

**GWASANAETH  
TROSEDDAU  
IEUENCTID**

**YOUTH  
OFFENDING  
SERVICE**

**Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Youth Offending  
Service (YOS)**

**Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2024 - 2026**

<b>Service</b>	Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Youth Offending Service (YOS)
<b>Service Manager/ Lead</b>	Michaela Rogers
<b>Joint Chairs of YOS Local Management Board (LMB)</b>	Gareth Jenkins and Loredana Moruz

July 2024

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## **Foreword**

As joint Chairs of the Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Youth Offending Service (YOS) Local Management Board (LMB) we are pleased to set out this two-year strategic partnership plan. This 2024/2026 plan sets out our ambitions and key priorities which have been informed by, and developed from, consultation, our continuing good performance and our knowledge and experience from lessons learnt.

In May 2022 the YOS was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The YOS achieved an overall rating of "Good". This was a fantastic achievement. There were some development areas identified from the inspection process which have been completed during 2023/24.

The YOS continually aspires and strives to be creative, fluent, responsive and modern in its approaches and delivery. This includes being trauma and psychology informed demonstrating care to all involved which was evidenced in our recent inspection report *"Staff and volunteers felt valued by managers and their peers, and we saw that the service promotes a culture of caring both for its staff and for the children and families that it works with"*.

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

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

Gareth Jenkins and Loredana Moruz.

Joint Chairs of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) Local Management Board (LMB)

## **1. Introduction, vision and strategy**

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

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

The YOS Vision Statement is:

***Inspiring, motivating and supporting children to live crime free lives.***

They will do this by:

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

This plan will also support priorities within:

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008
- Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO)
- Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022
- Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000
- Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999
- Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan 2023
- Criminal Justice Act 1991
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Leaving Care Act 2000
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Housing Act (Wales) 2014
- Mental Health Act 1983, as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

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- Health and Social Care Bill 2011
- Education Act 2002
- Youth Justice Board (YJB) National Standards 2019
- YJB Strategic Plan 2021-24
- The Gwent Police and Crime Plan 2021-25
- The Local Authorities Future Generations Wellbeing Plans
- Gwent Safeguarding Board Strategic Plan 2020-23
- Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales November 2020
- The Local Authorities Safer Communities Plans
- Children & Young People First - the Welsh Government and the Youth Justice Board's joint strategy to improve services for children who offend or those at risk of offending
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Welsh Language Minimum Standards
- Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
- Wales Safeguarding Procedures

## **2. Local context**

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



CCBC  
Demographics.docx



BGCBC  
Demographics.docx

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

## **3. Child First**

The YOS demonstrates a creative, adaptable and flexible approach to its service delivery. The work of the YOS has evolved considerably, with the awareness and embedding of many approaches when engaging with children and families evidenced from research, theories, thematic inspections, pathfinders and evaluations. These approaches include desistance theory, relational approaches, trauma informed practice, adverse childhood experiences, equalities and diversity, the importance of "play", strengths based/building on resilience, children's rights, child centred practice, constructive resettlement and contextual safeguarding. Contextual Safeguarding (CS) can be described as a safeguarding approach for practitioners to recognise contextual dynamics and children's exposure to extra-familial harm (EFH). YOS practitioners assess neighbourhood, schools or peer groups to understand the contextual factors that are contributing to any harm and abuse of the children they are engaged with.

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The YOS ensures a child centred, strengths-based approach which encompasses trauma informed practice. Restorative Justice/Approaches are an integral theme throughout its delivery along with the voice of the child being heard, offers of advocacy services and a rights-based ethos. Supporting children to reach their aspirations and full potential underpins everything the YOS does. All engagement is individual and responsive and based on the child’s best interests, positivity, built on trust whilst promoting desistance, strengths based and best outcomes.

The YOS is always focused on reviewing and improving their direct work and engagement skills in response to messages from desistance theory and approaches, attachment theory and trauma informed practice. The desistance thematic inspection by HMI Probation called “Desistance and children” published in May 2016 stated that “Desistance is the process of abstaining from crime amongst those who previously had engaged in a sustained pattern of offending’. In the report they confirmed that personalised approaches work best based on a good understanding of the individual’s needs, history and circumstances. The YJB Asset Plus assessment framework also helps the YOS to personalise individual desistance support for children. All members of staff in the YOS are trained in desistance theory and an action plan was developed to respond to the recommendations from the inspection. The YOS has also embedded desistance and trauma informed practice principles by:

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

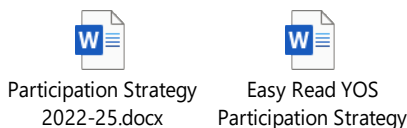
<b>CPR</b>	<b>PACE</b>	<b>ACORDS</b>	<b>CRISS</b>
Consistency	Playfulness	Aim – Human needs, good lives model etc.	C - check in
Predictability	Acceptance	Content – Good lives wheel etc	R - review
Reliability	Curiosity	Outcome – what did the child learn? Grounding techniques etc.	I - intervention
	Empathy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

#### **4. Voice of the child**

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

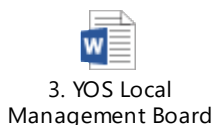
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The YOS is a very reflective service and has a strong participation belief and practice at its core which is explained in its Participation Policy including the Easy Read version. Please see attached:



Children's participation is encouraged throughout the YOSs engagement, assessments, reports, attendance at Police Stations, Panels or Court. They are also involved in reviews for statutory orders and voluntary interventions. This is both during and after YOS engagement. Feedback from interventions is always gathered. This can take place in written format or via the YOSs online App 'Viewpoint' which was launched in September 2023. These feedback tools help find out children's views about various aspects of their engagement with the YOS to help the YOS achieve effective participation by, and with, children; the YOS also has dedicated Children's Rights Champions.

The YOS also creates a Quarterly Participation Report which includes the voices of children which it shares with the LMB, staff, volunteers and other stakeholders. Feedback is addressed immediately and included in the Quarterly Participation Report to evidence that action has been taken timely and shared with the relevant source. Please see attached below for the latest report:



To evidence children's voices being heard as well as sharing this information previous Participation Reports have included feedback and responses relating to:

Did the Youth Offending Service give you a copy of your Bureau report before the day of your Bureau panel? *"No, it was shared over the phone"* – *Action:* All children to receive by post a copy of their report, ahead of the Bureau Panel.

There was also an action following feedback from a child who identified their case manager as what they least enjoyed. Although the question is in respect of reparation activities, this comment highlighted an action for Team Managers. It was agreed that the comment would be discussed in Team Meetings to raise the importance and benefits of forming good, relational work when supervising children across all roles and activities.

## **5. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements**

Caerphilly County Borough Council is the host and employing local authority (LA) for the YOS. The Chief Executives' of both local authorities delegated Chairing responsibilities of the YOS Local Management Board (LMB) to the Heads of Children's Services. Strategic management is provided by both LA Heads of Children's Services

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who are the Joint Chairs of the LMB and who provide joint professional supervision for the YOS Service Manager.

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

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

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



LMB Mapping  
Exercise July 2024.doc

In May 2022 the YOS was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements formed part of that inspection. The below evidences the inspection findings which include *"The YOS's arrangements for information and facilities are rated as 'Outstanding', and its governance and leadership, staffing and partnerships as 'Good'"*.

The final report also stated *"The YOS management board receives comprehensive performance and participation reports. The service promotes a learning culture and has a robust quality assurance framework in place. However, we found little evidence to show that the partners set the direction and vision for the YOS"*. The LMB held a development event in May 2024 which set the vision and direction for the next 2 years and an LMB development event will now be scheduled annually in May. Please see below the full YOS Inspection Report and associated Improvement Plan.

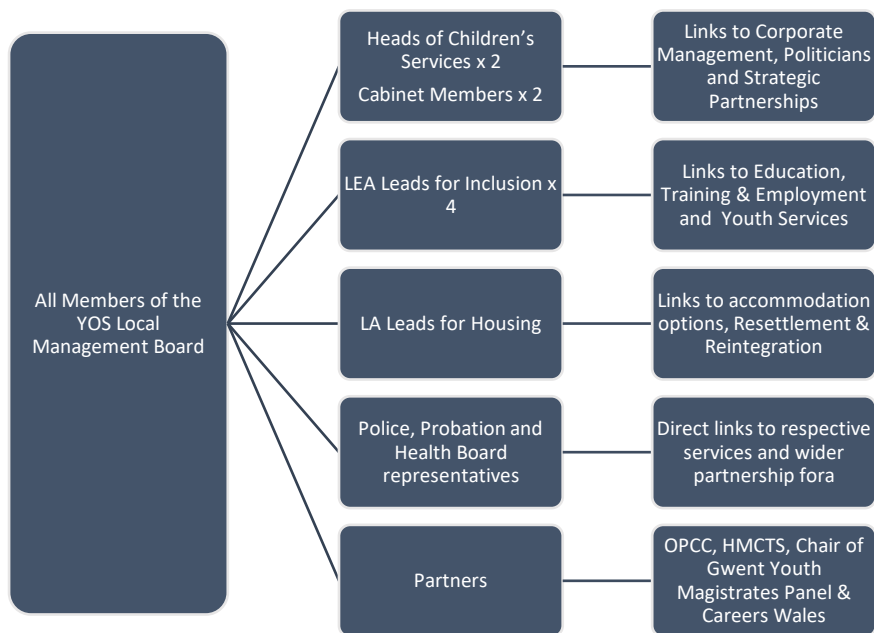


Blaenau Gwent and  
Caerphilly YOS Inspect



HMIP YOS  
Inspection Improver

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

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

The YOS Service Manager and both local authority Heads of Service sit both on the Regional Safeguarding Children Board and its Case Review subgroup. The YOS Service Manager also sits on the Safer Gwent Board, the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board and both local authority Corporate Parenting Groups.

## **6. Board Development**

The YOS Local Management Board (LMB) has an important role in ensuring that Child First, trauma informed principles and other child focused approaches are embedded strategically and operationally. The LMB brings together partners, cement relationships and pushes through improvement to the system. An annual development day for Board members is scheduled with the last one being held in May 2024, which focused on reviewing the previous youth justice plan and setting strategic direction for the YOS for the next 2 years. LMB members also attend development events held for staff and volunteers throughout the year, along with attending and supporting YOS staff and volunteers at various multi agency initiatives such as Street Doctors and Cars and

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Consequences group events. A number of LMB members also sit on the YOS Resettlement and Reintegration Panel (RRP) as core members.

Board members development and training needs are incorporated into the YOS Workforce Development Strategy embedded below.

The LMB Members are:

### **Board Membership (as of July 2024)**

<b>Name &amp; Title</b>	<b>Authority/ Organisation</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Gareth Jenkins – Joint Chair - Assistant Director, Children’s Services	Caerphilly CBC	<a href="mailto:jenkig2@caerphilly.gov.uk">jenkig2@caerphilly.gov.uk</a> <b>01443 864520</b>
Loredana Moruz – Joint Chair – Interim Assistant Director, Children’s Services	Blaenau Gwent CBC	<a href="mailto:loredana.moruz@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk">loredana.moruz@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk</a> <b>07814978387</b>
Michaela Rogers – Service Manager	YOS	<a href="mailto:rogerm@caerphilly.gov.uk">rogerm@caerphilly.gov.uk</a> <b>01495 235623</b>
Adam Edwards Mental Health Advisor	Aneurin Bevan Health Board	<a href="mailto:adam.edwards@wales.nhs.uk">adam.edwards@wales.nhs.uk</a> <b>01633 436835</b>
Mike Jones – Finance Service Manager	Caerphilly CBC	<a href="mailto:jonesmj@caerphilly.gov.uk">jonesmj@caerphilly.gov.uk</a> <b>01443 864618</b>
Amanda Lewis Head of Probation Delivery Unit Gwent	HM Prison & Probation Service	<a href="mailto:amanda.Lewis1@justice.gov.uk">amanda.Lewis1@justice.gov.uk</a> <b>01443 494250 (320401)</b>
Sarah Ellis Lead for Inclusion and ALN, Education	Caerphilly CBC	<a href="mailto:elliss@caerphilly.gov.uk">elliss@caerphilly.gov.uk</a>
Lisa Adams Senior Education Welfare Officer	Blaenau Gwent CBC	<a href="mailto:lisa.adams@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk">lisa.adams@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk</a> <b>01495 353340</b>
Ceri Edwards Environmental Health Manager	Safer Caerphilly Partnership	<a href="mailto:edwarc@caerphilly.gov.uk">edwarc@caerphilly.gov.uk</a> <b>01443 811332</b>
Helena Hunt Service Manager: Policy and Partnerships	Safer Blaenau Gwent Partnership	<a href="mailto:helena.hunt@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk">helena.hunt@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk</a> <b>01495 356145</b>
Paul Biggs – Chief Inspector	Gwent Police	<a href="mailto:paul.biggs@gwent.police.uk">paul.biggs@gwent.police.uk</a>
Kerry Denman Housing Solutions Manager,	Housing Caerphilly CBC	<a href="mailto:denmak@caerphilly.gov.uk">denmak@caerphilly.gov.uk</a> <b>01443 873548</b>
Mark Congreve Team Manager - Housing Solutions and Compliance	Housing Blaenau Gwent CBC	<a href="mailto:mark.congreve@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk">mark.congreve@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk</a> <b>07854 367028</b>

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Helena Baker Performance and Information Manager	YOS	<a href="mailto:bakerh@caerphilly.gov.uk">bakerh@caerphilly.gov.uk</a> 01495 235623
Paty Wysom – Area Manager	Careers Wales	<a href="mailto:paty.wysom@careerswales.com">paty.wysom@careerswales.com</a> 02920 84 6573
Andrew Morris – Senior Legal Manager	Gwent Magistrates' Court	<a href="mailto:andrew.morris1@Justice.gov.uk">andrew.morris1@Justice.gov.uk</a> 01633 261300
Caroline Hawkins Policy Officer	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	<a href="mailto:CAROLINE.HAWKINS@gwent.police.uk">CAROLINE.HAWKINS@gwent.police.uk</a> 01633 642200
Liam Thomas Engagement and Progression Co- ordinator (NEETS)	Blaenau Gwent CBC	<a href="mailto:liam.thomas@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk">liam.thomas@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk</a> 01495 355690
John Poyner Engagement and Progression Co- ordinator (NEETS)	Caerphilly CBC	<a href="mailto:poynej@caerphilly.gov.uk">poynej@caerphilly.gov.uk</a> 01443 864970
Elaine Forehead Councillor	Caerphilly CBC	<a href="mailto:elaineforehead@caerphilly.gov.uk">elaineforehead@caerphilly.gov.uk</a> 07792 566314
Haydn Trollope Councillor	Blaenau Gwent CBC	<a href="mailto:hayden.trollope@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk">hayden.trollope@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk</a> 01495 718276
Andrew Hunt J.P	Chair of Gwent Youth Magistrates Panel	<a href="mailto:andrew.hunt.jp@ejudiciary.net">andrew.hunt.jp@ejudiciary.net</a>

## Attendance and dates of Board meetings 2023-24



Attendance at LMB  
Meetings - 2023-24.

