

Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Date: Monday, 12th May, 2025

Time: 9.30am

Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

Councillors: Dine Romero, Liz Hardman, Paul Crossley, David Harding,
Ruth Malloy, Lesley Mansell, Joanna Wright, Onkar Saini and Bharat Pankhania

Co-opted Non-Voting Members: Chris Batten and Kevin Burnett

The Panel will have a pre-meeting at 9.00am



Mark Durnford

Democratic Services

Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

Telephone: mark_durnford@bathnes.gov.uk 01225 394458

Web-site - <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk>

E-mail: Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk

NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control.

Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators.

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Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting. This means that for meetings held on Thursdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 5.00pm the previous Monday.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel - Monday,
12th May, 2025**

at 9.30am in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

A G E N D A

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 5.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to indicate:

- (a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.
- (b) The nature of their interest.
- (c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** or **an other interest**,
(as defined in Part 4.4 Appendix B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

5. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

At the time of publication, no notifications had been received.

7. MINUTES: 14TH APRIL 2025 (Pages 7 - 22)

8. CABINET MEMBER UPDATE (Pages 23 - 28)

The Cabinet Member(s) will update the Panel on any relevant issues. Panel members may ask questions on the update provided.

9. UPDATE REPORT - PLACEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE AT FOSSE WAY HOUSE RESIDENTIAL PROVISION (Pages 29 - 42)

This report provides an update to the Panel regarding placement of young people at Fosse Way House residential provision at Fosse Way Special School in Radstock.

10. B&NES, SWINDON & WILTSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (BSW ICB) UPDATE (Pages 43 - 44)

The Panel will receive an update from the B&NES, Swindon & Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) on current issues.

11. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024-26 - REFRESH (Pages 45 - 162)

The Local Authority has a statutory duty, in partnership with Health, Police and Probation, to produce a Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out how services are to be organised and funded and what functions will be carried out to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset.

12. PANEL WORKPLAN (Pages 163 - 168)

This report presents the latest workplan for the Panel. Any suggestions for further items or amendments to the current programme will be logged and scheduled in consultation with the Panel's Chair and supporting officers.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Mark Durnford who can be contacted on mark_durnford@bathnes.gov.uk 01225 394458.

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

**MINUTES OF CHILDREN, ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING**

Monday, 14th April, 2025

Present:- **Councillors** Dine Romero (Chair), Liz Hardman (Vice-Chair), Paul Crossley, Anna Box (in place of David Harding), Ruth Malloy, Lesley Mansell, Onkar Saini and Michael Auton (in place of Bharat Pankhania)

Co-opted Members (non-voting): Chris Batten and Kevin Burnett

Cabinet Member for Adult Services: Councillor Alison Born

Also in attendance: Suzanne Westhead (Director of Adult Social Care), Rebecca Reynolds (Director of Public Health & Prevention), Ceri Williams (Policy Development & Scrutiny Officer), Laura Ambler (Place Director for the B&NES ICB), Olwyn Donnelly (Head of Education Commissioning) and Rachel Hale (Parent Carer Forum)

95 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

96 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

97 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor David Harding had sent his apologies to the Panel, Councillor Anna Box was present as his substitute for the duration of the meeting.

Councillor Bharat Pankhania had sent his apologies to the Panel, Councillor Michael Auton was present as his substitute for the duration of the meeting.

Councillor Joanna Wright had sent her apologies to the Panel.

98 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

99 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

100 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

Melissa Hillier (ReMind UK) & Ruth Lane (ForgetMeNot Club) addressed the Panel on the subject of a Dementia Strategy, a summary of their statement is set out below.

'Background

Within the local Ageing Well Network, discussions have been held regarding the need for Bath and North East Somerset to have a Dementia Strategy. Following further research the only strategy currently available is the Mental Health Commissioning Strategy but nothing that relates specifically to services for people living with dementia.

BaNES has an estimated 2700 people living with dementia (with only 40% of these with a diagnosis) and this is due to increase by 36% by 2030 to over 3670.

Proposal

For 3SG group members to support the Council in the coordination of a Dementia Strategy for the area. The working party will have representatives as follows:

- NHS Adult Care representatives.
- BaNES Council representatives.
- Local housing representatives.
- Local service providers.
- ICB Board representative
- HCRG Care representative
- GP representative

We are here today to ask that the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel approve in principle the need for the production of a dementia strategy for local residents and agree that the Council will take a leading role in this process.

Aim

We would like to produce a strategy which will outline what people living with dementia in BaNES can expect from all services from diagnosis through to end of life care.

The strategy will ensure that anyone, despite where they live within BaNES, can receive the same approach for dementia services. It will give guidance to all service providers and a clear pathway from diagnosis to end of life for people living with dementia. The strategy itself will also help us focus on the gaps in service provision, and aid future commissioning of services.'

The Chair asked if both ReMind UK & ForgetMeNot Club were part of 3SG.

Melissa Hillier replied that they were and that she was the Vice-Chair of 3SG.

Kevin Burnett asked if they had seen related strategies from other Local Authorities.

Melissa Hillier replied that both Swindon and Wilshire have a Dementia Strategy and that as B&NES was part of the same Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) they should be able to use that information as their strategy is developed. She added that the strategy should be co-produced with service users.

The Chair asked that this matter be referred to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and for it to be added to the Panel's Forward Plan.

Councillor Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adult Services said that the subject had been raised with her a few weeks ago and that she was in discussions with the Director of Adult Social Care to allocate a lead officer from the Council.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked that the Panel be updated on the progress of this work at their meeting on 16th June 2025.

Councillor Lesley Mansell said that she agreed with the need to have a B&NES Dementia Strategy, that it should be developed with the feedback from service users and must be in place across the whole of the Council area.

Ruth Lane stated that in her role she works with service users on a daily basis and would ensure that their views are taken into account.

The Director of Adult Social Care said that quite a lot of work was already ongoing in this area and that there is an existing Mental Health Strategy and that Dementia was included as part of that strategy. She said that they need to make sure that they add value to the work already underway.

Laura Ambler, BSW ICB said that she welcomed the opportunity for the ICB to become engaged, to support this work and input into the commissioning intentions.

Melissa Hillier commented that she would like to encourage those involved to look beyond health matters and to produce a standalone Dementia Strategy.

The Chair thanked Melissa and Ruth for their statement on behalf of the Panel and said they look forward to seeing the strategy develop.

Wendy Lucas addressed the Panel on the issue of respite care and Newton House, a summary of her statement is set out below. She explained that this was her third statement to them this year and that they were now around 8 months away from having to find alternative provision from that currently provided at Newton House.

She said that despite an initial positive meeting with officers from Adult Social Care she was now concerned about the impetus being shown regarding the ongoing process.

She stated that there are around 6 million carers in the UK and that if all were to stop doing this role the NHS would come to its knees.

She urged the Panel to ensure that the pace of this process is increased to ensure that a continuity of service is provided for their family members.

The Chair thanked her for her statement and asked if any meetings had taken place and how she felt the process should move forward.

Wendy Lucas replied that a meeting had taken place between family members, Dimensions and officers from Adult Social Care initially and that in March another meeting was held with the Director of Adult Social Care. She added that she was really worried that no timeline has been shared with the families and that it would be challenging to have a replacement provision in place within 8 months.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if a timetable of meetings had been put in place for the families of the service users of Newton House.

Wendy Lucas replied that there were no further meetings scheduled for them currently.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked Wendy Lucas for her statement.

101 MINUTES: 10TH MARCH 2025

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

102 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

Councillor Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adult Services addressed the Panel and highlighted the following points from her update.

Statutory Services

We are approaching the one year anniversary of the transfer of ASC statutory services back to B&NES Council. In order to minimise disruption, no changes were made to services at the point of transfer but managers have been working with practitioners over the past year to review and revise operational practices and to improve training and development.

Adult Regulated Services

As part of our continual improvement journey, an organisation called Care for Quality has been invited to undertake another round of mock inspections of services in late April/early May and the CQC action plan continues to be reviewed with the management team on a monthly basis.

Community Partners - Community support related to adult social care

Responsibility for commissioning these services transferred from HCRG to B&NES council on April 1st 2025. The council has worked with community partners to complete due diligence processes and negotiate bridging contracts and grant funding agreements for 2025/26. Most of these contracts and agreements have been issued for signature and several have been signed by providers. A small number of contracts are in the final stage of negotiations, aiming to finalise as soon as agreements have been reached.

Finance

Adult Social Care is projecting delivery of its savings targets for 2024/5 and a break-even position at year end. This is particularly noteworthy given the increased activity and complexity the service has faced, especially in Mental Health (MH), Older Persons (OP), and Learning Disabilities (LD). Congratulations to all involved as this will ensure that the service starts the new financial year from a position of strength.

Public Health

- New public health contracts - The new public health contracts for Drug and Alcohol Services (Turning Point), Wellness services (Everyone Health) and Public Health Nursing Services (HCRG Care Group) began on 1st April 2025.
- Health protection issue in K&A Canal, Widcombe - The health protection team have recently responded to concerns from members of the public about an apparent mass poisoning of fish in Widcombe Section of the Kennet and Avon Canal.
- Leisure Services - Summer opening hours have started at Royal Victoria Park Golf with the course now open 7 days per week for Foot Golf (12 holes) and pitch and putt golf (currently 9 holes but due to increase to 18 once Green treatments are completed). Progress is also being made on the Adventure Golf Course at Dragonfly Leisure centre in Midsomer Norton with the course due to open later this month.

Councillor Liz Hardman referred to the Carer's Strategy and asked that if amendments are to be made to it they should be shared with the Panel.

The Director of Adult Social Care agreed and said that some fantastic co-production had taken place, and that the delivery plan was ongoing.

The Chair suggested that an update be provided to the Panel as part of their June meeting.

Councillor Hardman asked why the commissioning of Community Partner services had been brought back in house.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that it had always been the intention to do so and that they have worked with 3SG on this matter. She added that it was hoped that the move could lead to increased funding opportunities.

Becky Brooks, 3SG added that the situation remains challenging as they had unfortunately lost a couple of charities recently. She added that a slight disconnect remains in place and she felt that more could be done to protect local services.

Councillor Hardman asked if the previously mentioned £802,000 savings had been cancelled.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that there had been no increase to the savings required and that £401,000 had been achieved in the last year. She added that more time might be required to achieve the remaining £401,000 savings.

The Chair asked Becky Brooks if she had considered making a statement to the Corporate PDS Panel regarding local procurement.

Becky Brooks replied that she had not, but said she had raised the issue with the Leader of the Council, Councillor Kevin Guy.

Councillor Alison Born commented that she believed that the Council's Constitution Working Group were due to discuss this issue in the coming months.

Councillor Paul Crossley referred to the 'Smoke free grant to local authorities' and asked if the funding of £216,000 could also be used to help stop people from vaping.

The Director of Public Health & Prevention replied that she believed it should but would check for definite.

Councillor Crossley asked if an update on Leisure Services in the Chew Valley area could be provided to the Panel.

Councillor Alison Born replied that she would respond to this point in due course following the meeting.

Councillor Lesley Mansell noted the work undertaken to transfer ASC Statutory Services back in house and wanted to acknowledge the achievement of all involved. She also welcomed the savings made on the use of agency staff within Adult Regulated Services.

She asked how much the mock CQC inspections would cost the Council.

She asked what the expected income was from the new golf course facilities.

She referred to the Somer Valley Links project and called for a Radstock to Writhlington bus service to be put in place.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that the spend on agency staff was now substantially lower and that they have been able to recruit good quality staff and were more optimistic now about being able to retain them.

She said that the cost of the mock CQC inspections were not a lot and were an important part of reviewing their processes as they cannot self-regulate themselves.

The Director of Public Health & Prevention replied that income of around £3,000 was expected from the opening of the golf course and added that since its introduction Foot Golf had proved to be incredibly popular.

Councillor Alison Born commented that believed that the subject of bus services was as a matter for WECA.

The Chair asked for any initial comment on how the new public health contract for Drug and Alcohol Services, now provided by Turning Point, was being received.

The Director of Public Health & Prevention replied that it was early days, but was aware that to aid mobilisation Turning Point had drawn on some of their national staff. She added that mobilisation meetings were taking place twice a week and that they had received assurances of the venues being used by them. She stated that she was not aware of any complaints.

The Chair asked if it was felt that there was enough access to swimming provision across B&NES.

The Director of Public Health & Prevention replied that there is enough provision in place.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for her update on behalf of the Panel.

103 B&NES, SWINDON & WILTSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (BSW ICB) UPDATE

Laura Ambler, Director of Place for Bath and North East Somerset, BSW ICB addressed the Panel and highlighted the following areas from within the update.

Transfer of community-based care services to HCRG Care Group

Community-based care services across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire are now being provided by HCRG Care Group.

Since 1 April, the group has taken on the day-to-day running of the services, and partnered with the NHS, local authorities and charities to transform the way in which community care and support is provided across the region.

Patients have been advised that there will be no immediate changes to current services, and care will continue to be provided as before.

Future of Integrated Care Boards

Over the last few months, both NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care have been discussing closer working and avoiding duplication. Work is now under way to reform the NHS to best support the frontline to deliver for patients and drive the government's reform priorities.

Changes are expected to take place, at pace, over the coming months. As part of the need to make best possible use of taxpayers' money to support frontline services, NHS England has informed us that the running and programme costs of ICBs will need to be reduced by around 50 per cent.

While these plans are currently at an early stage, it has been confirmed that ICBs will continue to exist and work around developing a new ICB model, which outlines future functions and responsibilities, is already under way.

Eligible groups urged to come forward for vital Covid-19 booster vaccine

Local people who are most at risk of falling seriously ill from Covid-19 have been urged to book an appointment to receive their spring booster vaccine.

All adults aged 75 and over, as well as those over the age of six months and living with a weakened immune system, are eligible for the free vaccination. Older adults living in care homes will also be offered the vaccine within their place of residence.

Having the booster vaccine is seen as the most effective form of protection for people who are more susceptible to the effects of Covid-19, especially as immunity from previous vaccinations fades over time.

Patient survey aims to find out why people visit A&E

Patient visits to accident and emergency departments within local hospitals rose by 5.6 per cent during 2024, mainly due to a rise in the number of walk-ins.

Over the next three months, BSW ICB will be working with local Healthwatch groups, along with hospitals in Bath, Swindon and Salisbury, to conduct the Big A&E Survey. Face-to-face questionnaires will be handed out at all three A&Es in BSW, with a digital survey also being launched across social media.

This survey will explore why patients choose accident and emergency departments and their awareness of other treatment options, while also looking for any health inequalities and service gaps.

The findings will be analysed and shared with system partners to understand the reasons behind the rising visits, to make recommendations on plans to reduce this demand and to improve communication with specific population groups who need support.

Residents of BSW help shape new 10-Year Plan

Over the last few months, the ICB has been actively gathering and speaking to local residents about what they would like to see in the forthcoming 10-Year Plan.

In Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, the ICB has held meaningful conversations with a range of diverse and dynamic community groups, including people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, those from our local Muslim population and refugees and asylum seekers currently living in Swindon.

Engagement work has also been carried out with the Gypsy, Roma, Boater and Traveller communities in Bath and Wiltshire.

Their thoughts, feelings and opinions have now been shared with our national colleagues for inclusion in the plan, which is expected to be published in May.

An online survey, in which people can share their ideas for how the NHS can be improved, is currently live at www.change.nhs.uk.

Councillor Lesley Mansell asked how better outcomes would be delivered regarding community-based care.

Laura Ambler replied that the ICB has a Care Programme which has a focus on prevention and that HCRG are working in partnership with us on this to establish the needs of the local population and individuals.

Councillor Mansell asked what the impact of reducing the running and programme costs of ICBs by 50 per cent will be.

Laura Ambler replied that the understanding of this decision was ongoing and that the Panel would be updated when more is known.

Councillor Mansell asked if the Panel could be informed of the local figures regarding the take up of the Covid-19 vaccine booster.

Laura Ambler replied that she would consult with colleagues and reply to the Panel on this matter.

Councillor Paul Crossley asked what measures are in place to attempt to stop people from starting to smoke in the first instance?

The Director of Public Health & Prevention replied that there are local, regional and national campaigns in place to try to stop people from smoking. She added that retailers are also in receipt of information from Trading Standards with regard to underage sales and that schools provide awareness and advice on the issue to pupils.

Councillor Mansell said that she would like the Panel to be shown the results of the A&E survey.

Laura Ambler replied that she would be happy to share the results of the survey with the Panel.

Councillor Mansell asked if the Health Passport was in operation for the Gypsy, Roma, Boater and Traveller communities.

Laura Ambler replied that she would need to confirm that with Primary Care colleagues and respond to the Panel.

Councillor Anna Box commented that through her work she was aware of the consequences of smoking and the numbers of people that now suffer from COPD

(Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease). She added that air pollution was also a factor to be considered.

She added that vape batteries were also dangerous items for the Council's refuse workers to collect and that she was proud of the work carried out within the Council to make single use vapes illegal to purchase.

The Director of Public Health & Prevention replied that they do work closely with colleagues regarding air pollution and said that the focus of their work is to help adults stop smoking.

The Chair commented that single use vapes would become illegal to purchase from 1st June 2025.

The Chair referred to the Covid-19 vaccine booster and asked what numbers were required to be considered enough and to provide herd immunity.

Laura Ambler replied that she would consult with colleagues and reply to the Panel on this matter.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked there was any update to be given regarding the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to use their powers to call in the BSW ICB's proposed changes to community-based care in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, particularly the appointment of HCRG Care Group, which was raised in March.

Laura Ambler replied that there was no update to be given at the present time.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked Laura for attending and the BSW ICB for their update.

104 ADULT SOCIAL CARE - CQC INSPECTION - REPORT / ACTION PLAN

Councillor Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adult Services introduced the report to the Panel. She explained that the CQC published their report for B&NES on 30th January 2025, assigning a rating of Requires Improvement.

She said that prior to the final report being published a factual accuracy and completeness review was undertaken by the ASC Leadership Team on the draft CQC report.

She said that 75 points of factual accuracy and 69 completeness points were submitted to CQC on 27th November 2024. She informed the Panel that for factual accuracy 56 points were accepted/partially accepted and for completeness points 20 were accepted/partially accepted. The rating for B&NES remained unchanged even though CQC accepted the majority of the changes.

She stated that she was pleased that the CQC had recognised that B&NES has kind, dedicated and passionate staff.

The Director of Adult Social Care addressed the Panel and said that an Improvement Plan was now in place and that due to the Requires Improvement rating B&NES has been assigned a Care and Health Improvement Advisor (CHIA) from Partners in Care (Southwest Region) who partner with the Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.

She said that it is recognised that waiting lists are too high and they expect resources to be put in place to alleviate this.

She added that it was likely that the CQC would seek a follow up review in 2026.

She stated that she was adamant that B&NES has great staff and said that they had received compliments from Community Partners.

Councillor Liz Hardman thanked both the Cabinet Member and the Director of Adult Social Care for their assurances. She asked what work was being done to address the waiting lists for Occupational Therapy.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that within one of the new care homes they had a designated space where people could come and see what equipment is now potentially available to them.

Councillor Hardman said it was good to hear that an Improvement Board is in place and that a list of priorities has been set. She asked if there was a timescale to report on any progress made.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that they have to submit the Improvement Plan by 30th April and that a further timeline will be provided in the next report to the Panel.

Kevin Burnett asked if B&NES was the only Local Authority to have issues with the new methodology of the inspection process and if any further review of the process was planned.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that the process was now complete as they have been informed that they have no grounds for a review.

She confirmed that the Cabinet Member had written to Sir Julian Hartley, CQC Chief Executive on three separate occasions but no response had been received to date.

The Cabinet Member added that she felt that other Councils have had a similar experience regarding recent inspections and believed that the CQC were adapting them in some way.

Kevin Burnett asked if any resource implications had been identified following the inspection.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that additional resources would be allocated towards Occupational Therapy and Adult Social Care Assessments.

She commended her robust management team and the fantastic Social Work staff.

Councillor Lesley Mansell commented on the importance of collecting data of the seldom heard members of our community and the need to support those residents with particular religions / beliefs. She added that was pleased to read that the Director of Adult Social Care represented the local authority in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ+) community group.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that she was aware of the work to do regarding equality and inclusion. She added that she was proud of her role to champion LGBTQ+ for both service users and staff.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Acknowledge the CQC Local Authority Assessment report published with a rating of Requires Improvement.
- ii) Agree that an update report on the progress against the ASC Improvement Plan is submitted to Panel in September 2025.

105 RESPITE CARE

Councillor Alison Born introduced the report to the Panel said that she recognised how important the provision of respite care was. She gave an assurance that Newton House would remain open until a needs assessment had been carried out. She added that the Council was working with a representative of three of the current families to help shape what will be needed in the future. She informed the Panel that the intention is to submit to them a further report in June that will contain clear recommendations for the next steps.

The Director of Adult Social Care said that an all age strategy on respite care would ultimately be arranged and that they would provide the families with regular updates. She stated that there is no intention to stop the current service without an alternative being in place.

She explained that three options were currently being considered:

1. Continue the current service provided by Dimensions.
2. Establish an internal service.
3. Go out to market for the service to be provided.

She said that officers have been tasked with developing an options appraisal and to then share this with representatives of the families. She added that once their feedback had been received the options appraisal would be shared with everyone. She stated that she expected two meetings to take place with family representatives, one in April and one in May. She said that the quality of the provision and the resources involved would be key in making a decision.

She said that a timetable of meetings would be put in place and stated that the Council will continue to fulfil its duties under the Care Act.

The Chair asked for confirmation that the services provided at Newton House will not be stopped immediately in January 2026 should alternative provision still being sought.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that she believed that additional time would be given by the current provider if required.

Kevin Burnett asked if the options being considered were comparable to the current provision.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that it was clear that this needs to be a local service within B&NES and that if needed discussions about an alternative site would take place.

Councillor Hardman asked if she felt that the needs of the families were being taken into consideration.

Wendy Lucas replied that she felt their needs were understood, but concerns remain over the timeline. She said that their children have complex needs and that it would likely take months for all parties to be sure that the provision is right, should it have to change.

She explained that for a previous change in provision it took her child six months to feel comfortable. She added that parents / carers would need to be able to visit / access the site at short notice and therefore the location must be within B&NES.

She said that she was aware that the provision must be cost effective and acknowledged that future recipients of the service should also be taken into account. She added that they understand the financial constraints, but stressed that the pressure on the families is real.

The Director of Adult Social Care said that there is no intention to have this provision outside of B&NES and that she had not seen an increase in respite needs at the current time.

Councillor Onkar Saini asked if all the service users of Newton House had now been reassessed and what lessons have been learnt since this process began in January.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that all 17 service users had been assessed and that they were working through their respective needs. She added that they had learnt that appropriate communication with the families is vital and that they need to consult before making such decisions in the future.

Councillor Alison Born agreed with point raised about communication and said that the original letter about the end / change in provision should not have been sent. She added that the Assistant Director for Operations & Safeguarding has been appointed as the lead contact.

The Director of Adult Social Care said that it was important to make sure that families of children approaching the age of 18 were aware of services they can access as they transition into Adult Services.

Councillor Lesley Mansell commented that better engagement has to be encouraged, and the quality of service must be maintained.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to agree that an update report on the progress of the Respite Care review, including the needs analysis, is submitted to them in June 2025.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions on this matter and said the Panel should receive a further update at their meeting on 14th June.

106 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE - PARTICIPATION PROMISES

Councillor Paul May, Cabinet Member for Children's Services introduced Rachel Hale, Director and CEO of B&NES Parent Carer Forum to the Panel. He thanked her, Olwyn Donnelly and Sarah McCluskey for their work on this matter and said that he intends to take a similar report to the Cabinet at some point in the future.

Rachel Hale addressed the Panel and explained that the Parent Carer Forum works with both Children and Adult Services and meets with them on a monthly basis.

She said that work relating to the promises began with assessing the support required for children and young people with SEND.

She informed the Panel that several groups of young people have reviewed the promises, including students from Chew Valley School. She said that a Makaton version of the promises was also available.

She stated that the intention is for the promises to be adopted by all areas of the Council.

The Head of Education Commissioning added that the promises have been shared with colleagues working in Health and that it was important to make them visible to all young people.

Kevin Burnett asked what the intended age range for the promises was.

Rachel Hale replied that for young people with SEND this was considered to be up to the age of 25. She added that there was also a Participation Toolkit that was available and said that the promises had been co-produced from the earliest point possible.

Kevin Burnett asked how the implementation of the promises would be monitored.

Rachel Hale replied that discussions between Councillors and officers were required to take place on how to maintain the levels of participation. She added that a lot of co-working is already taking place and said that buy-in regarding the promises was required from all Heads of Service.

Councillor May added that a Memorandum of Understanding was also being drafted.

Councillor Lesley Mansell welcomed the report and said that it was important for the work to be recognised across the Council. She asked what consultation had taken place with young people in Radstock.

Councillor May replied that Youth Connect South West (YCSW) were involved in the review of the promises and that this included the Youth Hub in Radstock.

Councillor Mansell said that the responses to the issues raised during this process were positive and asked for an Equalities Impact Assessment to be carried out to raise further awareness and to assure that all factors have been taken into account.

Councillor May replied that the report had been raised with the Equalities Team and felt that the report had addressed any issues. He reiterated his intention to take the report to a meeting of the Cabinet and said that a report on implementation of the promises would come to a future meeting of the Panel.

The Chair asked that this be submitted to them later in the year.

Rachel Hale stated that work had been carried out within their resources and said that they have a good working dialogue with YCSW

Councillor May said that he was pleased to be working closely with the Parent Carer Forum and that he recognised the need for co-production to be done correctly. He added that he welcomed the role of the Panel in this process.

Councillor Anna Box thanked the Forum for their engagement in rural communities and said that it was disappointing that youth provision in Bishop Sutton had been cut.

Councillor Ruth Malloy said that she would like to see all departments encouraged to be aware of their responsibilities with regard to young people and decision making.

Councillor May agreed that this point was valid and said that he had had discussions relating to the Local Plan and the need to have ways to talk to our current young people and to have their views acknowledged.

Rachel Hale commented that the Council has to consider how young people navigate around B&NES as a lot of projects were very Bath centric.

Councillor May acknowledged that access to facilities was important and that they were looking to address this.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Approve the proposed Participation Promises for Children and Young People in B&NES.
- ii) Acknowledge the overview of how the Council participates and engages with children and young people in B&NES.

107 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Chair introduced the item to the Panel and asked for suggestions for future reports to the Panel.

Councillor Ruth Malloy suggested the subject areas:

- Review of local services re: Neuro Diversity
- Home Education (Diagnosis / Help with Mental Health issues for C&YP)

The Chair suggested that the Panel could receive a whole item on Children's Mental Health.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked for an update on Free School Meal – Auto Enrolment.

The Chair suggested that this subject forms part of the Cabinet Member Update.

Chris Batten asked for the Panel to updated on the work of the Music Service.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note their current workplan and these proposals for future reports.

The meeting ended at 12.43 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

Lead Member PDS Report 12/05/2025.

Senior Manager changes in Children's Services.

As you know, we said goodbye to Mary Kearney Knowles at the last panel. She has now retired from her role as the B&NES DCS. The recruitment process for new DCS has been completed and hopefully, by the time the panel meets on the 12th of May 25, I will be able to advise you of the successful candidate.

In the meantime, I am pleased to say that Chris Wilford has been acting as our Interim Director of Children's Services.

Leigh Zywek, our Assistant Director of Children and Young People's Services has been successful in applying for a role in a neighbouring authority. She will leave us in the middle of June. Leigh has been a fantastic leader and we will miss her steady hand. To ensure leadership continuity, we have made an interim appointment. Phoebe Holland, a current Head of Service in B&NES, will act as Assistant Director until 1.4.26. This will allow time for the new DCS to come into post and make the permanent recruitment decisions.

Response to Knife Crime report

As highlighted in my previous report, I am very supportive of the work of the Task Finish Group. We have been asked to respond to the recommendations. I fully accept recommendations 1, 2 and 4. Carla Cooper will provide some additional details for recommendations 3, 5 & 6.

This area of work sits under the violence reduction partnership, cutting across a range of services, including Children's Community Safety. As Lead Member, I will ask for briefings on our activity so that I have the assurance that we are doing all we can to reduce this issue in B&NES. In readiness for this, I have tasked for the report to go to the Violence Reduction Partnership to look at the final two recommendations. I hope to have a response to this for the meeting today

To ensure that I have the right level of assurance of the activity on knife crime prevention, I have asked officers to utilise the time of the BCSSP's Independent Scrutineer to look at the arrangements for tackling knife crime in B&NES. This report will go back to the Executive of the BCSSP, but I will bring any learning back to Policy Development and scrutiny.

Implementation of Families First

As I mentioned in my last briefing, our teams are working to progress Families First and the reforms set out by the government in their 'Keeping Children Safe Helping Families Thrive' guidance.

We are approaching this work through 4 strands of children's services work -

- Family Help
- Multi-Agency Child Protection
- Corporate Parenting
- Parent/Carer Engagement

Managers and Business Change staff are organising meetings to progress all areas of these changes; this will provide clarity around the vision of what this will look like for the children and families in B&NES and a clear timeline for implementation in 2026. This work will be overseen through the children's transformation programme and will include all relevant Council departments and partner agencies to support the necessary changes and commitment to collaborative working. There will also be input from parents/ carers who have received a service from us so that they can help influence service provision.

The Department of Education has provided the local authority with £400K to implement these reforms. This grant will continue, but we believe this falls short of the resources needed to implement all of the changes. We are working collectively in the South West to lobby the DFE for more funding to achieve our aims.

