



ADCS Annual Conference 2022

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

**ADCS**  
Leading Children's Services

# Youth Justice

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Policy Workshop (E)



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# Youth Justice

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- **Thomas Lang**, Head of Service - Manchester Youth Justice, Manchester City Council
- **Alison Connelly**, Offenders and Criminal Justice Principal, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- **Michaela Kerr**, Chief Superintendent, Greater Manchester Police
- **Paul Axon**, Director – Young People’s Services, Positive Steps
- **Dr Alex Chard**, organisational consultant and independent academic.

Chair: **Paul Marshall**, Strategic Director for Children and Education Services, Manchester City Council



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# A youth justice system that works for children

A joint policy position paper (November 2021), ADCS, AYM, LGA



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# Current state of play in youth justice

- “Startling achievements” in reducing numbers entering the system over the last decade or so
- However, significant practice and policy challenges unaddressed e.g. over-representation (care, SEND, racial) and a crisis in custody
- Dozens of reports and reviews have been published in the last 5+ years making hundreds of recommendations for change
- Many common themes in these findings and recommendations but change has been too slow.



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# The case for change: why now?

- Complexity of cohort's needs
- Shift in offences, more severe
- Better response to CCE needed
- CSC picking up the costs in supporting those diverted from YJ
- Funding context for public services increasingly difficult
- Delays in police investigations and courts = rising remands
- Addressing disproportionality, which has not been explained
- Rising levels of violence
- Placements far from home
- Poor oversight and scrutiny of contracted providers
- Muddled national responsibilities
- Covid-19 showed YJ cohort treated differently to peers
- Driving forward *Child First* agenda
- Crisis in custody - closures
- Opportunity of secure schools.



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# *Child First* domains for change

**Education** – From greater inclusion in mainstream schools through to improved educational offers in custody. Any pandemic lessons – remote learning to support resettlement?

**Health** – Improved MH support in both the community and in custody, paucity of in-patient drug treatments for under 18s

**Children's services** – Closer working between YOTs and children's social care, exploration of integrated assessments and planning frameworks, developing CCE responses and early help offers

**Workforce** – Investment in the YOT workers to support both recruitment and retention, development of common principles for training and development across wider workforce (police, courts etc).



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# Operational changes

**YOTs** – Review of funding arrangements, Ofsted as lead regulator, YOT support beyond 18 years, as needed

**Custody** – Role for DfE (these are children in care), system-wide improvement plan, removal for for-profit providers

**CPS and Courts** – No more under 18s in adult courts, NRM fit for purpose in CCE cases? Longer term consideration about alternatives to courts

**Police** – Training for custody sergeants, action on disproportionality in stop and search, RUI review for under 18s

**Partnerships** – National ambition and strategy for children

**National legislation and policy** – More clarity, more scrutiny, more external challenge is needed to improve children's experiences and outcomes.



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# Recommendations

Overarching recommendation: *A public health approach to systematically respond to the harms children and young people face.*

In the interim a series of urgent changes are identified, many drawn from published reports and reviews, including:

- YJB oversight to move to the DfE
- LAs to explore shared development opportunities for YOT and CSC staff
- YCS to develop new routes of entry for custodial staff (see DfE's teaching and SW efforts)
- Increased funding for YOTs and wider children's services
- Review of the age of criminal responsibility
- Applying rules on vulnerable witnesses to the accused in youth courts
- Greater transparency of stop and search tactics as part of action on disproportionality.



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# Post-publication developments

In the months since the paper was published, there has been some progress and developments on a number of issues:

- Remand review published (January), new working group established (June)
- YCS establishes Safeguarding Continuous Improvement Board (January)
- NAO report (April) predicts a doubling in youth custody numbers by 2024
- The *Independent Review of Children's Social Care* backed the Taylor Review recommendations and called for youth justice to move to DfE (May)
- The *Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022* passes into law (May), this provides for the first secure school to open (although further delayed), it also includes measures to ensure use of remand is a final resort
- £300m package to cut youth crime announced by Ministry of Justice, including £60m new investment in prevention services routed via YOTs (May 2022).



