



STOCKPORT YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024/25



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL



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Section 1: Introduction, Vision and Strategy

As the Chair of the Youth Justice Partnership Board, I endorse this year's plan on behalf of the Board. 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 & Complex Safeguarding Service is monitored through the Youth Justice Partnership Board, which in turn reports to the Stockport Family Partnership Board and the One Safer Stockport Partnership (OSSP). Stockport Children's Safeguarding Executive (LSB) also receives updates and reports as required.

Youth Justice and Complex Safeguarding Service are proud to be part of the 'Stockport Family' integration, which has brought together colleagues from across the whole of children's services and education, including partners from the NHS, to work in a more collaborative and better coordinated way. The Youth Justice Plan is a key document on the Council's Forward Plan. Therefore, it goes through full democratic processes for scrutiny and oversight before final approval and adoption at full Council.

We have had another busy year, and the board have been instrumental in leading on the development of our Prevention and Diversion offer, to strengthen the links with Early Help and our Family Hubs. The new performance framework is welcomed by partners and will include the revised key performance partnership indicators. I am pleased to report that we have implemented the recommendations of the Youth Justice HMI Inspection Action Plan, and as Chair of the Board, I undertook to build upon the strengths that were identified and ensure that the areas for improvement were implemented through clear accountability arrangements across the partnership, and to ensure that any longer-term actions were captured within our priorities going forward. The progress against these, will be clear within this plan and we continue to scrutinise any areas that the partnership needs to progress further to meet our exacting standards.

Chris McLoughlin OBE
Executive Director People and Neighbourhoods
Director of Children's Services
Chair Youth Justice Partnership Board

June 2024



“The Youth Justice Partnership, and associated services, 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. The board is committed to supporting ways of working that 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, 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 Youth Justice Partnership Board will adopt a ‘child first’ principle for children within the youth justice system, which focuses on getting **‘the right support at the right time’** for children and families who are struggling”.*

Our Commitment to Understanding and Respecting Diversity

“Stockport Youth Justice Service and the wider Youth Justice Partnership Board believe that all children, young people and their families who are working with us have the right to equal access to all appropriate services from the Youth Justice Service and its partners, and not to feel excluded because of their age, gender, disability, ethnic background, skin colour, language, faith, health, social and economic backgrounds, sexuality or other prejudice”.

Section 2: Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements



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.

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.

Stockport's Youth Justice Partnership Board (YJPB) meets quarterly. It is represented by senior partners from the key agencies that contribute to the partnership to ensure that youth justice and related interventions are delivered in partnership across the borough.

Members of the Youth Justice Partnership Board support the service in overcoming any barriers to effective multi-agency working. The Board is well represented, and attendance is continually good and representative of the wide range of agencies who support youth justice provision across the partnership.

The Youth Justice Partnership Board reports jointly to the One Safer Stockport Partnership (OSSP) and the Stockport Family Partnership Board. Other relevant Boards, such as the

Safeguarding Executive Partnership also receive regular reports. The Youth Justice Plan goes through full democratic processes, including relevant Scrutiny Committees and as a 'key document' in the Council Forward Plan it needs to be approved and adopted formally by the Council.

The Chair of the Board (Executive Director for People & Neighbourhoods & also the Director of Children's Services) has been a member of the Board since 2009 and chaired the Board since Jan 2013. The Vice-Chair (Director of Place), has been a member for since 2017. Statutory representation includes Probation, Police, Health, Education & Social Care. The Cabinet Lead for Children, Families and Education also attends the board. Other representatives include GM Youth Court, Stockport Homes, Ethnic Diversity Service, Business Intelligence and Stockport Family Service Directors and Principal Leads. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) NW Regional Lead also attends the Board. Over the past year, aside from standard agenda items on performance & priorities, the 2024/25 agendas have included:

- *Youth Justice Health Offer*
- *Youth Justice Education, Training & Employment (position paper)*
- *Probation Service National Partnership Framework*
- *Adolescent Safeguarding Framework*
- *Child-Centred Policing Plan (divisional)*
- *Child-Centred Custody (children in police custody) HMIC report and CHPS Pilot*
- *Children & Young People's Voice ('Mind of My Own' survey feedback)*
- *First Time Entrants; crossmatch with Early Help*
- *Youth Justice & Complex Safeguarding Merger*
- *Youth Justice Service Funding (2023/24)*
- *Youth Justice Case Audit (QA) paper*
- *Court 'National Standards' Audit*
- *Youth Justice Board ToR*
- *Youth Endowment Fund toolkit*
- *YJB Oversight Framework*
- *YJ Race & Ethnicity Reports*
- *Policies for YJPB Approval*
 - *Out of Court Policy*
 - *Custody & Resettlement Strategy*

Stockport Youth Justice & Complex Safeguarding sits within 'Stockport Family', an integrated children's services model which includes Stockport NHS. The Head of the Youth Justice has responsibility for Youth Justice, Complex Safeguarding & Targeted Youth Services, she is also the SRO for Serious Violence Reduction (on behalf of the One Safer Stockport).

The Service also takes a lead on 'Targeted Youth Support' and the delivery of 'Detached Youth Work' Services. This includes management of some of the community safety budgets, including the Serious Violence VRU funding. This has enabled a number of commissioning arrangements to be put in place with local voluntary and community sector providers, including a wide range of sporting activities, youth interventions and community projects. Specific details are contained in the operational 'priority areas' sections. The service also delivered on the community-led initiatives in partnership with the GM VRU (Violence Reduction Unit).

Section 3: Update on the Previous Year

Progress on Priorities in Previous Plan:

The priorities for the YJ Partnership last year were focused on the HMIP Inspection Action Plan, following the HMIP Inspection in July 2022. There were seven recommendation within the report, and this have been monitored closely through the Youth Justice Partnership Board and the Youth Justice Management Team.

They are detailed on the following page with a brief synopsis of the actions taken as a result:

| Action | Progress |
|--|--|
| The Chair of the YJS Partnership Board should make sure that board members fully understand their roles and responsibilities and are proactive in holding each agency to account, to ensure YJS resources effectively meet the specific needs of YJS children. | Membership was renewed shortly before the inspection, due to a few retirements, which meant members had joined the Board. A development Day was held focusing on their roles, responsibilities, and expectations. The Induction pack and ToR was renewed, and each member had now been offered a personal 1-1 with the Chair of the Board and the Head of service as part of their induction. |
| The Youth Justice Partnership Board should review the capacity in the management structure to ensure effective management oversight is provided to all YJS cases. | In response to the HMIP Inspection an Assistant Service Lead has been appointed on a temporary basis to March 2025 to alleviate some of the management pressures within the team. |
| The Youth Justice Partnership Board should ensure that current plans and discussions translate into effective arrangements to capture the views of children and families, so that their participation impacts on service delivery going forward. | The previous participation programme through Coram Voice was ended just before the HMI inspection took place and plans were in place for a new revised model. The participation engagement model was reviewed and delivered through MOMO (Mind of My Own) which has elicited children's voice and feedback through a digital platform, in addition to existing forums and feedback. |
| The Youth Justice Partnership Board should ensure pathways are in place to facilitate YJS practitioners contributing at the earliest opportunity to the assessment and safety planning of children at risk of exploitation. | As a result of the inspection recommendations, and the GM Adolescent Safeguarding Framework developments, Youth Justice and Complex Safeguarding were merged under one management structure in April 2024, to ensure that early intervention cases could be identified at the earliest opportunity and ensure that was no risk of duplication or silo working. |
| The Youth Justice Partnership Board should make sure that all YJS children receive their legal entitlement to education provision and proactive work is undertaken to reduce school exclusions. | A significant amount of work as taken place with education colleagues and the Virtual School, which culminated in updates being provided with the YJ Partnership Board, and an assurance that ETE would be kept on the agenda and monitored regularly. |
| The Youth Justice Partnership Board should work with the police to implement effective information sharing which ensures the YJS is routinely informed of all children who receive a police sanction. This is to maximise all opportunities of working with children and their families at the earliest stage. | An extensive programme of work had been put in place through GMP (Greater Manchester Police), working in partnership with GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) and GM Youth Justice Services, this includes child-centred policing and child-centred (police) custody. This includes reviews of all existing pathways, information-sharing and the considerations for deferred prosecution and Outcome 22. |
| The Youth Justice Head of Service should improve the quality of assessment, planning, implementation and delivery and review of post court work, which effectively utilises information and intelligence from other agencies and informs risk analysis, safety planning and effective interventions. | A significant programme of work took place to address these recommendations, which included specialist training for all officers, a reviewed QA model focusing on thematic areas, which renewed policies and procedures in place to support them. This was aligned to the management capacity raised in recommendation 1. |

Performance over the Previous Year:

The Youth Justice Partnership Board receives a regular performance report at each meeting, this is based on data and information contained within the Youth Justice 'Tableau Dashboard' as developed by the SMBC Business Intelligence Team.

This contains a wealth of information, including the national data returns and the local performance data, some of which is detailed below. The Youth Justice Partnership is also submitted quarterly data based on the 10 new KPI's as implemented through MoJ and monitored through the YJB. These will begin to be published from March 2025.

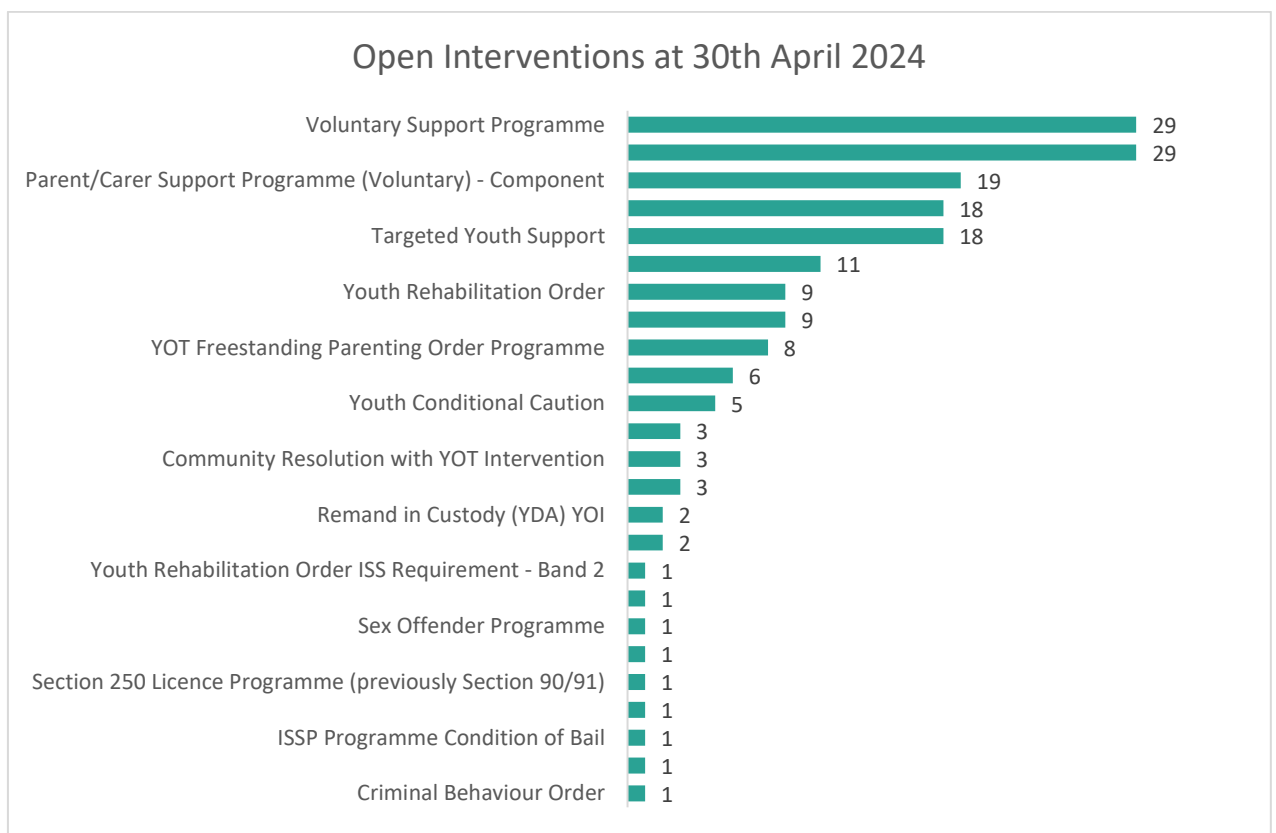
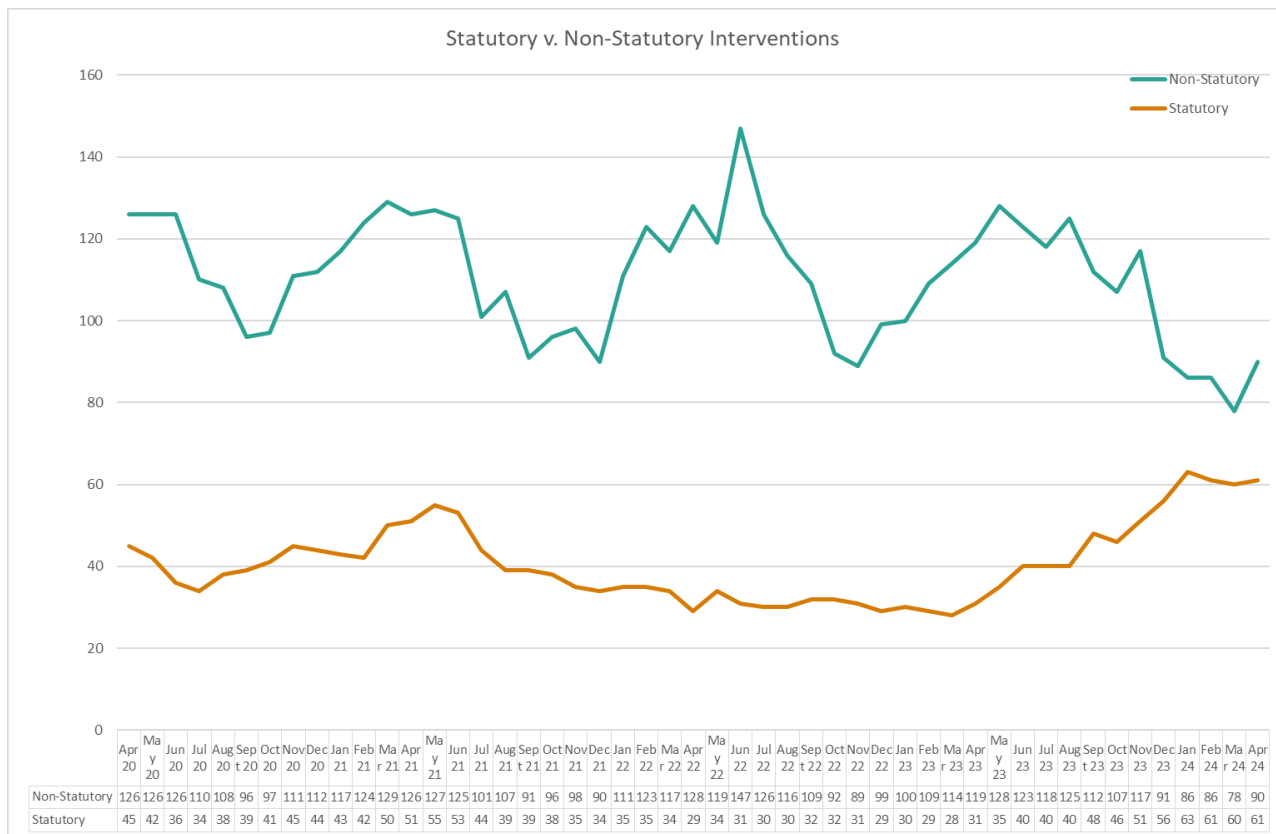
The performance data, both quantitative and qualitative is scrutinised carefully by the YJPB and thematic areas are developed for further discussion as a result, to enable the partnership to explore fully any barriers and areas for opportunities.

