



CWM TAF YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE  
GWASANAETH TROSEDDU IEUENCID CWM TAF  
WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES  
GWETHIO GYDA PHOBL IFANC A'U CYMUNEDAU

# Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

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## Foreword

This youth justice plan aims to prioritise against new initiatives within the national and local youth justice system, such as the 'Blueprint for Youth Justice in Wales'. A number of priorities set out within the last youth justice plan action plan 2021/22 will remain priorities for the year ahead. There is a clear impetus to build upon the restructure of the service completed in August last year, designed to provide a stronger focus on developing early intervention and prevention work, and this very much mirrors the priorities set out in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Annual Plan for 2022/23. The restructure has been essential in order to better meet service demand and enables the YOS to further embed and develop a trauma informed, relationship based approach with children and young adults within prevention, as well as statutory services.

YOS staff have demonstrated their resilience and flexibility in difficult circumstances during the past two years in order to best support children and families and victims of youth crime. Staff well being will continue to be a priority and the YOS management team will ensure that support is made available to those staff who require it.

The YOS consistently demonstrates its effectiveness to the Offender Management Board via case studies presented by practitioners on a quarterly basis. This year, the decision by members to prioritise case studies within the agenda to allow quality time for discussion by all partners has proved beneficial in creating an improved and shared understanding of the practical difficulties, barriers and achievements. The cases have illustrated effective inter agency working, whilst highlighting the challenges of working with children who present with very complex needs.

One of the main challenges during the coming year includes a partnership approach to working with children and families to enable access to education, training and employment opportunities. This work, led by an internal YOS ETE team has been a highlight of the work carried out by the service during the past year, and has been central in identifying those children with additional learning needs (ALN). The work has benefitted from the input and support of an educational psychologist and managers within the education dept to ensure that children can receive their educational entitlement. Appropriate health provision for the YOS, currently being negotiated, will enable the YOS to shape the model of the service to add value to a trauma informed, relationship based approach that will meet the needs of children, young adults, families and victims and to achieve better outcomes in the longer term.

Therefore, this plan sets out the priorities following structural change which began in 2019/20 and illustrates the progress we have made to date, identifies the potential risks and challenges that lie ahead and the implications for future service delivery.

Paul Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services, Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC	Lisa Curtis Jones Chief Officer, Social Services, Merthyr Tydfil CBC
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## 1. Introduction, Vision and Strategy

***Cwm Taf YOS is committed to working in partnership to deliver early intervention, prevention and statutory services that will enable children to desist from offending and anti social behaviour, and create opportunities for them to realise their full potential.***

***The vision is underpinned by a 'child first,' trauma informed approach to all aspects of our work to achieve better outcomes for children, young adults and victims of crime.***

The Youth Justice Plan for Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service (YOS) 2022/23 is produced in accordance with the duty imposed within Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for each local authority, in consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan each year. This plan aims to set out how youth justice services in the area are to be provided and funded, and what functions the Youth Offending Service will carry out. This is the sixth plan that has been submitted for the Cwm Taf region since the collaboration of the two local authority areas in 2014.

The plan mirrors the Youth Justice Board's 'Child First Strategy set out within the Youth Justice Board (YJB) Strategic Plan 2021-2024, and promotes practice that builds on children's strengths, enabling them to make a positive contribution to their communities and to stay safe. As mentioned above, the work of the YOS cross cuts with the priorities set out in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board (CTMSB) Annual Plan 2022/23 and the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan. The CTMSB plan is focussed on an improved approach to public protection concerns through the development of an 'Exploitation Strategy' that clearly sets out how we respond to, and monitor practice relating to criminal exploitation, radicalisation and modern slavery, whilst strengthening links to other partnerships across the region.

The changes and challenges outlined above has led to the consideration of 7 key priorities for Cwm Taf YOS during the next financial year:

- ***Maintain staff well being***
- ***Embed Child First approach into practice***
- ***Prevention and Diversion Services***
- ***Education, Training and Employment***
- ***Health provision***
- ***Exploitation***
- ***Develop and monitor quality assurance processes within YOS QA and Case Manager forums***

The priorities are aimed at;

- Improving our understanding of the needs of the YOS cohort
- Building upon improving meaningful partnership working
- Better outcomes for children, young adults and victims of crime
- Develop and maintain clear lines of governance and improve accountability of the Board

The YOS is monitored by a YJB Performance Oversight Board (POB) regarding the rate and frequency of reoffending, the use of custody and numbers of first time entrants (FTE's) into the youth justice system.

The YOS currently submits local data in relation to education, training and employment, substance misuse, accommodation and mental health, and this data is shared with Welsh Government and other key stakeholders. However, a new set of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are being developed that will better reflect the work, and performance of the service.

## 2. Child First

Cwm Taf YOS has been proactive in developing a child first approach which treats children as children and seeks to ensure that they are not unnecessarily criminalised as a result of their vulnerability or the challenges they face. Despite the reduction in the numbers of children who enter into the criminal justice system, the service is currently dealing with larger numbers who are on the cusp of the system and who present with varied and complex needs. This situation has been exacerbated by the negative impact of the Covid 19 pandemic as illustrated in other sections of this plan, and which includes data in relation to education and school attendance (refer to section 6 under ETE). The YOS is currently working alongside education via a working group to consider the challenges of pupil attendance and quality of ETE provision for those who become known to the service.

By restructuring the service in 2021, Cwm Taf YOS has increased its investment in prevention and diversion services and is developing systems to enable a targeted approach, so that we can identify the right support for individuals and families at the right time. This approach is reflected in our early assessment prevention processes which seeks to recognise the underlying needs of the child and remove judgement bias and discriminatory language.

The YOS has a Child First 'Champion' within the team who has led on the implementation of a Child First Strategy with accompanied guidance for staff, and this very much reflects the central approach and guiding principles set out in the Youth Justice Board's Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024. The YOS understands the need to analyse local data in relation to all children who have protected characteristics under the Equality act 2010 whilst recognizing the over representation in the criminal justice system of children who are looked after (CLA). The recent 'All Wales Protocol, Reducing the Criminalisation of Care Experienced Children and Young Adults' sets out best practice for avoiding the criminalisation of children who are looked after. Current local data for Cwm Taf relates to Out of Court Disposal (OoCDs) and Court Orders between April 2021 – March 2022, with 12% of 'children looked after' subject to OoCDs and 28% for the smaller cohort who received a court order.

The YOS will continue to monitor and analyse data on an annual basis, recognizing that trends and challenges will change overtime. As such, a YOS diversity panel will aim to develop child friendly resources that will further assist practitioners to obtain accurate data in relation to the child's experience/identification. The above is outlined in the current Cwm Taf YOS Child First action plan.



### 3.Voice of the child

Cwm Taf YOS has set out in its 'Child First Practice Guidance' the importance of directly exploring with the child their identity and personal experiences of past trauma and the impact this has upon them and how it contributes to their behaviour. Children are heard using a variety of strategies. This includes the self assessment tool at the start, review and end stages of their intervention.

In January 2022, a 'voice of the stakeholder' audit was conducted across 8 cases. The questions were drawn from the Domain 1, 2 and 3 of the HMIP Inspectorate documents, and the results found that there were good opportunities for the child's voice to be heard at assessment, review and closure stage. There are also opportunities for feedback through self assessments (including a version for younger children), individual learning plans (ILPs), Learning Styles and Speech and Language questionnaires. Daily recorded contacts also evidenced a good deal of children's comments and views, and although this was more difficult to collate, it demonstrated positive and trusting relationships between case managers and children.

The child's thoughts and feelings about YOS service delivery and interventions they have experienced (in both prevention and statutory cases) are completed by an independent evaluator within the service.

Management review of cases for Youth Rehabilitation Orders and Referral Order Panels also captures the views of children regarding their YOS experience and how it can be developed or improved.

The YOS plans to gain expertise advice from children's commissioning panel in respect of its use of child friendly language on plans and forms. This panel is Welsh Government supported and is led by children and young people.

The YOS currently uses an evaluation toolkit which matches to the devolved indicators via a 'Viewpoint' system. This enables responses in respect of education, substance misuse, health, accommodation and restorative services for both adult and child victims of crime.

The YOS internal education team has set up an individual learning questionnaire and uses these to support children to formulate a YOS education plan. These documents will inform multi agency Additional Learning Needs (ALN) plans or other Education planning meetings to formulate education plans for children accessing YOS services who are experiencing barriers in education, training or employment.

The following projects offer children opportunities to have their voice heard via participation and engagement;

**Youth Outreach Service** – this multidisciplinary team led by a YOS Coordinator alongside Police and Substance Misuse workers attends identified ASB hotspots on a weekly basis across the Cwm Taf region to engage with children within their own communities during evenings and weekends. This project consults with children and feeds their information back to Police problem solving groups and ASB forums.

An example of this is the recent project where children were invited onto the YOS vehicle to discuss beauty products and personal and sexual health care. The children (primarily female) were keen to engage and informed the team members that they would like some craft activities for the summer. It transpired they did not necessarily want to attend a youth club, but wanted internet access and opportunities for casual activities such as jewellery making or other small craft items they could then keep for themselves. This information will form part of the 2022 Summer (activities) Programme.

**Right Hook Project** – children attend for up to 12 weeks using the Fight for Peace model of boxing/martial art discipline alongside personal development. Children are consulted during their personal development time to offer their opinions on various local matters that have happened or are emerging. Examples of this includes discussion around carrying knives or sharp items for protection and awareness raising about self harming.

The information provided by children can be used for individual interventions or feedback to Police or other appropriate agencies, eg, Transport for Wales, or intelligence for the Youth Outreach Service staff to use as needed.

The YOS submits examples of the engagement and participation staff undertake with young people to the Safeguarding Board via the Engagement Participation and Communication (EPC) sub group on a quarterly basis. The nature and extent of this work is being monitored by the group which is attended by partners across the partnership and is chaired by the YOS Head of Service.

