



Her Majesty's  
Inspectorate of  
Probation

**Youth offending inspection  
Resettlement  
Case assessment guidance (CAG)**

v 1. 2 January 2022

The resettlement standard is judged primarily on qualitative evidence, derived from written evidence and meetings. A number of resettlement cases are examined, to illustrate the extent to which the qualitative standards are being met through local provision and practice. Resettlement cases are not separately rated. The case assessment guidance (CAG) sets out guidance to be followed by inspectors and local assessors in their examination of cases.

## Information about the child

Inspection question	Case assessment guidance
Has the child been a Looked After Child at any time during the sentence being inspected?	<p>If the child is a Looked After Child, we check whether the YOT being inspected is acting as 'home' or 'host' for the child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the inspected YOT is the home YOT and the child has lived in the area covered by that YOT for the whole of the sentence being inspected, we inspect the case as normal.</li> <li>• If the inspected YOT is the home YOT and the child has lived outside the area covered by that YOT for any part of the sentence being inspected, we check whether the inspected YOT has taken responsibility for assessment of the child. If yes, we inspect the case as normal, and would expect the YOT to ensure that sufficient services are delivered by the host YOT to meet the needs of the child and the sentence.</li> <li>• If the inspected YOT is not the home YOT for the child, and has not been responsible for assessment, we exclude the case from the inspection sample.</li> </ul>
Gender	The options to answer this question are recommended as best practice by the Office for National Statistics. We expect to see evidence of the YOT having an age-appropriate conversation with the child, to establish how they view their gender identity, and for that to be accurately recorded on case records.
Race and ethnic category	The options to answer this question are recommended as best practice by the Office for National Statistics. We expect to see evidence of the YOT having a conversation with the child, to establish how they identify their race and ethnic category, and for that to be accurately recorded on case records.
Preferred language	We expect to see evidence of the YOT discussing with the child what their preferred language is, and for that to be accurately recorded on case records.

Religion/faith	The options to answer this question are recommended as best practice by the Office for National Statistics. We expect to see evidence of the YOT having a conversation with the child, to establish how they identify their religion, and for that to be accurately recorded on case records.
Sexual identity	The options to answer this question are recommended as best practice by the Office for National Statistics. On balance, we believe that these questions can be used appropriately to capture any disadvantage related to sexual orientation in connection with children. We expect to see evidence of the YOT having an age-appropriate conversation with the child, to establish how they view their sexual identity. We expect the YOT to recognise that some children may not want to, or will feel unable to describe their sexual identity, and may be unsure, and for that to be accurately recorded on case records.
Does the child have a disability?	Our definition of disability is 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a child's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'. The key words are 'substantial' and 'long-term'. In many cases, there will be a formal diagnosis of a specific condition. In cases where there may be no specific diagnosis, we expect a recognition of any symptoms experienced by the child and the impact of these on their life, which may be sufficient to be included under the definition of disability. We expect to see evidence of the YOT having a conversation with the child (and, if relevant, their parents or carers) about the nature of any disability, and for that to be accurately recorded on case records.
What is the impact of the child's disability?	We expect the YOT to understand the extent of the impact of the disability on the child, and to take that into consideration as part of assessment, planning and delivery of services. We expect to see evidence of the YOT having a conversation with the child (and, if relevant, their parents or carers) about the impact of any disability, and for that to be accurately recorded on case records.

## Resettlement work

Inspection question	Case assessment guidance
<p>Was there evidence of sufficient planning and provision being made for suitable accommodation to be in place for the child's release?</p>	<p>We expect planning for accommodation to start at the point the child enters custody. This is a key aspect of resettlement work; other services cannot be organised until the child has an address to be released to.</p> <p>We recognise that the primary responsibility for the accommodation of homeless 16- and 17-year-olds rests with children's social care services. In England and Wales, the local authorities are expected to develop homelessness pathways for children.</p> <p>We expect children to know, well in advance of their release date, where they are going to be living after they are released from custody. Suitability of accommodation includes consideration of the needs of the child, including diversity needs, ETE and health needs, and the need to maintain family links and feel part of a community.</p> <p>We expect both planning and provision to be sufficient.</p>
<p>Was suitable and timely accommodation provision in place for this child upon leaving custody?</p>	<p>Inspectors will describe the accommodation arranged for the child, how long before release it was arranged, and the extent to which it meets the child's needs.</p>
<p>Was there evidence of sufficient planning and provision being made for suitable education, training and employment (ETE) arrangements to be in place for the child's release?</p>	<p>We expect to see planning and provision of appropriate ETE work during the custodial phase of the sentence, and for that to be effectively handed over to services in the community for follow-up post-release.</p> <p>We expect both planning and provision to be sufficient.</p>
<p>Was there appropriate ETE provision for this child upon leaving custody?</p>	<p>Inspectors will describe the ETE provision arranged for the child while in custody and following release, and the extent to which they met the child's needs.</p>
<p>Was there evidence of sufficient planning and provision being made for suitable healthcare services to be in place for the child's release?</p>	<p>We expect children to receive continuous attention to their healthcare needs on entering and leaving custody. That includes continuity of any necessary mental health provision, substance misuse provision or other services required to address physical health needs.</p> <p>We expect both planning and provision to be sufficient.</p>

