

# **Youth justice inspection**

## **Glossary of terms**

March 2025 v2.0



ABC	Acceptable behaviour contract: a voluntary agreement between a child (10-17 years inclusive) and the local authority/police where the child agrees not to be involved in certain anti-social acts.
ACE	Adverse childhood experiences: potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and wellbeing.
AD(H)D	Attention deficit (hyperactivity) disorder is a behavioural disorder that includes symptoms such as inattentiveness, hyperactivity and impulsiveness.
AIM2 and AIM3	Assessment, Intervention and Moving on: an assessment framework and procedures to assist professionals in working with children who have committed a sexual assault or harmful sexual behaviour. AIM3 is the more recent version.
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
ASD	Autism (autistic) spectrum disorder: used to describe a range of developmental disorders that affect communication and behaviour.
AssetPlus	Assessment and planning framework tool developed by the Youth Justice Board for work with children who have offended, or are at risk of offending, that reflects current research and understanding of what works with children.
BSS	Bail support and supervision: aimed at children who are at risk of remand to custody or local authority accommodation. It provides an opportunity to stay in the community, in a programme tailored to manage risk and the safety of the child, and to avoid further offending.
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services: NHS provision for children who are experiencing mental health difficulties.
CAWN	Child abduction warning notice: a tool used by the police to prevent contact by adults with children whom they place at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation.
CBO	Criminal behaviour order: this is available on conviction for any criminal offence in a criminal court. CBOs include prohibitions to stop anti-social behaviour.
CCE	Child criminal exploitation: when a child or young person is encouraged, forced or manipulated to take part in criminal activity for something in return, for example presents, drugs, alcohol or emotional attention.

Care experienced child	A child who has been in the care of the local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a care experienced child.
Child looked after	<p>Under the <i>Children Act (1989)</i>, a child is legally defined as 'looked after' by a local authority if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• get accommodation from the local authority for a continuous period of more than 24 hours</li> <li>• is subject to a care order (to put the child into the care of the local authority)</li> <li>• is subject to a placement order (to put the child up for adoption)</li> <li>• are subject to remand, either remand to the care of the local authority or to youth detention accommodation.</li> </ul> <p>May also be described as a 'cared for' child (the term LAC is now obsolete).</p>
CIN	Child in need: the status given to a child who is deemed to need support by the local authority to promote or safeguard their welfare but who does not meet the criteria for child protection.
CME	Child missing education.
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding that considers a child's experience of harm outside the home – for example, with peers, in schools and in neighbourhood.
County lines	The illegal movement of drugs around the UK, often involving the exploitation of children or vulnerable adults to hold and move the drugs.
Court disposals	A sentence imposed by the court. Examples of youth court disposals are referral orders, youth rehabilitation orders and detention and training orders.
CP	Child protection: children assessed by the local authority as being at risk of serious harm are given support through a structured process, including a multi-agency child protection plan, to manage and reduce the risks to their safety and wellbeing.
CR	Community resolution: an out-of-court disposal, used mostly in low-level offences. They involve an informal agreement, including the victim's views, about how the offence should be resolved. Community resolution is a generic term; in practice, many different local terms are used to mean the same thing.
CSC	Children's social care services: these are found in each local authority/county council area to protect and support the

	safety and wellbeing of children with heightened individual needs and/or at risk of harm from others or themselves.
CSE	Child sexual exploitation: a type of child abuse, occurring when a child or young person is encouraged, forced or manipulated to take part in sexual activity for something in return, for example presents, drugs, alcohol or emotional attention.
Desistance	The cessation of offending or other antisocial behaviour.
DTO	Detention and training order: a custodial sentence for a child. The length is specified by the court, and the child is placed in either a secure children's home, secure training centre or young offender institution. The detention and training order will have both custodial and community elements, when the child or young person will be released on a Notice of Supervision.
EH	Early help: targeted support provided through a local authority to help children (and their families) address emerging issues, and help prevent their escalation to 'at risk'.
EHCP	Education and health care plan: a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with special educational needs and/or a disability.
Enforcement	Measures taken by the YJS in response to a child's failure to comply with the actions specified as part of a community sentence or licence.
ETE	Education, training and employment: the service provided to improve learning, and to increase future employment prospects.
First-time entrant	A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome (youth caution, youth conditional caution or conviction) for the first time.
Front door	The local authority point of contact for those concerned about the welfare of a child (see <b>MASH</b> below). It responds to safeguarding queries and referrals, deciding if and how to investigate and intervene to keep a child safe.
FTE	Full-time equivalent.
FFT	Functional family therapy: a family-based therapy for children between 11-18 years, that supports the reduction of disruptive communication patterns and focuses on positive interactions, effective supervision and boundary setting.

HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour: developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult and/or to the children, themselves.
IRO	Independent reviewing officer: IROs protect children's interests throughout the care planning process. They chair and quality assure the care planning and review process for each care experienced child and will make sure a child's wishes and feelings are given full consideration and that agreed actions are completed.
ISS	Intensive supervision and surveillance: a rigorous alternative to custody for the children who commit the most frequent or serious offences.
IT	Information technology: the use of systems, particularly computers and telecommunications equipment, to store, retrieve and share information.
IYSS	Integrated youth support services: where the YJS is part of a wider team that includes, for example, the youth service, health, ETE, and substance misuse services.
JAC	Junior attendance centre: children can be ordered by the court to attend for a specific number of hours within a specified period to participate in interventions to support their desistance and enhance their wellbeing.
LCT	Leaving care team.
MACE	Multi-agency child exploitation: the framework that describes arrangements for responding to children who are vulnerable to exploitation, including child sexual exploitation, missing from home, criminal exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking.
MAPPA	Multi-agency public protection arrangements: where probation, police, prison and other agencies work together locally to manage offenders who pose the highest risk of harm to others. Level 1 is single-agency management, where the risks posed by the offender can be managed by the agency responsible for the supervision or case management of the offender. Levels 2 and 3 require active multi-agency management.
MARAC	Multi-agency risk assessment conference: set up in each police area to consider the safety needs of victims of domestic abuse where the risk to them is assessed as serious. Normally a single event, although a victim can be referred for discussion after a new incident.

MASH	Multi-agency safeguarding hub: these act as the first point of contact for new safeguarding concerns or enquiries. They usually include representatives from the local authority (adult and children social care services), police, probation, health and other bodies.
MFH	Missing from home.
MST	Multi-systemic therapy: an intensive, home-based intervention, providing a whole family approach to understanding and reducing a child's offending and anti-social behaviours.
NEET	Not in education, employment or training.
NRM	National referral mechanism: the national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them.
ODD	Oppositional defiance disorder: a form of conduct disorder with children displaying an established pattern of argumentative and defiant behaviour towards adults responsible for their care.
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal: the resolution of a normally low-level offence, where it is not in the public interest to prosecute, through a community resolution, youth caution or youth conditional caution.
PACE	<b><i>The Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984)</i></b> sets out the powers of the police in England and Wales and codes of practice for these powers.
Personalised	An approach where services are tailored to the needs of individuals, giving people as much choice and control as possible over the support they receive. We use this term to include diversity factors.
PNC	Police national computer: the information management system used by the police across the UK to facilitate investigations and share information
Protected characteristics	Defined by the <b><i>Equality Act (2010)</i></b> as age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity.
PRU	Pupil referral unit: this provides education (and heightened support) to children unable to attend mainstream education provision.
Referral Order	A community sentence imposed by the criminal court, underpinned by the principles of restoration, reparation and

	reintegration. Given where the child pleads guilty to an imprisonable offence.
Reoffending rate	Defined by the Ministry of Justice as the percentage of individuals given a caution or court conviction within one year of an offence or during a further six-month period (to allow time for cases to progress through the courts), as indicated by data on the PNC.
Reparation	Involves children taking practical steps to make amends for the harm caused, either directly to the victim or through community work.
Restorative justice	A planned and supported process which brings victims of crime into contact with the child responsible, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward. This could be undertaken by a variety of methods including letters of explanation, shuttle mediation or include face to face meetings.
Roh	Risk of harm – see <i>RoSH</i> below
RoSH	Risk of Serious Harm: the term used in AssetPlus. All cases are classified as presenting a low, medium, high or very high risk of serious harm to others. HM Inspectorate of Probation uses this term when referring to the classification system but uses the broader term 'risk of harm' when referring to the analysis which should take place to determine the classification level. This helps to clarify the distinction between the probability of an event occurring and the impact/severity of the event. The term 'Risk of Serious Harm' only incorporates 'serious' impact, whereas using 'risk of harm' enables necessary attention to be given to children whose behaviour is likely to have a lower impact and/or is less harmful.
RLAA	Remanded to the local authority accommodation: local authorities have a duty to approve or find appropriate accommodation for children remanded by the criminal court to local authority accommodation before conviction or sentence. The child then becomes a 'child cared for' by the local authority.
RYDA	Remanded to youth detention accommodation. The child then becomes a 'child cared for' by the local authority.
Safeguarding	Safeguarding is a wider term than child protection and involves promoting a child's health and development and ensuring that their overall welfare needs are met.