### **Practice example**

*A CLA child known to YOS was on the cusp of losing her placement at a care home following a continuous spell of absconding behaviour. The YOS Case Manager discussed thoughts and feelings linked to her behaviour, and she described her lived experience during the day as being one where she could keep busy and distract herself. She further described going to bed as a period of time when dark thoughts would fill her head and getting up and out of the house was the only way she could manage her feelings. This child had severe and many adverse childhood experiences, the most recent being vilified by her family for reporting her brother as perpetrating sexual abuse against her for a long period of time.*

*A YOS volunteer was introduced to the child who agreed to stay up with her during the late evenings and remain there until such time as she felt settled. A trusting relationship was developed over time and the child eventually agreed to walk outside the home for 10 – 20 minutes during the night until such time that she became tired and came back into the home to fall asleep safely.*

#### 4. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

Cwm Taf is currently the only region in Wales that is overseen by a joint group of senior managers responsible for both children and adults who enter the criminal justice system or are on the periphery of entering into the youth justice system and is known as the Offender Management Board (OMB). The OMB was established to support the implementation of a consistent and effective system of offender management and to ensure effective accountability and scrutiny of service provision and performance. In Cwm Taf, this includes the provision of diversionary work, which mainly involves out of court disposals (OoCD), Restorative Street Disposals (known as YRDs in Cwm Taf), and early intervention and prevention services.

The Offender Management Board meets on a quarterly basis and is co-chaired by the Group Director, Community & Children's Services, in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Chief Officer, Social Services in Merthyr Tydfil. This arrangement ensures appropriate representation and level of decision making and influence across both local authority areas. The OMB reports to the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership (CSP), and the YOS Head of Service completes a quarterly highlight report for the CSP.

The Board is well represented by all key statutory partners, as well as non statutory partners where these add value, and membership has been sufficiently consistent to enable continuity of approach during the past few years. The inclusion of elected members on the Board enables effective awareness and communication through to the relevant political structures, promoting a level of scrutiny across two local authority areas. The Deputy Leader of Merthyr Tydfil and the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People RCT are attendees on the Board. A full list of current Board members can be found in Appendix 1.

The inclusion on the Board of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner also ensures an effective means of communication that assists the YOS to align its priorities with the South Wales Police and Crime Plan 2019 - 23 and assists in raising awareness of other strategic national priorities.

The YOS management team continues to ensure that it communicates the work it undertakes to the Board and completes a highlight report to demonstrate its progress or to highlight areas of concern. For example, in the two Board meetings held this year (2022), YOS managers have provided examples of service developments regarding service user feedback processes (including victims of crime), education, training and employment and early intervention and prevention services. Also, Board members submit a Highlight Report template designed to highlight areas of concerns or good practice in relation to offending behaviour. This further promotes a culture of accountability for the Board whilst strengthening governance and links to other strategic groups.

Furthermore, the Board has been advised on the inspection findings of other youth justice services across the South Wales region to gain a better understanding of the issues at hand and how they may, or may not, relate to our own service. The evidence we provide to the Board therefore offers some assurances to Board members regarding performance, staffing, resources and areas we would like to improve, but in the longer term to foster a forum with which to invite discussion and challenge on a more regular basis.



YOS Managers have maintained their attendance and responsibilities within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board and represent YOS on a number of Safeguarding Board sub groups. The YOS Head of Service chairs the Engagement, Participation and Communication (EPC) sub group, and much of the engagement work initiated by the YOS is captured within this forum. YOS Team Managers are involved in Child Practice Reviews (CPR) when necessary and one Team Manager has undertaken the role of a CPR reviewer on two occasions during the past 6 months.

An Offender Management Board highlight report, which outlines the work of the OMB, is provided to the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Steering Group by the YOS Head of Service on a quarterly basis, and in the same timescales the progress of the OMB is reported to the South Wales Criminal Justice & Integrated Offender Manager Board (SWCJ&IOM) where the Cwm Taf Head of Service currently represents the 6 South Wales Youth Offending Services.

The YOS Management team recognises that it can do more to improve the knowledge base and understanding of Board members regarding the work carried out by YOS staff on a day to day basis. A quarterly YOS bulletin has now been developed that will go some way to achieving this.

## **5.Resources and services**

This section outlines how the Cwm Taf YOS uses its YJB grant, it's partner contributions and other resources in order to improve services that will benefit, children, young adults, families and victims to improve service delivery and achieve better outcomes.

### **Trauma Informed Practice (TIP)**

Since the completion of the Enhanced Case Management (ECM) pilot in Cwm Taf, the YOS has ensured that trauma informed practice remains one of the priorities and we have continued to embed a 'relationship based approach' (RBP) across the service. The key characteristics of this model are underpinned by the Trauma Recovery Model (Skuse and Matthew 2015) and an assessment of the child's position within the model.

This work has been greatly assisted by the YOS having a trauma informed 'specialist lead worker' (also seconded to the YJB) who has been instrumental in terms of developing practice in this area, providing guidance and support to case managers whilst liaising with colleagues in partner agencies. The YOS has devised an action plan to record how we will embed Trauma Informed Practice in the short and longer term, providing staff consultation and formulation meetings (currently without the psychology input). We have identified trauma 'champions' across the four teams and have focused on training to better reflect this approach in assessments and intervention plans.

We have benefitted considerably from ECM being reinstated by FACTS and the YOS has been proactive in referring in relevant cases. This resource has now been extended to include referrals from the prevention arm of the service where we are dealing with increasing numbers of children presenting with complex needs. The development of trauma informed practice continues to be one of our priorities for the forthcoming year.

### **Health**

During 2021-22, we continued to strive towards re-configuring health services within the YOS.

The YOS lost a 2 day mental health post (CAMHS) within this period and has since been negotiating for this post to be reinstated. It is reassuring that this provision was recently agreed, however the nature of the allocation to the service has yet to be confirmed, and CAMHS are currently identifying an appropriate worker to fulfil this role. It is likely this worker will focus on staff consultations initially, however, discussions will continue as to whether they can work towards undertaking forensic assessments and interventions.

In 2020-21, the YOS made the decision to increase our speech and language time and secured funding for a worker to deliver this service two days a week. Although in 2021-22, a new SLA was devised reflecting this change, the YOS Speech and Language Therapist has been on a period of long term sick leave. We have had a replacement worker, but Health have not been able to commit to the full two day contribution. It is anticipated the worker will return to work shortly and this will enable us to meet the needs of the cohort in terms of assessments at a time when we are seeing a significant increase in referrals. It will also enable us to develop the service further, providing interventions alongside other partner organisations such as Courts and Police to improve outcomes for children.

In 2020-21, we reduced our Health Visitor specialist time from 1 ½ posts to one part time worker (four days a week) as it was anticipated that the additional money (contribution from Health) could buy in psychology time to enhance our trauma informed practice. Negotiations are currently ongoing regarding this resource. It is reassuring that in the meantime, agreement has been reached for our Health Visitor time to be increased to full time hours from 1<sup>st</sup> August this year. As an interim measure, Health are confirming if they can provide us with Psychology time from generic CAMHS and it is our intention that this post will offer a higher level of input 'in house' for some of the more complex children, whilst complimenting the Enhanced Case Management provision led by FACTS across Wales.

## **Substance Misuse**

Much of the funding relating to this area is provided by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). In addition to undertaking assessments and delivering interventions (on a one to one or group basis depending on need), as part of their role, the specialist substance misuse workers deliver training and also contribute to the delivery of any relevant campaigns being run by the Home agency (Barod).

Changes have been made to the substance misuse referral process whereby the substance misuse workers are allocated a case prior to a formal referral. This system is aligned with the Cwm Taf YOS trauma informed model and has the aim of improving engagement in the process and better managing the sequencing of interventions being provided to the child.

The three substance misuse workers have been providing specialist information and advice to children as part of a weekly evening outreach project run by the YOS, in partnership with the Police. We hope to develop their role in relation to outreach over the following year and anticipate it will be an invaluable resource for this project.

A quarterly outcome meeting has been held which is attended by the YOS manager with responsibility for substance misuse and a Barod Manager, in addition to the three Substance Misuse Workers. The group use this meeting to routinely QA a case from

start to finish (assessment, intervention and exit strategy). The focus of this meeting is also to review quarterly returns and identify any significant trends and gaps in resources. Any barriers to service delivery will then be escalated from this forum to the Offender Management Board (OMB).

The substance misuse team has experienced some instability during 2021-22 as a result of staff turnover within the team, however, we are now up to full capacity with the priority during the forthcoming year to create stability within the team and continue to develop the service.

### **Victim services and restorative interventions**

The Restorative Justice Action Group continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis and this includes membership from ASB teams, Community Safety Partnership, Victim Focus, YOS and Police. This group focuses on restorative justice service development and actions across the two authorities

The Victim Liaison officer now attends the Bureau Panel on a regular basis to provide an individual victim perspective in the event the victim doesn't wish to participate.

The Victim Liaison Officer is currently extending their work remit to include assessment and restorative planning for those victims of children receiving an RJ Street Disposal to ensure their voice is heard. They also have further opportunities to participate in a restorative intervention should they agree.

### **6. Progress on previous plan**

The YOS made significant progress on the seven priorities set out in the 2021/22 plan. These included;

**Restructure.** Much hinged on the completion of the restructure of the service in order that we could implement a new set of roles and responsibilities for those staff who were asked to, or who had applied to take up a new position in the service. The YOS intends to review the impact of the changes in August this year and monitor progress against our National Standards and the Blueprint for Youth Justice.

However, already we have evidenced significant changes and are developing ways to monitor and evaluate prevention and diversionary activity alongside partners in order to avoid duplication of work and ensure we are targeting the right children at the right time. First time entrants (FTE's) remain at relatively low numbers.

