



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.



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**



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

“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.”

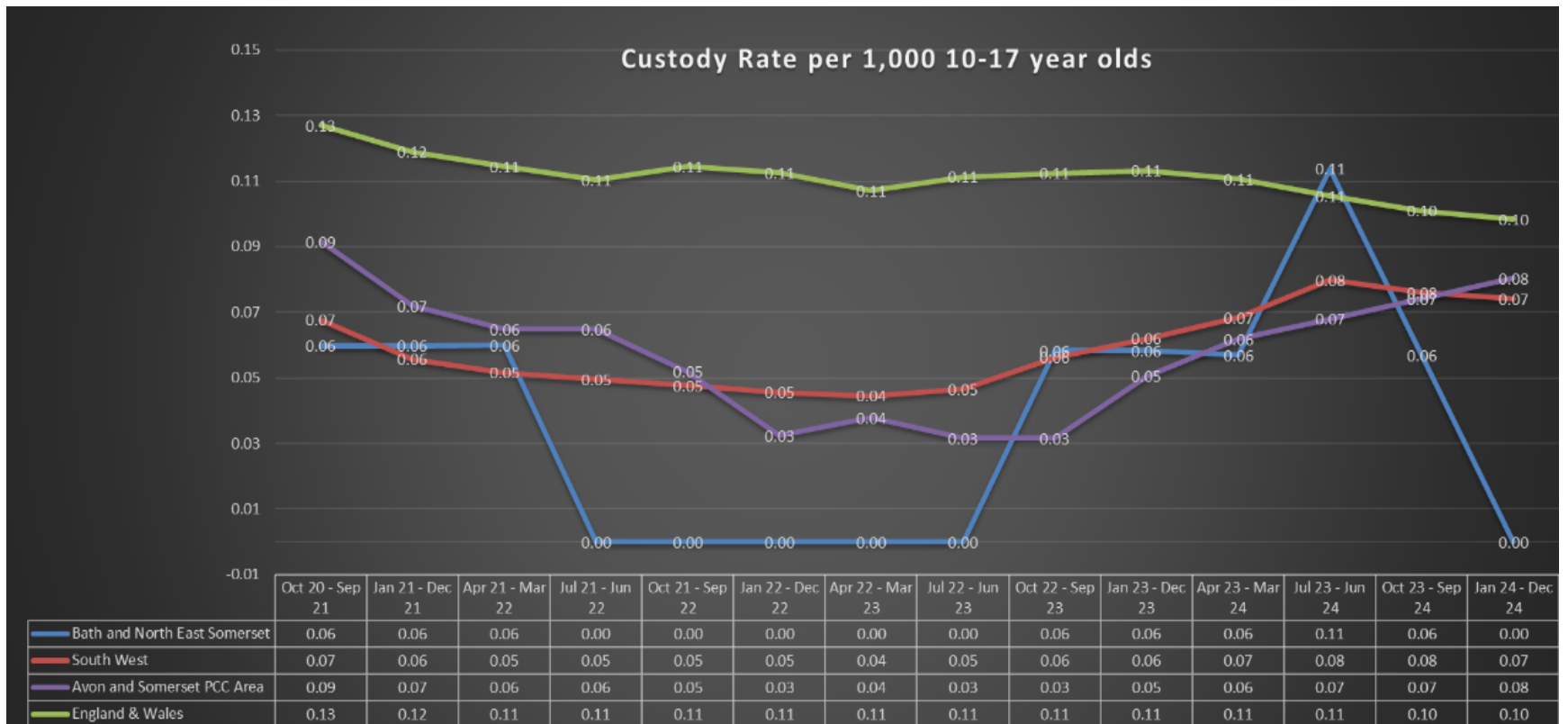
“....arrangements are supported by a well-functioning and curious management board and an integrated partnership. Consequently, outcomes for children are positive.”