## **7. Progress on previous plan**

There were 25 actions in the delivery plan linked to the YOS 2023-25 Youth Justice Plan. Out of the 25 actions, 16 are fully completed and 9 actions are in progress or not started. These actions have either been carried over and incorporated into this 2024-26 plan if required or will be completed as part of normal service delivery. Please see attached for further details:



Blaenau Gwent &  
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## **8. Resources and Services**

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Responsibility for resourcing the YOS is shared between the Youth Justice Effective Practice grant, statutory partners' contributions, the grant from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the Children and Communities Grant (CCG) from the Welsh Government. YOS also oversees the local authority budgets provided to meet the costs of children remanded to the secure estate. In late 2022 the YOS also received an additional grant from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to deliver the Turnaround Programme until the end of 2024/25.

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

The following table summarises the total YOS budget for 2024/25 and sources of funding:

**B5: YOT budget**  
Costs and Contributions

Agency	Staffing Costs	Payments in kind	Other delegated funds	Total
Youth Justice Board	427,103	0	57,924	485,027
Local Authority	831,046	0	112,707	943,753
Police	176,798	0	23,977	200,775
Police and Crime Commissioner	86,432	0	0	86,432
Probation	4,403	0	597	5,000
Health	66,502	0	9,019	75,521
* Welsh Government	283,762	0	0	283,762
Other	150,491	0	5,931	156,422
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,026,537</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>210,155</b>	<b>2,236,692</b>

\* Welsh YOTs only

## 9. Performance

The LMB meets quarterly and scrutinises the YOS performance, acknowledges good performance and develops actions for improvement when necessary. The LMB takes an active role in ensuring the children and those at risk of entering the youth justice system have access to universal and specialist services within the YOS areas and that partner agency's recognise and maintain responsibility for contributing to the reduction of offending by children.

### National Key Performance Indicators

Up until March 2023 the YOS were required to report on the following Key Performance Indicators:

- Binary reoffending rate
- Frequency of reoffending
  - First time entrants
  - Use of custody

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Data for the year 2023/2024 is provided below.

From April 2023 the previous four KPI's remained and the Welsh Devolved Indicators were replaced by the following ten KPI's:

- Suitable accommodation – As a Welsh YOS this KPI is already being recorded through our Case Management system and any concerns are discussed with relevant partner agencies (see Accommodation section below for data)
- Education, training and employment - As a Welsh YOS this KPI is already being recorded through our Case Management system and any concerns are discussed with relevant partner agencies (see Education section below for data). In addition we are working closely with our Education colleagues to put in a place a robust system to ensure suitability for all children is recorded and considered based on the child's needs
- Special educational needs and disabilities/additional learning needs – ALN information is already collated and recorded on our Case Management system (see Education section and Over represented children sections below for data) through monthly reports completed by Education colleagues, however, due to delays in the information being received from schools we are currently devising a process to obtain this information directly from schools at the start of the child's intervention as well as accessing the education database directly
- Mental health care and emotional wellbeing – Information is collated through the referrals made to our dedicated Mental Health Clinical Nurse specialist (see Health Provision section for data) and recorded on our Case Management system
- Substance misuse - Information is collated through the referrals made to our dedicated Substance misuse worker (see Health Provision section for data) and recorded on our Case Management system
- Out of Court disposals – All interventions are recorded on the YOS Case Management system whether they are statutory or non-statutory. Asset Plus Assessments are completed for all interventions with the exception of the Together project and Restorative Approaches as the YOS works towards the Children's Services assessment. (See Local Performance, Prevention and Diversion sections for data)
- Links to wider services – All information is collated through liaising with colleagues in Children's Services Social Services department. In previous years only CLA children have been reported on (see Over represented children for data), however, all information is recorded on our Case Management system
- Management board attendance – Information is collated annually and recorded on a word document, in instances where there has been repeat non-attendees the Chair will issue a letter reminding the partner of the importance of attendance (see Board Development section for data). We are working closely with partner agencies to develop a strategy for the reporting of their disproportionality data at LMB meetings
- Serious violence – All information is recorded on our Case Management system and is reported to the Board annually (see

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Serious Violence and Exploitation section for data. In addition reports are run monthly to ensure that all Serious Incident Notifications (SIN) have been captured and reported accordingly

- Victims – Information is collated by the YOS Police Officers and is recorded on our Case Management system (see Restorative Approaches and Victims for data)

The YOS employs a Substance Misuse Worker, Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, Speech and Language Therapist and an Education Worker to ensure children's needs are met in relation to their specialist areas. In addition the YOS works closely with Children's Services Social Work teams to ensure that children's accommodation needs are met.

### **Local Performance**

Thirty-three children were cautioned or convicted in 2023/24 and were responsible for 110 offences. There has been an increase of 10 children when comparing the previous year (2022/23) where 23 children were cautioned or convicted of a criminal offence and were responsible for 76 offences.

One child had two outcomes and as a result the 33 children were responsible for 34 outcomes. The average number of offences for the cohort was 3.30 offences, the same as in 2022/23. The highest number of offences recorded for one child was 15 offences.

The majority of the cautioned or convicted children were male, 29 out of the total 33 children (88%) and there were 4 females (12%).

All of the cautioned or convicted children identified as White British/English or Welsh or Any Other White Background (100%).

Of the children who were cautioned or convicted the majority were aged 16 or under (65.71%), however children aged 17 were cautioned or convicted the most, one child was convicted at age 18 for an offence that occurred when they were 17. The ages for the 35 outcomes were 2 at age 13 (5.72%), 8 at age 14 (22.86%), 6 at age 15 (17.14%), 6 at age 16 (17.14%), 11 at age 17 (31.42%) and one aged 18 (2.86%). The youngest child was 12 (2.86%) and committed 10 offences.

Of the children who were cautioned or convicted 7 children on 8 interventions (21.21%) were Children Looked After (CLA) at the start of the intervention, with 5 placed in residential care (71.43%) and 2 children placed in supported accommodation (28.57%). One child was placed in residential care, however, as a result of breaching their Order was given a custodial sentence and was placed in a Secure Children's Home.

One hundred and twenty-nine children were open to the YOS on an Out of Court Disposal (OCD) in 2023/24 and were responsible for 289 offences. There has been an increase of 12 children when comparing the previous year (2022/23) where 117 children were open on an Out of Court Disposal and were responsible for 160 offences.

Some children had multiple Out of Court Disposals and as a result the 129 children were responsible for 143 outcomes. The average number of offences for the cohort was 2.24 offences. The highest number of offences recorded for one child was 19 offences.

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The majority of the children were male, 87 out of the total 129 children (67%) and there were 42 females (33%).

Of the 129 children 125 identified as White British/Welsh/Other or Any Other White Background (96%). Of the other 4 children, two identified as Black European (2%), one identified as Any Other mixed Background (1%) and one identified as Other Mixed Background (1%)

Of the children who were open on an Out Of Court Disposals the majority were aged 13 to 17 (95%). The ages for the 143 outcomes were 5 at age 12 (4%) 21 at age 13 (15%), 26 at age 14 (18%), 39 at age 15 (27%), 26 at age 16 (18%), 26 at age 17 (18%).

Of the children who were open on an Out of Court Disposal 7 children on 8 interventions (4.89%) were Children Looked After (CLA) at the start of the intervention, with 3 placed in foster care (37.5%), 4 in residential care (50%) and 1 child living with relatives (12.5%). The child open on two interventions moved from residential care into foster care in between the two interventions.

Quarterly reports are submitted to the LMB regarding the performance of the YOS and comparisons are made against Gwent, Wales and the YJB YOS Family for the National Key Performance Indicators (where applicable). Regular updates and discussions on the YOSs performance form part of the LMB quarterly agenda and regular internal managers meetings focusing on performance are held within the YOS. Please see attached for a copy of a recent Quarterly Performance Report.



### 3. YOS Local Management Board

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

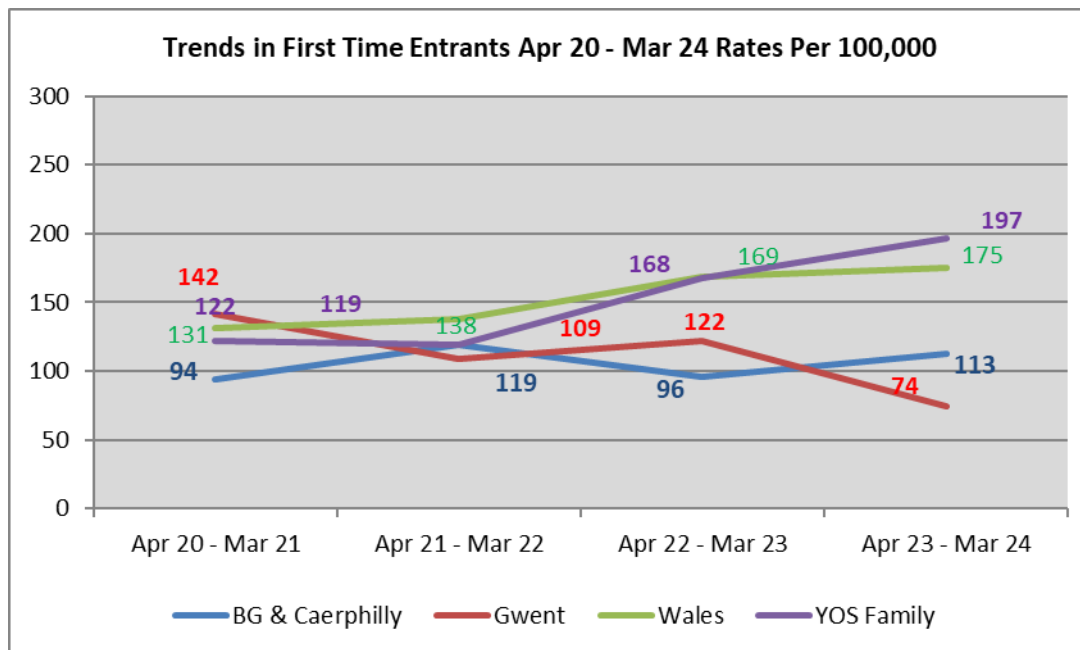
#### First Time Entrants (FTE's)

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

From April 2023 the YJB made the decision to extract FTE data directly from the YOS Case Management System rather than the Police National Computer (PNC), which the YOS believes is a more accurate representation of the data. Previously, when there has been a disproportionate figure published by the YJB it has had a negative impact on how the YOS performance is perceived. It is hoped that greater accuracy of the data held by the YOS will achieve a true reflection of FTEs.

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During the period April 2023 to March 2024 local data indicates that there were 24 FTE's. Three FTE's identified as female with the remaining 21 identifying as male. All the children identified as White.

Of the children that became an FTE 6 had not previously received a Community Resoluion (CR) which would have prevented them from becoming an FTE, due to either the seriousness of the offences, similar/like-minded offences, offences committed in a short period of time, appearances in Court and/or difficulties in engagement with YOS interventions.

### Reoffending

The YOSs work regarding the robust management of risk is informed by a number of policies and procedures, this includes the internal YOS Risk Management Policy and the YOS Risk Management Panel. Risk of harm (Future Behaviour) is identified by the completion of an Asset Plus assessment. The YOS has good working relationships with key partners who assist in the managing and reducing of children & children's risk level and behaviour. Children assessed as presenting as high or very high risk of serious harm are supervised at an intensive level.

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

The YOS is located within Caerphilly County Borough Children Services Directorate and follows the Wales Safeguarding Procedures to ensure robust joint management of

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cases. The YOS has a Service Level Agreement in place with both Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Children's Services departments.

The YOS has stringent procedures in place to identify and assess need in relation to safeguarding children (safety and wellbeing) who are involved with the service. Initial assessments and plans are quality assured by a Team Manager, and cases are discussed in supervision. There is also a clear understanding, which is shared between all staff, regarding the referral process for social services intervention.

Please see attached a copy of the YOS Risk Management Policy.



YOS Risk  
Management Policy -

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

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

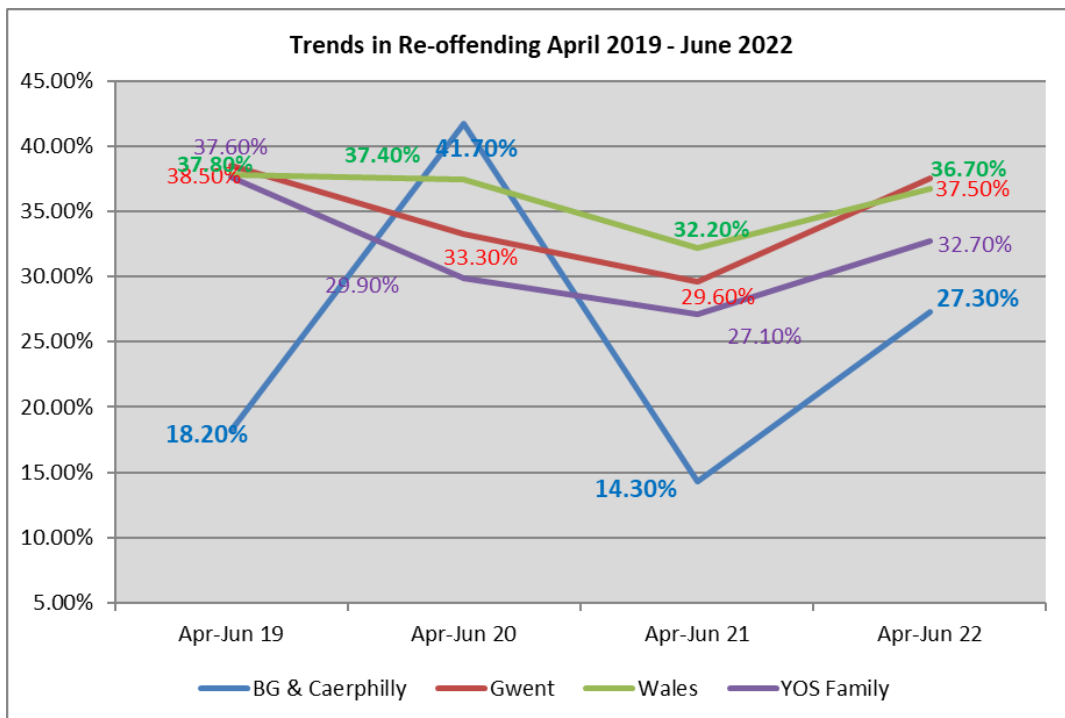
The YOS has dedicated, skilled, and experienced staff members and volunteers trained in delivering a wide range of targeted and structured programmes aimed at reducing re-offending. This includes recognising and responding to areas of Diversity and Speech Language and Communication needs. YOS staff also attended training focusing on LGBTQ+, AIM3 and the YJB Enhanced Case Management (ECM) trauma informed practice programme. The YOS also has a Managing Anger Programme (MAP), Prevention of Burglary resource and Prevent, a tailored programme to tackle anti-social behaviour. Over the past 24/48 months the YOS has focused on reviewing and improving their direct work and engagement skills in response to messages from desistance theory and approaches, attachment and trauma informed practice. This will all help promote engagement and ensure the needs of all children are being met along with addressing risk areas.

