

Youth Resettlement

A framework for action





**This document was created, in partnership,
by the following bodies:**

CLINKS

Department for Education and Skills

Department of Culture, Media and Sport

Department of Health

Department for Work and Pensions

East Moor Secure Unit

Home Office

IMPACT

Learning and Skills Council

Metropolitan Police Force

National Probation Directorate

National Treatment Agency

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

PLUS Strategy Team

Prison Service

Rainer

Welsh Assembly Government

Wetherby Young Offender Institution

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Introduction

The National Youth Resettlement Steering Group

In July 2004, the Home Office published *The National Reducing Reoffending Delivery Plan*, which aimed to reduce reoffending through greater strategic direction and co-ordination across Government and other agencies – statutory and non-statutory. It focused on adult offenders leaving custody, and sought to address the concerns raised by the Social Exclusion Unit's report, *Reducing Reoffending by Ex-Prisoners*.¹

As a result, the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) convened the National Youth Resettlement Steering Group, with representation from Government departments and other agencies, to provide joint policy direction on youth resettlement, and to begin work on developing a national youth resettlement action framework. This resulted in the creation of a plan embedded within both criminal justice and children's services strategies, which is outlined in this document.

Key areas for youth resettlement

This framework follows the adult action plan in focusing on a number of areas (what the adult plan, as well as the current document, refers to as "Pathways"), while highlighting issues specific to the youth context.

The Pathways are:

- Case Management and Transitions
- Accommodation
- Education, Training and Employment
- Health
- Substance Misuse
- Families
- Finance, Benefits and Debt.

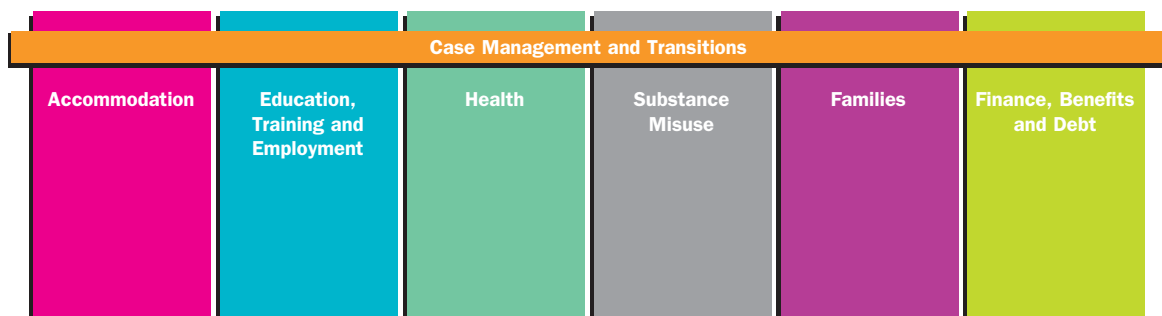
The youth and adult Pathways are closely aligned,² and this document devotes a section to each Pathway. However, the youth framework has one extra Pathway – Case Management and Transitions – which applies to, or "cuts across", the others (see diagram below). This Pathway represents a critical way of improving partnership-working and the management of the transition from custody to community, and from community to mainstream and children's services.

Purpose of the framework

This document sets out what needs to be done to develop further resettlement capability nationally, and the approaches to be taken, regionally, by regional reducing reoffending partnerships (and parallel arrangements in Wales), and locally, by:

- youth offending teams (YOTs)
- secure establishments for children and young people
- mainstream and specialist services.

The framework applies to England and Wales, and seeks to build on some of the resettlement activity being done by the All Wales Youth Offending Strategy, and the strategic improvements introduced by the All Wales Strategy Implementation Group. It also links closely with current work on the resettlement of young adult offenders, with a particular focus on 16 to 17-year-olds transferring to adult custodial establishments being taken forward by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).



1. Social Exclusion Unit (2002b)

2. Note that key themes from the 'Attitudes, thinking and skills' adult Pathway have been incorporated into the Education, Training and Employment youth Pathway.

In addition, this document seeks to build on the YJB's *Key Elements of Effective Practice – Resettlement*.¹ This emphasises the importance of the four-stage resettlement model:

- pre-court
- custody
- community
- after the end of the licence.

Resettlement planning should begin at the pre-court stage, and continue through custody, into the community and beyond the end of the young person's licence.

Young people released from custody

Each year, 6,500 young people pass through young offender institutions (YOIs), secure training centres (STCs) and secure children's homes, with about 2,700 in custody at any one time (around 16% of whom are on remand). Reconviction rates for young people on release from custody are high, with approximately 70% reoffending within 12 months (2003 Home Office cohort study), and one study suggesting that 27% reoffend in the first month after release.

Young people in the youth justice system can lead complicated lives, and may have many problems. Research shows that custody can intensify these difficulties, by dislocating children and young people from their families, communities, and from mainstream and children's services. As a result, young people in custody can become particularly vulnerable.

Of these young people, 40% to 49% have been in local-authority care at some point,² and about 18% are still subject to Care Orders.³ Educationally, half the YOI population are functioning below the level of the average 11-year-old on entry to the institution. More than a third of those of compulsory school age had a reading age of seven or less; and more than two-thirds were functioning below the level of an average 11-year-old. Approximately half were functioning at or below the numeracy level of an average seven-year-old.⁴

In addition:

- 31% had mental health problems⁵
- 44.8% used more than one type of drug
- 45.4% had been dependent on a substance⁶
- 40% of girls and 25% of boys reported suffering violence at home
- 33% of girls and 5% of boys reported previous sexual abuse.⁷

Resettling children and young people leaving custody is, therefore, a significant challenge.⁸

Engaging young people and their families

Resettlement must respond to the diverse needs of children and young people in custody, ensuring that the requirements of specific groups are properly addressed. This is particularly the case for girls in custody, and for young people from Minority Ethnic groups (who are currently over-represented in the youth justice system). This framework therefore encourages further regional and local developments aimed at identifying and addressing diversity issues. However, it is also designed to benefit all young people, as well as to improve outcomes for these specific groups.

Above all, the key to effective resettlement is the direct involvement and engagement of young people and their families throughout the process. Motivating them to take an active role in their resettlement, both in custody and on release, is critical to the prevention of reoffending, and for reintegration into the community. Families and communities can play a vital role in supporting children and young people through the resettlement process. Accordingly, this document should be read in conjunction with *NOMS and YJB Approach to Communities and Civil Renewal*,⁹ and with reference to the Reducing Re-Offending Alliances initiative launched by Baroness Scotland in November 2005. This forms part of the Government's national *Together We Can*¹⁰ action plan, and aims to promote a focus on community engagement in regional and local reducing reoffending action plans. Similarly, the Alliances aim to make reducing reoffending everyone's responsibility by building on existing partnerships, as well as welcoming new partners and sectors to work with offenders.

Every Child Matters

Resettlement can, and should, enable young people leaving custody to realise the Government's aim, as set out in the Green Paper *Every Child Matters*,¹¹ for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to be given the support they need. The youth resettlement Pathway or Pathways that correspond to those outcomes are in brackets:

- be healthy (Health, Substance Misuse)
- stay safe (Accommodation, Families)
- enjoy and achieve (Education, Training and Employment)
- make a positive contribution to society (Families)
- achieve economic well-being (Finance, Benefits and Debt).

1. YJB (2003d)

2. YJB (2002)

3. ADSS, LGA, YJB (2003)

4. YJB (2001). Data refer to a sample group of children and young people on Detention and Training Orders (DTOs).

5. YJB (2005a)

6. YJB (2004e)

7. ADSS, LGA, YJB (2003)

8. Key to this challenge is reducing the numbers experiencing the dislocating effect of going into custody in the first place.

9. NOMS, YJB (2005)

10. Civil Renewal Unit (2005)

11. The Stationery Office (2003)

Implementing the framework

Delivering a major change in resettlement for young offenders is complicated. It means harnessing the contributions of a diverse range of organisations, in central and local government, as well as the private and voluntary sectors. It also relies on developing new skills, resources and tools within the youth justice system. Realising the benefits of the plan will require continuing co-ordination and engagement of stakeholders, and prioritisation of resources, along with:

- clear leadership
- monitoring and overseeing progress
- accountability arrangements to ensure delivery.

Each of these aspects is discussed in more detail below.

Clear leadership

Leadership is needed on a national, regional and local level to ensure that the required changes are made, but ultimate accountability rests with the Government. The national Reducing Reoffending Programme Board has overall responsibility for the adult plan. It will also oversee and deliver the youth resettlement framework for action contained in the current document. In addition, the All Wales Strategy Implementation Group will continue to lead jointly on issues with regard to youth resettlement in Wales.

Government departments and agencies with a stake in youth resettlement are already involved in the adult plan delivery framework via Pathway sub-boards. With respect to youth resettlement, these sub-boards, which are chaired by lead Government departments, will drive forward actions in their respective areas.

To ensure that there is a dedicated focus on the distinctive youth issues, the YJB will reconvene the national Youth Resettlement Steering Group, comprising representatives of all key stakeholders. This will adopt a strategic focus, ensuring delivery of national actions and providing

authoritative guidance on youth resettlement. It will also support the emerging regional, Welsh framework for implementing youth resettlement activity.

Monitoring and overseeing progress

The YJB will co-ordinate progress reports to enable the Reducing Reoffending Programme Board to fulfil its monitoring and overseeing role. To facilitate this, the youth resettlement “aims and actions” plans (see below) set out timeframes (short, medium or long term) for national actions, where possible. Further work is required to ensure that all actions have precise and achievable targets for completion.