These are significant changes, so I will ensure that I keep briefings on the reforms included in my Lead Member updates.

Corporate Parenting Group meeting held on 5th March 2025.

Due to the previous Corporate Parenting meeting being postponed, the published report on the OFSTED Focused Visit on Care Leavers from 4/5th December was shared at the March meeting. As highlighted in my last update, this was a fabulous OFSTED report, highlighting the excellent work of our children's services teams.

The ICB shared some great news, advising that by April 2025, there would be a dental practice in Bath that would set aside appointments for children and young people looked after who were not registered with an NHS dental practice and needed to be seen by a dentist.

Following the Corporate Parenting meeting, confirmation has been given that WECA is extending, for a further year, the offer of free bus transport for care-experienced young people, which is really positive.

To further develop understanding and support for care experienced people through decision making processes, B&NES Equality Officer is meeting with care experienced young people on 9th May. The aim is to provide guidance on removing barriers, improving care experienced people's lives and practical advice when undertaking equality analysis and documentation through the Equality Impact Assessment process.

Fostering Families

We recently had a visit from the Chief Social Worker, Isabelle Trowler, to discuss our Fostering Families work. Fostering Families is an alternative to foster care, offering families an intensive level of long-term support from a matched carer when the children are at risk of coming into care.

The success of this approach has led to a national webinar being held where other Local Authorities have asked us to support the implementation of Fostering Families within their organisations. This is a significant testament to the incredible work being undertaken by Children's Social Care teams and demonstrates excellent innovative practice.

West of England Music Alliance (WEMA)

Unfortunately, due to the timing of communication and illness in WEMA, I have not had the most recent music service update to share with the panel. However, WEMA is keen to update the panel, and it has committed to sharing its newsletters with panel members. I have asked managers to make the arrangements for all PDS panel members to receive WEMA newsletters.

Early years – Funding Agreement

As you will be aware, some concerns have been raised by some of the early years providers about the Early Years Entitlement (EYE) Provider Agreement. I have provided some context and background to this issue in my report, but an officer from our Early Years funding team will be present to answer any questions.

The Early Years Entitlement (EYE) Provider Agreement, April 1, 2025, is a national policy set by the Department for Education in England. The Childcare Acts of 2006 and 2016 place a number of duties on English Councils regarding early years education and childcare, including the administration of EYE funding and ensuring the sufficiency of provision for families. The EYE offer has expanded since its inception in 1997, with the latest change extending to children as young as 9 months in working families, expanding further to 30 hours from September 2025. Providers may soon receive more than 80% of their income from Department for Education funding at the rate provided to each Council.

The recent update to the EYE agreement clarifies the charges that providers can make on top of EYE funding for items such as meals and trips, stating that these charges should be voluntary and alternatives should be provided if parents cannot pay. This update follows a High Court decision in February 2024, which sided with the Local Government Ombudsman in a case brought against Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole Council regarding nursery fees. On February 21, 2025, the Department for Education published updated regulations for Councils and their providers, effective April 1, 2025, and held a webinar to address Council questions.

Since March 6, the EYE team has been informing providers about the changes through webinars and correspondence. The new Provider Agreement, based on the updated Department for Education template, has been sent to current providers to review and return before the April implementation date. The EYE team has been handling a significant amount of provider correspondence and has received 148 out of 154 agreements to date. Providers must accept the agreement as it stands or not participate in the scheme.

A group of providers has raised concerns regarding the content and timescales of the new agreement, and a national campaign group, Early Years Voice, has been established to raise funds for potential legal action against the Department for Education. Despite these concerns, the agreement aims to ensure that EYE hours are provided free to families at the rate paid by each Council, with voluntary charges for additional items. The Department for Education has been clear that it is supportive of providers providing services such as hot meals and would encourage families to purchase these, but it is clear that the charge cannot be mandatory and a choice must be given to families to provide their own alternative.

Safety Valve

We have recently received correspondence from the Department for Education (DFE) requesting confirmation on whether we wish to amend any of our submitted Safety Valve plans prior to their presentation for ministerial approval. Given the passage of time since the original plans were submitted, our officers have updated the financial and business plans, held further meetings with DFE advisors to review our progress, and finalised the plans, which were submitted on 30th of April, 2025. I will request that officers present an updated report at the next scrutiny panel meeting.

In the meantime, we are continuing to enhance services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We are meeting internal budget targets and continuing to improve service delivery. The capital programme, which includes the development of special and alternative provision schools, a residential school, and resource bases, is progressing. However, delays persist in the Free Schools due to the DFE's review of all school capital programmes. I am diligently lobbying the DFE on this matter.

An equality Impact assessment has been completed and is available to view on the council's website: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/EQIA-SEND-Safety-Valve.pdf>

This will be reviewed and updated as required before the next scrutiny panel – we welcome any feedback.

Free School Meals Auto Enrolment

We are on track to implement our local Auto Enrolment system, with a go-live date being the start of the next academic year on September 25 being on track.

There have been some delays in developing automated system reports to identify prospective claimants, so we are having to carry out some manual checking, though we expect to be able to automate this shortly. This month, we will start to communicate further with families, preparing the letters and communications to advise families that we consider it likely that they will qualify for FSM, and unless they object, we will auto-enrol their child. We will then start to prepare the formal communications for schools.

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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	12 th May 2025	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Update – placement of young people at Fosse Way House residential provision	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
1) A summary of case law regarding to 24 hour / waking day curriculum		
2) Equalities Impact Assessment		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the panel regarding placement of young people at Fosse Way House residential provision at Fosse Way Special School in Radstock.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel / Committee is asked to;

- 2.1 This report is an update and is for information purposes.
- 2.2 Be assured that Local Authority Officers continue to work strategically with social care, health, schools and other partners to work within statutory guidelines and support schools and other settings in delivering the very best outcomes for our children and young people.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Early in this academic year we informed The Partnership Trust that we were unlikely to need to commission places at Fosse Way House for the following year, starting in September 2025. This was not due to budget pressures but because no new B&NES children have been identified whose Education Health and Care Plans indicate that they have specific educational needs requiring a curriculum outside of school hours, also known as a 24-hour curriculum or waking day curriculum.
- 3.2 A 24-hour curriculum not only extends beyond the school day, but into waking hours for the child or young person. This can mean curriculum delivered through the night as required. This is often because long breaks in the school day are required, for example for medical reasons. Whilst in the past the school may have described their cohorts' needs in this manner, they were describing learning that takes place outside of school hours, including skills for independence and social skills.
- 3.3 The Statutory SEND team reviewed the Education elements of plans (section F) for children and young people at Fosse Way house, and consideration was given as to whether this provision could be offered during the school day. In all cases, the provision could be incorporated into a day curriculum and so the residential element of the placement was not required to meet this educational need. It is that Council's view that independence skills can usually be taught during the school day, and through extracurricular activities, as they are at other special schools. This is always reviewed on a case-by-case basis and individual needs are always taken into account.
- 3.4 Only pupils on roll at Fosse Way School are eligible to attend its residential provision and when a child is placed in Fosse Way House, it is with the clear understanding that it is for one academic year. The children currently placed there will be able to complete this year-long placement.
- 3.5 The LA have not received any requests for mediation to resolve disagreement or dispute, or requests for tribunal resolution from families following this decision.
- 3.6 We are committed to working collaboratively with our families to meet the educational needs of young people. Where there are additional social care needs, we continue to ensure the relevant referrals are made to our colleagues in social care who are best placed to make decisions on how these needs are met.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Local Authority continues to work within the SEND Code of Practice and associated case law, as summarised in the attached document.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 Placement decisions at Fosse Way House are based on the educational needs of young people as outlined in their EHCP. The decision not to place young people at Fosse Way House has a coincidental cost saving which did not form part of the decision-making process.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 The needs of young people with special educational needs, as detailed in section B of their plans, continue to be met through the provision outlined in their plans in section F.
- 7.2 Please review the attached EIA for further details.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 There is no climate change impact.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 We have been working with The Partnership Trust over the last couple of years to explore alternative models of operating that could open the provision at Fosse Way House to a wider cohort of pupils, such as those eligible for short breaks. Unfortunately, The Partnership Trust were unable to find a solution that would meet Ofsted and CQC regulations.
- 9.2 We met with The Partnership Trust last October to give them advance notice that we did not expect to have need of any places for this September. This would not prevent them offering places to other local authorities who have children placed at Fosse Way School.
- 9.3 Fosse Way House is not a council-run facility and decisions about its future are ultimately matters for The Partnership Trust, whose work we value.

Contact person	Laura Donnelly Head of SEND Telephone: 01225477105 Mobile: 07977167195
Background papers	<i>None</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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A summary of key law regarding special educational needs provision

For reference, the SEND Code of Practice is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

From Matrix Law (March 2025):

The below is summarised, with full details available at this link:

<https://www.matrixlaw.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Noddy-No-nonsense-Guide-to-SEN-law-2025-v18-050325.pdf>

Do the terms ‘waking day curriculum; or ‘extended day curriculum’ (also known as a 24-hour curriculum) have any legal meaning?

No. The Upper Tribunal has acknowledged the imprecision of the term “waking day curriculum”. It generally means that “the person’s special educational needs are such that they call for special educational provision to be delivered beyond ‘normal hours’”. It may be linked with residential placement, but not necessarily (East Sussex CC v TW [2016]).

Some of the dangers of the use of the non-statutory term “waking day curriculum” as a proxy for the more nuanced approach which is required have been explained in LB Southwark v WE [2021]. Upper Tribunal Judge Jacobs memorably stated at in relation to the term “waking day curriculum”:

“If those words do not induce a feeling of dread in a judge of this Chamber, at least they produce a sense of foreboding”.

These judgements show that the LA and professionals should not be suggesting a general recommendation for a waking day provision. Needs should be explained clearly in section B, and provision in section F should link to those needs. Any reference to waking day or similar curriculum, added by a school or other provider, does not have meaning in law.

Placement (section I) is then agreed to meet the need in Section F.

Is there a particular rule about when a child requires out of hours special educational provision?

It has been said that a “waking day curriculum” may be justified if the CYP needs to “translate into his home and social and indeed all areas of his life and functioning, the skill which he learns within the school and school room”: S v SENDIST [2007].

However, simply because a CYP needs consistency of approach this does not necessarily mean an educational need which should be met beyond the school day in a residential setting: LB Hammersmith and Fulham v JH [2012] UKUT.

This does not mean in a particular case the First Tier Tribunal cannot lawfully decide that a need for a consistency of provision is special educational provision in the circumstances of the particular young person, but it would be **in extremely rare cases** Westminster CC v First Tier Tribunal [2023].

The question to be asked is whether the “need for a consistent program was such that [the CYP’s] educational provision in section F of their plan could not reasonably be provided unless accommodated on the site where [the child] was educated”: Hampshire CC v JP [2009].

Examples of that situation might include:

- the position where more of the provision in question is needed than can be delivered within the hours of the school day – provision in section F (number of hours) is greater than a school day.
- where the child/young person specifically needs that provision throughout their waking hours (or at least beyond the school day) for example due to medical needs.
- or • because the educational provision in question relates to something which can be provided within a school setting.

The key in each case is that the provision in question (whether initially seen as educational provision or as social care provision) involves education and/or training (which then makes it Special Educational Provision under Children and Families Act 2014 s21) and the need for it goes beyond or outside the ordinary school day.

It is not sufficient to say that support to help a CYP “to generalise skills learnt at college in out of college time” becomes Special Educational Provision by virtue of CFA2014 s21(5). The question is whether this falls on the “education and training” side of the line or the “support” side of the line, which is a question of fact. GL v West Sussex CC [2017].

Equality Impact Assessment / Equality Analysis

(Version 4)

Item name	Details
Title of service or policy	Commissioning placements at Fosse Way House
Name of directorate and service	Education & Safeguarding
Name and role of officers completing the EqlA	Laura Donnelly- Head of SEND Olwyn Donnelly-Head of Education Commissioning
Date of assessment	29.04.25

Equality Impact Assessment (or 'Equality Analysis') is a process of systematically analysing a new or existing policy or service to identify what impact or likely impact it will have on people and different groups within our community. The main aim is to identify any adverse impacts (i.e. discriminatory or negative consequences for a particular group or sector of the community, and to identify areas where equality can be better promoted). Equality impact Assessments (EqIAs) can be carried out in relation to services provided to customers and residents as well as employment policies/strategies that relate to staffing matters.

This toolkit has been developed to use as a framework when carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) or Equality Analysis. **Not all sections will be relevant – so mark N/A any that are not applicable.** It is intended that this is used as a working document throughout the process, and a final version will be published on the Council's website following relevant service lead approval.

1.1 Identify the aims of the policy or service and how it is implemented

Key questions	Answers / notes
<p>1.1 Briefly describe purpose of the service/policy e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the service/policy is delivered and by whom • If responsibility for its implementation is shared with other departments or organisations • Intended outcomes 	<p>Fosse Way House (FWH) is a residential provision that caters for up to eleven students, all of whom must have a diagnosis of Autism to access the provision. Students stay each week from Monday to Friday, returning home every weekend and holidays to their parents/carers. Only pupils on roll at Fosse Way School are eligible to attend its residential provision and when a child is placed in Fosse Way House, it is with the clear understanding that it is for one academic year.</p> <p>Fosse Way House is not registered with Ofsted or the CQC as a Children's Home and so is unable to cater for children/young people who are under Children's Social Care and require accommodation 7 days a week and 52 weeks of the year.</p> <p>Local Authorities, including B&NES, can commission placements at Fosse Way House if children have been identified whose Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) indicate that they have specific</p>

educational needs requiring a 24-hour curriculum. A 24-hour curriculum not only extends beyond the school day, but into waking hours for the child or young person. This means curriculum delivered through the night as required. This is often because long breaks in the school day are required, for example for medical reasons.

B&NES commissioned year-long placements at Fosse Way House for a small number of pupils (data sensitive so unable to provide an exact number) for the academic year 24-25. The children currently placed there will be able to complete this year-long placement.

Early in this academic year (17.10.24) we met The Partnership Trust to give them advance notice that we were unlikely to need to commission places at Fosse Way House for the following year, starting in September 2025. This was not due to budget pressures but because no new B&NES children have been identified whose Education Health and Care Plans indicate that they have specific educational needs requiring a 24-hour curriculum.

Although we do not plan to commission places for the coming academic year 25-26 this would not prevent The Partnership Trust offering places to other local authorities who have children placed at Fosse Way School.

Fosse Way House is not a council-run facility and decisions about its future are ultimately matters for The Partnership Trust.

<p>1.2 Provide brief details of the scope of the policy or service being reviewed, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it a new service/policy or review of an existing one? • Is it a national requirement?). • How much room for review is there? 	<p>Statutory guidance regarding a Local Authority's responsibilities to meet the needs of children/young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) is laid out in the 2014 Children & Families Act.</p>
<p>1.3 Do the aims of this policy link to or conflict with any other policies of the Council?</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

2. Consideration of available data, research and information

Key questions	Data, research and information that you can refer to
<p>2.1 What equality focussed training have staff received to enable them to understand the needs of our diverse community?</p>	<p>All staff have attended mandatory equalities training available on the Council's Learning Pool</p>
<p>2.2 What is the equality profile of service users?</p>	<p>Must have a diagnosis of autism and must attend Fosse Way School</p>
<p>2.3 Are there any recent customer satisfaction surveys to refer to? What were the results? Are there any gaps? Or differences in experience/outcomes?</p>	<p>A recent Ofsted inspection included feedback and consultation with service users and parents/carers https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/10/SC041476</p>
<p>2.4 What engagement or consultation has been undertaken</p>	<p>A recent Ofsted inspection included feedback and consultation with service users and parents/carers https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/10/SC041476</p>

as part of this EIA and with whom? What were the results?	
2.5 If you are planning to undertake any consultation in the future regarding this service or policy, how will you include equality considerations within this?	Not applicable

3. Assessment of impact: 'Equality analysis'

Based upon any data you have considered, or the results of consultation or research, use the spaces below to demonstrate you have analysed how the service or policy:

- Meets any particular needs of equalities groups or could help promote equality in some way.
- Could have a negative or adverse impact for any of the equality groups

Key questions	Examples of what the service has done to promote equality	Examples of actual or potential negative or adverse impact and what steps have been or could be taken to address this
3.1 Issues relating to all groups and protected characteristics	<p>The needs of children and young people, as identified using a multi-agency approach, and are detailed in their EHC plan. Provision and placement is agreed using the process outlined in the code of practice section 9, underpinned by the CFA 2014 and associated case law.</p> <p>Families can access independent support from SENDIAS and the Banes Parent</p>	<p>The group of young people in the provision will be determined by their need.</p> <p>Within SEN there is a legal requirement to consult for places within a school or setting and this process is followed. The school or setting then agrees to meet the provision in section F of the plan, and has flexibility to do this using methods</p>

	<p>Carer Forum to help them navigate this process, and formal mediation is available, funded by the LA, should support a disagreement be required.</p> <p>The LA funds the parent carer forum to support families with this process if needed.</p>	<p>available to them. For example, a reading intervention must be provided but the specific program used, time of day, and type of group decided by the school or setting.</p> <p>The LA would expect “reasonable adjustments” and flexibility based on person centred planning through the EHCP to be made to accommodate the young people within the consultation process, ensuring the provision listed in section F to be met by the school.</p>
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*There is no requirement within the public sector duty of the Equality Act to consider groups who may be disadvantaged due to socio economic status, or because of living in a rural area. However, these are significant issues within B&NES and have therefore been included here.

** The Equality Act does not cover armed forces community. However, the Armed Forces Bill (which came in on 22 Nov 2022) introduces a requirement to pay ‘due regard’ to make sure the Armed Forces Community are not disadvantaged when accessing public services.

***The Equality Act does not cover care experienced people. B&NES adopted this group as a protected characteristic in March 2024 alongside over 80 other Local Authorities. Although we have data for care leavers and children/young people who are currently in the care of B&NES we do not have wider data on disadvantage experienced through being in care.

4. Bath and North East Somerset Council Equality Impact Assessment Improvement Plan

Please list actions that you plan to take as a result of this assessment/analysis. These actions should be based upon the analysis of data and engagement, any gaps in the data you have identified, and any steps you will be taking to address any negative impacts or remove barriers. The actions need to be built into your service planning framework. Actions/targets should be measurable, achievable, realistic and time framed.

Issues identified	Actions required	Progress milestones	Officer responsible	By when

5. Sign off and publishing

Once you have completed this form, it needs to be 'approved' by your Divisional Director or their nominated officer. Following this sign off, send a copy to the Equality Team (equality@bathnes.gov.uk), who will publish it on the Council's website. Keep a copy for your own records.

Signed off by:

(Divisional Director or nominated senior officer)

Date:

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Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board

Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel – Monday 12 May 2025

Update on Covid-19 spring booster vaccinations

Local people who are most at risk of falling seriously ill from Covid-19 have been coming forward to receive their spring booster vaccine.

All adults aged 75 and over, as well as those over the age of six months and living with a weakened immune system, are eligible for the free vaccination.

So far, since the vaccination drive began at the beginning of April, approximately 45 per cent of people eligible for a booster and living in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire have received their top-up vaccine.

For Bath and North East Somerset alone, the uptake currently stands at around 46 per cent, which is similar to what is being seen in Swindon and Wiltshire, and above the national average, which is approximately 36 per cent.

Having the booster vaccine is seen as the most effective form of protection for people who are more susceptible to the effects of Covid-19, especially as immunity from previous vaccinations fades over time.

Vaccination appointments are still available, and can be arranged either over the phone by calling 119 or online at www.nhs.uk/bookcovid.

Drop-in sessions planned for people to find out more about new Trowbridge Integrated Care Centre

Opportunities to find out more about the new and exciting Trowbridge Integrated Care Centre will be happening at community locations throughout the spring and summer months.

Representatives from the local NHS will be on hand at drop-in sessions taking place in and around Trowbridge to provide residents with information about the new centre, which is currently being built on land opposite the town's existing community hospital.

The first drop-in session will be held on Friday 9 May at the Asda supermarket in the Shires shopping centre on Bythesea Road between 11am and 3pm.

Members of the public will be able to see images of the new centre, learn more about what services will be moving to the site and how the new facility will benefit Trowbridge and the surrounding areas.

There will also be opportunities to ask questions and share feedback.

The drop-in information sessions taking place in and Trowbridge are listed below in full:

- Friday 9 May, 11am – 3pm, Asda, The Shires, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8AT
- Friday 16 May, 11am – 3pm, The Shires Shopping Centre, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8XR
- Tuesday 27 May, 9.30am – 1.30pm, Trowbridge Library, 484 Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8BS
- Friday 13 June, 11am – 3pm, Asda, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8AT

- Thursday 26 June, 2.30pm – 6.30pm, Trowbridge Sports Centre, Frome Road, Trowbridge BA14 0DN
- Wednesday 16 July, 8am – 1.30pm, Trowbridge Market, Fore Street, Trowbridge BA14 8HX

Update on responses to ICB's Big A&E Survey

At the beginning of April, the ICB launched an engagement programme to understand what had driven a 5.6 per cent increase in patients visiting A&E departments across Bath, Swindon and Salisbury during 2024.

The Big A&E Survey went live in April and has, to date, been completed by 822 people.

The ICB is now working with Healthwatch to complete face-to-face surveys in each of the A&E departments throughout May, June and July.

Results will be used to develop a better understanding of what has driven walk-in visits to A&Es, and why people are visiting hospital rather than using other NHS services, such as GP surgeries, minor injury units or NHS 111.

The survey will run until the end of July, and a further update will be offered once results have been analysed.

However, early data from the online survey has shown:

- The highest number of respondents (28 per cent) were referred to A&E by NHS 111
- 81 per cent agreed that they didn't have any other choice of where to seek treatment but A&E, while 65 per cent said they went to A&E as they felt their condition was serious or life threatening
- Other services considered before attending A&E included GP practices, NHS 111 and urgent treatment centres
- 79 per cent of respondents did not think they should have attended somewhere else other than A&E
- Most people visiting A&E travelled from within a five-mile radius
- The highest number of respondents (24 per cent) were in the 50-69 age group

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	12 th May 2025	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Youth Justice Plan 2024 to 2026 – Progress Report	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Youth Justice Plan 2024 to 2026 PowerPoint Presentation Youth Justice Plan Progress Report Equalities Impact Assessment Youth Justice Board Knife Crime Insights Presentation		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty, in partnership with Health, Police and Probation, to produce a Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out how services are to be organised and funded and what functions will be carried out to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset. The two year Plan was presented to CAHW Scrutiny Panel, Cabinet and Council in July 2024 for approval.
- 1.2 There is now a progress report on the two-year plan at Scrutiny Panel on 12th May, and a refreshed version of the Plan will be presented to Cabinet and Council on 10th and 17th July respectively.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note and comment on progress against the two-year plan and for delivery of youth justice services in the year ahead.
- 2.2 The presentation also includes responses to the PDS Knife Crime Prevention Task Finish Group recommendations.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The principal, statutory aim of the youth justice system is to prevent youth offending by 10–17 year olds. The Youth Justice Plan includes the latest

performance indicators for work with children at risk of offending and reoffending and sets out how services will be resourced and delivered in 2024 to 2026.

- 3.2 Actions in the work plan will help to make Bath and North East Somerset a safer place and support children to lead crime-free lives with better prospects for their futures. This includes working with the Violence Reduction Partnership to address knife crime and other serious violence.
- 3.3 The Youth Justice Plan 2024 to 2026 is attached as an appendix to this report, along with a presentation outlining progress made in the last 12 months. A refreshed plan will be submitted for 2025, as required by the Youth Justice Board.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Preparation of a Youth Justice Plan is required under S.40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The national Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has published guidelines for its completion and submission.
- 4.2 The Council is the lead partner in meeting the statutory requirement under S.39 of the same legislation, to establish a multi-agency team made up of members from Police, Children's Social Care, Education, Probation and Health, to prevent youth offending. Work with children at risk of offending or re-offending takes full account of their status as children and prioritises safeguarding them within their local communities as well as in their family settings.
- 4.3 By virtue of the Local Authorities (functions and responsibilities) (England) regulations 2000 (as amended) certain plans and strategies, which together make up the Council's budgetary and policy framework, must be approved by full Council, as reflected in the Council's constitution. These include the Youth Justice Plan.
- 4.4 The constitution requires that the Executive's proposals in relation to any such policy, plan or strategy be submitted to full Council and that, in reaching a decision, the Council may adopt the Executive's proposals, amend them, refer them back to the Executive for consideration or, in principle, submit its own proposals in their place.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The above statutory partners share responsibility for resourcing the Youth Justice Service with staff and financial contributions. The Council continues to make the greatest contribution, together with significant in-kind support including access to buildings and finance, IT and human resources support. The refreshed Youth Justice Plan will outline the from all partners.
- 5.2 Submission of a Youth Justice Plan and quarterly data returns are conditions for receipt of the Youth Justice Board grant. This includes reporting on ten key performance indicators and participation in the oversight framework.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A summary of challenges and risks is contained within the Youth Justice Plan.

6.2 The Youth Justice Partnership Board, which is a sub group of the BCSSP, has oversight of the Risk Register for the service.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and has confirmed workstreams already identified within the Youth Justice Plan including addressing disproportionality amongst children from minority ethnic backgrounds and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 To improve climate change, the service minimises travel where possible, sometime using online meetings with colleagues where appropriate. Staff also have use of the pool cars when completing longer journeys and use public transport where possible.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 This refreshed Youth Justice Plan will be shared with the Section 151 Officer and approved by the Monitoring Officer.

10.2 The Youth Justice Plan draws on feedback from children, parents and carers who worked with the Youth Justice Service during 2024/25.

10.3 The Plan will be approved by the Youth Justice Partnership Board and members of the Youth Justice Service itself.

Contact person	Carla Cooper, Interim Head of Young People's Prevention Service Carla_cooper@bathnes.gov.uk Mobile: 07980 998895
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Bath and North East Somerset

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024 - 2026



Working in Partnership to achieve Child First Justice

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1. Introduction, Vision, Strategy and Local Context

Introduction

Welcome to the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for Bath and North East Somerset Youth Justice Service for 2024 - 2026.

This plan sets out the direction of travel and key priorities for the service and partnership over the next 2 years, as required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

This Plan adheres to the Youth Justice Board's 'document 'Youth Justice Plans: Guidance for Youth Justice Services'. The plan will be reviewed annually, as required by the Youth Justice Board.

The Plan has been developed under the guidance of the Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Youth Justice Service (YJS) Partnership Board, in consultation with YJS team members, and considering feedback from B&NES YJS service users. The progress of the plan will be monitored by the YJS Partnership Board throughout the year ahead.

The Youth Justice Plan:

- summarises the YJS structure, governance, and partnership arrangements.
- outlines the resources available to the YJS.
- reviews achievements and developments during 2023 - 2024.
- identifies emerging issues and describes the partnership's priorities.
- sets out our priorities and actions for improving youth justice outcomes in the next two years.

Vision and Strategy

The Vision for B&NES Youth Justice Service is:

“Working in Partnership to achieve Child First Justice”

This means that we are working together to create a youth justice system that sees children as children. We prioritise the best interests and well-being of children. We recognise their individual needs, vulnerabilities, abilities, rights, and potential. Our work is informed by a Child First, Trauma Informed and Strengths Based approach.

We work together to build on children's individual strengths and capabilities as a way of helping them develop an identity away from offending, to lead to safer communities with fewer victims. We work together, as partners, to identify and reduce harm for communities, children and victims.

All our efforts are aimed at constructive and forward-looking approaches, based on nurturing relationships that empower children to reach their full potential and make positive contributions to society. This includes supporting children to have successful transitions to adult services.

We promote the active participation, engagement, and inclusion of children in society and our work seeks to collaborate with them and their parents and carers to hear and learn from their views.

We recognise that some children are over-represented in the justice system, in particular children from minority ethnic backgrounds and children with special educational needs (SEN).

We work in partnership to reduce this disproportionality, keeping the needs of the most vulnerable children we work with at the centre.

We advocate for a childhood that is separate from the justice system. We do this by implementing preventive measures, diversion programmes, and proportionate, timely intervention, thereby minimising any potential negative impact or stigma associated with being in the youth justice system.

B&NES YJS vision also includes a commitment to being an anti-racist service. The vision is:

B&NES Youth Justice Service Anti-Racism Vision

- To commit to being an anti-racist service.
- To uphold social justice and challenge inequality and racism in the actions of individuals, in services and in society.
- To value and celebrate diversity and promote equality of opportunity.

B&NES Council is the lead partner in the multi-agency response to children and risk of offending. Its Corporate Strategy¹ sets out an overarching purpose to **'IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES'**. The vision for all children and young people is that they live in safe, happy and healthy families and communities, which is detailed in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for BANES².

The Youth Justice Board's key objectives are in line with local ambitions and they are to:

- Reduce the number of children in the youth justice system.
- Reduce reoffending by children in the youth justice system.
- Improve the safety and wellbeing of children in the youth justice system.
- Improve outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

Local Context

B&NES YJS is a statutory partnership between B&NES Council, Avon and Somerset Police, the Probation Service and NHS Bath, Swindon, and Wiltshire (BSW) Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The YJS works in partnership to prevent children entering the youth justice system, through the Compass Service. The YJS also works with children who have come to the attention of the police and are being dealt with for committing criminal offences. We work with children and their parents and carers, to understand their needs and risks, and to help them make positive changes in their lives.

We contact all victims of crimes committed by the children we work with to offer them the chance to take part in restorative justice, so we can help repair the harm they have experienced.

