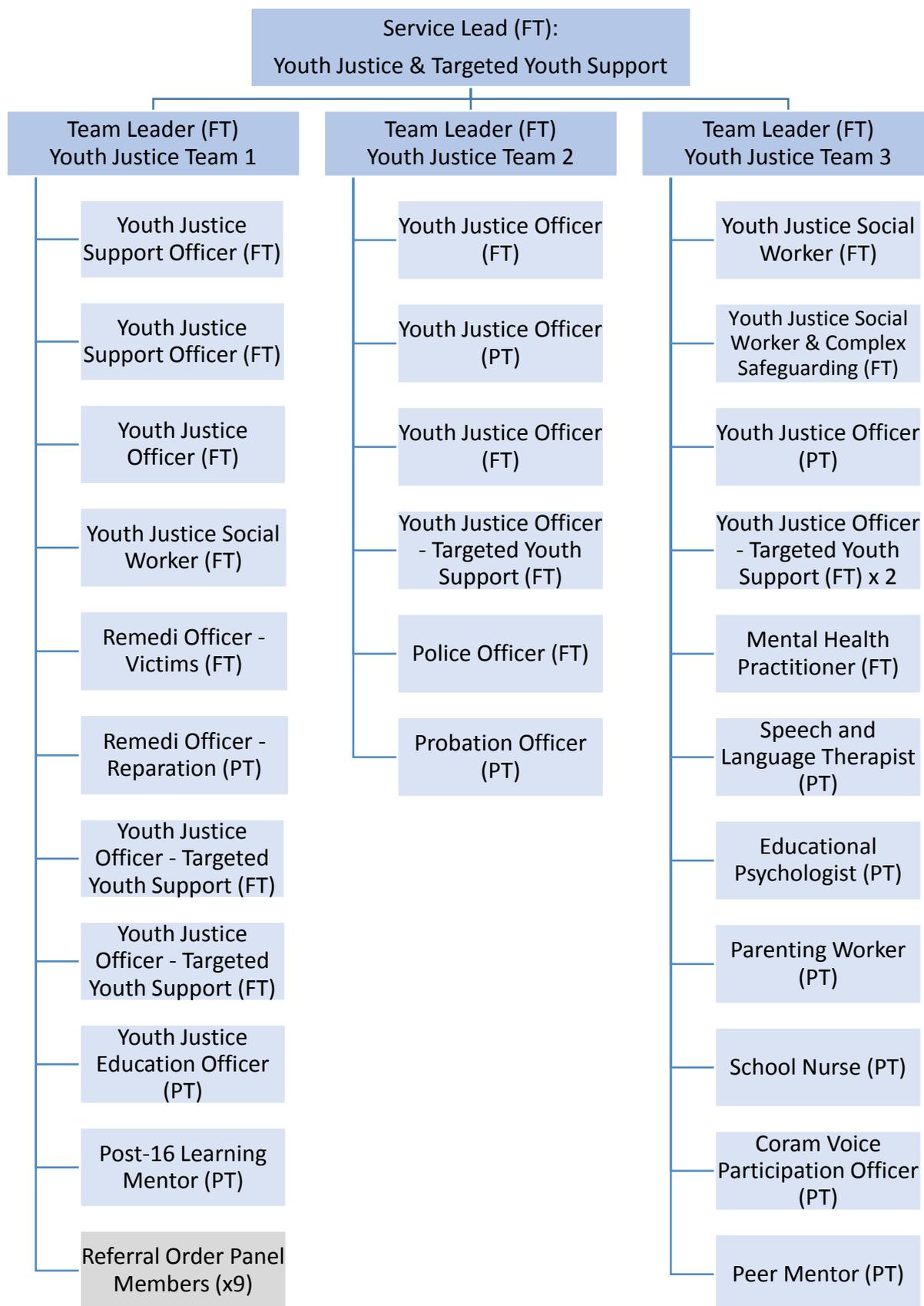
- Principal Lead (Children’s Social Care & Commissioning) Stockport Council
- Deputy Chair of the GM Youth Court Bench, (HMCTS)
- Manager, Healthy Young Minds HYMS (Pennine Care)
- Service Lead, Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support, Stockport Council

## RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY:

4.1 The Youth Justice Partnership contributions for 2020-21 are detailed below.

Agency	Staffing costs (£)	Payments in kind – revenue (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Local Authority	£456,604	£0	£0	£456,604
Police Service	£0	£40,931	£0	£40,931
National Probation Service	£0	£17,810	£5,000	£22,810
Health Service	£0	£33,840	£0	£33,840
Police and Crime Commissioner (GMCA)	£0	£0	£45,000	
GMCA (EYIF)	£0	£0	£15,000	£60,000
YJB Main Grant	£0	£0	£364,611	
YJB (JAC)	£0	£0	£33,013	£397,624
<b>Other</b>				
YJB (Remand)	£0	£0	£42,019	£42,019
<b>Total</b>	<b>£456,604</b>	<b>£92,580</b>	<b>£504,643</b>	<b>£1,053,827</b>

***Stockport Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Services (YOS) 2020***



**PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS (OPERATIONS):**

5.1 Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support and associated 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)

- **Serious Youth Violence Reduction:** a grant-funded programme delivered locally but operating under the jurisdiction of the GM Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) focusing on children, young people and young adults.

- **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 ( up to 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:

5.2 The following interventions are just a flavour of some of the statutory functions 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 OOC 'Diversion Panel' meets weekly and includes the Youth Justice Police Officer, Victim Worker and other relevant staff such as the Mental Health Practitioner. These have continued to run throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and have been held virtually, although there has been a continued YOS Duty presence in the office throughout lockdown.

We are in discussion with GMP regarding a local scrutiny function to ensure that the correct processes have been followed and the right outcome achieved and there is also a recent development to review the GM OOC Scrutiny Panel which reviews cases on a quarterly basis from across GM

**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' through the court. The training has maximised their skills and increased the opportunity for direct mediation.

Plans for a Greater Manchester consortium of Referral Order Panel members, all trained to the same standard that allows them to work across the region, have been put on hold. Recruitment of new Panel Members from the Stockport community took place in late 2019 and arrangements were in place to deliver a full training schedule. This has had to be postponed and it is hoped that it can be run next year.