The tables below show us that the number of statutory interventions has risen this year, whilst the number of voluntary offers has fallen. The rise in **First Time Entrants** is due mainly to the increase in arrests seen across the 10 GM districts, whilst the impact of the MoJ Turnaround programme has seen more early intervention offered pre-charge.

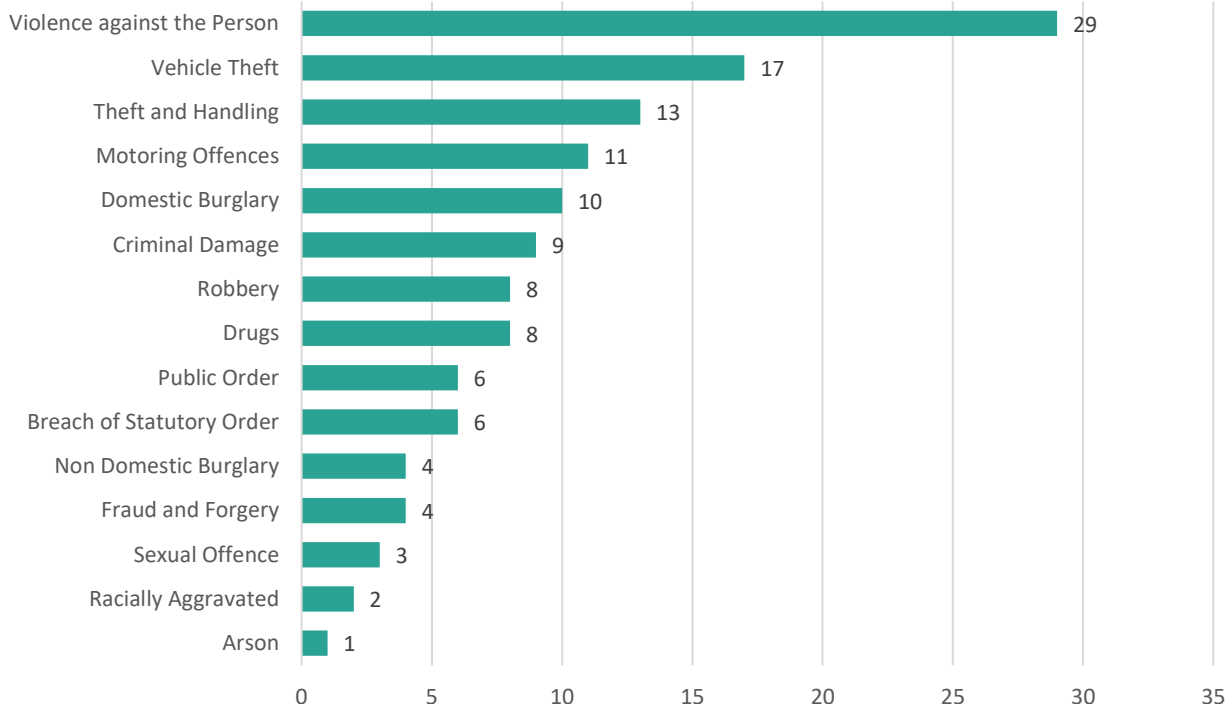
'Violence Against the Person' continues to be the highest index offence with the greatest number of interventions, followed by Vehicle Theft, Theft & Handling and Motoring Offences.

The binary **Rate of Reoffending** has dropped, which shows the impact of early intervention, whilst the frequency rate of existing offenders 'reoffending' remains high, which is indicative of a small number of entrenched and prolific young people committing multiple offences. This remains a focus for the partnership.

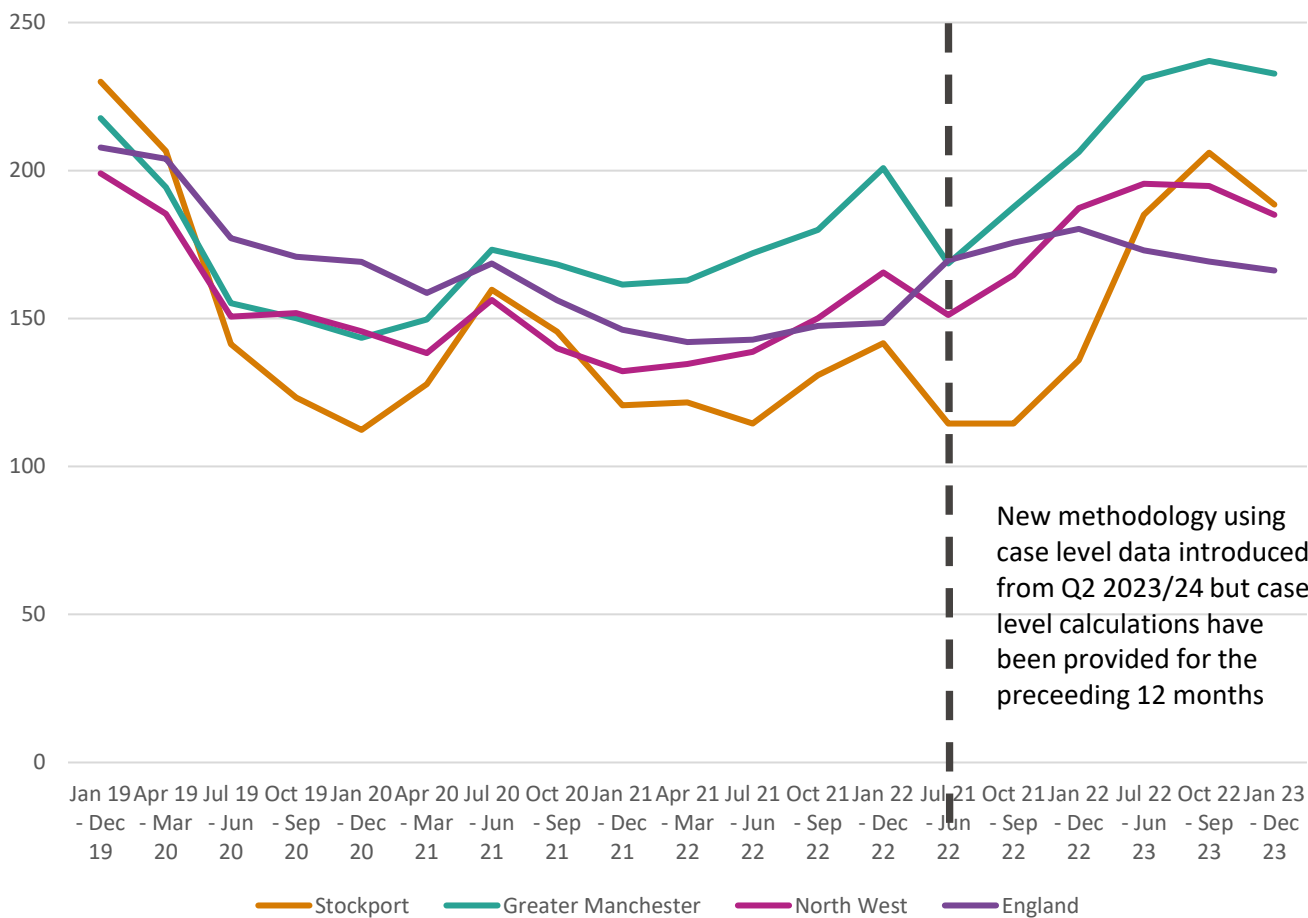
The **Use of Custody** has reduced, but the rate of remand has changed, as last year there were a number of long remands for grave offences, whilst this year there are shorter remands for repeat offenders who have breached multiple offences, leaving limited options available to the court. This is being monitored carefully, with alternative solutions being sought through Stockport's involvement in the GM Remand Pilot, as supported through MoJ.

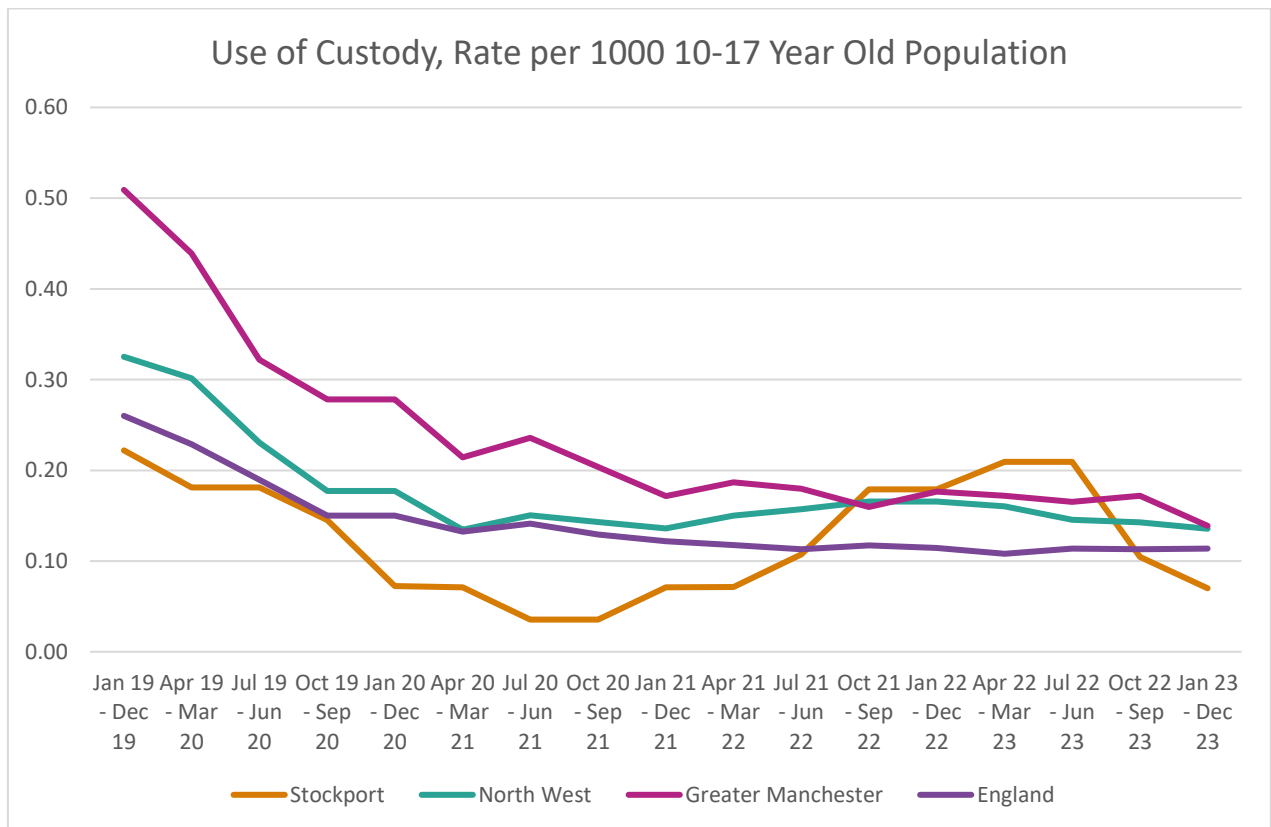
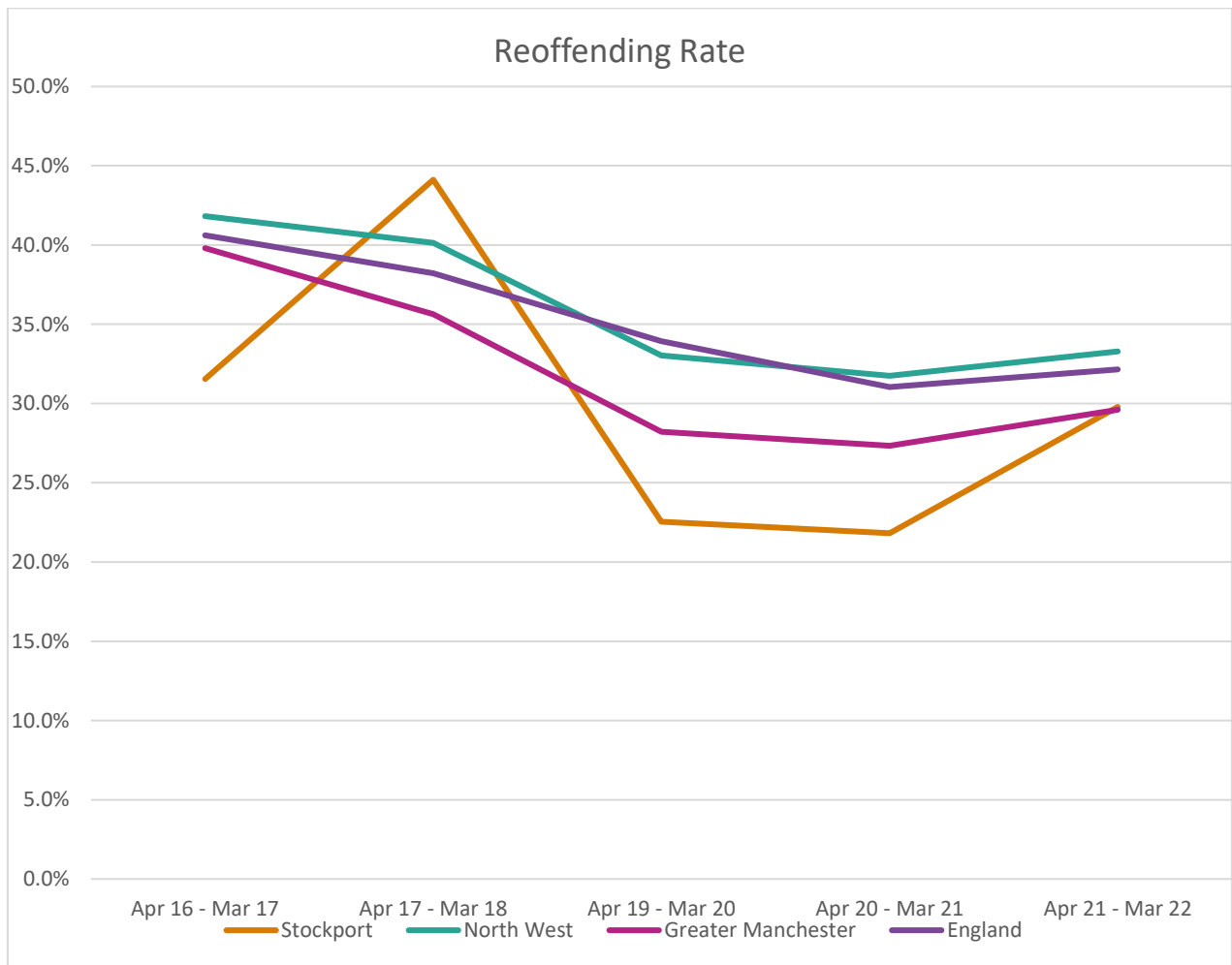


