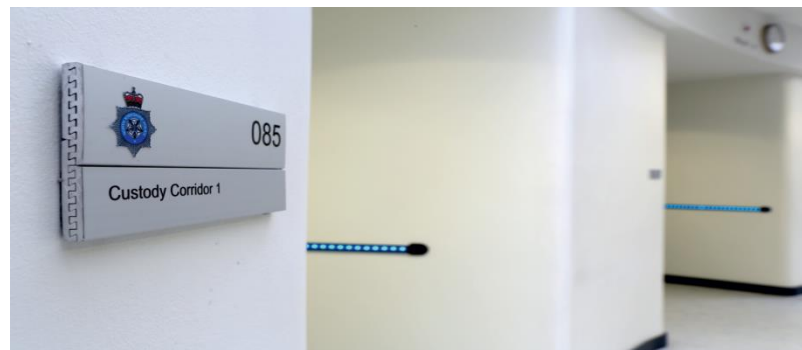
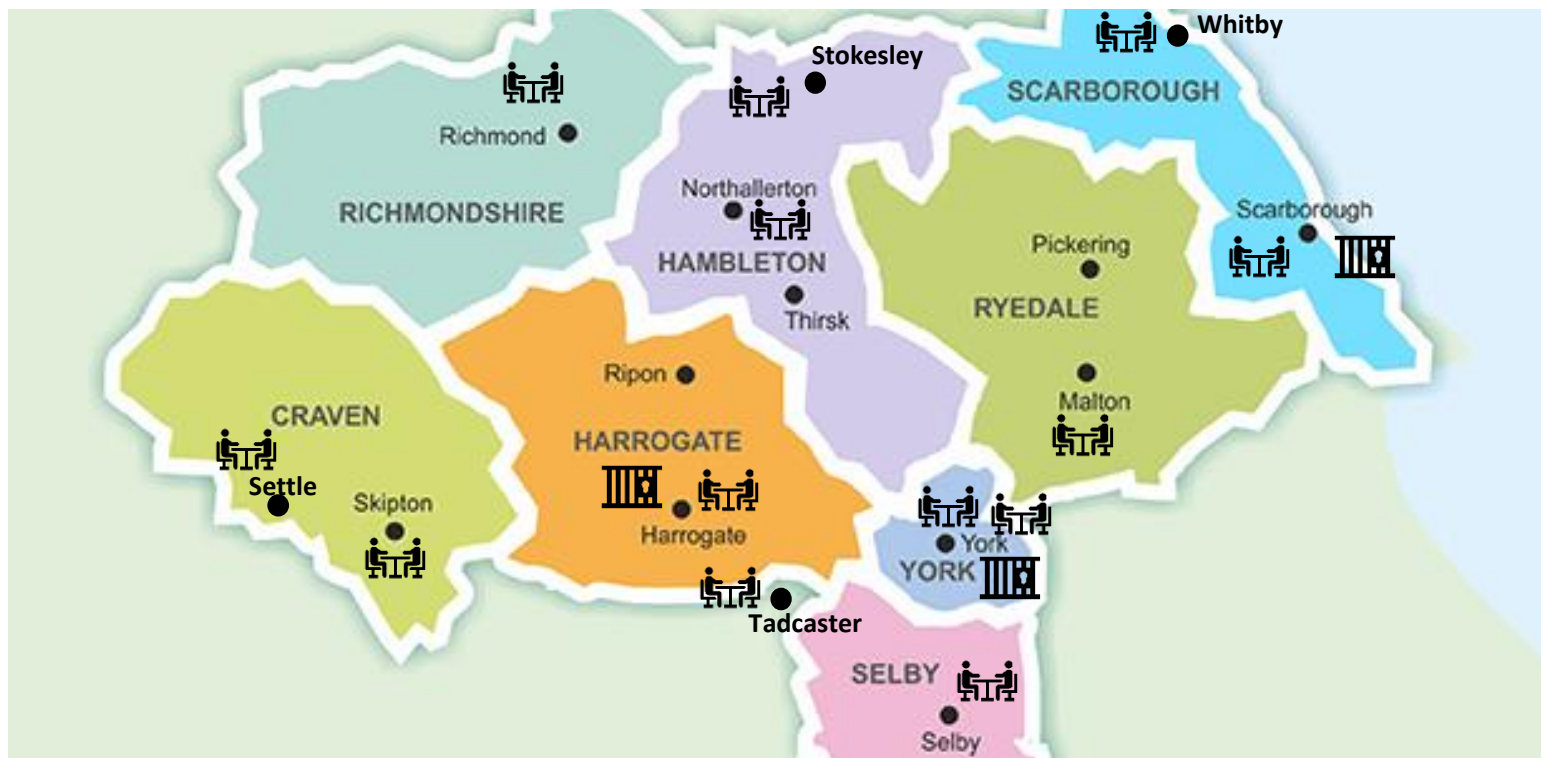




Police Custody

Public Accountability Meeting





Police Custody Estate



- North Yorkshire Police operate a centralised custody model in common with many other force areas
- 3 Designated suites at York, Harrogate and Scarborough which operate on a 24/7 basis
- Total cells available across the county = 57. York has largest capacity of 24, Scarborough 17 and Harrogate 16.
- Normally operate at 30-40% Capacity which gives flexibility
- High risk environment managing the complex needs of suspects and keeping people safe
- Staff are independent of the investigation



Staffing resources.