Safety and wellbeing	AssetPlus replaced the assessment of vulnerability with a holistic outlook on a child's safety and wellbeing concerns. It is defined as '...those outcomes where the young person's safety and well-being may be compromised through their own behaviour, personal circumstances or because of the acts/omissions of others' (AssetPlus Guidance, 2016).
SALN	Speech and language needs.
SCH	Secure children's home: a small local authority unit that provides a secure and supportive environment for children between 10-14 years, detained for welfare reasons or by order of the criminal court.
Section 17	Of the <b><i>Children Act (1989)</i></b> : provisions for local authorities to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and promote the upbringing of children by their families. Provision of services for 'children in need', is sometimes called 'CIN'.
Section 20	Of the <b><i>Children Act (1989)</i></b> : a local authority must provide accommodation for a child in need, and is used when a child cannot live with their parents. Section 20 applies where there is voluntary agreement between the child's carers, the local authority and where possible, the child, to find alternative provision. There is no statutory limit on how long a child can be accommodated under this section.
Section 47	Of the <b><i>Children Act (1989)</i></b> : when a local authority receives information indicating that a child in its area is in need of protection, suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, it has a duty to investigate if action is needed to promote or safeguard their welfare.
SLCN	Speech, language and communication needs, sometimes broadened to include neuro-disability needs.
SOS	Signs of safety: a strengths-based framework for working with vulnerable children. SOS provides a solution-focused range of tools for assessment, planning and intervention that highlight the strengths as well as the difficulties facing families.
STC	Secure training centre: this accommodation provides a controlled living environment for children between 10-18 years who have been detained on remand or who have been sentenced to custody by the criminal court.



TAF/C	Team around the family/child: this is a multi-disciplinary team of practitioners working in an integrated way to support the wellbeing of a child or children in a family.
Trauma-informed practice	An approach to working with children that recognises the impact of trauma and their lived experience (see <b>ACE</b> above) and provides a tailored, specialist response that builds on their strengths and avoids reinforcing the trauma.
Vicarious trauma	The term used to explain how others may be affected when they are exposed to the trauma of others indirectly. This may include staff when they engage empathetically with children who have experienced traumatic incidents.
YC	Youth caution: a caution accepted by a child following admission to an offence where it is not considered to be in the public interest to prosecute the offender.
YCC	Youth conditional caution: as for a youth caution, but with conditions attached that the child is required to comply with for up to three months from delivery. Non-compliance may result in the child being prosecuted for the original offence.
YJB	Youth Justice Board: a government body responsible for monitoring and advising ministers on the effectiveness of the youth justice system. The YJB provides grants and guidance to the youth offending teams.
YOI	Youth offender institution: custodial setting for individuals aged 15-21, detained on remand or sentenced to custody by the criminal court.
YOT/YOS	Youth Offending Team is the term used in the <i>Crime and Disorder Act (1998)</i> to describe a multi-agency team that aims to reduce youth offending. YOTs are known locally by many titles, such as youth justice service (YJS), youth offending service (YOS), and other generic titles that may illustrate their wider role in the local area in delivering services for children.
YOT/YOS Management Board	The YOT Management Board holds the YOT to account to ensure it achieves the primary aim of preventing offending by children. It is sometimes known locally by a different name, for example, Youth Justice Partnership Board (YJPB).
YRO	Youth rehabilitation order: a community sentence imposed by the criminal court, which may include one or more requirements (e.g. supervision or an activity requirement).