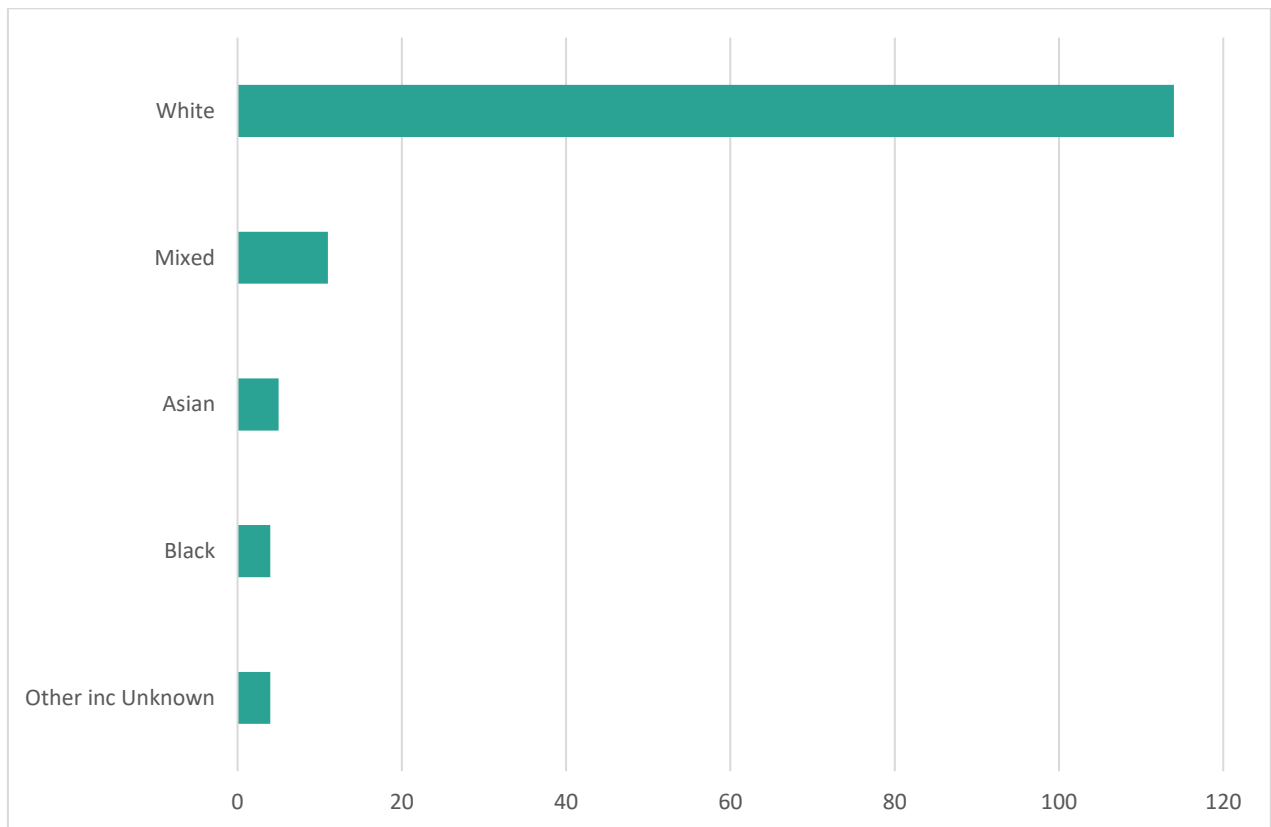
Open Interventions, Linked Offences at 30th April 2024



Rate of First Time Entrants







Risks and Issues

Risks: a potential or emerging factor which may impede the delivery of positive outcomes for children in your area:

| Risks | Proposed Action |
|--|--|
| Continued uncertainty around sustainable funding, including the need for multi-year settlements. Short term funding with prescriptive terms and conditions of grants which require reviews of referral pathway and impact of seamless service deliver. | <i>National and regional lobbying and liaison on government direction in funding.</i> |
| Funding settlements that fail to cover the cost-of-living increases, including pay rises and provider charges, therefore representing a real terms decrease. | <i>As above, plus review existing arrangements and negotiate with current providers.</i> |
| Capacity of the service to deal with the increasing referrals due to Outcome 22/PPIED/NFA cases. | <i>Continued work with GMP and the need for prioritisation of cases.</i> |

| | |
|---|---|
| Management capacity to continue to lead on several areas as services are enhance, including the merger of the service with Complex Safeguarding & Missing from Home; whilst also ensuring emerging auditing and monitoring statutory requirements are followed. | <i>Ensure focus on clear work plans to set direction of travel, avoid areas of duplication whilst being responsive to emerging needs.</i> |
| The current health partnership offer, which is funded through a short-term grant, and issues about sustainability. | <i>Keep on the YJPB agenda and open discussions with ICB and GMCA.</i> |
| The need for continued review of EDI & participation to ensure that the service is meaningful and is responsive to the changing demographic and the voice of children. | <i>Review areas of best practice and ‘what works’ Scrutinise data and keep abreast of emerging research and thematic findings to remain responsive.</i> |
| The need for continued review of EDI & participation to ensure that the service is meaningful and is responsive to the changing demographic and the voice of children. | <i>Review areas of best practice and ‘what works’ Scrutinise data and keep abreast of emerging research and thematic findings to remain responsive.</i> |
| Victims, challenge to maintain the victim perspective consistently and ensure that it is represented in all aspects of service delivery. | <i>Review the pending requirements within the HMIP Framework and consider the current offer to ensure it is fit for purpose.</i> |

Issues: *something which has already occurred or is currently happening which is affecting outcomes:*

| Issues | Proposed Action |
|--|--|
| Coordinated Cross-Border information & intelligence to address contextual safeguarding and the response to serious violence. | <i>Implementation of the CSPR recommendations and the GM VRU responses implemented locally.</i> |
| Education, continued review of the current offer and the alignment with virtual schools. | <i>Continued development of the working arrangements and information-sharing that is already taking place.</i> |
| The alignment with Family Hubs and the detached youth work offer, including the response to locality ASB and youth disorder. | <i>Arrangements in place to development the adolescent offer with links to schools.</i> |

| | |
|--|---|
| The alignment with Family Hubs and the detached youth work offer, including the response to locality ASB and youth disorder. | <i>Arrangements in place to development the adolescent offer with links to schools.</i> |
| Consistency and regularity of GMP data to enable us to implement our prevention and diversion processes. | <i>A GMP-wide approach through Child-Centered Policing to ensure that there is consistency of data across all districts, centrally coordinated.</i> |
| The implementation of the Adolescent Safeguarding Framework to ensure early identification. | <i>Workstreams in place to get this embedded across Stockport Family.</i> |

Section 4: Plans for the Forthcoming Year

Child First:

Stockport Youth Justice and Complex Safeguarding Service implements the Youth Justice Board’s vision of embedding a “Child First” youth justice system”. The service embraces the four pillars of the ‘Child First Principles’ that are outlined below:

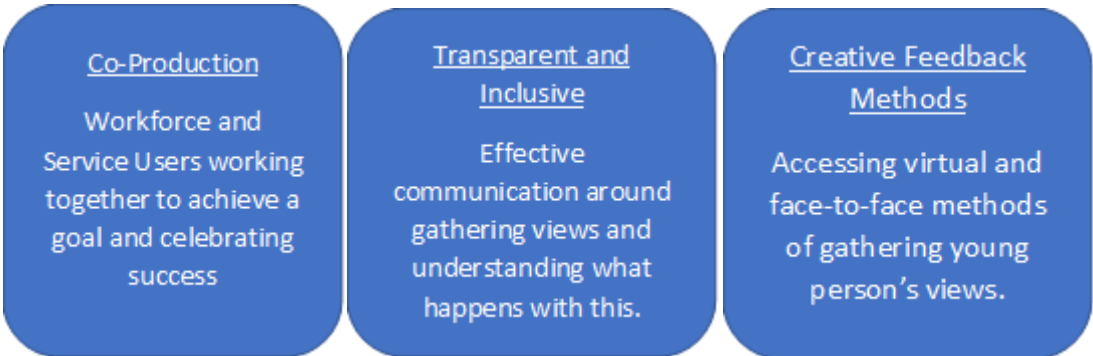
- Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.
- Promote children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their prosocial identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.
- Encourage children’s active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their family/carers.
- Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion, and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.



The Youth Justice Partnership and wider services are committed to listening to the “Voice of the Child” and placing the child at the centre of their intervention. The service has created a Participation Strategy to detail our current efforts to ensure effective participation whereby we are listening to children to inform and shape service delivery.

Stockport Youth Justice and Complex Safeguarding Service currently access the ‘Voice of the Child’ through a variety of methods including electronic feedback through self-assessments for children, parents, and carers, through AssetPlus and Pre-Court Assessments. There are also informal discussions throughout interventions, including post-order contact to ascertain feedback. Social media is also accessed through the “Targeted Youth Services” Facebook page and X (Twitter) updates. We continue to build upon our “You Said, We Did” approach to ensure that feedback is meaningful, collaborative, and beneficial for all involved.

The Stockport Participation Method currently focuses on the three pillars:



The service acknowledges that young people would benefit from multiple forums to share their views. During initial contact with the service a Code of Conduct is provided, alongside information regarding information sharing and what to expect of the service. This is currently being re-formatted with consultation from our Speech and Language Therapist to ensure this is accessible for all. Additionally, self-assessments are completed with young people.

The self-assessments are questionnaires completed by the young person with the support of their worker if required. The self-assessment includes information on different aspects of their lives including exploring their views on behaviours, how they perceive themselves and how others perceive them. The self-assessment is then detailed in the AssetPlus or in the Pre-Court assessments to support how we work with that individual. It is acknowledged that a self-assessment would benefit from an accessible, interactive feedback model and the 'Mind of My Own Xchange' app that we have commissioned offers an alternative method to gathering this information (see below). All case officers have 'Mind of My Own' accounts and received training to complete these with young people, this enabled an alternative method to gather views and can be used within assessments to evidence gathering views. We are monitoring the effectiveness of these.

Following completion of an initial assessment young people will be involved in developing their individual Intervention Plan. This plan will focus on areas to support desistance, support self-development and encouraging positive aspirations for the future.

Youth Justice workers have used different methods to make these plans accessible, e.g. using words and pictures, using interpreters and using accessible language the young person understands. The young person alongside the parent/carer are required to sign the plan and are provided with a copy. These plans are reviewed, including the young person and parent/carer to consider completed interventions and any amendments to these plans.

Mind of My Own: X-Change and Shout Pro

In order to gain the views of young people creatively we identified the importance of embracing the virtual methods to achieve this. Mind of My Own is a specialist service who have co-produced their software with Youth Justice Services in other regions. We are currently commissioning the 'Xchange' Model and 'Shout Pro' Surveys.

Xchange

We currently have the Xchange model available to young people, this is a digital participation tool to hear the authentic voice of young people accessing the service. This product has been co-designed with Youth Justice Services to offer a strength-based app that enables an understanding of young people's worlds, their identity and the risk and resilience factors in their lives, in their own worlds.

Key Features of Xchange Model

- Creates a one-page profile fully exploring the young person's sense of identity, family and social context.
- Provides essential data for service improvement, helps measure effectiveness of interventions, distance travelled and supports delivery of well-targeted services.
- Designed and conscientiously co-produced with young people involved with youth justice services, for young people.

Mind of My Own have delivered training session with the service (November 2023 and February 2024) to discuss using the app and ensure that workers are able to access their accounts to support usage with young people.

Workers are now completing statements on these apps that includes modules to explore with young people, which include "Youth Justice and Me" and "My World". Workers have been supporting young people to complete these within sessions and is referred to in assessments to ensure views of young people are included.

Shout Pro Surveys

The Shout Pro Survey Model has been implemented in the service with consultation from the staff team, and we have created accessible virtual surveys whereby we can receive young person's views and develop our services with these results. These surveys are accessible with text to speech, customisable accessibility features and available in 100+ languages to ensure all young people can access the Surveys.

In 2023 we completed three surveys over 12 months, and we have recently launched our latest Intervention survey. The surveys were titled "My Community and Me", "My Views" and "Safety in Stockport". There was a particular focus in the safety survey on violent crime, carrying weapons and support channels for young people.

The audience that was targeted for this survey was a combination of young people in contact with the 'RTime' Detached Youth Work Team, Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support and Stockport Family Services. Following survey completion Mind of My Own facilitated a co-production virtual session to discuss outcomes of the surveys with young people and ensuring that a "you said we did" approach is transparent.

Following completion of the surveys a report is produced to identify key findings from each. The findings of the surveys are used to inform and shape future services, for example determining what activities young people would like to see in the community.

Diversity and Participation Staff Group

Additionally, Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support are holding a quarterly YJS Participation and Diversity sub-group which is attended by a variety of practitioners representing different parts of the service, including the representatives from our Detached Youth Work Team. We have also invited guests to discuss specific topics, in our latest group we have included 'Mind of My Own' to discuss Survey creation, reflect on questions and gain practitioners views on these.

Furthermore, we have linked in with the Strategic Lead overseeing the Youth Networks and strengthening youth voices across the borough. We have been involved in Strengthening Youth Voice network meetings, including statutory agencies and 3rd Sector/VSC organisations. The Head of the EDI service has attended these meetings and reviewed policies and actions plans that have been created, she also is a member of the Youth Justice Partnership Board.

Feedback from children & parents

Child E was very complimentary of the network of support around him from Youth Justice services and he also shared that he appreciated how social care and the police have supported him and his family following. He recognises that YJS have helped him stay out of trouble and family appreciate the support from different agencies.

Feedback from a young person.

"I just wanted to share some really positive feedback Child F's mum has just given me regarding YJS work with her son.

Mum has told me that she is so pleased with how well YJS worker is doing with Child F, he really enjoys his time with her and isn't anxious about their time together. She has told me that she only has to ask him once to get up before the sessions and he jumps up and gets in the shower!"

“At first, I worried sick what this referral would mean for us a family. Myself and my son came to the Stockport office for our first appointment, the worker immediately put me at ease, he was easy to talk to, positive and very professional.

All of a sudden, we had someone on our side, it was no longer my child is this and that, constant exclusion, the constant threat of being permanently excluded, he attended meetings with us at school. He did home visits, he got my child into kickboxing, this was a game changer for my child - a way of releasing energy and doing something he enjoys, although he doesn't do it anymore, I honestly believe this path has led him to use the gym daily, he focuses on his nutrition, he met like-minded friends which helped with the way he was viewed in community. He gained confidence, he was able to realise that not everyone views the world as he does.

My child now has an EHCP, he has the full support of the school, he has a college place, he has goals and motivation. But I genuinely believe if it hadn't of been for his YJS officer he would have been permanently excluded from school, he would have undoubtedly gotten into more trouble

I cannot speak highly enough of our worker; we will always be grateful to him.

Feedback from a parent.

Resources and Services:

The Youth Justice Partnership contributes to the pooled budget that ensures youth justice service delivery across the borough, this includes post-court and pre-court (out of court) statutory functions. This year we have also received MoJ ‘Turnaround’ funding for pre-charge interventions. Other funding comes in the form of grants with the main contributors being the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) from the Deputy Mayor’s office undertaking their Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions.

The Youth Justice & Complex Safeguarding delivers services that extend beyond core youth justice services, to cover early intervention, detached youth work, serious violence reduction and other community safety functions. We know also deliver complex safeguarding interventions and the missing from home functions, as we have merged the services under one management structure.

The Youth Justice Partnership ensures that the budget in the form of grants, partnership contributions and available resources are targeted on the areas and interventions that need it most. Data is provided regularly through the Tableau Dashboard in the form of a Scorecard that provides analysis on offending, demographics, caseloads, and other information to ensure that the funding is used effectively and efficiently to ensure the utmost benefit and outcomes for our local communities.

The Youth Justice main grant that we receive through the YJB is used together with other core cash limit funding, government grants, regional funding, partnership contributions and seconded officers to deliver:

YOUTH JUSTICE
Statutory provision for children and young people within the criminal justice system (including Out of Court Disposals)

SERIOUS VIOLENCE REDUCTION
A Home Office grant-funded programme delivered locally but operating under the GM Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) focusing on children, young people, and young adults at risk serious crime.

COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING
Core funding to deliver an offer to children who present with complex safeguarding needs, including contextual and inter-familial harm.

MISSING FROM HOME
Core funding to monitor children who go missing and provide return home interviews and relevant interventions

EARLY INTERVENTION
GMCA funding to offer 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.

TURNAROUND
A MoJ grant-funded programme to support young people who have been arrested for an offence (but not necessarily charged yet), or who are committing ASB, to engage in early intervention programmes and offer additional support to the family and reduce their risk of re-offending

TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT

Community Safety finding to offer a short-term (up to 3 months) voluntary engagement to educate, inform and divert children & young people from behaviours that could place them at risk. This includes school-based services and a wide range of community projects, including sports activities

DETACHED YOUTH WORK

VRU-funded targeted youth work provision delivered by qualified Youth Workers in communities under the joint youth work banner of 'RTime'. Delivering a range of activities and interventions in community hubs, with a specific focus on reducing anti-social behaviour and youth disorder through engagement and participation (which included Home Office 'Safer Streets' funding which has now ceased)

Board Development:

Members of the Youth Justice Partnership Board support the service in overcoming any barriers to effective multi-agency working. The Board is well represented, and attendance is continually good and representative of the wide range of agencies who support youth justice provision across the partnership. Statutory representation includes Probation, Police, Health, Education & Social Care. The Cabinet Lead for Children, Families and Education also attends the board. Other representatives include GM Court, Stockport Homes, Ethnic Diversity Service, Business Intelligence and Stockport Family Service Directors and Principal Leads. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) NW Regional Lead also attends the Board.

The Youth Justice Partnership Board reports jointly to the One Safer Stockport Partnership (OSSP) and the Stockport Family Partnership Board. Other relevant Boards, such as the Safeguarding Executive Partnership also receive regular reports. The Youth Justice Plan goes through full democratic processes, including relevant Scrutiny Committees and as a 'key document' in the Council Forward Plan it needs to be approved and adopted formally by the Council.

Over the past year the Board have been responsible for overseeing the HMIP Action Plan, as detailed previously, and ensuring that all partners held accountability for its delivery. In addition, the Board held a Development Day, which included members of the Youth Justice Service and volunteers, to share good practice, understand each other's roles and

responsibilities and focus on induction and expectations. Another one is planned for the Autumn 2024.

The board has a culture of learning and is provided with updates and progress on Serious Incidents and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. The findings from these will inform the priority plan.

Workforce Development:

Ensuring the workforce has access to appropriate training and development is crucial, along with ensuring this is embedded with practice. All staff have access to the core training offer within the Council which includes mandatory training around Safeguarding, EDI, Data Protection, SEND and Autism.

In the past year we have introduced practice development sessions which have allowed an opportunity for case managers within the service to regularly come together and reflect on different areas of practice. We have used these sessions to work through any new legislation and guidance and this has included reviewing the YJB case management guidance and the new assessment tool for out of court interventions. This process also allows for a needs-led approach as we have used this forum to feedback themes from Quality Assurance audits and then tailored the training and development to meet any identified gaps. A recent example of this is that we completed a Thematic QA around exploitation, and this identified some gaps which we were then able to arrange a session with a lead from Complex Safeguarding to improve practice.

Over the next year there will be a significant focus on implementing the Adolescent Safeguarding Framework across the whole of Stockport Family. This will support, early help particularly, in supporting adolescents and being able to identify risk at the earliest opportunity.

Staff wellbeing is of vital importance and the vicarious trauma absorbed through the work they undertake cannot be underestimated. Staff have access to regular supervision, along with peer support on a daily basis. They are also able to access the GM Resilience Hub for more specialist support around their own wellbeing or counselling through the council.

The number of joint reflective supervisions have increased over the past year and for young people also open to Complex Safeguarding the use of Trusted Relationship Consultation with a psychologist allows for reflection on the personal impact of the case.

Following annual conversations with all staff at the end of 2023 staff felt it would be beneficial to have some team building events to increase communication and relationships within the team. In response to this a Wellbeing Day was held for all staff in March 2024 and a Restorative Session around communication was held in June 2024.

Evidence-Based Practice and Innovation:

Health & Wellbeing

The Youth Justice Health & Wellbeing Team are an embedded service who offer a range of health interventions and undertake a health screening on all cases and undertake direct work with children. Their work was praised by HMIP when they inspected the service. The team continue to provide direct input to young people, families and the Youth Justice team focusing on trauma -informed practices.

Current Developments

- A Youth Justice health and wellbeing process has been enhanced around custody and resettlement. The health team are being informed of any of our young people who are in remand/custody in order to improve the flow of health information shared with custodial establishments. The most relevant health team practitioner will be attending pre-release meetings, ensuring that a young person has a registered GP upon release and the CAMHS and School Nurse are offering a face-to-face appointment in the first week prior to release.
- Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD)– following recent research that suggests FASD is more common amongst the youth justice cohort, we arranged for the whole service to receive training relevant to youth justice. The Band 7 Youth Justice CAMHS practitioner is working with the newly formed FASD board.
- A new parenting intervention is to be delivered over the next 12 months focusing on FASD and trauma. 'Circle of Security Parenting' – small therapeutic groups

focusing on helping parents understand behavioural cues that their children display in order to understand their needs and will use trauma informed practice to support parents after having their child diagnosed with FASD.

The current health offer in the Youth Justice Service currently consists of (although this is subject to change as we have recruited to a joint YJ/Complex safeguarding health coordinator who starts her post from Sept. 2024).

- 0.3 Speech & Language Therapist
- 1 FTE Mental Health Practitioner
- 0.3 Parenting Nurse Specialist
- 0.2 School Nurse

RTime (Youth) Network

The Youth Justice Service, in partnership with Life Leisure, Stockport Homes and Sector 3 have been successful in securing funding via the National Lottery to develop a network of 3rd sector youth work providers. The funding has enabled the 'RTime' Network to identify areas of need within the sector which the partnership has developed. Over the initial 12 months of the project, which started in May 2023, we have:

- Secured a post for a Funding Officer to support the sustainability of the youth work providers who attend the Network Meetings.
- Funded a tutor for Stockport College to provide a Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work.
- Funded a young people's celebration event which is due to take place after the school summer holidays.
- We have become a recognised network in the council and feed into the Borough's approach to youth participation.

Evaluation:

Children in Police Custody

Stockport have been leading a GM pilot around Child-Centred Children in Police custody, this has been based at Cheadle Heath Custody Suite (in Stockport), the 2nd largest cell allocation in GMP area. The vision around the pilot is to ensure that all children who come into contact with the police are dealt with in a way that is trauma informed. A key element

of this is to divert children from custody where possibly and direct into support service or being interviewed under 'Voluntary Attendance' procedures.

For those children who do have to enter police custody due to the gravity of the offence then the aim is to reduce their detention time through a range of measures, including adopting child-centred practice, reducing the PACE clock, ensuring there is more frequent and senior decision-making, developing child-centred booking in and detention areas and ensuring protocols and processes, are appropriately followed in line with child safeguarding practice.

As part of this pilot an evaluation is being undertaken by Dr Vicky Kemp & Dr Mirada Bevan, Nottingham University. The results of which will be used to inform practice and pathways for future developments.

GM Remand Pilot

Stockport have worked with Manchester City Council in securing the MoJ Remand Pilot in GM. This has attracted some additional funding to develop a programme of work that pools the GM YJ Remand budget and uses this to seek alternative ways in which to reduce the increasing number of remands, and reduce cost, across GM. It is a 2-year project, underpinned by a 'Theory of Change' and has secured a research partner through Manchester Metropolitan University.

Youth Endowment Fund (YEF)

Stockport Youth Justice are familiar with the YEF Toolkit and the 'what works model' and have adopted its principles in the work it does with children and young people to reduce serious violence.

Stockport (and our neighbouring authority Manchester) have offered a shadowing opportunity to the YEF Chief Exec and the Criminal Justice & Policing lead in July 2024, who will be observing the Stockport Youth Justice Partnership Board, speaking to managers and practitioners in Stockport and Manchester Youth Justice Services respectively, and observing practice. This is all part of the wider YEF principles about implementing the research theories and evaluation into practice.

RTime Network Peer Review

The RTime Network took part in a Peer Review (through the National Youth Agency) to look at the strategic positioning of youth work and its contribution to LA outcomes. The review was undertaken by Youth Focus Northwest (YFNW), as the regional youth work unit has taken a lead in co-ordinating and managing peer-to-peer reviews. The team was impressed by the enthusiasm which senior managers and elected members demonstrated for children and young people in Stockport. Senior managers through their fundamental rethinking about service delivery, promoting restorative approaches, strengthening community engagement through trusted partners and, importantly, developing Family Hubs in a manner that enables youth access.

Priorities for the Coming Year

Standards for Children:

National Standards Audit

A National Standards Audit around Court was completed and submitted to the YJB in October 2023. The audit found that Stockport YJS were good at diverting children away from Court and also minimised the unnecessary use of remands. The audit showed that we promoted the fair treatment of young people and effectively engaged them in the process. Reports were generally good and informed by AssetPlus, they identified factors for desistance and victim safety.

Actions that have been taken in response to the identified areas for improvement are:

- A benchmarking exercise took place to benchmark Stockport YJS against the HMIP Thematic Inspection of Black and Mixed Heritage Boys and the Traverse Report 'Understanding ethnic disparity in re-offending rates in the YJS.' This was presented to the Youth Justice Partnership Board in January 2024.
- A Court Passport has been developed to ensure that Magistrates who are sentencing young people are aware of the diversity and communication needs of the young person.
- A Greater Manchester Remand Strategy has been developed to capture how we work towards reducing unnecessary use of remand across the region.

- Greater communication between the Manchester Courts and YJS areas have developed and there is now a regular weekly Youth Court resolution meeting which deals with any emerging issues.

Quality Assurance

From January 2024 Stockport YJS took the decision to undertake thematic Quality Assurance of cases. This allows for better analysis of cases and identification of training needs. To date this year, we have completed two thematic QA's. The first one was around cases where exploitation was a feature, this led to practice development sessions with the Complex Safeguarding Team and also the Complex Safeguarding Police Team to increase knowledge around this area. The current one is focused on looking at the interventions delivered to young people and specifically whether the assessment identified the right areas for intervention, and this followed through to delivery. This will be completed by July 2024. For the remainder of the year, we plan to undertake two further thematic QA's around Education and Disproportionality.

Service Development:

Within the last year there have been several opportunities for us to use relevant HMI Inspections, Safeguarding & Learning Reviews, and new national guidance to enhance our learning, develop our practice and identify gaps across the partnership.

Diversity & Disproportionality

The Youth Justice Partnership continue to review their response to Diversity & Disproportionality, particularly in relation to race, ethnicity, children looked after, those with speech, learning & communication needs and children who are excluded from school. Reports have been regularly requested to the Youth Justice Partnership Board, to ensure that benchmarking takes place and that reparative actions are taken as required. Deep dives have taken place into key areas throughout the year, including education, health, and first-time entrants. This is supported by a Diversity & Disproportionality Action Plan.

HMI Inspections

The response to the HMIP (Probation) Inspection of Stockport Youth Justice Partnership has been covered earlier in this report on page 8. Benchmarking against a number of HMIP (Probation) Thematic inspections have taken place.

These have included HMIP Thematic inspections around Remand, Education, and outcomes for Black and Mixed Heritage Boys on the criminal justice system. These have been presented to the Youth Justice Partnership Board in the form of deep dive thematic discussions to ensure there is a clear focus on the findings. A report that benchmarked Stockport YJS against the HMIP recommendations and the Traverse Report into Race and Ethnicity of justice-involved children was also presented to the YJPB in April 24 for discussion.

Stockport Safeguarding Children's Partnership, including Stockport Youth Justice, undertook benchmarking against the Serious Youth Violence JTAI, led by Ofsted, that was implemented last year from September 2023. This has been considered alongside the findings around our own Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

HMIP (Prisons) undertook an inspection of HMPYOI Cookham Wood which led to it receiving an 'Urgent Notification' and subsequent 'repurposing' for adult offenders only in May 2024. HMPYOI Wetherby was also inspected in December 2023 and as this is the main YOI for young people from Stockport, it was of particular significance to the partnership, as it focused on the safeguarding practices within the institution. The Head of Youth Justice (in her national role) contributed to the internal inquiry, and there was also representation from GM DCS'. The GM Resettlement Consortium have been working with Wetherby and also our young people who are placed there to understand better the experiences of children from GM and to support improvements around safeguarding procedures. In an effort to improve communication between custody and the community there is a joint event being screened from all the YOI's and Heads of Service to look at improving practice, this will coincide with an open day at each of the sites, focused on ETE and transitions.

HMICFRS undertook an inspection of GMP's Custody Suites last year, which led to a series of key recommendations, including ones for children being detained. Stockport Childrens Services, led by Youth Justice, have worked jointly with GMP on a pilot project, detailed within this report, to improve the custody and detention experience through a child-centred custody lens, to reduce the number of children being detained.

Stockport Children's Services had a CQC SEND revisit which found that sufficient progress had been made against the original inspection outcomes. Ofsted undertook an ILACS which found Children's Services to be good and this was followed up by a focused visit earlier this year.

Complex Safeguarding has been merged with Youth Justice Services, in line with the HMIP (Probation) Recommendations and the implementation of the GM Adolescent Safeguarding Framework.

Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

Stockport Youth Justice & Complex Safeguarding have been involved in a Child Safeguarding Practice Review throughout the past year. This followed 2 separate serious incidents that led to the death of 2 children and life sentence for another child.

This led to a Thematic Review of the circumstances surrounding the focusing on serious youth violence. This was completed by independent authors and is due to be published imminently. The findings of the report will be monitored through the Safeguarding Partnership to ensure their implementation, as well as the Youth Justice Partnership Board.

National YJB Guidance

Stockport Youth Justice Service have realigned their structure in line with Prevention and Diversion delivery areas and the case management systems for the new YJB 'Prevention and Diversion' tool. A benchmarking exercise against First Time Entrants has also taken place against our Early Help cases and been presented to the YJPB. Our objectives support continuous improvement, child first practice and addressing disparities.

National Priority Areas



Children from Groups which are Over-Represented:

The local Youth Justice Tableau Dashboard collates data to ensure that we are able to monitor children within the system who are overrepresented and understanding individual experiences. The Youth Justice Partnership Board have reviewed this year's priorities as a partnership with a significant focus on disproportionality, marginalisation and subsequent impact for children who enter the youth justice system. As a result, the Board have asked for the following areas to receive additional oversight and attention, to ensure that they are reported through the Board on a regular basis. This list is dynamic and continually reviewed.

- Race & Ethnicity (at different entry points in the system)
- Gender (at different entry points in the system)
- Age (inc. Targeted Youth Support & Youth Justice cases)
- Children with Education & Health Care Plans (EHCP's)
- Looked After Children (including 'Other Local Authority' placements)
- Exclusions & Attendance data

An example of this oversight was a report that was prepared and presented to the Board in January 2024 to understand the Ethnicity Data and outline trends and next steps in relation to this. This considered the recommendations from the Traverse Report (March 2023) and the HMIP Thematic inspection of black and mixed heritage boys in the Youth Justice System (October 2021). The data was collated to understand any disproportionality with the service in comparison to the wider 10-17 population in Stockport. This report and subsequent actions continue to be reviewed and implemented in the service as has formed part of our Diversity and Disproportionality Action Plan.

