

**Reducing Reoffending Board (RRB) Public Note**

25<sup>th</sup> June 2-4 pm, MS Teams

**Theme: Youth Justice Thematic | Improving the CJS response to Looked After Children and Young Adult Care Leavers****Attendees:**

Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), London Probation, CPS, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), NHS England, Greater London Authority (GLA), London Councils, Youth Justice Board (YJB), London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LIIA), Clinks, local authorities, and other partner agencies.

**Welcome & Context**

The meeting focused on improving criminal justice (CJS) responses to looked after children and care leavers, a key priority for reducing reoffending. Members discussed the Sentencing Review, which proposes reserving short custodial sentences for exceptional cases and expanding community-based management. Concerns were raised about the limited focus on diversion and the pressure on probation and police services, as well as the need for effective victim communication. Partners were encouraged to engage with the GLA's Inclusive Talent Strategy consultation, aimed at improving diversity and inclusion across London.

**Youth Justice System Vision**

MOPAC provided an update on the co-produced vision for London's youth justice system, shaped by input from system partners and young people with lived experience. Key priorities include a joined-up, "Child First" approach and tackling disproportionality. Housing and homelessness were identified as critical factors in reducing reoffending. The group also reviewed the "Reducing Criminalisation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers" protocol. The refreshed protocol, expanding protections to care leavers up to age 25, emphasises stronger health commitments, child-first practice, and enhanced oversight through Corporate Parenting Boards.

**Resettlement & Transition Support**

Partners discussed the challenges faced by children and young people transitioning from custody to adulthood, including inconsistent support, housing shortages, and gaps in probation capacity. Examples of good practice, such as Camden's multi-agency resettlement panels, were highlighted. Calls were made for better integration of youth justice, probation, leaving-care teams, and special educational needs services. The importance of early, joint planning between

children's services and housing teams was stressed. Partners emphasised the need to embed learning from local pilots into wider system improvements.

### **Improving Support for Care Leavers in the CJS**

Discussions focused on four priority areas:

1. Upstream prevention to reduce contact with the CJS
2. Improved identification of care leavers within the system
3. Enhanced diversion and tailored support
4. Better support for those convicted or sentenced

Initiatives discussed included an arrest referral pilot to systematically identify care-experienced individuals, expansion of trauma-informed approaches, and development of dedicated pathways for young adults. Partners agreed that inconsistent flagging of care status across the system remains a barrier to providing the right support.

### **Actions Agreed**

1. Partners to nominate senior representatives for the multi-agency group advancing the protocol for reducing care leaver criminalisation.
2. Key issues on resettlement and transitions to be escalated to the London Criminal Justice Board (LCJB).
3. Nominated working group to assess preparedness of widening corporate parenting duties locally
4. Feedback on the care-experienced identification pilot in MPS custody to be shared at a future meeting.
5. Guidance on care leavers within prosecution and diversion policies to be developed by MOPAC, CPS, and legal partners.
6. Best practice, such as Camden's young adult pathway, to be shared across agencies.
7. MOPAC, GLA, and partners to coordinate advocacy for enhanced care leaver support in the CJS.