

Meeting of:	Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday, 10 April 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Homes and Safe Communities
Report Title:	Youth Justice and Early Support Service (YJESS): Mid-Year Performance Report
Purpose of Report:	To inform Scrutiny Committee about the Mid-Year performance of the Youth Justice and Early Support Service during the period April 2023 – September 2023.
Report Owner:	Director of Social Services
Responsible Officer:	Youth Justice and Early Support Service Manager
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Councillor Edwards; Head of Children and Young People Services; Performance and Information Officer; Youth Offending Service, Legal Services; Accountancy.
Policy Framework:	This report is consistent with the Policy Framework and Budget
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report brings to the attention of Scrutiny Committee, the 6 months performance report for the Youth Offending Service for the period April 2023- September 2023. • The report is designed to enable elected members to have effective oversight of the performance of the Youth Offending Service. 	

Recommendations

1. That Scrutiny Committee considers the content of the performance report.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To ensure that elected members are able to exercise oversight of the Youth Justice, and Early Support Service (YJESS) and its performance against designed indicators (UK, devolved and local).

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of its grant funding terms and conditions, the Youth Justice, and Early Support Service is required by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to undertake performance reporting in relation to a number of key performance indicators.

- 1.2 The performance indicators on which we report are:

- **National (England and Wales) Indicators**

- Reduction in first time entrants (FTEs)
- Reduction in re-offending
- Reduction in use of Custody

- **Devolved Welsh Indicators**

- Engagement with education, training and employment
- Access to suitable accommodation
- Access to substance misuse services

- **Local Performance Indicators (agreed by the Vale YJESS Management)**

- Re-offending by young people in the Youth Justice System
- Re-offending by young people starting a Diversion intervention
- Number of victims participating in Direct Restorative Justice (Statutory Orders and Diversion).

- **New Key Performance Indicators (from April 2023)**

- Suitable accommodation
- Education, training and employment
- Special educational needs and disabilities/additional learning needs
- Mental health care and emotional wellbeing
- Substance misuse
- Out-of-Court disposals
- Links to wider services
- Management Board attendance

- Serious violence
 - Victims
- Please note that this report will not contain information in relation to the new Key Performance Indicators. Due to national technical software issues between the software providers and YJB data systems published date will not be available until 2025.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** The performance report for April 2023 - September 2023 is attached at Appendix 1. This includes some analysis of the performance data.
- 2.2** Local performance measures have been included to provide a greater depth of understanding of performance in specific areas. Where available; comparisons with other areas across Wales have also been included for First Time Entrants (FTEs), re-offending and custody performance indicators.
- 2.3** Performance data for First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice system is for a period of 6 months between April 2023 – September 2023.
- 2.4** There is an 8.3% decrease in first time entrants (FTE) compared to the same period last year, based on the rate per 100,000 for the Vale. The actual number of children/young people represented by these percentages is 1 (in 2022 there were 12FTE and in 2023 there were 11). Overall performance is positive.
- 2.5** When comparing performance against other areas there has been an 11% increase across South Wales and an increase of 17.3% across the YJS family. (The YOT Family consists of Stockport, Warwickshire, Solihull, North Somerset, Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, Essex, Staffordshire, York, and East Riding of Yorkshire).
- 2.6** Please note that Performance data figures are supplied from the Police National Computer (PNC) and might differ from local reporting as we are unable to verify Police National Computer data. Performance against this indicator since the introduction of preventative and out of court diversionary interventions has previously fluctuated around the 25-40 first time entrants per 12-month period.
- 2.7** This is now seeing a further decrease over the last few years with an increase with the flexible intervention offer for out of courts diversionary interventions outside of the Court arena and a robust, strengths based preventative offer. The YJESS have continued to evidence positive performance in maintaining further reductions in the number of FTE with the introduction of the Turnaround programme, for which additional grant funding was received In December 2022 from the Ministry of Justice. The 'Turnaround' Scheme has provided additional funding over a three-year period to support local authorities maintaining early intervention programmes.
- 2.8** It is however significant to note that the funding for 'Turnaround' will be ending in 2025. The funding has enabled us to create an additional post within the YJESS. The conclusion of this funding will potentially result in the loss of this

post. This would inevitably impact upon capacity within the service and has the potential to negatively influence future positive performance in this area.

