

Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019:

How to undertake a self-assessment of national standards

2019/20

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1. Introduction

This guide is from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and is for youth offending teams (YOTs) and Strategic Partners /management boards. It provides examples of ways that they can implement and oversee national standards.

New [standards for children in the youth justice system 2019](#) were introduced on 1 April 2019 and will run for approximately three years.

In the first year, youth justice services are expected to undertake a baseline self-assessment. This will be submitted in April 2020 and allows six months for implementation and a further six months for self-assessment.

We will undertake moderation of all submissions and validation of some, with sector leaders once the self-assessment results are received. This exercise may include site visits and will take place in June/July 2020. The results will be used to advise the minister on how the standards are being adhered to as well as information on practice and outcomes to inform our priorities programme.

We will also work with other government departments to address relevant policy issues that arise.

After the baseline year, we will determine how and if future self-assessments will be conducted. They should be proportionate and considerate of the impact on operational delivery.

2. The Approach

2.1 The standards self-assessment results

We are required to show the Justice minister how the strategic and operational standards have been adhered to. We will do this by sharing the results of the standards self-assessment with the minister after the baseline submissions on 30 April 2020.

[See Annex B](#)

2.2 Self-assessment

We do not prescribe a self-assessment approach, however, there is an example outlined in [Annex A](#) that you wish to may use or adapt. Equally, you can utilise your existing quality assurance processes if these can 'fit' the standards.

We specify:

- the sample assessment to cover cases from **September 2019 to 31 March 2020** (20% of cases relevant to each standard with a minimum of 20 cases where possible). You can use the same cases throughout the self-assessment and should feel free to innovate with your approach to reduce unnecessary burden
- for standard 4 - 'in custody', we suggest that you sample all relevant cases in custody (maximum of 20)
- a year-end submission baseline against all the standards for children in the youth justice system 2019
- that all gaps in provision be considered as a local priority and cited within your youth justice plan 2020.

2.3 Moderation and Validation

We will moderate all standard returns. The moderation of YOT self-assessment is the process used to ensure the quality of assessment and its outcomes. It ensures that the judgments of your performance are consistent. A cross section of youth justice and partner agency leaders will be engaged in this process.

We retain an option to validate, on site, a percentage of the self-assessments for standards for children in the youth justice system 2019. This will assist in benchmarking and, in the event of inadequate or require improvement banding, will expect improvement aligned to strategic planning.

Validation is the process of establishing documentary evidence that demonstrates that a procedure, process, or activity is carried out in testing. It then produces results to maintain the desired level of compliance at all stages.

The decision to validate submissions is taken by an oversight board comprising of the YJB, youth justice sector staff, the Youth Justice Sector Improvement board, (YJSIP). The rationale for validation will be evidenced and shared and will take account of other available information like recent key performance indicators and inspection outcomes. It is likely, as in the 2014 – 2017 approach, that there will be few validation visits.

If there is a validation visit, it will be from a combination of YJB and youth justice sector staff and will focus on a wide spectrum of youth justice services across all bandings.

3. Specification for standards assessment

3.1 Strategic self-assessment

With the release of the new standards, you will need to undertake a review of key policies. This is to:

- ensure policies are still implemented as intended
- assess how often policies are used and how accessible/practical they are
- determine if changed circumstances e.g. new legislation, render them less relevant or requiring update.

The following policies should be reviewed:

- provision of persons to act as appropriate adults to safeguard the interests of children detained or questioned by police officers¹ in line with the [National Appropriate Adult Network's National Standards](#)
- provision for children who may be interviewed under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) while remanded or sentenced in youth detention accommodation whether within or outside the local authority area
- your service to victims in line with the [code of practice for victims of crime](#)
- your policy to adhere to [the quality of case management](#)
- public protection and desistance policies (including release and recall arrangements for children on licence/supervision)
- engagement and compliance with court orders, remand and bail programmes, including responsibilities for undertaking enforcement action where case management sits outside the YOT
- data protection - services must have due regard to the relevant data protection principles which allow them to share personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR)
- disproportionality - agencies are required to act in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. YOTs should uphold the duty to have due regard to the needs to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

¹ s38(4)(a) CDA 1998 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/38>

Management Boards and Operational YOT services should undertake a review of:

- standard 1: out of court disposals
- standard 2: at court
- standard 3: in the community (on community orders)
- standard 4: in secure accommodation
- standard 5: on transition and resettlement.

