

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PROTOCOL FOR REDUCING THE UNNECESSARY CRIMINALISATION OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS

2020

Version 1.0 April 2020.

Signatories:

- Northamptonshire County Council
- Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service Management Board:
(Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Health Foundation Trust, Northamptonshire Probation Service, Office of the Northamptonshire Police & Crime Commissioner)
- East Midlands Crown Prosecution Service



Contents

1. Introduction	2
3. Prevention work	4
4. Responding to incidents	5
5. Immediate risks to safety and the role of the police	6
6. Children and young people involved in incidents outside Northamptonshire.	8
7. Support for children and young people in the criminal justice system	8
8. Support for carers, school staff and residential staff	9
9. Information sharing	10
10. Governance and monitoring	10
Annex A: Joint working between Placement Providers and other agencies, including the police, when incidents occur with young people in care	11
Annex B: Crown Prosecution 10 Point Checklist for Offences in Children’s Homes:	18
Annex C: resources	18

1. Introduction

1.1 This Northamptonshire multi-agency protocol seeks to reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of children in care and those leaving care, including those living outside the county. The national protocol¹ describes ‘what’ needs to happen across the country. This local protocol complements this by setting out ‘how’ the national protocol will be implemented locally, and reflects the local structure of services, care populations, stakeholders, governance and decision-making arrangements.

1.2 This protocol includes the contribution of relevant local agencies and staff. Although not an exclusive list, this includes: Northamptonshire Children’s Services, Youth Offending Services, Crown Prosecution Service, Police, foster carers, Northamptonshire Health Foundation Trust and any other private or voluntary organisations commissioned to support looked after children locally. The protocol considers incidents that occur both in the child/young person’s place of residence, in education settings and in public, and where the injured party may or may not be a member of staff.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-on-reducing-criminalisation-of-looked-after-children>

1.3 Local analysis has shown that a disproportionate amount of children in care are or have been involved in the youth justice system.

Northamptonshire Police's Target Nominal Matrix (a system used by the Force for prioritising nominals based on intelligence and seriousness, frequency and recency of offending) identified that for the period October 2016 to September 2017 in the top 200 10-17 youths (who were named suspects in over 1100 offences in a 12 month period), 36 (18%) were either currently or previously looked after. These 36 children had already been looked after collectively for nearly 20,000 days.

Similarly, analysis of the period April 2016 to March 2017 shows that of the top 200 18-24 year olds on the Target Nominal Matrix (who were named suspects in over 1250 offences in a 12 month period), showed that of the 156 that grew up in the county, 40 (26%) had been looked after as children. These 40 individuals had spent as a group just under 29,000 days in care.

Analysis of 3 years' worth of Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service (YOS) assessment data (comprising over 300 unique individuals) undertaken by the Institute of Public Safety, Crime and Justice at the University of Northampton, showed that 32% of the cohort in that period were or had been at some point, looked after children.

Within the analysis, the cohort that were or had been looked after were shown to be statistically more likely to have a range of issues than those in the YOS cohort that had not been looked after:

They were:

- 7 times more likely to be prolific (have 5 or more previous convictions).
- 4 times more likely to display sexually inappropriate behaviour.
- 3 times more likely to display aggression towards other.
- Over twice as likely to have behaviour that demonstrated an intention to cause serious harm to others.
- Nearly twice as likely to perceive themselves as having a criminal identity.
- 3 times more likely to have contact with mental health services.
- Over twice as likely to have a formal mental health diagnosis.
- Twice as likely to have attempted suicide.
- 3 times more likely to have had family members / carers involved in heavy alcohol misuse or drug misuse.
- 3 times more likely to have witnessed violence in a family context.
- 7 times more likely to have experienced abuse.
- Twice as likely to have suffered significant bereavement or loss.

