



Gateshead Youth Justice Service

Resettlement Policy

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1. Introduction

1.1 The following policy is to provide direction and guidance to staff in effective resettlement practice. The main aims and objectives of these procedures are:

- To identify the aim of resettlement
- To recognise the child first principle by promoting a Constructive Resettlement approach
- The policy recognises good resettlement work provides the best opportunity for children to change and become productive members of society.
- To give a consistent approach to implementing Constructive Resettlement across the service

2. Legal Context and National Guidance

2.1 This guidance should be read in conjunction with the following and is provided to highlight 'local practice' in the context of these documents and is not a replacement for them.

National Guidance

- YJB – Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System (2019)
- YJB - Case Management Guidance – Custody and Resettlement
- YJB – How to Make Resettlement Constructive (Sept 2018)

Research and Reports

- Beyond Youth Custody – Now All I Care About is My Future (2017)
- HMI Probation thematic reports into Resettlement (2015 & 2019)

3. The Aim of Resettlement

3.1 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" (YJB 2018). Resettlement starts when a child enters custody.

3.2 This policy relates to the resettlement of children from custody. This a statutory responsibility of local authorities, in partnership with the Police, National Probation Service, Health and HMPPS Youth Custody Service (YCS).

3.3 The aim of resettlement should be to support a child to shift their identity from pro-offending to pro social. Only by doing so can we achieve long term desistance from offending and a child moving towards a positive future.

3.4 The work to support resettlement needs to be organised in a two-stage framework:

- Individualised personal support to guide the shift. This includes identifying the pro-offending narrative, strengths and goals, a pro-social identity and the route to achieving this.

- Individualised structural support to enable the shift by building the route identified in personal support. This ensures a child has suitable practical support required for their personal resettlement route, including accommodation, healthcare, education training and employment and constructive leisure¹.

3.5 Resettlement should be viewed as a journey for the child, rather than a single transition event. A Constructive Resettlement approach should be applied to assist in achieving positive outcomes. This should align with the YJB Pathways to Resettlement (Appendix 1) whilst reflecting evidence that all work with a child needs to consider the following five principles:

- **Constructive** — Centred on identity shift, future-oriented, motivating, strengths-based and 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 and stable relationships
- **Co-ordinated** — Managed widespread partnership across sectors.

3.6 This constructive, strengths-based, and future-focused approach is in line with the YJB's guiding principle of "Child First."

4. **Effective Planning**

4.1 Support should be provided to a child from the very point that they enter custody to prepare them for their return to the community. This support should continue the length of the time a child is in custody and continue following release for the whole course of the order and where necessary beyond.

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

4.3 The purpose of this meeting is to agree a sentence plan to reduce the risks of reoffending, build on strengths and set realistic targets for desistance. The meeting should therefore consider each of the seven pathways for successful resettlement. Plans must include identifying the pro-offending narrative, strengths and goals, a pro-social identity, and the route to achieving this.

4.4 The voice of the child and their parent/carer should be heard throughout the meeting. Their participation should continue throughout the entire process.

¹ YJB – How to Make Resettlement Constructive (Sept 2018)

- 4.5 The YJS and secure accommodation staff must consider any existing EHCP when devising a plan. If there are felt to be undiagnosed SEND needs, a formal assessment can be requested. The case manager and secure estate staff must consider the child's legal right to an assessment of SEND needs and consider any existing EHCP when devising a plan.
- 4.6 Discussions during the initial planning meeting should also include, diversity needs, entitlement to services and availability of programmes.
- 4.7 The criteria for release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) should also be discussed as this can assist in resettlement planning e.g., accommodation visits and ETE interviews.
- 4.8 Any barriers to resettlement should be identified at this meeting, with proposed actions to overcome these. Such actions can be formally reviewed at subsequent custodial reviews and at the Resettlement Meeting. Barriers should be discussed with a Team Manager and escalated to senior management when required. For example, any perceived difficulty in meeting accommodation needs must be discussed from the start of the custodial phase to embed it into discussions at every opportunity. It will also be necessary to ensure the Management Board are fully aware of the needs of individual cases.
- 4.9 YJS staff must ensure arrangements are in place to keep victims safe. This will include contact with the Victim Liaison Unit and victim workers to establish, where necessary that appropriate licence conditions are in place.

