



South Tyneside Youth Justice Service Update July 2026

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Overview of Youth Justice Service (YJS)

Statutory Multi-Agency Partnership include:



South Tyneside Council services



Northumbria Police



Probation Service



Health partners



Education services



Community and voluntary sector

Each of which hold a statutory responsibility for resourcing and supporting the partnership

No single agency can tackle youth offending alone

Core Purpose

To prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people whilst:

- Safeguarding children
- Supporting victims
- Keeping communities safe
- Promoting positive futures for children

The YJS provides the statutory functions for youth offending set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Inspected by HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP)

Local Context

Challenges Facing South Tyneside

- Ranked 35th most deprived local authority in England
- 29.6% of children live in relative low-income households
- Significant child poverty and inequality
- Increasing complexity of needs amongst children entering the justice system
- Ongoing pressures from the cost-of-living crisis.

Many children supported through YJS have experienced:

- Trauma
- Mental health difficulties
- SEND/Speech & Language
- Exploitation risks
- Educational disengagement

Child First Approaches



SEEING CHILDREN AS CHILDREN

Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.



BUILDING PRO-SOCIAL IDENTITY

Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.



COLLABORATING WITH CHILDREN

Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.



DIVERTING FROM STIGMA

Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.



TO WORK FOR SOUTH TYNESIDE

National Context

White Paper published May 2026

“Cutting Youth Crime Changing Young Lives Youth Justice System Reform”

- Reduce reoffending
- Protect the public
- Smaller, more complex cohort
- High trauma, SEND, mental health needs
- System intervenes too late
- Overuse of custody

Overview of Key Reforms

- Expansion of prevention & early intervention
- Review the national protocol on reducing the criminalisation of children in care and care leavers
- Overhaul of the Out of Court Resolution Framework
- Increase the use of Parenting Orders
- Review the role of volunteers in Referral Orders
- Youth Intervention Courts
- Review age of criminal responsibility
- Expanded community sentences (YROs)
- Multi-year funding
- Reform the role and remit of the Youth Justice Board (YJB)
- Strengthen strategic partnership arrangements
- Focus on knife crime, VAWG, exploitation

Ambition

- Fewer young people entering system
- 25% reduction in the use of remand
- Lower reoffending
- Improved safety
- Strengthen early intervention
- Expand and strengthen community alternatives to custody
- Improve partnerships and increase the availability of AI and analytics
- Invest in workforce

A continued shift from custody-led to prevention more intensive community-based responses strengthening partnerships and collaborative working

Youth Justice Plan Requirements

In England and Wales, a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Every local authority must produce a plan, in consultation with partner agencies, setting out how youth justice services will be delivered, governed, and funded.

The plan must explain:

- How youth justice services will be provided - Prevention and diversion, Court and sentencing work,
- Out-of-court resolutions, Victim work.
- Resettlement and reducing reoffending
- How the service will meet its statutory responsibilities.
- How offending and reoffending will be prevented
- Use of Youth Justice Board grants and other funding streams
- How the Youth Justice Service (YJS) will operate governance and management arrangements..

Prevention Work

 Early Identification



 Targeted Prevention



 Turnaround Programme



 Family Support



 Education Support



 Reduced Offending

Headline Performance Indicators

Four Key Outcomes

Indicator	22/23	23/24
Reoffending Rate	28.6	15.8
Number of first-time entrants	23	16
Number in custody	2	1
Number serious Violence	5	3

Priorities 2026-28

-  Reduce Knife Crime
-  Tackling violence against women and girls
-  Mental Health
-  Work with Victims
-  Address Youth antisocial behaviour
-  Target prevention

Victims and Restorative Justice case study

- Metro worker assaulted by a 15yr old girl while carrying out his duties.
- A restorative justice meeting was facilitated following careful preparation.
- The young person showed genuine remorse and took responsibility for her actions
- The victim felt heard, gained answers, and regained confidence.
- Following the positive experience, the victim became a Restorative Justice Panel Member.

Risks and Challenges

- **Complex Needs** - Trauma, mental health, SEND Speech and Language needs
- **Poverty & Inequality** - Cost-of-living pressures driving vulnerability and risk
- **Mental Health** - Limited capacity and delays accessing specialist support.
- **Funding Pressures** - Financial pressures across LA and partners capacity/sustainability
- **System Change** - Local governance changes may affect priorities and resources

Mitigation -

Early interventions - Strong Partnerships - Child First Practice - Workforce Development - Robust Governance – Flexible accessible approaches across adolescent services.

Looking Forward

Our priorities 2026-28 are clear reducing serious violence and knife crime, tackling violence against women and girls, addressing anti-social behaviour, strengthening support for victims, and continuing to invest in prevention and diversion

Ultimately, our plan is about creating opportunities for children to make positive changes in their lives while ensuring communities are safer and victims are supported.

The plan reflects a collective commitment from all partners to deliver a Child First, restorative, and compassionate approach that recognises potential rather than simply past behaviour

Thank you for your attention, and I am happy to take any questions