



Thematic report by HM Inspectorate of Prisons

The impact of distance from home on children in custody

A thematic review

by HM Inspectorate of Prisons

October 2016

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Contents

Acknowledgements	5
Introduction	7
Section 1. Summary	9
Section 2. Background to the report	13
Section 3. Methodology	17
Section 4. Findings	19
Section 5. Appendices	33
Appendix I: Methodology	33
Appendix II: The impact of distance from home on children's experiences of custody	37
Appendix III: The impact of distance from home on visits from family, friends and professionals	43
Appendix IV: The impact of distance from home on the likelihood of recall following release from custody	49

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Introduction

This review, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board, looks at the impact of distance from home on children in custody. The reduction in the number of children held in custody in recent years is well documented, as too is the consequent reduction in the number of secure settings in which children can be detained. Inevitably, this has meant some children have been held further from home than might have been the case some years ago.

Charlie Taylor, in the interim report of his review of youth justice,¹ has aptly described the current youth custody estate as 'one we have arrived at by accident rather than design'. He has instead proposed secure schools located in the regions which they serve and some of our findings in this report would support the idea of regionally based provision.

For some children, going into custody will be the first time they have been away from the familial home, while for others it will be the latest in a series of placements in foster care and children's homes. Few though will have been as far from home as some of the children interviewed for this review. One child was 187 miles from home and had not received a family visit in four months following his transfer from a young offender institution (YOI) closer to home. This negative impact on family ties was not uncommon, with children and the staff involved in their care telling us that distance made it harder for family and carers to visit and maintain their relationships. Our analysis of visits data revealed that each 25-mile interval that a child was held from home was associated with one less visit from a family member or friend.

This is of concern. Our report into resettlement provision for adult prisoners (2014) highlighted the central importance of an offender's family and friends to their successful rehabilitation and led us to conclude that an offender's family is the most effective resettlement agency. Dame Sally Coates made a similar point in her recently published review of education in prisons.² Equally importantly, human rights standards emphasise the importance of children in detention being able to communicate with the outside world and to receive visits. The UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty³ include that 'detention facilities for juveniles should be decentralised and of such size as to facilitate access and contact between the juveniles and their families.'

We also found that visits from community-based professionals involved in a child's care reduced the further a child was placed from home. Each 26-mile interval that a child was held from home was associated with one fewer visit from a professional. Clearly this could impact on a child's successful resettlement after release. Professional visitors provide support to address substance misuse and offending behaviour, and put in place plans for employment, training or education post release, all of which can significantly contribute to preventing reoffending.

Some of our findings were worrying irrespective of the distance a boy or girl was from home. Our survey analysis showed that nearly half of children had, at some point, felt unsafe in the YOI or secure training centre (STC) in which they were currently accommodated. It does not take a great deal of imagination to picture how this might affect a child's behaviour – given the Panorama exposé of the behaviour of some staff at Medway STC and the rising levels of violence in YOIs and STCs generally – to understand why children might feel unsafe. While we did not find any association between distance from home and the likelihood of being recalled to custody after release, it was disappointing to find that nearly one in every five children released was recalled to custody on the same sentence.

¹ Ministry of Justice (2016) *Review of the Youth Justice System: An interim report of emerging findings*. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/498736/youth-justice-review.pdf

² Coates, Dame Sally (2016) *Unlocking Potential. A review of education in prisons*. London: MOJ.

³ United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, December 1990

An interesting finding was that boys in YOIs who were detained close to home reported more gang problems when they first arrived at their YOI than those who were far from home. If the model of regionally based secure schools is adopted, decisions on where to safely place some of the children committed by the courts would need careful consideration.

Given some of the distances involved, it was pleasing to find that distance from home did not significantly impact on the experiences of children in many areas of custodial life. Children themselves did not raise many concerns other than the impact on receiving visits from people they cared about and the difficulty those people experienced in getting to their YOI or STC. We did not find evidence of differential treatment of those children who were far from home and the involvement of youth offending teams in sentence planning and remand management reviews with the children they were responsible for was unaffected by distance.

Overall, it was reassuring to find that being placed far from home was not a disadvantage to the child in many facets of their custodial experience. The negative impact on family ties and the implications this has for successful resettlement and desistance cannot, however, be ignored.

Peter Clarke CVO OBE QPM
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

July 2016

Section 1. Summary

- 1.1** This independent review was commissioned by the Youth Justice Board (YJB). It pulls together views and data on the impact of distance from home on children in custody.⁴ The aims of the thematic were to:
- explore the impact of distance from home on aspects of daily life in custody for children
 - explore the impact of distance from home on resettlement planning and outcomes on release.
- 1.2** The report draws on interviews with children ($N=24$) and staff ($N=22$) at two young offender institutions (YOIs) and one secure training centre (STC), and data provided by those establishments. It also uses data from surveys conducted at four YOIs holding 15–18-year-olds and two STCs ($N=595$), and recall data provided by the YJB ($N=1,343$).
- 1.3** The review was undertaken by HMI Prisons, with support from the YJB and from STCs and YOIs involved in the fieldwork and surveys. We are grateful for their assistance.

Key findings

- 1.4 Children who were held further from home had fewer visits than those who were close to home.** For each child included in our survey sample, analysis of data on visits revealed that those held further from home had significantly fewer visits from family members and friends, with cost and travel time cited as reasons for children not receiving visits. The impact of this was raised as a negative influence by children and their caseworkers during interviews. Most caseworkers and managers, when asked about the vulnerabilities of the children in their care, linked them to problems with family contact. Little was being done, bar a pilot of using Skype at one YOI, to mitigate this impact on the boys and girls concerned (see paragraphs 4.14–4.24).
- 1.5 Analysis of data for 595 children showed that children who were further away from home received significantly fewer visits from professionals.** This mirrored what children told us in interviews (see paragraphs 4.43–4.44).
- 1.6 Planning for release and resettlement followed the same process irrespective of distance from home.** Children saw advantages in being close to home when it came to their release and caseworkers described it as sometimes harder to put a suitable release package in place for those who were further away from home. Elements such as family mediation work and ‘through the gate work’ (continuation into the community of work begun in custody) were seen as more difficult when greater distances were involved. Family involvement and support post release was seen as a key element whenever there was a chance of this being available (see paragraphs 4.48–4.51).
- 1.7** In the sample of cases looked at, distance from home had little impact on attendance by external partners at sentence planning or remand management reviews. There was good attendance by external youth offending team (YOT) workers regardless of distance and families attended half of the reviews for children who were closer to home, and slightly fewer for those who were far from home (see paragraphs 4.34–4.36).

⁴ Distance was calculated using the postcode for both the establishment and supervising YOT office, and measured in miles ‘as the crow flies’.

- 1.8 There was no association between distance from home and recall to detention following release.** Analysis of release and recall data for a census of over 1,300 children subject to a detention and training order (DTO) who were released in England and Wales during 2013–14, showed no identifiable link between distance from home while in custody and likelihood of recall to custody post release (see paragraph 4.58).
- 1.9 Survey data and interviews with children showed distance from home was not a predictor of whether a child had felt unsafe in their YOI/STC.** It was of concern though that nearly half of children, regardless of their distance from home, had at some point felt unsafe while in their current YOI/STC (see paragraph 4.5). Similarly, distance from home was not a predictor of whether a child reported that they had experienced victimisation from staff or other children, considered that they were treated with respect by staff, or had been restrained (see paragraphs 4.6–4.12).
- 1.10 Distance from home did not have a significant impact on the experiences of children in many areas of custodial life.** The main exceptions to this were: visits from family, involvement of family in preparation for release and the involvement of external professionals (other than for sentence or remand planning reviews).
- 1.11 Arriving late at the YOI/STC, which can make it more difficult for a child to settle on their first night in custody, was not uncommon** and could be exacerbated by the distances some children had to travel to get to their YOI/STC. In our *Transfers and Escorts*⁵ thematic review, we reported on the scope to make greater use of ‘virtual courts’ that could reduce the need for children to make lengthy journeys for brief court appearances and transfers. We repeat that observation in this review.
- 1.12 Boys in YOIs who were close to home reported more gang problems when they first arrived at their YOI than those who were far from home.** Caseworkers saw benefits for some children in being away from gang influences, or an area where their offence had attracted local attention. One child pointed to the advantage of being away from previous influences and having the chance to mature, and other children interviewed saw advantages in being further from home. It was considered easier as you were not reminded of family all the time, and knowing what was ‘on the other side of the fence’ could be a source of frustration for some. That young people who reported gang problems were placed closer to home than those who did not report such problems may be due to the geographical locations of YOIs and those young people involved in gangs, rather than the distances involved (see paragraphs 4.12 and 4.29).

Recommendation

To NOMS and YJB

- 1.13 More imaginative solutions and flexibility should be used to mitigate the current lack of visits for children whose family find it hard to visit, whether due to distance or other factors.**

Recommendations

To NOMS

- 1.14 Children should be provided with additional phone calls to a parent/carer in place of unused visit entitlements.**
- 1.15 There should be greater use of new technologies to enable children in custody to have the levels of contact they need with external professionals who will be**

⁵ HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2014) *Transfers and escorts within the criminal justice system*. London: HMIP.

working with them post release, and to enable relevant ‘through the gate’ work to commence while in custody.

- I.16** Age appropriate information should be available in all courts so children who are committed to custody can know before they leave the court where in England or Wales they are going, where this is in relation to their home and what the YOI/STC offers.
- I.17** Children should routinely be given the opportunity to discuss how they feel about their distance from home and how any negative impacts they are experiencing can be mitigated.

Recommendation

To YJB

- I.18** Available data should be used on a regular basis to determine any negative impacts on children who are placed far from home, particularly in relation to recall and reoffending, and to identify any emerging patterns or trends.

Recommendation

To HMCTS

- I.19** There should be increased use of video-enabled court hearings, when appropriate, while ensuring there are no adverse consequences for the child or criminal justice procedures. Safeguards should ensure that the child is able to appropriately consult with their solicitor prior to their hearing. (Repeated recommendation from escorts thematic.)

Section 2. Background to the report

2.1 To explain the background to this report this section sets out the composition of the children's secure estate, a brief history of recent changes in the size of the detained population and the estate, and the relevance of this thematic work.

