

# Walsall Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2021-2022



Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

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## **1. Foreword by Chair of Walsall Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board**

As Chair of the Walsall Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board, I am pleased to share the Walsall Youth Justice Service Strategic Annual Plan for 2021-22 looking back on the partnership's achievements and setting out the commitment to reducing youth crime, safeguarding children and young people at risk of, or involved in offending, and protecting the public from harm.

The partnership priorities are consistent with the Youth Justice Board's 'Child First' principle and will contribute to the delivery of our Walsall Right 4 Children vision, aimed at ensuring the right children are in the right place with the right support for as long as it is needed so they are safe from harm, happy and learning well. Reducing the number of young people entering the Youth Justice System remains a key Council objective and a key youth justice performance measure.

The last 12 months have been unprecedented in the face of a national pandemic. I have been truly impressed by the response of staff across the partnership who adapted quickly to the crisis, responded effectively to the challenges of keeping vulnerable children safe and continued to progress critical aspects of business improvement, most notably the establishment of the out of court disposal model and the training of our workforce in restorative practice and motivational training. As we know, children today face many challenges – including poverty, childhood trauma and special educational needs. Covid-19 has undoubtedly amplified these challenges for many, the extent of which will become clearer as restrictions ease and the impact and legacy of Covid is better understood.

This next year provides the partnership with an opportunity to use our collective learning from Covid to 'build back better' youth justice services, shaped by the voices of our children and young people and to secure greater levels of intra / inter agency co-operation and collaboration towards the identification and protection of vulnerable young people so we can together protect them from harm, meet their complex range of needs and improve outcomes and in doing so create safe communities.

This next year also provides an opportunity to further strengthen the delivery of seamless services for young people involved in youth crime, as the YJ service becomes more closely aligned to locality working arrangements, affording greater cross-system connection of the workforce- social workers, early help workers, education workers, youth justice workers, and of course the broader partnership workforce, coming together for the benefit of our children, young people, families and communities. I look forward to working with children, young people and their families, partners and communities to reduce youth crime, safeguard children and young people at risk and improve outcomes for children

**Sally Rowe-Executive Director of Children's Service**

## **2. Introduction.**

On behalf of the Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board we are proud to introduce Walsall Youth Justice Service's (YJS) Strategic Plan for 2021/22. This plan has been approved by the YJS Performance and Partnership Board and by Walsall Council Cabinet and Full Council Meeting.

Walsall Youth Justice Service (YJS) remains a statutory multi-agency service under Section 37 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act in partnership with the Local Authority, Walsall Children's Services, West Midlands Police, National Probation Service and Health. The YJS is also supported by numerous other partners who contribute to the YJS' agenda. The principle aim of the YJS partnership is to prevent and reduce offending and re-offending behaviour in children and young people and we have three national key performance indicators:

- a) Reducing the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time
- b) Reducing re-offending
- c) Reducing the use of custodial disposals.

Despite the challenges of the past 12 months, we have achieved positive outcomes for the young people we are working with. In summary, when compared to the measured previous 12 months, the current published data demonstrates a binary rate of re-offending of 31.8% when compared to 32.2% from the previous 12 month period. The use of custodial sentences has remained low although due to increasing seriousness and complexity, the number has increased from 5 to 10 for the latest reporting period 2019/20. Our local performance tracking tells us that we are moving in a positive trajectory and this number has reduced to 8 over the most recent 12 month period. When reviewing the published data, the number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time also increased from 67 to 81 over a 12 month period. Local analysis identified a spike in offence seriousness at the end of the summer in 2019 led to more young people entering the formal youth justice system rather than via a community resolution or diversion intervention. Positively, at the time of writing this plan our first time entrant rate had dropped significantly to 52, a 35% reduction.

Although the numbers of young people entering the system and also ultimately receiving a custodial sentence have increased, the practitioners within the YJS continue to undertake excellent work with young people to help them avoid re-offending. On a daily basis YJS practitioners are working with young people with increasing risks and a multitude of complex needs including the possession of weapons, criminal exploitation and county lines, mental ill-health, significant gaps in education and special educational needs. We need to recognise the growing and concerning issue of serious youth violence within this and as such the Youth Justice Service will be a key player in the Safer Walsall Partnership's review and implementation of a serious youth violence strategy in 2021.

Listening to our young people and their parents is at the core of the delivery of the YJS. We believe that the answers to the offending problem can be found from within the young people themselves. As such the YJS staff are trained in restorative practice and focus upon doing 'with' and not 'to'. This plan is based upon the views of our young people and our plan for delivery in 2021/22 has been shaped by consultation with them.

The partnership continues to progress following the HMIP inspection of youth offending in April 2019 and the 'requires improvement to be good' rating. We have worked with the national Youth Justice Board to transition from 'improvement plan activity' to continue on our journey towards offering the best possible services for young people in 2021/22. Our previous priorities were based upon HMIP inspection recommendations and this plan recognises the progress the partnership has made against these recommendations.

The YJS has made significant progress against our previous priorities (\* denotes a link to an HMIP recommendation).

*1. Improving the governance and performance reporting arrangements for the youth justice partnership*

The Youth Justice Partnership has reviewed and improved its governance arrangements following the HMIP inspection in April 2019, strengthened its membership and has secured analyst support from Walsall Children's Services performance team. The partnership now have greater oversight of delivery models and are able to understand the impact of practice on Walsall children. Additionally, strategic leaders from across the partnership now own their performance contributions for young people within the justice system and are committed to making a positive difference for these children.

*2. Ensuring the partnership resources and budget allocation to ensure the YJS is able to undertake its key function well\**

The partnership has reviewed its current resources and financial contributions and have worked hard to develop new partnerships and pathways to bring in additional resources to support the team and improve outcomes for young people. A good example is the new pathway the partnership has in place with Victim Support, improving services for victims and increasing the capacity of Youth Justice Officers.

*3. Reducing youth violence and managing risk of harm to victims\**

There are fewer recorded offences committed by Walsall young people and therefore less victims. Violent offences remain the most prominent type of offending in Walsall and the possession and use of weapons remains a priority for the partnership. The service has completed risk of harm assessment training and the new partnership with Victim Support has brought greater focus on the identification and support of potential victims and risk. The YJS offers bespoke packages of intervention for violence and knife crime to mirror the varying reasons behind this type of offending. Successes have been evident in the delivery of the Street Doctors programme and our partnership with the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit.

#### *4. Preventing young people committing crime.*

The YJS partnership has reviewed its out of court disposal model and crime prevention offer to ensure greater focus on assessment and joint decision making, however the commitment to providing tailored responses to young people on the edge of the formal justice system has remained resolute. Walsall YJS has dedicated crime prevention workers working with young people subject to a range of police disposals, delivering diversion interventions for those families where partners have identified increased risk of offending.

#### *5. Ensuring that young people in the youth justice system receive the correct education entitlement\*.*

The Director for Access and Achievement (education) is now a YJS performance and partnership board member and has committed resources to the partnership through the virtual school for vulnerable children. The support available for school age children is complimented with a 16+ partnership advisor from Black Country Impact, which in turn, is enhanced by a new relationship with Walsall Works, an initiative that supports local people to find employment. A member group of Children's Services Oversight and Scrutiny committee was established to examine the issues raised by HMIP and recommendations were made. Improving outcomes for Walsall young people after they have left school remains a challenge and although we can demonstrate positive outcomes for some young people, improving the education needs for our 16+ young people remains a key priority for 2021/22.

#### *6. Addressing disproportionality within the youth justice system\*.*

Disproportionality within the youth justice system is a national and local issue. We have developed our ability to monitor and analyse the ethnicity of young people subject to disposals and we can see that, when compared to local demographics, young people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds are overrepresented. Through funding from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the partnership has worked with an organisation to consult with our families, staff and partners. The YJS completed training as a team and is developing systems and processes to enable the monitoring and checking of disproportionality in work with our young people. Work has commenced with Walsall's cohesion team 'Walsall for All' to engage with local communities to better understand local issues and also with West Midlands Police to consider how to ensure young people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds have the same opportunities to receive out of court disposals as other young people. Continuing to develop understanding and address disproportionality is a priority for the YJS in 2021/22.