Panels have continued to be held virtually, at least once a fortnight, throughout lockdown. The demographic of some of the volunteers has meant that some of them are shielding and don't feel able to contribute at this time. Other Panel Members have filled the gap and panels have continued to be co-ordinated and delivered successfully. Meetings are planned to agree the next steps for the autumn/winter period to ensure that sufficient cover is in place.

**Unpaid Work (UPW):** The delivery of Unpaid Work (Community Service) for 16/17 year olds is the responsibility of the YOS. 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.

The YOS developed a 'Reparation and Unpaid Work Project Portfolio' which worked restoratively with approx; 12 local projects including Cheadle Mosque, Wellspring Homeless Centre, Manchester Rugby Club and Woodbank Community Centre. A number of these projects have had to be temporarily put on hold throughout the lockdown period.

As the restrictions are starting to ease it has meant that the Restorative Justice Co-ordinator, commissioned through Remedi, is actively sourcing new projects, undertaking risk assessments and acting as a single point of contact for all community reparation and Unpaid Work projects and we anticipate that the numbers will start to increase and it can be included as a community requirements in court orders again.

**Junior Attendance Centre (JAC):** The Junior Attendance Centre runs once a fortnight at the weekend and can be part of a court order requirement. Stockport YOS currently commission Military Mentors to provide educational and physical activities for young people at the Junior Attendance Centre, supported by YOS staff. The aim is 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 instilling respect and discipline into their daily lives. Lockdown restrictions have meant that this option within a court order has been curtailed over the past few months but as more cases are being sentenced it can be included as an option again. Its is also used as part of the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) community option.

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 who are able to learn a skill and gain an award through their involvement. Outdoor activities with Cycloan have been reduced but have still continued throughout lockdown and indoor engagements, with appropriate social distancing safeguards in place, are starting to be reintroduced now.

**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. All children and young people who are received into the Secure Estate receive continued supervision through the YOS whilst serving their sentence, this is done in line with National Standards and based on the specific individual needs 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.

Covid restrictions have created significant difficulties within the secure estate, which meant that young people were not able to receive visits from family, friends and professionals and education and association were initially stopped. Children were locked in their cells for several hours a day. Some of these restrictions have been lifted and young people are now back in education, having more association and plans are in place to start family visits. Professionals are still not able to undertake the face to face statutory meetings and pre-sentence report interviews but every young person has been given access to a phone and a PIN system ensures that numbers can be stored on a phone that allows contact, and this can include professionals involved in their care.

GMCA continue to 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 usually averages about 60 young people at any one time, although the numbers have been lower during lockdown). Stockport, along with the other GM authorities also receives a quarterly report on the progress of young people in the custodial estate.

As well as Wetherby YOI Stockport young people are also received into Secure Childrens Home and Secure Training Centres at various locations across England and Wales. Young people entering these facilities are given the same supervision as those within the YOI estate. Plans are in place with GMCA to revise the GM Resettlement Consortium and initial discussions regarding developments have been provisionally agreed.

The numbers of children from Stockport sentenced or remanded in the custodial estate continues to remain very low.

**Restorative Justice (RJ):** Restorative Justice and Reparation are key requirements for all young people working with the YOS; they form part of every AssetPlus and Early Intervention assessment and can be a requirement within a court order as directed by Magistrates and/or Community Panel members. All victims of crime are contacted, their thoughts and feelings are discussed and they give consent for this to be shared. Face to Face contact with the offender is the first form of Restorative Justice offered. Victims can choose to accept a response either verbally or receive a written letter from the young person (indirect RJ) and are able 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 facilitate this the restorative justice process. Remedi provide a fully trained Restorative Justice Practitioner (Victim Officer) and engage with all identified victims and young people.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 **152** victims were contacted. Of these, **100** victims responded. From those victims that responded, **86** victims said YES to engaging with the Restorative Justice process either indirectly or directly, giving an **86%** engagement rate. The Restorative Justice Practitioner (Victim Officer) completed **11** direct and **62** indirect restorative processes in this period.

Restorative Justice can take place on all active interventions; from early intervention through to custodial sentences. During this period **64** victim awareness sessions with young people were undertaken.

100% of victims who took part in restorative justice in this period have expressed satisfaction with the service and would recommend it to others. They fed back that they had felt listened to and their motivation for taking part was for the young person to understand how it affected them. A young person comment that they feel relieved, as they had been feeling embarrassed and ashamed since committing the offence. Other young people said that it made them think about what their victim had gone through and they do not want to put anyone else in that position again.

In response to Covid-19, 'Remote Reparation' was introduced as a way of ensuring that young people remained engaged and continued to 'give-back' to local communities, whilst staying safe in their own homes. Remote Reparation included activities such as making cards for the NHS and other key workers, writing letters to elderly people and liaising with Care Homes. Victim contact has continued virtually and the remote way of working will continue to be used for some cases, alongside other means of Community Reparation and victim liaison.

#### **Victim Case Study:**

***"VM caused £5,000 worth of damage to a local leisure centre by setting fire to the astro-turf. The Victim Worker took a 'victim impact statement' from the victim who agreed to direct reparation. Going back to VM it was clear she felt remorse and expressed a desire to write a letter to the leisure centre manager. The manager was able to express the frustration on behalf of the community who were outraged. The centre is in a deprived area and relies on funding from a local charity. People from the close-knit community saw the leisure centre as 'theirs' and had endured several problems previously with ASB in the area.***

***VM felt ashamed of what she had done and actively avoided the local area as a result. Arrangements were facilitated through the Victim Officer so VM and the leisure centre manager could meet in person. VM apologised and explained how she had come to find herself in that situation, the leisure centre manager could see her regret and praised them for being able to meet and take responsibility. By agreeing to engage in a reparative activity VM has said that she was glad that they met and better understands the impact. The manager commented on what a positive experience it was to be involved and pleased that VM felt able to engage in it."***

## Serious Youth Violence Reduction:

Significant funding was made available from the Home Office in 2019 to certain policing areas with a specific remit to address serious violent crime. GMP is one of these areas and the funding is devolved through GMCA. Each of the 10 GM Community Safety Partnerships received funding to develop their own local Serious Violence Reduction Plan. There was a clear direction from the Office of the Police & crime Commissioner that this needed to focus on children, young people and young adults in transition with a specific focus on the public health approach and strong links to schools. The focus for GM is clear:

***“If we can turn young people away from violence at the earliest possible***

***opportunity, we can make a real difference to them and our communities”***

The GM Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) brings together Greater Manchester Police (GMP), National Probation Service (NPS), health and education professionals, youth justice and local authorities to address the underlying causes of violent crime and work together with communities to prevent it. The following sets out the programme and its aims:



5.3 In Stockport the Violence Reduction Plan has a clear focus on Serious Youth Violence and the opportunities to work within schools and educational establishments to develop a prevention and awareness strategy which is based on the public health communities' model. The funding this year has developed an additional focus on the period of transitions for young adults, as the data around serious violence shows that it is also prevalent in the 18-15 age group. The following are just some of the programmes and interventions in place to address it:

**Knife & Weapon-related Crime:** The YOS, in collaboration with GMP, developed a Knife Crime Awareness Strategy through a tiered intervention approach called 'On The Edge'. It is delivered universally to all educational establishments, including secondary schools, primary schools (in years 5&6), group-based work for those young people identified as posing an increased risk of becoming involved in such behaviour and robust and targeted 1-1 work to those young people either convicted or police-led intelligence proving that such behaviour is taking place. The aim of this strategy is to ensure that children and young people are made fully aware of the consequences of carrying offensive weapons.

The roll-out of the programme across schools has been very successful and by March 2020 nearly 6,000 children had received the briefing across Stockport, in class size groups. In addition, key stakeholders asked for bespoke training as part of their safeguarding development, including the GP's Forum and acute emergency workers within the NHS Foundation Trust. The programme also secured the involvement of a local Stockport resident, who is also a trauma surgeon working for Salford Royal.

Covid-19 and the fact that schools have not been open has meant that the knife crime programme has had to be delivered differently. 1-1 sessions have continued throughout and held virtually but groupwork programmes and briefings have had to be put on hold. However now that the schools have returned some delivery has restarted and discussions are taking place about how the programme can be delivered safely within the schools revised protocols. Serious youth violence continues to be a key focus for the YOS Partnership and those presenting the highest level of risk have continued to receive interventions throughout the whole lockdown period.

**Risk Management Reviews:** All AssetPlus assessments undertaken by a Youth Justice Case Manager are countersigned by a Youth Justice Team Leader, which ensures enhanced oversight for all cases, including OOC and Voluntary Support cases. The multi-agency Risk Management Reviews (RMR's) ensure that all children and young people under YOS supervision who are assessed as High Risk of Serious Harm, High Risk of Re-offending or High Risk to Safety and Well-Being are reviewed through the RMR and these are scheduled on a fortnightly basis.

**Transitions:** The YOS continue to work with Probation Services, both NPS and CRC, to allow for a positive transition process for young people moving into adulthood. The rates of serious violence within the 18-25 year old cohort has received additional oversight as a

result of the oversight of the GM Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and plans are in place locally review Stockport's arrangements and consider how some intervention can be jointly delivered.

There has been increased engagement locally with the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team (Spotlight) and some young people within the YOS have been referred to the IOM for additional intervention because of the level of risk they present. Discussions are taking place how a similar model can be replicated with the older teenagers that ensures the level of risk is managed and there are enhanced arrangements in place for transition.

**Serious Incident Reviews (SIR's):** The YOS has reviewed the Serious Incident Review process this year and developed new guidance and an updated flowchart which was approved recently through the YOS Partnership Board.

A Youth Justice Serious Incident Review is undertaken when a case triggers the high threshold criteria under 'Safeguarding' or 'Public Protection'

Most of the recent Serious Incident Reviews are linked to Serious Youth Violence. The Serious Incident Review process will either trigger a single agency review or go through the SSCP Rapid Review Process when there is more than one local agency involved.

#### **Case Study (under Covid-19 restrictions):**

*DB received a 'Youth Conditional Caution' for 'Possession of a Knife or a Bladed Article'. As the referral was made during lockdown the sessions were initially conducted virtually to allow DB to be able to explore why he undertook the offence and the reasons for doing so.*

*The programme had to be modified as a result of lockdown but it was still varied so that it is applicable to all learning styles; covering everything from possession laws and the implications of carrying a weapon, educational videos and input from an NHS surgeon about the seriousness of knife crime and the long term damage it can cause, not only physically but mentally. DB was fully engaged from the first introductory session watching the videos and describing how it helps with his understanding of how knife crime impacts on relationships/friendships. DB used emails to request further sessions, as he found them very engaging and having someone to speak to.*

*DB went on to disclose where he had hidden a weapon locally and the police were able to locate it. The final session took place with a socially-distanced face to face session with the Youth Justice Police Officer, where the work undertaken could be clarified and signed off. DB has since spoken positively to his carers about the sessions and to date there have been no further reports or incidences of knife crime.*

## EARLY INTERVENTION & TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT:

- 5.4 Early intervention offers a bespoke package of up to 12 months of 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.
- 5.5 TYS 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, mainly through the police or directly from schools. TYS builds upon the successful YOS Prevention Strategy and delivers crime prevention programmes in schools and offers a range of interventions to children and young people identified as being at risk of offending or anti-social behaviour, or on the periphery of organised crime groups and other risky lifestyles. These interventions include a wide range of football programmes, boxing projects, climbing sessions, fishing groups, mindfulness, yoga, outreach and diversion activities and other locally devised schemes that all have the same aim of engaging children and young people, improving their life skills and preventing them becoming engaged in civil or criminal behaviour.

**Summer Arts Programme:** The YOS ordinarily run a Summer Arts project every year which offers an intense programme over the 6 week summer holidays, developing a range of skills in a number of art mediums.

Last year's programme focused on an anti-knife message and the young people were to produce artwork using decommissioned knives (recovered by GMP) and anti-stab vests. This 'artwork' was so successful that it was exhibited at a national conference where it received wide acclaim both through the local media and the Youth Justice Board. The programme is targeted at children and young people who were assessed as likely to cause harm and distress within their communities over the holiday period and aims to ensure that are fully occupied. Those children and young people who complete the course are presented with a certificate at an award ceremony, which their parents/carers are invited to attend; last year this was held at Stockport College and the year before at Red Rock.

