

Review of the Youth Justice System

Terms of Reference

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has commissioned a review of the youth justice system in England and Wales.

The review has been established to examine:

- The nature and characteristics of offending by young people aged 10-17 and the arrangements in place to prevent it;
- How effectively the youth justice system and its partners operate in responding to offending by children and young people, preventing further offending, protecting the public and repairing harm to victims and communities, and rehabilitating young offenders; and
- Whether the leadership, governance, delivery structures and performance management of the youth justice system is effective in preventing offending and reoffending, and in achieving value for money.

The review shall consider the efficiency and effectiveness of the youth justice system in preventing offending, identify effective practice and make recommendations for improvement. In particular, the review will be able to consider:

- the actions and responsibilities of local authorities (including children's services, social services, education and housing), schools and other education providers, health services (including Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services and substance misuse services), youth offending teams, probation services, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and the police and other partners in preventing children and young people from offending;
- the response of the police, prosecutors and youth offending teams to crime committed by children and young people, including the sanctions and support available out of court and how these are used;
- the delivery models for detaining young people remanded or sentenced to custody and for supervising and rehabilitating young offenders in the community. This includes the interventions and support provided by these services and the co-ordination and integration between custodial and community youth offending services, and the interaction with wider services for children and young people. In respect of custody, this also includes the arrangements to safeguard young people, to reduce violence and gang-related activity, and to manage behaviour; and
- the leadership and governance of the youth justice system – including the roles and responsibilities of Government departments, the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and local authorities – and the arrangements in place to monitor and improve its performance and cost-effectiveness.

The review will not consider the age of criminal responsibility, the way young people are dealt with in the criminal courts or the youth sentencing framework.

The review shall consider the views of key stakeholders. This may include young people and their families or guardians, victims, the police, Police and Crime Commissioners, the Crown

Prosecution Service, the judiciary, youth offending teams, probation services, custody staff and the Youth Justice Board, as well as others with expertise or interest in services for children and young people and the criminal justice system. The review shall also consider relevant domestic and international research studies and literature on youth crime and youth justice systems.

The review will report in the summer of 2016.