

CS/23/10
Cabinet
13th September 2023

Youth Justice Service (YJS) Annual Plan

Report by John JAMES
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Devon Youth Justice Service

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

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1) Recommendation

It is recommended that the Cabinet be asked to note and agree the 2023/2024 Youth Justice Service Plan on the following basis:

- (a) To comply with requirement that YJ Plans must be signed off by the full council in accordance with 'Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'
- (b) To confirm the existing contribution to a pooled budget to part finance Youth Justice Services in Devon of £299,200. Note – no additional funding is being sought through this Cabinet report.
- (c) To provide elected member endorsement to maintain an informed dialogue on youth justice matters within our communities to achieve the ambitions of the plan to the greatest effect, for both the benefit of children and society as a whole

2) Background / Introduction

Section 39 (1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the co-operation of the named statutory partners to form a YJS. Section 38 (1, 2) identifies the statutory partners. These statutory partners are:

- local authority
- education
- police
- probation service
- health

The national Youth Justice Board require each Youth Justice Service in England and Wales to submit an annual report to inform the strategic oversight of the service and set out the ambitions for the upcoming year.

1. The YJ Plan must be agreed by the Chair of the local Youth Justice Management Board, pre submission to the YJB for scrutiny.
2. The 'sign off' by the Chair is an indication that the wider management board have approved the submitted plan and all sections outlined in the [Youth Justice Plan Structure](#) have been covered.
3. The requirement for full council sign off has been in place since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 enabled Youth Offending Services (the national title), but to date Devon YJT was not aware of this requirement. This is place going forwards.
4. Budget is in place and no additional funding is being sought.

3) Main Body

The primary aim of a Youth Justice Service is to reduce the likelihood of offending behaviour or repeated offending behaviour of children (aged 10-18) within our community.

Devon Youth Justice Service has been recognised by His Majesties Inspectorate of Probation in the Autumn of 2022, finding the service to be performing at a "good" standard, with many outstanding features.

As you will be aware, our service covers the huge geographical area of Devon. Whenever a child comes into contact with the Police, they are referred to our service for an assessment to be made to consider how best to proceed to get the best outcome for the child, any victims and our communities.

The majority of the children who come to the attention of the criminal justice system experience extremely challenging issues and have complex needs. Often a criminal record adds to a list of structural barriers these children may already have. All work we do is through the lens of how we can help develop "pro social identity" in the children with whom we work and in turn are far less likely to offend. As stated this is a complex issue and therefore we rely on working as a multiagency team made up of specialist Police officers, Probation Officers, Mental Health support workers, Speech and Language Therapists as well as a group of well qualified and experienced case holders who carry out assessments for children and identify plans to help develop pro social identity of the children with whom we work, as well as how to keep that child and indeed, others safe.

The YJS strategic plan sets out how we intend to continue to learn about children in the Criminal Justice System by improving our participation offer (which means how we involve the voice of children far better), by regular sharing, and the subsequent scrutiny, of relevant data and by maintaining a skilled workforce who have the time and ability to work with children and assist them in turning away from crime.

The YJS management board has set itself the following objectives for the following year:

