

# STOCKPORT YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

2025/2026



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# Introduction, vision & strategy

## SECTION 1



As Chair of the Youth Justice Partnership Board, I welcome this year's Youth Justice Plan. It highlights last year's achievements and outlines our priorities as a partnership for the coming year. As in previous years the plan is supported by the partnership and undergoes democratic scrutiny before Council approval.

This year, we have focused on embedding the Youth Justice & Complex Safeguarding alignment and strengthening our social work practice. We have further developed our prevention and diversion strategies, ensuring pathways are in place with Early Help, Family

Hubs and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding & Support Hub (MASSH) and continued to improve our links with partners in education to ensure that the children we are supporting get the best outcomes through education, training, and employment.

We have continued to deliver on the HMI Youth Justice Improvement Plan following our inspection in 2022, and this year we offered to be a pilot for the new HMIP Framework and found the experience to be helpful as a benchmark on our progress. In January 2025 we held a Youth Justice Partnership Board development session, focused on our improvement plan, and invited the youth justice management team to collaborate on the content and the next steps.

As the Chair of the Board, I will continue to steer our board members, at pace, to ensure accountability and progress to meet high standards that our children, families, and key stakeholders expect.

**Chris McLoughlin OBE**  
**Executive Director People and Neighbourhoods**  
**Director of Children's Services**  
**Chair Youth Justice Partnership Board**  
**June 2025**

# OUR VISION IN STOCKPORT

Our overarching ambition for Stockport is “to be the best place to live happy and healthy lives. We want to create a place where anything is possible, a place that everyone right across the Borough can be proud of:”



Our vision for children and families is key to achieving this ambition.

Our shared vision is for Stockport to be the **best** place for all children to grow up **happy**, healthy, with confidence, ambition and surrounded by love, care, and **kindness**. We want all families to feel **supported**, confident, and **resilient** and connected to their community and we want all children to have the very best start in life and to **thrive** throughout their growing up and beyond.

**Inclusion is at the heart of our Children and Young People Plan:** most children and young people in Stockport live in settled families, are healthy, benefit from high quality education places and achieve well at school and college. However, there are still too many children and families experiencing specific inequalities which prevent them from reaching their potential.

**Our practice** is founded on the belief that every child and young person matters and matters equally. We will nurture, sustain, and further develop connections, relationships, and mutual support between ourselves and within our communities in Stockport to build a better future, where all children and young people are included in the success of their community, and no one is left behind.

# Governance, Leadership & Partnership Arrangements

## SECTION 2



Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 mandates local authorities to create and implement an annual Youth Justice Plan, detailing the provision, funding, composition, operation, and functions of youth justice services. The plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) for England and Wales and published as directed by the Secretary of State.

Stockport's Youth Justice Partnership Board (YJPB) meets quarterly, with senior partners from key agencies ensuring effective multi-agency collaboration. The board includes representatives from Probation, Police, Health, Education, Social Care, and other relevant agencies.

The Board reports to the One Safer Stockport Partnership and the Stockport Family Partnership Board, with regular updates to the Safeguarding Executive Partnership. The Youth Justice Plan undergoes full democratic & scrutiny processes before going to council for full approval.

Stockport Youth Justice & Complex Safeguarding is part of the 'Stockport Family' integrated education, health, and care model. The service also leads on delivering detached youth work provision and schools-based programmes across the borough. It also leads on serious violence reduction on behalf of the OSSP and collaborates with the GM Violence Reduction Unit on community-led initiatives.

# Update on the previous year

## SECTION 3

### Progress on Priorities in Previous Plan

Last year's priorities for the Youth Justice Partnership focused seven recommendations monitored by the Youth Justice Partnership Board and YJ Management Team.

#### **Actions and Progress:**

1. **Board Roles and Responsibilities:** Personal induction held with new members and offered to existing ones. Review of membership and lead areas.
2. **Management Structure:** Assistant Service Lead appointed on a short-term basis for the oversight of Complex Safeguarding & Missing from Home.
3. **Children and Families' Views:** The participation model further embedded through MOMO (Shout Pro), capturing children's voices via a digital platform.
4. **Early Assessment and Safety Planning:** Youth Justice and Complex Safeguarding alignment under one management structure and strengthened links to the MASSH.
5. **Education Provision:** Collaboration between YJS and education colleagues and the Virtual School for regular updates and monitoring of provision.
6. **Information Sharing with Police:** Improved data and intelligence-sharing, including Stop & Search, to inform joint Daily Governance.
7. **Quality Assurance:** Revised QA model implemented to improve assessment, planning, intervention & delivery.

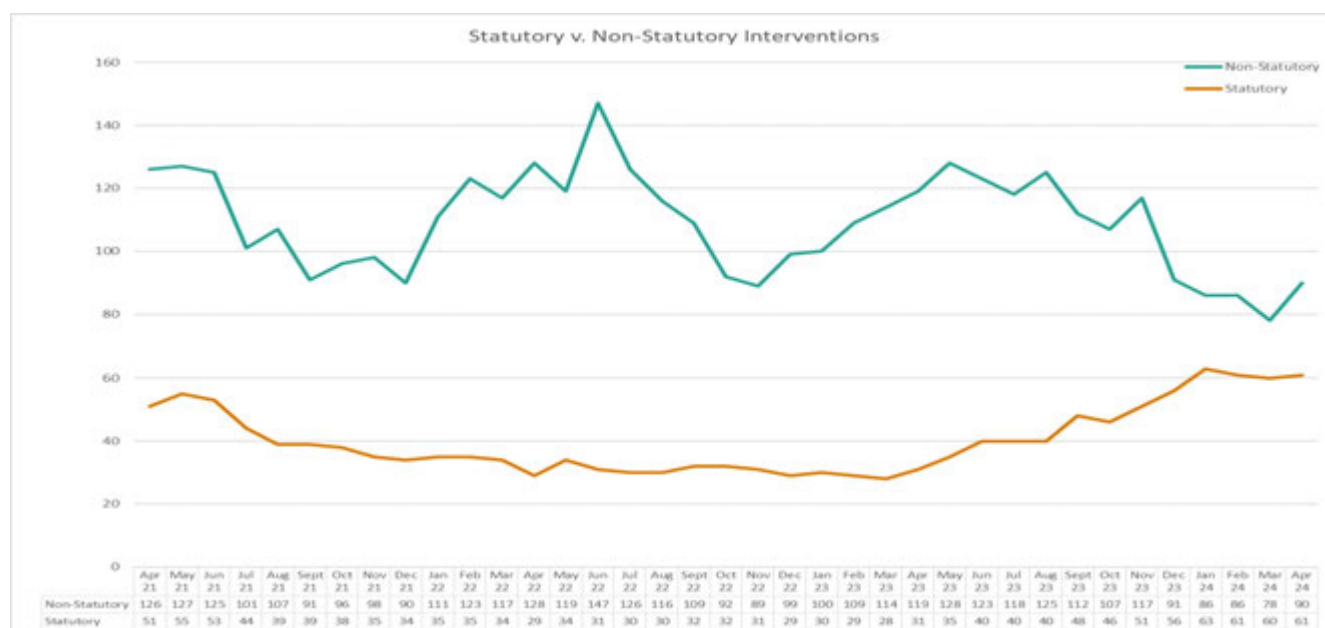
### Performance over the Previous Year

The Youth Justice Partnership Board receives regular performance reports based on data from the Youth Justice 'Tableau Dashboard' developed by SMBC Business Intelligence Team. This includes national and local performance data, with quarterly submissions of 10 new KPIs monitored by the YJB, starting March 2025.

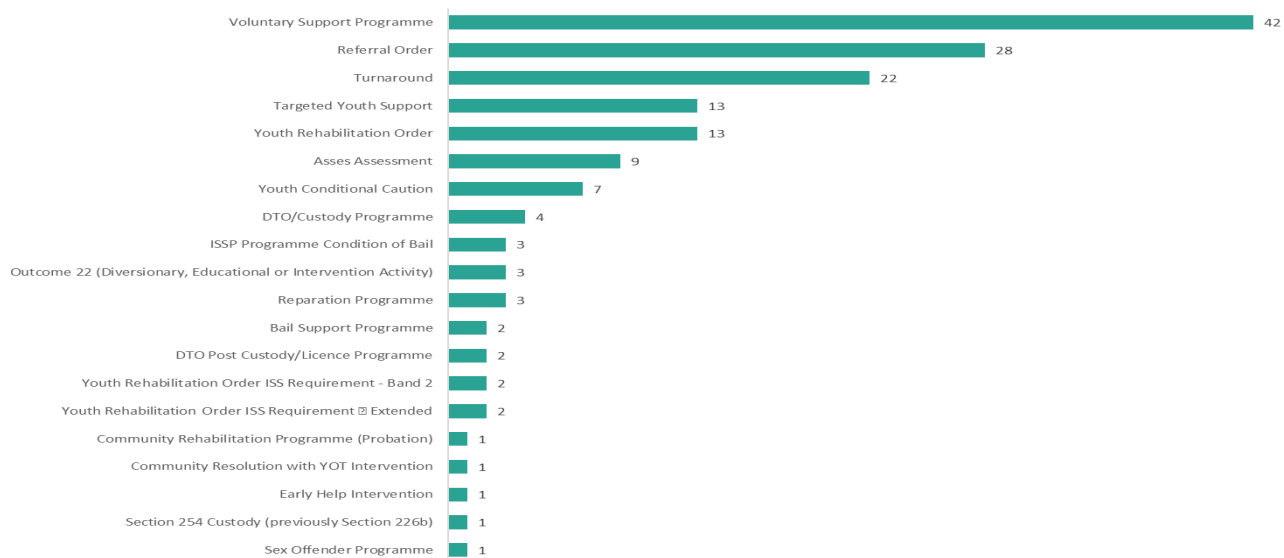
Quantitative and qualitative performance data is scrutinised by the YJPB, identifying barriers and opportunities. Statutory interventions have risen, while voluntary offers have fallen, which is in part due to the pre-charge offer with early intervention from the MoJ Turnaround programme.

The increase in First Time Entrants is now starting to stabilise after the significant increase due to more arrests across GM districts, 'Violence Against the Person' remains the highest index offence, followed by Theft & Handling, Vehicle Theft and Robbery. The binary rate of reoffending has dropped, indicating effective early intervention, while the frequency rate of reoffending among entrenched offenders remains high.

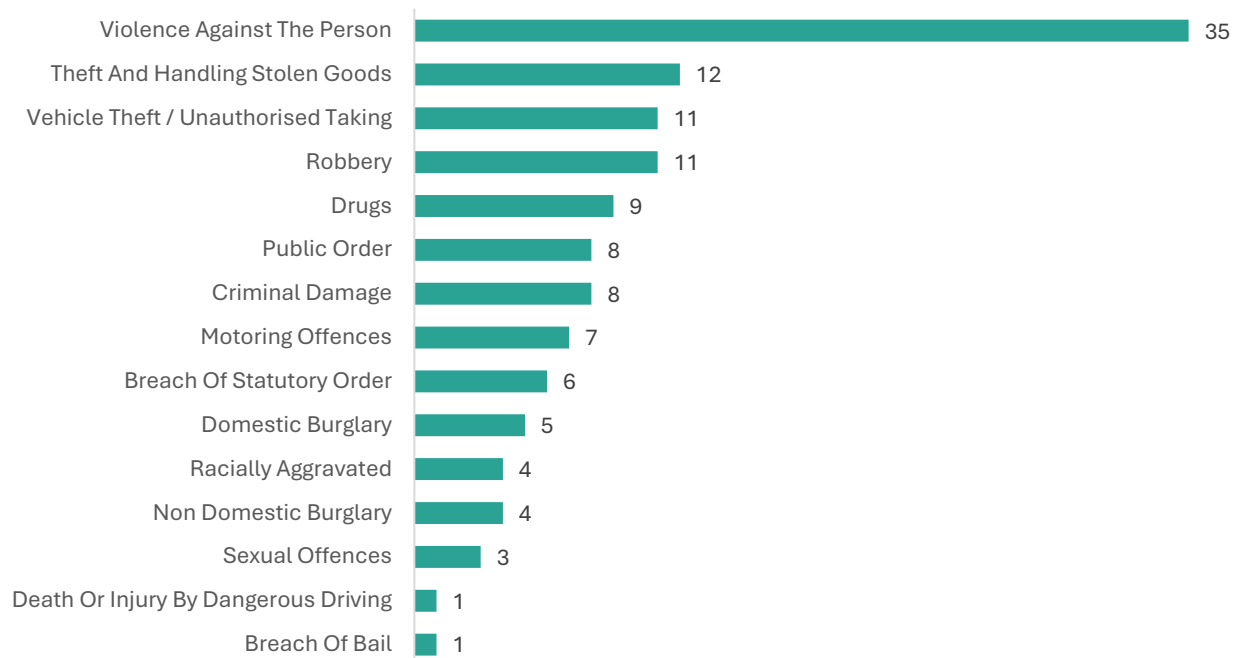
Use of Custody has reduced, but remand rates have changed, with shorter remands for repeat offenders. This is monitored through Stockport's involvement in the GM Remand Pilot, supported by MoJ.