### **3. The impact of COVID-19**

COVID-19 lockdown restrictions imposed by the Government on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020, significantly impacted the ability of the service to see young people and to undertake assessments and interventions in person in a safe way.

The YJS partnership produced a COVID recovery plan based upon statutory National Standards for Youth Justice, aligned to our Business Continuity Plan. The plan detailed, within a rapidly changing context, the actions needed to ensure the YJS remained compliant with Standards whilst modifying changes to the ways of working and practice to keep our young people and staff safe.

As our delivery for young people is intrinsically linked with our partners in the Criminal Justice System, the YJS has worked closely with the Police, the Courts and the secure custodial estate to ensure an effective whole system response to COVID. The YJS actively sought to contribute to risk assessments to ensure the safety of young people and staff within Court and the Police custody block.

The closure of the Courts in early 2020 quickly led to a backlog of young people that were pending Court appearances, which in turn reduced the total number of young people supervised by the YJS. Court backlogs have held up justice within the adult Criminal Justice System, and have severely affected outcomes for both victim and offenders of youth crime across the country. Walsall YJS worked closely with the Black Country Youth Court to ensure that hearings were prioritised due to risk and the backlog was worked through as quickly as possible.

Delivery of youth justice services within the community were quickly risk assessed and risk management and safeguarding of young people was prioritised. Face to face contact with young people has reduced during the lockdown. Prior to restrictions being imposed, the YJS management undertook a risk assessment exercise to clearly highlight our risky young people, and those young people in crisis, who would benefit from face to face contact. To keep people safe, COVID-19 risk assessments are completed on all young people and regularly reviewed as per identified need.

To improve contact with young people, all YJS practitioners have smart phones and tablets to use video calling. Practitioners have had to find creative ways to undertake interventions using the technology at their disposal. Some have created intervention packs, delivered them to their young people and then completed offence-focussed work via video calls. Although face to face contact has reduced during lockdown, overall contact has increased and there has been a shift in accessibility between families and their Youth Justice Officer.

### **COVID-19- Moving Forward**

The YJS Performance and Partnership Board has maintained oversight of delivery during COVID-19 and approved the recovery plan submitted to the YJB in 2020. The YJS Board has also reviewed the HMIP report 'A Thematic Review of the work of youth offending services during the COVID-19 pandemic' which was published in November 2020. The recommendations and learning points from the thematic inspection were considered by the Board and assurances were given regarding the progress that had been made and changes to practice that had been established as a result, such as focus on assessing the technological capabilities of our young people and the levels of accessibility via IT and remote communication methods.

2019-20 has been very much focussed on responding to the immediate crisis and putting arrangements in place to ensure business continuity and the safety of our staff and young people. The focus and a key priority for 2021-22 will be the recovery and resetting of youth justice services as restrictions are lifted. Setting the future direction of travel for YJS will be informed by our learning from the past year about what's worked, our Walsall Right 4 Children vision and strategic plan and the YJS alignment to locality working



#### **4. Summary of achievements including progress against key performance indicators**

##### Crime prevention offer and out of court disposal panel.

Walsall YJS has a dedicated crime prevention service for young people who are at risk of entering into the youth justice system or who have received a police disposal. We have crime prevention workers, part funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, through the Safer Walsall Partnership, who undertake excellent work with young people to help them avoid getting into trouble. Since HMIP's inspection in 2019, we have reviewed our model in partnership with Walsall Police to ensure that our joint decision making process around the suitability of disposals is informed by an approved assessment. The YJS Performance and Partnership Board has regularly reviewed the model and received completed audits to demonstrate outcomes for young people. Our measured first time entrant (FTE) rate remains low with only 81 young people entering the system over a 12 month period. This is an increase when compared to the same period the year before and can be attributed to an increase in the seriousness of offence type and a spike following the summer in 2019. We also saw a higher rate of young people enter the system for the first time who received a custodial sentence without any previous YJS involvement. At the time of writing this plan, our local monitoring indicates FTE rates had improved significantly with only 52 young people entering the system.

##### Re-offending (KPI).

Our re-offending performance is excellent when compared to the regional, national and statistical averages. This means that fewer Walsall young people are re-offending and committing fewer offences per person. The current aggregated Youth Justice Board measured binary rate for Walsall YJS is 31.8% ; the binary rate for England is 38.4% and our statistical family is 32.4%. Walsall young people are, on average, committing 2.76 offences per young person, compared to the England average of 3.93 and the West Midlands average of 3.84.

##### Education.

At the time of writing this plan, none of the young people supervised by the YJS were classified as a Child Missing Education (CME). This demonstrates a significant improvement for our school age young people. Our partnership with the Virtual School has achieved positive outcomes for our young people through additional oversight of this cohort and the introduction of a YJS Vulnerable Personal Education Plan to focus support where needed and ensure a multi-agency approach. Improving outcomes for those of post school age is an identified priority for 2021-22.

##### Exploitation and Knife crime:

Young people are telling us that carrying a knife is becoming more commonplace. The reasons behind this are varied, include feeling unsafe, and as such our response to knife crime and exploitation has needed to be bespoke to each young person. Carrying a knife is associated with criminal exploitation and those within the youth justice system are more likely to be involved in county lines where vulnerable children and adults transport illegal drugs to another area. In

Walsall, the YJS is central to the partnership's developing Exploitation Hub and the Exploitation Panel where victims, perpetrators and locations of criminal exploitation are discussed and multi-agency plans established.

Until COVID-19 restrictions came into place, we had continued our partnership with the Street Doctors charity to teach young people basic first aid to help save the lives of their friends if they are the victim of violence. This is a powerful intervention which challenges the young person's perception of stabbing and being stabbed, whilst teaching them a potentially lifesaving skill. Plans are underway to re-instate the programme when COVID restrictions are lifted.

The YJS has also formed partnerships with the James Brindley Foundation, St-Giles Trust and Catch-22 to add different dimensions to our work to address knife crime. James Brindley was tragically murdered in Walsall in 2017 and his family have established the foundation in his name to help make a difference to avoid future tragedies from taking place. The YJS are working with the foundation to utilise the Full Circle Knife Crime Programme with young people on the periphery of the youth justice system and James' father has supported the YJS by speaking to our young people about the terrible consequences of carrying a knife. This intervention is both moving and inspirational. St. Giles Trust have supported the YJS with our knife crime workshops to provide 'lived experience' mentoring, to help young people understand the personal consequences for carrying a knife and engaging in violent crime. The YJS has managed to secure additional funding from the PCC to develop our work with mentors in 2021/22. Lived experienced mentors and their unique ability to engage with our young people has been an important piece of the jigsaw in helping to solve the issue of carrying a knife.

#### Sport and the Inspire Group:

Sport continues to be central to our work with young people. We have continued our partnership with the Inspire Group to provide multi-sports diversion activities across Walsall. The Inspire Group coaches also provide mentoring for our young people, support them to achieve sport coaching qualifications and link young people into community sport clubs. The Inspire Group also support our knife crime workshops providing activities and diversion opportunities. The YJS has previously secured Early Intervention Youth Funding to work with Walsall Wood Amateur Boxing Club. Our young people tell us that boxing is a sport that they would be interested in trying. We have formed a partnership with coaches to provide sessions for our young people during the week to help divert them from offending behaviour. Walsall Wood ABC have also supported us with our knife crime workshops. COVID-19 has created significant barriers preventing us from fully using this provision, but as the country moves out of restrictions this opportunity should be available for our young people.

