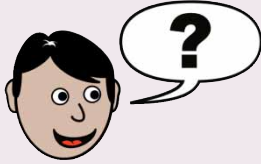


Joint Thematic Inspection Report



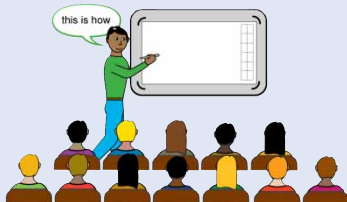
What is this report about?



This report is about what happens when children get into trouble with the Police.



When children get into trouble, they do not always have to go to court.



Sometimes, they might need to do something else, like take a course to help change their behaviour.

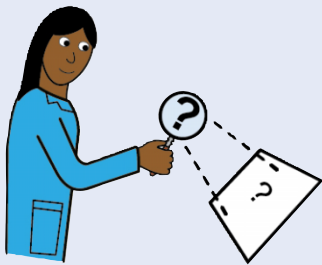
OoCD

When children do not go to court, this is called an Out of Court Disposal.

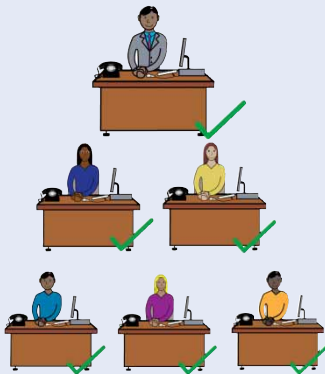
support



Out of Court Disposals should be used when what the child did is not very serious. They help children stay out of court and get support early.



Inspectors checked how Out of Court Disposals are working. This report tells you what they found.



The report talks about lots of different groups and people.

You can find out what these groups do in the glossary on page 19.

What they found

1. Introduction

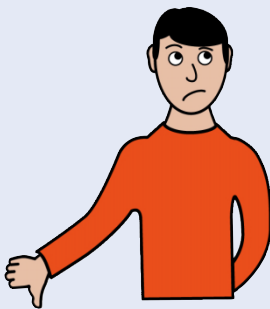
**children
11 to 18**



More children get Out of Court Disposals now, but their problems are harder to deal with.



We don't know enough about what happens across the whole of England and Wales.



Out of Court Disposals are not done properly everywhere.



Sometimes services to help children do not work well together.

2. Governance and Leadership



Leaders want to do what is right for children. But there isn't a clear plan.



Boards say what should happen. Sometimes they don't have the right information or support.

Training



Staff work hard but need more training and support.



Leadership is not strong enough.



Money for the service only lasts a short time. This makes planning hard.

3. Policing and Decision-Making



Police don't always record things in the same way. This makes it hard to know what is really happening.

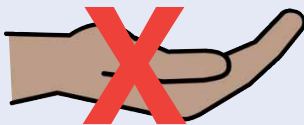
Community Resolution



Community Resolutions are an agreement between the Police, the child, and sometimes the victim.



They are a simple way to sort things out.



But they can mean that the child doesn't get the support they need.

Community Resolution



A child shouldn't get a Community Resolution if they:



- Have been in trouble before
- Have done something serious



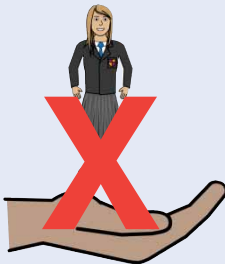
If a child gets a Community Resolution the Police should tell the Youth Justice Service. This is so the child can get support if they need it.



Sometimes children have been given Community Resolutions even if:

- They have been in trouble before
- They have done something serious

This shouldn't happen.



Sometimes the Youth Justice Service isn't told about children who have got into trouble. This means that some children are not getting early support to change their behaviour.

4. Joint Decision-Making



Police should work more closely with Youth Justice Services.



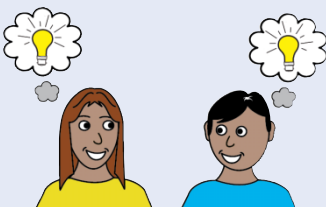
Decision-making panels say what should happen to a child. Some panels are better than others.



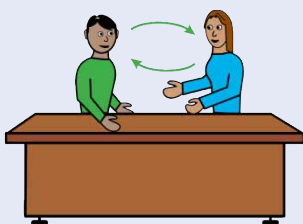
Information sharing is not always good.



