

Sent via email: PS.HomeSecretary@homeoffice.gov.uk

11th November 2025

Dear Home Secretary,

Section 55 Response to HMICFRS Report: “The Effectiveness of Diverting Children from the Criminal Justice System”

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your joint thematic inspection report, “The Effectiveness of Diverting Children from the Criminal Justice System: Meeting Needs, Ensuring Safety, and Preventing Reoffending”, published in October 2025.

We welcome the report’s findings and its emphasis on the importance of consistent, transparent, and child-centred approaches to diversion, particularly with Out of Court Disposals (OOCs). The recommendation for stronger governance and oversight in the management of OOCs is both timely and necessary.

In Humberside, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has proactively managed the OOC scrutiny process for nearly two years. Our Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel, which reviews both youth and adult cases, has been instrumental in ensuring that disposals are appropriate, proportionate, and aligned with best practice. The panel comprises independent criminal justice stakeholders who assess anonymised cases to determine whether the disposal decisions made by Humberside Police were justified based on the available evidence.

This process has not only enhanced transparency and public confidence but has also contributed to improved outcomes for children. Through regular feedback loops with operational teams, we have seen increased consistency in decision-making and a stronger focus on safeguarding and rehabilitation. The OPCC’s approach has been recognised for its openness and effectiveness, and we continue to refine our practices in line with national guidance and local needs.

We acknowledge the report’s concerns about fragmented national practices and data gaps. In Humberside, we are committed to contributing to a more coherent national framework by sharing our learning and outcomes. We support the call for improved data collection and evaluation mechanisms and would welcome further dialogue on how local areas can help shape these developments.



Thank you again for your work in highlighting this critical area of youth justice. We remain committed to ensuring that children in Humberside receive fair, effective, and supportive interventions that divert them from the criminal justice system and help them thrive.

Yours Sincerely



Jonathan Evison
Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