3.2 Operational self-assessment - case sample specification

The period of the self-assessment dates from 1 September 2019 to 31 March 2020. This is so YOT partnerships can analyse the quality of work and the respective case management.

For the operational element, we ask that you analyse 20% or approximately 20 of the relevant cases open during that period or, if fewer than that, analyse all cases.

These should be selected from your YOT caseload in: -

- prevention and (formal) out of court disposals² a combination across all cases
- cases at court
- cases on community orders
- cases in secure accommodation
- cases that make a transition

This selection process allows Management Boards the flexibility to determine how they assess the crime/anti-social behaviour prevention work that is done (by the YOT or another commissioned provider(s)).

² We recognise that there are many nuances in delivery models so YOTs are asked to assess 20% of their out of court disposals as well as other youth crime prevention casework that had a different referral pathway to out of court disposals. YOT management boards are free to include diversion schemes, troubled families work, referrals from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)/social care such as harmful sexual behaviour preventative work, and any other point of arrest diversion activity if this is all part of their youth crime prevention strategy.

4. Results

4.1 Self-assessment bandings

Self-assessment bandings against each standard, by strategic and operational adherence should be submitted to the YJB by 30 April 2020.

Self-assessments should be measured using the following rating criteria.

Judgment for each standard	Strategic (management board and partner self-assessment)	Operational (case file assessments)
Outstanding	A comprehensive assurance system is in place and there is regular support and challenge by all partners at the management board and within each respective agency. This includes driving improved outcomes for each standard 1-5 and thereby the children in receipt of the services.	80% + or majority of all cases sampled
Good	The assurance approaches are well evidenced frequent and there is a focus on achieving the outcomes for each standard 1 – 5.	65 - 79% or most cases sampled > 85%
Requires improvement	There is some evidence of assurance approaches but this is not systematic.	50 – 64% or in some cases sampled
Inadequate	There are insufficient approaches to assurance.	under 50% or inconsistent or too few cases sampled

4.2 Improvement and oversight

Self-assessment returns will be incorporated within the YJB's quarterly Performance Oversight Board and will provide additional evidence to the KPI data to inform the overall performance ratings and the YJB's oversight activity for YOTs.

4.3 Improvement tracking

Any improvement actions and subsequent tracking should be overseen by your management board.

4.4. Communication

We will provide updates via the [YJBulletin](#), a fortnightly newsletter to subscribers. Any further queries can be raised with the linked YJB Head of Region.

Annex A: sample self-assessment

Standards for Children in the Justice System 2019

Baseline Year 0

Standard 1: out of court disposals - strategic self-assessment

Management Board self-assessment leads /Champions

Led by: name (e.g. Police)

Members: name (e.g. PCC lead) name (e.g. Early Help lead)

Judgment 'out of court'	Strategic	Operational
Outstanding	A comprehensive assurance system in place and regular frequent support and challenge by all partners at your management board and within each respective agency including driving improved outcomes for each standard 1-5 and thereby the children in receipt of the services.	In most cases, or +80%
Good	Assurance approaches are well evidenced frequent and there is focus on achieving the outcomes for each standard 1-5.	In some cases, or + 65 - 79%
Requires improvement	Some evidence of assurance approaches but this is not systematic.	Too few, +50 – 64%
Inadequate	Insufficient approaches to assurance.	Inconsistent, less than 50%