2.9 Annual Data – aggregated quarterly data

Binary Rate - This shows whether a child/young person in the cohort has reoffended in the 12-month period. The Vale at the reporting point was 42.1 % compared to the South Wales figure of 32.6% and the Wales figure of 31.1%. This would indicate an increase from the last reporting period.

It is however significant to note that due to the positive performance in relation to first time entrants in the Vale, the number of children that this relates to is lower than other comparable areas. Consequently, these children are those with the most complex needs. The percentage increase in relation to the annual data should also be considered in the context of the small number of children to which it relates.

Reoffences/Reoffenders – This shows the number of reoffences by reoffenders within the cohort during the tracked 12-month period. Children/young people are tracked beyond the age-range of YJESS involvement therefore 18-year-olds and above are incorporated into this.

- 2.10** There were 19 children/young people in the annual cohort, 8 of the 19 children reoffended (42.1%) with a total of 22 reoffences (2.75 reoffences per reoffender).
- 2.11** The data presented within this report is aggregated quarterly data, which means a child/young person who has reoffended within each quarter will be counted four times, and 12 months of their reoffending will also be counted four times.
- 2.12** Local performance information is based on the period 1st January 2023– 31st March 2023. Data for the local re-offending measure covers a 12 months' tracking period of a cohort of children/young people who are identified in the first 3 months of each year and tracked for 12 months from April to March the following year.
- 2.13** There are 43 children/young people in the Vale live tracking cohort. These children/young people received an intervention pre and post court or who started a Prevention intervention between 1st Jan 2023 – 31st March 2023. This is representative of the full range of interventions of children that we work with, not just the smaller number of children on statutory orders.
- 2.14** The data demonstrates that 6 of the 43 young people tracked have re-offended in the 9 months committing a total of 10 offences. This equates to a re-offending percentage of 13.9% within the cohort.
- 2.15** In relation to the percentage of children/young people in the cohort who reoffended in the tracking period. After 3 months 17% of the cohort had reoffended, with 83 % of the cohort reoffending after 6 months and finally 0% of the cohort reoffending after 9 months.
- 2.16** Access to Restorative Justice (Local Performance Indicator) information indicates that there were 28 interventions that closed in the period April – Sept 2023 which relates to 36 identified victims from all linked offences to the interventions. Victim officers attempt to contact all victims and were successful

in receiving a response from all the identified victims. All victims are offered the opportunity to engage in direct (face to face contact) and indirect (all other circumstances, for example a letter of explanation) restorative justice. Following these 0 victims received direct restorative justice and 6 received indirect restorative justice.

- 2.17** Engagement in restorative justice is voluntary on the part of both the victim and the child/young person. This has been a key area for service development. The performance measure for restorative justice has been amended by the YJB in recognition that the indicator did not represent the quality of the offer for victims. The new Key Performance Indicators commenced in April 2023. However, these measures had already been implemented in the Vale YJESS following a local audit. Best practice has also been evidenced in case studies reflecting creative and positive areas of restorative interventions. We are awaiting published data for reporting in respect of the new performance indicator relating to victims.
- 2.18** Due to the proactive approach taken in the Vale towards victim engagement we were recently asked to meet with HMIP inspectors, who are devising the new inspection regime. This will commence in October 2024. We were able to positively contribute, in providing feedback on the effective assessment of quality victim engagement, and towards best practice guidance, which has now been published by the Ministry of Justice as part of the Victim Code campaign.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The work of the YJESS helps the Council to achieve Well-being Outcome 1 (An inclusive and safe Vale in the Corporate Plan 2020- 2025) and specifically Objective 2: Providing decent homes and safe communities.
- 3.2** The YJESS Prevention Service forms part of the Local Authorities suite of services in relation to prevention and early intervention, working closely with Flying Start, Families First and others to ensure that children and young people receive the right services at the right time to address their identified needs.
- 3.3** The YJESS is a multiagency collaborative service which embodies the five ways of working by providing an integrated preventative service.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** The work of the YJESS supports climate change and nature implication primarily through the strong reparative offer which is embedded within service provision. The YJESS Reparation Officer is skilled in engaging children and is creative in his approach with a particular passion for the environment. Examples of this can be seen in him delivering sessions on environmental awareness issue which he then links in practically with 'beach clean' reparation sessions and graffiti removal. For example, in relation to recent graffiti removal in the underpass in the vicinity of St. Richards Gwyn Catholic High School in which we worked with the Head

Teacher, along with Community Safety Team to contribute to the contextual risks in this location. We are also currently undertaking work, clearing rubbish, with identified shop owners in the Holton Road area. This has enabled us to provide a positive opportunity for direct reparation for children committing offences and anti-social behaviour in this location.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1 The performance reported was achieved within allocated resources. Scrutiny Committee will be aware that it is not possible to guarantee sufficient contributions to the YJESS budget long term because of its reliance on contributions from partner organisations and annual grants from various sources.
- 5.2 The YJB grant for 2023/24 was confirmed in June 2023.