### Contingency Planning

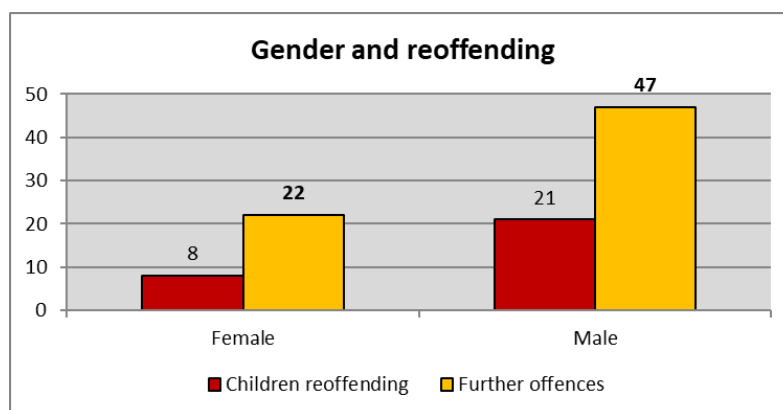
An area the YOS will be concentrating on improving over the next 12/24 months will be its identification and recording linked to contingency planning as part of its interventions with children and families. Contingency planning gives particular prominence to key factors which may indicate that the likelihood of harm or further offending is escalating or imminent. There may also be early warning signs which indicate initial instability, or movement towards harmful behaviour which will require an appropriate, but less urgent response. Those involved in the intervention including where appropriate the child, their family and any potential victim/s, should know what these early warning signs are and

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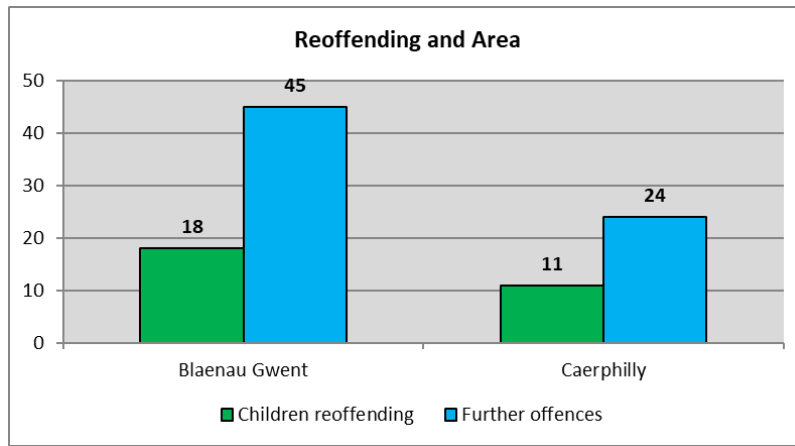
what the response to them should be. There should be a clear plan as to what action should be taken by whom and how quickly. The YOS will be delivering workshops to staff addressing this area of assessment, planning, risk management and intervention delivery.



During the period April 2023 to March 2024, out of all children receiving an Out Of Court Disposal, Caution or Conviction, 29 children had reoffended by the time of this report, committing a further 69 offences, of these children 7 were Children Looked After (CLA).



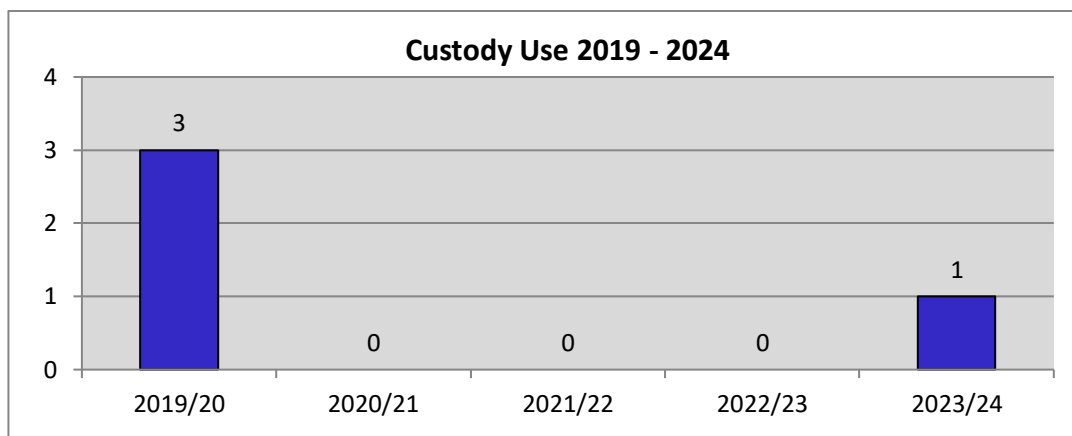
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### Custody

During the period April 2023 to March 2024, there was one child in custody on a Detention and Training Order. The child was open to the YOS on a Youth Rehabilitation Order, this was breached and the child was resentenced to custody. The child was a 15 year old male.

The number of custody interventions over the last five years are presented below.



## **10. Priorities**

### **Children from groups which are over-represented**

The YOS recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals/aspirations. It works actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting and demonstrating good relations and mutual respect. The YOS is welcoming to all and able to understand and respond to a variety of needs and requirements. This means being prepared to adapt and change what they provide when required on an individual and personalised basis.

Promoting equal opportunities is about pro-actively aspiring to meet personalised and individual needs and appreciating and celebrating difference. This is the overriding ethos that will guide Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly YOS's equality and diversity practice. The attached Equality and Diversity Policy explains in detail the YOS approach.

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During the period April 2023 to March 2024 there were 416 interventions during the period; this relates to 353 children open on prevention cases, out of court disposals (OOCs) and court interventions including Criminal Behaviour Orders.

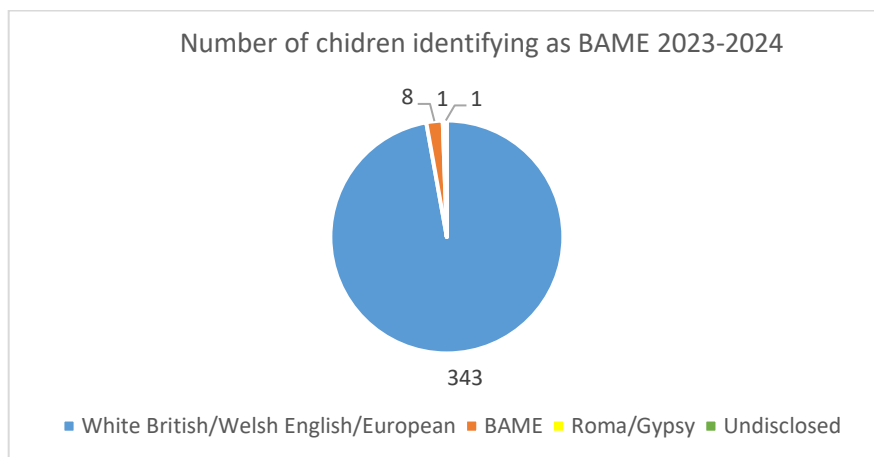
This represents an increase of 85 when comparing the previous year's interventions where there were 331 interventions. There were 353 children which represents an increase of 58 children compared to last year where there were 295 children.

Out of the 353 children, there were 343 children who identified as 'white'; either White Welsh, British or European, 1 child who identified as Gypsy/Roma and 1 child who did not disclose this information. There were 8 children who identified as BAME, which equates to 2.27% of the entire cohort. The 8 children were 6 males and 2 females. There represents a decrease from the previous year where 8 children identified as BAME

The YOS total data demonstrates that children identifying as BAME are under-represented. However, it should be noted that the 8 children are included from all interventions and 4 of the 8 children received a Community Resolution or an Outcome 22, which on Police systems would account for them receiving a No Further Action outcome and would not be included in the YJB counting rules and five children were on a Prevention Programme

The YJB counting rules only looks at statutory interventions and when specifically looking at statutory interventions, Youth Cautions and above, there were 35 children in the cohort and there were no BAME children, which equates to 0% of the cohort. This demonstrates that the children identifying as BAME in the statutory cohort are under-represented.

Five children were from Caerphilly, and three children who identified as BAME were from Blaenau Gwent.



CASE NUMBER	Ethnicity	Gender
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1	Any Other Mixed Background	Male
2	Black European	Male
3	Other Mixed Background	Male
4	Black European	Male
5	Black and Other Ethnic Group	Female
6	Any Other Asian Background	Male
7	Any Other Black Background	Male
8	Any Other Mixed Background	Female

The 8 children were responsible for 9 interventions.

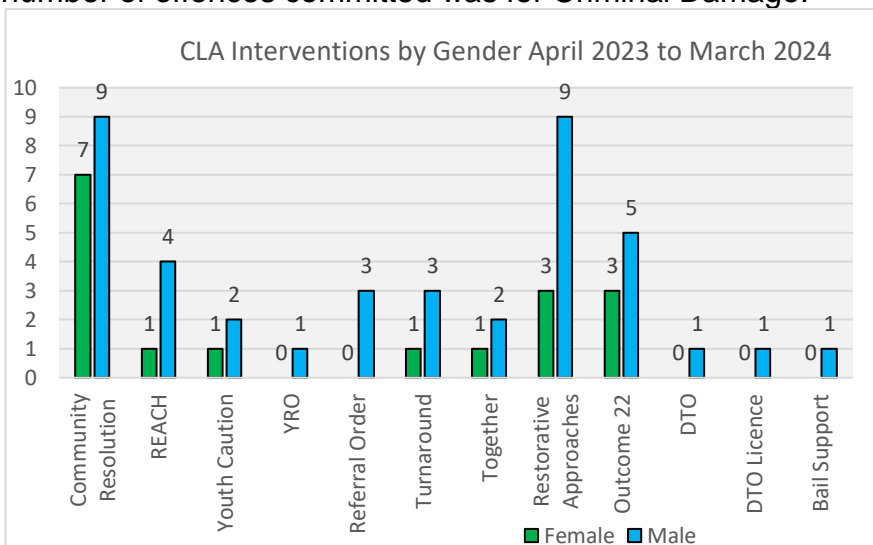
Out of the 8 children discussed above, no children became a First Time Entrant (FTE) during the financial year, however 1 child had previously become an FTE on a previous intervention. Of the eight children none are part of the youth justice system which is positive as 4 received a CR outcome or Outcome 22 and the other four were dealt with via a prevention programme. This demonstrates that all children were appropriately dealt with.

Gypsy/Roma/Traveller Community

During the period April 2023 to March 2024 there was one child who identified as being from the Roma, Gypsy and Traveller Community. The child was open to the YOS on a Turnaround intervention. The child was female and from the Blaenau Gwent area. The child was not previously known to the YOS.

Children Looked After

During the period April 2023 – March 2024 there were 36 children who were Children Looked After. There were 11 females (31%) and 25 males (69%). Of the 36 children there were 22 (61%) from the Caerphilly area and 14 (39%) from the Blaenau Gwent area. The 36 children were responsible for 58 interventions and committed 91 offences. The highest number of offences committed was for Criminal Damage.



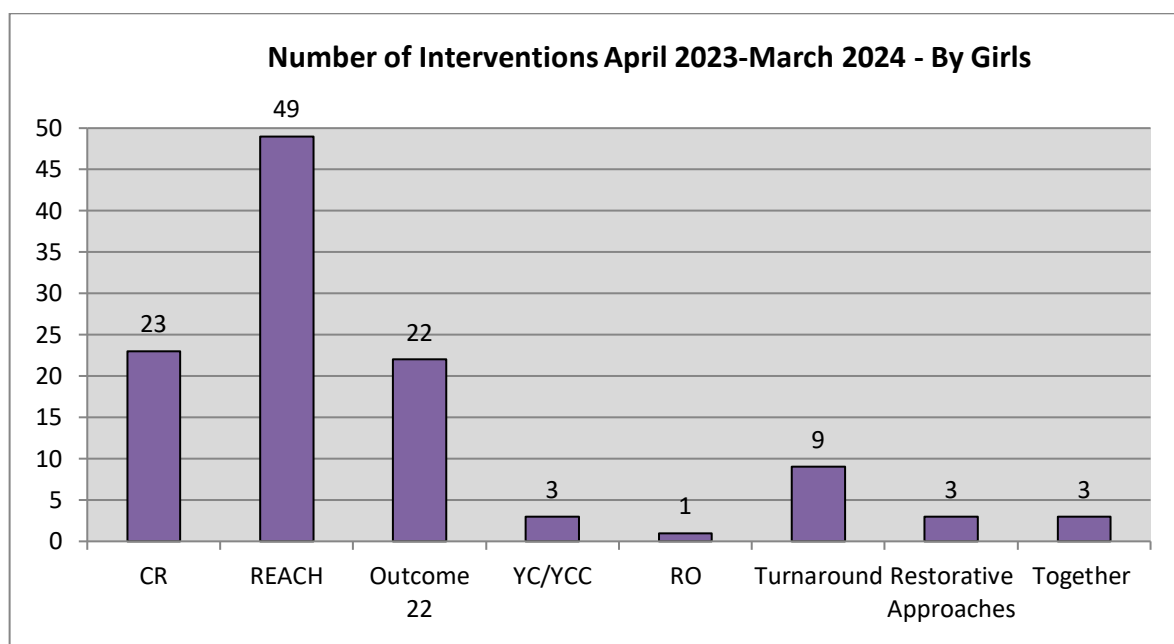
Girls

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During the period April 2023 – March 2024 there were a total of 303 children who were responsible for 416 interventions and committed 399 offences. The percentage of girls in comparison to boys is as follows:

	Total	Boys	Girls	% of Girls
Children	353	255	98	27.76%
Interventions	416	303	113	37.29%
Offences	399	312	87	21.80%

Of the 98 children who were girls there were 71 (72%) from the Caerphilly area and 27 (28%) from the Blaenau Gwent area. The 98 children were responsible for 113 interventions and committed 87 offences. The highest number of offences committed were for Violence against the Person.



#### Additional Learning Needs Provision

The introduction of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act places additional duties on the Education Directorate and providers of education for all children and children up to the age of 25, who require additional support to remain in education or training. Some children engaged with the YOS have ALN therefore it is important for YOS staff to continue to gain a more in-depth understanding of the implications of this Act to ensure that children have their support needs assessed and addressed. The YOS has a dedicated Education, Training and Employment Worker to help and support this area of service delivery.

During the period April 2023 to March 2024 there were 10 children subject to a Statement of Additional Learning Needs. Four children were from Caerphilly and 6 children were from Blaenau Gwent.

A focus for the next 12/24 months for the YOS and its LMB members will be linked to the new 2023 KPI “Management Board Attendance” which also stipulates that Board Members must share disproportionality data including a requirement for statutory

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partners, as Board Members, to contribute data from their individual services that identifies areas of racial and ethnic disproportionality.