B&NES local authority covers the city of Bath and the more rural communities in North East Somerset, including Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Chew Valley and Keynsham. In 2022, the population of B&NES is estimated at 195,618³ The 10-17 resident population estimate for mid-2022 is 17,033 (8.7%)

¹ <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/corporate-strategy-2023-2027>

² <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy>

³ Strategic Evidence Base for Bath and North East Somerset

https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/jsna/Strategic%20Evidence%20Base%20Main%20Doc%20Published%2020220630_0.pdf

The following information provides demographic information about children aged 10 – 17 years living in B&NES:

Gender

- Males – 8,742 Females – 8,291 ³

Ethnicity

- White population is c.14,960 for the 10-17 age group as at the time of the 2021 Census (March 2021). This represents 90.7% of the entire 10-17 year old population (c.16,495). Therefore, the **non-White population percentage is 9.3%**. This includes:
Asian – c.465, Black – c.90, Mixed – c.920, Other – ** ³

* all ethnicity figures rounded to 5

** suppression applied to age 15 figure

Poverty

After Housing Costs, relative poverty for B&NES is **19.0% 2021/22**. In England it is 31.0%⁴.

Free School Meals

The number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) has increased in B&NES and nationally. In all state funded schools in B&NES, the number of pupils eligible for FSMs has more than doubled from 2,199 (8%) in 2015/16 to 4,361 (17%) in 2022/23. Nationally the percentage was 14.3% in 2015/16 and is 24% in 2022/23. ³

The Strategic Evidence Base data shows an increasing attainment gap between pupils eligible for FSM and those who are not.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Since the SEND reforms started to be implemented in 2014/15, there has been a year-on-year increase in the number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) The annual growth rate has been noticeably higher in B&NES between 2022 and 2023 (15%) compared to national and regional (9% and 8% respectively). In January 2023, there were 1,967 children and young people with an EHCP maintained by B&NES Council.

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

The participation rate in April 2024 in B&NES for young people aged 16 and 17 years is 93.%.

The NEET rate in B&NES in April 2024 is 3%, compared with a South West rate of 3.7% and a rate in England of 3.5%. ⁵

Social Care

There were 214 Children Looked After by B&NES LA as of 31st March 2024. This is at a rate of 58.35 per 10,000 children aged under 18 years.⁶ There were 141 children on a Child Protection Plan and 439 children on a Child in Need Plan as of 31st March 2024.⁶

⁴ <https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty-2024/>

⁵ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/participation-in-education-and-training-and-employment>

⁶ Children Social Care Performance Dashboard April 2024

2. Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

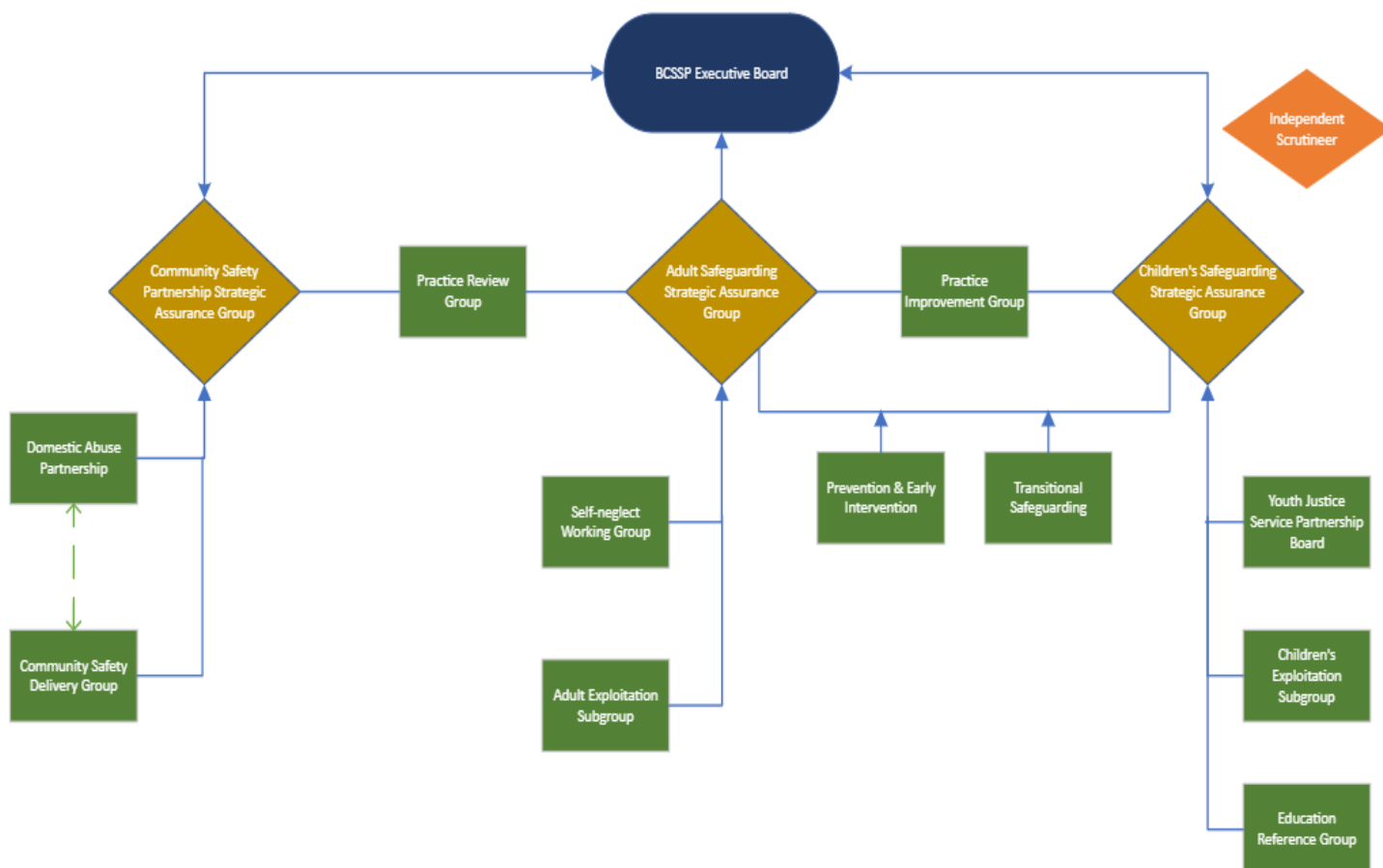
Governance

The Youth Justice Service is based within the Local Authority, with the Chief Executive holding lead responsibility and management resting within Children's Services as part of the wider People and Communities Department.

The Head of Service reports to the Director of Children and Education and is a member of the Children and Young People's Service Management Group. The Head of Service also holds responsibility for the Violence Reduction Partnership and for some aspects of the Local Authority's early help agenda and delivery, including use of Early Help Assessments.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services presents the Plan to the Cabinet and Full Council for their authorisation. The Plan is also presented to the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel. The Youth Justice Partnership Board also reports annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board through its Chair, who is a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board, contributing to the outcome 'children and young people are safe from crime.'

Multi-agency strategic oversight of Youth Justice Services is provided at a number of levels. Its dedicated Partnership Board operates as a sub-group of the B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP)⁷. This partnership embraces the functions of the previous Local Children's Safeguarding Board, Adult Safeguarding Board and Community Safety Partnership, recognising their shared responsibilities and interfaces. It operates across all ages, being well placed to address the challenges of transition, and encourages a focus on families and communities. The diagram below represents the BCSSP structure:



⁷ B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership <https://bcssp.bathnes.gov.uk/>

Leadership

The work of the B&NES YJS is managed strategically by a Partnership Board.

The Partnership Board consists of senior representatives of the statutory partner organisations, together with other relevant local partners.

Membership:

- » Chair: Director of Children' Services and Education, B&NES Council
- » Deputy Chair: Director of Education and Safeguarding, B&NES Council
- » Health: Senior Commissioning Manager, BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire ICB
- » Health: Regional Director, HCRG Care Group
- » Police: Chief Inspector, Avon and Somerset Police
- » Probation: Head of Bath and North Somerset PDU
- » Council: Lead Member for Children and Young People
- » Youth Bench: Chair of Avon and Somerset Youth Panel
- » College: Principal and CEO of Bath College
- » Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service: Service Manager
- » Community Panel Member
- » Youth Justice Board for England and Wales: South West Oversight Manager
- » Finance; Group Accountant
- » YJS: Operational Manager and Business and Performance Manager
- » Police: Force Tactical Lead for Out of Court Resolutions
- » Housing: Director of Tenancy Management and Compliance

All new members of the Board attend an induction session to introduce them into the work of the Youth Justice Service and their responsibilities as members of the Board.

The Board receives regular activity and outcome reports on key areas of service delivery including Out of Court Resolutions, Policing, Speech and Language Therapy, Nursing, Education, the Compass prevention service, Harmful Sexual Behaviour and the Enhanced Case Management initiative. The Board maintains and reviews Challenge and Risk Registers.

The Board has four Board Meetings per year and an annual development day. The development day is designed to assess the work of the Board, review progress and impact and set priorities for the year ahead.

There are two, multi-agency subgroups to the Youth Justice Partnership Board, which are the Custody Review Panel and the Youth Crime Prevention Board. This Custody Review panel is chaired by the Head of Service and reviews children held overnight in police custody, those sentenced or remanded to custody and children at risk of being sentenced to custody. The Youth Crime Prevention Board works in partnership to reduce first time entrants and address any emerging issues in relation to children offending.

All Partnership Board meetings begin with a practitioner's case study, illustrating an aspect of work undertaken, or from time to time, through a practitioner supporting a child working with the Service to attend and tell their story or present an issue. These presentations highlight challenges in the work undertaken and sometimes seek support in raising issues at a strategic level. Practitioners also compile and present reports about aspects of the work they are involved in. This gives opportunity to raise awareness and allows for some scrutiny of work undertaken. In turn, Board members are encouraged to participate in case audits and to meet with individual practitioners to observe or discuss their work, to deepen their understanding.

Partnership Arrangements

In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, we are a multi-disciplinary team which includes Social Workers, a Probation Officer, an Education Worker, a Police Officer, a Nurse, a Speech and Language Therapist, a Reparation and Participation Worker, Prevention Key Workers, Assessment and Information Officers, Administrators, and Managers. We also have a team of Volunteer Panel Members and in 2024, we are looking to recruit and train a small number of Volunteer Mentors. There is a staffing structure located at [Appendix 2](#) of this document.

Case manager staff including qualified Probation Officers and Registered Social Workers have key statutory functions, including the assessment and supervision of children aged 10-17 who are subject to voluntary and conditional Out-of-Court Resolutions and community and custodial Court Orders, and supporting parents/carers to strengthen their parenting skills. The Police Constable (one full-time equivalent) undertakes a range of tasks including facilitating information sharing but also giving those harmed a voice and an opportunity to become involved in restorative work with children if they wish to do so. This work is supplemented locally by a prevention service, Compass, which works with children aged 8-17 years who are assessed as being at risk of offending, and with their families. The Turnaround initiative for children on the cusp of the youth justice system, has been rolled out alongside Compass, to work with them to prevent them entering the formal justice system and addressing their needs as soon as possible.

The Youth Justice Service has close working relationships with a range of partners in the voluntary and community sector.

➤ **DHI Project 28**, which receives a small annual grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner as part of their core Council commission. With this, they provide substance misuse services for children subject to Youth Alcohol and Drugs Diversion (Outcome 22) interventions and programmes for those subject to voluntary and statutory supervision.

➤ **The Violence Reduction Partnership**, managed by the same Head of Service as the Youth Justice Service, including a Co-ordinator and Development Officer for the Council. The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) hosts a multi-agency information sharing meeting – the Partnership for Preventing Exploitation and Serious Violence (PREV). Individuals at risk of serious violence, networks and places of concern are all identified, the nature and level of risk is discussed, and actions are agreed to strengthen risk management. The Youth Justice Service plays an active role in this. The VRP commissions lived experience mentoring, detached youth work, Street Doctors training and staff training on serious violence and knife crime. The VRP also runs frequent knife awareness events for parents and carers.

- **Youth Connect South West**, commissioned by the Council, provides targeted support and access to universal youth services, together with programmes to support access to education, training and employment (ETE) opportunities.
- Social Care's **Adolescent and Child Exploitation Team** works with children who have been exploited, some of whom are also known to the Youth Justice Service. Managers in the two services endeavour to co-ordinate their work in the best interests of the children concerned, and usually identify a 'lead' worker with whom the child engages best.
- The **Early Intervention Team**, part of the Police contribution to the Violence Reduction Partnership, and including an Inspector, a Sergeant, and two Constables, undertake early intervention work with children on the fringes of involvement in serious violence. They are part of the Youth Crime Prevention Board to help 'join up' preventative approaches.
- **Southside**, a community-led project for supporting those affected by domestic abuse and also commissioned by the Violence Reduction Partnership to offer lived-experience mentoring to those at risk of being involved in serious violence.

3. Update on the Previous Year

3.1 Progress on Priorities in previous Plan

The priorities agreed for 2023 - 2024 were to strengthen participation, address disproportionality, embed child first principles, and tackle serious violence.

The associated actions have all been reviewed by the Partnership Board and progressed and many have been completed. A number of actions are in relation to longer-term pieces of work that will continue into this year and beyond.

An end of year position on all actions is included in [Appendix 3](#).

Our key achievements have been to continue to embed child first principles. The Partnership Board have transformed the way they work to hear voices of the child and hold each other to account to ensure their agencies are taking a child first approach. The Service has also contributed to the development of a local strategic needs assessment and reviewed interventions offered in relation to knife crime.

In 2023 - 2024, we made some significant strides in our work towards the anti-racism action plan, including:

- The YJS Partnership Board and YJS Team agreed a vision statement, and this has been added to relevant documents and our Webpage.
- We have made sure that YJS staff are familiar with the HMIP Effective Practice Guide, and this will be ongoing for all new staff.
- We procured and delivered two days Cultural Competency and Unconscious Bias Training for all staff.
- We included positive, representative images of children and adults on noticeboards and in leaflets in our Broad Street Office where children have some appointments with the YJS.
- The YJS Head of Service and the B&NES Virtual School Headteacher have joined the Youth Pillar of the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner led Tackling Disproportionality group. This group is working to meet the recommendations in the Identifying Disproportionality report.⁸ B&NES also have representation at the Data and Insights Pillar and the HR and Workforce Pillar.
- We updated our templates such as the Out of Court Disposal Assessment and PSR Quality Assurance to ensure that diversity and identity were included in all assessments and reports.
- We include discussion on the Social GRACES⁹ in case work supervision.

There are areas in last year's plan that are aligned with and part of Avon and Somerset wide work to tackle disproportionality. These work streams will continue into this year's plan. As a service, we have made progress with participation work, but there is more to do and this will feature in the plan for the coming year.

⁸ <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Identifying-Disproportionality-Report.pdf>

⁹ <https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms/media/7086/social-graces.pdf>

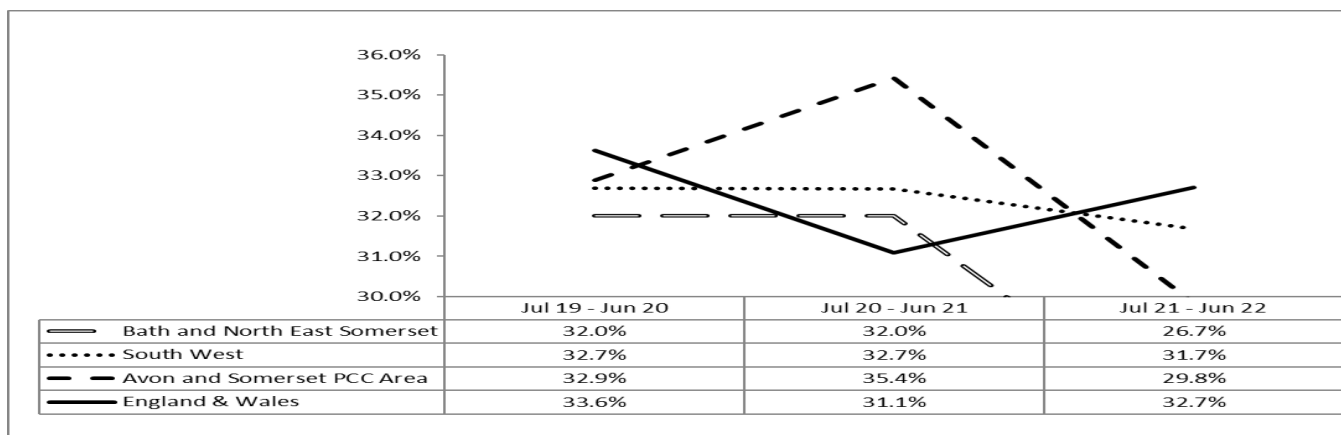
3.2 Performance over the previous year

Re-Offending

One of the YJB's key measures of effectiveness of the youth justice system is re-offending. The indicator is the rate of re-offending after 12 months by a cohort of children who received substantive outcomes (Cautions, Conditional Cautions or Convictions). It is shown as a binary rate (the overall percentage of children who re-offended) and as the average rate of new offences committed by each child who re-offended. Local cohorts include very low numbers of children.

Our Binary percentage of re-offending has reduced in this reporting period by 5.33% for the period July 2021 - June 2022. There were 25 children in the previous cohort and 8 re-offended, compared with 15 in the current cohort of which 4 have re-offended. There continues to be a discrepancy between local and national data due to PNC data not including children for motoring offences. Our binary percentage of re-offending is showing as 26.7%, which is lower than all our Comparators.

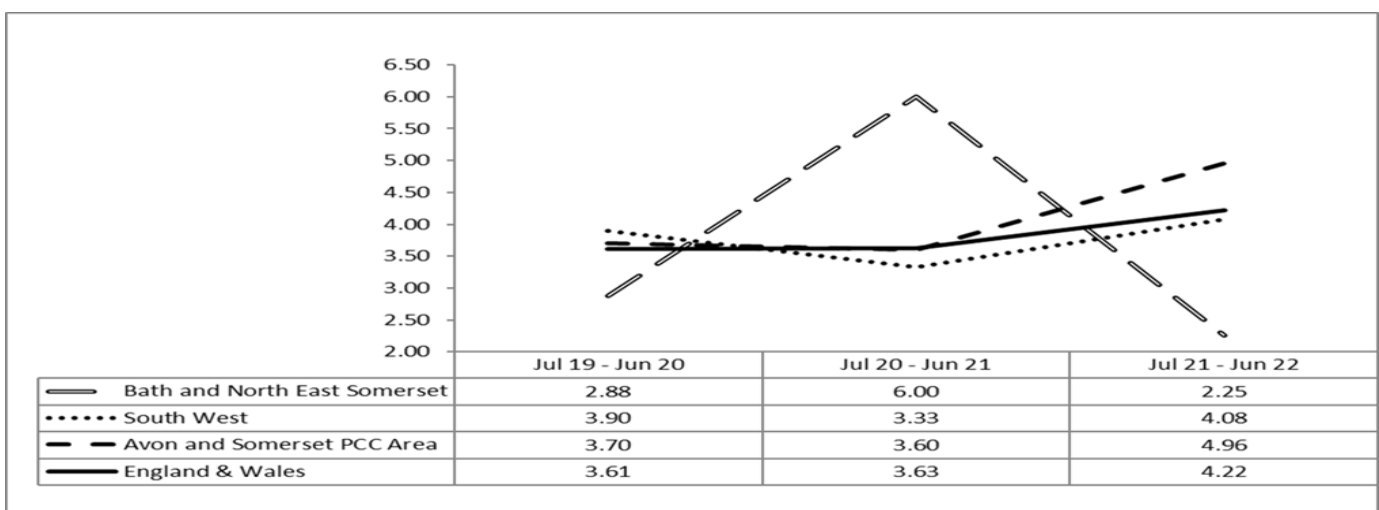
Reoffending rate (Reoffenders / Number in cohort) - Jul 21 - Jun 22



Frequency of Reoffending

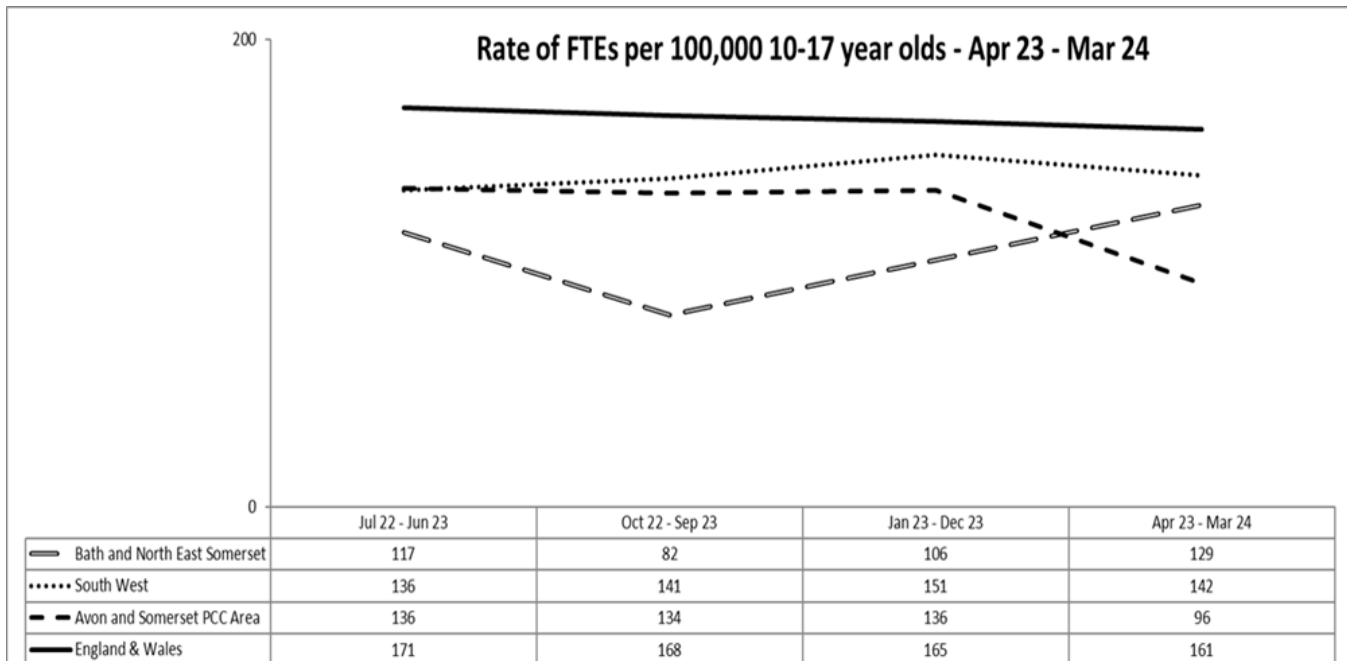
Our rate of re-offending for the period July 2021 - June 2022 is 2.25. This is a reduction from 6.00 (-62.5%). This is due to there being fewer children in the cohort and fewer children re-offending. There were 8 re-offenders in the previous reporting period committing 48 further offences and 4 re-offenders in the current period committing 9 further offences. Our rate is lower than all of our Comparators.

Reoffences / Reoffenders - Jul 21 - Jun 22



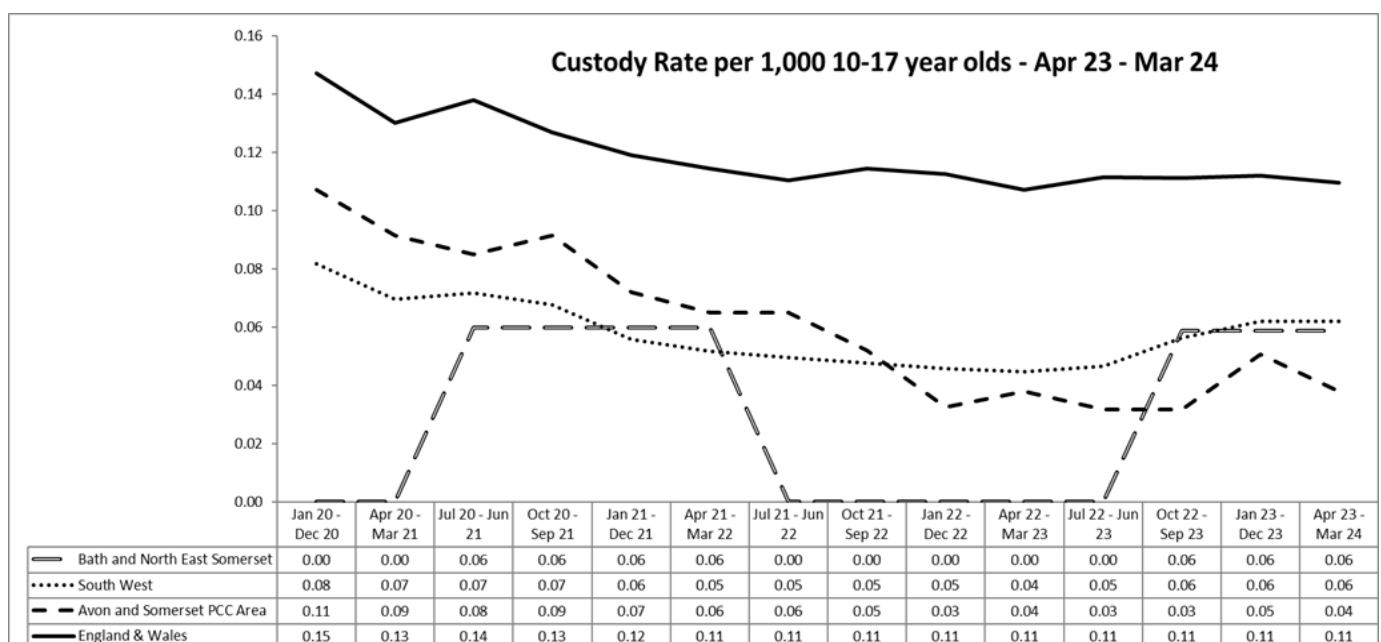
First Time Entrants

First Time Entrants are those children who receive a substantive outcome for the first time. The rate of First Time Entrants has increased in this reporting period from 106 to 129 per 100,000 in the population. This represents 22 individual children compared with 14 in the previous reporting period. The YJB Published data now uses YJS data, so the local and national figures match. The rate in B&NES is lower than most of our comparators. The rates for our comparators are: South West (142), PCC Area, (96) and England and Wales (161).



Custody

There was one custodial sentence in this reporting period and our rate remains the same at 0.06 per 1,000 in the population. The YJB published data matches our local data. The rates for our Comparators are:- South West Region (0.06), PCC Area (0.04) and England and Wales (0.11)

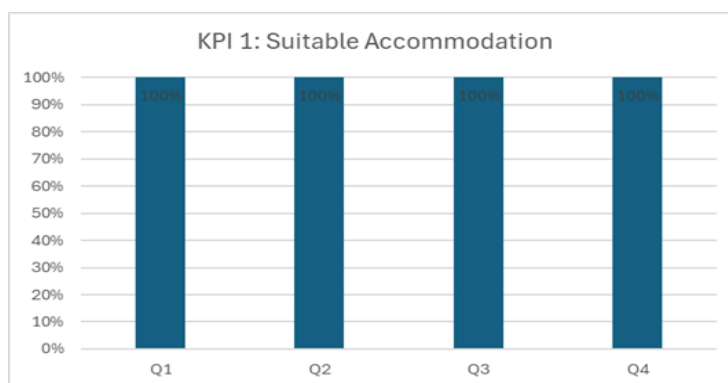


New Key Performance Indicators

The Ministry of Justice introduced ten additional Key Performance Indicators from April 2024. This data was first reported to the Youth Justice Board in the autumn of 2023. Since then, there have been multiple issues with the production of this data including technical issues at a national level. There has been a huge contribution from the YJS staff to ensure these new data fields are input onto the case management system. Much development is still needed here, and we look forward to the problems with the national data being resolved and us being able to report fully on the KPI's. We are in a position to report the following information:

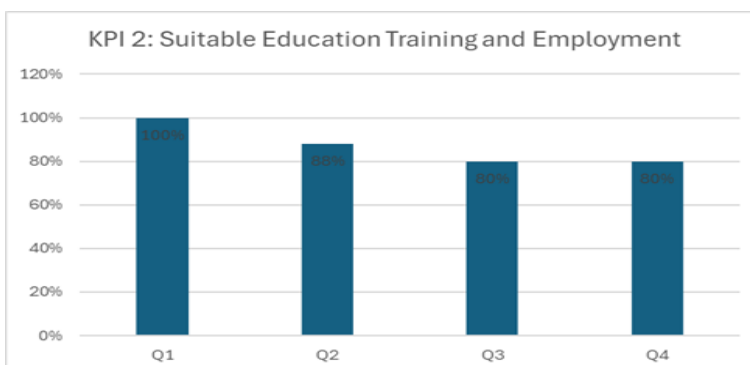
1. Suitable Accommodation

This key performance indicator is the proportion of children in the community and released from custody who have suitable accommodation arrangements at the end of their intervention. 100% of all children with relevant interventions closing in all 4 quarters for 2023 - 2024 were assessed as being in suitable accommodation at the end of their intervention with the Youth Justice Service.