2. Key principles

2.1 The following overarching principles underpin this protocol:

- Recognition that for young people who have experienced care, their history can contribute to behaviours that make them particularly vulnerable to involvement in the youth justice system, potentially affecting their future life prospects.
- Support for children and young people is individualised and based on their unique needs and circumstances.
- Children and young people are listened to and their views are taken into account.
- Victims and communities have a right to be protected from offending and to have their needs and interests taken into account in decisions on resolutions to offending.
- Professionals working with care-experienced young people should understand the impact of abuse and trauma on development, particularly in regards to emotional development and ability to regulate behaviour.
- All professionals, including foster parents, ensure that any special educational needs presented by children and young people or those harmed by an incident are identified, acknowledged and addressed in the management of the response to the behaviour.
- All agencies should understand the specific needs of children and young people (both UK and foreign nationals) who have been trafficked or are victims of modern slavery.
- Agencies should contribute to the joint understanding of factors which increase the risks of young people becoming criminalised. This information should be used to target prevention efforts effectively.
- Restorative and diversionary approaches should underpin responses to incidents, whether the behaviour occurs in a child's placement or the wider community.
- Children and young people already within the youth and criminal justice systems need protection from escalation and these principles apply equally to them. Children and young people on remand or custodial sentence are often highly vulnerable with multiple over-lapping risks and needs.
- Planning for the through-care and resettlement of young people on remand or serving a custodial sentence should start from their entering their remand placement, or custodial establishment, and involve all relevant professionals in their lives.
- Health services have a duty to give parity of esteem to the mental health needs as to the physical health of children and young people and to assist partner agencies to understand how children can best be supported to divert them from criminal behaviour.

3. Prevention work

3.1 To reduce the likelihood of incidents occurring, and young people coming into contact with the criminal justice system, agencies will commit to the following:

- 3.2 The local authority will make every effort to ensure children and young people have the right, stable placement to meet their needs.
- 3.3. Where a risk of potential criminality is identified, local authority care plans and pathway plans should be geared towards mitigating this risk.
- 3.4 There will be an assumption that as for any reasonable parent, corporate parents such as foster carers and residential staff will by default deal with incidents ‘in house.’ They will receive the right training to enable them to do so.
- 3.5 Agencies should proactively pursue coordinated prevention initiatives, such as the Youth Offending Team’s Prevention and Diversion Scheme. The progress of such initiatives should be shared with relevant partners.
- 3.6 Where a risk of potential criminality is identified, education and training settings should consider how they are able to engage children and young people and divert them from criminal activity. This could be achieved through the setting’s own expertise, Early Help services or through the support of external agencies such as The Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV.)

4. Responding to incidents

- 4.1 Staff and carers of children in care will strive to manage challenging behaviour at the placement address or in the education setting by way of internal resolution without involvement of the police wherever possible. However it should be recognised that police involvement may be needed in some instances.
- 4.2 Carers and residential home and educational staff should ensure that all incidents are recorded on the young person’s file. Recording should be dispassionate and non-judgemental.
- 4.3 Support Workers need to consider both the nature and seriousness of an incident before deciding whether to involve the police immediately, at a later stage, or whether to involve them at all. Each incident should be considered on a case by case basis; [Annex A](#) provides guidance as regards responses but may not in all circumstances be the correct route to follow.
- 4.4 Care or education settings may have pre-existing decision-making processes to follow which may differ, however these should reflect the overarching principles of this protocol.
- 4.5 Education settings should make reasonable adjustments to their behaviour policies to take into account the diverse needs of Children and Young People in Care or Care Leavers.
- 4.6 For low level incidents, restorative approaches should be followed. Research suggests that such approaches are effective in reducing repeat behaviours, enabling the victim to

move on from the incident and increasing the perpetrator's understanding of harm caused.