## Policing

The YOS has a strong partnership with Gwent Police. In January 2024 a new Out Of Court Disposal Framework for children was launched which included a review and restructure of the old “Bureau” Panel, resulting in it changing into a multi-agency Diversion Outcome Panel (DOP). Gwent Police Chair this panel. Gwent Police also funded and produced in 2024 a new leaflet for children and families explaining OOCs and the DOP.

Gwent Police and the YOS Service Manager meet quarterly at the Gwent Child Centred Policing Strategic Steering Group, where all issues relating to children are discussed, monitored and areas for development identified along with good practice.

Gwent Police and YOS Senior Managers meet every 4 weeks with other partners to review the individual circumstances of all children held overnight in police custody (retrospectively), to identify any barriers, communication issues, review recording practices and identify any learning for all agencies involved including good practice examples. This group is called the Gwent Monitoring & Review Panel (GMRP).

Gwent Police are also key members of the YOS Resettlement & Reintegration Panel (RRP) which meets every 6 weeks along with an extensive number of partners to review children’s individual circumstances where prior unidentified or unmet needs exist. The RRP members then identify and commit any resources required to meet the needs to prevent antisocial behaviour or other negative behaviours including offending. The RRP is Chaired by the YOS Service Manager.

The YOS Service Manager also joins Gwent Police on the Gwent OOC Scrutiny Panel which is Chaired by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) where the circumstances resulting in children and adults receiving an OOC are scrutinised retrospectively to identify good practice or areas for improvement regarding decision making.

Gwent Police Senior Managers also attend the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board alongside the YOS Service Manager and are also regular, active members of the YOS LMB.

In partnership with the YOS, Gwent Police have worked hard over the past 12/24 months to increase the number of children having the opportunity to participate in a Voluntary Attendance Interview (VAI). In 2021 the number of VAIs undertaken were 336, in 2022 there were 453 and in 2023 this number increased to 513.

The YOS is currently working in partnership with Gwent Police to respond to a challenge locally regarding the delay with child suspect investigations and lack of a process to notify YOS of all cases with child suspect(s). This would permit tracking, monitoring, and creation of an escalation process to ensure opportunities for timely and appropriate interventions and outcomes are not missed or unnecessarily delayed. Work is ongoing to address this challenge.

## Prevention

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The YOS Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy April 2023/2026 is concerned with ensuring that targeted work takes place with those children most at risk of offending/anti-social behaviour and that interventions are as effective as possible. Effective prevention of youth crime and anti-social behaviour contributes to a wide range of improved outcomes for children, their families and communities. The practice of targeted early prevention is well established locally and is recognised as a worthwhile investment in children’s lives before problems escalate and their attitudes and behaviour become entrenched.

Preventative work in the Youth Offending Service has been developed to:

- identify children ‘at risk’ of offending/re-offending or committing acts of anti-social behaviour
- create a referral process for professionals working with children who are at risk of offending or committing anti-social behaviour
- assess children to identify the level of risk that they pose
- provide interventions that are likely to reduce offending, reoffending and anti-social behaviour
- support families to assist in reducing offending, reoffending and anti-social behaviour
- maintain children in their home/family environment, when safe to do so
- involve community members in YOS service delivery
- promote local community resources for sustainable outcomes

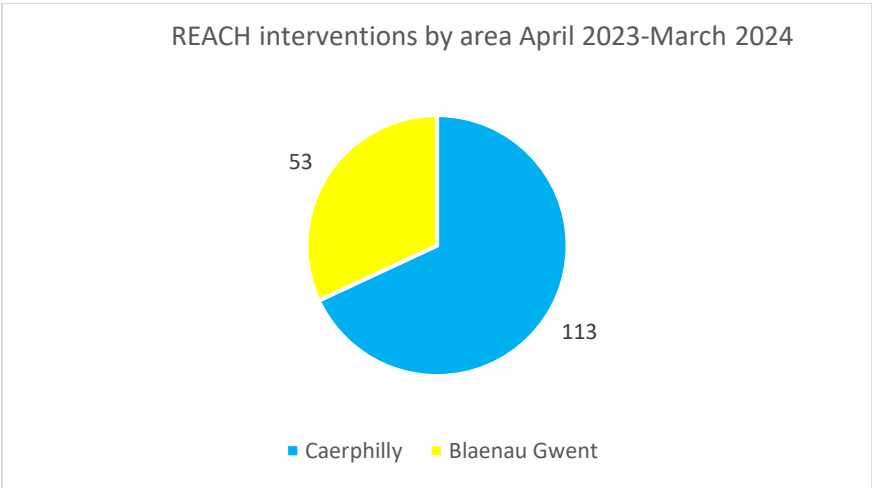
There are various referral routes to access prevention and early intervention and support which are outlined in the below attached strategy.



Blaenau Gwent and  
Caerphilly Youth Offe

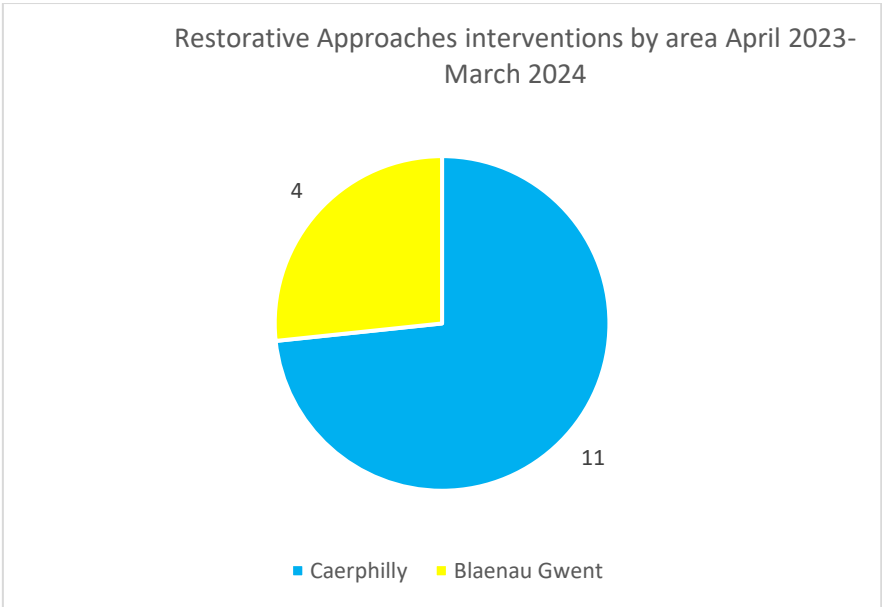
During the period April 2023 – March 2024 there were 197 Prevention programmes open to the YOS, which related to 191 children.

Reach, Engage and Change Happens (REACH) interventions

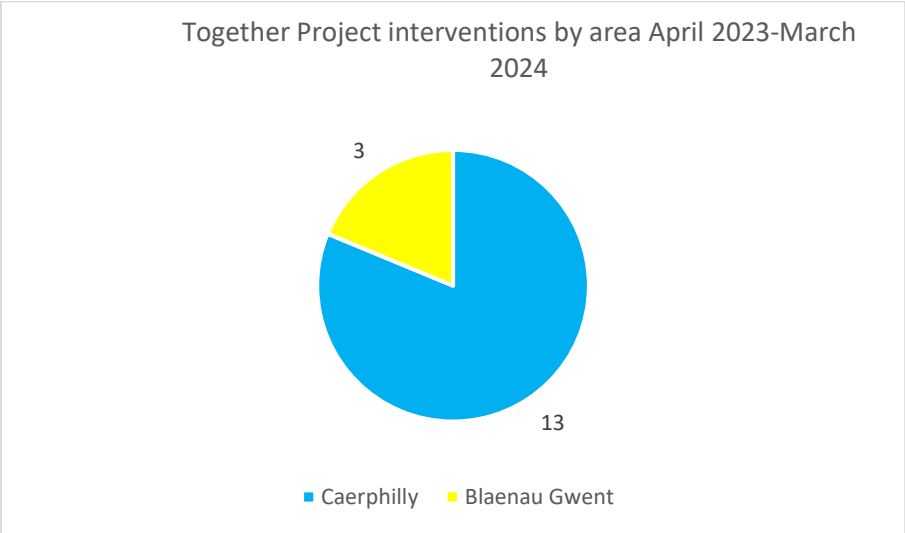


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Protocol to Reduce the Prosecution of Children Looked After (Restorative Approaches) interventions



Together Project

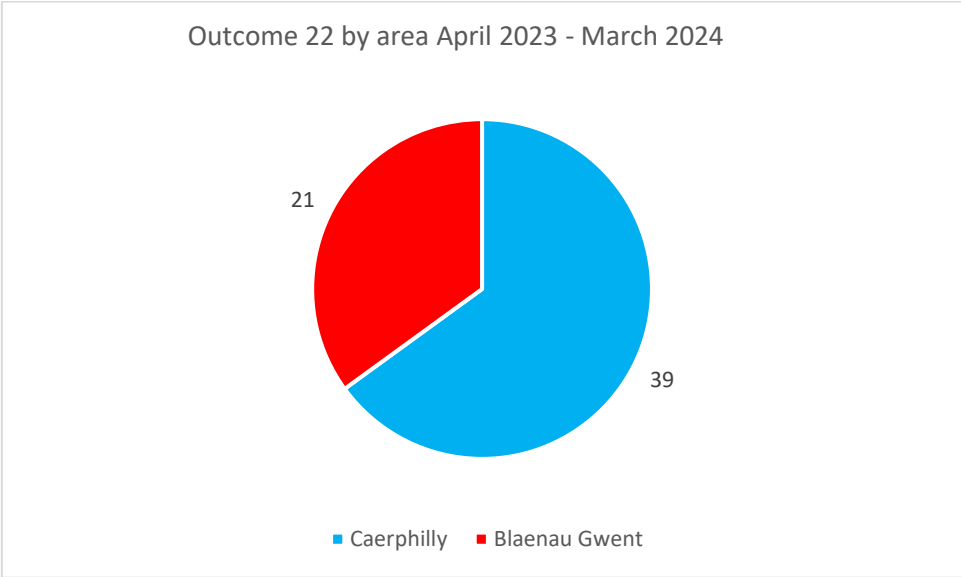


**Diversion**

Outcome 22

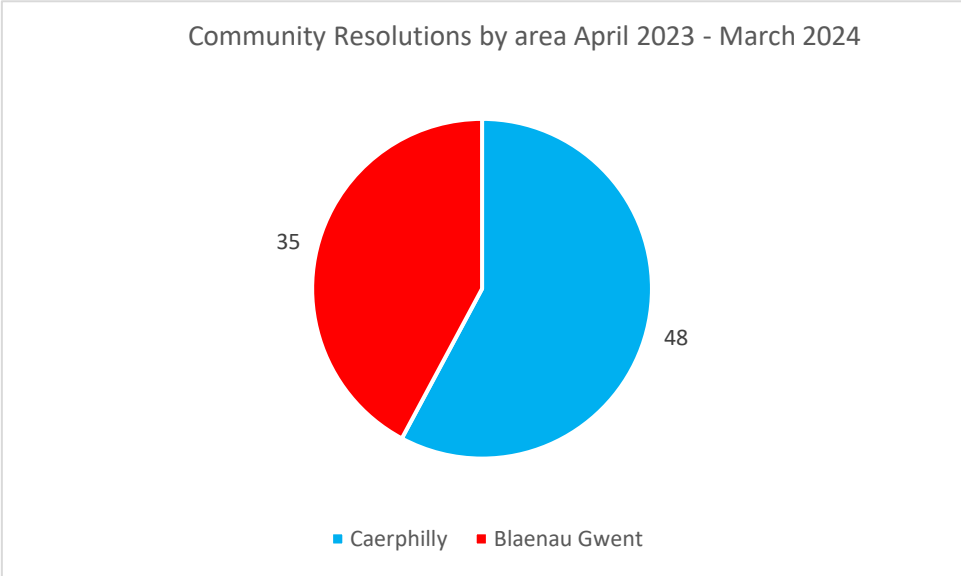
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During the period April 2023 – March 2024 there were 60 Outcome 22's open to the YOS, which related to 60 children.



Community Resolutions

During the period April 2023 – March 2024 there were 83 Community Resolutions open to the YOS, which related to 78 children.



A child can receive a total of 3 Community Resolutions if these are agreed by the Team Manager for the second and Service Manager for the third. The same applies for O22's.

Road to Learning Project

01.04.2023 – 31.03.2024

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- Number of children receiving a Non substantive outcome Community Resolution (CR) for motoring offences = **7 children**
- Number of children being prevented from FTE as a result of the CR = **7 Children**
- Number of children reoffending – Whether a motoring offence = There were no children who reoffended.
- Number becoming FTE's as a result of reoffending = **0 children**
- Were they referred from court for the CR? = **0 Children**

### **Turnaround Programme**

Turnaround is a youth early intervention programme led by the Ministry of Justice for 10-17 year olds. Turnaround aims to:

- Achieve positive outcomes for children
- Help stop children go on to offend/commit a crime
- Provide an assessment and support for children who may be about to work with the youth justice system
- Improve the emotional, mental health and wellbeing of children
- Help services to work better together to support children

Turnaround is a voluntary intervention and needs consent from the child and parent/ caregiver. Examples for referral can include mental health concerns, substance misuse, child in need of care and support, being a victim of crime/abuse, unstable family setting, school absence and exclusions and or undiagnosed educational needs.

The following agencies are examples of who can refer to Turnaround. Police, Youth Offending Service, Social Services, Education, Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and parents/ caregivers.

The criteria is children who:

- Are between the ages of 10-17
- Have been interviewed under caution following arrest or attending a voluntary interview
- Are subject to a No Further Action (NFA) decision
- Are released under investigation (RUI) or those subject to pre-charge bail (PCB)
- Are discharged by a court
- Are acquitted at court
- Are fined by a court
- Have received an Outcome 22

Any referral must be made within 3 months of the child meeting the above criteria. If a child has previously received a Community Resolution (CR) or Youth Caution (YC), they are still able to access support via Turnaround. If a child has previously received a

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Youth Conditional Caution (YCC) or a Statutory Court Order for offending they will NOT be eligible for this project. If a child is currently on the Child Protection Register or a Child Looked After, they will NOT be eligible for this project.

Turnaround delivery expectations for the YOS linked to the grant from the MoJ state:

- Commence interventions for 13 children in the 2022/23 Financial Year
- Deliver interventions for 39 children in the 2023/24 Financial Year
- Deliver interventions for 39 children in the 2024/25 Financial Year

For the 2023/2024 Financial Year the YOS managed to engage with 56 children. There were 63 referrals received of which 56 progressed to allocation and initial contact, however for various reasons only 46 children commenced interventions. This has been reported to the MoJ Turnaround Team along with the rationale. The YOS is currently on track to meet the expectations for the 2024/25 Financial Year and hope to exceed it.

Concerns held by the YOS and its partners are being shared regarding the forecasted Turnaround funding ending in March 2025. The YOS is advocating for this funding to be continued including highlighting the positives achieved via the project and the potential impact on children and families if the project ceases to exist.

