

Youth Justice Plan 2026-27

Service	South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service
Team Manager/ Lead	Tracy Warburton
Chair of YJS Board	Chris Sivers

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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 2026-27.

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 hard work of the team and the partnership was acknowledged with a “Good” grading following the HMIP Inspection in September 2025; we are committed to maintaining that high standard, whilst continuing to identify and address areas for improvement in our pursuit of Outstanding. 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. We are committed to maintaining our strong performance and relentlessly addressing inequalities for the children with whom we work, particularly our Children in Care and Care experienced young people, as well as those young people of global majority.

South Gloucestershire council has committed additional funding to strengthen management capacity within the YJS in 2026/27 on an ongoing basis. The Youth Justice service and partnership will therefore remain strong and focused, with a commitment to continuing to provide a high quality and effective service for young people, their families, and the wider community throughout 2026/27 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 2026/27.

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

Introduction:

In September 2025 SGYJS were one of the first services to be inspected under the new HMIP framework (commenced April 2025). This inspection for the first time included Work with Victims being part of the overall rating. SGYJS were awarded Good overall which was a positive outcome given some of the challenges at this time. Whilst this could be seen as a decrease in the previous Outstanding rating of 2020, this inspection was significantly different. Of note it acknowledged the positive impact of the services provided to children (outstanding) and operational recommendations for development largely mirrored that already identified through audit work. Our work with victims rated requires improvement and will be a focus across 2026-27. We have retained Quadrant 1 status under the YJB Oversight Framework, recognising the strong performance of the service and partnership.

SGYJS performance against KPIs on first time entrants, re-offending and custody remains strong, the former indicating that our work around diversion and prevention is having an impact. The re-offending 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 no custodial outcomes and have seen a slight decrease in weapon related offences.

Incidents of serious youth violence (SYV) have been decreasing and relatively scarce in the year to March 2026. Improved multi-agency working and the importance of peer mapping exercises have emerged as strong enabling factors in preventing and responding to SYV.

Our work in tackling disproportionality for children from black and global majority communities remains a focus. We continue to meet as an Avon and Somerset wide partnership under the Tackling Disproportionality programme (ASCJB), Youth Justice Pillar. Progress is being made but this impact is not reflected within our data. A refresh of these quarterly meetings will continue to progress this area in a realisation that this will take time and needs to be a collaboration. We continue to have a strong collaboration with Stand against racism and inequalities (SARI) with increasing children accessing this support, across 26-27 this collaboration extends to victims of discrimination.

We continue to see children participating in the ManKind programme, which focuses on addressing harmful gender-based attitudes. This intervention is still very relevant as we continue to see this need in children, compounded through an increased presence in social media/ news.

Turnaround funding has been extended until 2029 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 levels from re-offending which aligns with our overall work around diversion. Across 2025-26, 65% of children the YJS worked with received a diversion outcome which has been a consistent figure for the past 3 years.

The priority in relation to reducing children in care being over-represented in statutory YJ outcomes remains a concern albeit with improved performance data across this year. The agreed local South Gloucestershire partnership protocol “Reducing criminalisation of children in care and care leavers” is in place with work being undertaken to analyse the impact of this.

The focus for SGYJS in 2026-27 will be to implement the recommendations of the HMIP inspection, with a priority area being the improvement of work to victims both strategically and operationally.

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 306,332 residents¹. 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%). 24.0% of all children aged 0-15 are living in income deprived families in South Gloucestershire, this is below the national rate of 34.6%. (Indices of Deprivation, 2025).

Key Findings from statistics

Incidence of Violence: South Gloucestershire (A&S Police incident data)

- There was a 4.33% increase in the number of recorded crimes in 205/26 with a rate per 1,000 of 72.37
- **Violent & Sexual offences** in 12 Months Ending Mar 2026 **increased** by 3.31% (+326n)
- Violent and sexual offences accounted for 46% of recorded crime
- **Street Based Serious Violence (SBSV) offences** in 12 Months Ending Mar 2026 **increased** by 11.01% (+38n)

¹ The [2024 Population Mid-Year estimates](#)

- **Violence Against the Person** accounted for 54.83% (210n) of all SBSV offences, an **increase** of 25.75% (43n) compared to the previous year.

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

- **Education:** From Spring 2026 census:
 - Numbers of children attending school 41,447
 - 18.2% of children are from an ethnic minority background and 1.37% children preferred not to say.
 - Numbers of children attending secondary school 17,464
 - Numbers eligible for Free School Meals is 7160 (17.3%)
 - Number of Children in a SG school with an EHCP 2475 (6%)
 - No of Children in a SG school with SEN 5808 (14%)

Monthly DfE figures:

 - 256 Children were recorded as NEET as of March 2026 (including those not available to the labour market).
 - NEET March 2026 is 3.4% (including those not available to the labour market). (recorded as unknown 2.5%). The Southwest figure for Feb 2026 is 3.4% NEET.
 - Between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026 there were 1110 children who were Elective Home Educated (EHE) at some point during that year. This represents a 9.7% increase on figures from last year.
- **Children In Care (March 2026)**
 - 213 (34.7 per 10,000) Children in Care at the end of March 2026. Statistical Neighbours average CiC population is 51.0 per 10,000.
 - 147 CiC were aged between 10 and 17 years (31/3/26)
 - Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children (UASC) account for 31 of the 213 being CiC (15%).
- **Child in Need (CiN)/ Child Protection (CP):**
 - 229 CP Plans (37.5 per 10,000) at the end of March 2026. 12 months ago, CP plans numbered 244 so a reduction here. Statistical Neighbours average is 30.3 per 10,000.
 - There are 19 CP ROTH plans at the end of March 2026.
 - 427 CYP on a CiN plan at the end of March 2026. 12 months previously this was 568 so a significant reduction (25% less)
- **Missing Children:**
 - Between 1/4/25 to 31/3/26 323 young people were reported missing; this is similar to the previous year. This equated to 454 reported missing episodes.
 - Of the 323 children reported missing in this year, 82 were CiC (25% 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 2025/26 the YJS dealt with 8 incidents of knife/weapon possession crimes within the Out of Court Disposal panel, a further 5 incidents were dealt with in court (13 altogether, 12 children). Last year's data was higher at 17 incidents (16 children), but previously

figures mirrored this year's data. 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, YJB oversight manager, OPCC as well as a representative from Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI). 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 Management Team (CSMT), 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 Harmed Party Worker (who also leads on Court 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 have 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 which has now ceased from 31/3/26.
- African Heritage project worker (12-month pilot ended April 2026) which worked across the whole of integrated children's services and education. This post has now moved into the Strategic Safeguarding team but remains a resource for YJS.

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 now extended until March 2029.
- **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 the opportunity for 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 have for the past year had a project worker post to support work in this area. Work is ongoing in relation to the Tackling Disproportionality programme (started November 2023) 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 has been 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. A decision was made in February 2026 to end these meetings following agreement from all partners that this was no longer needed. This is really positive as these meetings have enabled the development of pathways and have ensured these children are identified early and action taken. What we have seen is that issues have been resolved quickly by directly approaching relevant strategic leads. There remains the caveat that an exceptional meeting can be held if needed.
- **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 have benefitted from the support from specialist Enhanced Case Management (ECM) practitioners for referred cases. Funding for this project ended in March 2026. Discussions are ongoing with colleagues across Avon and Somerset YJSs regarding how we ensure this area of work remains a priority.
- **Speech and Language Therapy:** The availability of a Speech and Language Therapist (SLT), which has since March 2026 been increased to two days a 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.

- **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) and now with the new *Government Guidance for Child Knife Possession Offences* (Feb 2026). 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 manager are Corporate parenting 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 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 YJS is a member of the **Inclusion and SEND Performance and Engagement Group**.

- **The YJS is a member of the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board** and its 2 subgroups: Violence against Women and Girls Delivery Group and Safer Neighbourhood Delivery Group.
- The YJS contributes to the council's work around contextual safeguarding (**Risk Outside of the Home ROTH**). In South Gloucestershire's Children's Partnership there is recognition that a different response is required to promote safety for children and young people where the risks are primarily outside the home as opposed to relating to factors within the family/ home. This response involves a multi-agency approach to supporting the disruption of any person or place that is causing harm to a child or young person. The SG response to ROTH was reviewed across 2025 and key changes are: April 2025, the addition of the **CP ROTH pathway** and the new **ROTH assessment tool** replacing the Exploitation identification tool. From October 2025 PIMMs (Partnership Intelligence Management Meetings) have been replaced by **South Gloucestershire Risk Outside of the Home Tactical Meetings (RTG)**. These meetings are held fortnightly and use the VOLT (Victim, Offender, Location, Theme) model. The primary purpose of these meetings is to consider new or emerging concerns so that early intervention and disruption is put in place to protect children and spaces/places of concern. The YJS attends these meetings. A **South Glos Acute Incident Partnership Response Protocol** is in development and is due to be discussed at the Risk Outside of the Home (ROTH) Strategic group. This Protocol ensures 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 partner agencies and the protocol in its current unsigned form is being referred to for critical incident planning.
- **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 (2015)**, the Police & Crime Commissioner funded support project for the victims of crime, this urgently needs to be 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 and are informed of all current changes in relation to the implementation of the new social care reforms.

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.
- **Avon and Somerset Collaboration Meeting:** This is a 6 weekly meeting facilitated by the YJB and members being all 5 YJSs, OPCC, Avon and Somerset Police and CPS. This provides an opportunity to continually improve outcomes for children within the force area and where appropriate, strengthen consistency in approaches.

- The response to **Anti-Social Behaviour** in South Gloucestershire. The Community Safety Team in conjunction with the Police have been piloting monthly multi-agency ASB children's meetings (**Young People Community Intervention Meetings YPCIM**), moving away from this being police led. SGYJS have been a member of these meetings. 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, and more recently in developing work around knife possession.
- **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 **Child First LCJB subgroup** has been established to enable criminal justice partners to improve experiences of the justice system for all children in Avon and Somerset – SGYJS is a member of this subgroup. This includes children who are defendants, victims, witnesses or children of those involved in the criminal justice system. This group will advocate for all children to be seen as children, implementing the Child First tenets across Avon and Somerset, informed by the standards of policing for Children.
- 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 attends this, alongside a representative of all 5 YJSs. The SG Team manager is a member of a newly established and developing **SG Reducing Re-Offending Board**.
- **Regional Women's Reducing Re-Offending group**.
- 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.

Update on 2025-26

3. Progress of priorities in previous plan

Key activities and outcomes for children 2025-26

Priority Actions for 2025-26	Actions	Comments/Progress 2025/26
1. Reduce disparity in children from global majority groups receiving a formal youth justice outcome (continued from last year's priorities)	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. 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.	HMIP recommendation 6: ensure consistent high-quality diversity practice across assessing, planning, and delivery. This data is similar to last year. YJ Pillar now in 3rd year (quarterly meetings). Work ongoing with YJ Pillar - needing an update from Police as to overall direction - no police lead at present. Data continues to show a disparity, and this is also linked to CiC. Police are providing performance data in quarterly YJ Partnership. Next YJ Audit (May 2026) to explore how diversity, identity and culture is addressed in assessment, planning and delivery.
2. Reduce the disparity of Children in care receiving a formal youth justice outcome. (continued from last year's priority)	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. Ensuring that the local SG Protocol "Reducing Criminalisation of CiC and care Leavers" is adopted and implemented by all services.	TM attended Corporate Parenting Board and now on a workstream to ensure this area is prioritised. Need to ensure that protocol is understood across partners and that it is having an impact. Data indicates that this remains a priority area. Potential to create an A&S wide protocol (SG only area in 5YJS's with this protocol agreed) TM yet to attend a workstream to progress this area yet but assurances provided that this has been actioned. Some learning from recent RYDA (CiC and of black and global majority ethnicity) to support CiC team regarding children remanded and pathways here.

	Corporate parenting board will need to receive this year's data information and provide direction and support in addressing this disparity.	Quarterly performance reports indicate this area remains a concern in terms of disparity. Of note 3 girls (2 in care at time of sentencing) are represented in court outcomes. Performance data continues to show disproportionality of children in care who are from black and global majority backgrounds. More work needed here to embed to local protocol as we see an increase in children offending in care placements.
3. Continue to work with partners to reduce serious youth violence (continued from last year's priorities)	The work of the Education Inclusion Project – in terms of early intervention/ identification – to support this continuing. Implementation of the serious violence duty across Avon and Somerset. Service review of YEF Toolkit: what works to prevent youth violence. Work with the community safety partnership in the development of the Young Futures programme, which will see the establishment of Prevention Partnerships.	HMIP recommendation 7: ensure that practitioners are skilled at identifying and responding to exploitation concerns. Part of Area Leaders Programme (YEF) led by VRP. TM to join Community Safety strategic partnership board to ensure joined up working. Funding for EIP extended to March 2027 – Education lead funders. Training planned with staff from PDM's as a review of ROTH pathways - to also provide consultation to Practice Managers. Funding in place for EIP across 2026 with 2 engagement workers in post and continuing to report positive outcomes here. 1 mandatory notification for a serious incident. All partners working collaboratively when faced with serious incident (learning brief on critical incident last year at shopping centre)
4.Improve the work on victims both strategically and operationally	Provide annual reports to the Partnership on victim work (data and analysis) Develop a SG victim policy to include what support services are available. Undertake an audit of victim case work as reassurance for this area.	Rated Requires Improvement (HMIP September 2025) HMIP recommendation (5). Recommendations: Police (2), YJS (1) and Partnership (2) Victim development plan in place. Starting to make progress with extra management capacity. Victim audit presented to YJP March 2026. Work undertaken to better understand factors enabling Good/ Outstanding Victim Services (request from YJP). Focus over

	Work with A&S police and YJS colleagues to enable more detailed victim information Develop a victim feedback process, through consulting with RJ training providers	next 6 months is improving operational work and determining robust pathways - reviewing Policy to align with this. A&S wide victim leaflet completed and due for sign off - need to determine how this will be used by police staff when managing victims (embedded into App). Confirmed YJ Partnership lead will be Police regarding victim work.
5. Improve the participation of children within the Youth Justice Service. (continued from last year's priorities)	To ensure this work fits with wider children's services development plan around participation. Learning from other YJSs where this is established. Expanding to wider activities and opportunities for children to contribute to service development.	Positive feedback from recent HMIP inspection. Shared work with CSMT. Re-launch of feedback process Feb 2026 (with staff and amendments to feedback questions) Recent YP Panel January 2026 - good attendance by Partnership members. Issue identified by a YJ experienced child (CiC) taken away by Service Director and actioned - child updated. Evidencing You Said We Did. Needing to look at parental participation (through planning HMIP recommendation)
6. Quality Assurance/ HMIP Preparation	Work collaboratively with neighbouring YJSs for peer review. Determine champions/leads within the Partnership for the National Standards Audit (strategic)	HMIP inspection Sept 25 – working on HMIP improvement plan. Audit work ongoing (work with victims and children) to inform development. We have retained Quadrant 1 status. Ongoing improvement work. Victim audit undertaken (March 2026) planned audit on diversity for May 2026. Auditing key to ensuring practice changes are embedded. OOCR scrutiny panel enables peer review for decision making at OOCR, this will be extended to include outcomes for knife crime offences.

4. Performance over 2025-26

Existing Key Performance Indicators

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

a) Binary reoffending rate

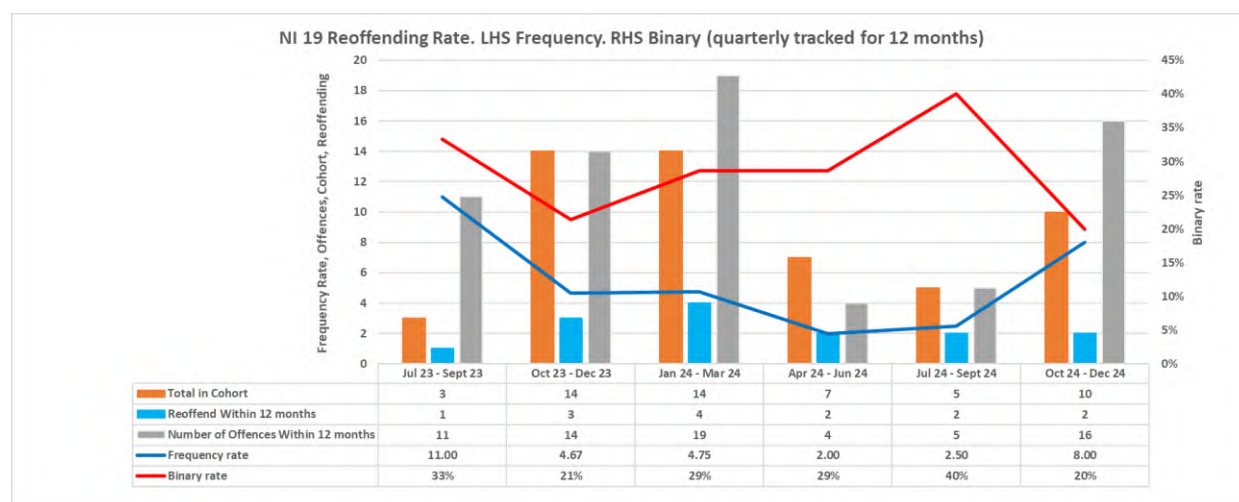
From most recent performance report from YJMIS Summary for April-December 2025 (see appendix 6).