<p>Was there appropriate healthcare provision for this child upon leaving custody?</p>	<p>Inspectors will describe the healthcare provided for the child while in custody and following release, and the extent to which it met the child's needs. This includes any necessary mental health or substance misuse service, or services to address physical health needs.</p>
<p>Was there evidence of sufficient planning and provision being made for any other required resettlement services to be in place for the child's release?</p>	<p>Where children have other, specific resettlement needs, such as interventions for a particular type of offending behaviour, we expect to see planning and provision made to address those needs during the custodial phase of the sentence. Where the service required by the child is not immediately available in the institution, we expect the YOT to consider arranging for community services to deliver interventions on an in-reach basis. We expect any such arrangements to be handed over at the point of release for continuation of any required work in the community. We expect both planning and provision to be sufficient.</p>
<p>Was there appropriate provision of other required resettlement services for this child upon leaving custody?</p>	<p>Inspectors will describe the nature of the other resettlement services required; the provision made for each of those needs; and the extent to which each of the child's needs were met.</p>
<p>Was there evidence of sufficient contact between YOT staff, the child and their parents or carers prior to the child's release?</p>	<p>We expect YOT staff to make and maintain active contact with the child and their parents and carers while the child is in custody. They should facilitate family visits and support information-sharing between the institution, the family and the child.</p>
<p>Did the resettlement provision pay sufficient attention to keeping the child safe?</p>	<p>We expect YOT staff to assess and plan for the safety of the child, during the custodial as well as the community phase of the sentence. We expect the YOT to share information they hold with the institution, and to seek and incorporate information from the institution about the child's behaviour. It may be that the child is vulnerable to harm from other children in the institution, or that the child is showing risk-taking behaviour. While YOT staff are not directly responsible for all services required to keep the child safe during the custodial phase, they should actively raise expectations and concerns with the institution, to ensure the safety of the child. At the point of release, we expect to see a clear reassessment of factors related to keeping the child safe, so that any necessary steps can be taken immediately the child returns to the community.</p>
<p>Was there sufficient information-sharing and work with the institution or custodial case manager to keep the child safe?</p>	<p>Information-sharing works in both directions. When a child enters custody, we expect the YOT to share all information they hold relevant to the safety of the child. We also expect YOT case managers to gather actively information about the behaviour and experiences of the child in</p>

	<p>custody, including using the Youth Justice Application Framework. Where there are difficulties in communication, we expect YOT staff to escalate these with the institution.</p>
<p>Did the resettlement provision pay sufficient attention to keeping other people safe?</p>	<p>We expect YOT staff to assess and plan for the safety of other people during the custodial as well as the community phase of the sentence. We expect consideration to be given to specific risks that might be present to others during the custodial phase of the sentence, including other children in the institution, and staff. As part of release planning, reviewing should consider any potential changes to risk of harm once the child returns to the community.</p>
<p>Was there sufficient information-sharing and work with the institution or custodial case manager to keep other people safe?</p>	<p>We expect YOT staff to assess and plan for the safety of other people during the custodial as well as the community phase of the sentence. We expect the YOT to share information they hold with the institution, and to pay particular attention to the impact of any known risks on other children and staff in the institution. We also expect the YOT to seek and incorporate information from the institution about the child's behaviour, which may include behaviour towards other children or staff. While YOT staff are not directly responsible for all services required to keep other people safe during the custodial phase, they should actively raise expectations and concerns with the institution, to ensure the safety of other people. At the point of release, we expect to see a clear reassessment of factors related to risk of harm, so that any necessary actions can be taken immediately the child returns to the community.</p>
<p>Does resettlement provision address the needs of victims?</p>	<p>Where the custodial sentence meets the requirements for statutory victim contact provided by the National Probation Service, we expect to see evidence of prompt referral, so that contact with the victim can be established. In those cases, we also expect to see appropriate information-sharing with victims at relevant points of the sentence, including as part of release preparation.</p> <p>In other cases, we expect the YOT to consider the victim perspective in all planning to manage the release of the child from custody. In some cases, active steps will need to be taken – for example, in regard to accommodation or ETE provision – to avoid potential contact with a victim post-release.</p> <p>We expect to see consultation with victims about potential licence conditions, and a balanced approach between the wishes of victims and the needs of the child.</p>