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Ref. No.	
Category: (Y/N)	
People	Yes
Place	
Corporate	
In Constitution	

Youth Justice plan 2021 to 2022

Policy Details

<p>What is this policy for?</p>	<p>Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 there is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services.</p> <p>The Youth Justice Board provides guidance about what must be included in the plan and recommends a structure for the plan.</p> <p>Local authorities are required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how the statutory requirements for a multi-agency youth offending team are fulfilled locally.</p> <p>Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is a partnership between Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, along with Dorset Police, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and the National Probation Service Dorset.</p> <p>Approval for the Youth Justice Plan is also being sought from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.</p>
<p>Who does this policy affect?</p>	<p>Children Families Parents Young people Dorset Council Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council Dorset Police Dorset Local Delivery Unit Cluster, National Probation Service NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group Public Health Dorset Dorset Healthcare University Foundation Trust Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal service Youth Justice Board for England and Wales Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Ansbury Guidance</p>
<p>Keywords</p>	<p>Children Families Parents Young people Youth offending Justice</p>

Author	<p>Name David Webb Job Title: Manager, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Tel: 01202 794321 Email: david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</p>
Does this policy relate to any laws?	<p>Crime and Disorder Act 1998 The Children Act 1989 (Section 22g) Section 10 of the Children Act 2004</p>
Is this policy linked to any other Dorset Council policies?	<p>Strengthening Services Plan Children and Young Peoples Plan Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Procedures</p>
Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) No adverse equalities impacts have been identified. It is recognised nationally that young people from minority ethnic groups, and young people in the care of the local authority, are over-represented in the youth justice system and in the youth custodial population.</p> <p>It is also recognised that young people known to the YJS may experience learning difficulties or disabilities, including in respect of speech, language and communication needs.</p> <p>Information from Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service records, summarised in the Youth Justice Plan, shows that these issues of over-representation also apply in the pan-Dorset area.</p> <p>Actions have been identified in the Youth Justice Plan to address these issues</p>
Other Impact Assessments	<p>Financial Implications The Youth Justice Plan reports on the resourcing of the Youth Justice Service. Local authority and other partner budget contributions have remained static since 2014/15, apart from a one-off cost of living increase to local authority contributions in 2019/20, along with a redistribution of the funding proportions to reflect Local Government Reorganisation.</p> <p>The annual Youth Justice Grant has reduced from £790,000 in 2014/15 to £607,968 in 2020/21.</p> <p>The creation of the pan-Dorset Youth Justice Service in 2015 increased the service's resilience and ability to adapt to reduced funding and increased costs.</p> <p>The management of vacancies, and the deletion of some posts, has enabled a balanced budget to be achieved in the years to 2021</p> <p>Climate implications No adverse environmental impact has been identified. The Youth Justice Plan notes that the Covid-19 restrictions have led to changes in the working arrangements of the Youth Justice Service. These changes include significant reductions in staff travel, both to and from work and to visit service users, with more activities being carried out remotely.</p>

	<p>Risk Assessment To be carried out by the appropriate project team as part of the business case and rationale for each procurement and as part of ongoing contract management.</p> <p>Well-being and Health Implications Young people in contact with youth justice services are known to be more likely than other young people to have unmet or unidentified health needs.</p> <p>The Youth Justice Service includes seconded health workers who work directly with young people and who facilitate their engagement with community health services.</p>
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Status and Approvals

Status	Live	Version	
Last review date	2021	Next review date	2022
Approved by (Senior Officer/Director)	Theresa Leavy, Executive Director People, Children's	Date approved	18 th May 2021
Member/ Partnership Board Approval	Cabinet.	Date approved	18 th May 2021

DORSET COMBINED YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE



Youth Justice Plan

2020/21

Version	Superseded Version(s)	Date	Author	Changes made
V0.2				
V0.1		22.05.20	David Webb	

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Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service Statement of Purpose

Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service works with young people in the local youth justice system. Our purpose is to help those young people to make positive changes, to keep them safe, to keep other people safe, and to repair the harm caused to victims.

This means we can support the national Youth Justice Board Vision that:

‘Every child should live a safe and crime-free life and make a positive contribution to society’.

Who We Are and What We Do

Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service (DCYOS) is a statutory partnership between Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, National Probation Service Dorset and NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.

We are a multi-disciplinary team which includes youth justice officers, restorative justice specialists, parenting workers, education and employment workers, police officers, probation officers, nurses, speech and language therapists and a psychologist.

More information about the YOS partnership and the members of the YOS team is provided later in this document.

The team works directly with young people who have committed criminal offences to help them make positive changes and to reduce the risks to them and to other people. We also work directly with parents and carers to help them support their children to make changes.

We make contact with all victims of crimes committed by the young people we work with. We offer those victims the chance to take part in restorative justice processes so we can help to repair the harm they have experienced.

The organisations in the YOS partnership also work together to improve the quality of our local youth justice system, and to ensure that young people who work with the YOS can access the specialist support they need for their care, health and education.

The combination of work to improve our local youth justice and children’s services systems, and direct work with young people, parents and victims, enables us to meet the Youth Justice Board’s ‘System Aims’:

- Reduce the number of children in the youth justice system
- Reduce reoffending by children in the youth justice system
- Improve the safety and well-being of children in the youth justice system
- Improve outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

Introduction

This document is the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service (YOS) for 2020/21. It sets out the key priorities and targets for the service for the next 12 months as required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. This Plan has been developed under the direction of the YOS Partnership Board after consultation with YOS staff and taking into account feedback from YOS service users.

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan:

- summarises the YOS structure, governance and partnership arrangements
- outlines the resources available to the YOS
- reviews achievements and developments during 2019/20
- identifies emerging issues and describes the partnership's priorities
- sets out our priorities and actions for improving youth justice outcomes this year.

This document sets out the YOS's strategic plan. A delivery plan underpins this document.

Service Targets

The Dorset Combined YOS target for 2020/21 is to outperform regional and national averages for the three national performance indicators for youth offending which are:

- The number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time ('First Time Entrants')
- The rate of proven re-offending by young people in the youth justice system
- The use of custodial sentences for young people.

Headline Strategic Priorities for 2020/21

- Reducing first-time entrants into the youth justice system
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic over-representation
- Resettlement planning
- Child exploitation and youth violence
- Education, Training and Employment

The reasons for identifying these priorities are explained later in this document and are summarised on page 21, with actions to achieve these priorities outlined on pages 22-23.