- Legislation and Policy dictate that a Custody suite must be managed by a fully trained and operationally competent Sergeant
- Custody suites are staffed by a mixture of police custody sergeants and civilian detention officers (D.O.) who are specially trained to national standards
- Current establishment of 24 Sgts and 28 FTE D.Os who work 24/7 on a rotating shift pattern.
- Optimum staffing levels are carefully managed against previous demand to ensure that there are adequate resources to safely manage the suites and safeguard detainees welfare.
- The management of the 3 suites is undertaken by 2 managers of the rank of Inspector, who report into a CJ Chief Inspector.



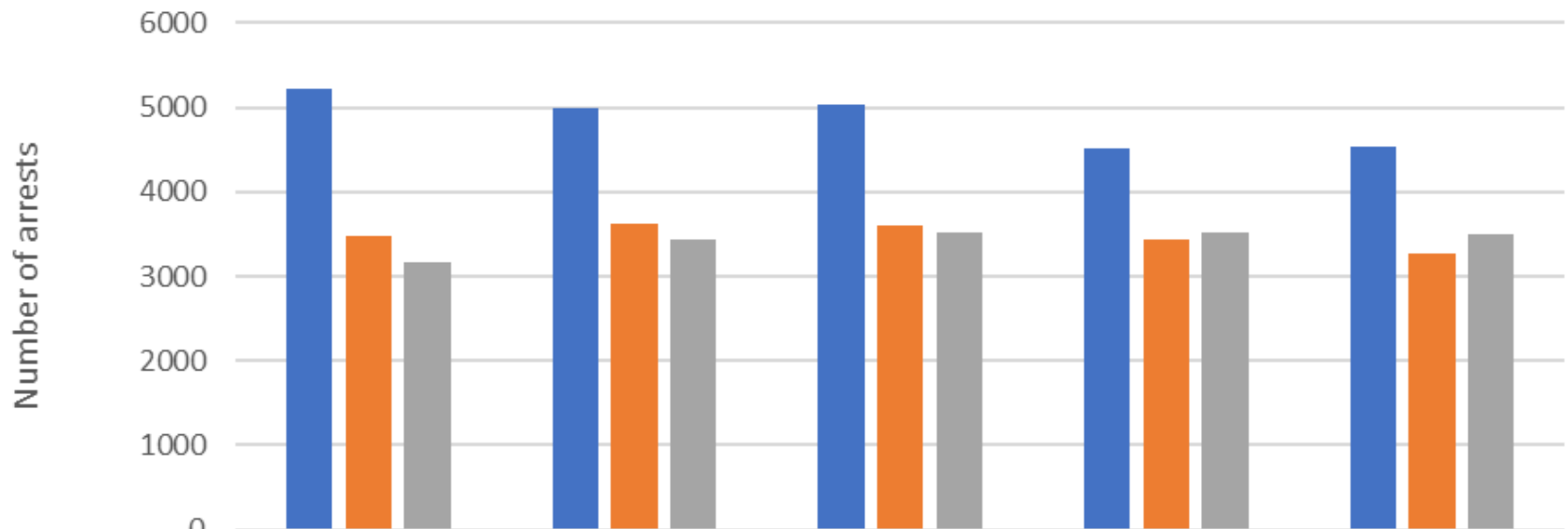
Staff Development

- All staff work to Authorised Professional Practice and training is aligned to the National Curriculum for this specialist role
- Both Sgts and DOs undertake a 4-5 week in house training course in order to be qualified to work in the custody environment
- All Staff must then be assessed as competent following a period of on the job mentoring, and must remain operationally competent through continual PDR assessment
- All staff undertake Continual Professional Development throughout the year, we have a continual learning environment sharing lessons learnt and developing teams through reflective practice and debriefing adverse incidents

