



Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Youth Offending Service (YOS)

Youth Justice Plan 2022 - 2024

Service	Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Youth Offending Service (YOS)
Service Manager/ Lead	Michaela Rogers
Joint Chairs of YOS Local Management Board (LMB)	Gareth Jenkins and Alison Ramshaw

July 2022

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Contents

Foreword	1
1. Introduction, vision and strategy	1
2. Local context	3
3. Child First	3
4. Voice of the child	4
5. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements	5
6. Resources and services	6
7. Progress on previous plan	7
8. Performance and priorities	7
9. National standards	25
10.Challenges, risks and issues	25
11.Service improvement plan	26
12.Evidence-based practice and innovation	26
13.Looking forward	27
14.Sign off, submission and approval	28
15.Appendix 1 -	28
A. Outline of full board membership	
B. Attendance and dates of board meetings	
16.Appendix 2 –	30
C. Service Structure Chart	
D. Reporting arrangements for the Head of Service.	
E. Staffing diversity characteristics (ethnicity, sex and known disability of staff)	
F. Workforce Development Strategy – 2022-2024	
17.Common youth justice terms	30

Foreword

As joint chairs of the Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Youth Offending Service (YOS) Local Management Board (LMB) we are pleased to set out this two-year strategic partnership plan. This 2022/2024 plan sets out our ambitions and key priorities which have been informed by, and developed from, consultation, our continuing good performance and our knowledge and experience from lessons learnt.

As a partnership we have a strong ethos of “Child First”, which we know can enhance lives, reduce offending, promote safer communities and lead to fewer victims, as evidenced in the “Child First Justice: The research evidence-base” report from Loughborough University. The partnership also has at the heart of its work the vision of the All Wales Youth Justice Strategy “Children and Young People First” with a focus on the five priorities identified in the strategy.

In May 2022 the YOS was inspected by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The YOS achieved an overall rating of “Good”. This was a fantastic achievement and we await the full final report which is expected to be publicised in September 2022. There are some development areas already identified from the inspection process which have been included in this plan, but any further learning from the wider report once known will also be considered over the next 6 months.

On behalf of the LMB we would like to thank the staff and volunteers working within, and supporting, the YOS, who are essential to the service, for their outstanding work and support to children and families. We acknowledge that the achievements of the partnership are only made possible through their hard work, commitment and dedication.

Gareth Jenkins and Alison Ramshaw
Joint Chairs of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) Local Management Board (LMB)

1. Introduction, vision and strategy

The strategic aim of the Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Youth Offending Service (YOS) partnership remains focused on preventing offending and reducing reoffending by children. This will be achieved by the delivery of integrated services that ensure children are safeguarded, the public and victims of crime are protected and those who enter the youth justice system are supported with robust risk management arrangements. Children will be supported to reintegrate into their local communities without offending and wherever possible with support from their families.

There is also a clear understanding that the role of the Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly YOS and its partners is to have a strong preventative role in reducing the risks of children entering the youth justice system. The YOS and its partners invests and believes strongly in the strength of prevention, early intervention and diversion to support children and families

The YOS Vision Statement is:

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They will do this by:

- Preventing and diverting children from anti social and offending behaviour
- Valuing the diversity of children and help them to achieve better outcomes
- Ensuring children are kept safe and the risk to the public is minimised
- Providing effective support to families and victims engaged with the service whilst working to ensure safer, inclusive communities
- Ensuring restorative practice ethos, principles and approaches are embedded in every aspect of YOS service delivery
- Investing in staff and volunteers to ensure a professional, skilled and knowledgeable workforce
- Working in partnership

This plan will also support priorities within:

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008
- Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO)
- Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022
- Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000
- Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999
- Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Criminal Justice Act 1991
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Leaving Care Act 2000
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Housing Act (Wales) 2014
- Mental Health Act 1983, as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Health and Social Care Bill 2011
- Education Act 2002
- Youth Justice Board (YJB) National Standards 2019
- YJB Strategic Plan 2021-24
- The Gwent Police and Crime Plan 2021-25
- The Local Authorities Future Generations Wellbeing Plans
- Gwent Safeguarding Board Strategic Plan 2020-23
- Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales November 2020
- The Local Authorities Safer Communities Plans
- Children & Young People First - the Welsh Government and the Youth Justice Board's joint strategy to improve services for children who offend or those at risk of offending
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

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- Welsh Language Minimum Standards
- Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018

2. Local context

The Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly YOS is a dual local authority YOS covering both the Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly areas in Gwent, Wales. Gwent is made up of 5 local authorities in total. Please see attached below some demographic information regarding both local authorities.



CCBC

Demographics.docx



BGCBC

Demographics.docx

The YOS is part of Children's Services in Caerphilly County Borough Council, which sits within the wider Social Services Directorate. Caerphilly County Borough Council has "hosted" the YOS since its creation on behalf of both local authorities. Whenever the YOS audits the number of children it engages with the split is usually based on or around the 70% (Caerphilly) and 30% (Blaenau Gwent) figures, give or take a percentage or two.

3. Child First

The YOS demonstrates a creative, adaptable and flexible approach to its service delivery. The work of the YOS has evolved considerably, with the awareness and embedding of many approaches when engaging with children and families evidenced from research, theories, thematic inspections, pathfinders and evaluations. These approaches include desistance theory, relational approaches, trauma informed practice, adverse childhood experiences, equalities and diversity, the importance of "play", strengths based/building on resilience, children's rights, child centred practice, constructive resettlement and contextual safeguarding.

The YOS ensures a child centred, strengths-based approach which encompasses trauma informed practice. Restorative Justice/Approaches are an integral theme throughout its delivery along with the voice of the child being heard, offers of advocacy services and a rights-based ethos. Supporting children to reach their aspirations and full potential underpins everything the YOS does. All engagement is based on the child's best interests, positivity, built on trust whilst promoting desistance and best outcomes. The YOS is always focused on reviewing and improving their direct work and engagement skills in response to messages from desistance theory and approaches, attachment theory and trauma informed practice. The desistance thematic inspection by HMI Probation called "Desistance and children" published in May 2016 stated that "Desistance is the process of abstaining from crime amongst those who previously had engaged in a sustained pattern of offending'. In the report they confirmed that personalised approaches work best based on a good understanding of the individual's needs, history and circumstances. The YJB AssetPlus assessment framework also helps the YOS to personalise individual desistance support for children. All members of staff in the YOS are trained in desistance theory and an action plan was developed to

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respond to the recommendations from the inspection. The YOS has also embedded desistance and trauma informed practice principles by:

- Ensuring positive engagement and building trusting relationships are at the start of all interventions/plans – “good beginnings”
- Strength based, personalised, individual approaches
- Increasing self assessment completion
- Embedding approaches and recording methods such as:

CPR	PACE	ACORDS	CRISS
Consistency	Playfulness	Aim – Human needs, good lives model etc	C - check in
Predictability	Acceptance	Content – Good lives wheel etc	R - review
Reliability	Curiosity	Outcome – what did the child learn? Grounding techniques etc	I - intervention
	Empathy	Risk of harm – any additional risk issues?	S - summary
		Diversity – Any needs? Literacy? Learning styles etc?	S - set tasks
		Safeguarding – Any issues?	

4. Voice of the child

Participation empowers children by allowing them to influence decision making and bring about change. This empowerment can mean a great deal to the children who engage with the YOS, who can often feel that their voices are not heard and that they have no control over decisions that affect their life. The YOS has embedded practice which ensures participation is inherent in its daily delivery covering a large number of its processes, procedures and functions.

Childrens participation is encouraged throughout the YOSs engagement, assessments, reports, attendance at Police Stations, Panels or Court. They are also involved in reviews for statutory orders and voluntary interventions. This is both during and after YOS engagement. Feedback from interventions is always gathered. This can take place in written format or via the YOSs online tool ‘Viewpoint’. These feedback tools help find out children’s views about different aspects of their engagement with the YOS to help the YOS achieve effective participation by, and with, children the YOS has a dedicated Children’s Rights Champion.

The YOS also creates a Quarterly Participation Report which includes the voices of children which it shares with the LMB, staff, volunteers and other stakeholders. The YOS is a very reflective service and has a strong participation belief and practice at its core which is explained in its Participation Policy including the Easy Read version. Please see attached:

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Participation Strategy
2022-25.docx



Easy Read YOS
Participation Strategy

5. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

Caerphilly County Borough Council is the host and employing local authority (LA) for the YOS. The Chief Executives' of both local authorities delegated chairing responsibilities of the YOS Local Management Board (LMB) to the Heads of Childrens Services. Strategic management is provided by both LA Heads of Children's Services who are the Joint Chairs of the LMB and who provide joint professional supervision for the YOS Service Manager.

The LMB provides governance to the YOS. The LMB is a high-level strategic group made up of key officers that are responsible for the strategic management of services, which are designed to prevent and reduce youth crime and anti social behaviour. The LMB meets quarterly and continues to scrutinise the YOS's resources, performance, participation feedback, acknowledge good performance and develop actions for improvement when necessary.

