

## YJB Pathfinder – Tackling County Lines

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is working to support frontline service improvement through grants and activity which target system-wide challenges. This involves a pathfinder approach whereby local authorities and partners can pilot, develop and disseminate whole system solutions.

### Organisation(s)

Comprises four Youth Offending Teams: Norfolk, Essex, Cambridge and Suffolk. Norfolk Youth Offending Team will act as the lead Youth Offender Team.

### What does your project aim to achieve?

The overall aim of the project is to reduce the numbers of young people involved in county lines activity.

The Grant will firstly facilitate four local authorities to reduce the number of children involved in County Lines and secondly to disseminate that practice to other local authorities to enable them to similarly reduce children involved in County Lines.

### Overview of planned activity

This project will:

- Establish indicative baseline data;
- Evaluate and disseminate promising practice across the sector;
- Test out specific innovative practice and strategic approaches;
- Identify national policy barriers;
- Disseminate the learning from the project in such a way that other services across England and Wales can apply it;
- Establish an online accessible resource to host the results.

### Milestones & length of funding

The Grant funding is to run from October 2019 to March 2022.

### How will the outcomes and benefits of this work be shared with YOTs and others?

There will be a regional governance structure established that works across the four areas to oversee the development of practice and evaluation.

The project will develop a strategy for disseminating key learning and promising practice. This will include resources available online and through a series of events.

### How will the project be evaluated?

Evaluation will be ongoing through the life of the project and a final evaluation will be produced at the end.

This project will be requesting tenders to provide an evaluation. The specification will encompass establishing a baseline of current practice, strategy and data. It is anticipated that as the project develops, a range of themes or approaches will be 'tested'. The impact of these approaches will be evaluated using both qualitative and quantitative research and shared widely as part of the dissemination strategy.

**Contact**

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**Why this project was chosen:**

The Youth Justice Board's (YJB) Strategic Plan for 2019-22 sets addressing serious youth violence as one of YJB's priorities, including an aim to see "a reduction in the number of children being exploited through involvement with county lines" and additionally outlines an approach to support improvement in local practice by introducing pathfinder projects to develop and promote good practice and innovation across the system either focussed on strong local service delivery or on good practice in respect to our priorities.

In identifying which local authorities the YJB would work with to develop the County Lines Pathfinder, National Crime Agency (NCA) data was used to identify areas with a high number of County Lines feeding into them. From this and YJB confidence in the ability of the counties to support the project Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire were selected.

**Due diligence:**

All Youth Justice Board grants for pathfinder activity have been through the Ministry of Justice Grant Challenge Panel. This panel scrutinises grants made by the MoJ and its arms-length bodies to ensure public money is being spent effectively and responsibly. It provided objective scrutiny of our business case for the grant in line with guidance on managing public money. The YJB will monitor the project at intervals agreed with the grant recipient.