

EXECUTIVE

15th September 2022

Report Title	Youth Justice Plan 2022/23
Report Author	AnnMarie Dodds – Executive Director of Children’s Services
Lead Member	Cllr Scott Edwards – Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills.

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council has a statutory duty to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which provides specified information about the local provision of youth justice services. The Youth Justice Board provides guidance about what must be included in the plan and recommends a structure for the plan. The draft Youth Justice Plan for the Northamptonshire Youth Justice Service is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 1.2. As the Youth Justice Plan is part of the Council’s Budget and Policy Framework, Council will be requested to adopt the Plan.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Youth Justice Plan covers performance for the period 2021/22 and provides service budgets, operational and strategic developments within the service and partnership, service structure and the Service Improvement Plan for 2022 –2023.

- 2.2. In accordance with statutory requirements, the Plan was placed before Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service Management Board in August 2022, where it was approved.
- 2.3. 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. After submission to the YJB, Youth Justice Plans are sent to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP - lead for Youth Offending Service inspections) and are placed in the House of Commons library.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that Executive consider and endorse the Youth Justice Plan and recommend its approval to Full Council
- 3.2. Reasons for Recommendations:
 - To provide the Youth Offending Service with the strategic direction for their service area
 - To accord with the policy of the Council, the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and is therefore a matter for Council to approve.
- 3.3. Alternative Options Considered: As well as being a requirement of statute, the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and approval by the Council is therefore required.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 Youth Offending Teams are statutory partnerships, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with the principal aim of preventing offending by children and young people. Local authorities are responsible for establishing a Youth Offending Team. Police, the Probation Service and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are statutorily required to assist in their funding and operation. In Northamptonshire, the Youth Offending Service (NYOS) is delivered by Northamptonshire Children's Trust.
- 4.2 Local authorities continue to have a statutory duty to submit an annual Youth Justice Plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. 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:
 - a) how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded
 - b) how the Youth Offending Service will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
- 4.3 Plans must cover both strategic and operational elements. The wider strategic picture should be captured, whilst also outlining the key business activities that will be undertaken by services to achieve wider strategic aims.

- 4.4 The Youth Justice Plan should set out the direction and strategy of youth justice services, describing how quality services will be provided to ensure positive outcomes for children and improvements in performance indicators, in particular:
- reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system
 - reducing the use of custody
 - reducing reoffending rates
 - locally agreed performance indicators that evidence positive outcomes for children.
- 4.5 The Youth Justice Plan must describe how leadership and governance is set up to monitor the quality and effectiveness of youth justice services across our area. Due to the restrictions of the Youth Justice Board prescriptive approach, the NYOS is prevented from innovating and ensuring the document is child friendly and accessible to all. In response, Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service will create a child friendly version of this document.

5 Issues and Choices

Service Development Priorities

- 5.1 A quality assurance framework was developed and implemented to promote effective and consistent practice. Service-learning sessions have been delivered as a result of the findings. We have developed partnership working relationships to address extra familiar harm, which includes the Exploitation Screening tool to identify risks of exploitation.
- 5.2 The Youth Offending Service has enhanced the Education, Training and Employment offer by increasing resource and we successfully rolled out the Skill Mill for those young people at risk of reoffending. We have also developed new working practices in relation to speech and language support and timely health assessments and interventions.

Partnership Priorities

- 5.3 Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service (NYOS) has developed strong working relationships with all of Northamptonshire Children's Trust teams as we are an integral part of the Trust. The strength of our partnership working with the police has enabled NYOS to deliver targeted work in respect of serious youth violence, First time Entrants and Reoffending.
- 5.4 NYOS senior management team and operational managers and practitioners are now visible in all areas of children and young people strategic boards, steering groups, task and finish groups. This includes the Community Safety Partnerships within both North and West Northamptonshire Councils. NYOS, together with the Probation Service, developed a protocol that addressed transitions for young people from NYOS to the Probation Service.

