

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Corporate Parenting Panel – 27 March 2019

Subject: **Youth Justice Service – Performance Scorecard Data**

Classification: Unrestricted

<p>Summary: Members requested a report from our existing services and partner agencies and on the data collected for our Children in Care, to enable comparison with the KCC data collection for the Child in Care Scorecard. This report provides members with an overview for the performance data for the Youth Justice Service.</p> <p>Recommendation: The Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to NOTE the youth justice performance data.</p>
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Kent County Council meets its statutory requirement to provide a Youth Offending Team, as outlined in the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, through the Youth Justice partnership in Kent. The partnership is led by the County Youth Justice Board which has representation from the statutory partners (Children's Social Work, Education, Health, Police, Probation) and other critical partners linked with the criminal justice system for children and young people.
- 1.2. The Board receives a quarterly performance report as part of the agenda for the meeting. The report includes the data which is provided to the Ministry of Justice as part of a statutory return (the numbers of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice system; numbers of young people entering custody and the rate of reoffending) and the data around areas of performance which the Board have requested.
- 1.3. The report also includes a snapshot of young people open to Youth Justice at the end of each quarter. This data is taken from the young people open to Youth Justice who have received a Court disposal.

2. Background

- 1.1. The data below is the snapshot data taken from Youth Justice case management systems at the end of each quarter which include the numbers who are Kent Children in Care.

Table 1: Youth Justice Case Management Snapshot – Children in Care

	2017/18	2018/19		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Total Offending Population in Kent	238	231	217	185
Kent Children in Care	39	35	35	28