Employment

- 5.3 The work of the YJESS supports children and young people to access education, training, and employment opportunities.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.4 The Youth Justice Board has a number of functions. In accordance with Section 41(5) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with the approval of the Secretary of State the Board has the authority to make grants to Local Authorities and other persons for the purposes of the operation of the Youth Justice Service and the provision of Youth Justice Services subject to such conditions the Board consider appropriate including conditions as to repayment. The Board can obtain information from relevant authorities for the purpose of monitoring the operation of the youth justice system and the provision of services and to advise the relevant Government Minister on several matters. There is no direct equality impact as a result of this report.

6. Background Papers

Report to Homes and Safe Communities, 19th April 2023 – Minute No. 908.

Appendix 1

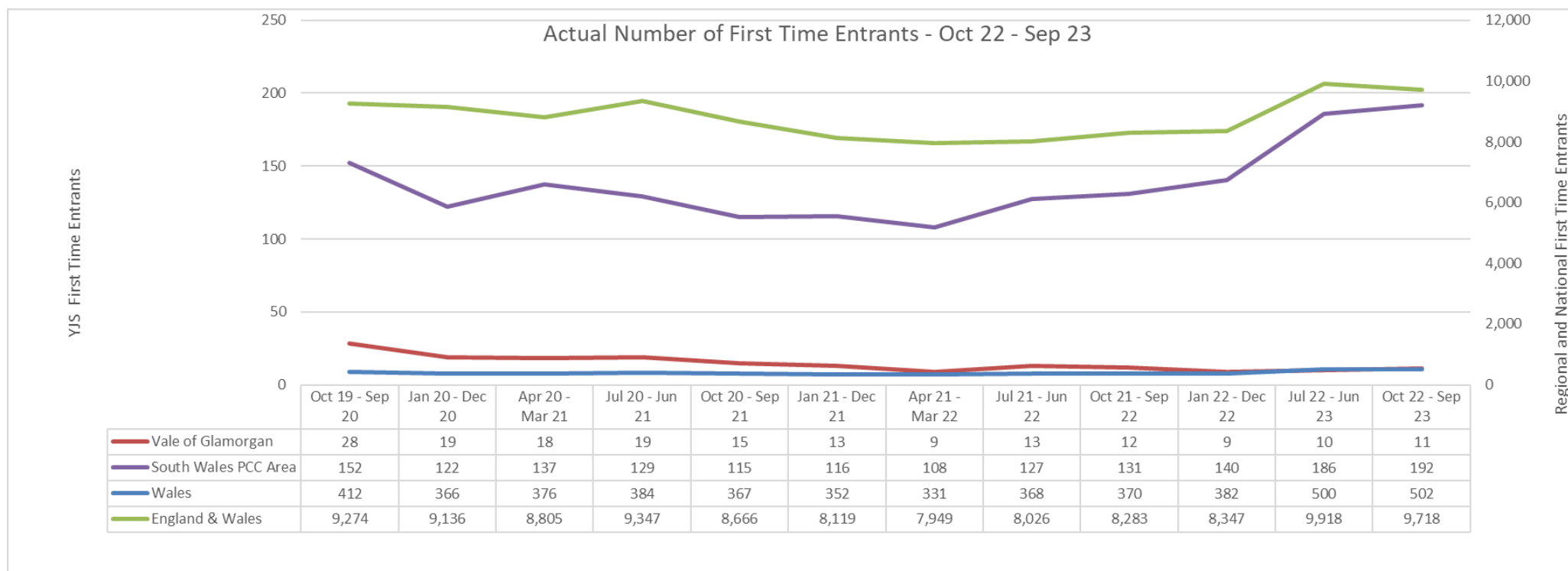


Vale Youth Justice and Early Support Service

YJB Performance Indicators

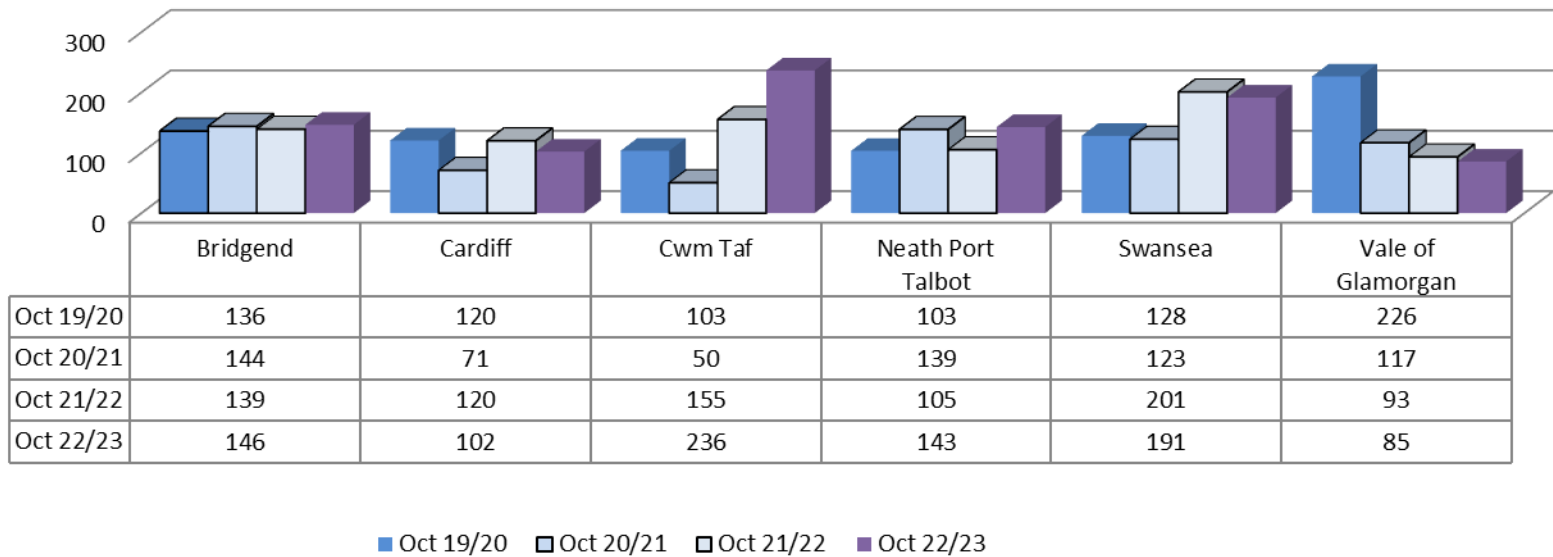
April –Sept 2023/24 Report

NATIONAL INDICATOR – FIRST TIME ENTRANTS



***Due to the low number of FTE data for the Vale of Glamorgan, the MoJ have suppressed the data and not published it. Data from June 2020 is provided via a live internal system which might differ from other public data. It has been reported that April 22 – March 23 is missing.**

**First Time Entrants
PNC DATA Rate per 100,000
12 Month Rolling Cohort
Oct - Sept**



Rate per 100,000 of 10-17 yrs population	Vale of Glamorgan	South Wales	Wales
Oct – Sept 2023	85	175	156
Oct – Sept 2022	93	170	140

First Time Entrants

Definition

The rate of first-time entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system per 1,000 children/young people aged 10-17 in the local population. These are defined as children/young people (aged 10 – 17) who receive their first substantive outcome (a pre court disposal with or without an intervention, or a court disposal for those who go directly to court.)

Targets

The YJESS has an overarching target to reduce the numbers of children/young people entering the Criminal Justice System for the first time (FTEs) on a quarterly basis.

The performance indicator in relation to First Time Entrants changed in 2011. This indicator is now provided via Case level data for the Youth Justice Board, although some historic data is provided via PNC.