Structure and Governance: The

YOS Partnership Board

The work of the Dorset Combined YOS is managed strategically by a Partnership Board. The Partnership Board consists of senior representatives of the statutory partner organisations, together with other relevant local partners.

Membership:

- Dorset Council (current chair)
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (current vice-chair)
- Dorset Police
- Dorset Local Delivery Unit Cluster, National Probation Service
- NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health Dorset
- Dorset Healthcare University Foundation Trust
- Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal service
- Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Ansbury (Connexions Provider)

The Partnership Board oversees the development of the Youth Justice Plan, ensuring its links with other local plans.

The YOS Manager reports quarterly to the Partnership Board on progress against agreed performance targets, leading to clear plans for performance improvement. The Board also requests information in response to specific developments and agendas, and monitors the YOS's compliance with data reporting requirements and grant conditions.

Representation by senior leaders from the key partners enables the YOS Manager to resolve any difficulties in multi-agency working at a senior level, and supports effective links at managerial and operational levels.

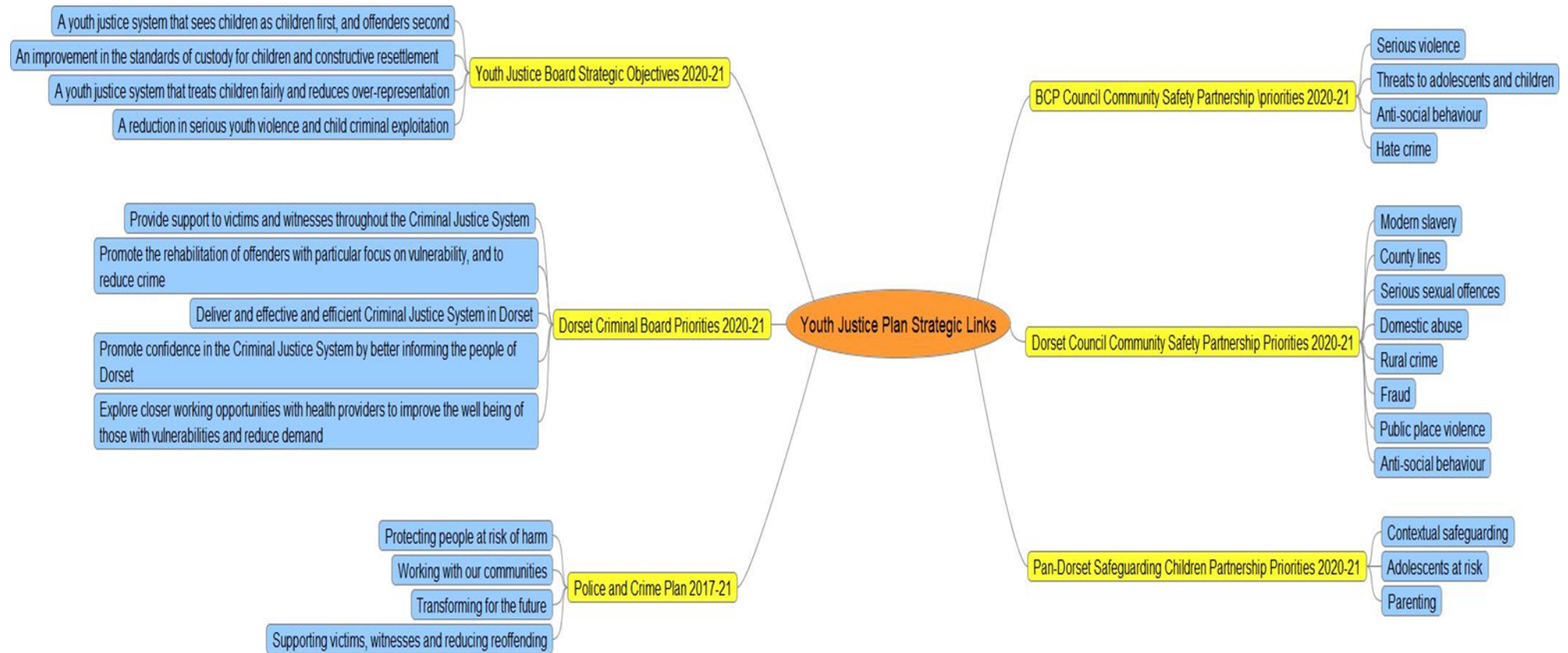
The YOS participates in local multi-agency agreements for information sharing, for safeguarding and for the escalation of concerns.

The Partnership Board oversees activities by partner agencies which contribute to the key youth justice outcomes, particularly in respect of the prevention of offending.

The YOS Partnership Board also provides oversight and governance for local multi-agency protocols in respect of the criminalisation of children in care and the detention of young people in police custody. The YOS Manager chairs multi-agency operational groups for each protocol and reports on progress to the YOS Partnership Board.

The YOS is a statutory partnership working with children and young people in the criminal justice system and the community safety arena. The map on the next page gives an overview of how the YOS fits with other strategic partnerships and plans.

Linking the Youth Justice System to other Plans and Structures



The membership of the YOS Partnership Board enables the work of the Dorset Combined YOS to be integrated into strategic planning for Safeguarding, Public Protection, Criminal Justice, Community Safety and Health & Well-Being. The YOS Manager sits on the Dorset Criminal Justice Board, attends the two Community Safety Partnerships, the MAPPA Strategic Management Board and the Dorset Council Strategic Alliance for Young People.

Partnership Arrangements

The previous section outlined the strategic links between the YOS and the other strategic groups and partnerships. Similar links exist at operational levels, enabling the YOS to integrate and coordinate its work with the work done by partners such as the two local children's social care services, Special Educational Needs services, other criminal justice agencies, and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services across Dorset.

Safeguarding and Public Protection

As well as participating in Child Protection Conferences and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) meetings in respect of specific individuals and families, YOS managers also attend MARAC meetings, local Community Safety Partnership operational meetings, local complex needs panel meetings and meetings in respect of early help and Troubled Families activities in the two local authorities.

Child Exploitation

Young people known to the YOS can also be at risk of child exploitation. YOS managers participate actively in the Child Exploitation Tactical Groups for each local authority. The YOS participates in local multi-agency information sharing arrangements and meetings to identify and protect children at risk of exploitation. A seconded YOS Police Officer attends weekly meetings with the Police 'Impact' team to enable effective joint work for children at risk of exploitation.