Figure 1: Kent Children In Care on YOT Caseload by Quarter

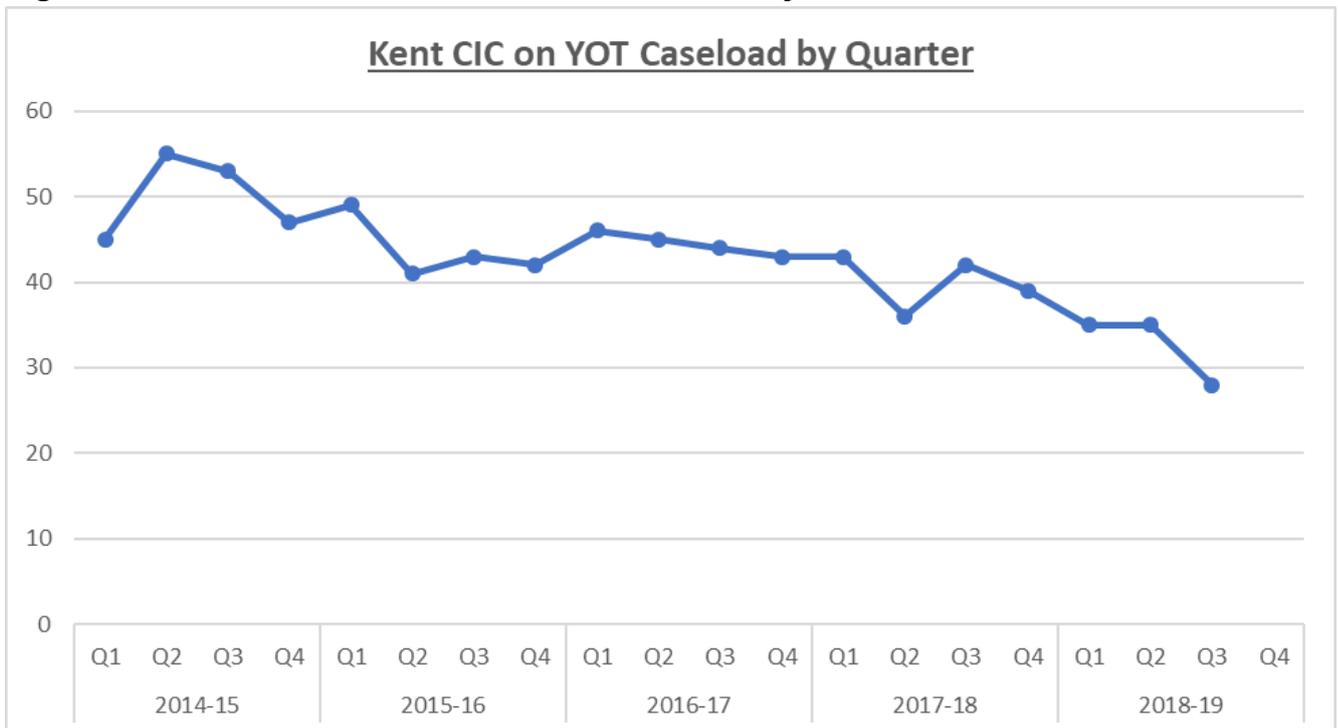
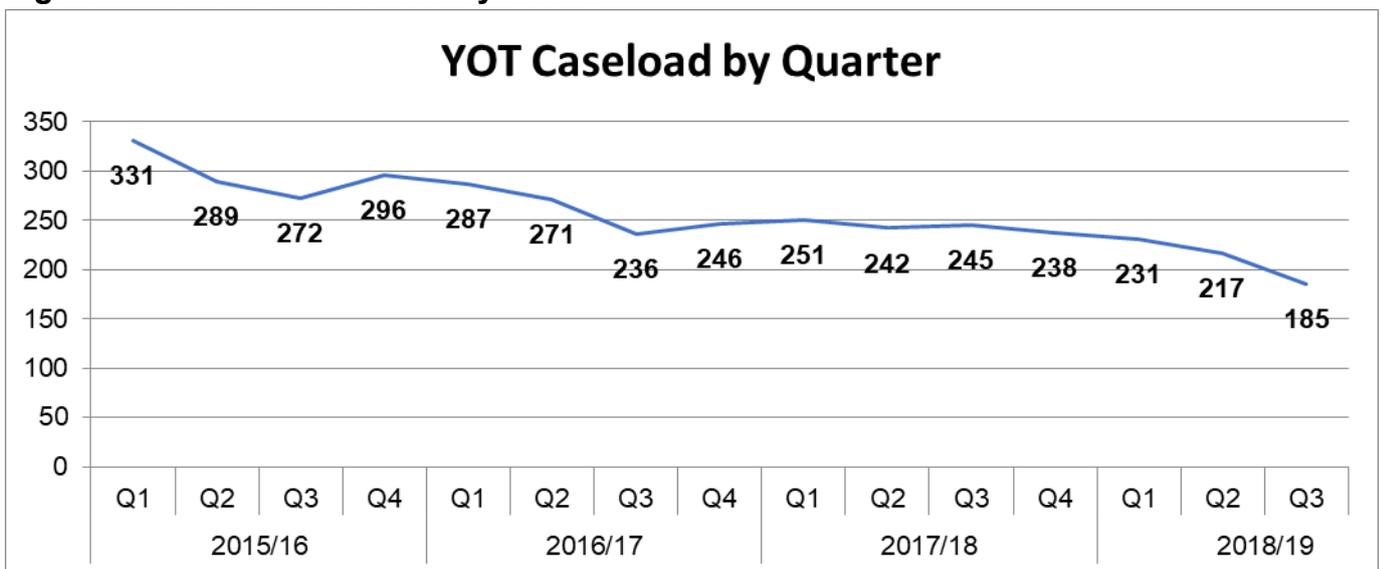


Figure 1: Kent YOT Caseload by Quarter



- 1.2. There has been a sustained trend where the numbers of Kent Children in Care in the criminal justice system have reduced since 2014/15. This is due to a focus by all partners on reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of Children in Care through:
- The Kent Criminal Justice Board strategic priority to reduce Looked After Children in all parts of the criminal justice system.
 - Enhanced working between Kent YOT and Kent Police on the use of Out of Court Disposals wherever appropriate for Children in Care, which includes the young person's Social Worker being invited to the decision-making panel. It is recognised that preventative work that reduces the likelihood of a child in care entering the Criminal Justice System will result in less children receiving criminal court orders and experiencing the negative consequences of further offending.
 - The development of an agreed protocol between Children's Social Work Service and Kent YOT which has promoted and embedded collaborative working to ensure there is joint planning and delivery of support for Kent Children in Care who are subject to court orders.
- 1.1. Currently the average caseload for Youth Justice Workers in Kent is between 7 – 10 cases; this is dependent on the intensity of the court orders, some of which require up to 25 hours per week intervention.

2. Conclusion

- 1.1. There is a significant improvement over the last year in the reduction of Children in Care who become known to youth justice services and this continues to reduce, with the clear focus on effective joint working between the services and partner agencies.

Recommendations

The Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **NOTE** the youth justice performance data for Children in Care.

4. **Background documents:** None

5. Contact details

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