**Embedding relationship based, trauma informed practice** has continued at pace, and we have upskilled staff on a regular basis, whilst developing the role of four Trauma Champions within each of the four teams.

**Education Training and Employment.** As outlined in this plan, significant work has been undertaken regarding ETE including a monitoring system to capture those who are most at risk of becoming excluded and are able to identify positive outcomes as a result.

**Health.** Following a number of meetings with Health, whereby additional services for the YOS have been agreed, securing the appropriate health provision to develop our service has not been without its challenges this year. Negotiations are still ongoing in order to

ensure CAMHS provision within the teams, and this work is being monitored closely by the Cwm Taf Offender Management Board.

**Transitions and Resettlement.** The YOS has adopted the YJB proposal for 'Constructive Resettlement' and YOS staff have attended all training offered to enhance their understanding of this work. The YOS has also developed its own policy, and it is the intention to monitor outcomes for those young adults who have, and who will transition in the coming year. To date however, numbers have been relatively low.

**Quality Assurance** is central to all YOS business and the YOS QA forum reconvened as planned in order to monitor and audit specific pieces of work to inform future service delivery. The impact of the National Standards work has been shared with partners at Board level, and this work, including future progress and improvements required, will be ongoing.

**Staff well being** will remain a priority as it did last year and as planned, an appraisal system has now been reintroduced. YOS chose not to implement a new local authority system (CARI) to improve staff well being. All staff have been asked to consider what the priorities are for the coming year and to contribute to this plan should they wish.

## 7. Performance and priorities

The service continues to maintain its performance against YJB national performance measures, in particular the continued reduction in first time entrants into the criminal justice system and the fact that no child from the Cwm Taf area has been sentenced by the courts into a custodial setting since early 2019.

The YOS is currently considering the implications of a new set of key performance indicators (KPIs) that in part, will better reflect the work being undertaken across all areas of the service.

### Early Intervention, Prevention and Diversion Services

The YOS utilises the Welsh Government Children and Communities Grant (CCG) 'Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People' to develop, deliver and coordinate much of its preventative interventions and services across the Cwm Taf area. The YOS is continuing to align services to reflect the demands and expectations of the Blueprint for Youth Justice in Wales. ([https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/youth-justice-blueprint\\_0.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/youth-justice-blueprint_0.pdf)).

The Blueprint has an impact on all aspects of Youth Offending Service work with a focus on four key areas:

- a call for targeted activity for those who have not yet entered the youth justice system.
- the need for diversionary practice for those participating in pre-court interventions.
- a national trauma-informed approach to practice
- an effective system of oversight and measure of outcomes.

The restructure of the service completed in August last year was formulated to recognise the increasing volume and complexity of children being referred through these early pathways. A Prevention Team now covers Rhondda and Taf and a second team covers Cynon and Merthyr Tydfil. Each team also has specialists and projects which cover the whole of Cwm Taf and includes, Police, Education, Training and Employment team, Family Support, Antisocial behaviour work, a Youth Outreach Service and a Reparation Officer.

As noted in section 3 above, **The Youth Outreach Service** has now acquired its own vehicle (bus) to visit hotspots and engage with children and young people, and the work of the YOS and relevant projects was noted in the Wales Safer Communities, Anti social Behaviour Awareness week in mid July. The Offender Management Board receives updates on the work of the outreach service, which, along with the Right Hook Project seeks to prevent those who engage in anti social behaviour from escalating from becoming involved in serious violence. Youth Outreach works with a range of partners, including police to target areas where anti social behaviour is prevalent and provides targeted diversionary responses when necessary. The work is mainly undertaken on Friday nights, GCSE result times, Halloween etc. The YOS works closely alongside the Community Safety Team and is represented on the Problem Solving Groups throughout the Northern BCU. (specific information relating to outreach work can be viewed in appendix 6).

The YOS is also coordinating the Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) project, which brings together local organisations with a shared interest in preventing underage drinking, and will include schools, retailers, police, youth services and local councils. The CAP will be covering all of the Cynon valley but mainly focusing on Aberdare town centre & Mountain Ash areas due to the increase of youth ASB and alcohol use. We are aiming to tackle the issues before the start of the summer holidays and surveys being undertaken by children in schools and those known to preventative services will give the project an idea on what areas to focus on. We will undertake publicity for the project and for all the partners involved.

The YOS facilitates a multi agency Prevention Panel to help track the large number of referrals. The panel sits weekly and can track referrals, allocations and closures. The panel is able to discuss and check on children who are referred to YOS through a number of pathways, such as Information Advice & Assistance, CSP and Police systems. This helps to ensure the child receives the right service at the correct time.

The Prevention service also delivers the Relationship Based Programme (RPB) to support children and their families to recover from historic trauma. This exciting opportunity also brings challenges in the form of managing children and families for a longer period of time, however, it can create sustainable change in individuals and family functioning.

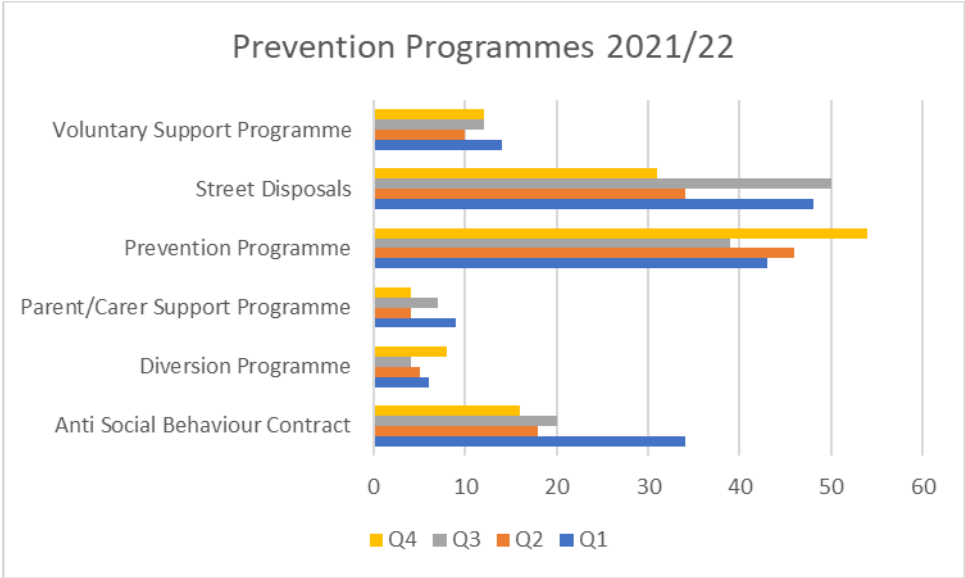
YOS Prevention is well represented and keen to add value to the Families First agenda across Cwm Taf to support families to resolve presenting issues before they impact negatively on the young person. In February this year, a development morning involving the YOS Prevention team and RCT Resilient Families Service (RFS) took place to look at how the services can interact more effectively together. In Merthyr Tydfil, this work is coordinated via the Team Around the Family (TAF) project and the YOS is represented on the TAF Panel by a YOS Team Manager.

In the event children and families consent to support from our services, an allocated case worker will undertake either a Prevention assessment for first/second offences or an AssetPlus assessment. The assessment considers all aspects of risk and prompts case managers to consider Adverse Childhood Experiences and Additional Learning Needs to inform multi agency planning.

The YOS Prevention Managers have been significant contributors to the YJB’s Prevention and Diversion Project, providing prevention case studies to inform the direction of the work going forward. A set of recommendations for the project will be consulted upon later this year.

This year, the YOS has also created the role of a Return to Learning Officer, part of who’s role is to link in with schools to assist in reducing levels of exclusions and absenteeism and to work with individual children who may be on the cusp of anti social or offending behaviour.

The YJB definition of Prevention and Diversion work has been circulated to all YOS staff in order to promote a shared common language and understanding of the work across the service.



Intervention Type	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Totals
Anti Social Behaviour Contract	34	18	20	16	<b>88</b>
Diversion Programme	6	5	4	8	<b>23</b>
Parent/Carer Support Programme	9	4	7	4	<b>24</b>
Prevention Programme	43	46	39	54	<b>182</b>
Street Disposals	48	34	50	31	<b>163</b>
Voluntary Support Programme	14	10	12	12	<b>48</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>528</b>

**Diversion Work - Out of Court Disposals**

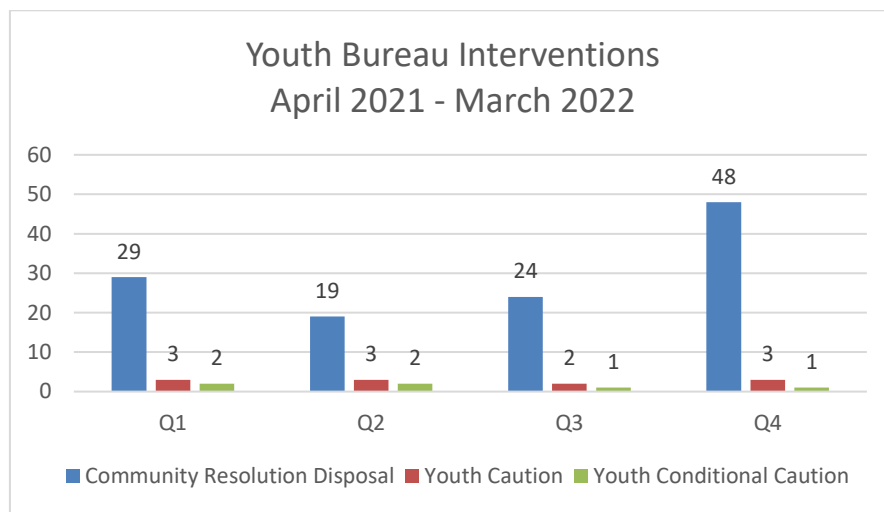
The YOS is currently looking at how we can resume our Out of Court Disposals work by using a hybrid approach to our youth bureau panel arrangements, with a preferred approach to a full meeting involving police, YOS staff, children and families and volunteers. A child can receive one of three outcomes when they are diverted to the youth

bureau for an out of court disposal depending upon the nature of the offence or whether the child has previously received a voluntary intervention;