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

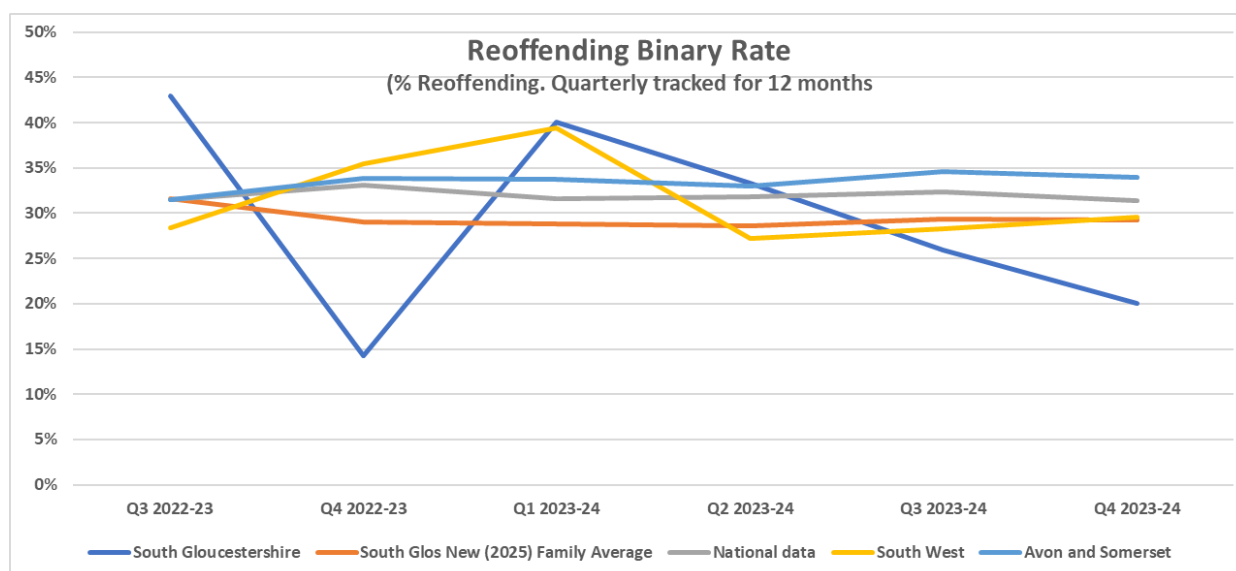
Binary Rates: Year cohort		Compared to previous year (% diff)	Binary Rates: 3- month cohort		Compared to previous year (% diff)
April 2023 to March 2024	26.7% (30%)	-3.3%	Jan 2024 to March 2024	20% (14.3%)	5.71%
Jan 2023 to Dec 2023	25.9% (29.6%)	-3.7%	Oct 2023 to Dec 2023	14.3% (42.9%)	-28.57%
Oct 2022 to Sept 2023	33.3% (21.4%)	11.9%	July 2023 to Sept 2023	33.5% (25%)	8.33%
July 2022 to June 2023	31.3% (22.2%)	9.03%	April 2023 to June 2023	40% (37.5%)	2.5%

The data for the yearly cohort is lower or the same than all comparator groups (Region, OPCC area, England), for the 3 monthly cohorts this is the same. The most recent data shows a significant improvement 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 2024 as we are then looking at any re-offending for the next 12 months to Dec 2025)

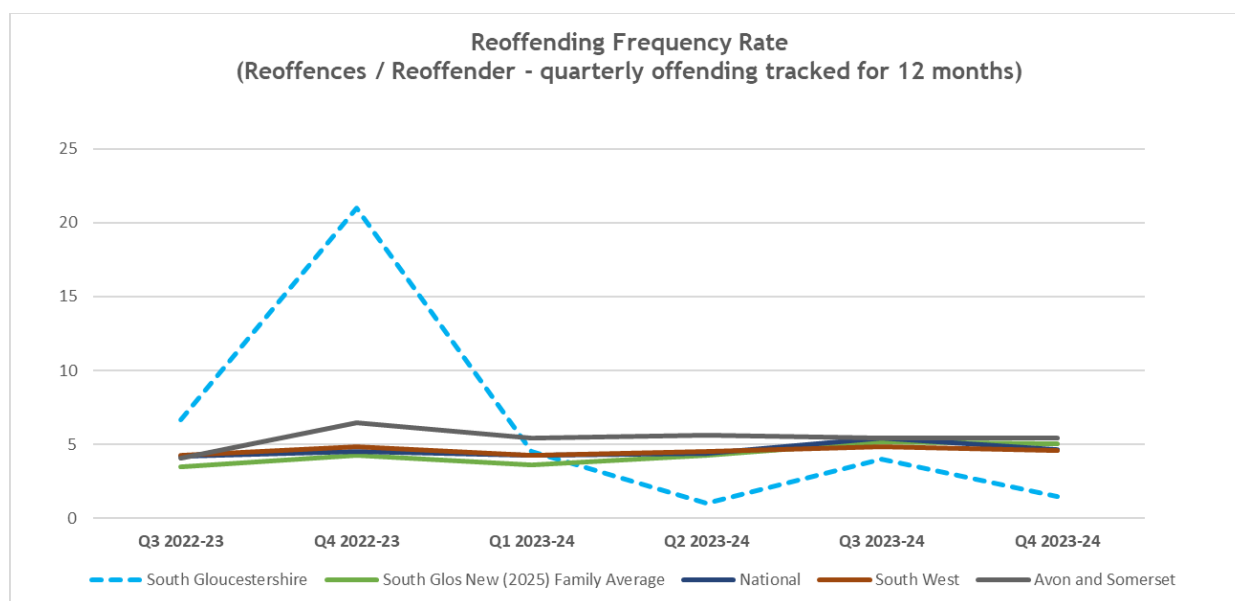


The local data shows a discrepancy with the YJMIS data, this is largely to do with more up to date cohort. However, the significant factor here is that with small numbers we can see significant changes in percentages. For Oct to Dec 2024, we had 2 children re-offend (from a cohort of 10), this related to 16 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 below 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)

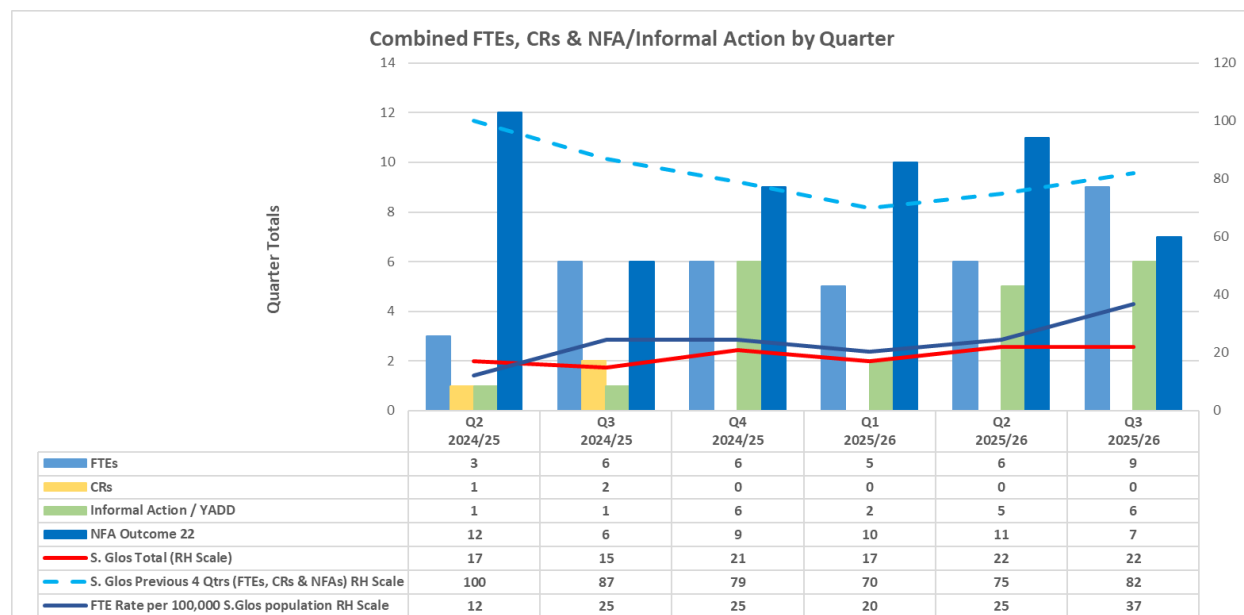
From Q1 2023/24 (year ending June 23), the FTE data has moved from the PNC via MoJ to the quarterly case level data YJS submissions, as MoJ are no longer publishing quarterly. Given this change some caution is needed with the figures.

First Time Entrants (dates)	Rate per 100,000 of 10-17 population	Rate the previous year (comparison)	PCC (A&S) area	England & Wales
Jan 2025 to Dec 2025	98	94	110	150

Oct 2024 to Sept 2025	84	104	107	154
July 2024 to June 2025	76	97	75	151
April 2024 to March 2025	72	86	94	152

The above data shows a positive trend in terms of FTE. Numbers remain significantly low in comparison to region, PCC area, family and England and Wales, also a decrease on last year's figures (exception being Jan to Dec 2025) when last year we had seen an increase across the date ranges.

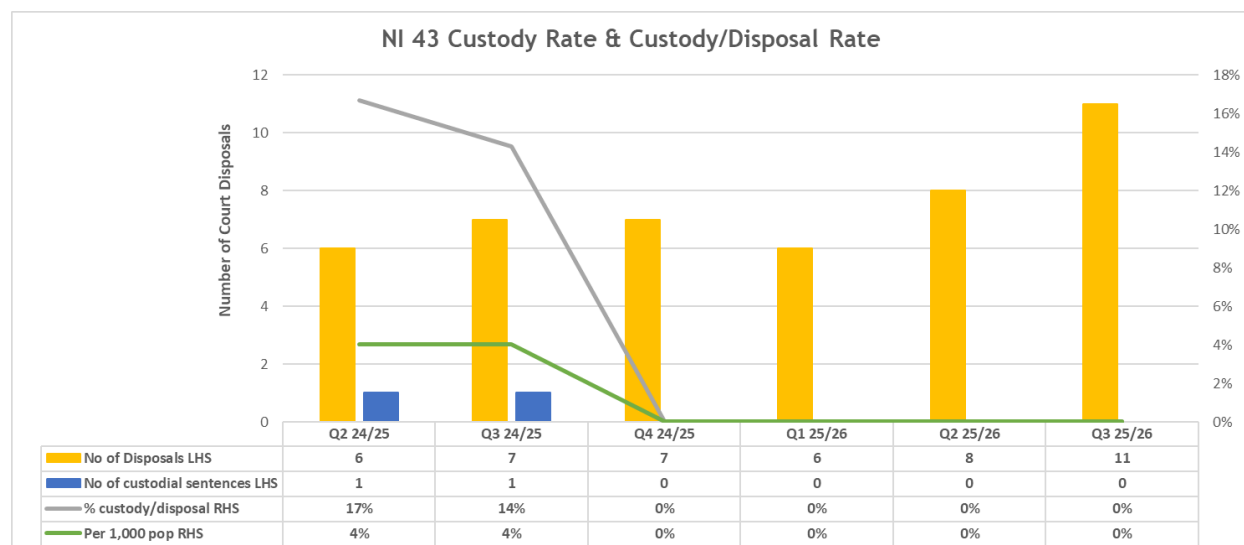
Local data below:



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 2025-26 SGYJS had no outcomes of custody for children. The last custodial being Dec 2024. 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 returning to low. 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 new guidelines around knife crime possession for OOCR panel. Turnaround also remains a factor in respect of FTE data providing extra resource for early intervention. It is positive to be reporting on no custodial across 2025-26 when we have seen an increase in children being dealt with at court compared to 2024-25.

In September 2025, South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service (YJS) were inspected by HMIP and received an overall rating of 'Good' for work with children and victims.

[Additional Key Performance Indicators](#)

The additional key performance indicators (KPIs) have been reported on since April 2023. This data has been presented from local reporting from case management system. The YJB tableau dashboard has been established since Q1 2025-26 (Q1 to Q3 data available) but there are still some discrepancies with some of the KPIs meaning they are not currently being shared with the YJ Partnership. **The KPIs are presented in Appendix 7**

1. Suitable accommodation:

Of 19 closed cases across Q3 2025-26, all had suitable accommodation.

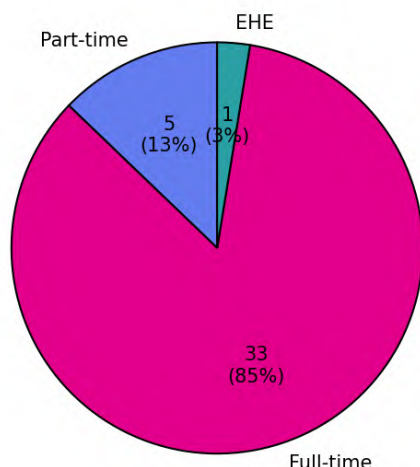
Q1: 94%. 15 of 16 children in suitable accommodation. The child rated in unsuitable accommodation has services trying to reach and support them to improve their situation, which was being refused at order end.

2. Education, training and employment:

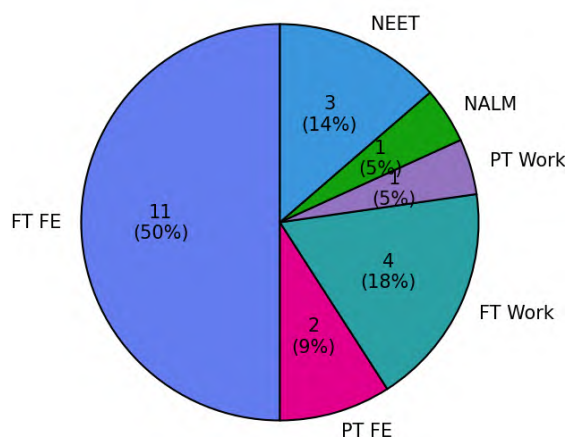
Of the 19 closed cases in Q3 2025-26, 18 had suitable education. The below charts provide a visual representation of educational status across the year completed in consultation with the YJ Education Liaison Officer.

Table 2: April 2025 to March 2026: Educational status of all children who worked with the YJS. See below.

Statutory School Age (n=39)



Post-16 Provision (n=22)



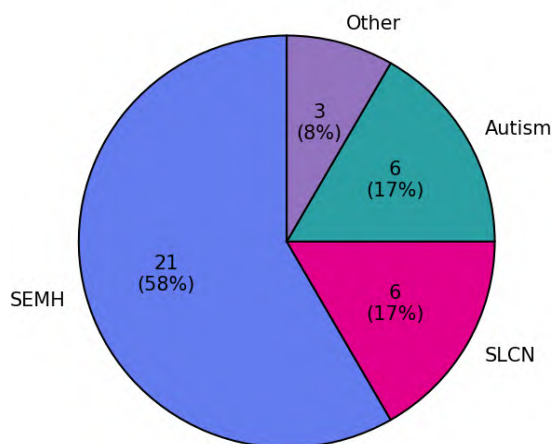
*NALM = Not available to labour market

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

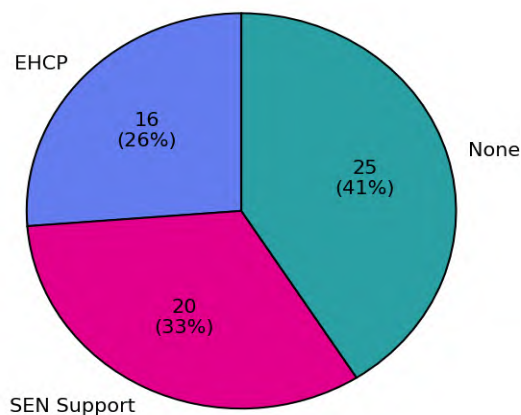
Of cases closed each quarter of those with a Plan (EHCP/SEN) 100% had a plan in place. Q3: Of the 19 children with Orders ending, 14 children had identified SEND/ALN needs. All 14 had a formal plan in place.

Table 3: Special Education Needs of children open to the YJS (April 25 to March 26)

SEN Primary Need (n=36)



SEN Level (n=61)



4. Mental health care and emotional well-being:

Q3: Number of children with a screened or identified need for mental health or emotional wellbeing at their Orders' end as a proportion of number of children with interventions closing in the period. This number has been low across the 3 quarters reported however this is based on cases closing. Across 2024-25 there was an average of 17% of cases closing each quarter with an identified mental health need. Q1 to 3 2025-26 this figure is 17% of all cases closing.

5. Substance misuse:

For this KPI the number of Youth Alcohol Drug Diversions (YADDs) is added to orders ending each quarter cases closing and includes those with a screened or identified substance misuse need.

Q3 2025-26: Of 25 cases closing 11 (44%) had an identified substance misuse need. The average across Q1 to Q3 2025-26 is 41% of cases. Across 2024-25 the average was 23.5% of cases closed having an identified substance misuse need however a note of caution with last year's figures as the YJ Drug and Alcohol Specialist was 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 took on some work (informally) in this area. This year's figures can be viewed as a more accurate indication of children where there is a substance misuse need.

