

Reducing Reoffending Board (RRB) Minutes

30th September 2024, 2PM-4PM

Theme: Youth Justice and Young Adults (Transitions 18-25s)

Attendees:

MOPAC

VRU

British Transport Police

LPG

YJB

MPS

HMPPS

DWP

HMCTS

LB Haringey

MoJ

Clinks

NHSE

Apologies

Probation

HMCTS

Agenda Item 1 | Welcome & Apologies

MOPAC outlined the theme of the meeting is Youth Justice and Transitions (18-25 year olds in contact with the criminal system.) MOPAC also highlighted that, with members' approval, the RRB may incorporate more themes and issues linking to Youth Justice in future.

Agenda Item 2 | National priorities for the CJS post-election

MOPAC discussed the key national priorities for the CJS post-election. These include:

- The Crime and Policing Bill which is to include tougher measures to address persistent antisocial behaviour, tackle retail crime and knife crime.
- The introduction of the SDS40 policy to address ongoing prison capacity pressures, exacerbated by the disorder over the summer. Tranche 2 of SDS40 is expected to take place on 22 October

MOPAC mentioned that the LCJB have had extraordinary meetings to discuss SDS40 issues. HMPPS flagged that they will bring lessons learnt on Tranche 2 to the next meeting.

MOPAC provided an update regarding the PCP and highlighted to partners that they should feedback on their agencies' policies or plans and the ways in which youth justice might align with their work and the work carried out through the RRB. From this, new agenda items can be developed for future meetings. MOPAC also invited partners to feedback on frequency of having youth justice discussed at RRB.

Agenda Item 3 | Workshop context setting

slides were shared

YJB provided an overview of Youth Justice in London and discussed the YJB's guiding principles which promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention, as well as minimizing the criminogenic stigma children may face from contact with the system. YJB also discussed the importance of early intervention and diversion as effective approaches to reducing reoffending amongst children. YJB highlighted that important issues to consider include timely interventions, transition to adult services as key areas for improvement within youth justice.

The MPS Children's Strategy was recently published last week and focuses on Child First and was well received by the press.

MPS provided an overview of the Outcome 22 pilot, a limited trial which will apply to low level offending by children including knife crime to explore if there are further diversion opportunities after triage before taking a formal charge decision. The strategy has now been put out to partners for consultation and comment, and these recommendations

have been incorporated into the strategy. There will be a centrally led implementation plan that will align the Met's central delivery plan.

Agenda Item 4 | Youth Justice Workshop

The following question was put to the Board: How can we work in partnership to increase the speed of justice to improve outcomes for children and prevent offending behaviour becoming entrenched?

British Transport Police referenced the need to maintain a consistent approach as a police force, as well as ensure good join up between courts and youth justice in order to improve outcomes for children and prevent offending behaviour becoming entrenched?

LB Haringey discussed court backlogs and the negative impact of the lack of speed of justice on a child's behaviour and the opportunity to effectively intervene through diversion. and the need to discuss the issues relating to the court system. It is also important to consider the role of families in supporting interventions.

NHSE discussed ICB's involvement in supporting children and the need to link them with youth justice services. A good approach is funding local areas with the use of ICBs to support referral pathways for children. NHSE also highlighted the importance of co-ordinated partnership to provide services to support young people.

The need for ensuring good practice is consistent and communicated across London to support young people with services such as mental health and speech and language therapy was also raised

The next question was posed to the Board: Some 16/17-year-olds involved in the CJS 'age out' of access to some support services. What are some of the ways we could collectively address this challenge?

NHS mentioned that it is important for partners to gather evidence data of examples of when young people age out of services to demonstrate this to ICBs in order develop strategic approach to providing solutions.

Clinks mentioned that there are good propositions for young people in terms of interventions that are available earlier in their age group. This early intervention is leading to a reduction in reoffending later on in life. However, these services are being underutilised compared to programmes for 18+.

VRU have a programme of preventative and early intervention work. The key outcomes of the programme are providing education, training, and employment opportunities for young people aged 18-25.

YJB highlighted the importance of having organisations that are able to work across ages to avoid barriers to provision for young people. There are good examples of this where youth justice services work alongside agencies to provide support during a young person's various age milestones.

LB Haringey highlighted the need to remove the arbitrary cut off point at which services are no longer available for young people and ensure funding follows a young person and provides solutions for their needs irrespective of age. Simultaneously, at local level, there should better communication to avoid duplication of services of overloading young people with referrals to services.

The next question was posed to the Board: How can the RRB best support issues relating to youth justice?

MOPAC recently convened youth justice partners to look at the youth justice systems vision and develop a product aimed at facilitating improvements at a systemic level within the youth justice system. A commitment amongst partners was made to agree shared principles and focus while ensuring co-production with children and young adults. Commissioning has taken place to bring on board a consultant to convene this work. The RRB could potentially acts as governance for this work. Future meetings should explore the role of the board in supporting this work.

Agenda Item 5 | 18-25s transitions workshop

How can the RRB drive forward work to improve how the youth and adult justice systems interact with each other?

MOPAC highlighted that the MoJ process evaluation for the Y2A Hub was published and found the Y2A Hub to be effective in addressing specific needs of young adults on probation.

There is a challenge around changing priorities for organisations once a young person turns 18. Probation are working with all transition cases to ensure that there is a smooth handover from one organisation to another. It is necessary to consider how to support them beyond their time engaging with youth justice services and ensure that they continue to have access services once they have transitioned into adult probation. An example would be an unpaid work provision. It is important for commissioned services to consider starting their network earlier to support transition.

MOPAC outlined the reducing criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers protocol, MOPAC started reviewing the protocol at the beginning of this year and have reconvened the working with partners to review the protocol and examine ways to look at impact moving forwards. One main aspect will be extending the protocol to 18-25 year old.

How can all agencies within the CJS better address the specific needs of young adults?

slides were shared

HMPPS provided an overview of London Probation's current commissioned services for 18-25 year olds. London Probations future commissioning intentions were discussed, including the national CRS Recommissioning Programme. The Programme is overseeing the change to a national 'combined service' model, which means the current CRS single pathways for men will be combined into a holistic service. London is looking to commission a young adult element, which is expected to be tested in the Newham model between October 2024 and April 2025. The recommissioning timeline is yet to be determined but is likely to take place in 2026