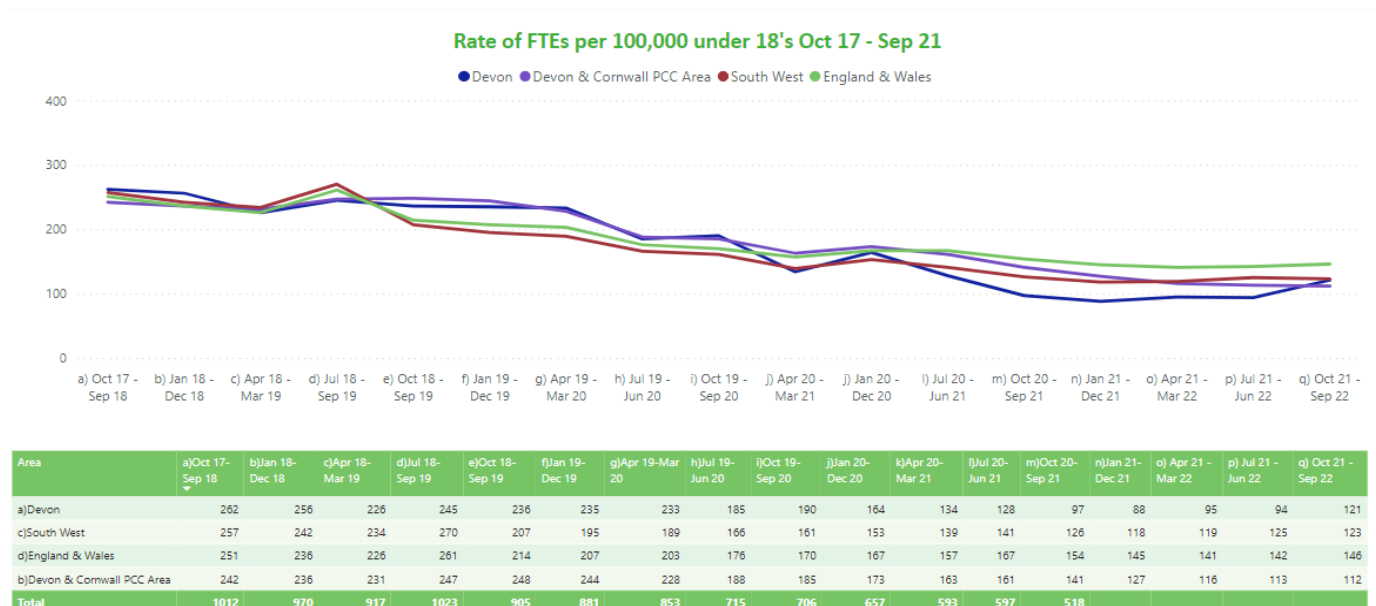
1. The reduction of 1st time entrants into the criminal justice system (this is children who receive a youth caution or Court conviction). We intend to only promote the use of these disposals where we need the power and influence these disposals bring to keep a child or indeed others safe.

2. To strengthen the crossover and oversight of serious violence governance (despite seeing lower levels of overall crime, we have seen an increase in the last year of offences which are considered under the “serious violence definition”)
3. To have a robust workforce development plan for all staff in the YJS to meet the mission statement of Devon Youth Justice Service
4. To expand the Participation offer within Devon Youth Justice Service
5. To review and develop a more robust quality assurance process.
6. To develop further strategy to deliver “swifter justice” and avoid unnecessary delays for children and victims of crime.
7. To reduce the use of youth detention for all children
8. To deliver on our obligation to produce data for the new Key Performance Indicators issued by the Ministry of Justice.
9. To strengthen the roles and responsibilities of members of DYJS management board
10. To tackle issues of disproportionality/overrepresentation in the criminal justice system in Devon (see section 9. Priorities p.31)
11. To review all local policy to ensure they are child first and align with Youth Justice Board case management guidance
12. To increase the participation of children and young people open to YJS in Education, Training and Employment (ETE) opportunities.

4) Options

All of the objectives above will be reviewed in each quarterly management board and each staff member is involved in various objectives of the plan via their most recent appraisal.

