

National
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Merseyside
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PROBATION

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board

Protocol for Joint Working between Children's Social Care, YOS, National Probation Service and Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company – Care Leavers Released from Custody.

Purpose of the document

This protocol sets out roles and responsibilities of all agencies in supporting a Young Person leaving custody who has previously been Looked After by the Local Authority.

Young Care Leavers who have completed a custodial sentence can experience a lack of planning and clarity leading up to their release date. This causes feelings of anxiety and uncertainty for the young person and for their family.

This protocol should be followed in order to ensure that such circumstances are avoided by professionals being clear about roles and responsibilities.

Planning for Release

The local authority must be involved in plans for release where the plan is for the young person to be provided with support in the community from Children's Social Care. This is because they are former relevant young people, as they have previously been Looked After by the Local Authority. The local authority will have relevant information which will assist in the consideration of release plans or home curfew particularly with regard to the young person's ability to cope with any additional supervision requirements attached to their

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license, such as electronic monitoring or an Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS); or any **MAPPA** arrangements that may be required on release

At the initial Detention and Training Order (DTO) planning review in the Young offenders Institution, accommodation and education, training and employment (ETE) arrangements on release are discussed to ensure planning at the earliest stage of detention. Wherever possible, arrangements should be made for young people to visit prospective placements and employment or educational facilities and to meet relevant practitioners before their release. There are facilities for a young person to be granted Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) or Mobility to allow outside visits to take place, subject to relevant agreements.

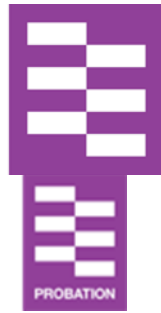
As soon as possible and no later than 14 days before release, the young person must know:

- Who is collecting them;
- Where they will be living;
- The reporting arrangements;
- Sources of support - including out of hours;
- The arrangements for education, training or employment;
- Arrangements for meeting continuing health needs;
- How and when they will receive financial support;
- When they will be seeing their personal advisor;
- The roles and responsibilities of the respective practitioners.
- That the personal advisor and the Probation Officer will share information regarding their progress and compliance.

It is essential that there is clarity about who is responsible for each element of the young person's plan and the arrangements for communication and enforcement. The local authority should record this plan as a Pathway Plan and make copies available to the young person, the supervising Probation Officer or Youth Offending Service (YOS) Case Manager, IRO, the

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establishment, other agencies that will be involved with supporting the young person after release and the young person's family, if appropriate. This plan should also specify any work that needs to be undertaken to support the young person to live independently, including access to the First Home Grant if permanent independent accommodation is identified.

Support in the Community

Most sentenced young people returning to the community once they have reached 18 years, will be supervised by the Probation Service, unless it is agreed that they stay with the YOS due to specific needs*. Where the local authority has agreed to support the young person on release, the Personal Advisor will collaborate with the Probation Officer during the period of supervision. The function of the Personal Advisor is to plan for the young person's care or for their support in the community.

It is good practice to have some joint appointments with the young person, Probation Officer and Personal Advisor so that information is shared. The Probation Officer should consult the local authority over enforcement issues, particularly if there is a possibility of the young person being returned to custody for breach of the conditions of their Notice of Supervision/Licence. Where the young person is having difficulty in complying with their conditions, the local authority should work with the Probation Officer to put additional support in place. This may include, for example, support with transport, and work with the young person regarding consequences. The Personal Advisor and supervising Probation officer should keep each other informed of significant events, including any changes in service delivery or plans and specifically of any concerns which may impact on compliance.

When appropriate the young person's Pathway Plan should be agreed with their placement provider and should include information about the support that the placement will provide to minimise the likelihood of the young person committing further offences in future.

*If it has been agreed that the young person is to remain under the supervision of YOS, during their license period, then all of the above would occur with the YOS Case Manager, in place of the Probation Officer.

Non-compliance.

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The failure of any agency to comply with this protocol should be escalated through the agencies management structure initially. If this is not sufficient to resolve issues, the matter should be escalated through the Safeguarding Children's Board.

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