

Children First

Wirral Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2021-22

Hello!

Welcome to the Children First version of Wirral's Strategic Plan for our Youth Justice Service. Every year we produce a plan of what we're going to do to support children and young people who come into contact with the Youth Justice Service. This year we've produced a version for young people to let you know what we're doing, how and why we're doing it, and that we want to work together to help all young people stay safe and achieve the best possible outcomes.

Your YJMB Members

Firstly, let's introduce the Youth Justice Management Board (we call it the YJMB for short).

The YJMB is a group of managers from across different services like education, housing, social care, and police, who meet with the manager of the Youth Justice Service to improve support and services.



Youth Justice Services

Kathy Gill – YJS Service Manager

Tony Kirk – Head of Service Contextual Safeguarding

Lynn Jones – YJS Business Manager



Children and Family

Elizabeth Hartley – Assistant Director Early Help & Prevention (WYMB Chair)

Lisa Newman – Assistant Director for Housing

Alex Kaitell – Head of Service Children's Social Care

Eifion Burke – Head of Service Children Looked After

Kerry Mehta – Head of Service Family Matters



Health Services

Helen Heeley – Designated Safeguarding Nurse, Wirral CCG

Nicky Robinson – Deputy Head of Clinical Services, Wirral CAMHS

Julie Graham – Senior Public Health Manager

Your YJMB Members

The YJMB meets every couple of months to discuss how well (or not) the service is doing and to agree on what it can do to make things better. We make decisions about services, funding, training, and what it is members can do to make their services (schools, health centres, colleges, etc) better for young people supported by Youth Justice Services. It's the YJMB who write the annual plan.



Criminal Justice and Emergency Services

Martin Earl – Superintendent, Merseyside Police

Roger Pegram – Chief Inspector, Merseyside Police

Lucy Johnson – Community Engagement Officer, PCC Office

Carla Jones – Senior Manager, Probation Services

Karen Metcalf – Fire Prevention Officer, MFRS

Susie Haggstrom – Wirral Youth Panel of Magistrates

Peter Ashworth – Wirral Youth Panel of Magistrates



Education Services

Paul Smith – Head of Service Learning, Skills and Employment

Anna Dollard – Special Educational Needs Manager



Our Vision

What Wirral's YJMB Want for Young People

3. To bring about change for our young people and their families, so they can contribute fully to society and live a brighter future, in safe and pleasant communities.
2. For our young people to be treated fairly by the youth justice system; and receive help that recognises their individual needs and builds on their strengths through statutory work or preventative support.
1. For our young people involved, or on the cusp of, the criminal justice system to be seen as “children first, offenders second”.

Our Vision & Priorities

We want everyone to remember that young people involved with the Youth Justice Service are children who need, and deserve, the same care, support, attention, and encouragement as all children do.

We understand being treated fairly is really important to everyone, and we believe that all young people are individuals, with their own talents and abilities, who with the right support will do well.

Even when things haven't gone well in the past, or young people have made mistakes, we want to help them move forward positively so that they can live the rest of their lives as well as possible.

As well as having this vision, we also have a set of principles to work by. From those principles there are some key words we'd like to share with you



How well are we doing?

How well are our Youth Justice services doing?
There are 3 ways of measuring how well we are doing; they're called **Key Performance Indicators**.

Key Performance Indicator 1

Young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time (also known as **First-Time Entrants**)

First time entrant rate
(per 100,00 of population
aged 10 – 17)

Wirral in 2018

254

Wirral in 2019

221

How well are we doing?

How well are our Youth Justice services doing?
There are 3 ways of measuring how well we are doing; they're called **Key Performance Indicators**.

Key Performance Indicator 2

Young people offending more than once within 12 months (also known as Re-Offending Rate)

Re-offending rate
(percentage of young people reoffending)

Wirral 2017-18

50%

Wirral 2018-19

40%

How well are we doing?

How well are our Youth Justice services doing?
There are 3 ways of measuring how well we are doing; they're called **Key Performance Indicators**.

Key Performance Indicator 3

Young people going into custody (also known as use of custody)

Young people receiving a custodial sentence (per 1000 of 10 – 17 year olds)

Wirral 2019 – 20

7

Wirral 2020 – 21

2

Feedback from Young People

Feedback from young people using Youth Justice Services
This year we've been asking young people to tell us about their experience of being supported by Youth Justice Services.
Here's some of their feedback:

I learned what was wrong with what I did, and what I can do to prevent doing it in future

Emotional help,
Changed my behaviour

My worker helped me to recognise my behaviour upset my family, especially my mum

My worker helped me to recognise my behaviour upset my family, especially my mum

Just keep doing what you are doing as it helped others and helped me

Don't carry knives

I felt that I had a good experience, being able to talk to someone help a lot.

Getting caught at the beginning of my offending behaviour did me a favour



Feedback is really important as it helps us to learn and improve – make sure you have your say.

Support Available from our Youth Justice Services

Our staff in the Youth Justice Service are committed, care about what they do, and have lots of experience. They work with lots of other services and partners in Wirral to provide the best possible offer of support. Here are some of the activities and support on offer. We welcome new ideas, so let us know if there are things we're not already doing that would be helpful

- **Youth Offer** – Everyone can have an induction
- **In the Zone** – 6 sessions on ASB, knife crime, exploitation and more
- **Safer Schools** – Activities in schools to promote safety
- **To the Edge** – Film clips, discussions and team building
- **Mentors in Violence** – Supporting each other for safer lives
- **Voice Groups** – Join Wirral's Youth Voice or SEND Youth Voice Group



Staying Safe and Staying Well

We understand that life has been very different throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and sometimes it's been much harder than normal. For everyone in contact with our Youth Justice Services, please remember that your support worker, even if they're not able to see you in person, is still there for you and can be contacted via phone calls e-messages.

If you require additional support, there are other ways to get help. Here are some that might be useful:

24 hour mental health helpline. Open to anyone including children and young people.

Call: **0300 303 3972**

If you want to speak to someone who is local and works in Wirral, call our dedicated **Helpline for Children and Young People on 0808 196 4147**

Text SHOUT to 85258 for a free confidential 24/7 support service for anyone feeling overwhelmed. This service is staffed by trained volunteers who will work with you to help you work towards feeling better

For more information on support services and issues you may be worried about, visit the children and young people's pages on Wirral's Safeguarding Children Partnership.

www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/childrenyoung-people



Key Contacts & More information

Youth Justice Service Manager, Service Manager: Kathy Gill
kathygill@wirral.gov.uk

Volunteer Coordinator and Youth Voice
carlloughlin2@wirral.gov.uk

For more information on the Youth Justice Service in Wirral visit:
[https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-
neighbourhoods/crime-reduction/youth-offending-service](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-reduction/youth-offending-service)