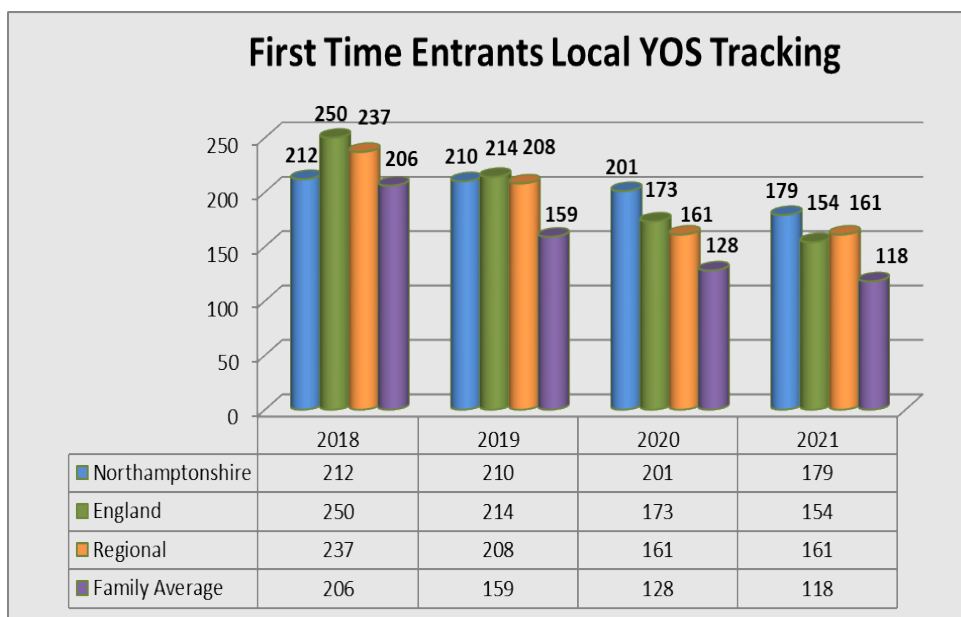
Improving Practice

- 5.5 NYOS improved the service communication by holding more regular whole service meetings and increased the opportunities to celebrate individuals' outstanding work and the service successes.

- 5.6 All NYOS staff have been trained in Signs of Safety and by applying Trauma informed approaches, NYOS have also supported Police custody to ensure a trauma informed custody service.
- 5.7 All staff were trained in unconscious bias and motivational interviewing to equip the staff with knowledge and skills to be more confident in their conversations with children, especially in areas of over representation. NYOS now have an over representation protocol supported by an action plan.
- 5.8 One of the barriers NYOS have identified throughout the 2021-2022 delivery has been the innovative work required to support education, training, and employment. This priority has been taken forward into 2022-2023.