5. Overcoming Barriers

- 5.1 The HMI Probation Resettlement reports found outcomes for young people leaving custody were not 'good enough' with challenges around finding suitable accommodation and education/training/employment.
- 5.2 Before the midway point of the custodial phase, the YJS case manager should hold a multi-agency '**Resettlement Meeting**'. A representative from agencies who can assist in the delivery of the seven pathways to resettlement should be invited. The aim of this meeting is to ensure a child has suitable practical support required for their personal resettlement route. The following values should be promoted:
- An understanding of diversity, personal experiences, prejudices, and social exclusion
 - Acknowledge previous hardship or victimisation
 - Consider ways in which individual, cultural, procedural, and structural factors mesh to impact upon engagement and outcomes
 - Focus less on what the young person has done and more on the person themselves, their present difficulties and overcoming them for the future.
- 5.3 The young person's views should be strongly represented at the meeting by the YJS case manager.

- 5.4 Contingency planning should be discussed at the Resettlement Meeting particularly in relation to accommodation, education, and health to prevent firefighting. Where firm plans are in place, all present should still consider what alternative could be made available if the arrangement broke down.
- 5.5 Individual preferences should be explored at length, but where these are not immediately available the following steps should be taken prior to the Resettlement Meeting and an agency representative invited.
- Accommodation: If the child cannot return to parents/carers/placement a referral will need to be made to Children's Social Care or the SAILS panel. This should be done as soon as it is known that on release the child needs alternative accommodation.
 - Education/Training/Employment: At the point of sentence arrangements will need to be made for ETE provision on the child release. In the case of statutory age children liaison will be had with the Education department to ensure suitable education is in place for on release. If a child requires post 16 provision a referral will be made to the Information Advise and Guidance Team.
 - Health: If the child has any health needs the case manager will make a referral to the most appropriate health agency. Referrals for substance misuse will be made through Platform Gateshead.
 - Transition: If the child turns 18 before or shortly after release transition arrangements will take place with Probation. The YJS seconded Probation officer will take the lead and if the child has turned 18 the YJS will remain involved for a period of up to three months.
- 5.6 Actions should be agreed, and review meetings held accordingly until all barriers are resolved.

6. Maintaining Contact

- 6.1 Case managers should aim to meet with a young person at least monthly, where shorter custodial sentences are imposed, this may need to be more frequent.
- 6.2 Contact with parents/carers must be maintained at least monthly and occur outside of formal processes. Parents/carers must be involved in reviewing progress against the seven pathways to resettlement.
- 6.3 A 'whole family approach' must be considered and whether additional referrals to support services are required.
- 6.4 The YJS must ensure young people are kept safe. This will include case managers providing thorough assessments to the Youth Custody Service regarding a young person's safety and wellbeing. Case managers will also respond to any incidents within the secure estate regarding the young person vulnerability within 24 hours to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place.
- 6.5 The YJS must have arrangements in place to keep other young people safe. This will include case managers providing robust assessments to the Youth Custody

Service about the level of risk the young person poses to others and potential victims. Case managers will respond to any concerning incidents within 24 hours.

7. Review Processes

- 7.1 Custodial review meetings should occur regularly and provide an opportunity to monitor progress against the seven pathways to resettlement. The young person and parents/carers should be present.
- 7.2 Where a young person is assessed as high risk of re-offending, causing serious harm to others or there are high safety and well-being concerns, a multi-agency risk meeting should be convened within 10 working days prior to release.
- 7.3 Following release, a Resettlement Review Meeting should be arranged within 10 working days with the young person, their parent/carer present and representation from any relevant agencies.

8. Welfare Secure

- 8.1 For young people active to youth justice services and who become subject to Welfare Secure under Section 25 of the Children Act 1989 the principles of constructive resettlement should be applied.
- 8.2 The youth justice case manager should consider the main objectives of the resettlement pathways in all care planning proceedings.

9. Disproportionality

- 9.1 The Youth Justice Board Statistics 2020-21 report that Black children accounted for 29% of the youth custody population. Gateshead has very low numbers of resettlement cases. However, the YJS will be vigilant and curious about each custody case.

10. Training

- 10.1 All YJS staff will be provided with a copy of the resettlement policy. Staff will also receive training on best practice and will have regular case discussions with their manager about the resettlement of individual cases



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 need s 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