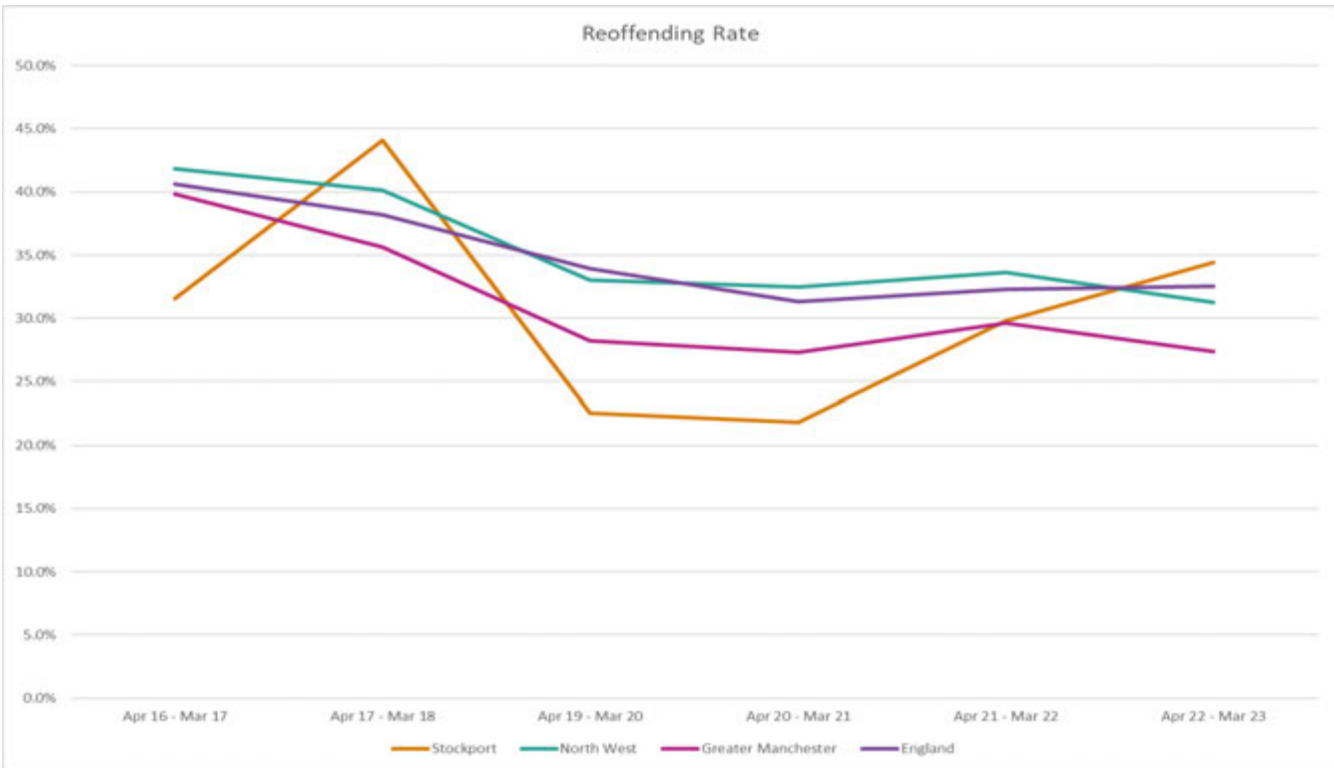
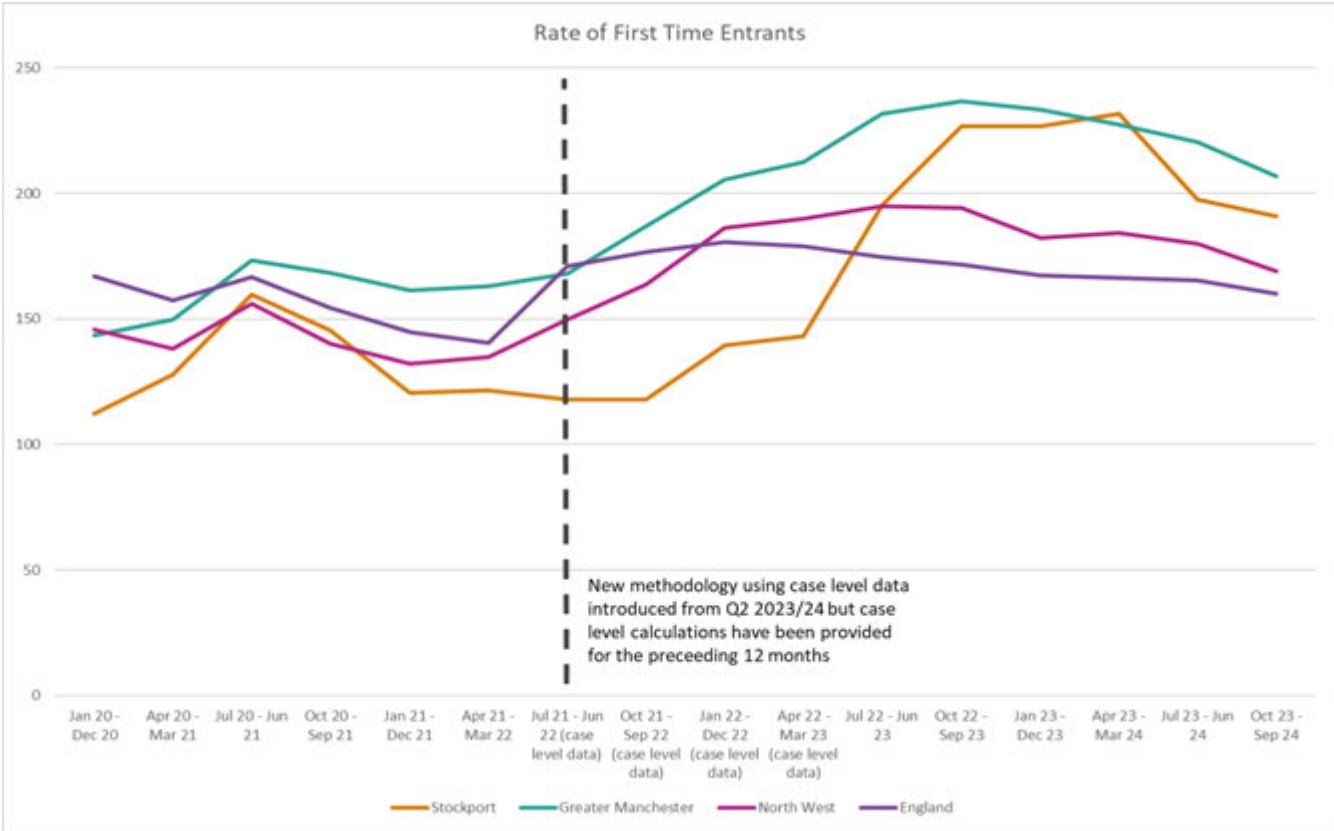


