

Havering Youth Justice Service (YJS)

Custody, Resettlement

And Transition

Good Practice Guidance

INTRODUCTION

Havering YJS is committed to change this reality for our children. Additional consideration needs to be given to the specific resettlement needs of children from the global majority/ Black and minority ethnic race, who are also more likely to receive a custodial sentence. This document is intended to provide detailed guidance for front line practitioners and the management team regarding best practice for dealing with children and children sentenced to custody and their subsequent resettlement into their communities. The guidance is underpinned by an Enhanced Constructive Resettlement (ECR) approach and Havering's approach and practices to disproportionality to support those who are on Court Orders or given Community Resolutions (Youth Cautions, Youth Conditional Cautions or Triages).

This guidance takes into account: the Youth Justice Board (YJB) National Standards: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-for-youth-justice-services>

The YJB Custody and Resettlement case management guidance; the Youth resettlement: final report into work in the community, published by HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Inspectorate of Prisons in October 2019, Beyond Youth Custody (2017) the work from the London Resettlement Partnership (2020), Custody and Resettlement Guidance (YJB, 2020).

Havering YJS recognises the trauma and impact experienced as a result of coming into the YJS and is committed to constructive resettlement and transition for all children by ensuring:-

Induction and Welcome

- All children are welcomed and inducted to Havering YJS
- Providing children with documents on what to expect from our service that have been adapted to appreciate their learning/sensory needs

Identity Development

- Looking at the impact of generational and trans-generational stories shared with children, as a contributory factor that also impacts the levels of trauma experienced
- Using YJS Systemic Consultation to look at family scripts, identity and the child's lived experience

What's best for the Child

- Looking at all the positives to support the child and their journey
- Who is best place to influence, guide and support the child?
- Tailoring support and thinking 'outside the box'
- Being aware of disproportionality and its impact on the child
- Focusing on what 'i can become' rather than 'what i have done'

This is a live document that follows the dynamism of practice and will be reviewed as new and better ways of working are identified.

1. CUSTODY & RESETTLEMENT: GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT

It's all about relationships

- Communicate regularly via telephone or letters and visit the child in prison outside the reviews
- Work closely with parents/carers: include YJS parenting worker if parent and child relationship needs some support
- Strengthen the relationship with CSW where involved: focus on accommodation prior to release
- Acknowledge diversity early on: ethnic & cultural; learning needs; prior trauma or resulting from custody
- Where the child has a strong ethnic or cultural identity with a specific group consideration must be given, in consultation with the child and their family, to the additional support available from specific voluntary sector organizations that could help re-affirm and celebrate the young person's cultural and ethnic identity and needs.

A good plan

- Resettlement meeting (also known as remand/sentence planning). Have an update from any specialist that has recently worked with the child
- Cover the 7 pathways to resettlement at each meeting: don't feel constrained by pre-populated templates
- Discuss relevant transitions and Temporary Release at every meeting.

Review regularly and be ready for release

- Reviews must be at least every 3 months. Fix the next meeting at the end of each review.
- Get specialists involved at least 3 months prior to release: invite them to meetings and to meet with the child
- Review your AssetPlus -Record all your contacts on Childview



(1) Case Management & Transitions – Main Objective:
Ensure that young people serving custodial sentences receive effective, end-to-end service provision based on a thorough assessment of need and risk, in order to reintegrate them into the community.

(2) Accommodation – Main Objective:
To ensure that all young people leaving custody can access suitable and sustainable accommodation with support where appropriate

(3) Education Training & Employment – Main Objective:
Provide all young people with suitable and sustainable Education, Training & Employment throughout their sentence & beyond

(4) Health – Main Objective:
Ensure that all young people in custody have access to suitable and sustainable general and specialist healthcare services, based on individual need, so that problems are assessed and treated at the earliest opportunity and in the most appropriate manner

(5) Substance Misuse – Main Objective:
Ensure that all young people entering custody are screened for substance misuse, with recognition of previous interventions. Those with identified needs should receive specialist assessment and access to the appropriate interventions and treatment services, with their aftercare needs met on return to the community

(6) Families – Main Objective:
Ensure that families of young people in custody receive timely, high-quality support and information, from the point of arrest and throughout the young person's sentence

(7) Finance, Benefits & Debt – Main Objective:
Ensure young people leaving custody and their families are provided with information and advice so that they are able to access appropriate financial support

NB: Adult *National Reducing Reoffending Action Plan* (HO 2004) had 'Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour' as Pathway 7 – Incorporated into ETE Pathway for YP

2. GOING THE EXTRA MILE: FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL RESETTLEMENT

Formulate a hypothesis of work

- Have an early discussion with your line manager to cover risk and safeguarding, BAME over-representation and diversity needs; fostering family relationships; CSC role; transitions into adulthood; accommodation upon release.