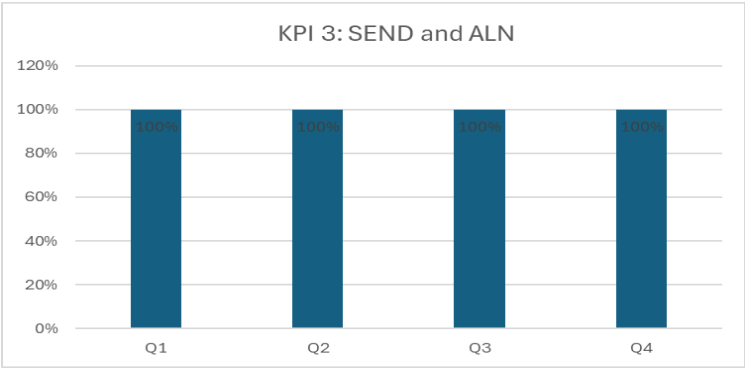
2. Education, Training and Employment

This key performance indicator is the proportion of children in the community and being released from custody in a suitable Education, Training and Employment arrangement at the end of their intervention. Between 80% and 100% of children with interventions closing in the 4 quarters in 2023 - 2024 were in suitable Education, Training and Employment at the end of their intervention with the Youth Justice Service.



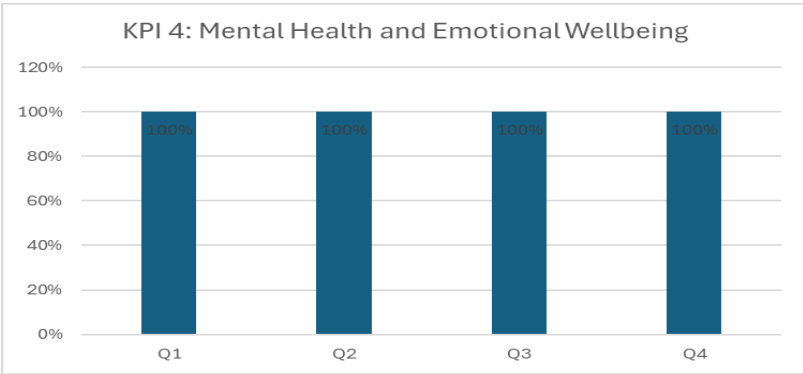
3. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Alternative Learning Provision (ALN)

This key performance indicator is the number of children with SEND and ALN with a formal plan in place as a proportion of children with identified SEND/ALN. All children with relevant interventions closing in all 4 quarters for 2023 - 2024 who had an identified SEND/ALN need, had a formal plan in place.



4. Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

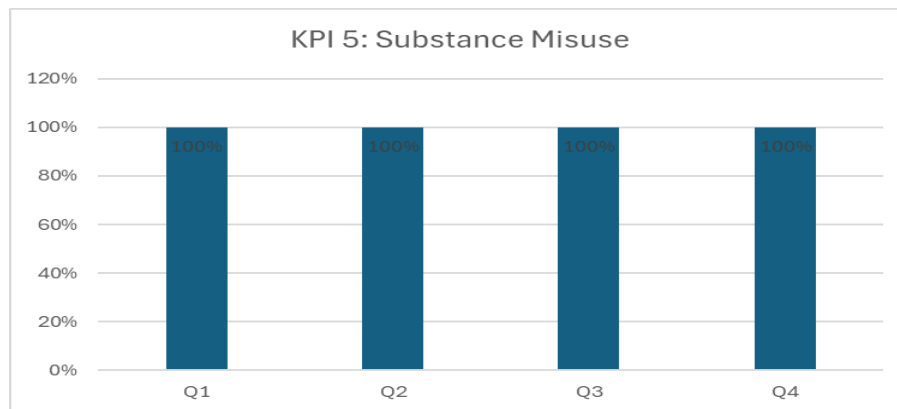
This key performance indicator is the number of children who have been screened for a mental health or emotional wellbeing need at the end of their intervention as a proportion of the number of children with interventions closing in the period. 100% of children with a relevant intervention closing in all 4 quarters for 2023 - 2024 were screened for Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing as part of their assessment.



The Specialist Community Public Health Nurse offers a holistic health screening to all children who come into the service in order to identify any mental health or emotional well-being needs and provide direct support or refer to specialist services including CAMHS. For children who decline the health assessment from the Nurse, their emotional and mental health needs are screened using the relevant assessment tool, either Asset Plus or Prevention and Diversion by their case manager. The last annual health report to the Partnership Board identified emotional health as the second most prevalent need (with physical health needs being most prevalent). Support provided includes direct intervention using Brief Solution Focused approaches and supporting practitioners and the wider team around the child.

5. Substance Misuse

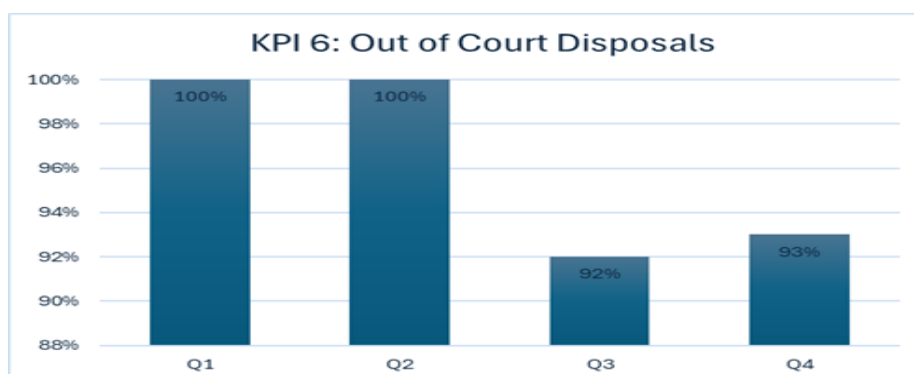
This key performance indicator is the number of children who have been screened for a need for specialist intervention or treatment to address substance misuse at the end of their intervention as a proportion of the number of children with an intervention closing in the period. 100% of children with a relevant intervention closing in all 4 quarters for 2023 - 2024 were screened for substance misuse as part of their assessment.



The Specialist Community Public Health Nurse also provides a holistic health screen for all children who come into the service and seeks to identify any substance misuse needs. In addition to this, the allocated case manager will also screen for any substance misuse needs as part of their assessment. The local substance misuse partner, DHI Project 28, provides specialist intervention for children in the area. In preparation for the introduction of the new measure, the Youth Justice Service has been working with DHI Project 28 to record the data of those who have been accessing support prior to their involvement and those that were screened and offered support via referral to them, including commencement of intervention.

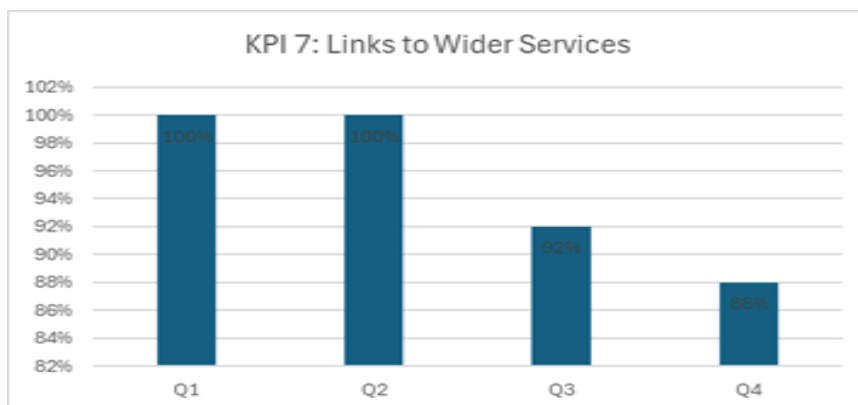
6. Out-of-Court Disposals

This key performance indicator is the number of children who completed an Out of Court Disposal programme as a proportion of the number of children with an Out of Court Disposal intervention ending in the period. Most children in all 4 quarters who had a relevant intervention close, successfully completed their programme. The reduction in quarters 3 and 4 were down to one case in each quarter.



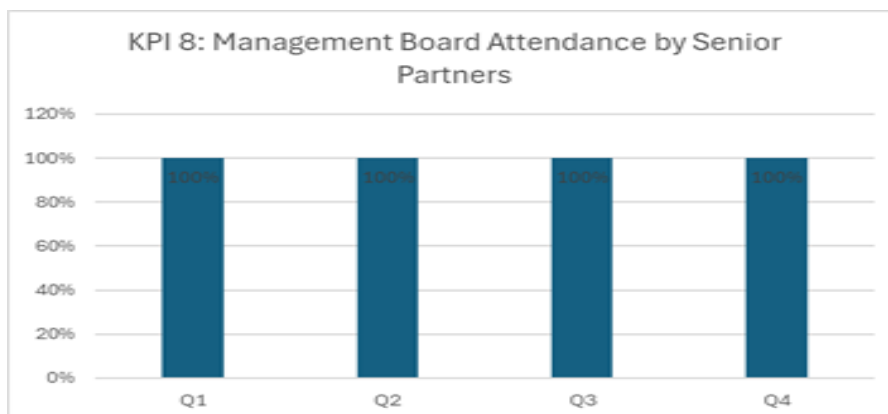
7. Wider Services

This key performance indicator is the proportion of children connected to or supported by wider services at the end of their intervention with the Youth Justice Service. Wider Services are either an Early Help Plan, Child Protection Plan, are classified as a Child in Need or a Child Looked After. In Quarters 1 and 2, 100% of the children with a relevant intervention closing in the period were working with wider services. In quarters 3 and 4 there were fewer children involved with wider services at the end of their intervention with the Youth Justice Service.



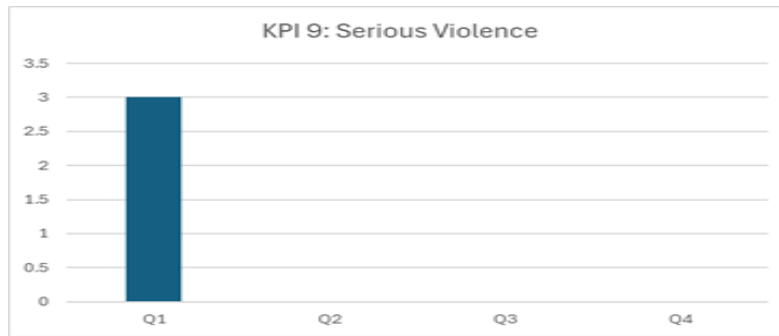
8. Management (Partnership) Board Attendance

This key performance indicator monitors senior (statutory) partner attendance at Partnership Board meetings and whether they contribute data from their individual services that identify areas of racial and ethnic disproportionality. Attendance has been monitored for many years as part of local assurance reporting. All of our Statutory Partners have attended all of the Partnership Board meetings for the period April 2023 - March 2024.



9. Serious Violence

This key performance indicator is the number of proven serious violence offences as a rate per 100,000 of the 10-17 population. The YJB definition for serious violence offences are Robbery offences, Drug offences and Violent offences with a gravity score of 5 or more. This data is reported but despite an apparent rise in serious violence in the area, in the last year, numbers fitting the criteria for reporting have been very low. There were no children convicted of serious violence offences in Quarters 2, 3 and 4. The offences relating to Quarter 1 were for Wounding without Intent and Attempt to Choke/Suffocate.



10. Victims

This key performance indicator is the number of victims who engaged in restorative justice opportunities as a proportion of the total number of victims who consent to be contacted by the Youth Justice Service. Victims are asked for their views prior to Out of Court Resolution decision-making and planning for statutory Court Orders, provided with information about the progress of a child's case (when requested) and provided with information on appropriate services that support victims (when requested). The majority of victims have taken part in the restorative justice process for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024. Examples of the definition of what constitutes taking part in a restorative process include: Victim being consulted, Victim offered Direct or Indirect Reparation, Victim agreeing to attend a face-to-face meeting, Victim accepts and receives Letter of Apology.



3.3. Risks and Issues

A risk in this context is defined as a potential or emerging factor which may impede the delivery of positive outcomes for children in B&NES. An issue is something that has already occurred or is currently happening which is affecting outcomes. B&NES YJS has a full Risk Register that is reviewed annually with the Partnership Board.

Risks	Potential Impact	Actions and Proposed Actions
Funding and Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Turnaround Funding to cease in March 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduction in the number of children the service can offer prevention and diversion services to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contribute to evaluation of Turnaround to evidence effectiveness. ➤ Consider alternative funding streams and how cases are allocated to Compass Service.

Funding and Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partner contributions to pooled budget not being increased in line with inflation in the coming year. ➤ YJB Grant for 24/25 not confirmed ahead of plan submission date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Budget will become overspent in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Present the risks to the Partnership Board and request for a raise in pooled budget contribution. ➤ Plan with the finance team how to mitigate for this risk, in consideration of other YJS budgets.
Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The YJB launched a new Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool for out of Court work in April 2024. It is mandatory to use from April 2024. The training to use the tool is booked after this date in August 2024. ➤ The new tool is written from a child first perspective, but offer less guidance for analysis of risk than our previous locally designed tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Without sufficient training prior to rolling out the tool, practitioners may be inadvertently making mistakes in its use and application. ➤ In reducing the prompts in the tool around assessment of risk of harm, serious harm and likelihood of re-offending, risk judgements may not be sufficiently evidenced or explained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Operational Manager to deliver workshops to practitioners on risk assessments to ensure continued good practice in this area. ➤ Operational Manager and Senior Practitioner to attend the YJS training in August and roll out to the team at the earliest opportunity after that. ➤ Create local guidance for practitioners to ensure risk assessments evidence nature, likelihood and potential impact of future offending.

Issue / Challenge	Potential Impact	Actions and Proposed Actions
Timeliness of offences being dealt with by Police and CPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delays continue to exist in investigations, in particular more complex investigations and through the Police / CPS interface. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Impact on mental health and wellbeing of children and victims. ➤ Children sometimes being sentenced when they are adults for offences they committed as children. ➤ Risks issues not being adequately addressed in the time between offence and charge. ➤ Reduction in effectiveness of delayed interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ YJS Partnership Board to request the issue is addressed by the Local Criminal Justice Board

<p>Meeting children's complex needs, including children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Many children in the YJS have SEND and meeting their complex needs is a challenge when availability of suitable provision is limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children in the YJS with SEND may not achieve their full potential and be offered appropriate opportunities to meet their needs. ➤ Children in the YJS with SEND remain vulnerable to exploitation and further offending. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ B&NES has a strategy in place to increase SEND provision in the coming year, including a new special school in the area. ➤ YJS Partnership Board to work together to consider if children in the YJS can be offered an enhanced SEND service.
<p>Disproportionality in particular children with SEND and children from minority ethnic groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The children in the formal youth justice system continue to be over-represented by children from the most vulnerable groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children from these vulnerable groups are at risk of receiving the worst outcomes in terms of education engagement, and achievement. ➤ Children from these groups may receive the most significant criminal justice outcomes which means they may spend period of time in custody which will have adverse impact on their short and longer term future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ YJS to work with A&S colleagues in Youth Justice, Police and Education to continue to implement the recommendations in the Tackling Disproportionality Report. ➤ YJS Partnership Board to work together to consider if children in the YJS can be offered an enhanced SEND service.

4. Plan for the Forthcoming Year

4.1 Child First

The guiding principle for the youth justice system, including the B&NES Youth Justice Service and its Partnership Board, is 'Child First.' This approach has been promoted by the national Youth Justice Board and means keeping children at the heart of all work undertaken and privileging their needs according to their age and particular circumstances.

There is evidence that a Child First approach is effective in addressing the offending behaviour of the small number of children within the youth justice system today, and in preventing offending by those children who are more likely to enter the system. However, the Youth Justice Service is aware that some of those worked with wish to be regarded individually as young people or young adults rather than as children.

The Youth Justice Board's Child First principles have been adopted in B&NES and some examples are given below:

1. Seeing children as children	
<p>Principle</p> <p>Prioritise the best interests of children and recognise their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.</p>	<p>Examples</p> <p>All children working with B&NES YJS participate in an individually tailored assessment, plan and intervention in their work with us. B&NES YJS has prioritised trauma informed training for practitioners to ensure that our work is developmentally informed and based on building positive, attuned relationships with children. We continue to fund the trauma informed Enhanced Case Management project which supports us to prioritise the best interests of children and recognise their particular needs.</p>
2. Helping children build a pro-social identity	
<p>Principle</p> <p>Promoting children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.</p>	<p>Examples</p> <p>We achieve this by ensuring that our plans and interventions focus on building strengths and a pro-social identity. We offer support to children to take part in positive activities and use participation work in reparation to utilise their skills and build confidence. Our education and training offer is designed to ensure we raise aspirations for children and have an individually tailored Education Training and Employment (ETE) goal for every child we work with.</p>

3. Collaborating with children

Principle

Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.

Examples

Children's involvement in innovative reparation projects enables them to contribute to the wider community. Locally, children have chosen to write leaflets for their peers, for example, explaining what reparation is and addressing the issue of carrying knives, using language and an approach that is more likely to be effective. Children have also helped us to make our office environment a young person friendly space, and their suggestions have been taken on board by getting bean bags and a pool table for the space where we have their appointments. We gain feedback from children and their parents / carers to ensure their views on our service delivery are heard and responded to. One of the ways we have responded to this is to vary the offer of reparation placements available.

4. Diverting children from the justice system

Principle

Promote a childhood outside the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

Examples

The Compass service supports children who are at risk of offending with the aim of preventing them entering the justice system in the future. The Turnaround Service supports children on the cusp of the youth justice system. 'Outcome 22 / Deferred Caution' is being readily used in our Out of Court Resolution Panel for children who have committed low level offences. This offers them the opportunity of diversion from a formal outcome, while still offering the appropriate support to meet their needs. Most of the Service's work now takes place at a Pre-Court stage.

Our child first approach is evidenced by the voices of children and their parents and carers. Here is a small selection from the feedback gathered in the last year:

Voices of Children

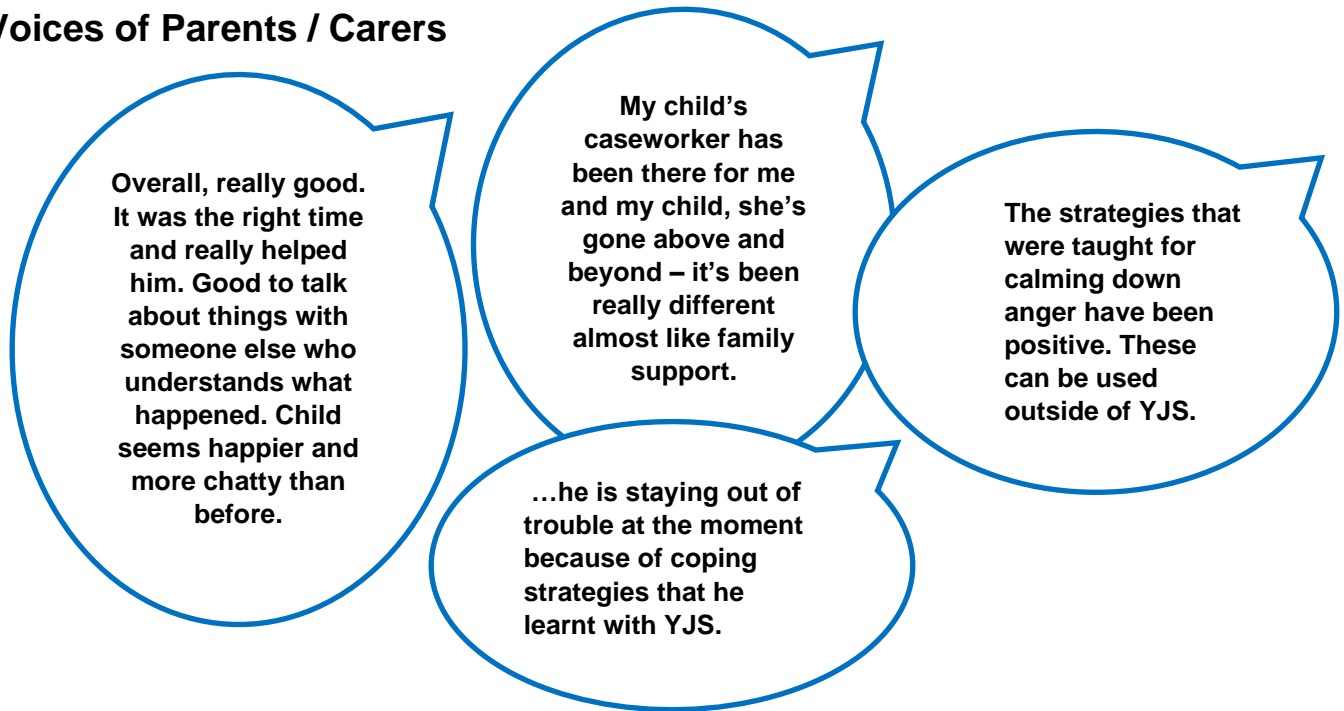
I messaged my caseworker and reparation worker when I needed to. They talked to me in a way I understand. There isn't anything I would want to change.

It has helped me. I would have had at least five more fights if I hadn't been with YJS. My caseworker helped me to focus on school better and to take it more seriously and it has helped me to see the good in myself.

I think if it wasn't for the worker I could have gone to jail – building a good relationship with her where I could trust her meant I could talk to her.

Support to get out of trouble, especially in the summer holidays – I didn't mind it though. Worker did loads, she understood where I was coming from, she was really on the ball. If I wanted to know something she would find it out.

Voices of Parents / Carers



4.2 Resources and Services

All statutory partners contribute staffing resources and a financial contribution.

The Youth Justice core grant is used entirely to support the work of the Youth Justice Service. Expenditure is agreed annually, monitored at monthly finance meetings and overseen quarterly by the Partnership Board. It is used in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of Grant, specifically, towards the costs of employing two administrative staff, a Deputy Team Manager, a qualified Youth Justice Officer, a Reparation Worker and a contribution to the salary of the Senior Practitioner. The Grant also covers professional subscriptions, travel costs, room hire, equipment and other running costs.

The financial contributions from partners go into the pooled budget to meet the costs of employing the Business and Performance Manager and IT costs. Contributions have not increased for a number of years.

In terms of staffing, Avon and Somerset Police contribute one FTE Police Officer. The Probation Service contributes 0.5 FTE Probation Officer and 0.16 FTE Probation Service Officer, although this post has not been filled for over 3 years. The Health Contribution is 0.4 FTE School Nurse and 0.2 FTE Speech and Language Therapist.

B&NES Local Authority is the largest contributor covering costs for the Head of Service, Operational Manager, practitioners in the statutory and prevention service and an administrator.

The full budget costs and contributions can be found at [Appendix 1](#). The Staffing Structure can be found at [Appendix 2](#).

4.3 Board Development

The YJS Partnership Board is continually assessing its own performance and considering ways to improve. The Board met for a development day in May 2024.

The purpose of this day was:

- To re-affirm our Vision: Working in Partnership to Achieve Child First Justice
- To assess our own performance against agreed standards and include any areas for development to Youth Justice Plan for 2024 - 2026.
- To agree the Youth Justice Service and Partnership Board priorities for the year ahead.
- To be well prepared for the upcoming Inspection.

The outcomes of the day included:

- The Vision of Working in Partnership to achieve Child First Justice was re-affirmed. The detail of this was reviewed and updated and is written into the first section of this plan.
- Each member who attended completed the self-assessment, highlighting areas of strength and for development.
- The areas for Board development were agreed to be in strengthening links with the practitioners in the service, participating in more case audits and observing some areas of practice.
- The Board also agreed to work on some joint actions in this year's plan around reducing time scales for children being investigated by police and CPS, finding a way of offering an enhanced service for children in the YJS with SEND and for some training of YJS staff from CAMHS on neuro-diversity.
- The strategic priorities were discussed. It was agreed that progress had been made in every area of the priorities for 2023 - 2024, but as these are such important areas of our work, and are broad in range, we will continue with the same priorities for 2024 - 2026. The priorities are confirmed as:

- **Reduce Disproportionality**
- **Strengthen Participation**
- **Embed Child First Principles**
- **Reduce Serious Violence**

4.4 Workforce Development

Activity to develop the workforce is essential to meeting the needs of the children, parents / carers and victims and the wider community we serve. This includes a comprehensive induction, regular supervision, informal support, annual performance development conversations and appropriate training to all staff.

The team are supported by the offer of:

- Monthly reflective and case management supervision
- Monthly group reflective practice meeting – this group can focus on interventions or reflections on specific children and situations.
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour consultations from CAMHS
- Monthly case discussions / consultations with specialist workers such as School Nurse, Speech and Language Therapist and Education Officer
- Clinical Supervision for trauma recovery cases through the Enhanced Case Management service

The annual Training and Development Plan for 2024 to 2025 has been created in consultation with Board Members, Team Members, through discussion and a staff survey, and taking into account what we know about the issues facing the children that we work with.

Key training that has taken place in 2023 - 2024 has included trauma informed workshops for practitioners to ensure this approach remains embedded in our work, restorative justice facilitator training for our Police Officer and Referral Order Co-ordinator to ensure we have the capability to offer this intervention, and cultural competence and unconscious bias training for all staff to support work towards our anti-racism action plan.

The identified training and development priorities are agreed as:

- Strengthening our approach to Performance Development Conversations, ensuring they take place in a timely way and staff understand the process.
- Ongoing training offer for staff in cultural competence and unconscious bias to support our ongoing work to reduce disproportionality.
- Increasing staff confidence in working with children with SEND and neuro-diversity.
- Ensuring new staff are offered Trauma Informed Practice Training
- Training practitioners in the Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool
- Offering training on specific areas of practice, as required, such as Restorative Justice, Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Child to Parent Violence.

4.5 Evidence-based Practice, Innovation and Evaluation

Systemic Practice Model

As part of Children's Transformation Programme and supported by DfE funding, the Local Authority has adopted a systemic practice model for Children's Services. This is integrated within a trauma informed, relationship aware approach and is attachment focused.

The adoption of a systemic practice model has seen a significant proportion of the Children's Service workforce (from practitioners, supervisors to senior leaders) being trained by the Centre for Systemic Social Work. It is based on the view that human challenges are always embedded within the context of human relationships across family, community and wider society systems. The model provides theory, models and techniques to support practitioners in their support for families to seek a broader and deeper understanding of what could be creating challenges and ideas to change.

The Youth Justice Service has benefited from this training and as part of the wider Children's Service's Workforce will be accessing further training and development. Changes have been made through the influence of the systemic model including acknowledgement and consideration of people's personal and social identity in assessments, planning and support plans. Systemic tools including Burnham's Social GRACES¹⁰, developed to address inequality, have been used in training and Supervision to encourage reflection on individual characteristics that inform how the world is seen and experienced. The use of the Systemic model has enabled practitioners to consider wider perspectives when working with children and families and encourage others in the system to do the same.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour 'AIM3' Model

Although not many children in the local area are identified with a risk of harmful sexual behaviour, the Service has staff trained in the Assessment of Adolescents and Harmful Sexual Behaviour model developed by Marcella Leonard and Simon Hackett, otherwise known as 'AIM3.' This is a suite of evidence-based frameworks and guidance to support practitioners to assess risk and develop interventions for use with children, including how to work with their parents/carers as well. The resources are trauma-informed and holistic and are a good fit with other intervention approaches used within the Service. The tools are used alongside standard youth justice assessment tools and plans to support a focus on particular presenting needs. Assessments are generally undertaken in partnership with a Social Worker and interventions are likely to then be co-delivered. The service has two staff who work with the CAMHS Harmful Sexual Behaviour Co-ordinator to deliver awareness raising training to colleagues in preventative services and universal settings such as schools, in support of early identification.

The use of this model has enabled evidenced based assessments and interventions to be undertaken to reduce the risk of harmful sexual behaviour and contribute to better outcomes for these children.

Enhanced Case Management

The Service is now in its sixth year of working in partnership with three other Youth Justice Services to deliver trauma recovery, Psychology-led support to children in the youth justice system. The model has been developed by Johnny Matthews and Tricia Scuse, based on Maslow's hierarchy of need and a seven-stage trauma recovery model, and builds on work previously undertaken in Wales.

Evaluations have commented on how the model has been implemented consistently in line with guidance. The flexibility of the Psychologists' approach has been identified as central to the success of the work. The approach is perceived to have contributed to improvements in a range of psychosocial outcomes and linked with placement in more appropriate accommodation and re-building of family relationships. There has also been an improvement in children's mental health, coping skills and understanding of the impact of their behaviour on others. Improved relationships with staff in Youth Justice Services have also been noted and overall, no negative impacts have been identified for children.

The evaluation has also noted the embedding of trauma informed practice in staff throughout the participating Youth Justice Services and beginning within some partner agencies. Staff have an improved knowledge and understanding of recognising and working with children who have experienced trauma and are developing more flexible practices which are very child-focused and individually tailored. These positive outcomes outlined in the evaluation have been seen within B&NES YJS.

¹⁰ Burnham J (2012) Developments in the Social GRRRAACCEEESSS in Krause I (ed) *Culture and Reflexivity in systemic Psychotherapy: Mutual Perspectives*. London: Karnac

4.6 Priorities for the coming year: Standards for Children in the Youth Justice Service

The latest edition of National Standards were published in 2019, entitled 'Standards for Children in Youth Justice Services'¹¹

The standards support our work in Out of Court Resolutions, at Court, in the Community, in secure settings and on transition and resettlement.

The most recent national standards self-assessment was completed in October 2023 and covered our work in Court. The audits were completed by Team Managers in the YJS and a Partnership Board Member.

B&NES YJS demonstrated adherence to the standards with a few areas requiring further activity in order to strengthen compliance.

Areas of strength identified were:

- Positive steps taken to promote fair treatment in court such as using communication profiles and advocating for children's needs being well evidenced.
- Reports written for court and Referral Order Panels were of a high standard, were child focussed and supported desistance.
- Reports took into account the view from victims and evidenced the impact of the offence on them.
- Good evidence of supporting children to participate effectively in court supporting children to view the court room in advance of the hearing, contacting all children and parents / carers before the day of court to help them prepare and ask any questions and explaining the outcome thoroughly to the child afterwards.

