



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Action Plan Submitted: 21st December 2020

Update Submitted: 13th December 2021

A Response to: A thematic review of the work of youth offending services during the COVID-19 pandemic

Report Published: 18th November 2020

INTRODUCTION

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation is the independent inspector of youth offending and probation services in England and Wales. It reports on the effectiveness of probation and youth offending service work with adults and children.

In response to the report, HMPPS/MoJ are required to draft a robust and timely action plan to address the recommendations. The action plan confirms whether recommendations are agreed, partly agreed or not agreed (see categorisations below). Where a recommendation is agreed or partly agreed, the action plan provides specific steps and actions to address these. Actions are clear, measurable, achievable and relevant with the owner and timescale of each step clearly identified. Action plans are published on the HMI Probation website. Progress against the implementation and delivery of the action plans will be monitored by HMPPS/MoJ and reviewed annually by HMI Probation.

Term	Definition	Additional comment
Agreed	All of the recommendation is agreed with, can be achieved and is affordable.	The response should clearly explain how the recommendation will be achieved along with timescales. Actions should be as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound) as possible. Actions should be specific enough to be tracked for progress.
Partly Agreed	Only part of the recommendation is agreed with, is achievable, affordable and will be implemented. This might be because we cannot implement the whole recommendation because of commissioning, policy, operational or affordability reasons.	The response must state clearly which part of the recommendation will be implemented along with SMART actions and tracked for progress. There must be an explanation of why we cannot fully agree the recommendation - this must state clearly whether this is due to commissioning, policy, operational or affordability reasons.
Not Agreed	The recommendation is not agreed and will not be implemented. This might be because of commissioning, policy, operational or affordability reasons.	The response must clearly state the reasons why we have chosen this option. There must be an explanation of why we cannot agree the recommendation - this must state clearly whether this is due to commissioning, policy, operational or affordability reasons.

ACTION PLAN: A thematic review of the work of youth offending services during the COVID-19 pandemic

1. Rec No	2. Recommendation	3. Agreed/ Partly Agreed/ Not Agreed	4. Response Action Taken/Planned	5. Responsible Owner (including named individuals and their functional role or department)	6. Target Date
1	<p>HMPPS should develop effective communication systems between custodial settings, courts and YOT partner agencies so that children are not disadvantaged, have timely court hearings and resettlement needs can be met.</p>	Agreed	<p>The Youth Custody Service (YCS) has completed an internal casework review, which included how Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) can promote effective resettlement work across related agencies and departments. To oversee resulting actions, a joint YCS and Youth Justice Board (YJB) Resettlement Board and a Resettlement Working Group has been created, with representation both from custody and community.</p> <p>The YCS have fitted all rooms with in-room telephones. This will support contact with key organisations such as the Howard League and Barnardo's and help facilitate resettlement planning. In addition to this, during the COVID-19 period the YCS have been engaging with stakeholders such as Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and Head of Service with regular newsletters and calls, ensuring stakeholders are kept abreast of developing situations.</p> <p>The National Probation Service (NPS) has reviewed The National Partnerships Framework for working with YOTs, which covers each agency's responsibility for young people transitioning from YOTs to adult services. This was uploaded onto the Excellence and Quality in Processes (EQuIP) online platform in November 2020.</p> <p>The Youth Justice Policy Unit, Ministry of Justice have alerted colleagues in the Her Majesty's Court and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) to HMIP findings and recommendations. HMCTS have confirmed that they will work with HMPPS to help resolve issues regarding timeliness of court hearings as they emerge.</p>	<p>Deputy Director for Quality, Information & Performance, Casework, Partnerships & Business Change</p> <p>Deputy Director, YCS Operations</p> <p>Regional Probation Director with lead responsibility for Young Adults</p> <p>Head of sentencing, criminal records and community justice, Youth Justice Policy</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>

		<p>The Youth Custody Service (YCS) have produced a Resettlement Practitioner Guidance and Resource document in collaboration with Youth Offending Teams (YOT), Youth Justice Board (YJB) and NHS England & Improvement to ensure alignment with the key strategies being developed, such as the SECURE STAIRS framework for integrated care and YJB Case Management Guidance. This document will support Resettlement Practitioners in their role and in their joint work with stakeholders to ensure that children are not disadvantaged and their resettlement needs can be met.</p>	Deputy Director for Quality, Information & Performance, Casework, Partnerships & Business Change	Completed
		<p>The National Partnerships Framework has been shared across agencies and is now well embedded. It is used both to inform practice as well as to offer guidance, particularly on issues relating to transition. The Probation Service are also developing a Young Adults Policy Framework for release in early 2022, which will further support interagency work with children and young adults.</p>	Regional Probation Director with lead responsibility for Young Adults	Completed
		<p>The Ministry of Justice Youth Policy Unit report that good progress has been made on the timeliness of court hearings. Throughout the pandemic HM Courts and Tribunals Service has worked to ensure that youth cases are prioritised and regularly reviewed so that they are listed as expeditiously as possible, especially cases that involve youths in custody and those where a child is almost 18. The total number of Youth cases listed in the Magistrate's Court is steadily reducing, supported by successful measures such as priority listing, additional Youth Courts and case management reviews.</p>	Head of sentencing, criminal records and community justice, Youth Justice Policy	Completed