## **Education**

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

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

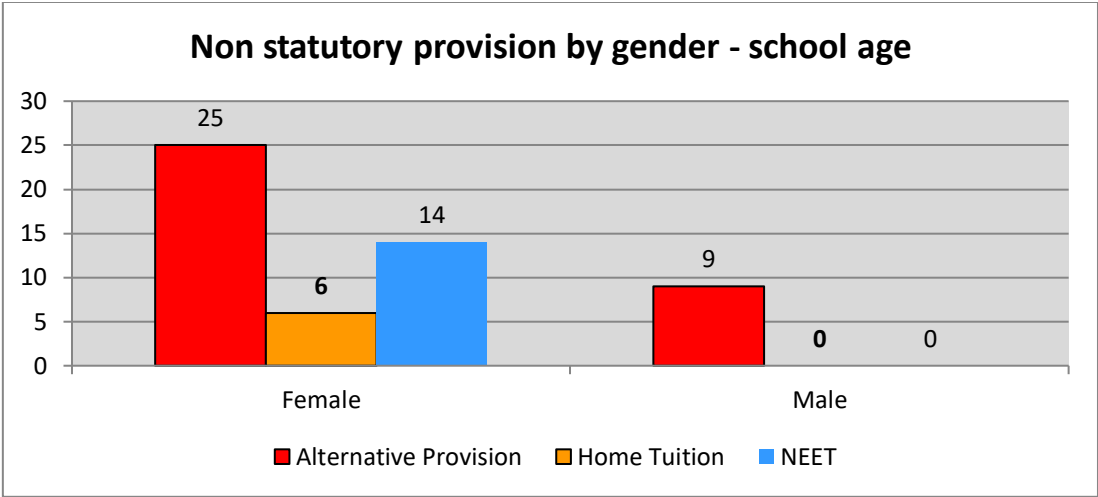
Over the next 12/24 months the YOS has committed to developing and implementing a Literacy & Numeracy Strategy which is one of the outstanding actions carried over from the 2023/24 previous YJ Plan. Training will be provided for YOS staff on addressing numeracy and literacy needs when assessed/identified and raise awareness of what local resources are available to support improvements when required. The YOS recognises that literacy and numeracy level identification, information gathering and

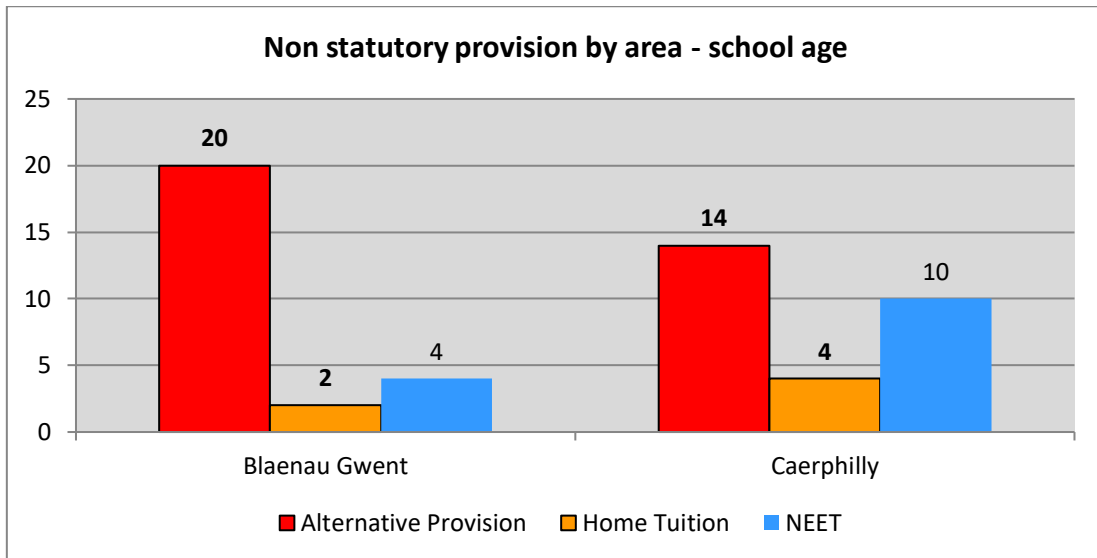
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recording on Asset Plus needs to be completed and reviewed at every assessment stage and inform planning.

The YOS recognises the benefits of having direct access to both local authority’s education databases to allow them to directly extract information in a timely manner to inform their assessments and planning. In 2024 the YOS successfully gained access to one local authority’s database and are continuing discussions to access the second local authority’s database. It is hoped that this will be achieved by September 2024. Discussions are ongoing regarding this area of work. Access will allow the YOS to extract enrolment, numeracy, literacy, attainment, behavioural and attendance information.

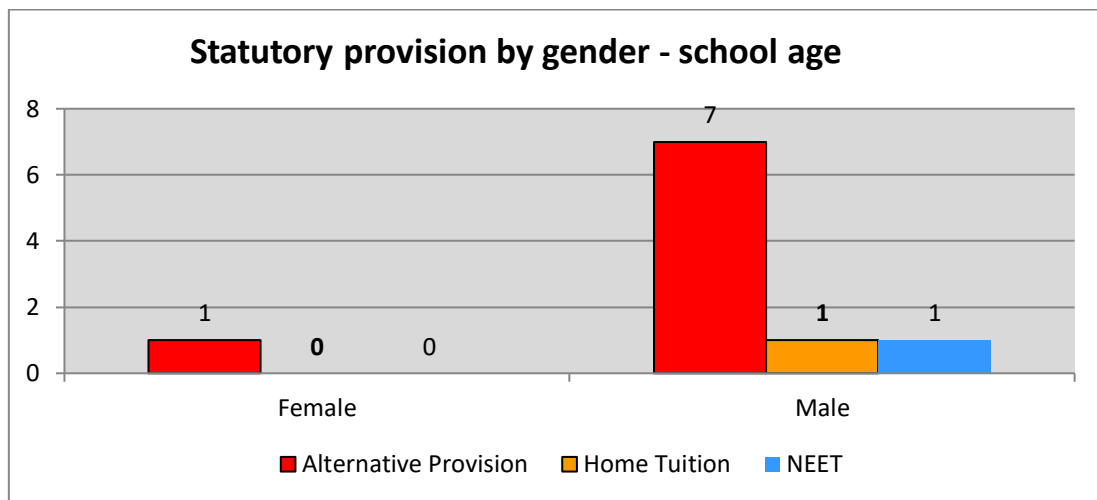
During the period April 2023 to March 2024 there were 44 children of school age on 51 non-statutory interventions that closed who were NEET, in home tuition or an alternative provision. Due to changes in education status during interventions and children having multiple interventions, the figures below do not match to the number of children or interventions. There were 34 interventions where the child was in an alternative provision, however, two children had been NEET at the start of the intervention where the child receiving Home Tuition at the start of the intervention. There were 6 interventions where the child was receiving Home Tuition and 14 interventions where the child were NEET.

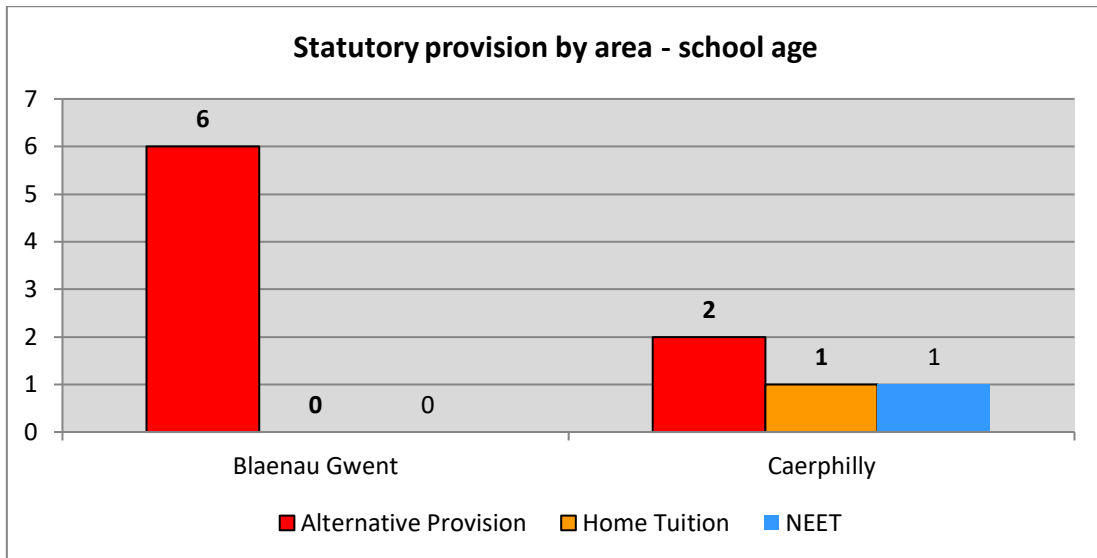




All children receiving an alternative provision, Home Tuition or who were classed as NEET identified as White.

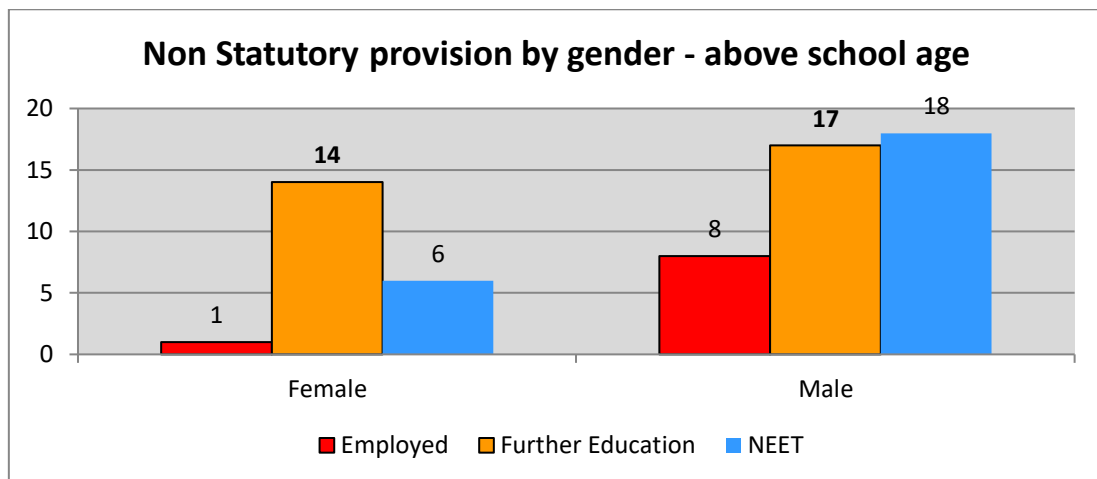
During the period April 2023 to March 2024 there were 7 children of school age on 9 statutory interventions that closed who were NEET, in home tuition or an alternative provision. Due to changes in education status during interventions and children having multiple interventions, the figures below do not match to the number of children or interventions. There was 8 interventions where the child was in an alternative provision, however, one child had been NEET at the start of the intervention where the child was in and one intervention where the child was in an alternative provision.





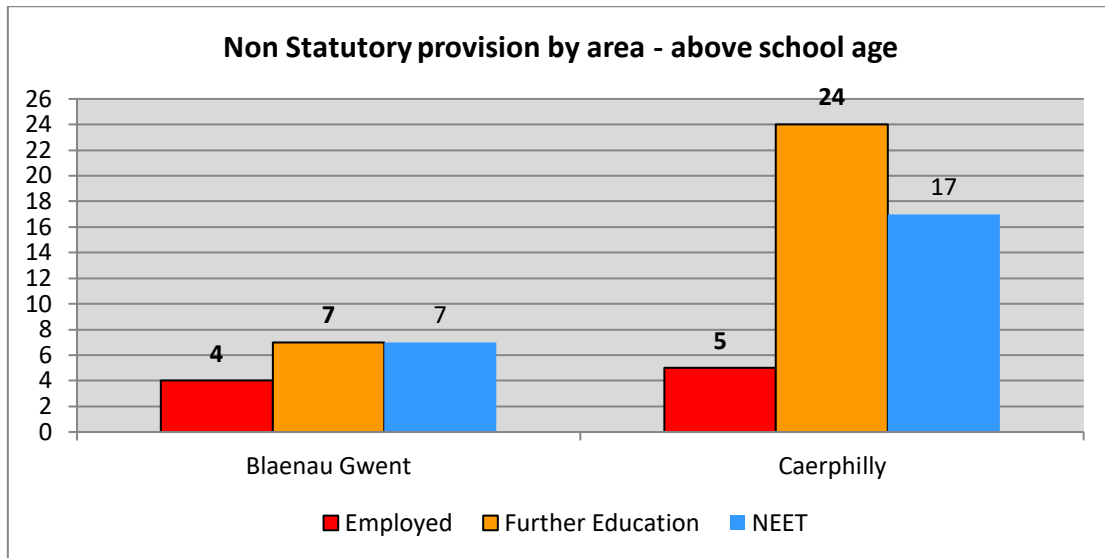
All children receiving an alternative provision, Home Tuition or who were classed as NEET identified as White.

During the period April 2023 to March 2024 there were 56 children above school age on 60 non-statutory interventions that closed to the YOS. Due to changes in education status during interventions and children having multiple interventions, the figures below do not match to the number of children or interventions. There were 31 interventions where children were in further education. There were 24 interventions where the children were classed as NEET at the start but by the end 6 were in further education and one was employed and there were 9 interventions where the children were employed at the start of the intervention but 1 was NEET by the end.