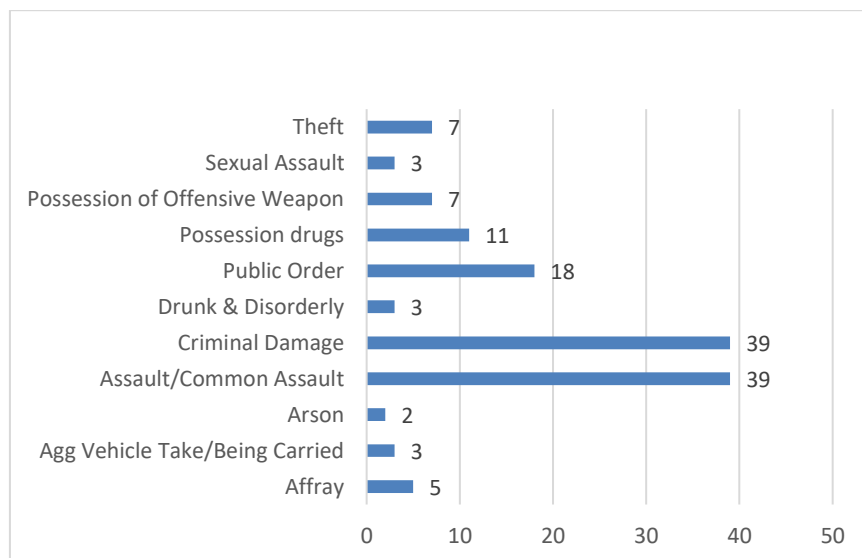
- Youth Caution (YC) - counting as a 'first time entrant' into the youth justice system.
- Youth Conditional Caution (YCC) - as above.
- Community Resolution Disposal (CRD) – a voluntary intervention.

The high numbers of youth bureau voluntary interventions continues to divert young people from the Youth Justice System. The Bureau assessment process includes a prevention assessment for those who offend for the first time and who are deemed low risk, however, ASSETPlus has continued to be the main assessment tool used in the majority of cases.

There were 137 Bureau interventions commencing during 2021/22. This is an increase on last year's figure of 117.



### Offence Types (Bureau)



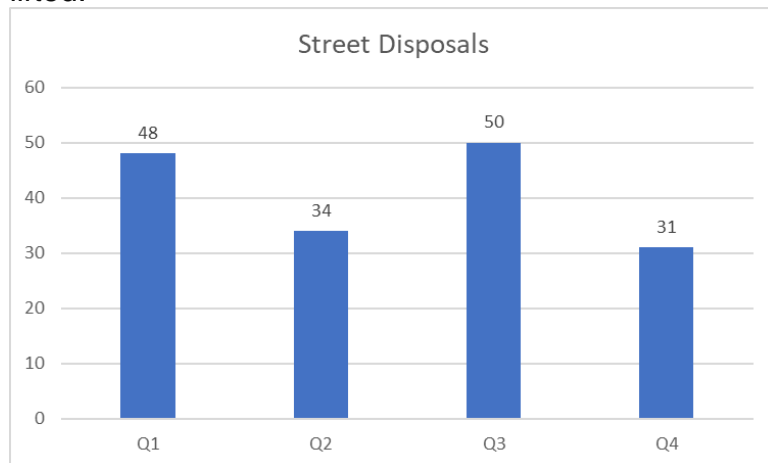
An Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny panel commenced in April 2022 led by Police and Crime Commissioner's office in partnership with South Wales Police, Community Safety, Courts, CPS, YOS and Victim Focus. It is envisaged that this partnership, which includes our colleagues in Bridgend Youth Justice Services, will extend to include Children's

Services and other services where relevant. The purpose of the OoCD scrutiny panel is to quality assure OoCD cases across Cwm Taf Morgannwg to promote development and learning and share positive practice. It will also monitor consistency, timeliness and proportionality of the disposals across the region.

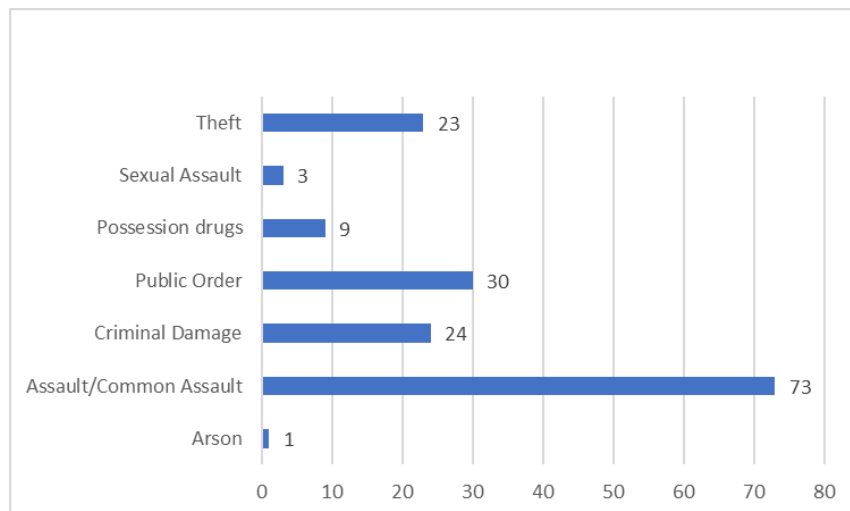
**Diversion work. - Youth Restorative Street Disposals (YRD)**

The YOS has created an RJ Street Disposal system in partnership with the policing team, for those children dealt with “on the street” for an offence where the victim has agreed that the offence goes no further. This system prevents a young person being criminalised for a first time offence or having to enter a police station or court for their offence to be dealt with. The YOS provides an offer of a restorative and education session carried out by YOS trained restorative police officers and an assessment visit and further contact with the victim if the victim would like further support. If scores and desistance factors identify a raised level of risk of offending, the intervention offered can be enhanced to meet the needs of the child and their family. Cwm Taf YOS is the first area to offer this system and it is envisaged this process will be rolled out in other areas.

There were a total of 163 restorative street disposals delivered throughout the year, with a significant rise in numbers, compounded by pandemic lockdown restrictions being lifted.



**Offence Types (Street Disposals)**





As the offence types data above illustrates, violence related offending accounts for a significant proportion of offending behaviour across Cwm Taf, and the service is currently exploring ways to respond to this concern.

In 2023 there will be a statutory responsibility to develop a Youth Violence Strategy and Development Plan within each region, and Cwm Taf YOS Prevention managers and coordinators have attended workshops in July this year to discuss current research that will inform the Welsh Gov't Strategic Framework. The more immediate conclusions reached includes the need for a strong educative approach and the need to change children's perceptions of the 'risks out there', and the need to protect themselves by carrying their own weapons. It should be noted that the issue of child on parent violence has also shown an increase across the region during the past few years and this will become another area for focus for monitoring this year.

The YOS will be linking in with the Wales Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) to ascertain the views of children and young people in order to develop a strategy that will prove effective for the Cwm Taf area.

It is in the context of the increase in serious violence that the government announced it would bring forward legislation and introduce a serious violence 'duty', legislated for as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. A multi agency approach, focussing on early intervention and informed by local/regional evidence will be central to the work and how we formulate and implement an effective strategy. This work will be monitored by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Serious Violence and Organised Crime (SVOC) Group, chaired by Police and involving the wider partnership across the region.

### **Education, Training and Employment**

The YOS Education team have continued to develop services to ensure effective partnership working is achieved in meeting the Education needs of the child. An updated action plan has been shared with partners and some research has been completed in respect of children who have been excluded or have reduced timetables. This information is now being shared with the Education authorities.

The Education coordinator now sits on a wider range of relevant forums such as school meetings, SEN panel, NEETS operational groups and school exclusions panels. This partnership approach will be extended to include Education Authority meetings for those cases experiencing difficulty and requiring an adjoined partnership plan.

There is also a formalised process in place for children with additional learning needs (ALN) using information from Red Amber Green data, and an ALN YOS framework process flowchart has been produced in partnership with the Education department with the support of an ALN specialist consultant employed by the local authority. The team convenes a weekly ETE workshop which offers a bespoke, trauma informed service for children with additional learning needs and who are not in education, training or employment. The project seeks to ensure all children referred leave the YOS having gained a qualification that is valuable to them and which will build on the child's self esteem and trust in the adults supporting them. Individual learning plans (ILPs) are completed for all children referred into the service, which subsequently informs Individual Education Plans for children with additional learning needs.

Currently the YOS are formulating an exclusions project, funded through Resilient Families Service and will focus on engaging children in education activity to try and alleviate behavioural difficulties and barriers to learning.

In addition, YOS has this year created a Return to Learning Coordinator to link in with and support comprehensive schools across the region.

Data in relation to current education entitlement regarding those children who are known to YOS is set out in Appendix 4.

## **8.National Standards**

The National Standards Action Plan is updated on a regular basis. The document has a red, amber and green coding system for each action and the most urgent priorities are coded red. Amber areas are where there is some progress made and green areas are currently on target. The National Standards Action Plan is as attached as appendix as part of this document and is the most recent plan presented to the Offender Management Board in April this year.

The Red priorities for this year outlined in the National Standards action plan includes:

- The development of YOS Health Service provision and recruitment into those posts
- Services with long waiting lists for children to be assessed

As noted in the 2021/22 plan, the YJB National Standards for Youth Justice has proved essential in both strengthening the awareness of Board members regarding YOS and partner priorities, whilst promoting a strategic understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the partnership.