## Open Interventions at 30th April 2025

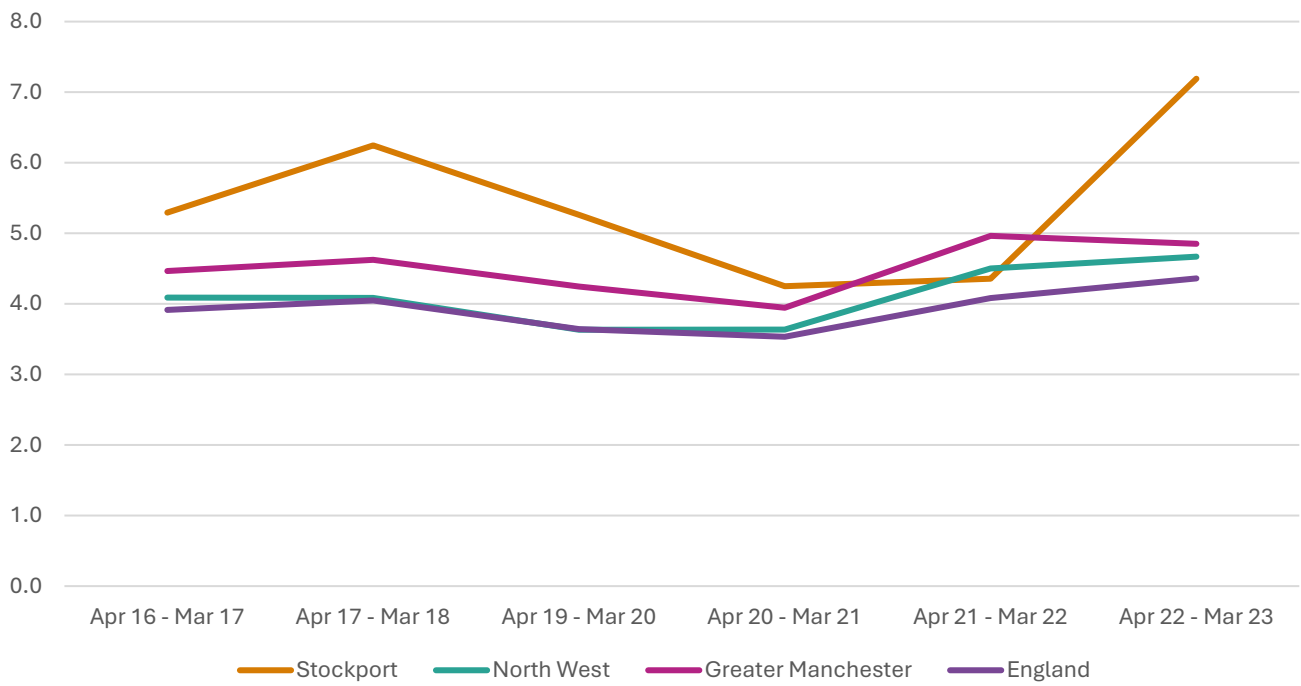


## Open Interventions, Linked Offences at 30th April 2025

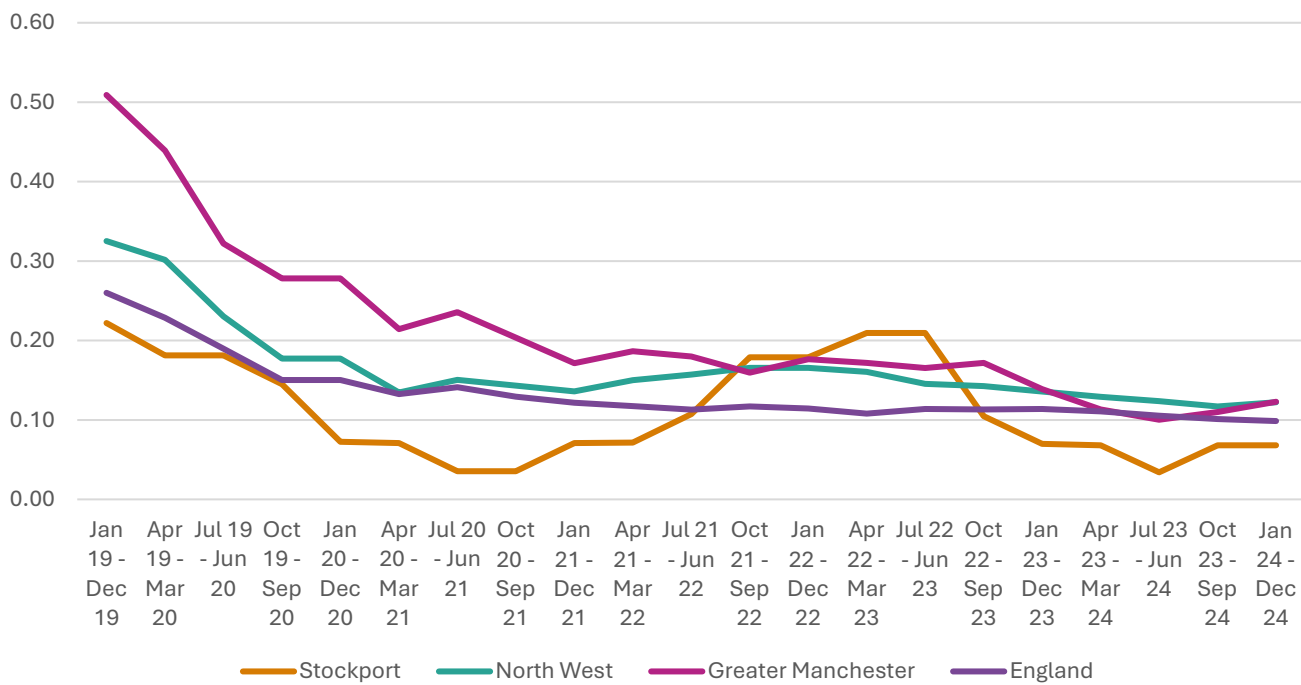




### Reoffences per Reoffender



### Use of Custody, Rate per 1000 10-17 Year Old Population



# Risks and Issues

## *Risks and Proposed Actions:*

### 1. Funding Uncertainty:

- **Risk:** Short-term funding with prescriptive terms impacting seamless service delivery.
- **Action:** National and regional lobbying for sustainable funding.

### 2. Cost-of-Living Increases:

- **Risk:** Funding settlements not covering inflationary pay rises and provider charges.
- **Action:** Review arrangements and negotiate with providers.

### 3. Service Capacity:

- **Risk:** Increasing referrals due to Outcome 22/PPIED/NFA cases.
- **Action:** Prioritise cases with GMP with clear thresholds.

### 4. Management Capacity:

- **Risk:** Leading multiple areas, including service alignment and statutory requirements.
- **Action:** Focus on clear work plans to avoid duplication, respond to needs and focus on outcomes.

### 5. Partnership Contributions & Sustainability:

- **Risk:** Statutory commitments. Short-term grant funding issues.
- **Action:** Keep on YJPB agenda, key for external partners.

### 6. EDI & Participation:

- **Risk:** Ensuring service responsiveness to demographic changes, understanding of intersectionality and children's voices.
- **Action:** Review best practice, scrutinise data, regular check-in's, training packages, workshops and stay updated on research.

### 7. Victim Perspective:

- **Risk:** Maintaining consistent victim representation in service delivery.
- **Action:** Benchmark HMIP Framework requirements against current offer.

## ***Issues and Proposed Actions:***

### **1. Cross-Border Information & Intelligence:**

- **Issue:** Addressing contextual safeguarding and serious violence.
- **Action:** Implement CSPR recommendations and GM VRU responses locally. Work with partners in GMCA to keep on the agenda.

### **2. Education:**

- **Issue:** Reviewing current offer and continued alignment with virtual schools.
- **Action:** Continue developing working arrangements and information-sharing, with effective systems and processes in place.

### **3. Family Hubs & Detached Youth Work:**

- **Issue:** Aligning with Family Hubs and responding to locality ASB and youth disorder.
- **Action:** Develop the adolescent youth offer with links to schools.

### **4. GMP Data Consistency:**

- **Issue:** Ensuring regular and consistent data for prevention and diversion processes.
- **Action:** Implement a GMP-wide approach through Child-Centred Policing.

### **5. Adolescent Safeguarding Framework:**

- **Issue:** Ensuring early identification that focuses on the distinct needs of adolescents.
- **Action:** Work with partners to embed the offer across Stockport Family.

# Plans for the forthcoming year

## SECTION 4



### Child First

Stockport Youth Justice and Complex Safeguarding Service implements the Youth Justice Board's vision of a "Child First" youth justice system, embracing four pillars:

<b>As children</b>	Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.
<b>Building pro-social identity</b>	Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.
<b>Collaborating with children</b>	Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.
<b>Diverting from stigma</b>	Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

**Voice of the Child:** The service listens to children to inform and shape service delivery through a Participation Strategy. Feedback is gathered via electronic self-assessments, informal discussions, and social media. The “You Said, We Did” approach ensures feedback is meaningful and collaborative.

The service provides forums for young people to share their views. During initial contact, a Code of Conduct and information on data-sharing are provided, with input from a Speech and Language Therapist for accessibility. Self-assessments cover various aspects of their lives and are detailed in AssetPlus or the Youth Justice Prevention and Diversion assessment tool.

Youth Justice workers have used different methods to make these tools accessible, e.g. using words and pictures, through interpreters and using accessible language the young person understands. The young person alongside the parent/carer are required to sign the plan and are provided with a copy. These plans are reviewed, including the young person and parent/carer to consider completed interventions and any amendments to these plans.

**Mind of My Own: Shout Pro:** To creatively capture young people’s views, we’ve embraced virtual tools like *Mind of My Own*, a platform co-produced with Youth Justice Services. We continue to commission *Shout Pro Surveys* to gather feedback digitally.

These accessible, multilingual surveys (100+ languages, text-to-speech, customizable) have been used by young people and their parents/carers since 2023. Topics include:

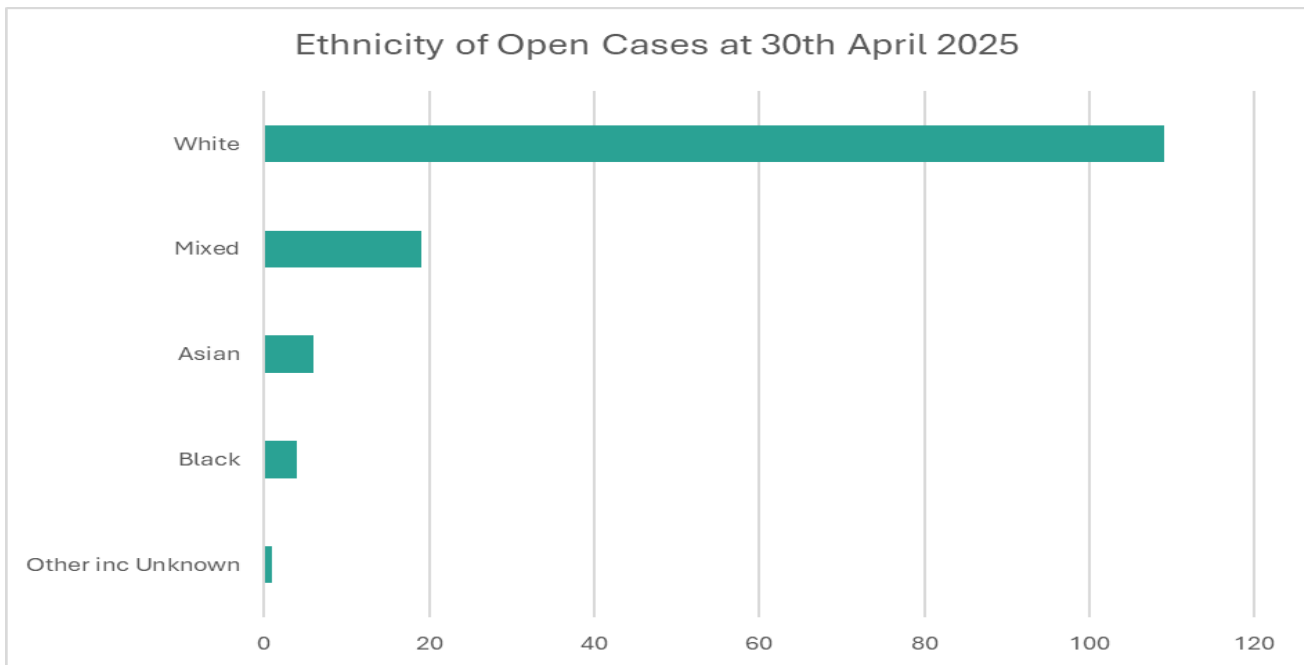
- ‘My Community and Me’
- ‘My Views’
- ‘Safety in Stockport’
- ‘Interventions’ &
- ‘Parent/Carer Feedback’

Surveys target young people engaged with our service, as well as those supported by RTime Detached Youth Work and other Stockport Family Services.

In 2025/26, three new surveys, shaped by our Diversity and Participation Staff Groups, will be launched.



**Diversity and Participation Staff Group:** Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support hold a quarterly YJS Participation and Diversity sub-group which is attended by a range of practitioners representing different parts of the service, including the representatives from the Detached Youth Work Team. We invite guest speakers to facilitate discussions. This has included GMP colleagues, IOPC representatives and Mind of My Own practitioners. This is also included in the 'Participation Strategy' across the Stockport Family Service, ensuring that we remain involved in the Strengthening Youth Voice Network Meetings to understand feedback from those across the services.



## Feedback from Children & Parents

*"Our worker was absolutely amazing from the very beginning. Eight years I was asking for help and he was the only person who stood by me and my children the whole time. When I feel alone in the world and nobody to talk to the help genuinely is not there like people say. You have to be doing something wrong to get support but our worker fought for me and my children to try and get us the help we needed. He deserves a medal".*

*Feedback from a Parent*

This young person shared that the case officer pro-actively reached out to him during a difficult time. The case officer reached out to the young person about not having to come into the town centre, reflecting his feelings and how things were in the community. The case officer offered this young person support and reflection and pro-actively reached out to him at this time. This young person shared the conversation with other professionals, sharing that the case officer had reached out and touched base and this was significant and important to him.

Feedback from a young person

*“Extremely grateful for all you do with Child A. An absolute star and credit to the Service. So kind, helpful and supportive. Child A is extremely fortunate to work with someone so professional and kind”.*

*Feedback from a parent*

# Celebrating Success

The service has also implemented a “Young Person of the month” award whereby the team nominates individuals who have made significant progress. They are awarded with a certificate and a voucher/activity dependant on the young person’s interest.

## Example Nominations

*“Child B has been out of stable education since his offence was committed in May 2023. He was due to start on main site at the PRU but was threatened on his first day which destroyed his confidence, and he refused to attend since then. In September Child B started at Bxxxx Hxxxx and has attended every day on his full-time timetable. He appears much happier now that he has less time isolated at home and working hard to catch up on the work missed with the time off”.*

*“Child C has worked really hard to overcome the challenges and rebuild his identity, he has built trusted relationships with key professionals, which has allowed him to be more open about his experiences. Engagement for Child C has become more meaningful and he has started to recognise that his offending does not define him”.*

*“Child D is engaging well and currently applying for an CSCS Card. He is saving for his own bike and wants to get a provisional licence. He has ambition and appears to be leaving his previous negative life behind him. Child D has made huge progress; he has adapted well to change”*

# Resources and Services

The Youth Justice Partnership funds youth justice services across the borough, including post-arrest, pre-charge, out of court, pre-court, and post-court functions. The combined service also has responsibility for Complex Safeguarding & Missing from Home and oversees the GM VRU (Violence Reduction Unit) delivery plan on behalf of One Safer Stockport Partnership (OSSP) and the RTime 'detached youth work' functions.



