

Youth Justice Plan 2025-26

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1. Introduction, Vision, and Strategy

Foreword

Welcome to this annual Youth Justice Plan for the South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service (SGYJS) for 2025-2026.

The plan sets out the framework in which the service works, current performance, and the priorities and resources for the coming year as agreed by the South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Partnership. The exceptional work of the team and the partnership was acknowledged with an Outstanding grade following the HMIP Inspection in September 2020 and we are committed to maintaining that high standard, whilst continuing to identify and address areas for improvement. We are proud to have retained Quadrant 1 status under the YJB Oversight Framework, recognising the strong performance of the service and partnership in South Gloucestershire.

The team work to a strong strengths-based, trauma-informed ethos and practice, with a focus on prevention and positive outcomes for children. By using data and intelligence to understand the changing needs of both individual and groups of young people, we aim to ensure our delivery model remains effective and relevant. It is clear that there are increased levels of risk and need including serious youth violence and weapon-related offences for young people in our communities, particularly for those who are already vulnerable and disadvantaged – we are committed to relentlessly addressing inequalities for them, particularly our Children in Care and Care experienced young people, as well as those young people of global majority.

The Youth Justice team and partnership will remain strong and focused on these issues with a commitment to continuing to provide a high quality and effective service for young people, their families, and the wider community throughout 2025/26 and beyond.

This plan has been developed with the Youth justice partnership and partners have had the chance to contribute to this comprehensive review of last year, as well as the plan for 2025/26.

Chris Sivers: Executive Director of People Department and Chair of the YJ Partnership

Introduction:

Reflecting on 2024-25, SGYJS performance against KPIs on first time entrants and re-offending remains good, the former indicating that our work around diversion and prevention is having an impact, however there is an increase noted here (but still less than comparator OPCC region and England and Wales) that the Partnership remain vigilant over. Equally for re-offending the figures are mixed which is more indicative of the small numbers and the impact of small changes affecting the rate. This year we have had 2 custodial outcomes (one following a lengthy remand outcome) which is a significant increase and both custody episodes were for weapon related offences.

In the summer, anti-immigration riots took place across Bristol, and a small number of SG children appeared to have been involved. Alongside this, there has been an increase in children accessing SARI services, which may suggest a growing need around issues related to discrimination/prejudice. It is not clear, however, whether this reflects a broader rise in racist attitudes among children. Separately, there has also been an increase in the number of children participating in the ManKind programme, which focuses on addressing harmful gender-based attitudes. This may indicate a response to an existing need, rather than a new or worsening trend. Notably, there has not been a corresponding increase in recorded hate-related offences.

Turnaround funding has been extended for a further year thus enabling additional resource to target children earlier and to improve outcomes and reduce children entering the youth justice system. Across the programme to date we have seen 98% desistance from re-offending. This aligns with our overall work around diversion. Across 2024-25 66% of children the YJS worked with received a diversion outcome.

Priorities for the YJ Partnership in 2025-26 will continue to have a focus on reducing disproportionality for children from black and global majority communities, an area that has not shown any discernible improvement this year. The work across Avon and Somerset in relation to the Tackling Disproportionality programme is continuing. The priority from last year in relation to reducing Children in care being over-represented in statutory YJ outcomes remains a concern with continued worrying figures. The recently agreed local South Gloucestershire partnership protocol “Reducing criminalisation of children in care and care leavers” is hoped to mitigate this and identify children early for appropriate intervention.

We have now entered a period with a new HMIP inspection framework and so work is planned in preparation for the next SGYJS inspection, with a priority area being the improvement of work to victims both strategically and operationally. Another priority will be a focus on SG YJ Partnership and its role in taking effective action to address disproportionality and integrating the views of children, parents, and carers into its planning.

We have retained Quadrant 1 status under the YJB Oversight Framework, recognising the strong performance of the service and partnership.

Vision:

The South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Partnership has adopted the vision of the wider South Gloucestershire Children’s Partnership Board:

Our vision for children and young people in South Gloucestershire is that they get the very best start in life, reach their full potential and live their lives safe from harm (violence, abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation). To achieve this vision, we will work together with local communities to improve their outcomes. We want South Gloucestershire to be a place where safeguarding is everybody’s business.

The three leading safeguarding partners in South Gloucestershire – the Integrated Care Board (ICB – Health), the police and the council, are committed to delivering this vision according to an agreed set of values and principles, and these govern the work of the whole partnership.

We will:

- Maintain a relentless focus on asking ourselves ‘What is it like to be a child in South Gloucestershire and what do we need to do to make sure they have the best possible chances in life?’
- Work together with trust and confidence, with a commitment to focus our activity to ensure we improve outcomes and make a real difference.
- Find creative ways to listen to the views and voices of children, young people and their families.
- Create the conditions and environment for the views and voices of the wider partnership to be heard.

- Ensure we work energetically to reach the front-line practitioners, listen to their views and perspectives and understand the quality and effectiveness of practice.
- Be respectful of each other but not avoid the hard questions and challenge and apply scrutiny when needed.
- Value early help and maintain a strengths-based approach to working with families.
- Communicate effectively across the partnership, enabling wide engagement and valuing each other's roles and contributions.
- Communicate effectively with our communities to raise awareness of safeguarding issues.

Strategy:

Within the context of the broader vision for the children and young people of South Gloucestershire, the primary purpose of the Youth Justice Partnership is to provide the governance arrangements for the YJS, to ensure it continues to perform to a high level in pursuit of the Youth Justice System's principal aim of preventing offending by children. The SG Youth Justice Partnership will do this by providing a robust focus on performance, development, and resourcing by partners.

Local Context

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates 2023, South Gloucestershire is home to 299,439 residents. South Gloucestershire has a large proportion of young people aged 0 to 19 (22.8%), which is slightly higher than the Southwest region (21.3%). According to the ONS 2021 Census, South Gloucestershire has an ethnic minority population of 8.8%, an increase of 3.8% since 2011 (5%). This is slightly higher than the Southwest region (6.9%) but considerably lower than England (19%). 10% of children in South Gloucestershire live in poverty, based on income deprivation (Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2019).

There was a 4.3% increase in the number of recorded crimes¹ in 2023/24 with a rate per 1,000 of 73.7

- Over 75% of the South Gloucestershire area saw increases in the levels of violence.
- Violent and sexual offences accounted for 44% of recorded crime
- The cost of Violent Crime in South Gloucestershire² rose by 9% in 2023/24
- Violence Offences increased by 11% in 2023/24

Some other key facts and figures about South Gloucestershire (SG):

- **Education:** Numbers of children attending school 41,576 (as of Spring 2025 census):
 - 12.58% of children are from an ethnic minority background and 1.57% children preferred not to say.
 - Numbers of children attending secondary school 17,562 (Spring 2025 census)
 - Numbers eligible for Free School Meals is 6623 (15.93%) as of the Spring Census.

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrimedatabycommunitysafetypartnershiparea>

² <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b684f22e5274a14f45342c9/the-economic-and-social-costs-of-crime-horr99.pdf>

- Number of Children in a SG school with an EHCP 2239 (5.39%) as of the Spring Census date.
 - No of Children in a SG school with SEN 5599 (13.47%) as of the Spring Census data
 - 201 Children were recorded as NEET as of 31st March 2025
 - NEET March 2025 is 3%. (recorded as unknown 3.6%). The Southwest figure for Feb 2025 is 3.9% NEET. This data is taken from monthly DfE figures.
 - Between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 there were 1012 children who were Elective Home Educated (EHE) at some point during that year. This represents a 20% increase on figures from last year.
- **Children In Care (March 2025)**
 - 211 (34.4 per 10,000) Children in Care at the end of March 2025. Statistical Neighbours average CiC population is 54.3 per 10,000.
 - 147 CiC were aged between 10 and 17 years (31/3/25)
 - Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children (UASC) account for 30 of the 211 being CiC (14%).
- **Child in Need (CiN)/ Child Protection (CP):**
 - 244 CP Plans (39.8 per 10,000) at the end of March 2025. 12 months ago, CP plans numbered 248 so little change. Statistical Neighbours average is 34.2 per 10,000.
 - 531 CYP on a CiN plan at the end of March 2025.
- **Missing Children:**
 - Between 1/4/24 to 31/3/25 327 young people were reported missing; this is a decrease from 354 the previous year. This equated to 492 reported missing episodes.
 - Of the 327 children reported missing in this year, 115 were CiC (35% of children reported missing)
- The geography places South Gloucestershire directly next to the two most active areas for group (peer on peer) related and youth knife crime in Bristol East and Bristol North. In 2024/25 the YJS dealt with 10 incidents of knife/weapon possession crimes within the Out of Court Disposal panel, a further 7 matters were dealt with in court (17 altogether, 16 YP). The previous 3 years data were between 13 and 15 incidents each year of knife/weapon related offences. Note these are incidents that received an outcome within this year period (some offences pre-date this).

2. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements.

Governance and Leadership

South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service is governed through a Youth Justice Partnership which meets quarterly.

All statutory partners (Local Authority, Police, Probation and Health) are represented at senior level, alongside Community Safety. Other key agencies are also represented including Lead Council Member for Children, Youth Court and the YJB oversight manager. There is in the main good attendance from all agencies at partnership meetings with representatives attending on occasions when a named member is unable to attend. There

is a robust induction process in place for all new partners and a helpful guidance document produced about the Youth Justice priorities and performance to aid representatives who attend. (Appendix 1: Attendance record of Youth Justice Partnership).

Operational management of South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service is within the Council's People Department, which encompasses Children's services and preventative services, with direct line management from the Service Manager for Preventative Services. The Youth Justice Service reports performance to the South Gloucestershire (SG) Youth Justice Partnership, the Children's Services Practice and Performance Scrutiny Forum (PPSF), SG Children's Partnership, the SG Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership and to the Corporate Parenting Board.

The Partnership works together to:

- Ensure the YJS has adequate resources to fulfil its statutory duties.
- Ensure that planning is integrated across the partnership.
- Ensure that operational processes and procedures are in place and effective.
- Provide oversight, challenge, and support to ensure high performance and high service quality.
- Identify issues and barriers to success and develop solutions and strategies to address them.

To do this Partners:

- Will Respond to any funding/resource challenges, relating to the agency they represent.
- Feed into wider Partnerships e.g., Community Safety Partnership/ SG Children's Partnership.
- Take on a lead role for National Standards Strategic Audit strands.
- Scrutinise performance and other reports (and address worrying trends) by ensuring that they understand and appropriately challenge the YJS's data and information.
- Analyse and use the views of children and parents and carers and use them in the YJS's vision and strategy.
- Review case studies and information about priority cases.
- Have oversight of the impact of Quality Assurance activities.
- Contribute to improvement planning relating to thematic and inspection reports and core standards.
- Request additional analysis of specific issues e.g., girls and offending; as well as using the data to identify any trends/ issues.
- Receive feedback from users of the service.
- Support escalation if required due to any incidents/ concerns as well as any resolution of differences through breaking down barriers where appropriate.

(There is a YJS Partnership Structure at Appendix 2).

The Youth Justice Service (YJS)

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) includes seconded staff (from Police, Probation and Health), an Education Liaison Officer, a Court/Bail worker (who also leads on Victim work), Youth

Justice Workers (Pre and Post court), a Youth Justice Support worker and a number of Volunteers (Referral Panel Members and Education Volunteers).

There is also a range of specialist services that has developed to meet the varying needs of young people the YJS works with including:

- Primary Mental Health Specialist
- Drug and Alcohol Specialist.
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour specialist worker and other workers skilled in this area.
- SARI (Stand Against Racism and Inequality) – a commissioned service supporting victims and perpetrators of hate crime.
- Enhanced Case Management Project
- African Heritage project worker (pilot start April 2025) which will work across the whole of integrated children's services and education.

YJS staff (refer to Appendix 3: YJS staff structure) undertake all the statutory YJS duties alongside specialist areas of work or local initiatives. These include:

- **Turnaround Project.** MoJ funded project which has been live in SGC since January 2023. This provides whole family support to children on the cusp of offending within the context of the early help framework. This has been extended until March 2026, with a reduction in resources.
- **YADD (Youth Alcohol and Drug Diversion scheme).** This is a force wide (Avon and Somerset) diversion scheme (since 2018). This work is undertaken by the YJS Drug and Alcohol Specialist, and this diversion programme enables South Glos YJS to uphold the principle of keeping children out of the formal criminal justice system and thus avoiding their unnecessary criminalisation.
- **Harmful Sexual Behaviour:** The YJS is actively involved in work with children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). The YJS has a dedicated HSB specialist worker alongside other YJS staff who have received specialist HSB training. They can become involved with children at the earliest stage to support safety planning (home, school and community) to begin engaging with the child and offer YJS wide support services at an early stage. At an appropriate time YJS staff can commence a specialist assessment and recommend if the child requires a tailored intervention programme. All work in this area is joint worked (sometimes with the social worker). All specialist YJS staff have regular specialist case consultation with an experienced clinician (in addition to YJS supervision).
- **Working with children from black and global majority communities:** Whilst the number of individual young people from global majority backgrounds involved with the YJS is small, the work undertaken with these children is informed by an awareness of culture, identity and an ongoing focus to understand the lived experience of an individual child and how best to support them. We continue our well-established collaboration with SARI and are due to commence a project worker post to support work in this area. Work is ongoing in relation to the Tackling Disproportionality programme (started November 2023 and mentioned above) which aims to improve outcomes across all criminal justice sectors with a shared desire to improve practice in this area and notably for the children it impacts.
- **Custody Review Panels:** Quarterly meetings held (discussed below).

- **Education Escalation Panels:** This is a bi-monthly meeting. The aim of the group is for key partners (Education, Social Care, Health and YJS) to come together to discuss individual children where all other avenues of support have been tried in relation to improving their educational experience, but they continue to show no improvement.
- **Missing Children:** The Young People's Support Team (YPS) is managed within the same line management structure as the YJS, and they complete all Return home interviews for missing children who do not have a lead professional within the Council. The YJS staff are involved in this area of work to support the YPS when needed and for those children who they are the lead worker for.
- **Trauma Informed Practice:** All staff have been trained in trauma informed practice and benefit from the support from specialist Enhanced Case Management (ECM) practitioners for referred cases. Funding for this project has been secured until October 2025 with discussions currently ongoing regarding funding to extend the project.
- **Speech and Language Therapy:** The availability of a Speech and Language Therapist (SLT), for a day per week, has enhanced the quality of assessments and assisted in the understanding of some children and how best to communicate and work with them. Speech and Language assessments have assisted other agencies including the police and the courts. This provision has now been extended for a further day and health are currently looking to recruit to this, enabling 2 days per week of speech and language provision.
- **Knife Crime:** From April 2022 there was an Avon and Somerset wide Weapon's Diversion Scheme. This has subsequently been superseded by the new Child Gravity Matrix guidance (September 2023). Interventions are based on an understanding of the behaviour through robust screening and assessment and so are tailored to the child's particular case.
- **Impact of social media:** The YJS has a social media 'champion' in the staff group which has enabled greater awareness of social media and its actual and/or potential impact on the children and families, involved with the YJS.
- **Working with young men:** The Youth Justice Support Worker has developed a specific intervention programme aimed at boys, called 'ManKind'.
- **Working with Children in Care:** YJS Service and Team managers are board champion for reducing criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers. This area remains a priority for the YJ Partnership, and a SG protocol "Reducing Criminalisation of CiC and Care Leavers" has recently been formally agreed and implemented as part of improvement planning across 2024-25.
- **Liaison and Diversion:** This team is co-located with the YJS and communicate regularly regarding any young person held in custody. The ASCC worker (Advise and Support in Custody and Court) is represented on the Custody Review Panel. The ASCC service have additional funding to provide an early intervention role, to support any children who come into contact with the police. We have strong communication links to avoid duplication of work and unnecessary contact with children already receiving a service across the SGC early help services and this service is also part of identifying suitable children for Turnaround.
- In addition, and under the management of the YJS Manager there is a **Young People's Support (YPS)** team. This team brings additional capacity for prevention work with children outside of the youth justice system who face worrying risks to their safety and well-being. It includes children involved in harmful sexual behaviour, going missing, at risk of criminal and /or sexual exploitation and other children in crisis.

- **Education Inclusion Project:** This project was established in September 2021 and the YJS have been a key contributor to the development and implementation of this Home Office (via the Violence Reduction Partnership) funded project. This project has key objectives to reduce permanent exclusions (PEX) and managed moves associated with serious youth violence (SYV), CCE or CSE for children aged 11-16 by providing a targeted intervention and support package at the point at which a child or young person is at risk of exclusion. Since June 2023 this service is managed through the council and sits within the YPS team and under the management of the YJ Manager.

Partnership Arrangements.

The YJS has links to all key partners through a variety of strategic and operational groups.

- The YJS is a member of the **SG Children's Partnership** and is represented on the Best Start for Vulnerable Children group (team manager) and the Best Start in Life group (service manager), both sub-groups of the Safeguarding Partnership.
- The Children's Services **Practice and Performance Scrutiny Forum**, where quarterly data is shared.
- The YJS is a member of the **Inclusion and SEND Performance and Engagement Group**.
- The YJS contributes to the council's work around contextual safeguarding. The **SG Risk Management Pathway** was established in 2020, and given changes to this area of work the Children's Partnership and the Violence Reduction Partnership jointly commissioned a review by the NWG in 2024 to examine all elements of the risk management pathway in South Glos, both operational and strategic. There has been an action plan to develop work in this area and some changes have now been implemented in April 2025, including the new CP ROTH process and the new ROTH assessment tool replacing the Exploitation identification tool. The YJS continues to work closely with the (Children's Services) Practice Development Managers, council's Violence Reduction Partnership and Team Manager of the Social Care Exploitation Team, attending regular multi-agency Partnership Intelligence Management Meetings (PIMM, a strand of the Risk Management Pathway also under review yet to be concluded) and participate in the twice-yearly multi-agency exploitation case audits. A **South Glos Critical Incident Protocol** is due to be signed off at the Risk Outside of the Home (ROTH) Strategic group ensuring clarity regarding communication, sharing information across the partners and critical incident support for staff. The YJS TM contributed to the development of this alongside other partners.
- **Tackling Disproportionality Programme.** The YJS Manager chairs the quarterly Youth Justice pillar (one of 6 pillars), focussing on the YJ recommendations from the 2022 Avon and Somerset LCJB report Identifying Disproportionality.
- The YJS has a Memorandum of Understanding with **Lighthouse**, the Police & Crime Commissioner funded support project for the victims of crime, this is currently being reviewed as part of wider work focussed on Victims.
- The YJS has a Service Level Agreement with **Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI)** to provide support to the victims and perpetrators of all kinds of hate crimes and training for YJS staff.

- The YJS works closely with the wider Preventative services teams, statutory social care teams and youth services.

The YJS is actively engaged in:

- Magistrate's meetings of the **Avon and Somerset Youth Panel**, keeping them informed of trends and issues in youth justice along with the 5 YJSs in the local area.
- The response to **Anti-Social Behaviour** in South Gloucestershire. The Community Safety Team in conjunction with the Police are about to pilot monthly multi-agency ASB children's meetings, moving away from the police led locality multi-agency meetings. The SGYJS have agreed to be part of this. This is a positive step enabling a better understanding and early identification of children and their needs. The YJS collaborated with Police ASB team in 2022 to develop an ASB process for children from initial warnings to criminal behaviour orders, it is hoped that the new pilot will re-establish this process/pathway. Police ASB routinely share information regarding children who receive warnings or ABCs as potential referrals to Turnaround.
- **The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)**, closely working with the VRP Lead officer in the development of the local problem profile; the YJS team manager and service manager are members of the VRP steering group. The VRP have financially contributed to the extension of the Education Inclusion Project. Working together with other partners to ensure the serious violence duty is understood and actioned under the guidance of the OPCC.
- **Serious Violence Delivery Group**, which is made up of key partners who will drive action and support delivery of the priorities within this strategy. SGYJS is cited on these meetings and informed through attendance by the community safety manager (YJ Partnership member).
- The **Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board** and there are mechanisms in place to enable the five YJSs in Avon and Somerset to play a full and meaningful role in the work of that body.
- The **Avon and Somerset MAPPA Strategic Management Board** and at a more local level the YJS has referred cases to the Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel as required. The SGYJ Manager attends the Avon and Somerset **MAPPA Performance, Monitoring and Improvement Group (PMIG)**.
- The **Avon and Somerset Reducing Re-Offending Executive Board**. The Partnership member from Community Safety Partnership also attends this.
- The **Supporting Families** (Families in Focus) work, through providing data.
- The **Prevent Board**, which is chaired by the Community Safety Partnership member.
- The **Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel (OPCC)** and the police led **Out of Court Tactical Group**.
- Working with **DGF Psychology "On Track programme"** who since October 2023 are commissioned by the local authority to work with children and young people with problematic/ harmful sexual behaviour in South Gloucestershire. The team manager sits on the steering group. Of note is that SGYJS have an established relationship with this service as they currently provide case consultation to the specialist HSB trained staff in the team.

- The **Southwest Resettlement Consortium** was a key partner in the development of the Southwest Trauma Recovery Model/ **Enhanced Case Management** project, which until recently provided the governance and oversight for ECM. Unfortunately, this meeting has not met for some time.