Arrest figures 2017-2021



Arrests per Custody Suite 2017 - 2021

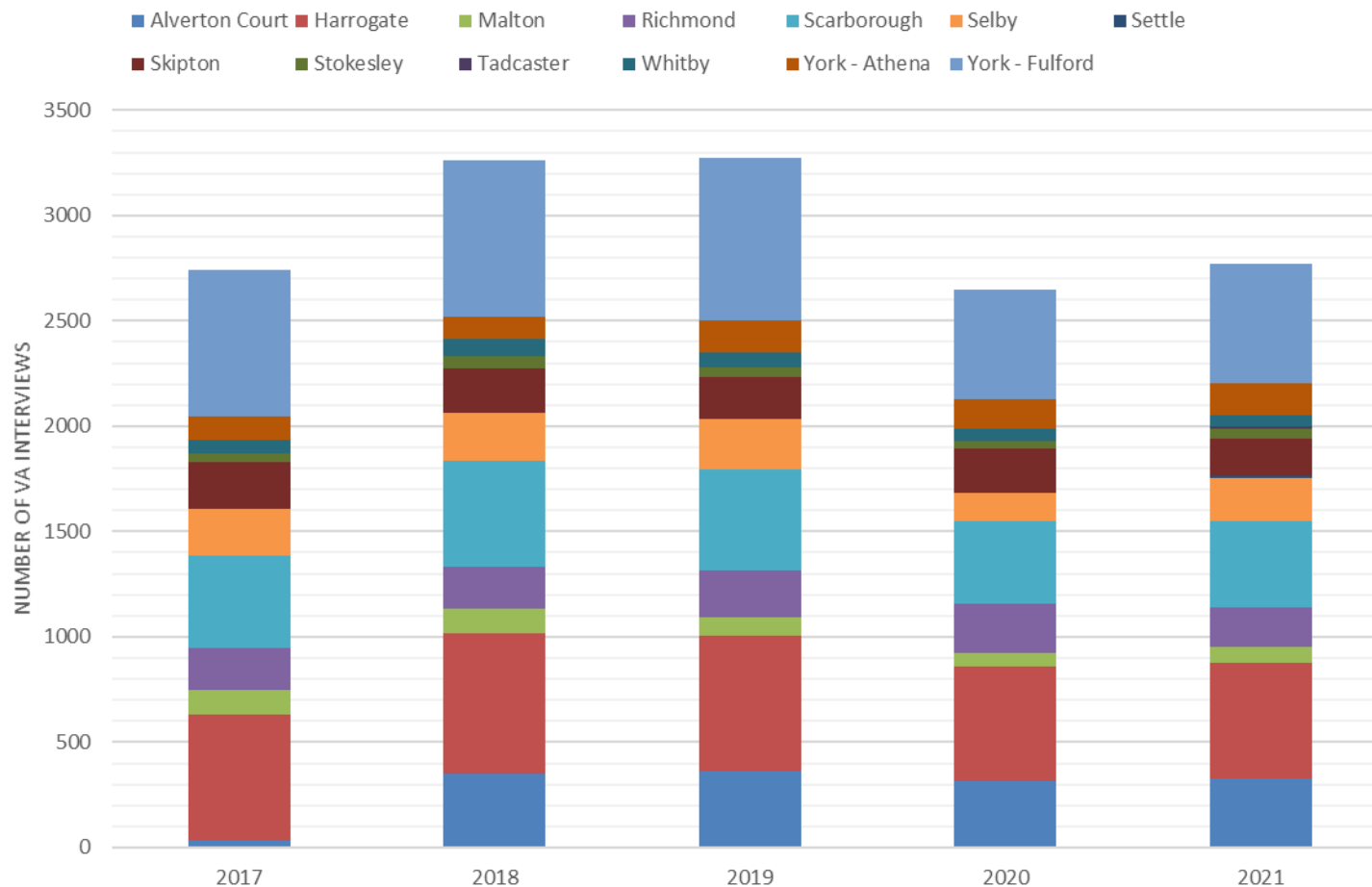


	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
■ York	5227	4980	5023	4503	4541
■ Harrogate	3484	3629	3600	3426	3262
■ Scarborough	3175	3442	3527	3525	3490

■ York ■ Harrogate ■ Scarborough



Voluntary Attendance figures 2017-21



Arrest versus Voluntary Attendance?



Arrest

There are at least reasonable grounds to suspect the person's involvement in the commission of a criminal offence.

There are reasonable grounds for believing that the person's arrest is necessary.