The new MoJ KPI's that were introduced in 2023 enable significant oversight of new areas and there are now 6 weekly meetings with YJS Team Leaders and Business Intelligence colleagues to understand returns and what this means for over-represented young people in the service. The demographic dashboard has been reviewed and updated to ensure that we are able to compare to the Census data and understand overrepresented groups and any emerging trends.

The Youth Justice Partnership Board has a focus on addressing diversity and disproportionality. It reviewed and approved a Diversity & Disproportionality Policy and an Action Plan which is reviewed at board meetings regularly. This policy is also reviewed in the YJS Diversity and Participation Quarterly Meetings. Monitoring has identified that, based on published data available for the 10–17-year age range, the latest 2024 data (captured in May 2024) shows that overrepresented groups include mixed ethnicity; white ethnicity; Black/Black British; males and young people aged 13-17. It is notable that the representation of females has increased from 14.2% in May 2023 to 19% in May 2024, albeit this is not an over-representation, but we acknowledge this change and have a YJS Officer attending GM Networking meetings discussing working with girls and interventions to be delivered with this cohort. Full comparative data is included on the following page:

Figure 1: Age Demographic Data (May 2024)

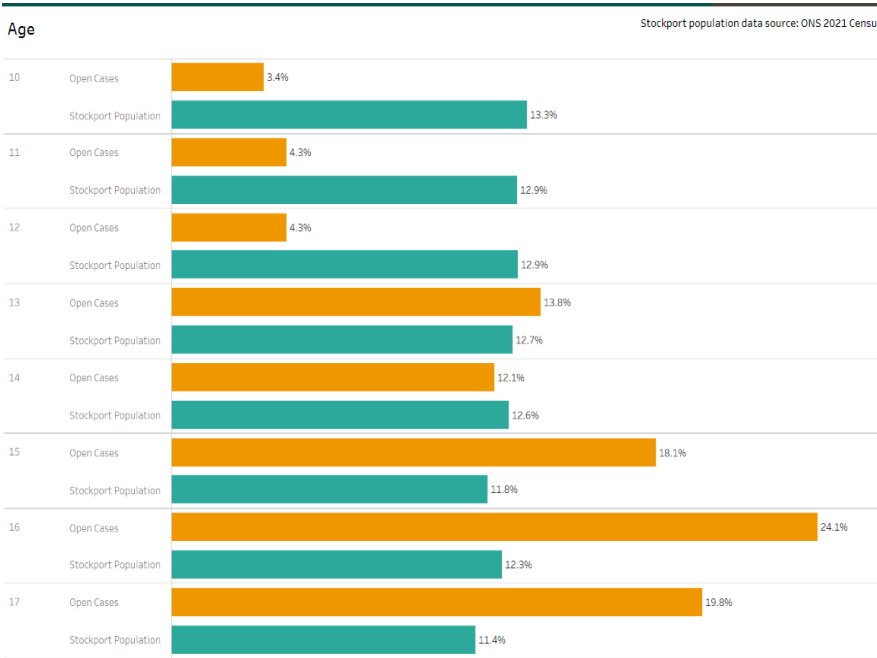


Figure 2: Gender Demographic Data (May 2024)

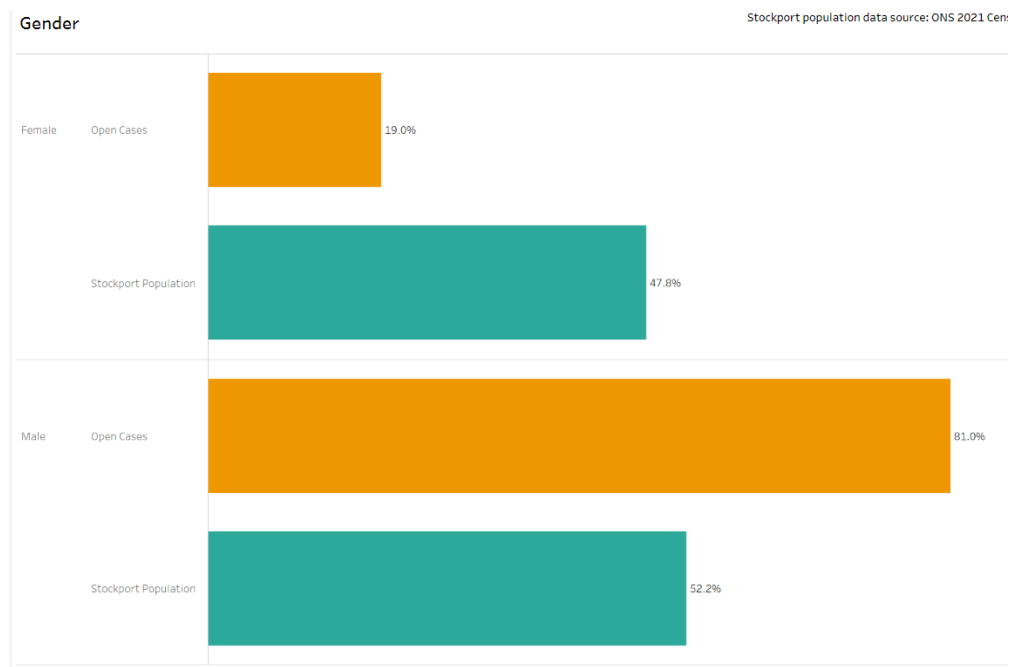
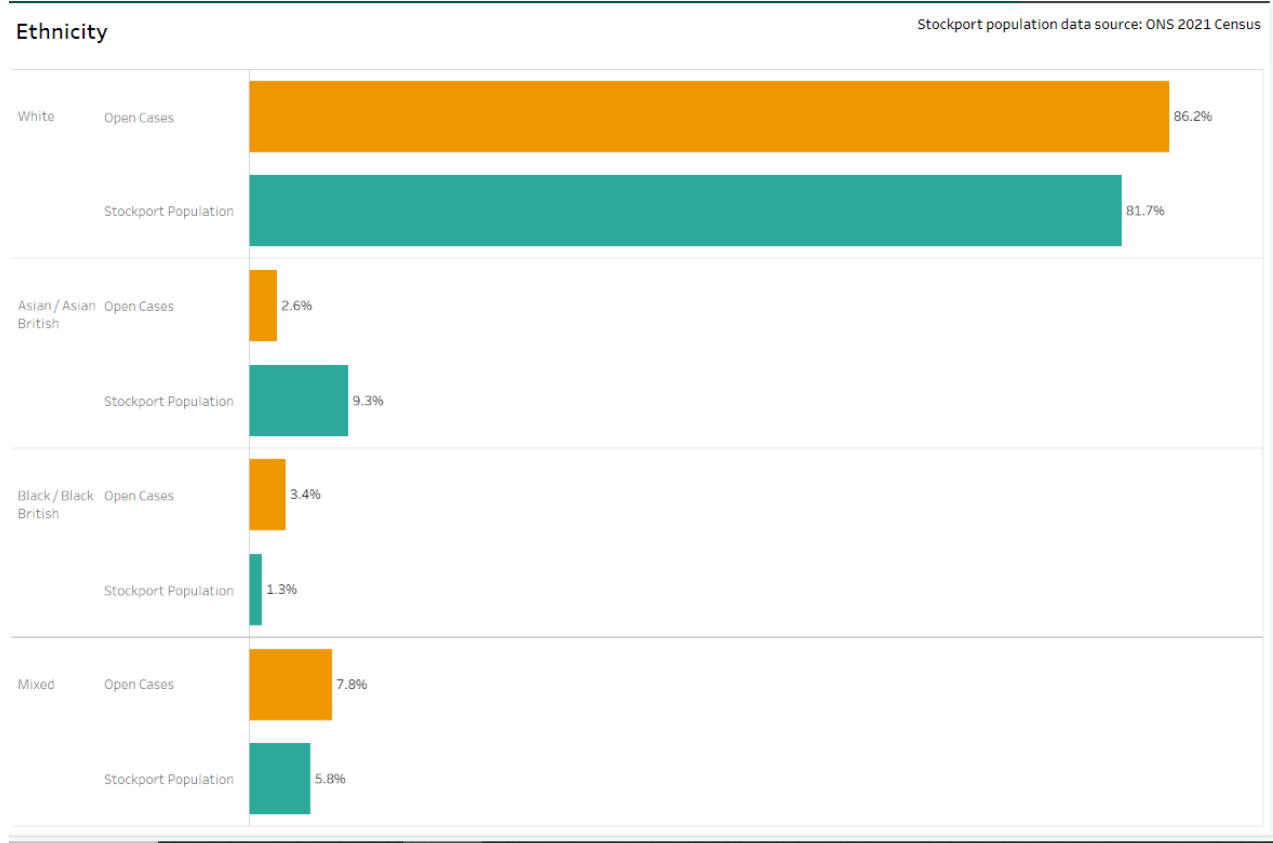


Figure 3: Ethnicity Demographic Data (May 2024)



The Youth Justice Service continues to expand its understanding of over-representation and there have been several training webinars on EDI, including a session delivered from 'Show Racism the Red Card' to the staff team, and a presentation from 'Leaders Unlocked' around understanding participation and hearing the voices of young people and their individual experiences. We have also received training this year from the 'Proud Trust' to support conversations with young people regarding their identity. This awareness around racism, identity and sexuality continues to support practice staff to work with children to understand their experiences and feeling more confident in asking questions around their lived experience.

We have also created 'Communication Passports' for young people, where there is an outline of best ways to communicate with that young person, understanding what is important to them and how best to support and communicate with the young person. This was completed with our YJ Speech and Language Therapist who added additional prompts to ensure this is accessible for all.

Example: My Communication Passport

My Communication Passport

How can you help me communicate?

Pleasedo:
 Ideas: (speak **slowly**, speak **calmly**, give me lots of **thinking time**, use **indirect language** e.g., 'let's', 'I wonder if we could.', ask me 1 question at a time, give me 1 instruction at a time, **check** I have understood, give me **regular breaks**, tell me what I did well, give me **choices**, give me **pre-warning** of change)

Pleasedo not:
 Ideas: (**interrupt** me, speak **quickly**, ask **multiple questions** in one go, give me **long instructions**, speak **loudly**, use **non-literal or unclear language** e.g., 'pull your socks up')

I might need extra help with:
 Ideas: (e.g., **reading** and understanding information, **understanding** new words, understanding questions, **asking** for help, **remembering** information or meetings, filling out forms or **writing**, **retelling** something that has happened - use who, what, where, when questions to help me, **calming down** when I experience big emotions- encourage me to take a break or distract me, meeting new people).

My name is
 (including preferred name if relevant and pronouns)

I completed this with:

The things I love:

About me.
 Guidance: (where I am from/where I live, someone who knows me well and that I get on with, hobbies, interests, favourite activities, places I like to visit)

You need to know.

Guidance: (difficulties with reading/writing, specific learning needs, neurodevelopmental conditions/Learning Disability, identified speech and language needs, medical diagnoses/ health/ allergies)

Things you might notice when communicating is tricky
 Guidance: (Change in body language (give examples: reduced eye contact, turning away), self-injurious behaviour (e.g., scratching, skin picking behaviours), appearing disinterested or defiant, 'I don't know' answers, reduced verbal communication, clear frustration/irritability, leaving the room or walking away)

The Diversity and Participation Group held on a quarterly basis, enables space for practitioners to reflect on the over-represented groups in the service and how to address this. This group has included guest speakers to discuss certain topics, for example GMP have attended to discuss the approaches to children in police custody and experiences of Stop and Search. Additionally, the Mind of My Own key contact has attended the group and presented survey findings, as well as gathering ideas and suggestions for future surveys that the team feel would be beneficial. We also have a contact from the IOPC due to attend our next meeting to discuss complaint processes and ensuring there is an understanding of this to be related to young people. The Diversity and Disproportionality policy and Action Plan is shared within this group, and with the wider staff team to ensure that there is opportunity to comment, collaborate and share their views.



Targeted Youth Support worked with 'Show Racism the Red Card' (SRtRC) to deliver Hate Crime workshops. These sessions have been entirely supported by SRtRC staff. SRtRC has continued to be very well received and was delivered in nine educational establishments across Stockport from September 2022 – April 2023. This current academic year is going to be delivered in a slightly different way. Through joint planning with YJS the SRtRC are delivering their sessions in one community focusing on one secondary and seven feeder primary schools. There has been a group of pupils who attend the primary school who have been causing issues in their local area, some of these issues have been around race and hate crime. It has come to light that some of the primary schools have not accessed these SRtRC sessions before, nor have they had any of the targeted school's delivery programme the YJS offer in a consistent way. This offers an opportunity to address this behaviour before pupils progress up to secondary school.

Children in Care (CIC) – The Youth Justice Service are represented on the 'Children in our Care' Partnership Board and work closely with colleagues in the Leaving Care Team, who are co-located in the same building. The Stockport Youth Justice and Children's Social Care 'joint working policy' was updated in 2023 and done in collaboration with colleagues from CSC and Leaving Care. The YJS caretake any cases that are placed in Stockport and subject to a criminal intervention. There are close working arrangements in place with the police who ensure all relevant specific actions are completed and checks are made with the youth justice service in relation to 'home' YJS status prior to sending through any referral. If the child in care and responsible LA is not Stockport, the young person will still

be booked into Stockport OOC Panel within agreed timescales. However, if the case is an out of area child the police follow up the request with the home authority.

Policing:



As detailed in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Stockport Youth Justice Service has a dedicated Police Constable. The role of the YJ Police Constable is to identify, address and prevent the offending behaviour of children and young people within a multi-agency environment. They work in partnership with Stockport Youth Justice Service (YJS) to support the development, delivery, and management of Youth Justice outcomes. Operational duties include:

- Deliver community resolutions, cautions and conditional cautions and take/arrange biometrics where required (in line with local procedures). Ensure PNC registration is completed and updated for compliance.
- Provide update/ guidance in relation to non- compliance to ensure appropriate criminal justice action is taken.
- Deliver and participate in interventions. Monitor compliance and provide feedback regarding completion to case managers.
- Maintain an understanding of locally available services and interventions available for children and young people.
- Attend local joint decision-making panels and police performance and governance meetings.
- Work with and help to manage high risk offenders.
- Maintain a role in both prevention and enforcement with those most at risk of breaching court orders and non-compliance.
- Work with YJS staff and case managers to manage those identified at early intervention or Referral Order stage at risk of offending or re-offending.

- To assist in managing young people released from custody following sentence without any order or restrictions being placed upon them and those with statutory licence conditions.
- Discharge any lawful duties required by the office of constable.

Daily Arrest information

Stockport Youth Justice Service receive a daily email from YJS Police officer(s) advising of all Stockport youths arrested in the previous 24 hours across GM. Police highlight on a '24-hour arrest' email any young person where additional information is required, and CSC systems are also checked. We identify that this is a strength as this ensures that all young people are identified at the earliest opportunity to offer support and early intervention.

Daily Governance

The information gathered each morning by the YJS Police Officer, and the Complex Safeguarding Police is vital to ensure that all young people at risk of Child Exploitation is identified and supported at the earliest opportunity. A multi-agency Daily Governance meeting is attended by Team Leaders from Stockport Youth Justice, Complex Safeguarding Team, and Complex Safeguarding Police. Information from the overnight arrests, Missing from Home reports and Exploitation Police investigations are discussed. Actions are then taken, such as a Strategy Meetings being instigated, or further exploration being actioned via the allocated Social Worker or Youth Justice Case manager. All information and actions are recorded on Child View, Police systems and Children's Social Care Liquid Logic system.