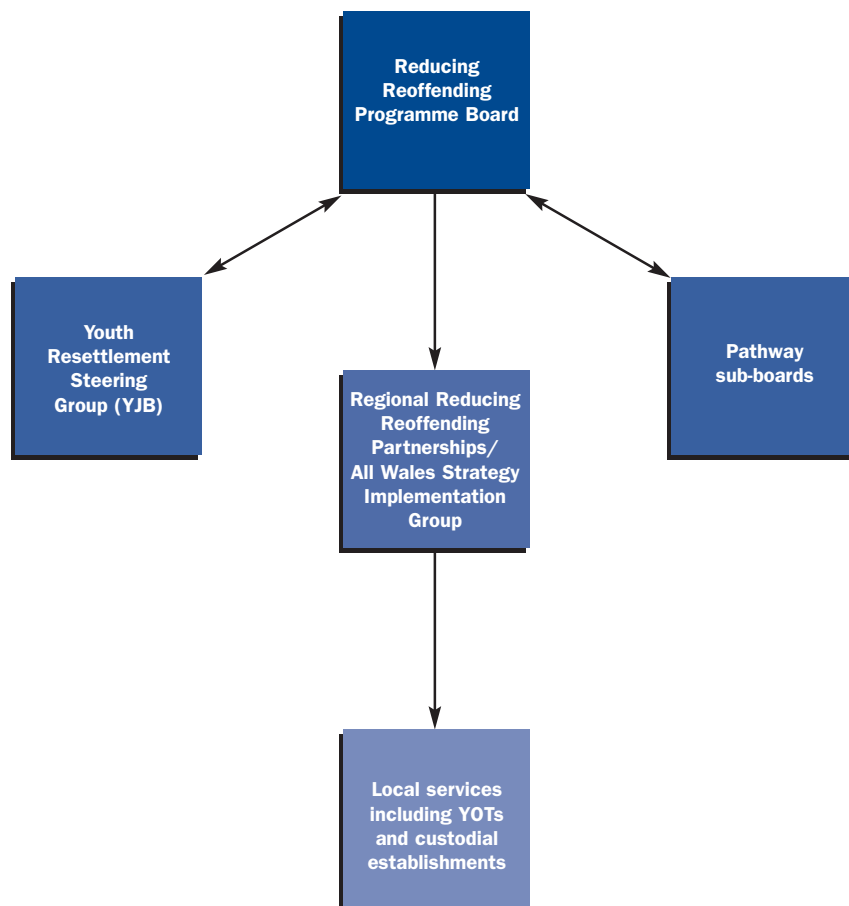
In a number of areas, the actions proposed represent only an initial approach to the key issues, and further development will be needed. The framework envisages formal dates at which point the actions can be reviewed and revised.

The current format of youth justice plans requires YOTs to focus on how they will deliver resettlement by influencing local partners and prioritising their own resources. This provides the mechanism for the YJB to track progress locally.

Accountability arrangements to ensure delivery

The framework is divided between national, regional, Welsh and local actions, recognising that action will be required at each level, and that there needs to be a measure of flexibility below national level to reflect variations in regional and local circumstances.

The delivery “chain” is shown in the diagram overleaf (single-headed arrows indicate the chain of managerial responsibility; double-headed arrows indicate that the bodies so connected exchange advice and information).



National level

The Reducing Reoffending Programme Board has overall responsibility for delivery of the youth resettlement framework, as it does for the adult framework. All actions in the plan at this level have been agreed with the relevant Government departments:

- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)
- Home Office
- Department for Education and Skills (DfES)
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Department of Health.

It will be their responsibility to incorporate those actions into both their own plans and, where appropriate, their delivery chains. Further work will be taken forward with the Welsh Assembly Government, with regards to devolved issues.

However, the YJB will lead on producing a delivery plan that monitors how the various national actions will be implemented. This will allow co-ordination across the different Pathways

Welsh and regional level

In order to deliver the adult plan, regional reducing reoffending partnerships and the All Wales Strategy Implementation Group have already been established under the leadership of NOMS. These partnerships bring together regional offender managers (ROMs), the NOMS Wales Offender Manager, Government offices, the Welsh Assembly Government, and a range of regional stakeholders, including YJB regional managers and the YJB Manager for Wales.

Given that, for the most part, the same stakeholders are involved in delivering the youth resettlement framework, these regional partnerships should also lead in taking forward the youth agenda. Most regional partnerships have already begun to address youth resettlement issues within their action plans.

This is very positive. It is expected that the national youth resettlement framework will enable regions to build on this initial work, ensuring that the needs of young offenders leaving custody are fully included in their regional planning.

Local level

At a local level, while much of the responsibility for delivery rests with individual YOTs and custodial establishments, there is still a critical role for other local services. This is particularly the case for children's services, delivered through emerging children's trust arrangements, alongside wider community and voluntary sector providers.

The needs of young people leaving custody must be addressed and catered for through mainstream provision and children's services in the community, as well as via specialist services. This is imperative for effective resettlement, to ensure that service provision continues beyond the end of the young person's licence period. There are clear links, here, to the Youth Green Paper, *Youth Matters*,¹ published in 2004.

In relation to the provision of local services for young people, YOTs will seek to influence the developing commissioning arrangements associated with the creation of children's trusts. In relation to the secure estate for children and young people, the YJB will need to negotiate nationally with providers to embed the requisite changes in partnership agreements or contracts, as appropriate.

The YJB is also following the development of local area agreements with interest, and is piloting an approach in relation to pooling an element of youth offending prevention that is contributing to local area agreements funds in four local authority areas. In addition, further youth crime prevention resources secured through the 2004 Spending Review are to be used by local partnerships to support the delivery of prevention services in a way that is consistent with local area agreements and in line with *Youth Matters*. Indeed, the very nature of multi-agency YOTs reflects the approach informing local area agreements, in that they also are multi-agency organisations operating pooled budgets to deliver commonly agreed objectives.

Resources

This framework has been developed in the knowledge that there are no specific resources to support implementation. Therefore, although some actions do carry potential resource implications, this is on the understanding that they will need to be assimilated into the plans of relevant organisations, as existing resources permit.

In some other areas of actions, the initial challenge will be to identify new sources of funding, and to construct compelling business cases to release funds.

1. The Stationery Office (2004)

Guide to the youth resettlement Pathways

Each Pathway has a section devoted to it in the pages that follow. These give:

- a brief introductory description of the Pathway, and a look at some of the issues that make it important for youth resettlement
- the Pathway's main objective.

Links to Every Child Matters

Each Pathway (apart from 'Case Management and Transitions', which applies to, or cuts across, the other Pathways) corresponds to one of the desired five outcomes (in brackets in the list of bullet points below) for children and young people set out in *Every Child Matters*.¹

- Accommodation (stay safe)
- Education, Training and Employment (enjoy and achieve)
- Health (be healthy)
- Substance misuse (be healthy)
- Families (stay safe, make a positive contribution)
- Finance, benefits and debt (achieve economic well-being).

1. The Stationery Office (2003)

1. Case Management and Transitions

Introduction

Children and young people serving custodial sentences go through the following transitions:

- community to custody
- custody back to the community
- community to mainstream and children's services.

Each one can result in disruption – of relationships, service and flow of information – and needs to be managed. Good case management can provide continuity during these transitions and improve opportunities to re-engage young people into services and activities within their own community.

Good case management combines:

- thorough assessment of the risk factors associated with offending and the individual needs of each young person
- a single sentence plan tailored to address the identified risks and needs of each young person, focused from the outset on promoting a sustainable and safe return to the community
- continuity of overseeing and support from the YOT
- co-ordination of the contributions of the different agencies, ensuring that services are sustained beyond the end of the licence
- timely exchange of information.

Main objective

The main objective of this Pathway is to ensure that young people serving custodial sentences receive effective, end-to-end service provision based on a thorough assessment of need and risk, in order to reintegrate them into the community. To do this, the following need to be in place:

1. a robust case management system to support the continuity of service delivery throughout the resettlement process

2. delivery of appropriate interventions based on the individual need and risk of self-harm and harm to others of each young person, with the involvement of their family or carers
3. partnership-working and the timely exchange of relevant information
4. the participation of young people and their families or carers in the resettlement process.

The process

Case management across custody and community is underpinned by the YJB's *National Standards for Youth Justice Services*¹ and Prison Service Orders 2300² and 4950³ in young offender institutions (YOIs). It is guided by the YJB's *Key Elements of Effective Practice – Resettlement*.⁴ Together, these present an authoritative statement of policy and procedures. However, the performance and practice of case management needs to be strengthened and improved.⁵

A critical issue is the lack of clarity in the relationship between, and the responsibilities of, the three main professionals involved in the resettlement process:

- the YOT supervising officer
- secure establishment staff
- the Connexions personal adviser.

While the YOT officer is in charge of case management, secure establishment staff and the Connexions personal adviser also have significant responsibilities in ensuring effective resettlement. These roles must be further clarified, with greater opportunities for partnership-working built in.

Evidence-based Intervention

Asset⁶ is the main assessment method used in the youth justice system. It is designed to “accompany” the young person throughout any youth justice intervention. It is also designed to identify the risk factors associated with offending, and provide practitioners with a mechanism to plan and assess the impact of their interventions.

1. YJB (2004d)

2. HMPS (2001). In general, Prison Service policy in this area will be shaped by the development of the offender management model as part of NOMS. However, this model, with its emphasis on continuity of supervision across custody and the community, complements the existing requirements for Detention and Training Orders.

3. HMPS (2004)

4. YJB (2003d)

5. This was also the assessment in Rainer (2004).

6. YJB (2003a)

Completion and review of Asset are key to resettlement planning. However, some assessments received by secure establishments are not accurate, and lack the necessary detail to initiate and inform resettlement activity. These issues must be addressed as a critical part of the case-management process.

The YJB's *Key Elements of Effective Practice – Resettlement* and Effective Practice Quality Assurance processes, within YOTs and the secure estate, will also serve to drive forward effective and evidence-based interventions, both in custody and in the community.