Necessity

The officer must consider whether the investigation can be effectively carried out by less intrusive means. Must take into account

- *the situation of the victim*
- *the nature of the offence*
- *the circumstances of the suspect and;*
- *the needs of the investigation.*

Where the arrest criteria is not met then the suspect may be invited to voluntarily attend an interview under caution

Voluntary Attendance (VA) process



- North Yorkshire Police has made a significant Investment in our Voluntary Attendance Suites
- Custody landscape has changed over the past decade to include a broad suite of options to include arrest, Voluntary attendance, Diversionary Courses, and Out of Court Disposals
- 13 VA suites strategically positioned to provide alternative options to Custody for interview.
- Not under arrest and free to leave at any stage
- Free and independent legal advice
- Risk assessments conducted and there is access to healthcare and liaison and diversion services
- Persons undertaking the VA process have exactly the same disposal options available as those under arrest

Pre charge bail and Released Under Investigation



- Police and Crime Act 2017 included a significant reform of pre-charge bail and introduced a presumption of releasing a suspect without bail as released under investigation, (RUI)
- Bail can be used pre and post charge to prevent offending, protect victims and witnesses and to manage the suspect by placing conditions on a subjects freedom within defined timescales
- RUI suspect are released under investigation without conditions restricting subjects freedom
- North Yorkshire Police dedicated Bail Sergeant and robust Suspect Management Policy and monitoring regime aligned to the National Guidelines for monitoring investigation on RUI
- Victim Services Quality Assurance Sergeant role recently aligned to Criminal Justice to bring additional focus around Victim engagement and better understand our services to Victims
- Bail act to be amended this summer removing the presumption to release without Bail – impact assessment has been completed

Identifying vulnerability

A person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care of or protect themselves or others from harm or exploitation.



Vulnerability in Custody is considered broadly and can include

- Children should be arrested as a last resort and all Custody records are scrutinised to ensure Children's rights are upheld and detention is only authorised when strictly necessary
- Mental Health: Risk assessment and training is delivered to all staff to assist in identifying Mental Health Needs in Custody and preventing Self Harm
- Medical needs: NHS Health Care provision and Liaison and Diversion support identifying and treating urgent medical needs and identifying hidden Disabilities and Neuro Diversity
- Addiction: including detainees being under the influence Drugs and Alcohol and addiction support
- Detainees as Victim and Crime: Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation and Modern Slavery
- We have a detailed system of Warning signals and all suspects subject to a Pre-release risk assessment



Safeguarding detainees and Managing risk

- Legislation and Policy: highly regulated environment, Authorised Professional Practice and PACE
- NHS provided Regional Contract providing embedded Healthcare professionals 24/7 in custody
- All detainees are subject to a rigorous Nationally developed risk assessment on arrival at Custody
- Liaison & Diversion service – NHS led and are able to signpost detainees to support pathways which are bespoke to their individual needs
- All detainees will have an individual Care Plan subject to their individual needs and vulnerability

Appropriate Adults (AA) in custody.



- The role of the appropriate adult is to safeguard the interests, rights, entitlements and welfare of children and vulnerable people who are suspected of a criminal offence, by ensuring that they are treated in a fair and just manner and are able to participate effectively. This is over and above legal representation by a Solicitor
- Custody Sergeant assesses need for AA and arranges attendance, and decides who is in the best interests of the child to attend; whether familial, Local Authority or other responsible Adult
- Local Authorities have a statutory obligation to provide an AA for children who are arrested
- NYCC have an embedded on call rota for vulnerable adults and a similar rota for the City of York is in development .
- We work closely with YJS and CSC and have Partnership and internal scrutiny procedures to continually assess the effectiveness of the AA provision

Governance and Scrutiny



- National NPCC groups which share learning and best practice for example Custody and Bail lead Networks, in addition to regional custody meetings
- HMICFRS Inspections every 5-6 years
- IOPC Scrutiny and learning and role of Professional Standards Department, with self-referrals where appropriate
- Monitor commissioned services such as Health Care providers and participate in Regional Health Care Board
- Independent Custody Visitors
- Criminal Justice Policy Inspector and Officer
- All Suites covered by CCTV and microphones; Daily Dip sampling and CCTV reviews take place to scrutinise staff conduct and compliance with Policy
- Fortnightly Custody SMT meetings to scrutinise all aspects of custody performance focusing on the Use of Force, Children in Custody, Appropriate adults, use of strip search and other areas



Strengths

- Policy of early intervention and prevention diverts people from the Custody process
- Suite of Out of Court and Diversionary options available and embedded either within Custody or as an alternative to arrest
- Specialist trained Staff and Centralised Custody Suites
- Adherence with Authorised Professional Practice (APP)
- Strength of Partnerships relationships
- Embedded Health Care Professionals
- Embedded Liaison and Diversion
- Dedicated Health Care Provided (non-Police) Places of Safety for 136 Detentions
- Strong Governance and Scrutiny arrangements
- Robust Suspect management and scrutiny Process.



Challenges

- Geography
- Age of the Custody Estate
- Covid
- Evolving Legislation with significant changes including Bail
- 2 Inspectors for 3 suites.
- Dynamic nature of demand
- Complex needs of some detainees.

Opportunities

- Technology; including Virtual Courts, Video Remands, Video Interviews and Cloud Video Platform
- Increased Police Officer numbers
- New Estate
- Increased Diversionary options including the Two Tier Framework
- Mobile Evidential Breath Testing devices



Thank you for listening

Questions?