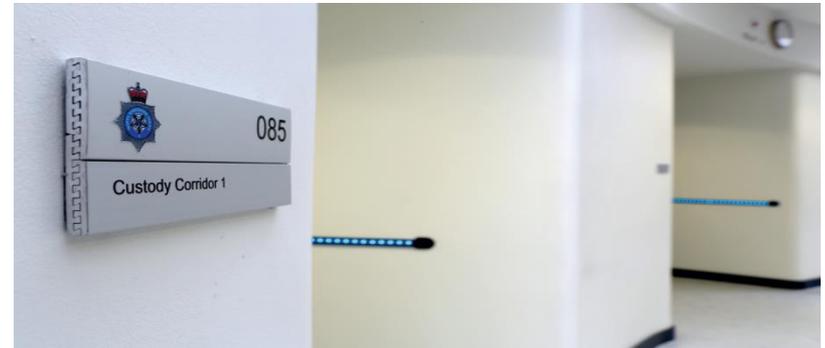
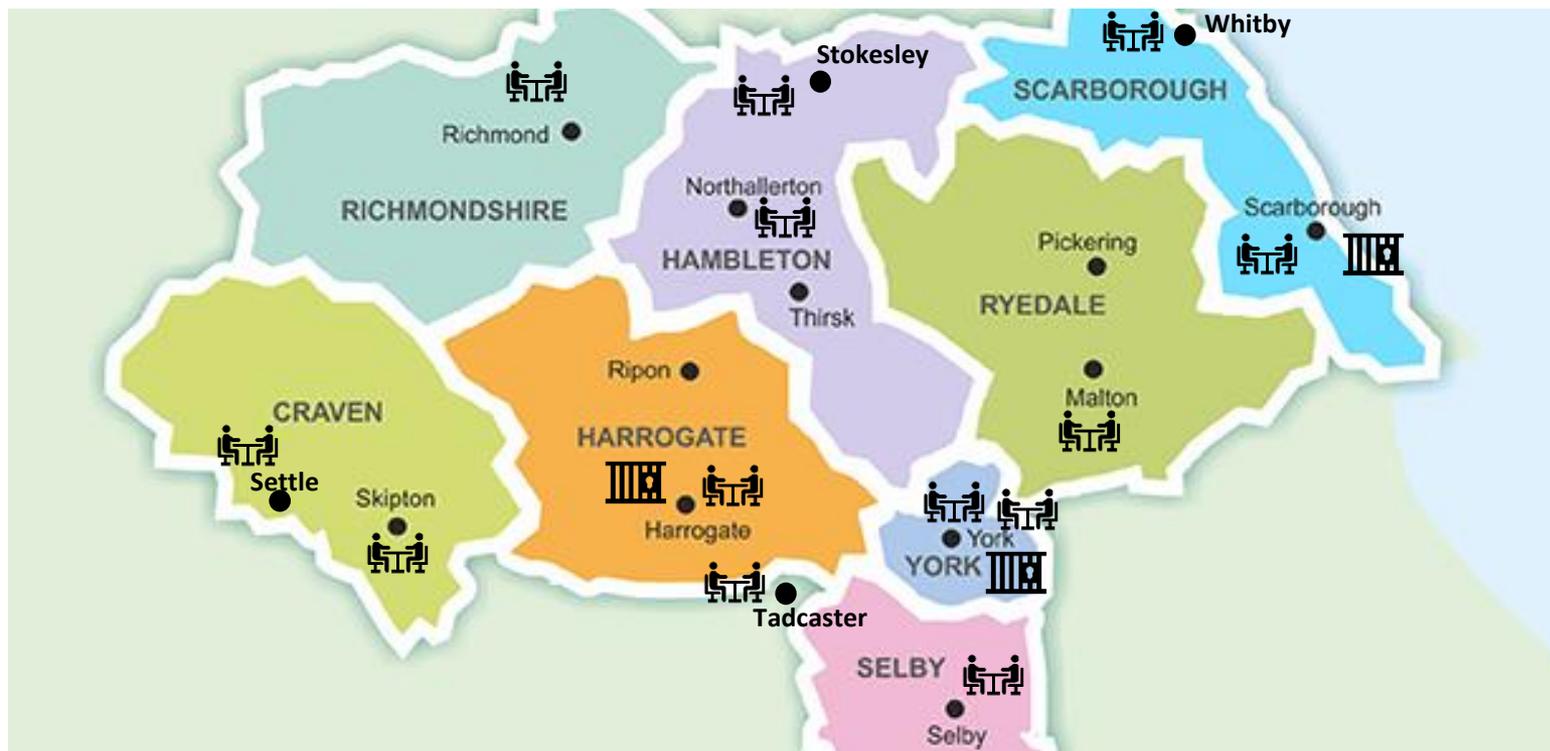