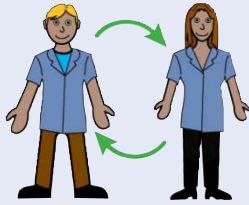
Giving good support should mean:



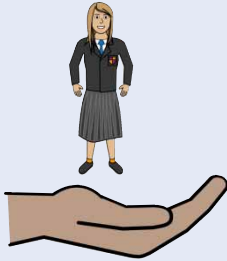
- Clear ways of working



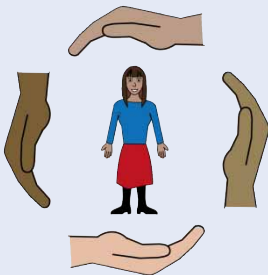
- People meeting to talk about what happened. This includes people who were hurt by what the child did



- Working with speech and language therapists

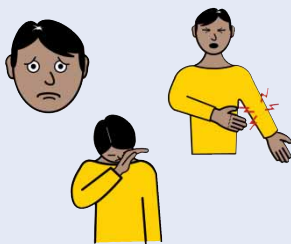


- Giving children support that is right for them

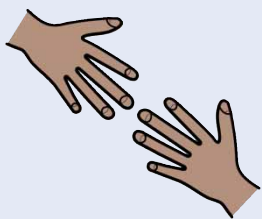


Support is not always the same for:

- People who need help to keep safe (Safeguarding)

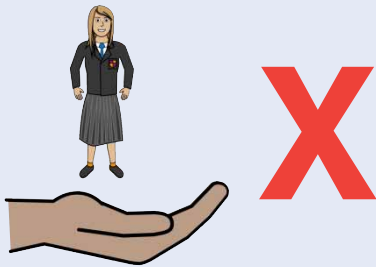


- People who have been harmed by what children have done (Victims)



This means it is harder to make sure that everyone gets the help they need.

5. Partnerships and Services



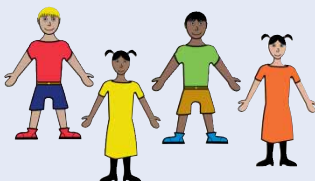
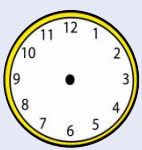
Some children have many needs. They don't get enough support.



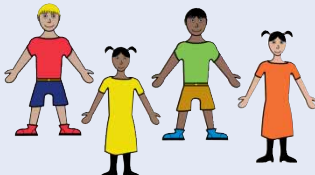
Education, health, and social care don't always work together well.



Support with education, mental health, and neurodiversity often:



- comes too late



- is not enough

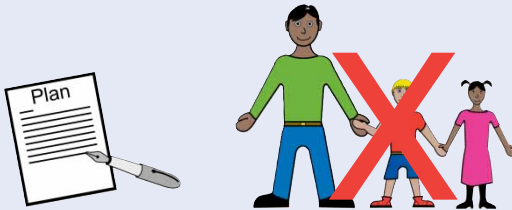


Sometimes, plans to help children move on from their Out of Court Disposals are not clear.

6. The Quality of Youth Justice Casework



Assessments often miss important information.



Planning is not always done with the child and their family.



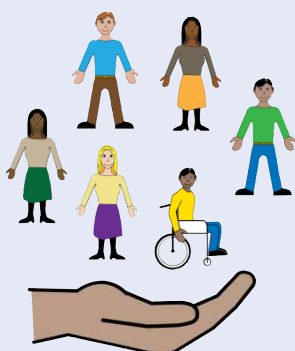
Staff are good at making children feel comfortable.



Staff need to work more on safety.



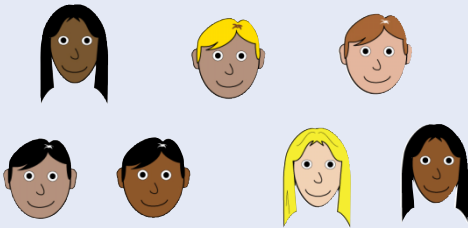
Children want more support with neurodiversity.



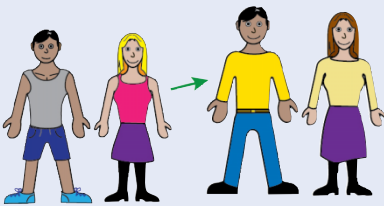
Children have different races, genders, ages, religions, abilities, and backgrounds. They don't get enough support to meet all their different needs.