Update on 2024-25

3. Progress of priorities in previous plan

Priority Actions for 2024-25	Actions	Comments/Progress 2024/25
1. Reduce disparity in children from ethnic minority groups receiving a formal youth justice outcome	<p>Working alongside all criminal justice partners to action plan for recommendations from Tackling Disproportionality (TD) programme via Steering Committee (Chair of Partnership) and the YJ pillar. Data from Partners – Police giving access to CYP app on Qlik sense – developing a disproportionality tool within this.</p> <p>YJ audit work: focussed audit on working with black and mixed heritage children (with collaboration from SARI).</p>	<p>New African Heritage Project Worker will be in post April 25 to work across the whole of Children's services – linked in with council equality lead.</p> <p>Working through recommendations from SGYJS Disproportionality Audit (undertaken in Nov 2024) with Partnership and team. This was presented to the Partnership on December 24 meeting. SARI provided input on this audit by validating a number of the cases.</p> <p>YJ Pillar of TD programme has now moved to quarterly meetings. Progress has not been as anticipated, with the pillar having a focus on 4 key priorities (Education Inclusion, Education Exclusion, Voice of the child and Out of Court Disposal work). TM presented to Independent Scrutiny Panel (TD) as YJ Pillar lead (April 2025). Scrutiny members now attend YJ Pillar meetings.</p> <p>Including ethnicity when looking at FTEs on quarterly performance reports.</p> <p>TD Workshop held in October 2024 for steering committee, pillar leads and scrutiny panel to review progress to date.</p> <p>Data across 2024/25 indicates little improvement in this area. For diversion outcomes the data indicated 15% were children from black and global majority communities, for statutory outcomes this</p>

		<p>was 23% (nearly 1 in 4 children who received a statutory outcome were from black global majority communities). Figures for 2023-24 were 15% for diversion and 24% for statutory outcomes – so little change evidenced.</p>
<p>2. Continue to work with partners to reduce serious youth violence</p>	<p>The work of the Education Inclusion Project (EIP) – in terms of early intervention/ identification – to support this continuing.</p> <p>Implementation of the serious violence duty across Avon and Somerset.</p>	<p>There continued to be concerns around SYV across 2024-25 but note that this decreased from the previous year. There has only been one mandatory serious incident notification to the YJB (sexual violence). Work continues alongside partners (social care, violence reduction partnership and early intervention police) to continue to identify early, reduce and oversee this through early intervention and information sharing.</p> <p>Operation Hardy (the police's response to SYV in Feb 2024) now renamed Northern SYV/ Exploitation Strategic multi-agency meeting is a fortnightly meeting, with close oversight of children involved in SYV (across Bristol/ SG and North Somerset). TM attends this.</p> <p>Confirmed funding of EIP 25-26 with long term funding plans being looked at by Service Director Education. (VRP continue to provide funding for this). This project was extended in 2024 to 2 fte education engagement workers and has been very successful.</p> <p>Learning brief has been shared across Partnership and team in relation to a SG child involved in serious incident.</p> <p>As a requirement of the serious violence duty an A&S VRP Strategy (2024-25) has been developed with SGYJS contributing by providing data to the strategic needs assessment. SG YJS contributed to local SG SYV problem profile.</p> <p>TM and PM's involvement in Risk Management Pathway (RMP)</p>

		<p>improvement plan, following NWG review. This is reaching a conclusion.</p> <p>YJ TM part of group looking to develop a local response to critical incidents.</p>
3. Prevention and Diversion	<p>Work at the OOCd panel and adherence to the new Child Gravity Matrix.</p> <p>The OOCd scrutiny panel providing re-assurance that diversion outcomes are appropriate.</p> <p>OOCd Tactical group helping to support a consistent response across A&S</p>	<p>This was a new priority for 2024-2025. Diversion re-offending tool developed and to be reported on quarterly from March 25 Partnership.</p> <p>Continued funding for Turnaround 25-26 and recruiting to post.</p> <p>Close oversight of FTE rate as concerns around an increase (noted that SG has a starting point of a very low rate)</p> <p>Scrutiny Panel: annual YP themed panels – last being in June 2024.</p> <p>OOCd Tactical Group peer review looking at outcomes at panel for weapon related offences. This indicated inconsistency and no real clarity regarding “exceptional circumstances” as a requirement from the child gravity matrix. This has since March 2025 been on the YJ Partnership risk register.</p> <p>OOCd Memorandum of Understanding between police and all YJSs (A&S) regarding OOCR panels: signed off by Partnership at Dec meeting.</p> <p>Agreed to remove Prevention and Diversion as a priority for 25/26 as this is business as usual.</p>
4.Reduce the disparity of CiC receiving a formal youth justice outcome.	<p>Working with partners in social care to better understand some of the factors.</p> <p>Corporate parenting board will need to receive this information and provide direction and support in addressing this disparity</p>	<p>This was a new priority for 2024-2025. Given the concerns indicated through data an improvement plan was created and agreed by the Partnership to improve this area – with oversight through the YJ Partnership as well as the Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>Quarterly performance reports of CiC who have an intervention opened in that quarter shared with Partnership.</p>

		<p>Multi-agency audit undertaken Jan 2025 and findings of this shared with Partnership March 25. Deep dive of 2 children in care who received a court outcome audited.</p> <p>A multi-agency partnership protocol has now been agreed across all services in the partnership regarding <i>Reducing criminalisation of CiC and Care Leavers in SG</i>.</p> <p>Annual report of CiC undertaken for this YJ Plan.</p> <p>TM presented to (Children's Services) Managers Practice Forum and outlined disparity of CiC (and black and mixed heritage children). Also, information provided on remanded children (CiC).</p>
5.Improve the participation of children within the Youth Justice Service	<p>To ensure this work fits with wider children's services development plan around participation.</p> <p>Learning from other YJSs where this is established.</p> <p>Expanding to wider activities and opportunities for children to contribute to service development.</p>	<p>Participation Strategy developed for SGYJS (March 2025) (by PM leading on this area)</p> <p>Feedback process for CYP in place since June 24</p> <p>YP Panel 27/11/24 took place, this involved a number of Partnership members listening to a group of YJ experienced children. PM feedback to Dec Partnership meeting. Next panel planned for June 2025.</p> <p>"You Said, We Did" action log to track issues raised by children in order to feedback to them.</p> <p>YJ experienced children were involved in recruitment to the Turnaround post (March 2025)</p>
5.Quality Assurance	Work collaboratively with neighbouring YJSs for peer review.	<p>Self-assessment against new HMIP criteria completed and presented to Partnership March 25.</p> <p>Planned audits: May 25 case audit against new HMIP criteria. July Audit on victim case work.</p>

	Determine champions/leads within the Partnership for the National Standards Audit (strategic)	<p>Peer review ongoing (Bath/North Somerset) tracking a child's journey from court, sentencing, report, assessment, intervention and planning). Findings to be presented to Partnership when completed.</p> <p>Thematic audit undertaken (Nov 24) on experiences of black and mixed heritage children in the YJS (presented to Partnership Dec 24). This audit was agreed as decision by YJB not to undertake a National Standards audit this year. Findings validated by SARI.</p> <p>Multi-agency audit undertaken of CiC who had received a YJ outcome in Jan 2025 and findings of this shared with Partnership March 25. Deep dive of 2 children in care who received a court outcome audited.</p>
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4. Performance over 2024-25

Existing Key Performance Indicators

South Gloucestershire YJS continues to perform well against each of the indicators:

a) Binary reoffending rate

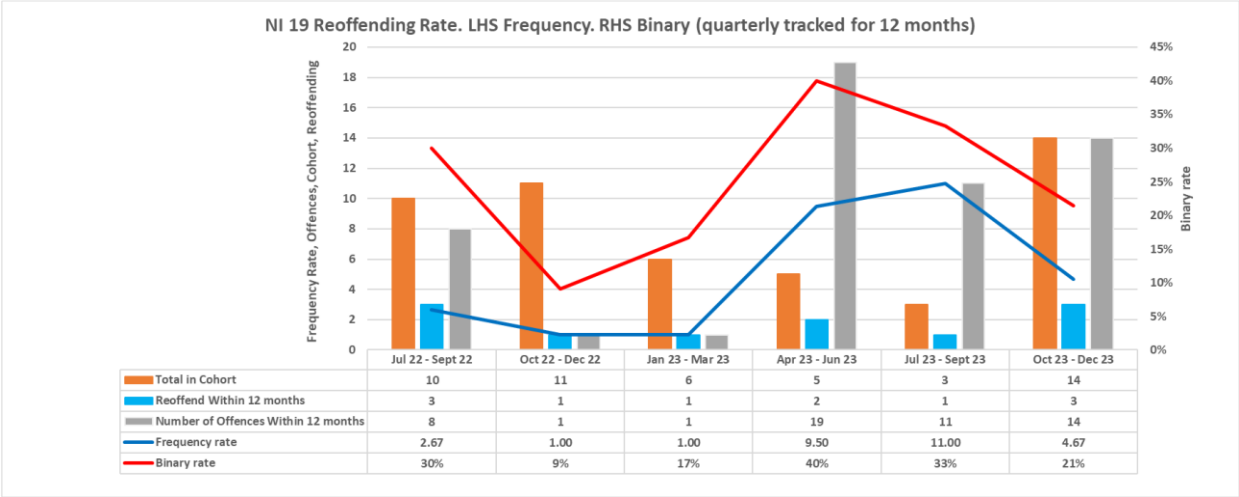
From most recent performance report from YJMIS Summary for April-December 2024 (see appendix 6).

Table 1: Re-Offending Rates after 12 and 3 months – South Gloucestershire (most up to date data from YJMIS)

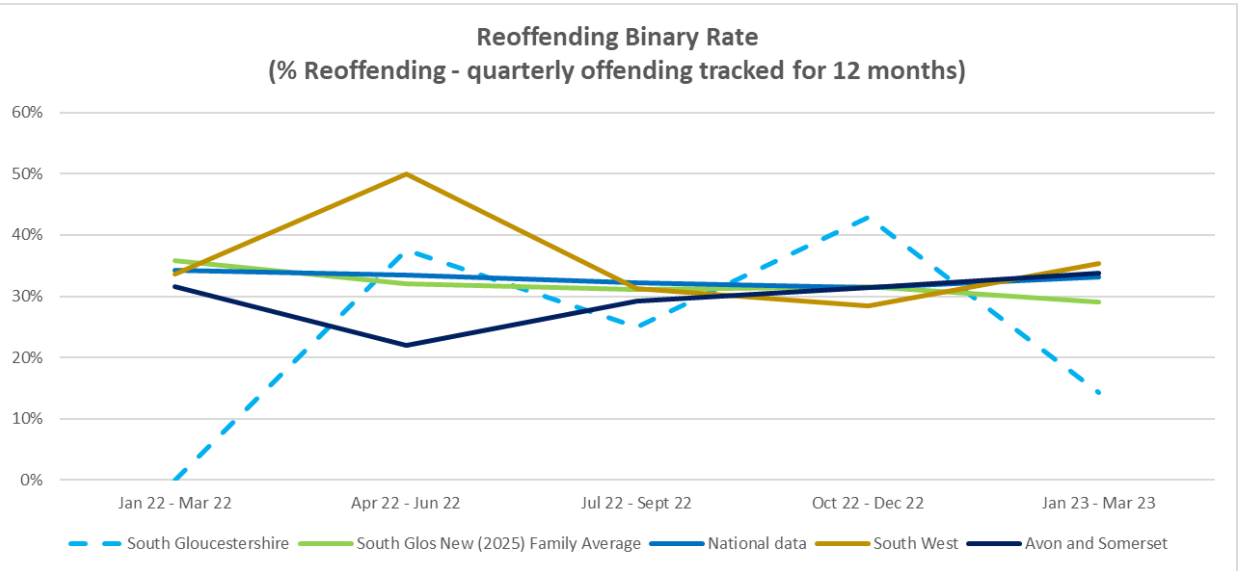
Binary Rates: Year cohort		Compared to previous year	Binary Rates: 3- month cohort		Compared to previous year
April 2022 to March 2023	30% (16%)	14%	Jan 2023 to March 2023	14.3% (0%)	14.3%
Jan 2022 to Dec 2022	29.6% (32.4%)	-2.72%	Oct 2022 to Dec 2022	34.8% (12.5%)	22.58%
Oct 2021 to Sept 2022	21.4% (23.3%)	-1.9%	July 2022 to Sept 2022	25% (28.6%)	-3.57%
July 2021 to June 2022	22.2% (26.5%)	-4.25%	April 2022 to June 2022	37.5% (16.7%)	20.83%

The data for the yearly cohort is lower than all comparator groups (Region, OPCC area, England), for the 3 monthly cohorts this is not the case. The data above indicates a mixed picture in terms of increases on the previous year; however caution must be exercised as these are small numbers so where 1 child re-offends this has a significant impact on percentage (given small cohort sizes). The local data below gives a clearer picture of this.

From local data: (note that this data cohort goes up to Dec 2023 as we are then looking at any re-offending for the next 12 months to Dec 2024)

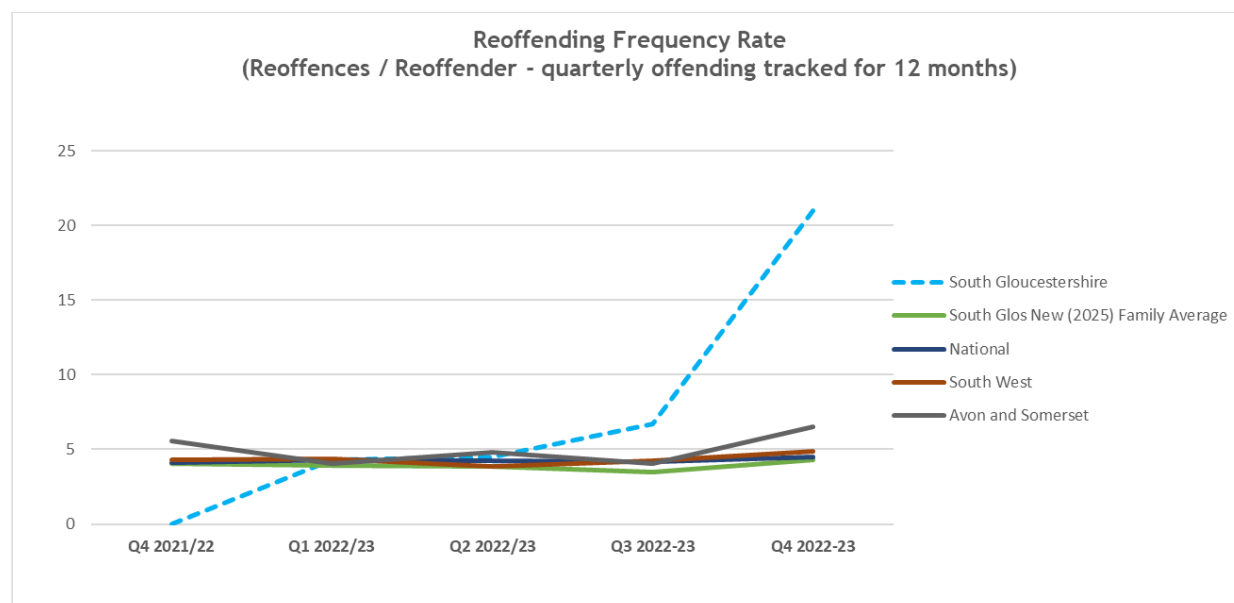


The local data shows a discrepancy with the YJMIS data, this is largely to do with more up to date cohort. However, the significant factor here is that with small numbers we can see significant changes in percentages. For April to June 2023, we had 2 children re-offend (from a cohort of 5), this related to 19 reoffences. This data is discussed at the partnership and discussions relate to the actual children these represent.



b) Frequency of reoffending – from YJMIS

The **Frequency Rate** is the average number of *reoffences per reoffender* in one year, tracked over the following 12 months. The chart above compares South Gloucestershire with our neighbours. The data is from the MoJ via the YJB. As above with small numbers of children, a child re-offending by committing multiple offences has an impact on the data.



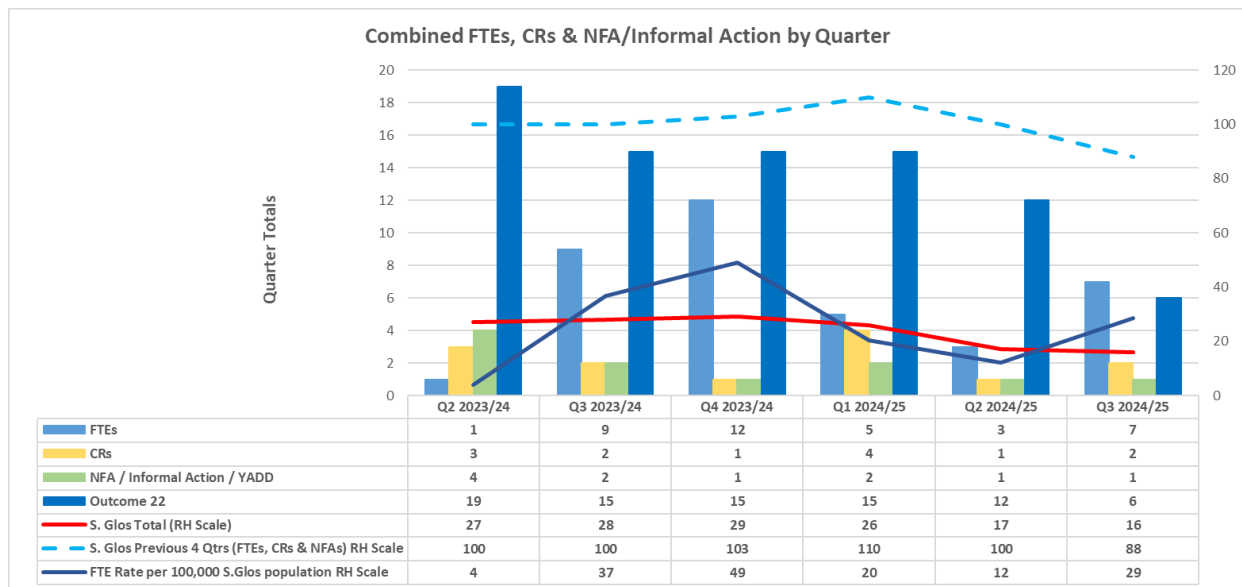
c) First Time Entrants (FTE)

From Q1 2023/24 (year ending June 23), the FTE data has moved from the PNC via MoJ to the quarterly case level data YJS submissions, as MoJ are no longer publishing quarterly. Given this change some caution is needed with the figures.

First Time Entrants (dates)	Rate per 100,000 of 10-17 population	Rate the previous year (comparison)	PCC (A&S) area	England & Wales
Jan 2024 to Dec 2024	94	59	120	160
Oct 2023 to Sept 2024	104	59	135	161
July 2023 to June 2024	97	78	148	166
April 2023 to March 2024	89	97	95	161

The above data shows a worrying trend in terms of FTE. Whilst numbers remain significantly low in comparison to region, PCC area, family and England and Wales, there is an increase across the year (except a small reduction April 23 to March 2024). This has been highlighted to the Partnership as a worrying trend and the Partnership remain vigilant over this area.

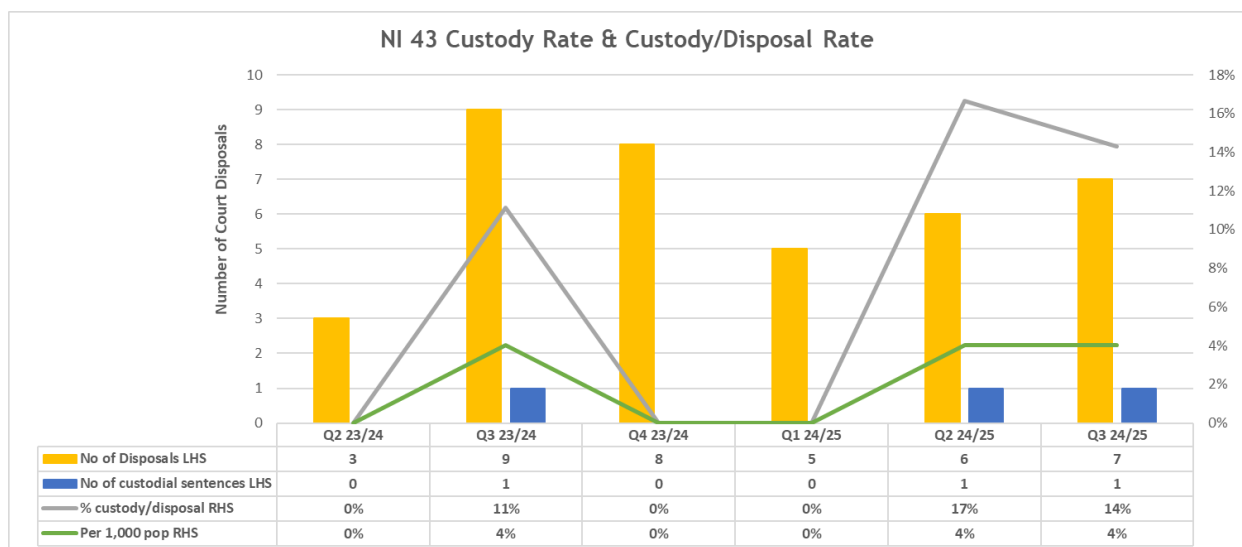
Local data below:



Again, there is a discrepancy between YJMIS data and local data but figures still low when compared to all comparator groups.

d) Use of custody

Across 2024-25 SGYJS had 2 outcomes of custody for children. This is the most of any year since before 2019. Local data.