This year has been very different due to the lockdown restrictions and plans for summer activities have been coordinated with other Stockport Family colleagues to ensure they are delivered within safe operating procedures. Fortunately, the weather has been kind so a

number of the activities have been able to take place outside and this has reduced the risk of infection.

**Crime Prevention (School-Based):** A Crime Prevention programme was devised and delivered in primary and secondary schools to approximately 500 children last academic year. Discussions with schools will take place throughout the autumn term to consider whether it is possible to deliver these sessions again under the current regime but in a different format which still delivers the same powerful message.

### **Case Study (during Covid-19 restrictions)**

*PB was referred into targeted Youth Support for a Voluntary Support Programme by a local school. Initial concerns were PB's poor social skills, low self-esteem, aggressive and threatening behaviour towards other pupils, internet safety and lack of involvement in constructive activities.*

*His officer concentrated initially on getting to know PB and building a rapport, and then he was referred to the Stockport County football sessions (funded through the Community Safety Grant). PB struggled at first to attend but with support from YOS he became a regular attendee. PB has since been involved in organised football tournaments and built up a good relationship with the coaches.*

*PB has had difficulties in expressing himself and controlling his emotions. This has subsequently led to family fall outs and friendship issues. His YOS Officer sought support and advice from the Youth Justice Mental Health Practitioner and the Speech and Language Therapist; which allowed him to focus on strategies to help PB control his anger and reactions in stressful situations. PB has responded well to this and says he feels more in control, he has also engaged well in sessions around staying safe online and using social media in appropriate manner.*

*The pressure of the Covid-19 Lockdown led to a strained relationship which sadly meant he had to leave the family home. The YOS supported PB in moving in with another relative and registering with a GP and dentist.*

*PB had a history of poor attendance and a lack of engagement in education. PB had a 'managed transfer' to a local PRU. Initially PB was resistant for the new school placement to work and lacked confidence in attending. PB was supported by the YOS in transport to school and liaising with staff to help meet his needs. During the summer PB has been supported in accessing a football training course for which he showed good attendance and a new motivation to go on to further education. Recently PB has enrolled in BTEC Level 1 football training course with Cheadle Town FC.*

*PB says he is happier, has more direction in his life and feels more settled in his new home environment. PB remains to be an open case to the YOS.*

## ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

6.1 Community safety interventions for children and young people at risk of becoming involved in civil enforcement and potentially criminal behaviour is supported through Public, Safety and Protection and predominantly managed through the YOS, which is reflective of the disproportionate nature of youth disorder when compared to other crime and civil disorder trend. Work with key partners, particularly Stockport Homes (SHG) and Life Leisure has mean that activity can be co-ordinated and ensure a joint response.

**ASB/Youth Disorder:** Together with police colleagues and SHG, the YOS has taken an active lead for devising and delivering programmes to combat youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). Children and young people identified as causing ASB are 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) and Stockport Homes (SHG) in developing recommendations for civil enforcement and court action as necessary. Both the Police, SHG and Place are represented at a senior level on the YOS Partnership Board.

**Youth Disorder Panel:** This multi-agency Youth Disorder Panel used to meet monthly broken down into 5 geographical sections to reflect neighbourhood policing areas and relevant staff attended to present updates from their own areas. The police would provide up-to-date intelligence to the meeting which provides a 'ladder of intervention' identifying young people and incidents that have occurred. It would also highlight hotspot areas.

The format of the Youth Disorder Panel was placed under review pre-Covid, as members felt it was time to ascertain the effectiveness of the multi-agency arrangement, as it was resource-intensive, and partners needed assurance that there was no duplication. The impact of Covid-19 has meant that the panel has been unable to meet in its existing format and local meetings have had to take place with the local neighbourhood police in response to spikes in ASB. A Deep Dive exercise took place and a proposal paper has been circulated to key stakeholders to determine the way forward.

**Case Study (responding to Covid-19):**

***AJ is now an 18-year-old adult male. His first statutory order was received in 2018 when he was age 16 and led to a 'Youth Rehabilitation Order' due to further offending. He was also issued with a 'Criminal Behaviour Order' in 2018 due to his levels of anti-social behaviour. There were constant police reports shared in relation to the young person's involvement in anti-social behaviour.***

***In order to prevent and promote pro-social behaviours it was extremely important to have a consistent multi-agency professional approach whereby AJ was monitored by police and encouraged by professionals to maintain appointments. It was also essential to deliver interventions alongside education to facilitate and support work experience options for AJ. Due to this collaborative working we were able to secure a full-time work experience placement whereby AJ gained a trade. Consistent appointments and clear expectations of the YOS statutory order were important to maintaining engagement.***

***Fortunately, AJ was eventually rated from Red to Amber to Green 'Ladder of Intervention' at the Youth Disorder Panel due to his desistance from offending and anti-social behaviour. He further improved his behaviours and achieved full-time work, eventually working alongside construction to assist the emergency building of hospital wards at the height of the Covid-19 crisis. AJ successfully completed his order and is no longer coming to the attention of the police or involved in criminal or anti-social activity.***

## VOICE OF THE CHILD:

- 7.1 The YOS Partnership and wider services has a strong commitment to hearing the 'Voice of the Child' and have explored different ways in which we can 'listen' to children to inform and shape service delivery. Coram Voice, a national agency who specialise in participatory work, were commissioned last year to develop a bespoke service for children who had become known to the youth justice system. The Coram Voice Participation Worker has made contact with several children over the past year and produces a quarterly report which gives the headline views.
- 7.2 Plans were put in place with GMCA earlier this year to commission Coram Voice to undertake a bespoke piece project work to hear the voices of children in police custody across GM, and specifically to understand their experience of services within the custody suite. Contracts for the work were put in place but this has had to be put on hold due to lockdown restrictions but it is hoped that this project will be resumed after the autumn period.
- 7.3 Covid-19 has created a number of difficulties in engagement, as face-to-face private interviews have not been able to take place and these have had to be done virtually, which has proved to be a difficult format for this type of work, which is based on trust and understanding. It is anticipated that 1-1 work will be reinstated within the next few weeks to enable the participation work to start again in earnest again. In the meantime, social media is being utilised through the YOS Facebook page 'Stockport Targeted Youth Services' to promote the service and attract new referrals.
- 7.3 The YOS Diversity and Participation Group has been revised and is attended by members of the service looking at a range of issues to improve service delivery. Steps have been taken to create a 'shadow' youth feedback forum to inform the Diversity & Participation group to allow children and young people to give their views about the service, the criminal justice system and issues that affect them both within their local area and by the agencies that deliver them.