Reducing Re-Offending

The YOS Manager chairs the pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group, reporting to the Dorset Criminal Justice Board and the two Community Safety Partnerships. Although the group's main focus is on adult offenders, attention is also paid to the youth perspective, particularly for those young people about to transition to adult services, and for the children of adult offenders.

Risk Assessment Panels

The YOS instigates a Risk Assessment Panel process for young people under YOS supervision who have been identified as being at high risk of causing serious harm to others, or of experiencing significant harm themselves. These meetings are attended by workers and managers from the other agencies who are working with the young person. The aim is to agree the risk assessment and devise, implement and review plans to reduce the risks posed by and to the young person.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

The YOS works with the two local authorities, and with the Police, to agree the best way to respond to young people who have committed harmful sexual behaviour. Some of these young people are also known to the local authority social care service so it is important that we coordinate our work and, where possible, take a joint approach. The YOS and the local authorities use recognised assessment and intervention approaches for young people who commit harmful sexual behaviour.

Preventing Violent Extremism

All relevant YOS staff have received training in raising awareness of 'Prevent'. A YOS Team Manager has lead responsibility for this area of work and attends the pan-Dorset Prevent Group to ensure that our work is aligned with local initiatives. The YOS has sight of the local assessment of extremism risks. The seconded YOS police officers act as a link to local police processes for sharing intelligence in respect of possible violent extremism.

Young people convicted of extremism related offences will be managed robustly in line with the YOS Risk Policy, with appropriate referral to the local MAPPA process and clear risk management plans, including paired working arrangements and support from the seconded YOS police officers.

Safe Schools and Communities Team

The Safe Schools and Communities Team (SSCT) is a partnership between Dorset Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Dorset Combined YOS. The SSCT plays an important role in preventing offending by young people across Dorset, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. The team provide education, awareness and advice to students, schools and parents. The work of the team is reported to the YOS Partnership Board as an important element of the YOS Partnership's work to prevent youth offending. The SSCT's School Incidents Policy is an important part of local work to reduce the number of youths entering the justice system, helping schools to manage incidents without the need for a criminal outcome.

Restorative Justice and Support for Victims

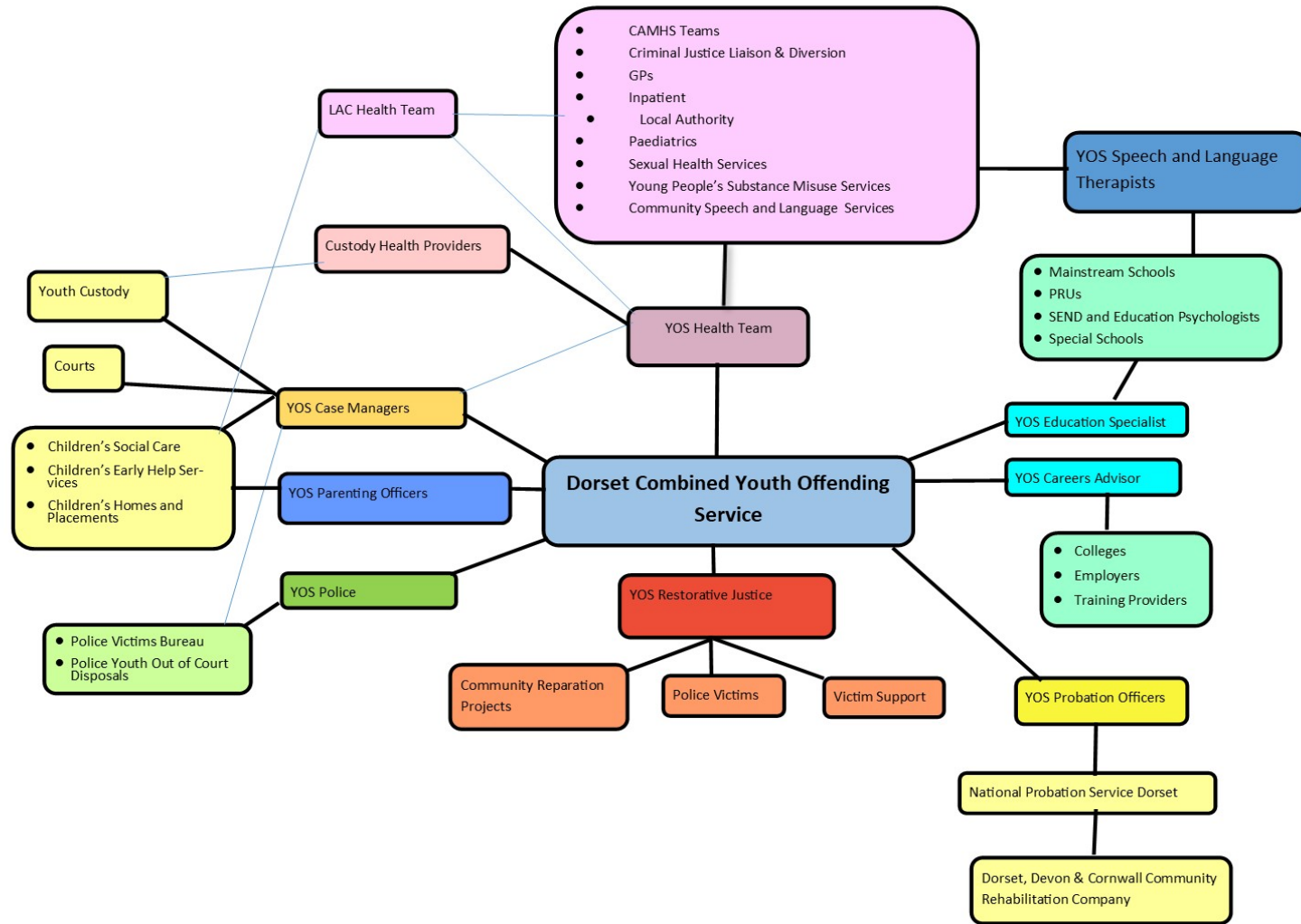
The YOS Restorative Justice Practitioners provide Restorative Justice activities and support for victims of offences committed by young people. The YOS also links with other agencies through the Victims and Witnesses Sub-Group of the Dorset Criminal Justice Board. The YOS plays an important part in delivering the Police and Crime Commissioner's Restorative Justice Strategy for Dorset, taking the lead on offences committed by young people and supporting the development of good practice with other Restorative Justice providers.