SGYJS performance on the above key performance indicators can be evidenced through comparative national, regional (southwest) and local Avon and Somerset data. (Please refer to Appendix 4).

The above is evidence of continued good performance in relation to FTE and re-offending performance, with custody figures emerging for the first time in 3 years. In regard to re-offending whilst we have a mixed picture indicating increases across the year for some cohorts this must be seen in the context of small numbers of children with complex needs who continue to offend. In relation to FTE, our work in respect of diversion and prevention is a significant factor in our low numbers, which we hope will continue with some challenges to this given the issues we are seeing with a small increase in weapon related offences coming to the OOCR panel. Turnaround also remains a factor in respect of FTE data providing extra resource for

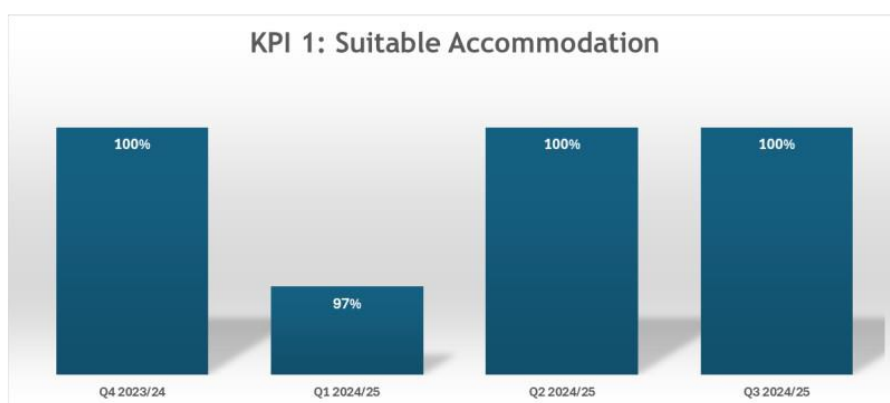
early intervention. It is unfortunate to be reporting on a rise in custody figures but positive that we have had no additional remands this year.

In September 2020 the YJS was **inspected by HMIP** and were rated “Outstanding” overall when inspected across the 3 domains: (1) Organisational Delivery (2) Out of Court Disposals and (3) Court Work.

Additional Key Performance Indicators

The additional key performance indicators (KPIs) have been reported on since April 2023. This data is still unable to be presented via a YJB dashboard due to concerns around accuracy that they are working on, so all data presented has been generated from local case management systems.

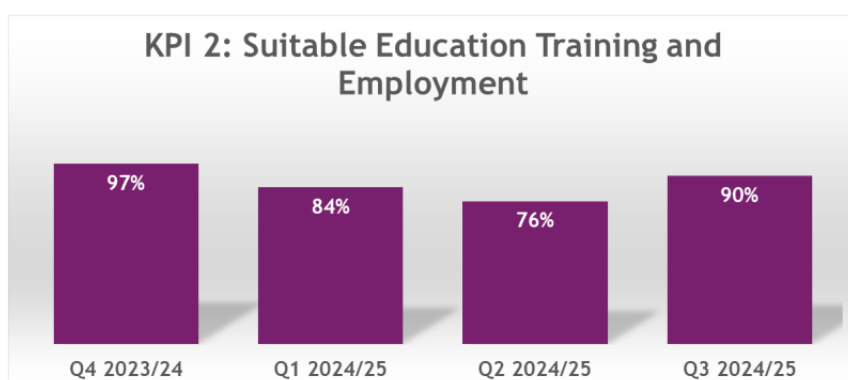
1. Suitable accommodation:



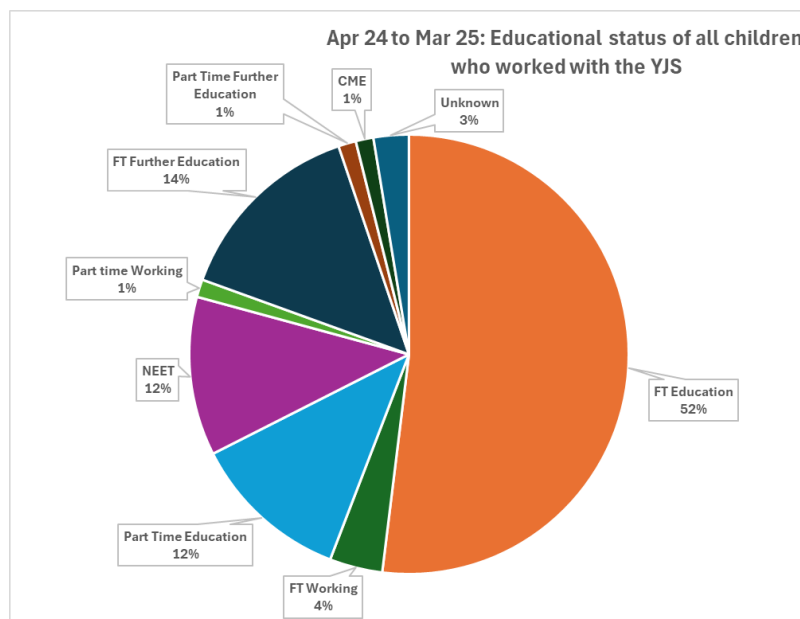
Of 20 closed cases across Q3, all had suitable accommodation.

Q1: Of 31 closed interventions, 30 had suitable accommodation, 1 child due to on-going tensions with their mother was sofa-surfing in various dwellings deemed unsuitable by YJS. This was raised with social care.

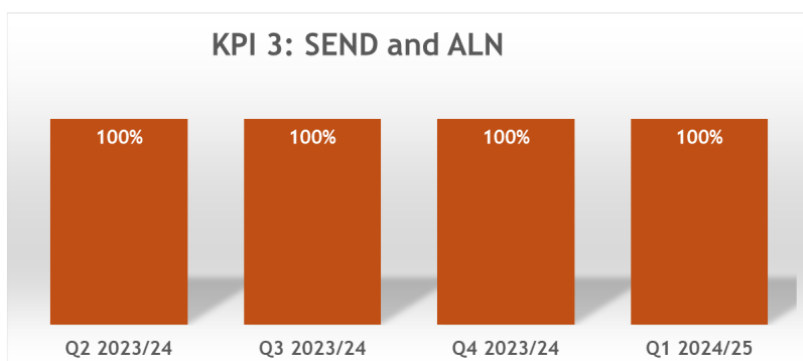
2. Education, training and employment:



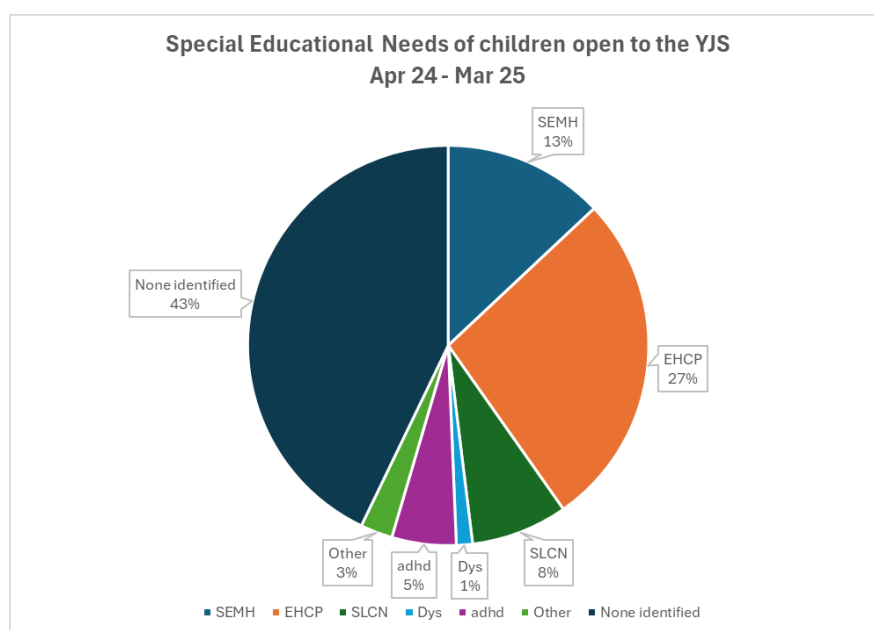
Q3: Of the 20 YP with Orders ending in Q3 2024/25, 18 had suitable ETE provision. **Table 2:** April 2024 to March 2025: Educational status of all children who worked with the YJS. See below



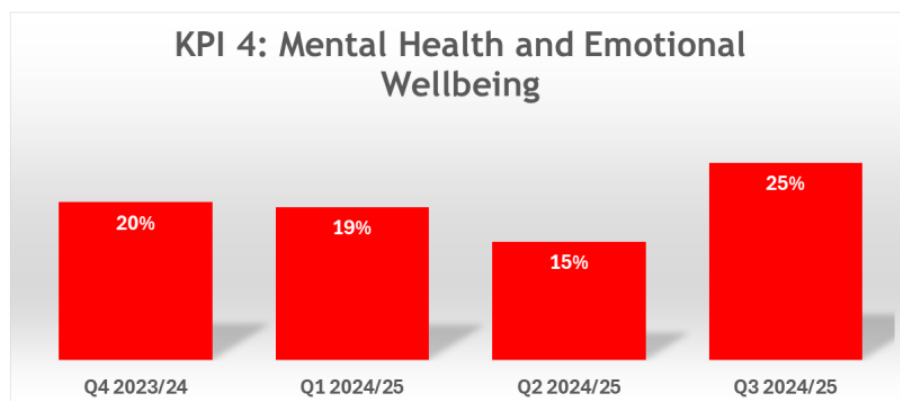
3. Special educational needs and disabilities/ additional learning needs:



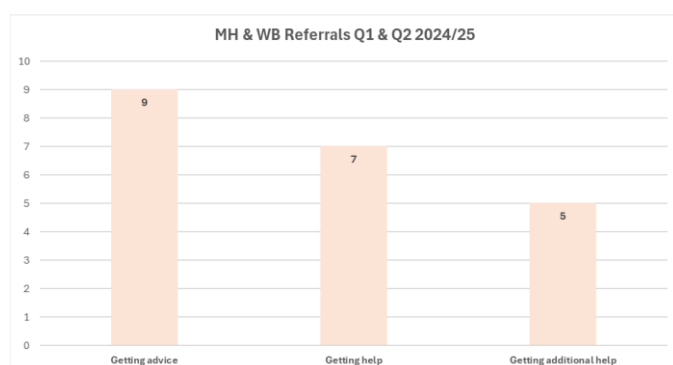
Of cases closed each quarter of those with a Plan 100% had a plan in place. Q3: Of the 20 YP with Orders ending, 10 YP had identified SEND/ALN needs. All 10 YP had a formal plan in place. **Table 3:** Special Education Needs of children open to the YJS (April 24 to March 25)



4. Mental health care and emotional well-being:



Q3: Number of children with a screened or identified need for a mental health or emotional wellbeing at their Orders' end as a proportion of number of children with interventions closing in the period.

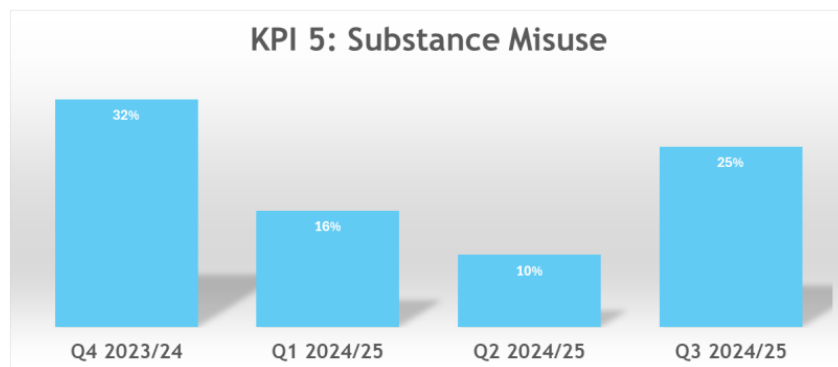


The Partnership asked for some more detail regarding this KPI, and the above was produced for the December 2024 Partnership meeting. In the first half of 2024/25 (Q1 & Q2) there were 11 children referred to Primary Mental Health workers. Unlike other sections within this report, this cohort does not relate to Orders Ending, but to children who, having been screened, were subsequently offered Mental health and well-being assistance.

The 21 interventions relate to 11 YP, with some of these YP being offered more than one type of assistance; so, some would have been offered advice, then help and in some cases additional help.

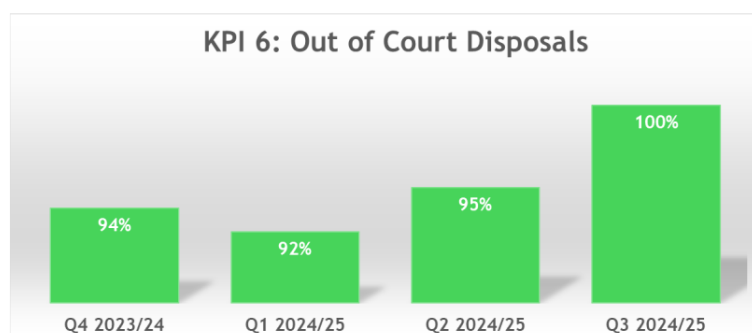
Additional help include Referrals to specialist medical provision, e.g. CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services or organisations such as EFC - Empire Fighting Chance which uses a powerful combination of non-contact boxing and intensive personal support to challenge and inspire young people aged 8 to 25 to realise their unique potential.

5. Substance misuse:



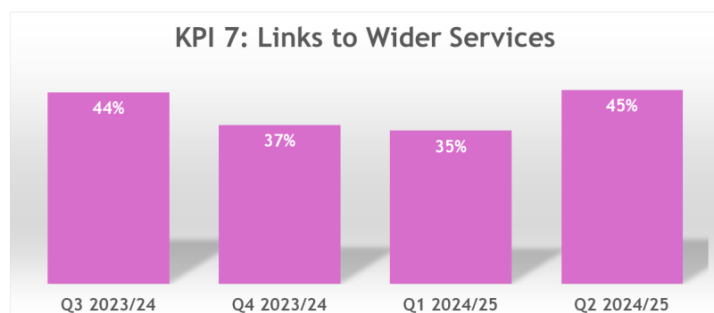
Q3: The percentage of children (5) with a screened or identified need for intervention or treatment to address substance misuse at their Orders' end as a proportion of all children (20) with Orders ending in period. Note of caution the YJ Drug and Alcohol Specialist has been off work for a substantial period across 2024 to 25 which has had an impact on this area of work. The Council YP Drug and Alcohol Service and YJ PMHS have taken work (informally) in this area.

6. Out of court disposals



Q3: Percentage of successful completion of OOCR disposals. The count includes non-substantive out-of-court disposals with YJS Intervention, Youth Cautions with YJS Intervention and Youth Conditional Cautions. Q3: 13 children, all successfully completed.

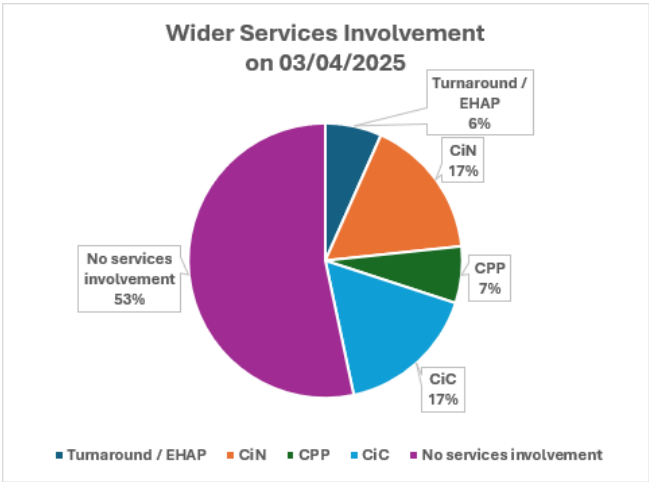
7. Links to wider services:



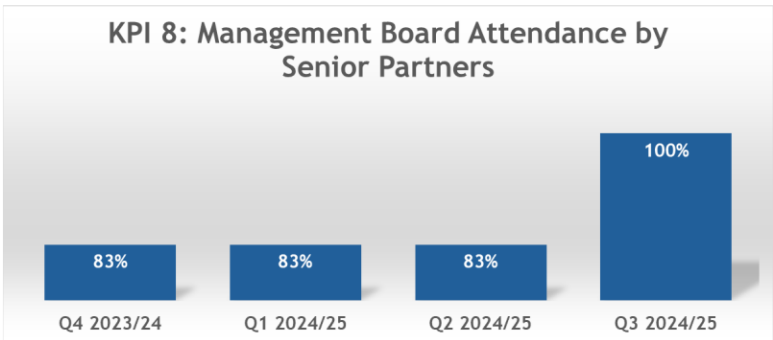
Q3: The proportion of children connected to, or supported by, wider support services at the end of their intervention. Across the 4 quarters above these averages as 40%.

When looking at all open YJS cases (03/04/25), including all statutory and diversion outcomes (CR, Outcome 22, YADD, Turnaround), this indicates that 47% of all open cases are open to wider services.

Table 4: Wider services involvement in respect of all YJS Open cases (3/4/25)



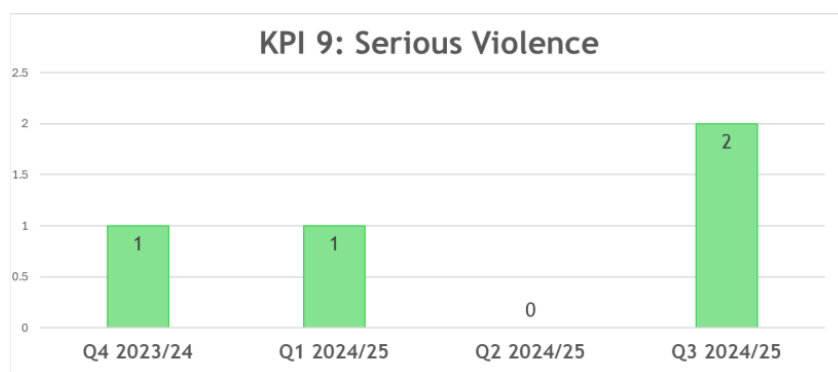
8. **Management board attendance:** This is monitored at each quarterly meeting.



Indicating good attendance across the quarters. (Appendix 1: has fully management board attendance)

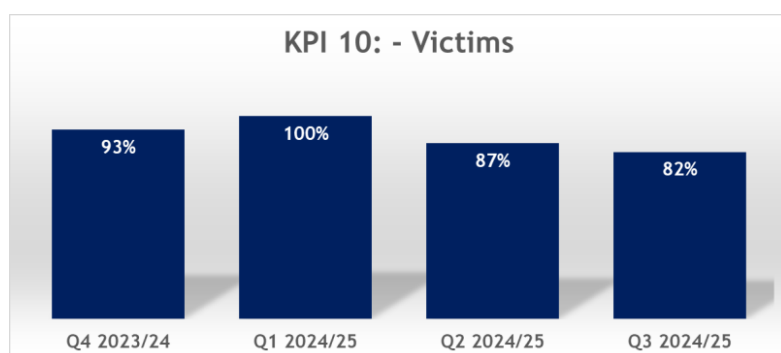
9. **Serious violence:**

In respect of Serious Youth Violence (as defined by the YJB) South Gloucestershire has relatively low numbers. Serious Youth Violence Data (YJB Toolkit) indicates that in the year ending December 2024 there were 2 serious youth violence offences recorded by children in South Glos (a decrease of 1 from previous year's figures), a rate of 0.7 per 10,000 children. The family average is 2.9. In the year ending December 2024 serious violence offences comprised 2% of all offences. Local data would suggest this figure is 5 offences in the year ending December 2024. Local data:



Serious Violence Offences have a gravity score of 5 and above and are counted where there is a caution or a sentence

10. Victims:



The number of victims engaged in restorative justice opportunities as a proportion of the total number of victims who consent to be contacted. There are on-going discussions with YJB on the interpretation of the counting rules.

Data on Victims 2024/25

Cases	Number of children with an order closing with an identified victim or victims of youth crime	<u>40</u>
	Of the above	
	Total number of victims	<u>50</u>
Victim Support	Number of victims who consent to be contacted by the YJS	<u>44</u>
	Number of victims engaged with on restorative justice opportunities	<u>39</u>
	Number of victims asked their view prior to OOC decision-making and planning for statutory court orders	<u>28</u>
	Number of victims who requested information about the progress of the child's case	<u>1</u>
	Of those, the number of victims provided with information about the progress of the child's case	<u>1</u>
	The number of victims who asked for additional support	<u>1</u>
	Of those victims who asked for additional support, the number provided with information on appropriate support services	<u>0</u>
Total Interventions		<u>67</u>

Local Performance

Diversion Re-Offending: The offending cohort of Q3 Oct – Dec 2023 with Diversionary / Non-Statutory interventions was 16, of which two YP reoffended giving a Binary reoffending rate of 12.5% and a Frequency rate of 8.