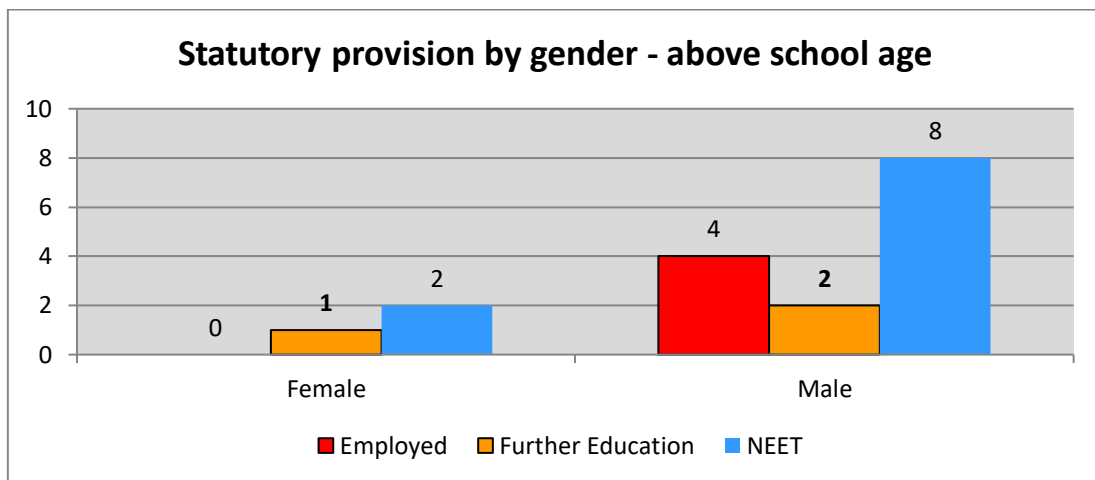
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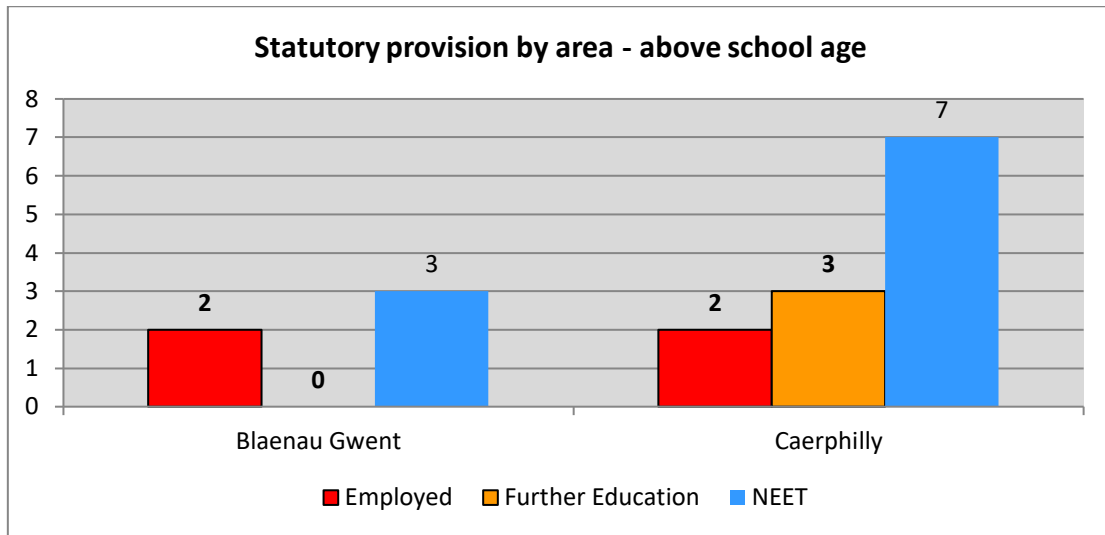


The majority of children identified as White British or White Welsh, one male child identified as Black European.

During the period April 2023 to March 2024 there were 15 children on 15 interventions who were above school age on statutory intervention who closed to the YOS. 10 children were classed as NEET, however 1 was employed by the end of the intervention. There were 4 children who were employed however 1 child had become NEET by the end of the intervention. Three children who were receiving further education.



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All children identified as White-Welsh or White British.

**Restorative Approaches and Victims**

Restorative Justice continues to remain a priority. The YOS prides itself on its excellent victim services, which has resulted in excellent victim satisfaction rates and positive outcomes for children and victims. The YOS works to the Restorative Justice Council’s (RJC) principles of restorative practice which sets out the core values that should be held by all practitioners in the field. The YOS undertakes annual compliance audits against the statutory guidance “Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales (Victims’ Code), updated 10 June 2024” and the “Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent’s Victim Charter”, which set out minimum standards for support to victims. Please see attached a copy of the YOS Restorative Justice/Restorative Approaches Policy and Procedure.



YOS Restorative Justice-Restorative Ap

During the period April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024, there were 216 recorded victims of youth crime. In the same period last year, there were 122 recorded victims. The number of victims has increased by 94 since the last annual reporting period. Additionally, there were 74 Rex Offences.

It is worth noting the increase during this period was a result of 5 cases alone had a total of 66 victims.

Of those 216 victims, attempts were made to contact all of them by the YOS Police Officers and the Restorative Justice process explained and offered. This is done by an initial letter and then a follow up phone call, or preferably a home visit.

YOS Police were unable to get a response from 64 victims.

Of the 152 victims we were able to make contact with, 68 chose to take part in the victim process, requesting some aspect of Restorative Justice. This equates to a 45% participation rate by those victims. Victims are offered a range of services by the YOS.

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

Letter of Explanation – 67 letters were requested from 53 children (*the number of letters requested is higher than the number of children as some cases had more than one victim*). Thirty letters were completed, 24 children refused to take part and 1 child apologised face to face.

Face to face meeting/ RJ Conference – 1 was requested but the child refused to take part.

Other – 148

82 victims did not wish to take part in any reparation and YOS Police were unable to contact 64 victims, 9 being Police Officers.

All victims were provided with a final update at case closure stage by the YOS Police Officers.

Out of all the Restorative Justice that was requested 24 children did not wish to take part. The victim is updated with this outcome, although disappointed in most cases, it is not unexpected as all victims are aware the restorative process cannot be a compulsory element of the child's plan.

Due to the number highlighted above of children not wishing to engage with the victims RJ requests, in 2024/25 the YOS will be delivering workshops to staff to support children to understand and engage with victim requests.

In terms of victim satisfaction rates, the YOS gather this information when providing the victim with the final update; 118 provided feedback.

The following information was collated:

- 7 were very satisfied (6%)
- 106 were satisfied (89%)
- 5 were unsatisfied (5%)

#### Reasons for Being Unsatisfied

- 1 was unsatisfied with the child receiving an OOC as they had been long term victims of crime and believed the outcome was not proportionate.
- 2 were unsatisfied with the outcome as they were still having problems with the child. They have been advised to report further issues to the police.
- 2 were unsatisfied as they felt an OOC was not an adequate outcome.

#### Victim Feedback

Victims who provided feedback quoted:

- "I want them to learn from this and realise that they cannot behave in this manner, hopefully they will turn their life around"
- "Thank you for providing me with an update, I really appreciate your call"
- "I hope they can put this behind them and make better choices"

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## **Serious Violence & Exploitation**

During the period April 2023 to March 2024 excluding prevention cases there were 399 offences committed by children open to the YOS who subsequently received an outcome. These 399 offences were linked to 177 interventions which relates to 162 children.

This represents an increase of 155 offences on the previous year where there were 244 offences, the additional offences due to the change in the definition of Serious Youth Violence would only account for an additional 6 offences. The interventions also increased by 23 from 155 in 2022/23 to 177 in 2023/24.

During the year April 2023 to March 2024 there were no children who received a Restraining Order.

Out of the 399 offences there were 83 serious violent offences.

- Possession of offensive weapon/knife blade/pointed article = 10 offences
- Threaten a person with an offensive weapon on school premises = 1 offence
- Burglary/Robbery/Attempt Robbery = 5 offences
- Affray = 3 offences
- ABH = 19 offences
- GBH without intent = 2 offences
- Assault Emergency Workers = 26 offences
- Common assault = 6 offences
- Concerned in the supply of Cocaine/Crack Cocaine = 2 offences
- Make indecent photographs/pseudo photographs = 1 offence
- Sexual assault of a female = 8 offences

These 83 offences are in relation to 55 children; 19 children were from Blaenau Gwent and 36 were from Caerphilly.

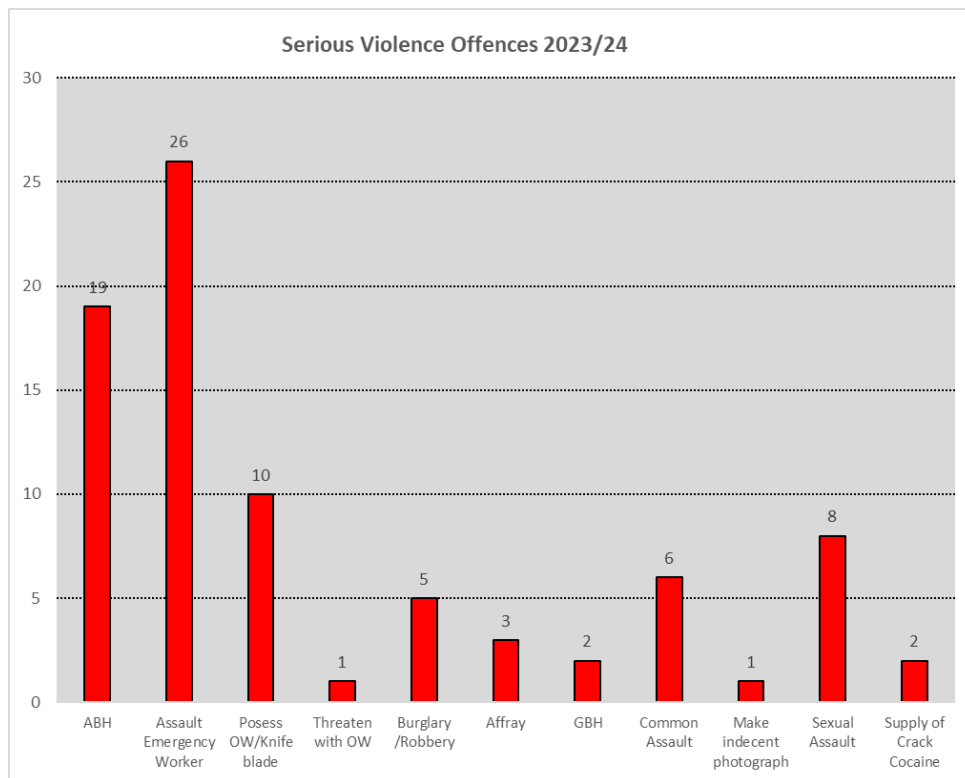
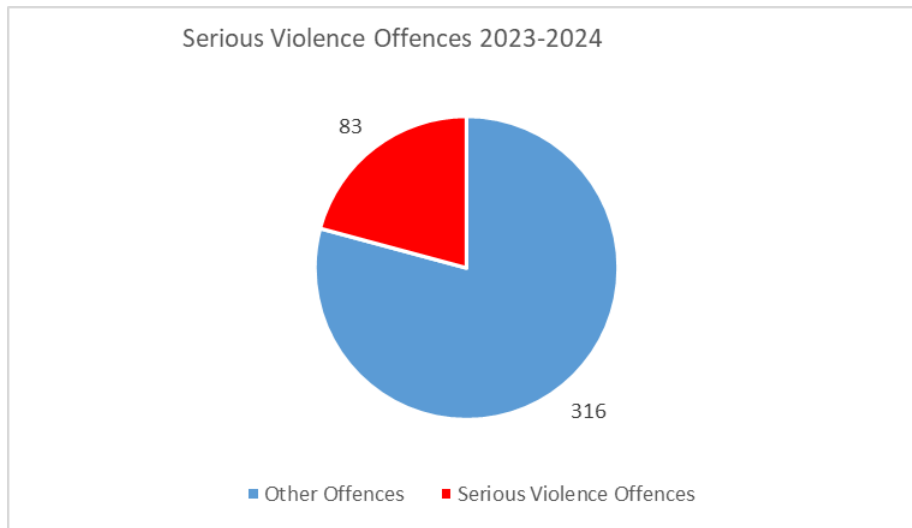
Out of the 55 children there were 17 females who were responsible for 19 interventions who committed 27 serious violent offences. The 27 offences consisting of 9 ABH offences and 15 offences of Assault Emergency Workers, 1 Affray offence and 2 Common assault offences.

Of the 55 children one child received a custodial sentence, this was following the child breaching their Youth Rehabilitation Order that they were originally given. The below evidence 61 interventions, some children received more than one intervention.

- Community Resolution = 34 interventions
- Outcome 22 = 7 interventions
- Referral Orders = 8 interventions
- Youth Caution = 5 interventions
- Youth Conditional Caution = 6 interventions
- DTO/Custody programme = 1 intervention

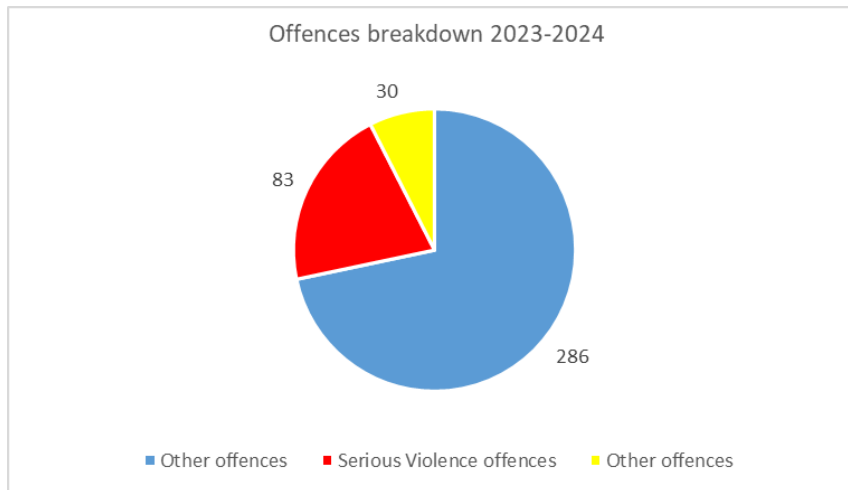
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Serious violent offences for 2023/24 equates to 20.80% of the total amount of offences..



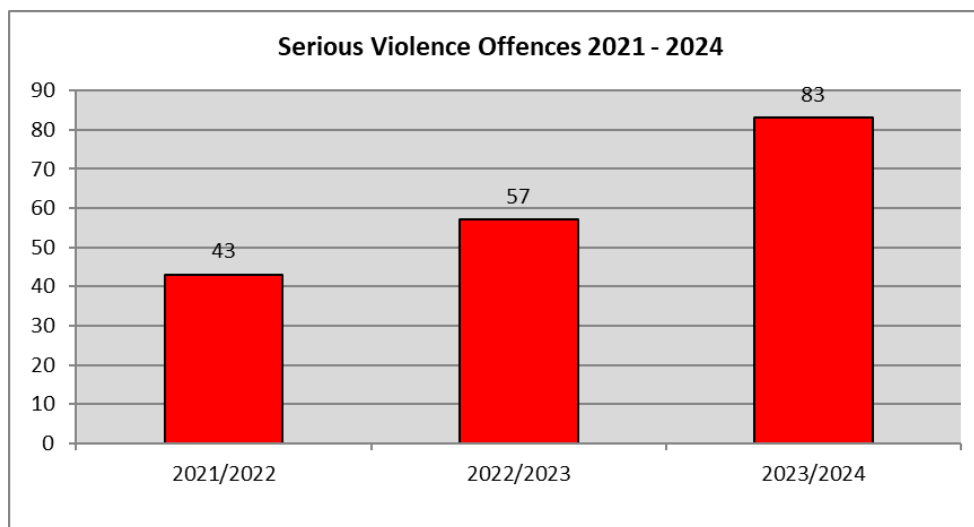
Additionally, there were 30 other violent offences committed during 2023/24. Combined with the serious violent offences this equates to a total of 113 offences (28.32% of the total amount of offences).