***Due to the low number of FTE data for the Vale of Glamorgan, the MoJ have suppressed the data and not published it. Data from June 2020 is provided via a live internal system which might differ from other public data**

The performance detailed is for the Period April – Sept 2023

There is an 8.3% decrease in first time entrants compared to the same period last year based on the rate per 100,000 for the Vale. The actual number of children/young people decreasing is 1 (2022 there were 12 FTE in the period and 2023 was 11), This is in comparison with a 11.6% increase across South Wales and an 2.4% increase across Wales and an increase of 17.3% across the YJS family. (The YOT Family consists of Stockport, Warwickshire, Solihull, North Somerset, Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, Essex, Staffordshire, York, and East Riding of Yorkshire.) – These figures are supplied from the live data and Police National Computer (PNC) they might differ from local reporting.

Performance against this indicator since the introduction of preventative and out of court diversionary interventions has previously fluctuated around the 25-40 first time entrants per 12-month period. This is now seeing a further decrease over the last few years with an increase with the flexible intervention offer for out of courts, using a decision-making panel, and a preventative offer, including the new Turnaround offer.

NATIONAL INDICATOR AND LOCAL INDICATOR – REOFFENDING

The Ministry of Justice has changed the methodology for measuring reoffending. There has been a move to a three-month cohort rather than a 12-month cohort. The cohort will still be tracked over 12 months. Changing from annual cohorts to the quarter cohorts results in a greater proportion of prolific offenders and hence higher reoffending rates, though both measures show similar trends over time at a national level.

Reoffending

Definition

The number of further proven offences committed by a cohort of children/young people receiving a community order within 12 months per young person in that cohort.

Targets

There are currently no specific numeric targets. The YJESS does have an overarching target to reduce the numbers of children/young people re-entering the Criminal Justice System. The YJESS aims to reduce the number of re-offenders year on year.

Period	Number in the Cohort	Number of Reoffenders	Number of Reoffences	Number of Reoffences per Reoffender	% Reoffending
Jan – Dec 2021	19	8	22	2.75	42.1%
Jan – Dec 2020	34	9	23	2.56	26.5%

It is important to note that YJB performance is always approximately 18 months behind current data to allow for criminal justice outcomes.

Annual data – aggregated quarterly data

Binary Rate - This shows whether a child/young person in the cohort has reoffended in the 12-month period. The Vale at the reporting point was 42.1% compared to the South Wales figure of 32.6% and the Wales figure of 32.1%

Reoffences/Reoffenders – This shows the number of reoffences by reoffenders within the cohort during the tracked 12-month period. Children/young people are tracked beyond the age-range of YJESS involvement therefore 18-year-olds and above are incorporated into this measure. The Vale has seen a similar trend to National and Welsh data of a slight decrease in the number of reoffences per offender.

There were 19 children/young people in the annual cohort, 8 of the 19 reoffended (42.1%) committing a total of 22 re-offences (2.75 re-offences pre re-offender). As the data is aggregated quarterly data, a child/young person who has reoffended within each quarter will be counted 4 times and 12 months of their reoffending will also be counted 4 times.

Welsh YOT Comparisons

	Jan - Dec 20						Jan - Dec 21					
	Number in cohort	# Reoffenders	# Reoffences	Reoffences/reoffender	Reoffences/offender	%Reoffending	Number in cohort	# Reoffenders	# Reoffences	Reoffences/reoffender	Reoffences/offender	%Reoffending
Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly	66	24	94	3.92	1.42	36.36%	44	13	45	3.46	1.02	29.55%
Bridgend	34	13	57	4.38	1.68	38.24%	28	7	32	4.57	1.14	25.00%
Cardiff	67	28	66	2.36	0.99	41.79%	52	16	53	3.31	1.02	30.77%
Carmarthenshire	46	15	61	4.07	1.33	32.61%	44	9	24	2.67	0.55	20.45%
Ceredigion	10	3	5	1.67	0.50	30.00%	12	2	3	1.50	0.25	16.67%
Conwy and Denbighshire	81	40	114	2.85	1.41	49.38%	58	26	133	5.12	2.29	44.83%
Cwm Taf	57	18	36	2.00	0.63	31.58%	43	14	54	3.86	1.26	32.56%
Flintshire	39	12	33	2.75	0.85	30.77%	47	22	89	4.05	1.89	46.81%
Gwynedd and Ynys Mon	73	26	92	3.54	1.26	35.62%	72	16	27	1.69	0.38	22.22%
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	52	15	40	2.67	0.77	28.85%	36	11	51	4.64	1.42	30.56%
Neath Port Talbot	28	14	33	2.36	1.18	50.00%	37	15	63	4.20	1.70	40.54%
Newport	57	17	38	2.24	0.67	29.82%	36	9	33	3.67	0.92	25.00%
Pembrokeshire	34	14	29	2.07	0.85	41.18%	37	13	49	3.77	1.32	35.14%
Powys	27	7	18	2.57	0.67	25.93%	11	5	13	2.60	1.18	45.45%
Swansea	49	23	86	3.74	1.76	46.94%	42	12	37	3.08	0.88	28.57%