Disproportionality of any specific group. The quarterly performance reports (as previous YJP) continue to show a worrying pattern of a disproportionate number of **black and global majority children** who receive a statutory outcome. It must be noted that ethnicity is now reported (locally) as 19+1, so caution is needed when comparing figures previously. It was hoped that the Turnaround project would impact on these figures, and increased numbers in diversion could be evidence of this. We are also vigilant of disparity in relation to Irish travellers and now provide this data as part of the quarterly Performance reports to the Partnership, the data below indicates for statutory outcomes this related to 6% of Irish travellers/ Gypsy Roma. This is an area we need to remain vigilant over (although caution as we have only been reporting at 19+1 for the last year)

The YJB have published a Disparity Toolkit (March 2025) covering April 2023 to March 2024, this is a development on the previous YJB Summary Ethnic Disparity Toolkit which had looked at data across a longer period. The disparity toolkit (which uses 5+1 ethnicity data) looks at statutory outcomes only and indicates that 23% of children cautioned/ sentenced in this period were of black or global majority backgrounds, most significant being mixed children. Black and global majority children account for 67% of gravity 6 offences (the most serious: robbery, domestic burglary), in relation to violence against the person offences 24% of these offences were by black and global majority children. This is a pattern we have been seeing for some years. In November 2024 the YJS undertook a thematic audit on disproportionality and the experience of black and global majority children of the youth justice system. This was shared with the Partnership in December 2024 to help better understand the lived experience of black and mixed heritage boys. Work being undertaken through the Youth Justice Pillar of the Tackling Disproportionality programme (A&S LCJB) will look to explore this area and work towards reducing this disparity.

Table 5: YJS Diversionary Outcomes April 2024 to March 2025, by ethnicity. Ethnicity data shown at the 19+1 grouping level for greater granularity

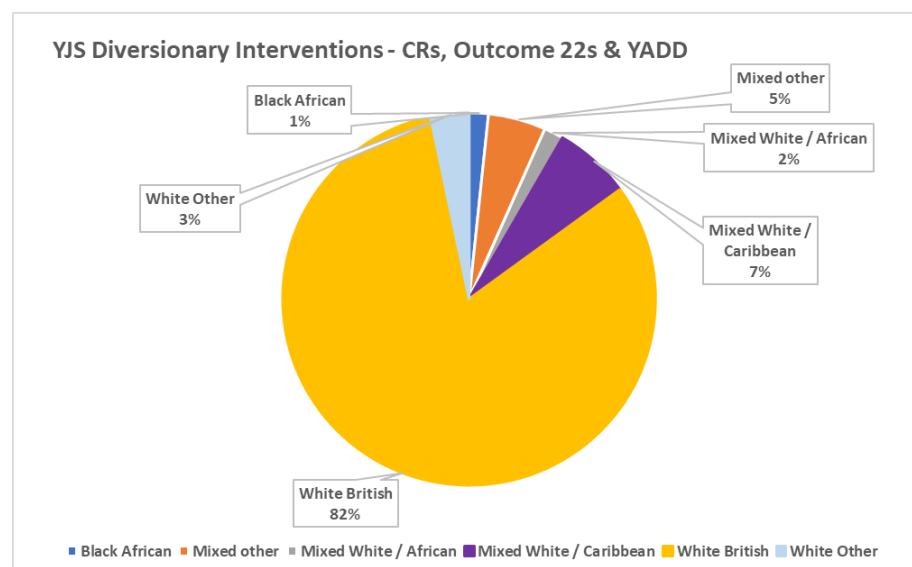
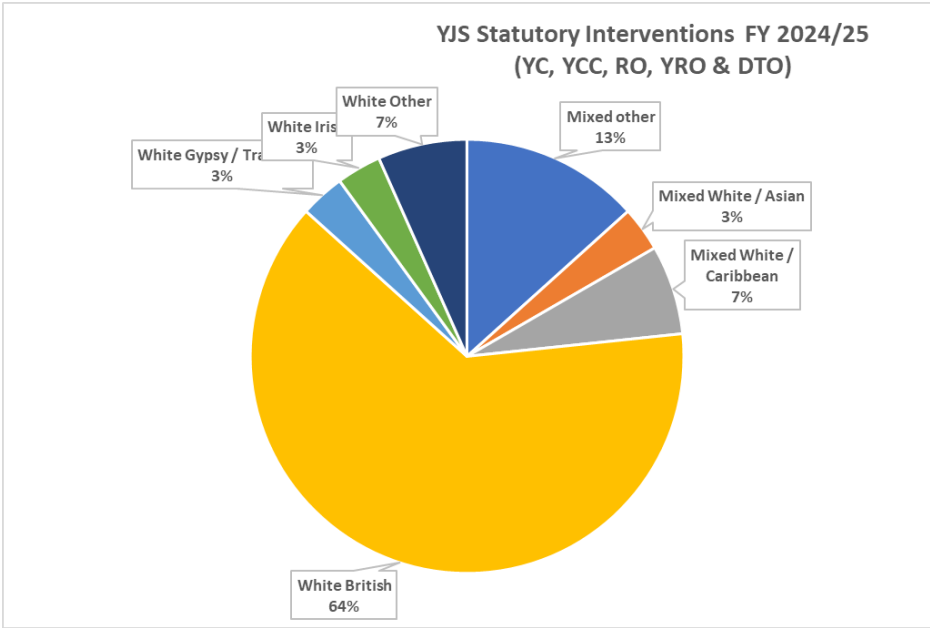


Table 6: YJS Statutory Outcomes April 2024 to March 2025, by ethnicity. Ethnicity data shown at the 19+1 grouping level for greater granularity



The Partnership has across 2024/25 continued to prioritise and scrutinise data relating to **girls and violence** offences. Analysis of this group had been undertaken over a two-year period (Oct 2017 to Sept 2019), and then again in December 2021, given the high proportion of girls committing violence offences compared to males – we also saw high rates compared to other Southwest YJS areas. An analysis was undertaken (Jan 2023 to Dec 2023) and presented to the April 2024 YJ Partnership Board, which indicated vast improvements in this area. It was agreed at the partnership to remove this area of work as a priority with a request to check the data a year later for re-assurance. At the March 2025 Partnership meeting the below was presented:

- *There have always been more boys than girls who are child First Time Entrants. In the year ending December 2024, boys comprised 84% of total child FTEs, whilst making up 51% of the general population of 10 to 17-year-olds. (Youth justice annual statistics for 2023 to 2024 for England and Wales.)*
- Looked at the following data: police-led Community Resolutions, numbers of girls at the Out of Court Resolution Panel, First Time Entrants (Youth Caution and above) and in court from Jan- Dec 2024
 - **OOCR panels:** There were 15 girls at OOCR panel in 2024-5 and they received 17 outcomes. Outcomes involving girls made up 24% of the total for the year. This is an increase as a proportion from 2023-24 where 19% of outcomes were for girls. However, it is a reduction in outcomes from 18 to 17
- **Types of Offences:** As was the case in 2023-4, the most common type of offences, heard at panel for girls, were incidents of violence. This includes Common Assault, Assault by Beating, ABH and Assault of Emergency Worker.
- **Victims:** The majority of violent incidents committed by girls were towards other girls. The offences towards the police were committed by two girls, one of whom was a child in care and the other by a child suffering a mental health crisis.

- **Outcomes at Panel:** 94% of girls were diverted from formal outcomes (CR & Deferred Caution) via the panel. In 2023-4 89% of girls received diversionary outcomes. One Youth Caution was given to a female who we had failed to engage with her diversion, previously, and so was given a Youth Caution.
- **Previous OOCR:** 66% of girls who came to OOCR panel had never had another offence dealt with by police. This figure was similar to 2023-4 (71%). Two of the girls who feature as a 'repeat OOCR' committed offences very close together.
- **Community Resolutions:** YJS receives information about police led Community Resolutions. In 2023 girls made up 37.5% of CRs in South Glos. In 2024 just under 20% of CRs were given to girls, but overall there was a large decrease in the number of police led CRs given in 2024.
- **FTE:** 88% of First Time Entrants in 2024 were boys. This compares to 100% in 2023. Of the FTE, one girl was given a Youth Caution after we failed to engage her on a diversion. One girl received a Referral Order. One girl received a Compensation Order at court and did not work with the service. Girls in South Glos were under-represented as FTE compared to national data.
- **Court Outcomes:** 2 out of 24 court outcomes (8%) were for girls in 2024. This is an increase from 2023 but with very low numbers.
- **CiC:** Almost 27% of girls at OOCR panel were children in care. 2 out of 3 female first time entrants in 2024 were children in care.

In Conclusion:

- Girls in South Glos. are not over-represented as FTE compared to national data.
- When they are heard at OOCR panel they are likely to be diverted via non-statutory outcomes.
- They are more evenly represented, compared to boys, in the data for Community Resolutions, indicating that girls are successfully diverted and/or display lower-level behaviours.
- They are also underrepresented at court, indicating that girls are dealt with at panel/via non statutory outcomes where possible.
- Incidents of violence are the most likely reason for girls to come into the CJS, often related to peer conflict or emotional dysregulation.
- We need to be mindful of the over-representation of girls in care in the CJS and seek to
- Decision by the Partnership to not add into priorities for 2025-26.

Education data:

In KPI's above.

As part of the Tackling Disproportionality programme SGYJS continue to collaborate quarterly with SG Education to determine whether children from a black and global majority community who have been excluded from school are more likely to enter the youth justice system. This is a recommendation from the tackling disproportionality programme and now covered under the key priority (2. Education Exclusion). We have tracked all open cases from April 2024. Across 2024-25, we have identified that of all open cases 2% had been permanently excluded (white British), with 31% of the children having been fixed term excluded (this data relates to exclusions up to 12 months previous to YJS involvement). Of the fixed term children 7% were

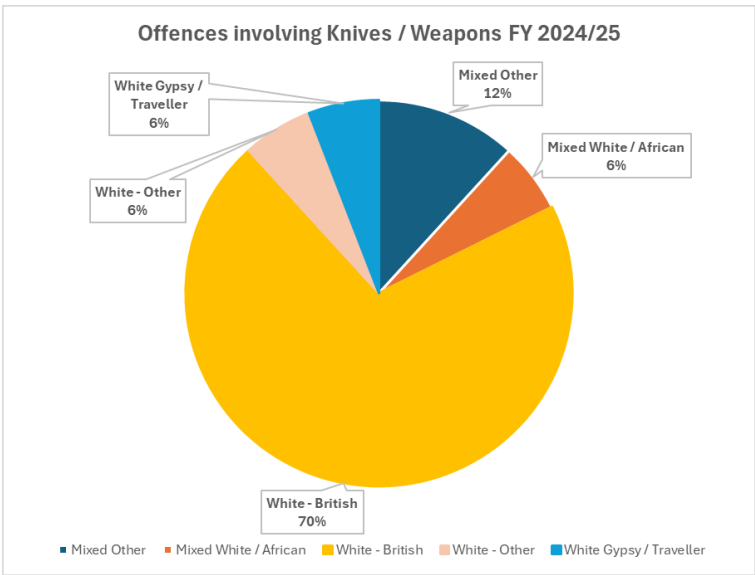
from black backgrounds, 7% from white other. With **33% of children having been excluded at some point within the last 12 months prior to YJ involvement**, this indicates that these children are at a high risk of entering the YJS. Early identification and intervention are the key to diverting these children as early as possible.

Speech and Language: Specialist provision in the YJS is 0.2fte. This is due to be increased to 0.4fte, with the council agreeing to fund this additional day moving forward. Since April 2024 the speech and language therapist has seen 30+ young people for assessment and provided communication profiles on a further 4 based on available evidence. The clinical findings remain similar; roughly 75% have some degree of language difficulty, with 50% of those assessed being moderate or severe. The number of referrals has been down on last year linked to key staff members leaving the service but now picking up.

Weapon/Knife Offences: Year 2024-25:

- 17 offences (16 children) identified who had an outcome within 2024-25. Note some children received an outcome in this period (with an offence pre-dating this).
- The offences related to:
 - 1 count of Affray involving a kitchen knife
 - 4 counts of Possess article with blade / point on school premises
 - 2 counts of Possess knife / blade or sharply pointed article
 - 10 counts of Possess knife blade / sharp pointed article in a public place
- 1 child had 2 offences of possession of knife on the same day.
- 6 of the 17 offences (35%) resulted in a diversion/ Outcome 22. This was in line with the new child gravity matrix guidance. Last year’s figures indicate 47% of outcomes.
- 4 offences (24%) resulted in a Youth Conditional Caution.
- 7 offences (6 outcomes) resulted in a statutory outcome, two being custodial.
- Ethnicity of children involved in weapons offences (see **Table 7:** below), 18% of children from black or mixed heritage backgrounds.
- Of note an offence of serious violence with a knife committed in the previous year was sentenced in 2024-25, the young person received a mandatory life sentence.
- So, whilst numbers are small, we are seeing more statutory outcomes (65%) for knife related matters than we have ever seen.

Table 7: Ethnicity of children involved in weapon/knife offences 2024-27



Avon and Somerset (A&S) Police completed a Problem Profile on serious youth violence across the 5 areas (Feb 2025). The problem profile analyses data over a 2-year period from Feb 2022 to Feb 2024. The South Gloucestershire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) undertook a local profile regarding serious violence across South Gloucestershire for 2024 - 2025. The Police report stated:

- Possession of weapons offences increased in South Glos across the 2-year period (22-24).
- Common reasons for children and young people carrying a knife were for **protection** or due to owing a **drug debt**.
- 39% (n=74) of all SYV offences across A&S.

Children In Care/ Offending: The YJS has reported annually to the Corporate Parenting Board, analysing this data and noting any concerns that need addressing. Analysis of all interventions undertaken by the YJS April 2024 to 2025 indicate:

- Children in Care are over-represented in the youth justice system. **17% of all young people in the Youth Justice Service (YJS)** worked with in 2024/25 (last year this was 13%), equating to 13 young people, who were at some point during their intervention in Care. Of those 13 children, 8 were male (15 interventions) and 5 were female (6 interventions) (note there were no female CiC recorded in last year's figures), this equated to 21 interventions/ outcomes.
- 10 Interventions were Statutory (48%) involving 1 female and 4 male YPs. **33%** of all statutory outcomes in this period were for CiC and notably these were all for court outcomes (as opposed to YC/YCC). This is a worrying increase on last years figures (26% of all outcomes) and whilst these numbers are small, they continue to indicate a higher likelihood for children in the "care" system to enter the "youth justice system" which is also the picture nationally.
- 1 Intervention resulted in a Remand to Custody.
- The remaining 10 interventions were Diversionary (48%): Outcome 22 or Community Resolution with YJS Intervention involving 4 female and 4 male children, representing 11% of all outcomes and 17% of all diversion outcomes. These also represent an increase on last years figures.
- Of all interventions (91) undertaken by the YJS in this time frame, 17% (a significant increase from last year's figures of 13%) were in relation to young people in care (21 interventions, an increase from 16 last year).
- From analysis of girls and offending (Jan 2024 to Dec 2024): **Almost 27% of girls at OOCR panel were children in care.** 2 out of 3 female first time entrants in 2024 were children in care. This emergence of CiC females in this group is of concern.
- **CiC represent 0.57% of the total number of SG children aged 10-17 years.** So, by representing 17% of all children in the youth justice system and 33% of all statutory interventions there is a significant disparity in terms of them being over-represented in the youth justice system.
- **20% of the children in care working with the YJS on a court order are from an ethnic minority background.** Again, indicating an over-representation for an already vulnerable group.

5. Risk and issues.

It will be for the Youth Justice Partnership to ensure that the “risks” identified in this section are managed appropriately both through the YJS and the agency which they represent. The challenges, risk and issues are detailed in the YJS risk register which is overseen by the YJ Partnership.

A priority focus for the Partnership for this year continues to be the **disproportionate number of young people from a black or mixed minority ethnic group** who have received a youth justice outcome.

In 2023-24 there was an emerging issue in regard to the disproportionate number of **children in care** who receive a formal youth justice outcome. This was an increase over previous years and became a priority for the service across 2024-25. This disparity continues to increase as data above indicates and will remain a priority for the Partnership, with an added focus on the increase in female children in care within this group.

Across 2023-24 there was a significant escalation in **serious youth violence** across South Gloucestershire (and neighbouring authorities). This stemmed from the tragic death of a SG child from a knife crime incident in June 2023. Across 2024-25 we have seen a reduction of mandatory **serious incident notifications** (1 as compared to 3 the previous year) and this related to a serious sexual charge. Of note we have seen 2 children receive custodial sentences across this year, that is unprecedented for SG, one receiving a mandatory life sentence.

In August 2024 Bristol became a hotspot for **anti-immigration riots**. A SG child was charged with involvement in this, this did not require a serious incident notification. This period involved a lot of multi-agency collaboration in relation to safety planning for children who had indicated a desire to join the disturbances. SARI were able to assist with programmed work with children at this time. Across 2024-25 there were **4 pre-sentence referral panels** convened (children at risk of custody), 2 of these cases related to weapon possession. Outcomes for these were: DTO, Intensive Referral Order and 2 x Referral Order. (5 pre-sentence panels were convened across 2023-24).

There remain a small number of children under **police conditional bail** for serious offences; management of these is enabled across the partnership and through intelligence sharing via the fortnightly multi-agency Partnership Intelligence Management Meetings (PIMM), a well-established process for discussion of concerns about exploitation and serious youth violence as well as the focussed group strategy meetings.

Knife and weapon crime has now become a significant area of concern for South Glos following the escalation of serious violence across 2023-24 which impacted on SG children both as victims and perpetrators. In 2024-25 we have seen a reduction in terms of seriousness but are now seeing more knife possession offences coming to the OOCR panel. Across Q4 (2024-25) there were 4 incidents of knife possession (2x YCC and 2 x Outcome 22), another being in assessment, so an increase on the year before possibly that we are closely monitoring (across the whole of 2024 there were 9 knife possessions offences at OOCR panel). The new child gravity matrix has replaced the Weapons Diversion policy across A&S. Given the high level of media attention across 2024-25 in relation to murder trials of children (against children) across Bristol and SG, this offence has become highly “politicised”. Across 2023 -24, the VRP commissioned Blunt Truth – a programme presented to Year 7 and 8 pupils regarding knife crime and how to report any concerns. The police early intervention police (VRP) support the PIMM and look to work with children where there is a possibility of carrying weapons (from

police intel). Concerns around a lack of consistency and clarity around what constitutes an “exceptional circumstance” for children to be able to have a Deferred Caution has now been put on the risk register.

Data reporting: Whilst this area has improved in terms of SG’s ability to provide local reporting on this, we are still unable to share the YJB dashboard as they continue to work on this. Of note has been issues arising from the reporting of the victim KPI. The discrepancy relates to recording, in which contacting a victim gets interpreted as agreeing to restorative justice. YJB and case management system providers are working on this, but this issue is of concern given the new HMIP framework where victims is a significant area to be inspected.

Integrated Care Boards (ICB): In March 2025, the Government announced the abolition of NHS England. This was then followed by an announcement of a significant restructuring of ICB’s. The impact of this restructure (and significant reduction in costs) has yet to be understood in terms of the continued resourcing and challenges for the ICB to the YJ Partnership.

We continue to see increased concerns relating to **children’s mental health and emotional well-being** with some services e.g. CAMHS continuing to report lengthy waiting lists. For 2024-25 the YJS Primary Mental Health Specialist has been up to full time (worker joined in May 2024) thus enabling more capacity.

The **substance misuse service** in SGYJS has had challenges since October 2024, with the lead specialist worker being off work with long term sickness. A return to work in May 2024 has made for a challenging time given the absence of this specialist post for over 6 months across 2024-25. Contingencies were put in place, with the council YP Drug and Alcohol Service (YPDAS) helping (for YADDs) alongside the PMHS support and Tier 4 Specialist Substance Misuse Service providing input/support when needed. The worker is now back in post and it is now business as usual again. Across 2024 to 25, we received 24 referrals (23 male / 1 female), of which 13 were YADDs all successfully completed. In our experience YADD numbers tend to fluctuate year on year but, given we have little control over the process of referral this is to be expected. As a team we experience similar peaks and troughs with other pre court work. This post remains at risk in terms of long-term funding, with the OPCC only committing to a further year’s funding at this time.

The Youth Justice Partnership is advised of any **changes to workload or staffing**. Across 2024-25 we have had some significant staff sickness which has had an impact on the team and workload. This has been compounded by the loss of the Turnaround worker in January 2025, a post that did provide some input regarding undertaking assessments in the OOCR panels. Across 2024 we dealt with 68 cases at OOCR panel. Work in court increased across the year, with increased complexity and given staff sickness, we were not in a position to utilise post court staff to assist with pre-court work.

Management capacity in SGYJS has been an area of concern for some time. A proposed restructure paper has been presented to the Service director and Executive director and it is largely accepted that more specialist strategic capacity is needed. There is a risk in terms of the resilience of the current YJS management structure, with the YJS Team Manager acting in both a strategic and operational capacity. Concerns are compounded as we are now due an inspection and there is a lack of specialist management capacity to develop work and improvements around this. As mitigation since March 2025 the PT Practice Managers have increased hours whilst the restructure of the YJS is considered by Senior Managers alongside other restructures in Children’s services.

