



Ministry  
of Justice

**Rob Butler MP**  
Parliamentary Under  
Secretary of State for  
Justice

**MoJ ref:** SUB100474

21 October 2022

Dear colleagues,

## **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR YOUTH OFFENDING TEAMS**

I am writing to inform you of revised Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) which will be introduced in England from April 2023.

In May 2022, the then Minister announced a significant uplift in central government spending on youth justice over the coming three years. As then, we are clear that, with this major increase in funding, it is essential that we ensure that every pound is delivering impact and maximum value for the taxpayer. Key to this is having a strong performance oversight function, which in turn relies on having a strong data set.

My officials have engaged with frontline services, inspectorates and other government departments to develop a set of KPIs that focuses on the activity of each YOT as a multi-agency local partnership (i.e. statutory partners such as health, police and education, as well as core YOT staff). To ensure that we capture the breadth and success of the work which YOTs carry out, these KPIs will apply to all children with which YOTs are carrying out an intervention, not just those on the statutory caseload who have been convicted by the courts.

That is why I am writing to all Chairs of Management Boards, Heads of Services, Directors of Children's Services, Local Authority Chief Executives, and Police Crime and Commissioners – you all play an integral role in the success of delivering effective youth justice in your communities, and it is clear that it is only by working together to consider the holistic needs of children and their families that we can address the root causes which drive offending behaviour. YOTs are designed with this principle at their core, which is why I am convinced we need a set of metrics which capture the range of partnership working on which YOTs rely in order to be effective. The revised KPIs will ensure that we all – at both a local and the central level – have a clear understanding of how local multi-agency partnerships are operating.

The data will provide the transparency and accountability to help YOT Management Boards, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and the Ministry of Justice to recognise progress and successes as well as to focus attention and support where there are challenges. The aim is that this evidence can prompt conversations and enable local partners to work together to minimise the barriers to children's success, prevent offending and protect the public. Centrally, the data will be used to identify themes which present barriers for reducing reoffending. The KPIs will be kept under review to ensure that the data collected provides the evidence and

insight we need to drive progress. We plan to review how the 10 KPIs set out below are working after the first two data returns have been submitted and analysed, and we will continue to engage with you to ensure your views are considered as part of this process.

The 10 new KPIs are:

- a) Accommodation: % of children in the community and being released from custody with suitable accommodation arrangements
- b) Education, training and employment (ETE): % of children in the community and being released from custody attending a suitable ETE arrangement.
- c) SEND/Additional Learning Needs: % of children who have an identified SEND need (or Additional Learning Need in Wales), are in suitable ETE and have a formal learning plan in place for the current academic year
- d) Mental healthcare and emotional wellbeing: % of children in the community and being released from custody with a screened OR identified need for an intervention to improve mental health or emotional wellbeing; and of that the % of planned/offered interventions; of that % of children attending interventions
- e) Substance misuse: % of children with a screened OR identified need for specialist treatment intervention to address substance misuse; and of that the % of children with planned or offered intervention/treatment; and of that the % number of children attending intervention/treatment
- f) Out of court disposals (OOCs): % of OOC disposal interventions that are completed/not completed
- g) Management Board attendance: monitoring senior partner representation at management boards, and monitoring if partners contribute data from their individual services that identify areas of racial and ethnic disproportionality.
- h) Wider Services: % children who are currently on either an Early Help (EH) plan; on a child protection (CP) plan or classified as Child in need (CiN) or a looked after child (LAC). For Wales only, children who are classified as Children in Need of Care and Support
- i) Serious youth violence (SYV): rates of children convicted for SYV on the YOT caseload
- j) Victims: number of victims who consent to be contact by the YOT, and of those, the number of victims: engaged with about Restorative Justice opportunities; asked their view prior to OOC decision-making and planning for statutory court orders; provided information about the progress of the child's case (when requested) and provided with information on appropriate services that support victims (when requested)

In addition to the 10 new KPIs listed above, Youth Offending Teams will continue to be required to capture data on the 4 current KPIs (First Time Entrants, reoffending binary rate and frequency rate, and the number of children in custody) as they provide a helpful overview of how the youth justice system as a whole is delivering against our principle statutory aim of preventing (re)offending by children. These system measures should continue to inform discussion at a local level. YJB and MoJ will also continue to use the information to perform their oversight function and to understand the performance of the system as a whole.

YOT Heads of Service and Chairs of Management Board can expect a letter from the Youth Justice Board shortly, which will outline specific guidance on data collection.

Alongside this letter, the Youth Justice Board is sharing updated terms and conditions of grant, which set out clear expectations regarding the level of standards and performance expected of youth justice services. These new terms and conditions will come into effect from April 2023, alongside the new KPIs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the time and expertise many of you have given during the engagement phase of this work, which has helped to shape the final set of KPIs. I look forward to working with you to continue to develop and drive a youth justice system that works to support children and creates safer communities for us all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Butler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**ROB BUTLER MP**