## THEMATIC DELIVERY AREAS:

- 8.1 These are cross-cutting delivery areas that transverse several service areas and are delivered in partnership with other agencies. The following are cover some of the key areas:

**Education, Training & Employment (ETE):** Stockport YOS are committed to working with partner agencies to ensure that all our children and young people have opportunities to succeed in ETE and this is not hampered by their offending behaviour. The YOS as a member of Stockport Family integrated services and has regular contact with colleagues in the Education and Careers Guidance Service. The Youth Justice Education Officer was also spending one day a week at Highfields PRU to better integrate the two services and offer bespoke support to an education provider with the highest proportion of our client base to encourage better attendance.

The YOS Education Officer also works directly with local schools, attending 'Team Around the School' meetings to ensure that each school is receiving appropriate support from Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support.

As well as the work in the community, the YOS 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 Director for Education Services sits on the YOS Partnership Board and the last meeting explored ways in which the offer for young people aged 16+ could be enhanced. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funding has allowed us to be able to commission a Learning Mentor who works with the 16+ cohort and can focus on their post-school needs as we know from experience that this can be a time when offending can increase if a young person is not gainfully employed.

Clearly there has been an impact in service whilst schools have been closed but contact has been maintained and arrangements are taking shape to continue the delivery model within schools can continue. Targeted Youth Support Officers are also aligned to schools across the borough.

**Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):** '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 YOS Partnerships to self-assess 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 met the 'Quality Mark' in

September 2018 and then were successful in meeting the higher threshold of the national 'Quality Lead' status in December 2019, which has only been achieved by a number of YOS Partnerships nationally.

Early intervention funding for youth justice was made available through GMCA and it was agreed by the YOS Partnership that this grant would be used to develop 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) now works in the service (additional funding has also been secured through NHS England) This practitioner was based in the service and 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 children and young people known to 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 who still have some speech, language and communication needs.

An Educational Psychologist works within the service on a commissioned basis to ensure the specific needs of children in the youth justice system are met, as well as jointly delivering bespoke programmes for parents and offering clinical supervision.

As a result case managers within the YOS have become far more familiar with the process of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and aim to be involved in the reviews of all of our children and young people with an EHCP. This is supported by the on-site Information Advice and Guidance Team and the SEN Business Support Team.

The restriction of Covid has meant that the referrals, interventions and assessments have had to take place virtually but from September staff are starting to return to the workplace and have more of a presence.

**Mental Health & Wellbeing:** 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 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.

The Mentally Vulnerable Offender Panel (MVOP) is attended by the YOS Mental Health Practitioner 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 police custody suite. MVOP is also the subject of a GM review which Stockport YOS are involved in.

Similarly Covid-19 has meant that the service has been restricted and had to be offered through other virtual platforms but face to face assessments have begun to be reintroduced in line with social distancing guidelines.

**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. The YOS commission a seconded school nurse one day a week during term-time. She accesses health information, screens young people around any health issues, immunises when young people miss their scheduled immunisations and arranges medication, such as ADHD tablets.

As of September 2020 the School Nurse has resumed her weekly attendance within the YOS.

**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 the RESPECT Domestic Abuse programme.

A Youth Justice Officer, who is a trained counsellor, also delivers a 'Mindfulness' Course for parents jointly with the Education Psychologist, who also provides clinical supervision.

**Trauma-Informed Practice:** A training programme was delivered jointly between the YOS-commissioned Educational Psychologist (who is a trauma specialist) and the Parenting Worker (who is mental health trained) on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's). This was followed by an intervention programme, which included staff clinical supervision and screening of all young people coming into the service. The Ed Psychologist is a trauma specialist so works with young people who are displaying severe trauma. This advice has remained throughout lockdown as services have continued to be delivered. Also, as a result of lockdown the Parenting Worker and the Education Psychologist delivered the 'Take 3' programme virtually to parents, which is a bespoke Trauma programme specifically; this has been very well received as several parents have informed us that the last few

months have been challenging, particularly trying to manage the behaviours of complex teenagers.

**Complex & Contextual 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 Looked After 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.

At a strategic level the YOS Management Team are represented through the Stockport Safeguarding Children's Partnership arrangements 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, 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.

The YOS contribute a 0.4 Officer into the Aspire (Complex Safeguarding) Team and are represented on the strategic Complex Safeguarding Board. Youth Justice Team Leaders sit on a number of groups including the Staying Safe Panel. These functions are replicated at a practice level and all relevant staff are trained on the Phoenix Tool to identify child sexual exploitation (CSE).

**Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE):** Learning from our Manchester neighbours and working across the GM conurbation, Stockport was involved in a CCE-Mapping exercise with GMCA to heighten our understanding of peers, associations and triggers that identify children living in Stockport at risk. Practice staff and Managers within the service have received a broad range of training on the subject, both locally and at a GM level. The Youth Justice Officer who sits within Aspire takes a lead on CCE.

**Missing From Home (MFH):** There are a significant 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 support the Missing Hub within the MASSH, which ensures that actions relating to missing children are co-ordinated centrally and the YOS has a SW resource that acts as the central point for liaison. Training and advice is delivered to care home providers and the YOS have delivered on a number of different areas to the Residential Providers Forum.

**Substance Misuse:** YOS in partnership with MOSAIC (young people's substance misuse service) offer bespoke drug and alcohol awareness sessions for young people identified as requiring such a service. This ensures that awareness is increased 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. Lockdown has limited some interventions but both services are based together within Central House and coordination of service delivery has remained in place.

**Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE):** The YOS are represented on the 'Channel Panel', attending Panel Meetings and offering advice and guidance on any children and young people open to Channel. All YOS staff have completed mandatory training around PVE to recognise the early signs and vulnerabilities of young people being susceptible to extremism. Furthermore, a Youth Justice Team Leader and Case Manager are both trainers of this level 2 training after completing a 'Train the Trainer' course and delivered this across the council last year. Currently panels are taking place virtually and checks are done against all referrals.