The National Standards work has become a standing item on the OMB agenda and an action plan is shared and monitored by the Offender Management Board each quarter, with further discussions to update the plan alongside partners when this is required. The work enables YOS to keep a strong focus on partnership working and a RAG system highlights where work is completed or requires further improvement.

However, YOS management is currently looking at options for a different approach to meeting the standards alongside our Board colleagues in order to enhance knowledge and understanding YOS activity and how it relates to work of the wider partnership. Prior to the next OMB, the YOS will revise and focus on the priorities within the action plan that require the most attention. The current NS action plan can be viewed here.



National Standards  
20.21 April 22 updat

## **9.Challenges, risks and issues**

In the last two years, the Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on services, with YOS and our partner agencies needing to prioritise critical areas of work to safeguard our most vulnerable children and adults. The closure of some services, such as schools, youth clubs and community facilities during lock down has inevitably had a negative impact. The full nature of this impact is as yet unknown and the partnership including YOS will need to be prepared and flexible to respond to changing demands.

The challenges that lie ahead for the service are in part documented throughout this plan. These include the challenges/risks we face as a partnership as we strive to develop a shared understanding on many of the issues that can impact on outcomes for children known to the service and to the wider community. It should be noted that the areas listed below are not necessarily practice concerns that are identified as risks to service provision, and each will have summarized positive actions or broadly relate to practice that is evolving and making progress.

### Exploitation

A need for a shared understanding of exploitation of children and young adults and how we adopt a contextualized safeguarding approach across the region.

A clear process for the use of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), and to better understand 'risk thresholds' across all services.

**Actions** - a joint regional exploitation strategy is currently being developed across RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend.

- YOS team managers to meet on a more regular basis with Children's Services team and service managers. YOS Team Managers will now be invited to a Children's Services 'Interface' meeting on a monthly basis.

### Health provision

Ensuring YOS has the health resources to undertake it's work to a high standard and meets the needs of our cohort to create better outcomes. YOS seeking CAMHS resource and psychologist input to compliment RBP approach to practice.

**Action** – Meetings with Health are currently in progress. Provision to YOS is being monitored by the Offender Management Board.

### Education, training and employment

Support schools to prevent exclusions and absenteeism which can have implications for communities.

**Action** - Internal ETE team developing resources and processes to monitor exclusions and ensuring information flow across agencies is effective.

- YOS is undertaking assessments with children who become known to the service and identifying learning needs.
- YOS staff linking in with primary and comprehensive schools to deliver awareness sessions such as ASB.

### Prevention and Diversion Services.

Challenge is to effectively work alongside partners and improve partnership working alongside other early intervention and prevention services within Cwm Taf, and minimise duplication of work across the partnership.

**Actions** - Development mornings with Resilient Families Service (RFS) and other partners are now taking place to look at improving coordination of prevention services.

- Meeting with RFS undertaken and adjustments made. An example of this is that all offence related cases are appraised by YOS coordinator and the decision is made at YOS whether the work should go to RFS PCSO or to YOS allocation.
- YOS social worker is now situated at Children's Services 'front door' (IAA) to oversee referrals that are offence /ASB related. Currently the cases are picked up by Police to come into YOS, but through PPNs work is also being referred into other agencies.
- Disseminate learning to all staff from Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny panel to inform future service delivery.

### Embed Child First Approach

Challenges includes embedding this approach within YOS to promote longer term outcomes for children and adults.

**Actions** - YOS to implement Child First action plan currently outlined within the YOS Child First Strategy and the YOS has now identified four 'trauma champions' across statutory and prevention teams to promote practice.

- We are currently engaging with partners in CS, RFS, Police and Probation Service to adopt trauma informed practice and to also include within transitions to adulthood.

### Increase knowledge of Board members regarding YOS practice.

Challenge is to consider how we utilise the National Standards action plan to raise awareness of challenges and barriers we face alongside partners.

**Actions** – Discuss at Offender Management Board meeting to promote more effective understanding of partnership working in relation to YOS, Blueprint for Youth Justice in Wales and National Standards for Youth Justice.

- Disseminate a quarterly YOS bulletin to highlight the work of the YOS.

## **11.Evidence-based practice and innovation**

### **Child Play Therapy.**

The YOS currently contributes to the funding of a student placement in Child Play Therapy. The student is an existing YOS practitioner, with extensive experience of working with children known to the prevention arm of the service, has engaged with a number of children and receives regular clinical supervision as a condition of her placement within the YOS. The student is currently developing a play therapy toolkit as part of this exciting new project and a designated room at the YOS office base in Pontypridd has been adapted to enable the sessions to take place.

Child Play Therapy is a method of helping children with social, emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties, and is particularly pertinent to children who have experienced trauma. It provides children with an opportunity to “play out” feelings and problems in a safe and accepting environment, enabling children to help themselves by exploring, processing, problem solving and finding a new narrative. Sessions are underpinned by psychological theory and neurobiological evidence using a non- directive approach, working with conscious and unconscious processes.

The therapeutic ‘Tool-Kit’ available incorporates a wide range of creative arts media including :

- Creative visualisation,
- Storytelling,
- Drama,
- Puppets and Masks,
- Art,
- Music,
- Dance & movement,
- Sand play.

In the UK, **1 in 5** children aged **5 to 16** were identified as having a probable mental health problem in July 2021, a significant increase from 1 in 9 in 2017.

**50%** Of all mental health problems start by the age of 14

**34%** Of those who get referred into NHS services are not accepted into treatment

In targeting children aged 8-13 accessing YOS interventions, it is hoped that therapeutic play practice will offer an alternative to traditional cognitive therapy programmes and will potentially support a cohort of children who’s needs may not meet the threshold for existing support services.

### **QA Audits.**

There have been several themed Quality Assurance audits completed through the Quality Assurance Group. This group consists of Case Managers and specialist champions from each team and is responsible for undertaking peer audit on cases. The audits undertaken by the group have included repeat OOCDS. This audit focused on assessment, plans and interventions. There has been an audit on the *voice of the stakeholder* and also *Disproportionality*. There is a plan to complete the next audit on the HMIP Inspection domain criteria and each case manager will audit one case. Recommendation reports have been compiled for completed audits and these are shared in the case managers forum and in team meetings.

### **Girls Group.**

Cwm Taf YOS recognize that the reason girls commit offences differs to that of boys and which is often a response to emotional well being and issues concerning relationships with parents, partners and friends. The YOS facilitates a girls group to provide a safe base in which to deliver bespoke interventions that helps girls to understand the reasons for their offending.

**The CSCS** course continues to be delivered using innovative methods. This has included online sharing of resources and the production of a section by section resource catalogue for practitioners to use with children for course revision. A volunteer is utilised to coach individual children through the course material.

**ASDAN and Stepping Stones** resources have been written to respond to individual needs of children and there is a plan to utilise a reparation ASDAN award with every child completing reparative activity in the community.

**Volunteer mentors** have been trained to use a resource pack to engage children on Restorative Street Disposals. There has been a range of training undertaken with community volunteers. This has included community mentor training, Referral Order Panel training and Referral Order Panel Chair training.

### **ASB work in Primary Schools**

The YOS has a practitioner delivering ASB workshops to children in primary schools in the RCT area to educate them to stay clear from behaviours in the community that might bring them to the attention of the Community Safety Partnership or youth justice system. The work is delivered in groups via a presentation a feedback form is used to complete at home with parents to gauge how much they understood and to offer further support should they need it.

## 12. Service improvement plan

### YOS Improvement Plan 2022/23

Priority	What will we do?	How will we measure progress?
Staff Well Being	<p>Ensure all staff receive regular supervision.</p> <p>Monitor effectiveness of staff appraisal system reintroduced during Autumn 2021.</p> <p>Well being surveys introduced by local authorities.</p> <p>Free confidential mental health support (CANOPI) has been circulated to staff.</p> <p>Peer to peer support framework (SWARTZ Rounds) are in development to support practitioners in their role.</p>	<p>Monitoring of staff /case records, to include well being checks and training needs.</p> <p>Monitor staff training needs annually (Appraisals) in line with service developments and future demands and priorities.</p> <p>Monitor feedback from surveys.</p> <p>YOS management team will consider staff feedback and provide additional support as required.</p>
Prevention and Diversion Services	<p>Review the impact of the YOS restructure in August 2022 (one year following restructure).</p> <p>Continue to develop a process to monitor and evaluate prevention/diversion activity within YOS to demonstrate impact of a targeted approach and improve the evidence base.</p> <p>Develop effective partnership working with universal prevention services across the region.</p>	<p>Monitor reduction in the duplication of work across all early intervention and prevention services in Cwm Taf region.</p> <p>Monitor diversion and prevention against new YJB key performance indicator for Out of Court Disposals (OoCD) and numbers of first time entrants.</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate diversion activity within the OoCD's Scrutiny Panel. Monitor and evaluate progress against the</p>

		<p>Blueprint for Youth Justice in Wales Prevention workstream.</p> <p>Receive feedback from Families First and Community Safety partners across Cwm Taf region.</p> <p>Improved partnership working, referral and sign posting systems</p> <p>Maintain reduced numbers of first time entrants (FTE's) into the youth justice system.</p>
<p>Embed Child First Approach into YOS practice</p>	<p>Engage key partners in development of trauma informed practice during next 12 months.</p> <p>Continue to train and upskill workforce in trauma informed practice.</p> <p>Monitor effectiveness of Child First 'Champion's role within YOS teams during 2022.</p> <p>YJB Trauma qualification to be offered to staff members as appropriate.</p> <p>Monitor outcomes for those children with additional learning needs</p> <p>Develop and implement a 'child diversion' process for children looked after with police.</p>	<p>Key partner agencies are involved in the development of trauma informed practice across the Cwm Taf region.</p> <p>Increased and improved engagement and positive outcomes for children and young adults.</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate numbers of children and young adults subject to trauma informed practice who reoffend, or who are at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Improved outcomes for those children with additional learning needs (ALNs).</p> <p>More children who are looked after are diverted from OoCD's.</p>
<p>Education, Training and Employment (ETE)</p>	<p>Continue to monitor (red, amber, green) system to evaluate effectiveness of ETE provision for children and young adults.</p>	<p>All children with additional learning needs (ALN) have an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and assessed against a clear monitoring system, to inform</p>