6. Out of court disposals

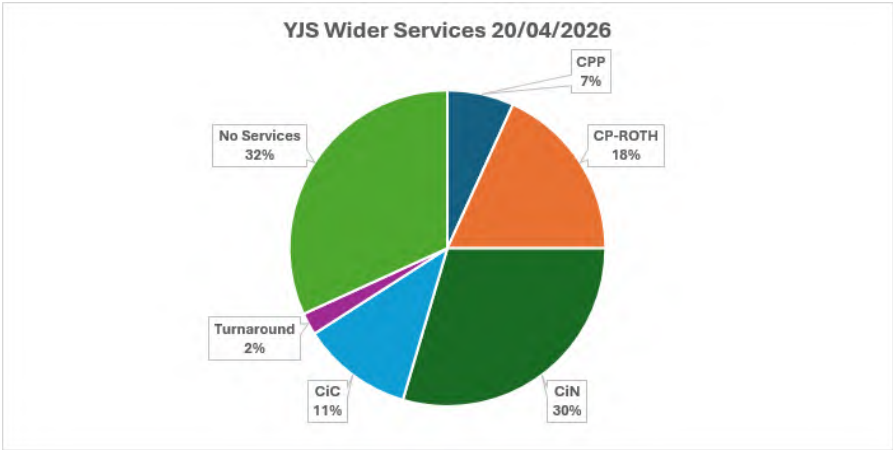
Q3: Percentage of successful completion of OOCR disposals. The count includes non-substantive out-of-court disposals with YJS Intervention, Youth Cautions with YJS Intervention and Youth Conditional Cautions. Q3 2025-26: 14 children, 13 successfully completed, 1 child partially completing their order. Across Q1 to Q3 2025-26 the average number of children who completed their OOCR successfully was 94%. Across Q1 to Q4 2024-25 this figure was 92%.

7. Links to wider services:

Across 2024-25 (Q1 to 4) the average number of cases closed where children were open to wider services was 39%. Across Q1 to 3 2025 to 26 this is similar averaging out as 41%. This relates to children open to social care (Child in Need, Child Protection or Children in Care) as well as those subject to Turnaround or Early Help Assessment and Plans (EHAP).

When looking at all open YJS cases (20/04/26), including all statutory and diversion outcomes (CR, Outcome 22, YADD, Turnaround), this indicates that 68% of all open cases are open to wider services.

Table 4: Wider services involvement in respect of all YJS Open cases (20/4/26)



8. Management board attendance: This is monitored at each quarterly meeting. Indicating good attendance across the quarters. (Appendix 1: has full 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 2025 there were 0 serious youth violence offences recorded by children in South Glos (a decrease of 3 from previous year's figures), this is a decrease of 0.7 (rate per 10,000 children) based on the previous year. The family average is 3.4* Local data: Similar to YJB data indicates no instances of a child being cautioned/ sentenced for an offence with a gravity score of 5 or above up to Q3 2025-26 (December)

*YJB designated family of 11 YJS's across England, grouped together.

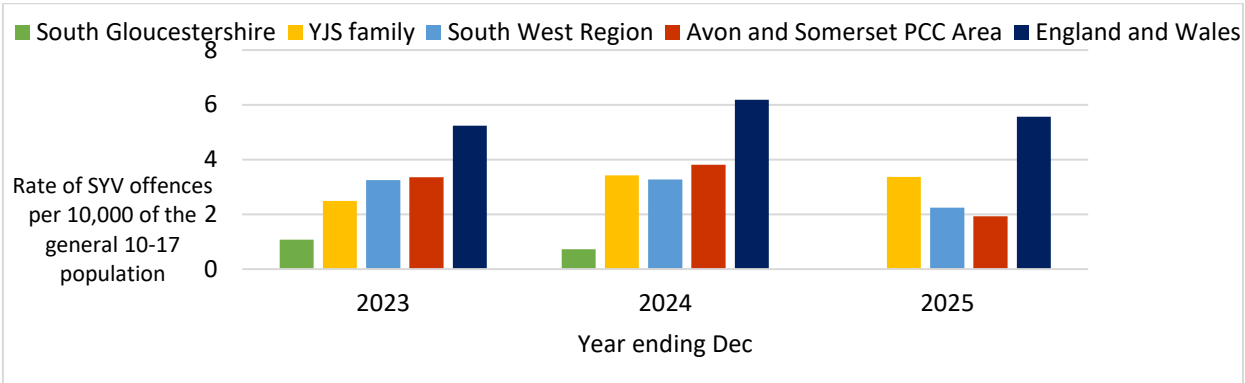


Table 5: The Rate of Serious Violence offences per 10,000 aged 10-17 by YJS, Family, SW Region, PCC area and England and Wales (Serious Violence Toolkit YJB March 2026)

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 remain on-going discussions with YJB on the interpretation of the counting rules. It is hoped that this will be resolved in the next case management system upgrade which is due imminently. We have been using local data to better understand this KPI and is a focus for the YJ Partnership following recent HMIP inspection and improvement plan in place.

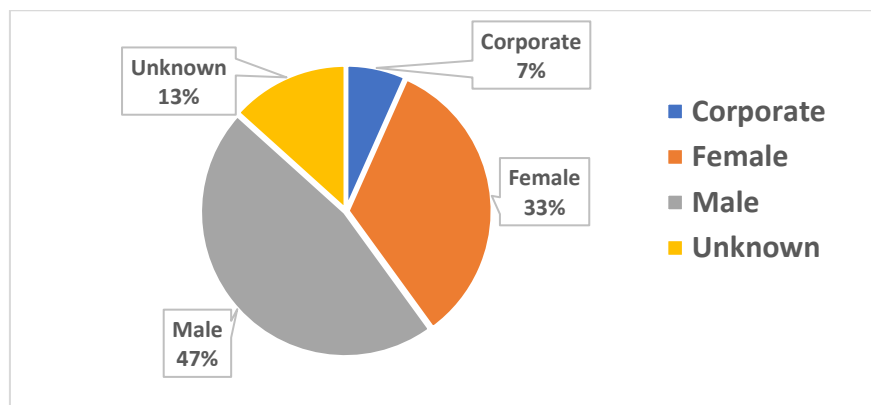
[Data on Victims 2025/26](#)

Initial 6-month data presented to YJ Partnership December 2025 (Q1 and 2). This was then repeated for Q3 and 4 as a comparison. There is a significant improvement in engagement in the most recent quarters.

Q1 to Q2 2025-26

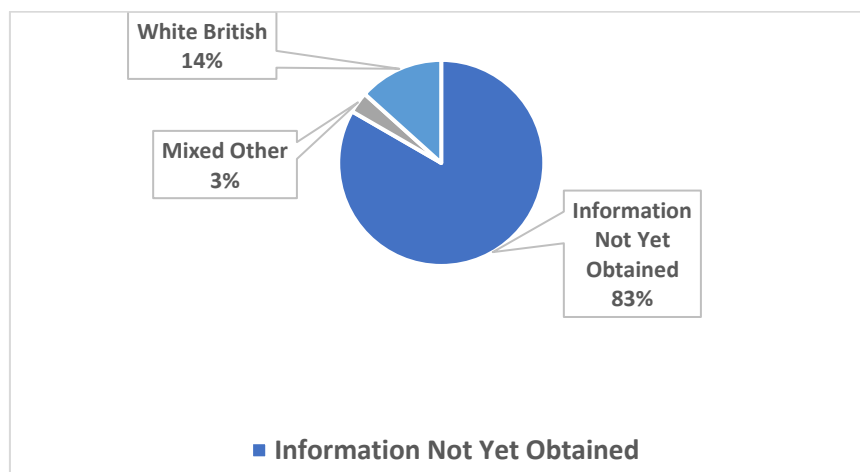
Data taken from closed victim cases in this period due to CV errors with KPI data
 30 victims were closed in the period 01/04/25- 30/09/25

Gender 2025-26 Q1 and Q2:

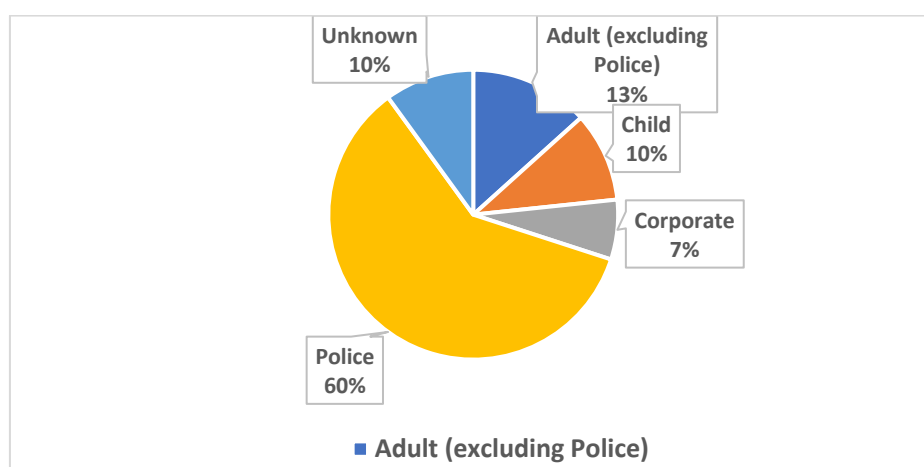


- 'Unknown' gender is likely due to receiving surnames and collar numbers of police officers.
- We currently have little information about disability or vulnerability of victims, particularly adult victims.

Ethnicity 2025-26 Q1 and Q2:



Who are our victims: 2025-26 Q1 and Q2:

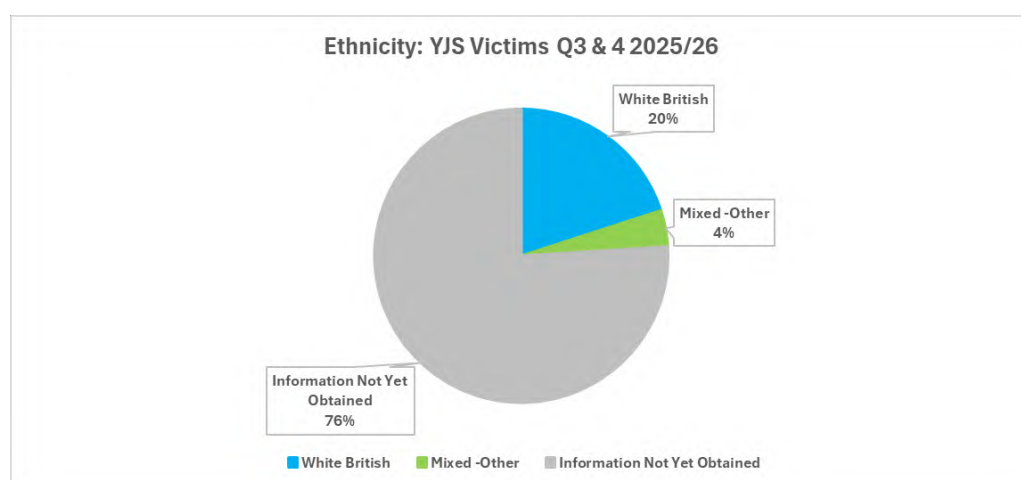
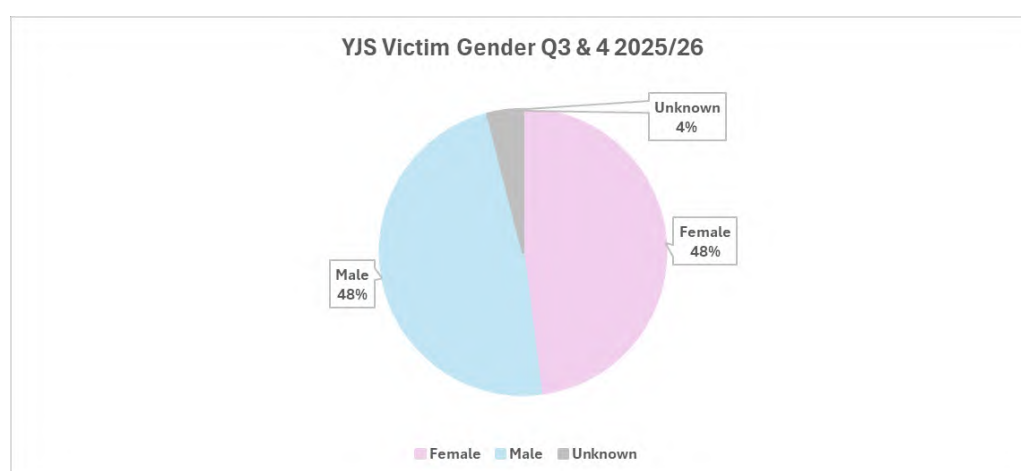


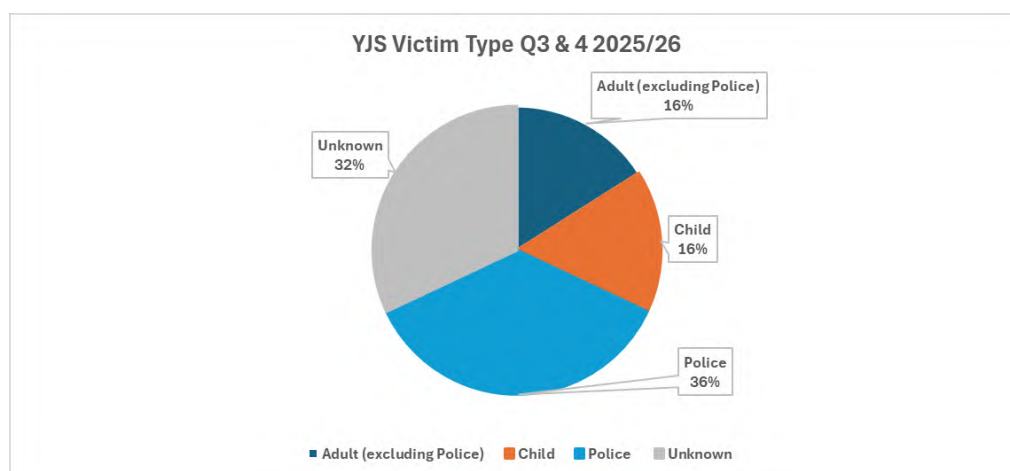
- **Only 13 of 30 victims engaged – 43%**
- 60% of the victims were police officers. Of those 18 individuals, 5 responded to contact from the victim worker
- 4 out of 12 victims who consented could not be contacted.

- Out of 8 who responded, 7 gave their views for OOCR panel, RO or PSR
- Popular option for victims, allowing their voices to be heard by decision makers and the impact of the offence to be shared

Comparing to data across **Q3 to Q4 2025 to 2026.**

- 25 victims were closed in this period
- **17 of 25 victims engaged – 68%** (an increase on previous quarters)
- **56% of police officers as victims did not engage with the service.**
- Other reasons for non-engagement: limited contact details, for police only work email provided.
- Again all 17 victims provided information to the panel/court on decision making (having their voice heard).





Local Performance

Diversion Re-Offending: The offending cohort of Q3 Oct – Dec 2024 with Diversionary / Non-Statutory interventions was 9, of which 3 YP reoffended. 2 of the 3 children received a further diversion opportunity with one receiving a court outcome (fine).

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. 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 no Irish travellers/ Gypsy Roma.

The YJB has a **Disparity Toolkit** (March 2025) that is annual, at the time of writing only data relating to 2024-2025 is complete. The disparity toolkit (which uses 5+1 ethnicity data) looks at statutory outcomes only and indicates that 22% of children cautioned/ sentenced in this period were of black or global majority backgrounds, significant being mixed children. There were no children of black or global majority backgrounds represented in gravity 6 offences (the most serious: robbery, domestic burglary), this does not mirror our own data and I would suggest caution with these figures and referring to local data (below) to give a more accurate picture of any disparity in South Gloucestershire. In relation to violence against the person offences 19% of these offences were by black and global majority children. Work being undertaken through the Youth Justice Pillar of the Tackling Disproportionality programme (A&S LCJB) continues to explore this area and work towards reducing this disparity.

From 2025 the YJB have developed a **high-level tableau for reporting**. There is a section comparing the rates of Diversions with Statutory Outcomes (which currently we view as still in development so with caution). There is data available from Q3 2024-25 to Q2 2025-26 and for:

Diversion Outcomes: Looking at diversions per 100K of population and the gender, ethnicity and age split of the children. For the 4 quarters shown (Q3 2025/25 – Q2 2025/26) South Glos has a relatively low rate per 100K population at 132.6 especially compared with our YJS family (173.9) and England as a whole (203.6). They indicate **24% of children diverted are of mixed ethnicity**. (using 5+ 1 ethnicity data)

Statutory Outcomes: for the same 4 quarters. South Glos has a rate of 150 per 100K, substantially less than our YJS family (219.3) and about a half compared to the rate for England as a whole (302.5). They indicate that **23% of children with a statutory outcome are of mixed/ Asian ethnicity**.