2) Performance Data

Partnership Performance:

Rate of Custody Jan 2024 to Dec 2024

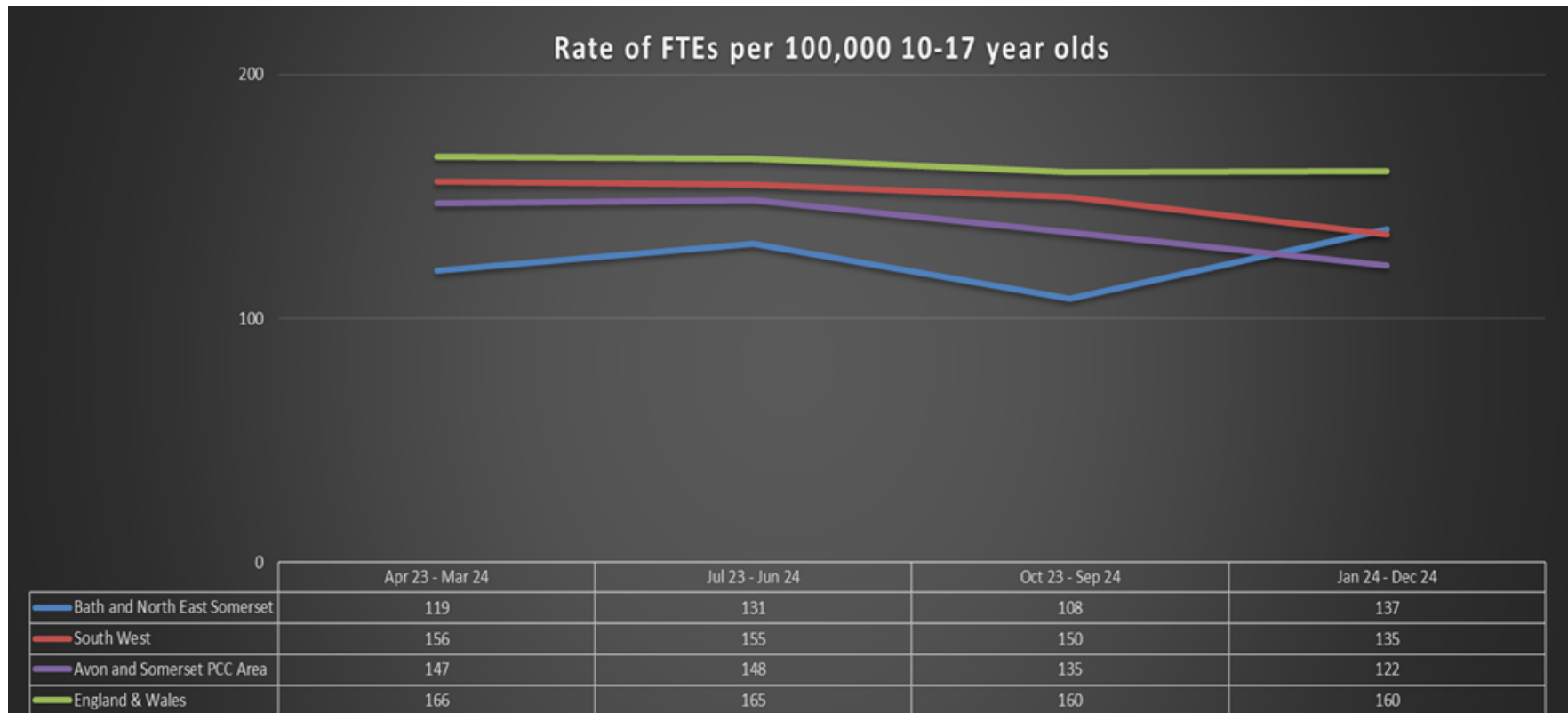


There was one custodial sentence in this reporting period. Our rate has reduced to 0.00 per 1,000 in the population.