As Asset establishes itself within YOTs, there is an opportunity to use this assessment data to inform the commissioning of resettlement services at a national, regional and local level. This also requires good links with the work of NOMS regional offender managers and the NOMS Wales Offender Manager in commissioning services for adult offenders, in order to identify possible economies of scale (i.e. the potential financial benefits of working together) and other shared advantages.

This will benefit NOMS, as fewer young offenders will continue to offend into adulthood.

Partnership-working and sharing information

The transfer of information between YOTs and the secure estate for children and young people is weak. This is being improved by the YJB IT development programme, which includes Secure e-Mail.

In addition, the implementation of *Every Child Matters*,¹ with the introduction of the *Common Assessment Framework*² (CAF) and the role of the lead professional (responsible for co-ordinating the services), should also facilitate collaboration between key agencies. It is too early to identify specific actions

in this plan regarding the CAF, other than the need to ensure that the development of new arrangements for children's services in local authorities fully supports the resettlement process for young people involved in the youth justice system.

Similarly, in Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government's "Extending Entitlement" and "Rights to Action" agendas emphasise information-sharing with children and young people's partnerships and their sub-groups.

Strategic links with regional reducing reoffending partnerships and NOMS regional offender managers (ROMs) will also be critical in improving resettlement for young offenders. Links with regional reducing reoffending partnerships are already being established, with many regions beginning to include youth issues in their regional reducing reoffending action plans. This is also happening nationally in Wales via young people's partnerships.

Looked-after children

In November 2002, the Munby judgement found that the Children Act 1989 did apply to young people in custody, and that local authorities with social services responsibilities have obligations to children in custody, subject to the requirements of imprisonment. This means that, for children and young people with Care Orders, their home local authorities with social services responsibilities continue to have parental responsibility. In these cases, the social worker has a critical role to play in the resettlement of the young person, working alongside the YOT and secure establishment.

For all looked-after children and care leavers, case management must involve social services from the earliest stage of the resettlement process, and this involvement must continue throughout.

1. The Stationery Office (2003)
2. DfES (2004a)

2. Accommodation

Introduction

Safe, supportive and sustainable accommodation is critical to resettlement. It is an important element in:

- maintaining employment, education or training
- accessing benefits and healthcare
- sustaining family support.

Research shows that inadequate accommodation is likely to have a significant negative impact on reoffending, and there is a documented link between severe accommodation problems or homelessness, and recidivism.¹

The potential benefits of improved housing provision were made clear in the 2002 Social Exclusion Unit report, *Reducing Reoffending by Ex-Prisoners*,² which stated that stable suitable and sustainable accommodation could mean a reduction of more than 20% in reoffending rates for the most serious offenders.

The Home Affairs Select Committee report on the rehabilitation of prisoners³ also emphasised the importance of effective rehousing of offenders on release from custody. In addition, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Select Committee report on homelessness⁴ emphasised the importance of housing and support, both for young people and those leaving custody. The YJB is also developing an accommodation strategy in response to the housing needs of young offenders. It is conducting a thorough consultation process in drafting the document, which is due to be launched in 2006.

A key challenge is, therefore, to increase the access to, and provision of, suitable accommodation for young people leaving custody, particularly given the other competing priorities for supported housing on a local level.

For children under the age of 16, there is a statutory obligation on the part of local authorities with social services responsibilities to provide accommodation and related support for those unable to live in the family home or with relatives. For 16 to 17-year-olds it is more complicated, and depends on status. This means that statutory responsibility for “eligible” and “relevant” children, as defined by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, lies with social services, as it does for young people who are deemed vulnerable and in need under section 17 and section 20 of the Children Act 1989. However, for young people aged 16 and 17 who do not meet these criteria, and are homeless through no fault of their own, the local housing authority has a duty to ensure that accommodation is available.

Main objective

The main objective is to ensure that all young people leaving custody can access suitable and sustainable accommodation with support where appropriate. This is done by:

1. assessing the housing needs of young people in custody, and contributing to research evidence and data to inform future housing provision
2. increasing the provision of suitable and sustainable accommodation for 16 to 17-year-olds leaving custody
3. ensuring immediate access to suitable accommodation for 16 to 17-year-olds on release from custody
4. ensuring young people leaving custody receive the appropriate level of housing support, once back in the community
5. developing interventions to support young people (and their families) to sustain relationships and facilitate their return to the family home, where appropriate.

1. Hagan and McCarthy (1997)

2. Social Exclusion Unit (2002b)

3. Home Affairs Select Committee (2005)

4. ODPM Select Committee (2005)

Understanding housing need

A better understanding of the accommodation needs of young people leaving custody should:

- help to improve accommodation outcomes
- allow an aggregate picture of need to be built up as a basis for influencing the supply of suitable accommodation to such young people.

A recent YOT accommodation survey by the YJB¹ showed that 15% of young people surveyed were in “housing need”, with relationship breakdown with parents or relatives (42%) being one of the major factors triggering this for young people leaving custody.

Of those 15% deemed to be in housing need:

- 26% were in bed-and-breakfast accommodation
- 20% were staying with friends
- 13% were “sofa-surfing”
- 5% were “sleeping rough”.

The same research also found that 30% of those young people in housing need are, or have been, looked-after children (as compared to only 11.5% of all young people who have offended).

Access and suitability

On release from custody, some young people in housing need are placed in temporary, unsupported bed-and-breakfast accommodation, which many agencies do not consider suitable. The 2004 Audit Commission report, *A Review of the Reformed Youth Justice System*,² found that each year around 9,000 young people coming into contact with YOTs, including those leaving custody, are placed in unsuitable accommodation such as bed-and-breakfast or unsupervised tenancies. Where a local housing authority places someone in temporary accommodation under the homelessness legislation, they must, by law, supply accommodation that is “suitable” for the applicant. The question of suitability regarding accommodation for the homeless is governed by case law, and differs from the social services definition of “suitable accommodation”, which is defined by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

Ensuring access to suitable accommodation requires careful planning and strong multi-agency working. The expected release date of a young person will normally be known at the point of sentencing, so YOTs and other housing support services must approach the relevant local housing authority for assistance as soon as they know accommodation is needed. If accommodation has not been secured, a homeless application can be made to the local housing authority 28 days before release.³

Support

The Supporting People programme is aimed at providing support to vulnerable people to sustain their housing. Local Supporting People commissioning bodies must identify priorities for local Supporting People funding and draw up five-year plans to improve the match between local supply and demand.

Wales

Responsibility for housing within Wales lies with the Welsh Assembly Government. The All Wales Youth Offending Strategy has four specific housing objectives, and is taking forward work in this area. In addition, the Wales Homelessness Strategy is being reviewed, with the Welsh Assembly Government considering whether to restrict the use of bed-and-breakfast accommodation in particular cases, including those involving 16 to 17-year-olds.

1. YJB (2004a)

2. Audit Commission (2004b)

3. Local housing authorities must consider all homelessness applications, and have a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that a young person does not become homeless if eligible for assistance.

3. Education, Training and Employment

Introduction

Many young people in the youth justice system have, or have had, difficulties with their education. Research shows that:

- 50% of young people known to the YOT are under-achieving in school¹
- 33% need help with reading and writing
- 15% have statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- 60% screened during induction were identified as having specific difficulties with speech, language and communication.²

Education problems, such as failure at school, disaffection, persistent truancy and exclusion, are strongly associated with offending. The likelihood of a young person offending doubles if he or she has been excluded from school, and the number of those who are excluded appears to be rising. Many young people who are out of school would prefer to return to mainstream education, and see it as the best route to getting a job (employment has been shown to be a significant factor in programmes to reduce reoffending by young adult offenders).

The YJB and partner agencies are undertaking, or have undertaken, a number of initiatives that aim to improve engagement in Education, Training and Employment. For example:

- the Keeping Young People Engaged project, which involves partnership-working between the YJB, Prison Service and Connexions to engage young people in Education, Training and Employment
- the PLUS strategy, which aims to raise significantly literacy and numeracy levels of those young people for whom it is appropriate³
- Entry to Employment, a learning programme targeted at young people aged 16 to 18 years who are not able to enter employment directly
- the Government Office London project, which seeks to re-engage young people leaving YOT care into Education, Training and Employment within a week
- the Welsh Assembly Government Young Offender Learning Project.

The challenge is to harness the benefits of these initiatives in a consistent, common framework.

Who has responsibility for the Education, Training and Employment of children and young people in the youth justice system?

• Fifteen to seventeen-year-olds

In England, a more co-ordinated service for all offenders (aged over 15 years) is being implemented through the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS), a partnership led by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Under this, responsibility for offender learning in custodial and community sectors is being transferred to the LSC. The new service became operational in three government regions (the North East, North West and South West) in August 2005, and will go live in the remaining regions from August 2006.

Funding for education in Prison Service establishments will, therefore, transfer to the LSC. A partnership agreement between the YJB and the LSC will ensure national accountabilities are understood. Regional and local targets will be agreed through this mechanism and they will drive performance on the ground. Service delivery will be moved forward by regional OLASS partnerships led by the LSC, with YOT and Connexions involvement. There should be robust links between regional OLASS, regional reducing reoffending partnerships and regional resettlement action groups and this should ensure that any barriers to engagement are removed through interagency collaboration.

• Ten to sixteen-year-olds

Local education authorities continue to have responsibility for the placement and continuing attainment of children and young people under school leaving age who have offended. The development of the 14-to-19 curriculum is being managed through a number of pilot projects jointly managed by the LEA and LSC. In a Green Paper published in December 2005, *Reducing Re-Offending through Skills and Employment*,⁴ the Government made a commitment to publishing proposals to address the issues affecting school-age offenders in the second half of 2006.

