

Youth Inspection Online Roadshow: 27.11.24

Outstanding questions and answers from session:

There were a number of questions relating to out-of-court disposals and what is in and out of scope as well as what needs to be recorded on YJS case management systems for out-of-court disposals. Page 21 of our manual gives further guidance on what out-of-court disposal work would be in scope for inspection. We ask for additional comments when services compile their long list so we can understand the local delivery arrangements and our lead inspectors will also discuss this in the planning meeting with each YJS. We have a pre-fieldwork meeting to ensure we fully understand each YJS's local arrangements for out-of-court disposals, victim work and child, parent and carer participation.

The YJB case management guidance also provides guidance on the expectations for YJSs in terms of out-of-court disposals and recording work on case management systems.

There was reference to the need to use the terminology of 'risk outside of the home' instead of contextual safeguarding. We use the language of contextual safeguarding to be consistent with the research and evidence base. In our inspection activity we will use both the language of contextual safeguarding and risk outside of the home, depending upon the context of the conversation and the participants we are speaking with.

Given you have one domain now for assessing the quality of work with children will the 'sufficiency' standard still be applied to out-of-court disposals compared to statutory cases? Yes. Our domain two inspects the work delivered to children in relation to the standards for assessing, planning and delivery. For each of these standards inspectors answer key questions about different aspects of quality in relation to achieving positive change for the child and keeping the child and community safe. As we inspect, we look for an individualised, responsive service that meets the needs of the child, irrespective of the disposal or outcome they have received. We recognise that meeting these needs may be nuanced in the context of the disposal/outcome (for example identifying exit planning, referrals to other services, linking in with early help may be appropriate for those children receiving short voluntary input). Further information will be in our Case Assessment Rules and Guidance (CARaG) which will shortly be published. Our manual also contains further information around sufficiency, scoring and rating work with children.

What is the timeframe for the victims' sample long list? We ask that the long list for victims includes details of all cases where the YJS has received contact details from the police (irrespective of whether contact with the victims actually took place) for the period of four-six months from the date of the announcement. If the YJS does not have a minimum of nine victim cases eligible within this timeframe we extend this period to run from two months to 12 months from the date of announcement. More detail about specific arrangements is provided in the case sample specification, sent to a YJS when we announce an inspection. This is also discussed in detail at the planning meeting.

Do the YJS chose the two cases for the multi-agency case discussion review, or will the inspectorate pick them? We will identify the two cases to be discussed within our finalised case sample. We ask the YJS to review these cases before inspection fieldwork starts, using a template provided. Reviewing activity should be done collaboratively, including the case manager and any partnership workers involved with each child. The lead inspector or deputy lead inspector then formally inspects the cases. During the multi-agency case discussion, the lead inspector will guide the conversation to explore how the YJS and partners have worked with the child to achieve positive change and keep the child and the community safe.

Could you give more clarity on what the expectations are for the strategic needs assessment? [Our rules and guidance document](#) (page 59, prompt f) details more information in relation to this and what it might cover.