Vale of Glamorgan	34	9	23	2.56	0.68	26.47%	19	8	22	2.75	1.16	42.11%
Wrexham	22	6	31	5.17	1.41	27.27%	29	10	35	3.50	1.21	34.48%

Local Data Reoffending Measure

There are **43** children/young people in the live tracking cohort. These children/young people who started a prevention intervention or received an out of court disposal, pre court or community disposal between 1st Jan 2023 – 31st March 2023.

Frequency Rate by Re-Offender (i.e., all young people within the tracked re-offending cohort)

Total number of offences in the period / Total number of children/young people in the cohort who have reoffended

After 3 months, from the 43 children/young people in the cohort, 1 offended and 2 new offences received outcomes, which is 2.0 re-offences per reoffender.

After 6 months, from the 43 children/young people in the cohort, a further 5 offended and 10 new offences received outcomes, which is 2.0 re-offences per reoffender.

After 9 months, no further children offended or new offences from the 43 children

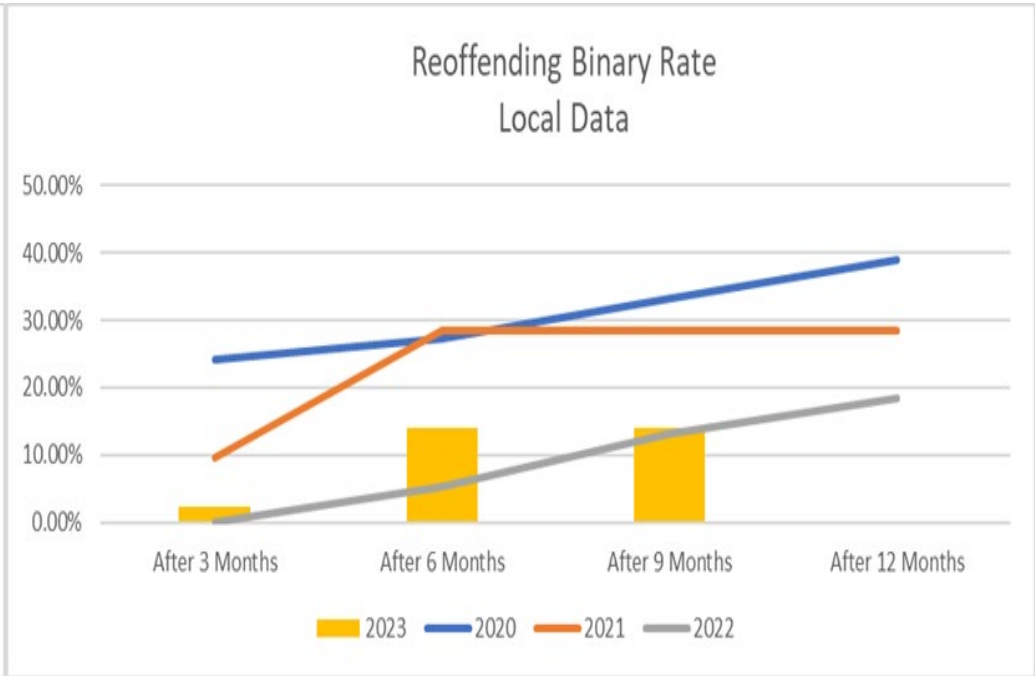
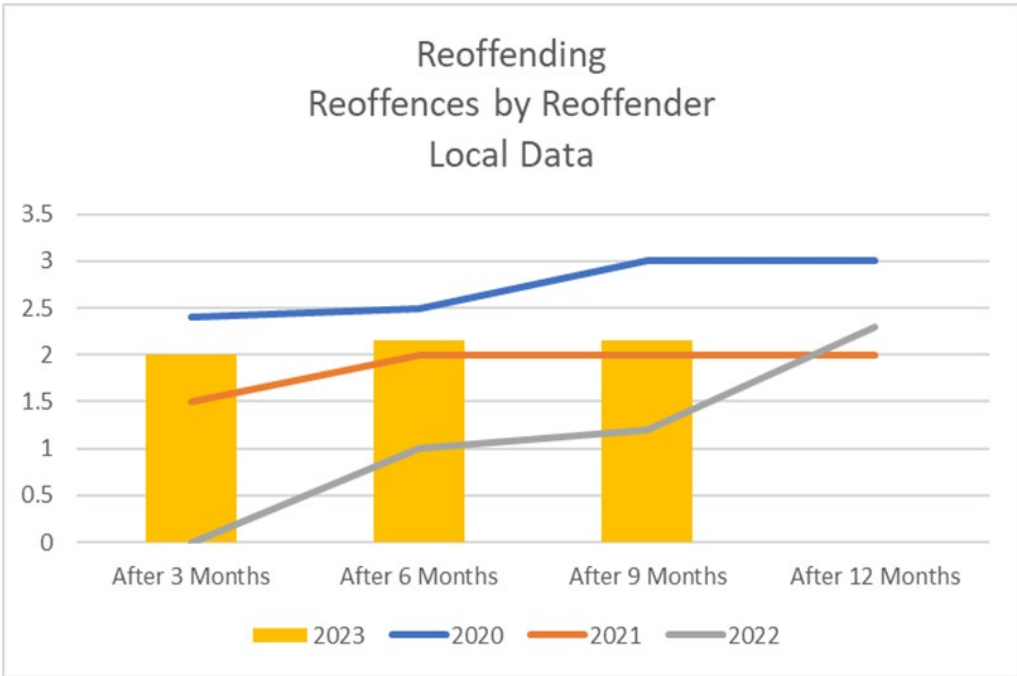
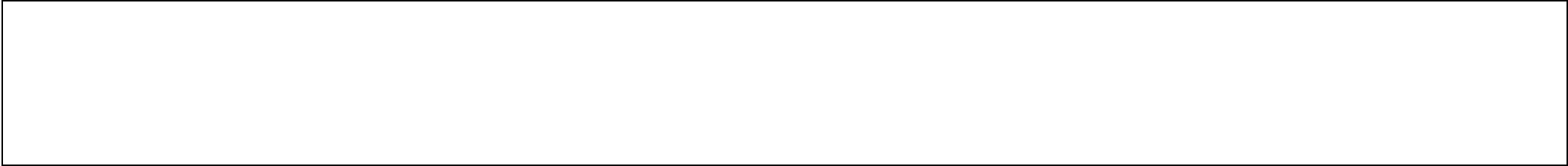
Binary Rate of Reoffending