#### Restorative Practice

The PCC has provided additional funding in 2020 to support the YJS team, and our partners in Victim Support, to receive further training in restorative practice. We have implemented restorative 'MyPlan' meetings at the start of interventions to ensure that the young person leads on making positive changes and they collaborate with important people in their lives, to achieve goals. The emphasis is on doing 'with' and not being done 'to'. New MyPlans have been developed

to make our intervention plans more child-friendly and focussed on strengths. Within our daily practice, we have adopted a 'connection before content' approach to working together as a team and facilitate restorative solution circles to approach problems.

To improve our services for victims we have started a new partnership with Victim Support who will contact those affected by youth crime to provide services and support where needed and to explore suitability to deliver restorative justice interventions.

#### Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and Walsall College

At the start of 2020 Walsall YJS worked closely with WM Police and the VRU to implement a 'place based' pilot to reduce violence. The chosen 'anchor institution' was Walsall College due to proximity to Walsall town centre, recent violent incidents in or around a new fast food restaurant and the flow of students into the town centre on a daily basis. The project embedded a health approach to reducing violence throughout the college, modelling best practice. College staff and students were provided with trauma training and Mentoring in Violence Prevention (MVP) train the trainer programmes. These individuals went on to form training groups within the college to cascade learning to the rest of the college population. VRU support, using this model, has now cascaded in schools in the Borough and Head Teachers have access to support and interventions for their pupils and families.

#### Kitchen Table Talks (KTT)

Walsall YJS originally received Early Intervention Youth Funding for an organisation called First Class Legacy to deliver a forum to engage a group of parents of young people involved within the Youth Justice System. This was an informal meeting facilitated by First Class Legacy staff supported by YJS staff. We wanted to encourage parents to engage in discussions aimed at supporting them with their children and some of the more difficult and challenging elements of their behaviour. Due to the success of the programme, Walsall YJS promoted the use of Kitchen Table Talks as a regional pathfinder in partnership with the VRU and the YJB across the West Midlands.

#### Disproportionality

At the end of 2019 the YJS successfully applied for funding from the PCC to undertake a Disproportionality Project. In March 2020 the murder of George Floyd in the USA brought into greater focus the overrepresentation of young people from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups in the Youth Justice System here in the UK. The YJS undertook a 2 year data analysis of disproportionality trends to help us fully understand the local issue here in Walsall and used this information to work with an organisation called First Class Legacy to consult with our young people, partners and strategic leaders. We have worked with First Class Legacy to deliver training to the staff better understand unconscious bias and have difficult conversations about race and ethnicity. Although good progress has been made during 2020, further work is planned to develop our infrastructure to ensure monitoring and oversight processes are established and we can start to see positive outcomes and a reduction in the overrepresentation of BAME young people in the justice system.

## 5. The views of our young people

Walsall YJS continue to believe that if young people are involved in decisions that affect their lives, they are more likely to accept and support them, even if they are hard, and will take ownership of the changes required to avoid getting into trouble and to stay safe. We think that the voice of our young people needs to be at the forefront in tackling all issues affecting or affected by offending behaviour and in particular violence and knife crime. The YJS seeks the views of our young people, and parents, in every aspect of our work to help us make decisions, focus our interventions and develop a training plan for staff.

We worked with an organisation to engage our young people to hear and debate their views on society and issues that affect them. Our young people have identified the following issues as priorities and these have been summarised below:

- *We want better quality role models & mentors. Young people identified the need for more proven mentors who have actually achieved things.*
- *We are interested in being able to access paid work earlier in their lives. Around age of 13, we think having young people earning something for simple activities like bag packing at DIY centres etc, or recycling collections.*
- *We think conversations around parenting should be considered.*
- *We identified the need for mental health support. We felt that mental health was something we saw as a problem for some young people offending.*
- *We felt that school wasn't really helping or supporting our learning to actually do more in life. We felt there needed to be a way to learn things that bring quicker opportunities for young people in poverty. The education route looks/ feels too long for them with no clarity at the end. We felt 'tapping life' looks a clearer pathway to earning money, but education should give a clearer pathway for us to earn money but doesn't.*
- *We felt police have a role as they are good at catching low level young people at the bottom of the spectrum where young people want to get into crime etc. But they aren't good with the more extreme ones.*

In 2020, our young people hosted a knife crime event at Walsall College and delivered a workshop entitled 'Walsall's Youth Voice'. In the workshop our young people led a debate around issues impacting upon and their views are collected below:

- *The lack of trust with the police and a poor relationship with communities. This was countered by those that felt the police were in a tricky position and the police do rescue a lot of people.*
- *Audiences felt schools could do more with enrichment and they valued the need for more community investment in youth spaces for activities to get involved in.*
- *Audience members talked about the lure of money and the temptations of social media/music drawing certain young people into certain behaviours.*
- *'Clout chasing' - the expression used for those trying to get a reputation through anti-social behaviours - was identified as something which fuels young people being drawn into certain behaviours.*

To further support our participation, the YJS has completed the Youth Violence Commission's Safer Lives Survey each year. The YJS practitioners find it a useful intervention to start a debate with young people and the findings remain relevant to help us plan for future delivery. See appendix E.

## **6. Walsall YJS National Standards self- assessment of national standards.**

The introduction of 'Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019' required all youth justice services to undertake a base-line self-assessment. The following is an extract from the self-assessment with an inclusion of areas for development.

Standard	Strategic Self-Assessed Results	Areas for development in 2021/22	Operational Self-Assessed Results	Areas for development in 2021/22
NS1 Out of Court Disposal	Good	Establish local partnership scrutiny group to demonstrate consistency/fairness of disposals	Good	
NS2 At Court	Good	Implement a disproportionality working group to assess unconscious bias and PSR congruence and share the results with the Court	Good	<p>Improve consistency of recording of Court outcomes</p> <p>Develop literature for young people and parents explaining Court process and outcomes</p>
NS3 in the Community (Court Orders)	Good	Develop performance framework with Children's Services to improve quality of practice	Requires Improvement	Improve the quality of assessment and planning for victim safety
NS4 In secure Settings	Requires Improvement	YJS partnership board to seek assurance from YCS that Walsall young people in custody are safe	Requires Improvement	Establish custody officers as members of the YJS high risk panel.
NS5 On Transition and resettlement	Requires Improvement	<p>Health needs analysis to identify commissioning gaps</p> <p>Strategic Resettlement Audit</p>	Requires Improvement	<p>Review of YJS closure and transmission process</p> <p>Implement individual resettlement plan</p>

### **National Standards Self-Assessment Methodology**

Walsall YJS Performance and Partnership Board made the decision to assign strategic leaders from across the partnership to provide support and have oversight of each of the standards within the self-assessment process.

<b>National Standard</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Strategic Lead</b>
1. Out of Court Disposals	West Midlands Police	Superintendent Walsall LPU
2. In Court	Black Country Magistrates	Chair of the Youth Bench
3. In the Community	Safer Walsall Partnership	Head of Community Safety
4. In Secure	Public Health	Head of Social Inclusion
5. In Transition	Access and Achievement - Children's Services	Head of the Virtual School

The self-assessment was split into two parts; an operational audit and a strategic audit of governance arrangements. The operational audits were undertaken by youth justice managers and practitioners using audit tools adapted from the suggested YJB template. The findings from the operational audits were then shared with the relevant strategic leads to start the strategic assessment process. The YJB did not prescribe a methodology, however provided suggested templates.

The decision was made to choose audit periods of Q3 and Q4 2019/20, October 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 to March 2020, to enable sufficient time to complete the analysis. For some of the National Standards it was necessary to extend the time-frame for the audit to ensure a suitable number of cases were included in the sample. For example, for the 'In Secure' Standard, due to the low number of custody case available for selection, all young people receiving a custodial sentence during the full period were included. The YJB requested a sample of 20% of relevant case or a minimum of 20 cases.