	<p>Embed mapping progress alongside LA and consultative education staff for those children identified with additional learning needs (ALN).</p> <p>Maintain information flow between YOS ETE team and Education dept and other relevant partner agencies.</p>	<p>Individual Development Plan (IDP).</p> <p>Increased numbers of children and young adults engaged in ETE.</p> <p>Monitor attainment levels against new YJB devolved key performance indicator.</p> <p>Evaluate reasons for pupil absenteeism and exclusion from education provision.</p>
Health provision	<p>Increase YOS Health Visitor hours to 5 days per week by August 2022.</p> <p>Maintain Speech and Language Therapy provision for YOS, negotiated in 2021/22.</p> <p>Continue to negotiate and secure CAMHS provision for YOS and to develop this role to include assessment and direct work with children.</p> <p>Consider ways to secure psychologist provision to develop trauma informed, relationship based practice (RPB).</p> <p>Monitor all health provision within the service and report to OMB on quarterly basis.</p>	<p>Improved outcomes for all children and young adults known to the service and monitor against new YJB key performance indicators.</p>
QA. Build upon work undertaken in 2021 to embed quality assurance into team practice.	<p>Continue to utilise YOS Quality Assurance Group reintroduced into the service in 2021 to undertake audit work and evaluate practice to improve understanding of the needs of the cohort.</p> <p>Ensure the voice of children, families and victims is heard to</p>	<p>Evaluate impact of National Standards Action Plan on the effectiveness of the partnership, governance and service delivery.</p> <p>Improve our understanding of the needs of the YOS cohort.</p>

	<p>influence and inform future service delivery.</p> <p>Monitor National Standards Action Plan quarterly and update alongside key partners.</p>	
Child Criminal Exploitation	<p>Alongside partners across Cwm Taf Morgannwg finalise the Regional Exploitation Strategy that will set out how the partnership will recognise/understand exploitation and to safeguard and empower victims.</p> <p>Develop supporting documentation for practitioners, including toolkits, assessments and referral pathways.</p>	<p>An increased understanding between partners on how we agree and respond to child criminal exploitation, including procedures following a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referral.</p> <p>Monitor the impact of the strategy in partnership with relevant agencies..</p>

### 13. Looking Forward

The key priorities for Cwm Taf YOS are set out in the Improvement plan for 2022/23 in section 12, and much of this work is already in progress. In many ways, the plan highlights the need to further embed work undertaken last year, but with a clear emphasis on ensuring a **Child First Approach** becomes an established part of YOS practice for the foreseeable future. This will mean that our interventions are relationship based and that the time is taken to ensure the voice of the child is heard and their views taken into consideration.

The YOS's operational guidance on Relationship Based Practice sets out the process that should enable practitioners to adopt interventions that steers away from disproportionate outcomes, for example for those children who are looked after or who have additional learning needs and require a more bespoke, trauma informed approach to enable better outcomes.

YOS managers are currently in discussions with Police colleagues to discuss the implementation of a process to divert children who are looked after, and who appear at OoCD panels for matters which would be accepted/tolerated within a family home.

#### Health

YOS Management are continuing to negotiate with Health for the provision of a CAMHS resource which ended in 2021. The benefits of this provision would greatly enhance the timeliness of effective interventions and outcomes of children who become known to the service. The Offender Management Board has monitored the work being undertaken on a quarterly basis and has been proactive in engaging Health Senior Management to secure the provision for this financial year.

In addition, the YOS intends to negotiate with Health to explore prospect of part funding a psychologist resource into the service to enhance the work previously and currently being undertaken in relation to Relationship Based Practice and Enhanced Case Management. This work is currently in process.

Furthermore, a service level agreement has now been agreed to provide a Speech and Language Service for two days per week in Cwm Taf YOS, which has been budgeted for in this financial year as a minimum.

### **Prevention and Diversion work**

The YOS are seeking to embed this work following the restructure and understand the importance of developing effective partnership working with other early intervention services across the region. The evaluation of our work in relation to diversion will undoubtedly be more robust as a result of the Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel alongside Bridgend Youth Justice Services and other relevant partners. Furthermore, a review of the YJB key performance indicators and the future inclusion in 2023 of OoCD's will better reflect the numbers and work undertaken with children and young people who are engaging and completing interventions in this area of our work.

However, there are other aspects of prevention and diversion work that takes place within Cwm Taf YOS, much of which is funded by, and reported to Welsh Gov't. A recognition of this activity needs to be highlighted and captured on a consistent basis to ensure that the evidence base for this work can be further identified and developed. As mentioned in section 5, the current project commissioned by YJB, Probation and Association of YOT Managers will go some way to improving how we more accurately monitor the work going forward.

The above cross cuts the priorities set out in the CTM Safeguarding Board Plan 2022/23 with a 'renewed focus on Prevention and Early Intervention work' alongside the need to ensure 'keep our communities safe by working together'. We will seek to inform the work by improving opportunities for children to engage and participate in our work to help identify and understand the challenges ahead.

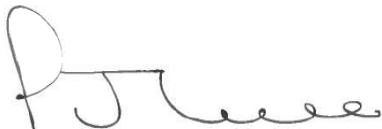

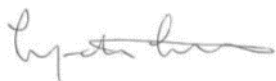
### **Exploitation**

Having previously brought the subject of child criminal exploitation to the attention of the Offender Management Board, often via case studies, there is a further need for a clearer understanding on many aspects of this work during the next year. As such, a regional exploitation strategy is currently being developed to ensure that appropriate governance and reporting structures are in place to manage and respond to exploitation across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region.

The submission of a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referral to a Single Competency Agency has to date been the role of the youth offending service in the event a child is assessed as being exploited outside of the family home and there is still the requirement to adopt a contextualised safeguarding approach to the work and a standardised escalation process for child exploitation where challenging and complex cases exist. A shared understanding and expectations of procedures following the referral is not always apparent, and the YOS has developed a data base to assist with management oversight and where we can monitor procedures and decisions on a case by case basis.

### 13. Sign off, submission and approval

## Cwm Taf Youth Justice Plan 2022/23 Sign Off

NAME AND ROLE	SIGNATURE
<p><b>Paul Mee,</b> <b>Group Director Community &amp; Children's Services,</b> <b>Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council</b> <b>Co-Chair of Local Management Board.</b></p>	
<p><b>Lisa Curtis Jones,</b> <b>Chief Officer, Social Services, Merthyr Tydfil Council</b> <b>Co-Chair of Local Management Board.</b></p>	
<p><b>Lyndon Lewis</b> <b>Head of Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service.</b></p>	

## Common youth justice terms

<b>ACE</b>	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
<b>AIM 2 and 3</b>	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
<b>ASB</b>	Anti social behaviour
<b>AssetPlus</b>	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and adolescent mental health services
<b>CCE</b>	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
<b>Children</b>	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention 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.
<b>Child First</b>	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
<b>Child looked-after</b>	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
<b>CME</b>	Child Missing Education
<b>Constructive resettlement</b>	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
<b>Contextual safeguarding</b>	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
<b>Community resolution</b>	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
<b>EHCP</b>	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
<b>ETE</b>	Education, training or employment
<b>EHE</b>	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school

<b>EOTAS</b>	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
<b>FTE</b>	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
<b>HMIP</b>	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
<b>HSB</b>	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
<b>JAC</b>	Junior Attendance Centre
<b>MAPPA</b>	Multi agency public protection arrangements
<b>MFH</b>	Missing from Home
<b>NRM</b>	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
<b>OOCD</b>	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
<b>Outcome 22/21</b>	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
<b>Over-represented children</b>	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
<b>RHI</b>	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
<b>SLCN</b>	Speech, Language and communication needs
<b>STC</b>	Secure training centre
<b>SCH</b>	Secure children's home
<b>Young adult</b>	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.
<b>YJS</b>	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
<b>YOI</b>	Young offender institution

## Appendix 1 Cwm Taf YOS Management Board Members

Name	Agency	Ethnicity	Gender
Paul Mee	Group Director Community & Children's Services, RCT CBC	White	Male
Lisa Curtis Jones	Chief Officer, Social Services MT CBC	White	Female
Emma Richards	National Probation service	White	Female
Annabel Lloyd	Head of Children's Services RCT CBC	White	Female
Lyndon Lewis	Cwm Taf YOS	White	Male
Cllr Julia Jenkins	Merthyr Tydfil CBC	White	Female
Cllr Gareth Caple	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC	White	Male
Nicola Mahoney	Safer Merthyr Tydfil	White	Female
Clayton Richie	South Wales Police	White	Male
Louise Mann	Cwm Taf Health Board	White	Female
Chris Hole	Head of Community Wellbeing & Prevention MT CBC	White	Male
Nik Bunston	BAROD	White	Female
Cheryl Emery	Housing RCT CBC	White	Female
Gary Black	Community Safety RCT CBC	White	Male
Ceri Jones	Education & Inclusive Services RCT CBC	White	Female
Sian Rees	PCC South Wales	White	Female
Andrea Chichester	Electronic Monitoring Services	White	Female
Ian Hargreaves	Department for Works & Pensions	White	Male
Catherine Cody	Youth Court Magistrate	White	Female
Peter Hopkins	Careers Wales	White	Male
Ian Williams	Dyfodol	White	Male
Josie Blackmore	Victim Support	White	Female
Ryan Evans	Community Safety MT CBC	White	Male

