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Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

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Improving People's Lives

# **Youth Justice Plan 2022-23**

**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing  
Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel  
05 July 2022**

# Crime and Disorder Act 1998

- Establishment of multi-agency Youth Offending Teams
- Council as lead partner, with Health, Probation and Police Services having a duty to co-operate and help resource
- Statutory purpose to prevent children offending
- Requirement to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan
- Receipt of national grant dependent on submission of the Plan

# Child First Principles

## **1. See children as children**

Prioritise best interests of children, recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused and developmentally informed

## **2. Develop pro-social identity for positive child outcomes**

Promote children's individual strengths and capacities as a means of developing their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance....All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society

## **3. Collaboration with children**

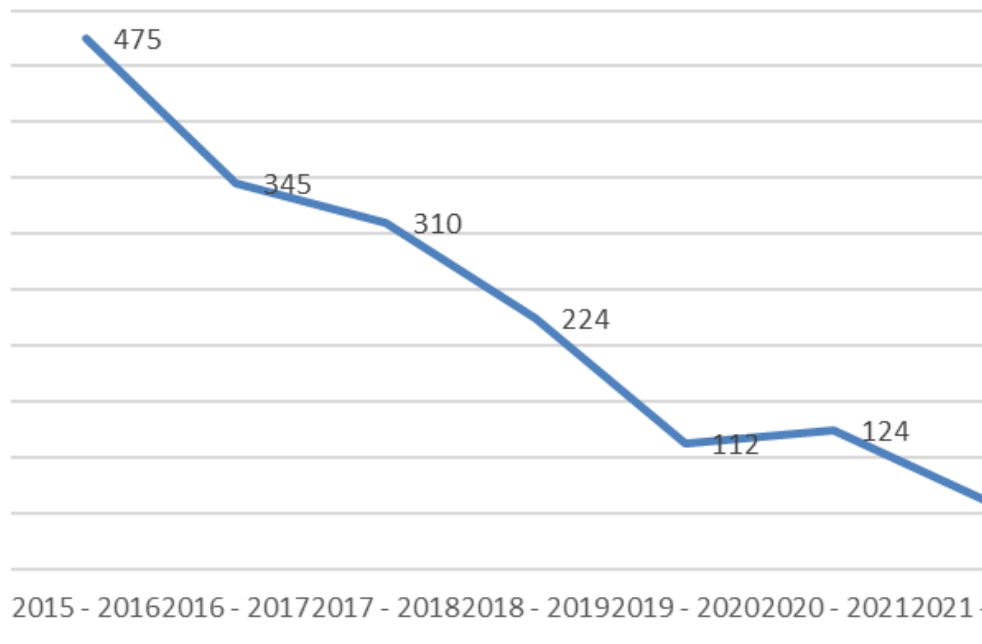
Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is meaningful collaboration with children and their carers

## **4. Promote diversion**

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

# Prevention and Diversion

Rate of First Time Entrants - April - March



- Rate of children coming into justice system is lowest its been since 2000
- More children go to Out of Court Disposal Panel or are diverted by Police

# Re-Offending after 12 months

- Latest comparative data is for July 2019 - June 2020 cohort
- 32% children re-offended, lower than all comparators apart from 'family' group (31.5%)
- Of those who did re-offend, the average number of new offences was 2.88, much better than all comparators (range from 3.61 – 3.9)

# Custodial sentencing

- Number very low – none in the last 12 months
- Strong community proposals have enabled Court to sentence in the community
- Also, no custodial remands in the last 12 months
- Wider context of considerably reducing child custodial population

# Strategic Priorities

- 1. Strengthen participation**  
Children's, parents'/carers' and victims'
- 2. Address disproportionality**  
Black and dual heritage children, girls and those with SEND
- 3. Extend practice models**  
Trauma informed, systemic and restorative practice
- 4. Tackle exploitation**  
Contextual safeguarding audit, serious violence duty and drugs and alcohol legislation
- 5. Support workforce**  
Including health and wellbeing, return to Keynsham Civic Centre training and development and Inspection readiness