

# 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.	COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further action. The Promoting Positive Engagement fund is now part of the Children and Communities Grant. The Welsh Government will continue to monitor YOT funding within this to identify any changes.</li> </ul>
	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"> <li>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.</li> <li>Consider whether a Wales system-wide position statement on youth justice prevention would be appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>ONGOING - Long term (2022/2023+)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Pathfinder was commissioned (Ceredigion YOT and Aberystwyth University) to establish what prevention activity looks like across Wales.</li> <li>A survey of the 17 YOTs in England and Wales has been completed and the findings will be utilised to inform the development of the prevention workstream.</li> <li>Building on the Pathfinder and survey, a task and finish group will commence in April to consider this learning and to develop an operationally focussed Youth Justice Prevention Framework for Wales.</li> </ul>
	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	ONGOING - Long term (2022/2023+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Pathfinder report (mentioned above) has been published on the <a href="#">YJB Resource Hub</a> (see "A Child First Pathfinder Evaluation - Ceredigion Youth Justice and Prevention Service: Towards a Common Preventions Approach Across Wales").</li> <li>The YJB has a national project to explore how prevention activity can be monitored. Rather than duplicating activity, the Blueprint workstream will link to this activity as any recommendations will apply to England and Wales. Any need for further Blueprint activity will be reviewed in 2023</li> </ul>
	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.	COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Early Action Together programme will take this action forward rather than the Blueprint programme. No further action for the Blueprint.</li> </ul>
	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To avoid duplication this activity is being actioned with the Pre-court diversion recommendations.</li> </ul>
Pre-Court Diversion	Support existing approaches to pre-court diversion through Bureau and Divert (formerly Triage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support and fund pre-court diversion work to reduce first time entrants into the youth justice system.</li> <li>Retaining control over funding and influence are essential to realising Welsh Government and wider justice partner objectives.</li> </ul>	COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The YJB and Welsh Government continue to support YOT activity through grant funding. No Further Action</li> </ul>
	Development of diversionary practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with police forces and PCCs to identify, develop and share good practice and establish consistency in approach across Wales.</li> <li>Explore whether youth restorative disposal/community resolutions are consistently notified by the Police to YOTs.</li> </ul>	ONGOING - Long term (2022/2023+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The YJB has completed an analysis of the findings from the YOT self-audit of Standards for Children in the Youth Justice system – Standards one – Out of Court disposals, from the returns submitted by the YOTs in Wales.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Explore the potential for a cannabis diversion project as recommended by HMI Probation.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report has been produced on the use of Community Resolutions across Wales which has indicated some inconsistencies in use, which will be explored further.</li> <li>• The findings from the above will feed into a scoping exercise to be undertaken by the YJB to establish what practice looks like across Wales in relation to pre court diversion and use of non-criminal disposals, including how the Bureau model of pre-court diversion and other approaches are working. This will inform the delivery of a series of thematic workshops which will also examine interventions offered at the pre court stage.</li> <li>• A University of South Wales research project (The Voice of the Child in Pre-Court Proceedings) has produced a briefing reporting on progress to date and next steps. It has been extended to June 2023 following a temporary pause in activity.</li> </ul>
	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"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<b>COMPLETE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The YJB has liaised with the Welsh Government and offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners to map the funding of prevention and pre-court diversion activity across Wales to identify what is supports and to obtain an accurate picture of current activity.</li> </ul>
<b>Community</b>	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This action was removed due to duplication with other work areas of the Blueprint (Prevention). No Further Action.</li> </ul>
	Roll-out Enhanced Case Management (ECM) nationally for complex and high-risk children under YOT supervision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Support and develop work in the test areas (Blaenau Gwent Caerphilly, Carmarthenshire and Flintshire) to embed ECM practice (complete).</li> <li>• Roll-out trauma-informed training to all YOTs in Wales including developing materials to assist in start-up.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<b>ONGOING</b> - Long term (2022/2023+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The criteria and referral process to the Forensic Adolescent Consultation Treatment Service (FACTS) for Enhanced Case Management (ECM) has been agreed. ECM is available to all YOTs in Wales for children in voluntary and statutory contact with YOTs.</li> <li>• FACTS are liaising with all YOTs to establish what specific support they require in implementing ECM, supported by Cwm Taf YOT (see below).</li> <li>• Mapping of YOT health provision across Wales has been completed to establish what services YOTs have access to in their local area and where there are gaps. This was undertaken to support the roll out of ECM and trauma-informed practice.</li> </ul>
	Support the youth justice sector with resources, training and qualifications to deliver trauma-informed practice (TIP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to deliver TIP training to upskill practitioner knowledge or trauma informed recovery in community and custody.</li> </ul>	<b>ONGOING</b> - Medium term (2020/21 – 2021/22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The YJB commissioned the development of a trauma-informed Effective Practice Award as part of its Effective Practice qualification framework, offered through the Youth Justice Institute, replacing the Agored qualifications (see previous recommendation). The Award was launched in July 2021 with 51 subsidised places for YOTs in Wales.</li> <li>• The YJB commissioned Cwm Taf YOT to develop resources to enable practitioners to undertake assessments and plan interventions through a trauma-informed lens. These materials have been disseminated through the YJB's Resource Hub and a series of 13 workshops delivered between October 2021 and March 2022. Cwm Taff YOT is also providing support to individual YOTs to support them to utilise ECM.</li> </ul>