Standard 4 'In Secure' lent itself to a collaborative approach across the West Midlands as most young people from the region are sent to the same secure establishments and the Youth Custody Service oversees the commissioning and quality standards within each placement. The West Midlands Youth Justice Services alongside representatives from Werrington YOI and Rainsbrook STC met to discuss an agreed performance framework and as such the consortium requested assurances from the Youth Custody Service on behalf of the region.

### **Summary:**

An action plan was put in place following the self-assessment and despite the pandemic, significant progress has been made across all five national standards. The YJS partnership is focussed on improving quality of practice in 2021/22 and will take forward remaining recommendations into the Service delivery plan found in the appendix of this Strategic Plan.

## **7. Structure, Governance and Partnership Arrangements:**

Walsall YJS sits within the Children's Services directorate and the Strategic Lead for the YJS reports into the Director for Early Help and Partnerships with close alignment to Social Care and Education. A disproportionate number of our young people are open to Social Care Services and there are clear links between young people in the youth justice system and those involved in exploitation, going missing or excluded from education. The YJS Strategic Lead is part of the senior leadership team within Children's Services.

Walsall Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board meet quarterly and is chaired by the Executive Director of Children's Services. The majority of statutory partners from the Local Authority, Health, Police and National Probation Service regularly attend. Board membership can be found in Appendix D. The agenda is set by the Chair of the Performance and Partnership Board and contains set items to incorporate the above, alongside reports requested by Board members to further understanding or to address matters arising. The YJS Board members are committed to the youth justice agenda and proactively address issues affecting children and young people.

The focus of the YJS Performance and Partnership Board over the past 12 months has been to; provide oversight and monitoring of improvements against HMIP recommendations, to ensure correct and consistent representation at the Board, to improve the governance arrangements in relation to performance and model of practice. Walsall YJS has strategic links into the following bodies and wider strategic plans:

- **Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Board**

*The YJS Strategic Lead sits on the WSCB and contributes to the following sub-groups:*

- a) *Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) subcommittee*
- b) *Exploitation subcommittee*
- c) *Exploitation Steering Panel*
- d) *Serious Case Review (SCR) subcommittee*

- **Children's Services Performance Board**

*The YJS Strategic Lead sits on the Children's Services Performance Board and presents YJS data against key performance indicators and locally agreed priorities- including the Social Care/YJS interface and first time entrants.*

- **Safer Walsall Community Safety Partnership (SWP)**

*The YJS Strategic Lead sits on the Safer Walsall Partnership Board Violence Reduction sub-group and receives funding through the SWP from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for our Crime Prevention offer.*

- **West Midlands Reducing Reoffending Delivery Group.**

*The YJS Strategic Lead represents the Youth Offending Services in the West Midlands at the regional Reducing Reoffending Steering Group to ensure that the needs of children are represented and feature in regional strategic planning.*

- **West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit.**

The YJS were a key partner in Walsall's 'place based' violence reduction pilot at Walsall College and continue to engage with the VRU on key themes of serious youth violence. The Strategic Lead also support the VRU Sports Strategic Partnership Board.

- **Contest (the UK's strategy for counter terrorism: Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare)**

*The Strategic Lead for Walsall YJS is the Chair of the Local Authorities Channel Panel and as such sits upon Walsall's Contest Board which is responsible for driving forward the delivery and implementation of the government's Contest Strategy.*

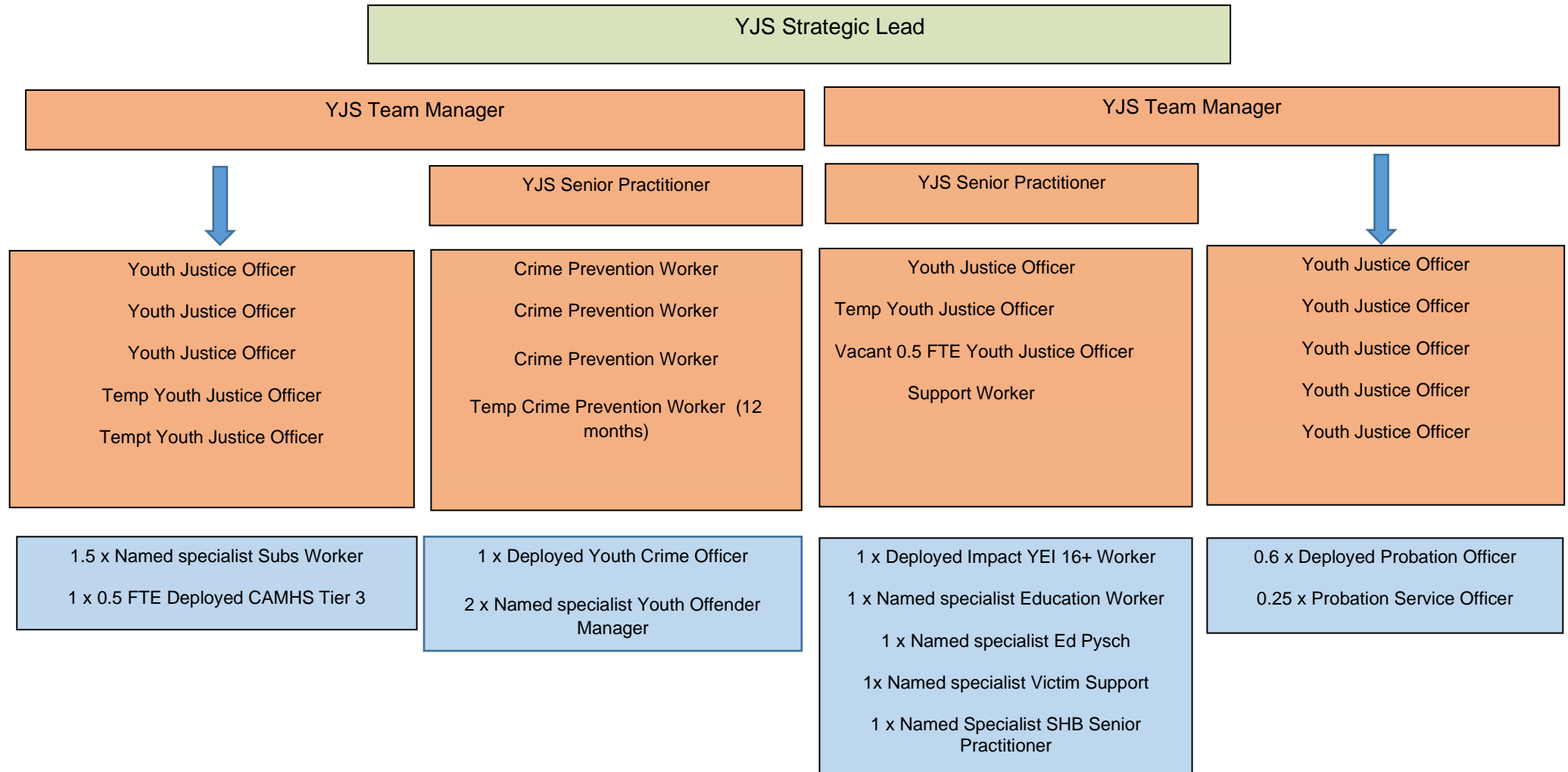
## **8. Service Structure.**

Walsall Youth Justice Service is a partnership service constructed by both Local Authority paid staff, deployed partnership staff and named specialist staff from within other departments and agencies. The YJS is funded at the same level as the previous year and has worked hard to develop new partnerships to secure pathways and support for young people in the justice system.