5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

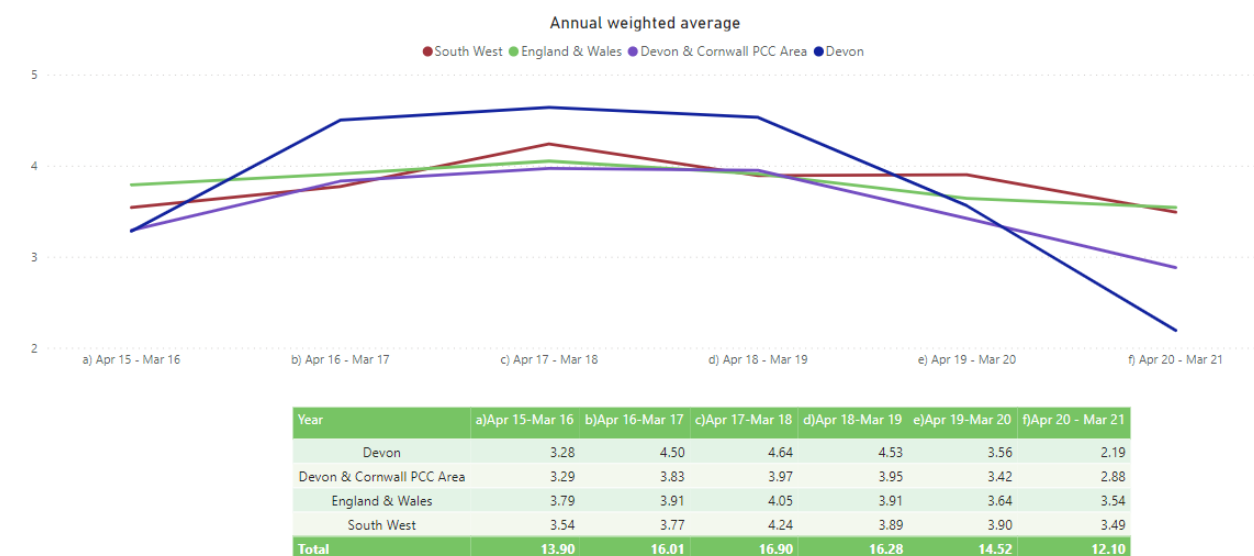


Over the last five years, the number of First Time Entrants (children) has declined by 46%. Last year's figures were the lowest ever recorded by Devon YJS, which in part can be attributed to the multi-agency Out of Court Decision Panel (a panel which seeks to offer support to children without having to criminalise them), along with additional funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office but may have also been effected by the impact

of the pandemic. However, it is concerning this years FTE figures are 121 per 100,000 – an increase of nearly 30% on the previous years data.

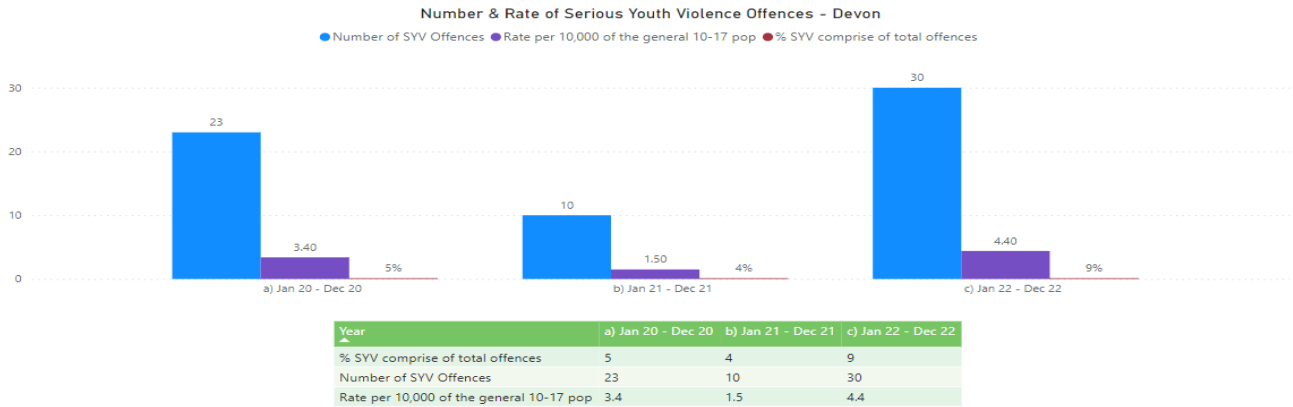


information management) gives us an idea of FTE figures between April 2022 and March 2023 (which is a differing data set/time period to above). A spike in FTE's can be seen in June (after many year 11's have finished school) and this spike reduces as a summer break ends. A further spike can be noted over Christmas and the new year. We are working closely with all agencies to consider a strategy on how to address this.



The above re-offending rates demonstrate a lower-than-average re-offending rate in Devon in comparison with England and Wales and across Devon and Cornwall PCC area, after involvement of Devon YJS. This demonstrates a clear success and effectiveness of the services we currently offer in Devon, given re-offending rates are significantly lower in comparison. This should be highly praised and recognised in regard to how we are helping children, keeping communities safe and delivering on our mission statement.

Nonetheless, the data below demonstrates a very concerning increase in trend of serious violence (for first time entrants) in Devon and this has formed a significant part of the planning for 2023/24.



Offences linked to Out of Court Disposals and Court Outcomes.

Of the offences we deal with, violence is the most common offence. Drug offences have increased by 3, whilst criminal damage and public order offences (often linked to violence) have reduced by 78 and 6 accordingly. This is attributed in part to a focus on a strategy of seeking alternatives to criminalisation of children in care via the 10-point checklist [The forgotten 10 point checklist – the decision to prosecute offending in children’s homes \(yjlc.uk\)](#). Motoring offences have seen a dramatic reduction from last year’s figure of 56 (a reduction of 41) but sexual offences have increased by 8. The rest of the offence types have remained somewhat static on average.

Local Performance

Out of Court Decisions	Number of Outcomes
Community Resolution Police Facilitated	190
Community Resolution with YOT Intervention	18
Deferred Prosecution Outcome 22	18
Youth Caution	49
Youth Conditional Caution	71
Total	346

This table shows the Out of Court outcomes for young people in the Devon YJS area in the 12-month period April 2022 to March 2023.

