

Wirral Youth Justice Strategic Plan

Service	Wirral Youth Justice Service 2023/2024
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Foreword

Our Youth Justice Service has continued to build on the excellent work of the last 3 years with the support of our more established and mature Youth Justice Management Board. In this years' planning cycle, board members have had the opportunity to consider and reflect on the new suite of Key Performance Indicators.

This strategic Plan allows us to update stakeholders and the public against our progress. The planning cycle also ensures our staff and board members consider new issues and challenges our partnership and young people may face in the next 12 months. We remain committed to the strategic vision set out in 2021/22; and our priorities, culture and combined focus are driven by the vision to advocate for a 'child first' approach to justice across our collective systems and spheres of influence.

The good recognition and invaluable learning drawn from the visit of (the then) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation in July 2021 has been embedded into the core work of the Board and Service. New roles have developed around victim work and education. Youth Justice staff and stakeholders working around our children have benefitted from additional training and professional development to further enhance the services we provide.

Our professional development over the last year has seen staff and board members link with local multi-cultural community groups, helping us listen to and equitably serve our diverse communities.

Operationally, our increasing focus on early intervention and prevention and enhanced coordination across prevention partners will help us prevent young people formally entering the criminal justice system. The Youth Justice Service will reach out further over the next year by forging close links with; and supporting, the developing community based multi-disciplinary Family Help hubs and teams. These hubs and teams will see Wirral partners turn the recommendations set out in 'The independent Review of Children's Social Care' into tangible activity, where our children and young people need it most.

Those same young people have been instrumental this year in working alongside our Youth Justice team to develop and enhance our school based 'In the Zone' programme. Our children also helped create a Logo Identity for the service itself, which we are now proud to share at the very head of this document.

The visit of joint inspectorates in December 2022's Joint Targeted Inspection into families who need help and support allowed us to share some of the excellent partnership relationships and practice within the Youth Justice and Contextual Safeguarding arenas.

That inspectors found our partnership to be a strength is of no surprise - but should serve to reassure all those interested in the work of Youth Justice that we remain innovative and brave in our mission to support brighter futures for our children and young people, in safe and vibrant communities.

Elizabeth Hartley

Chair: Wirral Youth Justice Management Board

1. Introduction, vision and strategy

Each Local Authority is required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to have a Youth Justice Plan that sets out how local Youth Justice Services will be delivered within the available resources. This document sets out our strategy, plans and priorities for 2023/2024, which seeks to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people.

In preparing this plan, Wirral YJS and partners have considered the Youth Justice Board Strategic Plan, 2022's (then) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) Annual Report, alongside the thematic reports published by both HMIP and others relevant sector organisations across strategic partners.

Strategic Vision

Wirral Youth Justice Vision Statement remains:

- For our young people involved, or on the cusp of, the Criminal Justice System are seen as “Children First, Offenders Second”.
- 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 interventions.
- 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.

Principles

We remain committed to our principles, which underpin our operational and strategic approach.

- Respect for young offenders as young people.
- Young people's views are integral to service provision.
- Regard for the safety of the public as a priority.
- Provision of a fair and equitable service to young people, parents/carers, staff, victims, and the wider community.
- Respect for diversity, respecting the needs and rights of victims, children, young people, and their families.
- Valuing staff as our most important resource.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Strategic Vision for Wirral Youth Justice aims ‘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 or preventative support and interventions.

The public sector equality duty, set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires public bodies to address diversity and equality issues. In doing so, Wirral YJS must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

As a Youth Justice Service, we must consider how the way we work and what we do can affect different groups in different ways. Unless we do this, we are unlikely to achieve our vision and can inadvertently contribute to greater inequality.

In delivering this aspect of the vision, Wirral Youth Justice has the following overarching Equality Objectives:

- To remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by children due to their protected characteristics.
- To take steps to meet the needs of children from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other children.
- To encourage children from protected groups to participate in ways that meet their needs.

The YJMB quarterly performance reports and dashboard data help identify themes linked to protected characteristics, such as gender, ethnicity and disability. This information can then be used to ensure we continue to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Having a lead member of the Board who has taken lead for Equality and Diversity has supported us in professional challenge and focusing the Board on the subject matter.

Following the HMIP thematic report on Black and ethnic children who are overrepresented in the Criminal Justice system and Wirral wanting to develop our knowledge on young people with protected characteristics we are this year commissioning additional training through are (Central Training Group (CTG) with specific focuses on heritage, identity and cultural competence. This will complement training that staff engaged with in 2022, commissioned through a local community group.

Local Context

Within an area of approximately 60 square miles, Wirral contains individual wards amongst some of the wealthiest in the country, as well as some of the very poorest.

The population is 320,200 including approximately 71,500 children (0-18). The population is predominantly white British (90%) but significant ethnic minority groups exist, particularly Irish, Chinese, and Polish.

Almost two-thirds of the population live within the eastern urban area, where levels of deprivation are higher. Birkenhead is the largest town within the borough, historically built around the maritime trades associated with the Mersey docklands. The decline of this industry left a legacy of white working-class boys with reduced opportunities and aspirations.

In 2023, Wirral ranked 37th for total population out of 309 local authority areas in England, which is a fall of 13 places in a decade. As of 2023, Wirral is the ninth most

densely populated of the North West's 39 local authority areas, with around 14 people living on each football pitch-sized area of land. There has been an increase of 15.5% in people aged 65 years and over, a decrease of 3.9% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a decrease of 1.6% in children aged under 15 years.

In the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, Wirral was ranked 77/326 most deprived authority. Fifteen percent of children aged 0-15 years live in poverty. 35.6% of the Wirral population live in the top 20% of the most deprived areas of England.

Strategic Links

The Wirral Plan takes account of the social and economic landscape post pandemic, sets out what the Council's priorities are; and how these will transform the way the council provides services between 2021 - 2026.

The Wirral 2021-2026 Plan focuses on the delivery of the following:

- Brighter futures for all regardless of their background.
- Safe and pleasant communities that our residents are proud of
- Active and healthy lives for all, with the right care, at the right time to enable residents to live longer and healthier lives.
- A thriving and inclusive economy, creating jobs and opportunities for all
- A clean-energy, sustainable borough, leading the way in tackling the environment crisis.

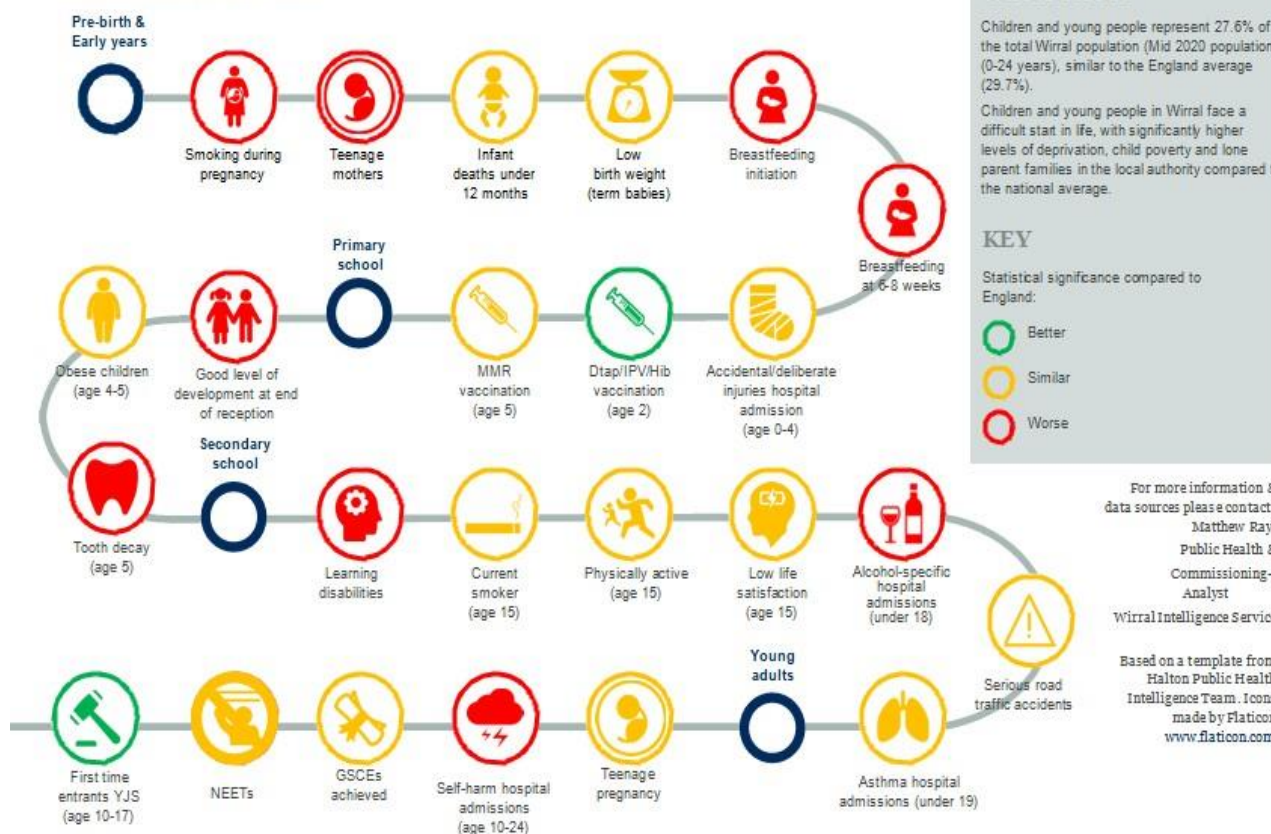
The Wirral Delivery Plan for Brighter Futures 2023 includes the following projects and initiatives:

- Transformational Partnership Accommodation Programme
- Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes
- School Improvement & Sufficiency Strategy

The chart below highlights key facts about Children and Young People in Wirral compared to England:

Children and Young People in Wirral

A comparison to England



Source: Wirral Intelligence Service

The 2023/34 Strategic Youth Justice Plan builds on the last 3 year's work and strategic planning, aiming to contribute to the wider corporate and directorate objectives by providing systems and services that prevent or divert young people away from the criminal justice system.

Our continued effective and committed partnership working will ensure local delivery effectively meets the enhanced national key performance indicators, achieving more positive outcomes for the young people, families, victims, and the wider community in Wirral.