There continues to be concern in the **delay in charging decisions** for some young people often for serious violence offences. This delay has a detrimental impact on young people, families, and victims, with some young people then moving to adult services at resolution for an offence committed as a youth. Managing risk, safety and well-being of these young people during this period is challenging for YJSs and partner agencies, many of which see a no further action decision by the police as meaning no concern. Monitoring of all children who have been arrested/ interviewed is undertaken by the management team at the monthly priorities meeting. Turnaround has been focussing on this area for eligible cases. Eligible transition cases are notified to the Probation service within the transitions meeting.

The **Turnaround Project**: The late notification of 2025/26 funding for extending this service has resulted in a 3-month gap in staff. The Turnaround worker left in January 2025 and with no notification of funding we were unable to recruit to this post. The eventual extension for 25/26 was a reduction on resources and only for a further 12 months.

The **Enhanced Case Management** project is funded until October 2025. Discussions have taken place across the 4 areas and F-Camhs to source another year's funding. SG have been able to secure the funds to keep the project going, but discussions are still ongoing as this needs to be agreed across all 4 areas. The loss of this project will have an impact, the project provides 6 weekly staff support sessions which have been a key support to staff across a difficult year.

We continue to monitor the **impact of austerity** on other services for families, children, and young people, both universal and specialist, and its effect on levels of youth crime and anti-social behaviour. We are seeing the challenges faced by children's social care, in the retention and recruitment of staff, which has an inevitable impact on service delivery. This is a priority for the local authority (as it is nationally). The Turnaround project has provided much needed support for some of these families, but this is not agreed as a long term permanent support service at this time.

Plan for 2025-26

6. Child First

SG Youth Justice Partnership vision sits alongside (and is complemented by) the YJB's vision of a **Child First** youth justice system where all services:

Prioritise the best interests of children, recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child focussed, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children. In South Gloucestershire we have had the benefit of the Enhanced Case Management project working in a trauma informed way (since October 2018). South Gloucestershire council has Signs of Safety as its practice model, which is a strength based, relationship approach; the YJS have adapted in accordance with these principles, with some staff being Practice Leads in this area. South Gloucestershire YJS focuses on the child's individual strengths and building relationships is a key to this. Every child is treated as an individual and all efforts are made to ensure that their life experience, cultural, family and community environment is understood alongside their wishes, feelings and views. To ensure that children's needs are appropriately met the staff will link them to universal service opportunities where possible (e.g. additional support in schools/youth services) and to also have a range of specialist services to meet their needs. The range of Specialist Services has been developed to meet the varying needs of

young people the YJS work with, for example harmful sexual behaviour specialist, speech and language specialist, primary mental health specialist (this is not a full list).

Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future focussed, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.

Using AssetPlus and the new Prevention and Diversion Assessment, we work collaboratively with children to create strengths-based intervention plans that develop positive self-identity. We recognise that children form their identities through relationships with others, so our practitioners prioritise building relationships in which children feel heard, respected, and encouraged to take responsibility for their actions. This relational approach is consistently highlighted in the overwhelmingly positive feedback we receive from the children we work with. We will continue to place importance on this relational aspect of our work and actively seek children's feedback on how they experience this.

Between 2021 and 2023 we benefited from a small pilot development post in the YJS "working with African heritage young people" offering support around identity and working closely with Partners including Education. From April 2025, a 0.8fte African Heritage project worker has been secured in post to undertake a 12-month pilot project. This post will continue to sit within YJS but will work across the council's integrated children's services and education departments and work to deliver the council's equality plan. This will ensure that the YJS, alongside the whole of children's services, will benefit through enabling increased staff resilience and understanding of working with these children, providing better outcomes across the whole authority. A steering group from social care and education is being created to oversee the development of this post and ensure early learning is embedded. The YJS continues to benefit from a cohort of education volunteers to enable additional support for those children when needed.

Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers. This remains a key priority for the YJS and has progressed across 2024-25 (see Participation section below). Our aim is to further embed this principle and to improve collaborative co-production with children. Children continue to benefit from the Education Inclusion Project (since October 2021) which now sits within the council's Young People's Support team, this has been expanded to 2 education engagement workers with more secure long-term funding being prioritised across 2025-26.

A collaborative review of Referral panels has been underway, between ECM practitioners and the 4 YJSs, in the knowledge that these panels do not adhere to Child first principles or are trauma informed. From the referral order working group a new set of paperwork has been created: contract, a monthly working plan for Referral Orders, which will form the caseworker's dynamic working plan with the young person, to be completed by caseworkers in conjunction with the child. The focus of these developments has been to ensure that children's experiences at these panels is positive and collaborative and that outcomes are meaningful for the child, family and victim.

Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system. South Gloucestershire continues to benefit from the Youth Alcohol and Drug Diversion, (YADD) scheme as well as individual decision making at Out of Court

Disposal panel (OOCd) to ensure minimal intervention whilst also avoiding unnecessary criminalisation. The new Child Gravity Matrix is more child centred with an awareness of childhood trauma, and neurodiversity as examples. The new guidance around Outcome 22 (NFA) has provided a robust diversion option which can be seen in its increased use below. The Young People's Support (YPS) team enables prevention work from an early help perspective and the work by our Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) specialist further endorses the direction of travel. The YJS has been a significant partner in the Education Inclusion Project, early intervention for children at risk of exclusion where there are emerging concerns around serious youth violence, this has been expanded and secured until March 2026. The SG Turnaround Project has worked with children on the cusp of offending, focussing on those released under investigation or involved in anti-social behaviour.

Participation Work

Collaboration with children is one of the four tenets of the Child First approach, making participation a key priority for the Partnership and the Youth Justice Service (YJS), with regular oversight and updates provided to the Partnership. Giving children a voice in youth justice services is vital for upholding their rights, improving engagement, and achieving better outcomes. Research indicates that active participation boosts motivation, compliance, and positive relationships with practitioners. The Youth Justice Service's Participation Strategy highlights that inclusive and respectful engagement fosters better behaviour, confidence, and more tailored services. Without genuine participation, involvement risks becoming tokenistic. Participation is central to our approach, as children who help shape the services that support them develop confidence, a sense of agency, and a pro-social identity. We will identify participation opportunities in our assessments with children and integrate them into pre- and post-court work plans, ensuring their voices remain at the heart of our practice.

There has been significant progress in our work on participation over the past year, including the introduction of a feedback process with children, organising feedback panels where children can share their views with decision-makers, developing a participation policy, and continuing to embed participation and collaboration in our work with children through assessments, plans, and interventions.

Achievements:

1. Feedback Discussions:

In June 2024, we launched our new Feedback Discussions with the children we work with. These one-to-one discussions, conducted at the end of the child's involvement with the YJS, are delivered by a worker other than the child's main worker. The discussions follow a template developed by the YJS Participation Lead and the YJS Speech and Language Therapist, covering four key areas of the child's experience with South Glos YJS:

- Overall experience of the YJS
- Relationship with their worker
- Nature of the work
- Reflection on its impact

After the discussion, the child receives a personalised letter highlighting their feedback and explaining how it will be used. The feedback is used in the following ways:

- **Supervision of staff:** Every child's feedback is emailed to the staff member and their manager for discussion during supervision.

- **Identifying specific issues to address, as well as providing positive strengths-based feedback:** The management team addresses any issues raised or provides positive affirmation of work to staff.
- **YJ Partnership board review:** Feedback is collated and presented to the management board.
- **Presentation at the Children's Feedback Panel:** Feedback is also collated by a group of justice-experienced children to present at the Children's Feedback Panel.

2. Young Persons Feedback Panel:

Every six months, the information from the Feedback Discussions is collated and reviewed by a group of justice-experienced children, supported by YJS staff. Our first Young Person's Feedback Panel took place in November 2024, with three justice-experienced children presenting feedback gathered between June and November 2024, involving discussions with 22 children. Decision-makers in Youth Justice and wider support services attended the panel. The feedback panel highlighted:

- **Positive Relationships with Workers:** Children feel supported, listened to, and comfortable with their workers, who help with various aspects of life, including family, jobs, and managing emotions.

"They are chilled out, listened to me and didn't judge me. I was really worried about being judged and I didn't feel that at all".

"Most workers don't acknowledge what's going on for me in my head but they do. They take time to get to know me".

"My worker listens, they understand and is patient. They didn't tell me off like I thought they may"

- **Effective Support:** The YJS is praised for good communication and support with future planning by the children we work with.

"It was easy, and relieving, it was nice being able to let out what I needed to and what I wanted to say, like in the apology letter 100%"

"They help a lot when it comes to making you feel sorry but not in a bad way, like without judgement. Let me know what I've done wrong".

"Helped with job stuff. Good at making you see the bigger picture. Good at explaining situations you have been in. Helped me see that it was a second chance".

- **Perception of Progress:** Most children feel confident in staying out of trouble (8/10 rating).

"I am not getting into trouble again"

"Still a chance of me getting into the wrong crowd, but I know that's my choice. In this day and age it can be hard for kids, I've been around it all my life."

"I have been in some testing and stressful situations lately and I have managed to keep my cool and not react to people. I have learnt to ignore people who want a reaction from me".

“Definitely going in the right direction but I’ve still got bigger goals.”

“I think it’s going to get better”

- **Impact on Education and Future:** The average score for education and future was 7/10, with children feeling more positive and confident about their future.

“School has got much better. I am doing really well in English.”

“I am trying really hard with getting apprenticeship and am not getting there quite yet which is frustrating.”

“I don’t like coming to school much.”

“I got the college placement, and my worker has been helping me look for barbering places which has helped me be more active in this area which I probably wouldn’t have done on my own.”

- **No Negative Feedback:** Overall, feedback was positive, with no major negative comments about the YJS experience.

The children at the panel also raised wider concerns, including:

- **Supportive School Environment:** Children feel schools should be more supportive, especially when they are experiencing stress at home. They advocate for understanding and help, rather than punitive measures like isolation rooms.

Outcomes: The Service Director for Education used feedback from the panel with secondary Heads, to highlight the need for schools to better understand and support children who are stressed or anxious, advocating for training to help teachers respond effectively, and in a trauma-informed way, to students facing challenges.

- **Access to Jobs:** There is a desire for better opportunities to earn money, particularly for 14-year-olds, who struggle to find weekend or evening jobs.

Outcomes: The YJS Education Specialist has signposted staff to resources where they can help children find jobs.

- **Affordable Activities for Children:** South Glos Justice experienced children want affordable recreational activities, such as gym access, with flexible payment options like pay-as-you-go.

Outcomes: The YJS has researched available opportunities, particularly gym and sports centre access, and has ensured all workers are aware that teenagers can access local Active Leisure Centres on a pay-as-you-go basis. Several children have been supported to sign up. The Cabinet Member for Children & Young People has acted on the feedback by planning to engage with partners and organisations to explore more opportunities for children, particularly around access to gyms, sports, volunteering, and job opportunities.

3. **Justice-Experienced Children Interviewing for New Staff:**

We continue our policy of involving justice-experienced children in the interview process for new staff. In March 2025, two justice-experienced children interviewed candidates for the Turnaround Worker role.

4. Activities, Interactions, and Roles (AIRS):

A key theme of the Child First approach is giving children roles in our work with them, which helps develop their pro-social identity, skills, and confidence. The roles mentioned above have allowed children to develop:

- **Communication:** Asking clear questions and interpreting answers.
- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating responses and making decisions.
- **Interviewing Techniques:** Learning how to ask effective questions.
- **Feedback:** Providing constructive feedback.
- **Teamwork:** Collaborating with others.
- **Professionalism:** Understanding formal settings.
- **Confidence:** Building confidence in their judgment and communication.

This approach marks a shift in our practice over the last year and underpins how we will continue to work with children moving forward.

7. Resources and services

The Youth Justice Grant 2024/25 funds posts (24.78%/ 4.69fte) within the YJS.

As a comparison, the below table details the funding from all agencies as a percentage of staff.

Table 8: 2024-25

SUMMARY	Total Budget Staff/ Non staff	Total % YJS staff	Total FTE YJS staff
Local Authority	£421,000	42.12%	6.96
Police	£109,416	10.95%	1.09
Probation	£43,128	4.31%	0.89
Health	£119,372	11.94%	1.46
YJB Grant	£247,692	24.78%	4.69
Police and Crime Commissioner	£30,000	3.0%	0.57
CYP Families Plus	£3,900	0.39%	0.07
CYP Health	£5,000	0.5%	0.09
A&S ECM Project	£20,104	2.01%	0.30
TOTAL	£999,612	100%	16.13
Turnaround Project April 24 -March 25	£58,863 Delivery funding		1.0 + 0.1 additional Practice Manager resource

SGYJS uses our grant, partner contributions and available resources to deliver those services that will continue to produce good outcomes for children in terms of performance in FTE/ custody and re-offending. The YJB grant funds posts within the YJS. We have provided some additional capacity in the pre-court Practice manager post which has enabled capacity to

develop the Turnaround Project and to provide a lead for the planned development work around participation/ voice of child.

In relation to Partner contribution, a more detailed breakdown of contributions and expenditure from 2024/5 can be found at Appendix 5.

Additional Commissioned Services

Work with children from black and global majority backgrounds: One of the YJS's priorities relate to work being undertaken to better understand and mitigate the disproportionate numbers of children of global majority who have been sentenced in South Gloucestershire. In response we have continued our collaboration with SARI (Stand Against Racism and Inequality) through a service level agreement. We have recently established an African Heritage Education/Project worker post to improve outcomes for African heritage young people, through funding identified by the Executive Director (Chair of YJP) alongside money from the YJS (2023).

Appropriate Adult Services: Bristol YJS Youth Appropriate Adult Service (YAAS) is commissioned by South Glos YJS to provide this service for South Glos young people, as well as when required for those young people residing or living out of area.

Case Management System (CMS): CACI: Provides support and maintenance for Childview, ensuring compliance to terms and conditions of the grant and ensuring robust reporting mechanisms are in place. Since 2024 and the introduction of the prevention and diversion (PAD) assessment the maintenance costs have increased. South Gloucestershire IT and CACI are in early discussions regarding moving the CMS to a cloud-based server to mitigate current risks with it being hosted on a local server. SG YJS is also in discussions with SG IT regarding Power BI to enhance reporting.

Funding 2025/26

The funding position for the year ahead.

- The **YJB Youth Justice Grant** for 25/26 has now been confirmed. There has been a 1.46% increase on last years grant.
- The **Ministry of Justice Turnaround Funding.** Funding confirmed to extend the project for a further year until March 2026. Funding for this year has been reduced by approx. 30%, however through careful planning we have managed to keep a FT post in place.
- **Funding from Police, Health and Local Authority** will remain the same (except for agency increases in salaries). There has been no change in this funding for many years and it has been raised at the Partnership. For the police this amount has been nationally set.
- **Funding from the OPCC via South Gloucestershire Community Safety Partnership (CSP).** Funding for (part of) the YJS Drug and Alcohol Specialist post has been agreed until March 2026. Work is being undertaken to ensure continued funding for this key post in the event the OPCC do not fund. The South Glos CSP is undergoing a restructure so there is work underway in terms of YJ Partnership links into this new partnership structure to support longer terms plans and commissioning across South Glos to match priorities in each area.

- The **Probation** staff contribution to the YJS remains as last year at 0.8FTE, with a cash contribution of £5K.
- The **Trauma Recovery Model/ Enhanced Case Management (ECM) Project** funded to work across the 4 Avon YJSs since October 2018 (YJB Pathway Finder funding) has funding secured until October 2025. This additional funding (up to March 2024) has come from the Framework for Integrated Care (FIC: health) with additional costs met by each individual Youth Justice Partnership Board. SGYJS's contribution to the project has been secured from what was previously known as Families in Focus funding (Supporting Families). Funding from March 2024 is secured from the FIC and money rolled out due to gaps in securing clinical psychology provision. Discussions are currently ongoing regarding funding for a further year. FIF have agreed to fund the additional SG contribution for the year.

8. Board development.

Changes within the Partnership: In 2024/25 the Board has continued to experience a number of partner member changes. Attendance from statutory partners in social care, health, police and probation has been good. Health have regularly attended and contributed, after a previous period of lack of health representative this has been very positive.

Social Care: The Service director for QA, Safeguarding, Commissioning, and head of the SCH, has been a consistent social care representative at the Partnership. The Interim Service Director for Social care and Preventative Services has attended in this period. This role has now been filled with the new person starting in June 2025. A decision will then be made regarding partnership representation.

Education: The Service Director of Education has attended most of the partnership meetings this year and also attended the first YP Panel in November 2024. The Service Director has agreed funding and support for the Education inclusion project and is looking to secure long term funding beyond March 2026, demonstrating a commitment to this early intervention project.

Probation: The Partnership's established member is now acting up in a senior role, her interim replacement has recently joined the Partnership, who is familiar with the team as previously linked when an SPO.

We have seen a new council lead for Children and families join the partnership following local elections. The council lead attended the YP panel in November 2024.

Police: In May 2024 we welcomed a new statutory police representative. Until recently there has additionally been attendance by the Early Intervention Police Lead (who oversees the YJ Police Officer and is the lead for OOCR panels), this person has now moved into another role, and we hope for their replacement to establish links with the Partnership.

Other established members:

- Community Safety Manager
- Youth Panel Chair
- Speciality Clinical lead CAMHS
- YJB Oversight Manager

The Partnership meeting in September 2024 was a development event, held face to face and is now an established annual event. This meeting covered:

- **YJ/ Partnership Development Plan** – reviewed and updated. Looked at learning brief from multi-agency exploitation audit.
- **Introduction to Child First Toolkit**
- **Update on Tackling Disproportionality: Youth Justice Pillar**
- **Update on Participation Work**
- **Performance**
- **Priority Case Discussions**
- **Finance**

It has been agreed by the Partnership (September 2023) to schedule 2 of the 4 meetings a year face to face, one being the annual development event.

Across 2024-25 the Partnership have benefitted from presentations and updates on:

- A Joint Inspection of work with children subject to remand in Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA): a SGYJS self-assessment against the recommendations and actions.
- Presentation and sign off of the Protocol for the Joint Working of Child OOCR panels in Avon and Somerset.
- Presentation on the new HMIP framework
- SGYJS self-assessment against the new HMIP framework with an action to convene a preparation workshop for the partnership.
- March 2025: An analysis of girls and offending January to December 2024.

At the March 2025 meeting the Partnership Terms of Reference and Partnership agreement were reviewed and signed off. The Partnership and wider partners have signed off the SG Protocol “Reducing Criminalisation of Children in Care and Care Leavers” which is an action from the CiC/YJS improvement plan.

For the June 2025 Partnership meeting the YJB Remand Concordat will be presented to the Partnership.

9. Workforce Development

During 2024-25 we have had minimal new staff join the YJS.

- In May 2024 we had a 0.4fte Primary Mental Health Specialist joining us. This post became available as the current PMHS changed their working hours as part of a semi-retirement plan.
- In April 2025 a new Turnaround worker will join the YJS as a secondment from the Young People’s Support (YPS) team. This followed a 3-month gap in the Turnaround service.
- In April 2025 we welcomed a new speech and language therapist to the team, following the retirement of the previous worker.
- There have been significant changes within the business support staff – we hope to be up to full capacity by June 2025.

Over 24/25 the staff have benefited from training opportunities in:

- Practice Managers (PM) continue to attend the YJB Southwest Developing Practice Forum. Learning from these events is shared with the team through the monthly peer meetings. The SG Post Court PM presented at the January 2025 Forum on communication profiles (prepared by the speech and language therapist) for court.
- The Pre-Court Practice Managers attended the YJB Prevent and Diversion assessment tool training (July 2024)
- Staff also benefit from monthly peer support sessions and for those specialists in HSB work, regular case consultation with a clinical psychologist experienced in this field of work. For those staff with an ECM case, they have support from the psychologist linked to this service.
- Some staff have attended **Systemic Practice training** (3 days) and have provided information to the wider service via peer supervision.
- October 2024 organised by SG VRP: Workshop on **Drill music and Youth Violence** (Teams)
- **Cultural awareness sessions:** SARI, which included
 - Eastern European Communities
 - Men, Father and Boys
 - Class and Poverty
 - Romanian and Eastern European Roma
 - Gypsy and Traveller
 - There have been separate consultation sessions to consolidate the learning from these workshops.
- **Restorative Justice** accredited training: 3 days for the whole service. RJ Training to level 1: This training is to understand how the principles and practice of restorative approaches can build better working environments. RJ Level 2 Facilitator Training: This training builds confident and competent Restorative Justice practitioners who can deliver RJ cases through to their appropriate restorative outcome. Follow-up sessions are planned:
 - **Reflection Session:** A half-day session where staff can reflect on how they've been applying their learning in practice. July 2025
 - **Online Consultation:** July 2025, focus on developing work with victims.

The above training has largely been in response to staff professional development but alongside the wider service plans around improvement and what we are experiencing through a changing cohort of young people. Staff report that this training has been positive enabling a more positive approach with children due to greater understanding. This is reflected in high levels of engagement with children that we experience.

Internal Training:

- Workshop for staff on the Prevention and Diversion (PAD assessment tool).
- Exploitation Training, presented by SGC Practice Development Managers leads for Exploitation and Missing Children.
- Training on ecomaps and genograms presented by SGC Practice Development Managers.
- Workshop at peer supervision from the HSB Specialist.
- Education specialist attended training on the South Glos Schools Belonging Toolkit.
- YJ Police Officer and YJ Worker undertake bi-monthly training to Police recruits as part of UWE training. They deliver a session on Youth Justice Services and the work that they do with young people. This is delivered as part of Craft Skills Module in year two of the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) programme at UWE.