**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 undertook a significant piece of work around Hate Crime, which led to the development of a short film which offered a unique insight into how Hate Crime impacts on victims and the wider community. This intervention is available to all children and young people that have been identified as linked to Hate Crime, whether it be as an offence-related incident or through held beliefs, thoughts, words or actions. The inaugural full day conference across the borough looking specifically at this issue, which was due to take place earlier this year, had to be cancelled so it is hoped that it will be able to be rescheduled for next year.

**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. This is now delivered jointly with Stockport Families First Intensive Support Workers and the benefit is that we can also focus on families where this behaviour results in the young person being accommodated or at risk of being placed in care. Additionally, the YOS work with young people who are experiencing domestic abuse in close relationships. RESPECT is a group-led programme, but individual packages of support can also be tailored as appropriate.

The YOS are represented at a senior level on the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and a Young Person's IDVA (Independent

Domestic Violence Advocate) was also working with the service.

## GM YOUTH JUSTICE TRANSFORMATION:

9.1 GMCA have developed a dedicated thematic area through the GM Youth Justice Transformation Board which works closely with the GM Youth Justice Heads of Service and nominated GM DCS in shaping the GM Youth Justice agenda. The following gives a flavour of some of the workstreams that have been developed:

**Serious Youth Violence:** GMCA have devolved funding through the GM Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the GM Community Safety Partnerships. The conditions of the GMCA grant require:

*That plans again prioritise prevention at a primary, secondary and tertiary level, and have a specific focus on children, young people and young adults. We will expect to see evidence that this money is being invested into projects and interventions that are already delivering positive outcomes for the target audiences, as well as developing good practice that can be shared with partners across Greater Manchester and with other VRUs nationally.*

The Safer Stockport Partnership have developed an action plan which has been approved by the GM Deputy Mayor/PCC and is well placed to sustain existing provision that was developed in the first round of funding in 2019. This project is managed by the Stockport Service Lead for Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support.

**Disproportionality:** GMCA have worked with the 10 GM Youth Justice partnerships to develop a data-sharing agreement that has enabled several years of data and information to be made available for analysis to review trends and inform and shape service delivery. Individual analytic packs have been prepared for each GM YJ Partnership. It is intended that this will be run again based on more recent data.

The GM Heads of YOS requested have requested this year that a similar deep dive is done into 'disproportionality' data, by division, to enable us to review the numbers of children and young people coming through the youth justice system by ethnicity, gender, age and defined cultural group.

The YJB have revised their Disproportionality Toolkit and our current case management system software provider, CACI, are also developing tools within the CMS. All this will assist Stockport in developing a better understanding of the youth justice cohort.

**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 are offered the option to engage and comply, regardless of where they live, and that the same consequences are in place should they choose not to engage.

There has been a significant amount of work done this year to look at the high numbers of children that become 'known' to the police but the case doesn't proceed; either because it is '*not in the public interest*' or '*the victim doesn't support prosecution*'. The VRU have focused on these areas and are developing pilot areas in Bury and Tameside to review all cases and review the impact on numbers coming into the system and the subsequent offending rates.

The GM OOC Scrutiny Panel has been revised which reviews cases on a regular basis from across GM to ensure that the correct processes have been followed and the right outcome achieved.

**GM Youth Courts:** Under normal circumstances the main youth court operates from Manchester City (serving 6 of the boroughs) whilst Stockport operates a youth court, one day a week, from Stockport Magistrates Court also serving East Cheshire and the High Peak. The GM Youth Court Bench co-ordinates youth magistrates provision. Management of the Saturday/Bank Holiday bail and remand courts are shared across GM and Stockport YOS are actively involved picking up 'Gold Duty' on a rota.

Stockport is represented on the GM Youth Court Users Group and the GM Deputy Chair of the Youth Bench sits on the YOS Partnership Board.

Lockdown meant that there was a significant backlog of cases across GM waiting to be listed and little capacity to deal with them all. The GM satellite courts are now sitting and Stockport lists new cases whilst the backlog is cleared through Manchester City.

**Children in Police Custody:** GMP are working to develop a Child-Centred Policing Model, and 'children in police custody' is one of the first areas under the spotlight. The Stockport Service Lead for Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support is the GM lead for all 10 LA's in overseeing 'children in police custody' on behalf of the other GM Youth Justice Services.

By challenging existing practice in the overnight detention of children in police custody it is ensuring that more child-focused practice is adopted across GM. This has included a GM multi-agency meeting, joint action plan and a training programme for custody sergeants across GMP. The recent refurbishment plans of Longsight Custody Suite has been informed by the group, to ensure that children/vulnerability cells are separated from the main wing and to ensure safeguarding remains as the number one priority.

The GM contract for Appropriate Adult Services is led by Stockport on behalf of GM and the current provider for children and vulnerable adults in police custody is Child Action North

West (CANW). This operates every day, including evening and weekends and continues to be to provide a single point of contact. Similarly, GMCA continue to commission a GM-wide Integrated Health Liaison and Diversion Partnership (IHLDP) to operate within all the GM Custody Suites and the Magistrates Courts. Trained mental health nurses assess each person for their mental health needs and liaison workers then divert them through to appropriate service.

GM Childrens' Services have agreed to jointly fund a S.38 PACE Bed to reduce the numbers of children held in overnight detention. This was a spot purchasing arrangement through MCC last year and is now available equally for all authorities to access.

Social distancing within police custody has been a real challenge and the availability of PPE was initially problematic. GMP have tried to ensure that children were not brought into custody unnecessarily and in the first couple of months of lockdown the numbers were less than half compared to the year before. We have noted however that over the past 2 months that numbers have increased and have now surpassed last year's figures, which is probably indicative of the need to clear the backlog and deal with the increasing numbers of children 'released under investigation'.

GM are not complacent about the approach to children in police custody and continue to strive to achieve better outcomes and reduce numbers, particularly those in overnight detention. It is a difficult task across such a large conurbation, and this has been exacerbated by the lockdown restrictions because some of the multi-agency activities have had to be curtailed. This commitment had been recently recognised as we have been advised that 'The Howard League for Penal Reform' have shortlisted the GM Partnership for their 'National Community Awards' to be held in October 2020 in the 'Policing and Children' category.