Good examples of how our partnerships have developed are our links with the Virtual School for Vulnerable Children and the Educational Psychology Team and the additional support this offers our young people. Further to this we have developed a partnership with Victim Support who now undertake our victim contact and provide services to the victims of crime, freeing up capacity for Youth Justice Officers to work directly with young people. Our relationship with local sporting organisations (Walsall Wood Amateur Boxing Club and the Inspire Group) continues to grow to ensure that socially excluded young people in the criminal justice system have access to opportunities, positive diversionary activities and 121 mentoring relationships with coaches. These partnerships have remained resolute despite of the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Walsall Youth Justice Service- Structure Chart



## 9. Finance and value for money

Walsall 2021/22	Staffing cost (£)	Partner contributions (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Local Authority	£301,197		£181,231**	£482,428
Walsall Police		£21,888		£21,888
National Probation Service		£5,000		£5,000
Health*				
Police & Crime Commissioner		£76,885		£76,885
Youth Justice Board- Effective Practice Grant		£387,775***		£387,775
Other		*		
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£301,197</b>	<b>£491,548</b>	<b>£181,231</b>	<b>£973,976</b>

\*Walsall CCG provide £15,000 directly to CAMHS for the provision of a 0.5 FTE CAMHS practitioner.

\*\* Non-staffing budgets, including ICT, travel allowances and central support services

\*\*\*Since the budget was set, confirmation has been received from the Youth Justice Board that the grant for 21/22 will increase to £421,959.

Walsall YJS confirms that it is compliant with the minimum staffing requirements as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Partners have confirmed that their contributions to the Service have been maintained for 2021-22 and the establishment is fully funded. Over the past 12 months, the YJS have worked with 111 young people and 131 disposal. These numbers have been significantly affected by the closure of the Courts in 2020 and changes to policing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 10. Priorities for 2021/2022

Walsall Youth Justice Service will continue to address our key performance indicators as monitored by the Youth Justice Board- working with young people to reduce first time entrants into the Youth Justice System, reduce re-offending and reduce the use of custodial sentences. Practice developments and the remaining gaps identified from the National Standards Self-Assessment will be incorporated into the YJS delivery plan.

The following priorities demonstrate a motivation to align priorities with those of the partnership, with specific reference to the Safer Walsall Partnership's review of the Serious Youth Violence Strategy, Public Health's Wellbeing Strategy in response to COVID and the Safeguarding Partnerships focus on exploitation.

Our priorities for 2021/22 have been identified through consultation with the Youth Justice Service staffing group who assess and support our young people on a daily basis. We are also keenly aware that our young people should be central in improving outcomes for themselves and other young people and their views have contributed to these priorities. The Youth Justice Service also need to continue improvements in terms of risk, education and disproportionality as recommended by HMIP following their inspection in 2019.

The YJS Performance and Partnership Board have determined the following priorities to focus on:

- Reducing exploitation and youth violence.
- Ensuring that education, training and employment outcomes improve for 16+ young people in the Youth Justice System.
- Reducing disproportionality in the youth justice system.
- Effective COVID-19 recovery.
- Improving quality of practice and demonstrating outcomes.

## 11.Risks to future delivery

<b><u>Risk to future delivery</u></b>	<b><u>Action/mitigation</u></b>	<b><u>Owner</u></b>
1. Increase in the number of first time entrants and an increase in re-offending post COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board monitor FTE, offending and re-offending rates</li> <li>- YJS Board to evaluate current resourcing structure</li> </ul>	Strategic Lead for YJS
2. Partnership (inclusive of LA, PCC, YJB and partners) funding reduction- impact on staffing levels and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board to monitor impact of reductions upon capacity</li> <li>- Board to monitor impact of reductions upon performance and agreed standards and outcomes</li> <li>- Review partnership resourcing</li> </ul>	Strategic Lead for YJS and Chair of the YJS Board
3. Increase in serious offending- including serious youth violence and knife crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board to monitor offending rates</li> <li>- Developing a serious youth violence strategy through the SWP</li> </ul>	Strategic Lead for YJS and Chair of the YJS Board
4. Increase in disproportionality- risk of overrepresentation of BAME young people in the Youth Justice System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board to develop data analysis</li> <li>- Board to monitor outcomes on a quarterly basis</li> <li>- Developing infrastructure and processes to check and response to bias and negative outcomes.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	Strategic Lead for YJS and Chair of the YJS Board
5. Increase in the exploitation of young people and involvement with Youth Justice System.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board to monitor outcomes</li> <li>- Development of an exploitation hub.</li> <li>- Development of multi-agency exploitation triage.</li> </ul>	Strategic Lead for YJS and Chair of the YJS Board
6. Maintaining staff and business continuity- impact upon relationships with children and outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board to monitor impact upon performance outcomes</li> <li>- Effective recruitment</li> <li>- YJS to work with partners to resource</li> <li>- Team building, 121 supervision</li> <li>- Review of BCP</li> </ul>	Strategic Lead for YJS
7. COVID-19 or other pandemic- impact upon direct delivery, including harm and safety management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Board to monitor impact on delivery and take appropriate action.</li> <li>- Review of BCP</li> <li>- Review of YJS risk assessments and delivery models</li> </ul>	Strategic Lead for YJS

## 12.Approvals and signatures

Chair of Walsall Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board

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Sally Rowe- Executive Director of Children's Services    Date:

Portfolio Holder

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Councillor Tim Wilson                      Date:

Strategic Lead for Youth Justice Services



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Phil Rutherford                      Date:

YJS Performance and Partnership Board Members	Date	Signature
Superintendent- Walsall Police		
Public Health- Head of Social Inclusion		
Children's Services- Director Early Help		
Senior Commissioning Manager- CCG		
CAMHS Clinical Lead		
Children's Services- Head of Performance		
Chair of the Black Country Youth Magistrates		
Education- Virtual School Lead		
Children's Services- Senior Accountant		
Children's Services –Director Access and Achievement		
Head of Black Country National Probation Service		
Head of Community Safety		

## Youth Justice Service Delivery Plan 2021/22

National Standard 1 'Out of Court Disposals'				
Priority	KPI/National Standard	Operational Objectives	Lead	By When
Reducing Youth Violence	Reducing First Time Entrants	Improve the quality of risk of serious harm assessments for young people subject to a Youth Caution and Youth Conditional Caution, through audit, supervision and training.	Lead: Snr Practitioners for Crime Prevention and QA	September 2021
Improving quality	Re-offending			
Reducing Youth Violence	Re-offending	Review the QA template for initial and review assessments to ensure assessment focusses on all victims, not just the victim of the index offence, and include parents if appropriate.	Lead: Snr Practitioner for QA	April 2021
Improving quality				
Improving quality	Re-offending	Quality assurance activity to be shared across both Senior Practitioners to ensure consistency of practice for both pre and post court.	Lead: Snr Practitioners for Crime Prevention and QA	July 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing First Time Entrants	Return to a face to face Joint Decision Making Panel at Bloxwich Police Station	Lead: Snr Practitioner, Supt' Walsall Police	July 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing First Time Entrants	Increase in face to face contacts, including home visits, as part of the OOCd assessment process.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	July 2021
		Strategic Objectives	Lead	By When
Disproportionality	Reducing First Time Entrants	The partnership should establish quarterly local out of court disposal scrutiny panels (YJS, Police, Magistrates and EH) to demonstrate consistency and fairness of decision in line with guidance and legislation.	Leads: YJS Strategic Lead, Supt Walsall Police	October 2021
Disproportionality	Reducing First Time Entrants	To demonstrate impact and need, a comprehensive and regular performance analysis is required of;	Leads: Strategic Lead Head of Performance	July 2021 and then quarterly.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First time entrants, including at which point do young people enter the system and if they had previously received intervention</li> <li>Re-offending analysis of young people subject to diversion interventions and OOCs</li> <li>Disproportionality and ethnic breakdown of young people subject to OOCs.</li> </ul>		
Disproportionality  COVID-19 recovery	Reducing First Time Entrants	<p>The YJS and local Police will further review and develop the Out of Court Disposal Model and wider crime prevention strategy to consider the evidence base for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An arrest diversion scheme</li> <li>Greater use of Outcome 22</li> <li>a pilot to change police guidance to enable young people from BAME backgrounds to receive out of court support irrespective of their plea.</li> </ul>	Leads: YJS Strategic Lead, Supt Walsall Police	December 2020