Reducing Youth Detentions in Police Custody

The YOS Manager chairs a multi-agency group, reporting to the YOS Partnership Board, which works to ensure that as few young people as possible are detained in police custody and to limit the duration of youth custody detentions.

In addition to the team's involvement in these different partnership groups, there is ongoing daily interaction with other local services. These links are illustrated on the following page:

Operational Links between YOS and Partner Agencies



Resources and value for money

The funding contributions to the YOS partnership budget are listed below. Local authority staff are employed by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Other staff are seconded from Dorset Police, the National Probation Service Dorset and Dorset HealthCare University

NHS Foundation Trust. Like all public services, the YOS operates in a context of reducing resources. Ensuring value for money and making best use of resources is a high priority for the service.

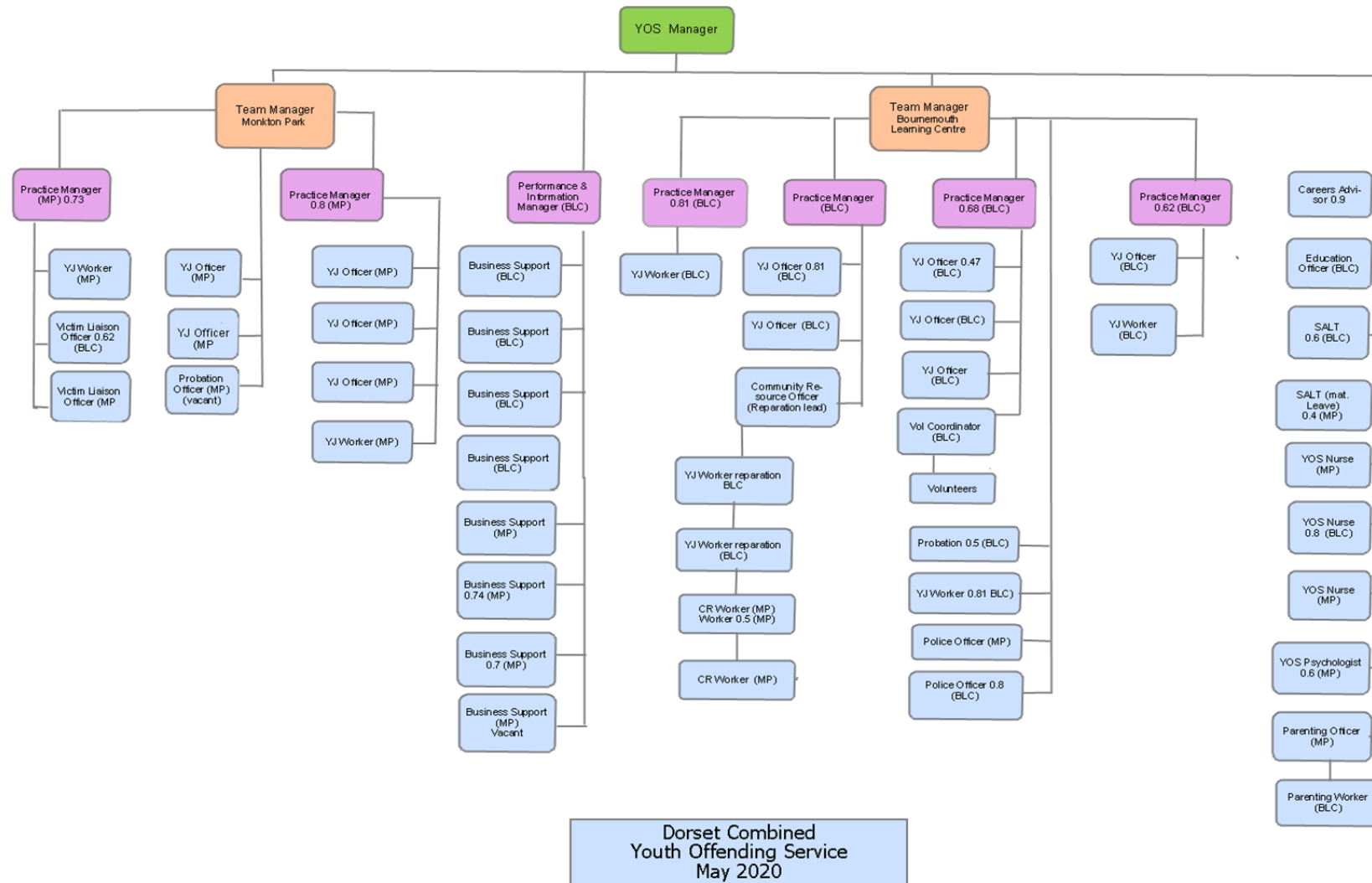
Partner Agency	20/21 Revenue excluding recharges	Movement 14/15 to 20/21 – including disaggregation movements between DC and BCP Councils	Staff
Dorset Council	£492,800	-£39,100	
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£577,700	£26,670	
Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset	£75,301	-£78,149	2.0 Police Officers. Funding reduction from 14/15 to 15/16 reflects funding of SSCT directly by the OPCC to the Police, no longer via the YOS
National Probation Service Dorset	£5,000	£1,826	1.0 Probation Officer (reduction from 2.6 to March 2015, from 2.0 to March 2018 and from 1.5 to March 2020, with adjusted funding contribution, after national review)
Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group	£22,487	£0	2.8 FTE Nurses, 0.8 Psychologist, 1.0 Speech and Language Therapist
Youth Justice Board Good Practice Grant	£600,482	-£189,932	
Total	£1,766,996	-£285,459	

The YOS has also obtained funding from NHS England for a Speech and Language Therapist for 6 months. This funding will be spread pro rata throughout the year.

NHS England funding was secured for 2019/20 to support DCYOS becoming a 'trauma-informed service'. Some of this funding has been carried over to support implementation of this model.