Training Planned 24/25 (so far):

- Prevent training 15th May 2025 – from Counter Terrorism Regional Officer (who sits on SG Prevent Board)
- Follow up training on Restorative Justice.
- Staff workshops as determined from HMIP audit on assessment, planning and delivery.

It must be acknowledged that like last year 2024-25 has been a challenging year for the YJ staff who have supported a child through his murder trial and conviction (December) alongside managing with significant staff absence through illness. Since June 2024 ECM Psychologists have been providing regular monthly staff support sessions.

10. Evidence-based practice and innovation

Evidence Based Practice:

Child First: SGYJS is taking a Child First approach to working with children that is evidence-based, grounded in research showing that prioritising children's rights, strengths, and developmental needs, while providing supportive relationships, promotes desistance, improves outcomes, and contributes to safer communities. SGYJS will use the Child First toolkit to ensure all our services align to this principle.

ECM Project: The Enhanced case Management (ECP) Project for South Glos:

In November 2022 ECM became one of the 7 Vanguard pathways of the regional Integrated Care Framework Vanguard which allowed the project to continue post the Youth Justice Board pilot. The project is now a Collaboration between the NHS (Forensic CAMHS Clinical Psychologists) and the 4 Youth Justice Services (S Glos, Bristol, BANES and N Somerset). Initially the criteria for the project (YJB pilot) were referrals for children subject to statutory order of 6 months or more and where there are concerns around risk, ECM would then progress as a case consultation. Since the Vanguard funding ECM have been able to widen out their service with an additional offer of consultation for children subject to Out of Court disposals or Court Orders with less than 6 months remaining. Funding from the ICB Vanguard for ECM is coming to an end in October 2025.

In 2024 ECM has had **6 new referrals from South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service, 3 for full formulation, 1 re-formulation and 2 consultations**. Five of these children saw an upwards move on the Trauma Recovery model over time, with changes noted including building better relationships, developing increased awareness and insight into their behaviours, increased stability, future planning, reduction in risky behaviours and making better choices. The sixth child was referred for a re-formulation at the point of transitioning to adult services. The ECM team provided support around this transition by liaising with the Courts and adult Probation Service, regarding the young person's presentation and needs, and sharing learning on how best to work with them. One young person had a 'passport' produced by the ECM Psychologist which helped to communicate their needs to other agencies (Police, Courts). All caseworkers with children open to the ECM project are supported in their practice through monthly 1:1 clinical supervision sessions with the ECM psychologist. In order to make ECM more accessible for children with a variety of learning needs, ECM has developed a new ECM referral/consent form and an ECM introductory video, it was noted that this has helped with consent from children considered for ECM. The creation of child and parent/carer voice forms has also worked to increase collaboration with children and parents and allows them to input into the formulation process.

Alongside the case formulation and consultation for individual children, ECM also provides ongoing wider practice development and training and skills opportunities for staff. A 7-session training programme is currently being delivered by the ECM team with monthly sessions taking place between November 2024 and May 2025. This training covers topics such as the Trauma Recovery Model, Developmental mapping and Trauma informed assessments, planning and transitions. A Vicarious Trauma training session is also being offered to consider how the work that youth justice practitioners do can impact them and their colleagues and consider how staff can protect themselves, access support and support one another. ECM continue to lead a piece of work with representatives from 5 local Youth Justice Services including South Gloucestershire that is focusing on making Referral Orders more trauma informed.

The ECM service also provides several support options for staff including monthly face to face reflective staff support sessions for youth justice case managers. The sessions are a contained/reflective space for staff to bring any difficulties, thoughts, reflections in recognition that there may be challenges and impacts of the work. This space appeared particularly valuable post-court and sentencing of a South Glos child involved in a Murder in Bristol. Reflective staff support sessions are also held for Managers of YJS teams every two months and there is an open offer of Post Incident Psychological Support (PIPs) sessions to YJS staff following serious incidents that may have a significant psychological impact. These have been utilised, with benefit on 2 occasions by Staff within the service.

Innovation

Diversion Re-Offending Tool: SGYJS are currently developing a model which identifies young people who receive Diversionary / Non-statutory interventions and tracks them for 12 months after the quarter in which their Intervention started. This looks at offences which result in both Statutory and Diversionary interventions. This work follows the MoJ “Guide to proven reoffending statistics” (Oct 2024) in only looking at proven re-offending within the 12-month period; Court or OOC Panel decisions which are made outside of this period are not counted.

Whilst this is work-in-progress, preliminary findings using Q3 2023/24 as the initial intervention period show that the majority of YP did not go on to reoffend either in a Statutory or Non-statutory manner. As such Diversionary Interventions can be seen as having benefits to both the YP concerned and the South Glos Community. Our data does not track YP after they reach their majority at 18. However, in this case, checks by the Police Officer attached to the YJS indicates that there were no new proven offences by those aged 18+ within period.

Turnaround Project: Ministry of Justice initially a 3-year funded project now extended for a further year. Turnaround is an early intervention project working with children who are at risk of entering the youth justice system. Whilst there has been no formal evaluation of this project in November 2024 an ad-hoc data publication presents a snapshot data (from 155 YJSs) of the number of children supported by the Turnaround Programme in the first year of Programme delivery - January – December 2023. (Gov.UK). Critically the report sets out that the programme is clearly making a difference by supporting many children to turn around their lives.

- Of children who had sufficiently completed their Turnaround interventions during the first year of programme delivery, 5% had received a judicial decision for offending, whilst 83% had no further contact with a YJS and had not offended as proven by a judicial decision as of 31 December 2023.

In compiling the data across the 3 years of the project. January 2023 to March 2025., there have been:

Numbers of Assessments and Interventions

- 48 Assessments for the Turnaround
- 47 Interventions started
- 39 Interventions successfully completed.
- 1 Intervention closed without completion.
- 7 Interventions open as of 01/04/25.

Desistance from offending

98% of young people who have worked with Turnaround since it started in January 2023 have not received any further criminal justice outcomes.

Out of the 48 young people we have worked with only two committed a further offence:

- 1 x young person has committed an offence since an intervention has started. This led to an Outcome 22 and further work with the Youth Justice Service.
- 1 x Young Person has received a Conviction; however, the offence pre-dated our involvement and was the reason why we became involved.

Type of work

We are required to report to the ministry of justice on the primary interventions that we deliver with young people, based on their provided categories. Most of our primary intervention work has been recorded under the category of “Emotional and Social”, but across 2024-25 we have seen more “sports based recreational activities”. Obviously, the work the early intervention worker undertakes is varied and there can be several areas that are addressed when working with young people and parents/carers, such as education, substance misuse and parenting support. However, the main benefits of the work, take place in the context of the positive relationships formed with young people which is recorded under Emotional and Social.

Working with young men: Since 2020 and developed by the Youth Justice Support Worker the YJS has had the benefit of a specific programme aimed at boys, called ‘**ManKind**’. The programme is a cognitive programme that tackles the negative male stereotypes and is structured to stimulate discussion. There are easy to engage activities, usage of the internet and relevant material to engage young people to enjoy the programme while learning. As well as being able to complete the whole programme it is easily broken down and workers are able to pick and choose which parts, they would want their young person to participate in.

The programme originated from an observation that there could be a need and/or a different approach to your typical ‘anger management’ type programmes. It’s a discussion-based programme and as every young person has their own ‘story’ and reasons why they may be acting negatively when it comes to them demonstrating who they are as a young man the programme ends up being specific to them, their experiences and goals. This programme is being evaluated.

Young People who have completed the ManKind programme as part of their order.

- 2021-2022 (11 young people) - April 2021 to March 2022
- 2022-2023 (12 young people) – April 2022 to March 2023
- 2023-2024 (10 young people) -April 2023 to March 2024

- 2024-2025 (7 young people) – April 2024 to March 2025

However, this does not include parts of the programme that may have been used by case workers in their sessions and parts of the programme that may have been incorporated in discussions whilst working with young people during their reparation. This familiarity with the resources by the team has contributed to the reduction in the numbers.

The Violence Reduction Partnership commissioned the worker to provide ‘train the trainer’ sessions (2022 to 2024) and consultations for staff in the locality, to increase the resilience of workers in schools and youth provisions to undertake this work.

The YJ Support Worker presented this programme to the YJB Southwest Developing Practice Forum in 2024. The resources for the programme are now on the YJB Resource Hub.

In relation to evaluation this has been undertaken by the lead for this work in two ways. Firstly, by gaining immediate feedback from the children for their thoughts on the programme and what they have learnt, which has been very much informal. For some children who have been oppositional to undertaking ManKind they have been asked to review the programme which has then had the added benefit of them undertaking it in order to review.

The general feedback for ManKind is that when it comes to masculinity and how teenage boys act regarding masculinity it is accurate to their experiences, and it’s been the first opportunity they have been given to talk about the difficulties for them navigating this part of their life.

Young people say that the first part of the programme *really makes sense to them and gives them confidence to make better decisions* (Tough, brave and strong). Young people also really respond well to the YouTube videos used and highlight that as a part of the programme that also really sticks out for them. They also say that the *programme flows well and its always personalised to them and their experiences*.

Exploitation Training Package: Trapped. The ‘Trapped’ programme has also been well received by young people, we have targeted young people who are on the verge of being criminally exploited or young people that have committed offences, where exploitation is a significant factor that has led them to be working with youth justice.

“Trapped” explains child criminal exploitation (CCE) in a child friendly way using YouTube videos and activities, which again, allows and opens up discussion around CCE, their experiences and perspectives on this issue. Young people will not always recognise stages in getting involved with CCE. This programme aims to increase their capacity, confidence and knowledge to deflect getting involved in crime. This programme is still in its infancy but is being evaluated.

“Trapped”: Young People who have completed the Trapped (CCE) programme as part of their order.

- 2021-2022 (4 young people) - April 2021 to March 2022
- 2022-2023 (2 young people) – April 2022 to March 2023
- 2023-2024 (1 young people) -April 2023 to March 2024
- 2024 to 2025 (7* young people) – April 2024 to March 2025

*1 child was open to YPS

Of note is the increase in children accessing this programme across this year, indicating a greater need. Like Mankind, staff will use the resources of this programme outside of the formal programme in their individual sessions.

In regard to feedback for 'Trapped' this has also been well received and young people have fed back that *they like the YouTube videos used to show how exploitation can occur.. they enjoy that they are asked about their experience rather than be told it to them.*

In response to the feedback areas that have been added to the programme:

- The impact on girls for example how girlfriends are used to carry drugs, weapons etc
- It's not always 'olders' that can exploit young people sometimes it's down to a certain person's status that holds the power for example a younger person who has an older brother or comes from a family of criminals that maybe feared in the community can exploit young people that are older than them.

In the general YJS feedback form there is a section for young people to give feedback specifically on their experiences of 'Trapped or Mankind'.

Development post: Working with African Heritage young people (AHYP): This post is about to be piloted with a start date of 14/4/25. Evaluation will be ongoing and from the outset and through a steering group we will identify and embed any learning into wider children services.

Education Inclusion Project: (Home Office funded project linked to the VRP October 2021). The Education Inclusion Project aims to reduce permanent exclusions (PEX) and managed moves associated with serious youth violence (SYV), CCE or CSE for young people aged 11-16 by providing a targeted intervention and support package at the point at which a child or young person is at risk of exclusion. It draws on the concept of intervening at a "teachable moment", i.e., a moment at which services might be better able to engage children and young people in interventions focused on changing their behaviours and circumstances.

An Education Inclusion manager (EIM) works with education providers and other professionals to manage the risk and build confidence in responding to the needs of the young person instead of automatically considering a move, reporting directly to the police or attempting to manage the risk internally. In turn, the young person will be offered the opportunity to address risk factors and motivations that led to their situation. The YJS Education specialist has a key role in driving this project (a role additional to her YJS role).

This project has been subject to independent evaluation. The project has moved into the council's Young People's Support team (June 2023) which now has two engagement workers (2.0fte).

Funding has been secured until March 2026 alongside the additional 1.0fte engagement worker post (funded from the council and school clusters) enabling the project to reach more children and extend its work across Summer supporting children transitioning to secondary school where there have been identified concerns.

Since June 2024, the education engagement workers have worked with **60 children**, nearly doubling our numbers from the year before. In this period there have been 3 permanent exclusions (PEX) leaving EIP with a current **success rate of 95%**. This is significant as all referrals are assessed and evidenced by their host school as high risk of PEX.

11. Evaluation

Good Lives Model: AIM assessment and interventions. There is a dedicated Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Specialist post in the YJS (since 2016), in response to increasing need and

specialism in this area. Across 2024 to 2025: the HSB specialist has consulted on **26 HSB cases** that is tracking, monitoring and undertaking consultations with (guidance, support of Social Worker, sent resources and recommendations / safety planning, supported referral to HSB service or other /attend multi-agency meetings etc.) **12 HSB children** direct face to face intervention and complete a programme of HSB intervention.

The post holder and a number of YJ staff specialising in this area have had extensive training on AIM 3 (including Under 12's assessment as well as technology assisted HSB): The staff continue to have regular case consultation with a Consultant Psychologist expert in this area, and all work is overseen in individual case supervision or referred into the YJ monthly risk meetings.

The AIM3 Model of Assessment is designed to assist practitioners in reviewing with the young person and their parent/carer what are the most appropriate interventions to reduce the areas of concern. It ensures individualised safety plans and targeted interventions as the young person progresses in their pathway to addressing the HSB.

Priorities for 2025-26

12. 'Standards for children'

The most recent National Standards self-assessment was undertaken in October 2023 on the Court strand. This was initially undertaken by the Team Manager and Practice Managers with validation of some random audits by the Youth Panel lead (Partnership member). The audit was rated and agreed by the Youth Panel lead and Chair of the YJ Partnership and was between Good and Outstanding (with evidence provided). It was agreed that there were some areas that needed strengthening, and a development plan was devised to action plan this. This plan has been signed off by the Partnership in December 2024 as having been completed.

Work completed:

- Memorandum of understanding has been agreed and signed up to between Avon and Somerset (A&S) police and the 5 YJSs "Protocol for the Joint working of child OOCR panels in A&S".
- A Practice Guidance document has been developed for SGYJS for work in Court, Bail and Remand (linked to Remand thematic).

In May 2024 the YJS completed an audit on Standard 3: In the Community (court disposals). 16 cases were audited, and a report was presented to the Partnership (June 2024), the report noted: **Areas for improvement**

- Agreement on recording of supervision notes and how this can be more reflective.
- Case note format. What to include (aims of session/ voice of child/ reflection)
- Planning of interventions to reflect *Child First Principles* including safety and well-being and harm to others and other professional plans in place. To include outcomes (what it would look like if I achieved this). Use of external controls.
- Future Behaviour: Risk of Future Harm section to be written as *YP could cause harm by....this is likely to be.....based on previous incidents where they targeted...this means that the victims are likely to be....this would be more likely if...*
- Proactive reviewing of assessment following significant changes – this is not always undertaken.
- More consideration for a SALT assessment.
- Checking for understanding in all areas of work

Areas to consider as a Team:

- Consider moving the offence section, from being the first section we read in the Referral order reports, to instead being introduced to the young person and their strengths.
- Review the Referral Order contracts to be more supportive of the child's pro-social identity

An **action plan** was devised:

- Input to staff on AssetPlus specifically: Pathways and Planning; Explanations and Conclusions. **Completed**
- Review supervision recording. **Completed** a supervision recording template has been devised and is now being routinely used by the PMs
- Review current referral order report format. **Completed**
- Review current policies (Risk/ Safety and well-being) to reflect workshop and guidance around AssetPlus. **This is currently in progress**

A focus remains on Quality Assurance with the plan stating:

‘As part of YOT regular auditing process: see an agreed number of random cases per year audited against an agreed standard and reported to the Partnership’.

A 6 monthly peer audit is undertaken with YJS/Police partners as part of the OOCR Tactical Group, auditing outcomes at OOCR panel to ensure consistency and clarity across the force area. (as written into MoU)

In addition, we have now established a multi-agency peer review group (with North Somerset, BaNES and South Glos) undertaking 6 monthly peer audits depending on need at the time. This has been paused across 2024 due to local demands on the YJSs but is due to reconvene in April 2025.

Over this year audit activity has included:

- May 2024: Post Court work (Domain 2). As above
- November 2024: Addressing Disproportionality in SGYJS: a Thematic Audit. Shared with the Partnership in December 2024. Recommendations for the Partnership and for the YJS which are being overseen by the Partnership (reviewed March 2025). This audit is further being shared with A&S colleagues as part of audit work for the Youth Justice pillar of the Tackling Disproportionality programme. The SG audit was validated by SARI.
- January 2025: Multi-agency Quality assurance audit: Children in Care and the Youth Justice system. Undertaken as part of improvement work in relation to disparity of CiC in the formal youth justice system. Themes for learning: curiosity and what we found:
 - There was seemingly delay in moving one YP out of area – could we have avoided the YP being criminalised if they had been moved out of area sooner? Energy and focus seemed to be on supporting the local foster placement, rather than focussing on reducing the risk of them being exploited.
 - Where a YP is suffering significant harm due to exploitation and they are also a Child in our care, how can the CiC social work team access the skills and experience of the Exploitation team on a Contributing professional basis more systematically and effectively?

- Could better and more joined up multi-agency working between police and social care have avoided the young person being accommodated where the police-imposed bail conditions against the wishes of Social care and parents? Did police have sufficient knowledge necessary to make this decision at the time and could social care have used the Professional differences escalation policy more effectively?
 - Once a child becomes accommodated and a CiC, there appears to be less opportunity for multi-agency working and information sharing amongst professionals. CiC review meetings tend not to include all of the multi-agency professionals involved, so is there a need for a more structured approach to multi-agency information sharing around Children in Care?
 - Exploitation Identification Tools (EIT's) are not being used regularly as a valued tool to assess risk – we need to consider reviewing this tool and the value that it adds to the overall assessment of risk.
- May 2025: Planned audit of YJ open cases against new HMIP criteria. Looking at 60% OOCR cases and 40% court cases

Audit activity planned for 25/26:

Planned for July 2025: Multi-Agency Case Discussion (MACD) as part of HMIP preparation work undertaken through the YJ Partnership.

Planned Audit July 2025: Victim case work. This is part of ongoing improvement work on Victims.

All audits are reported to the Partnership with an action plan largely around internal training and processes (recording). The Practice Managers continue to do dip-sampling regularly to ensure any improvement work is sustained.