Table 6: YJS Diversionary Outcomes April 2025 to March 2026, by ethnicity. Ethnicity data shown at the 19+1 grouping level for greater granularity

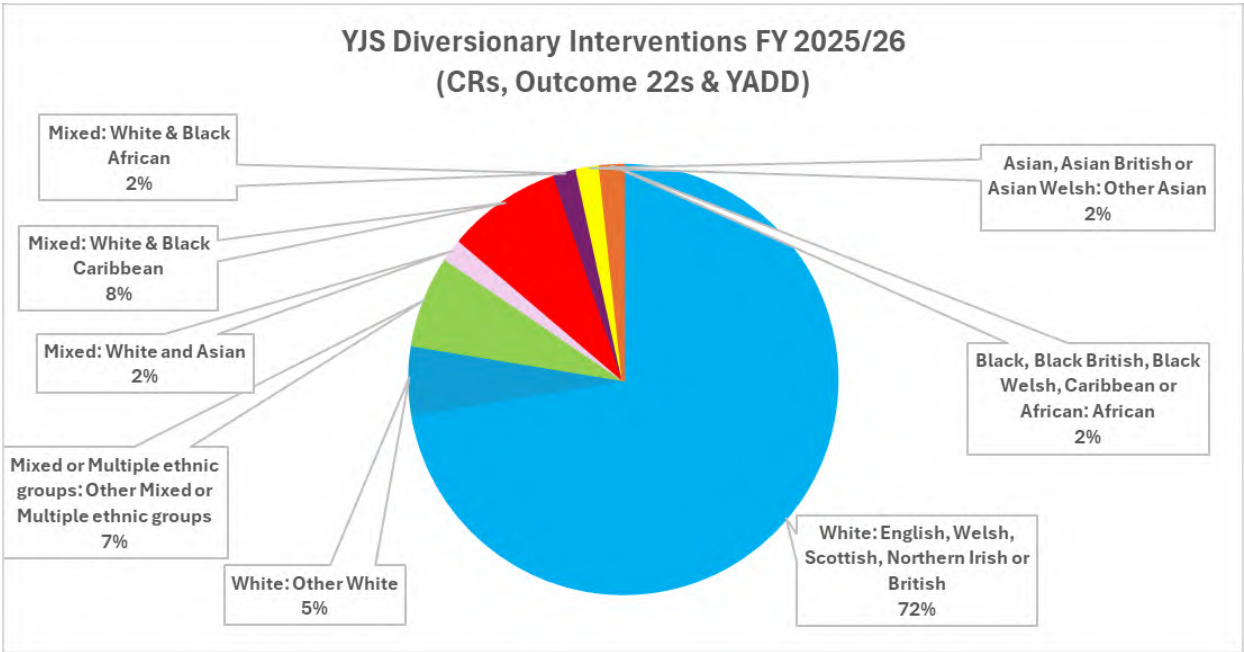
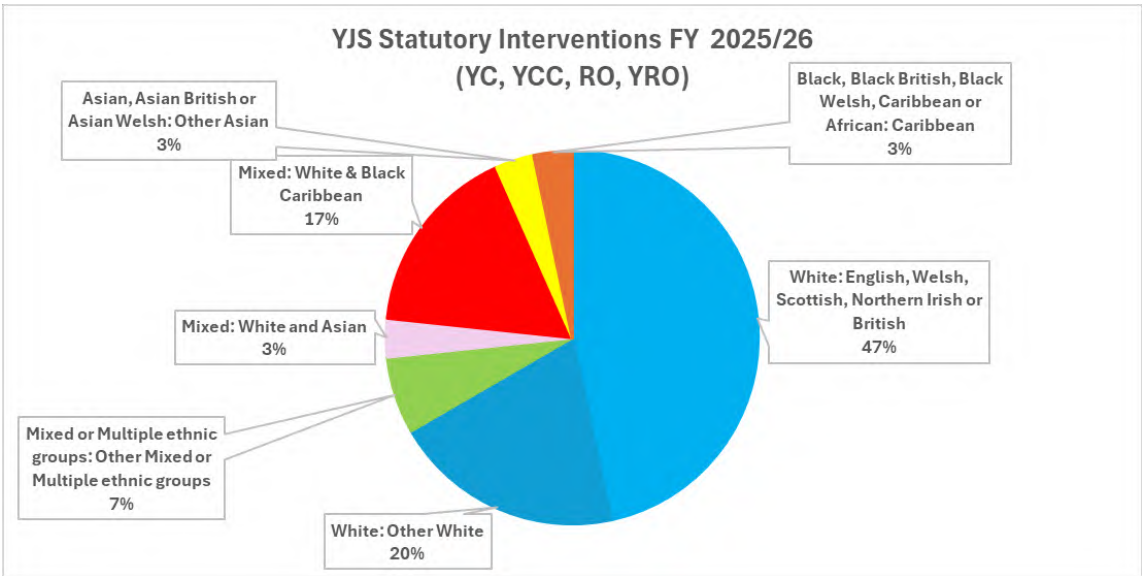


Table 7: YJS Statutory Outcomes April 2024 to March 2025, by ethnicity. Ethnicity data shown at the 19+1 grouping level for greater granularity



The Partnership has across 2025/26 continued to prioritise and scrutinise data relating to **girls and violence** offences. An analysis has been undertaken annually and presented to the YJ Partnership in 2024, 2025 and most recently in March 2026. Due to improvements in the data in this area, it has been agreed at the partnership to remove this area of work as a priority with

a request to check the data annually for re-assurance. At the March 2026 Partnership meeting the below was presented, looking at all outcomes for girls Jan to Dec 2025:

- There were 9 girls at OOCR panel in 2025 and they received 9 outcomes; this was 19% of the total for the year. (2024-25: 24% of outcomes were for girls).
- However, we saw a reduction in all OOCR panel outcomes from 68 to 48 outcomes across the year.
- As was the case in 2024 and 2025, 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).
- Assault Emergency worker was the most common offence type and made up 43% of girl's offences at OOCR panel.
- 100% of girls were given Deferred Cautions under Outcome 22 at panel during 2025. This is a diversionary outcome where children are 'NFA' as long as they complete a programme of intervention with YJS. (In 2023-24 89% of girls received diversionary outcomes. In 2024-5 this figure was 94%). Only 1 of the children at OOCR panels is a CiC (11%)
- 33% of girls at OOCR panel had not had a previous outcome (In 2024 this figure was 66%), this increase was largely due to police led community resolutions rather than being repeatedly at panel.
- In 2025, 23% of police facilitated Community Resolutions were given to girls compared to boys (In 2023 this was 37.5% and in 2024 it was 20%)
- 8% of First Time Entrants in 2025 were girls. Girls in South Glos were under-represented as FTE compared to national data.
- Good use of diversionary outcomes at OOCR panel means that there were no FTE resulting from statutory outcomes of Youth Caution or Youth Conditional Caution
- 5 out of 32 court outcomes (15%) were for girls in 2025. This is an increase from 2024 (8%)
- We saw a small number of girls, who appeared in court more than once. These girls commonly had complex needs. 2 of these girls were CiC. (40% of court outcomes for girls were CiC)
- 22% of girls at OOCR panel were Mixed heritage. Of the 3 girls who went to court, all were white British.

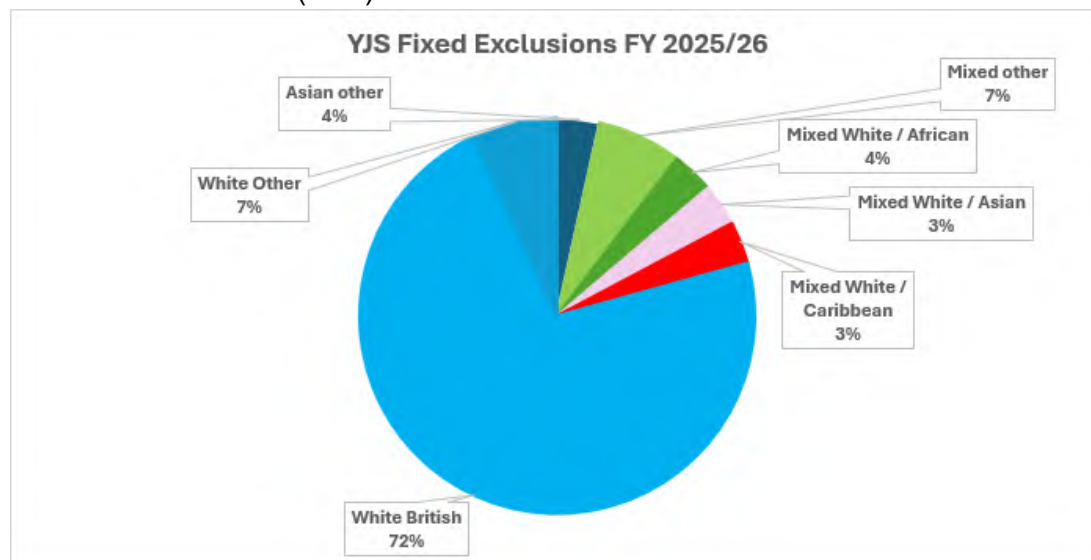
Conclusion:

- Girls in South Glos. are not over-represented as FTE compared to national data.
- When they are heard at OOCR panel they are very likely to be diverted via non-statutory outcomes.
- They continue to be more evenly represented, compared to boys, in the data for Community Resolutions, indicating that girls are successfully diverted and/or display lower-level behaviours.

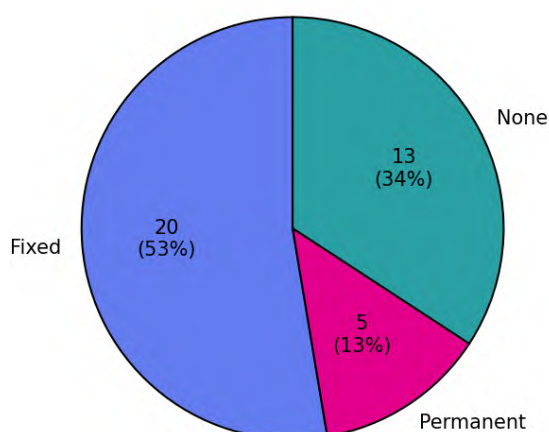
- Incidents of violence are the most likely reason for girls to come into the criminal justice system, often related to peer conflict or emotional dysregulation which often involves assaults towards police who are called in.
- Last year we highlighted a concern about girls in care, this concern remains but less so in OOCR panel as we have dealt with a small number of girls multiple times at court, meaning that girls in care are over-represented in our post court orders.

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 2025. There were 29 children who received one or more fixed term exclusions from school in the 15-month period of 4 previous quarters + the quarter in which their intervention started - 15-month period. See table below for ethnicity breakdown, 77% were White British/Other. There was 1 (one) Permanent Exclusion (PEX) this was a white British child.



Exclusions: Fixed (12m) / Perm (Ever) (n=38)



With **66% 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.

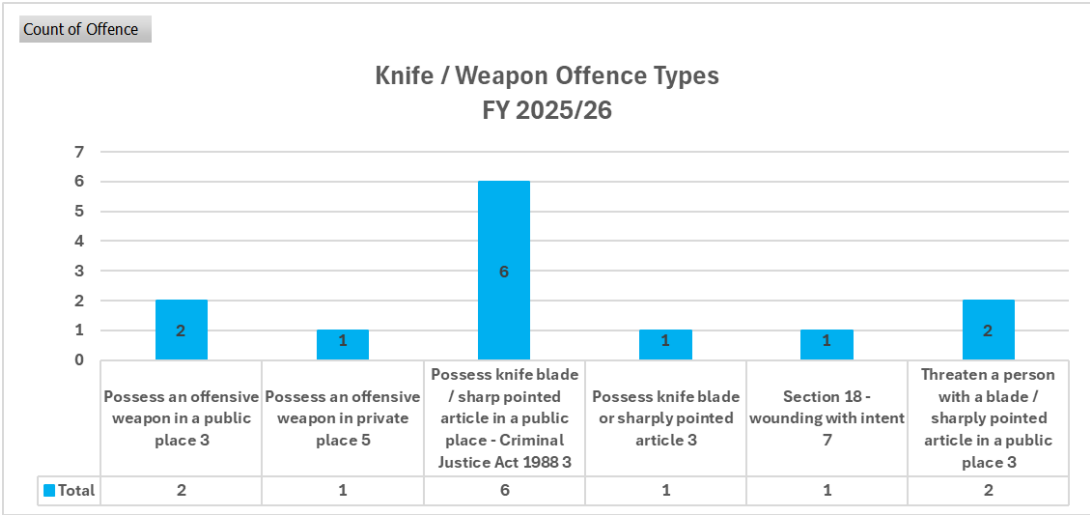
Speech and Language: Specialist provision in the YJS has since March 2026 been increased to 0.4fte, but for the purposes of this plan across 2025-26 this provision was 0.2fte. Since April 2025 the work of the speech and language therapist has consisted of:

- Number of children referred: 28 (including 1 victim)
- Number of face-to-face assessments completed 23 (with 5 assessments booked in for April 2026).
- There were 16 cancellations/rearranged appointments. These were due to child being sick/going missing, but all were rearranged.
- Some children were offered multiple appointments to ensure they were seen.
- One child out of the 28 referred refused face to face even though several options were offered; however child give consent for therapist to speak with parent and others he was working with and a communication profile was made.
- One child was in custody and was seen there. Assisted profile of skills in both child’s languages and carried out assessment through interpreter. Court passport written.

Weapon/Knife Offences: Year 2025-26:

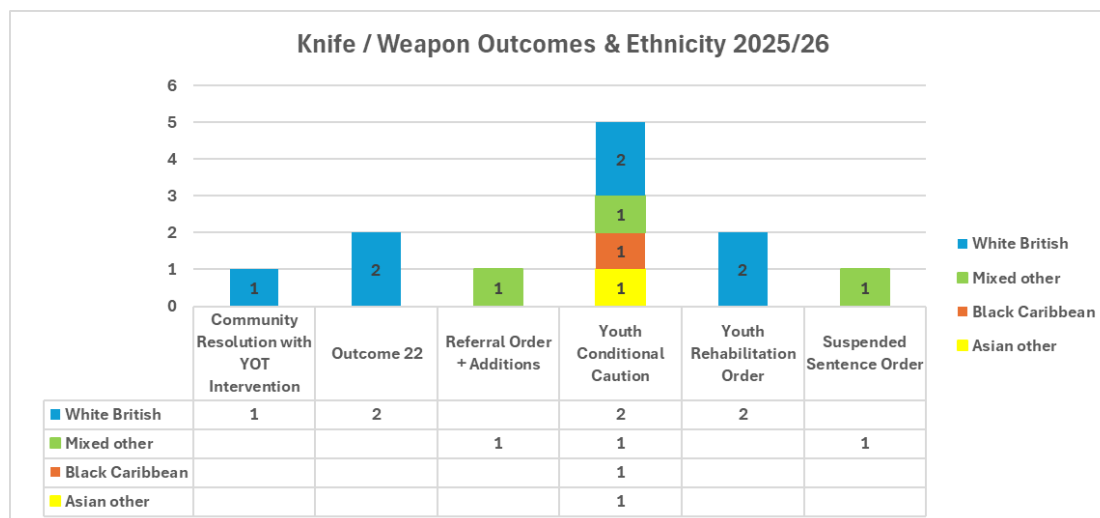
- In 2025/26 the YJS dealt with 8 incidents of knife/weapon possession crimes within the Out of Court Resolution panel, a further 5 matters were dealt with at court (13 altogether, 12 individual children including 1 female). This is a reduction on the number of knife/weapon related offences last year.
- In 2024-25 we reported on 17 weapon/knife offences (16 children)
- 1 male child was convicted of Possession of an offensive weapon in a public place, and then of Section 18: wounding with intent.
- 1 female YP was convicted of Threatening a person with a blade / sharply pointed article in a public place, and assaulting a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm.
- All bar one of these offences were knife related, including one termed as a Zombie Knife. The final offence was related to an offensive weapon (metal bar).
- Offence types in table below

Table 8: Offence types for weapon/ knife offences 2025/6



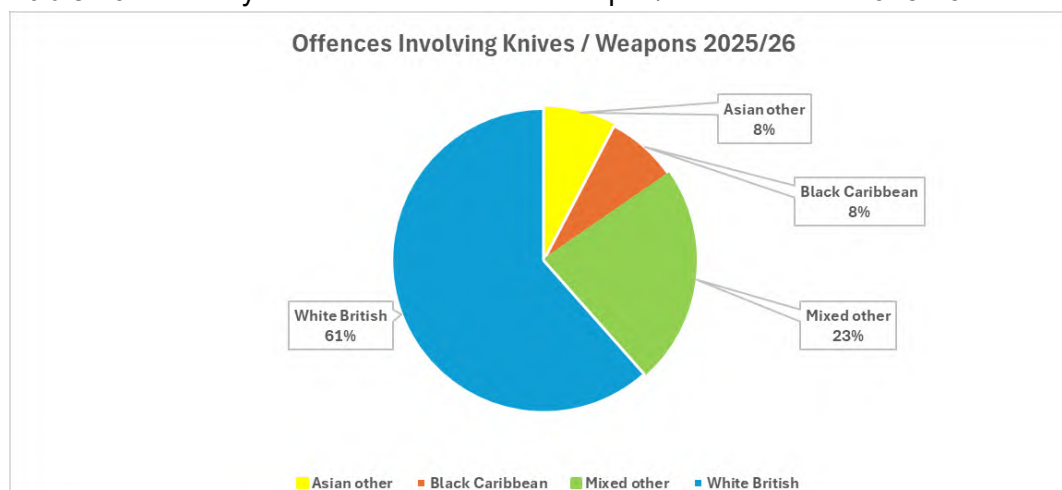
- There were 6 offences related to: Possess knife blade / sharp pointed article in a public place (46%)
- In relation to outcomes/ disposal see table below

Table 9: Knife/Weapon Outcomes and Ethnicity



- 3 of 13 offences (23%) resulted in a diversion/ Outcome 22. This figure was 35% last year. This is largely related to the new child gravity matrix guidance as we started to see this figure drop from 2023-24 (47% of outcomes).
- 5 offences (38%) resulted in a Youth Conditional Caution. (2024/25 this was 24%)
- 5 offences (38%) resulted in a statutory outcome. One child was sentenced at 18 hence the suspended sentence order outcome. Of note no custody outcomes this year (2024/25 2 custodial related to knife crime)
- Ethnicity of children involved in weapons offences (see **Table 10:** below), 31% of children from black or mixed heritage backgrounds. In 2024-25 this figure was 18%. Caution needed as we are dealing with small numbers but nonetheless an increase.
- So, whilst numbers are small, **we are seeing a reduction in weapon/knife related offences across 2025/26** with an increase in statutory outcomes (76%) for knife related matters (although half of these are YCC). We must however be cautious with this data given the small numbers.