Strategic audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Universal prevention Are local strategies and services in place to ensure positive outcomes for children, to prevent children from becoming involved in crime and/or anti-social behaviour?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Targeted prevention Are point-of-arrest diversion policies and					

strategies in place as a distinct and substantially different response to formal out of court disposals					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Out of court disposals Are out-of-court disposals prompt, robust and deliver targeted and tailored interventions?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Do police services and YOTs have a joint protocol setting out					

locally agreed practice for out-of-court disposals and a suitable means of joint decision-making?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Continuous Improvement How do you assure that improvement is achieved in the quality of pre-court work?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Is there is effective multi-agency partnership working					

arrangements for timely information-sharing, planning, decision making and monitoring with key agencies. Actions happen within agreed timescales and the help and protection is provided to reduce risk and meet need?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Is all action taken to promote diversion into more suitable child focused systems, and positive constructive behaviour?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for

					development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Is quality assurance evident and are all decisions recorded and reviewed?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Is analysis and action planning in place to tackle any disproportionality?					

Standard 1: out of court disposals - operational self-assessment

YOT case level self-assessment

Led by: name

Members: name

Sample self-assessment to cover cases from September 2019, 31 March 2020 (20% of cases relevant to each standard with a minimum of 20 cases where possible)

Operational audit query out of court disposals	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Does the YOT routinely undertake a timely and accurate, suitable and sufficient assessment of risk and of need for all children referred to the YOT?					

Operational audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Are children and their parents/carers involved in assessment, planning and reviewing of individual programmes					
Operational audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Do YOT staff build supportive relationships and deliver prompt, proportionate, effective interventions?					

Standards for Children in the Justice System 2019

Baseline Year 0

Standard 2: at court - strategic self-assessment

Management Board self-assessment leads /Champions

Led by: name Members: name

Judgment 'at court'	Strategic	Operational
Outstanding	A comprehensive assurance system in place and regular frequent support and challenge by all partners at the management board and within each respective agency including driving improved outcomes for each standard 1-5 and thereby the children in receipt of the services.	In most cases, or +80%
Good	Assurance approaches are well evidenced frequent and there is focus on achieving the outcomes for each standard 1-5.	In some cases, or + 65-79%
Requires improvement	Some evidence of assurance approaches but not systematic.	Too few, +50 – 64%
Inadequate	Insufficient approaches to assurance.	Inconsistent, less than 50%

Strategic audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice

<p>Reports informed by good assessment</p> <p>Do operational YOT services provide suitable high-quality YJB approved assessments/information and reports to all courts dealing with children within the civil and criminal codes, and for any subsequent referral order panel meetings?</p>					
<p>Audit query</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Validation/Supporting assessor view</p>	<p>Judgement</p>	<p>Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice</p>
<p>Reducing delays</p> <p>Is all appropriate action taken to minimise any delays brought about through specialist assessment?</p>					
<p>Audit query</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Validation/Supporting assessor view</p>	<p>Judgement</p>	<p>Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of</p>

					innovative and or effective practice
Is court necessary and appropriate Is court is reserved for children who cannot be dealt with by less formal means?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Reducing remand Is there a strategy in place to reduce the unnecessary use of youth detention accommodation at the earliest stage in the criminal justice process?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Reports quality					

<p>Do individual reports prepared by the YOT focus on children's best interests and constructively promote their potential and desistance from crime?</p> <p>Are they balanced and impartial?</p> <p>Do they take account of the impact on victims?</p> <p>Do they promote fairness by making sure that diverse needs are met?</p>					
<p>Audit query</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Validation/Supporting assessor view</p>	<p>Judgement</p>	<p>Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice</p>
<p>Sentencer confidence Do magistrates and the judiciary have reports which provide them with the required range of recommendations to make</p>					