Case Example

Information received from the overnight arrests identified two 14-year-old boys had been arrested for a theft. When the YJS Duty officer screened these young people, it was recorded that one was on police bail for another theft several months prior and he was not open to any other service. There were no records or information regarding the other 14-year-old. The Youth Justice Manager agreed to raise this at the Daily Governance meeting to ascertain if there were any links to the type of offending and Child Exploitation. It was during this meeting that the full extent of the theft was disclosed. Both young boys were arrested with five adult males for theft equating to £1.8 million. No Care Plan (CAP) had been submitted to the MASSH that would trigger a Strategy Meeting and all agreed that this needed to be completed as soon as possible. The Complex Safeguarding Police was able to direct the Officer in Charge (OIC) to complete the CAP and Complex Safeguarding was able to immediately inform MASSH that a Strategy Meeting was required that same day. As the overnight arrests did not indicate the gravity of the theft, nor that they were arrested with five adult males, this Daily Governance meeting helped ensure all the information was shared and the relevant support and interventions can be put in place immediately.

Staying Safe Panels

Children and young people at risk of exploitation and/or children missing are heard at this weekly multi-agency panel. The Staying Safe Panel is chaired by a Team Leader (of either Complex Safeguarding or Youth Justice) and is attended by a wide range of services including Health, Education, Children's Social Care, Police, MOSAIC (drug and alcohol service) and sexual health services and where relevant Care Home Providers. This acts as the Tier 1 strategy meeting for missing children. It is a professional information-sharing meeting where concerns about the child are raised and a plan addressing the risk(s) is formulated. Additional functions of the panel are to gather intelligence about potential offenders or recruiters of exploitation, to share information about hotspots and identify patterns of relationships between groups of children and contextual safeguarding concerns.

Complex Case Discussions

Complex Case meetings are held on a weekly basis and profile those young people that have been identified as high risk of re-offending, many of these young people are also at risk of or identified as being exploited. Represented on this panel are YJS Team Leaders, YJS case managers, Probation, YJS Police officer and a GMP Intelligence Officer. The purpose of these discussions is to ensure that all relevant information is shared at the earliest opportunity enabling partner agencies to also share information and intelligence. Case managers will provide a case update with concerns/risks and peer associations, GMP share any new or relevant intelligence and actions are set. The GMP intelligence officer is able to update police records and any relevant social media updates. Due to the ages of the young people identified they may also have links with adults that are open to Probation, who are able to note and keep a record of any names that are discussed, and this could impact on the restrictions that can be put in place upon the adult to further protect the young person.

Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Partnership Meetings

The SOC Partnership Meeting is chaired by Challenger Police and is held quarterly. Challenger presents an overview of their current tasks an investigation relating to Organised Crime Groups.

Attendees on this group include:

- Housing Providers
- NHS Safeguarding
- Neighbourhood Police
- Probation
- Complex Safeguarding
- Youth Justice
- HMRC
- Regulatory Services including Trading Standards, Landlord Licensing and Anti-Social Behaviour Teams

The group is bound by a confidentiality agreement with all parties not to disclose information without the express consent of the agency supplying the data. This can provide a challenge due to the sensitivity of the information and cannot be used in risk assessments. Further challenges are the regular changes within the police structure which can impact the regularity of the meetings being held. Often the investigations that are being discussed are adult-focussed and further development is required to incorporate children and young people into these discussions and how they are linked to the adult organisations. This had been identified and is a work in progress.

PPIED (Prevention, Prosecution, Intervention Education & Diversion) Panel

Stockport Youth Justice Services work closely with the GMP Prevention and Diversion Hub and in 2024 has begun to hold monthly PPIED Panels to identify the need for intervention at the earliest opportunity. Currently an allocated GMP Youth Engagement Officer provides daily spreadsheets including information from GMP Cognos data which collates the arrest details for young people on a daily basis and ascertains a running list of young people who are PPIED eligible. This is reviewed by the relevant YJS Team Leader and recorded to ensure that a running list is available for the next panel of those who are eligible and can be appropriately diverted onwards to other services. We began holding panels in January 2024 and these are currently supported by the GMP allocated officer. We provide a brief summary of contact with police and partner agencies and determine an outcome of intervention to be offered to that young person. The panel currently includes GMP; Remedi Mentor; Turnaround Early Intervention Worker; Health; OWLS; Stockport Without Abuse and MASSH. We have been able to divert onwards and offer appropriate support from this partnership to families at an early opportunity.

Youth Disorder Panels

Stockport YJS co-chairs with GMP neighbourhood inspectors 3 area Youth Disorder Panels in order to reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour (ASB) on the wider community. Young people who are causing ASB are identified and discussed at the panel. Actions are agreed using both ASB legislation to disrupt the behaviour and support services to explore the reasons for ASB to reduce the impact.

An MMU academic research evaluation was undertaken in 2023 through 'Safer Streets' funding on the effectiveness on the process. Some of the key findings included:

| Strengths | Challenges |
|---|--|
| Are its multi-agency working and working together to improve local communities. | Frequent changing of GMP staff disrupts the running of the panels and because of this at times there has been a 'knee-jerk' response to spikes in ASB. |

Prevention:

Targeted Youth Support (TYS): aims to ensure that the needs of vulnerable young people are identified early and met by agencies, including VCS partners, working together effectively to avoid duplication, in ways that are shaped by the views and experiences of young people themselves. TYS is a voluntary community-based service which focuses on inclusion and working with those who are hardest to reach and marginalised children and young people and their families. TYS is a short intervention, up to three months, which focuses on specific types of behaviour and offers interventions to children, young people, families and within schools. Intervention is voluntary, and consent must be sought from the young person and their family/carer before engagement. This ensures that the needs of vulnerable children and young people are identified early and met by agencies and VCS partners working together effectively, in ways that are shaped by the views and experiences of young people themselves.

Schools, Colleges & Education programmes: delivered through TYS within the school environment offering a range of interventions from knife crime awareness through to hate crime workshops, crime prevention and education about Online Harms. Over the past year

the TYS team have delivered school sessions to 7,008 pupils across the borough. The sessions are mainly aimed at Years 5/6/7 at the prevention end of interventions and to support young people in the transition to secondary school. The aim is to deliver sessions based around the highest level of concerns that schools identify, which is reflected in the significant number of knife crime, hate crime and e-safety/on-line harm sessions that are delivered. The 'Bags of Character' programme is also delivered to small groups in schools who have common characteristics around lack of confidence, prone to bullying and lack of engagement with their school community.

Community Projects and Activities: The service offers a broad range of community projects and sport activities that are specifically focused on targeted youth provision and are being delivered in communities across Stockport. They are funded through a mixed economy of grants, including community safety, and co-ordinated through Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support in conjunction with other partnership agencies, including Stockport Homes, Life Leisure, VCSE groups and GMP. These are focused in priority areas and the projects increased in response to hotspot and seasonal demand, such as school holidays. These interventions include a wide range of football programmes, boxing projects, climbing sessions, fishing groups, outreach and diversion activities and other locally devised schemes that all have the joint aim of engaging children and young people, improving their life skills and preventing them becoming engaged in civil or criminal behaviour.

In addition to the existing community football foundation programmes, we added an extra football session to our portfolio on the back of the successes in the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 competition, and a recognition that young people who identify as female wanted a separate session from the boys. Stockport County Community Trust set up a weekly session in November 2022 and are running from one of our local schools with 30 – 40 school age girls attending weekly.

Early Intervention Support: offers a bespoke package through Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support providing up to 12 months of intervention to children and young people, which, following an assessment, seeks to ensure effective interventions are put in place that will deter them from escalating into statutory services.

Turnaround: Following the MoJ funding for the 'Turnaround' programme, the service has embedded effective screening to ensure that young people are offered an intervention at the earliest opportunity 'pre-charge'. Information is shared daily from our police officer of any young people who have been arrested and Team Leaders screen these young people with the Turnaround eligibility criteria. When screening is completed, contact is made with the young people and their parents to ascertain consent and offer a voluntary package of intervention at the earliest opportunity.

Diversion:

Stockport Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Support Service is committed to diverting children and young people away from becoming involved with the Criminal Justice System. The introduction of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO 2012) allowed for the expansion of work with young people prior a court appearance. This Out of Court work is dependent on the gravity and impact of the offending, the young person's antecedent history, their willingness to engage and accept responsibility for their behaviour and the views of the victim.

In addition, annual funds have been made available by GMCA to support GM Youth Justice Services to develop, and establish, a diversion offer to prevent young people from entering the formal youth justice system and receiving a criminal conviction.

Diversion Considerations

The YJS Team Leader with lead responsibility for diversion and Out of Court process has weekly meetings with YJS Police Officer, Education, CAMHS & Remedi (including victim support & Youth Mentor for Serious Youth Violence). The Police bring cases to be considered for diversion pathway. These cases are discussed with consideration of young person/family voice and which agencies are currently open within Children's Services. Consideration is given to the reduction of duplication of work between partners and the internal referral pathway open to children services should they feel intervention is required from YJS. Police and Childrens services systems are updated with content of discussion. If it is assessed as appropriate a full pre-court assessment will be completed giving a further holistic overview of the young person.

Out Of Court Diversion Pathway & the Youth Diversion (OCD) Panel

The Youth Diversion Panel is held weekly and is made up as follows:

- YJS Team Leader
- Police officer
- Education
- Victim worker
- YJS case manager
- Mentor – reducing violent behaviour (Remedi)
- Specialist health team – SALT/CAHMS/YJS specialist nurse
- Civilian Out of Court Resolutions Officer

The panel considers victim impact, risk assessments, strengths and needs of the young person and information from partner agencies to make a decision on appropriate disposal. A high-level plan is devised around desired outcomes with recommendations for partners who should be included in any SMART intervention plan.

Case Example:

Referral was made to Out of Court Diversion Panel for two 13-year-old males for a Criminal Damage incident. When the case was being discussed it was identified that both young people were Children in Care residing at a local Children's Home, placed by different authorities. After liaising with the placing authorities, it was established that neither of the young people had been known to services previously, and they had not received any diversionary interventions. Panel suggested that contact to be made with the care provider to ascertain if they would support the YJS victim co-ordinator to facilitate a direct Restorative Justice session. The care provider agreed and both young people received an Outcome 22 diversion intervention.

Reducing Violent Behaviour (Diversionary Approach)

Stockport YJS have a young person's mentor employed by Remedi working within the YJS full time. This post has been commissioned through GMCA to work with young people within the Out of Court process who have been referred for violent offences. The mentor will offer two programmes to young people who have displayed violent behaviour:

- 4-week restorative intervention – focus on victim impact; improved empathy; consequences of violence and offending.
- 12-week programme comprising of a full assessment of mentoring need. Focus on restorative practices within the family and with the victim (if appropriate) alongside supporting and encouraging positive choices and changes in the young person's life.

This Remedi staff member sits on the O OCD panel. Remedi will maintain working with young people past the date of 'closure' from any case manager within the YJS if further support is needed.

Greater Manchester Out of Court Scrutiny Panel

On a quarterly basis a scrutiny panel is held, chaired by GMCA, with senior representation from GMP, GM Youth Justice Services, Crown Prosecution Service, Greater Manchester Youth Court Bench and Victim Services. A dip sample of Out of Court disposals are reviewed, to identify if the appropriate action was taken. Learning from these reviews can result in crimes being re-classified and feedback is provided to GMP and other partners, to ensure the correct decisions are made. The GM approach is detailed in the table below.

Monitoring and Impact

Quarterly data detailing the diversion and out of court disposal work completed by the YJS is included in the performance report presented to the YJS partnership board. An annual report will be produced that details the oversight and will be submitted to the YJS partnership board and shared at a YJS service meetings.

01 **Ensure** every child in Greater Manchester that is named as a suspect is treated as a child first and suspect second.

02 **Promote** a trauma responsive approach to offer enhanced support for children and families.

03 **Reduce** harm and prevent the likelihood of re-offending.

The diagram consists of three overlapping circles. The top-left circle is labeled 'Information', the top-right circle is labeled 'Research', and the bottom circle is labeled 'Collaboration'. All three circles overlap in a central region.

Education:



Inclusion is a key corporate priority for Stockport local authority and work is being done throughout Stockport Family and education partners to use trauma-informed practice to reduce suspensions and exclusions for all children in schools across the local authority.

Education was highlighted as an area for development through the HMIP Inspection and formed part of the action plan. Education is represented on the Youth Justice Partnership Board at a senior level. Work is currently in progress between Youth Justice and the Virtual School to monitor the education for those young people open to Youth Justice, including attendance and exclusion data. We have recently seen an increase of young people being referred into the Youth Justice Service with an EHCP, and this is an area to strengthen around links with SEN colleagues to ensure that the right service is in place to support these young people and their families. Sometimes the very reason a young person is involved with the youth justice service may have manifested in school, a specific example of this might be around substance misuse where schools feel unable to avoid consequences as set out by the DfE, such as suspensions or exclusion to protect other children and young people. This then removes the protective factors that schools offer.

Children and young people who are involved with the YJS are vulnerable young people who are less likely to thrive by being out of an educational setting; both for their own personal educational attainment leading to better outcomes, the social aspects that schools offer and the safeguarding risks that have the potential for exploitation.

Practitioners in the YJS work closely with school colleagues and they are supported by a robust and broad offer under Stockport Family including the social work teams, Virtual School, Education Welfare Service, and Inclusion Service. Examples of the kind of support

these teams may offer are Educational Psychology advice, SEND advice, or offering tutoring to fill in an educational gap, commissioning mentors or using various programmes of engagement activities via the Virtual School or the PRU. Youth Justice Practitioners also link in with the Team around the School process to identify young people who may benefit from our service.

Stockport YJS have one Education Officer and one 16+ Learning Mentor in establishment to support the education needs of our young people. The Education Officer links in with Stockport's PRU (Highfields) as a number of young people on the YJ caseload are on role at Highfields. Over the past 12 months a lot of work has been undertaken around the data we hold as an authority around education to really understand the needs of the YJ cohort and their educational needs. This has included the development of specific dashboards and scorecards to show the rates of exclusions, permanent exclusions, and attendance. This also allows us to monitor any issues of disproportionality, those on part time timetable and these electively school educated.

Stockport YJS received the SEND Quality Lead Kite Mark in 2019. As this has now expired and there have been many changes to the way SEN services within Stockport operate and how we are working closely together, we are in the process of applying for an updated SEND redesignation for the Quality Lead Kite Mark.

Restorative Approaches and Victims:



Restorative Justice and Reparation are key requirements for all young people working with Youth Justice Services; 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. YJS work flexibly to ensure that Restorative Justice and Reparation are completed when it is needed and required.

The Youth Justice Service 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. The Youth Justice Service adheres to the Codes of Practice for Victims and Remedi, our service provider, comply with the standards that must be provided to victims of crime.



Between 1st of December 2023 – 31st May 2024 58 victims were contacted through the Youth Justice Service. Of these, 33 victims responded, and of these 23 victims agreed to engaging with the restorative justice process either indirectly or directly, giving a 70% engagement rate. The restorative justice practitioner (victim officer) completed 3 direct and 11 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 59 victim awareness sessions with young people were undertaken.

At the end of each intervention, we ask both parties to fill in an evaluation form:

- 80% of victims were satisfied with restorative justice.
- 80% of victims felt RJ had increased their well-being.
- 85% of victims felt RJ had improved their satisfaction with the justice system.
- 73% of young people said RJ increased their motivation to not re-offend.
- 95% of young people were happy with the RJ process.

Case Study: (Victim input)

Child D was originally referred to YJS on an 'out of court disposal' for shoplifting. Initially Child D was reluctant to do an apology as they felt a little uncomfortable about writing a letter. However, following work being completed with Remedi Victim Worker they then decided they would like to do a letter of apology for their offence. On speaking with the shop - the store manager - they were more than happy for their Victim Impact Statement (VIS) to be shared with Child D, and voiced the wish that they hoped they could learn from this incident.