Context

2.2 There are three types of secure establishment in England and Wales that hold children.

- Secure training centres (STCs) were originally intended to hold children (boys and girls) aged 12 to 15; however, with the introduction of detention and training orders (DTOs) in 2000, the age range was extended to 18. Since their inception in 1998, there have been four privately-run STCs – in December 2014 the closure of Hassockfield STC, operated by Serco, was announced, leaving the G4S-run Medway, Oakhill and Rainsbrook STCs from January 2015. Oakhill holds only boys and Medway and Rainsbrook hold girls and boys. In September 2015, following a competitive tendering exercise it was announced that the contract to run Rainsbrook had been awarded to MCT Novo, starting in May 2016, and at this time G4S were awarded contracts to continue running both Oakhill and Medway STCs. Following a subsequent announcement, the National Offender Management Service took responsibility for the running of Medway at the start of July 2016.
- Under-18 young offender institutions (YOIs) hold boys aged 15 to 17 and some young adults who remain beyond their 18th birthdays to complete their sentence. A steady decline in the number of children in the secure children's estate has seen the closure of all the under-18 YOI girls' units as well as a reduction in the number of under-18 YOIs holding boys. At the time of writing in September 2016, there were currently five such YOIs: Cookham Wood, Feltham, Parc, Werrington, and Wetherby. Parc is the only under-18 YOI provision that is privately run, and is operated by G4S.
- Secure children's homes (SCHs) are run by local authorities or other providers and can hold children from the age of 10 to 17 on either criminal justice or welfare orders. In July 2016, there were 15 SCHs in England and Wales.

2.3 This review is focused on children held in STCs and YOIs. HMI Prisons has no remit to inspect in SCHs. These are inspected regularly by Ofsted.

Children in YOIs and STCs

2.4 The youth justice system is currently subject to a wide-ranging review. The review's interim report identifies that today's youth custodial estate has been reached by accident rather than design and that 'on average most children are now accommodated further from home'.⁶ In 2005/2006 the average distance from home for children was 45 miles (as the crow flies not including children whose home YOT was not known), in 2015/16 this had risen to 49 miles, an increase of 9%.⁷

⁶ Ministry of Justice (2016) *Review of the Youth Justice System: An interim report of emerging findings*. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/498736/youth-justice-review.pdf

⁷ Youth Justice Board (2016) *Personal communication*. 31 August.

- 2.5** Over the last decade, the number of children in YOIs and STCs in England and Wales has fallen by over two-thirds, from 2,467 in April 2005 to 802 in April 2016.⁸ These figures do not include 18-year-olds who remain in YOIs or STCs beyond their 18th birthdays to complete their sentence. In April 2005 there were 350 18-year-olds in youth custody, and in 2016 this figure had fallen to 106. It is not possible to distinguish what proportion of these 18-year-olds are held in YOIs, STCs or SCHs due to the way the data is published. This report will continue to refer to all people held in YOIs and STCs, regardless of age, as children as they will still be treated as if they were juveniles while in that STC or YOI.
- 2.6** Reductions in numbers led the YJB to decommission seven sites where children could be detained. In 2012, there were 15 establishments (11 YOIs and four STCs). By 2014, this had reduced to 10 establishments (six YOIs and four STCs)⁹ and at the beginning of 2015 this had fallen to eight (five YOIs and three STCs).¹⁰
- 2.7** The reduction in the number of children in custody has led to this reduction in the number of establishments in which they can be detained, which means some children are now held further from their home area than would have been the case in 2012. Following the closure of Hassockfield, the provision is arguably worse for girls than boys. Boys aged 15 or over can be placed in a YOI, but there are no YOIs for girls, meaning that if they are unsuitable for a SCH, they have to go to either Rainsbrook in the east Midlands or Medway in Kent, irrespective of their home area.
- 2.8** Children are placed into a YOI, STC (or SCH) by the YJB placements team. Decisions on where to place a child are based on all the information available at the time; this usually includes a recommendation from the child's youth offending team (YOT) on the type of placement they think most suitable. Placement decisions take into account vulnerabilities, alongside a host of other factors, to ensure the safest and most appropriate placement is made to meet the child's needs. In practice, as outlined above, there are limited options available. There is a defined process to follow should anyone involved with the child's care and supervision subsequently feel that a transfer to another establishment is in the child's interest.
- 2.9** Over the last 10 years, the number of children on DTOs and on remand has fallen by 71%. The number of children in custody (YOIs, STCs and SCHs) who are serving longer sentences, given to those who have committed more serious offences¹¹, has not fallen to the same extent.¹² In April 2005 21% of sentenced children detained in a YOI, STC or SCH were convicted of an offence other than a DTO. By April 2016 this proportion had risen to 38%. This has led to a concentration of those convicted of serious crimes being held in a smaller number of YOIs and STCs.
- 2.10** With regards to family ties, our annual survey of children and young people¹³ showed that: less than half of children (47%) in STCs and just over one-third (36%) of boys in YOIs during 2014–15 reported having a visit from family, carers or friends once a week; half of children (52%) in STCs and 38% of boys in YOIs reported they had been in the care of their local authority at some time; and 9% of boys in YOIs reported that they had children of their own.

⁸ Youth Justice Board (2016) *Youth custody report*: June 2016. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

⁹ The girls' units at HMYOs Eastwood Park, Downview and New Hall closed and Ashfield re-roled to an adult establishment.

¹⁰ Warren Hill has re-roled to hold adults and Hindley has re-roled to hold young adults and adults.

¹¹ This includes convictions under Sections 90, 91, 226, 226B, 228 and gang injunctions. For full definitions of these offences please see Youth Justice Board (2016) *Youth custody report*: June 2016. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

¹² Youth Justice Board (2016) *Youth custody report*: June 2016. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data> https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/434378/youth-custody-report-april-2015.xls

¹³ Redmond, A. (2015) *Children in Custody 2014–15*. London: HMIP.

Aims of the thematic

- 2.11** This thematic was undertaken at the request of the Youth Justice Board. Reductions in the size of the young people's estate and the resultant likelihood of children being held further from home had generated an assumption that being a long way from home was detrimental to children. This thematic aimed to test this assumption. It looked at the impact distance from home had on aspects of daily life in custody, focusing on areas such as: perceptions of safety; self-reported experience of victimisation and treatment by staff; and the impact on resettlement planning and outcomes (including involvement from professionals working outside the YOI/STC and return to custody following release).

Section 3. Methodology

- 3.1** This review looked at the distance children are held from home within the children's secure estate and the effect this has, on both their day-to-day life while being held, and their resettlement planning. It is based on data collected from multiple sources.
- 3.2** An analysis of inspection survey data comparing the experiences of those held near/far from their supervising YOT area was conducted. Our existing survey data from inspections of four YOIs and one specialist unit, and two STCs completed between July 2015 and February 2016 were supplemented with individual-level administrative data provided by establishments which enabled more focused analysis to be undertaken.
- 3.3** The Youth Justice Board provided an anonymised extract from the e-Asset system¹⁴ relating to detention and training order (DTO) events involving all children in England and Wales who completed the custodial element of their order between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014. This enabled us to calculate and quantify the risk of recall to custody following release, based on distance from home.
- 3.4** Additional fieldwork was conducted between November and December 2015 and took place at two YOIs and one STC. This included interviews with children, their caseworkers, and casework managers and case record analysis for each child interviewed.
- 3.5** See Appendix I for full details of the methodology used.

¹⁴ e-Asset is an electronic sentence management system which holds data on young people throughout their custodial sentence. Relevant information completed by YOTs and establishments can be uploaded to e-Asset and viewed by them and the YJB.

Section 4. Findings

The impact of distance from home on life in custody

- 4.1** The review looked at a number of hypotheses to test the impact of distance from home on custodial experience. These included:
- that children who were further from home might feel less safe, be victimised more often by other children and staff, or feel that they were treated less well by staff
 - that children who were further from home might be physically restrained more often – possibly as a consequence of feeling less safe, or being treated less well and reacting in a negative way to these experiences
 - that children who were further from home received fewer visits from family and friends and from professionals involved in their care and management in the community.

We also wanted to assess whether release and resettlement arrangements were more difficult to make because of the distance from home. Finally, we wanted to examine whether children placed further from home might be more likely to be recalled to custody after being released.

- 4.2** In interviews, caseworkers reported that arriving at establishments late in the day due to long journeys was a disadvantage of being placed far from home. The issue of children arriving late at establishments has been repeatedly highlighted during inspections of the secure youth estate. Being placed further from home (and further from the court dealing with the case) inevitably means longer journeys and a greater likelihood of arriving late at the establishment. Children then arrive tired, may not be able to shower, can be less engaged with necessary safety interviews and have no access to other children to reassure themselves about the establishment before being locked up for their first night. Four per cent of boys in young offender institutions (YOIs) who were closer to home (less than 19 miles from their home youth offending team (YOT) office) reported a journey longer than four hours to get to their YOI, compared with 20% of boys who were furthest from home (over 62 miles from their home YOT office). In our thematic review of transfers and escorts published in 2014¹⁵ we reported that the longest journey a child had to make was 198 miles. The secure juvenile estate has reduced in size since that review was completed, increasing the likelihood of longer journeys. There is considerable scope to develop further the use of virtual courts for some appearances.
- 4.3** Children's knowledge of where in England or Wales they were being held varied from knowing the area well to asking 'where's that?' when initially told where they were going. Several said they would not be able to point to their location on a map. Not knowing where they were had the potential to increase feelings of isolation, loneliness and vulnerability for these children. One child, who knew where they were because a friend had been there previously, said:

'It didn't sink in how far it was.'

And another, when told they were going to an establishment in Wales, told us their reaction was:

'They said Wales, and I was like "what, a different country?"'

¹⁵ HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2014) *Transfers and escorts within the criminal justice system*. London: HMIP.

- 4.4** Generally, during interview, more children who were near to home said that they knew where they were than children who were far from home. One caseworker who managed children who were further from home said:

'They're not sure if they know where they are in the country.'

Another caseworker described drawing a map for one child as they had no idea where they were.

- 4.5** Data for a range of key areas of custodial life were used to test whether children who were further from home had felt unsafe in their YOI/secure training centre (STC), had experienced victimisation from staff or other children, or had felt they were treated respectfully by staff. Analysis of survey data on the reported use of physical restraint was also undertaken, as it was possible that children who felt less safe, or were victimised when far from home, might be involved in more fights or display other poor behaviour. Survey data was considered against information on distance from home; detailed information about the analysis undertaken is provided in Appendix II.

- 4.6** Survey data did not show that distance from home was a significant predictor of whether a child would report that most staff would treat them with respect, that they had been physically restrained by staff, or that they had experienced victimisation from staff or other children. This was supported by interviews with children. One said of staff:

'They don't mind how far or close you are.'

Another linked how a child treated staff with how well staff treated the child.