- 4.7 Restorative approaches can include internal mediation within the placement or education setting between young people and staff, or more formal processes involving specialist facilitators. It is important however that any professionals or carers undertaking restorative approaches are appropriately trained.
- 4.8 While restorative approaches can incorporate a wide variety of imaginative techniques, all agencies should use a common overarching approach to restorative approaches. The principles of restorative approaches are:
- **Restoration** – the primary aim of restorative practice is to address and repair harm.
 - **Voluntarism** – participation in restorative processes is voluntary and based on informed choice.
 - **Neutrality** – restorative processes are fair and unbiased towards participants.
 - **Safety** – processes and practice aim to ensure the safety of all participants and create a safe space for the expression of feelings and views about harm that has been caused.
 - **Accessibility** – restorative processes are non-discriminatory and available to all those affected by conflict and harm.
 - **Respect** – restorative processes are respectful of the dignity of all participants and those affected by the harm caused.

5. Immediate risks to safety and the role of the police

- 5.1 As set out in [Annex A](#), Police should be called to incidents where there is an unacceptable and unmanageable level of risk to personal safety and where it is deemed highly unlikely that order will be restored without police assistance. Immediate police response will be required for incidents of serious violence or serious dangerous disorder where children, residential staff, foster parents or carers are at risk of immediate serious physical harm. In such situations, carers/placement providers should contact the police via 999.
- 5.2 As per Crown Prosecution Service guidance, the police should complete the CPS 10-point checklist when attending an incident. (This checklist is also available in [Annex B](#)).
1. Disciplinary policy of children's education or care setting? (Settings should be prepared to share these with the police).
 2. Why have the police been involved and is it as agreed in the policy?
 3. Has any informal action/disciplinary action already been taken?
 4. Has any apology/reparation been offered?
 5. What are the victim's views?
 6. What are the social worker or other professional's views?
 7. What are the details of the care/pathway plan for the child or young person?
 8. Have there been recent behaviour/incidents regarding the child/young person?

9. Information about incident from the child/young person (interview or other)?
10. Are there aggravating or mitigating features?

5.3 Where police are notified of an incident, they will record it in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) if it meets the standard for recording a crime. They may or may not attend depending on the nature of the incident. Recording a crime that meets the threshold is absolute, but the decision to attend and or investigate, and utilise a number of different options for intervention is a subjective decision by the police, based on threat, risk and proportionality.

5.4 If called to an incident, the police should act according to the following principles:

- Police have a wide range of discretionary powers to apply, ranging from the use of a legal power to an informal resolution (such as community resolution). Where the police are required to record an incident as a crime but feel further action (other than safeguarding) is not in the public interest they have the subjective discretion to resolve the report accordingly by applying Outcome 21 from the National Police Outcomes Framework. Similarly, if further action is not in the public interest but it is felt that the young person would benefit from intervention, an Outcome 22 could be advised and referred to Prevention and Diversion Scheme within YOS, or other local services to offer relevant interventions.
- Children and young people should only be taken to a police station custody as an absolute last resort. However, where this is necessary, they should be adequately and promptly supported by their responsible local authority or care setting. Police, social workers, education staff and carers should also consider what will happen when the child is discharged from the station. A police station is a very poor environment for children, so partners should ensure a plan to place the child promptly into a more suitable environment is in place. An escalation process is in place to the Duty Superintendent to support this.
- In circumstances where informal community resolution is inappropriate, the police should always consider alternatives to charging.
- Police officers are trained in vulnerability, and have access in their role to a huge range of people, places and buildings. Even if not in relation to their original deployment, officers are expected to be responsive to Adverse Childhood Experience triggers, and initiate referral's to Early Intervention Opportunities for children who may be at risk in the future.
- Where the child or young person does not admit to an offence, or where the offence is serious, a decision to prosecute will be sought from the CPS. All of the wider circumstances of the case and the individual should be considered before this step is taken, particularly in respect of children in care or cared for.
- Any action of a young person should be considered as to whether their behaviours are due to exploitation or human trafficking or modern slavery. The first agency to become aware of this should make a referral to the National Referral Mechanism. If they are a victim of trafficking or modern slavery, the non-prosecution principle

within the Modern Slavery Act 2015 should be considered and, if appropriate, applied.