***All the services above have been aligned under one management structure, and the following gives a brief oversight of the resources and services offered:***

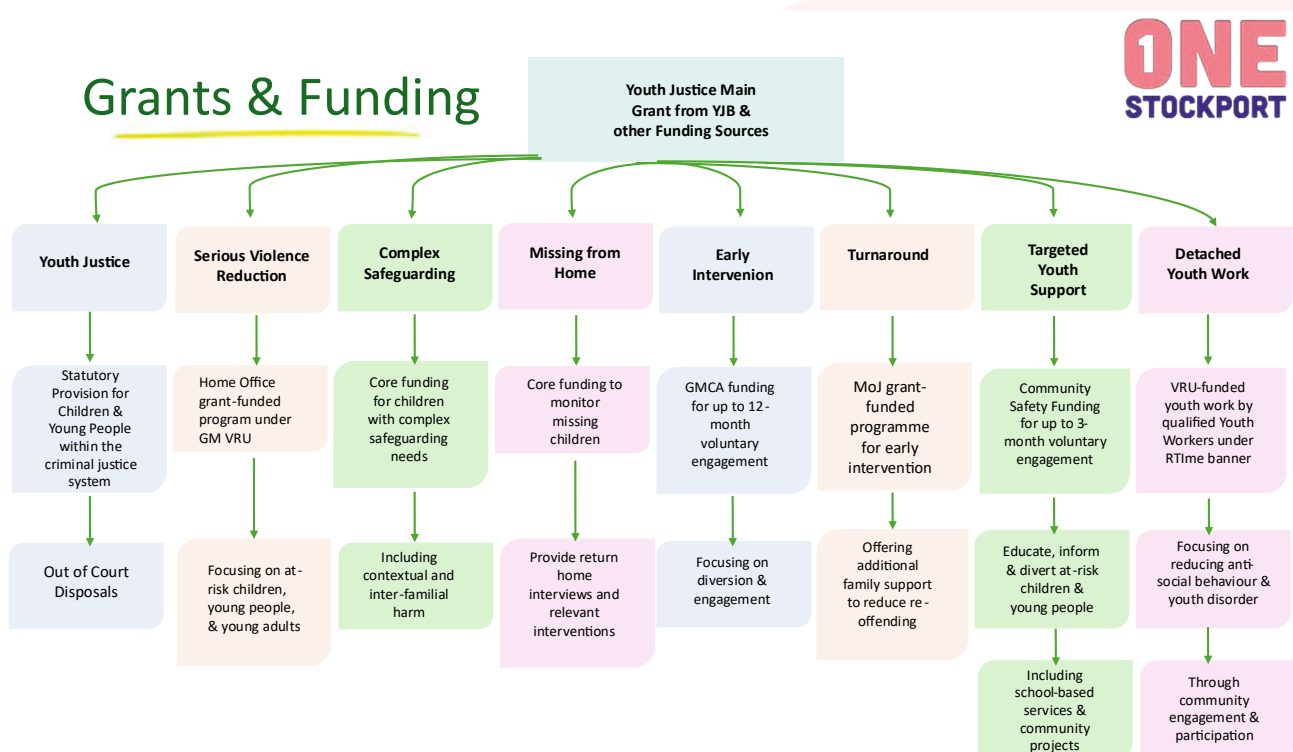
**Youth Justice** is funded through SMBC cash limit and external grants. MoJ 'Turnaround' funding was made available again for pre-charge interventions, as well as additional main grants from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to cover all statutory functions from prevention through to custody & resettlement \*see Annex (which covers the Youth Justice funding only).

**Complex Safeguarding** services are funded mainly through the children's cash limit budget and deliver on child exploitation services, modern-day slavery and missing from home.

**Serious Violence Reduction** funding comes through the GM VRU and contributes towards the detached youth work delivery, the schools-based programmes, the 16+ ETE mentoring, and the probation transitions work.

**Serious Violence Duty** funding comes through the Home Office and covers some of the targeted holiday time activities through detached youth work, and associated labour costs.

**Community Safety** funding comes through a delegated GM budget from the Home Office and pays for the targeted sports and activities programmes, which attract hundreds of children across the borough, including 5 football programmes through Stockport County and Manchester Utd, and also boxing programmes delivered by local providers delivering services in Stockport. The Youth Justice Partnership targets budget and resources on priority areas and interventions. Regular data from the Tableau Dashboard ensures effective and efficient use of funds for services that benefit the community and ensure positive outcomes for children and their families.



# Board Development

Executive Director: People and Integration Director of Children Services Chair of the Youth Justice Partnership Board <b>Chris McLoughlin OBE</b> 			
(Vice-Chair) Director of Place Management	Lead Member Children Families & Education	Director for Education, Work & Skills	Principal Lead Children's Social Care & Commissioning
Team Manager, Business Intelligence	Director for Family Help & Integration	Head of Youth Justice, Complex Safeguarding & Serious Violence	Assistant Service Lead, Youth Justice & Complex Safeguarding
Magistrate & Chair of the GM Youth Court Bench	Youth Justice Oversight Manager, NW Youth Justice Board	Head of Ethnic Diversity Service	Head of Virtual School
Head of ASB Services Stockport Homes Group	Interim Head of Stockport & Trafford Delivery Unit (Probation)	Associate Director, Safeguarding (NHS GM ICS)	Superintendent Operations (GMP)

The Youth Justice Partnership Board meet quarterly, and this includes a development session annually.

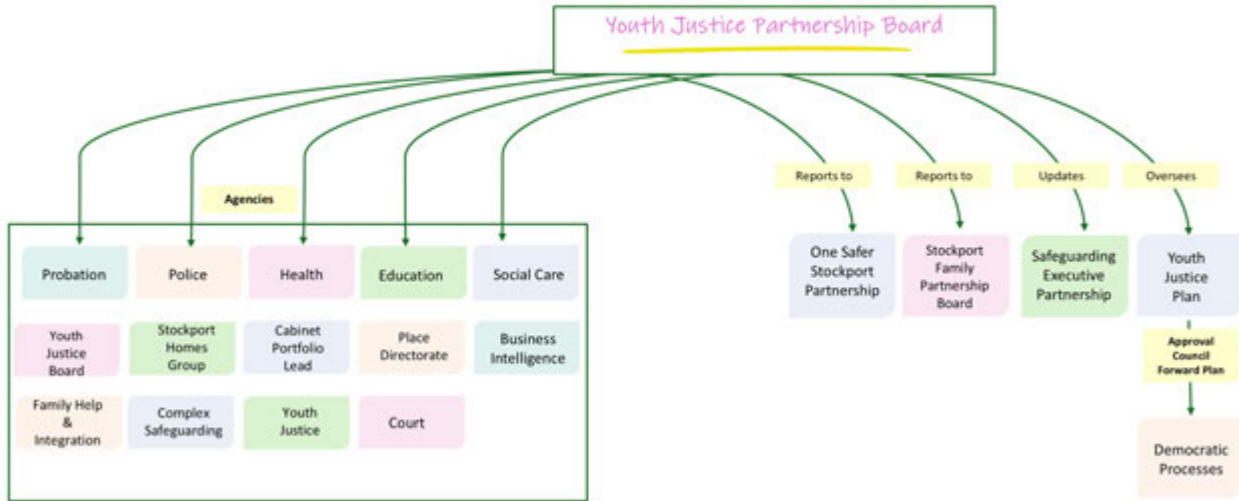
Agenda items throughout 2024/25 have focused on the Probation re-set, Youth Justice Diversion, YJ Health Offer, Child-Centred Policing, YJ Race & Ethnicity Report, Child-Centred Police Custody and various critical policies were reviewed and received approval through the Board. This is in addition to preparing for the HMIP Pilot Inspection in October 2024.

We were also joined by the Chief Executive of the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) and the Assistant Director for Policing and Youth Justice, where they talked with board members about the work of YEF and the next steps for the national organisation.

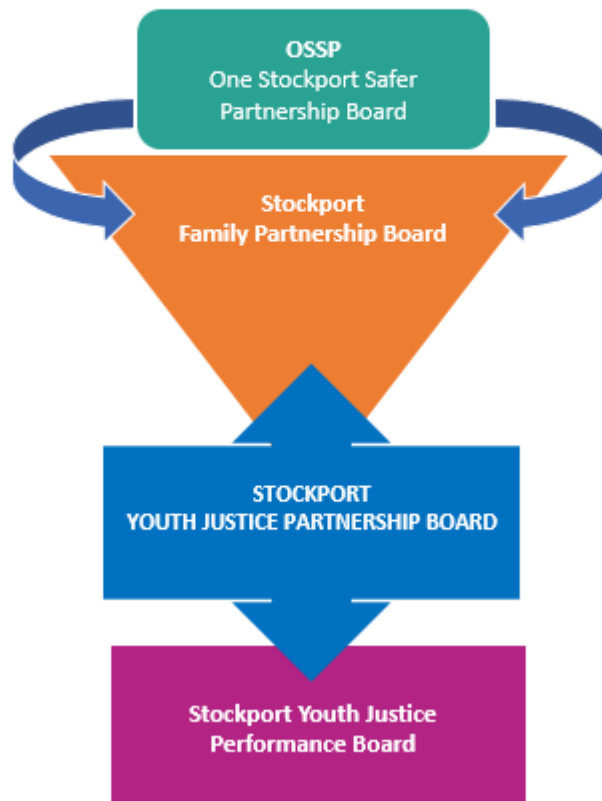
They also took the opportunity to spend time with some of the youth justice practice staff and talk to children to get a better understanding of the practice on the ground. This year's YJPB development session focused on the opportunities highlighted through the HMIP Pilot Inspection in October 2024.

The Board regularly reviews its membership and sets the strategic direction for youth justice delivery, and partnership services.

### Youth Justice Partnership Board Reporting Structure



## Stockport Youth Justice Partnership Board



# Workforce Development



Ensuring the workforce has access to appropriate training and development is crucial. All staff have access to the Council's core training, including mandatory training on Safeguarding, EDI, Data Protection, SEND, and Autism.

Practice development sessions are now well embedded within the service, and in the past year we have undertaken sessions around exploitation, NRM's, Youth Participatory Framework, child friendly plans and using data to inform casework.

We have also delivered training sessions to Stockport Family around 'working with adolescents.' This highlighted the need to work closer with Early Help colleagues to support early help and identifying risks for adolescents.

Following the alignment of Youth Justice and Complex Safeguarding in April 2024 we have been holding regular staff get togethers to strengthen working relationship within the team and better understand the synergy between the services.

We have had the opportunity to celebrate staff successes this year through the Butler Trust 'Hidden Heroes' Day on 25th September 2024 and this was well received.

We have had an increased focus on diversity this year and our training has mirrored this. We have attended training sessions around racism by our colleagues from the Ethnic Diversity Service, along with 'Show Racism the Red Card' and cultural training around Irish Travellers. We have also celebrated Black History month by sharing local cuisine and having an 'open door' lunch session for all colleagues, and sharing books written by global majority authors. We also focused on interventions to help young people to explore their heritage and identity, such as the use of the 'culturagram'. Staff have developed a much wider understanding of intersectionality and the lived experience of the children and families they support.

# Evidence-based Practice & Innovation

## Health & Wellbeing

The Youth Justice Health & Wellbeing Team offers various health interventions and screenings for all cases, working directly with children. Their trauma-informed practices were praised by HMIP. They continue to support young people, families, and offer services to both youth justice and complex safeguarding.