Table 10: Ethnicity of children involved in weapon/knife offences 2025-26



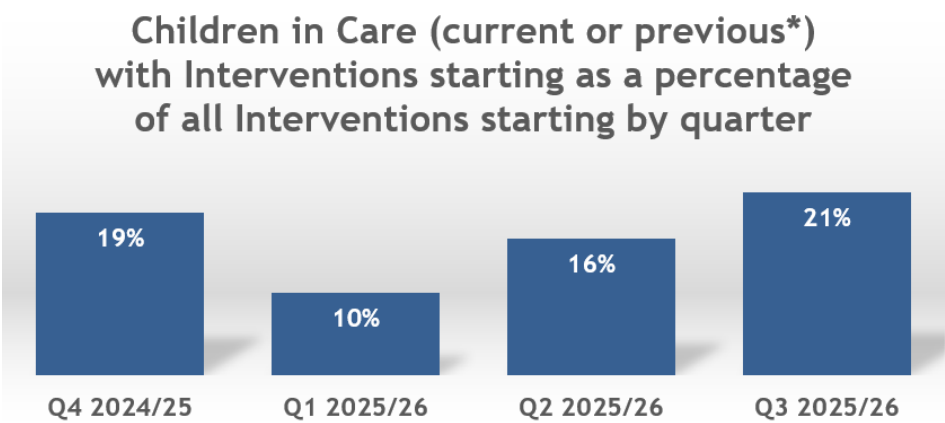
Avon and Somerset (A&S) Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (2025-26) indicates for South Gloucestershire:

Incidence of Violence:

- There was a 10% increase in the number of recorded crimes⁴ in 2024/25 with a rate per 1,000 of 71.7
- Over 75% of the South Gloucestershire area saw increases in the levels of violence
- Violent and sexual offences accounted for 46% of recorded crime
- The cost of Violent Crime in South Gloucestershire⁵ rose by 22% in 2024/25
- Violence Offences increased by 14% in 2024/25
- Street Based Serious Violence (SBSV) decreased by 7% (23n) in 2024/25 against previous year, 2023/24
- Knife-Flagged offences decreased by 22%

Children In Care/ Offending: This is a priority area for the YJ Partnership. To assist with oversight of this area the quarterly performance report includes performance reporting on the percentage of CiC compared to overall figures for interventions starting each quarter. See table below. January to December 2025. This averages as 16.5% of open cases being children in care.

*Previous within the last 12 months



The YJS continues to report 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 2025 to 2026 indicate:

- Children in Care are over-represented in the youth justice system. **18% of all children in the Youth Justice Service (YJS)** worked with in 2025/26 (last year this was 17% and 23/24 this was 13%), equating to 14 children, who were at some point during their intervention in Care. Of those 14 children, 11 were male (12 interventions) and 3 were female (3 interventions), this equated to 15 interventions/ outcomes.
- 6 Interventions were Statutory (40%) involving 2 females and 4 male YPs. **19% of all statutory outcomes in this period were for CiC** and notably these were all for court outcomes (as opposed to YC/YCC). **Positively this is a significant decrease on last year (33%)**. 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.

- Of note in respect of the 2 females with statutory outcomes: 1 of the children had a previous intervention and became a child in care during that time (not counted here), in addition they have also received a further conviction of a financial penalty (not requiring an intervention). The other female received an additional conviction of a conditional discharge. This does indicate that the 19% figure is not giving the full picture.
- 1 CiC also received a financial penalty in respect of driving matters – as no intervention provided this is not counted.
- 1 Intervention resulted in a Remand to Custody.
- The remaining 9 interventions were Diversionary (60%): Outcome 22 or Community Resolution with YJS Intervention involving 1 female and 6 male children, representing 10% of all outcomes and 16% of all diversion outcomes. Similar figures to last year. These also represent an increase on last year's figures. Separately 1 child in care received a YADD
- Of all interventions (89) undertaken by the YJS in this time frame, **17% (same as last year) were in relation to young people in care** (15 interventions, similar to last year (16)) an increase from 16 last year).
- From analysis of girls and offending (Jan 2025 to Dec 2026): **Only 11% (1) of girls at OOCR panel was a child in care. 40% of court outcomes relate to girls in care.** The 2 significant children open on court orders (and CiC) is of concern.
- **CiC represent 0.58% of the total number of SG children aged 10-17 years.** So, by representing 18% of all children in the youth justice system and 19% of all statutory interventions there is a significant disparity in terms of them being over-represented in the youth justice system.
- **67% of the children in care working with the YJS on a court order/remand are from an ethnic minority background.** Again, indicating an over-representation for an already vulnerable group. This is very significant and compounded through being a child in care and of black and global majority background.

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.

Work with Victims. This is a significant area for the YJS and YJ Partnership across 2026-27. The recent HMIP inspection and recommendations relating to work with victims sit largely outside of the YJS, with the Police and Partnership leading on this. Whilst we have started to see improvements e.g. changes to police report forms to enable greater demographic data – we are not yet seeing this improvement in terms of data we are receiving. The Police YJ Partnership representative is now the victim lead and committed to improving this area. The victim development plan in place since June 2025 continues to focus on operational development, which has been challenged in terms of progressing this through limited management capacity.

Victim worker role. HMIP determined that the current structure in the YJS with this role undertaken in conjunction with a court/bail role is a potential for conflict of interest. This has been raised with the Partnership and work across 2026-27 would look to establish a stand-alone role, if resources permit.

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

Since 2023-24 we have seen an increasing 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. In 2025-2026 we continued to see a reduction in the number of mandatory **serious incident notifications** (2, compared to 1 last year and 3 in 2024-25); one of these relates to a serious sexual charge. Of note we have not had any custodial sentences across 2025-26.

Incidents of serious youth violence (SYV) across South Gloucestershire have decreased in 2025-26 which could be attributed to improved multiagency working. The importance of peer mapping exercises has also emerged as strong enabling factors in preventing and responding to SYV.

The most significant incident, in terms of the number of young people involved, injuries to the victim, and resulting convictions, occurred in May 2025 near a major shopping centre in South Gloucestershire, a gathering-place for children, and consequently an area which sees a high incidence of offending. Some children involved in the incident had been identified at risk from Risks Outside the Home (ROTH) prior to the incident, both through routine referrals into social care and a mapping exercise with local schools, and this facilitated a more rapid safeguarding response. The incident brought to light ongoing tensions between two groups of children, with links to more established and concerning networks. These tensions have continued to bubble throughout the year, with further violent incidents and exchanges of insults, but have increasingly been contained through improved multi-agency working.

As a consequence of the above incident, 5 South Gloucestershire children were charged with assault/ affray related offences, all being sentenced on the same day. Across 2025-26 there was **1 pre-sentence referral panel** convened (children at risk of custody) – this was 4 the previous year.

There remain a small number of children under **police conditional bail** for serious offences; management of these has been aided through the involvement of the early intervention police team alongside the Violence reduction partnership. South Gloucestershire has become a pilot for the development of a **Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT)** as part of wider social care reforms. The Police have quickly established their role in this team which has resulted in a re-branding of the Early Intervention police team, resulting in a potential gap in provision for those children who are on the cusp of offending. This has been recognised and work is being undertaken to mitigate and plan for this for the future. Turnaround, whilst an option for providing a service for these children, is a limited resource in South Gloucestershire. With the implementation of prevention panels in 2027 (Young Futures Programme) these children will be a focus.

Knife and weapon crime as indicated above has decreased across 2025/26 in terms of outcomes for children. The numbers of children receiving an outcome at OOCR for

knife/weapon offences is monitored quarterly by the SG Children's Partnership. The recently published **Knife Crime Guidance** (Feb 2026) is being closely monitored through the YJ Partnership and collaborative work across Avon and Somerset Police and YJSs is being undertaken to ensure we are compliant. The YJ Team Manager is due to present this guidance and any implications for children to Senior Social Care Managers as well as Designated safeguarding leads across the SG schools. The police have indicated that we could see a rise in cases where previously the police decision had been NFA. As mentioned above the changes in early intervention policing will also impact on being able to intervene with children who are suspected of carrying a knife/weapon. Avon and Somerset Police have established a Deferred Prosecution scheme as a possible outcome for children in possession of a knife, this has yet to be tested in South Gloucestershire alongside clarity around what constitutes a "truly exceptional" circumstance to enable this outcome. There are limited opportunities now for children to be diverted for possession of a weapon.

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 there remain issues with the accuracy. There are particular 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, and we are advised that the next upgrade of our case management system will resolve this. Unfortunately, this issue was not resolved for the HMIP inspection, where our limited victim data was a limiting factor in relation to ensuring a personalised, individualised service to victims.

We continue to see concerns relating to **children's mental health and emotional well-being** with some services, e.g. CAMHS, continuing to report lengthy waiting lists, alongside concerns addressed in assessments. More work is needed to ensure that the KPI's are an accurate reflection of this area as we have seen a dip this year. The YJS management team are exploring this to understand if this is due to data recording rather than an actual reduction. We are exploring whether children open to risk support services/ getting additional help are being captured when the YJ Primary Mental Health specialist is not providing direct input.

The **substance misuse service** continues to provide direct harm reduction interventions with children known to the YJS. The majority of this work are pre court interventions in which this service also supports Avon & Somerset Police's Youth Alcohol and Drug Diversion Scheme (YADD). The service offers both tier 2 and 3 interventions and is linked with the Specialist Drug Treatment Service in Bristol that can offer Tier 4 Interventions. Across 2025 to 26, we received 32 referrals, of which 15 were YADDs all successfully completed. This post remains at risk in terms of long-term funding, with Public Health committing to part funding and the likelihood that the OPCC will discontinue its contribution from 2027.

The Youth Justice Partnership is advised of any **changes to workload or staffing**. Across 2025-26 we have experienced significant staff sickness in the management team which has had an impact on the team and capacity for the service to undertake improvement work following the recent HMIP inspection. This has been mitigated through the appointment of an interim Practice Manager (since Feb 2026). Across 2025 we dealt with fewer cases at OOCR panel but have seen an increase in court outcomes.

Management capacity in SGYJS has been an area of concern for some time. A proposed restructure paper has been presented and accepted by the Service director and Executive director acknowledging that more specialist strategic capacity is needed. Work in implementing this is ongoing, alongside the wider workforce change in children's services in response to the

new social care reforms. In the interim and having an established budget for this restructure, an interim Practice Manager has been appointed but as indicated this has largely provided cover for a manager off work unwell. In addition, increased hours have been provided to a permanent Practice Manager. It is hoped that the restructure will be implemented later this year providing the additional management capacity required.

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 safety to others and safety of these children 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 Avon and Somerset LCJB have established a Child First subgroup with membership from all criminal justice agencies. A recent focus has been a delay in charging decisions, with each YJS area providing examples as part of a wider audit with partners.

The **Enhanced Case Management (ECM)** project has now ended, having been an established project since 2018. The implementation of ECM has brought about a tangible shift in both work, culture and ethos in Youth Justice Service practice which has been embraced with significant enthusiasm. ECM has embedded trauma-informed thinking within Youth Justice practice, strengthened multi-agency understanding of children's needs, and promoted psychologically informed approaches to assessment, planning, and intervention. The approach has provided a clear evidence-based way of successfully engaging some of our most complex and hard to reach young people and we have seen benefits across many aspects of their lives. As well as the impacts for the children, ECM has also brought about significant benefits for youth justice practitioners who are able to understand the impact of ACEs and trauma on children and to use that knowledge to develop their practice; as a result, they have reported increased skills, confidence and effectiveness in their work. All of this provides a meaningful and enduring legacy, ensuring that the principles of trauma informed, child first practice remain embedded within our service.

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, so with confirmation of continued funding for the next 3 years this is positive.

Plan for 2026-27

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 full list). The increased capacity of the speech and language specialist enables more children to have this specialist support.

There is a Trauma Informed Lead in the Police Force who is bringing a trauma informed lens to policing through embedding trauma informed approaches to training new recruits and existing officer and policies.

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.

From April 2025, the YJS finalised a 12-month pilot of an African Heritage project worker post. This post whilst located within the YJS worked across the council's integrated children's services and education departments and provided input to deliver the council's equality plan. This post has now secured long term funding and has been established within the strategic safeguarding team. This post has a focus on improving outcomes for African heritage children and families.

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 2025-26 (see Participation section below) and was noted within the recent HMIP report: *There was a genuine and committed approach to participation, which sought to promote meaningful engagement of children and families in the development of the YJS and wider partnership.* Our aim is to continue to embed this principle and to improve collaborative co-production with children throughout 2026/27. Children continue to benefit from the Education Inclusion Project (since October 2021) which now sits within the council's Young People's Support team. Through collaboration with the ECM project: The development of the Custody Passport framework, trauma-informed Referral Order paperwork,

and contributions to regional practice development have created tangible tools that will continue improving outcomes for children

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 (OCD) to ensure minimal intervention whilst also avoiding unnecessary criminalisation. The 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 2027. 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

Participation remains a key priority for the Partnership and the Youth Justice Service (YJS), in line with the Child First principle of collaboration. This work has been recognised as a strength in the HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection (November 2025), which highlighted *"a genuine and committed approach to participation"* and the meaningful involvement of children and families.

The Young Person's Feedback Panels, held every six months, have been particularly successful. Children have presented their experiences directly to senior leaders, raising specific issues and seeing clear action taken in response, demonstrating participation in practice. These panels are now an integral and established part of the service, with practitioners identifying children who may wish to take part.

Participation continues to shape both individual practice and wider service development. Over the coming year, the service will build on this by using the panels as a platform for children to showcase their work and progress within the YJS.

Achievements

1. Recognition:

A key achievement this year has been the recognition of participation as a strength in the HMIP inspection. Inspectors highlighted the impact of participation, noting that children's feedback directly informed both practice and strategic decision-making.

The inspection commended the feedback discussions, personalised letters, and our six-monthly Young Person's Feedback Panels, where children present directly to senior leaders. It also confirmed that themes raised by children were acted upon, evidencing a clear link between participation and service improvement.

This provides strong external validation that participation within South Gloucestershire YJS is embedded, meaningful, and driving real change.

2. Feedback Discussions:

Since their launch in June 2024, Feedback Discussions have continued to develop and are now firmly embedded within practice across the service. These one-to-one discussions, conducted

at the end of a child's involvement with the YJS, are now routinely planned and delivered by a worker other than the child's main practitioner.

The discussions follow a structured 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 Gloucestershire YJS:

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

Over the past year, workers have increasingly integrated these discussions into their planned interventions, ensuring they are a consistent and expected part of a child's journey through the service. The process has also been incorporated into business support systems, helping to maintain oversight and ensure that Feedback Discussions continue to take place as standard practice.

These sessions remain invaluable opportunities for children to have their voices heard. This is further reinforced through personalised feedback letters, which evidence their views and clearly explain how their feedback will be used.

The feedback continues to inform service development in the following ways:

- **Supervision of staff:** Each child's feedback is shared with the staff member and their manager to support reflective discussion in supervision.
- **Identifying areas for development and strengths-based practice:** The management team reviews feedback to address any concerns raised and to recognise and reinforce positive practice.
- **YJ Partnership Board review:** Feedback is collated and presented to the management board to inform strategic oversight.
- **Children's Feedback Panel:** Feedback is also reviewed by a group of justice-experienced children, who contribute to presenting themes and insights at the Children's Feedback Panel.

3. Young Person's Feedback Panel

Young People's Feedback Panels continue to take place every six months, with further panels held in July 2025 and January 2026. These panels bring together justice-experienced children and senior leaders from across the partnership to review feedback, share lived experience, and agree actions for service improvement.

Across both reporting periods, feedback from children has been consistently positive, with an overall average satisfaction score of **7.8 out of 10**. Many young people described their experience as supportive and helpful, with comments such as *"It's been really good,"* and *"Good talking to someone... it's helped me a lot."* This reflects a service that is experienced by children as relational, engaging, and focused on learning and support rather than punishment.

