

Witness Name: Stephanie Roberts-Bibby

Statement No.: Addendum to 1

Exhibits: SRB2/01 – SRB2/02

Dated: 8 December 2025

THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

ADDENDUM TO THE FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF STEPHANIE ROBERTS-BIBBY ON BEHALF OF THE YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD

Introduction

1. I make this statement in response to an additional request dated 6 November 2025 from the Inquiry following my oral evidence on 4 November 2025. I am providing this as an addendum to the corporate witness statement on behalf of the Youth Justice Board (“YJB”) dated 3 September 2025. As such, this statement includes the recollections of others and internal records.
2. I have used the same headings which were used by the Inquiry in their correspondence.

Clarification on Recommendations

3. The YJB has sought to use the closing statement to amplify some of the recommendations which were made in the original Corporate Statement. I exhibit a table of recommendations which has subsequently been drafted by the Youth Justice Board [SRB2/01 – YJB000130].
4. This table of recommendations has been developed with the assistance of many others within the YJB to whom I am grateful.
5. These recommendations have been formulated through a thorough analysis of the evidence presented to the Inquiry, identifying existing gaps, and drawing on our current evidence base alongside our sector expertise.

6. The YJB feels that there are clear links between the recommendations, and they are in keeping with the themes that have developed through the evidence heard by the Inquiry.
7. The YJB is willing and able to support delivery against these recommendations, working with lead departments and other key stakeholders to put in place frameworks to do so. The main challenges remain, as they have historically, of political buy-in and sufficient funding.

2024 Re-Offending Statistics

8. Overall, the reoffending rate for Referral Orders using Youth Justice Service ("YJS") case level data was lower than the Ministry of Justice ("MoJ") reoffending rate, which for the 2022 cohort showed 22.4% of those on Referral Orders reoffended within 12 months (compared with 28.3% in the MoJ data) and for the 2023 cohort showed 22.0% of those on Referral Orders reoffended (compared with 27.2% in the MoJ data). The difference between the YJB and MoJ figures is likely due to the fact that in the YJS case level data, it is not possible to track re-offending by those who turn 18 during the currency of the order as we are not able to track "adult" offending.
9. In terms of when the reoffence was committed, I looked at those who committed a proven offence within 12 months of entering the cohort as per the MoJ methodology. The YJS data shows that for the 2022 cohort, 70% (or around 880) reoffended during the order (where length of order was known) and 30% (or around 380) reoffended after the order had expired but within 12 months of the order starting and for the 2023 cohort, 73% (or around 970) reoffended during the order (where order length was known) and 30% (or around 370) reoffended after the order but within 12 months of the order starting.
10. To put these figures into further context, around 1 in 5 Referral Orders were for 12 months in length (18% in 2022 and 20% in 2023) and 4 in 10 Referral Orders were between 9 months and 12 months in length (41% in 2022 and 42% in 2023).
11. The earliest time the 2024 figures should be available is early September in 2026; we will provide this date to the Inquiry when it becomes available. This is because of there being an 18-month period until the end of June to track reoffending that occurred in 2025 with an outcome up to the end of June 2026, a returns deadline for data of the end of July and the release then in September 2026.

12. One of the challenges with providing clearer data on re-offending rates is that this data tends to be held at a local, rather than national, level. This is the reason the Inquiry has the benefit of re-offending data for the Lancashire area.

SHiFT

13. I exhibit a “one-pager” on the analysis available of the SHiFT programme [SRB2/02 – YJB000131] with my thanks to SHiFT for preparing this.

Glossary of acronyms and abbreviations

Term	Definition
AssetPlus	Assessment framework
CAMHS	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CiN	Children in Need
DfE	Department for Education
FCAMHS	Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
LAs	Local Authorities
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
RANSG	Responsible Authorities National Steering Group
ROSH	Risk of serious harm
SAVRY	Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth
TACT offences	Offences under the Terrorism Act