

Youth Justice Blueprint Implementation Plan

Improved partnership between devolved and non-devolved services to deliver youth justice in Wales is a shared priority of UK and Welsh Governments. This implementation plan sets out a shared commitment to exploring recommendations made by the Youth Justice Board Cymru.

Thematic Area	Recommendation (milestone)	Action(s) include:	Refreshed Timescale	Update
Prevention	Seek to retain dedicated funding for Youth Offending Team (YOT) prevention and pre-court diversion activity through the Promoting Positive Engagement (PPE) Fund.	Following publication of the evaluation report on the Children's and Community Grant (CCG) in May 2019 seek assured funding to support delivery of prevention, early intervention and diversion ambitions.	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	The Promoting Positive Engagement (PPE) Fund will remain in the Children and Communities Grant (CCG) for the foreseeable future. The Welsh Government is revising the outcomes framework for the CCG. This provides opportunity to reflect the full range of YOT activity to help ensure ongoing funding. The CCG is currently under discussion. Updates provide for the 2020-2021 financial year indicates local authorities are continuing to prioritise PPE activity.
	Develop a national approach for targeted YOT prevention activity and ensure it is embedded in a joint framework model for Wales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map existing measures on data collection approaches, reporting requirements and targeted interventions delivered locally and nationally, including youth justice prevention work, youth work activity and local authority services, to determine good practice in delivering well-being outcomes. Consider whether a Wales system-wide position statement on youth justice prevention would be appropriate. 	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	<p>The Pre-Court Diversion Group will map information related to funding. On completion of this work a Prevention Task and Finish Group will be stood up to consider if reporting practices can be streamlined whilst maintaining a understanding of prevention activity and the importance of continued funding to support it.</p> <p>A Pathfinder is currently being undertaken to establish what a prevention case means for youth offending service. Once this has been completed the Work stream will consider a Wales system-wide position statement taking account of wider prevention activity.</p>
	Enhanced monitoring of prevention activity to demonstrate impact and improve the evidence base.	Explore the potential to use existing Dyfed Powys materials to provide better, more consistent evidence of activity and effectiveness	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	The YJB have commissioned Ceredigion YOT to take this element of the work stream forward as a pathfinder.
	ACEs should be identified when children come to the attention of the police and the YOT informed.	ACEs to be brought within the wider discussion around the prevention strategy and reframe how ACEs are included rather than focus on the recommendation already there.	N/A	<p>NO FURTHER ACTION - it has been agreed that the Early Action Together programme will take this action forward rather than the Blueprint programme.</p> <p>The Early Action Together programme is continuing in its transition year. Activity is predominantly in Police Force areas but there is also work around criminal justice more so in relation to HMPPS and what transition will look like. Although this work is continuing it is not a priority under the prevention workstream.</p>
	Alignment of reporting mechanisms/conditions of funding across the Welsh Government, Youth Justice Board and Police and Crime Commissioner contributions to prevention activity and pre-court diversion to reduce bureaucracy.	N/A - see update	N/A	To avoid duplication this activity is being actioned with the Pre-court diversion recommendations.

Pre-Court Diversion	Support existing approaches to pre-court diversion through Bureau and Divert (formerly Triage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support and fund pre-court diversion work to reduce first time entrants into the youth justice system. Retaining control over funding and influence are essential to realising Welsh Government and wider justice partner objectives. 	On-going	The YJB and Welsh Government continue to support YOT activity through YJB grant funding and the CCG.
	Development of diversionary practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with police forces and PCCs to identify, develop and share good practice and establish consistency in approach across Wales. Explore whether youth restorative disposal/community resolutions are consistently notified by the Police to YOTs. Work with PCCs and Children's Commissioner for Wales to establish children's rights when issued with a restorative disposal including legal safeguards and advice provided to children. Explore the potential for a cannabis diversion project as recommended by HMI Probation. 	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	A University of South Wales research project (The Voice of the Child in Pre-Court Proceedings) is underway which will inform our approach to this recommendation.
	Alignment of reporting mechanisms/conditions of funding across the Welsh Government, Youth Justice Board and Police and Crime Commissioner contributions to prevention activity and pre-court diversion to reduce bureaucracy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse contributions to prevention and pre-court diversion from YOT annual youth justice plans and seek opportunities to inform how alignment and pooled funding could be taken forward. 	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	Work is underway to investigate and produce a report on sources of funding and activity it supports. There is cross over with this activity and some of the prevention recommendations.
Community	Work with police to ensure that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are identified when children come to the attention of the police and the YOTs are informed.	N/A – see update	N/A	This action was removed due to duplication with other work areas of the Blueprint (Prevention).
	Roll-out Enhanced Case Management (ECM) nationally for complex and high-risk children under YOT supervision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop, support and evaluate ECM pilot in four YOTs across South Wales (Cardiff, Cwm Taff, Vale of Glamorgan and the YOTs that formerly made up Western Bay), ending in March 2020. The pilot has ended and is now a part of the National roll out of ECM. Support and develop work in the test areas (Blaenau Gwent Caerphilly, Carmarthenshire and Flintshire) to embed ECM practice (complete). Roll-out trauma-informed training to all YOTs in Wales including developing materials to assist in start-up. Develop Agored qualifications: level 1 basic awareness of ACEs, level 2 understanding the Trauma Recovery Model or theory underpinning trauma-informed practice and level 3 ECM practitioner. 	Long term (2022/2023+)	<p>The work on the ECM pilot and previous test sites has been completed. Training has been provided to all YOTs in Wales. A proposed model for the delivery of trauma-informed practice and ECM has been produced and discussions are continuing with YOT Managers Cymru and to refine and shape service requirements.</p> <p>The YJB is continuing to engage with WHSSC and Cwm Taff Health authority on the FACTS offer to the youth justice sector. The workstream is also looking at how a consistent and continuous trauma-informed youth justice service can be developed.</p> <p>Activity to roll-out ECM is being re-cast to reflect the design and implementation work required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Map existing policy-led initiatives focused on ACEs and trauma-informed practice. Develop a pathway for specialist psychology liaison and consultation between health and YOTs. Design and implement ECM as a sustainable national delivery model. Seek alignment between practice and approaches used in the community and secure so that children experience continuity. Liaising with Trauma Stress Wales regarding resources and support for the sector. The evaluation of the South Wales ECM project has been completed by Public Health Wales and Bangor University and is due for publication in March 2021. The YJB has commissioned a module on trauma-informed practice to replace the Agored qualification (see below), which will be available to the youth justice sector from April 2021 onwards.
	Support the youth justice sector with resources, training and qualifications to deliver trauma-informed practice (TIP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver TIP training to upskill practitioner knowledge or trauma informed recovery in community and custody. 	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	The YJB has commissioned the development of a trauma-informed Effective Practice Award as part of its Effective Practice qualification framework. This will be available through the Youth Justice Institute which delivers other effective practice awards. This replaces the Agored qualifications. The YJB has also initiated a short-term pathfinder with Cwm Taff YOT to develop practice resources for the youth justice sector with expected completion date June 2021.
	Align arrangements to the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government Crime and justice Team to work with Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual violence team and other relevant stakeholders to explore how to take this forward. 	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	The emerging work from this thematic area will be considered against the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