The Youth Justice Service and Youth Justice Management Board are cognisant to linked strategies across the Community Safety Partnership (Safer Wirral Strategy) and the Wirral Safeguarding Children's Partnership's (WSCP) Safer Adolescence Strategy.

The Youth Justice Management Board have established good strategic links locally and nationally; and continue to draw attention to the specific needs of young people, whenever appropriate.

Key areas of work include the development of community based multi-disciplinary Family Help hubs, absorbing the learning from the December 2022 Joint Targeted Inspection and the enhancement and evolution our early intervention and prevention systems.

2. Children First

Responding to young people that encounter the Youth Justice System as “children first” and “offenders second” enhances lives and reduces offending and re-offending. It is the mantra that we use in Wirral Youth Justice Service (WYJS) understanding the trauma and challenges that the young people in our service face or have faced. Over the last year and a half we have developed our trauma aware and trauma informed approach and will continue to develop this over the next 12 months. This plan references our Enhanced Case Managed and Trauma Recovery Models further, below.

To promote children in the Youth Justice System and see them as Children is in the best interest of the child. Understanding individual children’s needs and building in their positive strengths is key to working with young people. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.



Wirral’s youth justice service and youth justice system promotes children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social 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. A personalised approach to youth justice is essential to putting children first; and delivering services with equality and impartiality. The effective practice guides produced by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation have helped our partnership and service understand how to ensure we fulfil our commitment to equality.

The Service recognises that young people need to build trusted relationships before change can happen. With this understanding and the development of our Enhanced Case Management programme, Wirral YJS have made real progress in reducing young people’s offending and re offending. This has improved outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children in Wirral.

Feedback from our children who have taken part in the Enhanced Case Management programme has been excellent, we as well as other professionals involved who have seen a difference in relationships with professionals and children as well as a shared understanding of Trauma and its impact on an individual.

Wirral YJS's development work around Trauma and Attachment has now been in place for 18 months. This is now part of our daily practices. Our action plan is attached at Appendix 10. The Plan is reviewed at regular intervals, with oversight from the YJMB.

3. The voice of the child

Wirral YJS have continued to build upon last year's strategic and operational plans, where a specific priority area was to develop young person's participation and engagement worker. Developments in this area have include the use of survey monkey for young people to share their experiences and seek ways the YJS can improve. This feedback is collated and given to the Youth Justice Management Board every six months. This, alongside anonymised case studies on priority themes, helps board members understand the experiences of children who work with the YJS and brings the voice and lived experience of the child to life. When case mangers present at the Board, they are asked to include the child's voice, so as members understand how that child feels about the work.

The YJS have also developed a participation and engagement group of justice-experienced young people see Appendix 7. These young people have helped make the YJS environment and interventions more Trauma informed. An example of this is a piece of work undertaken by children open to our service in how we communicate with them. We have subsequently changed the format of our letter and reports to make them more child friendly. The voice of the Child is embedded in all our daily practises and will continue to over the next 12 months with us continuing to speak to young people regarding any changes that feel would support young people open to the criminal justice system and review and develop our participation strategy regularly. We recently asked the children open to our service to develop and design a logo, or identity, that encompassed the support received from the Youth Justice Service. The winning logo has been included at the front of this plan.

One of our young people fed back to her case manager that she "felt like we were with her through her journey, and that she felt supported, listened to, heard - and we understood her and not looked upon her as a problem, as others may of in the past"

In addition to developing internal participation, Wirral YJS also link into various other children's forums across the partnership, such as the Leaving Care Council and the Special Education Needs (SEN) working group for young people. This ensures we not only get justice exposed young people but a broader aspect of feedback to help inform and evolve our offers and services.

Wirral Youth Justice Management Board also includes the voice of the Victim, with a newly appointed Victim worker we have developed our offer and participation of victims to the service. The victim liaison worker gathers feedback through survey monkey and through one-to-one conversations and support on ways we can support victims.

4. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

Wirral's multi agency Youth Justice Service sits within the Children and Young Person Department within the Contextual Safeguarding service area. This has helped develop the Children First vision and ethos, with the YJS leadership team working closely with the specialist child exploitation and missing service, youth workers and other contextual safeguarding colleagues.

The Contextual Safeguarding Service is part of Children's Service's Early Help and Prevention structure. Under the Deputy Director, the service sits alongside Early Childhood Services, Family Matters Services, and wider community-based youth and family support. The Youth Justice Service within this context is strengthened through a consistent and appropriate network of services.

As part of the Children's Services Directorate, the priorities of the YJS are meaningfully shared and included in the departmental performance reports that are subject to scrutiny from the Children, Young People and Education Committee. The Deputy Director of Children's Services also leads the Management Board as chair.

The YJS staffing and Management structure for Wirral is attached as Appendix 1.

The strategic aims of the Wirral Youth Justice Service align to those of the National Youth Justice Board (YJB) and support those contained within the Wirral's Corporate Plan. We aim to ensure that we have both the capacity and capability to achieve these aims by ensuring that all statutory partner agencies are strongly represented and actively engaged through the Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB) at a senior level.

Wirral Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB) meets on a quarterly basis and in addition to statutory partners, has representatives from CAMHS, Community Safety Partnership and Housing. This year we are hoping to expand the Board membership to include a member of the community, voluntary and faith sector within the meetings.

Appendix 5 references all of the current members of Wirral Youth Justice Board and their attendance at the quarterly board meetings. This will of course be tracked through the new Key Performance Indicators set from April 2023, reported quarterly and monitored by the YJMB.

The Wirral Youth Justice Management Board developed fresh Terms of Reference in 2021, alongside the new strategic plan. Members of the Board have all been inducted to the Board and understand the responsibilities that come with being a member. The terms of reference were reviewed in 2022 and will again be reviewed and refreshed if necessary for 2023.

We have over the past 12 months had consistent representation of board members from partner agencies. This has led to a more cohesive and mature board. Where colleagues have moved role, new members have been inducted.

The role of the YJMB is to:

- To provide leadership and oversight of youth justice services.
- To contribute to local multi-agency strategies and work with local and national criminal justice organisations.
- To safeguard children and young people who receive youth justice services.

The WYJMB's overall objectives are to:

- Provide a strategic overview of the work of the Youth Justice Service, to include oversight of serious incidents.
- Promote positive outcomes in the context of the youth justice system and services to children and young people.
- Agree, monitor, and review the implementation of the annual Youth Justice Plan and ensure co-ordination between the Youth Justice Plan and plans and strategies of partner agencies.
- Receive a structured analysis of performance and identify and monitor those measures where steps need to be taken to improve performance.
- Provide support and guidance to the Youth Justice Service to ensure it engages with local and national priorities, promotes race equality and maintains diversity.
- Agree an annual budget, including in-kind contributions and to provide support for additional targeted funding to meet identified and agreed need.
- Support, challenge and oversee the performance of the Youth Justice Service, provide strategic guidance, and hold the Service Manager to account for the work of the Service, when necessary.
- Agree the form and structure of protocols, contracts and Service Level Agreements between the Youth Justice Service and partner agencies.
- Provide a forum for the discussion of community issues which impact upon or are affected by the work of the Youth Justice Service.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of Youth Justice information between partners and the Youth Justice Service, to promote a pro-active approach to partnership working.
- To review, monitor and evaluate service information to ensure that the Youth Justice Service is contributing to improving outcomes for children, young people and the community.

Board Developments

Members have met to consider the new KPIs set by the YJB. This has helped understand a broader suite of factors relevant to the youth justice system. Additional development was undertaken around cultural competence, including face to face training with a local

community group. This was led by our YJMB equality lead, with additional meetings and discussions taking place as to how the YJMB met the recommendations set out in the HMIP Thematic around Young Black Males in the Criminal Justice System. Extraordinary coordination and scoping also took place around improving transition arrangements to probation and adulthood in general. Finally, members have all contributed within the annual planning cycle, identifying progress and priorities in support of our strategic plan review.

Progress on previous plan

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Practices (HSB)

Last year within the Annual Plan we said we would further develop our HSB offer considering the review of Ofsted into Sexual Abuse in schools and colleges, and the 'Everyone's Invited' campaign. We can inform the reader that over the past 12 months we have completed various development projects.

The first was to ensure we increased the pool of staff within Children and Young People who are trained to undertake Assessment Interventions and Moving on (AIM) assessments and AIM interventions. Meaning that there are now staff in Children's Social Care, Children with Disabilities and Family Support who are trained to work alongside Youth Justice staff in AIM interventions.

We have also undertaken numerous HSB awareness briefings across the 12 months to the wider Children's workforce.

The lead manager for HSB has developed a Wirral toolkit (See Appendix 9) to support staff who work families to identify any risk-taking behaviours. This came about following changes in professionals using the 'Brook traffic light' tool, The toolkit has been presented to the Safeguarding Board and Partners and signed off as good practice, as well as being shared across the area to all professionals. Further development around this is to be undertaken within the next 12 months for this Plan discussed within this year developments.

Trauma Informed Practice and Enhanced Case Management (TIP and ECM)

TIP and ECM has been part of Wirral Youth Justice development Plans for the past 2 years. This was part of a 3-year development to ensure that we embed TIP as well as ECM into the core business of Youth Justice. Over the past twelve months we have developed a clear, partnership trauma development plan which is well underway with many areas completed; and reviewed every six months by the Board.

Over the past 12 months we have worked with 15 young people with additional needs and high complexity factors under the umbrella of ECM, with only 1 going on to re-offend.

This will be the final year that Trauma Informed Practice will be part of our 'developments' in the annual planning cycle as we see this as core business for standard operational and YJMB monitoring from 24/25.

Serious youth violence and exploitation

Understanding and responding to serious violence is a recently enacted statutory duty under the Police, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Act 2021. The Youth Justice Services are represented within the working group overseen by Merseyside Violent Reduction Partnership and the Police Crime Commissioner Office.

Wirral Youth Justice continues to attend the Community Safety Partnership Board meeting as well as the Local Authorities MACE (Multi Agency Child Exploitation) meeting, held once a fortnight with an identified Team Leader. The MACE link team leader also supports the MARTHR (Multi Agency Threat, Risk & Harm) meetings.

From a prevention aspect, Wirral YJS work hard to reach out and give young people the correct information about the risk of serious youth violence, educating them in the dangers, how to support peers, and where to go for help or more information.