- 4.7** There were a few references during our interviews of other children using terms such as 'brummie', but these were seen as jokey comments rather than offensive. One child said there was some joking and banter with other children about where a child was from: *'people slate you for being from Burnley'*, but this was not *'leading to scraps'*. This appeared to be more due to home location rather than distinctly about distance from home.

- 4.8** Children generally did not describe much by way of cliques or groups based on home area, although a few children at one YOI said that if there was a fight involving children from a specific area, others from that area would join in even if they were not 'mates' with them. One child said that children were left out due to where they were from and one other explicitly stated that they had seen distinct cliques based on home area. Again, none of this appeared to be predicated by distance although those who were further from home were less likely to find peers from their own area. This was noteworthy given that being near to home was seen as an advantage by some children we spoke to. One told us:

'It is good being near 'cause I'm more comfortable with kids from my own area and there are more of them.'

- 4.9** Caseworkers were generally not aware of any problems caused by children treating one another differently based on home area. There was some mention of children gravitating to others from their area. A caseworker at one establishment echoed what we were told by children when they said that boys from the same areas backed each other up in fights. A caseworker at a YOI/STC said that children may treat each other differently due to different accents or slang, but that nothing serious came of it.

- 4.10** Most children reported that staff treatment was the same regardless of where children were from. However, there were some differing views at one YOI. A few children there felt that there was a stigma attached to children from London. One remarked:

'Some staff are good but some don't like Londoners and treat them differently.'

- 4.11** Another, originally from London, pointed out that even though staff treated all children the same, sometimes they could not understand the London slang they used. One other child was clear:

'You get staff who take the piss 'cause we're scousers.'

When talking about the disadvantages of being far from home, this particular child added:

'Just visits and staff treatment because we come from a place where shit happens all the time.'

Once again, this perception of different treatment seems linked to the home location rather than the distance from home.

- 4.12** In terms of treatment by staff, caseworkers varied between those who thought there was no differentiation and those who thought focusing on the individual needs of each child might mean it could appear different to other children. No caseworkers thought there was any deliberate difference in treatment based on where a child was from and one caseworker was clear that it would be a safeguarding issue if they ever thought it was happening. One view expressed by caseworkers was that staff treatment was consistent, but that staff were aware of certain geographical areas with gang issues, supporting the idea that some of the negative behaviour children reported receiving was due to home location rather than distance from home.

Contact with family and friends

- 4.13** The importance of children in detention being able to communicate with the outside world and to receive visits (and this should therefore be possible in practice) is emphasised in human rights standards. The principle of facilitating access and contact is quite clearly articulated in the UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty.¹⁶ The Rules include that 'juveniles should have the right to receive regular and frequent visits'. We take this to mean there should be no unnecessary barriers (such as distance) to prevent visits from people who are important in a child's life.
- 4.14** Analysis of visits received by children at the fieldwork sites showed that among the 595 children surveyed during the course of this thematic, those held further from home had significantly fewer visits from family members and friends. This was also true when we controlled for the characteristics of the children detained and the influence of factors like establishment and time in custody. Across the cases considered, each 25-mile interval that a child was held from their home area was associated with one less visit from a family member or friend (see Appendix III for our full results and analyses).
- 4.15** Table 1, below, describes some of the key characteristics of the 595 children surveyed. Data provided by the establishments showed that while there was no significant difference in the number of visits received between those held in YOIs and those in STCs (mean=9.0 vs. 7.2 visits), the correlation between distance held and number of visits from family and friends

¹⁶ United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, December 1990

was only found to be significant for those in YOIs, not STCs. This is despite the fact that children in YOIs were held significantly nearer to home (mean=46.5 vs. 58.2 miles) and had been at their establishments for longer (mean=21.4 weeks vs. 18.4 weeks).

- 4.16** There was a significant negative correlation observed between distance from home and the number of visits from professionals, meaning those held further from home had significantly fewer such visits. This correlation was only found to be significant for cases in YOIs and not STCs. Full details can be found in Appendix III.

Table 1: Characteristics of the survey sample (N=595)

	YOIs (n=493)	STCs (n=102)	All (n=595)
Average (mean) age	16 yr 10 mth*	16 yr	16 yr 8 mth
British citizen	95%	93%	95%
From a black or minority ethnic background	43%	34%	41%
Identified as Muslim	21%	12%	20%
Identified as Gypsy, Romany or Traveller	6%	13%	8%
Had experience of local authority care	36%	38%	36%
Had a disability	20%	22%	20%
Average (mean) number of visits from family and friends at the point of survey completion	9.0	7.2	8.6
Average (mean) number of visits from professionals at the point of survey completion	6.2	5.9	6.1
Average (mean) distance in miles held from supervising YOT	46.5*	58.2	48.8
Average (mean) number of weeks held in establishment at the point of survey completion	21.4	18.4	20.8

* $p < .01$

- 4.17** Forty per cent of boys in YOIs who were closest to home (i.e. within 19 miles) said it was easy for their family and friends to visit them, compared with 13% of boys who were held furthest from home (62 miles or more). A similar picture emerged from interview data. Those nearer to home not only appeared to receive more frequent visits, but also to receive visits from a wider range of people, such as extended family and ex-employers.
- 4.18** Not surprisingly, during interviews the main disadvantage children identified with being further from home was the impact on visits. Those children held furthest from home (over 100 miles) frequently said that their parents either no longer visited, or visited monthly or less. As one child at a YOI described:

'My bird and my boys and that can't come to see me.'

There were some exceptions to this, such as a child held 178 miles from home, who was visited by family two to three times each month.

- 4.19** Another child compared their current establishment with a previous one, where they had been held 30 minutes from home, and thought there was no real difference apart from the number and frequency of visits. Another child, previously held closer to home, said they had weekly visits from their mum there and that they had not had a single visit since being transferred further from home 11 months ago. The two girls in the interview sample were getting regular visits, but many of the children talked about the cost of visits, both financial and in time spent travelling, and showed concern for their families undertaking these journeys.
- 4.20** Some children made reference to having told their family to visit less frequently due to the cost of travelling. There was no single system that enabled all families/carers to request assistance with the costs of their travel. Visitors to boys in YOIs could apply to the Prisons Assisted Visits unit if they were on a low income. Similarly, visitors to sentenced children in STCs could apply to the Youth Justice Board or to their YOT if their child was on remand. One child had told their mother to only visit monthly because of the cost and time it took. They described her journey to us:

'She doesn't drive so has to get a bus to the train station for half an hour, then a train for a couple of hours, then another bus into [town], then a taxi here.'

Other children described similar journeys for their visitors.

- 4.21** One caseworker told us that a mother did not tell her child anything about how difficult it was for her to get to see them as she didn't want them affected by what was going on outside. The child though, told us it took her about three hours each way. They wanted to be closer to home so they would not have to worry about their mother travelling through London.
- 4.22** Caseworkers identified that generally, visits and building bridges to repair damaged familial relationships were a lot harder when families were further away. There could be problems for families in paying upfront for travel for visits, even though they could claim some of the cost back later. One caseworker told us:

'It's the cost of travel, and a lot of families don't drive, and even getting the time off work for those who work.'

Another caseworker was clear that there should be more provision for families who are far away, and that financial support should not be means tested, as even those working do not have hundreds of extra pounds to visit.

'They are children, full stop. It shouldn't be means tested.'

- 4.23** A different caseworker's view was that some children did not need visits as long as they were getting regular phone contact. Given the often limited access children in YOIs have to telephones at times when their families might be available, and the limits on the amount of phone credit they can have, this did not seem like an acceptable substitute for face-to-face interaction and the chance for some, albeit limited, physical contact with a parent/carer/family. Less than three-quarters (72%) of boys in YOIs who were far from home said they could have daily access to a telephone. In contrast, children in STCs had the facility to have incoming phone calls in their rooms on a daily basis.
- 4.24** There was little to mitigate the impact of distance from home on family contact with the exception of one YOI, where the use of Skype to maintain contact with family and

professionals was being piloted. Access to Skype was carefully controlled, and was a promising initiative. The pilot was at an early stage and it was too early to determine its effectiveness. Dame Sally Coates' review of education in prisons notes the potentially positive effects that services such as Skype could have:

*'A number of video/face-to-face conference programmes exist (e.g. Skype) that could greatly enhance the quality of a prisoner's life. Keeping in touch with friends and family is a key factor in maintaining an individual's wellbeing and has been shown to reduce reoffending.'*¹⁷

Support in custody/addressing vulnerabilities

- 4.25** The involvement of and support from the family resonated through interviews with caseworkers and senior managers, many of whom, when asked about distance from home, immediately made a link between vulnerability and contact with family. One said:

'If they're missing their family that can affect behaviour...'

Another commented:

'Almost definitely... lots of them never travel outside their home area usually and on top of that family then just can't get here.'

This caseworker also mentioned that being away from their local area, even not hearing a local accent, makes it difficult. One caseworker summed it up as:

'It's whether the parents can visit and how supportive they are.'

- 4.26** One senior manager told us that if placed further from home, children do not have the support mechanisms in place in order to make decisions, or talk face-to-face with family and support services – they are all too far away. Their view was that anything that makes a child happy, sad, or angry affects their behaviour. Behaviour, mood and support are all linked to vulnerability and in this way, distance from home and vulnerability were linked.
- 4.27** Few caseworkers said that distance from home and how the child felt about it was discussed with them at review meetings. Others said they did not know how the child felt about where they were and their distance from home.
- 4.28** Some children pointed to advantages to being further from home. One thought it was easier as you were not reminded of your family all the time. A child who was close to home agreed with this – they said they would prefer to be further away as they knew what was 'just on the other side of the fence' and it made them angry. Conversely, another child liked this about being close to home:

'I can just look out the window and I know like a three-mile radius.'

- 4.29** Survey analysis for boys in YOIs found that 23% who were close to home (under 19 miles from their home YOT office) reported they had gang problems when they first arrived in custody, compared with 10% of boys who were far from home (over 62 miles). At one YOI, where many of the population were close to home, 34% of boys reported having gang-related issues when they arrived at the YOI. Caseworkers also identified being away from gang-related issues, or where an offence had attracted a lot of local publicity, as potential advantages to being further from home. New police resources were about to be deployed to

¹⁷ Coates, Dame Sally (2016) *Unlocking Potential. A review of education in prisons*. London: MOJ, p. 47.

work with boys affected by gang issues and criminality in the establishment and in the community.

4.30 Some children with poor disciplinary records may be placed in a YOI or STC further from their home area to give them a fresh start. A senior manager pointed out that although being further from home can add to a child's vulnerability, the vulnerability is more due to their poor disciplinary record.