This data shows that there have been fewer single agency police facilitated Community Resolutions but an increase in disposals supported by the Youth Justice Service in comparison to the previous year. (2021/22 saw a total of 86 OOCDisposals involving YJS. 2022/23 saw a total of 156 OOCDisposals). We believe this approach has helped keep children out of the formal Criminal Justice System for a longer period of time.

The table opposite shows outcomes from Youth and Crown Court in Devon. The main outcomes which have required YJS input have been those children sentenced to custody, Youth Rehabilitation Orders and Referral Orders. In real terms this figure amounts to 56 Court disposals between April 2022 and March 2023. This is an increase from the previous year's figures of 36.

Of note in this table is of the number of children DYJS currently have recorded as having been "recommended prosecution" i.e. to go to Court, amounts to 67. This indicates there are still either a) delays in children going to Court or b) not robust communication links with Crown Prosecution Service to let DYJS know if prosecutions are not being proceeding with. NB. All children who are awaiting prosecution are offered voluntary support from YJS.

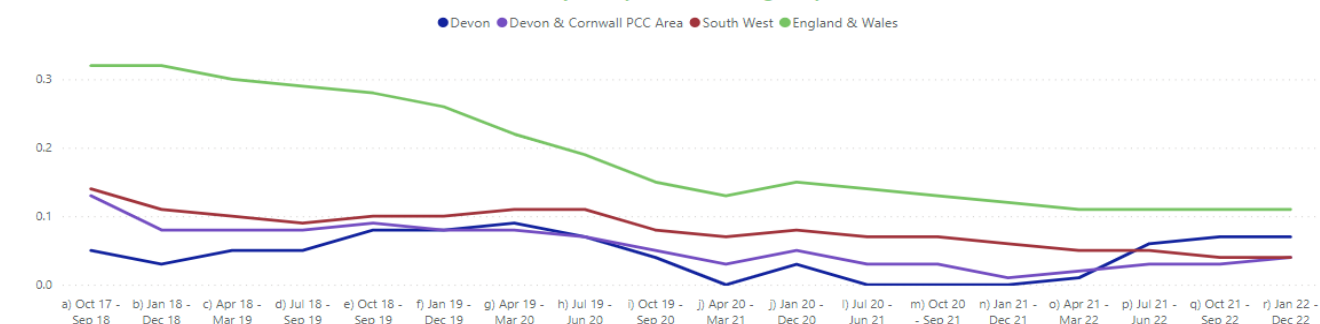
Court Outcomes	Number of Outcomes
Community Punishment Order (CSO)	1
Disqualified from Driving	1
Fine	1
License Endorsed	1
Order to Continue	1
Order Varied	1
Young Offenders Institution (Yoi Custody)	1
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Requirement Band 1	1
No Separate Penalty	2
Order Revoked	2
Penalty Points	2
Detention + Training Order (Custody)	4
Conditional Discharge	6
Discontinued/Dismissed/Withdrawn	7
Youth Rehabilitation Order	11
Referral Order	40
Recommend Prosecution	67
Total	149

The use of Custody

When children do go to custody it can have a damaging effect on their lives, disrupting education and straining family relationships. Children in custody are likely to be amongst the most complex and vulnerable children in society and the financial burden is high on local authorities who have children in custody.

The rate of custodial sentences in Devon is very low, with 4 custodial sentences being imposed from March 2020 to March 2023. These figures not only reflect the work done by YJS staff to present the Court with robust alternatives to custody, as well as collaborative multi-agency efforts in possible custodial situations and good working relationships with the Courts; but also, the hard work, effort and time DYJS staff put into keeping these children out of custody by ensuring their compliance with the alternative community sentence.

Custody Rate per 1,000 Young People



Area	a) Oct 17 - Sep 18	b) Jan 18 - Dec 18	c) Apr 18 - Mar 19	d) Jul 18 - Sep 19	e) Oct 18 - Sep 19	f) Jan 19 - Dec 19	g) Apr 19 - Mar 20	h) Jul 19 - Jun 20	i) Oct 19 - Sep 20	j) Apr 20 - Mar 21	k) Jan 20 - Dec 20	l) Jul 20 - Jun 21	m) Oct 20 - Sep 21	n) Jan 21 - Dec 21	o) Apr 21 - Mar 22	p) Jul 21 - Jun 22	q) Oct 21 - Sep 22	r) Jan 22 - Dec 22
Devon	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.07	0.07
Devon & Cornwall PCC Area	0.13	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04
South West	0.14	0.11	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04
England & Wales	0.32	0.32	0.30	0.29	0.28	0.26	0.22	0.19	0.15	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
Total	0.64	0.54	0.53	0.51	0.55	0.52	0.50	0.44	0.32	0.31	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.19	0.19	0.25	0.25	0.26

As part of our planning for the upcoming year, we ensure we liaise with children, their families and/or carers.