<p>informed decisions regarding sentencing?</p> <p>Do magistrates, the judiciary (and youth offender panel members where appropriate) have confidence in the effectiveness of recommended supervision of children who offend?</p>					
<p>Audit query</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Validation/Supporting assessor view</p>	<p>Judgement</p>	<p>Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice</p>
<p>Participation and engagement</p> <p>Are children and their parents and carers provided with appropriate information and support during the court process?</p>					

Are checks made to ensure their understanding?					
Do all proceedings demonstrate that children's voices are heard and that they can participate effectively?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Information transfer in custody cases Is communication and information sharing is in line with Youth Custody Service requirements when youth detention accommodation or sentence to custody is a court outcome?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development /

					examples of innovative and or effective practice
Disproportionality Is there good evidence of analysis of disproportionality? Is there an action plan to tackle any disproportionality?					

Standard 2: at court - operational self-assessment

YOT case level self-assessment

Led by: name

Members: name

- Sample self-assessment to cover cases from September 2019, 31 March 2020 (20% of cases relevant to each standard with a minimum of 20 cases where possible)

Operational audit query At court	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development /examples of innovative and or effective practice
Do the YOT staff base all reports on an up-to-date and					

relevant YJB approved assessment, and demonstrate engagement with the child and parents/carers?					
Operational audit query At court	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development /examples of innovative and or effective practice
Do the YOT staff accurately record court outcomes?					
Operational audit query At court	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development /examples of innovative and or effective practice
Do the YOT staff check that the custodial warrant issued by the court is appropriate for children remanded or sentenced to youth detention accommodation?					
Operational audit query At court	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development /examples of innovative and or effective practice
Do the YOT staff comply with the Youth Custody Service					

requirements when a child is remanded/sentenced to the youth detention accommodation?					
Operational audit query At court	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development /examples of innovative and or effective practice
Do the YOT staff inform the parents/carers of the court outcome, details of any youth detention accommodation, including written information about the youth detention accommodation and (where appropriate) the Assisted Prison Visit scheme?					
Operational audit query At court	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development /examples of innovative and or effective practice
Do the YOT staff explain the outcome to the child and check that they understand?					

Standards for Children in the Justice System 2019

Baseline Year 0

Standard 3: in the community - strategic self-assessment

Management Board self-assessment leads /Champions

Led by: name

Members: name

Judgment 'in the community'	Strategic	Operational
Outstanding	A comprehensive assurance system is in place and regular frequent support and challenge by all partners at the management board and within each respective agency including driving improved outcomes for each standard 1-5 and thereby the children in receipt of the services.	In most cases, or +80%
Good	Assurance approaches are well evidenced frequent and there is focus on achieving the outcomes for each standard 1-5	In some cases, or + 65-79%
Requires improvement	Some evidence of assurance approaches but not systematic.	Too few, +50 – 64%%
Inadequate	Insufficient approaches to assurance.	Inconsistent, less than 50%

Strategic audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of
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					innovative and or effective practice
Assessments Do all children entering the justice system receive a suitable and sufficient YJB approved assessment? Does this focus on strengths and barriers to desistance to inform planning of appropriate interventions for children?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Practice Does local practice prioritise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's best interests, constructively promotes their potential and desistance, • encourages their active engagement, and minimises the potential damage that contact with the system can bring 					

Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
<p>Quality and effectiveness Are court orders are managed in a way that reflect the aim of the youth justice system; to enable children to live a safe, crime-free life and make a positive contribution to society?</p> <p>Is there effective communication and information exchange is in place for all relevant stakeholders throughout the sentence?</p> <p>Do strategic partners have confidence in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of services and the management of orders • the effectiveness of supervision of children on court orders 					

Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Communication and engagement Children and their parents and carers are provided with appropriate information and support during the sentence. There should be evidence and recording of their understanding.					