13. Service development.

Service Development

Key activities and outcomes for children 2025-26

Key activities	Outcomes	What support is needed	What success will look like
Reduce disparity in children from global majority groups receiving a formal youth justice outcome (continued from last year's priorities)	Reduced numbers of children from global majority backgrounds being given a formal YJ outcome (focus on mixed heritage children) Reduction in remands/custodial for children from global majority backgrounds.	Working alongside all criminal justice partners to action plan for recommendations from Tackling Disproportionality programme via Steering Committee (Chair of Partnership) and the YJ pillar. Data from Partners: Police and Education.	Children and families from global majority backgrounds feeling greater trust in early help provision. Maintaining/ reducing low FTE rated Data will show us that numbers of children from global majority backgrounds being given a formal YJ

	<p>More children accessing diversion opportunities (Turnaround)</p> <p>Reduce high gravity offences committed by black boys.</p>	<p>Refresh on data (as requested by TD programme): Whether racial disproportionality is appearing at specific points in the process of YJ service delivery/ what impacts on decisions made.</p>	<p>outcome are reducing proportionately</p>
<p>Reduce the disparity of Children in care receiving a formal youth justice outcome. (continued from last year's priority)</p>	<p>Reduced numbers of children in care receiving a formal outcome. Looking at diversionary outcomes when appropriate.</p> <p>To have a focus on girls in care and reducing their involvement in the YJS</p>	<p>Working with partners in social care to better understand some of the factors. To highlight the increase of girls in care and look at ways (through adherence to the protocol "Reducing Criminalisation of CiC and care Leavers") of reducing this.</p> <p>Ensuring that the local SG Protocol "Reducing Criminalisation of CiC and care Leavers" is adopted and implemented by all services.</p> <p>Corporate parenting board will need to receive this year's data information and provide direction and support in addressing this disparity.</p>	<p>Children in care feeling supported and valued at difficult times in their lives.</p> <p>Reducing the proportion of Children in care who receive a formal YJ outcome in 25/26 (benchmark is 33% at April 25).</p>
<p>Continue to work with partners to reduce serious youth violence (continued from last year's priorities)</p>	<p>Ensure that work around serious youth violence is joined up across the agencies (Social Care, Police, VRP and YJS).</p> <p>Collaborative working to reduce incidents – through early intervention to</p>	<p>The work of the Education Inclusion Project – in terms of early intervention/ identification – to support this continuing.</p> <p>Implementation of the serious violence duty across Avon and Somerset.</p>	<p>Reduction in, and prevention of, incidents of serious youth violence.</p> <p>When concerns do arise that multi-agency partners swiftly come together to action plan/ safeguard and disrupt where appropriate.</p>

	<p>sharing intel/ information (PIMM)</p> <p>Reduce the number of children receiving outcomes for weapon related offences.</p>	<p>Service review of YEF Toolkit: what works to prevent youth violence.</p> <p>Work with the community safety partnership in the development of the Young Futures programme, which will see the establishment of Prevention Partnerships.</p>	
<p>Improve the work on victims both strategically and operationally</p>	<p>Ensure that the Partnership are cited on victim work and contribute to its development.</p> <p>Improve services for victims and ensure there is a clear pathway of support</p>	<p>Provide annual reports to the Partnership on victim work (data and analysis)</p> <p>Develop a SG victim policy to include what support services are available.</p> <p>Undertake an audit of victim case work as reassurance for this area.</p> <p>Work with A&S police and YJS colleagues to enable more detailed victim information</p> <p>Develop a victim feedback process, through consulting with RJ training providers</p>	<p>Victims reporting that they have trust in the service and feel valued.</p> <p>Facilitating Restorative Justice initiatives to help victims “heal”</p>
<p>Improve the participation of children within the Youth Justice Service. (continued from last year's priorities)</p>	<p>To ensure that we continue to have a YJ service that meets the needs of children.</p> <p>Children to have the opportunity to shape service development and to collaborate on any developments.</p>	<p>To ensure this work fits with wider children's services development plan around participation.</p> <p>Learning from other YJSs where this is established.</p>	<p>Children feeling more valued (Child First) and not seen as an “offender”.</p> <p>Continual improvement of the YJ service, shaped by feedback from CYP with lived experience – ‘You said, we did’.</p>

		Expanding to wider activities and opportunities for children to contribute to service development.	
Quality Assurance/ HMIP Preparation	Re-assurance to the Partnership of the quality of work being undertaken by the YJS.	Work collaboratively with neighbouring YJSs for peer review. Determine champions/leads within the Partnership for the National Standards Audit (strategic)	Future HMIP inspections - maintaining "Outstanding" rating of 2020. Remaining in Quadrant One of YJB Oversight Framework

As a service and in line with Child First principles and aligning to the YJB Strategic Plan 2024/27, we want to ensure children are not unnecessarily criminalised as a result of their vulnerabilities and the challenges they face. In improving outcomes for children, we will do this by:

1. Holding annual Partnership development events, with a focus on improving outcomes for all children and promoting inclusion with reference to reducing disparity, treating children fairly and helping to build on their strengths and supporting them to make a constructive contribution to society.
2. Learning from other Youth Justice Service's HMIP inspections as well as thematic inspections. The recent Youth Remand Concordat (MoJ Feb 2025) is on the agenda for the June 2025 Partnership meeting, the recently published "Delivering the best for Girls in custody" (MoJ: S. Hancock March 2025) will be referenced as part of this discussion. The Partnership have been appraised of the development work in SG around contextual safeguarding: risk outside of the home by reference to the JTAI on serious youth violence undertaken in Somerset.
3. Working alongside education settings to identify and support children who are at risk of becoming involved in the youth justice system (Education Inclusion Project/ Turnaround) through focussing on children's needs, identifying their strengths and creating opportunities that realise their potential. Continuing to work with Preventative Services partners including the Young People's Support team, enabling this early intervention, with an aim to prevent and reduce serious youth violence.
4. Promoting and developing the structures in place for participation of children and hearing their voices; through learning from our partners and developing a better understanding of children's experiences of the youth justice system especially for those we see having poorer outcomes (children from minority ethnic groups and children in care).
5. For those that do enter the youth justice system ensure the work we do with them is trauma informed, and strengths based alongside being responsive to their individual needs and vulnerabilities helping them to achieve sustained desistance. Using the tools we have from the enhanced case management project to the specialisms within the team.

The YJB Oversight Framework: The Partnership are fully informed on this framework: YJS performance: oversight, assurance and compliance. The YJS team manager meets quarterly with the YJB Oversight Manager for an assurance review meeting, they also sit on the YJ Partnership. SGYJS have been granted Quadrant One status: Strong Performance. Eligibility for this, amongst other criteria, is *Performance against the oversight fields considered strong. In the top quartile nationally of relevant oversight metrics. Strong YJ Plan*. SGYJS last HMIP inspection (September 2020) was rated as “outstanding” which is also relevant for this Quadrant one status, and this means a reduced oversight arrangement.

From a service wide perspective success will mean good performance across all the KPIs. From an individual perspective, success will mean children who feel valued and listened to who can reach their potential. Continuing to work with Partners to embrace this culture and see children as ‘children first’ will allow us to achieve these successes.

Other Local Strategic Plans

- Child Safeguarding Practice Review: Child T. Relates to the death of a child previously known to YJS.
- Following a charge of murder for a SG child, the LA convened a multi-agency learning event, a learning brief is due to be published (May 2025)
- The SG benchmarking exercise against the joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to serious youth violence in Somerset.
- The outcome of the NWG independent review of the Risk Management Pathway and action plan
- The Avon and Somerset Reducing Re-Offending Strategy.
- The South Glos Serious Violence Local Profile (VRP)

14. National priority areas

Children from groups which are over-represented.

Disparity in Girls and Violence offences: This has (April 2024) been stepped down as a priority by YJ Partnership agreement in response to the data analysis presented showing improvements in this area. Recent data analysis presented to the Partnership (March 2025) provided re-assurance regarding improvements in this area.

Children in Care: Data across 2024 to 2025 continues to indicate a worrying increase in children in care working on a statutory intervention, 33% of all statutory interventions. This data will be shared with the Corporate Parenting Board and the YJ Partnership and will continue to be one of the priority actions for 2025-26, helping us to better understand and tackle this increase. Of note is the emergence of disproportionality of girls in care within this cohort.

Work with children from global majority backgrounds: This has been a priority area for the Partnership for some time now in response to the data disparity. Following the Identifying Disproportionality review 2022 (A&S CJB) there has been a multi-agency steering group to address the recommendations, SGC being represented by the Chair of the Partnership. The Tackling Disproportionality programme has been established since late 2023 and the SGYJS team manager is the Chair of the Youth Justice pillar (one of 6 pillar leads driving this work). There have been monthly meetings attended by representatives from YJ, Education, Police, CPS and YJB across the 5 authority areas; these have now moved to quarterly as work becomes embedded. The objectives of this meetings are to agree and drive improvement based on the YJ recommendations. A key priority for this group moving forward will be to

develop a YJ Working group across the partnership, to share good practice and to hear the lived experiences of children, that moves beyond the YJ Pillar. The programme is very data heavy so a need to focus on the voice and experiences of the child is important. Collaborating with our education colleagues in relation to data has enabled a better understanding of disproportionality in school exclusions and the link to entering the YJS.

The YJS continues to work in collaboration with South Glos Education, who have an “Equality in Education Steering Group”, with a subgroup *Race Equality Task Force*. The YJS is represented on the task force, monitoring the data through the Partnership, getting a better understanding of who these young people are and their journey into the youth justice system. We continue to have the partnership arrangements with SARI and have now established the developmental worker post in April 2025. A steering group of members from social care, education and the council equality team will oversee the work of the development post.

SG Council launched the Tackling Inequalities Plan 2024-28, with a dedicated launch for Children’s Services this year with SARI as a keynote speaker. To achieve this work the council will *take a proactive, action-based approach to tackling inequalities*. One of the priority areas is **educational attainment and experience** (links to a key priority of the YJ Pillar 1. Education Inclusion)

Reducing Re-Offending

Across Avon and Somerset all the YJSs are involved in the Reducing Re-Offending agenda. A development workshop was held in March 2025 and the YJS were represented. There is a statutory duty to have a reducing reoffending strategy (for both adults and children) across Avon and Somerset.

In relation to the Southwest Reducing Reoffending Partnership priorities which were agreed recently, there is an expectation that A&S is aligned with their priorities where possible. The priorities are whole system and a combination of prevention, early intervention as well as reducing reoffending.

SGYJS are linked into the A&S Reducing Re-Offending (RR) Strategy around children and is aligned to the SW priority:

“Maximise alternative sentencing and use of restorative opportunities to build confidence in and educate sentencers to make a meaningful impact on behaviours to reduce reoffending. Recognising the value of out of court resolutions to prevent entering the CJS in the first place, to intervene as required and offer diversions which will protect communities and enhance cohesion.”

This supports the Child first approach and the links into the LCJB business plan (the A&S RR Board is a subgroup of the LCJB)

- A highlight report will need to be prepared quarterly for the Board around this priority which can be for the whole of A&S. Reducing Re-Offending has more of a focus around interventions which will need to be reflected in this work. This report is needed as part of reporting up to the LCJB.
- The A&S Board will probably move to introduce development workshop/themes and there is a commitment that there is a child one scheduled in as part of that.

Community Safety partnerships across A&S have also agreed to re-invigorate their role around Reducing Reoffending. SG Youth Justice Partnership will deal with the child priority in

collaboration with Community Safety and development work has begun across SG to align all services to this strategy.

Policing

The YJS works closely with the **Early Intervention area of the police** (Violence Reduction policing) with the lead for this area of work until recently sitting on the YJ Partnership. The Sergeant co-chairs the OOCd panel as well as being the vice chair for the Partnership Intelligence Management Meeting (under the council's Risk Management Pathway). Since April 2024, the Sergeant has taken on the role of line management for the YJ Police Officer. The police team are now co-located with the YJS which is based in a police building.

Out of Court Disposal Tactical Group: This meeting was established by the EI police lead (with YJS attendance) and has across 2024 to 2025 enabled progress across the force area and YJS regarding consistency and clarity in OOCd work. The Tactical group has been the lead for many of the Tackling Disproportionality: YJ Pillar recommendations and made much progress here. The group undertakes 6 monthly peer audits to scrutinise decision making at the OOCd panel.

Northern SYV/Exploitation multi-agency meeting. (formerly Operation Hardy): Operation Hardy was created in 2024 as a response to an escalation in serious youth violence across SG/Bristol and was then led by the Early Intervention police lead. This has ensured regular information sharing meetings across the partnership and localities and has demonstrated a child centred approach to managing this situation. Over time this meeting has become established (rather than a reactive response) to monitor any issues arising with multi-agency partners with the aim of early identification and disruption. The formation of this meeting has been praised as an area of good practice and is being adopted across the force area.

Operation Topaz Continues to focus on child sexual exploitation.

The YJ Police Officer and a YJ Worker are regularly undertaking training sessions with new police officers in training, to provide knowledge around youth justice and children to help inform them when on duty. Focus has been on trauma informed approaches and understanding the many challenges and vulnerabilities faced by children.

Prevention

The Police provide daily information about arrested young people and those attending planned police interviews, which enables early identification of young people needing safety/ support as well as information in relation to police-initiated Community Resolutions.

The YJS sits within the management structure of Preventative Services/Early Help. This supports the aim to ensure young people can benefit from support at all levels of need with a focus on early intervention and prevention, supporting young people into positive activities and outcomes e.g:

- Development of the Turnaround Project in the YJS. This project has established links with liaison and diversion as well as the police ASB team to provide early identification of children who are on the cusp of offending.
- Joint working cases with the Families Plus teams (family support)
- The work of the Education Inclusion Project. Since this service has been bought into the council's YPS team (June 2023).

- The investment and development of Family Link Workers funded from the Prevention fund will support schools with attendance, as well as partners, prioritising early intervention as the key to improving attendance.
- The Young People Support team providing additional capacity for prevention work, this team sits alongside the YJS and works collaboratively with them.
- Jointly developed processes to ensure effective Return Home Interview process for young people who have been missing. YPS team undertakes all RHIs for those young people who do not already have a lead professional working with them.
- Good links with community-based youth service providers

In determining the impact and success of prevention work the continued low numbers of FTEs is evidence that this approach is having a benefit.

Diversion

South Glos YJS benefit from the Youth Alcohol and Drug Diversion scheme (YADD) and use this information internally to identify wider support needs for children. For April 2024 to March 2025 there have been **13 YADD referrals** in (consistent with last year's figure but much reduced figures since pre-Covid). The Avon and Somerset Weapons Diversion scheme launched in April 2022 has been superseded by the introduction of the new Child Gravity Matrix.

The OOCd panel has developed alongside the introduction of the new Child Gravity Matrix and from guidance from the YJB case management on OOCd. The panel is assisted by a police intelligence lead when clarification is needed and to provide advice in determining the gravity matrix. Any cases which we have been uncertain about (largely around the determination of exceptional circumstances) have been raised with the Police Inspector and Chief Inspector (Early Intervention Policing). All decisions at panel are written into a decision log and attached to police and YJS systems, thus providing rationale. From May 2025 we will be welcoming a Social Care member to the panels (the Practice Development Managers) in response to the YJB case management guidance, this will enhance the decision making. The YJS lead for OOCd will be providing an induction to the new members.

Since 01/04/24, SGYJS have been using the new Prevention and Diversion (PAD) assessment. Currently this assessment is not embedded into the YJ case management system, but this is planned to follow the next case management system upgrade. Training via workshops and individual support has been available both prior to the implementation of this assessment and following training undertaken by the Practice Managers and disseminated to staff via a workshop. Support and quality assurance of the PADs is now in place. The PAD is now the document to inform the OOCd panel.

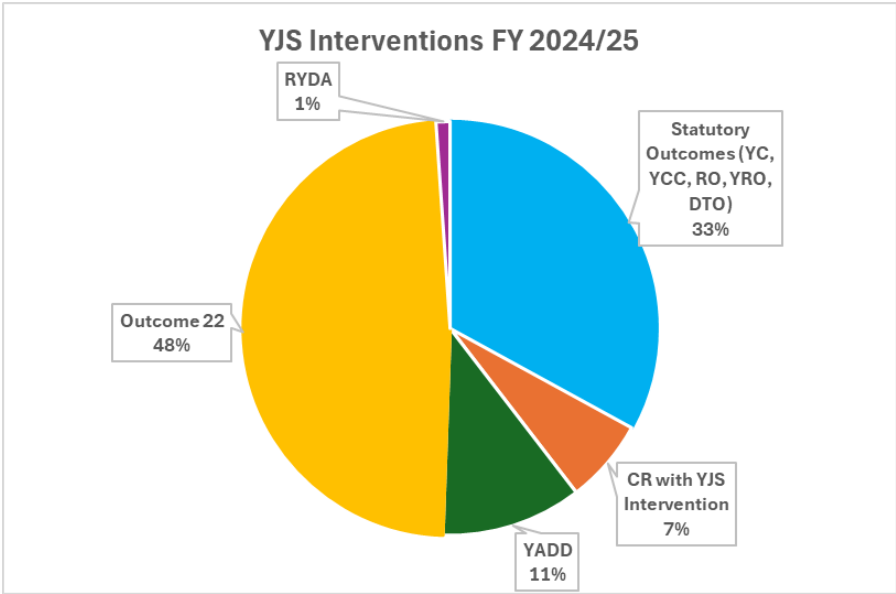
Collaboration between the 5 A&S YJSs has been established since early 2024 to ensure some consistency regarding diversion/OOCd work. This has been overseen by the OOCd Tactical Group, enabling police and YJSs across A&S, to provide a consistent service in light of the new guidance, as well as establish consistent data from the police. SGYJS have developed a local practice guidance for staff for OOCd work.

SGYJS had been for some time providing diversion (voluntary) opportunities for children outside of the formal OOCd outcomes, this has been challenging across 2024-25 given increased work and capacity in the team. Initially Turnaround did not focus on OOCd cases as this was already established, however more recently some OOCd cases have been managed through the Turnaround project, with the project providing additionality to the intervention

(beyond the OOCd outcome). The Turnaround project moved to the YJ case management system in 2024 and using the new PAD assessment. (formerly part of the EH framework and using a different case management system)

Again, the continued low rates of first-time entrants (FTE) is evidence of the success of this preventative and early intervention approach. Oversight of this work is through an established OOCd Scrutiny Panel which the Avon and Somerset YJSs attend and contribute to. The feedback for any SG cases is shared with the Partnership and any learning from this feedback is discussed and actioned at the monthly manager’s meeting.

Table 9 below: April 2024 to March 2025. Needs updating Breakdown of all interventions. This highlights the efforts to support children outside of the formal youth justice system, indicating **that 66% of all youth justice work is non-statutory** (for 23-24 this was 68%). This is consistent with last year. This clearly evidences the increased efforts to successfully divert children and young people from the youth justice system.



Education

Across 2024/25 although still relatively low, we have had a growing number of unsuitable Elective Home Education (EHE) situations. The YJS work closely with the appropriate teams to help re-engage the child back into education where possible. This year children are communicating (pro social) entrepreneurial aspirations. The YJS, Education Safeguarding Lead and 0-25 EHCP team are working together to develop knowledge of opportunities for children interested in this area who may not be suited to standard academic pathways.

SGYJS, together with social care and safeguarding, are completing school peer reviews facilitated by the Virtual school. The YJS are focusing on student voice regarding non structured time, non-attendance school led procedures and family engagement. These areas reflect the common education barriers presented within YJS cohort.

As part of the work in the Tackling Disproportionality programme there is developing data around school exclusions, being open to YJS and any disparity in ethnicity, this work is still under development. Education has alongside this developed an attendance dashboard (with all SG schools signed up to data sharing) which is shared with YJS, this indicates ethnicity of all children. This work is overseen by Equality in Education steering group.

South Glos Education Psychology Service have successfully launched *Reducing Exclusions Through the lens of **Belonging**: A Toolkit for Schools and Educational Settings (2024)*. This tool has been launched alongside training which the YJ Educational specialist attended. This toolkit was developed in response to the need to support some of our most vulnerable children and young people to achieve positive life outcomes, and in doing so, reduce the number of school exclusions. This Child First approach works in conjunction with the EIP.

The Education Inclusion Project now within the council is designed to work with children involved in serious youth violence and reduce their risk of PEX. This project has helped to reduce PEX for these children and, should the children come to YJS, case managers have a clearer understanding of the child's education needs and aspirations.

The YJS Manager attends the SEND Performance and Engagement Meetings. Since 2023, there has been good progress with improvements across all areas, and the Children and Young People's Partnership (comprising LA, ICB, PC) and partners across the local area have collaborated in the development of a new SEND Strategy 2023-2028. Implementation of the corresponding action plan commenced in 2024 to further improve and develop the offer for children and young people.

The Service Manager overseeing SGYJS and the YJ Educational Specialist are members of the established Education High Risk Group Plus. This group responds to those children at risk of exclusion, with partner involvement (Health, Social Care, YJS and Education) so that there is greater opportunity for partnership working and oversight of the young people being considered. The current YJ Education Escalation Panel may move into this meeting.

[Restorative approaches and victims](#)

All victims are contacted with an offer of support, feedback and reparation opportunities. For cases coming to OOCd panel the Harmed Party worker presents victim feedback/ impact to ensure all information is available for decision making at the panel. At the March 2025 Partnership meeting the harmed party worker provided some case studies on her role and the work undertaken. At the June 2025 Partnership meeting there will be an annual report compiled on victim work across 2024/25, to ensure the partnership members are cited on this area of work. The YJS complies with the Victims Code of Practice.

South Glos YJS are developing a Harmed Party Policy to cover our work with victims of crime. This will cover the aims and policy underpinning the work. It will outline our procedures for contacting harmed parties related to out of court resolutions, during PSR writing, after sentencing of Referral Orders and upon release from custodial sentences. Our policy will prioritise allowing all parties to move on towards healing. This can include involvement in restorative justice at any point of the criminal justice system. The policy will also address how we consider the safety of victims and how their individual needs can be met through our contact with them, including onwards referrals for additional support if needed.

The police force area has prioritised victim work within our local (out of court resolution) tactical group meeting, which has led to a focussed group meeting to discuss the experience of harmed parties throughout their journey with the police and the YJS. The group has designed a 'swim map' showing the points at which a victim is contacted and where there may be duplication or areas of confusion. This process has highlighted that YJS are receiving very limited information about those we contact as harmed parties. We have very little information from police about any of their protected characteristics or the needs they may have via the 143, meaning our initial

contact is hampered. There has been a request made to police for a change to the information we receive, and we are awaiting this.

South Glos YJS has also requested that we, as a force area, look to review and improve our relationship with the police Lighthouse team (part of police safeguarding unit). Lighthouse Integrated Victim and Witness Care was created in October 2014, as a new department within Avon and Somerset Constabulary. Lighthouse offers an enhanced service to vulnerable or persistently targeted victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, and victims of serious crime. There is a meeting planned between Lighthouse and the 5 YJSs and through this, we hope to refresh our memorandum of understanding and provide harmed party workers with a consistent level of contact with Lighthouse. This will help to ensure victims have an appropriate needs assessment and we can feedback to Lighthouse where needed (for example needing to update a Victim Personal Statement if necessary).

The harmed party worker attends regular southwest meetings with colleagues who also lead in victim work and feeds back to the management team regarding innovative practice, guidance, with a focus on ensuring we provide the best service we can to victims.

In 2024/25 the YJS team attended an accredited Restorative Justice training event and there are plans for follow up sessions regarding this to consolidate that work learned has been put into practice.

Transitions

Since April 2024 there has been a new robust transitions process for children transitioning to adult probation Service. A regular transitions meeting is held between YJ (Practice Manager, Probation Officer) and Probation (SPO of 18 -25 team) to provide ample opportunity to plan for any children transitioning to the adult service, alongside notification of those children who are awaiting charging decision and turning 18. The YJ Probation Officer sits within the 18-25 team 0.2fte and prepares reports of any SG young adults that arise given his links to YJ.