Share information

- Communicate with secure estate regularly outside meetings
- Stay in touch with family and carers
- Invite CSW to all meetings, where relevant
- Attend Resettlement Panels

Working with families and carers

- YJS Parenting Practitioner to support the family and the child to navigate their relationship whilst the child is in custody.
- Consider FGC/FTT involvement
- Consider family plans during custody and prior to release.
- Parenting worker and case manager to visit the family home prior to release

Resettlement Panels (Risk Management Panel)

- Chaired by the YJS, it looks at 7 pathways to resettlement to ensure effective and smooth transitions
- Provides management oversight and multi-agency input to the resettlement plan. Helps overcome structural barriers for the individual plan
- Held regularly: within one month of sentence; half way through; and one month prior to release. For s250 and s254 sentences they must be also be held every 6 months.
- Discusses and agree licence conditions
- Escalate to CSC senior managers any barriers for accommodation prior to release

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

- Police, Probation, Prison Service and other relevant agencies are required to establish arrangements to manage and assess risks posed by relevant offenders. In addition, these agencies (and the YJS is specifically identified) have a duty to cooperate.

Criteria for MAPPA Offenders are:

- Anyone required to register as a Sex Offender
- Those convicted of a sexual or violent offence who receive a custodial sentence of 12 months or longer
- Other offenders that do not fall into the above categories but where the risks to the public are considered to require consideration and management.
- Any child or young person in the Youth Justice Service meeting the criteria above must be identified and discussed with a manager prior to referral to the YJS Risk Management Panel (see above) and MAPPA. In the event that a case meets the fixed MAPPA criteria, or assessed as MAPPA relevant, (potentially dangerous other), the Risk Management Plan must detail who is responsible for referring the case to the local Pre MAPPA meeting (usually the YJS Practitioner supervising the case).
- It is usual practice for children referred to the MAPPA panel to be made aware that this will take place although there may be occasions when this is not appropriate (e.g. for the purposes of detection or prevention of crime). On the same basis it may not be appropriate to share the outcome note with the child and their parent/carer. In the first instance, please discuss the particular circumstances of any child who fits the referral criteria with your line.
- For those children who meet the MAPPA criteria in custody the placement will be responsible for notifying the Home Youth Justice Service of this. Currently this is done at five months prior to release. It is essential that referral to MAPPA is completed at sentence where a child is eligible, and confirmed ahead of release or as part of the transfer to the National Probation Service for those children serving sentences as they turn 18 years.

Multi-agency work

- Use AssetPlus to identify the need for specialist interventions
- Use Systemic Consultation to understand and explore the impact of custody on the child
- Where a particular specialist intervention will be required to be delivered immediately upon release that specialist worker needs to visit the child in custody to establish rapport and begin to understand and develop together the work that will be completed upon release from custody.

Temporary Licence

- Available half way through the sentence or 24 months prior to release for longer sentences.
- Discuss TL from the initial meeting so that children know what they need to do to achieve it
- TL can be used for meetings with the family, ETE providers, visit prospective accommodation, get familiar with YJS (HC) or other offices

Pathways to accommodation

- Discuss accommodation from the onset and involve CSC where relevant
- Consider a Family meeting to bridge the relationship between the child and their family.
- Escalate to your Line Manager if you don't have an address a month prior to release

3. THE RESETTLEMENT TIMELINE

Early Release & Licence/Notice of Supervision Conditions

Temporary Release (Day Release)

Support where appropriate
Discuss at Resettlement Panel
Available for sentences under 4 years
Elegible half way custodial period or 24 month before release
(use later date)

Meetings and activities with family
ETE meetings
Exploring potential constructive activities

Early Release

+8 months DTO and up to 4 year s.250/254 ?? Good behaviour in custody
For some violent/sexual offences only available if extraordinary progress in custody made
Not available if previously recalled on licence

DTO between 8-24 months: 1-2 months earlier
S.91 between 3 months-4 years: up to 135 days earlier than midway release

Licence conditions

Notice of Supervision for DTOs and S.91 if under 12 months
/Licence Conditions for s.91 over 12 months
Standard conditions + you can ask for additional conditions
Extended supervision for those who turn 18 in custody
Resettlement Panel discusses and agrees additional conditions
Agreed by Governor in YO1 or YCS Placements for STC

Additional conditions must be NECESSARY and PROPORTIONATE
ISS: only for high/very high risk children.
Maximum intensity for half the licence or up to 3 months
Curfew with electronic monitoring available on its own for MAPPA Level 2 & 3 cases; critical high risk NOT FOR SAFEGUARDING

4. Release day



5. TRANSFER TO PROBATION

Child is within 6 months of 18yrs

- A child must be considered for transfer to probation within 6 months of turning 18
- Cases will need to be recorded by YJS Probation Officer on NDelius (Probation recording system) and include any specific risk markers. Obtain a copy of the order, CPS documentation, most recent Asset Plus and PSR
- Although Probation will not formally accept full transfer of High Risk of Serious Harm/MAPPA eligible cases until the child turns 18, joint meetings need to take place, no later than three months prior to release from custody or from planned transfer.
- Prior to transfer, the YJS Practitioner must complete a 'Transfer to Probation' Asset Plus review and it must be sent to YJS Probation Officer

Cases that may not transfer to probation

- If there are only a few weeks or a short term left on their sentence, after turning 18
- If the relationship between the YJS Practitioner, the case and family/carers is strong and the YJS Practitioner can provide additional support or a level of supervision, that Probation cannot offer (i.e. multiple appointments per week compared to one per week at Probation).
- If a case may have experienced a bereavement or significant challenging personal experience and which support from their trusted YJS Practitioner would be an invaluable protective factor.