	Align arrangements to the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<b>ONGOING</b> - Long term (2022/2023+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment with the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence strategy will be taken forward through the prevention workstream, as part of the development of a potential Youth Justice Prevention Framework for Wales.</li> </ul>
<b>Resettlement and Transitions</b>	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.	<b>ONGOING</b> - Long term (2022/2023+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The YJB has arranged training on Constructive Resettlement for the youth justice sector in Wales.</li> <li>• A task and finish group is being established to look whether Wales-specific guidance is needed to reflect the distinct Welsh delivery context. If needed this guidance would bring together all existing guidance, models and recommendations in one place, to support YJS partnership working whilst fully reflecting the role of devolved services.</li> <li>• Recommendations from the workstream have been incorporated into the YJB's Management Board Guidance at a strategic level, and will also be reflected in the more operational YJB Case Management Guidance which is currently being revised.</li> </ul>

	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.	<b>ONGOING</b> - Long term (2022/2023+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YOTs are to be surveyed to identify what family support provision is currently available, whether there are any gaps and how they can be addressed to improve family-focused resettlement support.</li> <li>The Family and Significant Other workstream of the Framework to Support Positive Change for Those at Risk of Offending is currently being refreshed, building on achievements delivered under the Framework so far as well as the work of the Family Trailblazer in HMPPS in Wales.</li> <li>The new Family and Significant Other strategic group will focus on continued progress in prison and probation environments, as well as broadening work further to encompass areas such as youth justice, education, courts and policing. The alignment with this Blueprints workstream will be considered as part of the refresh, to ensure we deliver on the Blueprint objective.</li> </ul>
	Revisit proposals to introduce re-integration and resettlement partnerships in legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore and consult with resettlement partners regarding reintegration and resettlement partnerships.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<b>ONGOING</b> - Long term (2022/2023+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YOT Managers Cymru and Wales Youth Justice Advisory Panel reviewed this recommendation and concluded the Blueprint should not pursue seeking a legislative duty in respect of Reintegration and Resettlement Partnerships. However, several suggestions were made to strengthen existing guidance and partnerships arrangements, which will be taken forward under the Constructive Resettlement recommendation.</li> </ul>
	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.	<b>ONGOING</b> - Long term (2022/2023+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 <a href="#">Gov.uk website</a>.</li> <li>The workstream is working with the Probation Service to explore the transitions process, whether existing guidance is being used effectively and how transitions can become more trauma informed.</li> </ul>
<b>Custody</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the requirement and forecast need for Wales.</li> <li>Identify potential options to meet need and investigate approach to commissioning, placement, operation, delivery of specialist services, monitoring and oversight for a secure facility.</li> <li>Secure funding and approval for implementation</li> </ul>	<b>ONGOING</b> - Long term (2022/2023+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The workstream objectives, refreshed in January 2022, now focus on two overarching goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - Embedding trauma informed practice across the current youth secure estate - Delivering on the aim in the Blueprint to establish trauma-informed secure provision, drawing on best practice in multi-agency working to develop a centre of excellence with delivery of mental health, health care education and training.</li> <li>2 - Developing a long term '2030' strategy for the youth estate - Delivering on the agreed Blueprint aim for Welsh children to be accommodated close to home, and drawing on learning from the proposed Small Home Project which will look at welfare as well as criminal justice youth secure needs in Wales.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Initial work will focus on the trauma-informed practice objective, with work on the longer-term strategy following later this year as the strategic context develops. Two task and finish groups have been set up to take forward this work – one focussing on systems and the other focussing on practice. Both groups are aiming to meet for the first time by the end of March with a focus on taking work forward at pace.</li> <li>We will also continue to work closely with the ongoing development of the Small Home Project work. An outline proposal on the Small Home Project for Ministerial consideration is due to be submitted by October 2022. This will inform the '2030' strategy due to be finalised by March 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>System Oversight</b>	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"> <li>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.</li> <li>Review options for future data sets, assessment methodologies to support a trauma-informed system.</li> <li>Engage with Inspectorates to ensure inspection requirements fit the whole-system trauma informed delivery model.</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In December 2021 the system oversight workstream requested a pause in activity to enable it to consider the ongoing necessity of having this workstream. The Blueprint's governance boards have agreed the workstream will not continue as there is sufficient oversight of activity through existing arrangements.</li> <li>Additionally, the Blueprint has provided an opportunity to strengthen the existing working arrangements and partnerships between the Welsh Government, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service Wales, the Youth Custody Service and the YJB in working towards the common delivery goals.</li> <li>The System Oversight workstream is a joint group with the Female Offending Blueprint. The System and governance element of Female Blueprint will continue to be progressed as a workstream in line with the recommendations and actions included in the implementation plan.</li> <li>In order for the Youth Justice Blueprint to comply with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, an equalities impact assessment screening tool has been developed which will be considered across each workstream. This will be monitored through the Youth Justice Blueprint Project Board.</li> </ul>