# Police Custody

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.



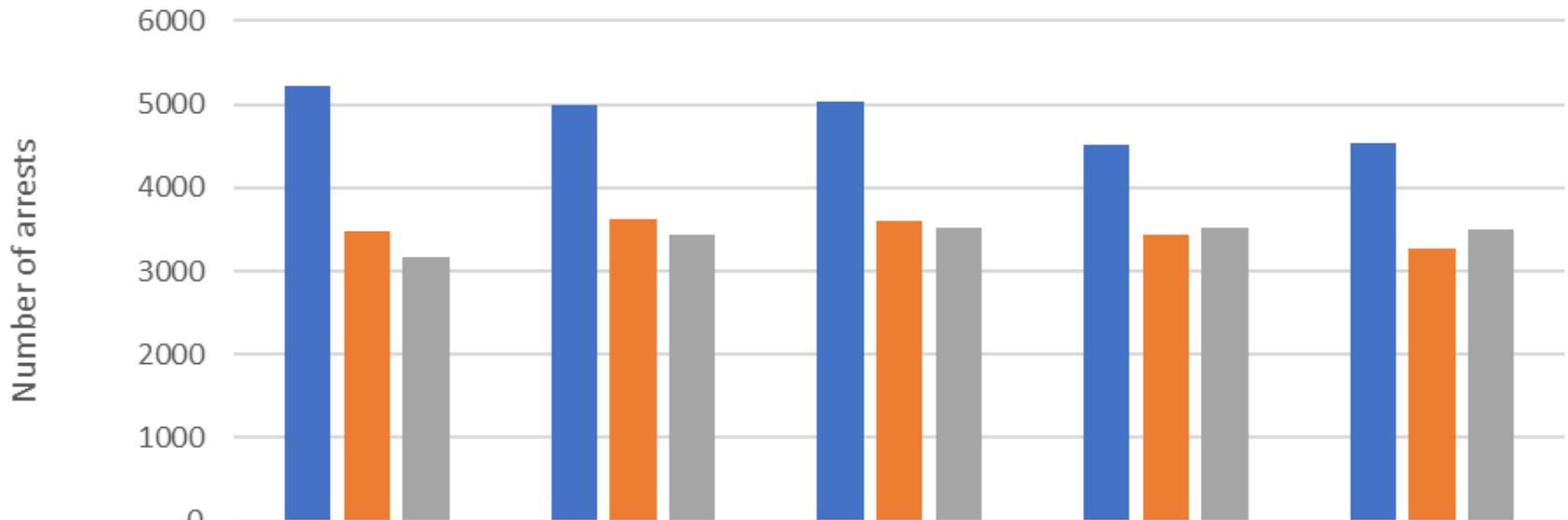
# Staff Development

- 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

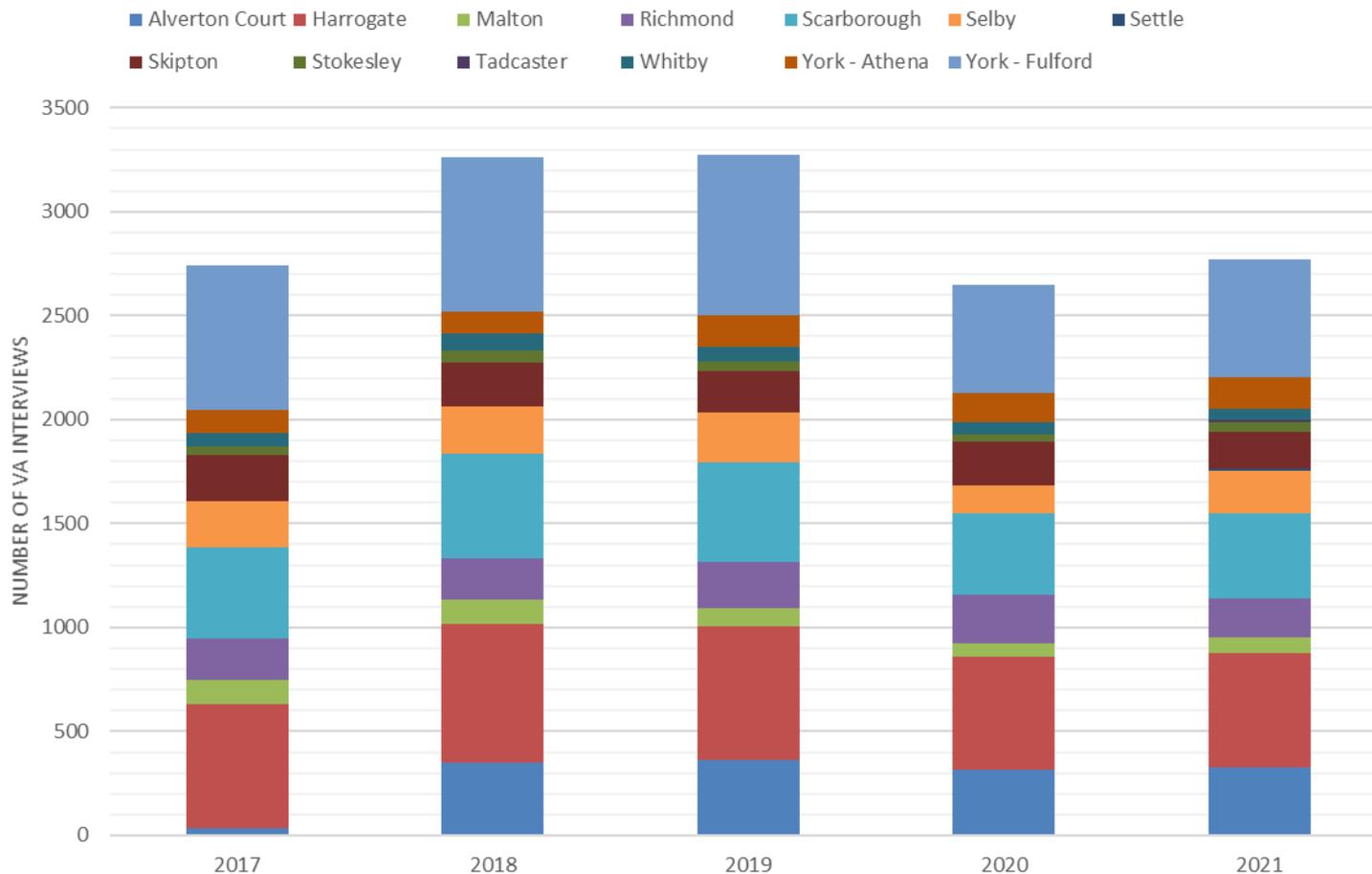


	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
■ York	5227	4980	5023	4503	4541
■ Harrogate	3484	3629	3600	3426	3262
■ Scarborough	3175	3442	3527	3525	3490

■ 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?