### Scheduled dates of meetings 2022;

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April

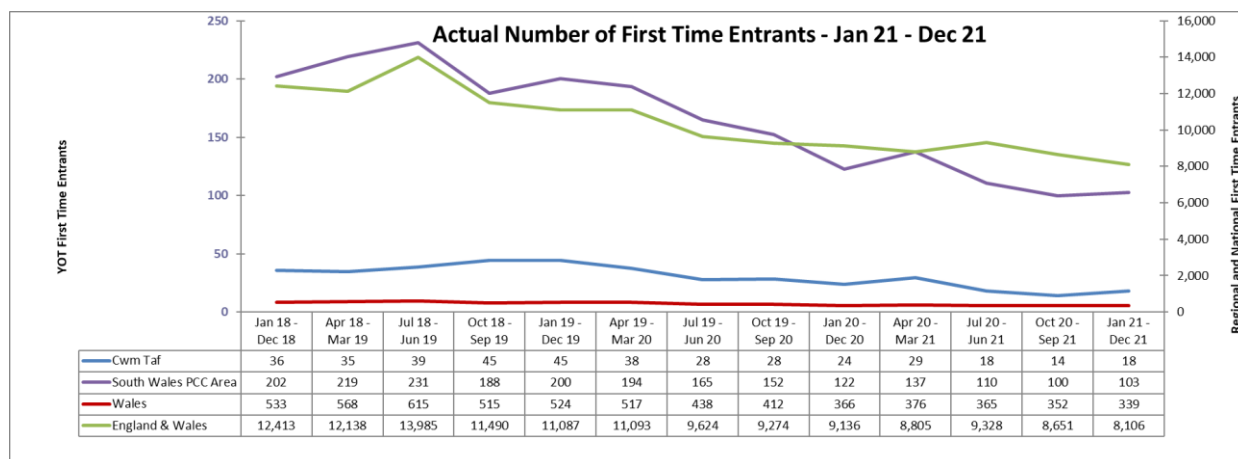
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

## Appendix 2 National Performance Indicators

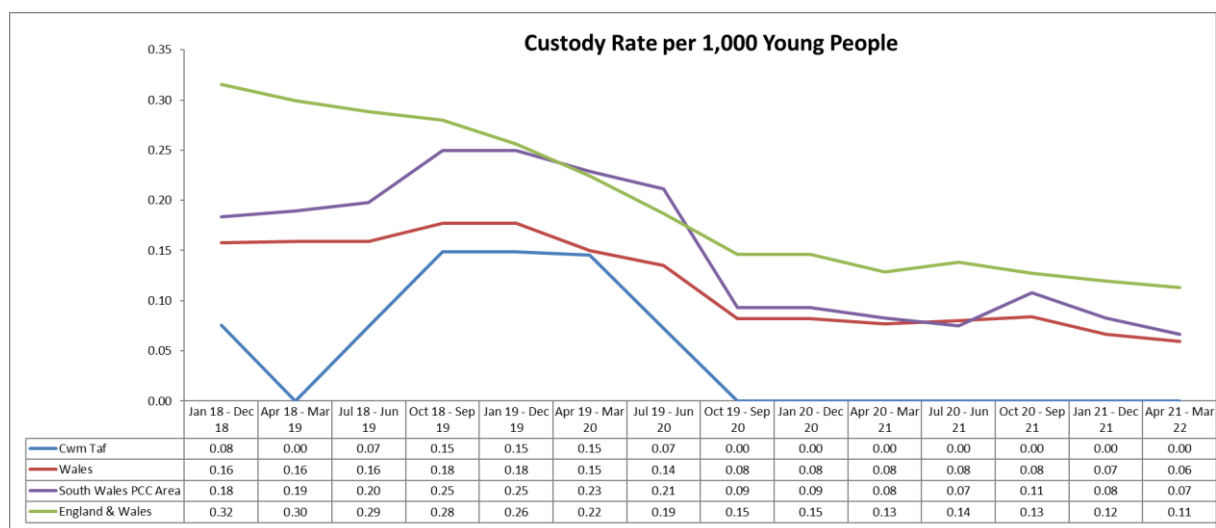
### First Time Entrants (FTE)

This section shows the Cwm Taf performance in the graphs. The data for this indicator comes from the Police National Computer and is published by the Ministry of Justice. The data is shown in rolling full-years for the 12 months to March, July, September, and December of each year.



### Custody

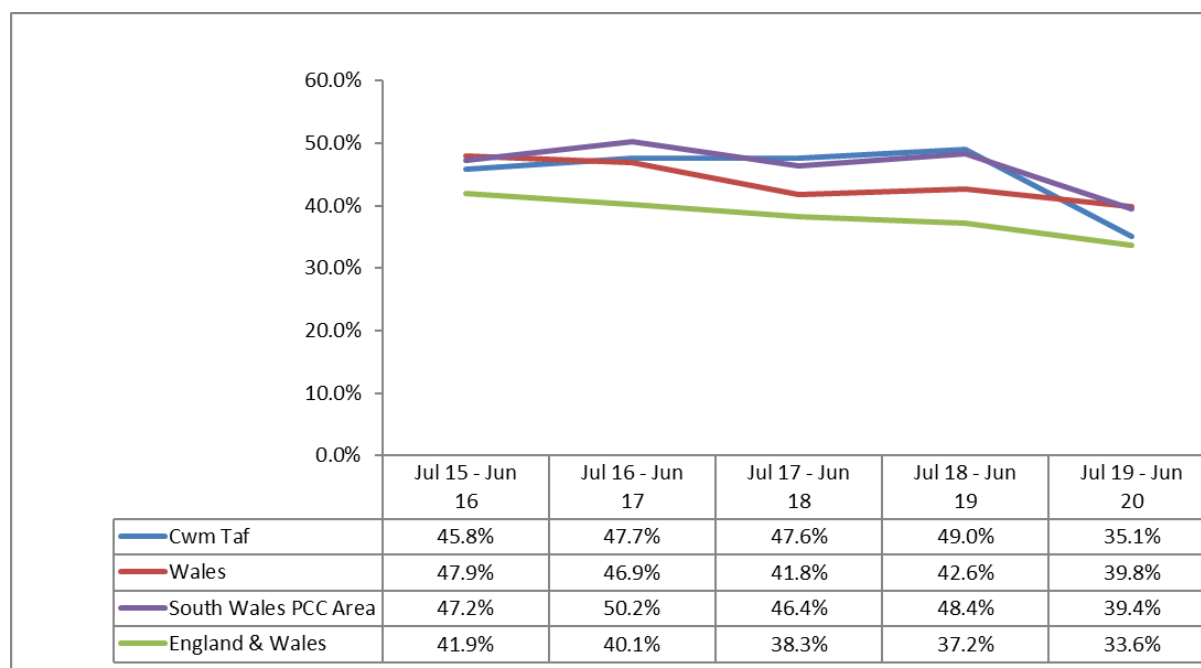
The indicator uses case level data from the YJ Application Framework (historic data - YJMIS) and is the number of custodial sentences in the period given to young people with a local residence aged under 18 years on the date of their first hearing related to the outcome. Successfully appealed sentences are discounted. If a young person was given the same type of custodial sentence on the same day to be served concurrently or consecutively, they will only be counted once. This data is also presented as a rate per 1,000 young people in the 10 to 17 local general population.





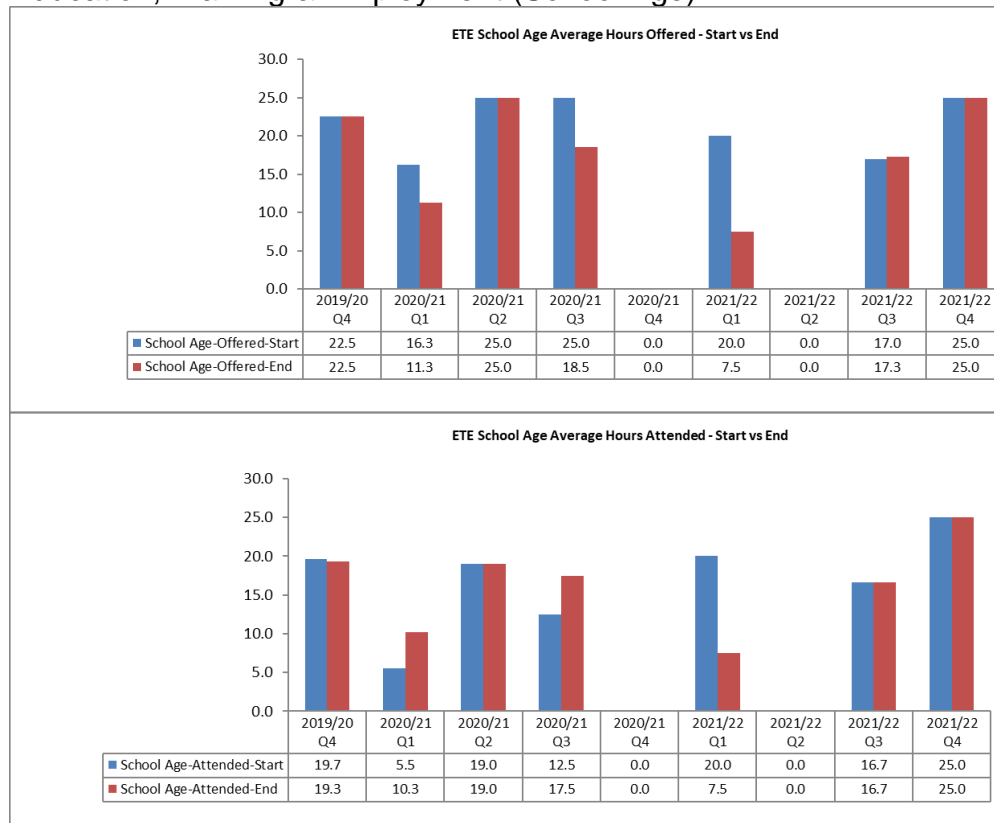
## Re-offending

The data for this indicator comes from the Police National Computer and is published by the MoJ. The 12 month reoffending rate for the July 19 – Jun 20 cohort is presented, this is the latest available data. The cohort consists of all young people who received a pre-court or court disposal or were released from custody in that date range.