**Health and Justice:** The GM Health and Justice Strategic Board have highlighted the health needs of children and young people in the youth justice system as one of 3 priority areas. GM Heads of Youth Justice Services are actively involved in commissioning discussions for trauma-based programmes, speech and language provision and mental health input.

Additional funding through NHS England has been secured this year for Speech & Language provision in Youth Justice Services.

**Custody and Resettlement:** The Greater Manchester Resettlement Consortium is being reinstated and GMCA are supportive of the need for a centrally co-ordinated post and team to support it. GMCA and the GM DCS' jointly fund a full-time Senior Social Worker based in HMYOI Wetherby, to specifically review the safeguarding needs of young people.

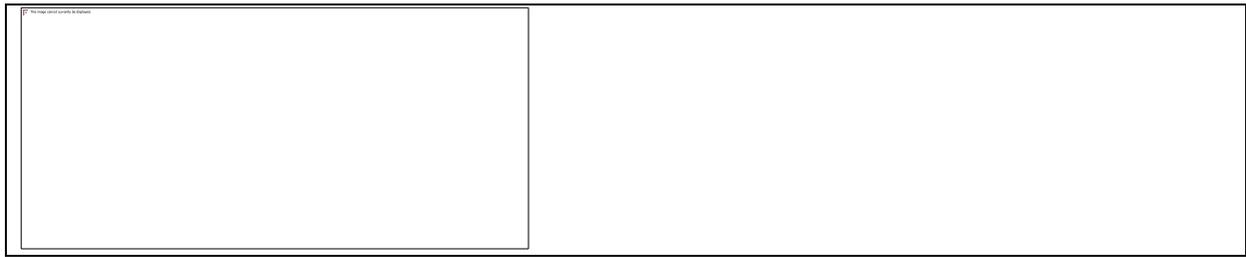
**Association of YOT Managers (AYM):** Not under the jurisdiction of GM, the AYM is a well-regarded national professional body for Youth Justice Managers in England. The association is able to draw on the wealth of knowledge and breadth of experience to promote public understanding and shape youth crime policy. Stockport is represented on the AYM and the Service Lead for Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support is the NW Regional Lead for the association and as a Director sits on the National Executive: <https://aym.org.uk>



**Sector-Led Improvement:** The Youth Justice Sector Improvement programme (YJSIP) is a partnership between the Association of YOT Managers (AYM), the Youth Justice Sector and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and is governed through the AYM Executive.

YJSIP is committed to sector improvement investment and development offers several programmes of training and development to youth justice professionals. It has developed an expertise in Peer Reviews, based on the LGA model, and offers up to 6 Peer Reviews a year throughout England & Wales, delivered through trained Youth Justice professionals and partners. These have been undertaken and received by almost 50 local authority Youth Justice Partnerships and the programme has been subject to academic evaluation.

The YJSIP are exploring ways of delivering training virtually and discussions about how Peer Reviews will be held in the future are being considered. A programme of training is planned to restart in the autumn. Stockport Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support Lead is both the AYM rep and one of the North West regional reps on the YJSIP Programme Board

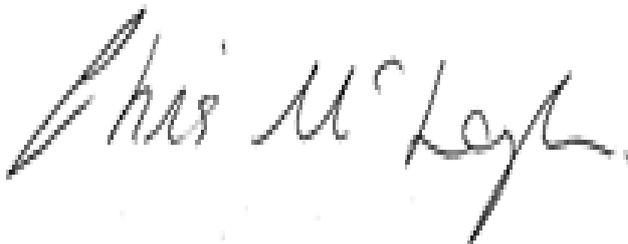


<b>Stockport YOS Partnership Board            Priorities 2020/2021</b>			
Priority	Reason	Action	Expected outcome
<b>Covid Recovery</b>	The global pandemic has affected every single household, business and the economy.	To continue implement a recovery model, which 'restores, reinvents and retains' the service	The ability to continue to deliver high quality youth justice and targeted youth provision within Stockport
<b>Disproportionality</b>	The current datasets and toolkits to determine levels of disproportionality are limited.	To work with data analysis and software providers to develop an effective toolkit that will determine levels of disproportionality within the YJ cohort.	Improved outcomes for children at risk of entering the youth justice system and also increased awareness across all key stakeholders.
<b>Business Intelligence</b>	Improved Business Intelligence to enable better local data and analysis that isn't dependent on national targets.	Employment of a BI resource that will focus on the Youth Justice data.	Better understanding of data to assist practitioners and aid the YOS partnership Board in being proactive and forward looking.
<b>Serious Youth Violence &amp; Desistance</b>	To reduce levels of serious youth violence, including knife and weapon enabled crime.	To work with the GM VRU to implement strategies to reduce violent crime.	Reduction in children becoming involved in serious youth violence.

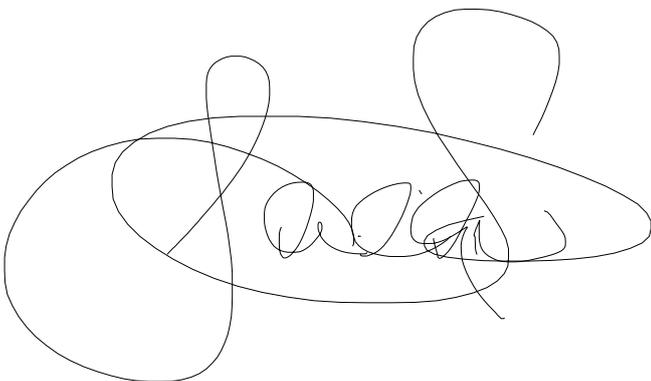
<b>Transitions</b>	To improve the transitional arrangements, particularly with NPS & CRC as they reform to become GM Probation.	Develop better transition policies and practice and improve links with Integrated Offender Management (Spotlight)	An increased focus on the specific needs of the 18-25 year old cohort and the enhanced intervention at transition phase.
<b>Cross-Border Case Transfers</b>	To improve the case transfer arrangements between authorities	Work with GM YJ Services to review the Transfer Protocol & develop local policy	To ensure that case transfers are effective, and communication is improved.
<b>Peer-Led Practice</b>	Improve peer-led processes within the service	Improved oversight for supervision and entrenched cases.	Improved case management, upskilling practitioners.