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# Youth Justice

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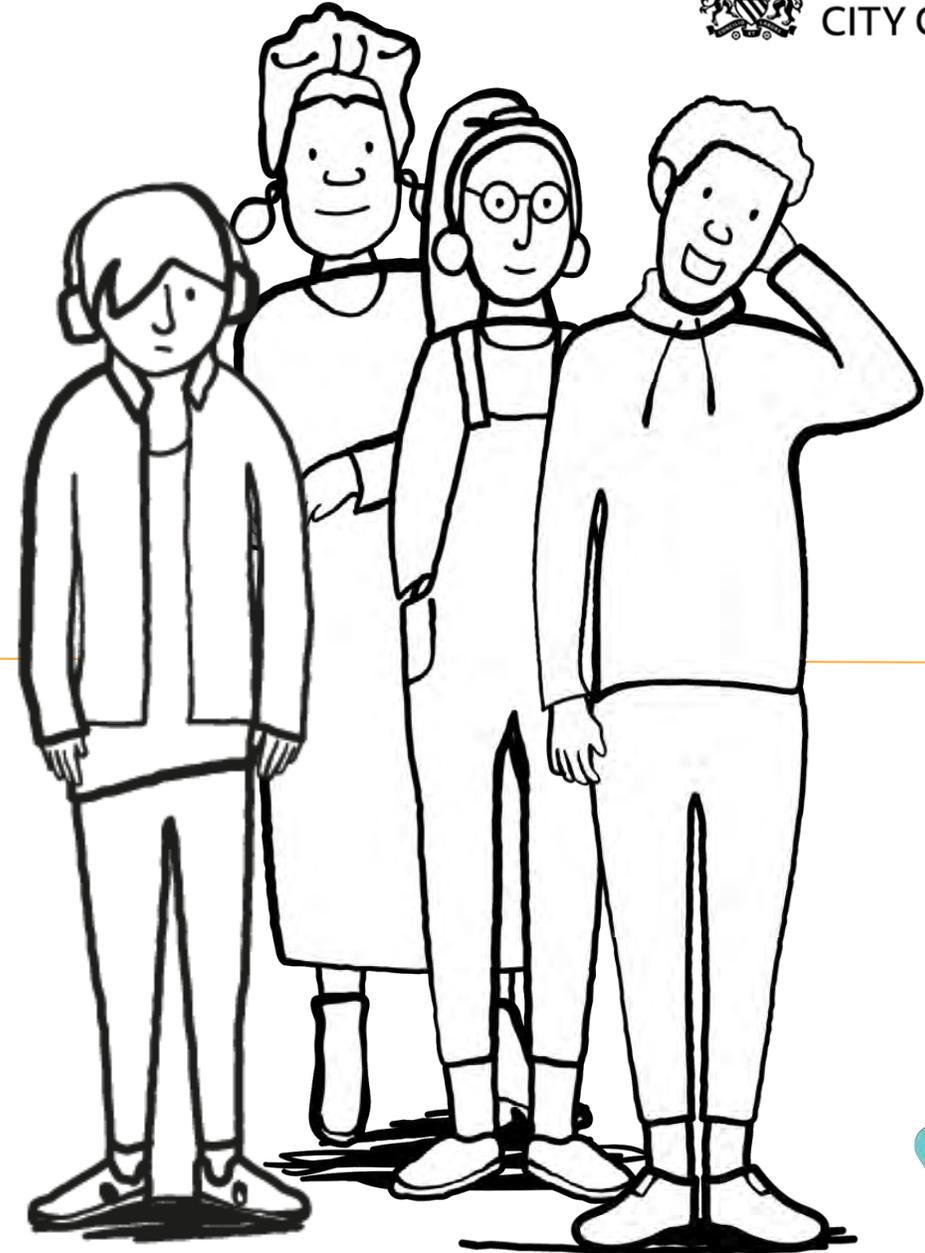
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# MYJ Participation and Engagement Framework

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July 2022

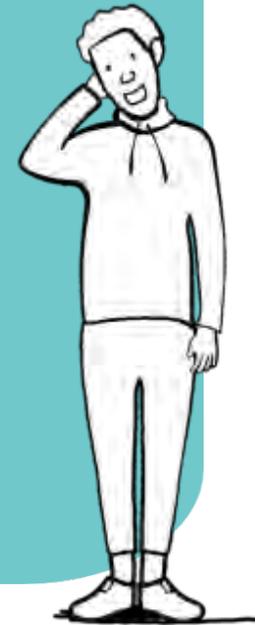
Tom Lang



# Participation

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***"It's the way that we do things, not just a thing that we do"***