National Standard 2 'In Court'				
Priority	KPI/National Standard	Operational Objectives	Lead	By When
Disproportionality  Improving quality	Re-offending  NS Self Assessment.	<p>Walsall YJS to develop literature for young people and parents to improve their understanding of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What happens in Court.</li> <li>- Out of court Disposals.</li> <li>- Court Orders.</li> <li>- Assisted Visits Scheme.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner</p> <p><i>YP to design and Parents to be consulted. Ed Psychology to review for SEN &amp; diversity needs.</i></p>	May 2021
Improving quality	Re-offending  NS Self-assessment	Review of the YJS induction process to ensure it captures young person understanding of the justice system and the impact and consequences of their involvement.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Team Manager	June 2021



		Strategic Objectives	Lead	By When
Improving quality	Reducing Custody	To improve the quality of reports and assessments by implementing a Court feedback process.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	July 2021
Improving quality Disproportionality	Re-offending Reducing Custody  NS Self-assessment	The YJS to review its compliance and engagement policy to ensure it is National Standard compliant and considers the overrepresentation of BAME young people in the breach court.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner and Chair of the Youth Bench.	October 2021
Disproportionality Improving quality	NS Self-assessment	The Children's Service quality assurance strategy and policy should be reviewed each year from a YJS perspective, to ensure it is national standard compliant and includes PSR congruence.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead	October 2021
Disproportionality	First Time Entrants  Re-offending	Provide assurance to the partnership that YP only appear in Court when an OOCd has been considered by periodically presenting the findings of regional OOCd moderation panels.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner and Chair of the Youth Bench.	October 2021
Reducing youth violence  Disproportionality	Reducing Custody	In response to the increase in custodial sentence, the YJS will implement a reducing custody action plan.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Team Manager	September 2021
Disproportionality Improving quality	Reducing Custody	As part of the Service's efforts to address disproportionality in the system the YJS should implement a PSR disproportionality working group to assess proposal and sentence congruence and use of unconscious bias.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner and Chair of the Youth Bench.	October 2021
Education  Improving quality	Reducing custody	To improve the youth panel's knowledge and understanding of special educational needs and diversity, Walsall YJS will provide support and training to the Youth Magistrates.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner, Chair of the Youth Bench.	October 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing custody	Escalate to the YJS performance and partnership board any COVID-19 issues, such as future backlogs and logistical problems, where Walsall young people are being adversely.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead	October 2021

National Standard 3 'In the Community'				
Priority	KPI/National Standard	Operational Objectives	Lead	By When
Reducing youth violence Improving quality	Re-offending	The YJS needs to improve the quality of safety planning for victims in MyPlan and ASSET+ pathway and planning through QA, audit and training.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Team Manager	October 2021
Improving quality	Re-offending NS Self-assessment	To ensure the quality of practice and adherence to national standard for Walsall children living out of borough, the YJS should review it's 'care-taking' process and ensure consistency across the team	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Team Manager	September 2021
Improving quality	NS Self-assessment	To demonstrate effective information sharing with young people and parents, the YJS should develop literature to provide on a consistent basis.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	October 2021
Reducing Youth Violence	Re-offending Reducing Custody	Establish a Lived Experience Mentoring Programme to improve outcomes for those involved in exploitation, carrying a knife and violence.	<b>Lead;</b> YJS Team Manager	July 2021
Education	Re-offending	Ensure monitoring of attendance and exclusion of YJS cohort is robust and results in additional planning and support	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner/Virtual School	Review September 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Re-offending	Re-instate face to face Referral Order Panels within the new locality model and simultaneously improve the accessibility of Microsoft Teams to undertake virtual panels where appropriate	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Team Manager	September 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Re-offending Reducing Custody	Increase in face to face contacts, including home visits, as part of the assessment process and per locally agreed standards,	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Team Manager	September 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Re-offending Reducing Custody	Re-establish, in-line with health and safety risk assessments, positive activities including sport, group-work and community reparation projects	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	July 2021

		Strategic Objectives	Lead	By When
Reducing youth violence  Improving quality	Reducing First Time Entrants  Re-offending  Reducing Custody	Issues with staffing capacity and resilience should be raised and addressed through the YJS performance and partnership board and the Safer Walsall Partnership	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead	Quarterly
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing First Time Entrants  Re-offending  Reducing Custody	YJS performance and partnership board to monitor ongoing impact of COVID-19 on Walsall young people.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead	Quarterly
Improving quality  Disproportionality	Reducing First Time Entrants  Re-offending  Reducing Custody	Fully embed the YJS audit programme for 2021/22 to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victim contact and assessment of risk.</li> <li>• Re-offending.</li> <li>• OOC model.</li> <li>• First time entrants.</li> <li>• Exploitation</li> <li>• Social Care interface</li> <li>• Disproportionality</li> </ul>	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead and Head of Performance	July 2021
Reducing youth violence  Disproportionality	Reducing First Time Entrants	The YJS is committed to the development of the partnership's exploitation strategy and should commit resource to the newly forming triage and exploitation hub	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead	June 2021
Reducing youth violence	Reducing First Time Entrants Re-offending	Contribute and lead in developing and supporting the partnership's serious youth violence reduction strategy.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead	July 2021

National Standard 4 'In Secure'				
Priority	KPI/National Standard	Operational Objectives	Lead	By When
Reducing youth violence	Re-offending Reducing Custody  NS Self-assessment	To improve oversight of assessment, planning and intervention, the terms of reference for the YJS multi-agency high-risk panel should be reviewed to include custody officers in planning for resettlement and ensuring young people receive the support they need.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Team Manager	June 2021
Improving quality	Reducing custody  NS Self-assessment	To improve information sharing with young people and their parents, including information regarding custody and the assisted visits scheme, the YJS should develop literature to share.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	July 2021
Reducing youth violence	NS Self-assessment	To ensure better continuity for young people into and exiting the secure estate, the YJS should consider adopting a system to upload local plans and assessments (such as EHCP's, mental health or social care plans) on the YJAF.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Team Manager	July 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing Custody	Re-establish face to face professional visits, and support family visits, into the secure estates upon confirmation from each individual establishment.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Team Manager	July 2021
		Strategic Objectives	Lead	By When
Reducing youth violence  Education  COVID-19 recovery	Reducing custody  Re-offending	The YJS partnership should confirm specialist resources (incl. health, mental health, education and substance misuse) to effectively plan for smooth resettlement of young people into the community.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead, Public Health and Virtual School.	October 2021
Reducing youth violence  Improving quality	Reducing custody  NS self-assessment	A comprehensive health needs analysis for Walsall young people in the justice system would be beneficial to understand any gaps in provision and required pathways. The health needs of young people in the secure estate should be considered within it.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead and Head of Performance	October 2021
Improving quality	Reducing custody	A strategic audit would be beneficial to understand the resettlement challenges for Walsall young people and improve	<b>Lead:</b> Public Health,	October 2021

	NS self-assessment	partnership pathways to better support seamless transition (with particular focus on accommodation).	Lorraine, Virtual School, Commissioning, Strategic Lead	
Improving quality	Reducing custody NS self-assessment	The YJS performance and partnership board should support the regional efforts to seek assurances from the Youth Custody Service that Walsall children are cared for appropriately.	<b>Lead:</b> Strategic Lead and Public Health	October 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing custody	Escalation of COVID-19 issues affecting young people within the secure estate to the YJS performance and partnership board.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead	Quarterly

