



Youth Justice
Agency

BUSINESS 2023-2024 PLAN

Programme for Government	YJA Theme	YJA Strategic Outcomes	YJA Reporting Lead	YJA Business Activities for 2023-24
<p>PfG Outcome: Everyone feels safe - we all respect the law and each other PfG Outcome: Our children and young people have the best start in life</p> <p>Reduced Crime - measured by the prevalence rate, which is the % of the population who were victims of any NI Crime Survey crime</p> <p>Reduced Reoffending - measured by the reoffending rate</p> <p>An Effective Justice System - measured by the average time taken to complete criminal cases</p>	<p>Earlier Stage Diversion</p>	<p>YJA Outcome</p> <p>1</p> <p>Children are exited from the youth justice system at the earliest point, with appropriate support</p>	<p>Kelvin Doherty/ Colleen Heaney</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review Youth Justice Agency Needs Assessment (YJANA) – Earlier stage Diversion (ESD) to develop staff understanding across YJA. b) Continue to develop a strategic approach to Earlier Stage Diversion by working with partners to create additional alternatives to children entering the formal justice system. c) Undertake an evaluation of Children’s Diversion Forums and implement findings. d) Implement Internal Audit recommendations of ESD Strand 1 & 2 funding in order that they can deliver activities/programmes for children to promote community integration and to help them Be Connected. e) Review the Youth Engagement process and implement recommendations, particularly to reduce unnecessary delay.
	<p>Community-based Interventions</p>	<p>YJA Outcome</p> <p>2</p> <p>Positive outcomes for children, families, victims, and communities affected by offending</p>	<p>Kelvin Doherty/ Colleen Heaney</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review the Youth Conference guidance and align to the Youth Justice Agency (YJA) model of practice. b) Return 90% of youth conference reports to court within 20 working days and 30 days for PPS. c) Update the Regional Initial Assessment Tool (RIAT) and guidance to address substance misuse issues and signpost to appropriate help and intervention when appropriate. d) Implement the Working with Families Development Plan. e) Embed new YJA procedures for children to ensure their Education, Training and Employment (ETE) status improves during their time with us. f) Further rollout of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). g) Maximise Direct Victim Attendance at Youth Conferences by ensuring that 45% of direct victims attend the youth conference. h) Deliver a targeted Schools Programme across 5 area teams working collaboratively with statutory partners. i) Embed an Enhanced Case Management model into operational practice (intensive wrap around services) in order to reduce risk and meet need. j) Promote the participatory practice of children, families and victims in relevant development and delivery of policy and practice. k) Review and update YJA bail procedures and policy. l) Produce a best practice guidance document on working with young women.

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	<p>Custodial-based Interventions</p>	<p>YJA Outcome</p> <p>3</p> <p>Improved outcomes for children through the delivery of a safe, secure, therapeutic, child-centred environment</p>	<p>Mary Aughey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A multi-disciplinary approach will be taken to develop individual needs based care plans for young people informed by YJANA. b) Review and deliver an ongoing refurbishment programme that continues to reflect a child friendly, therapeutic and modern environment for children and young people in custody. c) Identify education and employment opportunities for young people leaving custody in partnership with the educational and vocational departments. d) Work in partnership with Health to deliver the Regional Care and Justice Programme, as appropriate. e) In partnership with ACORN Therapeutic Services we will promote the emotional health and well-being of children in custody. f) Promote quality improvement in service delivery.

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		<p>YJA Outcome</p> <p>5</p> <p>YJA resources are used effectively, complying with corporate and financial governance</p>	<p>Corporate</p> <p>(All)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Seek ways to reduce unit costs while maintaining the quality of service. b) Effectively implement all agreed inspection and audit recommendations. c) Provide information within statutory time limits in relation to pre-YJA historic case files in support of the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Scheme. d) Maintain and develop the YJA case management arrangements and MIS database to provide enhanced statistical and management information. e) In accordance with the YJA Equality Action Plan, further develop YJA data to help improve understanding of the factors contributing to over-representation of certain groups in the youth justice system. f) Effectively manage the relocation of the Belfast Area Team and Corporate HQ to new accommodation. g) Seek ways to improve our external communications and transparency through delivery of key objectives in the YJA Communication Action Plan 23/24.

Please note in the absence of an Assembly, this plan has been approved by Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Justice, but will be subject to review by an incoming Minister



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