A key and consistent theme across both panels is the strength of relationships between young people and their YJS workers. Almost all children reported that their worker listens to them, with 14 out of 16 (July 2025) and 17 out of 18 (Jan 2026) responding positively. Young people frequently described workers as *"kind, nice, caring,"* *"easy to talk to,"* and *"not judging you for*

what you did.” One young person shared, *“My worker always saw the good in me even if I was raging,”* while another stated, *“She made me feel more positive in myself... I think she sees that I can stay out of trouble.”* These relationships are characterised by trust, consistency, and a genuine belief in the young person’s potential, which appears central to engagement and positive outcomes.

Children also highlighted that workers go beyond expectations, describing them as *“going above and beyond,” “supportive,”* and *“always there when I needed her.”* The relational approach, described as calm, non-judgemental, and collaborative, helps young people feel safe and understood. As one young person summarised, *“They listen to you, talk to you about what can help progress you in the future.”*

In terms of the work undertaken, young people consistently reported engaging in meaningful interventions focused on consequences of offending, emotional regulation, peer pressure, relationships, and future planning. Many found this helpful, particularly when it was practical and relevant to real-life situations. Comments such as *“It helped me make good decisions for the future”* and *“I know the consequences now”* demonstrate increased awareness and reflection. Some young people also valued informal and relational activities, such as going for drives or having conversations, which made sessions feel more engaging and less formal.

Importantly, young people demonstrated increased confidence in their ability to stay out of trouble, with average scores remaining high across both periods (8.3 and 8.4). Many linked this directly to their work with YJS, with comments such as *“I know it’s not worth it and I make better decisions,”* and *“Since I worked with my worker, I haven’t done the things I used to do.”* While some acknowledged ongoing challenges, particularly relating to peer influence and emotional wellbeing, the overall narrative reflects growing insight, motivation, and desistance.

Participation in the feedback panels themselves continues to have a positive impact. Young people report feeling genuinely heard and taken seriously, reflected in comments such as *“they actually listened to me”* and *“you treat young people like a person.”* For those with longer involvement, the panels provide a meaningful opportunity to contribute, build confidence, and be recognised for their strengths and lived experience.

Overall, the combined feedback highlights a service that is highly relational, trauma-informed in its approach, and effective in supporting young people to reflect, engage, and move towards more positive futures.

7. Resources and services

The Youth Justice Grant 2025/6 funds posts (21.97%/ 4.41fte) within the YJS.

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

Table 11: 2025-26

SUMMARY	Total Budget Staff/ Non staff	Total % YJS staff	Total FTE YJS staff
Local Authority	£555,560	48.53%	8.73
Police	£115,740	10.11%	1.09
Probation	£49,199	4.30%	0.89

Health	£116,907	10.21%	1.44
YJB Grant	£251,472	21.97%	4.41
Police and Crime Commissioner	£30,000	2.62%	0.53
CYP Families Plus	£3,900	0.34%	0.07
CYP Health	£5,000	0.44%	0.09
A&S ECM Project	£17,000	1.49%	0.30
TOTAL	£1,144,778	100%	17.53

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 continued to provide additional capacity in the pre-court Practice manager posts to mitigate against a Practice Manager off work long term and to provide continue to develop the work around participation/ voice of child.

In relation to Partner contribution, a more detailed breakdown of contributions and expenditure from 2025/6 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 and included work with victims as a significant element of the collaboration. We established an African Heritage Education/Project worker post across 2025-26 to improve outcomes for African heritage young people. This post continues but now sits within strategic safeguarding with funding identified by the Service Director making this a permanent development post, that spans children services and education. SGYJS will have access to this post.

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 continue in discussions regarding moving the CMS to a cloud-based server to mitigate current risks with it being hosted on a local server.

Funding 2026/27

The funding position for the year ahead.

- The **YJB Youth Justice Grant** for 26/27 has now been confirmed (also confirmed until March 2029). There has been no uplift on last year's grant.

- The **Ministry of Justice Turnaround Funding**. Funding confirmed to extend the project for a further 3 years year until March 2029. Funding moving forward is the same as last year which is a reduction on earlier grants. We have managed to keep a FT post in place.
- **Funding from Police, Health and Local Authority**. There has been a slight increase in the Police contribution for 2026-27 but no additional funding from Health.
- **Funding from Public Health**: From April 2026 Public Health will contribute an additional £15K towards funding the YJS Drug and Alcohol specialist post.
- **Funding from the OPCC via South Gloucestershire Community Safety Partnership (CSP)**. The CSP had funded the majority of the YJS Drug and Alcohol Specialist post for many years but due to reduced funding and conditions attached to this the YJS were notified in advance that this would likely be discontinued. This was raised as a risk to the YJ Partnership and analysis work undertaken by Public Health has secured half of the needed funding for the future. For 2026-27 CSP have agreed to fund the remaining portion of the posts costs as a one off. This post remains at risk and work is being undertaken to ensure continued funding for this key post beyond 2027 in the likelihood that the OPCC will not fund this. The South Glos CSP has been through a restructure and established clearer links between the YJ Partnership being part of the new partnership structure. This supports 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 now ended as of 31st March 2026 due to funding constraints across the area. This is a real loss to the Service as we endeavour to embed this work into everyday practice.

8. Board development.

Changes within the Partnership: In 2025/26 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. We have welcomed new partners;

- Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI) as a representative supporting victim service
- Named Nurse for Children in Care across the ICB (where this is a priority focus for the partnership)
- Criminal Justice Manager, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

The council lead for Children and families has been a key Partnership member since 2024, attending the YP panel and as the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board has oversight and leadership around the YJS priority for children in care.

Police: There have been some changes across the year, but we now have an established Police lead who is the Lead for the Partnership in Work with Victims. We also have attendance from the Early Intervention Police team through attendance from the Partnership, Prevention and Diversion Police lead for the force.

Other established members:

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

The YJ Partnership Chair attended a **Southwest Management Board Chairs event** in March 2026 facilitated by the YJB. The aims of this event were to explore:

- The role of the Chair and how this contributes to an effective board
- Build a shared understanding of national youth justice reforms and what they might mean for Chairs
- Explore key regional challenges for chairs across the Southwest
- Strengthen Board governance, assurance, and partnership effectiveness
- Reflect on what effective Chairing looks like and identify individual development priorities
- Agree practical next steps to improve Board impact and outcomes for children

A summary of the four priority areas identified for collaborative progression across the region:

1. Health Reform, Statutory Expectations & Early Intervention
2. Reducing the Criminalisation of Children in Care
3. Out of Court Resolutions, Knife Possession Guidance, Over-Criminalisation & Evidence-Based Intervention
4. Learning, Peer Review & System Improvement

The Partnership meeting in September 2025 was a development event and followed the HMIP inspection earlier in the month, where this was the main focus. This meeting covered:

- **Update on YJS Inspection:** Reflections on the inspection, some key dates and next steps
- **Work with Victims:** Papers: Victim development plan and Victim Policy. Presentation.
- **Update on Participation** work at SGYJS: Papers and Presentation
- **Work on Disproportionality:** Papers: Draft Disproportionality Policy and Race Action Plan.
- **Performance:** Paper: Quarterly performance report. Case Audit: Working with Children: June 2025

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 2025-26 the Partnership have benefitted from presentations and updates on:

- A workshop for the Partnership (additional to YJ Partnership meeting) in May 2025 in preparation for HMIP: Providing an overview of the HMIP framework and to enable Partners to contribute to a self-assessment on Organisational Delivery (SWOT analysis). This was well attended.

- June 2025: YJB Remand Concordat. Victim report/ data.
- Dec 2025: Victim Report/Data
- Dec 2025: OOCd Thematic Report
- Dec 2025: HMIP Improvement Plan
- March 2026: An analysis of girls and offending January to December 2025.

9. Workforce Development

During 2025-26 we have had minimal staff changes.

- In Feb 2026 we secured an interim Practice Manager on a limited term basis to provide additional management capacity whilst we await the implementation of the YJS restructure and to enable the service to progress the HMIP improvement plan. This post however has largely provided cover for the permanent Practice Manager who has been off work since September 2025.

Over 25/26 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 Interim PM attended the March 2026 meeting with a theme of Serious Youth Violence.
- Staff also benefit from monthly **peer support sessions** and for those specialists in HSB work, they have the opportunity for case consultation with a clinical psychologist experienced in this field of work.
- Staff have benefitted from support from **ECM practitioners**: The training programme, reflective practice spaces, clinical supervision offer, and Post-Incident Psychological Support (PIPs) sessions have provided staff with skills, language, and frameworks that will continue to shape their work long after the project closes.
- **Prevent training** May 2025 – from Counter Terrorism Regional Officer (who sits on SG Prevent Board): Young Person Focussed Prevent Awareness Session.
- **Cultural awareness session**: facilitated by SARI, on Judaism and antisemitism, Islam and Islamophobia. A separate consultation session was undertaken to consolidate the learning from this workshop.
- **Reflective Practice Conversation**: facilitated by SARI. Attended by strategic leads from YJS, Education, Children Services, Strategic Safeguarding and Housing. Aims:
 - To present data re: schools and social care outcomes for children and young people from an equality's perspective
 - To share any theories or hypotheses regarding the causal factors
 - To examine the disproportionality this reveals and any common patterns and trends. Which cohorts seem to be facing the greatest disproportionality and in which outcome areas?
 - To consider how we can mitigate.
 Looking to undertake a follow up session in early 2027.
- **Restorative Justice revisit**. 3-day Accredited RJ Training Undertaken March 2025, follow up sessions
 - **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.
- **An introduction to using Creative Approaches to promote Positive Relationship, Emotional Literacy and Self Expression within the Youth Justice Service: March 2026**
AIMS:

- To offer some practical, fun, creative tools to engaging young people
- To offer some key aspects of theory/ research for the role and importance of offering creative activities with YP.
- To support YP within CJS shift/challenge negative narratives about themselves/their potential.
- To offer some tools for supporting emotional literacy and self-expression.
- To consider some of the possible barriers of engagement experienced by these cohort and consider adaptations of activities to increase engagement/ownership.

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:

- Team Building: Feb 2026: Introducing new policies and staff contribution to these.
- YJ Drugs and Alcohol Specialist: workshop.
- 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. This provides an opportunity to share YJ work with victims and the necessity of providing demographic data.

Training Planned 26/27: in response to HMIP improvement Plan:

- May 2026: Workshop on South Glos response to Risk Outside of the Home (ROTH) facilitated by Practice Development Managers (leads for Exploitation and Missing)
- Consultation session with Practice Managers around ROTH
- Oct 2026 and Dec 2026: Workshops on Social Graces, Intersectionality and Adultification: facilitated by SARI
- Workshops with staff to introduce a stand-alone Plan for children with court outcomes.
- Team Manager and Practice Manager providing training sessions across 5 days for Police operational staff on OOCR. This provides the opportunity to include work with victims.

It must be acknowledged that 2025-26 has been challenging year for the YJ staff who have been part of a HMIP inspection and have experienced significant staff absence of a key manager.

10. Knife Possession Guidance

Guidance

Following the recently published Government Guidance for Child Knife Possession Offences (Feb 2026), the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) provided a summary of the guidance. This guidance sits alongside the NPCC and CPS Guidelines on the Cautioning and Charging of Knife Crime Offences (2022)

SGYJS Adherence to the Guidance

Police Notification: *The Force will complete a Safeguarding referral and inform their Youth Offending Team (YOT) as soon as practicable and within a maximum of one working day.*

Across Avon and Somerset area all YJSs now receive a daily police report for any child suspect in a knife crime offence (in the previous 24 hours). This is still work in progress, with this being mitigated through daily checks by the YJ Police Officer and working with Police in the pilot Multi-Agency Child Protection team (MACPT). The YJ Team Manager is due to present to Children's Service Senior Management (CSMT) in May and to provide a clear pathway to social care front door for these cases. This may sit with the MACPT.

Procedural Guidance from A&S Police: Following publication of the guidance the Police lead for this has met with all YJSs to develop local guidance. This is still a work in progress. The A&S Child Out of Court Resolution Protocol will be updated to reflect these changes. The 5 YJSs have also met to start mapping the pathways to ensure consistency across the area and to ensure shared understanding.

Deferred Prosecution: Avon and Somerset Police launched a Deferred Prosecution scheme for knife possession from 1/4/26 available in "truly exceptional" circumstances for children under 16 for knife possession.

Outcome 23: From 1/4/26 Outcome 23 is in place for *all knife related child deferred prosecutions and deferred cautions for all offences*. This however has not been upgraded on the case management system.

Scrutiny: The existing independent Out of Court Resolution Scrutiny Panel co-ordinated by the OPCC will scrutinise the approach to child knife possession in accordance with the guidelines.

Collaboration with the VRP: SGYJS have met up with the council Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) to review currently commissioned services, to ensure that the full range of support is available to the child. The VRP Co-Ordinator has agreed to sit on OOCR panels when knife possession cases are discussed. There is an agreed review date in 6 months to look at all the cases of knife possession regarding future commissioning needs.

Reviewing Interventions: Reviewing YEF Toolkit (in conjunction with the VRP) to ensure interventions are well-evidenced to be effective in tackling the root causes of offending and to prevent re-offending.

Communication: SGYJS are due to present at a Designated Safeguarding Leads forum (Education) to advise of this guidance. The YJS alongside the Education Safeguarding lead will look to develop a clear process for schools around knife possession in schools, what to do and what support can be put in place. The schools engaged well on the development of the Avon and Somerset wide Weapon's Diversion Scheme in 2022 (This was subsequently superseded by the new Child Gravity Matrix guidance: September 2023), acknowledging that support/ intervention needed to be put in place for children carrying knives/ weapons. Concern that the limited diversion options now available for children will impact on schools' decision making and raises the possibility that schools may want to manage matters internally in the future.

Oversight by YJ Partnership: The YJ Partnership will be advised of all outcomes for knife possession through the OOCR panel on a quarterly basis. The Children's Partnership already receive quarterly data relating to the number. The YJ Partnership will be informed of any cases that depart from the guidance for their scrutiny and oversight. There is now a representative from the OPCC at the YJ Partnership who will be able to provide information from the independent scrutiny panel, so informing the Partnership of the use of deferred prosecutions across the force area. Of note across 2025-26 we had 8 cases of knife possession at OOCR.

11. 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 refer to the Child First toolkit to ensure all our services align to this principle.

ECM Project: The Enhanced case Management (ECP) Project for South Glos has now ended as of 31/3/26 having provided over 7 years of support.

Between November 2022 and October 2025 ECM was delivered as one of the 7 Vanguard pathways of the regional Integrated Care Framework Vanguard. The pathway was a collaboration between the NHS (Forensic CAMHS Clinical Psychologists) and the 4 participating Youth Justice Services (S Glos, Bristol, BANES and N Somerset). Over the period of Vanguard funding ECM was able to widen out their service with additional offers to children on out of court resolutions or short orders. In October 2025, ICB funding came to an end, and a further 6 months extension to the project was supported by the 4 Youth Justice teams with a view to exploring options for continued funding to embed ECM as practice as usual for the Youth Justice Services across the region. Unfortunately, that funding was not secured and ECM ended as of the 31st March 2026.

Between Jan 2025 and March 2026 ECM has supported 5 children open to South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service and has undertaken 3 consultations. One child has been open to ECM since May 2024 and since that time he has progressed from Level 1 to Level 4/5 of the Trauma recovery model – he now has a job and there has been no new offending. Another child transferred from a different local authority where he was also open to ECM. This allowed ECM to support the transition between services and workers and provide continuity in the understanding of his needs and risks. A further child was overseen by South Glos on a caretaking arrangement and ECM meetings included staff from both local authorities. Over the period in which he was open to ECM the child went from angry, aggressive and non-engaged to attending weekly with YJS and completing his order.

Alongside the case formulation and consultation for individual children, ECM has also provided ongoing wider practice development and training and skills opportunities for staff. A 7-session training programme was delivered by the ECM team with monthly sessions taking place between November 2024 and May 2025. This training covered topics such as the Trauma Recovery Model, Developmental mapping and Trauma informed assessments, planning and transitions. In May 2025 a Vicarious Trauma training session was delivered to the team to consider the emotional impact of the work and explore ways in which staff can protect themselves, access support and support one another and in February 2026 ECM delivered an online training session to provide new staff with an overview of trauma informed practice, an introduction to the Trauma Recovery Model and an opportunity to explore how to implement trauma informed principles in youth justice work.

The ECM service has provided several support options for staff including the offer of 1:1 clinical supervision to caseworkers by the ECM Psychologist and face to face reflective staff support sessions which were delivered up until July 2025. ECM also has an offer of Post Incident Psychological Support (PIPs) sessions to YJS staff following serious incidents that may have a significant psychological impact.

In September 2025 ECM presented a showcase slot as part of the HMIP Inspection. The Inspection report recognized that ECM provided interventions to address children's needs and safety, as well as promote positive change through providing psychologically informed interventions to children and families based on the trauma recovery model.

In November 2025, The Children and Young People's Vanguard for BNSSG which included ECM, received a Highly Commended award in the Reducing Inequalities and Improving Outcomes for Children and Youth People category at the prestigious Health Service Journal awards. The project was also shortlisted in the Early Intervention and Prevention for Children, Young People and Families award category.