4.31 A child in a long-term unit was clear about the advantages of being far from home:

'Being here has given me a chance to behave because I'm not in London anymore with all the drama... If I was around more London kids I wouldn't be the way I am now... I'm a lot more mature.'

4.32 Irrespective of where a child was placed in custody, the starting point for planning release arrangements is a return to their home area. If, for some children, there were advantages in being further away from home while in custody, returning to their home area gave them no opportunity to fully realise and build on these benefits. This was addressed in our 2011 thematic review of resettlement provision for children and young people in which we said:

*'Returning to live with family members also meant that, in several cases, young people were going back to an area that was known to have contributed to their offending. Where safety was a concern, this was due to problems the young people said they had with people or gangs; one young person also explained that there were a lot of drugs in the neighbourhood which he was concerned about.'*¹⁸

One child interviewed for that review told us:

'I've spoken to my resettlement broker about it, I told them I want to move out of area as I have too many problems there.'

Impact of distance from home on resettlement planning and outcomes

4.33 All children in custody, whether remanded or sentenced, should have regular review meetings attended by their external YOT workers and anyone else involved in their care. Establishments should have multidisciplinary attendance at these reviews which facilitate focused discussion on the child's offence, their behaviour, the risk they pose to the public and the steps to be taken to address these prior to release and when back in the community. Plans for release are agreed at these meetings and family involvement is therefore very important.

4.34 We looked at the review paperwork for all 24 children who were interviewed at the three sites. Sixteen reviews were held for children who were closer to home – of these, all were attended by an external YOT worker and eight were attended by a parent.

4.35 Fifty reviews were held for children who were further from home – all bar one were attended by an external YOT worker and 21 were attended by a parent.

4.36 A more detailed breakdown, by fieldwork site, is provided in tables 2 and 3 below.

¹⁸ HM Inspectorate of Prisons (2011) *Resettlement provision for children and young people: Accommodation and education, training and employment*. London: HMIP.

Table 2: Reviews involving YOT workers and parents for those children interviewed for this thematic who were held nearer to home (i.e. within 36 miles) (N=16)

	Number of reviews attended by YOT	Number of reviews attended by parent(s)	Total number of reviews held
YOI 1 (n=2)	2	1	2
YOI 2 (n=3)	7	2	7
STC 1 (n=3)	7	5	7

Table 3: Reviews involving YOT workers and parents for those children interviewed for this thematic who were held further from home (i.e. between 46 and 187 miles) (N=50)

	Number of reviews attended by YOT	Number of reviews attended by parent(s)	Total number of reviews held
YOI 1 (n=4)	6	1	6
YOI 2 (n=7)	26	7	27
STC 1 (n=5)	17	13	17

4.37 Generally, all the children said their YOT workers attended their review meetings, and most of those who had social workers saw them at reviews too. Caseworkers did not think that distance had much impact in this regard, but felt it could have a negative impact on the one-to-one contact children had with external professionals involved in their care, between statutory reviews.

4.38 However, some children were not so positive. As one child told us:

'Some of them don't visit cos we're in Wales, innit.'

This child went on to say they felt their caseworker would come more frequently if they were in England. Similarly, the child said their social worker had visited when they were in custody in England but had not done so while they were in Wales. We heard from caseworkers at this child's establishment that it could be difficult to organise review meetings within the required timeframes with some YOTs because they were reluctant to travel.

4.39 Children across all sites said it was difficult for parents to attend review meetings due to work commitments, travel times or having other children to look after. Caseworkers and senior managers echoed this, particularly if parents had to travel a long way for a meeting that lasted maybe one hour. One caseworker said, in her experience, parents who found it difficult to get to the establishment and had to juggle when they could see their child usually opted to book a social visit rather than attend a review meeting. While understandable, this removed parents from the forums in which decisions about their child's future were made. None of the fieldwork sites were able to offer a full length social visit following a review meeting. If a child didn't have many visits and their parent(s) had attended their review, some caseworkers would try to book the meeting room for the session afterwards so they could spend some time with each other.

4.40 There was reported variation in the ability of YOT workers or social workers to drive parents to review meetings. For families who found it difficult to get to their child's establishment and relied on a professional to assist with transport, this presented a barrier to their involvement in their child's preparation for release.

- 4.41** Managers reported that problems with information sharing (of, for example, prior education records or health records) were more procedural and down to individual local authorities, rather than due to distance. One manager said that some agencies would not come to see children prior to release, and this particular fieldwork site thought it was harder to arrange release on temporary license (ROTL) to a college or prospective accommodation than other sites. This may be a reflection of the large geographic area the site catered for.
- 4.42** Caseworkers noted that more use was being made of videolink (or Skype at one YOI) for review meetings when distance was an issue for YOTs or social workers. There were mixed views on this, ranging from meetings using videolink not being as productive and children not engaging as well as when the other parties were physically present, to there being scope to make more use of videolink.

Engagement with outside professionals

- 4.43** Analysis of data on professional visits¹⁹ made to the 595 children who took part in the survey found that distance from home had an impact on the number of such visits they received – children who were further from home received fewer visits from external professionals, although there was no significant difference between the YOI and STC cases (mean=6.2 visits vs. 5.9 visits). Across the cases considered, each 26-mile interval that a child was held from their home area was found to be associated with one less visit from a professional (see Appendix III for full results and analyses).
- 4.44** In the few cases where children talked about external careers advisers, CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) workers or substance misuse workers coming to see them, the children tended to be based more locally. For caseworkers, getting external specialists involved depended on how proactive the youth offending service was, rather than the distance involved.
- 4.45** Visits by YOT workers, social workers or other external professionals between review meetings for one-to-one sessions with children were less frequent. This was not always predicated on distance from home. One child who was a long way from home said their YOT worker had been coming once or twice a month for meetings and one-to-one conversations, while a child who was relatively close to their home area said their YOT worker had not been to see them, although their social worker had been in a few times.
- 4.46** Several caseworkers thought that it was not distance that determined how involved a YOT worker was, but their professionalism and their local YOT rules. Prison-based social workers we spoke to informally during the fieldwork visits had similar views about the levels of support that looked after children received from their local authority. Looked after children are those for whom the local authority has the parental role. These children should all have a social worker who attends regular ‘looked after’ reviews and is actively involved in planning for their release. Looked after children often do not have a family (or any other) home to return to on release and obtaining suitable accommodation for them is a major, and in many cases difficult, part of release preparation.
- 4.47** Caseworkers at all three sites said their own level of contact with YOT workers was not determined by distance as most contact was via email, phone or letters. One said:

‘No difference if three miles or 300 miles, the level of contact you have with them as a case manager is the same regardless of distance.’

¹⁹ There was no data available on the role of these professional visitors.

There was recognition of the pressures external partners were under, not least when responsible for children who were a long way from home. At all three fieldwork sites we were told that, where possible, reviews for children managed by the same YOT worker were held on the same day, and often looked after child reviews, and remand or sentence plan reviews, were held together to mitigate the travel time impact for external professionals. As noted earlier, there was no scope to afford the same flexibility around social visits for parents who attended these reviews.

Resettlement planning

4.48 Resettlement planning processes were the same for all children irrespective of where a child was from. There was, however, a view from caseworkers that distance from home could make finding accommodation for release harder. They felt more reliant on external professionals to assess the suitability of accommodation for children who were further from home and not returning to family, because they had no personal knowledge of the area or providers. One caseworker said that resettlement planning was easier if the child was closer to their home area, as they could go to interviews for accommodation while on ROTL. But at another site, the view was that although it was trickier to arrange, distance would not prevent ROTL for these purposes. Being near to home was seen as an advantage by some children on their day of release. A child who was further from home thought that it was harder to make contact with the people in the community who could provide the support they needed following release.

4.49 For some caseworkers organising effective resettlement was as dependent on whether or not the child was under local authority care, or how supportive the family were, as distance from home. For some the support available from family was crucial:

'It comes down more to family involvement than distance.'

Dame Sally Coates' review of education in prison supported this view:

*'There is good evidence that strong family relationships can help support prisoners in desisting from crime and thereby reduce reoffending.'*²⁰

Some caseworkers felt that families who were closer were more likely to get involved in release planning, and there were some families who wanted to come and be involved but were too far away to do so.

4.50 In discussing resettlement, one senior manager said:

'Young people won't always realise the significance of what their distance from home will mean for them.'

They went on to explain that, in their experience, the care package could actually be significantly impacted by distance, and that if a child was local there was more ability to start work with them while they were in custody and continue it into the community. Distance from home could also impact on a YOT's ability to carry out family mediation work (or restorative justice work). For this manager though, if parents engaged with the YOT and social worker, distance from home was not necessarily itself a negative factor in resettlement. The issue could be working with hard-to-reach families or those who were less engaged with external services (irrespective of how far away they were).

²⁰ Coates, Dame Sally (2016) *Unlocking Potential. A review of education in prisons*. London: MOJ, p. 29.

- 4.51** The package put in place after release was seen as a key factor in preventing reoffending, and distance from home could have an impact on this for some caseworkers. One caseworker said:

'If you can't plan for release effectively and get everything set up because of the distance, then the boy is less likely to succeed.'

Another caseworker noted that if it was harder for external professionals to meet children prior to release; it affected relationship-building with the people who could support them after release, thereby affecting their resettlement possibilities. Another commented:

'They could live down the road but if they don't get the support... it can unravel everything we do here.'

Recall to custody

- 4.52** As part of this review, we examined administrative data provided by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to identify which factors had an impact on the likelihood of recall to custody following a breach of the conditions on which the child was released. This covered a census of 1,343 children (aged 17 and under) completing the custodial element of a detention and training order (DTO) in England and Wales during 2013–14 (see Appendix IV).
- 4.53** The average (mean) age of the cohort was 16 years (range 13 to 17; median 17). Most (95%) were male. As described in Table 4, more than two-thirds (69%) of these young people were of a white ethnic origin.

Table 4: The ethnic origin of young people completing the custodial element of a DTO in 2013–14 (N=1,343)

Ethnic group	Frequency	Per cent ²¹
White	926	69%
Black	216	16%
Mixed	111	8%
Asian	79	6%
Other	11	1%
TOTAL	1,343	100

- 4.54** Two-thirds of the young people had been sentenced following a conviction for one of three main offences: violence against the person (25%), robbery (24%) and domestic burglary (18%). Fewer had been convicted for theft and handling (9%) and drugs offences (5%). The length of DTOs imposed ranged from four months to two years, with an average (median) of eight months.²²
- 4.55** As set out in Table 5, two-thirds (68%) of the young people in the sample had been released from one of 11 YOIs in operation during 2013–14. The remainder were released from one of the four STCs that were operational during this period.