The Percentage of children/young people in the cohort who reoffend in the tracking period

After 3 months, 1 had reoffended, which is 2.3% of the cohort.

After 6 months, 6 had reoffended, which is 13.9% of the cohort.

After 9 months, 6 had reoffended, which is 13.9% of the cohort.



There are 43 children/young people in the live tracking cohort. These children/young people who started a prevention intervention or received an out of court disposal, pre court or community disposal between 1st Jan 2023 – 31st March 2023. As part of the YJESS Re-offending Action Plan, it was agreed that the YJESS will complete file audits on children/young people who have reoffended to ensure that the interventions being delivered are designed to assist with reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

At the end of the first 3-month tracking period 1 child in the cohort had reoffended and received an outcome.

They previously had a non-substantive out of court disposal and received a youth caution becoming a first-time entrant, there were two offences one was a theft from a shop where there was a burglary other than a dwelling this offence was committed prior to the original intervention.

At the end of the 6-month tracking a further 5 children have offended and received an outcome

One child received a second out of court disposal after an offence of using threatening words, after non engagement with a voluntary/prevention support offer.

One child received a conditional out of court disposal for a theft from shop, there is ongoing support from CYPS, YJESS and Community Safety team.

One child received a referral order for 2 offences (possession of a bladed weapon and public order) previously on a ASB voluntary contract

One child who is looked after received a referral order for 5 motoring offences which were committed out of county.

One child who received a second out of court disposal for theft and burglary of a non-dwelling.

At the end of 9-month tracking, no further reoffending was noted, although some children are awaiting assessment for informal action which will be identified in next quarters data.

The YJESS will continue to complete file reoffending audits, to ensure the best outcome for the children we support.

