



## Somerset Youth Justice Team (YJT) - Resettlement Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the local guidance and national agreement for transition of children to adult probation services at age 18 plus.

[Joint national protocol for transitions in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100222/joint-national-protocol-for-transitions-in-england.pdf)

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## Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide direction and guidance to Youth Justice Team 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 (Youth Justice Board) Case Management Guidance (2022),  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/custody-and-resettlement/custody-and-resettlement-section-7-case-management-guidance>

Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System (2019), AssetPlus Guidance (v3.0), SEND Code of Practice Guidance (2015), Management of Risk of Harm, Serious Harm and Safety and Well Being (local guidance May 2021), Beyond Youth Custody (BYC) (2017), Now All I Care About Is My Future BYC) (2017), and How to Make Resettlement Constructive (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 (Her Majesty’s Prison & Probation Service) 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



**(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 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.

### Key principles of effective initial planning:

1.6 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, including allocated Social Workers and any Education / SEND involved staff, attend this meeting and YJT staff will work proactively to support this end.

1.7 The focus of this meeting should be the 7 Pathways of Resettlement as detailed above. Language should be age and understanding appropriate and consideration should be given to attendance by the YJT Speech and Language Therapist, as necessary.

1.8 Discussions during the initial planning meeting should also include entitlement to services and availability of programmes in and outside of the custodial setting.

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

1.10 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 and YJT staff should act as advocates to ensure this is enabled. A YJT volunteer can be provided as a family advocate if appropriate.

- 1.11 The YJT Case Manager must consider any additional conditions with the young person and family which are necessary and proportionate to maximise the opportunities for successful resettlement from custody, and to reduce any risks to the victims or wider community. Planning must work to protect victims and reduce risk of harm to others. (A risk and impact assessment may be appropriate and must include all relevant partners).
- 1.12 The YJT 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, so attendance by any already involved SEND professional is vital and should be facilitated by the responsible home YJT worker.
- 1.13 Any barriers to resettlement should be identified at this meeting, with proposed actions to overcome these. This includes discussion with the YJT Team Manager and escalation to YJT or Social Care or Education Senior Management when required. For example, accommodation needs and appropriate release needs for accommodation must be discussed from the start of the custodial phase to embed it into discussions at every opportunity.
- 1.14 As per the National Protocol for Case Responsibility (section 4.97) where a child or young person is moving to another area upon release from custody, there should be discussions between the Host and Home Youth Justice Service (YJS) regarding licence conditions. This should adhere to the principles relating to safeguarding and public protection. If Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) is being considered as a condition of their Notice of Supervision, the Home YJS should advise the proposed Host YJS and ISS team at the earliest opportunity once the proposed location is known. Both Home and Host YJS teams should be involved in the planning for their release.
- 1.15 All of the above should be reflected in AssetPlus Pathways and Planning in an individually tailored plan that incorporates diversity, cultural and identity needs and recognises barriers to engagement and/ or desistance, where roles and responsibilities are explicit for each agency.
- 1.16 Following a custodial sentence, the YJT Case Manager to complete the AssetPlus 'review' stage within 10 working days.

Note: The 'Entering custody' stage is the responsibility of the secure establishment at sentence commencement.

1.17 For children with SEND who are in youth detention, the following additional regulations and guidance may be consulted:

- Primary Sections 70-75 of the Children and Families Act 2014
- Sections 28, 31, and 77 The National Health Service Act 2006
- The Equality Act 2010
- Section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
- Section 17 of the Children Act 1989
- Section 39A of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Section 562B of the Education Act 1996 Regulations
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015
- The Special Education Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- The National Health Service Commissioning Board and
- Clinical Commissioning Groups (Responsibilities and Standing Rules) Regulations 2012 (Part 3 and Schedule 3)

### **Review processes:**

1.18 AssetPlus must be reviewed, including the young person's and parents/carers self-assessment, following every formal review meeting in custody. Asset Plus may additionally require review following any interim or exceptions meetings with the child in custody and must be reviewed and updated should a significant change in situation or risk of harm or safety and welfare issues be identified.

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

### **Internal YJT processes:**

- 1.20 Children who were (prior to sentence) being discussed at the YJT Multi Agency Risk Panel (MARP) will continue to be discussed at least bi-monthly unless assessed risk falls below HIGH (for either risk to others or safety and welfare reasons).
- 1.21 Notice of Supervision Requirements must be agreed via the MARP process, prior to the penultimate pre-release meeting unless MAPPA process is engaged when it takes priority.
- 1.22 All cases should be considered for advocacy support.
- 1.23 YJT Case Managers should acknowledge and plan for the disorientation and anxieties arising at the point of release from custody in partnership with relevant partners such as Social Care and Education.

### **Contact with the family and child/home visits:**

- 1.24 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 with the lead social worker as relevant. This must include home visits to the proposed release address. YJT staff must consider the “whole family approach” and whether a family referral to any other support services (such as Prevention, Health, SIDAS, SDAS, Education transitions) is required.
- 1.25 YJT Case Managers should ensure and co-ordinate monthly contact with the young person outside of the formal review processes. Creative approaches to “keeping in touch” can be used such as letters/postcards/arranged virtual meetings using web conferencing platforms such as Microsoft Teams.
- 1.26 YJT Case Managers will complete a visit to the proposed release address, prior to pre custodial planning release review to both confirm suitability and agree any licence expectations. Case Managers must also visit the child in the release address within 5 days following release from custody to confirm licence conditions in language the child can understand and to act as an early alert for

any home-based issues which suggest a child is struggling with community transition.

### **Additional expectations:**

- 1.27 Practitioners need to be aware of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) 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 YJT referral to the team Clinical Psychologist. The in house YJT Trauma Informed Champions can also be involved in consultancy and advice to case holders on how best to support the child.
- 1.28 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 adult probation services 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, with strong working links made with Leaving Care workers through shared YJT and Pathway planning.
- 1.29 The post-release board meeting should be completed within 10 working days. This should be chaired by the YJT Case Manager and involve all professionals and family members important to the child. The AssetPlus post-release stage should be completed by the YJT Case Manager following this meeting.

### **Management and Senior Management Oversight:**

- 7.1 The YJT Head of Service and / or Operational Manager will ensure the effective collation and analysis of data/outcomes (including partners' data) relating to children who are or who have served custodial sentences which will be shared with Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board (SYJPB) members for the purpose of identifying and developing improvements in services.
- 7.2 Individual cases of children who have served custodial sentences (both from, and released to, the area), will be scrutinised to enable learning from both successes and failures to provide solutions to improve the effectiveness of work undertaken.



7.3 Somerset YJT Senior Management will ensure processes are in place to collate and capture the voice of children, their journey and full participatory engagement in the process. Senior Management (alongside YJT Team Leaders) will also keep abreast of research on resettlement practice and ensure that this is disseminated to staff.

7.4 YJT Senior Managers will be informed by Team Leaders of all young people subject to a custodial sentence to ensure key partners are engaged in a timely manner to support resettlement.

7.5 SYJPB will ensure that resettlement practice is scrutinised for quality and outcome on a regular basis (to be dependent upon number of children entering custody).

#### **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) (p222 onwards)
- 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 women Bateman and Hazel (2014)
- Joint Thematic Inspection on Resettlement services YJB (2017)