The 'In the Zone' school education programme has grown, and Wirral YJS and partners now run the intervention in all Schools and alternative Provisions in the Borough. In the Zone is delivered to all Year 9 pupils, resulting in over four thousand children receiving the sessions. Feedback from children and staff has been excellent. Appendix 11 shows last year's evaluation report.

Feedback from the young people engaged in 2022/23 academic year will be used to develop the Zones for next year's Year 9 students.

The themes were drawn from our data and insight, priorities and feedback from young people in 2021/22. The current themes covered are below.

- Knife Crime
- Exploitation
- Gangs and Serious Violence
- Peer pressure, including Sexual Behaviour
- Harmful Substances: Drugs and Alcohol
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Keeping Safe on the Internet (social media)

Participation and engagement

Section 3 of the YJB Annual Report sets out Wirral's work around 'The Voice of The Child', which overlays this priority area.

Participation and Engagement will continue as an area of priority for Wirral Youth Justice through 2023/24.

Prevention coordination for vulnerable cohorts

Wirral has continued to review data and undertake analysis with our partners to identify individual young people and cohorts at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Over the past 12 months Wirral has set up Early Intervention and Prevention operational and tactical groups. The groups bring Partners from across the borough together to look at identifying and supporting young people who have been flagged as at risk of offending. The Hub then identifies services and offers that can consider how best to support each child, to help them address potential offending behaviour and increase desistance.

Turnaround funding from the Home Office has allowed Wirral YJS to increase capacity and enable us to offer support for more young people, earlier.

A new development is the use of research tools within Police data to look at key events and intelligence and help officers identify young people who may be at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Resources and Services

Appendix 4, Table 1 'Partner Contributions to the Youth Offending Partnership Pooled Budget' shows the financial, staffing, and contributions made by local partners. In addition, the Wirral YJS Structure chart (Staffing Chart 'B7 & B8' Appendix 1 and Appendix 2) highlights the staffing information in relation to organisation, gender, and ethnicity.

Our performance will be improved by 2023/2024 by supporting the delivery of youth justice services including delivery of activities and effective specialist interventions such as Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Child to Adult Violence programme, Early Help and Prevention Hub as well as the Trauma development work that continues to be main priorities within this year's Plan. The Service has continued to support their core duties as well as developing the wider priority key areas.

The YJB grant also supports ongoing staff training for general development and responding to new themes and issues. This includes the Cross-Training Group (CTG) training plan for 2023/24 which was agreed by Greater Merseyside Youth Justice Managers and recognises the refresher training and emerging training needs of YJS staff for the coming year and beyond. In addition, Wirral also has specific local issues and training plans which the Grant supports and various in-house training courses. Appendix Training Plan 14.

Wirral YJS continues to be funded by its statutory partners including the Council, Health, Police / PCC, and Probation. Contributions from Health and Probation remain the same as the previous financial year. There has been a decrease in the contribution from the Police Crime Commissioners office this year, as allocated through the Wirral Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The additional Turnaround funding allocated by the Home Office has mitigated the risk of this reduction impacting on performance.

Wirral YJS also oversees the use of the Local Authority's budget provided to meet the cost of young people remanded to the secure estate, transferred under the provisions of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. The allocation received for 2023/33 was £72,156 Wirral had several long-term remands relating to three young people arrested for grave crimes, this meant that our remand expenditure over the 12-month period over spent by £202,000. This was exacerbated given the young people

were assessed as needing a secure children centre accommodation. This overspend has been met by use of remand reserves, set aside for this purpose last year in view of the volatile and unpredictable nature of the remand costs.

Should the period 2023/24 follow the same pattern as 2022/23 in terms of remand award and expenditure, the award would not meet costs. No remand reserve remains from 2022/23. At the time of writing this plan the award for 2023/24 is yet to be confirmed.

We continue our partnership with Career Connect (formerly Connexions) with Career Connect staff embedded in the YJS. The YJS continues to receive a financial Health contribution for substance misuse interventions. A named School Nurse oversees the YJS Health provision. Wirral YJS have a CAMH's therapist based within the Service two days per week, as well as access to the Criminal Liaison Mental Health Team, who often co-locate at Wirral. Additionally, Wirral has access to an Educational Psychologist (EP) for one and half days per week, who coaches staff and supports Trauma Lead Interventions and Enhanced Case Management. The EP time commitment in kind has seen a slight reduction due increasing demands on the Educational Psychologist teams locally.

Wirral YJS continues to comply with the minimum staffing requirements set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Partnership Arrangements

The YJMB has continued to place great emphasis on the role of strong partnership working and shared ownership of the youth justice performance targets and service delivery. Wirral Youth Justice Service (YJS) is represented on all major strategic partnerships including the Wirral Safeguarding Childrens Partnership, Safer Wirral Partnership Board, the Partnership for Children, Young People and Families, Domestic Abuse Alliance Partnership Board, and the Channel Panel for radicalisation/extremism.

Wirral's YJS Service Manager sits on the Merseyside Criminal Justice Board (MCJB) and feeds back to the Pan Merseyside YOT Managers. The YJS Service Manager also sits on the Youth Performance Improvement Group and leads on a number of MCJB workstreams including the Strategic Domestic Violence & Abuse Group and Youth Detention Scrutiny on behalf of Merseyside YOTs. The YJS Service Manager also attends the Community Safety Partnership Board and the Prevent & Chanel Panel. Other Youth Justice leads across Merseyside attend various other partnership meeting and feedback through the Heads of Service YOT managers meetings these include Out of Court Scitny Panel, Stragetgic MACE, Mersyside MAPPA meetings to name a few.

Within Wirral Council, the Deputy Director of Childrens Services is the YJMB Chair and maintains strong links across a wide range of strategic boards including Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board, Safer Wirral Partnership Board, Partnership for Children, Young People and Families, Children, Young People and Education Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Chair of the Board further ensures strong and effective stakeholder engagement and effective partnership working links and networks, which serve to strengthen and challenge the multi-agency working arrangements that support the Youth Justice Service. Additionally, The Head of Service for Contextual Safeguarding who has oversight and direct line management of the Service Manager for Youth Justice and

Youth Justice Service leads the Wirral Safeguarding Partnership Contextual Safeguarding Committee and led the development of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership's Safer Adolescence Strategy. This officer also co-chairs the local Multi Agency Child Exploitation panel, linking into Merseyside and regional forums for child exploitation, county lines and wider contextual safeguarding development. In recent months the Head of Service for contextual safeguarding has also taken lead on chairing the Chanel Panel, further strengthening the links across closely associated forums within safeguarding, community safety and youth justice.

All the above shows that YJS service is represented throughout the partnership and highlights how Wirral makes best use of its resources pooled budgets and partnership arrangements to effectively respond to the issues and needs of young people who find themselves part of the Criminal Justice System.

Prevention and Early Intervention remain paramount to the work of Wirral YJS. The aspiration is that by working across local partners, young people who may benefit from support are recognised and supported at an early stage, being referred, and considered for prevention interventions. The prevention offer has been developed to meet different needs of young people, sharing well developed operational links across local organisations and agencies.

The YJS Business Manager provides data to enable early identification of families which may fit the criteria for the Supporting Families programme. Additionally, data is provided to monitor the Wirral Supporting Families Outcomes Plan and the Breaking the Cycle Programme (BTC) Outcomes Plan. For example, reductions in re-offending and reductions in anti-social behaviour. Additionally, the Youth Justice Service also provides data for the Wirral Safeguarding Partnership's Quality Assurance Board and Contextual Committee, where the Service Manager presents feedback on themes and trends, highlighting challenges and good practice. Headline Youth Justice performance is also presented to elected members and scrutinised via the committee for Children, Young People and Education.

Wirral YJS holds the Restorative Practice Kite Mark from the Restorative Justice Council. The Service will continue to ensure that it upholds this good practice in line with the Restorative Practice Kite Mark and to build on positive restorative outcomes both within the YJS and with partner agencies. The recent role development and recruitment for a victim worker included a focus to develop the restorative offer to victims and lead training and development in the use of Restorative Interventions for partner agencies. This has been included in our development plan for 2024/24.

Performance

The YJMB continues to monitor performance through quarterly quantitative and qualitative reports. The Wirral Youth Justice Service managers convene monthly meeting to support operational delivery against the YJS priorities. As well as Professional Development Meeting with the full service to look at themes, data and professional development.

In addition to the key performance data presented to the Board, the Board also looks a specific dashboard and the core quality assurance of cases conducted by YJS staff. The YJS Operational Managers have undertaken 8 deep dive audits on priority themes and reported back through the YJMB under performance management. Where needed

small working groups and action plans have been devised and implemented to improve outcomes following the audits.

The dashboard data presented quarterly to the Board are as follows:

- Overall performance using local data
- Out of Court Disposals
- Key Indicators
- Equality & Diversity
- Education, Training & Employment

Key themes emerging from the dashboards presented to the Youth Justice Management Board include:

- We are working with more individual children and parent/carers compared to the previous year i.e. we have worked with 273 children (from April 2022 to March 2023) compared to 263 children for the whole of 2021/22. The number of CLA that we are working with is also increasing across all interventions.
- We have exceeded the number of interventions provided during 2022/23 (571 interventions) compared to 2021/22 (476 interventions).
- Although the number of court disposals remain similar to last year, we are seeing higher numbers in Out of Court Disposals and Prevention.
- Whilst the number of Community Resolutions is reducing the number of Outcome 22 interventions are steadily increasing.
- We are increasingly working earlier with more children who exhibit a range of vulnerabilities and health issues including: disabilities, ADHD, speech, language & communication issues, mental health concerns, emotional wellbeing concerns.
- A number of children are identified as at risk of criminal exploitation.
- A number of children are identified as SEN with ECHPs in place.

These dashboards will be extended this year to include the New KPI's that went live in April 2023. The quarterly performance report presented at the YJMB includes the full details of all performance areas with the dashboards giving us a quick glance at data to immediately highlight any themes or increases.

Given the first reporting for the new KPI's is not until August of this year, after submission of this plan, the Business Manager is working on developing the dashboard and the performance reporting elements for our next management board in the quarterly cycle. Additionally, as a management team we will meet quarterly to run through the data on KPI's and monitor any areas where we feel improvements can be made. We will also use the KPI's to undertake Quality Assurance deep dives and later in the year, we have planned a local National Standards Audit, in addition to the National Standards Audit on Courts due in October 2023. This will give us a good baseline as to where we need to improve quality and look at tightening processes. Given the changes to KPI's and reporting we are expecting that there will be some issues that arise but by closely monitoring this any issues will be addressed as soon as identified.

