

Draft Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System 2019

Consultation Paper

Introduction

1. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has a function to advise on the content of national standards. They describe the minimum requirements of youth justice services and align to the YJB's function of monitoring the youth justice system. The YJB advises the Secretary of State on what the standards should contain and on adherence to them.
2. The current National Standards for Youth Justice Services (2013) have been revised to reflect the maturity of the youth justice system; the YJB's move to outcome focused oversight; rationalise them into a condensed set of functions; and, move away from process-driven requirements.
3. It is our intention that the proposed Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System (2019), will better support services to deliver the aims of the system, provide a structure that gives statutory youth justice services the freedom to deliver good outcomes for children and young people, whilst also ensuring they do not unintentionally constrain innovation.
4. The Standards are based on our 'child first, offender second' principle and aim to prioritise the best interests of children in the youth justice system, promote their strengths and capacities, encourage their active participation and promote crime-free lives.

The new National Standards

5. We are proposing five national standards, which specify the minimum expectations for managing justice services for children:
 1. Out of court
 2. At court
 3. In the community
 4. In secure settings
 5. On transition and resettlement
6. Standards one to four, are based on the existing standards. Standard five is new and reflects the transitions children and young people can experience when in the community and the secure estate.
7. The new standards are divided into responsibilities for YOT management boards, secure establishments and YOTs. They provide a mechanism through which

YOT management boards and strategic leaders can be satisfied that appropriate systems and policies are in place which assure positive outcomes and the approaches which need to be taken to achieve this.

8. The Standards for Children in the Justice System will be supported by case management guidance and performance oversight.

Engaging with the sector

9. In developing the standards, the YJB has engaged with a range of stakeholders including youth offending teams, the Ministry of Justice Policy Unit, other government departments, the Youth Custody Service, the Children's Commissioner for England, HMI Probation and other relevant inspectorates and the Welsh Government.
10. We would now like to increase our engagement with all interested parties including youth justice services and their strategic partners by inviting them to contribute their views through a consultation on the draft Standards, which is available on the [YJB website](#).
11. The website will contain a copy of the draft standards and a questionnaire response template. The consultation will run from **29 October 2018** to **26 November 2018**. Responses should be sent to CBU@yjb.gov.uk
12. In addition, we will draw attention to the consultation by correspondence to YOT management board chairs, the Association of YOT Managers, YOT Managers Cymru, relevant inspectorates and the Welsh Government.
13. At the close of the consultation, we will analyse the responses to assist us to make any final adjustments to the standards. We will then seek ministerial approval to publish and implement them. We will provide feedback on the consultation responses on the YJB website.

Next steps

14. It is intended that the proposed standards will take effect from 1 April 2019. We will use the YJ Bulletin to keep stakeholders informed of progress and plans for implementation.
15. We will also be reviewing how the new standards can be assured as part of our performance oversight arrangements, with the intention that self-assessment remains at the core of this function. We will continue to communicate our plans with youth justice services as they are developed.