

Next steps for improving the operation and efficiency of the courts system in England and Wales



Neurodivergence:

- Trauma of court participation is further exasperated with additional needs, such as communication or cognitive difficulties, neurodivergence or physical disability.
- Benefits of technology but must be aware that an increase in the utilisation of technology could also alienate the most vulnerable due to digital literacy and/or lack of access
- The built environment can also have a negative impact (spatial interaction & processing differences).
- Temporary courts during Covid pandemic (Nightingale Courts) in non-traditional spaces as well as Problem Solving Courts offer the opportunity to rethink how courts can be more flexible to meet different needs

Staff Training:

- Justice professionals need further support. E.g. training needed for police officers to give evidence effectively and wellbeing provision afterwards
- Police uplift means many less experienced officers are dealing with higher caseloads
- Technology should be utilised to balance front-line demands with court attendance
- Officers as first point of contact with CJS need further training around key issues such as neurodivergence to ensure an effective and appropriate process

