



Pathfinder Report

Introduction

The South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium was established in 2014. The Consortium has strong support from a wide range of stakeholders, including - South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Secure Estate, Youth Offending Teams, Police, Probation, Department for Work and Pensions, the Youth Justice Board (YJB), NHS England and West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Beyond Youth Custody, a national resettlement research programme was closely involved in the Consortium's work until the end of the programme in March 2018. The University of Bedfordshire became an academic partner in early 2017 and the Alliance for Youth Justice are also engaged. The Consortium has a Strategic Group and there are regular Operational Group meetings. Youth Offending Teams from South and West Yorkshire are fully engaged with the range of resettlement initiatives and have benefitted from the work and progress made.

Consortium Strengths

The Consortium has a range of strengths, including:

- Enabling joint working and standard setting at a strategic level
- Providing an operational managers forum to share effective practice and problem solve
- Offering a combined voice when responding to changes in national policy or consultations
- Enabling sharing of resources between areas for a relatively small cohort
- Providing an evidence base and allows data comparison through the resettlement tracker which is further enhanced by the involvement of the academic partner
- Giving a focus on a complex and vulnerable cohort who could cost the public sector a considerable amount if their offending continues – it's an invest to save approach
- Providing a platform for obtaining funding on a regional basis

In November 2019 the Consortium was awarded Constructive Resettlement Pathfinder Status by the Youth Justice Board. This report looks at some of the initiatives which have been undertaken during the lifespan of the Pathfinder which ended in March 2022.

YJB Constructive Resettlement Pathfinder Status

In November 2019 the Consortium was awarded Pathfinder Status by the YJB. This allowed the Consortium to support other areas keen to develop constructive resettlement models. Additionally, a Pathfinder Co-ordinator was appointed who looked at developing and sharing models of good practice around supporting young people to develop a pro-social identity working with both NACRO and the YJB. This included the provision of training and resources to those working to support young people in custody and community including the statutory sector and voluntary sector. Training opportunities commenced in August 2020 and staff from various Youth Offending Teams across the country have attended 'The Introduction to Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift' training session. A shorter 'bite size' version lasting one hour has been developed for YOT Boards to support them in their understanding of resettlement issues.



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Special points of interest

- Read about our Lockdown Information for the Custodial Estate on page 3
- Details about the education leaflet produced by children at Adel Beck Secure Children's Home is featured on page 3

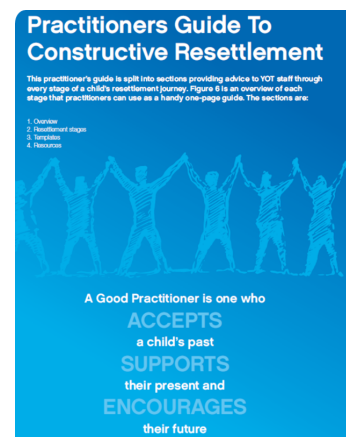
Phase 2 Training

Phase 2 Training is provided to frontline YOT practitioners and is practice based considering how the Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift principles can be put into practice. Accompanying the training is the guidance document which practitioners can use when they have a resettlement case. The initial training was for youth justice professionals, community organisations and partner agencies, Phase 2 Training is focused on frontline practitioners and those who supervise them.

It became clear through Phase 1 Training that there was a need for further training in the custodial estate. During the COVID pandemic there were huge challenges in terms of delivering training to custodial staff. The first Phase 1 date on which training could be accommodated in Wetherby YOI was 1st December 2021 and training was provided on this date. Training was also provided to Werrington YOI following an introduction by Youth Custody Service. The requirement for training to be offered to a wider audience in the custodial estate was emphasised by attendees in the training and this offer was made, but due to staffing implications in custody it wasn't possible for further training to be accessed.

Phase 1 Training—Introduction to Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift

Phase 1 training is an introduction to Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift and is provided for youth justice professionals, community organisations and partner agencies. The aim of the training is to introduce practitioners to the concept of Constructive Resettlement and the part Identity Shift plays in transforming a child's future. The training draws upon research undertaken by Professor Neal Hazel (Criminology and Criminal Justice at Salford University & YJB Board member) and Beyond Youth Custody (NACRO) and offers a comprehensive overview of the key principles of Constructive Resettlement and how it supports a positive Identity Shift in children.



Constructive Resettlement Guidance Document

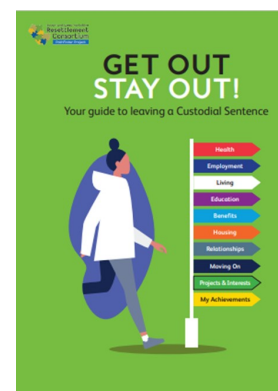
It was evident during the delivery of Phase 1 training that there was need for the practitioners training at Phase 2 to be supported by a guidance document. Working with YOTs and drawing on the experiences in South and West Yorkshire a Working Group was formed to develop the Guidance Document – its purpose is to introduce Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift principles and demonstrate how they can be used in practice. The first section is based on the Phase 1 Training – covering Constructive Resettlement Principles, explanation of Identity Shift, Secure Stairs etc and focuses on the theory. The second half is a working document which practitioners can use to remind themselves of each stage of the resettlement journey and take into prison when they have meetings. This is then further enhanced by each stage having additional notes/tips to ensure that Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift principles are at the fore front of a practitioner's mind. This section includes templates and checklists that can be used by practitioners as well as their line manager to check compliance. There are also resources and best practice examples included within the guidance document which will be available to download on the YJB Resource Hub.