The following areas of activity were identified for further development:

- To collaborate with Avon and Somerset YJS's and CPS to ensure we are all working to the same guidance for diversion.

PROGRESS MADE: The new, national Police Child Gravity Score Matrix¹² has ensured greater consistency here. The A&S Out of Court Tactical group is auditing cases to check for consistency.

- To ensure greater consistency in diversion outcome in relation to driving matter.

PROGRESS MADE: Again, the Police Child Gravity Matrix has assisted with this and this is being used and referenced in Out of Court Decision Making.

- To consider ways to engage with fathers more effectively in the assessment writing process.

PROGRESS MADE: The issue has been discussed in reflective practice meetings and a renewed focus on ensuring both parents are involved if possible and appropriate.

¹¹

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6363d2328fa8f50570e54222/Standards_for_children_in_youth_justice_services_2019.doc.pdf

¹² <https://www.npcc.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/publications/publications-log/criminal-justice/2023/child-gravity-matrix-v2.2---september-2023.pdf>

4.7 Priorities for the coming year: Service Development

A detailed Service Development Action Plan for 2024 to 2026 has been written and will be monitored through the Youth Justice Partnership Board. The below information is a summary of the main actions and objectives.

Reduce Disproportionality

This service development priority recognises the issue of over-represented groups in B&NES who are in the Youth Justice System. These groups are children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and children from minority ethnic backgrounds. The data evidencing these areas of over-representation can be found in section 5.1 of this Plan.

Ethnicity

With regard to the issues of disproportionality of children from minority ethnic backgrounds, the service has a detailed anti-racism action plan which sets out operational and strategic actions to address these issues. This plan has been reviewed for the period 2024 to 2026.

The key objective of the plan is to reduce this disproportionality and make progress towards aligning with local demographic and population rates. The plan sets out partnership work with colleagues in education to scrutinise school suspensions and exclusions and proactively offer early help services to children who are represented in this group.

The plan outlines work with the Police to scrutinise out of court data to ensure there is no disproportionality in the offer of diversionary activity for children from minority ethnic groups. The PCC Out of Court Scrutiny Panel are focusing on youth and disproportionality issues at their meeting in the summer 2024.

Operational actions include a focus on ethnicity in audits and creating a good practice guide for staff in this area of work to be used in induction.

SEN

Regarding children with SEN being overrepresented in the youth justice system, the plan for the coming year includes YJS working with the Director for Education, the Director for Children's Services, the Head of Inclusion, and the Head of Service for the Virtual School to consider how children in the justice system can be offered an enhanced service to better meet their needs. There is also a joint action with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service to offer bespoke training to the YJS staff to support them with working most effectively with children with diagnosed needs such as ADHD and Autism.

The objective of this aspect of the plan is to ensure this most vulnerable group of children are offered sufficient support to access high quality education and training to meet their needs and to reduce the risks to them around exploitation and offending.

Strengthen Participation

This service development area recognises the importance of participation in the work completed by the Youth Justice Service. Some developments have already been achieved in previous years, but this priority acknowledges there is more that can be done.

In 2023 - 2024, there has been a focus on developing participation for children and families within the service. We have used focus groups to generate ideas and projects we can action, which has helped with a more collaborative approach. From this we have reviewed the way we gather feedback from children and parents and carers. The team now has a QR code that can be used by service users to access an online form. These questionnaires will be offered at the end of an order or intervention and for longer interventions there will be a mid-point review questionnaire. The questionnaires have been developed in consultation with the Speech and Language Therapist to ensure they are accessible for everyone that accesses our service. By having the feedback in this format, the intention is to better analyse the data and to support service development.

Over the coming year, the participation action plan includes:

- To recruit and train a small group of community panel members and mentors.
- To develop our offer in relation to summer activities for children.
- To begin a drop-in support group for parents.
- To consult with children around our good practice guide for working with children from minority ethnic backgrounds.
- To improve the information about the YJS on our website.

Embed Child First Principles

B&NES YJS continues to prioritise embedding Child First Principles in our work. This principle is the corner stone of our approach moving forward, so appropriately it remains as a strategic priority the plan for 2024 to 2026.

The actions for this period aim to ensure that every area of the YJS work is child focussed.

One of the key areas to be targeted this year includes working with the Police and CPS at a strategic level to reduce the timeliness of investigations so that criminal justice outcomes that children receive can then be more meaningful and responsive to their needs at the time the issues have arisen.

The YJS will also work with partners in the Police and Social Care to implement the recommendations in the HMIP Thematic Inspection of Work with Children Subject to Remand in Youth Detention.¹³ The purpose of this is to ensure that children are only detained when absolutely necessary and when this does happen, that the services recognise them as children and prioritise their needs accordingly.

This area of the plan will also ensure that there are stronger links created between the YJS and the Anti-Social Behaviour team in the police so that children who are showing signs of being on the periphery of offending or anti-social behaviour will be offered prevention support as appropriate.

At an Operational level, the YJS will create an up-to-date Service wide Practice Guide that ensures child first practice is at the heart of everything we do. The roll out of the new Prevention and Diversion Assessment tool, which has child first principles at its heart, also forms part of our action plan for the coming year.

¹³ <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2023/11/A-joint-thematic-inspection-of-work-with-children-subject-to-remand-in-youth-detention-v1.02.pdf>

Reduce Serious Violence

From our participation work and all communication with children, parents and carers throughout the course of the year, it is clear that this is a key issue for them and so it remains a strategic priority for B&NES YJS into 2024 to 2026. Children have shared with their YJS workers that knife crime and the threat of serious violence are utmost in their minds.

The Violence Reduction Partnership is leading on this area of work across B&NES and the YJS is involved in this work at every level from operational to strategic.

In terms of specific YJS activity, we will continue to build on the progress we made last year in delivering high quality weapons awareness work with children and the Street Doctors sessions to support them with first aid and safety.

At an operational level, the YJS will build on its training offer to staff on risk assessment and risk management and ensure that we work closely with partners in Social Care to jointly assess and manage risk. This updated approach will be included in a refreshed Risk and Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Practice Guide.

There will also be additional local guidance created for use with the Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool to ensure that while this tool focuses on a child first approach, practitioners retain their assessment skills in relation to risk and adequately evidence their risk-based judgements.

5. National Priority Areas

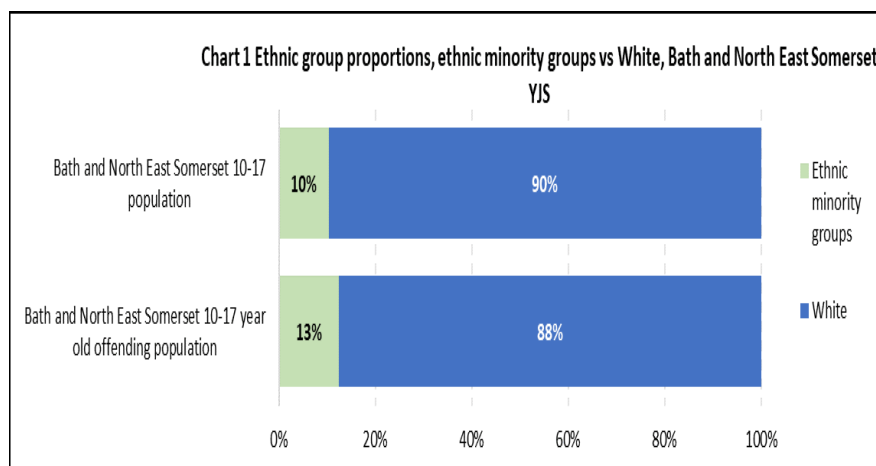
5.1 Children from groups which are over-represented

Children from a range of backgrounds are over-represented in the youth justice system. In B&NES, the most over-represented groups are children with Special Educational Needs and children from certain ethnicities, particularly those with a mixed heritage.

As stated above, reducing this disproportionality is a strategic priority for the service and there are actions in our annual development plan and anti-racism action plan to work towards this aim.

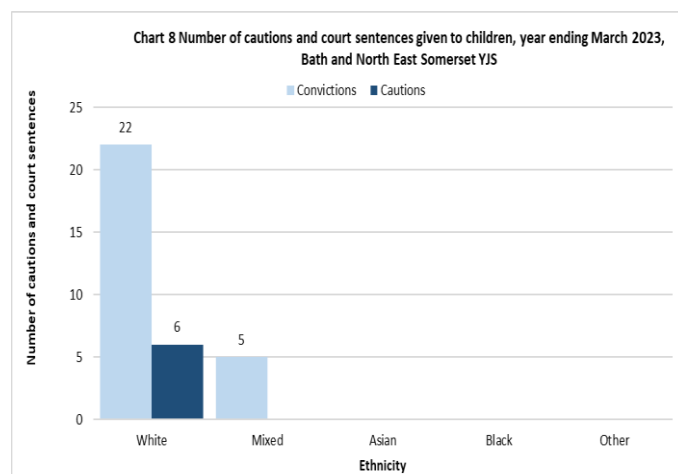
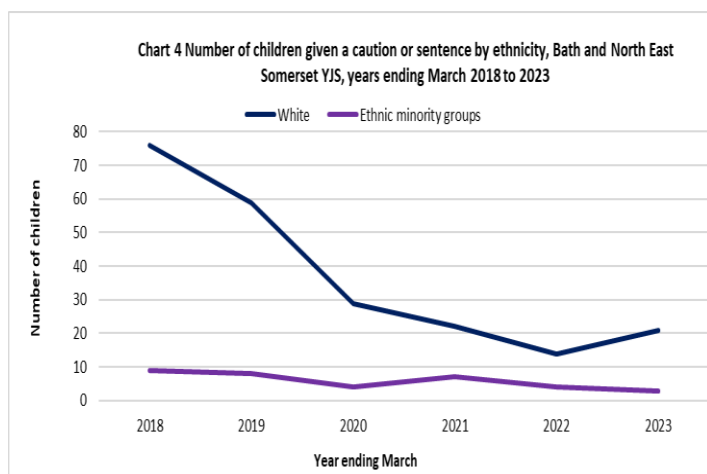
Ethnicity

The following charts are taken directly from the Youth Justice Board's Ethnic Disparity Tool for the year ending 2022 – 2023 and is the latest data available.



Of all the children Cautioned or Sentenced, White children accounted for 88% of these children and 12% were from minority ethnic backgrounds. In B&NES, YJS White children are under-represented and Ethnic Minority groups children are over-represented when comparing the offending population with the 10-17 population. White children make up 88% of the offending population and 90% of the 10-17 population.

Ethnic Minority groups children make up 13% of the offending population and 10% of the 10-17 population. The most over-represented ethnic group were Mixed children. They make up 13% of the offending population and 6% of the 10-17 population.



White children have shown an increase in the proportion of all children Cautioned or Sentenced over the last year, they accounted for 88% in 2022/23 and for 78% in the previous year. However, this still shows an over-representation for minority ethnic children. White children received 22 convictions in the period. Children from mixed ethnicities received 5 convictions. This equates to 18%, which is an over-representation of this group.

Special Educational Needs

- 61 individual children had an intervention with B&NES YJS in the 12 month period April 2023 to March 2024. This figure includes both pre 16 and post 16 children.
- A total of 42 (**69%**) had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a SEN support plan (i.e. formal plan in place)
- Of these 42 children with SEN, 32 (**52%**) had an EHCP (either draft or final) and 10 (**16%**) had an SEN support plan.
- These figures are very similar to those reported for the 2022 - 2023 academic year cohort.

Gender

Of the 61 children that had a statutory YJS intervention in the 12 month period April 2023 to March 2024, there were 10 (16%) females. All but one received an out of court resolution and all but one was White British. These figures do not indicate an over-representation of girls in the YJS in B&NES at this time.

5.2 Policing

The Partnership between the YJS and Avon and Somerset (A&S) Constabulary is strong.

The Police Partnership Board member is an active and engaged member. They provide quarterly data for the Board to scrutinise a number of areas such as stop and search, strip search, time between arrest and disposal and overnight detention.

The YJS and Police work together to improve outcomes for children in various ways, including:

➤ **Monthly A&S Tactical Out of Court Resolution Group and Panels**

- This Tactical group has worked to increase consistency in approach throughout A&S, including creating guidance documents and auditing work to ensure compliance with national and local guidance.
- The Out of Court Panels are jointly chaired by a Sgt from Police Early Intervention Team (EIT) and a Manager from YJS. We have worked together closely to complete a Practice Guide for staff regarding out of court work.

➤ **Quarterly Custody Review Panel**

- Children's Services, Police and YJS review cases where children have been held overnight in police detention, sentenced or remanded to custody. The purpose is to ensure ongoing compliance with the Concordat on Children In Custody¹⁴ and to scrutinise occasions when this has not happened and identify learning opportunities for the partnership.

➤ **Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel**

- The YJS participates in the PCC led quarterly Scrutiny Panel for Out of Court Disposals to ensure youth matters are a key focus and that decision making is examined and any lessons learned.

➤ **Violence Reduction Partnership**

- The Police EIT and YJS are key members of the Violence Reduction Partnership and work together at a strategic and operational level to reduce violence. This includes delivering Parental Knife Crime Awareness sessions, training and an annual conference for staff, and Street Doctors sessions with children.
- All key partners, including Police and YJS, attend a monthly operational meeting 'Partnership to Reduce Exploitation and Violence' (PREV) where children who are at risk are discussed, information shared and assurances sought about the multi-agency approach to addressing these issues.
- The Police EIT provide line management to the YJS Police Officer and this helps with information sharing, co-ordination of services and risk management.

5.3 Prevention

The rate of children entering the justice system is influenced by the effectiveness of local prevention and diversion activities. 'Prevention' work involves supporting children to address unmet needs, safeguard, promote positive outcomes and stop children entering the formal youth justice system.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a82211140f0b6230269afee/Concordat_on_Children_in_Custody_ISBN_Accessible.pdf

B&NES YJS delivers two targeted prevention services:

Compass

- Compass works with 8 to 17 year-olds who are assessed as being at risk of offending. The model includes using a Key Worker model, an Early Help Assessment to identify need, agreement of a plan, and the use of Team Around the Family or Child Meetings to review plans. The Service monitors individual improvement in the areas of social well-being, emotional well-being, engagement in education, training and employment and child-parent relationships.
- Compass supports parents and carers in areas such as mediation, parenting skills, managing conflict and support in navigating any challenges within education.
- Compass is jointly funded by the Local Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Turnaround

- Turnaround works with children aged 10 to 17 years who are on the cusp of the youth justice system. To be eligible for Turnaround a child would need to have received a level 3 anti-social behaviour warning, No Further Action, a Police Facilitated Community Resolution, a first time Youth Caution, interviewed under caution or be released under investigation or pre-charge bail for an offence.
- Turnaround uses the new Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool to assess need and develop a support plan. Like the Compass Service, it operates using a key worker model and uses Team Around the Child or Family Meetings to review progress.

Case Example

The case example is a 14 year-old girl who was supported by the Compass Service in 2023 - 2024.

Identified Needs	Work Completed	Outcomes
A breakdown in family relationships Involvement in assaults with female peers Involvement in some thefts The child's needs were not fully understood Vulnerable to exploitation and episodes of going missing Not attending education	Parenting support Involvement in a family group conference Emotional regulation and healthy relationship sessions Education around exploitation Support and advice given for Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Support with starting new school – providing some transport.	Child received a diagnosis of Autism and an EHCP and was placed in a school that could meet her needs. Since starting at a new school that has been able to meet her needs, she is thriving there. Family are now spending quality time with together. Child has not been in trouble with the Police or been involved with disputes with her peers. Child has not been missing.
Feedback Parent reported that she was appreciative of the support from Compass and how much better things have got for them. The feedback from a direct observation was that the Compass Keyworker was welcoming and flexible.		

The Compass Keyworker “has built a relationship of trust, care and support with my child. She has had many professionals in her life and none of them have reached out to her like the Compass Keyworker. My child is sometimes more open with her than she is with me and you can see she is relaxed in her company. She listens with compassion and empathy and gives fantastic advice that she takes on board. The Compass Keyworker always comes with tools and resources to support my child if she is fidgety and she always follows up concerns and comes back to me if I need her to. She gives me valuable advice and guidance. If she doesn’t know or thinks another agency may have the answers, then she finds this out”

Data

Compass - Between April 2023 and March 2024, 25 children were supported by Compass (21 male, 4 female with an average age range of 11-17 years; all 25 were White children. It is recognised that in order to address over-representation in the youth justice system, more children with Black, Asian and Ethnic minority heritages need to be offered support through Compass and other preventative services.

Turnaround - Between April 2023 and March 2024, 18 children started and were supported with an intervention on the Turnaround programme. All 18 children were male and 15 (83%) were White and 3 (17%) were from Black and Ethnic Minority backgrounds. All were aged between 11 and 16 years of age.

5.4 Diversion

Diversion is where children with a linked offence receive an alternative outcome that does not result in a criminal record, avoids escalation into the formal youth justice system and associated stigmatisation.

The types of diversion that are on offer in B&NES follow national guidance and includes:

- **Community Resolution (CR):** This is used when children have accepted responsibility for an offence. It is an outcome commonly delivered through, but not limited to, restorative approaches. The programme of support attached to a CR is voluntary.
- **No Further Action:** Used when Police decide not to pursue an offence because there is not enough evidence, or it is not in the public interest. Voluntary support can be offered to children to address identified needs.
- **Outcome 22 Deferred Caution:** Used when diversionary, educational or intervention activity has taken place or been offered, and it is not in the public interest to take any further action. An admission of guilt or acceptance of responsibility is not required for this outcome to be used.
- **Youth Alcohol and Drug Diversion (YADD):** This is also an Outcome 22, which can be issued specifically for offences of possession of a small quantity of drugs or drunk and disorderly. The diversion offered is a short assessment and tailored workshop intervention that focusses on drug and alcohol education and exploitation where appropriate. The Diversionary activity is delivered in partnership with DHI Project 28, and children accessing this service can be offered ongoing intervention and support after their initial session.

Children are identified for diversion when they have accepted an offence. The Police can make a single agency decision to issue a CR to children who have not had any previous outcomes.

For all other children, the Police refer children to the joint YJS and Police Out of Court Resolution Decision Making Panel. When a child is referred to this panel, they are allocated to a Youth Justice Officer and a Prevention and Diversion Assessment will be completed to inform the decision. The decision will make reference to the Child Gravity Matrix referenced above.

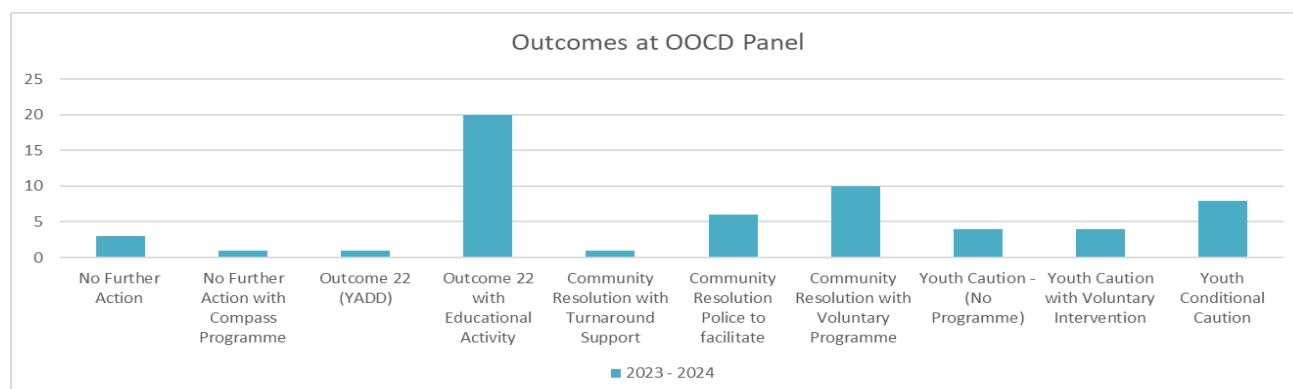
At the YJS, we see the importance of diverting children from the formal justice system where possible. This work has been prioritised in previous years, and continues to be so, and this is evident through the YJS caseloads being predominately made up of out of court work.

The Out of Court work is scrutinised by the YJS Partnership Board through an annual report. This report looks at a range of data including number and type of diversion, successful completions, gender and ethnicity and re-offending rates. OOCR work is also scrutinised through the Police and Crime Commissioner's OOCR Scrutiny Panel and through the A&S Tactical OOCR group, mentioned above.

Data

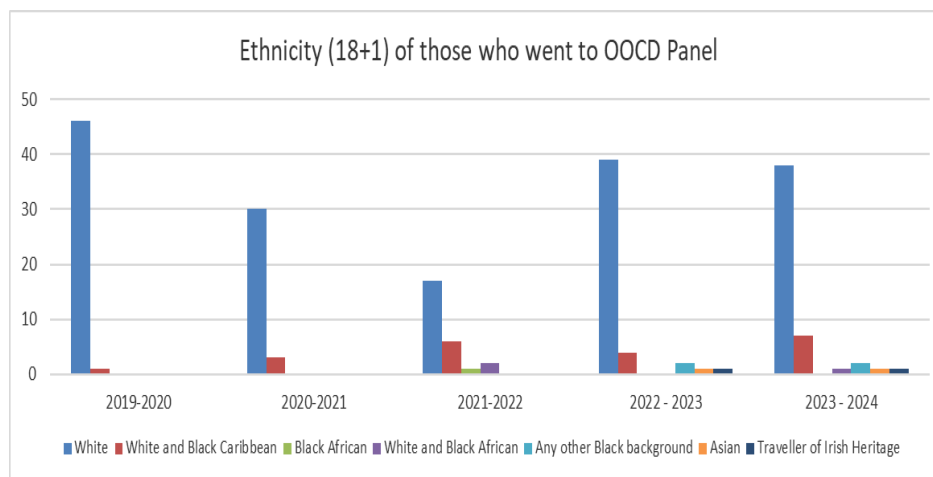
Between April 2023 and March 2024, 60 children received diversionary activity directly from the police. For this reporting period, there has been an increase in the number of children diverted to the Out of Court Resolution Panel. There were 58 outcomes from Panel in this reporting period, and a total of 50 individual children. In the previous reporting year, there were 47 outcomes.

The most common outcome in 2023 to 2024 was for Outcome 22 - Deferred Caution with 20 in total (34% of outcomes). In the previous year, the most common outcome was a Community Resolution. In 2023 to 2024, 14% of children received a Youth Conditional Caution (YCC). This is an increase from the previous year where only 4% of children received a YCC. This increase is most likely explained by the implementation of the National Child Gravity Matrix, referred to earlier in the plan.



Of the 50 individual children, 66% were White and 34% were from Minority Ethnic backgrounds. Compared to the previous reporting period, the overall number of children referred to Out of Court Resolution Panel has increased and there has been an increase of 17% of children from Black and Ethnic Minority backgrounds referred to Out of Court Disposal Panel.

For the majority of these cases, children from Minority Ethnic backgrounds received the same outcome as children who are White where they had committed similar offences. Where this was not their first outcome at panel, they have received a Caution. Most received non-substantive outcomes and some had no programmes offered.



5.5 Education

Attendance and engagement with education, training and employment (ETE) is one of the most significant protective factors for all children in supporting them to live positive lives. B&NES YJS prioritises work with children to support them into suitable ETE. Many of the children that we work have difficulties with education that include Special Education Needs, lack of suitable provision to meet these needs, and suspension and exclusion from school.

The YJS employs an Education Officer who works closely with colleagues in the Education Inclusion Service, SEND team, Schools, Colleges, the Virtual School and the YJS. The Education Officer works directly with children and parents / carers to help them to consider their career goals, to navigate the complex world of education and advocate on their behalf in a range of forums. Each child who works with the YJS has a monthly ETE review with the Education Officer and their case manager to set, record and review related goals.

The Director for Education in B&NES sits on the YJS Partnership Board, and this year has presented reports to the Board on the work taking place to increase SEND provision in B&NES and the School's Race Equality Charter work. Both pieces of work link closely with the issues identified with this plan and are examples of activity to reduce disproportionality in B&NES.

The Education Officer prepares an annual report to the Partnership Board to ensure that Board members are aware of the issues relating to education inclusion for the children in the YJS. This year, the report is also being presented to the Schools Standards Board to ensure they are well-informed of the poor outcomes for some children in the YJS who experience school exclusion and late identification of SEN.

School age children – information from 2022/23 academic year

- **More school age children.** In the 2022 - 2023 academic year, the YJS worked with **42** school age children. This is **twice as many** as the last academic year. As well as working with a much larger number and percentage of school age children, there have also been significant numbers of younger children (under 13 years of age) coming on to a YJS programme.
- **More children with SEN.** The majority of children that the YJS worked with in the past year have Special Educational Needs with 50% having an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and 29% having an SEN support plan so **79%** in total. This is an increase from last year. We have also noticed many of the children we work with have had an EHCP issued very late in their secondary school careers, with increasing difficulties and delays in finding a special school placement in cases where a specialist placement has been agreed.

- **Low attendance is an ongoing issue.** The majority (**76%**) of school age children starting a YJS programme have low attendance in education – this is a similar figure to last academic year.
- **Marked increase in Permanent exclusions.** Over **70%** of students we have supported have had numerous suspensions and were at a high level on the school's behaviour policy and at risk of suspension or exclusion. This is a similar figure to last academic year. However, in contrast to last academic year when **3** of the children we supported had had a Permanent Exclusion, this year **12** had a Permanent Exclusion, with 3 having had two Permanent Exclusions.
- **High numbers in Alternative Learning Provision/Special schools.** High numbers of students we have supported in this period have attended special schools (**14%**) or been educated in an Alternative Learning Provision (ALP) setting (**67%**). This is a total of **81%** of the children we have supported. So only 8 (**19%**) of the children on YJS programmes were learning in a mainstream school. The quality of Alternative Education Provision is variable and some children are on very part time programmes for a long time due challenges and delays identifying a suitable special school place or a mainstream place that can meet need.

Post 16 young people (16 - 18 year-olds) – information from 2022/23 academic year

- **Fewer post 16s.** Although the total number of children doing a YJS programme has increased by a third in the academic year 2022 - 2023 there has been a decrease in those who are post 16. We have worked with **22** post 16 young people this academic year compared to **29** in the 2021 - 2022 academic year.
- **More children with SEN.** The trend of increasing numbers of children with an EHC Plan is also evident in our post 16 cohort, where **59%** had an EHC Plan (or a ceased EHC Plan) compared to **45%** last academic year.
- **Further Education.** **12** of our post 16 children were on a further education programme and **11** were still on their course by the end of their YJS programme. Over half (7) of the children were on the Learning4Work (L4W) programme provided by Bath College in partnership with Youth Connect South West. This programme is available for children with an EHCP and who are not ready for a mainstream course or setting. L4W is a bespoke and flexible programme with one to one key worker engagement support and a tailored part-time timetable designed around the young person's needs and situation. All the children on the programme would have been at high risk of being NEET (Not in Education Training or Employment) and 2 were able to start the programme mid-year after a period of not being in any education or training.

Examples of work in the YJS to improve ETE outcomes:

- Working in partnership with education providers and other support agencies to improve engagement and attendance – either via CIN or CORE groups or by convening a TAC group where no other multi-agency group is in place.

- Contributing to EHCP processes – supporting parents apply for a needs assessment, providing needs assessment reports, regular liaison and follow ups with SEND colleagues.
- Supporting children to understand their strengths and interests and make plans for the future.
- Supporting Year 11 students in making Post-16 choices and supporting them in making applications and plans for the future and providing transition support over the summer.
- High levels of face-to-face and practical support, for example, taking children to their provision, visiting new provision, supporting children apply for and enrol for post 16 courses.
- Supporting children in compiling CVs and applying for apprenticeships/jobs.
- Transitions support for young people changing schools or starting Post 16 programmes.
- Advocacy and support for children and parents in behaviour and re-integration meetings in schools.
- Improving education and training provision for young people through support and joint working with schools and SEND Team.
- Contributing to the development and extension of ALP programmes, ensuring the child and parents voice is heard.
- Supporting children and parent with understanding and navigating EHCP processes

5.6 Restorative Approaches and Victims

As part of the statutory duty to comply with the Code of Practice for Victims ¹⁵, the Youth Justice Service has a dedicated Victim Worker (Police Officer) who is responsible for contacting victims of crime at both Out of Court Resolution stage and through the Court process. Victims are offered the opportunity to take part in a restorative justice process, either directly (face-to-face meetings) or indirectly (through 'shuttle mediation' where the Youth Justice Service acts as a go-between). In addition, they are consulted on their views of reparation for the harm caused and this may include community reparation or a letter of explanation or responsibility to the person harmed.

Indirect reparation, where children are able to give something back to the community, participate in development of services or design ways of sharing information with others, continues to be a strength in the Service. Children are not always clear what is being asked of them and a significant part of the work involves building confidence. One child helped develop a leaflet explaining reparation to others and this is now used in introductory work, and another developed a leaflet to help explain the Referral Order process. Children can build on strengths and develop new skills through undertaking reparation and that they are often proud of and affirmed by their work.

Below are some case examples of work completed in the past year for reparation and restorative approaches. All names have been altered for confidentiality.