- If referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, pre-charge or post charge, relevant detail regarding the young person must be included in the file such as their history, known behavioural issues resulting from trauma and so on. The completed 10-point checklist must also be included (see Annex B).

6. Children and young people involved in incidents outside Northamptonshire.

- 6.1 As a general principle, low level incidents occurring outside Northamptonshire can be dealt with via a discussion with Northamptonshire professionals. Otherwise, incidents are dealt with in the area where they occur.
- 6.2 Home local authorities must notify the receiving authority and health services that a child or young person is moving into their area either before the placement is made, or within 5 working days if an emergency placement, as required by Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.
- 6.3 All professionals should ensure that barriers to sharing information and communicating across areas or agencies are minimised.
- 6.4 Where a young person offends, it will be the duty of those in the area where the offence takes place to consult and discuss ways forward with the child's responsible authority. This can include remitting the case back to the child's home local authority area for decision to ensure that informed decision-making and appropriate action is taken to reduce the risk of repeat offending. After charging however, legal decisions cannot be remitted back to Northamptonshire. This can only happen after a conviction.

7. Support for children and young people in the criminal justice system

- 7.1 Where a child in care or care leaver has entered the criminal justice system the overarching aims of all professionals are as follows:
- Reducing the likelihood of reoffending.
 - Children in care / care leavers are not disadvantaged because of their legal status.
 - Confronting young people with the consequences of their offending.
 - Tackling risk factors for the young person.
 - Ensuring justice is proportional and swift.
 - Encouraging reparation.
- 7.2 If a child in care or care leaver is charged with an offence:
- The local authority must ensure the young person is supported to understand what is happening and is legally represented by a solicitor with expertise in youth justice.
 - If the child has an Independent Child Trafficking Advocate, they should be advised and be able to attend court to further support the child.

- Children and young people who appear in court must be accompanied by their social worker or personal adviser.
- As per the Concordat on Children in Custody², all professionals should seek to avoid young people being held in police cells overnight where possible.
- In cases where bail is refused due to issues such as witness intimidation, moving the young person away from the geographic area of risk is preferable to them being held on remand.
- A working arrangement between the Youth Offending Service and the local authority Placement Management Team should be developed to avoid situations whereby bail or remand to local authority accommodation is refused by the court due to no suitable address being available. Where it is not possible to implement a placement package on the day of court, agencies should work together to enable an early bail application with a robust package of support.

7.3 If a custodial or community sentence for the young person is likely:

- Youth Offending Services and the local authority, including Independent Reviewing Officers, should continue to work closely together, share information and clarify their roles and responsibilities to ensure the young person receives the support they need.
- Children and young people should be visited by their social worker or personal adviser within a week of entering custody. Visits thereafter should take place at least 6-weekly, or at an appropriate frequency in light of their needs and length of sentence.
- If a young person receives a custodial sentence the local authority should prioritise the identification of suitable post-sentence accommodation. Plans should consider the views of the young person.
- Where a child or young person is due to be released from custody, their social worker/personal adviser and Youth Offending Service case manager must work together to co-ordinate arrangements for their release and subsequent support in the community. These arrangements should be developed in collaboration with the young person and tailored to their individual needs. The care/pathway plan and Notice of Supervision or Licence should be confirmed with the child well before release and include key details, such as living arrangements, arrangements for education or employment, financial support, and any supervision or licence requirements following custody.
- Children and young people in custody should be allocated the same social worker or personal adviser throughout their sentence wherever possible.

8. Support for carers, school staff and residential staff

8.1 The local authority will ensure that:

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/concordat-on-children-in-custody>

- Carers, social care and school staff and other professionals, are adequately trained and prepared to deal with incidents in-house where appropriate.
- Carers and staff are supported after any frightening or upsetting incidents. Support could take the form of access to an assistance programme, access to mediation service or relevant learning and development.