The Youth Justice Health & Wellbeing Team have offered a number of training sessions over the past year including anxiety-based school avoidance. Further sessions are also planned this year including an 'Introduction to Speech & Language', along with visuals/talking mats, demand avoidance, vocabulary, neurodiversity and improving young people's mental health.

## MOSAIC (Substance Misuse Service)

Over the past year we have enhanced our long-standing working relationship with Mosaic, our substance misuse service. In response to increased levels of anti-social behaviour in the town centre and the new Stockport Interchange, a multi-agency programme called 'Operation MADAE' and has been delivered jointly by the Police, Youth Justice, Detached Youth Work & Mosaic. The focus is on disruption and education, which includes signposting young people to Mosaic regarding substance misuse as required.

## Work with TiPP

In addition, we have been collaborating with TiPP to develop an arts-based programme for young people to create artwork for the Stockport Interchange, as part of the Bee Network. Unfortunately, because the Interchange has been a target for some ASB and criminality since it opened in 2024, the aim is to allow young people to create something that they are proud of in this space to reduce incidents of disorder and harm. This will take place over the summer of 2025.

# Evaluation

## Children in Police Custody

Stockport co-leads a GM pilot for child-centred practices in police custody at Cheadle Heath Custody Suite. The pilot aims to ensure children are treated in a trauma-informed way, diverting them from custody when possible and using 'Voluntary Attendance' procedures. For children who must enter custody, the goal is to reduce detention time through child-centred practices, frequent senior decision-making, and enhanced safeguarding oversight. An evaluation from Nottingham University has been produced and shared with GMP's senior leadership team.

## GM Remand Pilot

Stockport and Manchester City Council worked with the MoJ to secure funding for a Remand Pilot in GM; pooling the GM YJ Remand budget to seek alternatives to custodial remands, with the overall aim of reducing demand and cost. This is based on a 'Theory of Change' and is now subject to an evaluation through its research partner, Manchester Metropolitan University, as it enters its third year.

## Youth Endowment Fund (YEF)

Stockport Youth Justice uses the YEF Toolkit to reduce serious violence among children and young people. In July 2024, the YEF Chief Exec and Assistant Director shadowed Stockport and Manchester Youth Justice Services to observe practices which inform their research theories. They also had the opportunity to meet with young people.

YEF have several projects that seek to determine 'What Works' through research and evaluation. In GM one of these is being led by the Centre for Justice Innovation (CJI) and GM Youth Justice Services, and GM have also been successful in securing YEF funding for a 'Whole Area Model' pilot of Youth Justice, focusing on out of court work.

# Priorities for the Coming Year

1. Review the service structure to ensure there is the right capacity and skill mix to deliver consistently good quality practice and robust permanent management oversight processes for the needs of young people and the service.
2. Review the Quality Assurance Framework to provide robust oversight of practice and evidence of the quality of casework and impact of work with children, young people and victims.
3. Understand the breadth of the victim offer across Stockport and ensure that this is reflected across the Youth Justice Partnership Board priorities.
4. Develop a strategic and practice oversight with GMP to better understand the intelligence landscape and context of those young people committing the most offences and high harm in communities, to reduce the frequency re-offending rate.
5. Ensure protected characteristics are routinely provided by partners, recorded accurately, and considered in case supervision.

## Standards for Children

### National Standards Audit

The National Standards Audit for Court, submitted to the YJB in October 2023, found Stockport YJS effective in diverting children from Court and minimising remands. The audit praised fair treatment and engagement of young people, with reports informed by AssetPlus highlighting desistance factors and victim safety. The YJB have not carried out a National Standard audit since then but as a partnership we developed an action plan in response:

#### **Actions Taken:**

##### **Benchmarking**

*Stockport YJS benchmarked itself against HMIP Thematic Inspection and the Traverse Report, presented to the Youth Justice Partnership Board.*

**Court Passport**

*Developed to inform Magistrates of young people's diversity and communication needs.*

**GM Remand Strategy**

*Created to reduce the overuse of remands across Greater Manchester and reduce the financial cost.*

**Improved Communication**

*Regular weekly Youth Court resolution meetings established between Manchester Courts and YJS areas.*

## Quality Assurance

Since January 2024, Stockport YJS has modified its QA model and undertaken thematic quality assurance of cases to analyse and identify training needs. QA areas completed this year focused on exploitation and intervention delivery. Future areas will address education and disproportionality.

As a result of the 2022 HMIP inspection, and the HMIP pilot in 2024 which was conducted under the new framework, there is a renewed national emphasis on the quality of casework and the outcome for victims. Significant attention has focused on the recommendations that the inspectorate made, particularly in relation to the variations in casework, with some showing outstanding practice, whilst others were not up to the standard required, or what we would expect. There was a distinct difference in the social work level of assessment and analysis, when compared to those of other youth justice officers, and therefore we are working on enhancing our Social Work offer to reflect the skills needed for the level of complexity that the current caseload presents with. This has been discussed with the Youth Justice Partnership Board, and we have a robust action plan in place to review the current service model to improve practice and ensure that HMIP benchmarking informs everything that we deliver. This includes training, development, QA and learning from other areas. This ensures we maintain a specific focus on performance-related practice and, with assistance from HR colleagues, have instigated actions accordingly. We anticipate that HMIP will return anytime from 2026.

# Service Development

## Enhancing Learning and Practice

Over the past year, Stockport Youth Justice has used inspections, research, thematic reviews and learning outcomes to improve practice and identify gaps. This continues to be the main priority for the service.

## Diversity & Disproportionality

Additional focus on race, ethnicity, children looked after, speech, learning & communication needs, and school exclusions. Regular reports and deep dives support this effort.

## HMI Inspections

Responses to various HMIP inspections have been frequently discussed and disseminated to ensure current learning. This includes single inspections and thematics which assist as a benchmarking exercise and have been utilised and shared with the YJPB.

## YOI Inspections

Inspections in custodial institutions focused on safeguarding and outcomes for girls. Joint events aim to improve communication between custody and the community.

## Police Custody Inspections

HMICFRS inspection of GMP Custody Suites, led to a suite of recommendations including children who are detained and led to the 'Child-Centred Custody' pilot.

## Other Inspections

Ofsted ILACS recent inspection and previous CQC SEND inspections all inform work of the service and wider partnership.

# National Priority Areas

## Children from Groups which are Over-represented



### Youth Justice Tableau Dashboard

To support the Youth Justice Partnership Board's focus on disproportionality and marginalisation, the Youth Justice Tableau Dashboard collates data to ensure assurance and oversight.

This framework can help guide data collection, whilst the dashboard design helps monitor children within the system who are over-represented and assists in the planning and delivery of services. These findings are regularly presented and reviewed at the Youth Justice Partnership Board.

### Key Areas for Enhanced Monitoring in the Youth Justice Tableau Dashboard

#### **Race & Ethnicity:**

Identify overrepresentation and patterns of disparity of the global majority.

#### **Gender:**

Understand gender-based trends and tailor interventions, particularly around young women or non-binary youth.

#### **Age:**

Highlight age-related vulnerabilities, such as younger children entering the system and transitions to adulthood.

#### **Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs):**

Assess adequacy of support for children with additional learning needs and their outcomes.

#### **Children in Care (CiC):**

Investigate systemic factors driving CiC entry into youth justice and the impact of placement geographically.

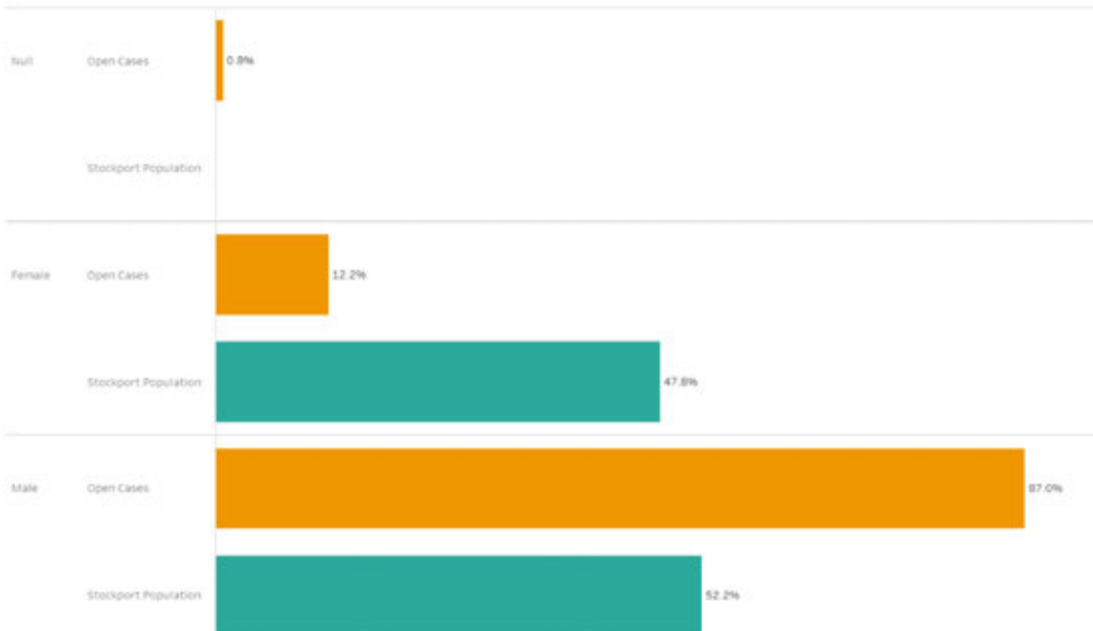
#### **Exclusions & Attendance:**

Understand education marginalisation as a pathway into justice involvement.

## Gender - June 2025

### Gender

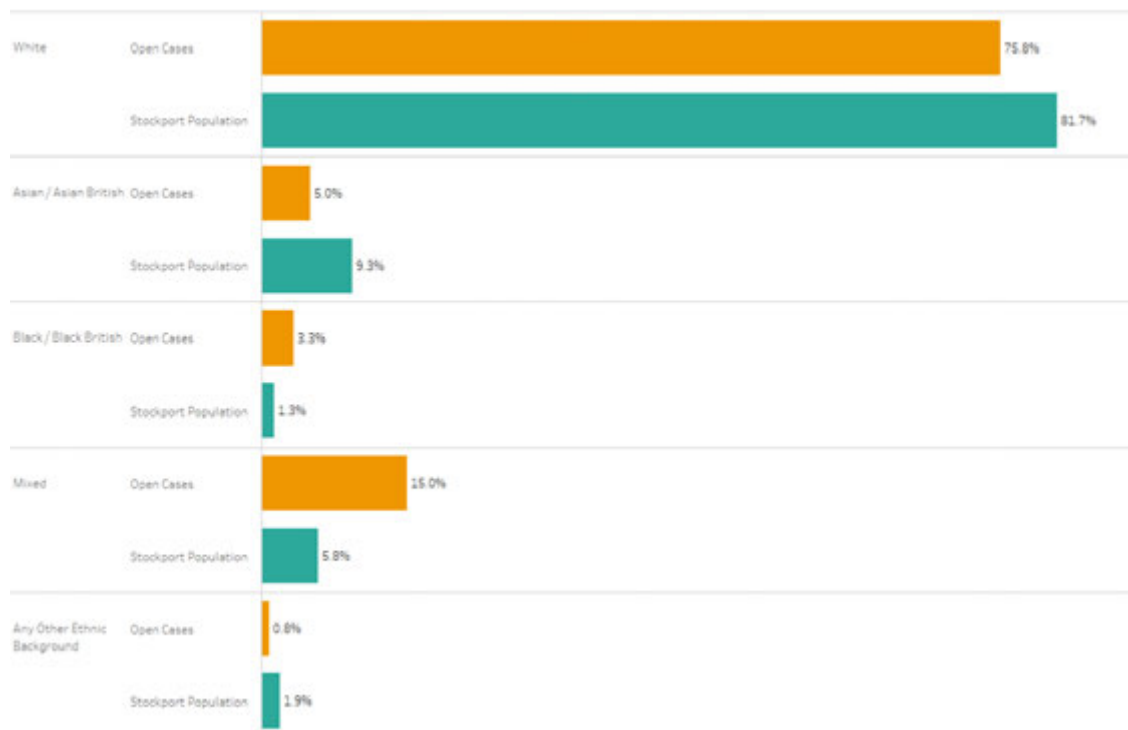
Stockport population data source: ONS 2021 Census