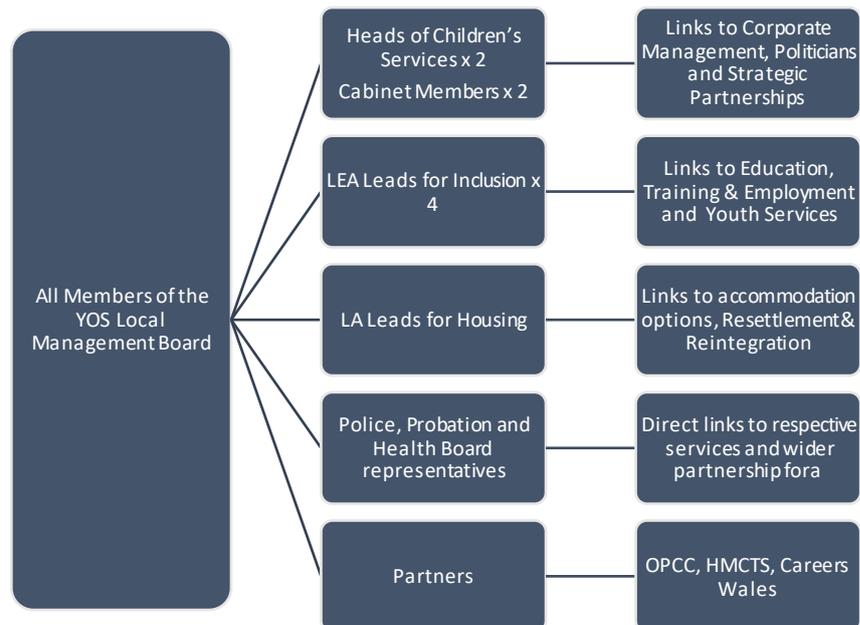
All statutory partners are represented (Police, Probation and Health) and these partners all second staff to the YOS as part of partnership and funding arrangements. LA representation is through Children's Services, Education, Youth Inclusion/post 16 provision, Youth Service, Housing and Cabinet Members for both LA's. Additional representation is provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) & Careers Wales. The Board is well attended by statutory partners and other agencies and any attendance issues are addressed by the Chairs quickly

The LMB undertakes annual reviews of its strategic and operational links between the YOS and its partnership structures, agencies and plans. Please see attached and below:



LMB Mapping
Exercise April 2022 2.0

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The YOS LMB is accountable to both local authorities Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's, which the Chairs or their representatives attend. In addition, members of the LMB report to their own individual agency / body Scrutiny Groups. Arrangements to report on the performance of the YOS to Local Authority Members, Police, Probation and Health are carried out by the respective agency representative. The YOS is positioned within both authorities Children Services divisions and reports to both Heads of Children's Services who jointly chair the LMB and jointly line manage the YOS Service Manager.

The LMB takes an active role in ensuring that children at risk of entering, or those already involved in, the youth justice system have access to universal and specialist services within the YOS areas and that partner agency's recognise and maintain responsibility for contributing to the reduction of offending by children. This plan will be monitored by the LMB and there will continue to be a level of support and oversight from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Cymru team. A YOS Workforce Development Strategy has been developed and reviewed to support the delivery of this plan.

The YOS Service Manager and both local authority Heads of Service sit both on the Regional Safeguarding Children Board and its Case Review subgroup. The YOS Service Manager also sits on the Safer Gwent Board, the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board and both local authority Corporate Parenting Groups. The YOS Service Manager is currently the Chair of YOT Managers Cymru (YMC) and attends the Wales Youth Justice Advisory Panel and the Pan Wales Covid-19 Meetings linked to their YMC charing responsibilities.

6. Resources and services

Responsibility for resourcing the YOS is shared between the Youth Justice Effective Practice grant, statutory partners' contributions, the grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the Children and Communities Grant (CCG)

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from the Welsh Government. YOS also oversees the local authority budgets provided to meet the costs of children remanded to the secure estate.

The YOS uses their grants, partner contributions and all other available resources to deliver personalised, individualised engagement and interventions for children and families, to meet its statutory aims and responsibilities, complete actions and maintain or improve performance areas within this plan and to help children and families to achieve the best outcomes along with their aspirations.

The following table summarises the total YOS budget for 2022/23 and sources of funding:

B5: YOT budget
Costs and Contributions

Agency	Staffing Costs	Payments in kind	Other delegated funds	Total
Youth Justice Board	397,745	0	61,561	459,306
Local Authority	675,422	0	104,539	779,961
Police	143,690	0	22,240	165,930
Police and Crime Commissioner	79,150	0	0	79,150
Probation	4,763	0	737	5,500
Health	54,049	0	8,365	62,414
Welsh Government	245,002	0	0	245,002
Other	31,992	0	4,953	36,945
Total	1,631,813	0	202,395	1,834,208

7. Progress on previous plan

There were 31 actions in the delivery plan linked to the YOS 2021-23 Youth Justice Plan. Out of the 31 actions, 22 were fully completed and 9 actions were in progress or not started. These actions have either been carried over and incorporated into this 2022-24 plan if required or will be completed as part of normal service delivery. Please see attached for further details:



Blaenau Gwent &
Caerphilly YOS Impro

8. Performance and priorities

Thirty-five children were cautioned or convicted in 2021/22 and were responsible for 67 offences. There has been a decrease of 19 children when comparing the previous year (2020/21) where 54 children were cautioned or convicted of a criminal offence and were responsible for 140 offences.

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Some children had multiple Youth Cautions (YCs), Youth Conditional Cautions (YCCs) or sentences and as a result the 35 children were responsible for 37 outcomes. The average number of offences for the cohort was 1.91 offences. The highest number of offences recorded for one child was 5 offences.

The majority of the cautioned or convicted children were male, 33 out of the total 35 children (94%) and there were 2 females (6%).

Most of the cautioned or convicted children were white (94%). There was one child that identified as Any Other Mixed Background (3%) and one child that identified as Italian (3%).

Of the children who were cautioned or convicted the majority were aged 16 or under (62.86%), however children aged 17 were cautioned or convicted the most. The ages were 2 at age 12 (5.72%), 6 at age 13 (17.14%), 2 at age 14 (5.72%), 6 at age 15 (17.14%), 6 at age 16 (17.14%) and 13 at age 17 (37.14%).

Of the children who were cautioned or convicted 8 children (22.86%) were Children Looked After (CLA) at the start of the intervention, with 3 placed in residential care (37.5%), 1 living with family (12.5%), 2 children placed in supported accommodation (25%) and 2 children being placed in foster care (25%).

Quarterly reports are submitted to the LMB regarding the performance of the YOS and comparisons are made against Gwent, Wales and the YJB YOS Family for the National and Welsh indicators (where applicable). Regular updates and discussions on the YOSs performance form part of the LMB quarterly agenda and regular internal managers meetings focusing on performance are held within the YOS.

The performance of the YOS is discussed below and the most up to date information has been used to provide information and context around the performance indicators. Where possible the most recent data has been used with comparisons to previous data referenced where possible.

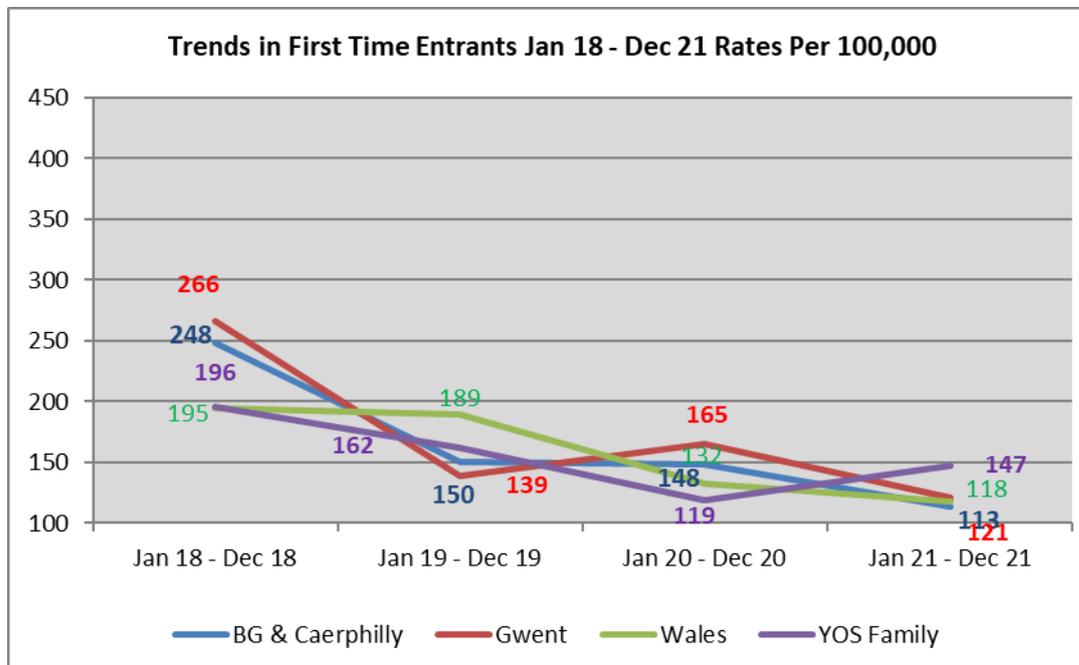
First Time Entrants (FTE's)

The YOS Management Team continually scrutinise the FTE figures and inform the LMB of the findings to allow them to provide oversight to ensure that children are being dealt with appropriately by the agreed processes within Gwent, along with the correct proportionate disposals being administered through robust partnership working including the provision of effective interventions to prevent further offending behaviour.

The YOS Performance and Information Manager is continuing to work to resolve a discrepancy with the YOS information held on the database compared to the information which is extracted from the Police National Computer (PNC). For the past several quarters there has been a notable difference in the reported and publicised figures by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) compared to Youth Offending Service (YOS) records. The YJB FTE data is sourced directly from police information held on their databases.

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When there is a disproportionate figure published by the YJB this has a negative impact on how the YOS performance is perceived. It is hoped that greater accuracy of the data held by both agencies can be achieved resulting in a true reflection of FTEs.



During the period April 2021 to March 2022 local data indicates that there were 29 FTE's. One FTE identified as female with the remaining 28 identifying as male. All the children were white except for one child who identified as mixed ethnicity.