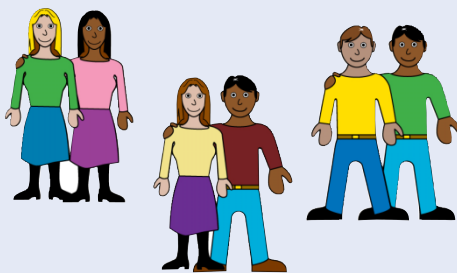
Children don't always get support that fits with things like:



- Their background



- Their age



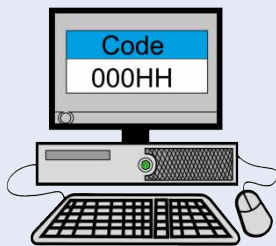
- Their sexuality

What needs to happen

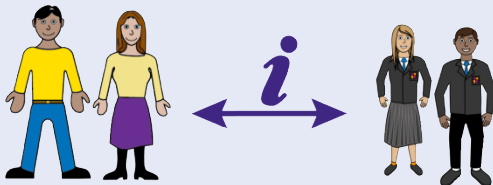
The report said what should happen and who should do it. Here is what the report said:



Home Office



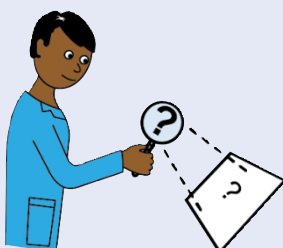
1. The Police use rules to record what happens to children who get into trouble. The Home Office should make these rules clearer. This is so things are recorded in the right way.



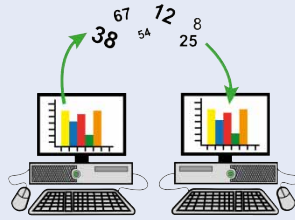
2. Keep information about children apart from information about adults.



Ministry of Justice



3. Change the way of keeping track of children who are in trouble for the first time. This is to see how it is working. They should find better ways to record all Out of Court Disposals.



4. Record all Out of Court Disposals for children. This is so they can track if children get into trouble again.



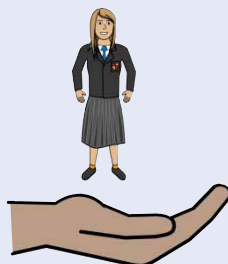
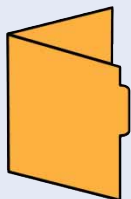
Home Office and Ministry of Justice



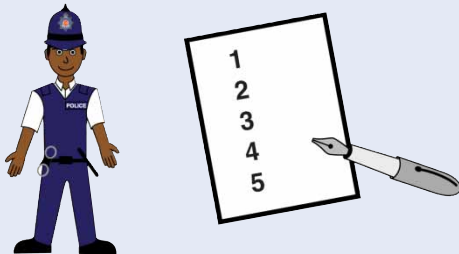
5. Stop using Youth Cautions. Instead, they should give children time to show they can stay out of trouble. Children who stay out of trouble won't have to go to court.



Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board



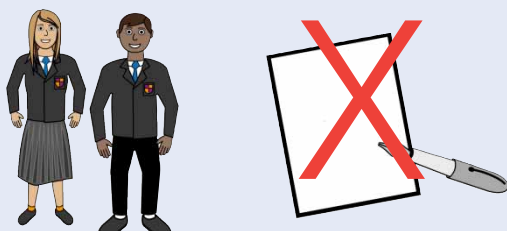
6. Use records to see if Out of Court Disposals help children to stay out of trouble.



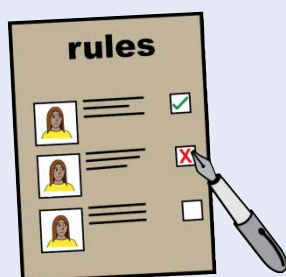
7. Police use a scoring system. This helps say what should happen when a child breaks the law. The rules should change. They should say if an officer wants to change the score by more than 1 point, they must ask an inspector.



8. Make sure all community resolution forms use the same words.



Make it clear that children know they do not have to sign the form.



9. Write new rules with the Youth Justice Board. The rules should say what happens if the Police do not keep working with the child. This is so that the child still gets help to stay out of trouble if they need it.