1. Figures for first three bullet points are taken from Audit Commission (2004b)

2. Bryan (2004)

3. The PLUS strategy, an integral part of the DfES Skills for Life strategy, is a partnership between the YJB, DfES and the Arts Council England.

4. The Stationery Office (2005)

Wales

The Young Offenders' Learning Project will seek to improve education and training provision for young offenders resident in Wales. The responsibilities formerly exercised by Education and Learning Wales for post-16 learning will be transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government and, at local level, the young people's partnerships will be key to the delivery of services.

Main objective

The main objective is to provide all young people with suitable and sustainable Education, Training and Employment throughout their sentence and beyond. This is done by:

- ensuring continuity of Education, Training and Employment provision (including personal and social skills) through all the stages of resettlement – community to custody, custody to community, between secure establishments, and beyond sentence
- improving re-engagement into mainstream Education, Training and Employment on release from custody
- ensuring that agencies work together efficiently, with shared goals and clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

• Continuity of provision

During a custodial sentence, a young person's Education, Training and Employment provision may change several times as they move from community to custody, between secure establishments, and back in to the community, as well as crossing Education, Training and Employment services' age boundaries. The co-ordination and accreditation of Education, Training and Employment provision across both custody and community are therefore essential.

The transfer of information is also important, and is dealt with in more detail in the Case Management and Transitions Pathway (above). In addition, the three development regions referred to (the North East, North West and South West) are assessing the transfer of education information as part of piloting an integrated service.

• Re-engagement into Education, Training and Employment

For young people of statutory school age, the local education authority (LEA) is obliged to ensure full-time education provision. Due to the complex relationship between LEAs and schools, however, the decision of acceptance into a mainstream school rests with the head teacher and governors. Because some schools take a disproportionately high number of hard-to-place pupils, LEAs in England are now developing protocols with all secondary schools to achieve a fairer distribution of these often high-need young people.

For young people over the age of 16, the situation is more variable. While there is a range of providers and choices for individuals in Education, Training and Employment, there are concerns about the level of support given to young people to sustain suitable placements, as well as about regions where provision is limited. In Wales, the YJB is leading on the development of a protocol between Careers Wales, Connexions and Welsh YOTs to address this issue.

In England, the Government is introducing reforms to the financial support of 16 to 19-year-olds in order to remove some of the barriers that prevent young people from achieving their learning potential. It has set a target to get nine out of ten young people aged between 16 and 19 into education or training by 2015. This is further outlined in the Finance, Benefits and Debt Pathway "aims and action" plan below. The Welsh Assembly Government has also set out plans for its Learning Pathway plan to increase the proportion of 19-year-olds with Levels 2 and 4 qualifications.

• Joint working

There are a number of agencies involved in engaging young people in Education, Training and Employment. In England some local Connexions services share protocols with YOTs, to have a dedicated Connexions personal adviser seconded to the YOT. This can help to raise the profile of education within the YOT, as well as the profile of young people known to the YOT in the wider education community.

In Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government's Learning Pathway plan promises the development of youth gateway advisers under the auspices of 14-to-19 networks.¹

• Personal and social skills

Frequently, young people who have offended lack fundamental social skills, such as anger management.² A number of secure establishments provide courses such as the Juvenile Enhanced Thinking Skills and victim-awareness courses. Similarly, YOT supervising officers address these needs through a variety of one-to-one work throughout a young person's sentence. However, the provision of these interventions can be patchy or limited, and greater opportunities for their delivery must be taken forward.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs is also developing an education, advice and information strategy, which is looking at young people and citizenship.

1. This refers to the Welsh equivalent of the English 14-to-19 curriculum currently being piloted by DfES. This provides alternative education and training for 14 to 19-year-olds in schools and further education colleges so that students can choose programmes of study that suit their abilities and interests.

2. Baker et al (2003)

4. Health

Introduction

There are three aspects to this Pathway, each of which is discussed in more detail below:

- mental health
- physical health
- health promotion.

The primary emphasis for the Health Pathway is mental health issues, which are likely to have the most serious impact on successful resettlement: but it is important that young people's health is looked at as a whole.

• Mental health

Research has shown that young people who have offended are more likely to suffer from mental health problems than young people in general, with up to 31% in the youth justice system suffering from a mental health problem of some kind.¹ Mental health problems among young people who offend are therefore at least three times higher than those within the general population.² Recent studies have found that:

- two-fifths of sentenced males and two-thirds of sentenced females displayed symptoms of anxiety, depression, fatigue or concentration problems, compared to a tenth of young people in the general population³
- 5% exhibited signs of psychotic illness.⁴

• Physical health

Many young people also have physical health needs that only come to light through contact with the YOT. Appropriate healthcare while young should help to reduce problems in adult life, but a quarter of YOT clients have never been to their GP, and many of those who use conventional GP services say they do not find them helpful. When YOT and secure establishment health workers carry out physical health checks, multiple health needs are sometimes identified.⁵

• Health promotion

It follows from not being engaged with mainstream health and education provision that many young people will lack information to make choices about healthy living.

Main objective

The main objective is to ensure that all young people in custody have access to suitable and sustainable general and specialist healthcare services, based on individual need, so that problems are assessed and treated at the earliest opportunity and in the most appropriate manner.

The following form the basis of this aim:

1. appropriate assessment of health needs
2. access to, and continuity of, appropriate health care services in custody and the community
3. sharing with relevant services information concerning the young person's treatment, on a need-to-know basis, and with the young person's informed consent
4. improving the health and well-being of young people in custody, and providing them with information to make healthy choices.

• Continuity of provision

Primary health care is the foundation of health care for young people both in the community and in secure care. A health care assessment is carried out on reception into custody. This aims to identify previous and current health issues, which will be addressed in primary care or, if appropriate, a referral will be made to a specialist health care provider.

For mental health services, existing models of provision may present a number of obstacles to the successful treatment of health problems for young people who enter custody. In some places, young people aged 16 and 17 years fall into a gap between children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHSs) and adult services, and have difficulty accessing mental health care. This problem is recognised within the *National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services*⁶ in England (and the draft *National Service*

1. YJB (2005a)

2. DfES, Department of Health (2004)

3. Audit Commission (2004b)

4. YJB (2005a)

5. Audit Commission (2004b)

6. DfES, Department of Health (2004)

Framework in Wales), which notes that, over that document's lifetime, CAMHSs should "be able to meet the needs of all young people including those aged seventeen and eighteen".

• **Referral and access**

Some progress has been made in recent years towards the goal of providing improved substance misuse, mental and physical health services for young people who offend. *The Asset Mental Health Screening Tool*¹ was launched in November 2003, with the aim of allowing YOTS to identify mental health problems at an early stage. This has been accompanied by a national effort to increase the priority of mental health matters. The *National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services* also recognises mental health care for young people as a priority, and the NHS has invested in a mental health in-reach service into prison for all age groups. However, the limited availability of child and adolescent services makes achieving this target more difficult in children's and young person's secure establishments than in adult prisons.

A single health-screening tool to be used in the secure estate, building on *Asset*,² is being developed by the YJB, incorporating mental health, physical health and substance misuse. The YJB and Department of Health are now focusing on guidance to support health workers in YOTs. This is based on an integrated service model that aims to promote consistent provision within secure establishments and across the community. Although the specific issue of substance misuse is a separate Pathway (dealt with below), it is still important to consider the significant impact that substance misuse can have on the mental and physical health of the young person.

1. YJB (2003b)
2. YJB (2003a)

5. Substance Misuse

Introduction

Research¹ has shown that young people who offend are more likely to suffer from substance misuse problems than young people in society as a whole. For instance, University of Essex research shows that the use of Class A and Class B drugs is considerably higher among young people who offend than in other groups in the general population.²

Substance misuse issues have a major impact on resettlement needs. After violence in the home, substance misuse is the most important contributory factor towards homelessness for young people.³ A vicious circle is likely to ensue, with a young person unable to hold down a job, home or satisfactory education or training because of substance misuse.

A YJB study in 2004 of young people in custody identified the following statistics:⁴

- 90% of the sample had used an illegal drug at some point in their lifetime
- 72% used cannabis daily in the 12 months before their arrest
- 51% used two or more drugs more than once a week.
- 45.4% had been dependent on a substance at some point in their lives
- 74% drank alcohol more than once a week. The majority (54%) of drinkers regularly exceeded six units on a single occasion.

Effective practice in working with young people with substance misuse problems is covered in the *Key Elements of Effective Practice – Substance Misuse*⁵ and substance misuse practical training has been available since April 2004. The *National Specification for Substance Misuse for Young People in Custody* has also set out a comprehensive blueprint for the provision of services in custody. This has been accompanied by a wider increase in staffing and resources. A facilities improvement programme is under way to enhance the environment in which services are delivered, and practitioner resources are being developed.

The Substance Misuse Pathway encompasses all types of substance misuse, including misused drugs, alcohol, solvents and tobacco.

Main objective

The main objective is to ensure all young people entering custody are screened for substance misuse, with recognition of previous interventions. Those with identified needs should receive specialist assessment and access to the appropriate intervention and treatment services, with their aftercare needs met on return to the community. This involves:

1. ensuring delivery of substance misuse interventions that are based on effective practice – both within the secure estate and in the community
2. working to minimise the risk of substance misuse, including overdose, by the young person during custody and on release
3. ensuring that information concerning treatment of a young person is effectively shared, with their informed consent, with relevant services throughout the resettlement process.

1. YJB (2004e)

2. University of Essex (2003)

3. University of Essex (2003)

4. YJB (2004e)

5. YJB (2003e)

6. Families

Introduction

Families and other social and community support systems play an important role in the successful resettlement of young people into the community. For many, this will be the first time that a member of their family has received a custodial sentence, and, as a result, everyone may have to make huge adjustments. Key issues include:

- the impact that a custodial sentence will have on family relationships
- access to services and support for the family
- the impact on the family when the young person is released.

