

Title of report

Children in Care at Risk of Offending and Custody

Who wrote the report

David Webb, Head of Service at Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service

Date written

27 October 2025

Summary of what the report is about

This report talks about how children in care are more likely to get into trouble with the police or go to court. It explains what Dorset is doing to help stop this from happening and how different services are working together to support these children better.

What are the key messages of this report

- Children in care are more likely to be involved with the police and youth justice system.
 - Many of these children have extra needs like problems with speaking, learning, or mental health.
 - Dorset is working hard to stop children in care from being unfairly treated or getting a criminal record.
 - Services like social workers, youth justice workers, and health teams need to work together better.
 - Listening to children's views helps improve the support they get.
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Important facts and figures

- **90%** of children in the youth justice system have speech and language needs.
- Children with **SEND** (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) are more likely to get into trouble.
- A special project called **Re-Engage** helps children at risk of being excluded from school.
- An audit looked at **8 children in care** who had contact with the youth justice system:

- **4 girls** got informal help (no court).
 - **4 boys** went to court.
 - Most had problems like moving homes a lot, missing school, or needing help with health and emotions.
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Actions or recommendations

- Keep using the local rules that help stop children in care from being unfairly criminalised.
- Make sure all services work together and share information.
- Create a plan to fix problems found in the audit and check progress regularly.

This summary has been produced by CoPilot. I have reviewed it to make it more accurate.