National Police Chiefs' Council, College of Policing and Youth Justice Board



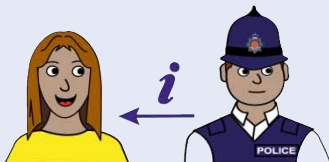
10. Update the rules so Community Resolutions are only given:

- When a child admits what they did, or
- A court would probably say they broke the law

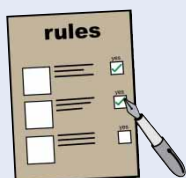


Chief Constables

11. Make Out of Court Disposals better by making sure Police:



- Share information with Youth Justice services



- Are fair and follow the rules



- Always use the scoring system to say what should happen

Youth Justice Board



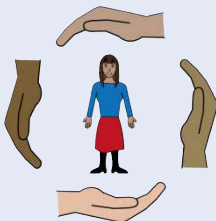
- Work with Youth Justice services to say what should happen



- Have senior officers deciding what should happen



- Respect children's rights. This includes having an Appropriate Adult



- Report any worries that children may not be safe from harm (Safeguarding)

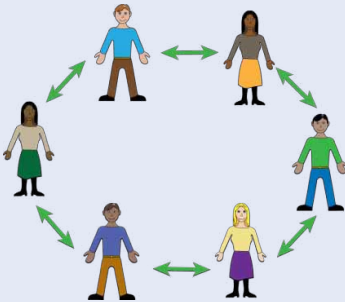
check



12. Use records to check if Out of Court Disposals work.

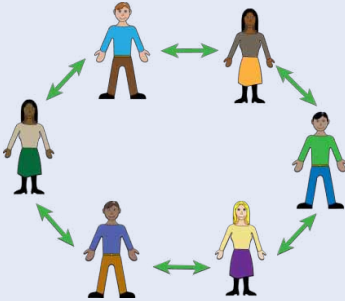


13. Help local boards check all Out of Court Disposals.



14. Work with others to find out what works best to help children.

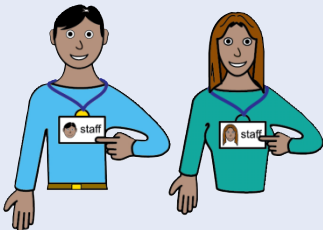
Youth Justice Partnership Boards



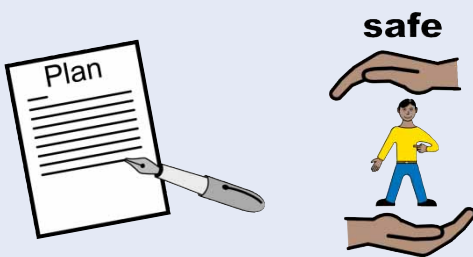
15. Work with others to collect and check records. Work together to make good decisions which help children.



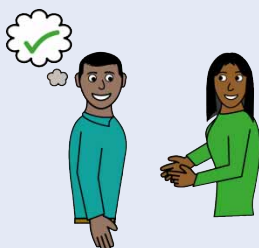
Youth Justice Service Managers



16. Match staff to children's needs and risks.



17. Make sure plans help children and keep everyone safe.



18. Make sure children and their parents or carers understand what is expected.

Glossary



Home Office

The Home Office looks after the Police.

It is in charge of stopping crime and keeping people safe.

It makes rules for how people can come into the UK.



Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice looks after courts, prisons, probation and other services that support people who have broken the law.

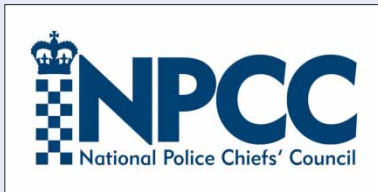


Youth Justice Board

The Youth Justice Board checks how Youth Justice Services are working. It says how to make services better.

It wants services to be:

- Fair for everyone
- Good quality



National Police Chiefs' Council

The National Police Chiefs' Council helps Police leaders to work together.

It helps Police forces to deal with big problems and to keep people safe.



College of Policing

The College of Policing helps people who work for the Police. It teaches them the skills they need to do their jobs well. It sets rules and shares good ideas.



Chief Constables

Chief Constables are the top Police Officers in their area.



Youth Justice Partnership Boards

Each area has a Youth Justice Partnership Board. Senior people work together.

They try to make sure services:

- Help children to stay out of trouble
- Are fair and safe



Youth Justice Service Manager

A Youth Justice Service Manager leads a team that helps children who have broken the law.

They make sure the service:

- Works well
- Keeps children safe
- Helps children stay out of trouble