



Leicester City **youth** Offending Service

Leicester City Youth Offending Service - Resettlement Policy 2018

<u>Version 1</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Authors</u>
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1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide direction and guidance to staff in effective resettlement practice in line with relevant research recommendations. The term 'resettlement' relates to a "period of transition that children face and the help they need to navigate it successfully and reduce the likelihood of re-offending" (How to make resettlement constructive, 2018).

1.2 This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the following;

YJB Case Management Guidance (2013), National Standards (2013), ASSETplus Guidance (2017), SEND code of practice guidance (2015), Case Management and Diversity Panel (CM&DP) guidance (2018), Beyond Youth Custody (BYC) (2017), "Now All I care about is my future " (2017),BYC practitioners Guide/Transitions process (2017) and "How to Make resettlement constructive (2018). Critical Learning Review internal procedure (2018)

1.3 The Resettlement of children from custody is a statutory responsibility of local authorities, in partnership with the Police, National Probation Service, Health and HMPPS Youth Custody Service (YCS).

1.4 This policy is underpinned by the concept of resettlement as a journey for the child, rather than a single transition event. Practice should be informed by the following four key principles and the 7 Pathways of Resettlement (see below):

- A continued focus on resettlement throughout a sentence
- Early preparation for release
- Effective communication between institution and community agencies
- A co-ordinated holistic response involving multi-agency partnerships.

Resettlement Pathways – Main Objectives

YJB 7 Resettlement Pathways – Main Objectives



(1) Case Management & Transitions – Main Objective:
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.

(2) Accommodation – Main Objective:

To ensure that all young people leaving custody can access suitable and sustainable accommodation with support where appropriate

(3) Education Training & Employment – Main Objective:

Provide all young people with suitable and sustainable Education, Training & Employment throughout their sentence & beyond

(4) Health – Main Objective:

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

(5) Substance Misuse – Main Objective:

Ensure that 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 interventions and treatment services, with their aftercare needs met on return to the community

(6) Families – Main Objective:

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

(7) Finance, Benefits & Debt – Main Objective:

Ensure young people leaving custody and their families are provided with information and advice so that they are able to access appropriate financial support

NB: Adult *National Reducing Reoffending Action Plan* (HO 2004) had 'Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour' as Pathway 7 – Incorporated into ETE Pathway for YP

1.5 The 7 Pathways of Resettlement should be underpinned by the following five characteristics which provide an effective framework towards achieving successful resettlement and promoting individual strengths and positive identity for the child:

- **Constructive** — centred on identity shift, future-oriented, motivating, strengths-based, empowering;
- **Co-created** — inclusive of the young person and their supporters;
- **Customised** — individual and diverse wraparound support;
- **Consistent** — resettlement focus from the start, seamless, enhanced at transitions, stable relationships; and
- **Co-ordinated** — managed widespread partnership across sectors.

2. Key principles of effective initial planning

2.1 Following a custodial sentence, an initial planning meeting should be held within the secure accommodation within 10 working days of the sentence. There is an expectation that family members and partner agencies attend this meeting.

2.2 The focus of this meeting should be the 7 Pathways of Resettlement as detailed above.

2.3 Discussions during the initial planning meeting should also include entitlement to services and availability of programmes.

2.4 The criteria for Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) and early release should be discussed at the initial planning meeting.

2.5 The young person and family should have an active voice in the meeting which informs the young person's plan. Full participation is critical at every stage of the process.

2.6 Case manager and secure estate staff must consider the child's legal right to an assessment of SEND needs and review of any existing EHCP during the initial meeting.

2.7 Any barriers to resettlement should be identified at this meeting, with proposed actions to overcome these. This includes discussion with Team Manager and escalation to senior management when required. For example, accommodation needs and appropriate release needs for accommodation must be discussed from the start of the custodial phase in order to embed it into discussions at every opportunity.

2.8 Where a child is moving to another area upon release from custody, there should be discussions with the Host YOS at the earliest opportunity regarding both accommodation plans, expectations of licence conditions and their other resettlement needs. YOS transfer process should be initiated and the Host YOS should be involved in supporting the young person throughout the sentence, once it has been established they are moving to a new area.

2.9 All of the above should be reflected in ASSETplus Pathways and Planning in an individually tailored plan that incorporates diversity needs and recognises barriers to engagement/desistance., where roles and responsibilities are explicit for each agency.

