

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGY DELIVERY BOARD
Youth Justice Service Turnaround Funding Proposal

Purpose of Report: Seek agreement to implement the Funded, Ministry of Justice Turnaround programme

Introduction

Early intervention in the criminal justice sphere is a UK Government priority for crime reduction. The Beating Crime Plan 2021 highlights the importance of early intervention in providing universal support for all children, targeted support for those identified as at risk of involvement in criminality, and targeted interventions for those who have started offending. The Ministry of Justice is providing funding to support Local Authorities to intervene early with children for the next two financial years, with implementation funding this financial year.

Turnaround will provide £55m to Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) across England and Wales over three years and this additional funding will enable YJSs to consistently support a cohort of children not currently on their statutory caseload, and work with up to 17,000 more children in England and Wales.

The overall aims of the Turnaround programme are to:

- achieve positive outcomes for children with the ultimate aim of preventing them going on to offend
- build on work already undertaken to ensure all children on the cusp of the youth justice system are consistently offered a needs assessment and the opportunity for support
- improve the socio-emotional, mental health and wellbeing of children; and
- improve the integration and partnership working between YJSs and other statutory services to support children.

Turnaround funding should be used to deliver evidence-based interventions, building upon current service delivery, and developing new approaches, where required. Funding of around £2,900 per child will be granted to YJSs, which will have a minimum target number of children to work with – in relation to the funding this will be approximately 73 children per full year. YJSs will then have the freedom to design a programme of interventions that are most suited to the needs of the child.

Funding available

Funding started on 5th December 2022 for a 3 year period ending 31st March 2025 and will be paid as follows. The Ministry of Justice has made it clear that this funding can only sit within budgets and for the work of YJSs.

Year 1 (05.12.22 to 31.03.23)	£78,000
Year 2 (01.04.23 to 31.03.24)	£212,000
Year 3 (01.04.24 to 31.03.25)	£212,000

In year 1, Derbyshire is utilising this funding to begin to set up the programme including preparing delivery space in a bespoke Youth Justice hub in Ilkeston.

Links to Early Intervention and Edge of Care offer

It is recognised that this funding is a substantial sum, and the Youth Justice Service is adequately resourced in terms of its substantive budget. However, the funding is only for two years. Therefore, the staffing proposal below (1 psychologist and 3 Family Support Workers to 31st March 2025) is made with an eye on delivering the Turnaround project in its self, future sustainability for the Youth Justice Service but also contributing to the planned Edge of Care. The Youth Justice Service have been part of the group contributing to the design. Suggestions below are made as to the potential contribution from the Youth Justice Service:

- If the below proposal is agreed, case consultations can be offered from a YJS Psychologist (process to be drawn up)
- Subject to data sharing agreements,
- The Edge of Care Service to have access to and support from the Youth Justice Service Wellbeing Workers (already in post).
- Edge of Care to have delivery space/presence in the two Leaving Care/Youth Justice hubs in Chesterfield and Ilkeston

Criteria for Turnaround

Summary of eligibility criteria – the following must be met:

Has received one of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interviewed under caution following arrest or subject to a criminal investigation attending a voluntary interview • subject to No Further Action (NFA) decisions (including Outcome 22); • subject to a Community Resolution (Outcome 8) • first-time youth caution; • released under investigation (RUI) or subject to pre-charge bail (PCB) • discharged by a court; • acquitted at court; and/or • fined by a court • those in receipt of Community Protection Orders (CPO), Civil Orders and/or Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) for anti-social behaviour.
Referral received within three months of the above
Not received Turnaround support previously
Has not had a statutory intervention with the Youth Justice Service

Not receiving whole family support co-ordinated by a Lead Practitioner although those children on a Child in Need Plan can be considered if there is a clear unmet need which could be supported through the programme.

The programme does not require an admission of guilt by a child referred and joining the programme will be voluntary.