The VIS (Victim Impact Statement) was shared with Child D who took full responsibility for their offence and accepted it was the wrong thing to do. In this session a VIS taken from a victim (security guard) discussing the impacts of anti-social behaviour was also shared with Child D as it detailed the level of financial impact that shoplifting was having in the area. Child D was surprised at how significant the financial impact was and said this really helped them get a better sense of the issue at hand. Without being asked or prompted Child D also requested if they could do a letter of apology to the victim, as they know him and wanted to apologise properly.

Both letters have been delivered with both recipients being really pleased that Child D has demonstrated self-awareness and remorse for their behaviour and are happy to know they are moving forward with their life. Child D is due to start college in September which they are really looking forward to, and they have also accepted further support from external services after recognising that they want to change some of their behaviours.

Overall, Child D is a very bright and charismatic individual who has engaged really well with the victim worker at all stages and was more than happy to apologise and take responsibility for their behaviour.

The Youth Justice Service have also employed a part-time Restorative Justice worker through Remedi with a focus on Reparation and associated community projects. A 'Reparation and Unpaid Work Project Portfolio' includes several local projects including Cheadle Mosque, Wellspring Homeless Centre, Manchester Rugby Club and Woodbank Community Centre as partners in reparation activities for young people. The Remedi Reparation worker is tasked with actively sourcing new projects, undertaking risk assessments, and acting as a single point of contact for all community reparation and unpaid work projects.

Case Study (Reparation):

A successful reparation project that took place in Christmas December 2023 was putting together a Christmas hamper for Manchester Children's Hospital Ward. This included Remedi Reparation Worker gathering donations including books; games; crosswords; teddies; PJs and toiletries. Donations were collected with the young people and a big hamper was prepared with young people and delivered directly to the ward. This was a fantastic piece of work, and the hospital expressed their gratitude for the big hamper!

Serious Violence, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding:

This represents a large area of work for the Youth Justice Service and the Youth Justice Partnership Board ensure they have continued focus and oversight.

Serious Violence Reduction

The 'Serious Violence Duty' became a legislative duty in Jan 2023, as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022. Youth Justice are one of the agencies named in the Duty and active partners in collating relevant data and ensuring responses to this. The Greater Manchester VRU developed their 'Greater than Violence Strategy' and Stockport's Community Safety Partnership, One Safer Stockport partnership, developed the local Strategic Needs Assessment on behalf of the borough and this was approved through OSSP.

Stockport Youth Justice continue to deliver a comprehensive programme of violence reduction, which includes a borough-wide educative approach to **Knife & Weapon-related Crime**. In collaboration with GMP we developed a Knife Crime Awareness Strategy through a 3-tiered intervention approach called **'On the Edge'** which builds on best practice nationally with a focus on ensuring that:



'On the Edge' ensures "the most vulnerable children and young people are protected, the most challenging are tackled and the most dangerous are stopped".

Tier 1

Is delivered universally to all educational establishments, including secondary schools, primary schools (currently in years 5 & 6) irrespective of their current understanding or involvement.

Tier 2

Is group-based and community work for those young people identified as posing an increased risk of becoming involved in such behaviour, they will be allocated to a YJ Officer.

Tier 3

Is robust targeted 1-1 work to those young people either convicted through the courts or police-led intelligence proving that such behaviour is taking place.

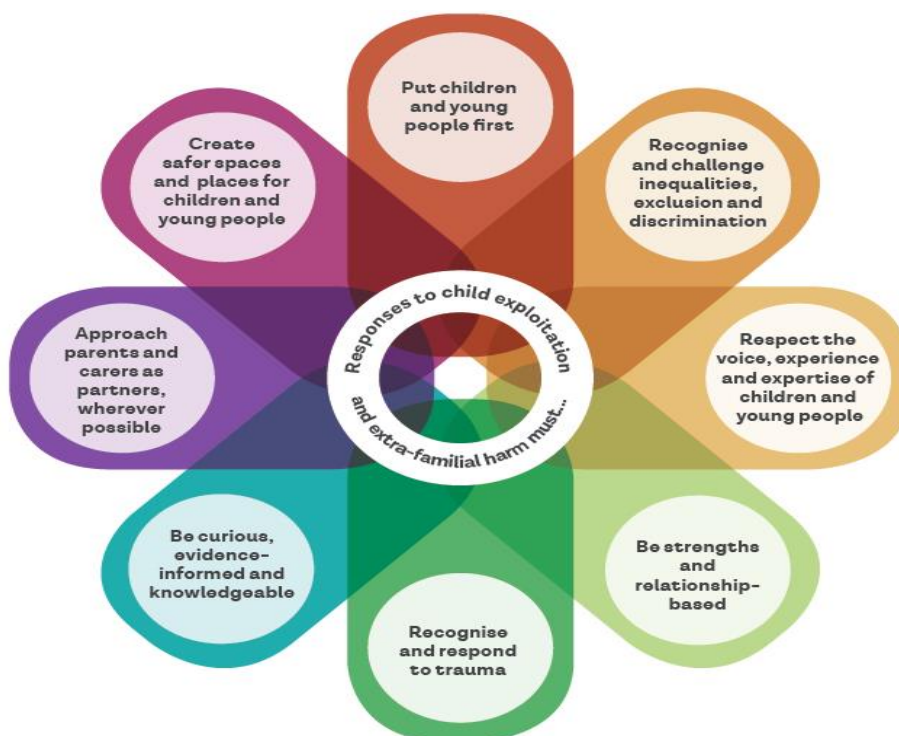
The programme has been in place since 2019 and thousands of children across Stockport have received a tailored input in class size groups. This programme continues to be rolled out and the numbers have continued to increase. Stockport YJS have continued to deliver this intervention to large numbers of pupils in Stockport, this year from 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024: **2,657** children have received the intervention through the 103 sessions that were delivered in 16 educational establishments.

Child Exploitation & Contextual Safeguarding

Since 1st April 2024 Complex Safeguarding within Stockport has been aligned with Youth Justice. This brings Stockport in line with other GM authorities who have developed their 'Adolescent Safeguarding Offer' along similar lines and the services have merged in recognition of the level of complexity that these services are working with, and the fact that many of the children cross both services. The Missing From home function also now sits under the structure of Youth Justice & Complex Safeguarding.

Over the next two years development will take place to fully embed the strategic alignment of the services. This work will support the early identification of young people at risk of exploitation, embed the Adolescent Safeguarding Framework and Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) principles and look at an alternative Child Protection framework for those young people who need safeguarding from extra-familial harm.

Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Principles:



The National Referral Mechanism (NRM's) are an integral part of safeguarding young people who are identified as a potential victim of modern slavery. Young people within Stockport are identified through our overnight arrest data and these can be escalated through daily governance if an NRM has not been considered. The Complex Safeguarding Police are integral to this process as they will then hold the modern-day slavery crime with the young person as the victim. NRM's are then monitored through monthly governance as highlighted below.

The governance structure includes daily governance meetings between Complex Safeguarding, Youth Justice, and Complex Safeguarding Police (GMP) to identify any immediate concerns regarding young people in custody and also referrals made to the Complex Safeguarding Team. A recent positive addition to this meeting is the inclusion of a Custody Sergeant to allow for safety planning to take place prior to the release of the young person. A new monthly governance meeting has also been set up to share information, monitor and address the following:

- Discuss the young people we are most concerned about, including those young people who have been missing from home.
- Record any new NRM's and monitor those already in place.
- Consider themes and trend from daily governance.
- Share any disruption taking place and key investigations (including spaces and places)
- Operational development within the teams
- Identify learning and particularly gaps in knowledge and upcoming training.
- Good News stories
- Anything for escalation

This meeting reports into the Complex Safeguarding sub-group which is co-chaired by both Children's and Adult's Social Care.

Safeguarding Children in Stockport

Safeguarding of children and young people is integral to the work of the Youth Justice and evidenced in assessments, programmes, and interventions. Strong links are in place with our Stockport Family partners, particularly Children's Social Care (CSC). Youth Justice is represented on the Integrated Care and Education Panel (ICEP), where the movement of Stockport Child in Care is discussed regarding accommodation and education. A Youth Justice Team Leader also sits on the 'Accommodation Panel' where discussions are held regarding Care Experienced Young People and the direct support that is needed to help them in this transition.

At a strategic level the Youth Justice Management Team are represented on Stockport Safeguarding Children's Partnership arrangements and the associated safeguarding sub-groups where they make an active contribution. Protocols are in place at a GM level regarding the movement, transfer, and caretaking of cases within the youth justice system and Stockport Youth Justice are part of the GM Training Partnership which ensures safeguarding is embedded within its training programmes.

Detention in Police Custody:



The focus on children in police custody has remained a constant priority area across GM, as part of the GM Youth Justice Delivery Plan, and over the past year it has received even more oversight following the HMICFRS inspection of GMP Police Custody, which identified a number of areas for concern and made recommendations which included arrangements for children who are detained. As a result, a multi-agency pilot on 'children in police custody' has been taking place in Stockport focused on Cheadle Heath Custody Suite. This is being co-chaired by a Chief Inspector from GMP's Criminal Justice & Custody Branch and the Head of Youth Justice for Stockport (who is also the GM YJ lead for Children in Police Custody). Over the past 12 months new pathways have been developed to ensure that where a child or young person does not need to come into police custody, they can be diverted away either into support services or to be interviewed via the Voluntary Attendance (VA) Interview. This year we have been fortunate to secure £35k through the NHS Pathfinder funding which will support the development of the pathway into VA interview.

Stockport are the lead framework authority for the GM Appropriate Adult Service (for children and adults), to ensure that AA's are available in the custody suite for all children (as required by PACE 1984) and vulnerable adults. In addition to this we have been working closely with colleagues within out of hours to ensure that PACE beds are utilised as often as possible to avoid young people being kept in Police custody overnight. We have included a Youth Justice offer to out of hours so that joint decision making can take

place around appropriate PACE beds. In addition to this out of hours also have access to the Youth Justice database, Childview, to support their decision making.

Remands:

During the financial year 2023/24 we saw a significant shift in the number of remands. This significantly increased to 10 episodes of remand (9 young people) compared to just 3 young people the year previously. In addition to this the length of remand changed as previously young people were remanded for longer periods of time and were given custodial sentences at the end of the remand period. Last year of the 10 episodes of remand 7 were under 60 days and 3 were for 60 days or more. Similarly, the outcome at the end of the remand period has shifted. 3 were sentenced to a custodial sentence, 3 received a community sentence and 2 were granted bail. The main reason why young people were being remanded was due to persistency and committing further offences whilst subject to intensive orders rather than the gravity of the offence.

Under the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022 the threshold for court remands places additional demands on the court to justify the use of remand. Since October 2023 Greater Manchester have also been undertaking a GM Remand Pilot, this is a two-year project and has attracted additional funding from MoJ for programme management and evaluation. As part of the pilot the remand grants from all GM LA's have been pooled to enable centralised oversight. This sits within Manchester City Council (MCC) but there is a distinct GM remand project board. The Stockport Head of Youth Justice has been instrumental in the early development of this, which is now led by an Assistant Director from MCC and the Manchester Head of Youth Justice. The pilot will allow for an enhanced offer to children on bail including remand accommodation which could be used to support bail out of a particular GM area to reduce risk and maintain the young person being supported in the community.

Use of Custody and Constructive Resettlement:

The main custodial institution that young people receiving a custodial sentence or remand are sent to from Stockport is HMYOI Wetherby (although some children are also placed in other Young Offender Institutions and Secure Children's Homes). 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 Youth Secure Estate (YSE) receive continued supervision through Youth Justice 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.

GM DCS' and HMYOI Wetherby 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. 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 YOI's Stockport young people are also received into Secure Children's Home (SCH's) and Secure Training Centres (STC's) at various locations across England and Wales. Young people entering these facilities are given the same level of supervision from the home YJS as those within the YOI estate. The options for custody for children in England & Wales are:

Young Offender Institution (YOI): there are currently three YOIs in England and one in Wales (as HMYOI Cookham Wood was repurposed this year). Young Offender Institutions are for boys aged 15-17. They are subject to HMI Prisons inspections.

Secure Training Centre (STC): there is currently one STC operating nationally. STCs are smaller, purpose-built establishments designed to accommodate between 60 and 80 boys and girls aged 12 to 17. It is subject to HMI Prisons inspections.

Secure Childrens Homes (SCH): is a secure residential accommodation designed specifically for children and young people (girls and boys) who are in custody or require a locked environment due to their complex needs. The focus is on therapeutic care, education and health support. They are subject to Ofsted registration and inspection.

Secure School: England's first Secure School is due to open in Summer 2024. It aims to provide integrated evidence-based therapeutic practice across education, social care and health. It is subject to Ofsted registration and inspection.

The adult prison population is currently at crisis point with significant overcrowding, therefore in late 2022, an expedited decision was taken by MoJ to keep 18-year-olds within the Youth Secure Estate, instead of transitioning them to the Adult Estate.

This has meant that the numbers of 18-year-old young adults in the youth estate already account for over a quarter of the total estate and the numbers are rising. It is unclear at this stage when this decision will be reversed and is likely to be a longer-term solution than originally anticipated. This has impacted on resources with Youth Justice as we are required to continue to supervise these young adults until the transfer to the adult estate. In addition to this we are working closely with Probation colleagues to ensure that where a young adult is released on licence they are supervised by the most appropriate agency and that trusted relationships have been built up prior to release.

Use of Constructive Resettlement (post-custody)

Resettlement of children from custody is a statutory responsibility of local authorities and is carried out in partnership with agencies including Police, National Probation Service, Health, the Youth Custody Service, and local partnerships arrangements, such as Housing, local employers and third sector agencies. The GM Resettlement Consortium is hosted by Oldham Youth Justice (Positive Steps) on behalf of GM. Stockport are fully involved in these arrangements and Stockport Youth Justice Partnership Board have continued to receive briefings this year on the consortia and the GM Resettlement Framework, as well as approving the local Resettlement Strategy.

Stockport have set up a Custody and Resettlement panel where all young people (including Care Leavers) are reviewed to ensure that custody was the only viable option. The purpose of this panel is also to focus on the legal status of the young person and look at the potential risks factors and how these will be addressed during the custodial phase. A clear plan of what needs to happen during this phase will be formulated and this will include all partners. By strengthening the delivery of services whilst the young person is in custody this will also impact on the likelihood of a more successful resettlement. The panel is chaired by an Independent Chair from the Children's Safeguarding Unit who will be able to provide strategic oversight and ensure a level of challenge. It includes the following membership.

- Children's Social Care
- Adult Social Care

- GMP
- Health
- Leaving Care
- Youth Justice
- Complex Safeguarding
- Virtual Schools / Colleges
- Legal
- IRO
- Probation
- Adult /Children's Safeguarding Board
- Stockport Homes
- YOI/STC/SCH Representative

At the point the initial panel is scheduled a meeting to discuss Resettlement will be arranged. This will ensure that the recommendations for the custodial phase were implemented and also consider the plan for release to ensure that all elements are addressed and plans around housing, education and health needs are all in place.

In Feb 2023 HMI Probation published their HMIP 'Resettlement Effective Practice Guide' which offers a range of useful tools for regional 'Resettlement Consortiums', youth justice partnerships, senior leaders, managers, and practitioners to refer to enable effective resettlement.

The YJB updated their case management guidance around resettlement in January 2024 and our policies and procedures have been updated to reflect these changes. The biggest change is that ISS is not supported by the YJB to be added to licence conditions. This has meant a change in working practices to implement the guidance and being more creative with licence conditions to keep the child at the centre whilst also managing risk to the community.