²¹ Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

²² Three cases where the sentence length was recorded as zero were excluded from the analyses.

Table 5: Establishment released from following completion of the custodial element of a DTO in 2013–14 (N=1,343)

Establishment	Frequency	Per cent ²³
Ashfield	30	3%
Cookham Wood	83	9%
Downview, Eastwood Park and New Hall (girls)	8	1%
Feltham	157	17%
Hindley	177	19%
Parc	58	6%
Warren Hill	69	8%
Werrington	115	13%
Wetherby	216	24%
YOI total	913	100%
Hassockfield	88	20%
Medway	111	26%
Oakhill	100	23%
Rainsbrook	131	30%
STC total	430	100%

4.56 Those young people completing the custodial element of a DTO in 2013–14 were being supervised by a total of 154 different YOTs. As described in Table 6, these YOTs were mainly concentrated in London and less frequently located in the south-west of England and Wales.

Table 6: Home YOT region of young people completing the custodial element of a DTO in 2013–14 (N=1,343)

YOT region	Frequency	Per cent ²⁴
London	324	24%
Midlands	262	20%
NE England	238	18%
South and SE England	210	16%
NW England	201	15%
SW England	55	4%
Wales	53	4%
TOTAL	1,343	100%

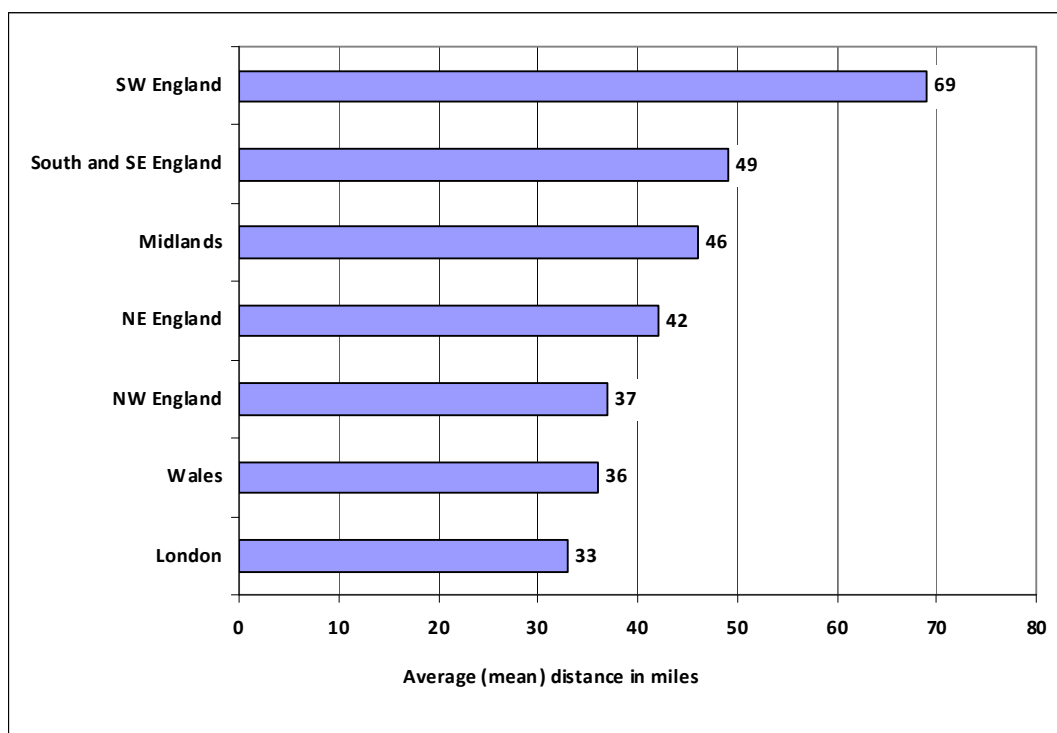
4.57 Although the distance these young people were held from their supervising YOT team on release ranged from one to 241 miles, half were held within 35 miles of 'home' (mean distance 41.8 miles).²⁵ There were significant differences observed between the different YOT regions and distance held ($F(6, 1341)=15.6, p=.000$). As illustrated in Figure 1, those young people being supervised by a London YOT were released from an establishment significantly nearer to their supervising team (mean=33.4 miles) when compared with those being supervised by YOTs in the Midlands (mean=45.9; $p=.000$), north-east England (mean=41.9; $p=.019$), the south and south-east England (mean=48.6; $p=.000$) and south-west England (mean=69.0; $p=.000$). By contrast, there were no significant differences observed in the distance between the establishment they were released from and supervising YOT office for young people from London, compared with north-west England (mean=36.7; $p=1.000$) and Wales (mean=36.3; $p=1.000$).

²³ Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

²⁴ Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

²⁵ Data on distance was missing for one case.

Figure 1: Average distance (in miles) between establishment release from and supervising YOT team for young people completing the custodial element of a DTO in 2013–14 (N=1,343)



- 4.58** Distance held from home was not found to be associated with risk of recall. This was also true for a number of other factors: gender, ethnicity, the length of DTO sentence and the type of establishment released from (YOI or STC).
- 4.59** Age exerted a protective effect, with each passing year associated with a 24% reduction in the risk of recall.²⁶ Overall, the child's main offence had no bearing on recall (though domestic burglars were found to be at heightened risk compared with those convicted of violent offences).
- 4.60** The factor with the largest effect on risk of recall was YOT region. Compared with those supervised by a London-based YOT, children being managed by teams from south-west England were almost three times more likely to be recalled within six months. Those supervised by teams in the north of England were around twice as likely to be recalled as their peers in London, while for children returning to the Midlands, the risk of recall during this period was 62% higher compared with those in the capital. More work needs to be undertaken by those who gather the data to investigate the reasons for these differences in outcomes.

²⁶ There is potential for recalls involving those turning 18 years of age shortly after release to be missed by the eAsset system.

Section 5. Appendices

Appendix I: Methodology

This review looked at the distance children are held from home within the children's secure estate and the effect this has on both their day-to-day life while being held and their resettlement planning. It is based on data collected from multiple sources.

During our review we used a mixed-method approach to data gathering and analysis, applying both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Evidence from different sources was triangulated to strengthen the validity of our assessments.

Desk-based analysis

An analysis of inspection survey data comparing the experiences of those held near or far from their supervising (or home) YOT area was conducted. Our analyses drew on surveys completed by children held in four YOIs (and one specialist unit) ($n=493$) and two STCs ($n=102$) during the course of our inspection programme between July 2015 and February 2016 ($N=595$).

All children held in these establishments were offered a survey to complete. The table below sets out the response rates for each of the establishments.

Table AI: Number of surveys handed out and surveys completed, by site (N=595)

	STCs		YOIs					Total
	Rainsbrook	Oakhill	Feltham	Werrington	Parc	Wetherby	Keppel	
Number of surveys handed out	59	76	159	108	38	224	42	706
Number of surveys returned	51	51	146	79	29	201	38	595
Response rate	86%	67%	92%	74%	76%	90%	90%	84%
Total responses	102		493					

We undertook comparative analysis of YOI survey data contrasting the views and experiences of those children held in the nearest quartile from their home YOT area (19 miles or less) against those in the furthest quartile (62 miles or more).

Our existing survey data were supplemented with individual-level administrative data provided by establishments regarding details of the:

- supervising YOT office for each detainee
- length of time they had served at the establishment at the point of survey completion
- number of visits from family and friends while detained at the establishment, and
- number of visits from professionals while detained (including details of professionals visits involving a worker from the supervising YOT).

Binary logistic regression was used to test whether the distance a child was held from their supervising YOT office was related to the likelihood of them reporting: ever feeling unsafe in their establishment; perceiving that most staff there treated them with respect; ever being restrained by a staff member; or experiencing some form of victimisation. (Full details are provided in Appendix II).

We used multiple linear regression to assess the impact of distance from home (controlling for other relevant factors) on the frequency of visits from family, friends and professionals while in custody (see Appendix III).

Analysis of Youth Justice Board administrative data

The Youth Justice Board provided HMI Prisons with an anonymised extract from the eAsset system relating to a census of all detention and training order (DTO) events involving children who completed the custodial element of their order between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014 (N=1,945). We used these data in order to assess – using survival analysis – the impact of a number of factors (relating to demographics, main offence, DTO sentence length, establishment released from, home YOT region and distance from home) on the likelihood of recall within six months following release from custody. Further details are provided in Appendix IV.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork for interviews and documentary analysis was conducted between November and December 2015 and took place at two YOIs and one STC. The different elements of the fieldwork conducted are set out in Table A2, below.

Table A2: Number of interviews and case record reviews conducted, by establishment type (N=70)

	STCs	YOIs		
	1	2	3	Total
Interviews with children	8	6	10	24
Review of case records	8	6	10	24
Interviews with case workers	6	6	7	19
Interviews with strategic managers	1	1	1	3
Total	23	19	28	70

Reviews of case records of children both 'near' and 'far' from home were informed using case file analysis, interviews with the children, and interviews with the caseworkers of those children.

Sampling

To assist with sampling for interviews, establishments provided the home YOT area of every child they were holding at the time of the fieldwork and straight line distances were calculated between each child's establishment and their (supervising) home YOT office. Those children considered to be 'near' or 'far' from home were deemed so in direct comparison to the distances of other children in their establishment, meaning the nearest and furthest from home in any given establishment were sampled. If a child did not wish to participate, they were replaced with the next child who was nearest to/furthest from home.

The number of children sampled at each establishment was determined by the specific role of the establishment and any differences in the children that they held.

Interviews with children

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with children, using the sampling method described above. Children were asked about their knowledge of where in England and Wales they were; their day-to-day experiences in the YOI/STC; treatment by staff and other children; advantages/disadvantages to being near/far from home; differences to past experiences if held elsewhere; contact with family, friends and professionals; and their plans for release.²⁷

Interviews with case workers

At each establishment, semi-structured interviews were conducted with the caseworkers of the children who had been sampled. Caseworkers were asked questions directly relating to the children they worked with, and more generally about their experiences of the impact of distance from home on children. Caseworkers were asked about how children settled in and their behaviour since; children's treatment by staff and other children; the child's feelings about being near/far from home; links between distance from home and vulnerability; advantages/disadvantages of being near/far from home; contact with family, friends and professionals, both for the child and the case worker; and resettlement planning.

Documentary analysis

Case records were analysed for each of the children interviewed. The information collected included: demographics; sentence details; reason for placement in establishment; review frequency and attendance; visit frequency and attendance; family situation; and summary of behaviour.