Suitable accommodation

The Local Authority's senior manager for housing sits on the Youth Justice Management Board, they will take the lead on this Key Performance Indicator for accommodation. The senior manager has supported young people leaving custody after serving a DTO

sentence, this young man could not return home due to Dad's capacity issue. The support from housing, youth justice and social care ensured that this young person had a supported placement upon release.

Education, training and employment (ETE)

Wirral YJS have now employed a specific education worker within the service. The role is to include the monitoring and reporting on this KPI, working to a lead responsible manager. Working closely with our Education partners Wirral YJS feel that we can support more of our young people into meaningful and appropriate Education and Employment. The Education Worker and Career Connect staff will work closely together, under the same reporting manager, to ensure enhanced support is provided.

Special educational needs and disabilities/additional learning needs (SEND)

The aforementioned education worker will also support this KPI. The management board Chair has also led on developing SEND within the Local Authority. This clearly gives the Youth Justice Service additional expertise, insight and support in this key area.

Mental health care and emotional wellbeing (EH&WB)

Strong pathways and processes have been developed in this area over the last 12 months with all young people being screened for support at the earliest opportunity. With CAMH's and CJLT sitting within the YJS, and an identified manager taking the lead role appropriate support is more effectively identified and offered to the young people accessing youth justice services.

Substance misuse

Wirral have a Tier 2 and Tier 3 staff within the service who can support young people with substance misuse. The staff who deliver these services are trained and also link into Wirral's drug service agency called Response. These staff regularly link in with Wirral specialist Drug and Alcohol service (Response) to ensure training and professional development remains current and valid for the themes impacting on Wirral children. The Response drugs service is also part of the prevention programme and 'In The Zone' school inputs.

Victims

In addition to the new dedicated victim worker, Wirral Youth Justice Service want to develop this area further by increasing the use of Restorative Practice.

Quality Assurance and Oversight

The areas of Quality assurance that have been covered over the past twelve months are:

- 1) Education – March 2022
- 2) Risk and safeguarding – June 2022
- 3) OOC – Sept 2022
- 4) Trauma informed practice July 2022
- 5) Criminal exploitation -Sept 2022
- 6) BAME – March 2023
- 7) Risk of Serious harm – May 2023
- 8) Child Looked After and safeguarding – April 2023

All eight deep dive audits have been presented at the Youth Justice Management Board for discussion and recommended actions on areas that can be improved. Progress is tracked through YJMB review and within the WYJS management meetings.

Outcomes from the each deep dive have been written up into action plans. The actions plans are presented to the next YJMB.

Whilst all managers and staff quality assure their own practice, Wirral have identified a specific Team Leader, whop works alongside the Business Manager to focus on areas where we may improve practice. This supports managers and staff with continuous improvement, informs the training plans and highlights any good practice to share with all members of the service. Appendix 12 will shows a detailed report of the finding from the interal Audits completled.

In additional to the mandated National Standards Audit, Wirral have scheduled an internal National Standards Audit for later in 23/24.

Four more themes will be chosen in the enxt 12 months, identified through the YJMB members, feedback and data insight.

Throughout 2022/23 performance has been reported on a quarterly basis to the YJMB and quarterly contact with the YJB’s North-West Business Area Local Partnership Advisor has been maintained to identify and address key areas of performance.

In addition to the three Youth Justice Indicators; (reducing first time entrants to the criminal justice system, reducing the use of custody, and reducing re-offending by young people in the criminal justice system), Wirral YJS also have local performance measures in place for re-offending rates following Out of Court Disposals and offending by Children Looked After.

The final 2022/23 reported YJB data summary can be found in Appendix 6.

Reducing the Number of First Time Entrants

The longer terms trend has seen significant reductions in the numbers of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system. In Wirral this was mainly attributable to the operation of Out of Court Disposals with Merseyside Police. Out of Court Disposals divert young people from the criminal justice system and comprises an assessment and brief intervention.

First Time Entrants	Date	YJS Performance rate
Number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system (per 100,000 of 10-17 population)	January to December 2021	114 (35 young people)
	January to December 2022	86 (26 young people)

The YJB Performance Summary uses data from the Police National Computer (PNC). The latest data set published by the YJB compares January to December 2021 with January to December 2022. The YJB have used a population rate of 30,541 for young people living in Wirral aged 10 – 17 years for both cohorts. The latest data set is showing a **26.6% reduction** in the frequency rate of FTE’s when comparing the above periods. This equates to a decrease of nine young people in the actual number of individual FTE’s.

The Merseyside average is an *increase* of 26% and the National average is an *increase* of 2% in FTE’s frequency rates.

The priorities set for 2023/2024 reflect the fact that Wirral is focused on Early Intervention and Prevention.

Wirral YJS continues to provide several preventative and diversionary services to young people at risk of offending or risk of anti-social behaviour. All these single agency referrals come direct to the Prevention Service to avoid delay in accessing intervention.

Following a successful funding bid through the Violent Reduction Partnership (VRP) Wirral YJS in 2021/22 we were able to develop a new programme named Operation Inclusion. These young people will have already been open to the YJS under the OOC or Community Statutory Orders before being considered for the programme. Operation Inclusion is a programme that lasts up to 12 weeks. The young person and their families work with the YJS and Partner agencies to reduce offending behaviour and address the issues that lead to the offending behaviour.

This programme was originally run as a pilot in Wirral and after great success has been rolled out across Merseyside, Operation Inclusion has been a great success in Wirral working in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service and Merseyside Police.

In 2022/23 we have worked with a number of young people under the umbrella of Operation Inclusion and to date none of the young person has gone on to re-offend.

Operation Inclusion received national recognition from the Howard League for Penal Reform, receiving the ‘Community Award’ under the category of ‘Policing and Children’.

Overall	15 which breaks down to: 11 completed 4 in progress 1 to start
Original Offences	5 POBA 4 POOW 2 Assault 2 PWITS 1 threatening with bladed article 1 Possess indecent image of child
Reoffences at time of writing	0

The above table shows details of the number and outcomes to date for Operation Inclusion.

In addition, the Pan Merseyside Out of Court Disposal Protocol continues to be used whereby young people receive a Community Resolution with restorative justice at the heart of the intervention. Community Resolutions across Merseyside have been very successful and have played a strong role in reducing First Time Entrants. The Merseyside OOCB Scrutiny Panel incorporates representatives from Merseyside YOT Managers, Merseyside Police and Magistrates. The Scrutiny Panel examines and samples OOCB to ensure consistency of decision making and suitability of disposals across Merseyside.

Reducing Re-offending

This measure tracks a rolling cohort of young people who have committed an offence in a 12-month (aggregated quarterly cohorts) period for the subsequent 12 months to identify if they are proven to have re-offended. The data for this performance indicator is taken from the Ministry of Justice published data (using the Police National Computer data) and because of the methodology used there is delay in the time periods tracked and reported.

Binary Re-offending	Date	YJS Performance
Proven re-offending rate of young offenders. (Percentage of young people who have re-offended)	July 19 – June 20	41.9%
	July 20 – June 21	41.0%

Source: YDS version 114

The latest published data indicates **0.9% point reduction** in the re-offending rates when comparing the above periods. It is, however, important to recognise the reduction in the cohort numbers and acknowledge that those who remain within the cohort are young people who may have more complex factors at play.

The actual **PNC** data for the Wirral **12-month** re-offending cohorts is presented below:

Re-offending rate cohort	Jul 19 – Jun 20	Jul 20 – Jun 21
Number in the cohort	86	78
Number of re-offenders	36	32
Number of re-offences	166	98
Average number of re-offences per re-offender	4.61	3.06
Frequency rate	1.93	1.26
Binary rate	41.9%	41.0%

Source: YDS version 114

It is recognised that Youth Justice Services are working with a smaller but more complex cohort of older young people who present with greater risks and vulnerabilities to themselves and the community. The challenge to reduce re-offending has been felt across Merseyside and was recognised as a priority for the MCJB.

Re-offending of young people and the risks it presents including youth to adult transition were identified as key issues for the MCJB Reducing Re-offending Strategy. Merseyside YOT (YJS) Operational Managers jointly collaborated to explore these issues, including revising the Transitions Protocol. Such joint working and collaboration have assisted in sharing good practice and local findings to focus on specific issues of re-offending.

Wirral YJS still addresses all matters pertaining to the young person’s offending including attitudes to offending. This includes victim awareness, restorative practices, offending behaviour programmes, peers and other causal factors including substance misuse, Education Training and Employment (ETE), and emotional health and wellbeing. Many young people are also supported by wider child level plans such as Team Around the Family, Child in Need, Child Protection or other multi agency support mechanisms. We find many of our high-risk re-offenders are also supported by our Family Matters Service due to the complex needs of the young person and their family.

Wirral YJS Management Team has set in place steps to ensure re-offending is a primary focus in intervention and management. This includes ensuring Case Management supervision specifically discusses young people who are re-offending, ensuring that case managers have addressed the re-offending and responded accordingly in relation to their intervention plans.

Wirral YJS has been using the YJB re-offending live tracker tool to conduct analysis around the current cohorts of young people and to establish any trends in re-offending. Indications show reductions in the re-offending rates for the 2022 cohorts. This will allow us to track the specific cohorts and identify specifics such as age, most common re-offending offence, timing of re-offending within an order and as such draw up an action plan to target the identified issues and areas. Findings from the live tracker tool will allow us to target local re-offending more effectively in 2023 and beyond.

Reduce the Use of Custody

The use of custody indicator looks at the number of custodial disposals presented as a rate per 1,000 of the local general 10 –17-year-old population. This data will come from YOT’s case-level data published in the Youth Justice Application Framework.

Use of Custody	Date	YJS Performance
Young people receiving a custodial sentence (per 1,000 of 10-17 population)	April 2021 – March 2022	0.16 (5 young people)
	April 2022 – March 2023	0.10 (3 young people)

Source: YDS version 114

Wirral YJS has seen a **reduction in the custodial rate of 0.06** during the above period when comparing 0.16 with the baseline rate of 0.10. This equates to two less young people receiving custodial sentences. The local population mid-year for 2021 is 30,541.

It is widely recognised that imposing a custodial sentence should be used as a measure of last resort for children and young people.

The three young people sentenced to custody during April 2022 to March 2023 were all aged between 16 years and 18 years old and of white British ethnicity. All three males were sentenced for serious violent offences.

