

How to use the reoffending live tracking tool

The live tracking tool is based on the pre-populated tool, but is populated by youth offending teams (YOTs) themselves. It may be used in three separate ways, all of which may be useful to YOTs.

To conduct operational live tracking the YOT should:

- regularly input the details of all young people receiving a substantive pre-court or court-ordered disposal, or released from custody, from the first day of the current quarter
- regularly input the further offending of cohort members as it becomes known
- arrange for managers who are familiar and up-to-date with the cases to meet regularly to pro-actively review the cohort (not just the current caseload) and decide any actions required if young people show signs of reoffending, actually reoffend, or their circumstances change to make it more likely they will reoffend (it is not necessary to wait for offences to occur or be proved in court before taking action)
- record these required actions in the additional columns provided in the tool and inform caseworkers
- monitor the required actions and update the tool
- add any new cohort members and any further offending, ready for the next review meeting.

It should be noted that most YOTs will not have the resources available to track the whole cohort every month throughout the 12-month cohort period.

Therefore, if the YOT has already carried out a retrospective reoffending analysis, it should use the findings from this to focus its attention in terms of live tracking. For example, if the retrospective analysis identified 17-year-olds, looked after children and those who most recently entered the cohort as those most likely to reoffend, then live tracking should focus on these groups. The filters on the data sheet can be used to select the appropriate cases.

To conduct strategic live tracking the YOT should:

- input young people's details as they enter the cohort (as above)

- use the data coming out of the tool to detect trends in local reoffending patterns
- use this information to shape interventions, use of resources and commissioning

To obtain more up-to-date performance data than is yet available officially from the Police National Computer (PNC) / Ministry of Justice the YOT should:

- select the most recently completed cohort for a particular quarter
- input the young people's details, including further offending.

The YOT should include all the further offending of those who turned 18 during the 12-month follow-up period. Sufficient time must elapse in order to pick up any further offences which occurred during the 12 months. Graphs will be generated showing how the YOT's performance compares with national average.

Operational Live tracking enables the opportunity for appropriate remedial action to be taken to prevent or reduce reoffending by individual young people and it is recommended that all young people entering the cohort are reviewed.

It should be remembered that reoffending performance is based on the cohort, not the caseload, and there are many young people who are not yet or are no longer on the YOT caseload but nevertheless remain in the cohort.

Strategic live tracking enables YOT planning to be based on the most current data.

Obtaining more up-to-date performance data has proven very useful for management teams and management boards in both identifying trends and patterns, and guiding strategic planning, but is distinguished from live-tracking as the cohort has already completed.