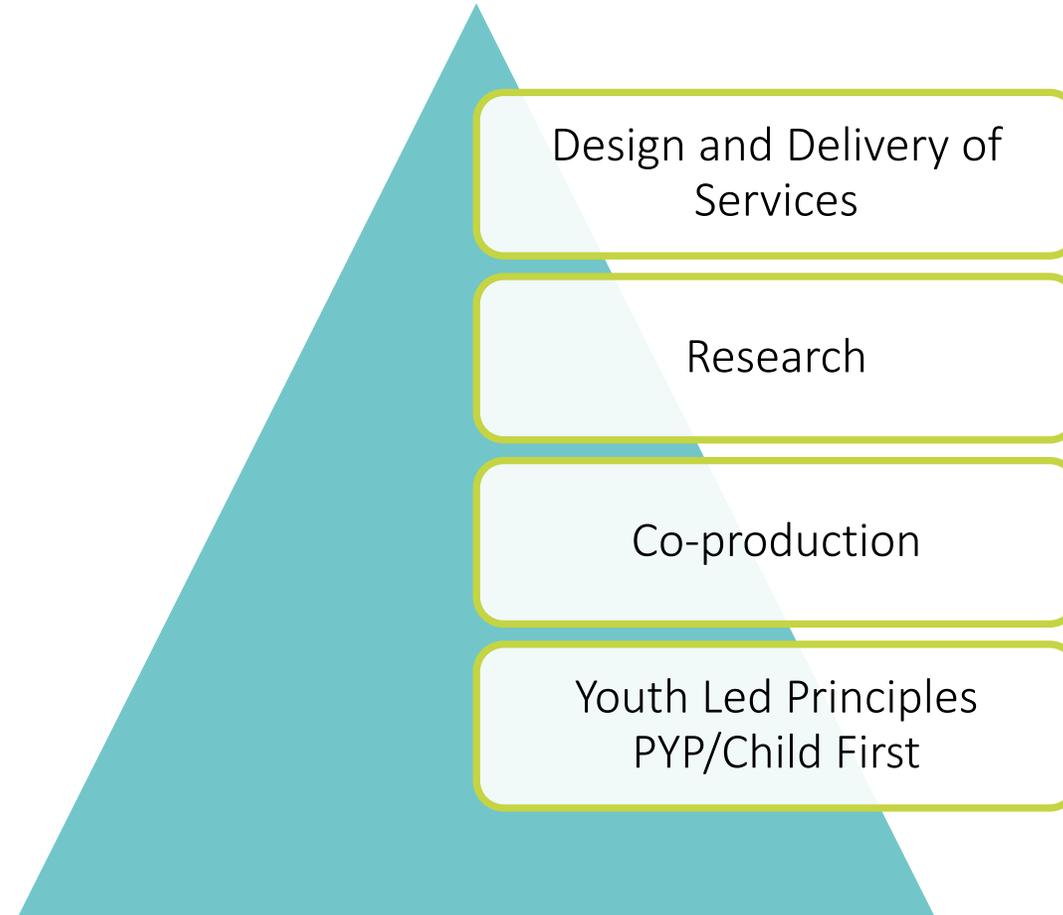
# MYJ Principles

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# MYJ Participation Framework

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Youth Justice puts children at the centre of their interventions. These interventions are underpinned by eight youth-led principles:



Let young people participate



Always unpick why



Acknowledge limited life-chances



Try to avoid threats and sanctions



Help problem-solve



Help young people find better options



Develop the young person's ambitions



Remember – it's the young person's choice



# Poster for Practitioners



# Co-Production- Reports and Plans

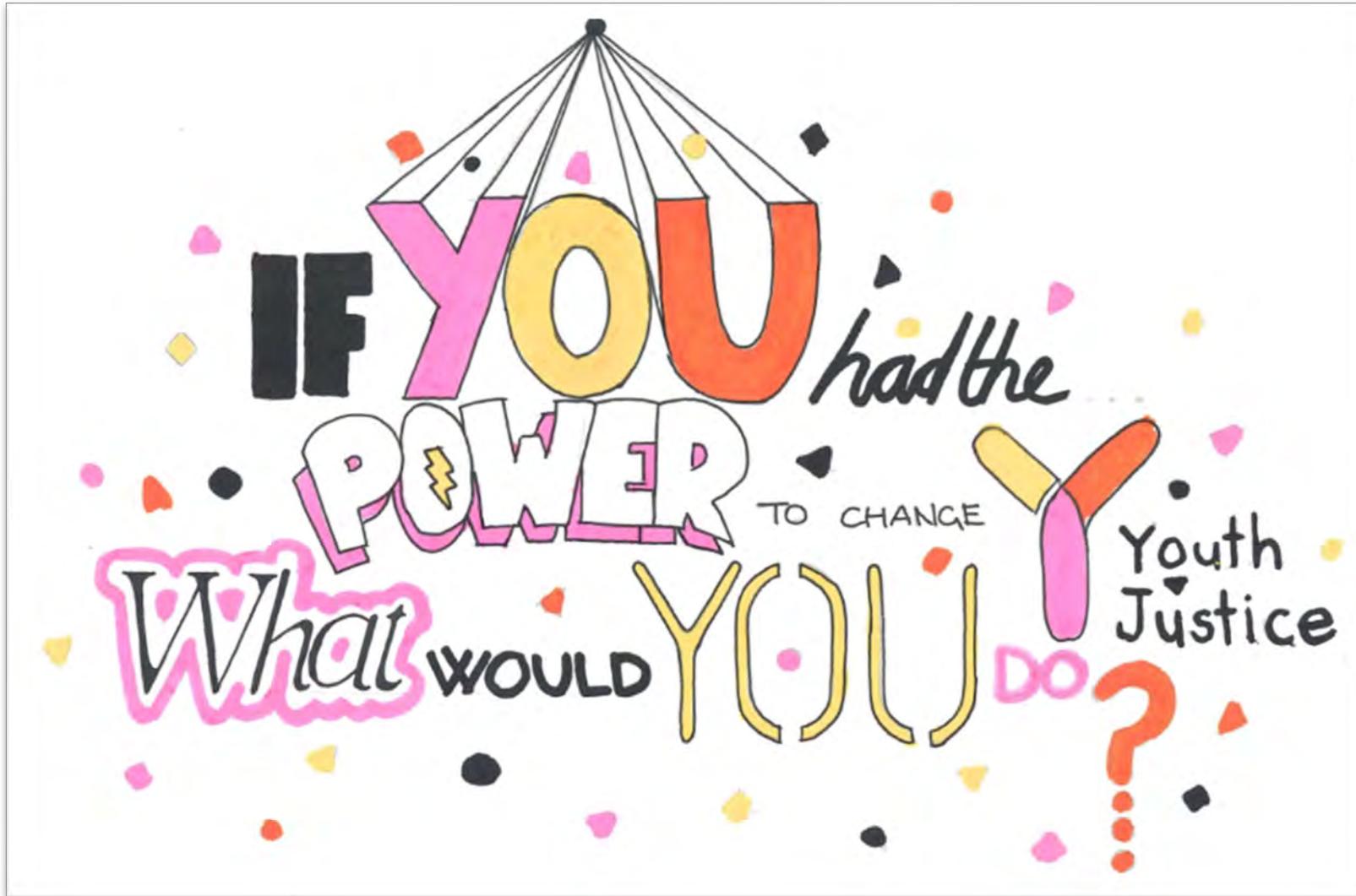
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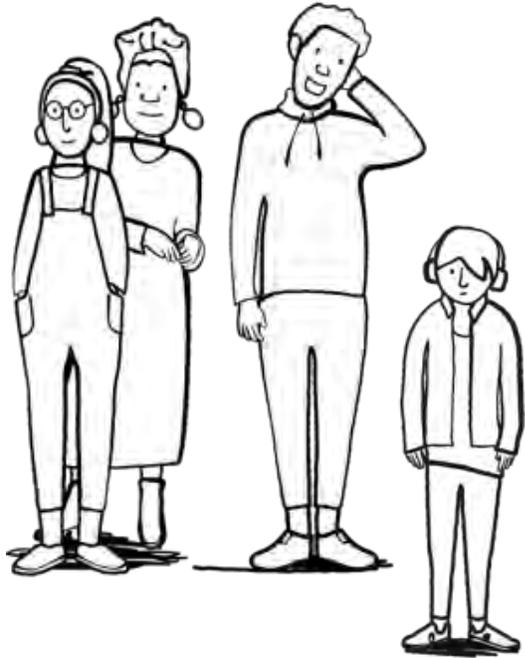
Reparation  
Victim Awareness  
Consequential Thinking  
Peer Pressure