Children feedback

- 98% of children said they felt supported and safe
- 94% felt their qualities and strengths were recognised
- 100% felt spoken to a way they could understand
- 96% felt DYJS helped them make their own choices not just told them what to do
- 100% felt we worked well with other professionals in their lives
- 92% felt we helped make their lives better



Parents/carers feedback

- 97.6% said they felt part of the planning process though out the intervention
- 97.6% felt empowered to challenge DYJS at any stage
- 100% felt we helped them feel empowered to make decisions to protect their own child
- 97% felt we helped bring all services together to benefit their child
- 100% said DYJS checked they were receiving all their support entitlements
- 100% Felt comfortable, safe and understood by DYJS staff
- 85% felt reassured about who they could turn to for support once DYJS ended their work with the family
- 97.6% Said working with DYJS was a positive experience.



Case Study

Stephen assaulted another boy his age by punching him in the face. Historically, this matter would have proceeded immediately to Court. Often with a significant delay before it was heard and in turn would have left Stephen with a criminal record and potentially some stern words from a magistrate.

Following an assessment by YJS, it was discovered that Stephens mother was struggling at home, suffering from PTSD and self-harming. Stephen was caring for her and his twin brother who had his own disability from a head injury when he was a baby. The victim of Stephen's offence had disagreed with Stephen about a football result. This was enough to trigger Stephen's sense of pent up frustration and anger and he lashed out at the victim. We felt we could work with Stephen on an "Out of Court" disposal. They police and, with some reassurance, so did the victim and his family".

We worked with Stephen, his family, the victim and the school to ensure the victim felt safe and secure and following support being given to his mum, twin brother and Stephen himself – we arranged some restorative justice meetings.

Stephen YJS spent a lot of time building a trusted relationship with him by carrying out activities Stephen enjoyed. As they were undertaking these activities, they would talk about the problems Stephen was experienced. A screening for Speech and Language discovered a development Language disorder in Stephen and all partners and the school have been given support on how best to communicate with Stephen. He was introduced to martial arts groups and now has a stable relationship within these groups. Mum is now supported via her GP for her own mental health issues, through JS parenting support and social care early help support. Mum is also coming to the martial arts groups and developing her own relationships with other parents there. Stephen completed his work with us but remains in contact with YJS and helps us by sharing his thoughts on new policy and process at the point of review.

Case Study - D was heavily involved in an organised crime group and being exploited under a County Line to deal drugs and get involved in serious violence. The police had known about D for some while and felt the only way legitimate to address this was for D to be placed in custody. He was being labelled as an "offender" and as "dangerous". Assessment uncovered that D had experienced a lifetime of trauma, abuse, rejection, punishment and expulsion. D felt he did not have a place in "normal" society or indeed within his own family. The organised crime group offered him purpose, money and a sense of belonging. They exploited this child's negative experiences to benefit the overall crime group.

In working with D, the YJS has worked hard to understand what has happened to D, rather than what is wrong with him and assign him with any further negative labels. YJS prioritised the view that behaviour stems from any child's identity and the way in which they perceive themselves, their relationship to others and the world around them. We knew any work we did with D needed to focus heavily on how to develop his pro social identity and in develop a new sense of purpose and a sense of belonging. His history led to him having an identity to perceive the world around him to be unsafe and dangerous and himself to be unlovable, not worthy of trusting and nurturing relationships. His early experiences led to him being hypervigilant and sensitive responses regarding his fight, flight and freeze responses. This made him more vulnerable to exploitation and a propensity to be violent as a result. There was very little opportunity for identity shift and YJS knew custody is more likely to increase his sense of a future life involved in the criminal justice system. What was there to lose?

YJS devised an intensive package of support around D and convinced the Court to allow him to remain in the community. The package of support needed the full involvement of social care, the police, health and probation services. A lot of monitoring was required at first and D was prevented from having contact with certain others. At the same time the hard work began to develop a trusting relationship with him. It hard task given his experiences. But this was achieved. A kind, funny and generous boy was discovered. He had a love of cars. He was trusted to help learn more about cars and supported to get his driving licence. In doing this he was taught about the value in failing in order to succeed and in turn develop his resilience.