Staffing information

This chart shows the YOS structure in May 2020. DCYOS meets the minimum staffing requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

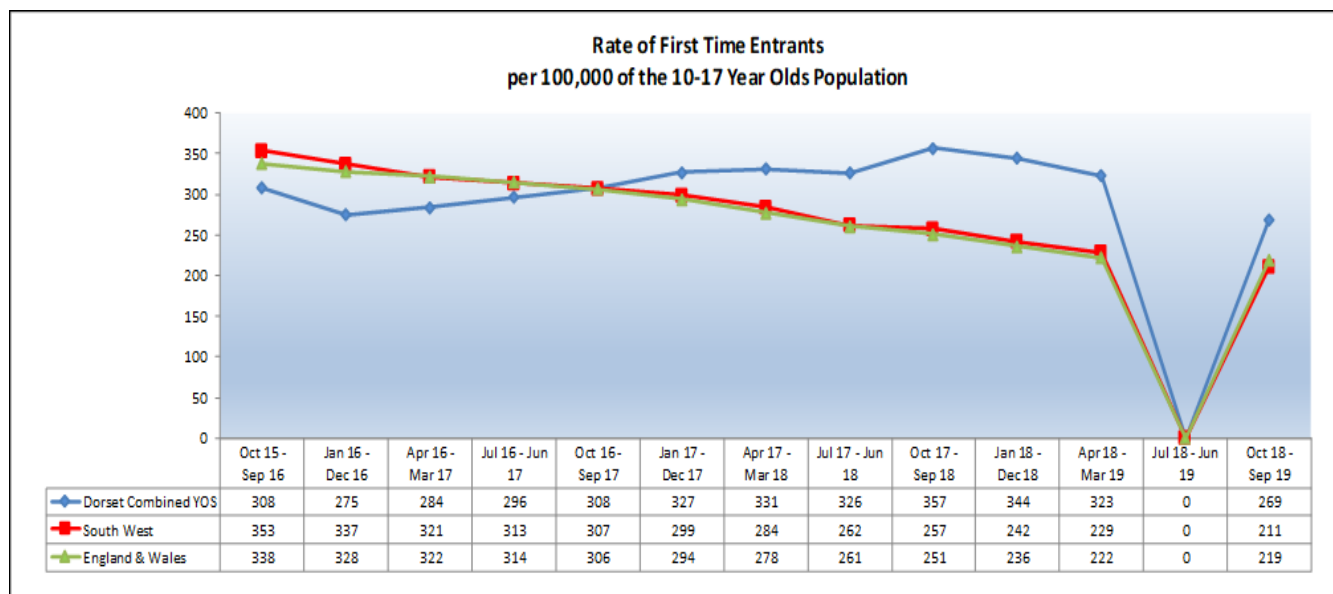


DCYOS Achievements and Performance during 2019/20

Youth Offending Teams continue to be judged against 3 key performance indicators:

- Reducing First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System;
- Reducing Re-Offending by young people in the Youth Justice System;
- Appropriately Minimising the use of Custodial Sentences.

First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System



Between late 2016 and late 2018 there was a steady increase in the rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system in Dorset. This coincided with a fall in the regional and national averages for this indicator, meaning that Dorset moved above those benchmark figures. Since late 2018 the rate of first time entrants in Dorset has fallen each quarter. The national and regional averages have continued to decline but the gap is narrowing.

During 2019 the Youth Offending Service and the Police Youth Out of Court Disposals team continued to work together to review all the first time entrants in 2018/19 who had received a Youth Caution. Information was also sought from other youth offending teams and police force areas to seek learning and opportunities for improvement.

The review of Youth Caution decisions in 2018/19 showed a clear and proportionate rationale for each decision. The quality of youth out of court disposal decision-making is consistently upheld by the independent Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny panel which is led by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

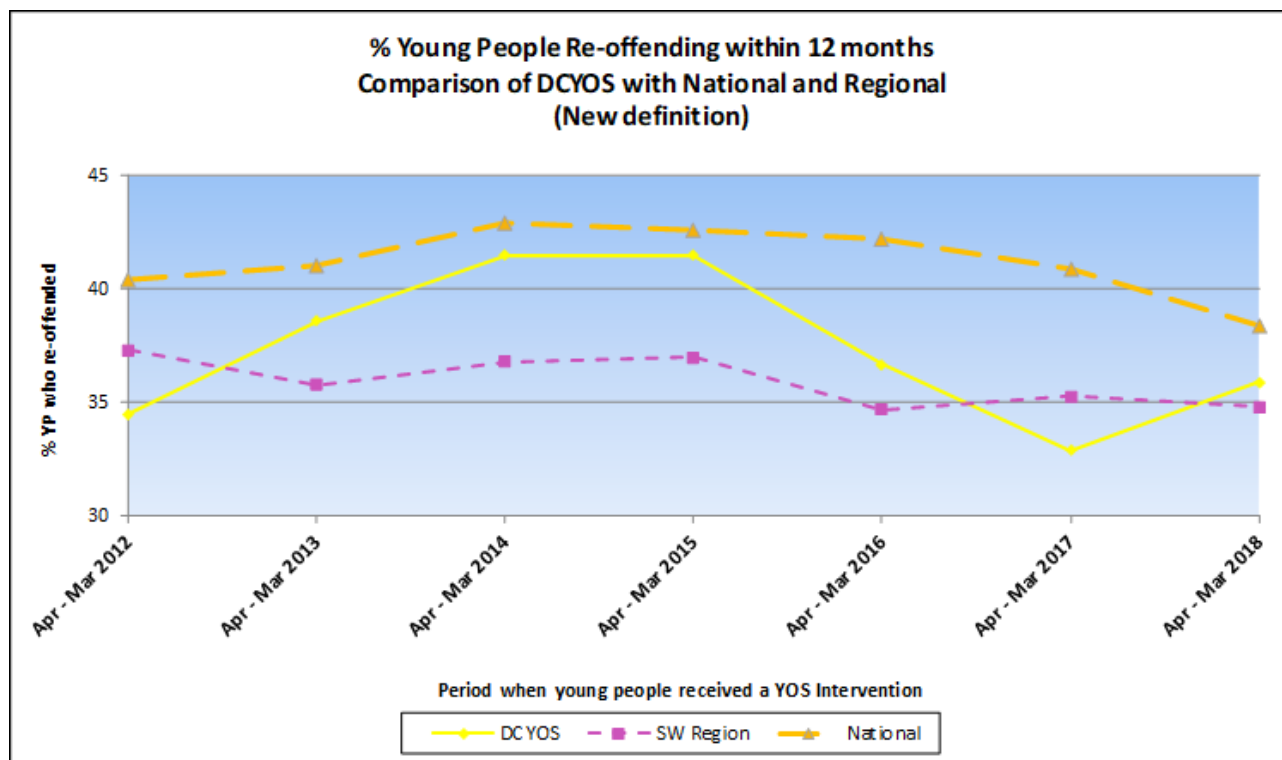
During 2019 the Youth Offending Service and the Police Youth Out of Court Disposals team adjusted their decision-making process to include a weekly meeting to review any cases that needed more scrutiny and to avoid any cases being delayed. The YOS Team Managers gather information from other services, like children's social care and children's early help services, before attending this meeting. Alternatives to a formal youth justice outcome are always considered. About 38% of youth cases are dealt with informally, through a 'Youth Restorative Disposal'.