Standard 3: in the community - operational self-assessment

YOT case level self-assessment

Led by: name

Members: name

- Sample self-assessment to cover cases from September 2019, 31 March 2020 (20% of cases relevant to each standard with a minimum of 20 cases where possible)

Operational audit query In community (on community orders)	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development /examples of innovative and or effective practice

<p>Engaging children: Does the YOT engage the child, parents and carers and demonstrate through evidence their efforts to do so?</p> <p>Does the YOT establish a meaningful trusting relationship with children whom they supervise?</p> <p>Does the YOT take diverse needs into account and promote equality in access and engagement?</p> <p>Does the YOT assist the child to build a pro-social identity to enable sustainable desistance?</p>					
<p>Operational audit query</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Validation/Supporting assessor</p>	<p>Judgement</p>	<p>Narrative strengths areas for development /examples of innovative and or effective practice</p>
<p>Managing the court orders Does the YOT explain the child's rights and responsibilities under the terms of the order and check for understanding?</p>					

Supervision and oversight of orders

Does the YOT supervise the court order(s) in line with the YJB approved assessment framework?

Assessments

Is the assessment dynamic and ongoing and commenced at the start of every order and for every pre-sentence report?

Do assessments take account of the child's broader context, previous offending, impact on victims, public protection, safety and wellbeing, and factors that influence desistance from crime?

Plans

Is a plan produced from the assessment to focus on:

- Enabling a pro-social identity and desistance from offending
- Protecting the public

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigating any prevailing issues relating to safety and wellbeing • building on the positive elements of the child's life <p>Interventions Is there effective coordination of interventions with any other relevant specialist or agency</p> <p>Do the interventions specify the intended outcome, and do they commence promptly?</p> <p>Reviews Do reviews occur as required to reflect significant changes in the child's circumstances inclusive of engagement and compliance with orders?</p>					
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Standards for Children in the Justice System 2019

Baseline Year 0

Standard 4: in secure settings – strategic self-assessment

Management Board self-assessment leads /Champions

Led by: name

Members: name

Judgment 'in secure settings'	Strategic	Operational
Outstanding	A comprehensive assurance system is in place and regular frequent support and challenge by all partners at the management board and within each respective agency including driving improved outcomes for each standard 1-5 and thereby the children in receipt of the services.	In most cases, or +80%
Good	Assurance approaches are well evidenced frequent and there is focus on achieving the outcomes for each standard 1-5	In some cases, or + 65-79%
Requires improvement	Some evidence of assurance approaches but not systematic.	Too few, +50 – 64%%
Inadequate	Insufficient approaches to assurance.	Inconsistent, less than 50%

Strategic audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice

<p>Transport Is the transport used for children, from court to their destination establishment, to and from court while in custody, or used for other destinations (e.g. health appointments), appropriate for children, and minimises delays?</p>					
<p>Audit query</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Validation/Supporting assessor view</p>	<p>Judgement</p>	<p>Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice</p>
<p>Management of risk and need Are the needs and risks of children in secure establishments? identified, addressed, coordinated, and managed to enable a suitable, effective and constructive resettlement with a focus on continuing desistance?</p>					
<p>Audit query</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Validation/Supporting assessor view</p>	<p>Judgement</p>	<p>Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of</p>

					innovative and or effective practice
<p>Services</p> <p>Do all services, including education and health care, prioritise children’s best interests and recognises their needs, capacities, rights and potential?</p> <p>Do services take all action to address the causes of a child’s offending behaviour and address any unmet social, emotional, health or educational needs</p>					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
<p>Environment</p> <p>Is the environment that children live in rehabilitative and safe?</p> <p>Is it one where there is a culture that enables children to develop, grow and learn?</p>					

Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
<p>Service quality</p> <p>Do strategic partnerships and secure establishment providers have confidence in the quality of services and in the effectiveness of supervision of children?</p> <p>Does all service provision prioritise the child's best interest?</p>					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
<p>Engagement</p> <p>Are children and their parents and carers provided with appropriate information and support during the secure phase of the sentence?</p>					