9. Information sharing

- 9.1 It is vital agencies develop an environment of information sharing that demonstrates to young people that agencies work together and keep each other informed of developments in order to serve children's best interests.
- 9.2 Any practitioner can share relevant personal information about a child lawfully if it is to keep a child safe from harm, or to protect their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. All practitioners should aim to gain consent to share information but should be mindful of situations where to do so would place a child at increased risk of harm.
- 9.3 Information may be shared without consent if a practitioner has reason to believe that there is good reason to do so, and that sharing the information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner.
- 9.4 The information that could be shared between agencies for contextual safeguarding may include the following:
- Children and young people (both UK and foreign nationals) at risk of being sexually exploited (including regular updating of any CSE assessments), coerced in to criminal activity, or trafficked.
 - Children and young people believed to be criminally active.
 - Children and young people identified as criminally active being monitored including recording their clothing, times in and out of their home and any property appearing without formal recognition or identification.
 - Areas identified as used by drug dealers in the locality of their placement.
 - Sex offenders living in or near placements if relevant (including notification by police as part of information regularly provided to inform children's home Location Review Risk Assessments).
 - Grooming activity in the location.
 - Gang activity in the location.

10. Governance and monitoring

- 10.1 This protocol should be managed by the Youth Offending Service Management Board, which includes senior representatives of the local authority, police, probation and local health trust. Data should be collated by individual agencies and shared with the board for analysis and strategic oversight.

10.2 The Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board and the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership must be confident that they have an accurate picture of offending by children in their care and should ensure systems are in place to identify all those who are offending whether placed within the home authority or outside.

10.3 Key lines of enquiry for governance oversight may include:

- Being aware of cohort sizes, eg how many in what type of accommodation, receiving what support etc – compare with statistical neighbours.
- An awareness of demographics such as children in different types of care placement, BAME, white working class: are particular groups over represented within the criminal justice system or offending patterns?
- Working relationships with agencies – information sharing / non-silo working. Including parish councils, housing etc.
- Availability of support such as mental health.
- The involvement of education.
- The role of non-statutory bodies such as sports clubs and businesses.
- What preventative work is happening? How are other agencies contributing?
- Support needs of arrested children and young people – appropriate adults, needs of interpreters.

Annex A: Joint working between Placement Providers and other agencies, including the police, when incidents occur with young people in care

This document has been put together to support placement providers with some of the complex decisions they need to make when an incident occurs with a young person in their care by suggesting some of the factors they should consider and providing some examples of how they could respond. A list of possible sources of support is also provided.

Support workers need to consider both the nature and seriousness of an incident before deciding whether to involve the police immediately, at a later stage, or whether to involve them at all. Each incident should be considered on a case by case basis. If in doubt urgent discussions should be held with the young person's social worker or their supervising manager if not available.

All incidents must be logged and reported to the young person's social worker and the placements management services at the earliest opportunity. If a serious incident occurs out of hours then the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) should be contacted in the evening, at night or at the weekend, phone the EDT on 01604 626938. An operator will answer the phone and take details of the problem and contact details. They will then pass this information over to the duty social worker.

Types of incidents that may arise with a young person in your care
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Underage drinking and smoking.• Minor damage to property such as dents in equipment and holes in walls.• Anti-social behaviour.

- Possession of weapons/ knives etc.
- Criminal damage and minor damage to property.
- Common assault, actual bodily harm or grievous bodily harm.
- Possession of class A, B or C drugs.
- Possession of drugs paraphernalia.
- Inappropriate sexualised behaviour.
- Sexual activity.
- Sexual Exploitation.
- Suicide attempt.
- Missing episodes.
- Theft.
- Money Laundering.
- Young person in your placement taken into custody.

Questions to ask when considering courses of action

Serious incidents often occur quickly and are unexpected. Education settings and care providers are asked to consider a number factors in order to make a decision about how best to respond to an incident. Placement providers are asked to act in the way that any reasonable parent would act and to consider whether contacting the police on 999 is the best course of action.