*I want to feel safe*  
*I want to be happy*  
*Want to make my mum proud*  
*I want to get a job*



# Influencing Systemic Change



- Stop and Search
- Life After Lockdown (Creative Therapists)
- Black Lives Matter
- Serious Youth Violence and its Relationship with ACEs
- Youth Justice Response to COVID 19
- Reclaim Report KCYPS



# Youth Justice

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The background features a vibrant orange color with large, abstract black and white shapes. A white curved shape is on the left, a black curved shape is on the right, and a white triangular shape is at the top center. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the main title.

# Greater Manchester

YOUTH JUSTICE TRANSFORMATION

ADCS Report : A truly 'child first' approach requires changes at a national and local level;

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Policy/guidance

Practice

Partnerships

Our vision is to:  
*‘Improve the lives of young people, victims and the community, through taking a **‘child first’ approach** to youth justice that **reduces offending and reoffending** through tackling offending behaviour at **each point of the system**’.*



# The GM Youth Justice Transformation Programme

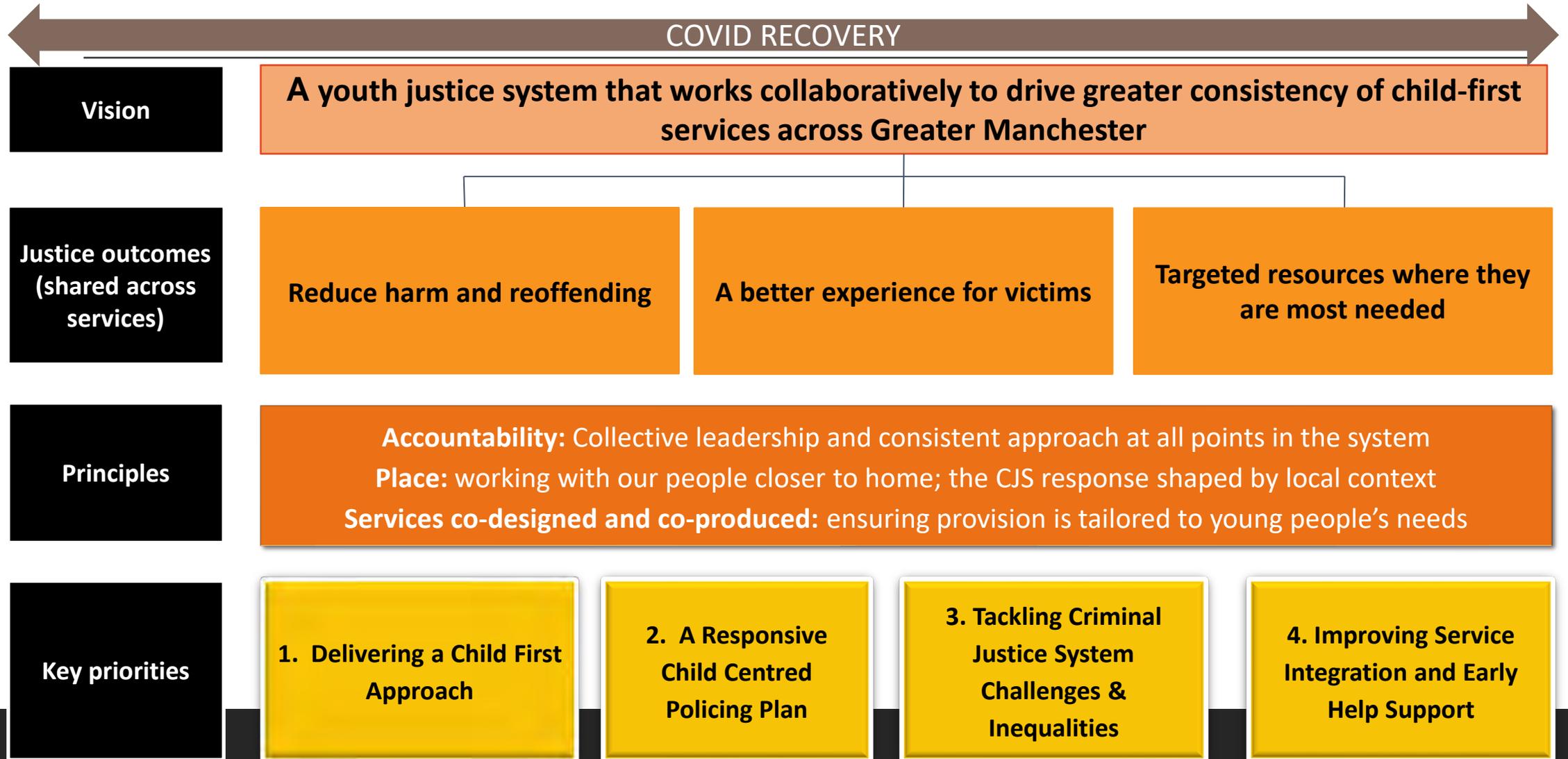
Partnership between Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), the ten Greater Manchester local authorities, GMP and the wider criminal justice system.