Of the children that became an FTE 14 had not previously received a Community Resoluion (CR) which would have prevented them from becoming an FTE, due to either the seriousness of the offences, similar/likeminded offences, offences committed in a short period of time, appearances in Court and/or difficulties in enagement with YOS interventions.

Reoffending

The service has strong partnership links with Children's Services and the police. The YOS is represented at monthly Integrated Offender Management (IOM) meetings. Additionally, the service is represented within the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) meetings and monthly Youth 2 Adult (Y2A) meetings with Police and Probation colleagues. All of these connections ensure robust oversight of children who are most at risk of re-offending. Strong multi agency partnership links allow the service to provide crime prevention programmes in local communities, such as the Phoenix Project, Fearless and the Cars and Consequences programme. The vast range of interventions available means the YOS can best reflect the preferred learning style of the child.

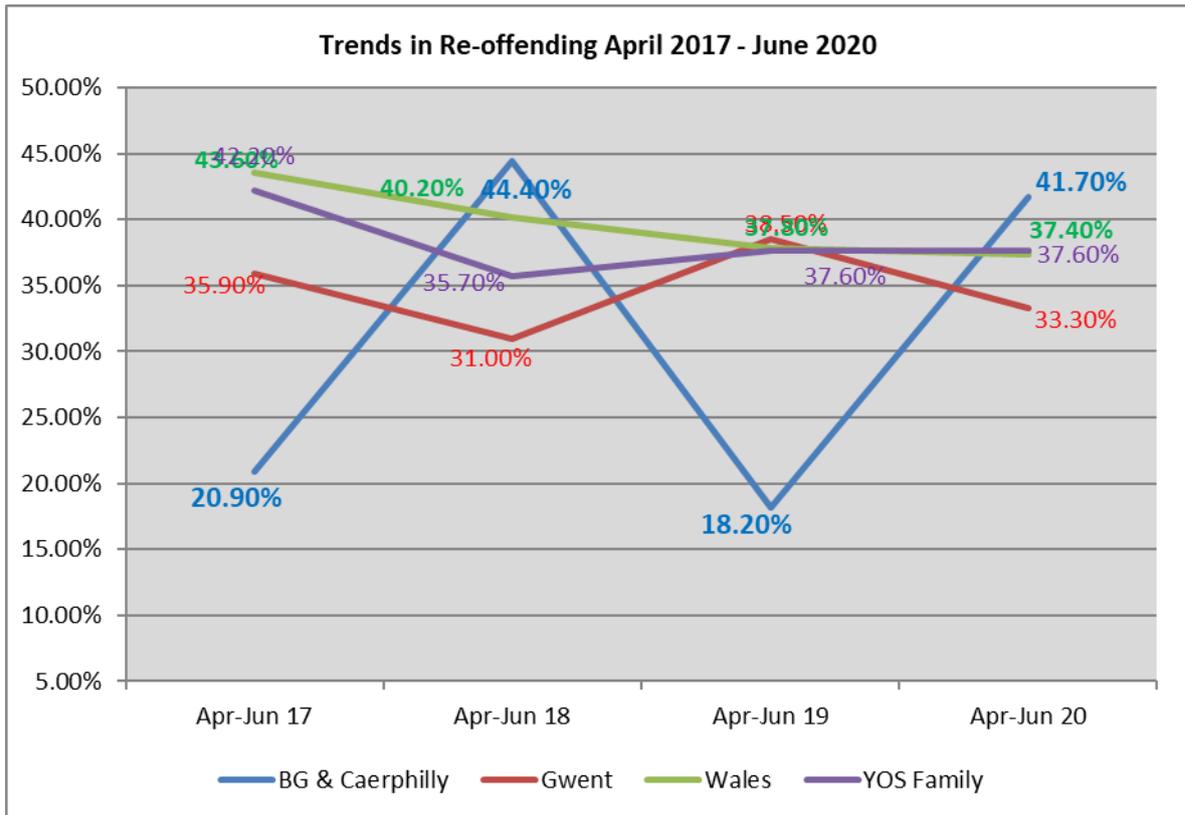
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Restorative Justice continues to remain a priority. The YOS prides itself on its excellent victim services, which has resulted in excellent victim satisfaction rates and positive outcomes for children and victims. The YOS works to the Restorative Justice Council's (RJC) principles of restorative practice which sets out the core values that should be held by all practitioners in the field. The YOS undertakes annual compliance audits against the "Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales November 2020" and the "Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent's Victim Charter", which set out minimum standards for support to victims.

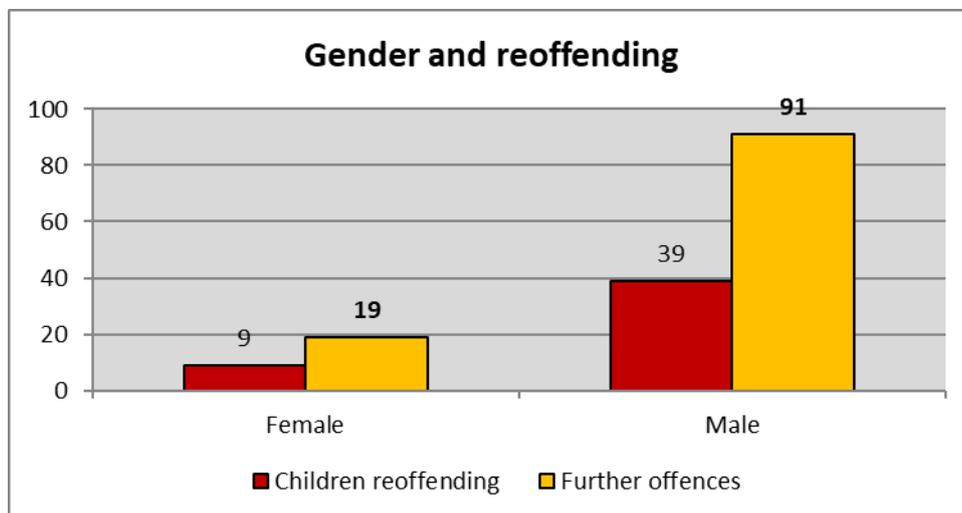
The development of exit strategies remains a significant strength for the YOS. "Good endings" allows the child to continue with the positive changes made after YOS intervention has ended, but they continue to feel supported in the community. It is imperative that the exit strategies are sustainable within the community. The YOS strongly advocates that case closure does not mean the end of relationships as good endings promote desistance and decrease risk.

The YOS has also identified that Children Looked After (CLA) are a disproportionate and vulnerable cohort of children when examining its first time entrant and reoffending data. The YOS has a funded part time CLA Worker in the service to work directly with these children.

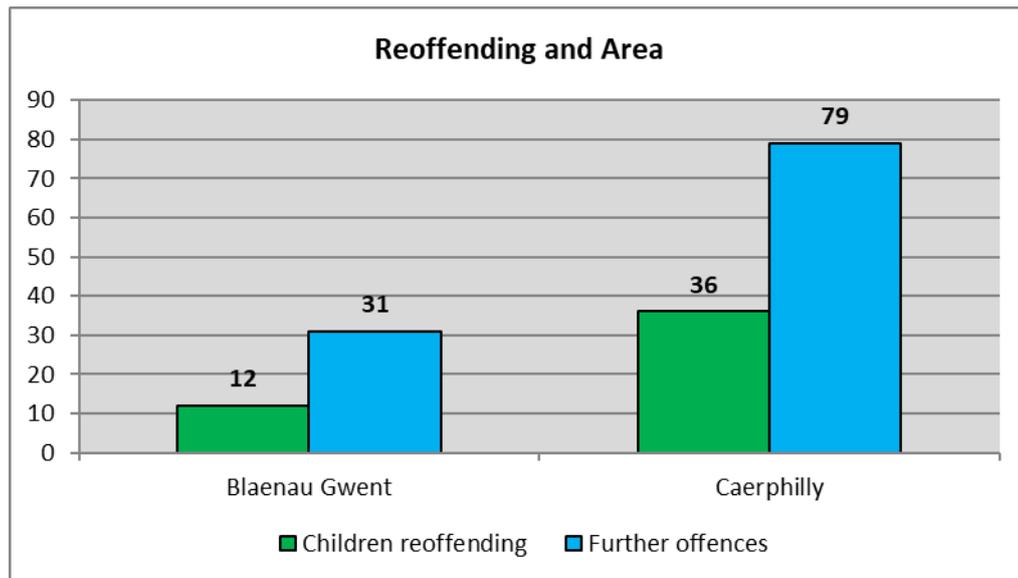
The YOS has dedicated, skilled, and experienced staff members and volunteers trained in delivering a wide range of targeted and structured programmes aimed at reducing re-offending. This includes recognising and responding to areas of Diversity and Speech Language and Communication needs. YOS staff also attended training focusing on LGBTQ+, AIM3 and the YJB Enhanced Case Management (ECM) trauma informed practice programme. The YOS also has a Managing Anger Programme (MAP), Prevention of Burglary resource and Prevent, a tailored programme to tackle anti-social behaviour. Over the past 24 months the YOS has focused on reviewing and improving their direct work and engagement skills in response to messages from desistance theory and approaches, attachment and trauma informed practice. This will all help promote engagement and ensure the needs of all children are being met along with addressing risk areas.



During the period April 2021 to March 2022 48 children reoffended, committing a further 110 offences, of these children 24 were Children Looked After (CLA).