D continues to work with us and has not re-offending to date. We are realistic there could always be times were he "relapses" and will always have some vulnerability to exploitation. But via eh resources we hold we expose him to more and more positive activities via our centre in Exeter. He tried cooking and woodwork; he did not enjoy it but tried! He has though, wanted to get into fitness too and we are now starting in this journey to develop a sense of belonging in this group. Environment of intervention and interaction is crucial. It impacts on the child's sense of self and self-worth. It needs to be safe to explore new things. To get things wrong and learn from it. Having areas were staff know their names, remembering what they like to drink and taking interest in their lives – whether this is an allocated work or not, or indeed admin or reception staff – makes the world of difference to helping a child like D move away from a life in the criminal justice system.

6) Strategic Plan

The strategic plan of Devon Youth Justice system is well aligned with a range of the Council's Strategic plan priorities. It seeks to finds ways to understand the children of Devon who come to the attention of the criminal justice system, to separate their behaviours from who they are and what they have experienced. It goes further to seek how, together as a community, we can treat them fairly and develop their own sense of self and a prosocial identity to help them move away from offending behaviour. At the same time, we

work hard to protect those who have been, or are at risk of becoming, victims of offending behaviour at seek ways for reparation and restoration to be achieved.

The table below summaries how the YJB objectives would impact achievement of relevant Strategic Plan actions according to a seven-point scale, whereby -3 represents a large negative impact and +3 represents a large positive impact.

Strategic Plan Priority	Strategic plan action	Alignment
Responding to climate emergency	DYJS staff do prioritise using sustainable travel and transport where possible.	+1 Slightly positive
Be ambitious for children and young people	We believe the children with whom we work can highly achieve, if given the right support at the right time, by developing their prosocial identities and helping them repair issues with attachment offending will reduce.	+3 (Large Positive)
	DYJS believe all services should hold each other to the highest account to ensure that children's rights under the UN convention of the rights of the child are always upheld.	
Support sustainable economic recovery	By supporting children's sense of self and pro social identity we help them develop their interests, their hobbies and their ambitions to find education, training and/or employment which will contribute to ongoing economic recovery and growth.	+3 (Large positive)
	DYJS work hard to avoid the use of custody for children. The use of custody costs the Local Authority significant amounts of money. This takes a lot of	

	work and dedication from YJS staff but overall benefits the child, the LA, the community and the Economy	
Tackle poverty and inequality	A significant proportion of the children, families and/or carers we work with live in Poverty. We support families by ensuring they are receiving the correct financial support, by helping tackle the barriers to them attaining employment and signposting them to community support	+2 (moderate positive)
Improve health and wellbeing	By helping children develop pro social identity and repair attachment, we are helping them to grow and live healthier and happier lives, in turn making it less likely they will offend.	+3 (Large positive)
	Each child in our service is screened for possible Speech and Language issues and given the appropriate support.	
	Each child in YJS can access fast track CAMHS support in order to help them address emotional difficulties.	
	Activities are often the vehicle for interactions and roles, which have the most impact in identity formation.	
Health communities be safe, resilient and connected.	All of the above helps our communities in their sense of safety, resilience and	+3 (Large positive)

	connectivity but in addition we work closely with victims of offences to help them to heal from their experiences of harm.	
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7) Financial Considerations

The YJS budget comprises partnership funding, YJB funding and specific grant funding. The budget allocation is reviewed annually by the Devon Youth Justice Service Management Board (see Appendix 2 for Terms of Reference – YJB plan). All partners (Police, Probation, Health, Local Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner) agree funding contributions for the following year and these arrangements are formalised into a Partner Financial Agreement, which is reviewed annually and signed by all partners. Devon YJS uses the YJB grant and partner contributions to deliver the benefits and outcomes set out later in this report. The partner financial agreement mentioned above ensures that all partners maintain their contributions at the level necessary to deliver effective Youth Justice Services in Devon, as measured against Key Performance Indicators and National Standards and as monitored by Devon YJS Management Board meetings.

There are numerous benefits linked to this agreement, such as:

- Agreement on levels of cash contributions from each agency
- Agreement on levels of staff secondments from each agency
- A clear budget-planning process, including timescales
- The service has a track record of remaining within budget and, over a period of time, has been able to retain balances that enable it to undertake developments or cover unexpected expenditure without the need to seek recourse to the statutory partners.

