

Youth Justice

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Who are we?

- Case Responsible Officers
- Sexual Health worker
- Victim Liaison Worker
- Liaison & Diversion team
- Speech and language therapists
- Police Officers
- Substance misuse workers
- Physical health Nurse
- Probation Officer
- CAMHS nurses
- Education lead
- Volunteer coordinator
- Forensic Psychologist
- NEET workers
- Programme officers
- Social workers

Role and Remit

- Police Custody (Custody Advice line)
- Out of court and diversion system
- Court system
- Custodial sentences



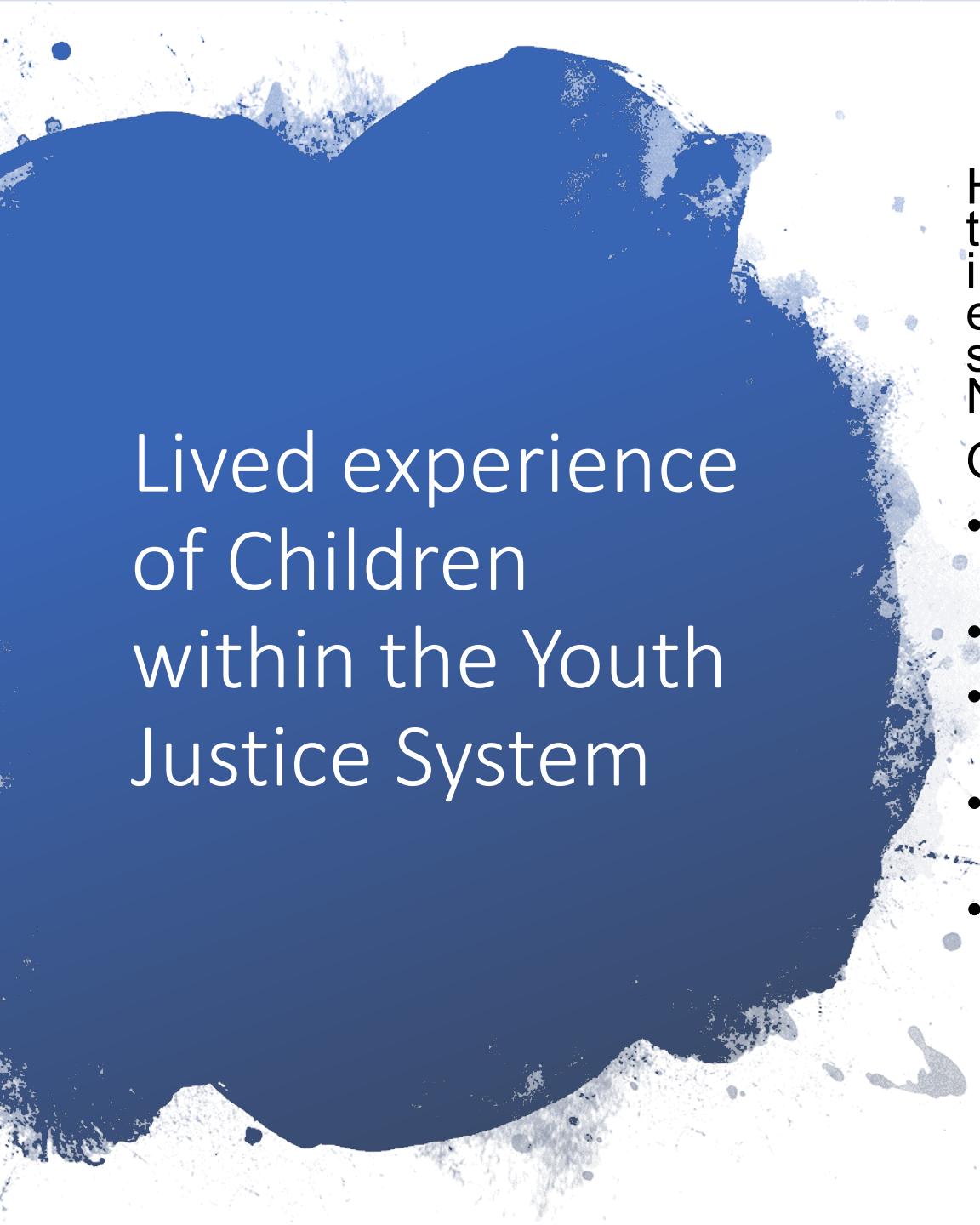
Child First

- See Children as Children
- Build Pro-social Identity
- Collaborate with Children
- Divert from Stigma

Imperfect Victims

“Every child matters, unless you have broken the law”

(Bateman and Pitts, 2010)



