

ACTION PLAN: HMCIP REPORT

Thematic report: The impact of distance from home on children in custody

TIMETABLE	DATE	STATUS OF THIS RETURN
Report published	28 September 2016	
Action Plan Submitted	May 2017	Attached

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Thematic report: The impact of distance from home on children in custody

POSITION AS AT: MAY 2017 2017

1. Rec. No.	2. Recommendation	3. Accepted/ Rejected	4. Response Action Taken/Planned	5. Function Responsible/ Policy Lead	6. Target Date
	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.	Accepted subject to resources	<p>The YJB funded a pilot which ran from May 2015 to December 2016 at YOI Parc whereby young people were able to use an internet based video solution (IBVS), Skype, in order to maintain family and other contacts.</p> <p>Whilst use of the facility has been relatively infrequent, there have been some very powerful case studies of it supporting young people's contact with families that might not have been possible without the facility.</p> <p>Following the success of this pilot, the YJB is working with other parts of the sector to explore whether Skype could be deployed in other establishments.</p>	YJB Commissioning & Change Team	March 2018

			<p>In addition, HMPPS Digital Prison Project is being piloted in HMP Wayland and it is projected that all prisons will have digital access within five to seven years. The project will be developing digital content for prisoners/young people and this will include induction information to help prisoners/young people settle. It is also an ambition to include information to individuals before they go to prison/YOI so they have a better understanding of what to expect.</p> <p>HMPPS Youth Custody Service will assess the outcome of the project and how best to adapt this to meet the needs of young people in the estate.</p>	HMPPS Directorate of Digital and Change	
	Recommendation to NOMS				
1.14	Children should be provided with additional phone calls to a parent/carer in place of unused visit entitlements.	Accepted subject to resources	<p>Together with the YJB, we will look at ways of implementing the recommendation and meet additional cost.</p> <p>In addition to phone calls, the Prison Voicemail Service enables families to exchange voicemail messages with their loved ones in prison. The family member dials a unique landline number from their mobile phone and leaves a message. The young person can receive and reply from any phone in the establishment.</p>	HMPPS Youth Custody Service / YJB Commissioning & Change Team	March 2018
1.15	There should be greater use of new technologies to enable	Accepted subject to	Please note our response to rec 1.13.	YJB Commissioning	

	children in custody to have the levels of contact they need with external professionals who will be working with them post release, and to enable relevant through the gate work to commence while in custody.	resources		& Change Team HMPPS Directorate of Digital and Change	
1.16	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.	Accepted	The HMPPS Youth Custody Service will work with secure escort service providers to improve the information made available to young people being committed to custody.	HMPPS Youth Custody Service	End of 2017
1.17	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	Accepted	Within HMPPS Youth Custody Service we will promote this through our induction, advocacy service and casework model (personal officer scheme).	HMPPS Youth Custody Service	End of 2017
	Recommendation to YJB				
1.18	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.	Accepted	The YJB is in the process of rolling out a new framework for assessing young people, known as AssetPlus. Practitioners will be encouraged to record improved data in this area, including to what extent they consider that distance from home will significantly impact the young person's resettlement or the parent/carer's ability to	YJB Commissioning & Change Team	End of 2017

			visit. The YJB will use available AssetPlus data (once fully available) and other data on young people in custody to assess the feasibility of undertaking regular analysis of possible negative impacts of young people placed far from home.		
	Recommendation to HMCTS				
1.19	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.	Accepted subject to resources	The YJB is working with HMCTS regarding how and when video links should be used for hearings involving children and young people. We are clear that children and young people should be guaranteed access to relevant services (including but not limited to defence representation and Youth Offending Teams) to safeguard them and support them through the justice process. We are engaged with HMCTS regarding drawing up best practice guidance to ensure this is guaranteed	YJB Commissioning & Change Team/HMCTS	March 2018

Recommendations	
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Accepted	2
Accepted Subject to Resources /Partially Accepted	5
Rejected	0
Total	7