Serious violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding

The **SG Risk Management Pathway** since established in 2020, has seen the landscape in South Glos and nationally change significantly. There has been a shift from a focus on sexual exploitation to a growing awareness also of criminal exploitation and a surge in serious youth violence over the past 18 months to two years. The Children's Partnership and the Violence Reduction Partnership jointly commissioned a review by the NWG in 2024 to examine all elements of the risk management pathway in South Glos, both operational and strategic. This review coincided with other significant reviews, including a local CSPR on serious youth violence following the death of Child T and a benchmarking exercise against the JTAI (serious youth violence) findings in Somerset. These three pieces of work were consolidated into an action plan, recommending four task and finish groups, which the children's partnership executive agreed to. The YJS Service manager, Team manager and Practice managers have been involved in the groups. From May 2025 SG will launch the new CP-ROTH (Risk Outside the Home) replacing the MARMM and the new ROTH tool will replace the previous Exploitation identification assessment tool. From May there is a newly established ROTH Strategic group, the YJS TM will be a member.

The YJS continues to work in close collaboration with Partners: The Violence Reduction Partnership (council and early intervention police) and Children's Services (Practice Development Managers) to develop the new ROTH pathway, a multi-agency approach to safeguarding (extra familial harm). South Glos YJS are represented at all levels of these meetings and work collaboratively with Partners to both safeguard these children, identify and

disrupt any adults of concern and to mitigate the risk to each other (and the public) that they currently pose.

The YJS collaborated with Children’s Services and the VRP in a presentation to the Scrutiny Standing Group (March 2025) on Serious Youth Violence, led by the Strategic Safeguarding Service Manager.

The “Serious Violence Duty” (SVD) has been in place since January 2023. The YJS has contributed to the Strategic Needs Assessment SNA (2024) across Avon and Somerset. The purpose of this Serious Violence SNA 2024 is to provide a specific focus on violence-related needs within our local area. It aims to increase understanding of the types, distribution, and extent of violence, and will inform the strategy refresh for 2025 onwards. This SNA has informed the Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership Strategy (2024-25) on identifying interventions to commission. Within the VRP structure there is a specific group – the Serious Violence Delivery Group, which is made up of key partners who will drive action and support delivery of the priorities within this strategy. SGYJS are cited on these meetings.

The geography of South Glos means we remain vigilant of this area and when needed multi-agency mapping exercises are undertaken to better understand emerging concerns and when those concerns involve multiple children being exploited a complex safeguarding meeting is convened and chaired by a Service Manager from Children’s Services. As outlined in *Risk and Issues section* this has been a priority area for South Gloucestershire Partnership since 2023.

Having daily intelligence about all children arrested/ interviewed enables some oversight regarding those children released under investigation or bailed. Risk management of these cases alongside safeguarding is collaborative between social care, YJS, Preventative services and the Violence Reduction Partnership.

The YJS is represented on the Prevent steering group and working alongside colleagues in the development of the local Prevent Delivery Plan looking to develop the proposed activity: *Specialist ideology training for Youth Offending Service practitioners on our top three risks: Right-Wing Extremism; Online Radicalisation; Self-Initiated Terrorist Profiles*. This training is set to take place in May 2025, facilitated by a Counter Terrorism Police lead.

Detention in police custody

Between 1/4/24 to 31/3/25: For SG children

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Children held in custody overnight (12pm to 6 am)	1	4	6	2	13
	(3)	(8)	(4)	(6)	(21)

- Last year’s figures in red

There has been a significant decrease in relation to children being detained in custody overnight compared with the previous year’s figures (23/24). In 2023/24 there was a rise in serious youth violence which has settled across 2024-25. Children detained in custody overnight is overseen through the quarterly custody review panels, attended by police, liaison and diversion, social care (including EDT), and education, facilitated by SGYJS. This work is informed by A&S Police “Detention of CYP in Police Custody” Procedural Guidance (2021). These cases are reviewed for any learning/ themes which can then be brought back to partner agencies. Requests from the police to the LA to accommodate these children under PACE continues to be a significant issue. Whilst these numbers are low this is recognised as a

training need for both police and the LA. The panel were able to discuss the *YJB: Policing Roundtable Thematic: Overnight Detention (Nov 2024)* and to learn from the effective practice guidance and share amongst their own agencies.

The Avon and Somerset OPCC response (July 2024) to the recommendations within: *Report on an inspection visit to police custody suites in Avon and Somerset Police by HMIC&FRS and CQC (Jan 2024)*, will be reviewed at the next custody review panel regarding progress made (for those recommendations related to children in custody).

SG council have signed up to the *Concordat on Children in Custody: Preventing the detention of children in police stations following charge. (Home Office)*

SGYJS commission Bristol YJS to undertake any appropriate adult duties. For SG children in care this duty is undertaken by the social worker or foster carer.

Remands

SGYJS have had no new remands to youth detention accommodation in 2024-25. A SG child was remanded in February 2024 until the conclusion of his trial and sentencing early December.

This area of work has been captured in a local guidance document “Managing Court, Bail and Remand”. Work in this area has been informed by *A joint thematic inspection of work with children subject to remand in youth detention (November 2023) led by HMIP*. A self-assessment of the recommendations from this thematic was presented to the Partnership at the June 2024 meeting. More recently the Review into Placements for Girls in Custody (**Delivering the best for Girls in custody** MoJ: S.Hancock, March 2025) has been published and a review of this will inform any changes to the SGYJS guidance document. The Youth Remand Concordat (MoJ Feb 2025) is on the June YJ Partnership agenda.

Use of constructive resettlement

South Glos Youth Justice service has been an active partner of the SW Resettlement consortium which until recently met. Effective resettlement is planned from initial sentence/remand, working with partners to ensure good outcomes for children in line with the seven pathways to successful resettlement. Forensic CAMHS have recently advised of their additional support/offer to young people in custody. SGYJS are in the process of developing a SG resettlement policy, an action previously agreed but not yet completed. This is now a priority with this work being led by a Practice Manager. We envisage completion of this across the Summer 2025, with a launch to the team via peer support.

SGYJS have attended information workshops in relation to the new pilot Release on temporary Licence (ROTL) May 2025. The Secure Children’s Home part of this pilot is local to the YJS.

Working with families

South Glos YJS sits within Preventative Services (of Children’s Services) and works closely with colleagues across the wider Children’s services. The YJS has had a working interface with the national Supporting Families programme, known locally as Families in Focus (FiF) which ended in March 2025. YJS has provided data for the programme and FiF has in the past funded posts within the YPS team as well as currently funding ECM. YJS also sits alongside the Families plus teams, within the same line management in Preventatives services – Families plus provide whole family help and support for families with children aged 0-18, below the level of social care.


The upcoming changes from the Children's Well-Being and Schools Bill (2024) will affect the landscape for all those working with families: The Bill outlines how it will reform children's social care, enhance safeguarding measures and how it will update its legislation in relation to education, especially in relation to academies. The Families First Partnership (FFP) programme is backed by new Council funding for the financial year 2025/26 to implement reforms in family help, multi-agency child protection, and family group decision-making. The FFP programme aims to integrate targeted early help, child in need, and multi-agency child protection into a seamless system. The main delivery expectations, which the YJS will interface with in the future, are:

- **Family Help:** Aims to provide early intervention and wrap support around families. Key components include identifying needs, seamless support, lead practitioners, multi-disciplinary teams, assessments, and front door arrangements.
- **Multi-Agency Child Protection:** Establishes multi-agency child protection teams (MACPTs) to support local authorities in child protection duties. Functions include strategy meetings, section 47 enquiries, child protection plans, and emergency actions.
- **Family Group Decision Making:** Encourages family-led planning to keep children safe and support reunification. FGDM should be offered at pre-proceedings and integrated into family help and child protection plans.

The Turnaround Project was established in the Early Help framework and offers holistic support to families which it continues to do so.

SGYJS do not have a specialist parenting support worker, but the service has over time developed skills around providing parenting support alongside some staff members trained in Non-violent Resistant (NVR) training. There is an offer of support to all parents/carers of children working with the YJS, as well as staff working collaboratively with professionals in social care or preventative services.

15. Sign off, submission and approval.

Chair of YJ Partnership	Chris Sivers
Signature	
Date	10 th June 2025

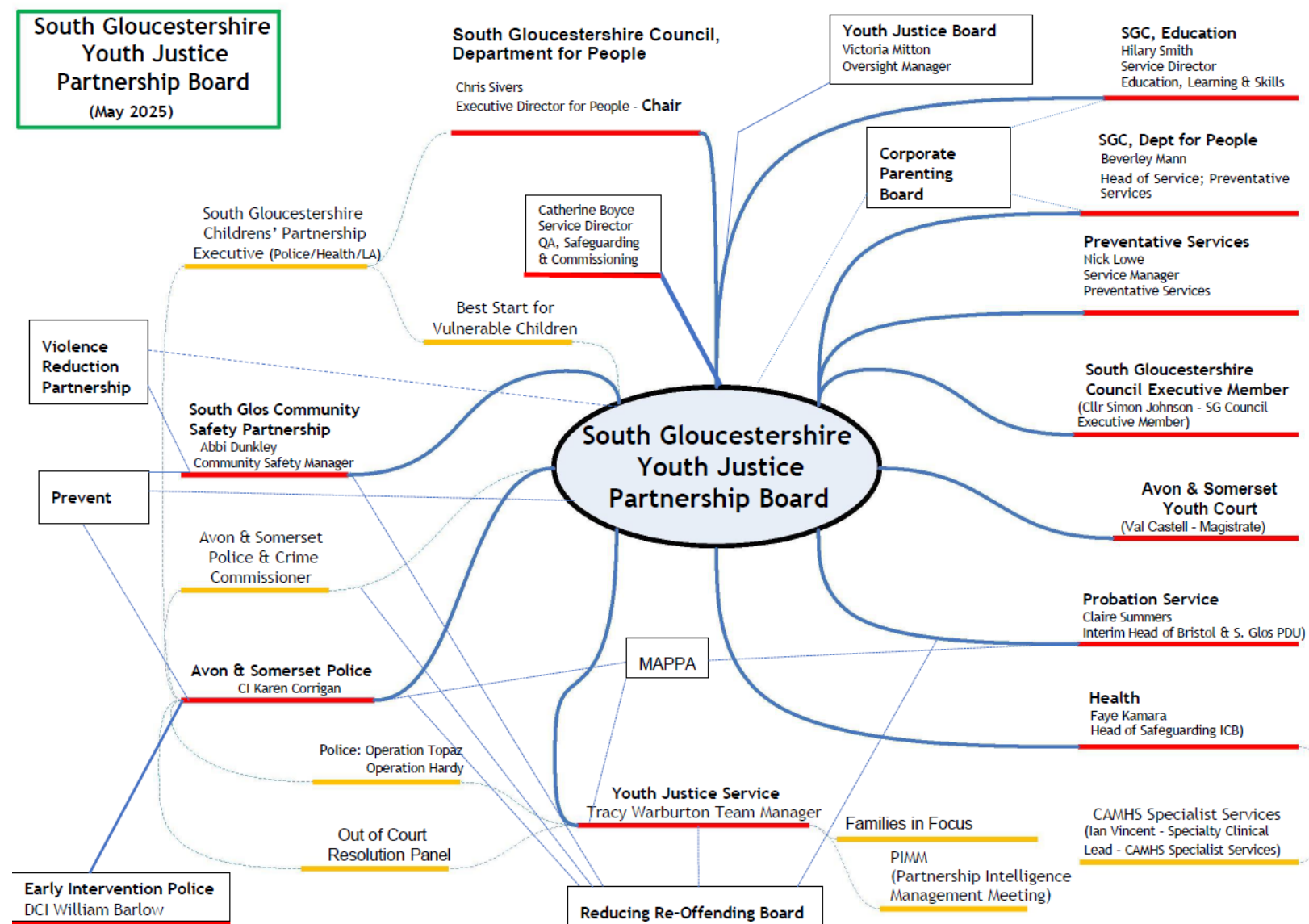
Appendix 1: Attendance Record: YJ Partnership Meeting

Job Title	Organisation	Apr 24	Jun 24	Sept 24	Dec 24	Mar 25	Jun 25
Executive Director People Dept (Chair)	South Glos Council	Y	L	N	Y	N	Y
Service Director for QA, Safeguarding and Commissioning/ Service Director CSC and PS.	South Glos Council	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Head of Safeguarding	BNSSG Integrated Care Board	Y	Y (R)	Y	Y (R)	N	Y
Head of Bristol/SG PDU	Probation	Y	Y (R)	Y (C)	Y (R)	N	Y (R)
Speciality Clinical Lead	South Glos CAMHS	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Area Commander/ Chief Inspector	Avon and Somerset Police	Y	Y (R)	Y	Y	N	Y
Lead for Early Intervention Police	Avon and Somerset Police	Y	Y (C)	L	N		
Community Safety Manager	South Glos Council	Y	Y (R)	Y	Y	Y (R)	Y (R)
Lead Member for Children and Families	South Glos Council	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Preventative Services Manager	South Glos Council	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (C)	Y
Service Director Education, Learning & Skills	South Glos Council	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Chair of Magistrates	Bristol Court	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
YJ Oversight Manager	Youth Justice Board	N	Y	N	Y (R)	N	Y
Team Manager: Youth Justice Service	South Glos Council	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Business Support: YJS	South Glos Council	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N

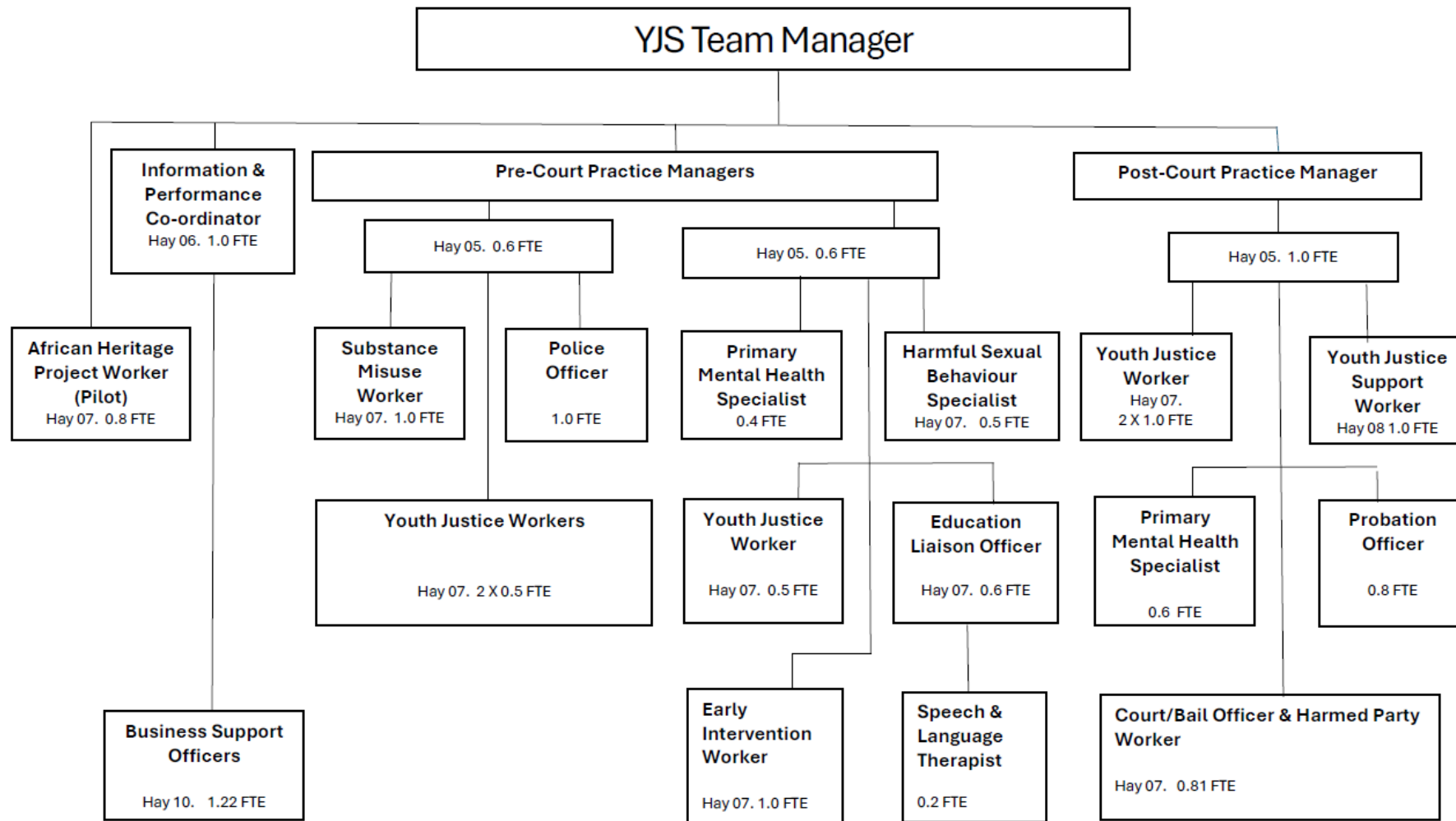
Y – YES R – Representative

N – NO L – Leave C- Chair

Appendix 2: Full Board membership, linked to Governance, leadership, and partnership arrangements.



Appendix 3: Service Structure Chart



Appendix 4: Ethnicity, Sex and Known Disability of Staff in YJS (April 2025)

Ethnicity	Strategic Managers		Operational Managers		Practitioners		Admin		Referral Order Panel Volunteers		Other Volunteers		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mixed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	0	1	1	2	4	11	1	2	0	0	3	2	9	18
Any Other Ethnic Gp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disabled (self-classified)	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Total	0	1	2	2	5	13	1	2	0	0	3	2	11	20

Appendix 5: Funds and Expenditure Statement for South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service 2024/25

Agency	Source of Funds (Budget 23/24) (£)	Actual Staff Costs (£)	Non-Staff Costs (£)	Total Cost at 31/3/24 (£)
South Gloucestershire Council	421,000	355,046	39,952	394,998
Avon & Somerset Police	109,416	70,416	39,000	109,416
Probation Service	43,128	43,128		43,128
Health: South Gloucestershire ICB	119,372	116,134	3,238	85,461
Police and Crime Commissioner/SG CSP	30,000	30,000		30,000
YJB Good Practice Grant	247,692	247,692		247,692
*Other (ECM, CYP Health)	29,004	29,004		29,004
Total	999,612	891,420	82,190	973,610

*** ECM Project £20,104 and CYP Health Cash £5,000 +
£3900 from Preventative Services**

Appendix 6: YJMIS data



Final v 1-0

South Gloucestershire Data Summary April - December 2024

	South Gloucestershire	Region	PCC area Avon and Somerset	YJS family*	YJS comparison group selected**	England & Wales	England
FTE rate per 100,000 of 10-17 population **Good performance is typified by a negative percentage From Q2 2023/24, FTE is taken from case level data instead of MoJ PNC data.							
Jan 24 - Dec 24	94	134	120	114	114	160	161
Jan 23 - Dec 23	59	150	133	130	130	167	168
percent change from selected baseline	57.7%	-10.9%	-9.6%	-12.0%	-12.0%	-4.3%	-4.0%
Use of custody rate per 1,000 of 10-17 population **Good performance is typified by a low rate							
Jan 24 - Dec 24	0.11	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.10
Jan 23 - Dec 23	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.11	0.11
change from selected baseline	0.07	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Reoffending rates after 12 months - Three month cohorts							
Reoffences per reoffender Jan 23 - Mar 23 cohort (latest period)	21.00	4.86	6.50	4.27	4.27	4.53	4.51
Reoffences per reoffender Jan 22 - Mar 22 cohort	0.00	4.29	5.58	4.07	4.07	4.09	4.06
change from selected baseline	-	13.2%	16.4%	4.9%	4.9%	10.7%	11.1%
Binary rate - Jan 23 - Mar 23 cohort (latest period)							
Binary rate - Jan 23 - Mar 23 cohort (latest period)	14.3%	35.4%	33.8%	29.0%	29.0%	33.1%	32.8%
Binary rate - Jan 22 - Mar 22 cohort	0.0%	33.6%	31.6%	35.9%	35.9%	34.3%	34.1%
percentage point change from selected baseline	14.29	1.84	2.19	-6.89	-6.89	-1.25	-1.33
Reoffending rates after 12 months - yearly cohorts							
Reoffences per reoffender Apr 22 - Mar 23 cohort (latest period)	7.00	4.33	4.94	3.89	3.89	4.36	4.36
Reoffences per reoffender Apr 21 - Mar 22 cohort	3.50	3.72	4.60	3.98	3.98	4.08	4.08
change from selected baseline	100.0%	16.3%	7.4%	-2.1%	-2.1%	6.8%	6.8%
Binary rate - Apr 22 - Mar 23 cohort (latest period)							
Binary rate - Apr 22 - Mar 23 cohort (latest period)	30.0%	31.3%	28.8%	30.9%	30.9%	32.5%	32.3%
Binary rate - Apr 21 - Mar 22 cohort	16.0%	32.6%	33.5%	32.2%	32.2%	32.3%	32.2%
Percentage point change from selected baseline	14.00	-1.28	-4.76	-1.28	-1.28	0.25	0.06