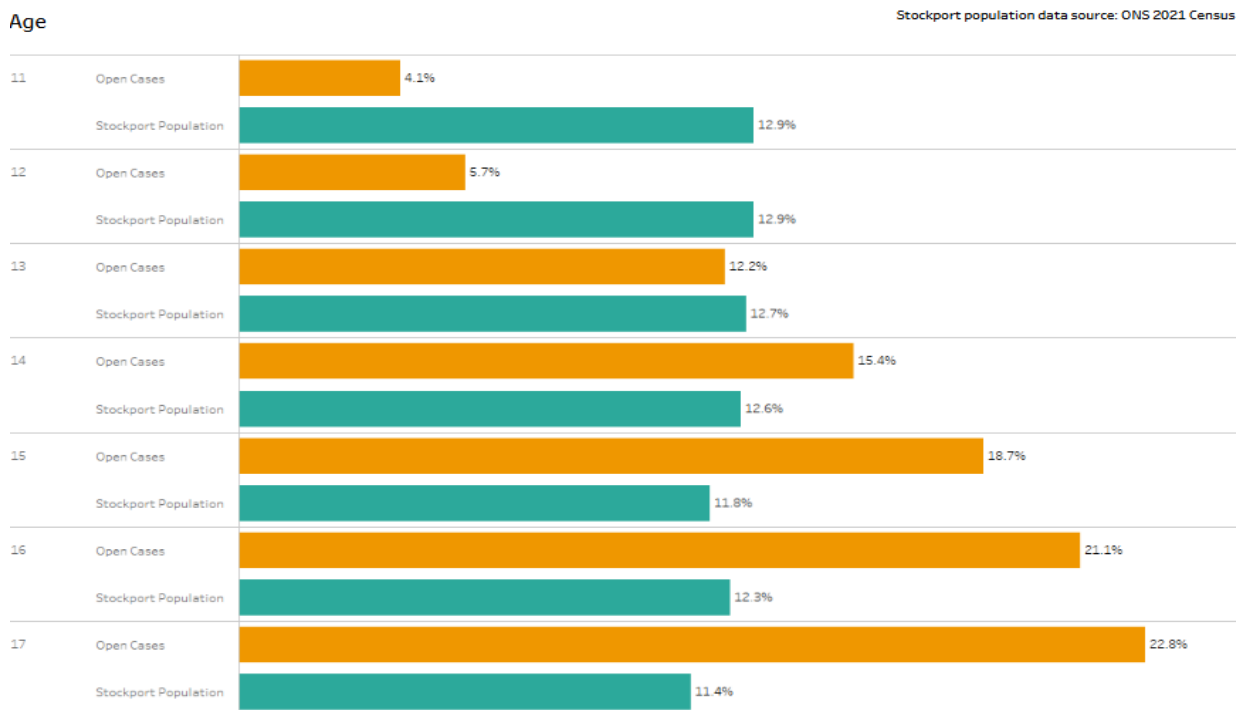
## Ethnicity - June 2025

### Ethnicity

Stockport population data source: ONS 2021 Census



## Age - June 2025



The tables show there is over-representation of certain groups within the youth justice system. The latest 2025 data (captured in June 2025) shows that over-represented groups include: mixed ethnicity, Black/Black British, males and young people aged 14-17. There is an under-representation of females and a decrease from June 2024 (previous 19%, now this is 12.2%). However, it is notable that the female cohort, whilst small, are particularly complex and there is a coordinated GM approach to responding to this cohort.

## Oversight and Scrutiny

The data is regularly reviewed and scrutinised to query emerging patterns and trends and how to respond to these. The data is used to understand any disproportionality with the service in comparison to the wider 10-17 population in Stockport. Examples of oversight include:

- Performance meetings held on a bi-monthly basis with Business Intelligence.
- Quarterly reviews of the data in the Diversity & Participation Group .
- Annual review of Diversity and Disproportionality Policy and Action Plan.

## Youth Justice Service Training and Initiatives

The Youth Justice Service has expanded its understanding of over-representation, and intersectionality, through several EDI training webinars and staff briefings, including:

- Show Racism the Red Card:** Sessions for staff on racism awareness.
- Mind of My Own:** Presentation on youth participation and hearing young people's voices.
- Cultural Awareness:** Workshop to address cultural insight and professional relationships when working with the Gypsy Roma Traveller community.

These sessions help staff understand children's experiences and feel more confident in discussing their lived experiences.

# Policing



October 2024 saw the publication of the new Children and Young Person Strategy which sets a clear direction to policing on how our Police colleagues can fully embrace Child Centred Policing: [Children and Young Persons Policing Strategy 2024 - 2027](#)

This Strategy supports new approaches to support those children who come into police custody. Child Centred Policing is aimed at minimising or escalating potential trauma through their experience, avoiding stigmatisation, using plain and accessible language, and ensuring that time spent in custody is kept to a minimum and used only when necessary.

## Youth Justice Police Constable

As per the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Stockport Youth Justice Service has a dedicated Police Constable to address and prevent offending behaviour in a multi-agency environment. The YJS Police Constable supports:

**Daily Arrest Information:** ensuring early identification and support for young people.

**Complex Case Discussions:** Weekly meetings profile high-risk youth, many at risk of exploitation. Discussions ensure early information sharing, case updates, intelligence sharing, and setting actions. Links with adults open to probation are noted to protect the young person.

**Staying Safe Panels:** Weekly multi-agency panels addressing risks for children missing or at risk of exploitation.

**Daily Governance:** Oversight and review of overnight arrests, complex safeguarding, exploitation and children missing from home.

**Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Partnership Meetings:** Quarterly meetings chaired by Challenger Police focus on Organised Crime Groups. Efforts are ongoing to include children and young people in discussions.



# Prevention

## Schools, Colleges & Education Programmes

As part of the Serious Violence Reduction programme, we offer a wide range of delivery and programmes to all education settings, these include Knife & Weapon Awareness, Hate Crime and Online Harms. This is delivered across schools, and we also offer the 'Bag of Character' programme which is a small bespoke groupwork session for young people who require it, which

discusses confidence, teamwork and communication.

From **April 2024 to May 2025** our total delivery figures are:

**Total number of pupils:**  
4,247

**Total number of sessions:**  
183

**Number of educational establishments:**  
32

Youth Justice have also worked with 'Show Racism the Red Card' (SRtRC) who have delivered Hate Crime workshops within schools. These sessions have been delivered to a total of 510 pupils from April 2024 – March 2025 across Stockport.

## Community Projects and Activities

Youth Justice and the RTime Youth Work programme offer various community projects and sports activities across Stockport, funded by grants and coordinated with key partners. These projects, including regular weekly football sessions, through Stockport County Community Trust and Manchester Utd Foundation, as well as Boxing provision offered twice weekly, with direct referrals from Youth Justice. There are also a wide range of enhanced holiday activities co-ordinated during all the school holiday to ensure effective prevention and diversion schemes are in place, to reduce ASB and crime.

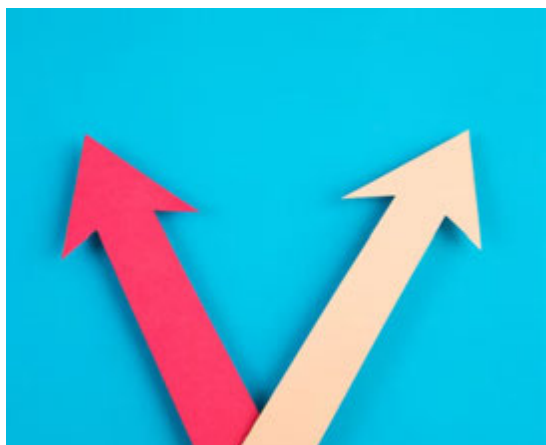
## Early Intervention Support

Stockport Family and partners who have identified concerns around a child that require an early intervention can directly refer to the Youth Justice Service. Following a screening and assessment we can provide up to 12 months of bespoke intervention to prevent young people escalating in the criminal justice system. Most referrals are from schools.

## Turnaround

Following the continued MoJ funding for the 'Turnaround' programme, that has been in place since 2022 and now confirmed to March 2026, the service has embedded effective screening to ensure that young people are offered an intervention at the earliest opportunity and improve outcomes for children on the cusp of entering the youth justice system. Those that fall within the screening eligibility criteria are allocated, but as it is a voluntary programme consent is required, and intervention will not start until this is confirmed.

# Diversion



Stockport Youth Justice Partnership is committed to diverting children and young people away from becoming involved with the criminal justice system, in line with national guidance and YEF (Youth Endowment Fund) principles of 'what works' [Pre-court diversion | Youth Endowment Fund](#).

GM Youth Justice are working with the CJI (Centre for Justice Innovation) to evaluate the out of court resolution model, and they have also secured YEF funding for the 'Whole Area Model' pilot.

## Diversion Panel

A weekly panel is convened to review cases and the outcomes for diversion have expanded to include:

- **Outcome 22**
- **Outcome 22 – Deferred Caution/Prosecution**
- **Outcome 8 - Community Resolution**
- **Youth Caution**
- **Youth Conditional Caution**

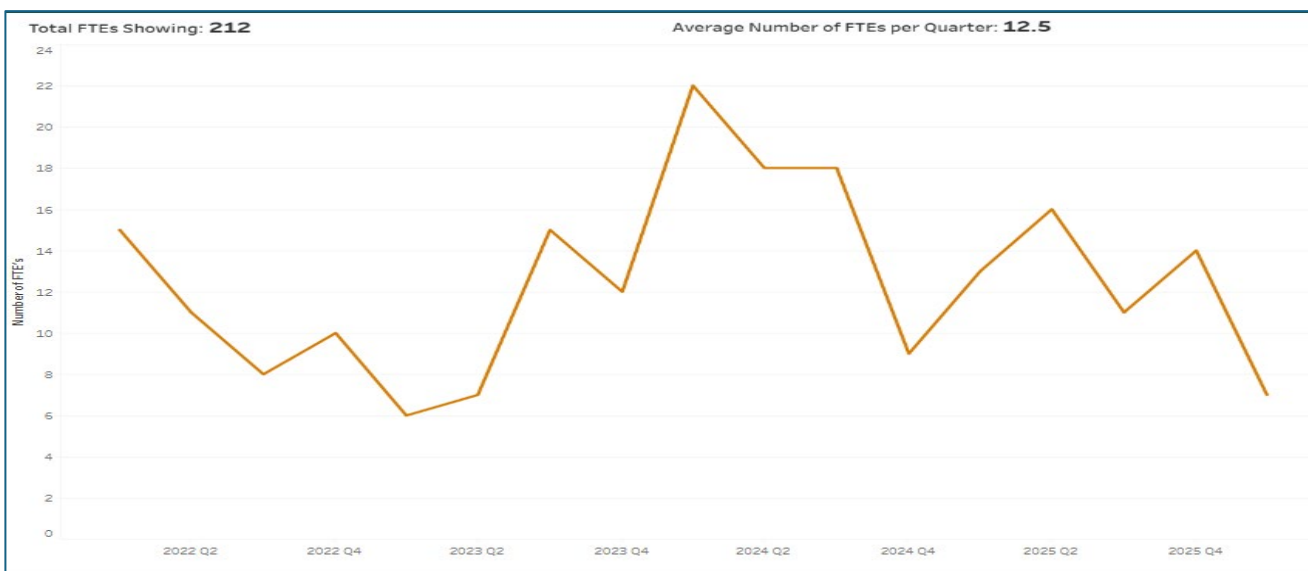
- Each case is reviewed individually, recognising every child's unique needs.
- The panel includes specialists from partner agencies.
- Efforts are made to reduce duplication of work across partners.
- Children's Services can refer internally to YJS if intervention is needed.
- If diversion is appropriate, a full Prevention & Diversion assessment provides a holistic view of the young person.
- A high-level plan outlines desired outcomes and recommends partners for a SMART intervention plan.