Standard 4: in secure settings - operational self-assessment

YOT case level self-assessment

Led by: name

Members: name

- Sample self-assessment to cover cases from September 2019, 31 March 2020 (20% of cases relevant to each standard with a minimum of 20 cases where possible)

Operational audit query In secure settings	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
<p>Communication and information sharing Does the YOT make sure that communications and information exchange, through use of the Youth Justice Application Framework (YJAF), are in line with Youth Custody Service requirements?</p> <p>Does the YOT send the relevant post-court</p>					

information within two hours of the child being sentenced?					
Operational audit query In secure settings	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Assessments Are comprehensive assessments carried out by secure providers? including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comprehensive health assessment • safety and risk of harm • education assessment 					
Operational audit query In secure settings	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Safeguarding Do staff in the establishment and the YOT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instigate appropriate safeguarding procedures where necessary? 					

- work together with the individual child to deliver an effective sentence in its entirety?

This should include:

- managing a safe stay in the establishment
- the assessment, the plan, the reviews, and the management of risk
- maintaining accurate timely records as and when required through AssetPlus
- maintaining community links and contact with the key people in the child's life to develop a pro-social identity with a constructive focus on future desistance
- supporting children to fulfil their potential during the whole sentence
- identifying and planning for all transitions at the

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earliest opportunity and planning for a successful resettlement					
Operational audit query In secure settings	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
<p>Planning and delivering and effective whole sentence</p> <p>Does initial planning occur promptly and take account of all views (including the child's)? (The purpose should be to discuss and approve the plan, the interventions and the resettlement plan in detail. Efforts to engage the child should be demonstrated in records)</p> <p>Are all subsequent sentence planning dates agreed at the initial meeting to meet the needs of the child?</p> <p>Does intervention planning review progress against the plan, and towards resettlement inclusive of:</p>					

- planning for successful resettlement
- suitability for the detention and training order early-release scheme
- home detention curfew
- temporary release (formerly release on temporary licence)
- parole, and release on licence

Is there a plan in place if a child is identified as a risk of harm to themselves or from others, or at risk of causing serious harm to others within the secure establishment?

Does resettlement preparation identify and address any outstanding actions with clear lines of accountability?

Does final release preparation agree the resettlement and reintegration arrangements and the contents of the licence or Notice of

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Supervision inclusive of risk management?					
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Standards for Children in the Justice System 2019

Baseline Year 0

Standard 5: on transition – strategic self-assessment

Management Board self-assessment leads /Champions

Led by: name

Members: name

Judgment 'on transition'	Strategic	Operational
Outstanding	A comprehensive assurance system is in place and regular frequent support and challenge by all partners at the management board and within each respective agency including driving improved outcomes for each standard 1-5 and thereby the children in receipt of the services.	In most cases, or +80%
Good	Assurance approaches are well evidenced frequent and there is focus on achieving the outcomes for each standard 1-5	In some cases, or + 65-79%
Requires improvement	Some evidence of assurance approaches but not systematic.	Too few, +50 – 64%%

Inadequate

Insufficient approaches to assurance.

Inconsistent, less than 50%

Strategic audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice
Systems Do local systems and approaches recognise and reflect the moves / transitions for children in the youth justice system can be frequent? Are there local systems in place that demonstrate flexibility and capacity for continuity in assessment, planning and the delivery of interventions for children in the youth justice system who make a transition/change?					
Audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor view	Judgement	Narrative - Strengths areas for development / examples of innovative and or effective practice

<p>Leadership and accountability</p> <p>Is there evidence of planning and leadership at all levels, together with strong governance and clear responsibilities in place to minimise, as far as is reasonable and practicable, any potential for the negative impact that any transition may have for a child?</p> <p>Is there a robust approach to holding services and agencies to account in the event of insufficient planning and delivery of the transition and or resettlement plan for a child?</p>					
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Standard 5: on transition - operational self-assessment