Innovation

Diversion Re-Offending Tool: SGYJS have continued to develop this tracking 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.

This tracker has now been in place for 12 months: Looking at the data across a year Q3 2023/24 to Q3 2024/25 indicated that the majority of children 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 children 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 funded a 3-year funded project, extended for a further year and now 3 years further funding confirmed. 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 there are annual data summaries published. In Dec 2025: regional data summary for Year 4 Q2 (FT 2025/26): Within one year of children completing Turnaround interventions:

- 89% of children had no proven offending
- 6% had offended or reoffended (as proven by court sentence or a caution)
- 4% were not monitored for a full 12 months

As some children in this cohort have not had 12 months monitoring or are under investigation for an offence committed after Turnaround, these outcomes are subject to change.

In compiling the data across the 4 years of the project. January 2023 to March 2026., there have been:

Numbers of Assessments and Interventions

- Year 4:
- 17 assessments
- 18 interventions started.
- 20 interventions closed
- 1 Intervention closed as child withdrew.

- Year 1-3: 39 interventions closed.

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.

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.

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

- 2023-2024 (10 children)
- 2024-2025 (7 children)
- 2025-2026 (7 children)

Across 2025-26 the worker engaged with 3 other complex cases where ManKind teachings to engage young people have been used this is in the context of children who were resistant to doing the programme.

The above 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 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.

- 2023 to 2024 (1 child)
- 2024 to 2025 (7* children) *1 child was open to YPS
- 2025 to 2026 (2 children)

Of note is the decrease in children accessing this programme across this year, when compared to last year. 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.*

Development post: Working with African Heritage young people (AHYP): This post has been piloted across 2025/26. Evaluation remains ongoing. The post is now permanent and sits within strategic safeguarding.

Education Inclusion Project: (Home Office funded project linked to the VRP October 2021).

The Education Inclusion Project aims to reduce permanent exclusions (PEX) for young people involved in or at risk of serious youth violence (SYV), CCE or CSE.

EIP provides 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. EIP provides bespoke 1:1 support for young people alongside advice, guidance and signposting for schools and support for parents- aiming to work cohesively to secure stability within the child's education placement.

The YJS Education specialist leads on all areas of this project which continues to successfully reduce exclusions for this cohort of vulnerable young people (EIP manager role is additional to her YJS role).

This project has been subject to independent evaluation. This year EIP provided an educational day trip to Slimbridge, working with students across three local secondary schools. The trip was a great success and our EIP manager is brokering options to expand this opportunity for next year.

Funding has been secured until March 2027 alongside the additional 1.0fte engagement worker post (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 2025 the education engagement workers have worked with **50 children**. In this period there has been 1 permanent exclusion (PEX) leaving EIP with a current **success rate of 98%**. This is significant as all referrals are assessed and evidenced by their host school as high risk of PEX.

12. 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. There are 2 strands to the specialist role:

1. Consultation, oversight and early intervention support

Between April 2025 and March 2026, the dedicated specialist provided **consultation, advice, and oversight on more than 20 HSB cases**. This work typically included:

- Case consultation with social workers and managers at point of concern, strategy meetings.
- Risk formulation and advice around proportional responses
- Developing bespoke family, home, school and network safety plans with Social Workers, YJS and YPS workers
- Providing resources, tools and guidance to support direct work by social workers, YJS and YPS workers
- Supporting decision-making where thresholds for statutory intervention were unclear or contested
- Advising on pre-trial and non-statutory intervention options to prevent escalation
- Ongoing monitoring, follow-up and availability as cases evolved where possible.

2. Direct YJS / YPS intervention (approximately 8–10 cases)

Key themes emerging from the work:

Across both strands of activity, several consistent themes have emerged:

- **Earlier identification and response**
- **Pre-trial complexity:**
 - The majority of cases involve **peer-on-peer sexual harm** within adolescent relationships, often characterised by disputed consent, freezing responses, coercion or pressure, and significant emotional harm.
 - A further strong theme is **image-based and online** harmful sexual behaviour, including recording or sharing sexual content without consent and exploitation-related dynamics.
 - Many young people present with **overlapping vulnerabilities** such as trauma histories, neurodevelopmental needs, emotional dysregulation or safeguarding concerns, meaning HSB rarely occurs in isolation.

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 the opportunity for 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 2026-27

‘Standards for children’

In September 2025, SGYJS were inspected under the HMIP Inspection of Youth Justice Work with Children and Victims (IYJWCV). This was undertaken in respect of:

- The quality of work undertaken with children working with the YJS and
- The quality of work done with victims.

The overall rating was Good. For Work undertaken with children:

The rating for assessing is based on 2 key questions: Good Overall

- Achieve Positive Change for the Child? 87% (Outstanding)
- Keep the Child and community safe? 73% (Good)

The rating for assessing is based on 2 key questions: Good Overall

- Achieve Positive Change for the Child? 93% (Outstanding)
- Keep the Child and community safe? 67% (Good)

The rating for assessing is based on 2 key questions: Outstanding Overall

- Achieve Positive Change for the Child? 100% (Outstanding)
- Keep the Child and community safe? 80% (Outstanding)

The rating for Work with Victims: Requires Improvement Overall

HMIP identified 9 recommendations: 2 for the YJ Partnership, 5 for the YJS and 2 for the Police. An Improvement Plan was submitted and accepted in December 2025 (see Appendix 8). Work is currently ongoing to address the recommendations. To date much has been achieved with a significant focus on Work with Victims. The improvement plan is monitored through the quarterly YJ Partnership meetings.

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).

Over this year audit activity has included:

In **June 2025** the YJS completed an audit using the new HMIP framework for working with children, which emphasises the importance of effective assessment, planning, and intervention to achieve positive outcomes for young people. This audit was part of wider HMIP preparation.

16 cases were audited across pre-court and court work. Below are some headlines from the report:

Strengths:

- Thorough, Holistic Assessments: Children's backgrounds, including family dynamics, neurodiversity (e.g. ASD/ADHD), trauma history, and education (EHCPs) are well understood.
- Risks, vulnerabilities, and protective factors are clearly identified.
- Strong Multi-Agency Collaboration
- Responsive, Relationship-Based Delivery:
- Personalised, Strengths-Based Planning

Areas for Improvement:

- Enhancing the Child's Voice
- Victim Engagement
- Parental and Social Support
- Clarity and Accessibility of Plans

Actions from Audit:

1. Develop Assessment and Planning Processes
2. Improve Victim Case Recording
3. Strengthen Recording Practices
4. Management Oversight
5. Support Parental Involvement

Of note is that the audit prior to the inspection in September 2025, identified similar areas as picked up by the Inspectorate.

In **March 2026**: an audit was undertaken on work with victims – specifically 7 cases

Key Themes

- Good quality practice is taking place but is not always consistently visible
- Recording and data reporting consistency is the primary challenge
- Protected characteristics and victim type information need routine capture

Overall Judgement

- **Practice quality: Good**
- **Recording and consistency: Requires Improvement** – Core information (timeliness, RJ decisions, closure rationale, demographics) is incomplete or not consistently logged.

This provides some assurance that improvements are being made. The Victim Development Plan (June 2025) remains in place as we continue to focus on this service area. The YJS management team meet monthly to drive the HMIP improvement plan and victim development plan, although due to staff capacity this work has only started to progress from March 2026. 5 of HMIP recommendations related to this area of practice.

Audit activity planned for 26/27

May 2026: Planned audit of YJ open cases on the theme of Diversity/Inclusion (HMIP recommendation)

Planned for **June 2026:** Victim audits

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 2026-27

Key activities	Outcomes	What support is needed	What success will look like
Improve the work on victims both strategically and operationally (HMIP recommendation)	The Partnership are directing and leading on this service area. Improve services for victims and ensure there is a clear pathway of support	Provide regular reports to the Partnership on victim work (data and analysis) Continue to review and refine the SG victim policy to include areas identified in HMIP inspection. Continue to provide regular audits of victim case work as reassurance and to monitor improvement and any ongoing barriers in this area Work with A&S police and YJS colleagues to enable more detailed victim information. Review the victim feedback process, to ensure brief victim contact is captured.	Victims reporting that they have trust in the service and feel valued. Facilitating Restorative Justice initiatives to help victims “heal” Having a better understanding of who our victims are and determining if there is any disparity here. Ensuring our recording in the case management system reflects the efforts and work undertaken with victims.
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	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.	Children and families from global majority backgrounds feeling greater trust in early help provision. Maintaining/ reducing low FTE rate Data will show us that numbers of children

	global majority backgrounds. More children accessing diversion opportunities (Turnaround) Reduce high gravity offences committed by black boys.	Data from Partners: Police and Education. 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.	from global majority backgrounds being given a formal YJ outcome are reducing proportionately
Reduce the disparity of Children in care receiving a formal youth justice outcome. (continued from last year's priority)	Reduced numbers of children in care receiving a formal outcome. Looking at diversionary outcomes when appropriate. To have a focus on girls in care and reducing their involvement in the YJS especially in relation to court outcomes.	Working with partners in social care to better understand some of the factors. To highlight the increase of girls in care and better understand the impact of things in place to help mitigate this. look at ways (through adherence to the protocol "Reducing Criminalisation of CiC and care Leavers") Ensuring that the local SG Protocol "Reducing Criminalisation of CiC and care Leavers" is adopted and implemented by all services and to understand the impact of this. Corporate parenting board to receive annual data information and provide direction and support in addressing this disparity.	Children in care feeling supported and valued at difficult times in their lives. Reducing the proportion of Children in care who receive a formal YJ outcome in 26/27 (benchmark is 19% at April 26). Although this data does not give the full picture Widespread and evidenced use of the protocol "Reducing Criminalisation of CiC and care Leavers"
Continue to work with partners to reduce serious youth violence (continued from last year's priorities)	Ensure that work around serious youth violence is joined up across the agencies (Social Care, Police, VRP and YJS).	The work of the Education Inclusion Project – in terms of early intervention/ identification – to support this continuing.	Continue to see a reduction in, and prevention of, incidents of serious youth violence. The latter through collaborative

	Collaborative working to reduce incidents – through early intervention to sharing intel/ information (RTG) Reduce the number of children receiving outcomes for weapon related offences.	Implementation of the serious violence duty across Avon and Somerset. Service review of YEF Toolkit: what works to prevent youth violence. Work with the community safety partnership in the development of the Young Futures programme, which will see the establishment of Prevention Partnerships. Ensure adherence to the new Knife Crime Guidance (Feb 2026) and informing partners of this change. (YJ Partnership, Senior Children's Service Managers, Schools)	mapping/ early intervention When concerns do arise that multi-agency partners swiftly come together to action plan/ safeguard and disrupt where appropriate.
Improve the participation of children within the Youth Justice Service. (continued from last year's priorities)	To ensure that we continue to have a YJ service that meets the needs of children. Children to have the opportunity to shape service development and to collaborate on any developments.	To ensure this work fits with wider children's services development plan around participation. Learning from other YJSs where this is established. Expanding to wider activities and opportunities for children to contribute to service development.	Children feeling more valued (Child First) and not seen as an "offender". Continual improvement of the YJ service, shaped by feedback from CYP with lived experience – 'You said, we did'. Continue bi-annual Children's feedback panels
Quality Assurance/ HMIP Improvement Plan	Re-assurance to the Partnership of the quality of work being undertaken by the YJS.	Work collaboratively with neighbouring YJSs for peer review.	Future HMIP inspections -aspiring to "Outstanding" rating.

		Determine champions/leads within the Partnership for the National Standards Audit (strategic). Identified YJ Partnership lead for Work with Victims	Remaining in Quadrant One of YJB Oversight Framework
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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 victims 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.
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 recent HMIP inspection (September 2025) was rated as "Good" with Outstanding elements.

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

- **Learning Brief:** Response to Critical Incident: Learning identified at multi-agency de-brief events (Nov 2025): One child stabbed and another assaulted at a SG location. A number of other children from SG/Bristol were involved as suspects and witnesses.
- **Learning Brief:** Group Based CSE. Learning identified at multi-agency, regional event July 2025: Based on a large scale CSE police investigation across Avon and Somerset
- The Avon and Somerset Reducing Re-Offending Strategy 2025 -28
- The Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Strategy 2024-25
- Avon and Somerset Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment 2025-26 (still waiting sign off)
- South Gloucestershire SEND Strategy 2025-28

14. National priority areas

Children from groups which are over-represented.

Disparity in Girls and Violence offences: This was stepped down as a priority by YJ Partnership in 2024 in response to the data analysis presented showing improvements in this area. Recent data analysis presented to the Partnership (March 2026) provided re-assurance regarding improvements in this area.

Children in Care: Data across 2025 to 2026 continues to indicate a worrying picture of children in care being involved in the youth justice system. 18% of children working with the YJS in this period are children in care (when they represent 0.58% of the 10-17 population in SG). 19% of all statutory intervention related to children in care a decrease from last year but as noted this figure does not give the full context of the complexity of these children involved in YJ. 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 2026-27, helping us to better understand and tackle this increase. Of note is the emergence of disproportionality of girls in care in court outcomes 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 (TD) 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 are quarterly meetings (since Jan 2025) attended by representatives from YJ, Education, Police, CPS and YJB across the 5 authority areas as well as representatives from the Independent Scrutiny Board (overseeing the TD work). The objectives of these meetings are to agree and drive improvement based on the TD recommendations. Recently there has been some drift and lack of engagement from some services with these meetings. The police have looked at reviewing all their improvement work and for a time there was no dedicated police lead. Recent meeting in April went some way in re-invigorating these meetings, looking to develop themes into future meetings. A key priority for this group moving forward has been 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. All agreed that our quarterly meetings fulfil this we just needed to add in some structure. The theme planned for July is the use of language and this will be the first meeting held face to face.

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. 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. We continue to have the partnership arrangements with SARI and have had the benefit of the developmental worker post this year.

SG Council have the Tackling Inequalities Plan 2024-28. 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. 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 2025, 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. South Gloucestershire has established a Reducing Re-Offending Delivery Group chaired by Probation lead. This meeting is designed to coordinate and drive forward local efforts to reduce the frequency and harm of reoffending by adults and children to reduce crime and improve outcomes for people (victims and offenders) and communities. The South Gloucestershire reducing reoffending delivery group responsibilities will be aligned with the Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Strategy for 2025-2028 and also supports the Prevention Priority of the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan 2024-2028.

Policing

The YJS continued to work closely with the Early Intervention area of the police (Violence Reduction policing) across 2025. In Feb 2026 this team moved and expanded to form their part in a pilot **Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT)**. This team which had sat alongside the YJS moved to a new location. The MACPT is formed from other police teams Operation Ruby (police response to interfamilial harm), Operation Topaz (police response to CSE) as well as the EI police team. The Sergeant of the MACPT has continued to co-chair the OOCR panel but this duty is due to move to another acting Sergeant in her team. The MACPT (Inspector) co-chairs the ROTH Tactical Group (with a Senior Children's Service Manager). Since April 2024, the Sergeant has taken on the role of line management for the YJ Police Officer.

The MACPT pilot has only recently established from a police perspective, however who completes the work undertaken by the Early Intervention police has yet to be resolved as clearly much of this can no longer sit with the MACPT.

Out of Court Disposal Tactical Group: This meeting was established by the EI police lead (with YJS attendance) and across 2024 to 2025 enabled progress across the force area and YJS regarding consistency and clarity in OOCR 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 OOCR panel. It has also been a lead for implementation of the new knife crime guidance.

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.

The YJS Team Manager and Practice Manager have been invited to present to police at 5 training events on OOCR's across 2026. This also provides an opportunity to explore work with victims and how police are key in relation to providing information at the outset enabling victims to give informed consent. There has been a victim leaflet (for adults and children) developed in partnership between the police and the YJS's that is waiting sign off, that will assist with this (this will be uploaded to their work pad)

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. This is now extended to include daily police reports relating to knife crime.

The YJS currently 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:

- 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 children 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 2025 to March 2026 there have been **15 YADD referrals** (slightly up on 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 and now the Government guidance on knife possession offences, this will be monitored through the partnership as unlikely that this will contribute to many diversions in the future.

The OOCR panel has developed alongside the introduction of the new Child Gravity Matrix and from guidance from the YJB case management on OOCR. 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 have introduced 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. Since the introduction of the new knife possession guidance, we have also welcomed the Violence Reduction Partnership Co-Ordinator to attend specific decision panels for children with knife possession.

Since 01/04/24, SGYJS have been using the new Prevention and Diversion (PAD) assessment. This assessment has for the last 12 months been embedded into the YJ case management system. Support and quality assurance of the PADs is in place. The PAD is the document to inform the OOCR panel.