## PPIED (Prevention, Prosecution, Intervention Education & Diversion) Panel

Monthly panels identify early intervention needs for young people who are not known to services and have had two or less interactions with the police. The GMP Youth Engagement Officer provides daily arrest details, a Youth Justice Team Leader reviews and records eligible youths to be included on the agenda. Attendees include GMP, Remedi, Turnaround Early Intervention Worker, Health, OWLS, Stockport Without Abuse, and MASSH. Early support is offered to families.

The GM PPIED model is seen as a national exemplar and has been adopted by the Home Office to roll out nationally through the Violence Reduction Units (VRU's) to meet the government's ambition of halving knife crime within 10 years.

### First Entrants June 2025



## Case Study: Out of Court Assessment:

*At age 15, the young person was referred to the Youth Justice Service (YJS) for an Out of Court Assessment following three sexual assault offences. Although he initially denied the allegations, he later accepted responsibility during the YJS assessment. The victims' preference was for a supportive, educational approach over court proceedings.*

*The young person, a Black Muslim male with a history of trauma, disclosed past sexual abuse after arriving in England at age 11. A holistic support plan was developed, including identity support, Mosque engagement, and work on consent and healthy relationships, guided by a clinical psychology consultant.*

*Throughout the intervention, he made significant progress, building confidence and a strong relationship with his Case Manager. Social Care involvement ended following the intervention. By the end, he was prepared for his GCSEs and excited to begin college in September.*

## Greater Manchester Out of Court Scrutiny Panel

Every quarter, a Scrutiny Panel chaired by GMCA reviews Out of Court disposals with senior representatives from GMP, GM Youth Justice Services, CPS, Youth Court Bench, and Victim Services. They ensure appropriate actions are taken, reclassify crimes if necessary, and provide feedback.

## Monitoring and Impact

Quarterly data on diversion and Out of Court disposals is reported to the YJPB. An annual report is also produced and shared at YJS service meetings.

# Education



As a partnership, we recognise that education is vital. Children in the youth justice system often have complex learning needs and higher rates of neurodivergence, and extensive research shows education is the strongest protective factor to prevent offending. [SEND-Neurodivergence-and-Youth-Justice-Report-Sieff-Foundation-2025.pdf](#)

## Virtual Schools

We have a small cohort of children who have low attendance and high exclusions, they are often young people with an EHCP and on-roll at our Pupil Referral Unit. Over the past year we have strengthened our working relationship with The Virtual School so that they can support us with this cohort of children and their educational challenges.

## Attendance Strategy

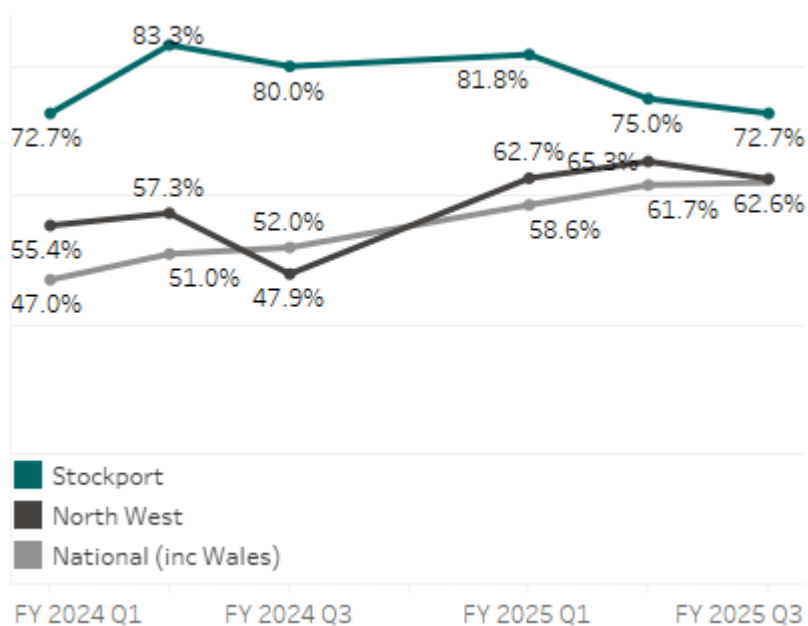
We have a clear Attendance Strategy for Stockport Family to ensure there is a focus on this priority area of practice. There is a sub-group to ensure that the strategy is implemented across the service and there is information regarding the Youth Justice cohort reviewed at this meeting.

KPI2 - Children in Suitable ETE



Our KPI over the past year shows that there has been a steady increase in children in suitable education over the past year which is positive.

### KPI3 - Children with SEND/ALN with a Formal Plan



Our KPI for the past year shows that the percentage of children who have EHCP's has fluctuated slightly over the past year but is significantly higher than the national average and that of our NW colleagues.

This could be representative of the fact that children's needs are identified earlier, which leads to an EHCP, but still shows a disproportionate number within the overall YJ caseload.

### Education Officers

Stockport Youth Justice Service has one Education Officer and one 16+ Learning Mentor to support young people's education needs. They link with Stockport's PRU (Highfields) and use data dashboards to understand educational needs and monitor exclusions, attendance, and disproportionality.

**SEND Quality Lead Kite Mark:** Stockport YJS received this in 2019 and is applying for an updated redesignation due to changes in SEN services.

**Education Development:** This was a focus with in the 2022 HMIP Inspection, and senior education representatives sit on the Youth Justice Partnership Board. Youth Justice and the Virtual School monitor education for young people in Youth Justice, including attendance and exclusion data. The increased referrals of young people with EHCPs necessitate stronger links with SEN colleagues.

**Support Services:** YJS practitioners work closely with schools, supported by other Stockport Family services including Social Work teams, Virtual School, Education Welfare Service, and the Inclusion Service. They offer Educational Psychology advice, SEND advice, tutoring, mentoring, and engagement activities.

# Restorative Approaches & Victims



## Restorative Justice and Reparation

Essential for all young people in Youth Justice Services, included in every AssetPlus and Early Intervention assessment, and can be mandated by court orders. Victims are contacted to discuss their thoughts and consent to share them. Face-to-face contact with the offender is the first option. Victims can choose verbal responses or written letters from the young person (indirect RJ) and select from

Community Reparation projects that benefit the community and help offenders gain transferable skills. The Youth Justice Service ensures flexible completion of Restorative Justice and Reparation.

## Remedi

Commissioned by the Youth Justice Service to facilitate the restorative justice process, providing trained practitioners to engage with victims and young people. YJS and Remedi adhere to the Codes of Practice for Victims.



## Restorative Justice Engagement (1st April 2024 to 31st December 2024)

Attempted Victim Contacts during the period: 91

- **Victims Responded:** 45
- **No Contact Possible:** 40
- **Victims Deemed Unsuitable to Engage in RJ:** 6
- **Engaged in RJ:** 38 (84% engagement rate)
- **Restorative Processes Completed:** 7 direct, 49 indirect

Restorative Justice can occur at any intervention stage, from early intervention to custodial sentences.

### Victim feedback:

*"I'm really pleased to hear he's back in school, please can you let him know I appreciate the letter and wish him all the best for the future".*

***"Thanks so much for all your support, you've been really helpful with the information you've given us, and also how to contact the police moving forward for the updates on the ongoing case!"***

*"I really appreciate all the support you and xxxx have given us, I do think it's helped with how we deal with situations now".*

### Child feedback:

*"I do feel bad about what I did, it was a stupid mistake and I understand now that it cost the victim money; I'd also be annoyed if I had to pay out".*

***"I'd be really upset if this had happened to me, please can you let him (victim) know that I'm sorry!"***

*"I don't mean to make my mum feel scared or upset, I am really sorry and I want to try harder to communicate how I feel in a better way".*

# Serious Violence, Exploitation & Contextual Safeguarding

The 'Serious Violence Duty' became law in January 2023 under the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022. Youth Justice is a key agency in this duty, actively gathering data and ensuring appropriate responses. The Greater Manchester VRU created the 'Greater than Violence Strategy,' and Stockport's Community Safety Partnership developed the local Strategic Needs Assessment, approved by OSSP.

Stockport Youth Justice runs a comprehensive violence reduction program, including borough-wide education on knife and weapon-related crime. In collaboration with GMP, they developed the 'On The Edge' Knife Crime Awareness Strategy, a 3 tiered intervention based on national best practice.

The program, active since 2019, has reached thousands of children in Stockport through tailored class-size sessions.



***'On The Edge' ensures "the most vulnerable children and young people are protected, the most challenging are tackled and the most dangerous are stopped".***

## Child Exploitation & Contextual Safeguarding

Since April 1, 2024, Complex Safeguarding in Stockport has been aligned with the Youth Justice Service, mirroring other GM authorities 'Adolescent Safeguarding Offer.' The services merged due to the complexity and overlap of cases. The Missing from Home function is now also under Youth Justice & Complex Safeguarding Service.

Over the next two years, efforts will focus on fully embedding this strategic alignment. This includes early identification of at-risk youth, embedding the Adolescent Safeguarding Framework and Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) principles, and exploring alternative Child Protection frameworks for safeguarding from extra-familial harm.

## GM Complex Safeguarding Hub

We continue to link in with the GM Complex Safeguarding Hub to strengthen working across Greater Manchester in this area. Training can be accessed to develop practice via the regular operational and strategic groups. In addition to this there are sub-groups focused on transitional safeguarding and missing from home processes.

## GM Peer Review

GMCA are currently undertaking a GM Peer Review around the work of the Complex Safeguarding Team, this includes Health and Complex Safeguarding Police colleagues. This will support oversight of the whole partnership, identify areas of good practice and gaps to ensure that we can enhance our service for children and young people. The process of the Peer Review will conclude in October 2025.

## Tackling Child Exploitation (TCS) Principles:



## National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

NRM's are crucial for safeguarding young people identified as potential victims of modern slavery. In Stockport, these young people are identified through overnight arrest data and escalated if an NRM hasn't been considered. The Complex Safeguarding Police handle these cases, treating the young person as the victim. NRM's are monitored through monthly governance.

## Governance Structure

Daily governance meetings between Complex Safeguarding, Youth Justice, and Complex Safeguarding Police (GMP) address immediate concerns about young people in custody and referrals.

A new monthly governance meeting address:

- Concerns about specific young people, including those missing from home.
- Recording and monitoring NRM's.
- Identifying themes and trends from daily governance.
- Sharing disruptions and key investigations.
- Team operational development.
- Identifying learning gaps and upcoming training.
- Sharing good news stories.
- Escalating issues.

This meeting reports to the Complex Safeguarding sub-group, co-chaired by Children's and Adult's Social Care.

# Safeguarding Children & Young People



Safeguarding is integral to Youth Justice, evidenced in assessments, programs, and interventions.

Strong links exist with Stockport Family partners, especially Children's Social Care (CSC).

Youth Justice is represented on the Integrated Care and Education Panel (ICEP) to discuss accommodation and education for Stockport Children in Care.

A Youth Justice Team Leader also participates in the 'Accommodation Panel' to support Care Experienced Young People.

At a strategic level, the Youth Justice Management Team actively contributes to Stockport Safeguarding Children's Partnership arrangements and associated sub-groups. GM-level protocols guide the movement, transfer, and caretaking of cases within the youth justice system. Stockport Youth Justice is part of the GM Training Partnership, ensuring safeguarding is embedded in training programmes.