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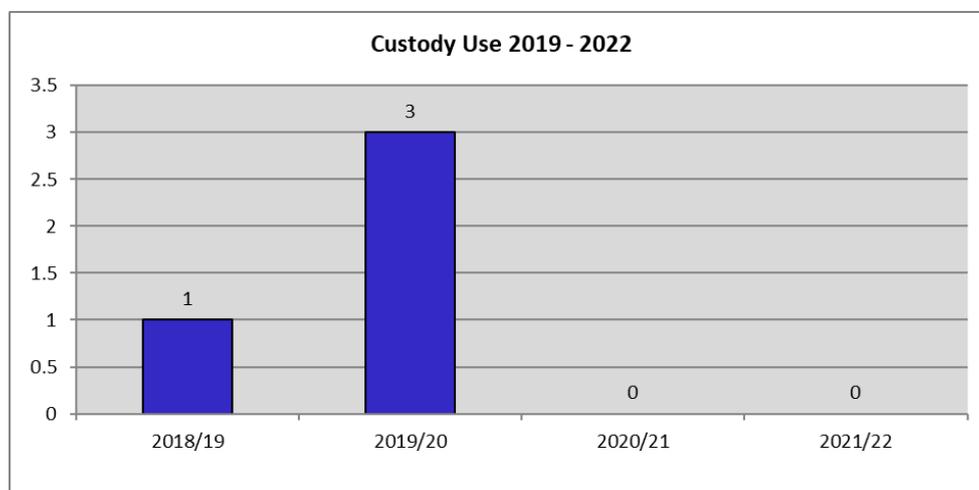
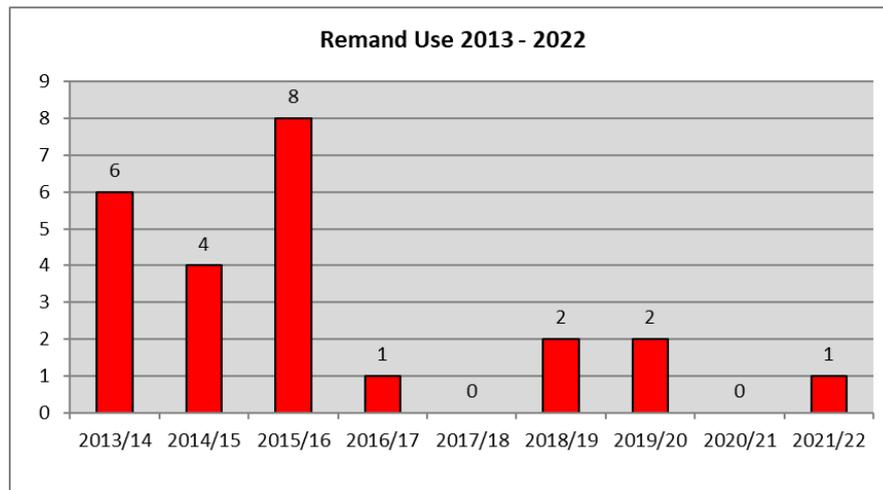
Use of custody

The YOSs Resettlement and Reintegration Panel (RRP) partnership celebrated its eighth anniversary in May 2022. Formed in May 2014, the successful partnership, coordinated by the YOS, provides additional support and great opportunities to children who have previously offended to prevent reoffending and achieve successful outcomes for children. The panel has achieved impressive outcomes by ensuring better services are available to children, helping them to reach their goals and aspirations for the future, and ultimately reducing their offending behaviour by supporting a more productive and positive lifestyle. By working alongside a framework called “The Seven Resettlement Pathways” and “Constructive Resettlement”, which are Youth Justice Board and Welsh Government initiatives, the RRP aims to ensure a child leads a crime free life after their involvement with the Youth Justice System. The Resettlement Pathways include accommodation, education, employment and training, health, substance misuse, family services, finance/ benefits/ debt and transitions. The YOS and its partners monitor the YOS and partners responses to the recommendations within the “Joint thematic inspection of resettlement services to children by Youth Offending Teams and partner agencies” through the panel.

The YOS Case Managers ensure that when a Pre-Sentence Report (PSR) is requested by the Courts that there are robust community alternatives proposed to mitigate against the use of custody. During 2020/21 and 2021/22 there were several cases which were deemed to be at risk of custody however, robust alternative community sentences were proposed resulting in the children receiving community sentences.

The YOS has only had 1 child remanded to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA) in 2021/22. They have also had no children sentenced to custody over the past two years.

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Education

The YOS works closely with partners in both education authorities to enable each child to receive their entitlement of 25+ hours of education per week in an appropriate education setting. Links with dedicated members of staff in both local authorities have helped to manage issues before they are allowed to develop, thus ensuring more positive outcomes for children. Staff meet regularly in multi agency meetings to share information and contribute to Individual Support Plans. Meetings include monthly Children's Services meetings, Risk Panel Meetings, Problem Solving Groups, Resettlement and Reintegration Panel and Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS) panels.

The introduction of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act places responsibilities on the Education Directorate and providers of education for all children up to the age of 25, who require additional support to remain in education or training from September 2021. Some children engaged with the YOS are currently supported by the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice and receive annually reviewed statements, it will therefore be important for YOS staff and education practitioners to ensure a clear understanding of the implications of

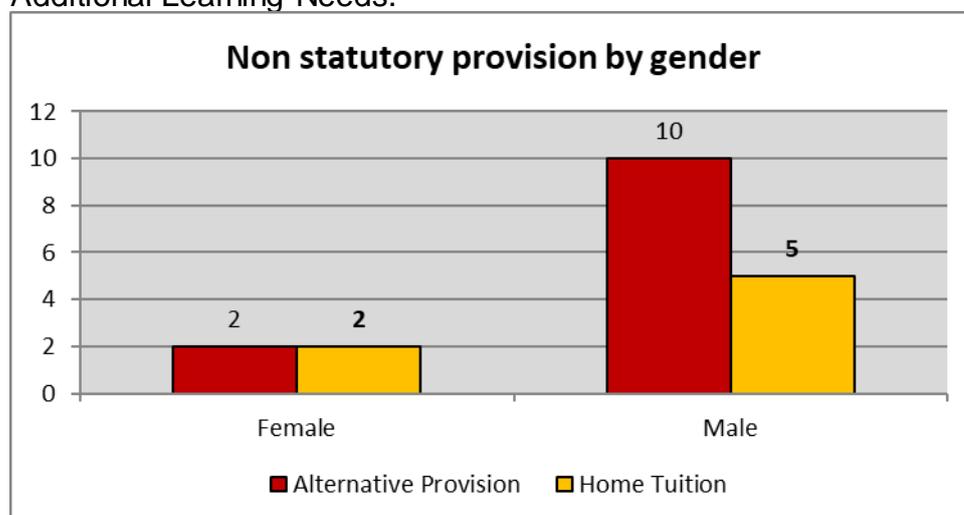
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this Act to ensure that children have their support needs assessed and addressed under the Act.

Over the next 12/24 months the YOS has committed to developing and implementing a Literacy & Numeracy Strategy. Training will be provided for YOS staff on addressing numeracy and literacy needs when assessed/identified and raise awareness of what local resources are available to support improvements when required. The YOS recognises that literacy and numeracy level identification, information gathering and recording on AssetPlus needs to be completed and reviewed at every assessment stage and inform planning.

The YOS recognises the benefits of having direct access to both local authority's education databases to allow them to directly extract information in a timely manner to inform their assessments and planning. Discussions are ongoing regarding this area of work. Access and provision of training to databases such as Tribal, Capita One, SIMS, and Strive etc. will allow the YOS to extract enrolment, numeracy, literacy, attainment, behavioural and attendance information.

During the period April 2021 to March 2022 there were no children of school age on non statutory interventions who were classed as NEET. There were 12 children enrolled in alternative provision and 7 children who were receiving Home Tuition. No children were permanently excluded and 6 children had a statement of Additional Learning Needs.



All children receiving an alternative provision or home tuition identified as White.

During the period April 2021 to March 2022 there were no children of school age on statutory interventions who were classed as NEET. There was child enrolled in alternative provision and no children who were receiving Home Tuition. The child enrolled in an alternative provision was male, identified as White and was a Child Looked After.

Over represented children

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During April 2021 to March 2022 there were 354 interventions open to the YOS; this relates to 310 children open on prevention cases, out of court disposals (OOCs) and court interventions including Criminal Behaviour Orders.

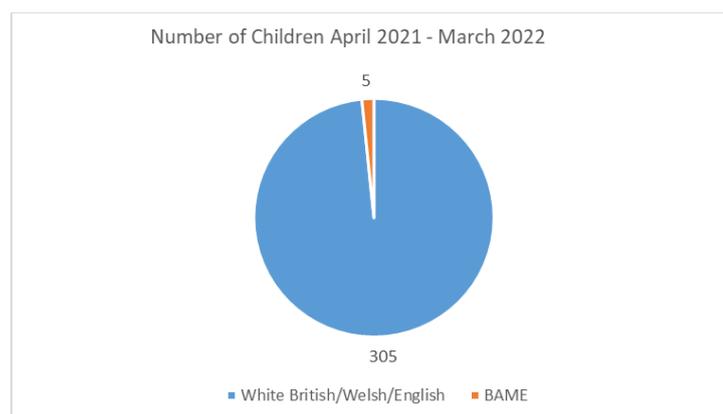
This represents an increase of 91 when comparing the previous year's interventions where there were 263 interventions. There were 310 children which represents an increase of 74 children compared to last year where there were 236 children.

Out of the 310 children, there were 305 children who identified as 'white'; either White Welsh, British or European. There were 5 children who identified as BAME, which equates to 1.61% of the entire cohort. The 5 children were 4 males and 1 female. This represents a decrease of 1 child identifying as BAME compared to the previous year where there were 6 children.

The YOS data demonstrates that children identifying as BAME are underrepresented. However, it should be noted that the 5 children are included from all interventions and 2 of the 5 children received a Community Resolution, which on Police systems would account for them receiving a No Further Action outcome and would not be included in the YJB counting rules and one child was on a Prevention Programme.