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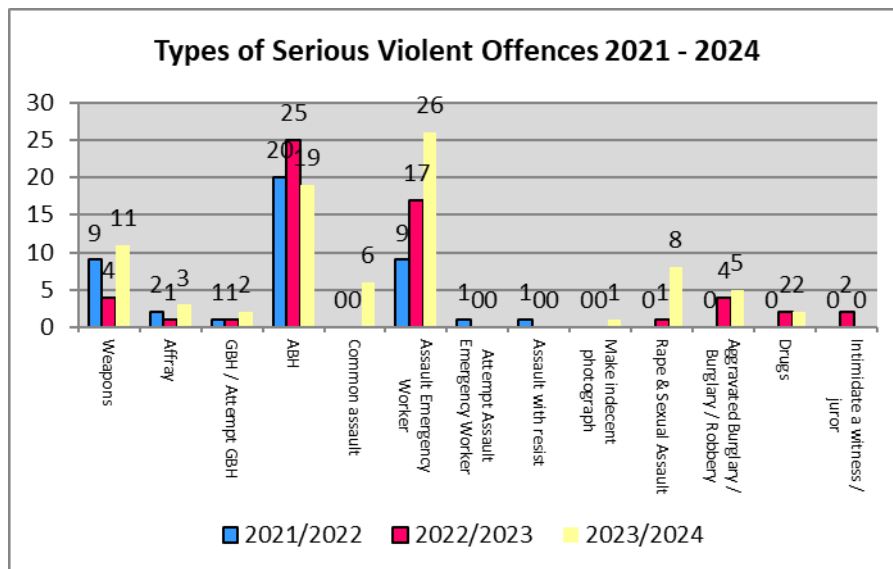
Comparison of 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24

When looking at the current year 2023/24, there is an increase of serious violence offences compared with 2022/23 where there were 57 offences: an increase of 26 offences on last year. Looking over a three-year period the level of offending has continued to increase each year.



When looking at the types of violent offences ABH has increased in 2022/2023 but decreased in 2023/2024, Assault an Emergency Worker has increased over the three-year period. All offences of Assault an Emergency Worker have been committed against Police Officers.

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When looking at a three-year period the violent offences have decreased from 2021/22 and 2022/2023 where there were 50 and 29 respectively, however they have remained at a similar level in 2023/24 at 30.

During the period April 2023 to March 2024 there were 14 children identified as being at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation. Of these 14 children 12 progressed to National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Panel. All 12 identified as White, 9 children were male and 3 children were female.

In 2023 the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty (“the Duty”) on a range of specified authorities. This will ensure relevant services work together to share information and allow them to target their interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities. The YOS is working in partnership to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and implement the Gwent Serious Violence strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area.

**Detention In Police Custody**

There is a Gwent Joint Working Agreement in place that governs this area of work. Please see below. It is noted that police custody can be a distressing time for children, many of whom are vulnerable and may have additional needs. The aim of this regional agreement is to ensure that children between 10-17 years inclusive spend the least amount of time in police custody that is required and are, where required, transferred out of police custody to appropriate local authority accommodation. In addition, where it has not been possible to achieve such outcomes, it is the aim of this agreement that all relevant agencies have measures in place to review the decisions made in these instances in order to overcome barriers in the future.

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Gwent Transfers  
From Police Custody



Gwent Monitoring  
and Review Panel Ar

There is also a Gwent Monitoring and Review Panel (GMRP) associated with the above held monthly to retrospectively review cases. The vision of this panel is to “*Gain Knowledge, Challenge & Improve*”. The purpose of the Panel is to review cases of children held overnight in police custody (defined as 23.59hrs – 05.00 am – or longer) and any obstacles to their transfer from police custody.

It provides constructive scrutiny at an organisational and individual level to promote best practices, identify potential policy barriers, resource deficits or staff development needs whilst promoting more effective working practices between agencies. The panel has no referral or appeals capability. It assesses the relevant processes, interactions and decisions to identify any continuous learning. Please see attached above for the 2023 Annual Report. This report is shared at many arena's including:

- Gwent Local Authority Children's Services Senior Management Teams
- South East Wales Emergency Duty Team Management Board
- Youth Offending/Justice Services Local Management Boards
- Gwent Police's Criminal Justice Management Team
- South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board
- Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board

This allows for governance and escalation mechanisms, along with good practice and learning and development areas.

### **Constructive resettlement and the use of custody including remands**

The YOSs Resettlement and Reintegration Panel (RRP) partnership celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2024. Formed in May 2014, the successful partnership, coordinated by the YOS, provides additional support and great opportunities to children who have previously offended to prevent reoffending and achieve successful outcomes for children. The panel has achieved impressive outcomes by ensuring better services are available to children, helping them to reach their goals and aspirations for the future, and ultimately reducing their offending behaviour by supporting a more productive and positive lifestyle. By working alongside a framework called “The Seven Resettlement Pathways” and “Constructive Resettlement”, which are Youth Justice Board and Welsh Government initiatives, the RRP aims to ensure a child leads a crime free life after their involvement with the Youth Justice System. The Resettlement Pathways include accommodation, education, employment and training, health, substance misuse, family services, finance/ benefits/ debt and transitions. The YOS and its partners monitor the YOS and partners responses to the recommendations within the “Joint thematic inspection of resettlement services to children by Youth Offending Teams and partner agencies” through the panel.

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The YOS Case Managers ensure that when a Pre-Sentence Report (PSR) is requested by the Courts that there are robust community alternatives proposed to mitigate against the use of custody.

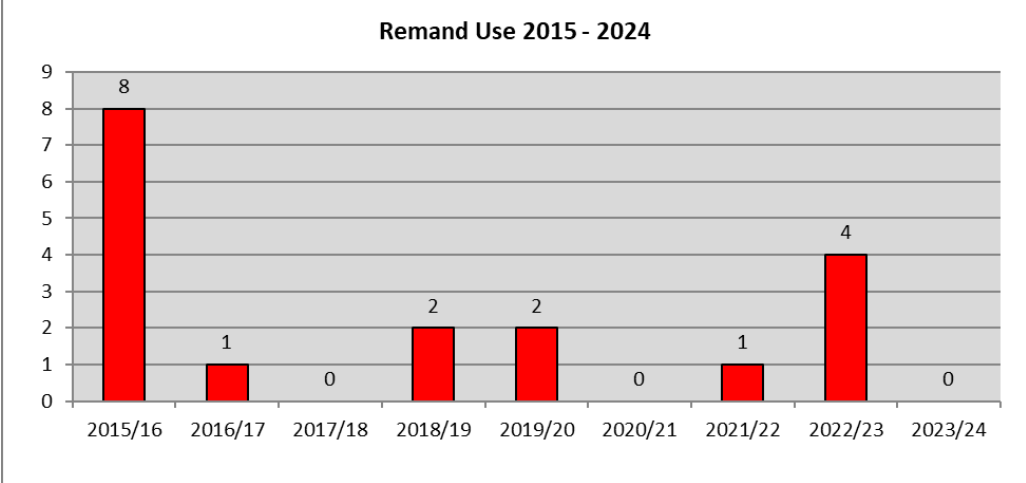
**Remands**

During the period April 2023 to March 2024, there were no children who were remanded to a YDA.

The use of remand has a cost implication for both Local Authorities. Both Local Authorities receive funding from the YJB, which is allocated per year. In 2023/24 the price per night for a YOI was £328. For secure children’s home per night is £834. For Secure Training Centres the price per night is £838.

Every time a child is facing remand in any Court the YOS will always offer a community based alternative, highlighting how risks will be managed.

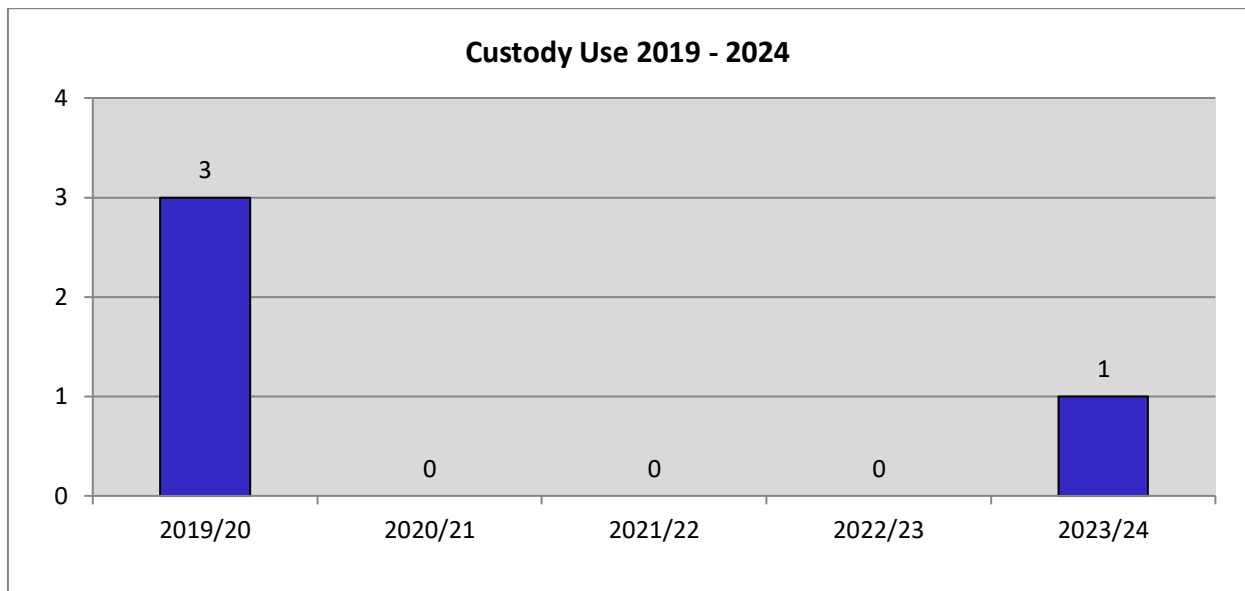
The number of remand interventions over the last nine years are presented below.



**Use of Custody**

During the period April 2023 to March 2024, there was one child in custody on a Detention and Training Order. The child was open to the YOS on a Youth Rehabilitation Order, this was breached and the child was resentenced to custody. The child was a 15 year old male.

The number of custody interventions over the last five years are presented below.



The YOS has a high-quality, evidence-based resettlement service for children leaving custody which has been in place since 2014. The YOS Resettlement and Reintegration Panel takes account of “The Seven Resettlement Pathways” (Welsh Government initiative) and “Constructive Resettlement”, (Youth Justice Board initiative). The resettlement and reintegration pathways include accommodation, education, employment and training, health, substance misuse, family services, finance, benefits, debt and transitions. The resettlement and reintegration panel is a subgroup of the management board and is held every six weeks. In the YOS Inspection Report in 2022 HMIP stated “*Members of the resettlement and reintegration multi-agency panel work effectively together to meet the needs of children*”.

Please see attached the YOS practice guidance that governs this area of work. Please also see the Resettlement and Reintegration Panel 2023/24 Annual Report that evidences the activity of the panel.



Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly YOS Cust



Resettlement and Reintegration Panel R

### **Accommodation**

During the period April 2023 to March 2024, there were 39 children who closed to the YOS on statutory interventions. All children were in suitable accommodation at the start of the intervention and at the end of the intervention.

### **Health Provision**

The YOSs recent inspection report stated “*Health service provision to the YOS is of a high standard. The service can access a psychologist for case discussions and has a seconded Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services clinical nurse specialist. The YOS has a speech, language and communication therapist for two days per week and a full-time substance misuse worker. Health provision to the YOS is of a high standard.*”

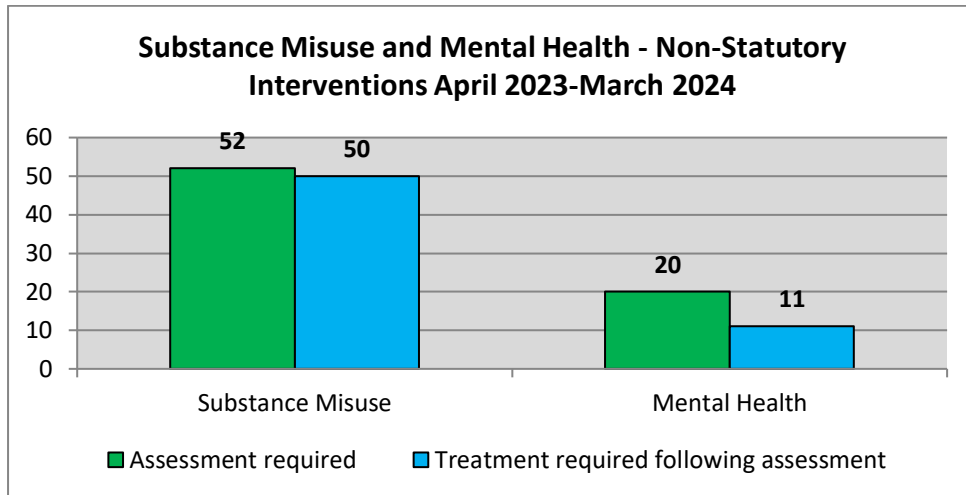
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The YOS can refer to the Enhanced Case Management service and has links to both school nurses and young people sexual health provision. Please see attached a copy of the YOSs Health Pathway.

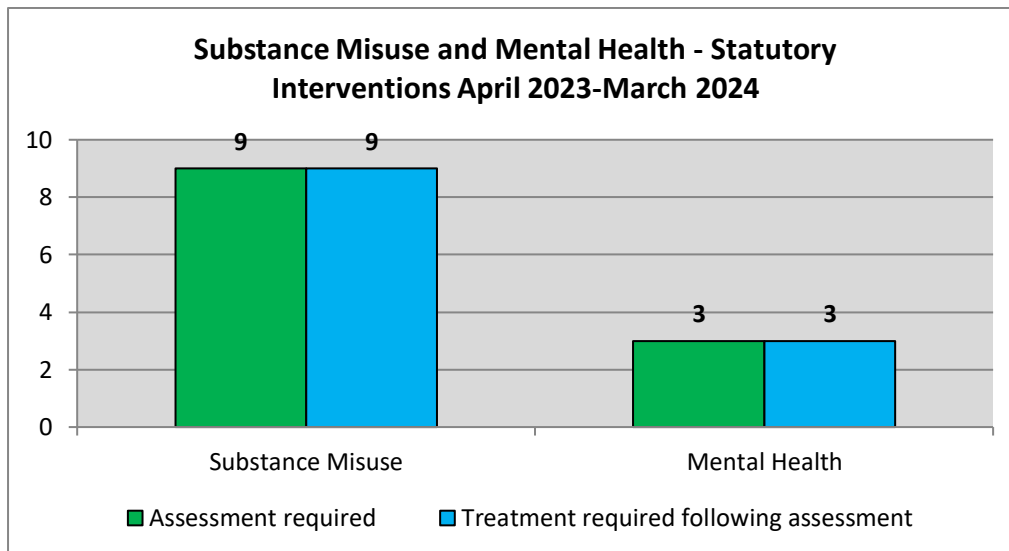


Health Pathway - 2021- 24.docx

Please see below chart for services provided to non-statutory interventions.



Please see below chart for services provided to statutory interventions.