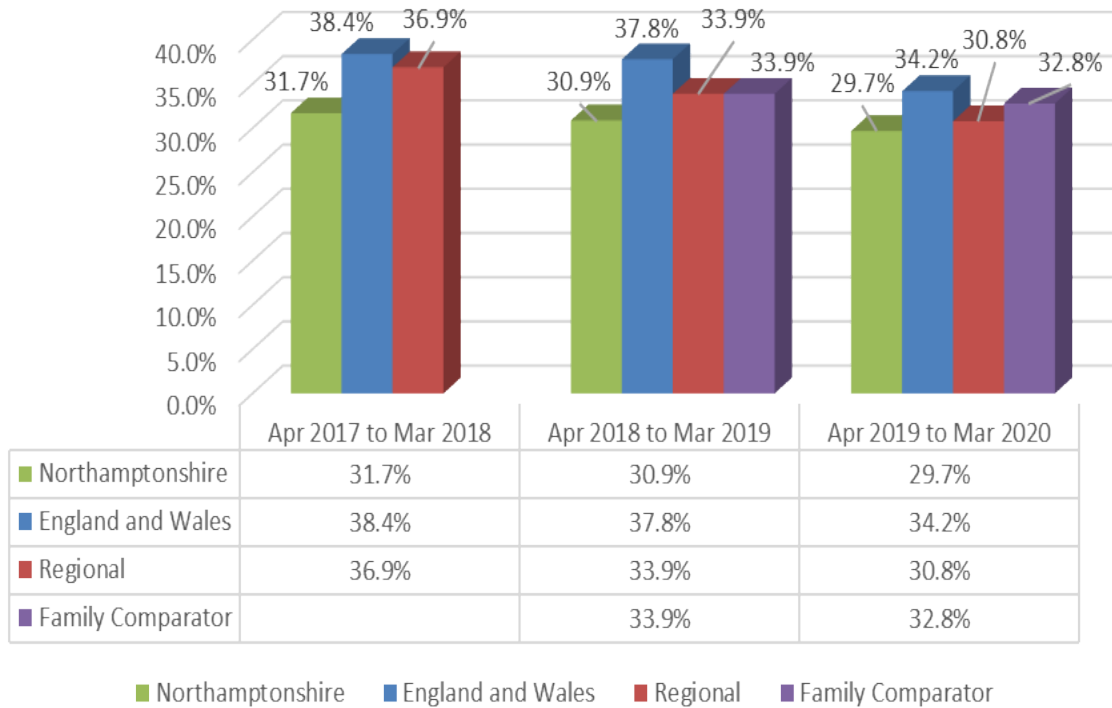
Looking Forward

- 5.9 On 24th February 2022 the Youth Justice Board wrote to the Chair of the Board, Head of Service and Assistant Director to inform us that Northamptonshire has been designated a Youth Justice Board (YJB) Stage One Priority service due to concerns relating to key performance data, levels of over-represented children and increases in serious violence. YJB Stage One Priority status is one of diagnostics and light touch engagement to consider, brokering support where appropriate. In response we have focused our Service improvement plan on the areas highlighted by the YJB.
- 5.10 The NYOS Youth Justice plan specifically covers the YJB priority areas:
- 5.11 Strategic Priority 1 - Reduce the number of First Time Entrants into the Criminal justice system. To be effective in this area, we need to apply a whole system approach to ensure those at risk receive support at the earliest opportunity. For the youth justice partnership service, we need to identify and intervene earlier with those young people whose vulnerability and safeguarding risks are identified through highly effective Out of Court Disposals processes.

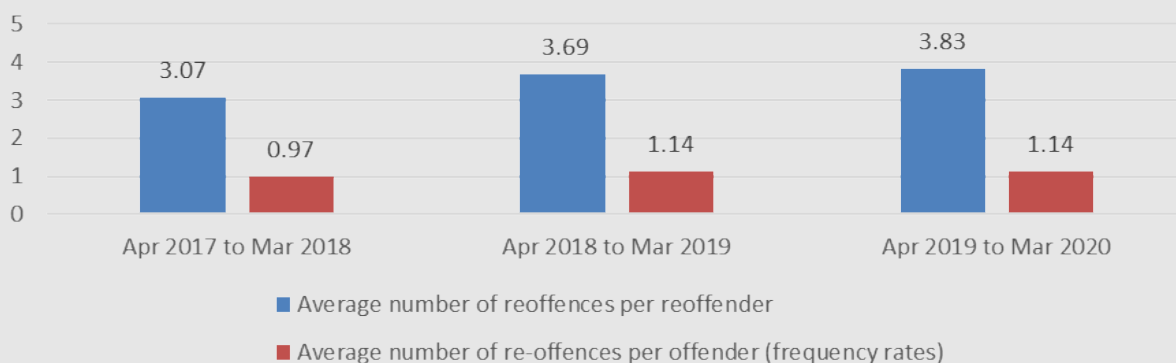


5.12 **Strategic Priority 2 – Reduce re-offending** - Reducing re-offending is one of three national indicators for youth justice. Breaking the cycle of re-offending, particularly where this offending has become prolific and contributes to a disproportionate amount of total youth crime, means that our communities will be safer and there will be fewer victims of crime. The savings from reduced re-offending and the need for formal, acute youth justice intervention, also enables a shift of resource towards prevention of offending.

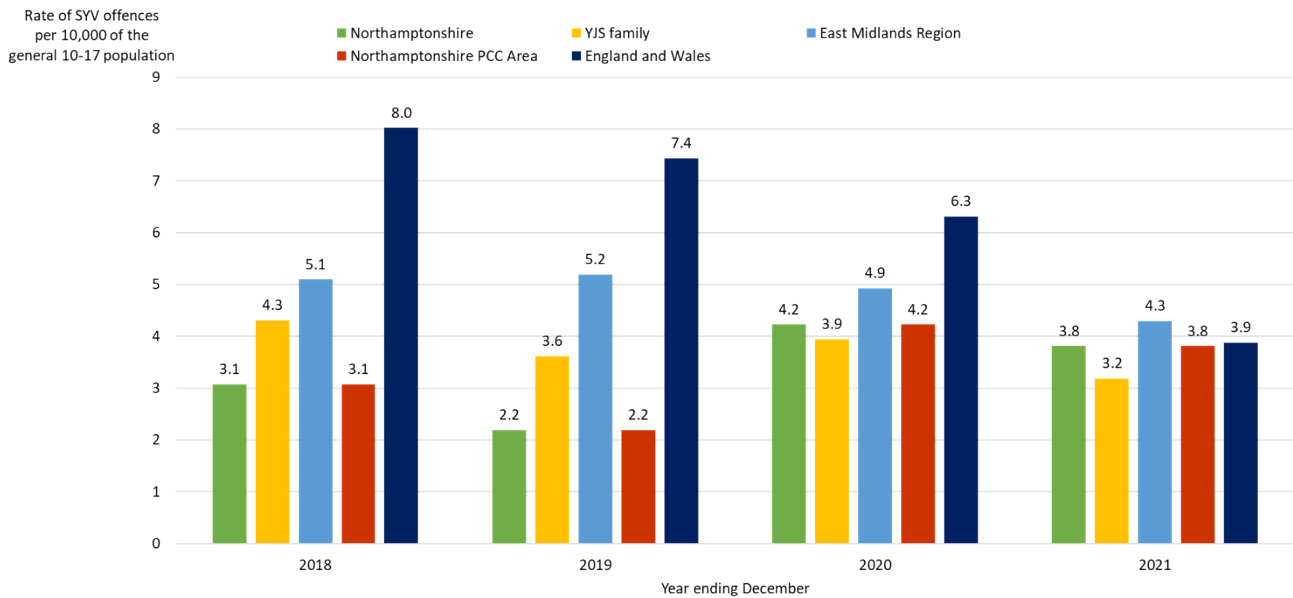
Rate Of Proven Reoffending by Young People (Binary Rate)