Education

Education is an area of development for the YJMB and YJB following feedback from the HMIP Inspection and will continue to be one of the development programmes for 2023/24, given we have recently employed a bespoke Youth Justice Education Worker to sit within the service.

Audit and analysis have been undertaken to help understand the educational profiles and journey of children open to the service. This has been presented to the YJMB, resulting in an action plan to address recommendations. The YJMB now includes The Virtual Head, whose remit has been extended to include children who are open to the YJS.

Wirral are also supported by an Educational Psychologist, based in the Service for two days a week. This professional has been instrumental in supporting young people through EHCP (Education and Health Care Plans) Assessment, working with school, undertaking case consultation and formulation; and supporting the Enhanced Case Management Interventions.

As of June 2023, the breakdown of education type for current open young people is set out and explained in the chart below:

Education type	School Age	Above School Age
Alternative Provision/PRU	9	0
At School not attending	0	0
Full time education	12	2
Part time education	0	0
Elective Home Education	2	0
Not in ETE	1	6
Not started intervention	0	0
Employed/Working	1	4
College/further education	2	4
Residential school	0	0
Training	0	1
Unemployed	0	4
DTO school/training	0	6

Total	27	27
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Analysis of the above data shows that of the 54 young people, 17 are children looked after (31%). Of the 17 children looked after nine have been identified as either requiring SEN support or given an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Of the school aged children 25 are White British males (92.6%), 1 Black male (3.7%) and 1 White European (3.7%).

Of the above school aged children 25 are White British males (92.6%), 1 Black African male (3.7%) and 1 male of Mixed Ethnic background (3.7%).

Of the 54 young people on open caseloads 43 have been identified as SEN – the breakdown of SEN level is shown below:

SEN Level	Number
Education, Health and Care Plan	20
In college SEN support	1
In school SEN support	17
Home Educated	1
Left school	4
Total	43

Source: Childview

Equality and Diversity

Wirral's YJMB developed a set of Equality Objectives in the 2022/23 Strategic Plan, these are carried forward through 2023/24. This included a named board member with lead responsibility.

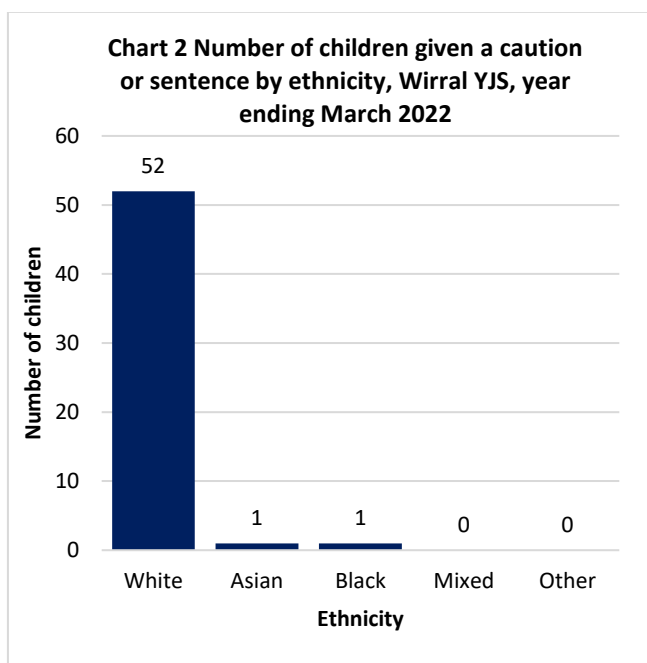
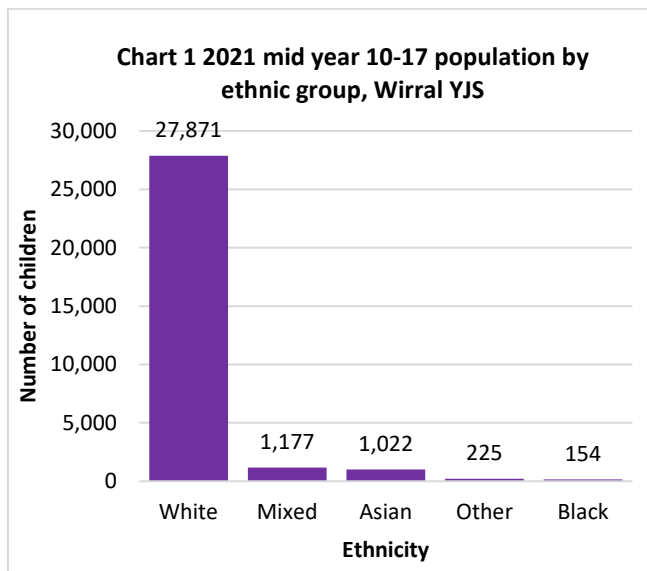
The Business Manager reports a range of performance data and includes a dashboard that outlines any concerns relating to children being over-represented in relation to ethnicity, looked after status, children excluded from school, protected characteristics including disability, mental health, SEN, speech, communication, and language needs.

The YJB Summary Ethnic Disproportionality toolkit 2021/22 for Wirral stated 96% of offenders were from a White background with 2% of offenders from an Asian background and 2% from a Black background.

The YJB Ethnic Disparity toolkit headlines the following data for **Wirral**:

- 30,449 local population aged 10-17 years (2021 census)
- 52 White children were cautioned or sentenced. Compared to the local population of White children (27,871) this represents 0.2% of the local population

- 1 Asian child was cautioned or sentenced. Compared to the local population of Asian children (1,022) this represents 0.09% of the local population.
- 1 Black child was cautioned or sentenced. Compared to the local population of Black children (154) this represents 0.7% showing a disparity for this ethnic group, albeit the sample size (One) here is such that the YJB would not consider this a statistically significant volume.
- White children are most likely to commit a serious offence.
- White children most likely to be sentenced at court rather than receive youth cautions or youth conditional cautions.
- Compared to year ending March 2017 the number of White children receiving a caution or sentence fell by 57%



The breakdown of the YOS Wirral CLA cases by Legal Status week commencing the 19th of June 2023 is listed below:

Legal Status	Number
Full Care Order	5
Interim Care Order	3
Remand in custody	0
Single Period of Accommodation Under Section 20	6
Total	14

Source: Childview

Thirteen of the above Wirral CLA cases are White British males (93%) with one child of mixed ethnic background (7%).

The snapshot of Child Protection cases week commencing the 19th of June 2023 is listed below:

Child	Age	Gender	Ethnicity	Intervention
A	16	Male	White British	Prevention
B	10	Male	White British	Prevention
C	16	Male	White British	Outcome 22
D	17	Male	White British	Bail Support
E	16	Male	White & Black African	Youth Rehabilitation Order

Source: Childview

Four of the above are White British males (80%) with one young male from a White and Black African ethnic group (20%).

The snapshot of CIN cases w/c 19.06.23 is as below:

Child	Age	Gender	Ethnicity	Intervention
A	15	Male	White British	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
B	16	Male	White British	Bail Support programme
C	14	Male	White British	Outcome 22
D	15	Male	White British	Turnaround
E	13	Male	White European	Turnaround

F	12	Male	White British	Prevention Programme
G	17	Male	White British	Turnaround
H	17	Male	White British	Bail Support programme
I	9	Male	White British	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
J	12	Male	White British	Turnaround
K	16	Male	White British	Outcome 22
L	16	Male	White British	Turnaround
M	16	Male	White British	Turnaround

Source: Childview

Twelve of the above children are white British males (92%) with one male from a White European background (8%).

Prevention and Diversion

There are several funding streams targeting prevention and diversionary activity for children and young people as mentioned earlier. Wirral YJS believe that early identification and support is key to changing life outcomes. This includes developing an exit strategy once the young person concludes work with the YJS, helping the young person and their family to be linked into the wider support networks.

In order to support families and young people to help themselves Wirral have launched the Wirral Family Toolbox website (www.wirralfamilytoolbox.co.uk) that is available for anyone to access and offers a range of support from many agencies that parents and carers can contact.

Additionally, Wirral have launched the Zillo Website (www.zillowirral.co.uk) that is a bespoke website where young people can access if they require an additional information or support. Wirral Youth Justice Service have contributed to Zillo with supporting young people who may find themselves in trouble with the Police who need information and support on areas such as what to expect if going to Court, the rights around stop and search, substance misuse and many more.

With the additional funding from the Home Office through the Turnaround grant we have been able to up scale the offer of Prevention to young people in the Wirral and have used the additional resources to develop an activity-based programme with one-to-one support for those young people deemed to fit the criteria set by the Home Office and Turnaround. Last year we exceeded the target of our set number of young people given we had only three months to do this, and staff and managers worked hard to ensure that the right young people were offered the support.

Operation Inclusion

As referenced earlier in this plan, Operation Inclusion is an example of Wirral piloting and developing best practice to be rolled out across Merseyside YOTs, working with the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership.

Out of Court Disposals

Data on prevention and diversionary interventions are recorded on the YJS case management system. All Out of Court disposals are recorded initially as a Youth Restorative Disposal following a referral from the Police Service. Once the young person has been assessed and attended the Out of Court Disposal Panel a decision is made whether the case is opened as a Community Resolution, Outcome 22 or Operation Inclusion intervention.

From 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 there were 41 Community Resolutions, 150 Outcome 22's and 208 Youth Restorative Disposals delivered by the YJS. Ten young people also received Operation Inclusion interventions prior to receiving a Community Resolution or Outcome 22. The remaining 5 young people being offered Operation Inclusion after they had already received a Community Resolution for another offence.

Community Resolutions have a very low re-offending rate. The cohort for January to March 2022 consists of 50 young people tracked forward 12 months shows that four young people have re-offended. This equates to a re-offending rate of 8%. This data is taken from cases recorded in Child view.

In the Zone

The in the Zone programme is a multi-agency delivery of prevention and information sharing for year 9 students across all schools on the Wirral. The programme is run in a whole year group sessions for Year 9 students. Each Zone has a theme, run with approximately 20 young people in each group where they are involved in a game or activity for 45 minutes. These short, intense, and fun sessions are intended to be more productive than power point presentations and assemblies. The YJS team have found that young people are more likely to speak to professionals in smaller groups and to ask questions with their peers.

The Youth Justice Service Manager continues to link in with the Wirral Safer Schools Police officers on identifying young people in need of Youth Justice Prevention services as well as identifying areas where the Youth Justice Service and Merseyside Police can undertake work together to support activity programmes to children through schools, and one to one support.