Budget 2023 – 24

Agency	Staffing Costs	Payments in kind	Other delegated funds	Total
Police	151,320	0	0	151,320
Police and Crime Commissioner	0	0	190,266	190,266
Probation	59,670	0	5,000	64,670
Health	188,115	0	66,431	254,546
Local Authority*	384,000*	0	299,200 *	683,200
YJB	0	0	£827,910	827,910
Total	783,105	0	1,388,807	2,171,912

The total YJS budget for 2023-24 is **£2,171,912**.

**The restructure of DCC Children's Services is underway and included in the restructure plans are the DCC funded members of staff within the Youth Justice Service and the*

building being used. The figures given in this report are therefore subject to change and could impact upon intended service delivery given any changes in resource. Nonetheless, we are seeking confirmation in writing from finance colleagues regarding financial contributions from DCC.

8) Legal Considerations

Section 39 (1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the co-operation of the named statutory partners to form a YJS. Section 38 (1, 2) identifies the statutory partners (See [Appendix 2](#) and places a duty on them to co-operate to secure youth justice services appropriate to their area. These statutory partners are:

- the local authority (this should include children's social care and education)
- the police
- the probation service
- health (See [Appendix 3](#) for further information on health representation)

The YJS includes staff seconded from or employed by these agencies. To support the YJS, additional partners may also be recruited to provide specific services and support to children.

The Act does not prescribe how services are delivered, but sets out two principal statutory functions for YJSs in Section 39 (7), to:

- co-ordinate the provision of youth justice services for all those in the local authority area who need them
- carry out such functions assigned in the youth justice plan which has been formulated by the local authority after consultation with relevant bodies

By providing the youth justice services outlined at Section 38 (4) of the Act, the local authority, together with its partners, also addresses its duty under paragraph 7(b) of Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989, to take reasonable steps to encourage children within the area not to commit offences. This statutory duty is also contained in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Both Acts require local authorities to prevent children from offending and to promote their welfare.

The YJS has a statutory duty to co-operate with other agencies: and whilst not detailed in statute, the YJS also has a role in:

- working with children to meet their needs and protect the public from harm
- child/family welfare within a safeguarding context
- ensuring out of court disposals and court sentences are delivered effectively
- addressing the needs of victims and ensuring that children who offend are, where appropriate, able to participate in restorative approaches in line with the [Victim Code of Practice](#)

- analysing and addressing disparities in the cohort of children coming through the system; identifying those with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act and addressing areas of over representation
- developing partnership working with other agencies to support children in the youth justice system

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

I do not envisage that the YJB plan will significantly affect greenhouse gas emission.

10) Equality Considerations

Sadly, children from a range of backgrounds are over-represented in the youth justice system. Nationally it is known that Black and Mixed ethnicity boys are over-represented and the recent [HMIP thematic report](#) made a number of recommendations. Tackling disproportionality in the criminal justice system in Devon will remain an ongoing target for DYJS. Children coming under DYJS supervision are not over presented in regard to their race and/or ethnicity, however since last year's report we have seen an *increase of 2%* of children identifying as black or mixed heritage. We cannot be complacent to this issue and continue to review this data across our own and police data sets.

However, nationally it is not only Black and Mixed ethnicity children that are over-represented. DYJS intend to expand the data set for quarterly review in our management board. This will include but is not limited to children known to social care services, children excluded from school and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and children who have a neurodiversity or other health issue.

DYJS and partners have recognised that there has historically been an over-representation of children in Devon's criminal justice system who are in care placements. A number of these children would become "known" to the CJS for offences of Criminal Damage within the home. Work has been done with police, social care and some placement in Devon (often via the O OCD panel) to challenge decisions to potentially criminalise these children, referring to the 10-point checklist for children in care. Data above shows a significant reduction in the number of children now being criminalised for criminal damage offences. In part because of this strategy, the number of criminal damage offences have *reduced by 46%*.

Anecdotally, we recognise a pattern of more neurodiversity in the children coming into the criminal justice system. But we need to be better at understanding this locally (data below shows the picture we currently have, but we are not reassured this is as accurate as it needs to be). Nonetheless, training has been delivered and more is planned with both DYJS and Police colleagues about working with children with Neurodiversity issues. Whilst there are fewer girls in the youth justice system, they do have a specific set of needs. There has been a reduction of the number of female children working with DYJS since last year, *a reduction of 2%*. Staff have said they would welcome further training in how to support girls in the criminal justice system.