2.10 Following a custodial sentence, interim guidance is for the YOS case manager to complete the ASSETplus 'review' stage within 10 working days. Please do not complete the 'Entering custody' stage as this is the responsibility of the secure establishment.

3. Review processes

3.1 ASSETplus must be reviewed, including the young person's and parents/carers self-assessment, following every review meeting in custody (interim guidance).

3.2 ASSETplus must be reviewed by the YOS case manager, following a significant event and/or change (interim guidance).

3.2 All of the above effective practice principles for the initial planning stage should be applied at subsequent review meetings.

4. Internal YOS processes

4.1 All cases should be listed for discussion at the Case Management and Diversity Panel (CM&DP) within four weeks of sentence and following the initial planning meeting and reviewed at the CM&DP in line with risk and progress against resettlement targets.

4.2 Notice of Supervision Requirements must be agreed via the CM&DP process, prior to the penultimate pre-release meeting.

4.3 All cases should be considered for advocacy support.

4.4 YOS case managers should acknowledge and plan for the disorientation and anxieties arising at the point of release from custody.

5. Contact with the family and child/home visits

5.1 Contact should be maintained with family members, a minimum of monthly, outside of formal review processes to review progress against the 7 pathways of resettlement. This must include home visits. Staff must consider the “whole family approach” and whether a referral to Early Help is required.

5.2 YOS case managers should ensure and co-ordinate monthly contact with the young person outside of formal review processes. Creative approaches to “keeping in touch” can be used such as letters/postcards etc.

5.3 YOS case managers to complete a visit to the proposed release address, prior to pre-custodial planning release review to both confirm suitability and agree any licence expectations as well as 5 days following release from custody.

6. Additional expectations

6.1 Practitioners need to be aware of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) that children may have experienced. Consideration should therefore be given to the implementation of a ‘trauma informed’ approach to intervention/approaches in custody as well as via YOS referral to the clinical psychologist and/or the CPN nurse.

6.2 In conjunction with secure estate staff, key transition points such as the transfer to different establishments at the age of 15 and 18/transition to probation etc need to be identified and planned for. Consideration should also be given to those young people who are entitled to leaving care services and their role in supporting resettlement.

6.4 Post-exit board meeting to be completed within 10 working days. This should be chaired by the case manager and involve all professionals and family members. ASSETplus ‘post-release’ stage to be completed following this meeting.

7. Management and Senior Management Oversight

7.1 Ensure the effective collation and analysis of data/outcomes (including partners' data) relating to children who are or who have served custodial sentences which leads to improvements in services.

7.2 Scrutinise individual cases of children who have served custodial sentences (both from, and released to, the area), learning from both successes and failures and providing solutions to improve the effectiveness of work undertaken.

7.3 Ensure processes are in place to collate and capture the voice of children, their journey and full participatory engagement in the process.

7.4 Keep abreast of research on resettlement practice and ensure that this is disseminated to staff.

7.5 Utilisation of the 'Resettlement Health Check Tool' to support Quality Assurance processes in relation to resettlement.

7.6 To keep an up to date a custodial list of young people which is shared with key partners in a timely manner to support resettlement.

7.7 Young Offenders Management Board (YOMB) to ensure that Resettlement practice is scrutinised and deep dive Quality Assurance reports are provided. Senior partnership managers can provide additional support and advice from a partnership perspective.

Recommended Further Reading

- How to make resettlement constructive" (2018)- YJB
- Now All I care about is my future, a framework for effective resettlement (2017)
- Child friendly youth resettlement ", Child friendly youth justice – GoodFellow 2017
- "Trauma and Young Offenders "Beyond Youth Custody (BYC)
- "Children and Young people in custody a resource to support young people with SEND in Custody" 2016
- SEND code of practice guidance (2015)
- "Engaging young people in resettlement" - Bateman and Hazel 2013
- " BYC Practitioners Guide/Transitions Process" (2017)
- "YJB Temporary Release Guidance – (2015)
- "Recognising diversity in resettlement a practitioner guide" (BYC) 2015
- "Ethnicity and Faith, culture in resettlement "(BYC) 2015
- "Resettlement of Girls and young woman" Bateman and Hazel (2014)
- "Joint Thematic Inspection on Resettlement services" 2017 – YJB