Serious violence and exploitation

Violence is the main category of offending for youth justice case work. Tackling the prevalence of violence across Wirral is one of the areas of focus under the Safer Wirral Strategy and Safer Wirral Partnership Board. Wirral Youth Justice Service continue to have a seconded manager working within the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership, ensuring the work of the partnership supports prevention using a public health approach. The prevention work highlighted in this plan includes targeted education interventions across schools against this theme. Mentors in Violence (MVP) is one such programme, promoting safe bystander interventions and peer support.

The YJS is located within the Contextual Safeguarding Service area. The area includes the specialist exploitation and missing service and the Head of Service Chairs the Safeguarding Partnerships Contextual committee and the Channel Panel. This ensures strong leadership connections and operational links across themes within the serious violence bracket. Wirral's Safeguarding Children's Partnership has developed a Safer Adolescence Strategy. Wirral also has a Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE) to support children at risk of exploitation, the area also has a disruption panel. Both panels are attended by the YJS, who are active contributors.

Compass, Wirral's specialist exploitation team review overnight arrests, stop checks, intelligence and missing reports to ensure local partners are vigilant to signs of exploitation and risk of offending. Any such events would include contact and engagement with the YJS Service. One such example of the operational connections is the voluntary use of Enhanced Case Management approach for victims of exploitation either without offending, or who may have been drawn into other offending not linked to the Modern Slavery defence.

In terms of general violence and the YJS cohort. During April 2022 to March 2023 there were 23 individual children sentenced for a total of 43 violent offences. The breakdown of violent offences is listed below:

April 2022 – March 2023		
Offence	Number	% Of total offences
Assault a constable in the execution of his / her duty	2	5%
Assault a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm	3	7%
Assault by beating	12	28%
Assault by beating of an emergency worker	5	12%
Attempt to cause grievous bodily harm with intent to do grievous bodily harm	1	2%
Possess an imitation firearm in a public place - Firearms Act 1968	1	2%
Possess an offensive weapon in a public place	4	9%
Possess knife blade / sharp pointed article in a public place	13	30%
Section 18 - attempt wounding with intent 7	1	2%
Section 18 - wounding with intent 7	1	2%
Total	43	100%

There are several initiatives across the wider partnership focused on youth violence. Multi agency Safe space operations regularly take place in open spaces, as well as targeted high visibility patrolling in the violence hotspots to disrupt serious violence.

'Mini Pathfinders' is a Local Authority community safety led Primary age focused prevention programme for contextual risks. Police also have the more targeted prevention Pathfinders programme, working with higher risk cohorts, using Safer Schools officers across Wirral who link in and work closely with the YJS.

As laid out in the Strategic Plan of 2022/23, Prevention and Diversion, especially linked to serious violence and exploitation will continue to be key themes for Wirral in 2023/24 and beyond.

Gangs/Organised Crime

An emerging theme for 2023/24 is gangs and organised crime, Wirral has seen several firearms incidents through 2022/23, some involving young adults. This has corresponded with an increase in safeguarding contacts for 'Gangs' at the Integrated Front Door (IFD). This has been identified through data and feedback from young people. The 'In the Zone' theme already targets prevention messages on this type of harm, however the local safeguarding, youth justice and community safety partners will consider how the local offer can be strengthened considering this trend.

Constructive resettlement and the use of custody (including remands)

During April 2022 to March 2023 there were six young people who were remanded in custody prior to sentencing. The chart below shows their age, gender, ethnicity, and offence.

Child	Age at beginning of RIC	Gender	Ethnicity	Offence
A	17 year 3 months	Male	White British	S18 wounding with intent
B	17 years 11 months	Male	White British	Robbery
C	16 years 5 months	Male	White British	Rape
D	16 years 8 months	Male	White British	S18 attempted wounding with intent
E	15 years 9 months	Male	White British	Murder (later changed to Manslaughter)
F	17 years	Male	White British	S18 Wounding with intent

During April 2022 to March 2023 three young people were sentenced to custody. One child was given a Hospital Order. The chart below shows their age, gender, ethnicity, and court outcomes to date:

Child	Age at sentence	Gender	Ethnicity	Custodial outcome
A	17 years 9 months	Male	White British	Hospital Order (4.4.23)
B	17 years 11 months	Male	White British	4 months Detention & Training Order
C	17 years	Male	White British	<i>Still remanded in custody</i>
D	16 years 9 months	Male	White British	S250 Custodial Order for 5 years
E	16 years 2 months	Male	White British	<i>Currently on ISS Bail and GPS tag</i>
F	17 years 1 month	Male	White British	S250 Custodial Order 5.2 years

Resettlement was judged as 'Requiring Improvement' in the HMIP 2021 Inspection of Wirral. This was the first HMIP inspection to use the new criteria. Wirral had an action plan at that stage to address resettlement recommendations from a peer review. As part of that plan Wirral have developed a local Policy, in line with the national protocol and continues to be monitored and reviewed.

Transition and accommodation

As with other areas nationally, there is challenge regarding accommodation. This is for a small number of young people who are on the cusp of turning 18 and transitioning to Probation. Wirral's partnership board consider this as an area for further enhancement. Work is currently underway to further develop the offer, this will support resettlement and transition; and contribute to reducing re-offending. Given that this is now a Key Performance Indicator to report on this will be monitored the returns and brought to the discussions at the Youth Justice Management Board. As stated earlier, the board have the senior manager for Housing as a Board Member who is a string advocate for securing appropriate and timely accommodation.

Detention in Police Custody

The Service Manager for Wirral Youth Justice Service sits on the Merseyside Detention in Custody Panel where cases from across Merseyside where young people have been arrested and kept in Custody for 15 hours or more are discussed. The Panel is chaired and ran by the Police Crime Commissioners Office and members include Emergency Duty Team Managers, Youth Justice, Custody Visiting Service and Merseyside Police. Each area has an opportunity to raise issues of young people in the previous month that they feel there could be learning from. We have also developed a process and pathway for Police Custody Staff to telephone our social care teams and inform them of an arrest and even if they do not need an Appropriate Adult given that a family member may be doing this, this ensures that day service and Youth Justice Service can be informed but also adding an additional level of safeguarding for the Local authority to check systems for flags etc. The Panel is now well established, and all areas are happy with how the process works and development work over the past 12 months there has been further development work completed by the group looking as "could the young person have been dealt with by way of voluntary attendance" and numbers being brought to the Panel have reduced which with regards to Child First and Trauma Informed practice is a positive outcome.

From a Wirral development perspective, we have worked closely with Merseyside Police and our Social Care colleagues to deliver Appropriate Adult briefings to a small number of experienced Foster Careers who are on an Appropriate Adult rot. This was to ensure that any young people brought to custody out of hours are dealt with swiftly and not reliant solely on waiting for the Emergency Duty Team.

Additionally, Wirral have identified several very experienced Foster Careers who are able to take young people on an emergency basis from Police Custody. The YJS have supported these Foster Carers to ensure that they are well trained. This has led to young people not being kept in custody for prolonged periods of time, instead being placed in a family home where they can be supported until day services can complete assessments. This has been seen as good practice across Merseyside to the extent that other areas are looking at adopting a similar model.

Remands and Use of Custody

Wirral and other YJS teams report to the MCJB chaired by the Police Crime Commissioner. Working in Partnership with our North-West Regional Representative for the Youth Justice Board, we have very recently changed what is reported from a Merseyside Youth Justice footprint. Given that the participants that attend this meeting are all key stakeholders and policy makers in the Criminal Justice system, areas of concern are picked up through the MCJB governance.

Wirral managers and staff continue to support and challenge, when necessary, the length and the need for remand. Our preference is to offer, tight and well-managed bail packages when we feel the levels of risk can be managed in the community.

If a young person is at risk of being remanded to custody the YJS will liaise with social care so that alternative accommodation arrangements to support a Bail programme can be put forward to Courts.

Prior to a young person being sentenced, the YJS inform the young person about possible Restorative Justice Interventions. When a young person is sentenced, the YJS contact with the Victim, following the victim's code of practice. The case worker will explain the sentence outcome and provide a summary of Restorative Justice which is a voluntary arrangement. If a victim wishes to participate in Restorative Justice, contact will be made via the YJS Victim Worker who will also liaise with the relevant YOI (Young Offender Institution) to organise an RJ conference.

Whilst in custody, multi-agency plans are formulated with the relevant agencies and internal services in the custodial setting. There are good examples of jointed up working whilst in custody with mental health practitioners to allow a sharing of information to best meet the needs of the child and to formulate exit plans for service provisions to meet the needs of the child upon release from custody. Regular legal visits take place to support the child and to continue to build a relationship with professionals as part of the resettlement plan.

During a custody period, Multi agency High Risk Safety and Wellbeing meeting continue to take place with Wirral children locally as per the Risk Policy. This supports case formulation and planning to manage the concerns identified in custody and as part of the resettlement in the community. When required members of the service will attend the critical case panels to manage the risk concerns and attend the Enhanced Support Team meetings to be part of the planning process.

If accommodation is an identified concern, the YJS at the earliest opportunity notify children services and other relevant services with professionals meeting in place to address and formulate a resettlement plan and a robust licence if required.

The YJS promote and support the view that family and carer contact during a custodial sentence is key to the resettlement process. If the young person is cared for by the local authority, arrangements for visits and invitations to planning meetings are discussed with the allocated social worker as soon as possible. Family members are always invited the prison meeting and transportation is always offered.

The impact of a custodial sentence, or a remand period on a young person, in addition to previous adverse childhood experiences and trauma is always considered as part of the immediate planning for release. Plans take account of the experience being different for each young person, and consider individual needs, risks and how and who best to complete interventions with them during the licence period with professional services involved.

The YJS Case Manager ensures the police have been notified that a young person has been released from custody on licence conditions. This is either done by liaising with the YJS Police Officer who will complete the relevant electronic notification systems or alternatively a call can be made to the general police and a police reference number is created. All contacts are recorded and evidenced within the Young Persons contact records.

Constructive Re-Settlement

Wirral is committed to supporting children leaving custody and returning to the community, we ensure that we follow the following five principles when a young person leave custody

Constructive the use of the National and the Pan Merseyside Policy on Re-settlement makes certain that when a young person is returning to the community that any plans, interventions and assessments are constructive and meaningful to the community and the child.