Characteristics of Children Subject to DYJS Assessment/Intervention (April 2023 data)

Of the 120 cases open to DYJS in the month of April (2023) the children had the following characteristics.

Characteristic	Number of Young People
Child In Need	32
Child Looked After	27
Child Protection Plan	9
EHCP	42
Health Need (Diagnoses of ADHD)	19
Health Need (Diagnoses of Autism & ADHD)	7
Health Need (Diagnoses of Autism)	17
Mental Health	55
S&L	64
SEN or Disability	60
Substance Misuse	72
Vul Criminal Exploitation	65
Vul Sexual Exploitation	20

Breakdown of Age/Gender/Ethnicity/Religion

1.1.1

This data shows us that predominately the ethnicity make up of the children known to DYJS are white, and the percentage of children from black, mixed heritage or Asian background has reduced by 0.1%. This does not demonstrate disproportionality, nonetheless oversight of this is continually needed given the national over representation of black and mixed heritage children in the CJS.

Ethnicity	% of Young People
White	95.3%
Mixed	2.9%
Unknown	1.0%
Black or Black British	0.5%
Asian or Asian British	0.3%

Gender	% of Young People
Male	76.4%
Female	23.0%
Indeterminate	0.3%
Other	0.3%

Age at Outcome Date	% of Young People
15	22.0%
17	22.0%
14	16.5%
16	16.0%
13	12.0%
12	8.4%
11	1.8%
10	0.8%
18	0.5%

Religion	% of Young People
No Data for this person	43.2%
Unknown	39.5%
Agnostic	6.0%
Christian	3.7%
Other	3.1%
Non Conformist	2.6%
Atheist	0.8%
Buddhist	0.3%
Church of England	0.3%
No Religion	0.3%
Roman Catholic	0.3%

Boys have historically been more represented in the CJS compared to girls, but the figures show that there is a significant number of girls working with DYJS and this has increased in

the last year by 4%. In addition, whilst numbers are low some children are not identifying as either male or female when they have contact with the service.

The ages of children being opened to DYJS is more varied than last years figures. 32% of the DYJS cohort were aged 17, whilst this year the figure has reduced by 10%. There is also a sharp increase of children aged between 10-13 becoming open to the service (11% compared to last year).

Data on religion is poor and predominately shows that the service is not sufficiently capturing this data.

11) Risk Management Considerations

This policy/proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken / included to safeguard the Council's position.

Below is a summary of the main challenges, risks and issues faced by Devon Youth Justice Service for the upcoming year.

Challenges

- How and who to work with children who have been Released Under Investigation for alleged offences of serious violence?
- How can we encourage children to be prioritised quicker by the Crown Prosecution Service whilst awaiting Court.
- How can we expand the Speech and Language resource to cover both North and South Courts?
- How can we ensure we receive data from all agencies meaning the overall understanding of children in the Criminal Justice System is clear.
- How can we connect the Youth Justice Service with Wider Children Services

Risks

- If we fail to meet the KPIs return deadlines
- An Increase in child FTEs
- If we see an increase in use of detention for children of Devon
- Buildings - possible change to Exeter office location may see a loss of resources (such a music area, community gardening, kitchen, wood working, pottery, bike maintenance, computer suites for revision, needlework) used to help them develop pro social identifies.
- If staffing became under-resourced which could make a workforce development plan hard to deliver on and re-offending rates increased

Issues

- Financial implication to the LA when/if children are remanded or detained in secure settings
- Possible future funding uncertainties

12) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

Approval of the recommendations in this report will enable Youth Justice Services to continue to function to a good standard, striving toward outstanding service delivery. The service seeks to help children move out of the criminal justice system as swiftly as possible and DYJS re-offending data proves we are achieving this.

In turn this prevents further victims, further impact on other statutory partners, financial burden on the Local Authority if the use of detention was increased and the financial burden placed upon the Courts, Police, CPS and ultimately, the public by processing children repeatedly through the Court system.

Helping these children, and their families or carers, build happier, healthier and more resilient lives benefits us all. It develops public confidence. It keeps people safe and helps our community thrive.

We recognise that children can and do cause harm to others. We take steps via the statutory powers given to us, to keep victims or potential victims safe and to seek ways to repair and restore harm cause to help communities and individuals heal.

John James

Acting Head of Service Devon Youth Justice Service

Stuart Collins

Director of Children Services

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Councillor

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

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