The YJB counting rules looks at statutory interventions and when specifically looking at statutory interventions, Youth Cautions and above, there were 37 children in the cohort and there were two BAME children, which equates to 5.4% of the cohort. This demonstrates that the children identifying as BAME in the statutory cohort are overrepresented.

All five children were from Caerphilly, there were no children who identified as BAME from Blaenau Gwent.



CASE NUMBER	Ethnicity	Gender
1	Any Other Mixed Background	Male
2	Any Other Asian Background	Female
3	Indian	Male
4	Other Mixed Background	Male

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5	Italian	Male
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The 5 children were responsible for 7 interventions, one child offended and had multiple interventions throughout the year.

Out of the 5 children discussed above, two children became a First Time Entrant during the financial year. Both children had received CR's previously and therefore had received all alternative options. Of the other three children none are part of the youth justice system which is positive as 2 received a CR outcome and the third was dealt with via a prevention programme. This demonstrates that all children were appropriately dealt with. The outcomes for the 5 children demonstrate that they are not unfairly being escalated through the YJS.

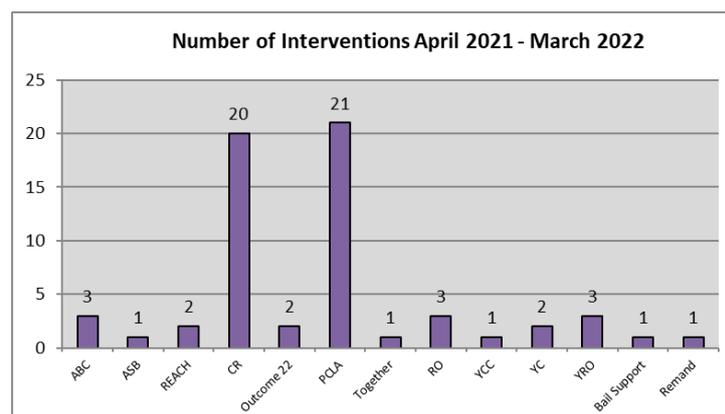
Gypsy/Roma/Traveller Community

During the period March 2021 to April 2022 there was 1 child identified as being from the Roma, Gypsy and Traveller Community.

The child was a male aged 13 from the Ebbw Vale area. He was referred to the YOS for a Prevention Programme.

Children Looked After

During the period March 2021 – April 2022 there were 55 children who were Children Looked After. There were 22 females (40%) and 33 males (60%). Of the 55 children there were 40 (73%) from the Caerphilly area and 15 (27%) from the Blaenau Gwent area. The 55 children were responsible for 61 interventions and committed 43 offences. The highest number of offences committed was for Criminal Damage.

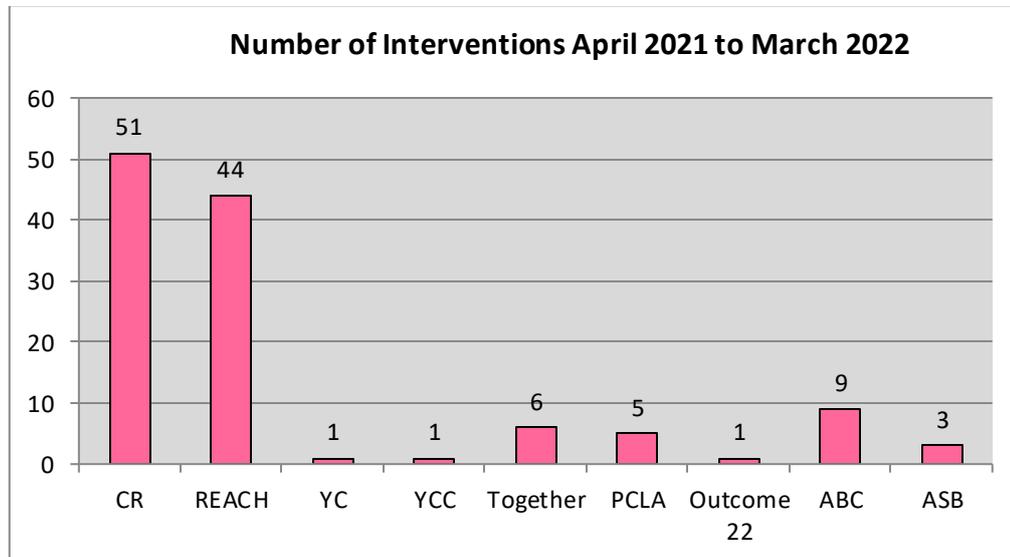


Girls

During the period March 2021 – April 2022 there were 116 children who were girls. Of the 116 children there were 88 (76%) from the Caerphilly area and 28 (24%) from the Blaenau Gwent area. The 116 children were responsible for 121

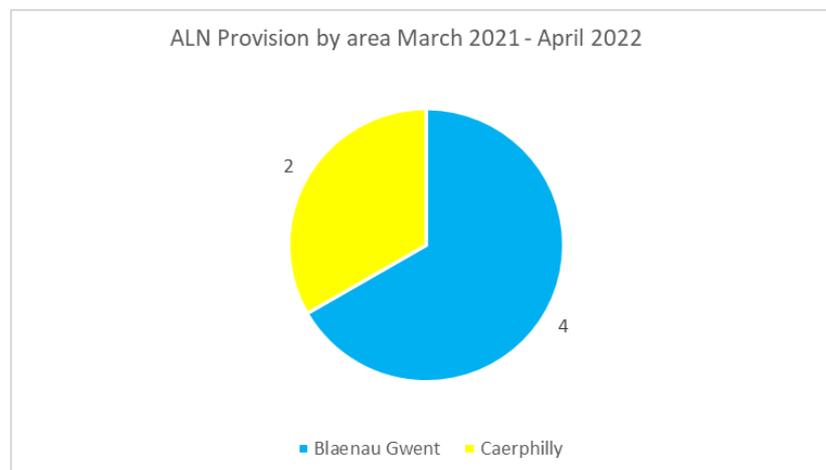
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interventions and committed 60 offences. The highest number of offences committed was for Common Assault.



Additional Learning Needs Provision

During the period March 2021 to April 2022 there were 6 children subject to a Statement of Additional Learning Needs. Two children were from Caerphilly and four from Blaenau Gwent.

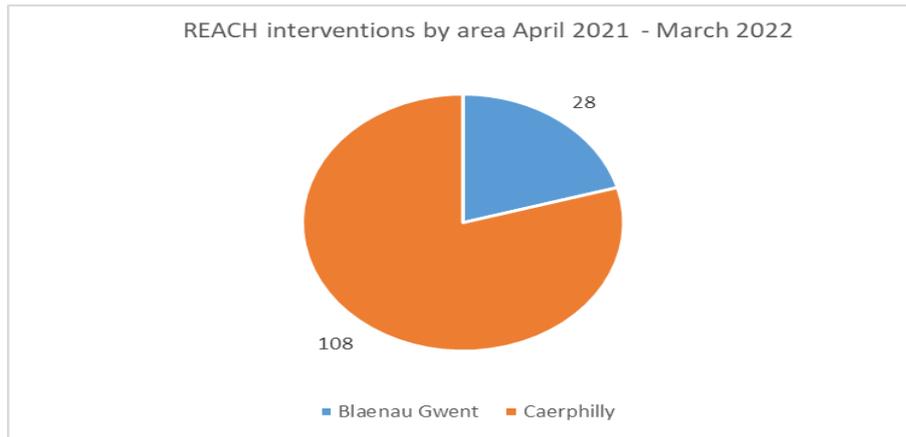


Prevention

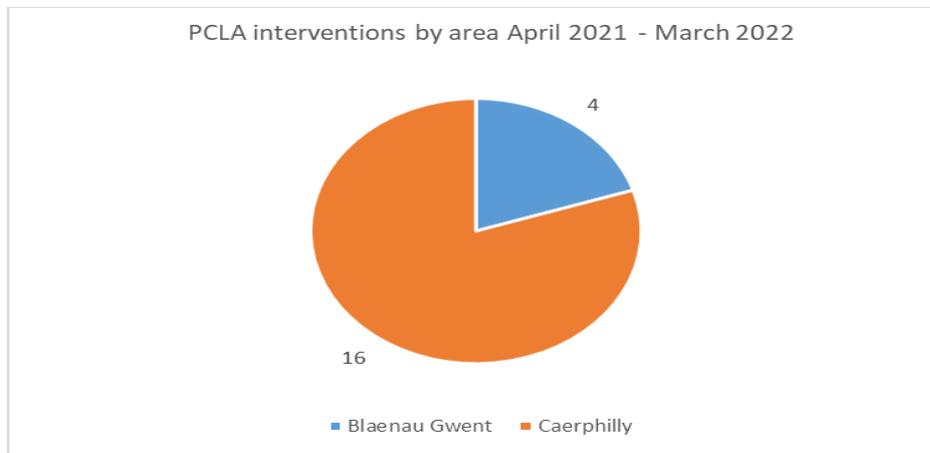
During the period April 2021 – March 2022 there were 136 Prevention programmes open to the YOS.