The following table shows youth justice outcomes over the last two years. Some low level disposals are managed by the Safe Schools and Communities Team (SSCT).

Outcome	2018-19			2018-19 Total	2019-20			2019-20 Total
	SSCT	DCYOS	No intervention		SSCT	DCYOS	No intervention	
Youth Restorative Disposal	230	79		309	193	76		269
Youth Caution	33	134		167	7	111		118
Youth Conditional Caution	1	76		77		50		50
Absolute Discharge			2	2			1	1
Anti Social Behaviour (Criminal) (Crasbo)		1		1				
Community Rehabilitation + Conditions (PO)						1		1
Community Rehabilitation Order (PO)		1		1		1		1
Community Resolution (Non Substantive/Voluntary)		4		4				
Conditional Discharge			51	51			42	42
Criminal Behaviour Order		3		3		2		2
Curfew		1		1		2		2
Curfew + Tag (Electronic Monitoring)						2		2
Detention + Training Order (Custody)		5		5		10		10
Fine			24	24			23	23
OOCD Decision		4		4		2		2
Recall to Custody						2		2
Referral Order		93		93		109		109
Referral Other						1		1
Reparation Order (YOT)		3		3				
Section 91 Order		1		1		2		2
Supervision + Curfew (Other) (So)						1		1
Supervision + Curfew (YOT) (So)						2		2
Youth Rehabilitation Order		60		60		59		59
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Extended		1		1				
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS High Intensity Band 1		2		2				
Youth Rehabilitation Order ISS Requirement		1		1				
Grand Total	264	469	77	810	200	433	66	699

In October 2019 the YOS Partnership Board supported proposals to develop more 'diversion' options for offences involving the possession of cannabis. Repeat offences would previously have led to a Youth Caution. Although this may still happen in some cases, Dorset Police have worked with partner agencies including drug treatment services to develop new protocols for youths who are found in possession of cannabis. These arrangements were due for implementation in April 2020, were delayed by the covid19 lockdown but will go ahead from June 2020.

Reducing Re-Offending



The national re-offending figures relate to the further re-offending of groups of young people in the 12 months after they received a caution or court conviction. Each quarter a different group of young people is tracked; for example, the most recent data relates to those young people who received a justice outcome in the period January to March 2018.

The numbers in each quarterly group of young people are relatively low, meaning that the reoffending rate figures are subject to fluctuation each quarter. The January to March 2018 group was comprised of 75 young people, 33 of whom were convicted of further offences within the next 12 months.

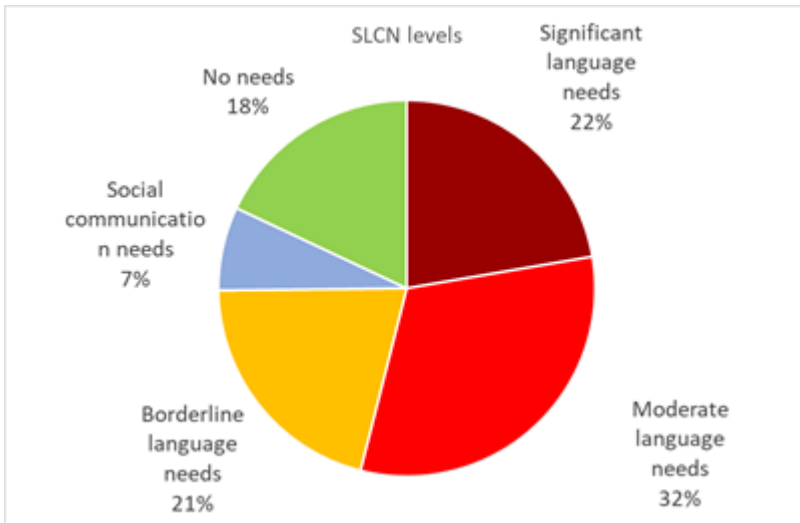
Due to delays in the youth justice system it is possible that the subsequent conviction may actually relate to an offence that was committed before the counting period began.

There is a time lag on the national data, to allow time for reoffending, conviction and police recording, which means that the most recent data relates to young people whose contact with the YOS occurred about 2 years ago.

Like other youth offending teams, DCYOS also analyses local reoffending data to give us more recent and more nuanced information. This data is reported to the YOS Partnership Board to help inform and shape the partnership's strategic plans. An example of this scrutiny process was a request by the Board for more detailed analysis of the female reoffenders from our local reoffending data. This analysis demonstrated that most of these young people had significant speech and language deficits, including developmental language disorder in several cases.