Main objective

The main objective is to ensure that families of young people in custody receive timely, high-quality support and information, from the point of arrest and throughout the young person's sentence. This involves:

1. enabling families to have better access to quality contact with young people in custody
2. providing interventions and support for young people and their families to enable them to maintain strong and supportive relationships
3. providing support and training for young people in custody who are parents.

• Contact between the young person and their family

There are key links between families and other areas of resettlement – particularly accommodation. As a means of preventing homelessness among young people leaving custody, there should be interventions supporting young people in custody and their families to maintain their relationships and facilitate their return to the family home where appropriate. This highlights the importance of family contact while the young person is in custody.

• Family support

There are no formal obligations on YOTs or other agencies to provide direct support to the families of young people in custody, and while YOTs do provide parenting support, it is not currently targeted at the parents of those in custody. As a result, there may be a perception that the family is being forgotten. The distance between a young person's family home and the secure establishment can also exacerbate a lack of contact and support. Families must be encouraged and supported to visit the young person regularly and when they do, their experience should be as positive as is possible in the circumstances. Unfortunately, there is often not enough information and support given to them to facilitate such contact.

It is also important to acknowledge that, on entering custody, some young people have little or no contact with their family. In such cases, there may be other "significant" adults from whom they receive support, and these relationships also need to be maintained and supported.

7. Finance, Benefits and Debt

Introduction

Resettlement of young people leaving custody should aim to return the young person to the family home wherever possible and appropriate. However, for some young people, particularly those aged 16 to 17 years, this is not always feasible, and it is this group for whom finance, benefit and debt issues are particularly significant, as lack of adequate financial support may cause additional challenges in achieving resettlement.

There are also financial issues for families accepting young people leaving custody back into the family home, as there are a number of benefits and tax credits that can help facilitate this. For many young people and their families, the wide range of responsible agencies complicates this issue, along with the legal status of young people under 18 years old.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Treasury and the DfES published *Supporting Young People to Achieve: Towards a New Deal for Skills*¹ in 2004. This document “examines the role of financial support in achieving the Government’s skills objectives”. It also looks at the case for rationalisation of the system of financial support for 16 to 19-year-olds. As part of this, the Government announced a long-term aim to move towards a single system of financial support for 16 to 19-year-olds. This was endorsed in the 2005 Budget, which also announced the intention to pilot the use of activity agreements supported by an activity allowance in assisting the hardest-to-help young people gain skills and qualifications.

A number of interim improvements are proposed. These include:

- the extension of Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit to families of unwaged trainees aged 16 to 19 on approved work-based training courses from 2006
- the extension of entitlement to Child Benefit, Child Tax Credit and Income Support to 19-year-olds to enable them to continue in courses that began before their 19th birthday.

The Government is allocating £60 million over two years to pilot activity agreements and linked weekly allowances in

eight areas of England (to begin in 2006). It will also try out learning agreements that use financial incentives to encourage employers and their 16 to 17-year-old employees to enter training or education. In addition, Jobcentre Plus will issue improved guidance for staff on the handling of applications for the Job Seeker’s Allowance on severe hardship grounds from 16 to 17-year-olds who have good reason to live independent of their parents.

Main objective

The main objective is to ensure young people leaving custody and their families are provided with information and advice so that they are able to access appropriate financial support.

All young people leaving custody, and their families, should have clear advice and information about benefits and tax credits available to them. In addition, youth justice practitioners should be fully aware of what benefits and tax credits are available to young people and their families in order to assist them with their claims.

Accessible information for young people in custody

For many young people leaving custody, the benefits system can be confusing and complicated. The first step must be to ensure that young people have access to all relevant information on entitlement. This applies equally to practitioners caring for young people, who are in a position to offer advice and support in claiming benefits.

Education is an important aspect of helping young people to understand benefit entitlement and to manage their finances. The DfES, and, specifically, the Skills for Life Strategy Unit, has produced and launched a *Personal Finance Handbook*,² a reference guide for teachers, advisers and others working in the front line. Previously the project developed the Adult Financial Capability Framework, in partnership with the Financial Services Authority. From this, teaching and learning materials have been developed that allow literacy and numeracy skills to be improved through the context of personal finance. There is an opportunity to trial and further develop financial literacy materials in secure establishments: this has been included as an action in the Education, Training and Employment Pathway (see below).

1. DWP, Treasury, DfES, (2004)

2. Skills for Life Strategy Unit (2004)

The youth resettlement Pathways

“aims and actions” plans

How to use the plans

The following plans are presented in tabular form, and show, for each Pathway, its aims, together with:

- the areas in which actions are required to achieve the aims at local, regional, Welsh and national level (note that actions are not always required at all three levels)
- what those actions are, and who should lead on them
- the partners in achieving those aims
- the timeframe relating to the actions.

Where possible, timeframes are indicated as one of the following:

- short term (within the next 12 months)
- medium term (12 to 24 months)
- long term (24 to 48 months).

Throughout, the phrase “secure establishments” refers to the secure estate for children and young people, i.e. secure children’s homes, STCs and YOIs. *E-Asset* is the YJB’s electronic sentence management system.

Note that not all the bodies that lead or partner operate in both England and Wales. For example, with regard to the Education, Training and Employment Pathway, Connexions operates only in England; in Wales, Careers Wales and young people’s partnerships perform similar functions. Likewise, community safety partnerships in Wales parallel crime and disorder reduction partnerships in England. And in Wales, local health boards carry out a similar role to primary care trusts in England.

Abbreviations used in the plans

ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAMHSs	Children and adolescent mental health services
CDRP	Crime and disorder reduction partnership
CJIT	Criminal Justice Information Technology
CSP	Community safety partnership
DAT	Drug action team
DAAT	Drug and alcohol action team
DCA	Department for Constitutional Affairs
DIP	Drug Intervention Programme
DfES	Department for Education and Skills
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EPQA	Effective Practice Quality Assurance
INSET	In-service training
ILP	Individual learning plan
JASP	Juvenile Awareness Staff-training Programme
LEA	Local education authority
LHB	Local health board
LSC	Learning and Skills Council (national body)
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
NOMIS	National Offender Management Information System
NOMS	National Offender Management Service
NSCAG	National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group
NTA	National Treatment Agency
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
OLASS	Offenders Learning and Skills Service
OLSU	Department for Education and Skills Offenders Learning and Skills Unit
PCT	Primary care trust
QCA	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
RAP	Resettlement and Aftercare Provision
ROM	National Offender Management Service regional offender manager
ROTL	Release on Temporary Licence
RSL	Registered social landlord
SEN	Special Educational Needs
STC	Secure training centre
YJB	Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
YOI	Young offender institution
YOT	Youth offending team

1. Case Management and Transitions: aims and actions

AIM				
Ensure a robust case management system is in place and working effectively to support the continuity of service delivery across the resettlement process				
ACTIONS				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Ensure that Secure e-Mail is fully implemented across YOTs and secure establishments to support the delivery of sentence management including planning for resettlement.	YJB	Secure establishments, YOTs	Medium term
	Maximise opportunities for achieving interface between case management systems used by YOTs and NOMIS.	YJB	Secure establishments, YOTs, NOMS	Medium term
	Report on the impact of the electronic processes involved in the e-Asset pilots. Identify impact on resettlement planning and its implementation by YOTs.	YJB	Secure establishments, YOTs	Continuing

AIM				
Ensure appropriate interventions are delivered based on the individual need and risk of each young person, including their family, carer				
ACTIONS				
Skills to deliver successful case management				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Improve resettlement case management skills of YOTs and secure establishment practitioners through YJB's INSET, (<i>Effective Practice In-Service Training</i>).	YJB	Secure establishments	Short term
Regional, Wales	Plan joint case management training for secure establishment and YOT staff.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales, YJB HR and learning co-ordinators	Secure establishments	
Local	Identify case management skills gaps and incorporate into INSET development.	YOT managers	Secure establishments	

Case management role				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Produce practical guidance for practitioners on the resettlement case management process in order to provide a consistent framework for delivery linked to INSET.	YJB	Secure establishments, YOTs, NOMS	June 2006
Regional, Wales	Monitor and drive forward the practical resettlement case management guidance.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales	Secure establishments	
Local	Implement the practical guidance for practitioners on the resettlement case management process.	YOT managers, secure establishments, Connexions, young people's partnerships, Careers Wales		
Performance management and continuous improvement				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Implement the resettlement EPQA process at all YOTs.	YJB	YOTs, secure children homes	Short term
Regional, Wales	Use the findings from the resettlement EPQA process to shape regional and local improvement plans.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales		Short term
Local	Devise and implement improvement plans.	YOT managers, secure children's home managers	Secure establishments	Medium term
National	Introduce a shared "informal" – or "shadow" – resettlement performance indicator across YOTs and YOIs, ensuring the alignment of YOT and YOI performance measures.	YJB, Prison Service (Juvenile Group)	Secure establishments, YOIs, YOTs, NOMS	Review April 2006
Regional, Wales	Monitor new performance indicator.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales	Secure establishments	Dependent on timetable for introducing new performance measure
National	Review contracts with non-Prison Service secure establishments, and monitor compliance to ensure they fully reflect resettlement requirements.	YJB	Secure children homes, STCs	Medium term

Using assessment to influence provision				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Ensure improved usage of <i>Asset</i> data to fully inform local, regional and national commissioning, with reference to resettlement.	YJB		Review April 2006
Regional, Wales	Influence the NOMS regional reducing reoffending commissioning plans or All Wales Strategy Implementation Group on the basis of <i>Asset</i> data for children and young people leaving custody.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales (to be reviewed in 12 months against the developing ROMs-NOMS Wales Offender Manager structure)	Government offices, Welsh Assembly Government, ROMs	Review April 2006
Local	Make full use of <i>Asset</i> information to inform local commissioning process.	YOT managers, secure establishments	Children's trust arrangements, CDRPs, CSPs, DATs, other local commissioning bodies	
Local	Ensure <i>Asset</i> is fully reviewed and updated at key stages of the resettlement process, in line with National Standards and effective practice guidance.	YOT managers	Secure establishments	