REACH interventions

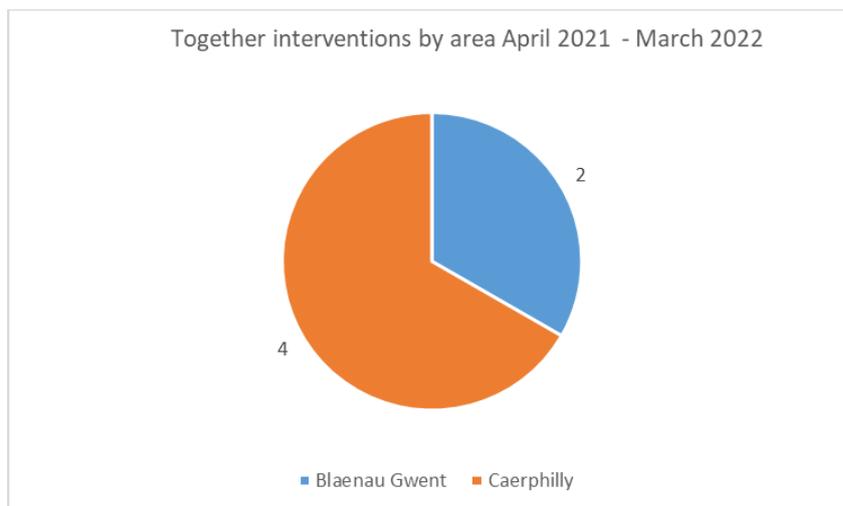
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Protocol to Reduce the Prosecution of Children Looked After (PCLA) interventions



Together Project



Road to Learning Project

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01.04.2021 – 31.03.2022

- Number of children receiving a non substantive outcome Community Resolution (CR) for motoring offences = **14 children**
- Number of children being prevented from FTE as a result of the CR = **13 Children**
 - 1 child had previously received a Youth Caution for Possession of a Knife.
- Number of children reoffending – Whether a motoring offence = **0 children**
- Number becoming FTE's as a result of reoffending = **0 children**
- Number of children referred from court for the CR = **0 children**

Serious Violence & Exploitation

During the period April 2021 to March 2022, excluding prevention cases there were 272 offences committed by children open to the YOS who subsequently received an outcome. These 272 offences were linked to 194 interventions which relates to 172 children.

This represents a decrease of 56 offences on the previous year where there were 328. Also, the interventions decreased by 20 from 204 in 2020/21 to 194 in 2021/22.

During the financial year April 2021 to March 2022 there was one child from the Blaenau Gwent area who received a Restraining Order. The Restraining Order was granted for the following reason:

- The child received a Restraining Order as a result of threatening communication towards his ex-girlfriend's friend. The child received a twelve-month Restraining Order.

Out of the 272 offences there were 43 serious violent offences.

- Possession of Offensive Weapon = 5 offences
- Possession of Knife/blade = 2
- Possession of Firearm/Imitation Firearm = 2
- Affray = 2 offences
- ABH = 20 offences
- GBH = 1 offence
- Assault Police and Emergency Workers = 9 offences
- Assault with resist arrest = 1 offence
- Attempt Assault Police and Emergency Worker = 1 offence

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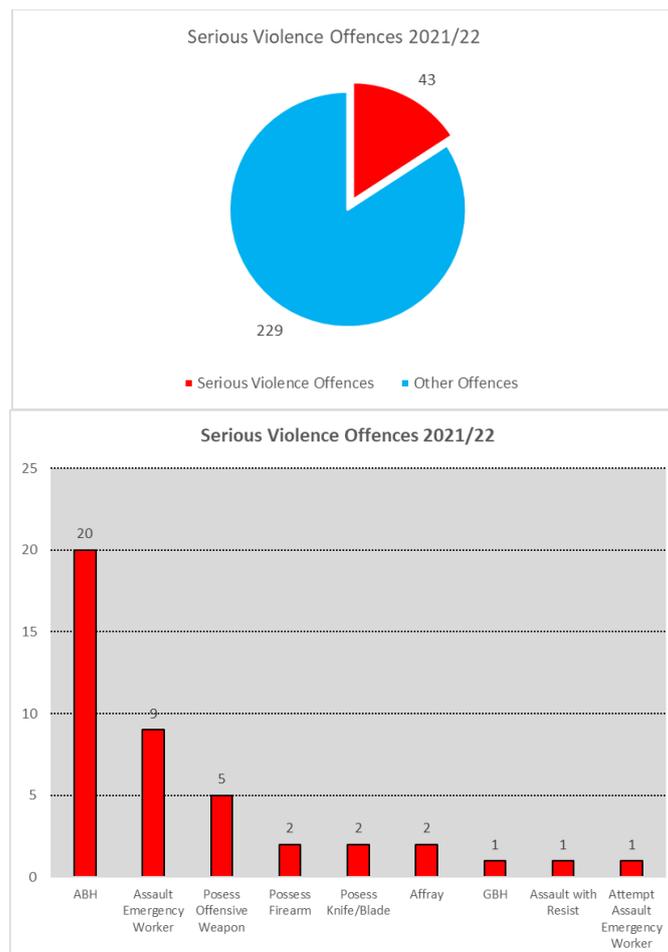
These 43 offences are in relation to 39 children; 10 children were from Blaenau Gwent and 29 were from Caerphilly.

Out of the 39 children there were 9 females who were responsible for 9 interventions who committed 9 serious violent offences. The 9 offences consisting of 1 Possess an offensive weapon offence, 5 ABH offences and 3 offences of Assault Police and Emergency Workers.

None of the 39 children received a custodial sentence. All 39 children received a community intervention and were responsible for 39 interventions.

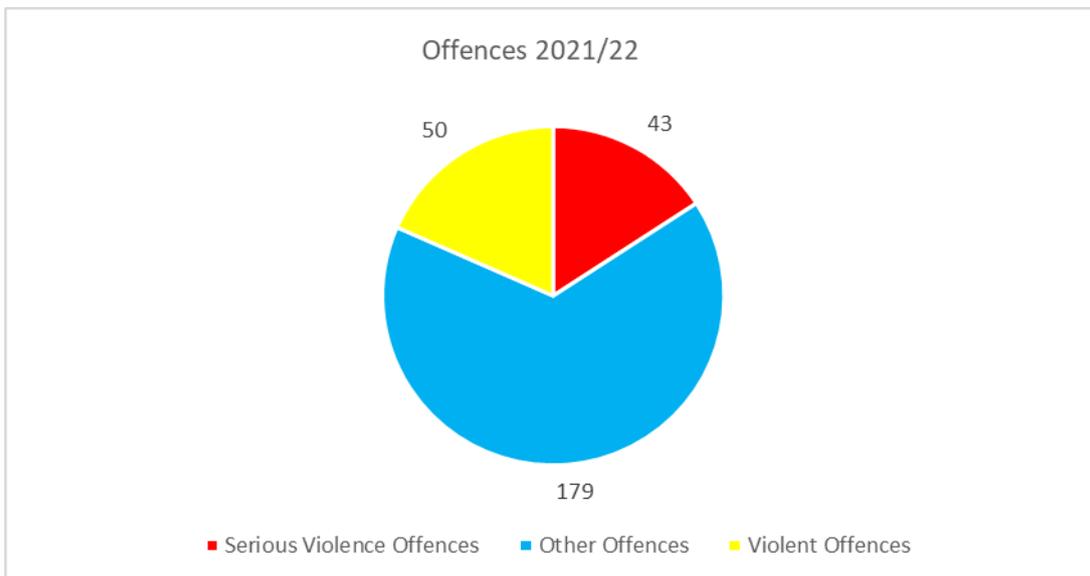
- Community Resolution = 24 interventions
- Referral Orders = 6 interventions
- Youth Caution = 3 interventions
- Youth Conditional Caution = 5 interventions
- Youth Rehabilitation Order = 1 intervention

Serious violent offences for 2021/22 equates to 14.33% of the total amount of offences.



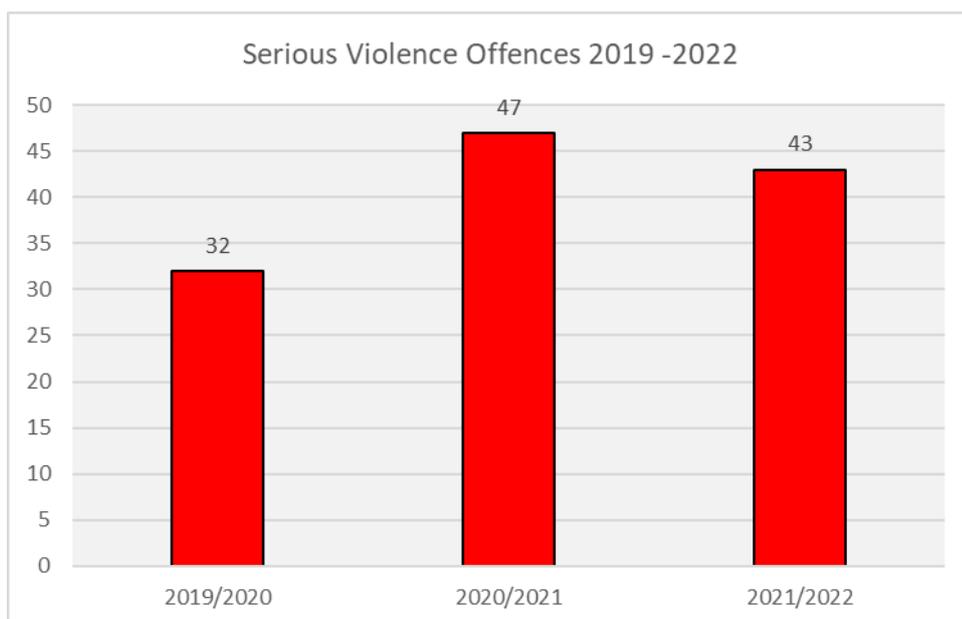
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Additionally, there were 50 other violent offences committed during 2021/22. Combined with the serious violent offences this equates to a total of 93 offences (34.19% of the total amount of offences).