Working with Families:



Stockport Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Service offer a whole family approach towards supporting children involved with the service. The Youth Justice Service currently has a Parenting Nurse who works for the service and workers are able to refer for specialist support from this worker. This enables robust support with parents and has included group work as well as one-to-one support. Information sharing between the parenting worker and case officer ensures that families are supported holistically.

Officers have also been pro-active in including parents in plans, for example one worker has completed contracting work between children and their parents to support implementing boundaries and rules/rewards in the home. We also ensure that we support parents with understanding extra-familial harm, ensuring we embed the Tackling Child Exploitation Principles into our practice which includes parents as partners in safeguarding young people at risk of contextual safeguarding.

Furthermore, we work extremely closely with our colleagues within Stockport Family including but not limited to; social workers; leaving care teams; Early Help Hub and family hubs. This includes Youth Justice workers being present at key safeguarding meetings including Strategy Meetings, Care Planning Meetings; Children in Need Meetings and 'Team around the Family' meetings. We are pro-active partners in these spaces offering updates and taking actions for specific cases, and also offering advice and guidance for families who are not currently open to the service, but our input is beneficial.

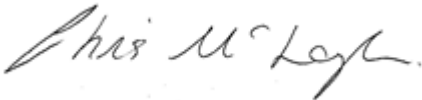
The current processes that are detailed throughout this document evidences the joint agency working to ensure a family approach, this evidenced through the allocations through Turnaround, PPIED and Daily Governance. There are multiple pathways into the service and regularly liaison takes place with MASSH colleagues to ensure that input is offered from the Youth Justice Service at the appropriate time.

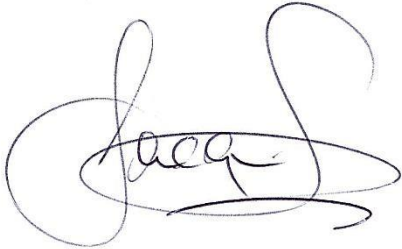
Case Study: Whole Family Approach

Child G is currently subject to a court order with the service and is also registered under Child Protection. It has been identified that there are significant contextual risks towards the young person, and there has been a multi-agency approach to ensure that family time is implemented as part of the Intervention Plan in place for the family. This has required a creative approach whereby professionals have included "Positive Family Time" on both agencies plans, ensuring that on a Sunday the family are supported to spend time together and create memories together.

These activities are joint funded between Children's Social Care and Youth Justice and have include activities together such as the cinema and bowling. The family have reported that it is positive to dedicate time to spend together and they have taken pictures to ensure that they can keep a scrap book of what they had done together. The young person reports that they really enjoy having dedicated time with their carers and feels as though this has supported them to spend quality time together.

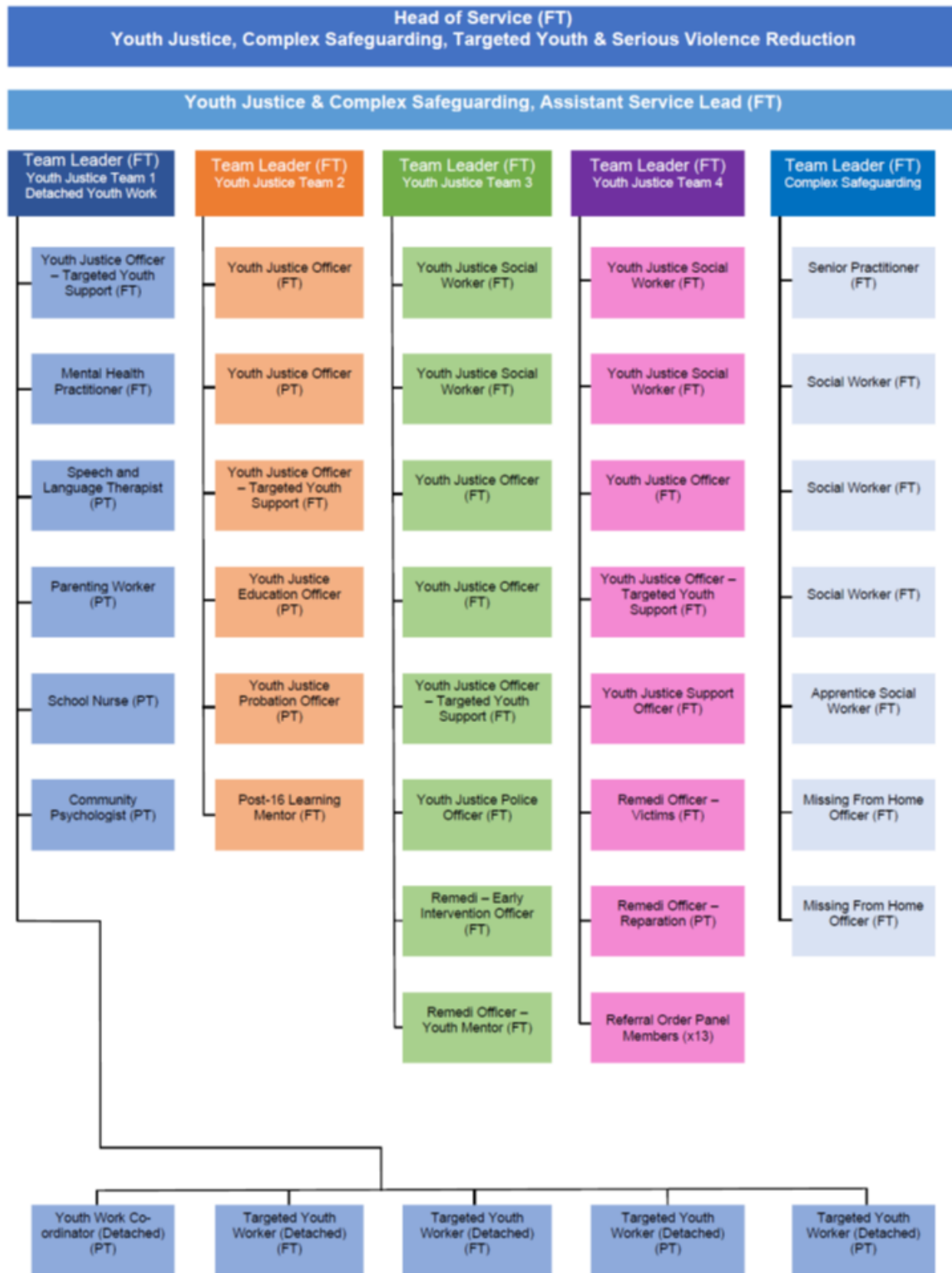
Section 5: Sign off, Submission and Approval:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Chair of YJS Board | Chris McLoughlin OBE Executive Director People & Neighbourhoods Director of Children’s Services |
| Signature |  |
| Date | TBC: (post-democratic approval) |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| YJ Head of Service | Jacqui Belfield-Smith MBE Head of Youth Justice, Complex Safeguarding, Serious Violence Reduction & Targeted Youth Support |
| Signature |  |
| Date | TBC: (post-democratic approval) |

Section 6: Appendices

Appendix 1: Staffing Structure



Appendix 2: Budget Costs and Contributions 2024/25

| Agency | Staffing costs (£) | Payments in kind – revenue (£) | Other delegated funds (£) | Total (£) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Local Authority | £589,000 | £0 | £0 | £589,000 |
| Police Service (GMP) | £0 | £43,032 (TBC) | £0 | £43,032 |
| Probation Service (GM) | £0 | £25,203 | £5,000 | £30,203 |
| Health Service (Pennine Care) | £0 | £43,742 (TBC) | £0 | £43,742 |
| Police and Crime Commissioner (GMCA) | £0 | £0 | £45,000 | £45,000 |
| MoJ Turnaround Grant | £0 | £0 | £122,395 | £122,395 |
| YJB (Main Grant) | £0 | £0 | £512,880 (TBC for 2024/25) | £530,403 |
| YJB (Remand) | £0 | £0 | £17,523 | |
| Total | £589,000 | £111,977 | £702,798 | £1,403,775 |

Appendix 3: Staffing Data

| Ethnicity | Managers Strategic | | Managers Operational | | Practitioners | | Administrative | | Sessional | | Student | | Referral Order Panel Volunteer | | Other Volunteer | | Total | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-----------|---|---------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---|-----------|-----------|----|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | |
| Asian | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black | | | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Mixed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | | 2 | | 3 | 8 | 11 | 4 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 11 | | | | 13 | 28 |
| Any other ethnic group | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not Known | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | 2 | | 3 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 12 | | | 15 | 30 | |
| Welsh Speakers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Ethnicity

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)





| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| ● Asian | 0 |
| ● Black | 4 |
| ● Mixed | 0 |
| ● White | 41 |
| ● Any other ethnic group | 0 |



Gender

[More Details](#)

 Insights




| | |
|---|----|
|  Male | 15 |
|  Female | 30 |
|  Other | 0 |
|  Prefer not to say | 0 |



Disability (self-classified)

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

[More Details](#)

| | |
|---|----|
|  Yes | 1 |
|  No | 44 |
|  Prefer not to say | 0 |



Appendix 4: Table of Acronyms

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| ACE | Adverse Childhood Experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long-lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices |
| ADHD | Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder |
| AIM (2 and 3) | 'Assessment, Intervention and Moving On'; an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour |
| ASB | Anti-Social Behaviour |
| AssetPlus | YJB-accredited national Assessment Tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour |
| AYM | National 'Association of YOT Managers' |
| CAMHS | Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services |
| CCE | Child Criminal Exploitation: where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity |
| CCG | Clinical Commissioning Group |
| CDA 98 | 'Crime & Disorder Act 1998. Legislation that established 'YOT's' as statutory bodies. |
| CSE | Child Sexual Exploitation |
| Children | A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection. |
| Child First | A system-wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength-based, promote participation, and encourage diversion |
| CLA (also Cared for Child) | Child Looked After; where a child is looked after by the local authority |
| CIPC | Children in Police Custody |
| CME | Child Missing Education |
| Constructive Resettlement | The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social |
| Contextual Safeguarding | An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety |
| Community Resolution (CR) | Community Resolution: an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt, as an out of court disposal |
| CRC | Community Rehabilitation Company |
| CSC | Children's Social Care |
| CSP | Community Safety Partnership |
| CSPR | Child Safeguarding Practice Review |
| DCS | Director of Children's Services |
| EHCP | Education and Health Care Plan; a plan outlining the education, health, and social care needs of a child with additional needs |
| DTO | Detention & Training Order |

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| EHCP | Education Health Care Plan |
| ETE | Education, Training or Employment |
| EHE | Electively Home Educated; children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school |
| EOTAS | Education Other Than at School; children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting |
| FASD | Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder |
| FTE | First Time Entrant; a child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal) |
| GM | Greater Manchester |
| GMCA | Greater Manchester Combined Authority |
| GMFRS | Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service |
| GMP | Greater Manchester Police |
| HMCTS | His Majesty's Courts & Tribunal Service |
| HMICFRS | His Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service |
| HMIP | His Majesty Inspectorate of Probation; an independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice Services and Probation Services |
| HMYOI | His Majesty's Young Offenders Institute |
| HYMS (now CAMHS) | Healthy Young Minds |
| HSB (also SHB) | 'Harmful Sexual Behaviour', developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves |
| IPEP | Integrated Placement & Education Panel |
| JAC | Junior Attendance Centre |
| LA | Local Authority |
| LAC | Looked After Child/Care Experienced Young Person |
| LGA | Local Government Association |
| LSB | Local Safeguarding Board (Stockport Children's Safeguarding Executive) |
| MAPPA | Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements |
| MCC | Manchester City Council |
| MFH | Missing from Home |
| MoJ | Ministry of Justice |
| MOMO (including Shout and Xchange) | 'Mind of My Own' A digital participatory platform for children and young people to share their views about the services they receive (commissioned in 2023/24 for Stockport Youth Justice) |
| MVOP | Mentally Vulnerable Offender Panel |
| NEET | Not in Employment, Education, Training |
| NHS | National Health Service |
| NPS | National Probation Service |
| NRM | National Referral Mechanism: the national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them |
| OSSP | One Safer Stockport Partnership: Community Safety Partnership for Stockport (as required under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998) |

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| OOCD | Out-of-Court disposal; all recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court |
| Outcome 22/21 | An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending |
| Over-Represented Children (Disproportionality) | Children appearing in higher numbers in the YJS than the local or national average (based on census data) |
| PACE | Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 |
| PCSC 22 | Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022 |
| PPIED | Prevention, Intervention, Education, & Diversion (Panel) |
| PRU | Pupil Referral Unit |
| PSP | Public Safety & Protection |
| PVE | Preventing Violent Extremism |
| RO | Referral Order |
| RHI | Return Home Interviews; these are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing |
| RJ | Restorative Justice |
| RMR's | Risk Management Review |
| RUI | Released Under Investigation; where a child is released from police custody following arrest but pre-charge whilst the case is investigation. Timescales are not set (as they are in Bail cases). |
| Safer Streets | A Home Office fixed-term programme based on bids for priority areas within an authority, with strict criteria. Stockport successful bid for this grant for ASB Reduction in 2023/24. |
| SaLT | Speech and Language Therapy |
| Section 20 | Section 20 (Children's Act 1989) is a voluntary agreement when a parent, or person with Parental Responsibility, to agree to a child being taken out of their care and into another placement, such as foster care, for a short period of time |
| Section 31 | Section 31 (Children Act 1989) places a child under the care of the Local Authority (LA). A child will become a looked after child (LAC) and 'in care'. This gives the local authority 'Parental Responsibility' (PR) for the child. |
| SEND | Special Educational Needs & Disabilities |
| SHB | Sexually Harmful Behaviour |
| SHG | Stockport Homes Group |
| SIR | Serious Incident Review |
| SLCN | Speech, Language and Communication Needs |
| SMBC | Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council |
| SRO | |
| SSCP | Stockport Children's Safeguarding Partnership |
| SSP | Safer Stockport Partnership |
| STC | Secure Training Centre |
| SCH | Secure Children's Home |
| SVD | 'Serious Violence Duty'; legislative duty under Police, Crime & sentencing Act 2022, placed on Community Safety Partnerships to reduce serious violence within their authority. |

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| SYV | Serious Youth Violence |
| TOR | Terms of Reference |
| Turnaround | A MoJ grant-funded programme to support young people who have been arrested for an offence, but not necessarily charged yet, or who are committing ASB, to engage in early intervention programmes to offer additional support to the family and reduce their risk of further offending. |
| TYS | Targeted Youth Support |
| UASC | Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker |
| UPW | Unpaid Work |
| VCS | Voluntary Community Sector |
| VCSE | Voluntary Community & Social Enterprise |
| VRU | Violence Reduction Unit |
| YC | 'Youth Caution' (voluntary intervention post-charge given when a child admits the offence as an out of court disposal) |
| YCC | 'Youth Conditional Caution' (statutory intervention post-charge as an out of court disposal) |
| YCS | Youth Custody Service for England & Wales (part of MoJ) |
| Young Adult | A young adult is defined as someone who is 18 (usually up to 24, sometimes 21). For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service. |
| YOI | Young Offender Institution |
| YJB | The 'Youth Justice Board'; a non-departmental public body responsible for overseeing the youth justice system in England and Wales |
| YJPB | Stockport 'Youth Justice Partnership Board' |
| YJPU | 'Youth Justice Policy Unit' for England & Wales (dedicated unit within MoJ overseeing policy and ministerial decision-making for Youth Justice) |
| YJSIP | Youth Justice Sector Improvement Programme (a national programme led through the youth justice sector) |
| YOT | Youth Offending Team |
| YOS | Youth Offending Service |