AIM				
Enhance partnership-working and the timely exchange of relevant information				
ACTIONS				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Ensure greater use of ROTL in line with new Prison Service ROTL policy (with youth-specific section) to enable young people to attend community appointments necessary for effective resettlement.	Prison Service (Juvenile Group)	YJB, secure establishments	Medium term
Local	Ensure clear information-sharing protocols are implemented between relevant local partners to cover transfer of information, including between custody and community.	YJB	Local authorities, CDRPs, CSPs, Wales, Police, PCT, LEA, etc	
National	Promote the use of existing video-conferencing facilities to enable young people and their families to attend appointments necessary for resettlement.	YJB, Prison Service (Juvenile Group)	CJIT, DCA	April 2006
Local	Make full use of existing video-conferencing equipment to enable YOT staff, families, other professionals and local services to interview young people in custody with regards to resettlement issues.	YOTs, YOIs	Connexions, local authorities, voluntary sector	
Regional, Wales	Ensure youth resettlement issues continue to be embedded within regional reducing reoffending strategies.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales (to be reviewed in 12 months against the developing ROMs-NOMS Wales Offender Manager structure)	Regional reducing reoffending partnerships, All Wales Strategy Implementation Group, Government offices, Welsh Assembly Government, ROMs	

AIM

Ensure the participation of young people and their families or carers in the resettlement process

ACTIONS

	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Practitioner case management guidance to include, as a priority, activity to ensure the active participation and understanding of young people and their families within the resettlement process.	YJB	Secure establishments, YOTs	Medium term
Local	Ensure that young people fully understand the sentence planning process and have the opportunity to engage in resettlement planning.	YOT managers, secure establishments	Connexions	

Local	Ensure families are fully involved and understand the sentence planning process during all stages of resettlement.	YOT managers, secure establishments	Connexions	
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Looked-after children

	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Roll out "social workers in custody" project to ensure delivery of services required by the Children Acts, and better partnership working between the secure estate and local authorities with social services responsibilities.	YJB	Prison Service, local authorities with social services responsibilities	Review April 2006

2. Accommodation: aims and actions

AIM				
Assess the housing needs of young people leaving custody and contribute to research evidence and data to inform future housing provision				
ACTIONS				
Improve assessment of housing need				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Develop a housing screening tool linked to the adult assessment model, <i>Asset</i> and the CAF for use in custody and the community.	YJB	NOMS, secure establishments	Short term
Local	Encourage local housing authorities and local authority homelessness teams to accept assessments undertaken by other professionals.	YOT managers	Local housing authorities, CDRPs, CSPs, secure establishments	
Develop an evidence base to inform continuing development				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Consolidate and analyse national data on current levels of housing provision and identify gaps in provision for young people leaving custody.	YJB	NOMS, ODPM, Welsh Assembly Government	Medium term
Regional, Wales	Collect and analyse regional data on current levels of housing provision and identify gaps in provision for young people leaving custody.	Regional YJB managers, YJB Manager for Wales (to be reviewed in 12 months against the developing ROMs-NOMS Wales Offender Manager structure)	Regional reducing reoffending partnerships, All Wales Strategy Implementation Group, Government offices, Welsh Assembly Government, ROMs	
Local	Gather and develop local data (for each YOT area) on current levels of housing provision and identify gaps in provision for young people leaving custody.	YOT managers	CDRPs, CSPs, children's services, Local authorities, housing and other housing providers (statutory and non-statutory)	

AIM

Increase the provision of suitable and sustainable accommodation for 16 to 17-year-olds leaving custody

ACTIONS

Influence

	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Engage with national housing providers and RSLs to deliver greater provision of suitable and sustainable accommodation for young people leaving custody.	ODPM, Welsh Assembly Government, YJB	National housing providers, RSLs	Short term
Regional, Wales	Engage with and influence Government office regional housing boards or Welsh Assembly Government to deliver greater provision of suitable and sustainable accommodation for young people leaving custody.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales (to be reviewed at 12 months against the developing ROMs-NOMS Wales Offender Manager structure)	Government offices, Welsh Assembly Government Housing Directorate, regional reducing reoffending partnerships, All Wales Strategy Implementation Group, ROMs	
Local	Engage with and influence local housing providers to deliver greater provision of suitable and sustainable accommodation for young people leaving custody.	YOT managers	Local housing providers	
Suitability of accommodation				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Develop practitioner guidance on suitable and sustainable accommodation options for young people.	YJB	ODPM, Welsh Assembly Government	Short term
Local	Consult with local housing authorities and RSLs for increased provision of suitable and sustainable accommodation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • renovation of current properties • greater use of approved-landlord schemes • local rent-deposit and bond schemes 	YOT managers	Local housing authorities, children's services, RSLs, CDRPs, CSPs, National Rent Deposit Scheme	

Provision of accommodation				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
Local	Develop local accommodation strategies for young people who offend, including the needs of those leaving custody.	YOT managers	Local housing authorities, children's services, CDRPs, CSPs, RSLs, secure establishments	

AIM				
Ensure immediate access to suitable accommodation for young people aged 16 and 17 on release from custody				
ACTIONS				
Advice, information and guidance				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Update national guidance to YOTs with regard to homelessness and priority need and incorporate an "effective practice" protocol for YOTs to use.	YJB, ODPM, Welsh Assembly Government	NOMS, DfES	Medium term
Local	Develop and issue clear protocols between YOT, local housing authorities and social services to ensure responsibilities are met with regard to homelessness legislation.	YOT managers, children's services, local housing authorities, CDRPs, CSPs		
Strategic management				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Establish a national YJB accommodation panel, composed of YOT accommodation officers, to inform future development and delivery.	YJB		Short term
Regional, Wales	Establish regional or Wales YOT accommodation officer panel, with resettlement of young people as a key priority.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales	RSLs, voluntary sector	
Local	Establish the YOT accommodation role, at a more strategic level, in order to increase the influence of the YOT on local housing issues.	YOT managers		
National	Advocate the case for including local housing authorities' membership on the YOT management boards to ensure better partnership working.	YJB	ODPM, Home Office	Short term
Local	YOT management boards to co-opt local housing authorities representation until such time as they can become a statutory partner.	YOT managers, chairs of management boards	CDRPs, CSPs, local housing authorities	

AIM

Ensure young people leaving custody receive the appropriate level of housing support, once back in the community

ACTIONS

Partnership-working

	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Ensure that the housing support needs of young offenders are considered within Supporting People commissioning bodies.	ODPM, Welsh Assembly Government, YJB	NOMS	Short term
Regional, Wales	Ensure housing needs of young offenders are included within agenda of regional reducing reoffending partnerships – accommodation sub-groups.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales (to be reviewed in 12 months against the developing ROMs-NOMS Wales Offender Manager structure)	Regional reducing reoffending partnerships, All Wales Strategy Implementation Group, Government offices, Welsh Assembly Government, ROMs, voluntary sector, housing providers, Supporting People teams	Short term
Local	Establish local arrangements – e.g. protocols with the Probation Service – to ensure needs of young people leaving custody are fully represented on Supporting People commissioning bodies.	YOT managers	Supporting People commissioning bodies, Probation Service, housing providers, voluntary sector	

Supported housing				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Encourage providers to develop a greater range of supported accommodation for juveniles with a view to reducing use of unsupported bed-and-breakfast accommodation.	YJB, ODPM, Welsh Assembly Government	Voluntary sector, housing providers, Supporting People teams	Medium term
Local	Work with local housing providers, Supporting People and other local partners to encourage greater use of supported housing models.	YOT managers	CDRP, CSPs, local housing authorities, social services, secure establishments, voluntary sector	
High-risk offenders				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
Regional, Wales	Ensure accommodation needs for high-risk offenders are included within the developing regional accommodation partnership.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales (to be reviewed in 12 months against the developing ROMs-NOMS Wales Offender Manager structure)	Regional reducing reoffending partnerships, All Wales Strategy Implementation Group, Government offices, Welsh Assembly Government, ROMs	
Local	Within local MAPPA structures, work to ensure housing support needs for high-risk offenders are addressed.	YOT managers, local MAPPA partnership	CDRPs, CSPs, local housing authorities, RSLs	

AIM				
Develop interventions supporting young people in custody (and their families) to sustain relationships and facilitate their return to the family home where appropriate				
ACTIONS				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Ensure that the prevention of homelessness among young people leaving custody is incorporated and reviewed within the wider YJB prevention strategy.	YJB	YJB Prevention and Inclusion Committee	Short term
Regional, Wales	Ensure prevention and homelessness among young people leaving custody is addressed by regional housing boards and their strategies.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales, regional housing boards	Regional reducing reoffending partnerships, ROMs	
Local	Ensure prevention of homelessness for young people who offend is included in development of children's services' Children and Young People's Plan.	Directors of children's services, YOT managers	Local housing authorities	
Local	Ensure YOTs develop better links with, and make full use of, local housing authorities' mediation projects, to assist with resolving disputes between young people leaving custody and their families.	YOT managers	Local housing authorities, CDRPs, CSPs, voluntary sector	