Interviews with senior managers

At each establishment, a senior manager was interviewed. The senior managers were asked about many of the same topics as the caseworkers, and additionally about placements and transitions to the adult estate.

²⁷ In accordance with HMI Prisons' child protection protocols, where our research led to child protection/safeguarding concerns being raised, those cases were referred to the establishment for investigation. Details of HMI Prisons' child protection protocol can be found at <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/about-our-inspections/>

Analysis

All data from interviews with children, caseworkers and senior managers were summarised into a spreadsheet from interview notes and coded. The summarised data were analysed thematically, in order to draw out the range of experiences and views, allowing us to identify similarities and differences between cases and explain emergent patterns and findings. Electronic recording devices were not used during interviews. Verbatim quotes have also been included in this report.

Appendix II: The impact of distance from home on children’s experiences of custody

Main findings

Across the six sites inspected during the course of this thematic, distance from home was not found to be a significant predictor of whether a child would report:

- having ever felt unsafe in their establishment
- that most staff treated them with respect
- having been restrained by a staff member, or
- experiencing some form of victimisation.

Results and procedure

Binary logistic regression was used to test whether the distance²⁸ a child was held from their supervising YOT office was related to the likelihood of them reporting: having ever felt unsafe in their establishment; that most staff there treated them with respect; having ever been restrained by a staff member; experiencing some form of victimisation.

The analysis drew on surveys completed by children held in four YOIs (and one specialist unit) ($n=493$) and two STCs ($n=102$) between July 2015 and February 2016 ($N=595$).²⁹ These survey data were supplemented with individual-level administrative data provided by establishments regarding details of: the supervising youth offending team (YOT) office for each detainee; length of time they had served at the establishment at the point of survey completion; number of visits from family while detained at the establishment; and number of visits from professionals while detained (including details of professionals’ visits involving a worker from the supervising YOT).

In addition to a variable indicating whether the respondent had reported experiencing any of the events described above, the following factors were also considered:

- establishment
- age
- ethnicity
- religious identity
- Gypsy/Romany/Traveller status
- British citizenship
- experience of local authority care
- disability status
- distance from home.³⁰

In the first instance, univariate logistic regression analysis was undertaken involving each predictor variable to assess its suitability for inclusion in the multivariate analysis. Using logistic regression allows us to predict the probability within a given sample of an event occurring (in this case, that a child would report having ever felt unsafe in their establishment) based on a list of one or more

²⁸ Distance was calculated using the postcode for both the establishment and home YOT office, and measured ‘as the crow flies’.

²⁹ All data are weighted to reflect the overall population at the time surveys were completed. Reported N values are unweighted.

³⁰ In an effort to produce more robust odds ratios, distance from home YOT office was measured in 10-mile intervals.

predictor variables (for instance age, ethnicity, or Muslim status). This particular approach calculates an odds ratio (often expressed as a Beta value: Exp (β)) which provides a measure of the importance of a predictor variable on the response or outcome of interest. Taking the results presented in Table A3, below, as an example, these show that the odds of black and minority ethnic children reporting that they had ever felt unsafe were 24% higher (based on the Exp (β) value of 1.240) relative to their white peers. However, this result was not considered statistically significant (since the p or probability value (.181) did not fall below a threshold which would have allowed us to establish, with confidence, that there was no association between black and minority ethnic status and perceptions of safety (our null hypothesis) within the sample examined here. Significance levels of $p < .10$ were used as a cut-off point for univariate analysis. The modal (or most frequent) value within each categorical predictor variable served as the reference category.

Perceptions of safety

The results of these univariate analyses as they relate to perceptions of safety are presented in Table A3. Significant factors (i.e. $p < .10$) appear in bold.

Distance from home was **not** one of the five factors out of the nine examined at a univariate level found to be significantly predictive of ever feeling unsafe. At a univariate level, the establishment a child was held at appeared to exert the greatest influence over perceptions of safety. Compared with children held in Wetherby, those detained in Keppel were three times more likely to say they had ever felt unsafe. By contrast, the odds of detainees in Rainsbrook reporting that they had ever felt unsafe were 59% lower (compared with those in Wetherby).

Table A3: Predictors of ever feeling unsafe – univariate relationships

Independent variables	Univariate regression					
	β	SE	χ^2	p	Exp(β)	95% CI (of β)
Establishment [ref was Wetherby] (n=564)			42.43	.000		
Feltham	.425	.216	3.881	.049	1.529	1.002-2.333
Werrington	.612	.243	6.319	.012	1.844	1.144-2.971
Parc	-.552	.390	2.004	.157	.576	.268-1.237
Keppel	1.152	.387	8.874	.003	3.166	1.483-6.758
Rainsbrook	-.902	.345	6.827	.009	.406	.206-.798
Oakhill	-.762	.304	6.265	.012	.467	.257-.848
Age (n=559)	.196	.097	4.059	.044	1.216	1.005-1.471
Black and minority ethnic status [ref was no] (n=554)	.215	.161	1.789	.181	1.240	.905-1.699
Muslim status [ref was no] (n=548)	.434	.204	4.534	.033	1.544	1.035-2.302
Gypsy/Romany/Traveller status [ref was no] (n=544)	.506	.302	2.807	.094	1.659	.918-2.998
Foreign national status [ref was no] (n=552)	-.421	.387	1.184	.276	.656	.307-1.401
Been in local authority care [ref was no] (n=546)	.211	.165	1.646	.200	1.235	.894-1.706
Disability status [ref was no] (n=543)	.444	.197	5.056	.025	1.558	1.059-2.284
Distance from home (n=563)	-.019	.022	.798	.372	.981	.940-1.023

Respectful treatment by staff

Four of the nine variables examined were found to be associated with perceptions of respectful treatment (by most staff). At a univariate level, the establishment a child was held at exerted a significant influence over perceptions of respectful treatment. Compared with children held in Wetherby, those detained in Keppel were 11 times more likely to report respectful treatment from staff. By contrast, Muslim children and those identifying as being from a black and minority ethnic background were significantly less likely to report feeling respected by staff. Those children self-identifying as disabled were also significantly less likely to report this.

Distance from home was **not** found to be associated with perceptions of respectful treatment by staff.

The results of univariate analyses for perceptions of respectful treatment by staff are presented in Table A4. Significant factors (i.e. $p < .10$) appear in bold.

Table A4: Perceptions of respectful treatment by staff – univariate relationships

Independent variables	Univariate regression					
	β	SE	χ^2	p	Exp(β)	95% CI (of β)
Establishment [ref was Wetherby] (n=553)			29.743	.000		
Feltham	.402	.229	3.069	.080	1.494	.953-2.342
Werrington	.366	.255	2.057	.152	1.441	.875-2.376
Parc	-.120	.355	.114	.735	.887	.443-1.778
Keppel	.733	.393	3.490	.062	2.082	.965-4.494
Rainsbrook	2.403	.571	17.735	.000	11.051	3.612-33.808
Oakhill	1.083	.321	11.413	.001	2.955	1.576-5.540
Age (n=549)	-.106	.102	1.075	.300	.899	.736-1.099
Black and minority ethnic status [ref was no] (n=544)	-.687	.172	16.030	.000	.503	.359-.704
Muslim status [ref was no] (n=539)	-.837	.206	16.431	.000	.433	.289-.649
Gypsy/Romany/Traveller status [ref was no] (n=535)	.153	.327	.221	.638	1.166	.615-2.212
Foreign national status [ref was no] (n=543)	-.137	.400	.117	.732	.872	.398-1.910
Been in local authority care [ref was no] (n=538)	-.190	.174	1.188	.276	.827	.588-1.163
Disability status [ref was no] (n=535)	-.421	.203	4.277	.039	.657	.441-.978
Distance from home (n=552)	.008	.023	.131	.717	1.008	.964-1.055

Restraint by staff

Table A5 (below) sets out the results of analyses examining factors associated with being restrained by a member of staff. The odds of being restrained were 2.5 times higher for those children identifying as belonging to a black and minority ethnic group. The likelihood of being restrained also varied considerably between establishments. The odds of being restrained were 79% higher for those held at Feltham (when compared with detainees at Wetherby). By contrast, the odds of a child reporting having been restrained were 54% lower at Rainsbrook. Those identifying as Muslim and reporting a disability were also significantly more likely to report having been restrained by staff at their establishment.

Distance from home was **not** associated with experiences of restraint.

Table A5: Self-reported experiences of being restrained by staff at an establishment – univariate relationships

Independent variables	Univariate regression					
	β	SE	χ^2	p	Exp(β)	95% CI (of β)
Establishment [ref was Wetherby] (n=567)			19.252	.004		
Feltham	.575	.216	7.068	.008	1.776	1.163-2.714
Werrington	.385	.242	2.535	.111	1.470	.915-2.361
Parc	.151	.361	.176	.675	1.163	.573-2.361
Keppel	.203	.356	.325	.569	1.225	.610-2.459
Rainsbrook	-.774	.347	4.964	.026	.461	.233-.911
Oakhill	-.167	.277	.364	.546	.846	.492-1.456
Age (n=562)	.081	.095	.725	.394	1.085	.900-1.307
Black and minority ethnic status [ref was no] (n=557)	.915	.163	31.478	.000	2.497	1.814-3.438
Muslim status [ref was no] (n=550)	.654	.201	10.633	.001	1.923	1.298-2.849
Gypsy/Romany/Traveller status [ref was no] (n=546)	.008	.307	.001	.980	1.008	.552-1.838
Foreign national status [ref was no] (n=557)	-.365	.384	.904	.342	.694	.327-1.474
Been in local authority care [ref was no] (n=547)	.459	.165	7.733	.005	1.583	1.145-2.187
Disability status [ref was no] (n=545)	.068	.198	.117	.732	1.070	.726-1.578
Distance from home (n=566)	-.003	.022	.025	.873	.997	.955-1.040

Experience of victimisation

As described in Table A6, those children held in the Keppel Unit and Oakhill were around 2.3 times more likely to report having experienced some form of victimisation at their establishment, when compared with children at Wetherby. The odds of children detained at Werrington reporting victimisation were 72% higher in comparison to those held at Wetherby. Muslim children within the sample were twice as likely to report victimisation, while the odds of this were 98% higher for disabled children and 39% higher for those with experience of local authority care.

Distance from home was **not** found to be associated with experiences of victimisation.³¹

³¹ This includes self-reported victimisation from staff ($\beta=1.002$, $p=.941$, $n=542$) and other detainees ($\beta=1.026$, $p=.237$, $n=555$).