In the first instance consider:

- Is there an immediate threat to life and property and an immediate police response is required?
- Are staff and other young people still in danger?

If the answer to the above is yes then the provider should call 999

Other factors to consider:

- Is it a first incident?
- What is the young person's age?
- What does your organisation's policy say?
- What else do you know about the young person?
- Is the young person in any way vulnerable?
- Is the young person known to suffer from problems with mental health?
- How has the incident impacted the other young people staying at the property?
- Is the young person responsible for the incident also a possible victim?
- What is the victim's view on how the incident should be responded to?
- Do you suspect the young person of being coerced by others including adults?
- Is the young person known to other agencies including YOS and therefore there will be an opportunity to address the incident with professionals?
- Have other courses of action/interventions already been tried?

For sexual activities:

- Is the activity between two consenting minors (between 13-16)?

- Are the two young people involved in a relationship together?
- Is there evidence of sexual exploitation (eg, one party offering something in return for sex)?

For drug related activities:

- What class of drug is involved?
- How are they getting the drugs and does this make them vulnerable to more serious activities?
- What amount of the drug is the young person in possession of? Is there evidence of dealing?

Once you have considered these factors then you will need to decide how best to respond – the section below provides you with possible options.

Possible courses of action

If an incident arises, education settings and placement providers do need to be proactive and work with the young person to understand why it happened, make sure the young person understands the consequence of their behaviour and find a constructive way to deter the same behaviour in the future.

All incidents in care settings must be logged and reported to the young person’s social worker as well as the Placements Brokerage Service on PlacementManagements@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk at your earliest opportunity.

Responses to consider

Is there something you can do with the young person to address the issue?

- Consider a restorative measure – in other words engaging the young person in an activity that repairs harm such as mediation between the child/young person and placement staff or fixing damage with staff help.

Tapping into your wider support network in the community for specialist support

- Consider contacting a support organisation with a related specialism (please see a range of possible organisations listed below).
- For ongoing incidents consider specialist training for designated member of staff.

For more serious incidents

If you have their number contact your local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for help and advice.

PCSOs will talk you through options, take a record of the occurrence if necessary and possibly arrange to come and visit the placement and talk to the young person.

Please note that recording an occurrence will not necessarily lead to prosecution but may be a way to deal with an ongoing problem or something that you fear may escalate into something more serious. Police actions may result in many other outcomes that you may feel would be more constructive such as Community Restorative Justice.

Specialist teams within the police

The police have a number of teams that have specialisms and will work with providers and young people to explore options to keep them safe that have nothing to do with prosecution.

- **Sexual Exploitation**

For suspected sexual exploitation email: RISE@northants.pnn.police.uk. It is helpful to complete a form which can be found at: <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/about-northamptonshire-safeguarding-children-partnership/publications/cse-assessment/>

- **Missing Episodes**

For Missing Persons contact the Police Missing Persons number on 101 extension 341015. Below are some of the questions the Missing Persons team will ask you:

- Details of messaging and social media.
- Name, address and telephone number of person reporting. (If the missing person is in local authority care, consideration should be given to obtaining alternative and out-of-hours contact details in case the investigation is ongoing when the person reporting goes off duty.)
- What has been done so far to trace individual.
- Is this significantly out of character?
- Do they have access to money?
- Any other information which may affect a risk assessment.

- **Gang Related Activity**

For gang related activity refer to the police Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV): form can be found at <https://www.aimonline.org.uk/>

Ring the police on 101

If a criminal incident has occurred but there is no continued threat then you should consider reporting the occurrence on 101 so a record can be made.

Ring the police on 999

If there is an immediated threat to life or property ring 999 for an immediate police response.