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

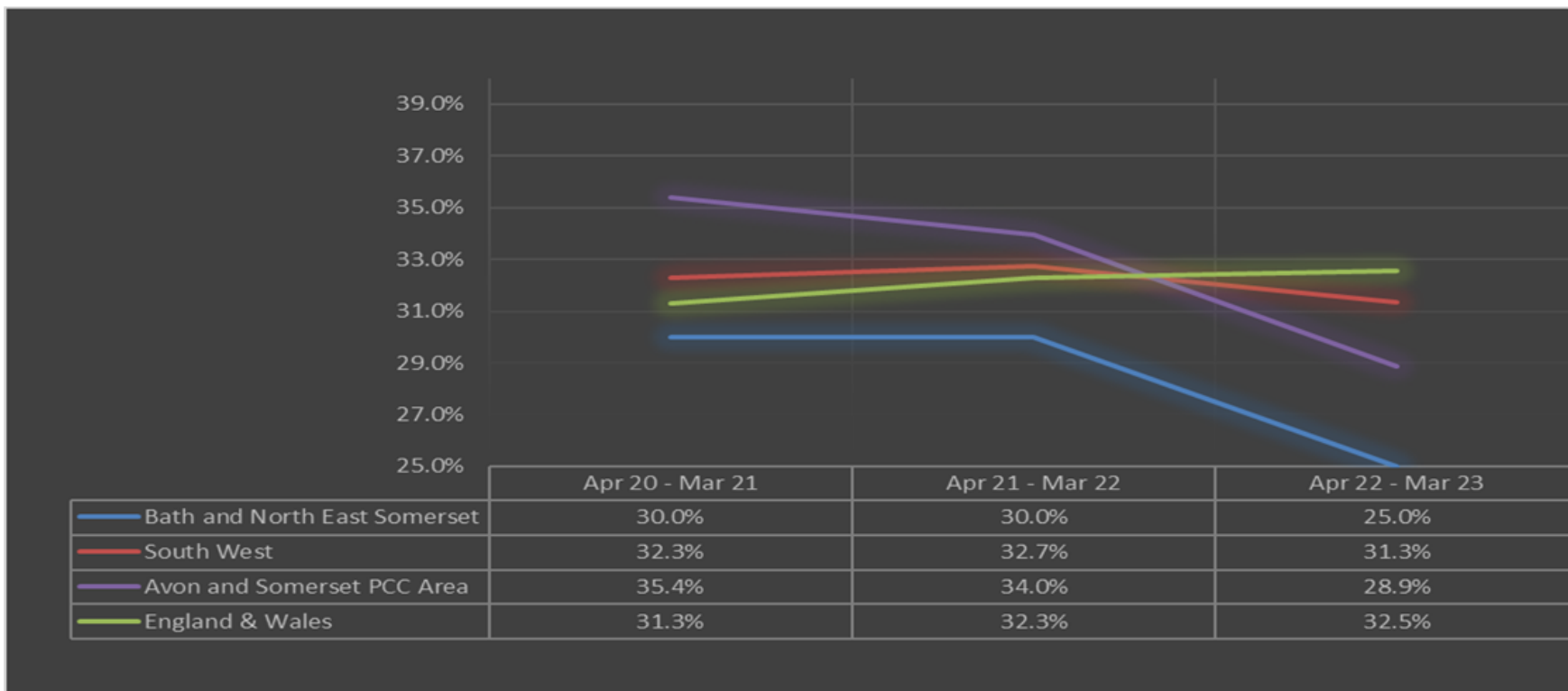


The rate of First Time Entrants has increased in this period from 108 to 137(46.6%) per 100,000 in the population. This equates to 24 individual children compared with 16 in the previous reporting period (Jan to Dec 2023).

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.

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a group of people holding hands in a circle. The image is cropped into a circular shape with a white border. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The people's faces are partially visible at the edges of the circle, looking upwards. Their arms and hands are extended towards the center, creating a sense of unity and teamwork.

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

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 fully 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

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.

A background image showing a group of people from a high angle, with their arms raised and hands reaching towards the center, creating a sense of community and support. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, golden light overlay.

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

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Probation
Service



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

hcrg
Care Group

Thank you

Any questions?