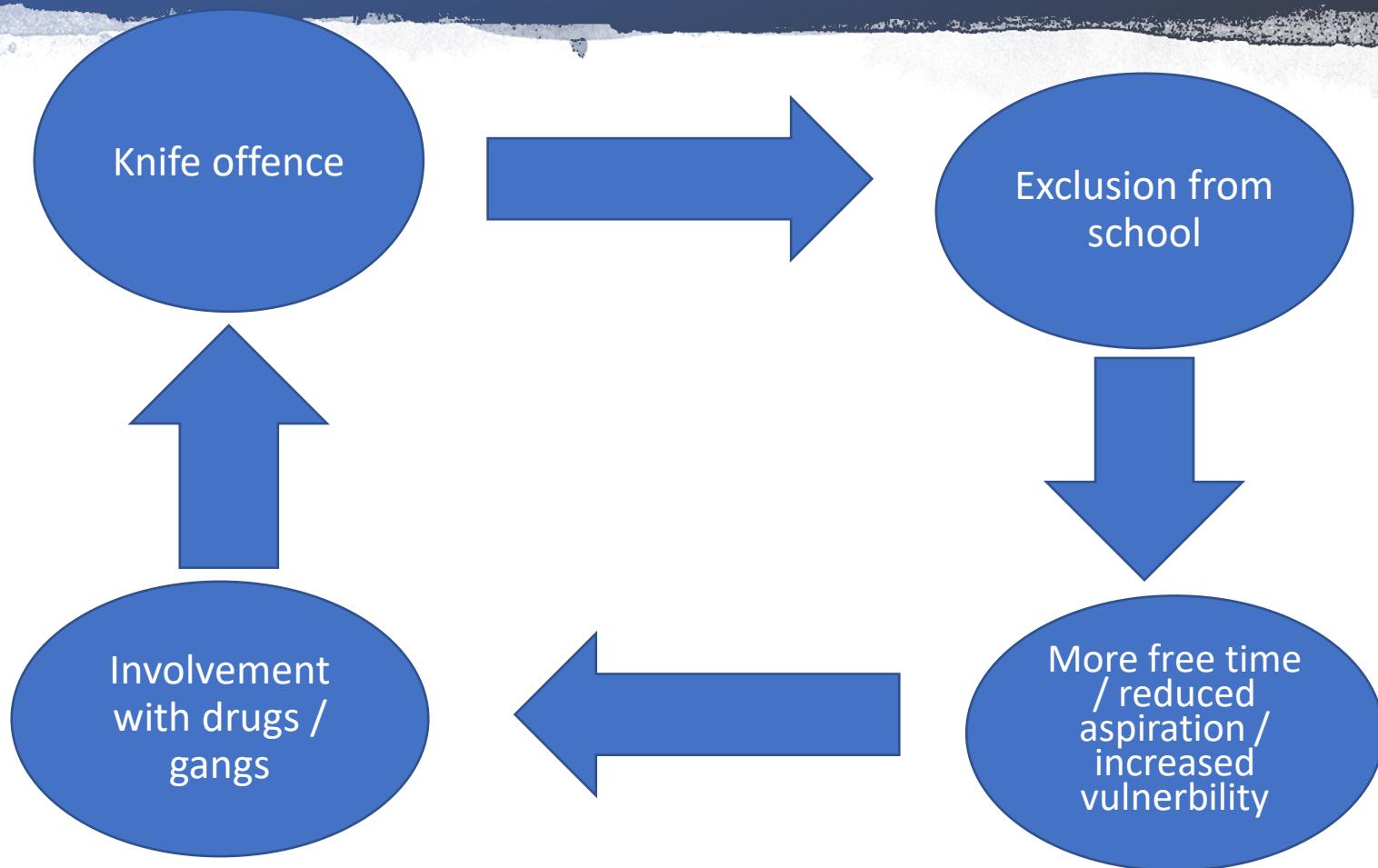
Lived experience of Children within the Youth Justice System

HM Inspectorate of Probation, with Ofsted and the Welsh equivalent Estyn, conducted an inspection of education, training and employment services (ETE) in youth offending services in England and Wales between November 2021 and January 2022

Of 181 cases inspected:

- 65% of children had been suspended from school
- 47% had been permanently excluded
- Children were left on long-term part-time timetables
- Some children were receiving no schooling at all
- Many children open to YJ have low numeracy and literacy levels, speech, language and communication needs, and/or cognitive disabilities

Example



Attendance Guidance

Attendance Guidance –

- Schools are expected to communicate with the pupil's Youth Justice Team
- Notify YJ of any unexplained Absence
- Where a pupil is found guilty of a crime and detained under a sentence of detention before the pupil's name can be deleted from the admission register the school must have reasonable grounds to believe the pupil will not return to the school once they are released.

KPIs

In April 2023 the MoJ developed new KPIs for YJS to understand how YJS partnerships are responding to this different cohort.

- The Education, training and employment KPI measures the proportion of children in suitable ETE at the end of their order.
- Attendance is reported at the beginning and end of their intervention.

ETE KPI in detail

When considering suitability of ETE, there has been a move away from prescriptive engagement hours to a more nuance needs led approach. Suitability considerations include:

- The child's voice, strengths, and ambitions for the future.
- Sustainability of provision and pathway to continuity of ETE engagement.
- The protected characteristics of the child.
- Whether ETE objectives offer a pathway to achieving tangible educational and/or vocational outcomes in the form of credits and qualifications.
- How appropriate the provision is for the child's current educational proficiency.
- How the provision will encourage proficiency in English and Maths, and be ambitious about improving this proficiency.
- How the provision will provide appropriate support for a child with SEND.



Questions

Working with these Children

- Tackling motivation is key to engaging Youth Justice experienced children.
- Inclusive, supportive school environments
- Building positive relationships
- Using praise and encouragement
- Recognising and addressing the causal factors in partnership
- Working with the YJS around safety planning and risk management

References / Further reading

[‘Major barriers’ to participation in Education, Training and Employment for the most vulnerable children in the youth justice system \(justiceinspectories.gov.uk\)](#)

[Effective practice guide: Youth Education, Training and Employment \(justiceinspectories.gov.uk\)](#)

[Key performance indicators for youth justice services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Education, training and employment \(justiceinspectories.gov.uk\)](#)