Co-created support plans and risk management, giving the young person a voice in what their resettlement looks like when they leave custody, supporting them and their families to ensure that any risk of reoffending is reduced.

Customised to the young person needs addressing any risks and vulnerabilities of the young person as well as ensuring we manage any risk in the community and community safety.

Consistent we in Wirral YJS ensure that we are consistent in our approach and the partners are also consistent when dealing with young people ensuring that on release from custody that the young person is prepared for life after custody.

Wirral YJS coordinate the plan with the agencies supporting the young people on release to ensure that when the young person is released from custody that the young person has the best life chances on returning to the community. This is achieved through chairing a multi-agency response meeting for resettlement in the community.

Standard for Children and the Justice System

This area has been addressed throughout the plan, with details action plans on Quality Assurance Audits and Actions Plans set on findings.

(Appendix 13)

Workforce Development

Wirral Youth Justice and the Local Authority value and invest heavily in Workforce Development. Wirral Youth Justice Service has invested in Trauma Informed Working Practice, and all staff have completed the Trauma Recovery Model Training/ECM

Training. Managers have also completed Supervision under the Trauma umbrella to support staff with vicarious trauma.

Staff that have joined the service in the past 12 months will undertake Trauma Recovery Training/ECM Training at the end of 2023.

New staff, including seconded staff from partner agencies, have and will continue to be given access to the PCEP training ran in conjunction with the Youth Justice Board Wirral currently have 4 staff undertaking the training. 2 from the YJS teams and 2 from Merseyside Police.

All staff who work in Wirral with Children and Families will also be attending the Systemic Practice training course that has been commissioned by the Safeguarding Partnership. This will complement the Trauma journey and action plan within Wirral Youth Justice Service, and further enhance the support and offer to families on the Wirral.

Staff have a monthly workforce development session aimed at enhancing the staff knowledge base and empowering them to take charge of their own professional development. This session is run in conjunction with managers but led by staff. We have regular guest speakers and training and briefing sessions within development meetings. This includes outside agencies attending on themes and areas highlighted through any quality assurance audits. The themes may also be identified through conversations with the staff teams on areas they feel are necessary to improve their practice.

Given the work we undertake within the Harmful Sexual Behaviour arena, we have and will continue to support staff with quarterly Clinical Supervision, outsourced through the AIM project who are the country's leading experts in Harmful Sexual Behaviour. Feedback from staff has been excellent. They feel having the knowledge base and experience from AIM gives them confidence to work in what can be a challenging and complex specialist field.

All staff within their monthly supervision will discuss additional training that they feel would support them, as well as managers identifying any training that they feel the staff could access to improve practice. All staff have individual training plans.

Appendix 13 contains a copy of Wirral's Training plan, with all training available to staff. Over the past twelve months, staff within Wirral Youth Justice Service have undertaken many and varied training courses ran through the CTG, these include AIM 3 Assessment, Interventions, HSB Technology Assisted. As well as bespoke Gang and County Lines training and Enhance Case Management embedding practice training. Staff have also attended Local Authority Training set for all staff these being Safeguarding training, Systemic Practice training, Equality Diversity and inclusion, keeping safe at work, working safely at home, Cyber ninjas and Hybrid working.

Evidenced Based Practice and Innovation

In addition the excellent progress and result around Operation Inclusion and Enhanced Case Management, the education programme 'In the Zone' is worthy of real recognition. This programme has reached over 4000 secondary school pupils both in mainstream and alternative provisions.

Looking Forward

This year's priorities

We have set six areas for development in this year's Annual Plan, three of which were on last year's Annual Plan, but we feel as a Service they can be further developed to improve outcomes for our children and young people.

Trauma Development

The first of which is Trauma Embedded Development. We set ourselves a 3-year goal to embed Trauma Development and Trauma Recovery model into the Service. This is the final year of this development and from next year will become core business. As you will see in this year's Plan, the use of ECM using the Trauma Recovery model has been extremely successful, with great outcomes to stop young people offending and re-offending.

This year the Authority has invested a heavily on systemic practice across the partnership within Wirral. Wirral Youth Justice Service will link this together with the Trauma Recovery model, as well as increase the capacity of use of ECM to undertake a final review of the Trauma Action Plan (Appendix 14) in 2024.

Wirral have several new staff this year who have all been booked in to attend the Trauma Recovery model training later in the year, as well as Partner agency staff who work at Wirral Youth Justice. Trauma development will then become core business and the Trauma Action Pan will be reviewed on a 12-month basis through the Youth Justice Management Board.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

The second priority from last year that will remain on our Development Plan is enhancing the offer and interventions across Children's Services. As noted earlier in the Plan, lots of work has been undertaken but we want to expand this by developing our HSB Hub to work with Merseyside Police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Social Care and Youth Justice.

We on the Wirral have seen an increase in the number of referrals received from concerned professionals. Also, since the pandemic referrals have been received and consultation enquiries made for young people involved in concerning behaviours. To address this, we plan this year to review and change our Policy to include consultation and sign off from the CPS and Merseyside Police. The changes we are hoping to achieve is by working with CPS and the Police with regards to young people who are arrested for an offence under the category of HSB, that are released 'under investigation' or 'bailed' on some occasions for 12 months plus. The changes would allow us to work under the AIM umbrella to support children sooner, instead of waiting for the Police or CPS decisions on investigations. Additionally, as mentioned in the update from last year, we have now a pool of staff who are trained across the Children and Young People's department. We are going to work with our newly trained Social Care and Family Support workers to offer a partner wide consultation hub and reference pathway, so we can offer the right service, right intervention, at the right time. HSB briefings will continue throughout the year to engage and support all staff who work with children and families, this will be co-ordinated through the Safeguarding Partnership.

Early Intervention and Prevention

The final element of last year's priorities that will remain on this year's Plan will be Early Intervention and Prevention. Given that we have been resourced with the Turnaround funding for 3 years and already have a commitment to identify and support young people as early as possible. As discussed earlier in the Plan. Last year we developed an Early Intervention and Prevention Hub multi agency operational coordination and a tactical group.

The development this year is to work with Merseyside Police to identify young people with the use of police analysis tools and databases.

Wirral YJS have also led several secondary schools across our borough to support them using early intervention, bringing relevant partners from statutory and third sector agencies to identify children who that may, if not supported, lead to them entering the Criminal Justice system. This will be run in several secondary schools on the Wirral who have been identified through data from us and partners as having some of the most complex young people with high levels of deprivation, and high referrals to the Integrated Front Door. This links to the developing Family Help model of community based multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) across Wirral. The YJS will be a specialist support team, operating pan Wirral, but with strong local links through assigned lead managers.

Three new areas added to this year's Annual Plan for development are as follows.

Transitions

Wirral long serving seconded very recently Probation Officer has retired. Probation leads have identified the replacement Probation Officer, who will also take on additional duties under a new funding stream which the Home Office has given to Merseyside National Probation Service (NPS) for young adult support workers. This funding has been expedited given recent tragic and serious offences linked to organised crime across Merseyside.

The additional duties for the seconded Probation Officer to Youth Justice will be to look at an extended transition, working alongside the newly appointed young adult support workers and enhanced transitions. Many young people who transition from Youth Justice to NPS, given their vulnerabilities and lack maturity, can struggle in the adult world of Probation. Many of the young people who transition are linked to County Lines and are on the periphery of organised crime. With the additional support through working in partnership, it is hoped that the additional time and support will decrease the number of breaches and custodial sentences making it a smoother and more supportive transition into the adult arena.

Education

The second development is around the offer of support for young people open to the service, to support them through the education journey, this links into the new Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for education.

Following our HMIP inspection one of the recommendations was that there was a gap in provision in education support for school aged children with many of our young people being NEET or in alternative provisions with no pathway back in to mainstream education.

We acted on this and have recently employed a specific education worker to work with the Youth Justice Service. We have at present a Career Connect member of staff who works with our 16 to 18 cohort, with great outcomes.

Although great steps have been made in supporting the children open to services since our HMIP Inspection, with detailed Audits to ascertain in more detail the education journey of our young people, having a standalone Education Worker in the service will enhance the offer of support to the children more.

The new Education Lead in Youth Justice will work with staff to identify young people who have challenges within the Education System and support the young people and schools to reintegrate them back to mainstream schools if appropriate.

Wirral have recently widened the CME25 panel (Children not receiving 25 hours education). The Service lead for YJS is an active member of this group as well as the Team Manager from the Compass Team (Missing, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding). Wirral YJS attend and review cases where our young people have not been able to access the right education provision, or who are missing from school. We support and challenge social workers and school to address any unmet needs within education. The newly appointed Education worker will support the meeting going forward. With the recent recruitment of an bespoke Youth Justice Education Worker, Wirral Youth Justice will in 2024 be looking at applying for the accredited Association of YOT Managers kite mark.

Victims and Restorative Practice




The final development for the Wirral Youth Justice Service for 2023/24 is that of expanding the offer and development to victims and to additionally expand the use of Restorative Practices to the partners.

The victim worker has been involved in the development of victim contacts and Restorative Meetings over the past 12 months.