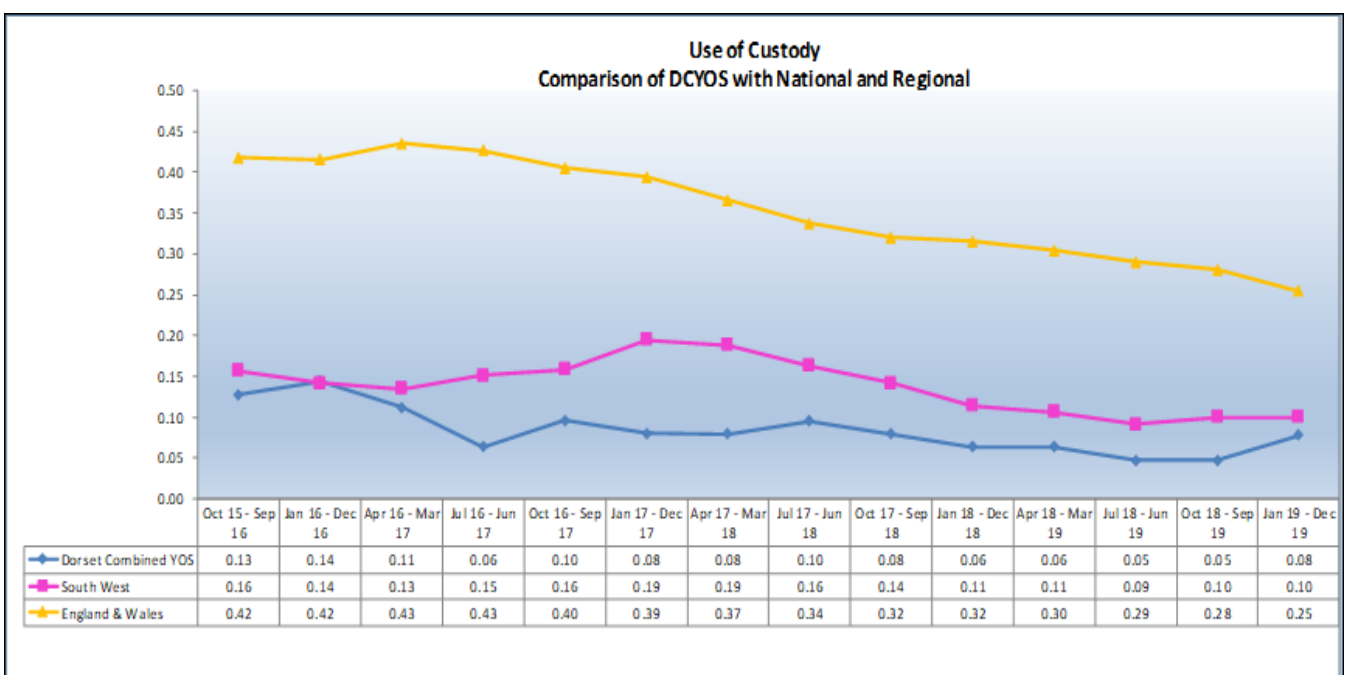
During 2019/20 funding was secured for at least one more year for the YOS Speech and Language Therapist post. The post holder assesses all young people who receive a court order or a second out of court disposal, regardless of whether speech and language difficulties are suspected. The reason for this approach is the evidence from elsewhere, and from our own work since the YOS Speech and Language Therapist joined our team in

March 2018, that most young people in contact with youth justice services have speech, language or communication needs. The following chart demonstrates the speech and language needs of the 138 young people assessed so far by the YOS Speech and Language Therapists:



The prevalence of speech and language needs among the young people we work with and other special educational needs contribute to difficulties in engaging with education, training or employment. Young people known to the YOS tend not to be educated in mainstream schools; those who have left school can find it hard to access college or other post-16 education and training opportunities. In recent years there has been a reduction in the range of education and training provision locally for this group of young people. Our service user feedback showed that ‘education’ was the issue that most young people said the YOS had helped them with. Part of our plan for 2020/21 is to enhance our work with this group through the use of ASDAN short courses and attainment level assessments for Maths and English.

Custodial Sentences



Although there was an increase in custodial sentences in 2019, DCYOS remains below the regional and national averages for the rate of young people receiving a custodial sentence. The data in the table above shows the rate of custodial sentences per 1,000 10-17 year-olds in the local population.

During 2019/20 8 young people in our two local authority areas received a total of 10 custodial sentences. All of these young people were males, 7 of them were from the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area and 1 was from the Dorset Council. 4 of the 8 young people were Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME). National data shows that BAME children are more likely to enter custody than other children with around 50% of the youth custody population in England and Wales being from BAME backgrounds.

Although the actual numbers locally are low, and therefore statistical conclusions need caution, it is notable that our rates of BAME young people in custody reflect the national over-representation of this group in custody despite lower proportions of BAME people in our local population. This was also noted in our Youth Justice Plan last year, indicating a lack of progress in improving this issue. The Lammy Review (2017) noted the need for multi-agency responses to address disadvantage across multiple services which leads to over-representation in the justice system. The Lammy Review also called for open decision-making and for leadership if change is to be achieved.

Most of the 8 males who received custodial sentences have been identified as being at significant risk of child exploitation. The seriousness of their offending indicates the level of risk that they pose to others and the level of risk that they themselves face. Some of these young people are children in care. Finding the right accommodation for these children for their release from custody can be difficult; sometimes this is not resolved until very close to their release date.

During 2019/20 DCYOS developed its plans for becoming a trauma-informed service. All YOS practitioner staff attended a 3-day trauma training course in February 2020 to enable the YOS to start operating the 'Enhanced Case Management' model. This model is an evidence-based approach to working with young people who have experienced developmental trauma which is reflected in their risky behaviours. Most of the 8 young people who received custodial sentences in 2019/20 would fit this description.

National Standards Self-Assessment completed in 2019/20

The Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board published a new set of national standards for youth justice which came into effect in April 2019. 'Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System 2019' places more emphasis on achieving suitable outcomes for children, with less prescription about processes to be followed.

The Youth Justice Board required all youth offending teams to assess their compliance with the new Standards by April 2020. The self-assessment process entailed a review of all the 'strategic standards' and an audit of cases for the 'operational standards'. The self-assessment was intended to create a baseline of initial performance and to identify areas for development.

The DCYOS self-assessment identified high levels of compliance with the new Standards. There are some specific aspects of our work which we need to develop in order to enhance our compliance with the Standards. These areas are included in our priorities and plans for 2020-21.

Learning Reviews

The YOS contributed to a multi-agency Serious Case Review undertaken by Waltham Forest Safeguarding Children's Board. The subject of the review, Child C, was a young person who was murdered in Waltham Forest. Three months prior to his murder he had been arrested in Bournemouth, detained in police custody and then returned to London. An Appropriate Adult provided by DCYOS supported the young person for part of his time in police custody in Bournemouth.

This Serious Case Review highlighted the prevalence and seriousness of risks relating to child exploitation. Although Child C was only briefly in our local area, other children in our area and visiting our area continue to be at risk. The Serious Case Review emphasises the importance of coordinated, multi-agency responses to these risks. DCYOS is prioritising trauma-informed responses to adolescent risk in its own work and to promoting more effective multi-agency working with children who are at risk of exploitation.

Service User Feedback

Feedback from the young people working with DCYOS has been mainly positive.

70% said that working with the YOS made things better for me with 19% being neutral on this question.

81% felt their worker thought they would make positive changes in their life (worker optimism is an important factor in positive outcomes).

89% were satisfied or very satisfied that 'my worker listens to me and helps me find my own solutions' (change is more likely if the service user hears themselves making the case for change).

56% would change nothing about the way the YOS works. Other answers suggested changing the length or time of YOS appointments and one respondent wanted to change the duration of YOS work.

The YOS also seeks feedback about specific areas of our work.