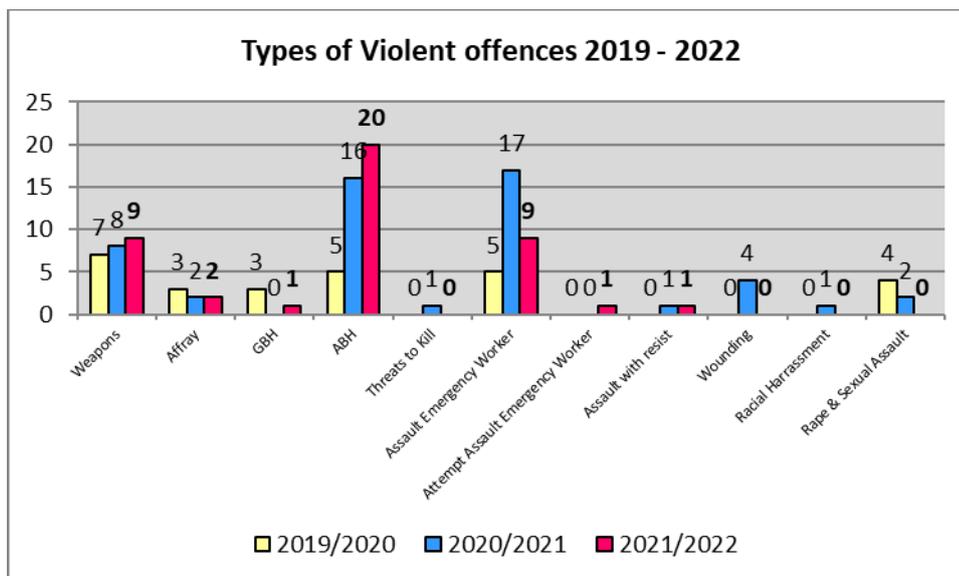
Comparison of 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22

When looking at the current year 2021/22, there is a decrease of serious violence offences compared with 2020/21 where there were 47 offences: a decrease of 4 offences on last year. Looking over a three-year period there has been a consistent level of offending in 2020/21 and 2021/22 following 2019/20.



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When looking at the types of violent offences ABH has increased over the three-year period.



When looking at a three-year period the violent offences have remained consistent with a slight decrease from 2019/20 where there were 52 to 49 in 2020/21 and then increasing slightly to 50 in the year 2021/22.

During the period April 2021 to March 2022 there were 19 children identified as being at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation. Of these 19 children 4 progressed to NRM Panel. All 4 children were male and identified as White.

Constructive resettlement and the use of custody (including remands)

During the period April 2021 to March 2022, there was 1 child who was remanded to YDA. The child was from the Blaenau Gwent area and was remanded to HMIP Parc Young Offenders Institute (YOI).

The use of remand has a cost implication for both Local Authorities. Both Local Authorities receive funding from the YJB, which is allocated per year. In 2021/22 the price per night for a YOI was £315. During 2021/22 the price per night for a YOI was £315. For secure children's home per night is £574. For Secure Training Centres the price per night is £453.

The child received a substantive outcome after their remand episode. The child received a 2 year Youth Rehabilitation Order with an ISS Requirement. The child was discussed at the YOS Resettlement and Reintegration Panel (RRP) and YOS Risk Panel. The child is a Child Looked After.

Every time a child is facing remand in any Court the YOS always offers a community based alternative, highlighting how risks will be managed. The Court Officer had offered community alternatives. However, due to the seriousness of the offence the child was remanded.

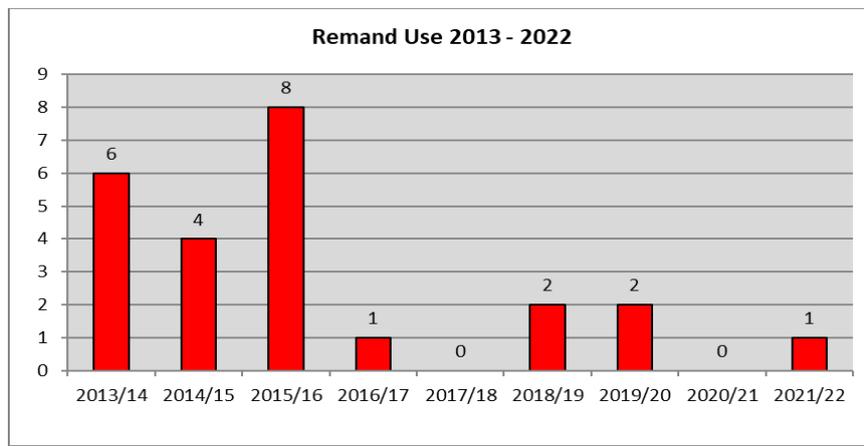
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The child first appeared at Newport Magistrates Court on 02.11.2021. The remand sentence lasted for 25 nights at Parc YOI. The child was 16 years old at the time of the remand. The child committed an offence of Robbery and Possess an offensive weapon in a public place.

The cost of the remand placement for the child was £7,875. The YJB grant covered the costs of the remand placement.

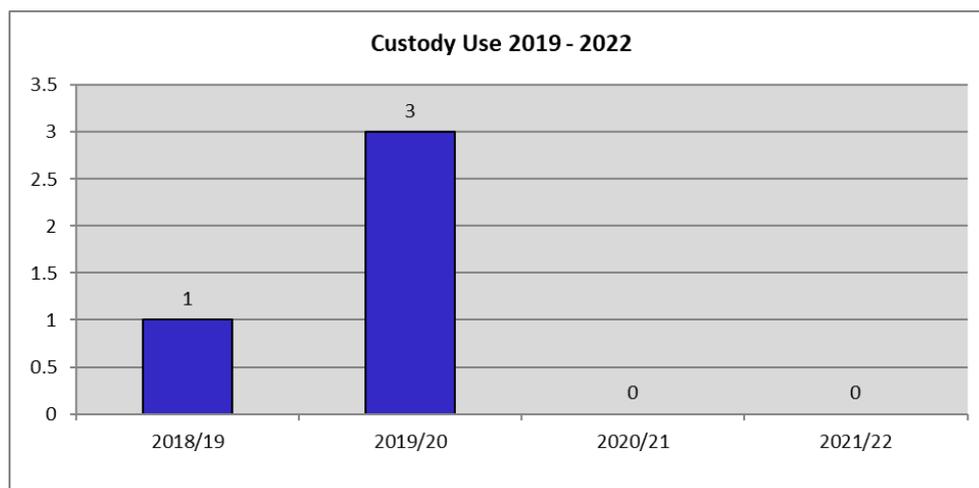
Remand Trends

The number of remand interventions over the last several years are presented below



Custody Trends

During the period April 2021 to March 2022, there were no children in custody. The number of custody interventions over the last four years are presented below.



Accommodation

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During the period April 2021 to March 2022, there were 15 children who closed to the YOS on statutory interventions. All children were in suitable accommodation at the start and the end of their intervention.

Restorative Justice and Victims

During the period April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022, there were 118 recorded victims of youth crime; all other crimes were deemed to be victimless, for example, drug offences, public order offences or driving offences, where the victim is classed as Regina. In the same period last year, there were 151 recorded victims. The number of victims has decreased by 33 since the last reporting period.

Of those 118 victims, every victim of an incident referred via Police was contacted by the YOS Police Officer and the Restorative Justice process explained and offered. This is done by an initial letter and then a follow up phone call and more recently with a home visit.

Of those 118 victims, 84 chose to take part in the victim process, requesting some aspect of Restorative Justice. This being direct or indirect reparation. This equates to a 71% participation rate by those victims.

Victims are offered a range of services by the YOS, although during Covid 19 YOS victim services focused on letters of explanation.

The following numbers illustrate the restorative options requested by the victims:

Letter of Explanation – 76 victims requested a letter from the 83 children involved.

57 letters were completed (69%), 19 children refused to take part (23%), 2 cases are still on-going and 5 have been returned to the OIC (8%).

Face to face meeting/ RJ Conference – 8 were requested

6 children refused to take part in a face-to-face conference (74%), 1 child completed a letter of apology as an alternative to the face to face meeting (13%) and 1 was sent back to the OIC (13%).

Other – 34

29 victims did not wish to take part in any reparation (85%). YOS Police were unsuccessful in contacting the remaining 5 victims (15%).

All victims are provided with a final update by the YOS Police Officer.

Out of all the Restorative Justice that was requested, 26 children did not wish to take part. The victim is updated with this outcome, although disappointed in most cases, it is not unexpected as all victims are aware the restorative process cannot be a compulsory element of the child's plan.

In terms of victim satisfaction rates, the YOS gather this information when providing the victim with the final update.

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The following information was collated:

24 were very satisfied

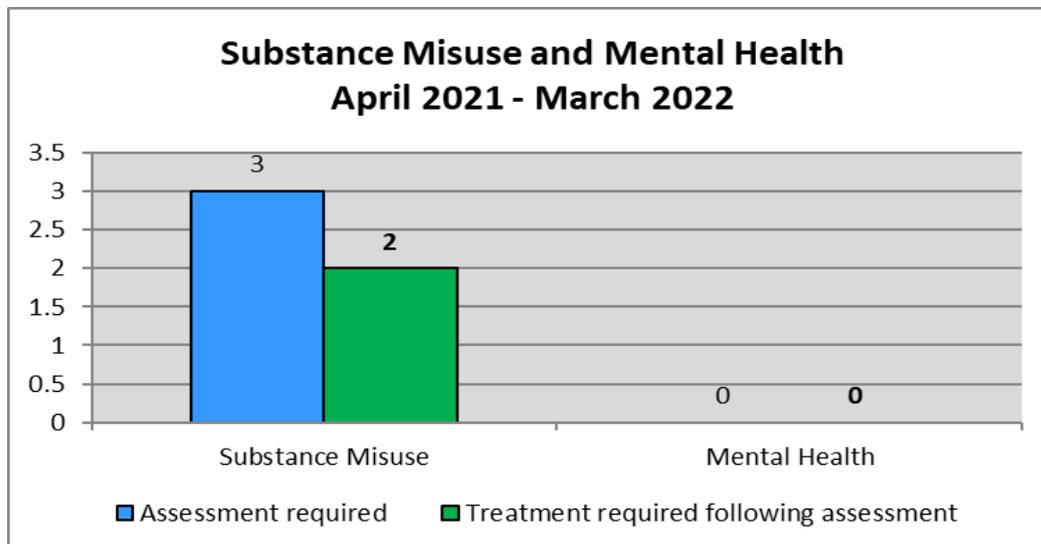
84 were satisfied

4 were unsatisfied

- 1 was unsatisfied with the child receiving an OOC. They did not believe the outcome was proportionate to the offence.
- 2 were unsatisfied as the child refused to complete a letter of apology/explanation.
- 1 was unsatisfied as they have been victims for a long period of time from ASB. The Community Resolution the child received has not stopped the ongoing issue.