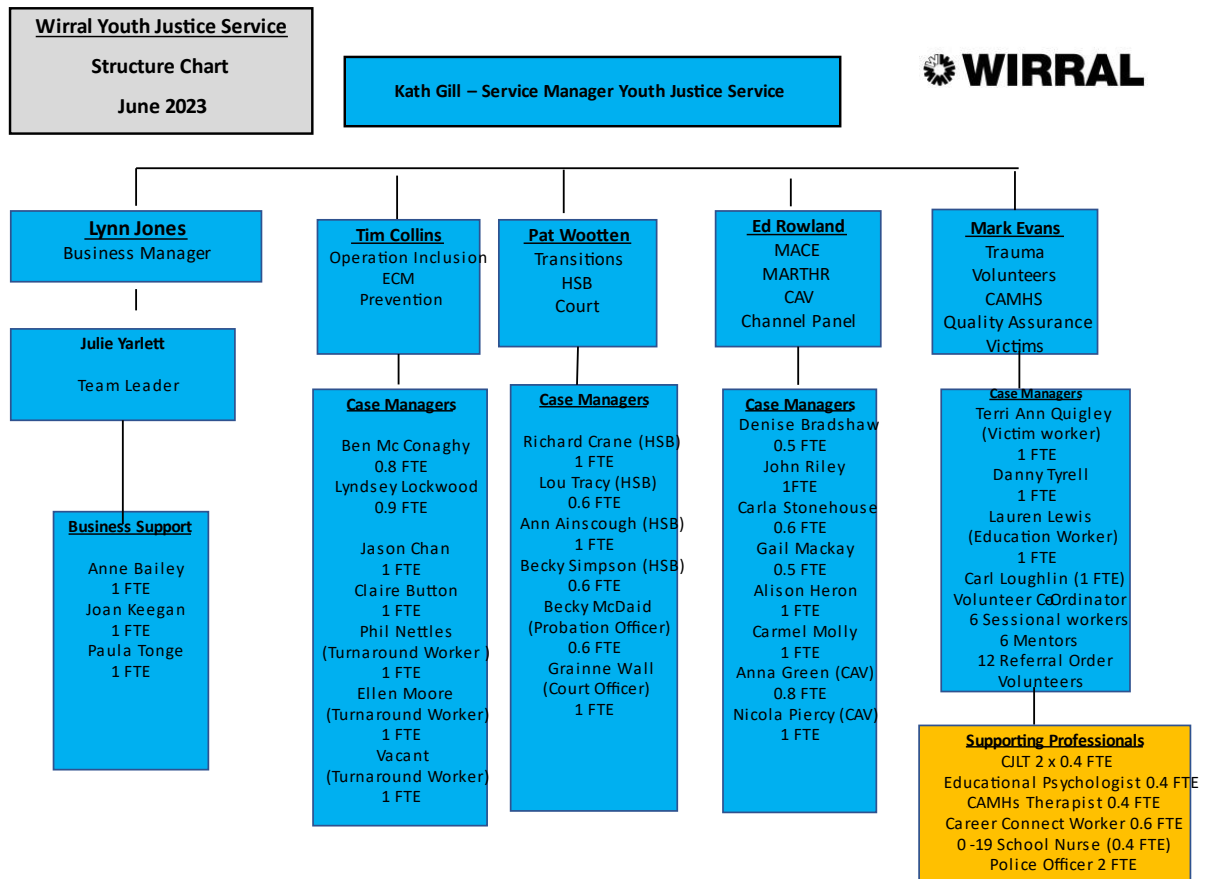
The additional development for this year's plan is to build on Restorative Practices across the partnership. Wirral Youth Justice were successful in a community bid through Wirral's Community Safety Partnership for us to commission a cohort of multi-agency professionals to become Trained Trainers in Restorative Practice Training. The development for the next 12 months is to bring Restorative Training to professionals who work with young people and families. There will be a coordinated response between Youth Justice and the Wirral Safeguarding Partnership to run a minimum of 30 training courses with approximately 600 people trained in the next 12 months in the use of Restorative Interventions and approaches. With a targeted number of courses to be delivered to Wirral Schools, School Police Officers, Local Policing officers, residential placements, and Family support.

Our aim, is that with the systems leadership and operational support from the Youth Justice Service, we can collectively reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system.

1. Sign off and approval

Name	Role	Signature	Date
Elizabeth Hartley	Deputy Director Children's Services Chair YJM2		30 th June 2023
Kathy Gill	Service Manager Wirral Youth Justice Service Wirral Council		30 th June 2023
Tony Kirk	Head of Service Contextual Safeguarding Wirral Council		30 th June 2023

Appendix 1: Staffing Structure Youth Justice Service / Senior Management Structure.



Appendix 1: Wirral Council Senior Leadership Chart

[Senior Leadership \(SLT\) Structure.pdf](#)

Appendix 2: Table B7 Staff by contract type (Number of Full Time Equivalent)

B7: Staff in the Youth Justice Team (by headcount as at 30.06.23)												
	Strategic Manager		Operational Manager		Practitioner		Administration		Sessional	Student	Volunteer	Total
	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT				
Permanent												
Fixed Term												
Outsourced												
Temporary												
Vacant												
Seconded Children's Services	0	1	0.6	4	5.2	14	0	4	2	0		30.8
Seconded Probation					0.6							0.6
Seconded Police						2						2
Seconded Health (Mental Health)					1.2							1.2
Seconded Health (Physical health)					0.4							0.4
Seconded Health (Other)												0
Education												0
Connexions					0.6							0.6
Other												0
TOTAL	0	1	0.6	4	8.2	16	0	4	2	0		35.8

Appendix 2: Table B8 Staff by gender and ethnicity

B8: Staff in the Youth Justice Team by Gender and Ethnicity (as at 30.06.23)																
	Strategic Manager		Operational Manager		Practitioner		Administration		Sessional		Referral Order Panel Volunteer		Other Volunteer		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Asian																
Black																
Mixed					1					1					1	1
White	0	1	3	2	10	24	0	4	0	1	3	7	0	1	16	40
Any other ethnic group																
Not known																
Total	0	1	3	2	11	24	0	4	0	2	3	7	0	1	17	41
Welsh speakers*																

Appendix 4: Partner Contributions to the Youth Justice Partnership Pooled budget 2023/24

Agency	Staffing costs (£)	Payments in kind revenue (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Local Authority	1,151,300	0.4 FTE Ed Psych 0.6 FTE Career Connect		1,151,300
Police		2.0 FTE		
Probation	5,000	0.5 FTE		5,000
Health		0.4 FTE CAMHS School Nurse	28,000	28,000

Police Crime Commissioner Grant (PCC)	48,000			48,000
YJB Youth Justice Grant**	571,000		72,156	643,156
Other				
Total	1,775,300		100,156	1,875,456

Note: Estimate based on remand and YJB awards 2022/23.

Note: The CAMHS worker is currently vacant, at time of writing this report.

Appendix 5: Wirral Youth Justice Management Board Membership

Name	Title	YJMB Meeting Dates Attendance
Elizabeth Hartley Deputy – Tony Kirk	Assistant Director (Chair)	17.2.22, 28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 7.11.22
Carla Jones	Probation	28.4.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23 (Deputy)
Carolyn Hooper	Wirral Council	28.4.22 (Deputy)
Eifion Burke	Wirral Council	17.2.22 (Deputy), 28.4.22 (Deputy), 5.5.23, 19.5.22, 14.7.22 (Deputy), 14.3.23
Emma Meaney	Wirral Council	17.2.23, 28.4.22, 14.3.23
Helen Heeley (Laura Caldicott from April 2023)	Health	5.5.22, 19.5.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23
Julie Graham	Public Health	17.2.23, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23
Karen Metcalf		17.2.23, 28.4.22, 14.3.23(Deputy)
Kath McTavish		14.3.23 (Deputy)

Kathy Gill	Wirral Council (YJS)	17.2.22, 28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 14.7.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23
Alexsandra Kaitell	Wirral Council	17.2.22, 5.5.22, 28.4.22, 14.7.22, 7.11.22
Lynn Jones	Wirral Council (YJS)	28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 14.7.22, 7.11.22, 17.2.23
Mark Heron		28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23(Deputy)
Matthew Moscrop Deputy - Tom Welch	Merseyside Police	28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 14.7.22, 7.11.22 (Martin Earl)
Lisa Newman		5.5.22, 19.5.22, 7.11.22, Apologies 14.3.23
Paul Smith	Wirral Council	17.2.23, 28.4.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23
Susan Walker	Youth Justice Board	Apologies
Tony Kirk	Wirral Council	17.2.22, 28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 14.7.22, 7.11.22, Chair 14.3.23
Trish Lewis	Wirral Council	17.2.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23

Appendix 6 Merseyside Performance Comparison for April 2022 – March 2023

Source: YJB YOT Data Summary version 114

Data Summary	Wirral	Liverpool	Knowsley	Sefton	St. Helens
First Time Entrants					
Jan - Dec 2022 (latest period)					
PNC Numbers of FTEs	26	84	24	31	23
PNC rate per 100,000	86	211	162	127	140
Jan - Dec 2021					
PNC Numbers of FTE's	35	50	24	23	16
PNC rate per 100,000	114	128	168	94	98
Number difference					
% Difference	-25%	65%	-3%	35%	43%

Use of custody	Wirral	Liverpool	Knowsley	Sefton	St. Helens
Apr 22 – Mar 23 (latest period)					
Custodial disposals	3	13	1	2	5
Rate per 1,000	0.10	0.34	0.07	0.08	0.31
Apr 21 – Mar 22					
Custodial disposals	5	11	5	0	3

Rate per 1,000	0.16	0.28	0.34	0.00	0.18
Difference in rates	-6%	6%	-27%	N/A	13%

Re-offending rate	Wirral	Liverpool	Knowsley	Sefton	St. Helens
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Jul 20 – Jun 21 cohort

Number in the cohort	78	157	54	48	49
Number of re-offenders	32	62	17	12	14
Number of re-offences	98	169	92	30	89
Re-offences per re-offender	3.06	2.73	5.41	2.50	6.36
Frequency rate	1.26	1.08	1.70	0.63	1.82
Binary rate	41.0%	39.5%	31.5%	25.0%	28.6%

Jul 19 – Jun 20 cohort

Number in the cohort	86	197	44	77	50
Number of re-offenders	36	70	17	24	22
Number of re-offences	166	203	36	48	51
Re-offences per re-offender	4.61	2.90	2.12	2.00	2.32
Frequency rate	1.93	1.03	0.82	0.62	1.02
Binary rate	41.9%	35.5%	38.6%	31.2%	44.0%

Re-offences per re-offenders Difference	-4.6	-0.2	3.3	0.5	4.0
Frequency rate difference	-0.7	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.8
Binary rate difference	-0.9	4.0%	-7.2%	-6.2%	-15.4%

Appendix 7: Participation Strategy / Participation Feedback.



Wirral YJS
Participation and Eng:



Wirral participation
2022.docx

Appendix 8: Chief Exec: Equality for people and places.

Appendix 9: Harmful Sexual Behaviour Tool Kit.



Wirral HSB Tool.pdf

Appendix 10: Trauma Action Plan.



Wirral Trauma
informed action plan 1

Appendix 11: 'In The Zone' Evaluation.



In The Zone Info
Sheet 2022.pdf



Evaluation In the
Zone.pptx

Appendix 12: Quality Assurance Audit Action Plan.



Youth Justice
Service.docx

Appendix 13: Wirral's Training Plan.



Wirral Training plan
2023-24.docx

Appendix 14: Common youth justice terms

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
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	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
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
Children	We define a child as 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
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
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	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
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
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
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual

	behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
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
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	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre
SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
YOI	Young offender institution