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime/code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime-in-england-and-wales-victims-code>

Case Example from Reparation Work

- I worked with Jon for 7 months. He wasn't sure what he wanted to do at first so we agreed an appointment to paint a fence at a community centre. This activity was a great way to get to know each other and Jon talked throughout. He talked a lot about anger and how being angry gets people into trouble. We planned to make punch bags and make a leaflet to go with them about anger management. Jon made punch bags and created an information sheet about anger management to go with it and he gave these both to Youth Connect service based at Southside. Jon reflected on how managing anger in a focused positive way could have changed things for himself, it made a big difference that the leaflet he made was written from his own perspective.
- Jon talked a lot about the importance of cooking and how in his family cooking was really valued. We cooked hot food together for the food bank at Rose Cottage and Jon came to deliver the food which was received well, he had a lot of positive feedback about how much people valued having tasty hot food.
- Jon also made a power point about the process of going to court and his experience of the panel process. He presented that in his final panel, the panel members were really impressed and gave him good feedback.
- Part of Jon's feedback was that he felt really good about being able to do different things for reparation, things that meant something to him as well as others, and a chance to learn new things.

Case Example from Restorative Justice Work

- Jake is on a Referral Order for an assault against a peer, Danny. Danny has told the YJS victim worker that the behaviour from Jake is continuing. The YJS worked with the Police, and they proposed issuing an Anti-Social Behaviour letter.
- Initially, Danny did not want to take part in any restorative justice due to the ongoing impact of the behaviour. The victim worker continued to communicate with both Danny and Jake's parent, and Jake's YJS worker and social worker to help reduce any ongoing risk. Some shuttle mediation took place between the two parents, and they have now agreed to meet up face to face.
- The benefits of this work have been there has been an olive branch extended and both parents are willing to meet face to face, to help reduce conflict between the boys.
- The shuttle mediation has so far helped both parties to think differently about each other.

5.7 Serious Violence, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

Tackling child exploitation and reducing serious violence are priorities for strategic partnerships in B&NES.

Most of the violent offences committed by children do not reach the 'serious violence' threshold. However, there were three fatal stabbings of teenagers in 2022 and 2023 and the community have a heightened awareness of the dangers of carrying knives.

Since late 2019, B&NES has participated in the Avon and Somerset 'hub and spoke' Violence Reduction Partnership, utilising Home Office funding to undertake strategic needs assessments and agree partnership plans for addressing the issues identified and procuring some direct services.

From 31 January 2023, under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, specified authorities including Youth Justice Services, have been required to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. The duties include fully engaging with the relevant local partnership, sharing data, supporting the publication of a strategic needs assessment, advising in appropriate responses and assisting in the delivery of prevention and early intervention initiatives.

Locally, there is a Children's Exploitation Subgroup which reports into the Children's Safeguarding Strategic Assurance Group. There is also a Serious Violence Steering Group, chaired by the YJS Head of Service, which reports into the wider Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership and the Community Safety Delivery Group and the Exploitation Sub Group. The work adopts a public health approach to addressing serious violence, prioritising under-25s involved in public space violence with a particular focus on sharing information at a multi-agency level about individuals, networks and places of concern in order that issues can be addressed collaboratively. The Youth Justice Service has been closely involved in this work from the outset as both areas of work are led locally by the same Head of Service. The B&NES Partnership have published a strategic needs assessment¹⁶. The activity to reduce serious violence that the partnership has commissioned and co-ordinated has included detached youth work, lived experience mentors, Street Doctors Training, Night Time Economy Joint Briefings, Surrender Bins, Bleed Control Kits, Parent Knife Crime Awareness Sessions and staff training.

5.8 Detention in Police Custody

The youth justice partnership works to prevent children from being remanded or sentenced to custody or held overnight in Police custody wherever possible, and to challenge, understand, address and/or learn from the instances when children are detained.

The long established, multi-agency Custody Review Panel meets quarterly and reviews instances of B&NES children being detained. It undertakes multi-agency self-audits against national and local standards and guidance to ensure that legal and other agreed processes have been followed and that no opportunities to influence a different outcome have been missed. The Panel also promotes excellent standards of information sharing, assessment and planning by the Youth Justice Service and Children's Social Care so that Courts receive high quality information on which to base their remand and sentencing decisions.

¹⁶ <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s80394/Serious%20Violence%20Plan%20v3.pdf>

Membership is drawn from:

- Youth Justice Service
- Police
- Children's Social Care
- Strategy and Commissioning
- Deputy Head of Safeguarding
- Emergency Duty Team

The Custody Review Panel reviews all episodes where a B&NES child was held overnight in Police custody in Avon and Somerset, whether charged or not. Police review their Custody Records to ensure that local guidance was followed and where a child was charged, they review practice against the national Concordat.¹⁷ The Emergency Duty Team audit against their own guidance to ensure they were proactive in seeking placements where asked and Children's Social Care audit to ensure a detained child received a welfare visit. Identified learning is recorded and actions agreed, often including sharing the learning with colleagues to influence future practice.

5.9 Remands

The Custody Review Panel reviews secure remands to ensure opportunities to influence a community remand were not missed and to understand whether there are grounds for supporting a Bail application. There was one secure remands in the area during 2023-2024. The Custody Review Panel agreed that all other options for bail had been considered and extensively used prior to the court using the secure remand option.

In the coming year, the YJS Partnership and Custody Review Panel will review the HMIP Thematic Inspection with children subject to remand in youth detention ¹⁸ to ensure our local practices are meeting the recommendations.

5.10 Use of Custody and Constructive Re-settlement

Historically, and recently, B&NES has had a very small number of children who are sentenced to custody. It is positive that the custody rate is low, however, those children who are sentenced are among the most vulnerable in society and B&NES YJS and strategic partners work to avoid this as an outcome where possible.

The Custody Review Panel also reviews instances of children sentenced to custody and at high risk of a custodial sentence. Pro-active cross-agency identification of children considered to be at risk of custody in the foreseeable future leads to seeking assurance that they have a positive relationship with a professional who is supporting them:

- to keep them safe, and particularly to screen them to understand and help address any exploitation.
- to address their likelihood of offending and manage any risk they present to others.

¹⁷

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a82211140f0b6230269afee/Concordat_on_Children_in_Custody_ISBN_Accessible.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2023/11/A-joint-thematic-inspection-of-work-with-children-subject-to-remand-in-youth-detention-v1.02.pdf>

- to retain or access suitable accommodation.
- to retain or access education, employment or training.
- where relevant, to support compliance with Court expectations.

There was one Detention and Training Order given in 2023 - 2024.

The service approach to resettlement is adapted to each child's unique situation, led by the allocated YJS Case Manager who prioritises maintaining positive relationships with the child in custody. Planning for resettlement starts at the very beginning of the sentence to ensure that any children leaving custody have access to suitable accommodation and ETE options.

B&NES YJS has an up-to-date Resettlement Policy which references YJB Case Management Guidance ¹⁹ and the YJB document 'How to Make Resettlement Constructive'²⁰. It is essential that resettlement is planned at the outset of the sentence and adheres to the child first principles.

5.11 Working with Families

Youth Justice Service practitioners are experienced and practiced in working with the parents, carers and families of children open to the service and will provide levels of support and communication with care givers so that the child has the most chance of successfully completing their order or programme.

Support is offered through both individual work directly with parents and carers in their homes and through group work parenting programmes that are delivered by the Connecting Families team in the Local Authority.

There are 5 practitioners in Compass and the statutory YJS who are trained to deliver the accredited Family Links Parenting Programme and this knowledge is incorporated into the support we provide, as a service, to parents and carers. YJS support to parents can include mediation work, work to strengthen the relationship between care giver and child and education to parents and carers about exploitation and knife crime.

All aspects of the YJS have close links with Early Help as well as services for children open on Child in Need or Child Protection Plans and children who are Looked After. Practitioners work to ensure plans and interventions are coordinated to avoid duplication as well as not overwhelming parents and children with multiple professionals entering their lives at stressful and difficult times.

The YJS also provides a wealth of support to parents and carers in relation to education, including advocating to providers to identify and assess for educational needs, and supporting them to navigate the often-complex world of education. Please see the education section for more information on this area of work.

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/custody-and-resettlement/custody-and-resettlement-section-7-case-management-guidance>


²⁰ <https://yjresourcehub.uk/custody-and-resettlement/item/610-how-to-make-resettlement-constructive-yjb-document.html>

6. Sign off Submission and Approval

This Youth Justice Plan has been shared with the Youth Justice Partnership Board for review and endorsement The Plan has been signed by the YJS Partnership Board Chair on their behalf and confirms that it covers all sections required by the Youth Justice Board.

In accordance with ‘Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and responsibilities) England Regulations 2000’, Youth Justice Plans must be approved by the full council of the local authority. This Youth Justice Plan is subject to the scrutiny and approval processes of B&NES local authority.

It will be considered for approval by the Council’s Cabinet on 11th July 2024 and full Council on 18th July 2024.

Chair of Board	Mary Kearney-Knowles, Director of Children and Education
Signature	
Date	18 th June 2024

Appendix 1: Budget Costs and Contributions for 2024 to 2025

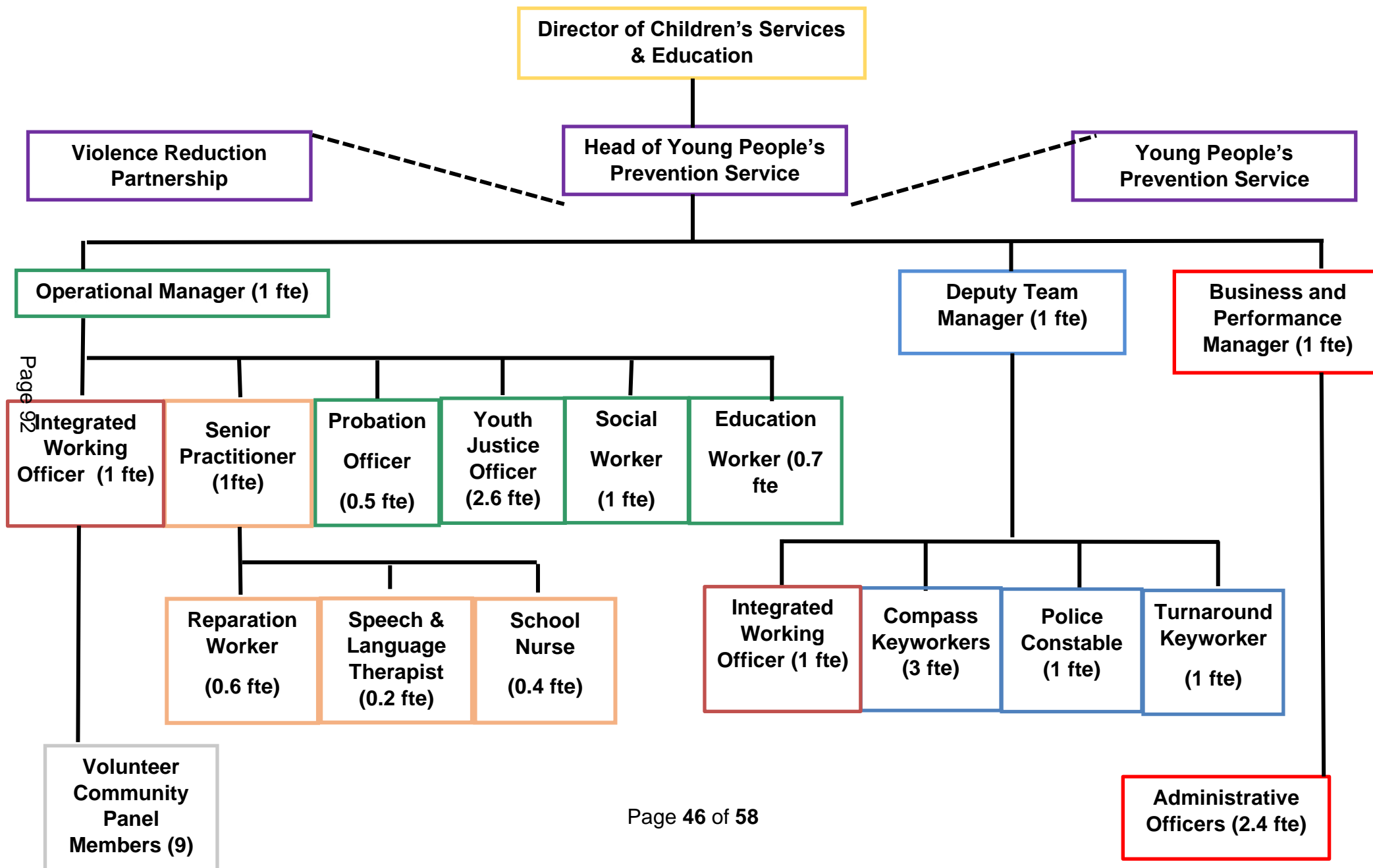
Agency	Staffing costs	Payments in kind	Pooled budget	Total
Police	65,416	1 FTE Police Constable. Access to Police National Computer and Niche	5,000	70,416
Police and Crime Commissioner	10,217	Contributes to Compass preventative service. Another £7,902 goes towards commissioning substance misuse services (DHI Project 28)	N/A	10,217
Probation	27,016	0.5 FTE Probation Officer and 0.16 FTE Probation Service Officer	5,000	32,016
B&NES ICB (Health)	42,245	0.4 FTE Nurse and 0.2 FTE Speech and Language Therapist	14,885	57,130
B&NES Council (Education and Social Care) includes Compass	441,317	Keynsham office, HR and finance support	18,685	460,002
Youth Justice Board	230,904	Conformation of 2024/25 grant not yet received, so this figure is based on 2023/24.	N/A	230,904
Ministry of Justice (Turnaround)	55,684	Based on 50% income (27,841) already received for 24/25	N/A	55,684
Total				916,369

Appendix 2: Staffing Structure

	Strategic Manager		Team Manager		Practitioner		Administrator		Sessional		Student		Volunteers		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi																
Asian or Asian British – Indian													1			1
Asian or Asian British - Other Asian																
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani																
Black or Black British – African					1										1	
Black or Black British – Caribbean													1		1	
Black or Black British - Other Black																
Chinese																
Mixed - Other Mixed																
Mixed - White and Asian																
Mixed - White and Black African																
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean																
Not stated																
Other Ethnic Group - Any Other																
Other Ethnic Group - Arab																
White – British		1	1	2		14		3					2	5	3	25
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller																

White - Irish																
White - Other White						2										2
Total		1	1	2	1	16		3					3	6	5	28

Youth Justice Service Organisational Chart



Appendix 3: Progress on Priorities in Previous Plan

Code:

Blue	Work ongoing. Some aspects are becoming business as usual and some will be carried forward into next year's work plan
Red	Needs partnership help to progress
Amber	On course for completion by 31 March or soon afterwards
Green	Completed

Strategic Priority 1: Strengthen participation			
Theme	Actions	Owner	Progress and impact
Victims' participation	Ensure victims' views about how they can participate more fully are incorporated into the updated Youth Justice Victim Policy and practice.	Deputy Team Manager	The Victim Policy has been reviewed and updated. The YJS Police Officer is offering a feedback survey to all victims who have had contact with our service. The surveys will be collated and reviewed in order to implement any initiatives as a result of the feedback received.
Parents' and carers' participation	Complete a Practice Guide for work with parents/carers across the whole Service and communicate a clear local offer to them, including the Family Links parenting course.	Senior Practitioner	Three YJS Practitioners have attended the Family Links Training course in January and February 2024. The Practice Guide for Work With Parents is to be included in a service wide Practice Guide that will be part of the Action Plan for 2024 / 26.
Children's participation	Ensure the whole Service seeks out the voices of children, including those from minority groups, and can demonstrate how it learns from them.	Senior Practitioner	The YJS routinely seeks feedback from service users, including children and parents. This feedback is collated into an annual report. The report was shared at the Partnership Board in January 2024. The next steps for this area of work are to review the questions we ask in the Feedback process to ensure they cover diversity issues and to consider setting up a particular focus group with children from minority

			<p>groups to hear their voices and support them to contribute to service improvement.</p> <p>Feedback from children and parents / carers about court is being considered by an Avon and Somerset wide group.</p>
Community participation	Recruit and train a new cohort of volunteer Referral Order Panel Members.	Operational Manager	We currently have a cohort of 9 Volunteer Panel Members, and this is sufficient for the current demand of Referral Orders. We have a new Referral Order Co-Ordinator in post who will be looking to plan a recruitment drive Summer 2024.
Strategic Priority 2: Address disproportionality			
Action	Key Links	Owner	Progress
Children with Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic heritages	Progress actions in the Youth Justice Anti-Racism Plan 2023-24 (see below).	Head of Service	These actions are being progressed within the YJS, across the Local Authority and across the Avon and Somerset area and will be reported to the YJP separately.
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	Work with Inclusion managers and the SEND Strategy Group to address disproportionality issues for children with SEND in the justice system as per the ETE Thematic HMIP report.	Heads of Youth Justice and SEN	Head of Service for Youth Justice is attending the Inclusion Board and the Suspensions and Exclusions Steering Group to address this area of disproportionality. As per the recommendations, work ongoing will include monitoring of suspensions and exclusions, attendance and levels of SEN in the YJS cohort alongside evaluating levels of engagement and attainment.

Re-Offending	Review level of support to children at the highest risk of offending in the first 3 months of their Court Order and hold quarterly reviews when a high risk of re-offending or a medium to high risk of seriousness is assessed.	Operational Manager	This work is being progressed through reviews in supervision, reviews of all cases and frequency of contact and level of support, including possible referrals to other services, are considered.
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Strategic Priority 3: Embed Child first principles

Action	Key Links	Owner	Progress
Early Help	Ensure the Child First principles are reflected in the values and practice of the whole Service including Compass and Turnaround.	Operational Manager	The overarching principle of B&NES YJS is Child First and this is underpinned by the YJS Values of Empower, Understand, Build Relationships and Collaborate. The values are reflected in all recruitment documents and are referenced at various points of service delivery including at Reflective Practice Meetings and through the Case Audits, ensuring that the Child First principle can be seen in all our work.
Youth Justice System	Work with the Partnership Board to promote a Child First approach throughout children's experience of the youth justice system.	Head of Service	This work is completed and becoming business as usual and includes ensuring there is a case study and Child First Theme at the start of each Board meeting. The Chair of the Youth Bench has also completed some work and a presentation to the Board demonstrating the Court's approach to Child First principle. An area to be improved is the timeliness with which children are processed through the justice system, including through Police and CPS systems, however, this work is being progressed at the Local Criminal Justice Board and is being prioritised by Police and CPS.

Strategic Priority 4: Tackle Serious Violence

Action	Key Links	Owner	Progress
Serious Violence Duty	Work with the Violence Reduction Partnership to develop a strategic needs assessment and Strategy.	Head of Service	Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership have published the Strategic Needs Assessment for 2024. B&NES VRP has also published a local Plan and Strategy to Prevent and reduce Serious Violence.
Knife crime	Ensure all children in the justice system and their parents/carers have an appropriate intervention in relation to knife crime.	Operational Manager	Some practitioners in the team have been trained by the Street Doctors to deliver interventions on knife crime, first aid and safety. The YJS has held two small group workshops for children with the Street Doctors, funded by the VRP. We have 20 app licences from Street Doctors, to use one to one with children. A practitioner has completed a review of current interventions so these can be delivered to all children where appropriate. The VRP have also been delivering Knife Crime Awareness events for parents and carers across the authority.
Safeguarding reviews	Address actions identified through the (not yet published) safeguarding review following a fatal stabbing and participate in further reviews.	Operational Manager	The Review has not been published yet and is being progressed by the BCSSP.

Anti Racism Plan Actions			
VISION			
Vision and strategy for improving outcomes for black and mixed heritage boys (HMIP 11) Action plan to deliver objectives set out in YJB Business Plan (ID 21)			
Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
Agree a vision statement and strapline.	Clear leadership aspirations and well understood purpose	Chair and Board	4 Board members met and created a vision statement and strapline. This was sent out to the YJS and Partnership Board for consultation and was signed off at the Board meeting on 24 th Jan 2024. B&NES Youth Justice Service Anti-Racism Vision is: To commit to being an anti-racist service. To uphold social justice and challenge inequality and racism in the actions of individuals, in services and in society. To value and celebrate diversity and promote equality of opportunity.
Add these to all relevant documents and webpage.	Ambition shared with children, families, communities and partners.	Business Manager	The vision has been added to the webpage.
Consult with children and staff and write an Anti-Racism Strategy.	Shared commitments, cross-referenced with national objectives.	Head of Service	The Plan and strategy has been completed and signed off through the Youth Justice Plan

Understanding Ensure all YJS data collected, analysed and reported uses ‘18+1’ ethnicity categories Analyse offence outcomes data by offence type and ethnicity groups (ID 20) and diversion schemes by ethnicity (ID 25)			
Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
Support staff to listen to children to understand how they identify and ensure records are accurate.	Children are supported to reflect on their identity and records are as accurate as possible.	Operational Manager	All children are asked how they identify, and this is recorded on the case management system.
Include 18+1 data in all reports to the Partnership Board.	Quantify disproportionality and make direct comparisons.	Business and Performance Manager	All YJS performance reports include the 18+1 categories.
Workforce Make sure staff understand what is expected of them in their work with black and mixed heritage boys and that they are inducted, trained and supported to work effectively with this group of children (HMIP 15) Work with B&NES and statutory partners to baseline the ‘HR life-cycle’ across ethnicity groups (ID 79)			
Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
Work with members of Partnership Board to apply learning from staff experience.	Ensure Youth Justice Service treats and develops staff fairly.	Head of Service	The Human Resources and Workforce Development Pillar of the Identifying Disproportionality Report are progressing these actions and work will continue into the coming year.
Continue to explore ways of attracting a more representative workforce, including volunteers.	A workforce that better represents children and reflects the community in which they live.	Operational Manager	The Human Resources and Workforce Development Pillar of the Identifying Disproportionality Report are progressing these actions. The wider local authority Equalities Strategy is also considering ways to attract a more representative workforce. Work will continue into the coming year.

Support staff participation in Council Equalities Groups.	Staff feel connected and know how to contribute to wider change.	Operational Manager	The Human Resources and Workforce Development Pillar of the Identifying Disproportionality Report are progressing these actions. All staff are undertaking equalities training as part of their induction and are made aware of equalities groups.
Procure and ensure delivery of cultural competency and unconscious bias training, ensuring this is relevant to all staff.	Staff understand and recognise disproportionality and have skills to discuss race and racism with children. They acknowledge positions of power and privilege and utilise systemic tools such as social GRACES (link)	Operational Manager	2 day Cultural Competence Training commissioned and delivered in summer 2023 to all YJS staff from SARI.

Representation

Ensure we work in buildings and with services where there are positive, representative images of children and adults on noticeboards and in any materials used, including videos and games.

Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
Review our office environment and resources to ensure inclusive imagery.	Children see themselves represented and included.	Operational Manager	Much work has been done this year to improve the environment of our Broad Street office to include positive imagery and create a child friendly environment. This has included posters from Black History month and posters created by young people themselves. This work is ongoing and the Reparation and Participation worker will continue to lead in this area.

Participation Establish effective processes for gaining feedback from black and mixed heritage boys on the services they receive and use this feedback to assess, review and improve the quality and suitability of service provision (HMI 14)			
Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
Ensure we hear the voices of all children with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic heritages and respond positively.	We understand and affirm lived experience and address specific needs and all children get the services they need to support positive outcomes.	Senior Practitioner	The YJS routinely seeks feedback from service users, including children and parents. This feedback is collated into an annual report. The report was shared at the Partnership Board in January 2024. The next steps for this area of work are to review the questions we ask in the Feedback process to ensure they cover diversity issues and to consider setting up a particular focus group with children from minority groups to hear their voices and support them to contribute to service improvement.
Criminal Justice Process Collaborate with all relevant partners to identify and tackle any disproportionality through each stage of the youth justice process (ID 24) Agree with A&S Youth Justice Services and Education Inclusion colleagues about how best to scrutinise and tackle links between exclusion and entry into the youth justice system (ID 19) Collect and scrutinise school exclusion data and develop a strategy and action plan to tackle any disproportionality. Include a focus on any links with entry into the youth justice system (ID 16, 17, 18 and 19)			

Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
Actively support work led by Chief Constable and participate in specific work group(s) as advised.	Identify and address disproportionality.	Head of Service	The YJS is participating in the Avon and Somerset wide Youth Pillar and contributing to some aspects of the Policing Pillar. Other LA departments are participating in the Workforce Development and Data Insights Pillars.
Work with peers in the Avon and Somerset Youth Group and the Education Inclusion Co-ordinator to agree approach and methodology.	Understand best times and ways to intervene, in keeping with B&NES Early Help Strategy.	Operational Manager	The Head of the Virtual School has joined the Youth Pillar work to ensure the education related recommendations are progressed in BaNES. This work will continue in the coming year.
Support Education Inclusion colleagues in undertaking this work.	Address concern about links between exclusion and routes into offending, including through exploitation.	Business and Performance Manager & Education Worker	As above
Service Delivery			
Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
Management Oversight - improve the quality of management oversight to make sure it is sufficiently focused on diversity and what this means in practice and that there are clear escalation routes to address any barriers to black and mixed heritage boys accessing the services they need (HMIP 16)			
a. Add a section in the local Out of Court Resolution assessment tool on personal and social identity.	A Child First focus on individual children.	Operational Manager	This is complete and is being well used. Diversity issues are now considered in every OOCR report.

b. Update the Pre Sentence Report Quality Assurance checklist to ensure a focus on individual characteristics and re-order this and the template itself to be Child First.	A Child First focus on individual children.	Operational Manager	The template and QA form have been updated accordingly.
c. Include a focus on race in pan-Authority audits.	A Child First focus on individual children.	Operational Manager	The pan authority audits did not take place as planned in 2023, and this will be carried forward into the next year plan.
d. Use revised Council Equalities Impact Assessment template for impact assessing significant reports and policies.	Ensure that the management oversight is focused on diversity.	Youth Justice Manager Group	The Equalities Impact Assessment will be used for any significant future policies and reports.
e. Revisit how we use diversity and equalities agenda items in staff Supervision.	Ensure that the management oversight is focused on diversity.	Youth Justice Manager Group	Social GRACES are included in supervision conversations relating to children and families and evidenced in supervision notes and on the child's case record. Equalities is also an agenda item on the Manager's meetings.

Targets - Partnership Board to have a joint set of partnership targets, for example with schools and children's services, for improving service delivery to black and mixed heritage boys, and make sure mechanisms are in place to track, monitor and evaluate outcomes (HMIP 13)

Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
Consult with Partnership Board and ask for a member to lead this piece of work.	Strategic ownership of this issue; all children's education needs are met.	Chair of Board	BaNES has a School's Race Equalities Charter and many schools have signed up. There is a multi-agency group, chaired by the Education Representative of the Partnership Board that is set up to monitor and tackle Disproportionality and a Race Equality Task force that is designed to improve service delivery for minority ethnic groups. The YJS is represented at both groups.

Gaps in Provision - address gaps in specialist provision for black and mixed heritage boys, either by delivering it in-house or by commissioning it from appropriate local community organisations and evaluate referral and uptake rates for the services provided (HMIP 17)

Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
Consult with staff, children and families to identify gaps and bring to attention of commissioners; Agree how the effectiveness of provision will be evaluated.	All children's needs are met, not necessarily by the Youth Justice Service, but we ensure there is provision in place.	Senior Practitioner	There are plans to set up a particular focus group with children from minority groups to hear their voices and support them to contribute to service improvement. This work will continue into the coming year and will also include Black Families Education Service.

Parents and Carers - offer suitable and appropriate support and intervention to the parents and/or carers of black and mixed heritage boys and regularly review the uptake and suitability of this provision (HMIP 18)

Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
a. Ensure children and parents/carers receive written information about the justice system and resources available to support them at the outset of their contact.	Parents/carers are empowered with information and skills to support their children through complex systems.	Operational Manager	This action is being completed jointly with other Avon and Somerset YJS's as part of the OOCR Tactical group to ensure consistency across the area and aims to be completed later in the Spring 2024. The leaflet has been drafted and children and young people are being consulted on its contents.
b. Support access to Talking Teens parenting programmes.	Parents/carers are empowered with information and skills to support their children through complex systems.	Operational Manager	Three YJS Practitioners have attended the Family Links Training course in January and February 2024. These practitioners will contribute to the delivery of the programme across BaNES and support parents with access.

Accommodation - Provide suitable and timely accommodation placements and support packages for black and mixed heritage boys who are facing remand or being released from custody (HMIP 8) and make sure that, where children and families are moved to a new location as a result of concerns about their safety, the accommodation and placements provided are suitable and sustainable to meet their needs (HMIP 9)

Action	Intended Impact	Owner	Progress
Work with the Placements Team and Housing Team to promote the needs of individual children and use our learning about how to make children more at home when they first arrive.	Placements provided are suitable and sustainable to meet their needs, when they need them.	Operational Manager	The Placements Team continue to participate in the Custody Review Panel. If a placement has been required to prevent a remand to custody, the placements team have been able to find a suitable alternative and are incredibly responsive in doing so. The YJS has supported Social Care to promote the individual needs of children where care placements have been sought.

Bath & North East Somerset Youth Justice Service

Youth Justice Plan Progress Report May
2025

Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Scrutiny Panel

Working in Partnership to
achieve Child First Justice



Vision and Strategy

Bath and North East Somerset Youth Justice Service

- Seeing **children as children**.
- Prioritising the **best interests and well-being** of children.
- Informed by a **Child First, Trauma Informed** and **Strengths Based** approach.
- Building on children's **individual strengths** and **capabilities** to lead to safer communities with fewer victims.
- Advocating for a childhood that is separate from the justice system – using **preventive measures**, and **diversion programmes**
- Promoting the **active participation, engagement**, and **inclusion** of children and their parents and carers to hear and learn from their views.