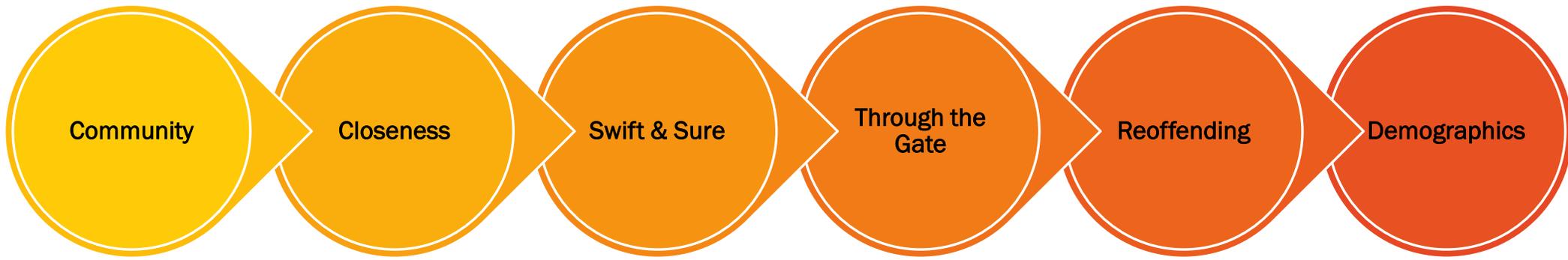
The GM Youth Justice Transformation Programme is underpinned by an MoU between GMCA and the ten GM Directors of Children's Services.

The Plan is linked to other GM strategies including the GM Children & Young People Plan, with particular emphasis on adolescence, and the development of the GMP Child Centred Policing Strategy.