Feedback from those attending the Phase 2 course is that 100% of responders say that they strongly agree that the guidance document will help them in their role.

Get Out, Stay Out!

The Get Out Stay Out! booklet has been created to help children and young adults who are leaving custody make a positive return to living in the community. When populated with contact details and information relating to the relevant locality it is a guide to finding the right services, support groups, information and advice that will help make the adjustment easier and more positive. Designed by a custody experienced young person for use in Rotherham the Pathfinder worked with Rotherham YJS to provide a template document which can be used anywhere in the country and has also been made available for HMPPS Content Hubs.



In 2 Out

The S&WYRC has had a positive relationship with In2Out since 2014. With shared aims to promote positive opportunities for young people both in custody and outside of custody and to support young people resettling from custody there are several work areas which overlap and complement each other. Through continued joint working as part of the Pathfinder the Consortium has been able to support In2Out to work with young people and raise awareness of opportunities through operational group meetings and sharing practice. Team members from In2Out participated in the Phase 1 Constructive Resettlement Training which enhanced the shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of those involved in supporting young people in custody as well as acknowledging the role of Identity Shift.

For more information about In2Out please visit www.in2out.org.uk



Lockdown Information for Custody

It was recognised that there was an extreme impact on youth custody as a result of the pandemic and all the good practice around planning for resettlement was being challenged in a world where meetings were being held online and face-to-face was not an option. In April, 2020 an initial problem for the custodial estate was how to convey the safety and lockdown messages to young people being released. The Resettlement Governor at Wetherby YOI highlighted these challenges and an animated video (and PDF document) was developed which was played on a loop and was shown to young people before they left Wetherby YOI. This was then updated following changes in national guidance and was shared across the custodial estate.



Evaluation-Interim Report & Action Plan

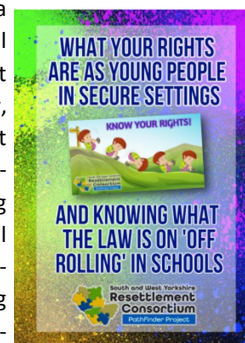
The relatively small-scale evaluation planned was difficult to undertake during the pandemic, so it was renegotiated to include an interim report which would allow for the development of an action plan for interim findings to be taken forward to influence planning and development and ensure opportunities are sought to make improvements. As a result of the comprehensive interim report provided by Keele University, an action plan was developed and was regularly reported on to the Strategic Group. The evaluation will seek to assess the impact of the Constructive

Resettlement training offer on the children whose caseworkers have received the training.

Further evaluation is being undertaken and the Consortium has identified the resources to allow work to continue on these issues for the next 12 months, which means the Consortium will be able to implement actions arising from the findings of the evaluation which impact upon South and West Yorkshire.

Education Leaflet

One of the interim evaluation recommendations was that the YCS, YJB and Department for Education nationally audit the provision of EHCP funding for children in custody. From this, plans should be put in place to ensure that the funding is transferred to the custodial placement to ensure a child's individual needs are met whilst in custody. Locally, the South and West Yorkshire Consortium are considering barriers to custodial establishments accessing EHCP funding and identifying solutions to overcome these. Work was also undertaken by children in Adel Beck Secure Childrens Home to develop a leaflet to help children and professionals understand their rights with regard to education.



Bite-Size Training for YOT

Partnership Boards

The importance and relevance of issues around resettlement to YOT Management Boards is underlined by standard 4 and standard 5 of the 2019 National Standards. Standard 4 is activity 'in secure settings' and standard 5 is related to 'on transition'. As well as the operational self-assessment there is the strategic self-assessment which requires Management Board self-assessment. As a result of issues identified in the Phase 1 training, where it became clear that strategic leaders should be appraised of developments, a YOT Partnership Board – Bite-Size training was developed and delivered online.

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Constructive Resettlement Training Numbers

Phase 1 Training has been delivered to over 500 attendees from South and West Yorkshire and other YOTs including Tower Hamlets, Bexley, Luton, Trafford, Bury & Rochdale, Tameside, Suffolk, Wigan, Camden, Lambeth, Hackney, Stockport, Bolton, Wokingham, Oldham, Stockport, Notts, North Lincs, Brent, East Riding, Portsmouth, Manchester, St Helens, Lancashire, Salford, Islington, Havering, Hammersmith & Fulham, Enfield, Westminster, Barnet, Neath, Bridgend, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Wrexham, Flintshire, Rhondda, Newport, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire.

There has also been a range of different agencies represented including Local Authorities, Positive Steps, Restorative Solutions, Keele University, Feltham YOI, Wetherby YOI, Werrington YOI, Doncaster YOI, Youth Justice Board, Youth Custody Service, In2Out, St Giles Trust, Novus, Serco, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Violence Reduction Unit, South Yorkshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Violence Reduction Unit, Department for Work and Pensions, Barnardo's, G4S (Wales), Building Futures Together, Wigan Youth Support Service and Leeds Pathways.

Around 150 practitioners will have received Phase 2 training by the end of March, 2022.

Exit Plan

At the end of the Constructive Resettlement Pathfinder in March, 2022 the Consortium is committed to ensuring that;

- the Guidance Resource is produced and publicly available from April, 2022
- the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the training and resources is undertaken and an Evaluation Report published
- support, guidance and advice are provided to any YOTs or services seeking to embed Constructive Resettlement including emerging Resettlement Partnerships, where resources allow
- the benefits of a partnership approach to resettlement are advocated.

Documents produced and published by the Consortium are available on the YJB Resource Hub

<https://yjresourcehub.uk/custody-and-resettlement.html>