A vertical image on the left side of the slide shows a hand holding a white puzzle piece against a blurred green background. The puzzle piece is being held in a way that it appears to be part of a larger assembly.

Presentation Overview

- 1) **Inspection Outcome**
- 2) **Performance Data**
- 3) **Progress on Priorities and Plan for the coming year**
- 4) **What Service Users Say**
- 5) **Update on the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership**

A vertical stack of several old, thick books with worn spines and pages, positioned on the right side of the frame. The books are slightly out of focus, with the top ones being more visible than the bottom ones. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

1) Inspection Outcome

Inspection Outcome – HMI Probation

- The report was published in February 2025.
- Overall 'Good' Rating
- 3 areas = Outstanding, 9 areas = Good, 1 area = Requires Improvement

Page 109
“Children open to the YJS can expect to receive a strong offer of support.”

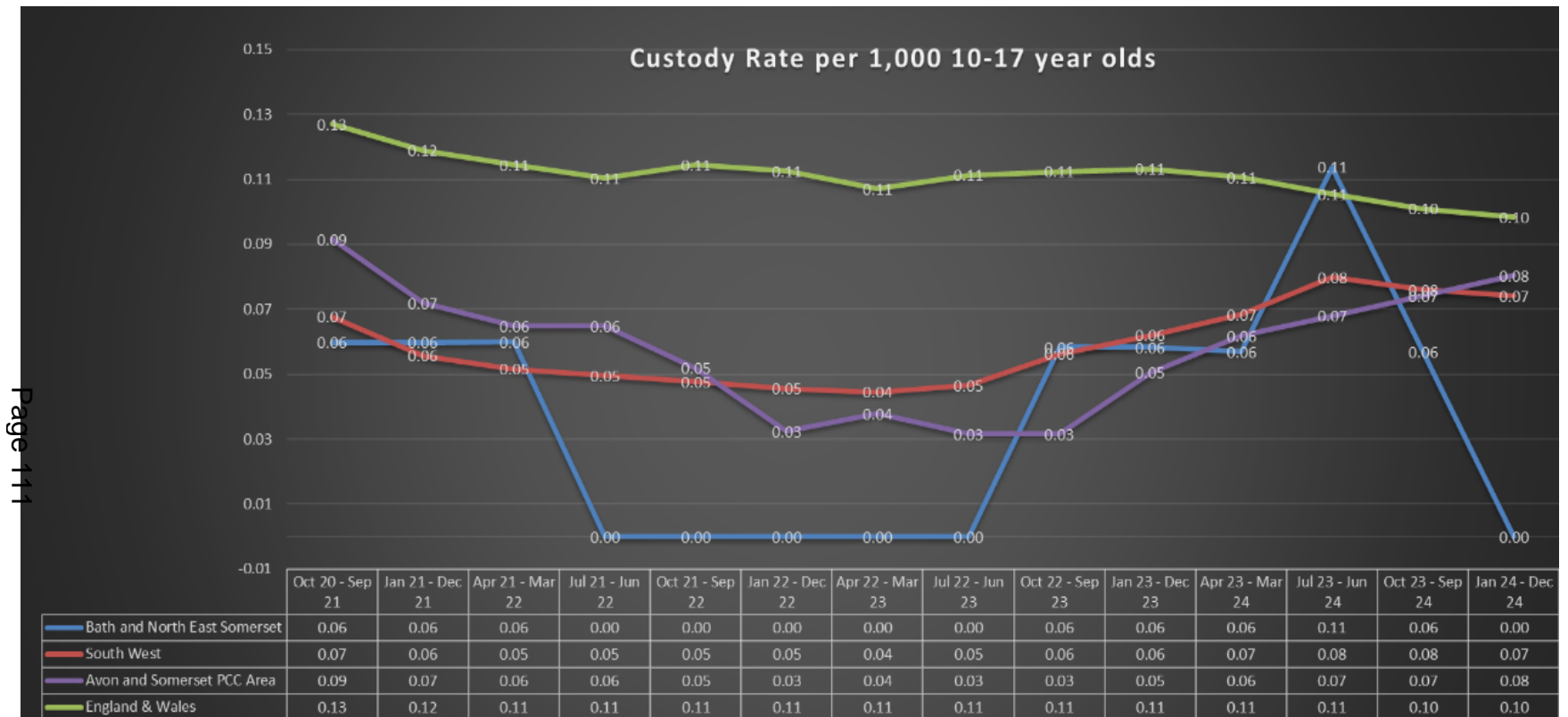
“The service is led effectively by a knowledgeable and meticulous management team.....Staff are skilled and deliver evidence-based interventions.”

“....arrangements are supported by a well-functioning and curious management board and an integrated partnership. Consequently, outcomes for children are positive.”

2) Performance Data

Partnership Performance:

Rate of Custody Jan 2024 to Dec 2024

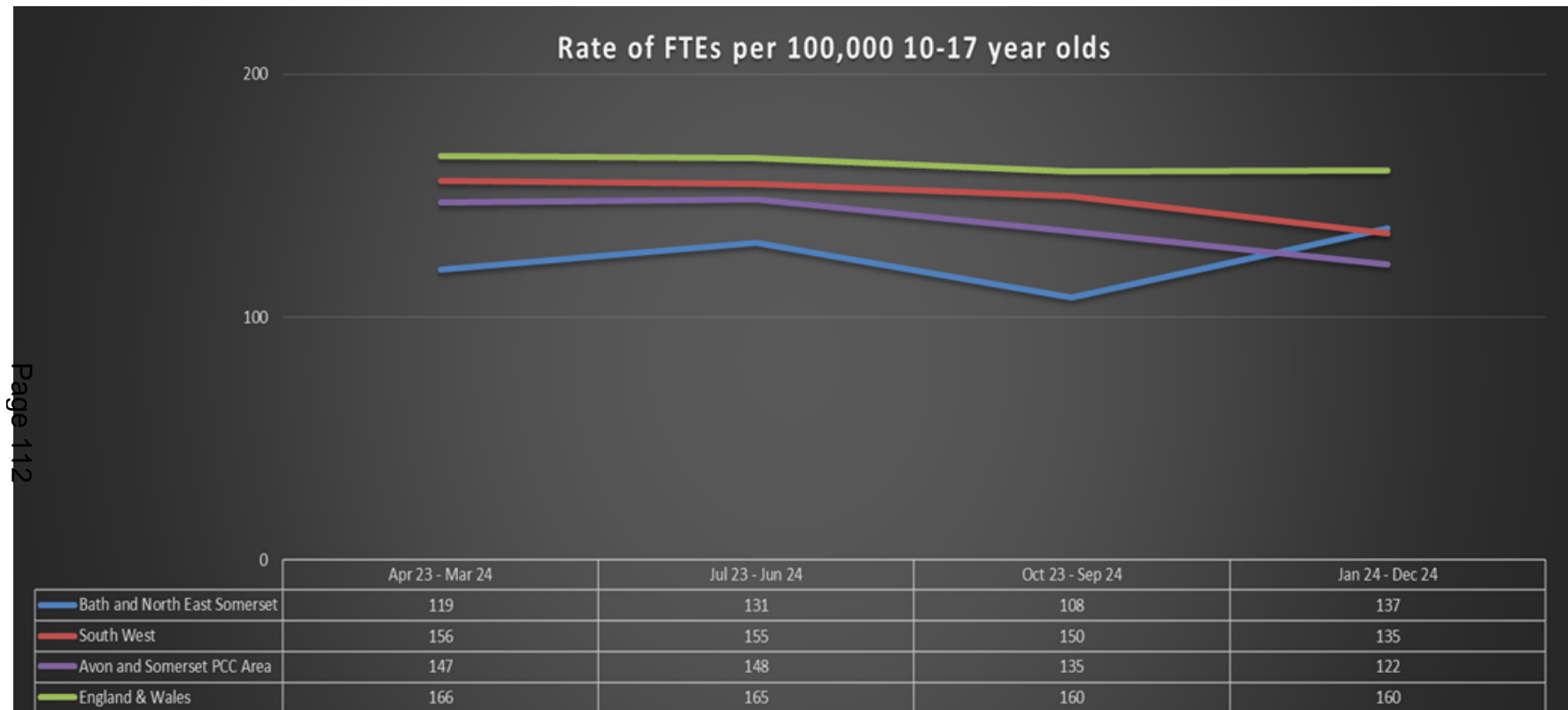


There was one custodial sentence in this reporting period. Our rate has reduced to 0.00 per 1,000 in the population.

The B&NES custodial rate is better than all Comparators. The rates for Comparators are: South West Region (0.07), PCC Area (0.08) and England and Wales (0.10).

Partnership Performance:

First Time Entrants Jan 2024 to Dec 2024

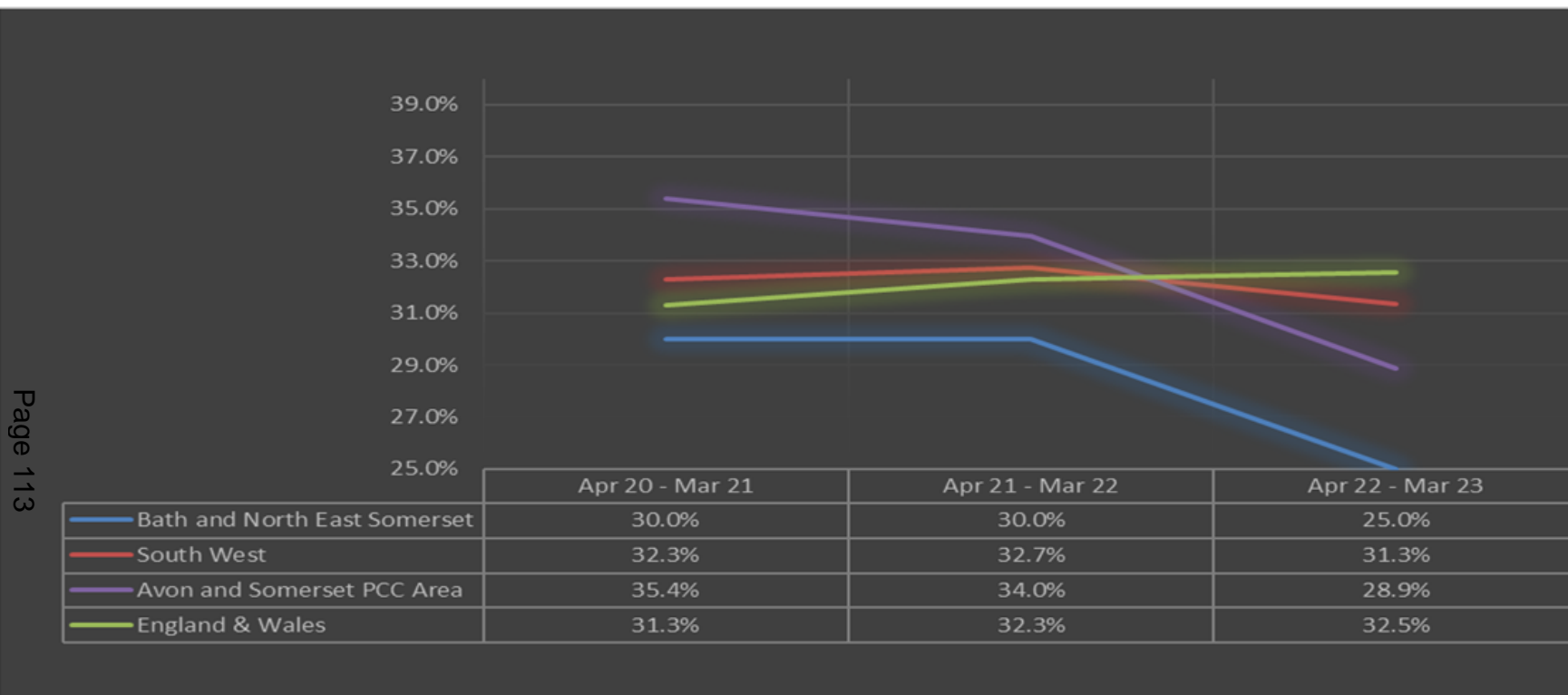


The rate of First Time Entrants has increased in this period from 108 to 137(46.6%) per 100,000 in the population. This equates to 24 individual children compared with 16 in the previous reporting period (Jan to Dec 2023).

The rates for our comparators are: South West (135), PCC Area, (122) and England and Wales (161).

Partnership Performance:

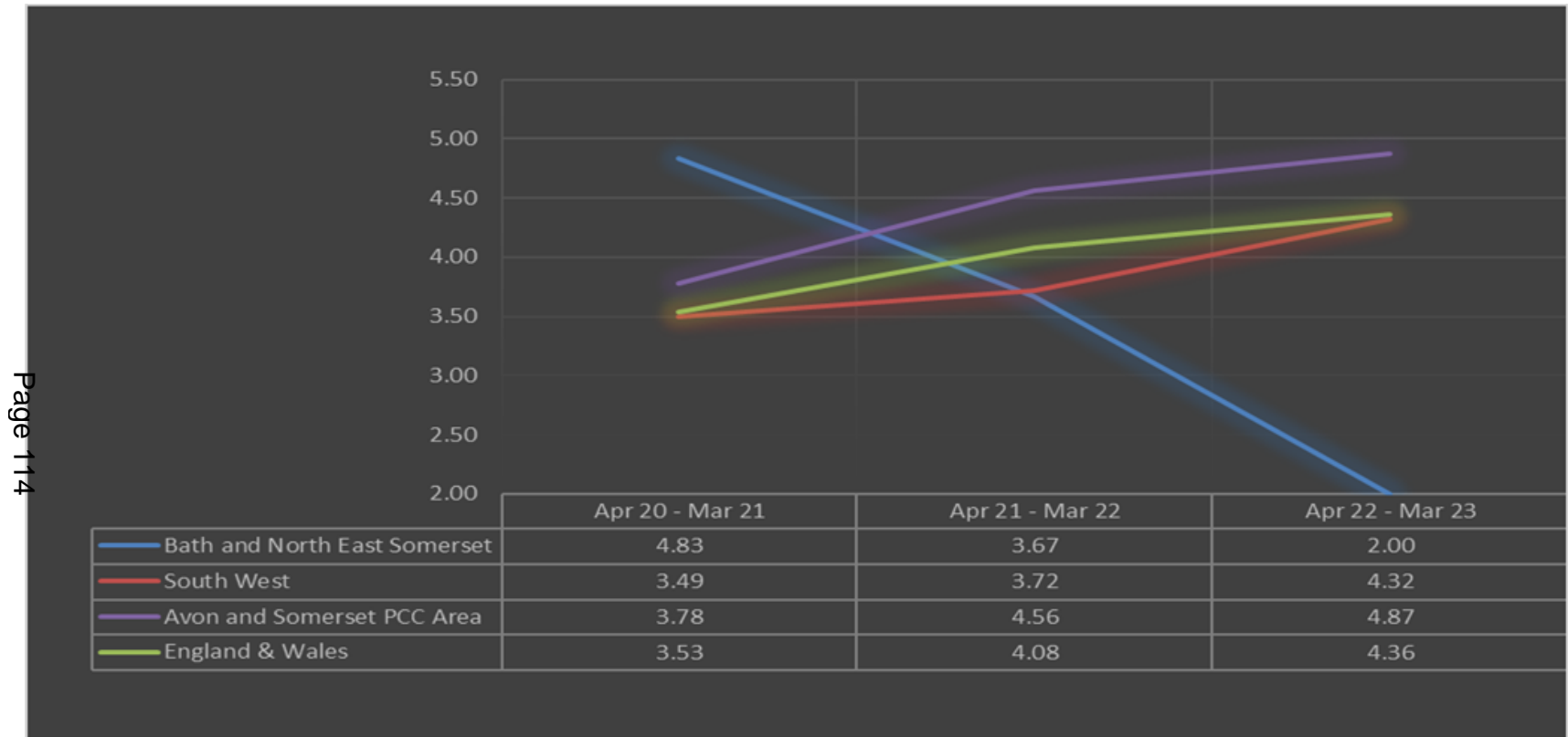
Re-offending Binary rate April 2022 to March 2023



The B&NES binary percentage of re-offending has reduced by 5% for the period April 2022 to March 2023. There were 20 children in the previous cohort, 6 re-offended, compared with 20 in the current cohort of which 5 have re-offended. The binary percentage of re-offending is showing as 25%, which is lower than all of our Comparators. The percentages for our Comparators are: South West Region (31.3%), PCC Area (28.9%) and England and Wales (32.5%).

Partnership Performance:

Re-offending Frequency April 2022 to March 2023



The rate of re-offending for this period is 2.00. This is a reduction from 3.67 (-45.5%). This is due to there being fewer children in the cohort and fewer children re-offending. There were 6 re-offenders in the previous reporting period committing 22 further offences and 5 re-offenders in the current period committing 10 further offences.

3) Progress on Priorities and Plan for the coming year

B&NES Youth Justice Service Priorities

1. **Reduce Disproportionality** – over-represented groups in B&NES include children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and children from minority ethnic backgrounds.
2. **Strengthen Participation** – youth justice work is most effective when it consults children, parents and carers and those harmed by children's offending and works with them to co-create and develop the service.
3. **Embed Child First Principles** – This principle is the corner stone of our approach moving forward, so appropriately it remained as a strategic priority the plan for 2024 to 2026.
4. **Reduce Serious Youth Violence** – From participation work with children, parents and carers, it is clear that this is a key issue for them and so it remains a strategic priority for B&NES YJS. Children have shared that knife crime and the threat of serious violence are utmost in their minds.

Youth Justice Service Key Achievements in 2024 / 25

Reduce Disproportionality – Ethnicity and SEN

We Have

- Anti-Racist Vision Statement and Action Plan
- Local Good Practice Guide for working with children from minority ethnic background, based on participation work
- Continuous cultural competence and diversity training for all staff
- Working in partnership with A&S and Education colleagues Tackling Disproportionality group
- 3-year Ethnic Disproportionality dashboard
- Speech and Language and Health Screening for all children
- Enhanced Offer agreed with Education colleagues for children in the Justice System
- Use of Social GRACES in supervision and reflective practice
- Training for staff on communication and interventions and Neuro Diversity

Youth Justice Service Key Achievements in 2024/25

Reduce Disproportionality

Impact

- Increased scrutiny on decisions to reduce disproportionality
- Increased staff confidence and in enabling children to talk about their identity
- Increased staff confidence with interventions with children with SEN
- Evidence of consideration of diversity in assessments and case work

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We Will

- Continued Case Audits to scrutinise for any bias and opportunity for learning
- Early help work for over-represented groups and children at risk of PEX
- Continue to hear from children and act on what they are telling us
- Develop Education Psychology input into YJS to ensure children's needs are full understood and responded to.
- Refresh key existing policies to ensure they sufficiently cover equity, inclusion and diversity

Youth Justice Service Key Achievements in 2024 / 25

Strengthen Participation

We Have

- Increased participation in reparation work
- Children on all practitioner recruitment panels
- Activities for children in the school holidays
- Consistent excellent feedback from children and parents
- Recruited and Trained a new group of volunteer Panel Members and Mentors

We Will

- Planning parent / carer drop in support sessions
- Co-create holiday activities with children
- Create a Participation Strategy to draw together all work being completed

Impact

- Hearing children's voice to develop the service – impacted on reparation opportunities and office environment
- Children using and developing their skills in reparation and enjoying this element of their work with YJS

Youth Justice Service Key Achievements in 2024/ 25

Embed Child First Principles

We Have

- Writing Referral Order reports to the Child
- Embedding Trauma informed practice - Enhanced Case Management
- Raising participation and aspirations for children through ETE support
- Using diversion where possible – advocating in court for diversion
- Individualised, Trauma Informed Plans with Children and including future focus
- Initiated a Task and Finish group with the LCJB to address timeliness and delays in the investigation process
- Implemented the YJB Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool, which has a child first focus.

Youth Justice Service Key Achievements in 2024/ 25

Embed Child First Principles

Impact

- Feedback suggests parents and children receive a supportive, individualised, child focused service from the YJS, enabling us to have very high completion rates and a low breach rate
- We are working with more children on an out of court basis and on diversion programmes

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We Will

- Link in with the ASB team to ensure early co-ordinated intervention
- Continue to work in partnership to reduce the times children are in police custody overnight
- Continue to work in partnership to ensure timely justice for children and victims
- Request Partners to complete the YJB Child First Self Assessment

Youth Justice Service

Key Achievements in 2024/ 25

Reduce Serious Violence

We Have

- Multi Agency Partnership to Prevent and Reduce Serious Violence
- Reviewed Audit Framework in 2024 to ensure regular audit activity and monitoring of Plans for Safety and Wellbeing and Safety for Others
- Street Doctors Training for staff and children in partnership with the Violence Reduction Partnership
- Provision of gym memberships and sports opportunities for children
- Updated Knife Crime resources, and as a partnership created a Toolkit for Parents
- Updated the YJS Risk and Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Implemented a shared approach to Risk Management Meetings with Children's Social Care to address and manage risk and safety and wellbeing concerns for children known to both services.

Youth Justice Service

Key Achievements in 2024 / 25

Reduce Serious Violence

Impact

- Identified learning and areas for improvement in plans re: safety and wellbeing and plans re: safety for others and implemented an action plan accordingly
- Staff feeling more confident and having a range of interventions to use about knife crime
- Children having positive opportunities to support desistance

We Will

- Build on our offer of support to victims, in particular young victims
- Complete a partnership wide review of activity being completed in B&NES to reduce serious violence, including the impact

4) What YJS Service Users Say

What Service Users Say - Children

They helped me figure out my problems with myself and solutions to them, they were really fun and cool to talk to and seeing them made my day better.

He embraces everything about me and made me feel comfortable whilst talking to him about things I had never spoken to anyone about before

My worker was amazing, super accepting and really nice and just made me feel really good about who I am

My worker has been very helpful and I appreciate the opportunities she helps find for me such as career opportunities and to improve my self development


What Service Users Say – Parents and Carers

my son is now more aware of feelings, actions, emotions and about doing what's right and also seeking help if needed.

The worker's communication, their general manner but also their ability to empathise with my personal situation without being patronising has been greatly appreciated.

The worker helped my son in communicating or expressing himself better and allowing us (his parents) to be more involved with his social life, knowing where he is and with who. Which has helped in our general relationship with him.

I don't want her to ever leave our lives. Our worker has been super supportive towards me and my son and nothing is too much trouble.



5) Update on the Work of the Violence Reduction Partnership (response to PDS TG recommendations)

VRP Updates

- Strategic Needs Assessment completed
- VRP Delivery Plan submitted to the Home Office for approval for 2025/26
 - Plan was created with partners of the Serious Violence Steering Group
 - Commissioned Services to include Detached Youth Work, Lived Experience Mentoring, Alternative Routes Workshops in schools, Parent / Carer Knife Crime Awareness events
- Work plan to include continued engagement with the community including a survey for children and young adults about knife crime and serious violence.
- Increasing engagement with schools through workshops, Inclusion Panels, Race Equality Task Force and Reducing Exclusions group
- Plan to refresh the Serious Violence Steering Group and multi agency activity in relation to the Serious Violence Duty
- Close links between VRP and Education teams, SEND and AP Advice Service. Exclusions are reducing, more work to do on suspensions



Thank you

Any questions?

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Equality Impact Assessment / Equality Analysis

(Updated December 2022)

Item name	Details
Title of service or policy	Youth Justice Service
Name of directorate and service	Children's Services and Education, Youth Justice Service
Name and role of officers completing the EIA	Carla Cooper, Interim Head of Service Young People's Prevention
Date of assessment	14 th June 2024 – refreshed on 1 st May 2025

Equality Impact Assessment (or 'Equality Analysis') is a process of systematically analysing a new or existing policy or service to identify what impact or likely impact it will have on different groups within the community. The main aim is to identify any discriminatory or negative consequences for a particular group or sector of the community, and also to identify areas where equality can be better promoted. Equality impact Assessments (EIAs) can be carried out in relation to services provided to customers and residents as well as employment policies/strategies that relate to staffing matters.

This toolkit has been developed to use as a framework when carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) or Equality Analysis. **Not all sections will be relevant – so leave blank any that are not applicable.** It is intended that this is used as a working document throughout the process, and a final version will be published on the Council's website.

1.1 Identify the aims of the policy or service and how it is implemented

Key questions	Answers / notes
1.1 Briefly describe purpose of the service/policy e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the service/policy is delivered and by whom • If responsibility for its implementation is shared with other departments or organisations • Intended outcomes 	The Youth Justice Service (YJS) works with children aged 10-17 who have come to attention of the Police due to their behaviour or who are assessed as being at risk of offending. Services are delivered by a multi-agency team including Police, Probation, Health, Social Care and Education staff. These and other agencies work together to address the needs of children in the youth justice system, many of whom have had difficult childhood experiences within or beyond their homes and some of whom have been traumatised by these experiences. The YJS has a statutory duty to prevent youth offending by 10-17 year olds, measured by reducing first time entrants, reduced re-offending and reduced use of custodial sentences. The YJS actively works to support children to engage in education, training and employment, as this is a positive protective factor against offending. It also works for other positive outcomes. The YJS also works with parents/carers and offers restorative services to those harmed by children's offending.
1.2 Provide brief details of the scope of the policy or service being reviewed, for example:	The YJS was established in 2000, under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The same legislation introduced a requirement to produce an

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it a new service/policy or review of an existing one? • Is it a national requirement?). • How much room for review is there? 	annual Youth Justice Plan. The YJB publishes annual guidance for the Plan.
1.3 Do the aims of this policy link to or conflict with any other policies of the Council?	The aim to prevent offending links well with the Children and Young People's Plan ambitions for children to be safe, be healthy, have fair life chances and become engaged citizens in their community. The YJS wants to see children thrive and works to support a wide range of positive outcomes.

2. Consideration of available data, research and information

Key questions	Data, research and information that you can refer to
2.1 What equalities training have staff received to enable them to understand the needs of our diverse community?	<p>In 2023, we held an all staff 2-day training on Diversity, Cultural Competence and Unconscious Bias. This training was delivered by Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI)</p> <p>In 2024, Practitioners attended 2 half day workshops with SARI. One about having conversation with children about identity and the other about how to respond to a child who is showing discriminatory views. The second workshop was delivered in response to the racist violence seen in the summer of 2024.</p> <p>All staff are required to complete the B&NES Equalities training as part of their induction.</p> <p>Staff can also access the monthly reflective practice sessions delivered by SARI.</p>
2.2 What is the equalities profile of service users?	Service users are predominantly male (approx. 80% to 85%). There is disproportionality and over representation of children from minority ethnic backgrounds and children with special

	education needs and disabilities (SEND). This percentages fluctuate due to small numbers but consistently over the years, this over-representation can be clearly seen.
2.3 Are there any recent customer satisfaction surveys to refer to? What were the results? Are there any gaps? Or differences in experience/outcomes?	<p>There is an annual report presented to the Partnership Board which gathers feedback from services – both parents / carers and children.</p> <p>In the year 2024, we have reviewed how we collect feedback and have just started using a QR code. We have also included a new question about diversity and identity asking service users if they felt their individual needs has been recognised and responded to.</p> <p>The satisfaction levels are generally excellent. There have not been any particular themes from service users about areas for improvement and most service users report feeling listened to, respected and that the service has been helpful.</p>
2.4 What engagement or consultation has been undertaken as part of this EIA and with whom? What were the results?	We have created a good practice guide for staff, to be used in induction, to ensure there are clear expectations when working with children from minority ethnic groups, so that we tackle disproportionality where we can. This practice guide was developed in consultation with children and young people who attend the supplementary school with Black Families Education Support Group. The consultation saw advice to staff about how to communicate with children about their identity and recognising the discrimination they have likely experienced.
2.5 If you are planning to undertake any consultation in the future regarding this service or policy, how will you include equalities considerations within this?	The Youth Justice Plan includes an action to refresh participation practice. We are in the process of setting up a focus group with parents / carers.

3. Assessment of impact: 'Equality analysis'

Based upon any data you have considered, or the results of consultation or research, use the spaces below to demonstrate you have analysed how the service or policy:

- Meets any particular needs of equalities groups or could help promote equality in some way.
- Could have a negative or adverse impact for any of the equalities groups

Key questions	Examples of what the service has done to promote equality	Examples of actual or potential negative or adverse impact and what steps have been or could be taken to address this
3.1 Issues relating to all groups and protected characteristics	<p>The YJS holds regular reflective practice meetings. As it moves towards becoming a more systemic service, it is using Burnham's 'social graces' to remind staff to consider the individual and equalities characteristics of those worked with.</p> <p>Equalities is a standing item on all team meetings' agendas and in most individual staff Supervision.</p> <p>One of the YJS key priorities is 'Embedding Child First Principles'. This is to ensure children are seen as children and not through the label as being 'offenders'.</p>	<p>Children known to the YJS are potentially stigmatised as young offenders although they are regarded as children first by our service.</p> <p>The YJS promotes this perspective amongst other criminal justice partners.</p>
3.2 Sex – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on women and men.	<p>There is a smaller proportion of girls in the youth justice system than the general population and we are curious about why this is, although it is a national picture.</p>	<p>The children's workforce has expressed concern about girls and offending based on what they are seeing and what children and others tell them.</p>

	Due to small numbers, we need to ensure the service meets the needs of girls. We do this by ensuring all our interventions are individually tailored rather than 'off the peg programmes' that are used for everyone.	There have been examples where girls have been arrested for offences that are clearly linked to mental health needs and self harming. The Out of Court Resolution Panel has sought to divert them from the formal justice system where possible.
3.3 Pregnancy and maternity	<p>No data is reported to show the proportion of pregnant children known to the YJS although anecdotally, the number would be very low. Work with pregnant girls would be based on their full assessment, and the service would be delivered in a very bespoke way and kept under careful review as the pregnancy progresses.</p> <p>There is a school nurse in the YJS, so we would ensure strong links with her to offer the most appropriate service to any children who are pregnant while working with the YJS.</p>	
3.4 Gender reassignment – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on transgender people	All children working with the YJS are asked to self-identify their gender. Any children who are questioning their gender or considering a transition can be referred to partner agencies such as Off the Record.	The YJS does not have a depth of experience working with transgender children, so we are aware that there could be a lack of knowledge, bias and struggle to keep up to date. Staff can access consultation from CAMHS and SARI about the issue as required.