3. Education, Training and Employment: aims and actions

AIM				
Ensure continuity of Education, Training and Employment provision (including personal and social skills) from community to custody, custody to community, between secure establishments, and beyond sentence				
ACTIONS				
Special Educational Needs				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Undertake a comprehensive review of the needs of young people in custody with SEN.	YJB, DfES	LSC, regional LSCs	Started April 2005
Local	Engage with LEAs to support young people in the youth justice system with SEN.	YOT education officers	LEAs	Started April 2005
National	Raise awareness, with the Association of Educational Psychologists, of young offender issues.	DfES	YJB, LSC	Started April 2005
Local	Ensure SEN co-ordinating officers and educational psychologists deliver effective practice with regards to young people in custody.	DfES	LEA, YJB regional monitors, secure establishments	Started April 2005
Local	Ensure delivery of SEN provision post-custody for young people under school-leaving age	LEA	DfES	
Service provision				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Ensure continuity of Education, Training and Employment provision across secure and community.	LSC, OLSU	DfES, YJB, QCA, Welsh Assembly Government	Start date August 2005 in development regions (the North East, North West, South West). Other regions August 2006
National	Ensure the PLUS strategy delivers basic literacy and numeracy skills in secure and community for those young people where initial assessment indicates it is appropriate.	DfES	YJB, LSC, Arts Council for England, Welsh Assembly Government, Arts Council of Wales	August 2005 (custody)
National	Review courses, materials and guidance that address personal and social skills, alongside the National Foundation for Educational Research study of citizenship provision.	LSC	YJB	Start August 2005

Individual learning plan				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Ensure relevant educational information is transferred between relevant stakeholders and partners by promoting take-up of ILP.	OLSU	LSC, YJB, Prison Service	Start August 2006 (when OLASS is operating in all regions). Review November 2006
Regional, Wales	Develop a process to ensure consistent use and sharing of the ILP.	Regional LSCs, Welsh Assembly Government	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales, OLSU	February 2007
Local	Implement the ILP with all appropriate providers in custody and the community.	Local LSCs, Welsh Assembly Government	YOT managers, Connexions, young people's partnerships, Careers Wales, local providers, secure establishments	August 2007

AIM				
Improve re-engagement into mainstream education, training or work on release from custody				
ACTIONS				
Mainstream education				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Review current practice and procedures for accessing Education, Training and Employment provision in the community.	DfES	YJB, LSC, Welsh Assembly Government	Start August 2005
Local	On completion of the national review, implement the DfES statutory guidance.	Local authorities	LEAs, schools, YOT managers, CDRPs, CSPs	
National	Identify appropriate Education, Training and Employment provision in the community, and support required to ensure young people have the best chance of success in any Education, Training and Employment placement.	DfES	YJB, LSC, Welsh Assembly Government	Start August 2005
National	Identify gaps in provision and produce an action plan to address them.	DfES	YJB, LSC, Welsh Assembly Government	Start August 2005
National	DfES to conduct a review of education provision for school age offenders.	DfES	YJB	December 2006

Training				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Produce and distribute guidance for YOTs on how they can influence the LSC Strategic Area Reviews process.	YJB	LSC	December 2006
Local	Provide evidence to influence the LSC Strategic Area Reviews around access and capacity of all provision.	YOT managers	Local LSCs, CDRPs, CSPs	August 2006
Employer engagement				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Engage with <i>The National Reducing Reoffending Delivery Plan</i> , including the development of a NOMS Employer Strategy, so that the needs of young people are included.	YJB, DfES	LSC, NOMS, YJB, DfES, Connexions, Welsh Assembly Government	Start August 2005, and continuing thereafter
Regional, Wales	Ensure employment issues of young offenders are fully addressed within the regional adult resettlement action plans.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales	Regional reducing reoffending partnerships, All Wales Strategy Implementation Group, regional LSCs, Government offices, Welsh Assembly Government, ROMs	August 2005
Local	Engage with local employer forums for young people returning to the local community.	YOT managers	Local LSCs, Connexions, secure establishments	Start August 2005

AIM

Ensure that agencies work together efficiently, with shared goals and clearly defined roles and responsibilities

ACTIONS

Partnership-working

	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
Regional, Wales	Ensure the YJB-LSC partnership agreement is implemented with regards to creating local partnership protocols.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales, regional LSCs		August 2006
Local	Review and update local protocols for sharing information between agencies (Connexions, young people's partnerships and Careers Wales, local LSCs, LEAs and YOTs) based on the YJB-ACPO document <i>Sharing Personal and Sensitive Personal Information in Respect of Children and Young People at Risk of Offending</i> .	YOT managers	CDRPs, CSPs, Connexions, young people's partnerships, Careers Wales	August 2006

Information, advice and guidance

	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Ensure robust (under-19) information, advice and guidance services are available to all young people who have offended.	Connexions, Welsh Assembly Government	YJB, Careers Wales	August 2006
Local	Ensure robust information, advice and guidance services are provided to all young people who have offended.	Connexions	YOTs, CDRPs, CSPs, Connexions, young people's partnerships, Careers Wales.	August 2006

4. Health: aims and actions

AIM				
Ensure appropriate assessment of health needs				
ACTIONS				
Action		Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Develop, pilot and evaluate the single health-screening tool, incorporating mental health, physical health and substance misuse, ensuring key stakeholders are consulted and existing initiatives are addressed.	YJB	Secure establishments	January 2007
Local	Fully use the single health - screening tool, which incorporates mental health, physical health and substance misuse.	Secure establishment health workers	PCTs, YOTs. LHBs	

AIM				
Ensure access to and continuity of appropriate health care services in custody and the community				
ACTIONS				
Continuity of service				
Action		Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Provide YOT health workers with guidance on role and responsibilities to ensure continuity of service provision for young people.	YJB	Department of Health	Short term
Local	Work to ensure continuity of care on transition from custody to the community.	YOT health workers, secure establishment health workers	CAMHSs, primary level health services	
Local	Through effective liaison with GPs and specialist health providers, negotiate continued registration while in custody	YOT health workers	CAMHSs, primary level health services, secure estate health workers	
Local	Ensure young people leaving custody are provided with the necessary support (appointments and prescriptions, etc) to provide continuity of treatment.	Secure establishment health care workers	YOT health workers	

Partnership-working				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Work with key forensic secure care providers to support the development of appropriate levels of resource.	Department of Health, YJB	NSCAG , voluntary sector, private sector	Continuing
Regional, Wales	Explore opportunities for regionally based "outreach" forensic services	Department of Health, YJB		
Local	Influence, through evidence-based analysis, PCTs, LHBs and local authorities commissioning of mental health services in the community.	YOT management boards	Local authorities, PCTs, strategic health authorities, LHBs	
Service delivery				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Evaluate the North East regional pilot for transferring prisoners with acute mental health illness from custody to community provision	Prison Service, Department of Health		Short term
Local	Ensure protocols governing mental health services for 16 to 18-year-olds are in place.	YOT managers	PCTs, adult mental health services, CAMHSs, LHBs	
Local	Using existing information, identify gaps in mental health service provision for 16 to 18-year-olds, and develop appropriate local actions.	PCTs, LHBs	CAMHSs, adult mental health services, YOT health workers	
Training				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Establish national targets to ensure full take up of the <i>Asset Mental Health Screening Tool</i> INSET in YOTs.	YJB		Short term
Regional, Wales	Ensure that all YOT practitioners have completed the full, three-day INSET on using the <i>Asset Mental Health Screening Tool</i> .	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales		
Local	Establish joint INSET on the <i>Asset Mental Health Screening Tool</i> .	YOT managers	Secure establishments	
National	Introduce YJB-funded mental health training module for JASP.	YJB	Prison Service, Department of Health	Short term

AIM				
Ensure that information concerning young person's treatment is shared with relevant services, on a need-to-know basis and with the young person's informed consent				
ACTIONS				
Information exchange				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Develop and issue guidance clarifying informed consent and confidentiality protocols for those aged under 16.	Department of Health	YJB	
Local	Ensure meaningful and timely information exchange between YOTs and primary health services in custody through locally developed protocols based on the national guidance.	YOT and secure establishment health workers	Primary level health services, LHBs	Short term
Stakeholder engagement				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
Local	Identify local "champions" within PCTs, LHBs to work with YOTs in dealing with CAMHSs and wider health services.	YOT managers, PCTs, LHBs	CAMHSs, strategic health authorities	

AIM				
Improve health and well-being of young people in custody, and provide them with information to make healthy choices				
ACTIONS				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Evaluate and introduce the Health and Well-being Framework piloted in YOIs.	Prison Service (Juvenile Group), Department of Health	YJB	2004 to 2007
Local	Implement the Health and Well-being Framework.	Secure establishment health workers	Secure establishments, Department of Health, YOTs	

5. Substance Misuse: aims and actions

AIM				
Ensure delivery of substance misuse interventions based on effective practice, within the secure estate and the community				
ACTIONS				
Current provision and initiatives				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Introduce 50 RAP schemes, ensuring continuity of services into the community for those most at risk of substance misuse.	YJB	DIP, NTA, DfES, Department of Health, Welsh Assembly Government	All schemes live by May 2005
National	Ensure an appropriate range of evidence-based substance misuse interventions to support young people on release from custody.	NTA, DfES, Home Office, Department of Health, Welsh Assembly Government	YJB, NTA, ODPM	Continuing
Local	Ensure young people leaving custody have access to the full range of evidence-based substance misuse interventions appropriate to their level of assessed need and risk.	DATs, DAATs, directors of children's services	YOTs, secure establishments	
National	Ensure effective implementation of the National Specification for Substance Misuse for Children and young people in Custody through annual review of development plans, review of quarterly returns, and other review mechanisms (e.g. YJB Effective Regimes Monitoring Framework).	YJB	Secure establishments	
Local	Implement the <i>National Specification for Substance Misuse for Young People in Custody</i> , and address gaps in the services through production of local development implementation plans by each secure establishment.	Secure establishments	DATs, DAATs, PCTs, LHBs, children's services, YOTs	

Protocols				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Develop and share effective practice on the use of substance misuse protocols between secure establishments and RAP (and non-RAP) YOTs.	YJB	Secure establishments, YOTs	2005 to 2007
Regional, Wales	Ensure joint regional substance misuse teams include representation from YOTs and secure establishments as well as key community partners.	Government office virtual teams, ¹ Government office drugs teams, DfES change advisers, NTA regional teams, Welsh Assembly Government, CAMHSs, YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales	Secure establishments, YOTs	
Local	Secure establishments and RAP schemes to develop local protocols.	YOI substance misuse managers, secure establishments, YOT managers	DATs, DAATs, PCTs, LHBs, children's services	
Commissioning				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Ensure National Drugs Strategy addresses the needs of young people leaving custody. Inclusion of young offenders as a priority group within <i>Every Child Matters: Change for Children, Young People and Drugs</i> .	DfES, Home Office, Department of Health, Welsh Assembly Government	YJB, NTA	Achieved
Regional, Wales	Ensure joint regional substance misuse teams address the needs of young people leaving custody.	Government office virtual teams, Government office drugs teams, DfES change advisers, NTA regional teams, Welsh Assembly Government, CAMHS	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales	
Local	Ensure DAT commissioning processes addresses the needs of young people leaving custody into their area onto community sentences.	DATs, DAATs, children's services	YOT managers, PCTs, LHBs	

1. These are multi-agency teams based in Government offices. They were created by *Every Child Matters: Change for Children, Young People and Drugs*.