Resettlement and Transitions	Adopt the YJB's proposal for Constructive Resettlement.	Consideration to be given to how to adopt the YJB proposal, taking into account the MoJ national guidance and the Farmer Review.	Long term (2022/2023+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is underway with key stakeholders, including YOT Managers Cymru, identified regional YOT leads and the Youth Custody Service, to explore 'Constructive Resettlement' and the activity required to support it. • Existing practice is being mapped from the YJB's audit of National Standards.
	Develop family work to include family-focused preparation for the child's release.	Welsh Government Crime and Justice Team to develop proposals to integrate this recommendation with the supporting (adult) offenders and their families' workstream of the Framework to Support Positive Change for Those at Risk of Offending in Wales 2018 -2023.	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	As above, stakeholder engagement is seeking to identify what type of family support is required and being considered as part of the families' workstream under the Framework to Support Positive Change for Those at Risk of Offending in Wales 2018 -2023.
	Revisit proposals to introduce re-integration and resettlement partnerships in legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and consult with resettlement partners regarding reintegration and resettlement partnerships. • Review proposals (to introduce legislation on reintegration and resettlement partnerships) from the delivery plan for Children and Young People First, the joint Youth Justice Strategy for Wales published in 2014. 	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	Views are being collated and conclusions will be reported in May 2021
	Develop trauma-informed approaches for those making the transition to adult services.	Work with National Probation Service and Public Health Wales to identify trauma-informed practice, as part of wider refresh of transitions guidance for Wales.	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	The Youth to Adult Transitions document has been updated to include guidance on how to make transitions trauma-informed. The revised guidance has been published on the gov.uk website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-to-adult-transition-principles-and-guidance-for-wales
Custody	All Welsh resident children remanded or sentenced to custody to be in small units in Wales, based on a trauma-informed model, with hub and spoke service delivery to the community for complex and high-risk cases under YOT supervision and on resettlement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse the requirement and forecast need for Wales. • Identify potential options to meet need and investigate approach to commissioning, placement, operation, delivery of specialist services, monitoring and oversight for a secure facility. • Secure funding and approval for implementation 	Medium-Long term (2020/21 – 2021/22 – 2022/23)	<p>The Welsh Government has shared its principles for delivery of services to Welsh children in the secure estate and will work with the Ministry of Justice to explore options to meet this vision. In the short-term and interdependent to Blueprint, work is underway to align and develop existing arrangements for secure care with the principles of the Blueprint, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New psychology services to be introduced to Parc YOI for under 18s from April 2021 • Introducing clear and systemic oversight of integrated end to end trauma informed services for children in custody in Wales. • Inclusion of Blueprint principles within key decision making for planning services at Parc YOI for under 18s after Dec 2022.
	Assess the secure custody provision to meet the needs of children requiring all forms of secure care: in-patient mental health care, detox for substance misuse or placement on a secure welfare order and including justice beds.			
System Oversight	Establish how a national model for a national trauma-informed youth justice service meets the needs of children and young people in Wales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the detail of the model including funding, powers, responsibilities and governance to strengthen existing partnership arrangements and support a co-sponsored youth justice service jointly owned by the UK Government and Welsh Government. • Review options for future data sets, assessment methodologies to support a trauma-informed system. • Engage with Inspectorates to ensure inspection requirements fit the whole-system trauma informed delivery model. 	Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory functions are being mapped to provide an existing baseline model. • Options for data sets and inspection requirements are being explored in line with activity across the Blueprint. • Completion of an integrated Impact Assessment.