Support organisations:

Service	Contact details & website	Overview of service	Area covered
Action for children (Disability Groups)	01604 752553. northantsdisability@actionforchildren.org.uk www.actionforchildren.org.uk	Disability groups for young people; 8 running in locations around Northamptonshire; Daventry, Brackley, Northampton, Wellingborough some term time some are during holidays. £5 - £10 per session	Various
Action for children (Family Support)	01604 584 312 www.actionforchildren.org.uk	Family support service – access via referral from NCC only	Northamptonshire
Beat (eating disorders)	0808 801 7011 (Youthline) www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk	Online support for people with eating disorders. Online chat rooms available.	National
Catch 22	www.catch-22.org.uk	Various – see online directory of additional support	Northampton Kettering
Community Law Service (Northampton & County)	Northampton 01604 621 038 Rushden 01933 313020 Wellingborough 01933 278248 www.communitylawservice.org.uk	Charity providing legal advice	Northamptonshire – various locations
Kids Aid	01604 630332 info@kidsaid.org.uk www.kidsaid.org.uk	Therapeutic support for children and young people who have suffered any form of trauma	
N'hants Association of Youth Clubs (NAYC)	01604 499699 yd@nayc.org www.nayc.org	Help to set up and develop Youth Groups	Northamptonshire
Nene Valley Care Trust	info@nenevalleycaretrust.co.uk www.nenevalleycaretrust.co.uk	Support for care leavers through various projects (including Right Resolution)	Northamptonshire and the wider Nene Valley area
NGAGE with Aquarius	01604 633 848 ypnorthamptonshire@aquarius.org.uk www.aquarius.org.uk	Early intervention drug and alcohol service for young people aged between 10 and 18	Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire Food Banks	Link to food banks	Link to NCC website list of food banks	Northampton

Service	Contact details & website	Overview of service	Area covered
NSPCC	0800 1111 (helpline) www.nspcc.org.uk	Helpline 0800 1111 (under 18's)	UK
Relate	01604 634400 info@relatenorthants.org.uk www.relate.org.uk	Counselling service for children and young people. Several Relate centres in Northamptonshire.	Northampton Wellingborough Rushden Kettering
Right Resolution	01604 626188 admin@rightresolutioncic.org www.rightresolutioncic.org	Intensive, long term support for care leavers aged 16+ (limited spaces)	Northamptonshire
S2S Part of Change Grow Live	0808 169 8512 www.changegrowlive.org	S2S provides support for adults (18+) with substance misuse issues	Northamptonshire
Service Six	01933 277520 01933 273746 www.servicesix.co.uk	Therapeutic support and other services for children, young people, adults, families & communities.	Northants
Sunflower Centre	01604 888211 www.thesunflowercentre.co.uk	Support for victims of domestic abuse.	Northamptonshire
The Faraway Children's Charity	07501 459715 suegcdord@gmail.com www.farawaychildrenscharity.com	Provides resources and funding for Children in need	Northamptonshire
The Lowdown	01604 634385 info@thelowdown.info www.thelowdown.info	Counselling, info & advice, LGBTQ support, outreach and sexual health information and guidance for children and young people	Northants
Time to Talk	01327 706706 info@time2talk.org.uk www.time2talk.org.uk	Counselling and preventative intervention service for Young People aged 13 to 25	Daventry and South Northants
Prospects	01604 630033 Prospects Northampton	Careers service and help with employment	Northamptonshire
Young Northants	Young Northants Pages	Online resource for Young People in Northamptonshire, with dedicated section for Children in Care and Care Leavers	Online

Service	Contact details & website	Overview of service	Area covered
Virtual School	01604 365912 virtualschool@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk	Local Authority services who act as corporate parents for children at school and in care	Northamptonshire
Debt Advice Foundation	0800 0434050 www.debtadvicefoundation.org	Support with debt problems	National
Centre Point	0800 58751 https://centrepoin.org.uk	Youth homeless support	National
Disability Support	Young Northants - Disability Pages	Various links to support locally and nationally	Online
Shooting Stars	0300 126 1000 Shooting Stars	Participation group for young people with disabilities	Northamptonshire
Children's Rights Service	https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/help-and-protection-for-children/protecting-children-information-for-professionals/Pages/childrens_rights_information_professionals.aspx	Advocacy service, there to help with any issues you may have, someone who speaks up for you and on your behalf	Northamptonshire
Independent Visitors		Befriending service for children in care. Children choose who their visitor is and what they do with them.	Northamptonshire
Children in Care Council	mwinship@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk 07912187280	Participation group for young people in care.	Northamptonshire
Care Leavers Council	mwinship@childrenfirstnorthamptonshire.co.uk 07912187280	Participation group for care leavers.	Northamptonshire