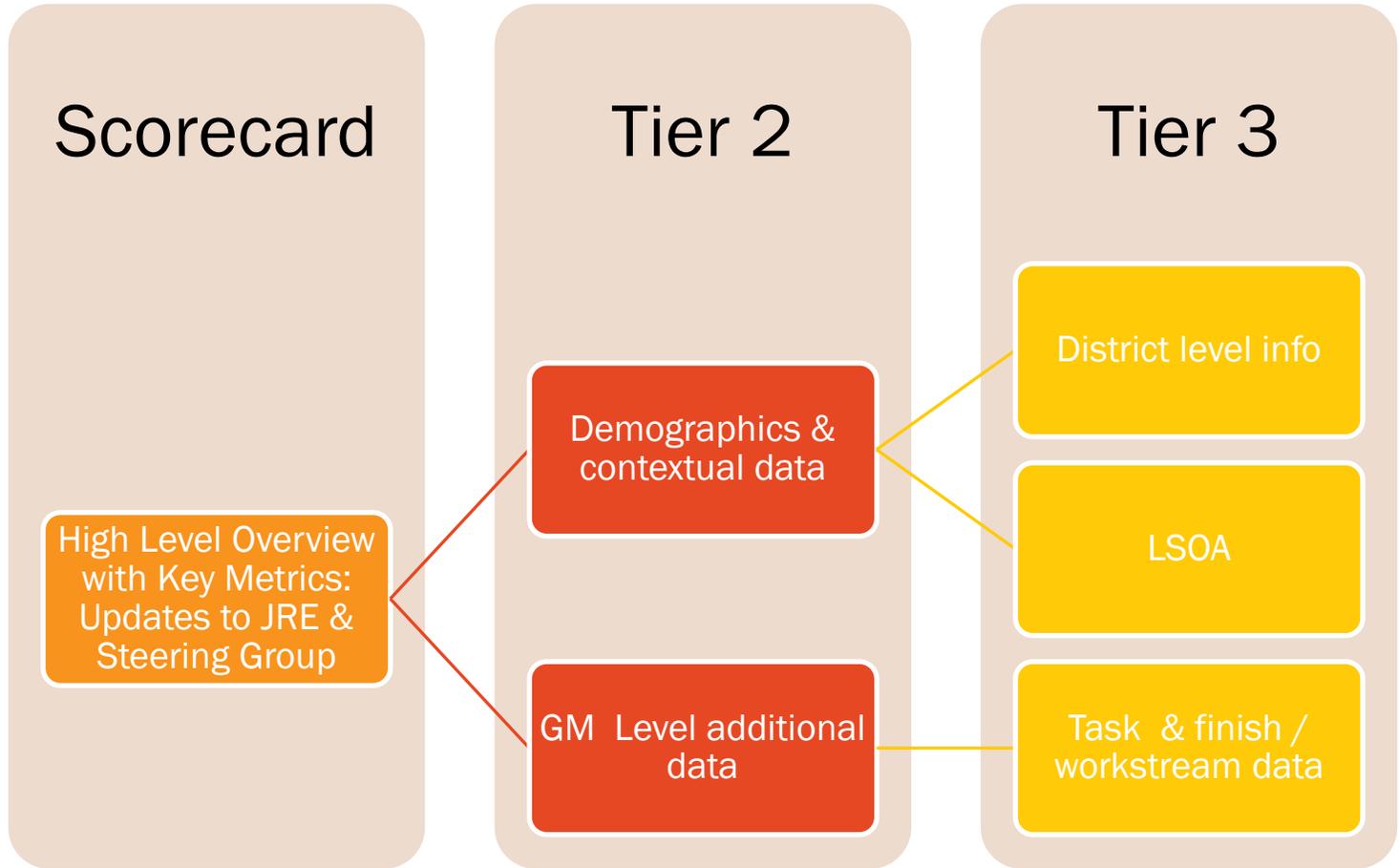
The work programme recognises the importance of addressing inequalities both within the youth justice system and the wider criminal justice system.

# A Child-First Youth Justice framework for Greater Manchester





# Scorecard development



# The GMP Priorities



Creating a trusted relationship with all Children and Young People



Putting Children and Young People first in everything we do, listening to and learning from their experiences to inform our behaviours, policies and decision making



Reducing reoffending and improving interventions for Children and Young People



Better identifying, understanding and responding to Children and Young People's vulnerabilities



Creatively work with our communities and partners to better problem solve the issues affecting Children and Young People

**THE GMP CHILD CENTRED POLICING PRIORITIES FOR GREATER MANCHESTER**

# Some Key National Context

Reoffending rate of cohort is 65%.  
On short sentences this rises to 77%

violence related offences now make up the whole of the GM population (sentenced)

of those not resulting in custody half are acquitted, half go onto community settings

