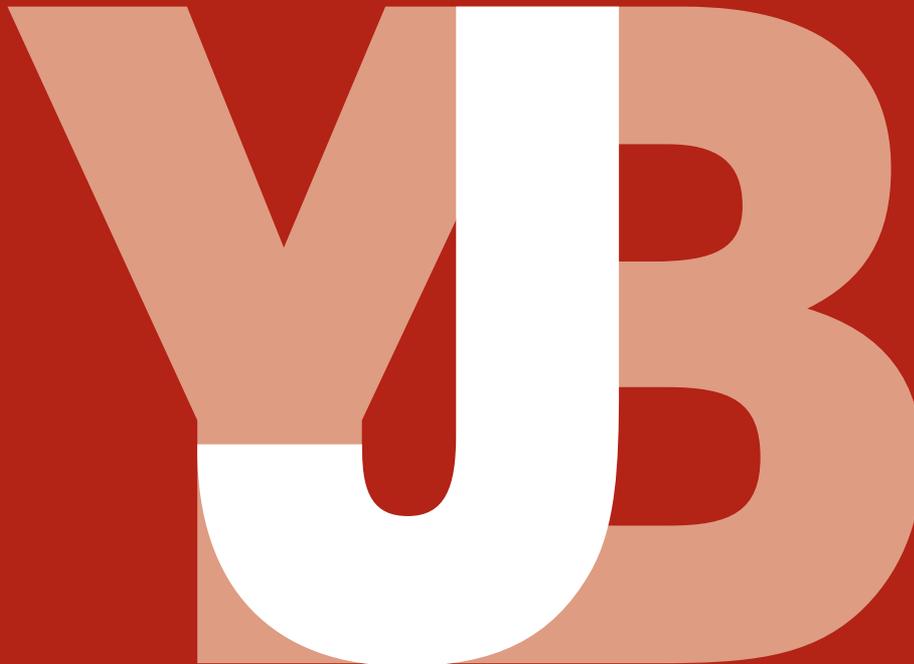


# Update on the Strategy for the Secure Estate for Children and Young People

*Our progress in delivering the Strategy for the  
Secure Estate for Children and Young People*



## Reconfiguring the secure estate for children and young people

- We have purchased an extra 27 places in secure training centres (STCs). This increase is partly due to the development of new units for young women (primarily for 17-year-old young women) at Hassockfield and Rainsbrook STCs. Three of the places at Rainsbrook are designed for mothers and babies or pregnant young women, while three at Hassockfield can be converted into mother-and-baby places when required.
- The contracting process undertaken in 2003 with secure children's homes has resulted in improved contractual arrangements, more control over service delivery, better value for money and an increase in the total number of places. We are now developing a commissioning strategy to identify the region-by-region demand for places in secure children's homes, and the best way to meet this.
- Ninety-one extra places have been commissioned for 17-year-old females in young offender institutions (YOIs). This means that all young women are accommodated separately from adults.
- A project is underway to develop a 48-bed unit at Wetherby YOI for young people who have been assessed as presenting risk or having needs that require more intensive staff support. This represents a significant capital investment and is intended to open in summer 2008.
- The development of places in Wales is being looked at as part of the YJB's work to develop capital plans (see first bullet point opposite) for the whole secure estate, and a long-term solution will be developed by the joint YJB/Welsh Assembly Government working group. A project is underway to increase the number of places available at Parc YOI from 36 to 64 by March 2007. At the moment, Parc YOI, Hillside secure children's home and Ashfield YOI all offer Welsh curriculum provision, and Stoke Heath YOI combines elements of it within their curriculum.
- We have invested £330,000 at Thorn Cross YOI, an open establishment, to create a 10-bed 'direct from court' unit. If at the point of sentence young people are identified as being suitable for open conditions, they can be sent straight to Thorn Cross and so avoid unnecessary transfers between secure establishments. A review of this unit is underway. As part of our research into the risk characteristics and needs of young people in the secure estate, we are also assessing the numbers who would be suitable for open conditions.
- We have been involved with the Prisoner Escort and Custody Service's Implementation Improvement Project, and will continue to work with them to improve their performance.

## Enhancing provision within the secure estate for children and young people

- To take forward the *Strategy for the Secure Estate for Children and Young People*, we are producing capital plans to develop the estate over the next ten years, which include ensuring a better match between supply and demand for accommodation.
- We have increased the number of places in Ashfield YOI to 400, and removed young adults from the site.
- We have established a programme to improve safeguarding in the Prison Service, which includes the introduction in YOIs of:
  - safeguarding managers
  - social workers
  - an advocacy service (which is also in place in STCs).
- The £6.25 million investment in YOIs to improve safeguarding was delivered one year early and provides cubicular showers, CCTV, safer rooms and reduced risk rooms.
- We have implemented *Managing Children and Young People's Behaviour in the Secure Estate: A Code of Practice*, and completed a review of Physical Control in Care, the system of physical intervention used in STCs. In addition, we have established a data reference group to agree common definitions and reporting standards across the secure estate.
- The Young Person's Substance Misuse Service is engaging 92% of all young people in custody and providing a range of services for those assessed with needs. An evaluation of the service is due in March 2007.
- We are working with the Prison Service to deliver a staff recruitment, training, development and support strategy for YOIs. Prison Service Order 4950, which describes the regime for young people, has been redrafted to include a separate chapter on safeguarding (including training in physical intervention techniques that do not use the controlled use of pain), and a training module specifically on safeguarding was introduced into the Prison Service's Juvenile Awareness Staff Programme (JASP) training.
- Over two years we have created dedicated substance misuse facilities across the YOIs. Twelve units have been established, with each one providing:
  - group and one-to-one interview rooms
  - facilities for voluntary testing
  - offices for substance misuse staff.
- In 2006, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) assumed responsibility for learning and skills in English YOIs. The LSC have managed planning, funding and commissioning of the new integrated Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS). The partnership is managed at a national level through a partnership agreement between the YJB and LSC, and at a regional level through YJB regional managers attending local OLASS partnership boards.
- We have a joint action plan with the Department of Health and Prison Service to improve commissioning and delivery arrangements for health, wellbeing and mental health services through the development of guidance, pilot projects and joint policy work.

## Resettlement and sentence planning

- An electronic sentence management and resettlement planning system, which will improve the flow of information between community and custody, has been piloted, and will be implemented across the secure estate by March 2009.
- All youth offending teams now use Secure eMail to transfer information to the secure estate. This has resulted in a swifter, more efficient service, and allows the secure establishment to start planning how best to address the young person's risks and needs straight away.
- In February 2006, we published a national resettlement action plan in conjunction with other government departments and voluntary agencies, that covered the important issues of accommodation; education, training and employment; substance misuse; health; families; and finance and debt.

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