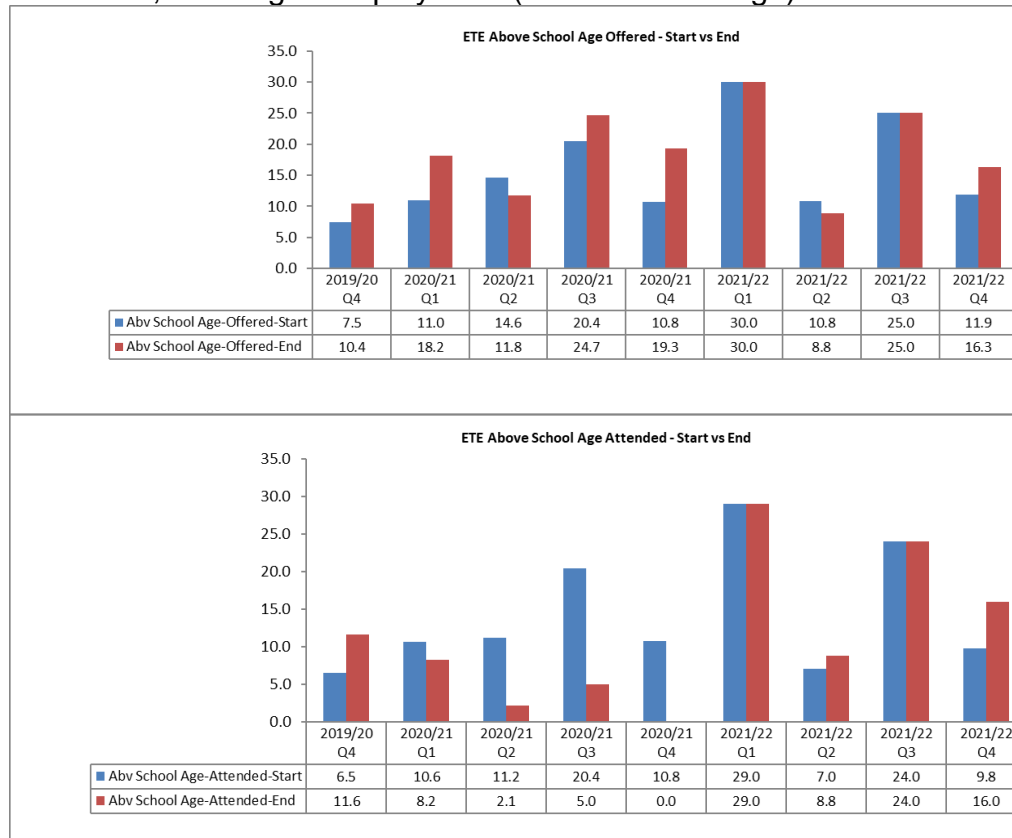


## Appendix 3 Welsh Devolved Indicators

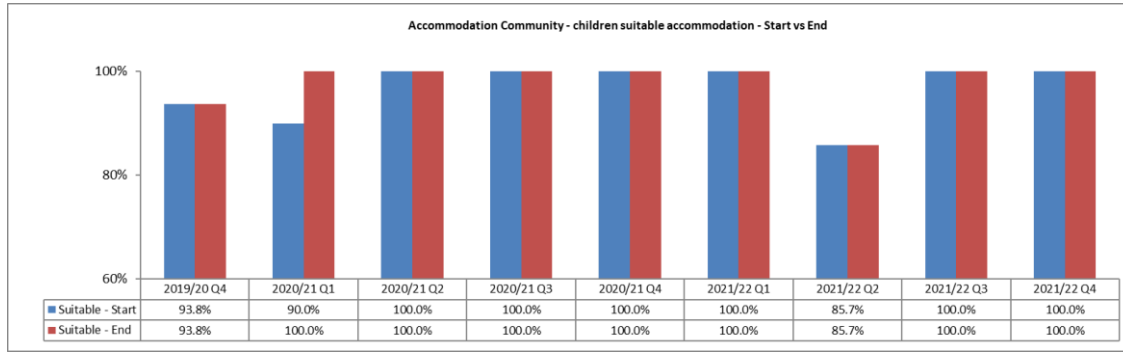
### Education, Training & Employment (School Age)



### Education, Training & Employment (Above School Age)



## Accommodation



## Substance Misuse

% of children receiving required service



## Mental Health

% of children receiving required services



## Appendix 4

### Cwm Taff Youth Offending Service Education, Training and Employment (ETE) Analysis as 1st July 2022

(Please note the information contained in this report has been sourced from Capita)

#### Number of children ETE are currently supporting or monitoring

RCT	160
Merthy	40

#### RCT Data

Attendance	Number of Children (NOC)	Percentage
Red (0% to 29% attendance)	20	12.5%
Amber (30% to 69% attendance)	26	16.25%
Green (70% +)	100	62.5%
AWD (no data available at time of report)	14	8.75%

#### Children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

	NOC	Percentage
ALN recorded	92	57.5
No ALN recorded	54	33.75
AWD	14	8.75

	NOC	Percentage
ALN with provision recorded (SA, SA+ or Statemented)	42	45.65%
ALN with no provision recorded (SA, SA+ or Statemented)	50	54.35%

#### Children Home Educated

NOC	Percentage
6	3.75%

#### Exclusions

	NOC	Percentage
Children with exclusions and no provision provided	71	44.38%
Permanently excluded children	5	3.13%

	NOC	Percentage
Children with reduced timetables	15	9.38%

## Merthyr Data

### Attendance

	Number of Children (NOC)	Percentage
Red (0% to 29% attendance)	6	15%
Amber (30% to 69% attendance)	7	17.5%
Green (70% +)	26	65%
AWD (no data available at time of report)	1	2.5%

### Children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

	NOC	Percentage
ALN recorded	37	92.5%
No ALN recorded	3	7.5%

	NOC	Percentage
ALN with provision recorded (SA, SA+ or Statemented)	25	67.57%
ALN with no provision recorded (SA, SA+ or Statemented)	12	32.43%

### Children Home Educated

0

### Exclusions

	NOC	Percentage
Children with exclusions and no provision provided	25	62.5%
Permanently excluded children	0	

	NOC	Percentage
Children with reduced timetable	3	7.5%

## Appendix 5 Cwm Taf YOS Budget

Individual Contributions	2022/23
YJ Effective Practice Grant	£736,657
Merthyr Tydfil (Local Authority)	£309,682
Rhondda Cynon Taf (Local Authority)	£929,048
Police	£184,593
Probation	£50,135
Health	£101,103
PCC	£99,300
PPEYP	£426,000
Families First / Cymorth	£90,790
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,927,308</b>

<b>Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service</b>									
<b>Projected Planned Expenditure for 2022/23</b>									
	Youth Justice Grant	Local Authority	Police	Probation	Health	WG	PCC	Other	
Expected Income	670,611	1,238,730	184,593	50,135	101,103	426,000	99,300	90,790	
<b>Projected Expenditure</b>									
<b>Staffing</b>									
Salaries, wages & other staffing costs	636,657	1,168,730	164,493	45,135	101,103	362,000	38,300	90,790	
3rd Party Service Provider							61,000		
<b>Running Costs - including but not limited to :-</b>									
Client Related & Activity Costs	100,000	70,000	20,100	5,000		64,000			
Premises & Accommodation									
Resources & Equipment									
IT									
Stationary									
Telephones & Mobiles									
Training									
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>736,657</b>	<b>1,238,730</b>	<b>184,593</b>	<b>50,135</b>	<b>101,103</b>	<b>426,000</b>	<b>99,300</b>	<b>90,790</b>	<b>2,927,308</b>

## Appendix 6 Youth Outreach Work

In partnership with police colleagues, outreach work continues during the evenings and weekends. Some of this work is captured below;

- **YOS 17/06/22** – 6 Anti Social Behaviour referrals (ASBs).
- Rhondda – large groups of youths (200 plus) gathered in Treorchy playing fields on the last school day for year 11 pupils. Four ASB's were administered relating to alcohol with parents contacted. Other police units were called to the area to assist, and one arrest of public order took place.
- Cynon – 2 ASB for youths riding bikes into ASDA's in Aberdare and intimidating customers. One youth (known to YOS) taken home, with parents and store staff spoken to.
- Significant engagement with youths in Mountain ash and Aberdare skate park.

### **YOS 24/06/22** (Heavy rain) – 4 ASB's

- Rhondda/Taff – Forty plus youths engaged with in Tonypanydy McDonald's, also youths in Porth, Rhiwgarn, and Tonyrefail areas.
- Merthyr Tydfil – staff engaged with groups in Rhydycar, Town centre and Treharris areas. Four ASB's administered for youths in site of Old Tydfils hospital (1 known to YOS).
- Team 1 – Merthyr Tydfil - ASB operation.
- Large groups engaged with in Rhydycar, Gurnos and town centre
- Intelligence submitted for drug issues in the old tax office.
- Team 2 - Cynon
- Fifty plus youths engaged in Mountain Ash town centre.
- Thirty plus in Cwmbach All Stars park – Two ASB alcohol referrals.
- Twenty plus youths engaged with in Ynys Aberdare – CCTV reported intoxicated female (15). Parents contacted to collect.
- Two ASB alcohol referrals and 2 C1 safeguarding referrals.
- Call to police regarding intoxicated youths at party in Navigation pub, Abercynon. Two ASB referrals. RCT licensing informed.

# Appendix 7 – YOS Staff Structure

## CWM TAF YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE STRUCTURE – 01.06.22