Referrals

Referrals can be received from:

- Any frontline practitioner who may encounter the eligible cohort, primarily police and YJSs
- Local authorities receiving referrals through the 'front door'
- Local Early Help services including self-referrals from families
- Social Work teams (Section 17 Children in Need only)
- Local joint-decision-making arrangements between YOTs and statutory partners

This includes:

<p>Police Interviewed under caution following arrest or subject to a criminal investigation via voluntary interview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First time Youth Caution - Released under Investigation or police bail - NFA - Community Resolution 	<p>Youth Justice Service following attendance at court should the child receive one of the following outcomes from court:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fined by a Court - Discharged by a Court - Acquitted at court 	<p>Frontline Practitioner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and Families Services - Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service - NHS and Child Mental Health Services - Education and Alternative Providers 	<p>Front door arrangements/Early Help Includes parents or care givers directly self-referring</p>
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Proposal

Year 1

The funding will be utilised to provide two child friendly venues within the service where children and families can meet, and which will minimise criminogenic stigma from contact with the youth justice system. Any excess funding will also be spent on recruitment and purchasing resources.

Year 2 and 3

The programme will commence at the start of Year 2 and will utilise the evidence base of Stronger Families Safer Children, trauma informed practice and Child First approaches. The service currently works with children and young people under community resolutions in the out of court disposal pathway and they can be captured in the returns. However, to provide additionality through the funding it is proposed to utilise the following referral pathways:

- Support Centres/schools where children are at risk of exclusion where they would lose the routine of being in an educational environment which research and theories suggest is not a protective factor to desist from further offending.
- ASB officers where consideration is being given to imposition of civil injunction or Criminal Behaviour Order or a child is on an Acceptable Behaviour Contract. ASB is a concern of the Government and is also part of the current Police and Crime Commissioner action plan.
- Police where an out of court disposal is being considered.
- To support the facilitation of referrals, we have met with the Head of Service for Early Help to consider joint approaches. Prior to 1st April, we will work on a Pathway where self-referrals, referrals from Derbyshire Children’s Services colleagues and Anti-Social Behaviour officer can refer to the programme. Literature publicising the programme will be produced.

To achieve the aims of the programme, additional staffing is required, and it is proposed that three temporary Family Support Workers and a FTE Psychologist posts are created. The Youth Justice Service benefits from Two part-time Psychology posts, funded by Joined Up Care Derbyshire. These posts offer case formulations and reflective sessions to children who meet a criterion of vulnerability and risk. The impact of outcomes made through the implementation of these posts was praised in Derbyshire’s Youth Justice HMIP Inspection in 2022. However, this opportunity to increase capacity to offer a more consistent service and to a broader range of children and families, will benefit more children.

If this proposal is agreed and a Psychology post recruited to, case formulations and sessions could also be offered to the future Edge of Care Offer. Discussions have been held with the Head of Service, Commissioning and potentially this post could be accessed through the same team as the current Youth Justice Service Psychologists. The procurement proposal will need to be confirmed. Therefore, the proposal for the funding is outlined below:

Staffing	Cost
Psychologist post	£76,5000 (Max cost)
3 x Family Support Workers (grade 8)	£108,750

Volunteers/Mentoring/Activities	£20,000
Expenses	
Other expenditure	£6,750
Total	£212,000 per annum

The Family Support Workers, one in each Youth Justice teams will work with directly with young people and their families. As part of the Anti-Social Behaviour referral pathway, they will attend the locality ASB tasking meetings where referrals will be sourced. This will ensure that the service has a link to all localities.

Volunteers will provide a mentoring service to young people and will be managed by the senior practitioners within the area teams. We aim to recruit an increased number of volunteers.

The additional psychology post who will provide consultations to practitioners to ensure a trauma informed, joined up approach. They will also provide training to all the whole service to enhance the service skillset. As outlined, additional Psychology resource

Recommendation:

Agree the creation and recruitment of three temporary Youth Justice Family Support Workers and additional Psychology post (exact procurement and funding process to be confirmed), until March 31st 2025, using the funding from the Ministry of Justice as outlined above.