Continuity of interventions				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Ensure that care options and appropriate treatment interventions are available for young people in transition into and out of custody, or who are moving between secure establishments.	NTA, YJB, Welsh Assembly Government	Secure establishments, Department of Health	Medium term
Regional, Wales	Ensure that care options and appropriate treatment interventions are maintained in transition into and out of custody, and between secure establishments.	Government office virtual teams, Government office drugs teams, DfES change advisers, NTA regional teams, Welsh Assembly Government, CAMHSs, YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales		
Local	Ensure that care options and appropriate treatment interventions are identified and implemented for young people across each transition, with clear protocols in place.	YOT managers, secure establishments, DATs, DAATs, PCTs, LHBs	Children's trusts arrangements, local treatment providers	

AIM				
Minimise the risk of substance misuse, including overdose, by young people during custody and on release				
ACTIONS				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Develop and circulate substance misuse pre-release overdose prevention video, <i>Never Going Back</i> .	YJB	Secure establishments	Achieved
Local	Make full use of <i>Never Going Back</i> .	Secure establishments	PCTs, LHBs, community drugs teams, NTA, YOTs	

AIM

Ensure that information concerning treatment of a young person is shared effectively, with their informed consent, with relevant services before the young person leaves YOT care

ACTIONS

	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
Local	Ensure that information on substance misuse assessment, interventions and outcomes that have occurred in the community before the custodial sentence is transferred to the establishment (<i>National Specification</i> service requirements and success criteria, see section 5 of that document), and back into the community on release.	YOT managers, secure establishments	DATs	

6. Families: aims and actions

AIM				
Enable families to have more accessible and better quality contact with young people in custody				
ACTIONS				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Undertake a mapping exercise to identify what provision in secure establishments is in place for families.	YJB, secure establishments	NOMS	Short term
Local	Map family support resources available within the local community that could be used to support the families of young people in custody and after release.	YOT managers	Children's services, social services, voluntary sector	
National	Linking to work commissioned by <i>The National Reducing Reoffending Delivery Plan</i> , review effective practice approaches and models of engagement and support to families of young people in custody.	YJB, NOMS	Voluntary sector	Short term
Regional, Wales	Disseminate effective practice for families visiting the secure establishments.	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales, Prison Service area managers (to be reviewed in 12 months with regard to the emerging ROMs-Wales Offender Manager agenda)	Regional reducing reoffending partnerships, All Wales Strategy Implementation Group, Government offices, Welsh Assembly Government, ROMs	Medium term
Local	Develop further opportunities for improved family engagement in secure establishments.	Secure establishments	YOT managers, voluntary sector	
Enhancing contact				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Produce a business case to place a family link worker (or equivalent) in every YOI and STC.	YJB, NOMS	STCs, YOIs, voluntary sector	Medium term
National	Promote the use of existing video-conferencing facilities to support family contact.	YJB, Prison Service (Juvenile Group)	CJIT, DCA	Review April 2006

Provision of information				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Support the development of a youth equivalent of the "Outsiders' Pack" ¹ to provide information to families.	YJB, Prison Service (Juvenile Group)	Action for Prisoners' Families, NOMS	Short term
Local	Ensure early and sustained supply of local information to families about the resettlement process.	YOT managers, secure establishments	Voluntary sector, police, courts	

AIM				
Provide interventions and support for young people and their families to enable them to maintain strong and supportive relationships				
ACTIONS				
Developing and improving provision				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
Regional, Wales	Work with the NOMS West Midlands "Invest to Save" Families Project aimed at delivering support and interventions to prisoners families (to include families of young people in custody).	YJB regional managers, YJB Manager for Wales, NOMS	Secure establishments, Welsh Assembly Government	Short term
Local	Make greater use of YOT parenting support programmes (orders and voluntary contact) for the parents of young people in custody.	YOT managers	Voluntary sector, CDRPs, CSPs	

AIM				
Provide support and training for young people in custody who are parents				
ACTIONS				
Develop interventions for young people who are parents				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Develop parenting enrichment/skills within custody (being taken forward through the YJB's PLUS).	YJB (PLUS), DfES	Secure establishments, Welsh Assembly Government	Short term
Local	Establish continued support regarding parenting skills, once out in the community.	YOT managers, children's trust services, local authorities in Wales	Voluntary sector, CDRPs, CSPs	

1. Action for Prisoners' Families (2004)

7. Finance, Benefits and Debt: aims and actions

AIM				
All young people leaving custody should have clear advice and information about benefits available to them and their families				
ACTIONS				
	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Review and develop clear information and guidance regarding benefits, tax credits, and education or training allowances for young people and their families (while these benefits are targeted at all young people, this will be particularly important for those leaving custody).	DWP	DfES	Short term
Local	Ensure that young people and their families are provided with the relevant guidance and information regarding benefits, tax credits and allowances before the young person leaves custody.	Connexions, Careers Wales, Youth Gateway advisers, secure establishments	YOT managers, Jobcentre Plus	
National	Introduce the DfES's Skills for Life Strategy Unit teaching materials on financial capability skills for young people prior to leaving custody.	YJB (PLUS), DfES	Prison Service (Juvenile Group)	Short term
National	Assess current position and address access to discharge grant for 16 to 17-year-olds leaving custody.	YJB	Prison Service	Short term

AIM

Youth justice practitioners should be fully aware of what benefits are available to young people and their families in order to assist them with their claims

ACTIONS

	Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
National	Disseminate widely the DWP information and guidance regarding benefits, tax credits and allowances.	DWP	DfES	Short term
Local	Identify named contacts within local Jobcentre Plus to ensure improved liaison between Connexions, Young People's Partnership and Careers Wales, YOT and Jobcentre staff and identify opportunities for joint training.	Connexions, Careers Wales, Youth Gateway advisers	YOT managers, Jobcentre Plus	
National	Ensure new guidance on severe hardship payments (Job Seekers Allowance) addresses special circumstances, such as leaving custody, and the assessments and other contributions that YOTs can make.	DWP	YJB	Short term

Appendix: Current resettlement initiatives

This is a snapshot of some of the many resettlement initiatives under way regionally and locally.

Initiative	Description	Pathway(s)
<i>Asset Mental Health Screening Tool</i>	To improve the ability of youth justice services to identify people with mental health needs and provide appropriate support and referral to CAMHSs. Launched November 2003	Health
DIP (formerly the Criminal Justice Intervention Programme)	Engaging drug-misusing offenders in treatment, aiming to move them away from drugs and crime.	Substance Misuse
Education to Employment	Training provision to prepare young people for entry into employment or apprenticeships.	Education, Training and Employment
Horizon	A project to provide coherent, seamless case management through custody into community, encompassing both system and process. The project is incorporating the e-Asset sentence management system, which has been piloted in two YOIs.	Case Management and Transitions
Intensive Fostering	Specialised, highly intensive care for young people who have offended and may otherwise face custody. Foster parents will work with the young person and their family to improve relationships. The scheme is being piloted in Hampshire, Staffordshire and London.	Families
Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme	Community punishment, individually tailored to address the causes of offending, while providing surveillance to ensure that the young offender knows they are being closely monitored. It is the most intensive community punishment available to the courts.	All
Keeping Young People Engaged	Improving engagement of young people into education training and employment through partnership working. Led by partnership between YJB, Prison Service and Connexions.	Education, Training and Employment
PLUS Strategy	Aims to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of children and young people, up to the age of 18, who have offended or are at risk of offending. PLUS is part of DfES Skills for Life strategy, and is funded jointly by DfES, YJB and Arts Council England.	Education, Training and Employment

Initiative	Description	Pathway(s)
Planned Resettlement into Sustainable Employment, RESET	Improving the resettlement process for young people through the provision of joined up multi-agency services. RESET aims to influence government policy to improve services for the resettlement of imprisoned juveniles (15 to 18 years). Both are funded by the European Social Fund EQUAL.	All
Resettlement and Aftercare Provision	Intensive support for the resettlement of young people leaving custody with high risk (specifically assessed substance misuse and dual-diagnosis needs, including health and mental health), for example through a RAP resettlement mentor, broker. It is being piloted in a number of YOTs in the South, the West and Wales and may provide a means of preventing more mainstream offenders from reoffending.	Substance Misuse, Health
Supporting People Programme	To offer vulnerable people the opportunity to improve their quality of life by providing a stable environment that enables greater independence. It delivers housing-related services to complement existing care services. Supporting People is a working partnership of local government, service users and support agencies.	Accommodation

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