560 young people in custody nationally, 50-60 in Greater Manchester

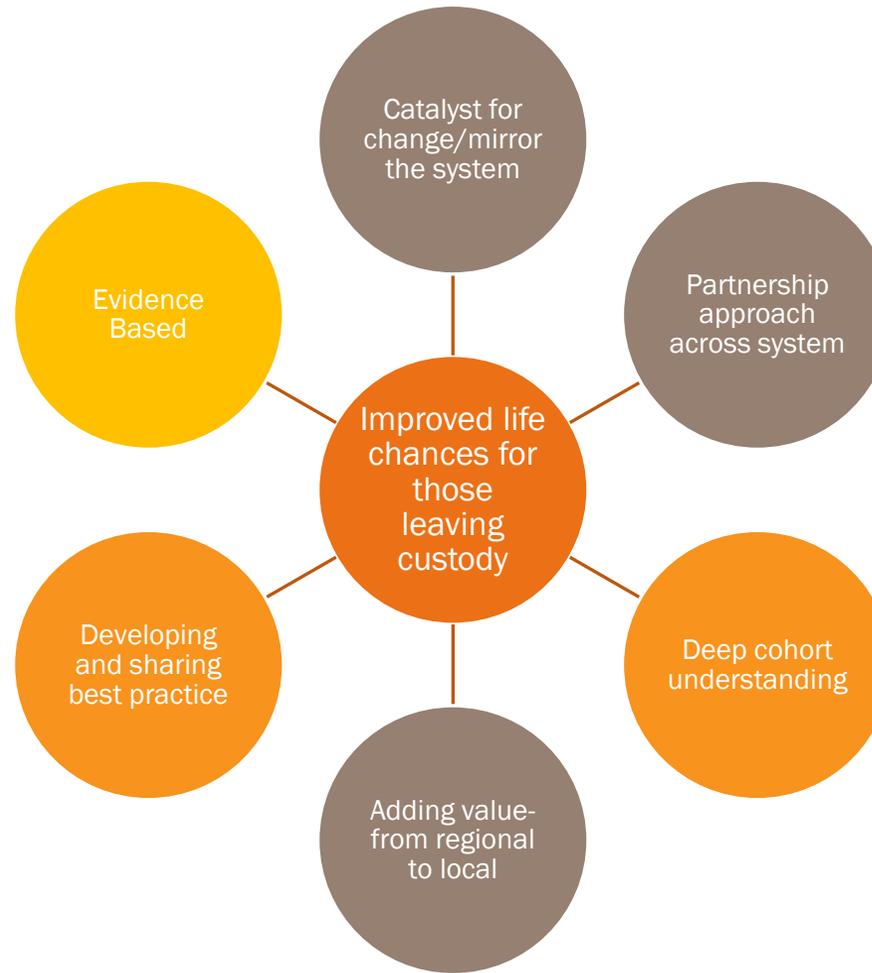
children from a black ethnic account for 29% of the population, compared with 18% ten years ago;

$\frac{3}{4}$  of young people remanded to custody receive a non custodial outcome

violence against the person and accounted for over half (61%) of the youth custody population

78% of the population are more than 25 miles from home. 15 % are 100 miles and over

# What is the resettlement consortium?



Policy/guidance

Practice

Partnerships

# Greater Manchester Milestones

-  Approval of GM Resettlement Partnership Strategy and Agreement
-  Training of custodial and community staff in constructive resettlement approach.
-  Secured partnership funding for Specialist GM safeguarding post in Wetherby YO1
-  Additional funding secured for mentoring support – Violence Reduction Unit
-  Pilot funding identified for enhanced advocacy support: Youth Custody Service
-  Initial Operational and Strategic Group memberships established and operational
-  GM dashboard in development with key overall cohort data in place

Policy/guidance

Practice

Partnerships



# Collaboration in Practice Example

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# Greater Manchester

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RESETTLEMENT CONSORTIUM

# Greater Manchester

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VOICE OF THE CHILD



## Dr Alex Chard

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Organisational consultant and independent academic. Author of *Punishing Abuse* (2021), commissioned by the West Midlands Combined Authority and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.



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# Next steps...

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Are you interested in national policy? Why not join one of the Association's six policy committees?

The Families, Communities and Young People Policy Committee leads on youth and family justice, youth work, child poverty and community safety as well as early years and safeguarding.

Please contact [info@adcs.org.uk](mailto:info@adcs.org.uk) to find out more or see [www.adcs.org.uk](http://www.adcs.org.uk)



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