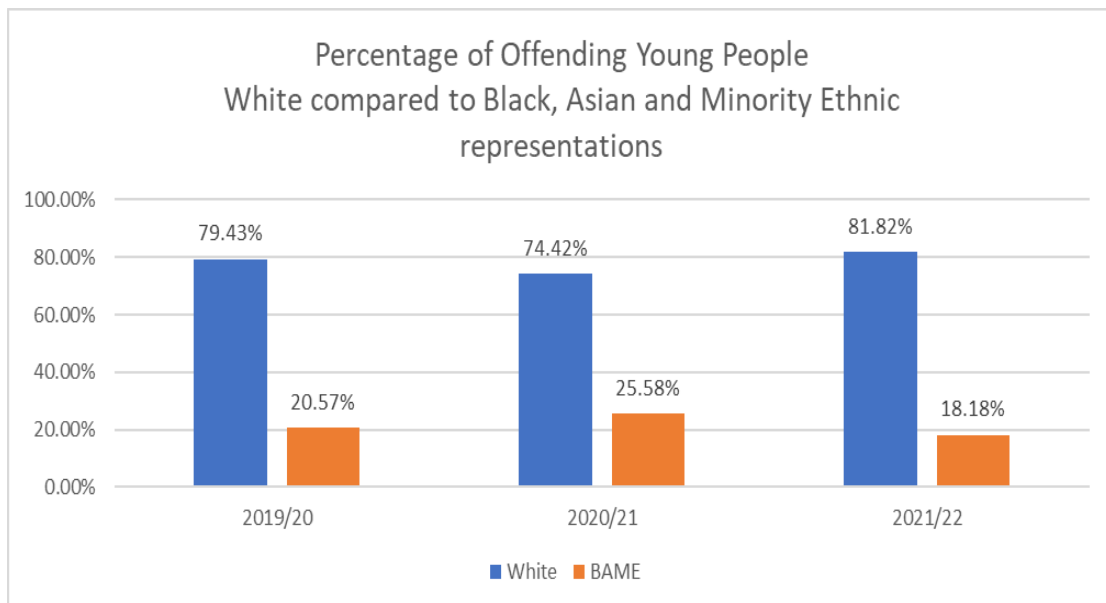
Northamptonshire Average Number of Reoffences by Reoffender



5.13 **Strategic Priority 3 – Protect the public from harm decrease in serious Violence.** Effective risk assessment and management practices that seek to protect the public from harm and reduce the impact of offending on the local community are crucial in meeting this priority and are more likely to be achieved through an integrated, multi-agency partnership approach. There are relatively few young people in Northamptonshire whose offending presents a significant risk of serious harm to the public but where this is present management of the risk must be prioritised.



5.14 A further strategic priority is over representation and disproportionality. the BAME community are still over-represented within Northamptonshire young people who offend. Although data shows this has reduced in 2021/22 to just over 18% compared to this community representing 11% of Northamptonshire 10-17 population.



6 Next Steps

- 6.1 If recommended by Executive, the plan will go to Full Council for approval.
- 6.2 Once agreed this report will be published within the House of Commons.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

7.1.1 The Youth Justice Board have confirmed the provisional youth justice grant for the year 2022/23 is £705,433 which is an uplift of 9.8%. This uplift, which is applied across all local authorities, is the result of strong commitment to frontline youth justice services. This significant increase in funding is designed to support our delivery, performance improvements and our service's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.1.2 Northamptonshire's provisional youth justice grant allocation for 2022/23 is £705,433. This is on top of our statutory partnership contributions. See table below:

INCOME	Youth Justice Board ¹	Local Authority	Police and Crime Commissioner	Probation	Health	Public Health	Total
Contributions	£705,433	£1,563,205	£200,900	£31,974		£80,000	£2,581,512
Total income	£705,433	£1,563,205	£200,900	£31,974	£0	£80,000	£2,581,512

7.1.3 For 2022/23, the YJB require submission of the Youth Justice Plans which must be agreed by the Management Board and signed-off by the Chair prior to receiving any form of grant.