Six could not make any comment on the process as the YOS Police were unable to establish contact with the victim.

Health provision to the YOS is of a high standard. The YOS can access a psychologist's time for case discussions, refer to the Enhanced Case Management service and has a full time seconded CAMHS clinical nurse specialist. It has a speech, language and communication therapist for two days per week and a full-time substance misuse worker. Please see below chart for services provided to statutory interventions.



9. National standards

In April 2019 the YJB published new National Standards (NS) for children in the youth justice system. They define the minimum expectation for all agencies that provide statutory services to ensure good outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

At the start of 2020 the YOS completed and submitted its YJB National Standards Self Assessment. It was very pleased with the findings and outcomes across all areas.

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However, there are always improvements identified within any auditing process, therefore the YOS created an action plan to develop any areas identified.

During Covid-19 NS timescales/frequencies remained in place across all YOS interventions although they may have been met via different methods of communication and engagement in line with government messages and safe practices for all involved.

The YOS Service Manager receives NS performance data monthly and NS compliance is monitored via individual staff supervision sessions, quality assurance processes and as part of case management reviewing processes. NS compliance is also included for each of the three internal YOS teams on a rota basis as part of the LMB Quarterly Performance Report.

10. Challenges, risks and issues

The Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Act 2022 will implement a number of significant changes to children engaged with the youth justice system. It looks to ensure custodial remand is always used as a last resort which is welcomed, but there is a need to consider the impact of the Act on community sentences such as the increase to maximum daily curfew from 16 hrs to 20 hrs (weekly max remains 112 hours) for Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs). There may also be an increase from the Courts for Intensive, Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) programmes.

The YJB are currently consulting on a number of new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Once implemented these will need to be understood, communicated, embedded and reported against as additional monitoring requirements.

Other risks and issues are captured in the attached below YOS Risk Register:



Blaenau Gwent &
Caerphilly YOS Risk R

11. Service improvement plan

Please see attached the YOS Youth Justice Plan Improvement Plan for 2022 – 24. Please also see the YOS Workforce development Strategy that underpins this plan and the attached Improvement Plan.



Blaenau Gwent &
Caerphilly YOS Imprc



YOS Staff
Volunteers Workfor

12. Evidence-based practice and innovation

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Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) and Enhanced Case Management (ECM) - The YOS was a pilot and test site for the YJB Enhanced Case Management programme. The ECM draws on a range of psychological and criminological approaches, combining cognitive theories of child development, attachment theory, desistance theory and emerging understanding on neurobiological development. The YOS is still able to access the resource and does so via a psychology informed case discussion alongside the full time Clinical Nurse Specialist in the YOS who is present for each case discussion. The YOS also have trained Trauma Informed Champions.

Interventions - The YOS has a directory of interventions which includes many programmes of work designed by staff, volunteers and children and is creative in how it works with children to address their needs. This includes the 'Road to Learning' programme which is a course for motoring offences, 'Street Doctors' and "RISK" (Reality Is Stabbing Kills) which are knife crime programme, 'Stay Safe' a fire setting and/or arson programme, a five week hate crime course, "Reckless" which is a criminal damage programme of work and 'Respect and Protect' which is a domestic abuse programme. The YOS also promotes a 'learning through play' philosophy which means using interactive games with children whilst delivering interventions.

Resettlement - The YOS has a high-quality, evidence-based resettlement service for children leaving custody which has been in place since 2014. The YOS Resettlement and Reintegration Panel takes account of "The Seven Resettlement Pathways" (Welsh Government initiative) and "Constructive Resettlement", (Youth Justice Board initiative). The resettlement and reintegration pathways include accommodation, education, employment and training, health, substance misuse, family services, finance, benefits, debt and transitions.

Award Winning - In 2020 the YOS 'Be Me' project won an award for 'Best Innovative Practice'. It was created to improve the wellbeing of children with a focus on girls. The project looks at confidence building and self-esteem through the use of beauty treatments in partnership with a local salon. Tutorials, support and advice is provided on a one to one basis and offers the opportunity for careers advice sessions as well. This project was led by children following consultation and engagement with girls known to the YOS

Volunteers are regularly nominated for awards. This includes volunteers winning a Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) award for a number of consecutive years.

Participation - The YOS uses various methods of engagement to capture children's feedback ensuring that they are inclusive to all children. The feedback includes the different activities that children have been involved in, for example their experience of the Bureau, Referral Order Panel, reparation, interventions and other areas of service delivery. To complement the existing methods the YOS will be developing a ViewPoint App to offer children to enhance participation opportunities. Please see attached for an example of a YOS Quarterly Participation Report (Q4 2021/22):

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4. YOS Local
Management Board

Specialist Assessments - Most staff are trained in Assessment, Intervention and Moving On (AIM3) for working with children who display harmful sexual behaviour.

13. Looking forward

The YOS will continue to deliver a Child First service whilst working collaboratively with children and families.

Work has already started regarding the actions and areas for improvement identified within this plan.

From April 2022 the YOS has welcomed more staff back to the office, resumed face to face contact and engagement with children and families and restarted face to face Risk Management, Referral Order and Bureau Panel processes.

Following a "Good" inspection rating the YOS is awaiting the publication of their inspection report to ensure all areas for development are identified, understood and actioned, whilst also sharing the positives in the report (including 6 outstanding and four good ratings out of 12) with staff, volunteers, partners, children and families and other stakeholders.

14. Sign off, submission and approval

Joint Chair of YOS Board	Gareth Jenkins
Signature	
Date	29.07.22
Joint Chair of YOS Board	Alison Ramshaw
Signature	

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Date	29.07.22

15. Appendix 1 –

- A. Full board membership; linked to Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements
- B. Attendance and dates of board meetings 2021-22

A**Board Membership (as of July 2022)**

Name & Title	Authority/ Organisation	Contact Details
Gareth Jenkins – Joint Chair - Assistant Director, Children’s Services	Caerphilly CBC	jenkig2@caerphilly.gov.uk 01443 864520
Alison Ramshaw – Joint Chair – Interim Assistant Director, Children’s Services	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Alison.Ramshaw@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk 07896584764
Michaela Rogers – Service Manager	YOS	rogerm@caerphilly.gov.uk 01495 235623
Adam Edwards Mental Health Advisor	Aneurin Bevan Health Board	adam.edwards@wales.nhs.uk 01633 436835
Mike Jones – Finance Service Manager	Caerphilly CBC	jonesmj@caerphilly.gov.uk 01443 864618
Amanda Lewis Head of Probation Delivery Unit Gwent	HM Prison & Probation Service	Amanda.Lewis1@justice.gov.uk 01443 494250 (320401)
Sarah Ellis Lead for Inclusion and ALN, Education	Caerphilly CBC	ELLISS@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK
Lisa Adams Senior Education Welfare Officer	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Lisa.adams@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk 01495 353340

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Ceri Edwards Environmental Health Manager	Safer Caerphilly Partnership	EDWARC@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK 01443 811332
Andrew Parker Service Manager: Policy and Partnerships	Safer Blaenau Gwent Partnership	community.safety@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk 01495 356145
Amanda Thomas – Chief Inspector	Gwent Police	Amanda.thomas@gwent.pnn.police.uk 01633 838111
Kerry Denman Housing Solutions Manager,	Housing Caerphilly CBC	DENMAK@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK 01443 873548
Mark Congreve Team Manager - Housing Solutions and Compliance	Housing Blaenau Gwent CBC	mark.congreve@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk 07854 367028
Helena Baker Performance and Information Manager	YOS	BAKERH@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK 01495 235623
Paty Wysom – Area Manager	Careers Wales	paty.wysom@careerswales.com 02920 84 6573
Lesley Kemp - Acting Legal Team Manager	Gwent Magistrates' Court	Llesley.kemp1@Justice.gov.uk 01633 261300
Eleri Thomas	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	Eleri.thomas@gwent.pnn.police.uk 01633 876 466
Liam Thomas Engagement and Progression Co- ordinator (NEETS)	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Liam.Thomas@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk 01495 355690
John Poyner Engagement and Progression Co- ordinator (NEETS)	Caerphilly CBC	POYNEJ@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK 01443 864970
Elaine Forehead Councillor	Caerphilly CBC	elaineforehead@caerphilly.gov.uk 07792 566314
Haydn Trollope Councillor	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Hayden.Trollope@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk 01495 718276

B



2. Attendance at LMB
Meetings - 2021 - 2022

16. Appendix 2 -

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- C. Service Structure Chart
 D. Reporting arrangements for the Head of Service.
 E. Staffing diversity characteristics (ethnicity, sex and known disability of staff)

C



YOS Organisational
 Chart July 2022 - YJ P

D



Children-s-Org-Cha
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E



YOS Staffing -
 Ethnicity, Gender and

F



YOS Staff Volunteers
 Workforce Developm

Common youth justice terms

ACE	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention

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	on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training or employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
HMCTS	Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who

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	inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
ISS	Intensive, Supervision and Surveillance Programme
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre
SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YOI	Young offender institution