Almost all young people we work with undertake some 'reparation' activity. This is a form of unpaid work to make amends for their offence.

85% of respondents to the reparation feedback survey said that they enjoyed their reparation session.

94% of respondents said that they enjoyed working with their reparation worker.

56% said they found their reparation work to be interesting, 41% said it was educational, 22% said they were doing something new, 20% felt proud of what they had done, 11% said it was boring and 2% said it was a waste of time.

Some of the young people in contact with the YOS are referred to our health team for direct support.

100% of young people who provided feedback on their contact with our health team said that the health worker treated them respectfully.

87% found it helpful or very helpful to see their YOS health worker and a further 9% found it quite helpful.

77% said that they had mostly or fully met the goals they agreed with their health worker and a further 21% felt they had partially met their goals.

YOS workers also receive 'spontaneous' feedback from service users and other professionals. In 2020/21 we aim to improve our methods for collecting this feedback.

Summary of local and national issues that inform our priorities for 2020/21

National Context

The Youth Justice Board Strategic Plan 2019-2022 sets out its priorities for the youth justice system:

- Improving Local Practice
- Resettlement and Transitions
- Safety and Education in Custody
- BAME Disproportionality
- Reducing Serious Youth Violence
- Secure Schools

These priorities have been developed in a context of national concerns about serious youth violence, child exploitation, over-representation of minority ethnic groups in the justice system and concerns about the safety and effectiveness of the custodial estate.

The priorities to improve local practice, enhance resettlement and transitions, address BAME disproportionality and reduce youth violence have particular resonance for us locally.

The Youth Justice Board plan to improve local practice includes promotion of trauma-informed practice through the Enhanced Case Management model.

Local Context

DCYOS self-assessment, performance and activities during 2019/20, reported above, shows some key areas of work that we want to focus on in 2020/21:

- Reducing first-time entrants – we need to continue reducing the rate of local young people entering the justice system, building links with the new adolescent services in our two local authorities
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic over-representation – we need to work with other agencies locally to reduce the disadvantage experienced by BAME young people
- Resettlement planning – the safety of young people coming out of custody, and the risk of them reoffending and causing harm to others, depends largely on suitable accommodation being identified well in advance of the release date so that effective release plans, including education and health support, can be implemented.
- Child exploitation and youth violence – the YOS will work with partners to improve the identification of and response to children who are at risk of exploitation. This will include implementation of trauma-informed practice through the YJB's 'Enhanced Case Management' model
- Education, Training and Employment – we need to work with young people, local authority colleagues and education providers to increase young people's opportunities to engage in education and training. The YOS will develop its use of ASDAN short courses and attainment level assessments for Maths and English.

Strategic Priorities for 2020-21

The strategic priorities for the Dorset Combined YOS align with:

- our three main performance indicators
- the strategic priorities of other local partnerships (such as the Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Community Safety Partnerships and the Criminal Justice Board)
- relevant local initiatives to reduce offending, protect the public and safeguard young people
- areas identified for YOS improvement, including feedback from YOS staff and service users
- the emerging issues summarised on the previous page.

The following priority areas will be supported by a more detailed action plan used by the YOS team.

Reducing First-Time Entrants

- Dorset Police, DCYOS, local authority children's services and local substance misuse services to implement additional diversion options for specific offence types, starting with possession of cannabis offences
- DCYOS and Dorset Police to agree referral routes into the new adolescent and early help services in our local authorities to enable suitable young people to receive additional support without the need for a youth justice response

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic over-representation

- Work with partner agencies in our criminal justice system to monitor rates of BAME young people at different stages of the system, using the Lammy principles of 'Explain or Reform' to respond to any identified over-representation
- Review compliance and breach rates within the YOS caseload to identify and respond to any groups that are over-represented
- Work with children's services and criminal justice partners to promote a multi-agency response to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic children in receipt of local services, extending beyond the justice system

Resettlement Planning

- Develop more detailed reporting to the YOS Partnership Board on the experiences and outcomes of young people who receive custodial sentences
- The YOS Partnership Board to monitor the timeliness of accommodation being identified for children before their release from custody and to take appropriate remedial action if necessary

- YOS specialist workers (health, education, speech and language) to continue to link with colleagues in secure establishments and locally to ensure continuity of health and education planning for children coming out of custody

Child Exploitation and Youth Violence

- Implement the Enhanced Case Management model to embed trauma-informed practice in the YOS and with partner agencies working with the same young people
- Participate actively in Child Exploitation Tactical Groups in our two local authorities to enhance the safety planning for children at risk of exploitation and to play an active role in other local service developments for these young people
- Share assessments and plans by YOS case managers and specialist workers (health, education, speech and language) with other services working with the same young people (subject to relevant information sharing protocols)
- Continue to exchange intelligence with Dorset Police colleagues in the IMPACT, MOSOVO and Neighbourhood Policing Teams in order to safeguard children and to disrupt and pursue the perpetrators of exploitation.

Education, Training and Employment

- Develop our use of ASDAN short courses to help young people improve their chances of accessing education, training and employment
- Register with 'BKSB' so that YOS workers can enable young people to undertake attainment level assessments for Maths and English
- YOS ETE workers to collaborate with local authority colleagues to enable more young people to attend school or post-16 education, training or employment

Covid-19

This plan has been written during the covid-19 'lockdown'. Like all services, DCYOS has radically changed its working arrangements and working practices in response to the lockdown restrictions. These circumstances are likely to shape our work during 2020/21. As we move into the recovery and rebuilding phases, after the lockdown, we will review the changes we have made so that we can identify new ways of working that should be sustained in the longer term.

Approval

Signatures of YOS Board Chair and YOS Manager

Theresa Leavy (YOS Board Chair)
Executive Director People - Children
Dorset Council

Signed:

Date:

David Webb
Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service Manager
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

Signed:

Date:

Appendix A – Glossary of Terms

AssetPlus	Nationally Accredited Assessment Tool
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
ETE	Education Training and Employment
FTE	First Time Entrant into the Youth Justice System
ISS	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance
IT	Information Technology
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children’s Board
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
OOCD	Out Of Court Disposals
PCC	Police & Crime Commissioner
RJ	Restorative Justice
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SSCT	Safe Schools and Communities Team
VLO	Victim Liaison Officer
YJ	Youth Justice
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOS/YOT	Youth Offending Service/Team
YRD	Youth Restorative Disposal
YRO	Youth Rehabilitation Order