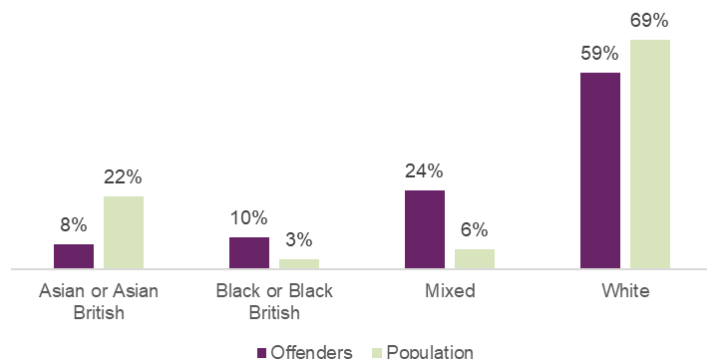
Priority	KPI/National Standard	Operational Objectives	Lead	By When
Improving quality	Re-offending NS Self-assessment	Develop literature to provide to young people and families at the end of statutory YJS intervention that details the support and services available to them outside of the justice system.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	May 2021
Education Reducing Youth violence Improving quality	Re-offending Reducing Custody NS Self-assessment	YJS to ensure that transitions (T2A, Education, Resettlement, Accommodation) are clearly articulated and planned for in ASSET+ Pathways and Planning.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	June 2021
Reducing Youth Violence	Re-offending Reducing Custody	The YJS high-risk panel to ensure oversight of a dedicated 'stand-alone' resettlement plan for all young people leaving custody.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	September 2021
Education	Re-offending	Embed the use of the YJS Vulnerability Personal Education Plan for young people who are CME or at risk of permanent exclusion	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	October 2021
Education	Re-offending	Fully establish partnership with Walsall Works to improve employment opportunities for young people in the justice system.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	July 2021
Education	Re-offending	Explore apprenticeship opportunities for young people who have experienced the youth justice system.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	September 2021

Education	Re-offending	Develop a Youth Justice NEET Action Group (NAG) to monitor and drive forward outcomes for 16+ young people	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner, Employment and skills manager	June 2021
Improving quality	NS Self-assessment	Review the YJS case closure process to ensure consistent recording of exit strategies and smooth transition to the community.	<b>Lead:</b> Snr Practitioner	September 2021

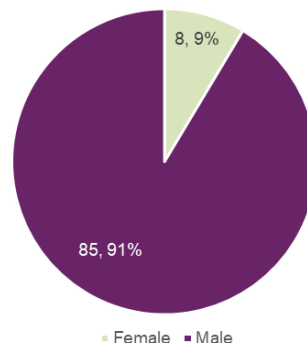
		<b>Strategic Objectives</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>By When</b>
Improving quality	Re-offending	Undertake a health needs analysis for 2020/21 for the YJS Performance and Partnership Board to identify gaps develop pathways.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead, Virtual School, Public health.	October 2021
Reducing youth violence	NS self-assessment			
Reducing youth violence	Reducing Custody	Undertake a strategic audit of the resettlement issues, including accommodation, health and education, for young people leaving the secure estate to update the partnership of complex issues and gaps in pathways.	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead, Virtual School, Public health.	October 2021
Improving quality	NS self-assessment			
Education	Re-offending	Include 16+ Employment and Skills representation on the YJS Performance and Partnership Board	<b>Lead:</b> YJS Strategic Lead	April 2021

# Youth Justice Demographic Analysis 1/1/20 – 31/12/20

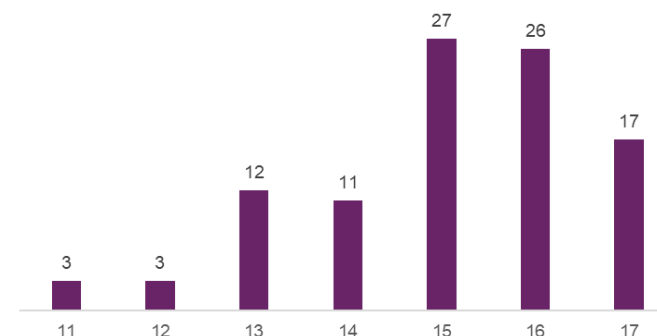
## Ethnicity of Offenders Compared to Population



## Gender



## Age



## Published YJB First Time Entrants data per 100,000 of the 10-17 population

	Oct 18- Sept 19	Jan 19 – Dec 19
Walsall	263	275
West Midlands	286	268
Family	250	228
England	216	204

- In the latest published data, Walsall had a higher rate of First Time Entrants per 100,000 than the West Midlands regional and national average.
- The performance is linked to a spike after summer 2019 which is in part due to the serious nature of offending at that time.
- Local tracking of data suggests a significant improvement in performance over 2020

## Published YJB custody data- rate per 100,000 \* most up to date reported figure

	June 19 – June 2020	Oct 19 – Sept 2020
Walsall	0.41	0.34
West Midlands (PCC)	0.33	0.16
Family	0.25	0.18
England	0.18	0.10

- Walsall had a higher rate of custody per 100,000 than national regional and statistical neighbour comparators in the latest published data.
- Between 2016 and 2019, the rate for Walsall had reduced from 0.98 to 0.24.
- Performance has improved this quarter (which follows the regional and national trend)
- The data (Oct 19 – Sept 20) refers to 10 custodial sentences.

## Published YJB Re-offending data \*refreshed on a quarterly basis.

Binary Rate		
	Apr 17 – Mar 18	Jan 18 – Dec 18
Walsall	29.6%	31.8%
West Midlands	33.9%	34.6%
Family	34.6%	32.4%

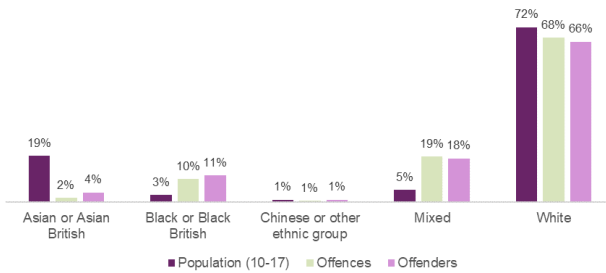
Re-offences per re-offender		
	Apr 17 – Mar 18	Jan 18 – Dec 18
Walsall	2.66	2.76
West Midlands	3.61	3.84
Family	4.02	3.89

Walsall reoffending rates were better than national, regional and statistical neighbour comparators in the latest published data.

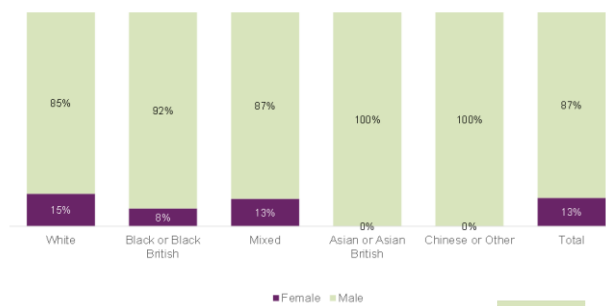
## Appendix C

# Ethnic Disproportionality in Youth Justice 1/4/18-31/3/20

Percentage of population (aged 10-17), offences and offenders by ethnicity



Gender by Ethnicity



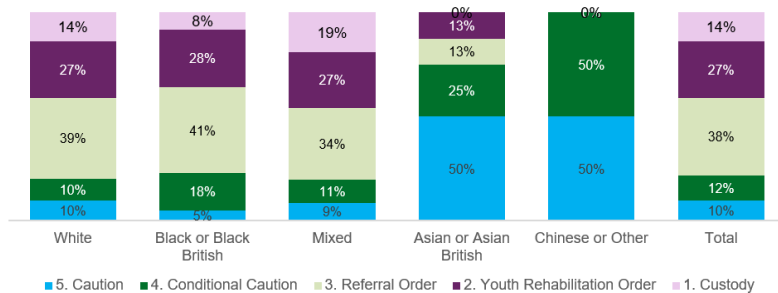
Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, there were disproportionately more young people from black or black British and mixed ethnicity groups in the young offenders' cohort, compared to the number of young people from these groups in the 10-17 population. Young offenders are more likely to be male, with few differences across ethnic groups.