<p>3.5 Disability – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on disabled people (ensure consideration both physical, sensory and mental impairments and mental health)</p>	<p>The greatest disproportionality in the YJS is children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) and there are a number of concerns about these, including practice and participation in annual reviews.</p> <p>The service is promoting equality in this area by working with our Speech and Language Therapist to create communication profiles for children in court (and sometimes also used in schools) so that the professionals around them do not misinterpret their behaviour and they know the best way to communicate with them so they understand and can engage with the process. Children are asked questions about their sensory and emotional health needs and plans are devised on an individual basis to remove any barriers to engagement.</p> <p>The service undertakes regular training and consultation with CAMHS and Speech and Language Therapy to ensure we are working in the best way with children with neuro-diversity and additional needs to ensure we remove any barriers to engagement and completion of their programmes with YJS.</p>	<p>One of the issues for children with SEND in the justice system is ensuring they understand what is happening and the courts and police are informed on how to best communicate with them to ensure best outcomes.</p> <p>The delays in EHCP's being issued and waiting lists for diagnoses can exacerbate the problem faced by these children. YJS advocates on behalf of children and families in these situations.</p>
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	<p>The YJS has worked together with Inclusion and SEN teams to create an enhanced offer, similar to that offered to children on CP Plans, for children in the YJS with SEN.</p> <p>Children have been profoundly impacted during the pandemic and the YJS approaches its work with an understanding that emotional and mental health issues will be present for all the children it works with to some extent.</p> <p>If children working with the YJS have sight or hearing issues, we would contact the relevant teams through the School Nurse or the Disabled Children's Team for advice and the most appropriate support for these children and to ensure they can fully access our service.</p>	
3.6 Age – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on different age groups	<p>The whole Plan is written about the YJS's work with children aged 8-17 in the preventative Compass service and aged 10-17 in the statutory part of the service.</p> <p>We are aware of the importance of good transitions to adult services and hold regular transitions meeting with our Probation colleagues, so that any children who are approaching adulthood</p>	<p>B&NES has identified that the strategy for transitioning young people from children to adult services is a priority action.</p> <p>We are planning Adulthood training for staff in 2025/26 as part of our strategic priority to be child first in our approach.</p> <p>B&NES council has passed a motion for Care experienced to be a protected characteristic.</p>

	and who may be transferred are prepared in the best way possible.	
3.7 Race – identify the impact/potential impact on across different ethnic groups	<p>Nationally and locally, children from minority ethnic groups are over-represented in the justice system. This is particularly seen in the levels of custody rates for black and mixed heritage boys.</p> <p>The YJS is participating in work at an Avon and Somerset level Tackling Disproportionality.</p> <p>We have an Anti-Racism action plan which is reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The work in this plan is strategic and at an operational level. The work includes collaborating with education colleagues to address inequalities in exclusion and suspensions, with police to ensure diversions from the formal justice system are offered fairly across all ethnicities and at a team level regarding monitoring good practice, training and participation work with children.</p> <p>YJS uses translation and interpretation services for any children or parents and carers where English is not their first language.</p>	<p>The adverse impacts here are that the vulnerabilities of minority ethnic children are missed, they are not offered preventative services and can be suspended and excluded from school at higher rates than their white counterparts, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and offending.</p> <p>B&NES has a Race Equality Task Force, which is promoting the Race Equality Charter Mark for schools to tackle this issue.</p> <p>The Virtual school is also leading on a strategic group looking at issues such as school exclusions and suspensions and aiming to reduce disproportionality.</p>

<p>3.8 Sexual orientation – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual people</p>	<p>The service is aware of issues of discrimination faced by children who identify as LGBTQ+. All children are asked about their identity, and we aim to ensure that at every point of the service we offer, we take the child's individual and diverse needs into account.</p> <p>YJS can refer children to Off the Record for support around sexual orientation.</p>	
<p>3.9 Marriage and civil partnership – does the policy/strategy treat married and civil partnered people equally?</p>	<p>No data is reported and numbers would be very low in this service for children.</p>	<p>We do not anticipate there would be any adverse impact due to marriage or civil partnership.</p>
<p>3.10 Religion/belief – identify the impact/potential impact of the policy on people of different religious/faith groups and also upon those with no religion.</p>	<p>All children and their parents / carers are asked about their religion and beliefs to ensure that the service we offer takes any particular requirements into account.</p>	<p>YJS staff are trained in and aware of any issues relating to radicalisation and the Prevent agenda.</p>
<p>3.11 Socio-economically disadvantaged* – identify the impact on people who are disadvantaged due to factors like family background, educational attainment, neighbourhood, employment status can influence life chances (this is not a legal requirement, but is a local priority).</p>	<p>There is not data on this issue, but the YJS routinely works with children from disadvantaged backgrounds.</p>	<p>These disadvantages can make children more vulnerable to exploitation and offending and to poor outcomes in education and future employment opportunities.</p>
<p>3.12 Rural communities* identify the impact / potential impact on people living in rural communities</p>	<p>Many of the children the YJS works with live in rural communities.</p>	

	<p>We need to ensure they are supported to access services and that they can access our service without any disadvantage.</p> <p>One example of this is to ensure that Referral Order Panel Meetings are held in children's local communities or if that is not possible, the YJS will provide suitable transport for them to attend.</p>	
<p>3.13 Armed Forces Community ** serving members; reservists; veterans and their families, including the bereaved. Public services are required by law to pay due regard to the Armed Forces Community when developing policy, procedures and making decisions, particularly in the areas of public housing, education and healthcare (to remove disadvantage and consider special provision).</p>	<p>No data is reported to show the proportion of Armed Forces children known to the YJS although anecdotally, the number would be very low.</p>	

*There is no requirement within the public sector duty of the Equality Act to consider groups who may be disadvantaged due to socio economic status, or because of living in a rural area. However, these are significant issues within B&NES and have therefore been included here.

** The Equality Act does not cover armed forces community. However, the Armed Forces Bill (which came in on 22 Nov 2022) introduces a requirement to pay 'due regard' to make sure the Armed Forces Community are not disadvantaged when accessing public services.

4. Bath and North East Somerset Council & NHS B&NES

Equality Impact Assessment Improvement Plan

Please list actions that you plan to take as a result of this assessment/analysis. These actions should be based upon the analysis of data and engagement, any gaps in the data you have identified, and any steps you will be taking to address any negative impacts or remove barriers. The actions need to be built into your service planning framework. Actions/targets should be measurable, achievable, realistic and time framed.

Issues identified	Actions required	Progress milestones	Officer responsible	By when
Over-representation of children from minority ethnic groups – in particular those from a mixed heritage.	Implementation of recommendations in the Tackling Disproportionality report. Undertake Adultification training Ensure all policies refer to equity, inclusion and diversity. See Anti-Racism Action Plan	Seeing fewer children from minority ethnic backgrounds in the youth justice system	Head of Service	
Over-representation of children with EHCPs and wider SEND needs in the youth justice system	Speech and language therapy and SEND processes training to be delivered to all staff as part of the induction package. Education Psychology Service is offering time to YJS to offer consultation and assessments for children to ensure their needs do not go unidentified.	Seeing children with SEN in suitable education Hearing the practitioners feel more confident in meeting the needs of children with neuro-diversity	Head of Service	

5. Sign off and publishing

Once you have completed this form, it needs to be 'approved' by your Divisional Director or their nominated officer. Following this sign off, send a copy to the Equalities Team (equality@bathnes.gov.uk), who will publish it on the Council's and/or NHS B&NES' website. Keep a copy for your own records.

Signed off by: Christopher Wilford, Interim Director Children's Services.

Date: 1st May 2025

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Knife Crime

Key Evidence and Insights

February 2025



Youth Justice Board
Bwrdd Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid

Prevalence of knife crime

Page 146



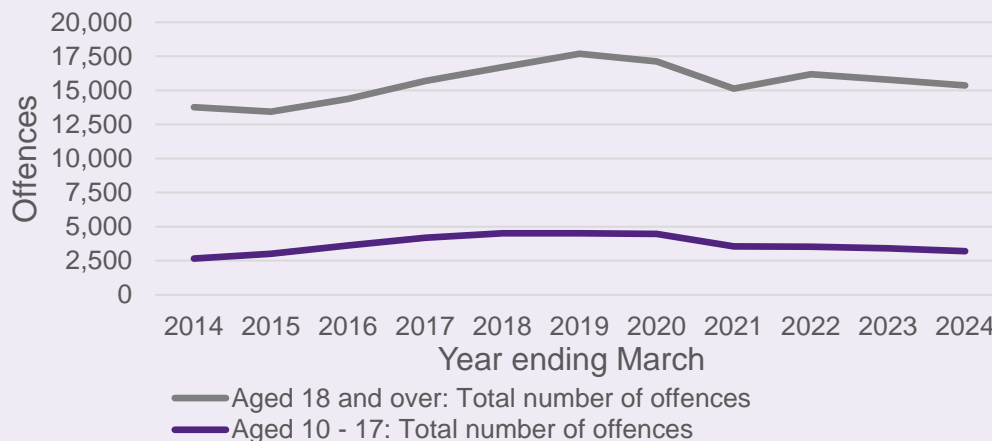
Prevalence of knife crime

Knife crime is not just concerned with child populations

- The MoJ recorded 18,560 knife crime offences resulting in caution or conviction in the year ending March 2024. Only 17% (3,206) of these offences were related to children, with the remaining 83% being concerned with those over the age of 18.
- The number of knife crime offences committed by children has been decreasing since the year ending March 2019, with children making up 20% of all knife crime offences in that year to 17% in the latest year.
- Black children made up 14% of knife offences in the year ending 2024. Given that they make up 6% of the general population in the 2021 census data, this shows clear over-representation. Also Mixed ethnicity children made up 10% of knife offences while making up 8% of the general population. Disparity in offences is influenced by a range of factors including much higher use of stop and search for Black children, and greater likelihood of social marginalisation including economic deprivation.

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Number of knife and offensive weapon offences committed in England and Wales by age group



Source: MoJ, Knife and Offensive Weapon Sentencing Statistics Year ending Q1 2024, Main Tables

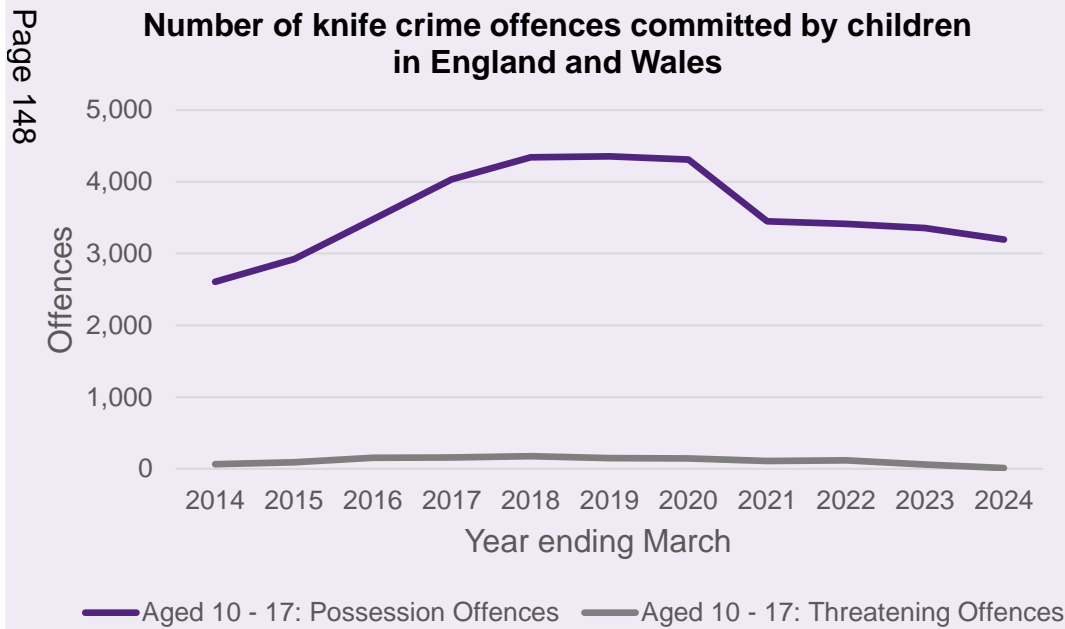
Key Messages

- Children make up a minority – about a sixth – of knife crime offences overall in England and Wales.
- Black and Mixed ethnicity children are over-represented in knife offences. There are a range social factors that influence these outcomes as well as disparity in criminal justice practice including stop and search.

Prevalence of knife crime

There are differences in the types of knife offences by children

- The MoJ has identified possession of a knife as the most common knife crime offence committed by children.
- More than 99% of knife offences are for possession alone.



Source: MoJ, Knife and Offensive Weapon Sentencing Statistics Year ending Q1 2024, Main Tables

Key Messages

- More than 99% of children convicted of knife offences are for possession alone rather than using it for threatening purposes or for knife enabled-serious violence.

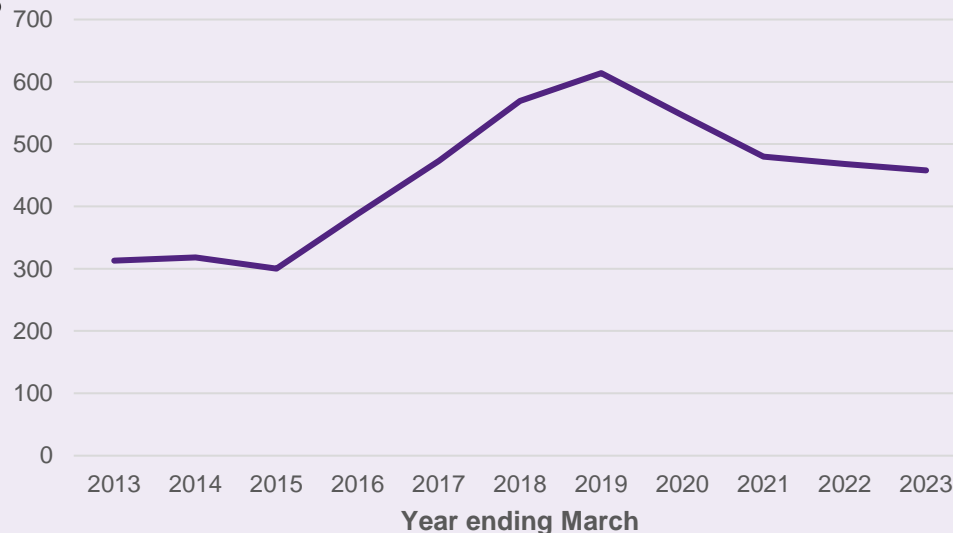
Prevalence of knife crime

The number of hospital admissions for assault by sharp object are changing over time

- The NHS reported a total of 68,768 external cause admissions in the year 2022-23. 458 hospital admissions in this period were because of assault by sharp object. This is a 2% decrease from the previous year and a 46% increase from the year ending March 2013.
- Of the 458 admissions for assault by sharp object, this included 63 admissions aged 10-14, 103 admissions aged 15, 128 aged 16, and 164 admissions aged 17.
- These statistics relate to the age of the victim; therefore, we do not know the age of the perpetrator in these instances.

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10- to 17-year-old Hospital Admissions for Assault by Sharp Object, in England



Source: NHS, Hospital Admitted Patient Care Activity, External Causes

Key Messages

- Hospital admissions for assault with a sharp object is 46% higher than it was in 2013 but has been falling from a peak in 2019.
- This is the most recent data available at the time of publishing.

Why children carry knives

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Why children carry knives

Fear and Victimisation

- Children feel the need to protect themselves and perceive knives as an easily accessible way to do so (Smith & Hughes 2019).
- Children who carry knives are likely to have been a victim of violence or carry a knife out of fear of victimisation (Eades et al. 2007; Traynor 2016).
- The YEF Violence and Vulnerability 2023 survey shows that **48% of children who committed violence were also victims** (YEF 2023).

Social Status

- Children may carry a knife to gain social status amongst peers, maintain their reputation and gain respect of others (Nacro 2020; Silvestri 2009; Smith & Hughes 2019).
- Experience of social exclusion and lack of educational attainment may result in children engaging in knife carrying to gain social status (Lemos 2004).

Exploitation

- Children carrying knives has been related to gang and drug-related activity – children are particularly susceptible where they have no positive role models (Nacro 2020).
- Working with children who are at risk of exploitation by gangs or 'county lines' drugs operations has been recognised as a priority (HMIP 2022).

Deprivation

- Evidence suggests a link between deprivation, high levels of violence and knife offences (Traynor 2016).
- The presence of poverty and lack of employment and material support can create pathways into offending behaviour (Silvestri et al. 2009).

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- ACEs have been suggested to impact children's responses to situations, with strong associations made to aggression, violence and criminal behaviour.
- The trauma and absence of feelings of safety associated with ACEs are suggested to shape influence knife carrying (Gray, Smithson & Jump 2021).

Social Media

- Practitioners and policymakers have suggested that the role of technology and social media in facilitating serious violence is a significant 'blind spot'.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that since COVID-19, gangs are increasingly reliant on use of encrypted social media platforms to groom, exploit and coerce young people (Crest Advisory 2022).

Key Messages

- There is an overlap between victims and those who use knives
- Current evidence suggests that knife crime is driven by a combination of poverty, marginalisation, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), trauma, fear and victimisation, including exploitation (HMIP, 2022)
- The level of fear and societal issues experienced by children are legitimate and must be addressed to promote understanding of risk and consequential thinking
- Although evidence captures some of the drivers for why children carry knives, it is difficult to establish the prevalence of the reasons behind knife carrying

What works to reduce knife crime

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What works in reducing knife crime

The programmes of focus in the following slides are individual child level programmes. However, this is part of a wider context of programmes including community level approaches, as well as those which target supply or organised crime exploiting children.

Universal Prevention

Universal interventions involve programmes, schemes and campaigns that are implemented on a broader scale and may be tailored to the general population rather than being targeted at a specific group. These may be intended to raise awareness and promote knowledge on specific crime problems.

Early Prevention

The YJB definition of **Early Prevention** is support for children (with no linked offence) to address unmet needs / welfare concerns, usually delivered by mainstream and voluntary sector services.

Targeted Prevention

The YJB definition of **Targeted Prevention** is specialist support for children who have had some contact with criminal justice services but are not currently being supported through diversion, an out of court disposal or statutory order (this could include children who have had previous YJS intervention). This is to address unmet needs / welfare concerns. The aim is to improve outcomes through positive interaction while minimising harmful experiences for children.

Diversion

The YJB definition of **Diversion** is where children with a linked offence receive an alternative outcome that does not result in a criminal record, avoids escalation into the formal youth justice system and associated stigmatisation. This may involve the YJS delivering support / intervention that may or may not be voluntary and/or signposting children (and parent/carers) into relevant services. All support should be proportionate, aimed at addressing unmet needs and supporting prosocial life choices.

Formal Sentencing

Formal Sentencing is the judicial process where a judge or magistrate determines and announces the legal consequences for a person who has been found guilty of a crime. Sentences may vary depending on the seriousness of the crime that has been committed.



Current options to respond to children found in possession of a knife

Court disposal following charge and conviction: courts can use sentences including referral orders and youth rehabilitation orders. With a referral order, a separate panel, rather than the court determines the conditions following an assessment. The panel is comprised of volunteers from the community, supported by youth justice workers. With a youth rehabilitation order, the court determines the requirements and the timescale for completion, informed by a youth justice worker's pre-sentence report.

Formal out of court disposal: Cautions and youth conditional cautions (YCC) can be used as an alternative to court action. This has to be agreed by the police and prosecutors, after consultation with youth justice workers. Youth justice workers may carry out an assessment and recommend requirements for a YCC.

Informal out of court disposal: Informal out of court disposals may be used including community resolutions. Some of these are issued by the police on their own including warnings and informal resolution including apologies and reparation. There are also more rigorous deferred prosecution schemes (outcome 22). This approach is taken where diversionary, educational or intervention activity is undertaken, usually under the supervision of a youth offending team. Police usually consult with youth justice workers before using deferred prosecution and youth justice workers may undertake an assessment. HM Inspectorate of Constabulary support the use of deferred prosecution in appropriate cases of knife possession.

What works: What is the evidence telling us?

The following programmes mostly look at the impact on violent crime more generally but can be applied in the instance of knife crime offences.

- **Focused Deterrence:** Strong evidence this has a high impact on violent crime - estimated to reduce violent crime by 33% (YEF Toolkit).
- **Targeted Prevention Programmes:** Varying evidence and impact on violent crime. These are also used as part of diversion, not just prevention. Important to note that this is based on US-based evidence and one study from Glasgow.
 - **Social Skills Training:** Strong evidence this has a high impact on violent crime - estimated to reduce violent crime by 32%.
 - **Mentoring:** Moderate evidence this has a moderate impact on violent crime - estimated to reduce violent crime by 21%.
 - **Sports Programmes:** Limited evidence this has a high impact on violent crime. These programmes have been found to reduce aggression, promote mental health and respond to other behavioural difficulties (YEF Toolkit).
- **A&E Navigator Programmes:** Very limited evidence this could have a high impact on violent crime, Estimate is based on two US studies only. The YEF has funded a multi-site trial of this intervention, which they intend to evaluate (YEF Toolkit).
- **Violence Reduction Units (VRUs):** Evaluations suggest a reduction in police recorded violence without injury offences. Whilst not statistically significant, there were encouraging indications of reductions in homicides and hospital admissions resulting from any violent injury (for example, not just sharp object) (Home Office 2023).
- **Pre-Court Diversion:** Strong evidence this has a moderate impact on violent crime - estimated to reduce re-offending by 13% and in the instance of another offence, this is likely to be less serious (YEF Toolkit).
- **Hot Spot Policing:** Moderate evidence this has a moderate impact on violent crime - estimated to reduce violent crime by 14% and overall offending by 17%. The nature of delivery is important - it is found to be most effective when taking a problem-oriented policing approach compared to traditional policing (YEF Toolkit)
 - A Home Office (2024) Analysis of Hot Spot Policing (covering children and adults) found reduced crime on patrol days compared with non-patrol days, although at the force level few forces demonstrated a significantly significant reduction in crime.
- **Tailored Support Opportunities (Housing, Education, Employment):** Strong evidence this has a high impact on reducing weapon carrying (Browne et al. 2021).

What works: What is the evidence telling us?

The following programmes are less effective, or have weaker evidence or may be harmful

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- **Knife Crime Education Programmes:** Very weak evidence which is insufficient to establish their impact on violent crime. It has been argued however that this intervention can contribute to misconceptions about knife carrying and subsequently increase children's likelihood of carrying a knife out of fear for their safety (YEF Toolkit).
- **Knife Surrender Schemes:** Very weak evidence which is insufficient to establish their impact on violent crime. However, two UK-based studies suggest that whilst these schemes may contribute to a small reduction in knife crime, these reductions are not sustained for long (YEF Toolkit).
- **Media Campaigns:** Very weak evidence which is insufficient to establish their impact on violent crime. Some low-quality studies however suggest media campaigns can contribute to perceptions of fear and threat and increase the likelihood of knife carrying (YEF Toolkit).
- **Stop and Search:** Weak evidence suggests that stop and search do not prevent nor deter knife crime (Browne et al. 2021)
 - Statistics indicate ethnic disparity in Stop and Searches, with Black children making up 20% when they make up 6% of the population (YJB Stop and Search Dashboard 2024).
- **Mandatory Minimum Sentencing:** Longitudinal research identifies that system contact is harmful, stigmatising and criminogenic and suggests formal criminal justice processing increases the likelihood of children reoffending (McAra & McVie 2007; Petrosino et al., 2010).
- Diversion has shown to be more effective than entering the formal justice system (e.g., **Pre-Court Diversion** has a moderate impact on violent crime, is estimated to reduce reoffending by 13%, and is suggested to minimise the seriousness of offences in the instance of reoffending).

Recommendations

Evidence-based approaches to
reducing knife crime



Evidence-based approaches to reducing knife crime

The YJB supports attempts to reduce knife supply.

- Legislative changes have been proposed to ban the sale of items such as zombie knives that have no ostensible use other than as weapons. Further regulation of online sales are necessary including online marketplaces. Children will benefit from supply reduction.

The YJB supports individualised decisions on outcomes.

- There are varied and complex reasons that children possess knives. The YJB supports individualised decisions that consider the circumstances (and is consistent with the National Police Chief's Council's Child Gravity Matrix). Informal out of court disposals, particularly deferred prosecution, should be used where appropriate accompanied by assessment and interventions. YCC and prosecution should be used more sparingly, and only, when necessary, given the long term and harmful effects of drawing children into the formal criminal justice system. Assessment and intervention should consider the wider strengths and needs of children, including education, health, housing and constructive leisure, rather than simply focusing on knife possession. Youth Justice Services are well placed to offer assessment and support packages that are tailored to individual needs.

The YJB place-based strategies to address the conditions that sustain violence.

- Knife crime is more prevalent in neighbourhoods where there is deprivation, social exclusion, increased crime and violence, and in families where factors such as neglect and abuse are present. Prevention is not just about supporting an individual but also about supporting families, neighbourhoods and communities. Approaches such as focused deterrence, public health approaches and programmes such as the youth hubs proposed by the Commission for Young Lives, and the Department of Education's SAFE taskforces, are promising place-based approaches.

Evidence-based approaches to reducing knife crime

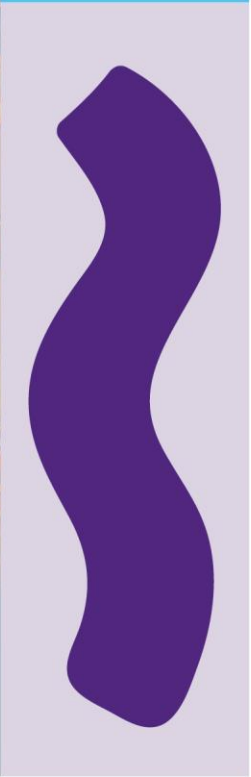
The YJB does not support mandatory minimum sentences or approaches that draw children unnecessarily into the formal justice.

- The YJB recognises that mandatory sentences can be seen as an approach to manage crime and a deterrent however this is not supported by the evidence. The evidence is that drawing children into the youth justice system is harmful and in the long-term increases crime. It should therefore be used sparingly and only when necessary.
- Mandatory sentences or increasing use of formal approaches will have a disproportionate impact on Black boys and other groups such as looked after children and children with neurodivergent conditions.
- Increasing use of the formal justice system will come at significant economic cost, particularly if the number of children in custody started to expand.

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The YJB does not support expensive and unproven prevention and interventions.

- There is an attraction in offering knife crime awareness programmes or high-profile initiatives highlighting the harms of knife crime. These approaches are currently unproven in reducing knife crime, and there is some evidence that some approaches can increase fear and so contribute to the drivers of children carrying knives. Further research and development is needed to develop effective approaches.
- The YJB recognises that public support is an important element of place-based approaches and recommends that public engagement, including awareness sessions with children are conducted in a proportionate and evidence-based way. These should be integrated within wider personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and should be aimed at improving understanding, support for community safety and healthy choices rather than deterrence.



CHILDREN, ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

This Forward Plan lists all the items coming to the Panel over the next few months.

Inevitably, some of the published information may change; Government guidance recognises that the plan is a best assessment, at the time of publication, of anticipated decision making. The online Forward Plan is updated regularly and can be seen on the Council's website at:

<http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>

The Forward Plan demonstrates the Council's commitment to openness and participation in decision making. It assists the Panel in planning their input to policy formulation and development, and in reviewing the work of the Cabinet.

Should you wish to make representations, please contact the report author or, Democratic Services (). A formal agenda will be issued 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Agenda papers can be inspected on the Council's website.

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
12TH MAY 2025				
12 May 2025 10 Jul 2025 17 Jul 2025 E3612	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel Cabinet Council	Youth Justice Plan 2024-26 - Refresh	Carla Cooper	Director of Children and Education
12 May 2025 Page 163	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Response to the Knife Crime Prevention Task Group recommendations	Carla Cooper	Director of Children and Education
16TH JUNE 2025				
16 Jun 2025	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	The Active Way	Tim Rawlings	Director of Public Health and Prevention
14TH JULY 2025				
FORTHCOMING ITEMS				

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Covid 19 - Impact of Long Covid across our communities		Director of Adult Social Care, Director of Public Health and Prevention, Director of Children & Young People
Page 164	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Community Services Transformation - Community Health Services offer from April 2025	Laura Ambler, Natalia Lachkou	Director of Adult Social Care
	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Child Sexual Exploitation / Modern Slavery	Mary Kearney- Knowles Tel: 01225 394412	Director of Children and Education
	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Attainment Gap Project Update - St John's Foundation	Christopher Wilford Tel: 01225 477109	Director of Education

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Safety Valve Update	Christopher Wilford Tel: 01225 477109	Director of Education
The Forward Plan is administered by DEMOCRATIC SERVICES: Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk				

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