Table A6: Self-reported experiences of victimisation – univariate relationships

Independent variables	Univariate regression					
	β	SE	χ^2	p	Exp(β)	95% CI (of β)
Establishment [ref was Wetherby] (n=565)			16.018	.014		
Feltham	-.006	.213	.001	.978	.994	.655-1.509
Werrington	.542	.248	4.756	.029	1.719	1.056-2.798
Parc	.019	.351	.003	.957	1.019	.512-2.029
Keppel	.825	.382	4.672	.031	2.282	1.080-4.823
Rainsbrook	.078	.303	.066	.798	1.081	.597-1.957
Oakhill	.837	.293	8.166	.004	2.310	1.301-4.101
Age (n=560)	-.090	.097	.862	.353	.914	.756-1.105
Black and minority ethnic status [ref was no] (n=555)	.188	.161	1.369	.242	1.207	.881-1.656
Muslim status [ref was no] (n=548)	.727	.217	11.257	.001	2.069	1.353-3.163
Gypsy/Romany/Traveller status [ref was no] (n=543)	.424	.315	1.812	.178	1.528	.824-2.831
Foreign national status [ref was no] (n=554)	.003	.368	.000	.993	1.003	.488-2.064
Been in local authority care [ref was no] (n=545)	.329	.167	3.884	.049	1.390	1.002-1.928
Disability status [ref was no] (n=542)	.681	.210	10.492	.001	1.976	1.309-2.984
Distance from home (n=564)	.010	.022	.231	.630	1.010	.969-1.054

Appendix III: The impact of distance from home on visits from family, friends and professionals

Main findings

Those held further from home were found to have had significantly fewer visits from family members and friends. Across the sites examined for this thematic, each 25-mile interval that a child was held from home was associated with one less visit from a family member or friend.

Those held further from home had significantly fewer visits from professionals. Across the sites examined for this thematic, each 26-mile interval that a child was held from home was associated with one less professional visit.

Results and procedure

Those held further from home were found to have had significantly fewer visits from family members and friends ($r=-.152$, $p=.000$, $N=510$).³² While there was no significant difference in the number of visits received between those held in YOIs when compared with STCs (mean=9.0 vs. 7.2 visits, $U=19781$, $p=.508$, $N=510$),³³ this correlation between distance held and number of visits from family and friends was only found to be significant for YOI cases ($r=-.148$, $p=.001$, $N=409$) and not STC cases ($r=-.164$, $p=.059$, $N=101$). This is despite the fact that those at YOIs were held significantly nearer to home (mean=46.5 vs. 58.2 miles, $U=18522$, $p=.000$, $N=593$) and had been at their establishments for longer (mean=21.4 weeks vs. 18.4 weeks, $U=18959$, $p=.154$, $N=511$).³⁴

There was a significant negative correlation observed between distance from home and the number of visits from professionals ($r=-.202$, $p=.000$, $N=593$), meaning those held further from home had significantly fewer such visits. This correlation was only found to be significant for YOI cases ($r=-.243$, $p=.000$, $N=491$) and not STC ones ($r=-.056$, $p=.522$, $N=102$).

While there was no significant difference in the number of professional visits between the two groups (mean=6.2 visits for YOI cases vs. 5.9 for those held in STCs, $U=19882$, $p=.462$, $N=511$), YOI cases were held significantly nearer to home (mean=46.5 miles vs. 58.2 miles, $t(702)=3.35$, $p=.001$, $N=511$) and had been at their establishments for longer (mean=21.4 weeks vs. 18.4 weeks, $t(611)=-1.71$, $p=.088$, $N=511$).

It was therefore important to control for the influence of these and other factors on the frequency of visits from family, friends and professionals. Multiple linear regression was used in order to do this. In addition to a variable indicating the number of visits received, the following factors were also considered:

- establishment
- age
- ethnicity
- religious identity
- Gypsy/Romany/Traveller status
- British citizenship
- disability status

³² R values below .5 denote medium or small effect sizes.

³³ The non-parametric Mann-Whitney test was used since the number of visits received from family and friends was skewed across the cases considered ($D(612)=.241$, $p=.000$).

³⁴ The Mann-Whitney test was again used since distance from home ($D(593)=.154$, $p=.000$) and time served at the establishment ($D(511)=.135$, $p=.000$) were not evenly distributed across the sample.

- experience of local authority care
- distance from home³⁵
- length of time in the establishment (weeks).

In the first instance, univariate linear regression analysis was undertaken involving each predictor variable to assess its suitability for inclusion in the multivariate analysis. Significance levels of $p < .10$ were used as a cut-off point for univariate analysis. These appear in bold in the tables below.

Visits from family and friends

The results of these univariate analyses, as they relate to visits from family and friends, are presented in Table A7, below.

Table A7: Number of visits from family and friends – univariate relationships

Independent variables	Univariate linear regression					
	B	SE	t	p	β	95% CI (of β)
Establishment (n=510)	-.772	.214	-3.615	.000	-.145	-1.192 - -.353
Age (n=505)	1.305	.585	2.232	.026	.090	.157 - 2.453
Black and minority ethnic status (n=502)	.488	1.030	.474	.636	.019	-1.535 - 2.511
Muslim status (n=493)	2.332	1.339	1.742	.082	.072	-.298 - 4.962
Gypsy/Romany/Traveller status (n=488)	.262	1.918	.137	.891	.006	-3.505 - 4.030
Foreign national status (n=498)	-2.820	2.276	-1.239	.216	-.051	-7.290 - 1.650
Disability status (n=487)	-1.232	1.258	-.979	.328	-.041	-3.704 - 1.240
Experience of local authority care (n=490)	-3.097	1.058	-2.926	.004	-.120	-5.175 - -1.018
Time served (weeks) (n=510)	.354	.023	15.201	.000	.524	.308 - .400
Distance from home (n=510)	-.506	.133	-3.800	.000	-.152	-.767 - -.244

At a univariate level, six of the 10 factors examined were found to be significantly predictive of the number of visits received from family and friends. Once identified as appropriate for inclusion, the six predictor variables were entered into a multivariate model (on the basis of their respective p-values and t-statistic). The results of this multivariate modelling are set out in Table A8.

These show that controlling for the influence of establishment, time served, age, Muslim status and experience of local authority care, distance from home was a significant predictor of the number of visits received from family and friends. The R^2 value for this model was .306, which means that these factors accounted for around 31% of the variation in the number of visits received. However, since the confidence intervals for the model crossed zero (i.e. ranging from -11.7 to 23.0) the overall model was not a good predictor of the number of visits received ($p = .524$). This essentially means that in some of the cases examined these six factors were positively associated with visits from family and friends, while in others there was a negative relationship observed.

³⁵ Again, in an effort to produce more robust odds ratios, distance from home YOT office was measured in 10-mile intervals.

Table A8: Number of visits from family and friends - multivariate relationships (N=478)

Independent variables	Multivariate linear regression – Model A (i)					
	B	SE	t	p	β	95% CI (of β)
Time served (weeks)	.355	.025	14.280	.000	.510	.306 - .404
Distance from home	-.409	.122	-3.344	.001	-.122	-.649 - -.169
Establishment	-.496	.201	-2.466	.014	-.092	-.892 - -.101
Experience of local authority care	-1.879	.918	-2.047	.041	-.072	-3.682 - -.076
Age	.047	.526	.089	.929	.003	-.987 – 1.080
Muslim status	.233	1.159	.201	.840	.007	-2.042 – 2.509
Constant			.638	.524		-11.741 – 23.044

(i) $R^2=.306$

In an effort to refine and improve the model, a backward elimination approach was used to sequentially remove those factors with high p-values. Running two further iterations of the model (removing age ($p=.929$) and Muslim status ($p=.832$) respectively from the equation) did not adversely impact upon the R^2 value (.306), but did improve the 'fit' of the overall model ($p=.000$). The final model showed distance held from supervising YOT office to be a significant predictor of the number of visits received from family and friends, once establishment, time served and experience of local authority care had been controlled for. The standardised β value of $-.417$ indicates that each 10-mile interval a child was held from their home YOT was associated with 0.4 fewer visits (equivalent to one less visit from a family member or friend for each 25-mile interval held from home). This interpretation is true only if other factors in the model are held constant. These results are set out in Table A9, below.

Table A9: Number of visits from family and friends – multivariate relationships (N=490)

Independent variables	Multivariate linear regression – Model B (i)					
	B	SE	t	p	β	95% CI (of β)
Time served (weeks)	.351	.024	14.670	.000	.509	.304 - .399
Distance from home	-.417	.120	-3.476	.001	-.125	-.652 - -.181
Establishment	-.507	.195	-2.596	.010	-.094	-.891 - -.123
Experience of local authority care	-1.899	.898	-2.116	.035	-.074	-3.662 - -.136
Constant			5.322	.000		4.132 – 8.965

(i) $R^2=.306$

Visits from professionals

The results of these univariate analyses, as they relate to visits from professionals, are presented in Table A10, below.

Table A10: Number of visits from professionals – univariate relationships (N=595 unless otherwise stated)

Independent variables	Univariate linear regression					
	B	SE	t	p	β	95% CI (of β)
Establishment type (n=510)	.304	.662	.460	.646	.019	-.995 – 1.604
Age (n=505)	.408	.326	1.249	.212	.051	-.233 – 1.049
Black and minority ethnic status (n=502)	1.114	.574	1.942	.053	.079	-.013 – 2.240
Muslim status (n=493)	1.356	.715	1.895	.059	.078	-.049 – 2.760
Gypsy/Romany/Traveller status (n=488)	-.681	1.021	-.667	.505	-.025	-2.685 – 1.324
Foreign national status (n=498)	-1.909	1.211	-1.576	.116	-.064	-4.287 - .470
Disability status (n=487)	-1.57	.677	-.232	.816	-.010	-1.488 – 1.173
Experience of local authority care (n=490)	1.292	.570	2.266	.024	.093	.172 – 2.412
Time served (weeks) (n=510)	.189	.013	14.378	.000	.503	.163 - .215
Distance from home (n=510)	-.374	.073	-5.108	.000	-.202	-.518 - -.230

At a univariate level five of the 10 factors examined were found to be significantly predictive of the number of visits received from professionals while detained. Once identified as appropriate for inclusion, the five predictor variables were entered into a multivariate model (on the basis of their respective p -values and t -statistic). The results of this multivariate modelling are set out in Table A11.