Ethnicity by Population and Number of Offenders

Ethnicity	Percentage 10-17 Population	Percentage of Offenders	Difference	Number of offences / offender
White	72% (20,253)	66% (216)	-6%	3.20
Mixed	5% (1,396)	18% (39)	13%	3.32
Black or Black British	3% (723)	11% (24)	8%	2.63
Asian or Asian British	19% (5,473)	4% (8)	-15%	1.50
Chinese or Other	1% (423)	1% (3)	0%	1.33

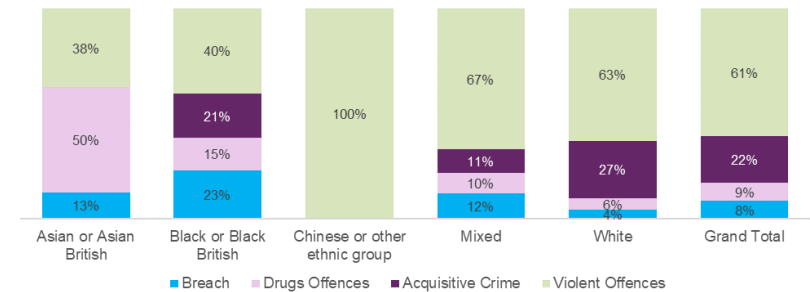
Young people with white and mixed ethnic groups committed the highest number of offences per offender.

Ethnicity by Disposal Group



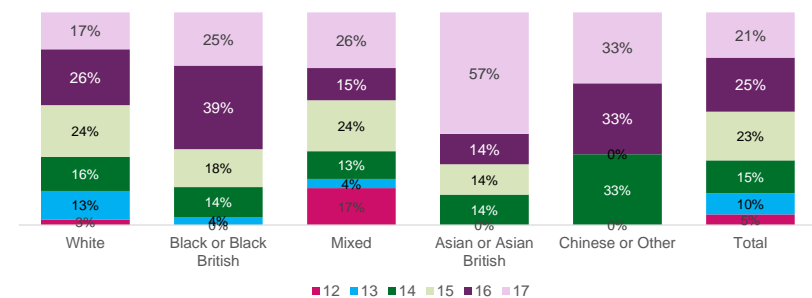
Young people with mixed ethnicity were given a disproportionately high percentage of the most severe disposals

Ethnicity by Type of Crime



Young people from black or black British and mixed ethnicity groups committed a disproportionately high percentage of drugs offences, breach offences and violent crime

Age by Ethnicity





## Appendix D

### **Current YJS Performance and Partnership Board membership:**

- West Midlands Police – Superintendent
- National Probation Service – NPS lead for the Black Country
- Health (CCG) - Senior Commissioning Manager
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services- Clinical Lead
- Black Country Magistrates Youth Panel Chair
- Local Authority –
  - Director of Children’s Services (Chair)
  - Public Health – Head of Social Inclusion
  - Community Safety – Head of Community Safety
  - Education- Director of Access and Achievement

### Supporting Officers-

- Youth Justice Service Strategic Lead, Walsall Children’s Services
- Youth Justice Board- Head of Innovation and Engagement
- Virtual School Lead
- 16+ Education- employment and skills manager
- Local Authority Accountant – finance.
- Local Authority Performance Officer
- Administrative Support, Youth Justice Service

## Appendix E

### Safer Lives Survey Summary:

Exposure to violent media: 40% of young people surveyed stated that they saw violent images or videos on social media on a weekly basis. Over a half watched violent TV or films that contained violence & 40% played violent computer games on a daily basis. Similarly nearly 50% of young people surveyed listened to violent lyrics each day.

Exposure to violence in daily life: 40% of the young people had seen violence within their school or college on a monthly basis, with 2 of those that were surveyed stating that this occurred each day. 40% had seen violence within the local neighbourhood during the past year but no one admitted that violence was commonplace.

How safe do our young people feel?: Conversely, the majority of young people surveyed, including those who had experienced violence at school, expressed that they felt safe within their school or college and their local neighbourhood. When asked about how safe the young person felt within their own home, when compared to being in school or out in the neighbourhood, 53% of young people claimed they felt least safe when at home. This is in stark contrast to previous findings from the survey which highlighted that young people felt most safe in other neighbourhood.

The people they know: 53% knew someone who had previously been the victim of serious violence with 47% knowing someone who needed hospital treatment. A small number of young people stated that they know 10 or more young people who had been the victim of violence. 27% of the young people knew at least one person who carried a knife, with 33% knowing someone involved in the supply of drugs. The vast majority of young people in the survey felt they could talk to their parents if they were worried about violence and 7 of the young people felt confident in approaching the police. Young people were generally able to identify individuals who could help them. Only 1 of the young people sadly felt they had no-one they could turn to.

What is important to our young people: Only 3 young people thought that having expensive clothes and jewellery was important to them and only 5 believed having designer goods were important. Hugely concerning was that 60% of the young people stated that young people carry a knife to make them safer. Positively 87% of young people believed that their education and getting good grades was important.

What would they do to make things safer? 27% of the young people believed that having more things for them to do in their local community including more youth clubs would make them feel safer. 1 young person said that the Police should 'check for knives' and 'do more stop and search' and 2 other young people thought they needed 'more police and community officers around and to be able to talk to them'. The impact of social media was also recognised by our young people with some believing that violence needed to be removed from platforms including drill videos.

## Appendix F: Case Studies.

### Crime Prevention- Out of Court disposal Model

*The Police referred T to the YJS to see if he was suitable for and out of court disposal for a possession of a weapon offence. Following checks from our Youth Crime Police Officer, he was allocated a crime prevention officer to complete a full ASSET+ assessment. Both the young person and parents engaged in the assessment and it was agreed at the Multi-Agency Decision Making Panel that the matter could be kept out of court via a Youth Conditional Caution.*

*T was permanently excluded from his school due to the offence and parents requested support with seeking another education provision. The crime prevention worker put a plan of support/intervention in place alongside T and his parents, which included weapons awareness work, the law and ladder of offending, keeping safe work and working with the Local Education Authority about T's education options.*

*T has engaged with his crime prevention officer on a weekly basis and completed restorative reparation work by designing a leaflet for young people, about the implications of carrying a knife. The YJS crime prevention worker advocated for T, was able to positively report that his engagement, understanding and remorse around his behaviour was good. During T's interview with the school he was able to reflect on his offending behaviour and inform the School panel what he had learnt during his work with the YJS. T has started at his new school and fully complied with the conditions of his caution. There have been no further reports or concerns regarding offending.*

### Criminal Exploitation and Resettlement

*M was sentenced to an 18 month custodial sentence for multiple offences including robbery, possession of an offensive weapon and possession of class A drugs. He was a first time entrant and had not previously been known to the YJS. A Youth Justice Officer worked closely with M to complete a full assessment and to plan for his eventual resettlement back into the community. As part of this process an exploitation screening was completed which led to a referral to the National Crime Agency for National Referral Mechanism (NRM) status, which identified M as being the victim of human trafficking.*

*Resettlement release planning focussed on ensuring that M had access to suitable accommodation in a new area to distance him from perpetrators of criminal exploitation and a suitable education placement that offered vocational mechanic courses. M's Youth Justice Officer maintained case responsibility but worked closely with the Youth Offending Service in the new area to ensure that he complied with his stringent licence conditions and had access to offending behaviour programmes and positive activities, including access to a local football team. M engaged with all aspects of his licence up to this point with no new information from the police to suggest and increase in risk of re-offending.*