**Working with families**

The YOS delivers a whole family holistic approach. The YOS Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy highlights the support available to families including the below projects which are funded via the OPCC, WG and MoJ:

**Family Support Project**

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By delivering the YOS Family Support Service to families the YOS aims to prevent anti-social behaviour and crime whilst improving stable home environments for children and their families.

As relationships with families are key to engagement in voluntary programmes, a family support service is integral to the success and positive outcomes for both children and families/carers. With this in mind, the family support provision is routinely offered based on assessed need. This assists the YOS in achieving its aim to deliver a whole family approach.

When a child becomes involved with a YOS intervention and the parents/carers agree, a referral is made to the family support worker. A joint home visit is then undertaken with the referrer and family support worker and a screening assessment is completed. The family receives a 12-session programme tailored to their individual needs.

The work undertaken by the YOS family support service is vital to the prevention of crime, acts of antisocial behaviour and the safety of children. This is achieved through the reinforcement of the need to have effective parental supervision and boundary setting along with the importance of praise and support. After the 12 sessions are completed monitoring work is undertaken and appropriate exit strategies (good endings) are put in place. This promotes sustainability.

During the period April 2023 – March 2024 55 referrals were made to the YOS Family Support Worker. Of the 55 families that were referred 38 (69%) engaged.

### Youth Respect Programme

The Youth Respect Programme works with children aged 10-18 but with specific focus on the 14-18 year olds identified as at risk of offending or re-offending related to domestic abuse. This project looks to provide complementary, specialist targeted prevention, intervention and support services to child perpetrators of domestic abuse; where a child is showing early indications of, or are already exhibiting abusive, aggressive and controlling behaviours in family or intimate relationships. Complimentary support is also provided to the parent(s) to ensure change is monitored and sustainable.

Through co-ordinated and effective case management, appropriate and simultaneous support and interventions are offered and/or provided to the victims and their families.

This model of work is supported by the 'Respect Toolkit', which seeks to address adolescent abusive and violent behaviours in close relationships whether in the family or in dating or peer relationships. The project incorporates individual and group work.

During the period April 2023 – March 2024 31 children were referred to the YOS Youth Respect Worker and 10 children were carried forward from the previous year. Of the 41 children:

- 21 children completed the programme (51%)
- 14 children were withdrawn without completing an induction (34%)
- 6 children finished early (16%)

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The YOS Service Manager also line manages the Caerphilly Families First Programme which is the WG anti-poverty programme. Families First provides a range of services to support families with children aged 0-25 which YOS staff and the children and families they engage with can access.

### **11. Standards for children in the justice system**

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

At the start of 2020 the YOS completed and submitted its YJB National Standards Self-Assessment. It was very pleased with the findings and outcomes across all areas. However, there are always improvements identified within any auditing process, therefore the YOS created an action plan to develop any areas identified.

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

The below demonstrates audited NS compliance for 2023/24 closed cases by interventions. Of the 416 interventions during 2023/2024 375 had closed at the time of this report. Of those 375, 29 did not require an assessment, therefore an audit of National Standards was completed on the remaining 346.

	Initial Asset open in 10 days	Timely Review	Closure Asset Open in 10 days
YES	313 (90.6%)	76 (22%)	313 (90.6%)
NO	20 (5.7%)	0 (0%)	2 (0.6%)
NOT APPLICABLE	13 (3.7%)	270 (78%)	31 (8.8)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346 (100%)</b>	<b>346 (100%)</b>	<b>346 (100%)</b>

There are various reasons for Assets not being opened within 10 days these include:

- Parent querying the outcome
- Child undecided on whether to engage on a voluntary intervention and family cancelling initial appointments
- Delayed engagement for various reasons including family holidays
- Case Manager error – this has now been addressed

Reviews are only required to be undertaken if an intervention is longer than three months or there is a significant change.

Where an Initial asset has not been opened within 10 days and identified as Not Applicable this is due to the child already being open to the YOS on another intervention, therefore an initial asset is not required.

Where a Closure asset has not been opened within 10 days and identified as Not Applicable this is due to the child remaining open to the YOS on another intervention, therefore a closure asset is not required.

The YJB's requested a self-assessment audit - NS2 – At Court in October 2023 which the YOS completed. The YOS scored itself overall as "Outstanding" which has been confirmed by the YJB. However, the YOS developed an action plan with 10 recommendations which has been fully completed. Please see attached:



National Standards  
Audit – At Court – Bl

### Quality Assurance

The YOS uses self-assessment as a valuable learning process and endeavours to be open and honest with regard to reflecting and evaluating current practice. The YOSs Quality Assurance Framework 2024/27 underpins the YOSs drive for improved outcomes and the delivery of a quality service.

In the recent inspection it was recorded *“The YOS promotes a learning culture and has a robust quality assurance framework in place, which includes a peer-led assessment review group. Both senior practitioners and managers use a ‘QA buddy’, which can be any member of staff, to help them audit cases. The YOS performance report includes an update on the quality assurance work being undertaken in the service, and this has led to themed audits taking place. At the request of the YOS, other agencies complete an independent ‘deep-dive’ audit of one of the cases presented to the reintegration and resettlement panel.”* Please see attached below a copy of the YOSs Quality Assurance Framework.



YOS Quality  
Assurance Framewo

### Serious Incident Notifications – YJB

During the period April 2023 – March 2024 there were 2 Serious Incident Notifications (SIN) submitted by the YOS.

On the 19.12.23 the YOS submitted a notification to the YJB under the above Procedure. A male child was charged with Grievous Bodily Harm without Intent that occurred on 30.06.22. At the time of this offence, the child was aged 13. A multi-agency learning review was not required on this occasion.

On the 06.02.24 the YOS submitted a notification to the YJB under the above procedure. A male child was charged with Grievous Bodily Harm without Intent that occurred on 04.06.22. At the time of this offence, the child was aged 15. A multi-agency

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Learning review was not required on this occasion.

### Child Practice Review (CPR)

During the period April 2023-March 2024 there were no CPR's for children open to the YOS.

## **12. Workforce Development**

The YOS workforce is, and continues to be, its greatest asset and are at the heart of everything it does. The YOS is committed to the development of a professional workforce that is highly skilled and motivated ensuring that all its staff and volunteers can be effective in their work with children, victims, families, professionals and members of the public. However, it is also important to take account of the YOS Local Management Board and their learning and development where appropriate or required based on self-assessment activities.

A strategy has been developed to build upon existing relevant training available, whilst encompassing the emerging body of knowledge identifying what is effective in Youth Justice (e.g. Desistance, addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma informed practice, whole family approach, identification and building on strengths, restorative practice, constructive resettlement and the importance of positive relationships/engagement).

It also aims to address emerging themes and concerns regarding areas such as serious organised gangs, child criminal exploitation, human trafficking, serious youth violence and offensive weapons/knife crime. This ensures that awareness, knowledge and responses across the YOS workforce are relevant, informed and current.

Ongoing learning from the previous Coronavirus restrictions include the need for all organisations to consider amongst other things how it supports and continues to develop and meet the learning needs of its staff and volunteers through non-traditional learning and training delivery methods. This includes accessing webinars, virtual workshops, online training and materials, e-learning opportunities and seminars to name but a few. The YOS will need to support its training providers and its own training delivery to move to the aforementioned methods when required to ensure it maintains a skilled, knowledgeable and trained workforce.

The training and development opportunities described within this strategy all work towards achieving the YOSs vision of ***“Inspiring, motivation and supporting children to live crime free lives”***.

Please see attached the YOS Workforce Development Strategy 2024-26 and evidence of some of the training attended during 2023.



YOS Staff  
Volunteers Workforc



Training Courses  
attended by YOS staff

## **13. Evidence based practice and innovation**

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## **Evaluation**

“Sown and Grown” - The Allotment Wellbeing Project began in July 2021 as a result of the ongoing impact of Covid 19, regarding wellbeing. It has developed organically in all senses of the word and is a collaboration project between the Youth Offending Service (YOS), Caerphilly Children’s Services 16+ Team, children and young people and Community Volunteers. The “Allotment Wellbeing Project Working Group” provides governance arrangements. Funding for the project is via grant applications submitted by the YOS.

The Allotment Wellbeing Project offers a way for a broad mix of people to work together, sharing knowledge, tasks, skills and experience. It also creates opportunities for extra benefits such as social gatherings, educational workshops and the enjoyment of nature and the outdoors. By sharing ideas it ensures a wide range of creative opportunities are generated to make sure a firm foundation is built based on support from a wide range of people to help guarantee success. There is a growing body of evidence linking gardening with improved mental and physical health. Helping to grow a good crop of fruit, herbs, flowers and vegetables can do wonders for individual’s confidence and self-esteem. Please see attached for further information.



Allotment  
Wellbeing Project –

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

In addition to the above, since 2023 the Gwent Attachment Service (GAS) and the Gwent forensic child and adolescent mental health service (F-CAMHS) have worked together with the YOS to enhance staff’s knowledge and confidence in trauma-informed principles and their application. This has been achieved through the provision of bespoke attachment informed training and clinical formulation sessions. Following the success of this training, a renewed focus was placed on the sustainability of this training, leading to the development of a coproduced ‘train the trainer’ package. It is hoped that this framework will allow knowledge to be held within and disseminated by the YOS, with support from GAS clinicians where required, ensuring trauma-informed principles are kept live within the organisation.

The above aims to provide flexible and timely access to psychological support for children supported by the YOS, where their needs cannot readily be met by mainstream services. The GAS provides 0.1 (whole time equivalent) into the YOS to provide direct psychological intervention to identified children. Psychological interventions will be provided by National Health Service mental health clinicians with in-depth knowledge of around attachment and trauma, employed by the GAS. All interventions are bespoke to the needs of the child and draw upon a number of models.

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Also, in relation to evidence based practice and innovation from a health perspective all of the clinical interventions offered by the seconded CNS will have an evidence base and the CNS uses NICE (National Institute of Clinical Excellence) guidelines when deciding on which intervention type would be recommended for each mental health problem depending on the severity of the problem. They will also create training packages for particular areas of interest/ need and offer a Gwent wide service (to ensure equity across Gwent where a specialist form of intervention is required) and HSB consultation space to meet current identified increase in HSB needs.

### Interventions

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

During 2023/24 the YOS increased these programmes further via internal task & finish groups focusing on topics such as diversity, arson and anti-social behaviour.

In late 2023 the YOS was also successful in a bid to the OPCC linked to the Serious Violence Interventions Grant for the purchase of the Streetwise Education Knife Crime and Gang Prevention Crime Prevention Resources. This resource will allow YOS staff to educate children aged 11 to 18 years old about the consequences of street crime. The resources aim to demystify the appeal of street crime by challenging children's attitudes and beliefs and explores real life issues.

Streetwise Education resources work in innovative ways with children to develop their self-esteem and confidence and enabling them to resist drug, gang, weapon and knife related cultures. The innovative resource will be a great engagement tool for YOS staff working with children.

Specialist Assessments - Most staff are trained in Assessment, Intervention and Moving On (AIM3) for working with children who display harmful sexual behaviour. Refresher training has been delivered to staff during 2023 and will continue in 2024.

Woodwork training – YOS staff have been trained in woodworking skills to engage with children in practical sessions allowing them to create woodwork items to donate to the community or sell for charitable organisations. This work is undertaken in the YOS Cre8tive Unit.

Bike training – YOS staff have been trained in Bike Maintenance and Bike Leadership courses to allow them to engage in practical sessions with children involving repairing bikes, donating bikes to the community once repaired and undertaking bike rides around their local spaces to encourage, health, wellbeing, happiness, exercise and constructive activities.

Street Doctors – The YOS is funded by its partners to run sessions with children with the organisation Street Doctors. Street Doctors believe that knowledge is power. They train young people aged 11-25 with lifesaving emergency first-aid skills, such as what

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to do when someone is bleeding or knocked out. Their training helps children to know what to do if someone is in danger from violence. Children can learn the biology behind medical emergencies and become lifesavers in their community!

Their emergency first-aid training is delivered in schools and youth, sports or community groups by young volunteer trainers who are student nurses, doctors or paramedics. They believe children are the solution to violence, not part of the problem, and that they have the power to make real change in their communities.

Cars and Consequences - Cars and Consequences is a pan Gwent event. South Wales Fire & Rescue Service (SWFRS) deliver a presentation on the potential factors that impact driving such as, peer pressure, the use of mobile phones, wearing seatbelts and speeding. The Gwent Substance Misuse Young Persons Service (Ngage) facilitate a workshop on substance misuse and how this impacts driving ability and the event also shows a DVD that enables real life victims to tell their stories of motor collisions, their personal experiences, the circumstances of their accident, the injuries they have suffered and how their injuries have impacted their life and others.

Cars and Consequences events are held on a quarterly basis to enable all children regardless of their intervention to have the opportunity to attend and benefit from this interactive learning opportunity. In addition, the event is held in conjunction with the Road to Learning Motoring Offences Resource (workbook).

BE ME - This project had been set up to support females and males who are at risk of offending, involved with anti-social behaviour or already involved with the youth justice system. The purpose of the project is to increase self-esteem, confidence, understanding and acceptance that it is okay to "BE ME". This is a voluntary initiative. This project has been in place for 6+ years.

Sessions are interactive and are focused on confidence and self-esteem building through the use of beauty treatment, tutorials, support and advice. There are also opportunities to take a career advice approach to the intervention via college courses and career path discussions. This project embraces desistance and trauma informed practice approaches. Feedback is always positive from the children who participate with the BE ME project and all that it offers. The BE ME project won a Hwb Doeth Award.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards (DofE) – Over the next 12 months the YOS is striving to increase its engagement and delivery of the DofE to support children to achieve as they learn new skills, overcome obstacles, and build confidence and resilience.

## **14. Service Development Plan**

### **Service Development**

The LMB and YOS has worked hard to complete the Improvement Plan linked to their HMIP Inspection in 2022.

The YOS has identified through the consultation methods linked to this plan, embedded feedback and participation mechanisms and its audit activity, a number of service development areas for the next 2 years. These development areas are also informed by local and national developments across a number of areas.

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The YOS is continuing to work with partners in focused areas such as serious youth violence, reducing the use of remand, increasing the use of ISS, strip/stop searches of children and the recent Anti-social behaviour Action Plan.

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

Please see attached the YOS Youth Justice Plan Improvement Plan for 2024 – 26.



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Please also see the YOS Workforce Development Strategy attached above that underpins this plan and the attached Improvement Plan. Work has already started regarding the actions and areas for improvement identified within this plan.

**15. Challenges, risks and issues**


*Challenges, risk and other issues are captured throughout this plan and in the attached Risk register.*



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Caerphilly YOS Risk F

**16. Sign off, submission and approval**

Joint Chair of YOS Board	Gareth Jenkins
Signature	
Date	16.07.2024
Joint Chair of YOS Board	Loredana Moruz
Signature	

	
Date	16.07.2024

**17. Appendix 1 – Staffing Structure**



YOS Organisation  
Chart June 2024.doc



Blaenau Gwent &  
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Children's Services  
Organisational Chart I

**18. Appendices 2 – Budget costs and contributions 2024/25**



Budget costs and  
contributions 2024-2025