7.1.4 In respect of the Local Authority contribution the disaggregation principles applied as part of the overall contract sum are 44.16% for North Northamptonshire Council and 55.64% for West Northamptonshire Council. 100% of grants are paid to North Northamptonshire Council.

7.2 Legal and Governance

7.2.1 The Council's duty, pursuant to section 40, Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan for each year, following statutory consultation, is detailed in the body of the report above.

7.2.2 By virtue of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended) certain plans and strategies, which together make up the Council's budgetary and policy framework, must be approved by full Council, as reflected in the Council's Constitution. These include the Youth Justice Plan.

7.2.3 The Constitution requires that the Executive's proposals in relation to any such policy, plan or strategy be submitted to full Council and that, in reaching a decision, the Council may adopt the Executive's proposals, amend them, refer them back to the Executive for consideration or, in principle, submit its own proposals in their place.

¹ This includes all grants received from YJB

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1 The Youth Justice plan support the priorities of North Northamptonshire Unitary authority and the vision that Our Vision for North Northamptonshire is: "A place where everyone has the best opportunities and quality of life."

7.3.2 The NYOS plan will seek to achieve North Northamptonshire's key commitments as well as support and mirror Northamptonshire's Policing "Matters of Priority."

7.4 Risk

7.4.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 In accordance with statutory requirements, the plan was placed before NYOS Management Board, on which statutory partners sit, [Police, Probation, Health] and was approved in June 2022. The NYOS intends to redraft the plan into a child friendly version once the plan has been agreed. The plan at present is not child friendly due to the prescriptive nature of the YJB requirements, NYOS are committed to young people having a full understanding of the NYOS plans for 2022/23. We have identified our Youth Engagement Team to contribute to this.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 This report has not been considered by an Executive Advisory Panel.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 This report has not been subject to scrutiny.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 It is considered that the plan will have an impact on the groups indicated below but it is intended that the impact will be a positive one for those groups. They have been listed here to ensure full transparency. Disproportionate effects are likely to occur due to young people offending which the plan aims to reduce. Whilst the plan focuses on young people who offend, the drivers for such offending, and at-risk issues, can include disability, poverty, gender and ethnicity. The offences themselves may also have an indirect effect on carers and other groups and this is the reason for inclusion above. It is further considered that the interventions, actions and measures identified in the plan, will address the core issues leading to a positive impact on the groups above.

7.8.2 There are nine protected characteristics that are afforded protection against less favourable treatment within the Equality Act (2010). These are:

- (a) Age
- (b) Race

- (c) Sex
- (d) Gender Reassignment
- (e) Sexual Orientation
- (f) Marriage and Civil Partnership
- (g) Religion or Belief
- (h) Disability
- (i) Pregnancy and Maternity

7.9 Climate and Environment Impact

7.9.1 The Council, having declared a climate change emergency in June 2021, is committed to reducing its climate impact both within its own Council buildings and in working with businesses and the wider community to achieve net zero energy emissions. Both NYOS buildings are Victorian and as a result not environmentally friendly. Consequently, the Trust are seeking to relocate the service to a more environmentally and child friendly building whilst encouraging agile working for staff who work directly with young people. Due to the Covid Pandemic we have noticed a decline in staff mileage and use of cars and public transport. This highlights creative ways the NYOS have used to ensure young people remained seen throughout the pandemic. The use of virtual technology and community-based facilities have resulted in less travel.

7.10 Community Impact

7.10.1 NYOS' vision compliments the wider Children's Services' Vision and YJB 'Child First, Offender Second' approach in aspiring to create a local justice system, which supports children to be the best version of themselves, working collaboratively and seeing children as part of the solution, through evidenced based practice. It aims to recognise the need to create an individualised approach and appropriately respond to a child's diversity, by working holistically through a whole system approach to support the wider family and illuminate barriers to desistance, including structural inequality, alongside recognising the need to protect the public and previous/future victims of crime.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requires Local Authorities to have a Youth Justice Plan, which is updated annually to set out how youth justice will be delivered locally within available resources.

8 Background Papers

8.1. None.