YOT case level self-assessment

Led by: name

Members: name

- Sample self-assessment to cover cases from September 2019, 31 March 2020 (20% of cases relevant to each standard with a minimum of 20 cases where possible)

Operational audit query In community (on transition)	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development /examples of innovative and or effective practice
<p>Tailored planning Is there a tailored plan for children in the youth justice system, who make a transition?</p> <p>This should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produced promptly • produced with active engagement from the child and their family. <p>Does it set out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the personal and structural support to be made available to support the child develop a pro-social identity? • Identify the child's strengths and capacities (and those of the wider community around them) and set out how these factors will impact upon 					

<p>the activities and be built into a full desistance plan?</p> <p>Is the plan subject to regular or joint review?</p>					
Operational audit query	Yes/No	Evidence	Validation/Supporting assessor	Judgement	Narrative strengths areas for development /examples of innovative and or effective practice
<p>Working together with engagement of child and parents/carers</p> <p>In preparing that plan, do all relevant agencies work with the child, parents and carers and should be in place for each transition inclusive but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children who move residence • children who move services • children accessing different tiers and types of health provision 					

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• children who move education or training provision• children who reach the end of a youth justice order• children who reach the end of a secure order but not the end of sentence. | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|

Annex B

YOT results

YOT	name
Head of service	name
Chair of YOT management board	name

I confirm that a review of policies has taken place to

- check policies are still implemented as intended and how accessible/practical they are
- determine if changed circumstances e.g. new legislation or policy changes has made them less relevant or requiring an update.

The following policies have been reviewed (this list is not exhaustive):

- provision of persons to act as appropriate adults to safeguard the interests of children detained or questioned by police officers³ in line with the [National Appropriate Adult Network's National Standards](#)

result narrative:

- provision for children who may be interviewed under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) while remanded or sentenced in youth detention accommodation whether within or outside the local authority area

result narrative:

- service to victims in line with the [Code of practice for victims of crime](#)

result narrative:

- [the quality of case management](#)

result narrative:

- public protection and desistance policies (including release and recall arrangements for children on licence/supervision)

³ s38(4)(a) CDA 1998 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/38>

result narrative:

- engagement and compliance with court orders, remand and bail programmes, including responsibilities for undertaking enforcement action where case management sits outside the YOT.

result narrative:

- data protection - services must have due regard to the relevant data protection principles which allow them to share personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR).

result narrative:

- disproportionality - Agencies are required to act in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. YOTs should uphold the duty to have due regard to the needs to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

result narrative:

YOT	name
Head of service	name
Chair MB	name

Please complete the table below with your self-assessed results

See example:

Standard	Strategic self-assessed results	Operational self-assessed results
NS1	Outstanding	Good
NS2	Good	Outstanding
NS3	Requires improvement	Good
NS4	Requires improvement	Requires improvement
NS5	Requires improvement	Inadequate

Annex C: the validation

How will this work?

Visits are likely to take place during June/July 2020 and will involve a small team visiting your YOT for up to half a day. The date will be arranged with you beforehand.

We will ask you to take us through a sample of cases (which we will choose at random) from those you examined.

For strategic standards we will ask to see the evidence upon which you based your decisions, and (with prior agreement) may talk to specific members of staff, such as the senior management team and/or the chair of the board.

For all standards we will be looking at how the YOT, and external partners, worked together to achieve success and how you measured that.

This is, essentially, an 'effectiveness test'. Can you demonstrate that your service adheres to the standards and if so, what is it that you are doing that has an impact?

At the end of the process we will establish with you whether we support your findings or whether our benchmark of quality is different. If it is different we will explain why and we may ask you to put in place an action plan to achieve improvement over the next six months.

Where we find excellent practice we will, with your permission, publicise this to others and encourage you to take the practice to the Practice Development Forum to gain approval for publication on the [Youth Justice Resource Hub](#).