Table A11: Number of visits from professionals – multivariate relationships (N=475)

Independent variables	Multivariate linear regression (i)					
	B	SE	t	p	β	95% CI (of β)
Time served (weeks)	.181	.013	13.553	.000	.483	.155 - .207
Distance from home	-.382	.064	-5.999	.000	-.213	-.507 - -.257
Experience of local authority care	2.075	.497	4.172	.000	.148	1.098 – 3.052
Black and minority ethnic status	.854	.595	1.434	.152	.062	-.315 – 2.023
Muslim status	-.034	.754	-.045	.964	-.002	-1.515 – 1.447
Constant	3.324	.558	5.953	.000		2.227 – 4.421

(i) $R^2=.292$

These show that controlling for the influence of factors like time served, Black and minority ethnic and Muslim status, and experience of local authority care, distance from home was a significant predictor of the number of professional visits received. The R^2 value for this model was .292, which means that these factors explained around 29% of the variation in the number of visits from professionals across the cases considered. Furthermore, since the confidence intervals for the model did not cross zero (i.e. ranging from 2.227 to 4.421) the overall model was a good predictor of the number of professional visits received ($p=.000$).

In an effort to further refine and improve the model, a backward elimination approach was used to sequentially remove those factors with high p -values. A further iteration of the model to remove Muslim status ($p=.964$) did not impact upon the R^2 value (.292).³⁶

³⁶ A further iteration to remove BME status ($p=.076$) reduced the R^2 value (.289).

The final model therefore showed distance from home YOT to be a significant predictor of the number of professional visits received, once factors like time served, BME and Muslim status, and experience of local authority care had been controlled for. The standardised β value of $-.382$ indicates that each 10-mile interval a child was held from their home YOT was associated with approximately 0.4 fewer professional visits (equivalent to one less visit for each 26 miles). This interpretation is true only if the effects of the other factors in the model are held constant.

Appendix IV: The impact of distance from home on the likelihood of recall following release from custody

Main findings

Distance held from home was not found to be associated with risk of recall. This was also true for a number of other factors considered: gender, ethnicity, the length of DTO sentence and type of establishment released from (YOI or STC).

Results and procedure

Data source and sampling procedure

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) provided HMI Prisons with an anonymised extract from the eAsset system³⁷ relating to a census of 2,031 detention and training order (DTO) events involving 1,945 young people who completed the custodial element of their order between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014.

The extract included 198 records relating to detention in secure children's homes. These cases were excluded from our analyses. Just over one in five records related to cases involving a young person aged 18 at the point of their release from custody (21.5%; n=437). Since any 18-year-olds (and potentially those turning 18 shortly after their release) who were recalled on their DTO would have subsequently been placed in the adult estate, details of this recall would not have been recorded on eAsset. It is therefore not possible to say whether or when these 18-year-olds were recalled. Consequently these cases have been excluded from our analyses.

Of the remaining 1,343 individuals, 4% (n=56) completed the custodial element of more than one DTO during this period.³⁸ For these cases the custodial event which finished first and therefore resulted in their earliest release from custody in 2013–14 was chosen as the reference event.

Data analysis

In order to assess the impact of a number of factors (relating to demographics, main offence, DTO sentence length, establishment released from,³⁹ home YOT region and distance from home)⁴⁰ on the likelihood of recall within six months among children completing the custodial element of a DTO during 2013–14, a Cox proportional hazards regression model was developed using data derived from the eAsset system. The modal (or most common) value within each categorical predictor variable served as the reference category.

Eight factors were hypothesised as being of relevance, including:

³⁷ eAsset is an electronic sentence management system which holds data on young people throughout their custodial sentence. Relevant information completed by YOTs and establishments can be uploaded to eAsset and viewed by them and the YJB.

³⁸ Cases were distinguished at an individual-level within the dataset using a unique identifier assigned to the young person by the YJB.

³⁹ This refers to the establishment the young person was last placed at while serving their DTO. A young person may have transferred from another establishment during their time serving the custodial part of their DTO.

⁴⁰ This refers to the distance in miles from the YOT office the young person was attached to at the time of completing the custodial element of their DTO. eAsset measures distance 'as the crow flies', rather than actual distance travelled by road or other means of transport. Using this approach allowed for better coverage (no missing data compared with around 20% when looking at home address postcodes). However, for those young people under larger YOTs this may be a less accurate proxy for distance from home.

- age
- gender
- ethnicity
- main offence
- length of DTO sentence
- establishment type released from (YOI or STC)
- home YOT region
- distance from home.

Tests of equality were undertaken to determine whether individual predictor variables were retained for inclusion in multivariate analysis. Categorical variables were assessed using log-rank tests while univariate Cox proportional hazards regression were undertaken for continuous data. Categorical predictor variables with log-rank p -values of $<.25$ and continuous data with Wald p -values of $<.25$ were included in the model.

In addition to descriptive statistics, results for two-sample t -tests include reporting of the mean (M), standard deviation (SD), number of cases (N), t -statistic (t), degrees of freedom and p -value (p). A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was undertaken to assess whether distance between establishment of release and supervising YOT team was different based on regional factors. Statistics reported for ANOVA testing include mean (M), standard deviation (SD), number of cases (N), F -statistic (F), degrees of freedom and p -value (p). Statistics reported for results of Cox proportional hazards regression modelling (in table form) include details of Wald's chi-square (X^2) statistic, p -value (p), hazard ratio (HR) and related confidence intervals (95% CI for HR).

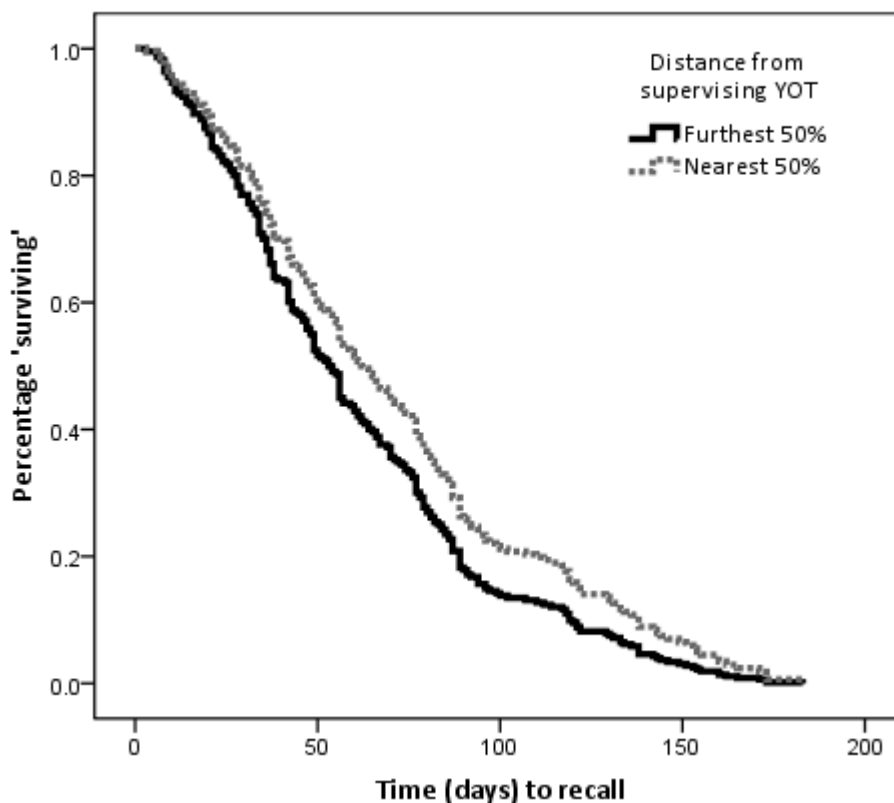
The impact of different factors on the likelihood of recall

From the hypothesised factors listed above, the following variables were excluded from multivariate analysis:

- length of DTO sentence ($p=.923$)
- distance between establishment released from and supervising YOT team ($p=.913$)
- gender (reference was male, $p=.492$)
- establishment type released from (reference was YOI, $p=.323$).

Prolonging the length of time a young person is engaged in their supervision post-release is an important intermediate outcome; one which is likely to have significant benefits for the child and the wider community. However, consistent with the findings from the univariate regression analysis above, results of the log-rank test of equality showed that although those children released from custody furthest from home tended to be recalled sooner relative to those released nearer to their supervising YOT team, the differences in their overall 'survival rate' in the six months post-release were not significant ($\chi^2(1, N=1,343)=3.64, p=.056$). These survival times are plotted in Figure A1, below.

Figure A1: Survival analysis for days to recall in the six months following completion of the custodial element of a DTO in 2013–14, by distance (N=1,343)



Only those four factors significantly associated with recall within six months of release from the custodial element of a DTO in 2013–14 were included in the final multivariate model. These were (in order of entry based on p-values): supervising YOT region (reference was London, $p=.002$), age ($p=.006$), main offence (reference was violence against the person, $p=.074$) and ethnicity (reference was white, $p=.234$).

The final model identified two of the four factors as being significantly predictive of recall. The factor with the largest effect on risk of recall was YOT region. Compared with those supervised by a London-based YOT, children being managed by teams from the south-west of England were almost three times more likely to be recalled within six months. Those supervised by teams in the north of England were around twice as likely to be recalled as their peers in London, while for children returning to the Midlands, the risk of recall during this period was 64% higher compared with those in the capital.

Age exerted a protective effect, with each passing year associated with a 24% reduction in the risk of recall within six months. Overall, the young person's ethnicity and their main offence had no bearing on risk of recall (although domestic burglars were at heightened risk relative to those convicted of violent offences). The results of the model are set out in Table A12.

Discussion

The findings from our analyses shows there to have been no link between the distance which a young person was held from their supervising YOT area and the likelihood of them being recalled in the six months following release from the custodial element of a DTO in 2013–14.

Table A12: Results of a Cox proportional hazards model of recall within six months following release from the custodial element of a DTO in 2013–14 (N=1,343)

Covariate	χ^2	<i>p</i>	Hazard ratio	(95% CI)
YOT region (ref was London)	19.5	.003		
Midlands	4.98	.026	1.624	1.061-2.485
NE England	8.86	.003	1.990	1.265-3.130
NW England	7.12	.008	1.880	1.182-2.988
South and SE England	2.10	.147	1.416	.885-2.268
SW England	11.25	.001	2.872	1.550-5.322
Wales	1.06	.303	.578	.203-1.642
Age	11.64	.001	.764	.655-.892
Offence group (ref was violence)	4.68	.197		
Robbery	.423	.515	1.135	.775-1.663
Domestic burglary	4.45	.035	1.504	1.029-2.196
Other	1.13	.288	1.207	.853-1.708
Ethnicity (ref was white)	.97	.914		
Asian	.027	.869	.946	.488-1.833
Black	.041	.840	1.074	.536-2.154
Mixed	.667	.414	1.699	.476-6.063
Other	.010	.922	1.029	.578-1.831