NATIONAL INDICATOR – CUSTODY

Definition

This indicator measures the percentage of custodial sentences (Detention and Training Orders (DTO), Section 90-92, Section 226, and Section 228) issued to children/young people as a proportion to all court disposals (substantive outcome excluding pre- court outcomes) received by children/young people.

Targets

There are currently no specific numeric targets though the YJESS has an overarching target to reduce the numbers of children/young people receiving custodial sentences.

Use of custody rate per 1,000 of 10-17 population *Good performance is typified by a low rate			
	Vale of Glamorgan	Wales	South Wales
Oct 22 – Sept 23	0.00	0.11	0.14
Oct 21 – Sept 22	0.00	0.07	0.07
change from selected baseline	0.00	0.05	0.07

The table above details the number of custodial outcomes during a rolling 12-month period, per 1,000 children/young people.

There were no young people sentence to custody in the Vale in the period

During this Period there were 5 all options (including custody) Presentence reports, all YJESS recommendations were agreed by the court.

Welsh YOT Comparisons

	2022/23				2023/24			
	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr - Jun	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan-Mar
Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Bridgend	1	0	0	0	1	3		
Cardiff	3	1	1	0	0	0		
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	1	0	0		
Ceredigion	0	0	1	1	n/a	0		
Conwy and Denbighshire	0	1	0	2	0	0		
Cwm Taf	0	0	1	1	1	1		
Flintshire	2	1	0	2	3	1		
Gwynedd and Ynys Mon	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	0	0	0	1	0	0		
Neath Port Talbot	0	1	0	0	0	1		
Newport	0	0	0	0	0	1		
Pembrokeshire	0	1	0	0	0	0		
Powys	0	0	0	0	0	1		

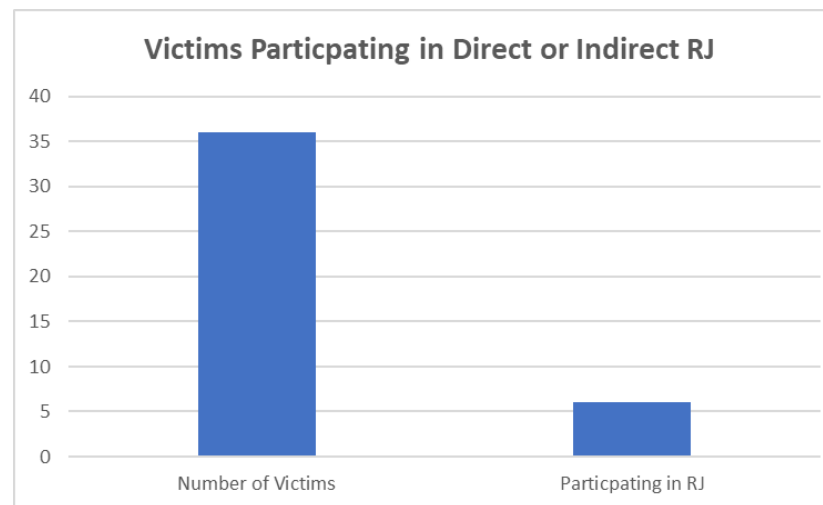
Swansea	0	1	3	1	0	3		
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Wrexham	0	1	0	0	0	0		

LOCAL INDICATOR – RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Definition: The YJESS has a duty under the Victims' Code of Practice to contact all identified victims of youth crime, who have consented for their information to be shared with the YJESS. The local restorative justice measure identifies all intervention which have closed within the period which have a victim linked to the intervention. The measure examines whether the victim has been contacted; an offer made in relation to direct restorative justice and if requested, whether the victim receives the offer made.

It is worth noting that if the victim is a victim of an offence which was committed by more than one young person, they will be counted more than once with the returns, as the victim will receive separate offers of restorative justice tailored to the victims needs and also the young people's interventions.

Targets: To increase the number of Victims who receive Direct Restorative Justice and improve public confidence.



There were 28 interventions (with offences) that closed in the period April 2023 – Sept 2023 and 36 identified victims.

All 36 victims were offered direct and indirect restorative justice. 100% consultation.

0 victims received direct restorative justice and 6 received indirect.

0 victims responded to the victim questionnaire and confirmed they were satisfied with the process.

This KPI From April 2023 will also look at involvement and support from the service. We are awaiting published data for reporting.