## APPROVAL AND SIGN OFF:

Signed:



**Chris McLoughlin**  
 Director of Children's Services (Stockport Council)  
 Chair of the YOS Partnership Board



**Jacqui Belfield-Smith**

*Service Lead: Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support*

*Date: TBC (post approval)*

**Appendix 1:**

## **Youth Justice Covid-19 Recovery Plan**

### **Introduction**

The impact of Covid-19 has obviously affected all services and communities, and youth justice is no exception. The following gives brief details some of the impact, the contingencies put in place and the initial recovery plans going forward. The model is constantly being reassessed dependent on local corporate guidance, regional lockdowns and national policy. Management and Practice Staff are briefed regularly on these changes and every care is taken to ensure their health and safety is paramount.

### **Police Custody:**

The numbers of children going through police custody reduced significantly in the first 2 months of lockdown as GMP tried to ensure that children were not arrested unnecessarily and brought into the custody suite environments.

The GM Children in Police Custody group continued to meet every 6 weeks during lockdown and focused on Safeguarding, the availability of PPE and the functions of the provider services (the Integrated Healthcare Teams and the Appropriate Adult Service). Access to GMP iOPS data continues to present a problem and this has been raised at a senior level.

The numbers of children going through custody is starting to rise now to pre-Covid levels. The number of children 'Released Under Investigation' is quite substantial across GM, and anticipate that this will cause problems with caseloads rising further down the line with charging decisions and subsequent court listings.

The child-centred policing model continues its focus on children in police custody and has committed senior GMP Officers and oversight.

### **Pre-Court & Out of Court Disposals (OOC):**

Youth Cautions (YC's) and Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC's) have not risen to any noticeable degree there was an increase initially in Community Resolutions. Potentially because the police are trying avoid unnecessary arrests so trying to divert cases.

The OOC D Diversion Panel continues to meet weekly and the YOS PC checks all cases coming through. Any Community Resolutions that are inappropriate have been sent back for reconsideration. We are looking to develop a local multi-agency Scrutiny function to ensure a consistent approach in decision-making.

After an initial lull in March & April there is now an increase in Youth Disorder and ASB. The Youth Disorder Panel (YDP) is under review, so the cases are being discussed with the individual Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Discussions are in place to formalise a virtual YDP arrangements so that civil cases and ASB can be reviewed by the multi-agency partnership.

Early Intervention referrals for young people at risk of entering the system have continued to be referred and allocated but the numbers were reduced initially, as many of these referrals came through schools. We expect the numbers to increase now that schools are open again.

Targeted Youth Support is starting to run again and will be providing group programmes in 'bubbles' observing social distancing. Community programmes, such as football and other activities have restarted and children open to TYS are being offered external contacts.

#### ***Criminal Court:***

During the initial period of lockdown there was a significant restriction in the numbers of children going through court. All cases were being dealt with centrally through Manchester Magistrates and liaison with the GM Youth Court Bench was good.

Currently the backlog of cases are still going through Manchester Mags (and the Crown Courts) but new cases are being listed in Stockport (where we are also picking up cases for East Cheshire and the High Peak) and the past few weeks have seen full listings everyday time the court are sitting. Cases are given allocated time slots and this appears to be working.

The GM Court User group is working on a recovery plan to clear the backlog and liaising with GM youth Justice on a regular basis. Stockport Youth Justice continue support the court team on the GM rota in Manchester.

#### ***Community Supervision:***

Initially those children presenting with the highest levels of risk, safety and well-being continued to receive face-to-face contact from the start of lockdown; as they were the most difficult to manage virtually. Intensive Supervision & Surveillance (ISS) had to be varied from national standards but every single child has had their risk assessment

updated, which informed their level of contact.

Virtual interventions and online programmes were delivered throughout lockdown to children and their families who present a lower level of risk, safety and well-being. Some have worked well, and some less so, as some children are very difficult to engage. The bonus has been the additional support that has been provided to parents & carers, who have appreciated and utilised the support. As lockdown restrictions are easing more programme and interventions are now being delivered within the community on a face-to-face basis within strict social distancing guidelines and updated risk assessments.

Knife Crime and Serious Youth Violence work has continued and a 1-1 Tier 3 virtual programme has been delivered and we are looking at different options for delivering the programme in schools. The Community Safety Partnership (SSP) has secured Serious Violence Reduction Funding via GMCA and whilst it is reduced by half compared to last year, it does allow us to sustain and embed some of the partnership programmes that were developed.

Restorative Justice provision has had to be varied but it has continued. Victims were initially being contacted virtually but this is set to change, 'Reparation at Home' packs have been developed for children to complete and Unpaid Work is restarting.

Referral Order Panels have continued virtually and whilst some of our volunteers have felt unable to engage during lockdown we have been fortunate in that some Panel Members have been incredibly helpful and this has allowed all cases to be scheduled and heard virtually without any gaps.

Parenting programmes continue to be delivered virtually and a new online trauma programme has been developed that is specifically for parents & carers.

#### ***Secure Settings:***

HM YOI Wetherby continues to be the secure setting where most of the GM children sentenced to custody go. Initially lockdown presented a very restrictive regime, with no visits (professional or family) and longer periods of confinement. The boys in Wetherby have been given more phone credit which has increased the limited number of calls they can make, and this includes professionals involved in their care.

The situation is starting to ease and children are accessing education and association again. Family visits are being reinstated and it is anticipated that restricted visits will start again in some form in the near future. GM liaison with Wetherby is regularly scheduled.

Stockport's numbers of children in custody remains low but those that are in the secure estate continue to remain many miles from home.

#### ***Transition and Resettlement:***

Probation have continued to liaise with Youth Justice during lockdown and the NPS

Officer was based within the YOS rather than working across both services in the first couple of months. Transition cases continue to be assessed and managed and the arrangements of the joint officer ensures continuity. Recently some high risk cases have also been referred into Spotlight (IOM).

Liaison has continued with schools regarding any children in education and we are preparing for numbers to increase and links with wider Stockport Family services to increase. The 16+ opportunities in particular have suffered during lockdown and it is hoped that the easing of restrictions will assist with young people accessing further education, apprenticeships and employment.

Health services, such as HYMS, SALT and Ed Psych have continued throughout lockdown and referrals have continued to come in. As restrictions are eased the numbers coming through will increase and face to face referrals and assessments will resume.