## Detention in Police Custody

Children in police custody remain a priority in GM's Youth Justice Delivery Plan.

Following the HMICFRS inspection of GMP Police Custody, which highlighted concerns and recommendations, a multi-agency pilot at Cheadle Heath Custody Suite has been co-chaired by a Chief Inspector from GMP and Stockport's Head of Youth Justice. Over



the past year, new pathways have been developed to divert children from police custody to support services or Voluntary Attendance (VA) Interviews. There have been some significant reductions in detentions, and time spent in custody since the pilot began, and these new ways of working will now be upscaled across the rest of GMP.

Stockport leads the GM Appropriate Adult Service, ensuring AA's are available for all children and vulnerable adults in custody, as required by PACE 1984. Collaboration with out-of-hours colleagues ensures PACE beds are used to avoid overnight custody for young people. The Youth Justice offer to out-of-hours includes joint decision-making around PACE beds and access to the Youth Justice database, Childview, for informed decisions.

# Remands

## Remands in 2024/25

In 2024/25, we had 11 episodes of remands (6 young people) which is a similar rate to the year prior where we saw 10 episodes (9 young people.) Of the episodes for last year 2 were under 10 days and 6 were between 10 days and 6 weeks. The longest remand we had during this period was for 129 days. On a positive note, the result of 4 remand episodes culminated in a 'remand to local authority accommodation' or 'released on bail'. This shows a positive input in terms of the GM Remand pilot, that alternative options are being sought throughout the process to ensure a child's time in custody is as short as possible. We have also seen an increase in the use of RiLAA's (Remand in Local Authority Accommodation) over the past year.

## Case Example for use of RiLAA

*Child K is a 12-year-old black male who was arrested for possession of a bladed article on school premises. Due to the seriousness of the offence the court were considering a Remand to a Secure Children's Home. Child K also diagnosed with speech and communication difficulties. Concerns were raised that the risk to him and the community were high if he was to return to the family home. On this occasion we supported Children's Social Care in arranging alternative accommodation where he could stay with his grandmother in another borough of Manchester. A RiLAA was agreed, and Child K remained out of the secure establishment. As he complied with the requirements of the RiLAA a community sentence was proposed and agreed by the court.*

## GM Remand Pilot

Under the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Act 2022, courts face stricter remand justification. Since October 2023, the GM Remand Pilot, a project with MoJ funding, pools remand grants for centralised oversight. Led by Manchester City Council, the pilot enhances bail offers, including intensive support, and remand accommodation to support bail and community integration.

# Use of Custody & Constructive Resettlement

## Custodial Institutions for Young People

Young people from Stockport receiving custodial sentences or remand are primarily sent to HMYOI Wetherby, though some are placed in other Young Offender Institutions and Secure Children's Homes. Wetherby YOI is some distance from Greater Manchester, making travel difficult for parents and carers.

## Supervision and Resettlement

Youth Justice provides continued supervision for all young people in the Youth Secure Estate (YSE), following National Standards and addressing individual needs. Resettlement plans, including accommodation and education, are established from entry.

## Safeguarding and Reporting

GM DCS' and HMYOI Wetherby fund a full-time Senior Social Worker at Wetherby to review the safeguarding needs of Greater Manchester young people. Stockport and other GM authorities receive quarterly reports on their progress. Young people in Secure Children's Homes (SCH's) and Secure Training Centres (STC's) receive the same level of supervision as those in YOI's.

## Types of Secure Facilities for Young People



## Constructive Resettlement (Post-Custody)

Resettlement of children from custody is a statutory responsibility of local authorities, carried out in partnership with various agencies. The GM Resettlement Consortium, hosted by Oldham Youth Justice, involves Stockport and other GM authorities. GM Youth Justice Transformation Board receives briefings and has approved the local Resettlement Strategy through GMCA.

Stockport has established a Custody and Resettlement panel to review young people in custody, focusing on legal status, risk factors, and creating a comprehensive plan for the custodial phase. The panel, chaired by an Independent Chair from the Children's Safeguarding Unit, includes representatives from various sectors.

## Resettlement Planning

An initial panel meeting discusses resettlement, ensuring recommendations for the custodial phase are implemented and plans for release address housing, education, and health needs. The HMIP 'Resettlement Effective Practice Guide' and updated YJB case management guidance informs policies and procedures, emphasising creative licence conditions to manage community risk while keeping the child at the centre.

# Working with Families

Stockport Youth Justice and Targeted Youth Support Service offer a whole family approach towards supporting children involved with the service. We work closely with colleagues across Stockport Family and ensure we are actively included in the plans that support the wider family network. This includes attendance at key safeguarding meetings and offering support to wider services.

The team are pro-active in ensuring that parents/carers are aware of interventions being delivered and are pro-active in including them in reviews and encouraging the use of boundaries and rewards systems at home. It is crucial to ensure that parents are aware of extra-familiar harm and contextual concerns, and we continue to embed the Tackling Child Exploitation Principles of treating parents as partners in safeguarding young people at risk of contextual safeguarding. Our processes promote joint-agency collaboration and a whole-family approach.

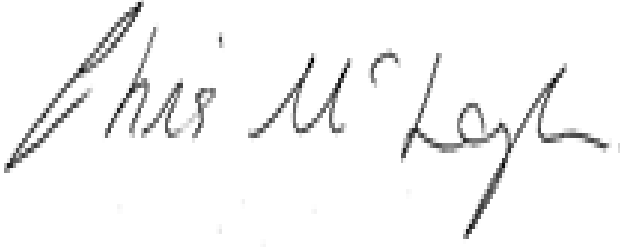

## Case Study; Whole Family Approach:

*Child A is currently under a court order and is a Child in Care. They have been involved with the service for an extended period due to significant contextual risks and exploitation concerns. The service has collaborated with Child A's Leaving Care Worker, Social Worker, and Placement to maintain family contact despite exclusion zones. This included supporting bail variations for festive family time and assisting with transport arrangements. Regular check-ins ensured stability and addressed any safeguarding issues.*

*Child A's younger siblings have also been referred for preventative support and have engaged well. One sibling is receiving Complex Safeguarding support, with joint activities carried out to support safety planning, exploitation intervention, and education access. None of the siblings have entered the criminal justice system. Their parent has expressed positive feedback, feeling reassured by the support provided and more confident in managing the situation with professional help.*

# Sign off, submission and approval

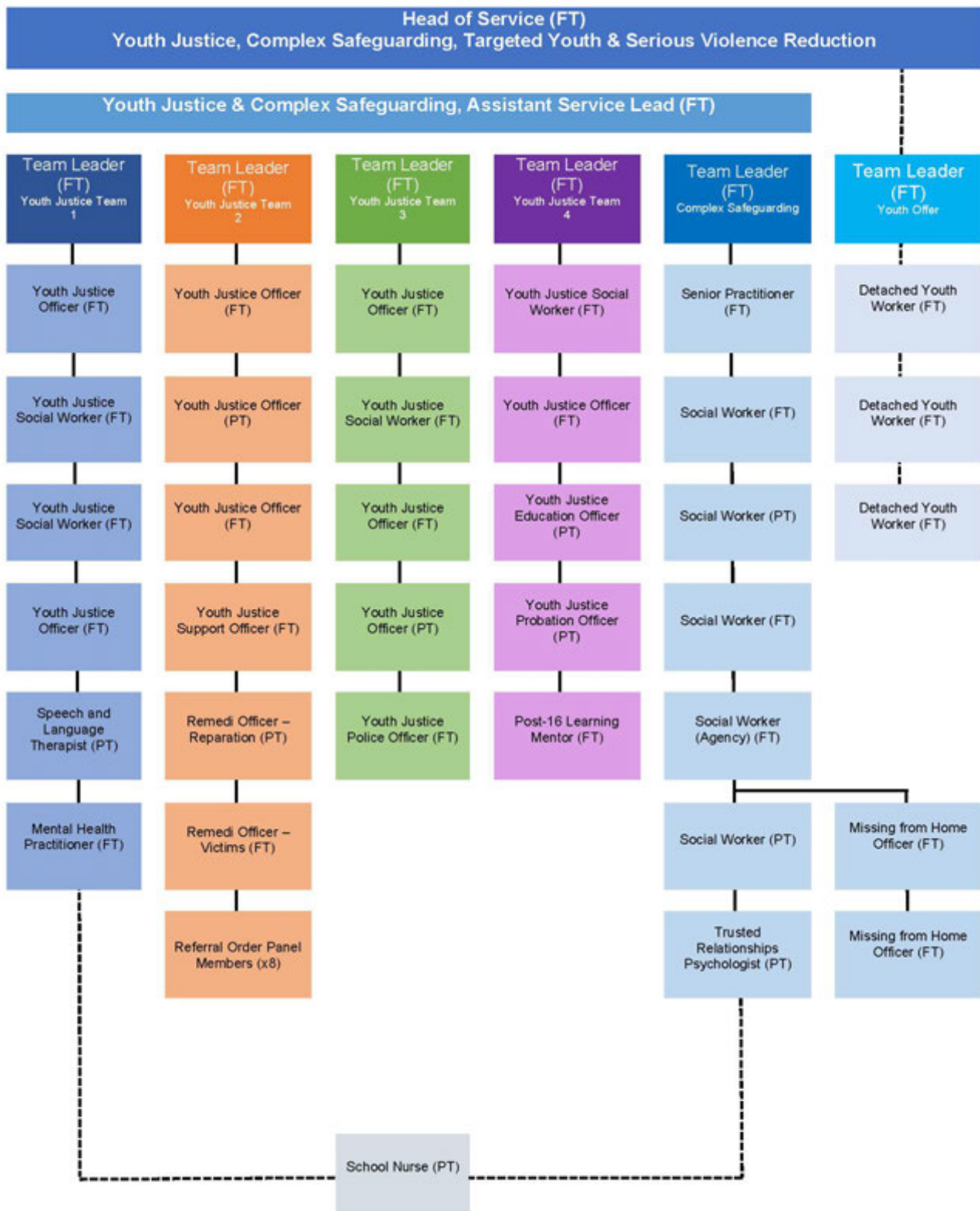
## SECTION 5

<b>Chair of Youth Justice Partnership Board</b>	<b>Chris McLoughlin OBE</b> <i>Executive Director People &amp; Neighbourhoods Director of Children's Services</i>
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<i>TBC: (post-democratic approval)</i>
<b>YJ Head of Service</b>	<b>Jacqui Belfield-Smith MBE</b> <i>Head of Youth Justice, Complex Safeguarding &amp; Serious Violence Reduction.</i>
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<i>TBC: (post-democratic approval)</i>

# Appendices

## SECTION 6

### Appendix 1: Staffing Structure



## Appendix 2: Budget Costs and Contributions 2025/26

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Staffing costs (£)</b>	<b>Payments in kind – revenue (£)</b>	<b>Other delegated funds (£)</b>	<b>Total (£)</b>
<i>Local Authority</i>	£643,180	£0	£0	<b>£643,180</b>
<i>Police Service (GMP)</i>	£0	£44,107	£0	<b>£44,107</b>
<i>Probation Service (GM)</i>	£0	£19,000	£5,000	<b>£23,000</b>
<i>Health Service (Pennine Care)</i>	£0	£44,835	£0	<b>£44,835</b>
<i>Police and Crime Commissioner (GMCA)</i>	£0	£0	£45,000	<b>£45,000</b>
<i>MoJ Turnaround Grant</i>	£0	£0	£82,617	<b>£82,617</b>
<i>YJB (Main Grant)</i>	£0	£0	£522,537	<b>£540,060</b>
<i>YJB (Remand)</i>	£0	£0	£17,523	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£643,180</b>	<b>£107,942</b>	<b>£672,677</b>	<b>£1,422,799</b>

## Appendix 3: Table of Acronyms



Table of Acronyms.docx