Annex B: Crown Prosecution 10 Point Checklist for Offences in Children’s Homes:

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED?

1	Disciplinary Policy of Children’s Home? Attach to file	
2	Why have the police been involved and is it as agreed in the policy?	
3	Any informal action/disciplinary action already taken?	
4	Any apology/reparation?	
5	Victim’s views?	
6	Social worker’s views?	
7	Care Plan for Looked After Child?	
8	Recent behaviour/incidents re looked after child?	
9	Information about incident from looked after child (interview or other)?	
10	Aggravating and Mitigating Features?	

Annex C: resources

Statutory guidance and regulations:

- [Children Act 1989](#) guidance and regulations volume 2: care planning, placement and case review - Chapter 8 covers local authorities children’s services responsibilities towards looked after children in contact with the youth justice system.
- [The Department for Education Quality standards for children’s homes](#), particularly the positive relationship standard, the protection of children standard and engaging with the wider system.
- [The Children's Homes \(England\) Regulations 2015](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children](#) - Statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)
- [Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children statutory guidance for local authorities](#)
This sets out the steps local authorities and staff running local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements should take to plan for the provision of support for looked-after children who are unaccompanied migrant children, and who may be victims, or potential victims, of modern slavery.
- [Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked practice guidance](#). This guidance is for local authorities, to help agencies and their staff safeguard and promote the welfare of children who may have been trafficked.

- [Applying corporate parenting principles to looked after children and care leavers.](#)
- [Crown Prosecution Service guidance on youth offenders](#), particularly the section relating to 'offending behaviour in children's homes'

Other supporting guidance:

- [The South East protocol on reducing criminalisation of looked after children](#)
- ['Principles of restorative Practice' guidance](#) (Restorative Justice Council 2015)
- [The Ofsted single inspection framework for children's services](#), in particular the key judgement: 'The experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence'. This says that local authorities are likely to be judged as good if: 'Any risks associated with children and young people offending, misusing drugs or alcohol, going missing or being sexually exploited are known by the local authority and by the adults who care for them. There are plans and help in place that are reducing the risks of harm or actual harm and these are kept under regular review by senior managers.'

Research or reviews:

- The HMIP thematic report, ['Looked after children: An inspection of the work of youth offending teams with children and young people who are looked after and placed away from home'](#) which recommends youth offending team managers should ensure: 'accurate information about children and young people who are looked after and placed outside their home area is sent promptly to the youth offending team in the new area assessments; intervention plans and reviews on children and young people take full account of the impact of being looked after; the enforcement processes for court orders and post-custodial licences are sensitive to, and take account of, the circumstances of children and young people who are looked after; and action is taken, where appropriate, to increase the number of children and young people who are dealt with through restorative justice measures when they offend within the residential setting'.
- [The Lammy Review of Black, Asian and minority ethnic representation in the criminal justice system](#) (sept 2017)
- [Taylor review-of-the-youth-justice-system](#) (Dec 2016)
- [Sir Martin Narey's independent review of children's residential care in England](#) (2016)
- [In care and out of trouble - An independent review chaired by Lord Laming](#) (2016)
- [Youth Restorative Justice Intervention Independent Evaluation Final Report](#) (GDT Social Impact Analytics, 2014) Independent evaluation of Surrey County Council's Youth Restorative Intervention.

Other resources:

- [MindEd.org](#) - a free educational resource on children and young people's mental health for all adults from NHS England.