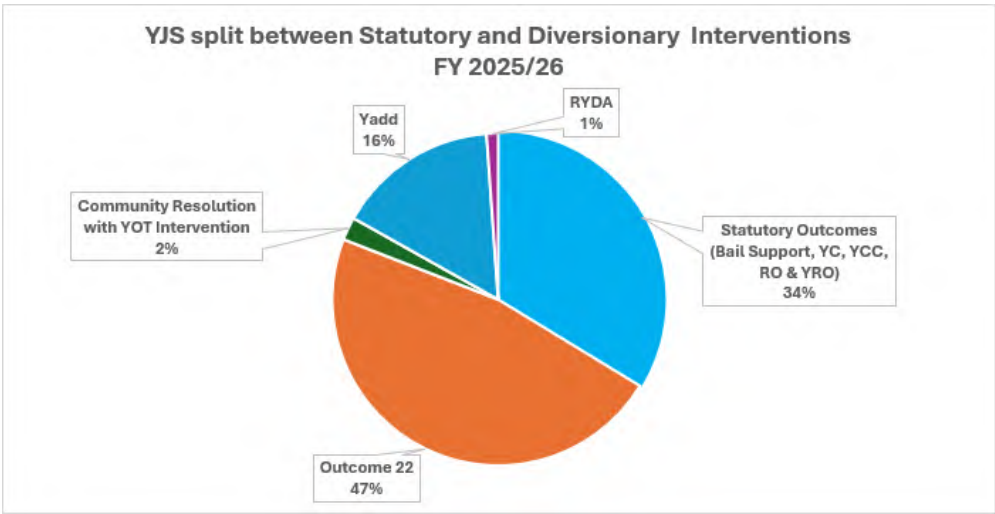
Collaboration between the 5 A&S YJSs has been established since early 2024 to ensure some consistency regarding diversion/OOCR work. This has been overseen by the OOCR Tactical Group, enabling police and YJSs across A&S, to provide a consistent service in light of any new guidance, as well as establish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

SGYJS had been for some time providing diversion (voluntary) opportunities for children outside of the formal OOCR outcomes, this has been challenging across 2024-26 given increased work and capacity in the team. Initially Turnaround did not focus on OOCR cases as this was already established, however this has been reviewed and since 2025 some OOCR cases have been managed through the Turnaround project, with the project providing

additionality to the intervention (beyond the OOCR 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 rate 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 OOCR 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 12 below: April 2025 to March 2026. Breakdown of all interventions. This highlights the efforts to support children outside of the formal youth justice system, indicating **that 65% of all youth justice work is non-statutory** (for 24-25 this was 66%). This is consistent with last year. This clearly evidences the increased efforts to successfully divert children and young people from the youth justice system.



Health: Substance Misuse

We will be strengthening the alignment between the substance misuse service within YJS and the Young People’s Drug and Alcohol Service (YPDAS) in order to improve continuity, reduce duplication, strengthen diversion work, and ensure children with substance misuse needs get the right support at the right time. This will also support the longer-term sustainability of the specialist post in YJS.

This greater alignment will involve:

- Improving continuity in tier 2 and tier 3 support between the service provided within the YJS and YPDAS such that we are assured of the highest standards of care provided to young people, tailored to their need, and also to strengthen the transition for any moving between universal/targeted support and youth justice or vice versa.
- Integrating data on progress and outcomes for young people from both services and including this within NDTMS where appropriate. This will help joint monitoring of the outcomes achieved for young people within the substance misuse service so we can quality assure and continually improve the service provided to young people. It will also help us make the future case for sustainability of the service by demonstrating demand and effectiveness.
- Developing better shared workforce development and practice - increase joint training and sharing of best practice, with a common approach to trauma-informed, child-first

substance misuse work. This would help both teams work more consistently with young people whose needs may sit across both services.

Education

Elective Home Education (EHE) numbers within the cohort have reduced, which is **contrary to the national trend**. In addition, the proportion of children accessing part-time education has decreased from **13% to 5%**, indicating a reduced reliance on part-time timetables across the cohort.

The number of children and young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) has also reduced slightly. This is a positive outcome given the current challenges within the employment market, where an increase may otherwise have been anticipated. It is recognised that NEET numbers may rise in future years; therefore, the service will continue to work collaboratively with **Works4Youth** and further education colleagues to develop and strengthen education, employment and training pathways for young people known to the Youth Justice Service (YJS).

The YJS Education, Training and Employment (ETE) Officer continues to work closely with social care and virtual school teams throughout the year. This includes completing school reviews, facilitating participation groups with vulnerable children and young people, providing advice and guidance to schools, and feeding back local challenges and examples of effective practice to the wider service.

As part of the work in the Tackling Disproportionality programme there is established data around school exclusions, being open to YJS and any disparity in ethnicity. Education has also 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.

During the year, a pilot project was developed in partnership with Educational Psychology services. Dedicated Educational Psychologist time enabled the assessment of a high-profile EHE case. As a result of the comprehensive assessment and the professional advice and guidance provided, the child was successfully reintegrated into a local mainstream school and now has evidence to support an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This support was integral in enabling the child to access appropriate provision and to thrive within a mainstream setting.

The Education Inclusion Project, managed by the YJS ETE Officer and embedded within the local authority, is designed to support children involved in serious youth violence and to reduce their risk of permanent exclusion. The project has contributed to a reduction in permanent exclusions, a 98% success rate this year and ensures that, where children later become known to YJS, case managers have a clearer understanding of their educational needs and aspirations.

The YJS Manager and Service Manager attend the SEND Performance and Engagement Meetings. Since 2023, there has been positive progress, with improvements across all key areas. The Children and Young People's Partnership, comprising the local authority, Integrated Care Board and police has worked collaboratively with partners to develop a new **SEND Strategy 2023–2028**. Implementation of the associated action plan commenced in 2024 to

further strengthen the SEND offer for children and young people across the local area. The development and impact of the **Belonging Toolkit** (*Reducing Exclusions Through the lens of Belonging: A Toolkit for Schools and Educational Settings* (2024). South Glos Education Psychology Service) is overseen at this forum.

The Service Manager overseeing SGYJS and the Youth Justice Educational Specialist are members of the established **Education High Risk Group Plus**. This multi-agency forum responds to children at risk of exclusion, with representation from health, social care, education and YJS, enabling enhanced partnership working and strategic oversight.

Restorative approaches and victims

This is a priority area for the YJ Partnership, the YJS and Police in light of the findings of the recent HMIP inspection and recommendations within. In June 2025 the YJS developed an improvement plan on Work with Victims, in acknowledgement that work in this area needed strengthening (and to adhere to HMIP framework).

The HMIP inspection on 8th September recognised this work as a priority: *There was commitment and enthusiasm from the partnership board and YJS to improve the delivery of victim work as evidenced by the strategic priority in the youth justice plan 2025/2026, the current victim development plan, and the recent addition of a representative from a provider of victim services to the partnership board. The inspection report stated Staff delivering services to victims were passionate and committed to their work, seeing the value and importance of advocating for victims' views, wishes, needs, and safety.*

The victim development plan is based on the standards for this area of work (HMIP) and covers both strategic and operational areas.

All victims are contacted with an offer of support, feedback and reparation opportunities. For cases coming to OOCR panel the Harmed Party worker presents victim feedback/ impact to ensure all information is available for decision making at the panel. The YJS are currently reviewing and amending the initial contact process to ensure that we provide a personalised and individualised service. Management oversight through regular case audits (March 2026 and next planned for June 2026), supervision and developing a recording guidance has shown a marked improvement in relation to evidence of operational work.

The YJS complies with the Victims Code of Practice.

We will review and strengthen the current "Working with harmed parties and restorative justice policy" (June 2025) to clarify the joint arrangements with Avon and Somerset Police. This review will consider victim consent; equity, diversity and inclusion; how victims exit support from the YJS; staff supervision and support; case recording; monitoring and evaluation of the quality-of-service delivery; and governance arrangements. (HMIP recommendation). Currently the policy prioritises 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 also addresses 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 staff Team Day (Feb 2026) also enabled a collaborative team review of the policy.

The new child decision making OOCR app (A&S Police November 2025) enables more demographic data on victims to be recorded, as officers are prompted to add ethnicity, date of birth, any identified additional needs etc. The questions on the new police 143 form (embedded in the app) are more explicit in asking for consent to pass details onto the YJS. Questions asked:

- Victim has consented to YJS contacting them
- Victim understands what an OOCR is, and that one is being issued to the offender, if applicable
- Victim is eligible for support under VCOP via the LSU?
- If yes, has a referral been made?
- Has a BRAG been completed and submitted?
- Has Restorative Justice (RJ) been explained to victim?
- RJ Communication preference
- Victim consented to learning more about RJ? If no, explain why the victim has not consented to learn more

The quality of information however remains variable as can be seen in the performance section. This is monitored through the YJ Partnership and with a plan for police to provide data related to the police's use of the App and information provided.

A victim working group was formed between Police and YJS's (as a subgroup of the OOCR Tactical Group) to develop this area of work and discuss the experience of harmed parties throughout their journey with the police and the YJS. The group designed a 'process swim lane map' showing the points at which a victim is contacted and where there may be duplication or areas of confusion. This process 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. This has been addressed through police reviewing their forms via the new App.

The group met to develop an A&S wide set of leaflets (for child and adult victims). This leaflet has been agreed and is waiting final sign off. This will then be embedded in the police App and can inform police officers in providing information to victims. Given the high consent rate of victims versus lower engagement in South Glos, it is hoped that this will provide victims with adequate information to provide informed consent. The YJS can then follow up with the leaflet. The A&S Collaborative Meeting provides an ongoing opportunity to prioritise Victim work and to ensure this does not drift. Police, CPS, YJS and YJB attend this meeting. Work with Police Operation Hampshire (Officer Safety Governance Group) to explore joint working to reduce assaults by children on police officers.

It is planned that in 2026/27 we will review and improve our relationship with the police Lighthouse team (part of police safeguarding unit). Lighthouse Integrated Victim and Witness Care offer an enhanced service to vulnerable or persistently targeted victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, and victims of serious crime. A meeting was convened in 2025 between Lighthouse and the 5 YJSs but this needs revisiting as we hope to refresh our memorandum of understanding and ensure the harmed party worker has a consistent level of contact with Lighthouse. This will help to ensure victims have an appropriate needs assessment. We have agreed a pathway in which victim's personal statements can be updated via OIC.

A feedback process has been developed in conjunction with the RJ Co-ordinator and in place since July 2025. This provides an opportunity for victims to provide information on their experiences and any areas that may need improving. Unfortunately, this has not been completed as much as anticipated and on review it has been agreed to develop a brief feedback mechanism for those harmed that have less input from the service. The below are examples of some of the feedback provided (some of the questions and responses):

How well have we met your needs?

- *You exceeded our expectations*
- *The outcome was satisfactory to us as an organisation, as it allows us to be answerable to our own service users and stakeholders that criminality is not being ignored and that we are engaging with the appropriate agencies to properly address such incidents in a measured way.*
- *Needs have been met all throughout and being kept up to date*

Was the way we worked with you well communicated and clear?

- *Yes*
- *Yes, we experienced no problems with communications*
- *100% everything about the service and communication was spot on from the moment i picked up the phone with the very 1st call right up until the last call, my voice was heard and thank you for giving my voice the ear to listen with*

The 5 YJS's are developing a victim working group, to share good practice and continue to offer opportunities to develop this area of work (having a common police force).

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. The harmed party role is under review given that the worker has additional roles.

In 2024/25 the YJS team attended an accredited Restorative Justice training event and across 2025/26 there have been follow up sessions with the RJ facilitator to consolidate that the work learned has been put into practice and to support the development of a feedback questionnaire

The YJ Partnership development event in September 2026 will have a focus on Victim Work. It is hoped that some of the providers will attend this event. As noted the Police rep on the Partnership is the Victim lead.

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.

The probation representative at the YJ Partnership has updated regarding the new Probation Sentencing Act (Jan 2026). The YJ Management team are looking at the impact of this on the YJS, notably the removal of post sentencing supervision and changes to detaining children in custody.

Serious violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding

The Local Authority's response to Serious Youth Violence (SYV), and to Risk Outside of the Home (ROTH) more generally, is developing and improving. The response to serious incidents is more rapid and structured; early identification has improved.

A review of ROTH structures in the Local Authority in 2025 resulted in the transition from the previous Partnership Intelligence Management Meeting (PIMM) under the original Risk Management Pathway, to the new and more streamlined ROTH Tactical Group (RTG), which is now in operation. Where PIMM focused on review of already-identified risks, the RTG process is structured in a way that focuses on early identification.

While peer mapping guidance had previously been circulated within the Local Authority, the past year has seen a significant ramping up of mapping, primarily lead by the YPS practice manager. Responses to recent incidents including the unexpected release from custody of children implicated in the death of a SG child were all enabled by prior mapping exercises. Concerns across 2025 focussed on free parties involved extensive mapping around these parties and raves in the Bristol area, which was led by South Gloucestershire, and now handed over to the new Police Multi-Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) for ongoing management, a promising working model for the future. A simple template, using Microsoft PowerPoint, is available on the Children's Safeguarding Partnership website to enable partners to carry out their own mapping exercises, and training is delivered to the partnership by the YPS practice manager as part of the wider ROTH 'bitesize' program.

Cross-border working is crucial in South Gloucestershire, given the soft boundary with Bristol in particular. This has been accelerated this year by Bristol's development of Safer Connections, an evolution of the previous Safer Options structure. Safer Connections lead on regular cross border meetings, pulling together ROTH-involved managers from the Southwest; this not only facilitates information sharing, but also develops personal working relationships. Where Safer Options was primarily a Community Safety body, Safer Connections includes a strong social care element, which aligns better with South Gloucestershire's model.

From May 2025 SG launched the new CP-ROTH (Risk Outside the Home) replacing the Multi-Agency Risk Management Meeting (MARMM) and the new ROTH tool has replaced the previous Exploitation identification assessment tool. The ROTH work is overseen by a ROTH Strategic group, the YJS TM is a member. 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.

New risks to children continue to emerge. Of note is the emerging threat from **Com Networks**. An October 2025 Early Threat Identification notice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) states that Com Networks are *'[...] online networks of individuals who carry out serious, high-harm offences including child sexual abuse, serious violence, cybercrime (referred to as cyber-Com), and extremism.*

The "Serious Violence Duty" (SVD) has been in place since January 2023. The YJS has contributed to the Avon and Somerset SV Strategic Needs Assessment (2025-26). The purpose of this Serious Violence SNA 2025-26 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. This assessment provides insights into the current and future wellbeing needs of a defined population, to help partners collectively agree on priorities and allocate resources. It informs VRP partners on identifying interventions to commission and on assessing risk and protective factors of children and young people

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 Extra Familial Harm strategy 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.

The ongoing reforms under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools bill will fundamentally change the way South Gloucestershire and its partners deliver services to children. Arrangements are still being put in place, with full implementation unlikely until possibly September 2026; this

means that there is currently a degree of uncertainty about final arrangements and their implications for work to prevent and respond to SYV.

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. In 2025 YJS attended a workshop facilitated by a Counter Terrorism Police lead: *Specialist ideology training for Youth Offending Service practitioners on our top three risks: Right-Wing Extremism; Online Radicalisation; Self-Initiated Terrorist Profiles.*

Detention in police custody

Between 1/4/25 to 31/3/26: For SG children

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Children held in custody overnight (12pm to 6 am)	6	4	6	6	22
	(1)	(4)	(6)	(2)	(13)

- Last year's figures in red

There has been a significant increase in relation to children being detained in custody overnight compared with the previous year's figures (24/25). 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.

Since November 2025, ECM has been working with Avon and Somerset police to develop a force wide Custody Passport framework for children subject to arrest with the aim of improving understanding of children's needs in custody, supporting safer and more effective interactions and reducing the risk of escalation, including incidents that may result in additional charges for children. The custody passport document is intended to provide custody officers and other professionals with immediate access to key information about a child's identified needs, to support a trauma informed and child first response. This process has now been taken up by all 5 YJS teams in the force area including South Glos and is has been implemented across Avon and Somerset.

The police have over this year provided work scrutinising children's experiences in police custody, including timeliness of detention and detention as a last resort. The Custody SPOC for children is leading on a child centred custody experience

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 one remand to youth detention accommodation in 2025-26. A SG child in care was remanded in December 2025 and released on conditional bail in February 2026 to a specialist placement sourced by Children's Services. The court matter remains ongoing.

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*. The Youth Remand Concordat (MoJ Feb 2025) was on the June 2025 YJ Partnership agenda.

Regional Remand Partnerships: In March 2026 SGYJS were part of a regional discussion with colleagues across the SW in considering forming a "remand region". The discussion focussed on whether a regional partnership model would be achievable and beneficial in the Southwest, given local patterns of remand, placement sufficiency pressures, and commissioning realities. Across the group there was a consistent view that remand volumes are generally low, and where remands do occur, they are often linked to high-risk, serious offences (for example grave crime), where courts are unlikely to consider community-based alternatives regardless of the availability of an additional placement option. In summary, the group's collective view was that:

- the Southwest generally experiences low remand volumes (with some local spikes), and remand cases are frequently high risk/high seriousness;
- the key issue is placement sufficiency (availability and appropriateness), rather than a lack of intent to pursue alternatives;
- a formal regional remand partnership bid is unlikely to be deliverable to a credible standard within the current timescales, and may produce limited benefit relative to the effort required;
- the group is open to revisiting regional collaboration if there is a more realistic timeframe, clearer guidance, and alignment with wider regional placement commissioning activity.

South Gloucestershire YJ Partnership have supported a Regional Care Co-Operative bid, supporting better outcomes for children in care.

Use of constructive resettlement

South Glos Youth Justice service has been an active partner of the SW Resettlement consortium which met until 2025. 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 provide additional support/offer to young people in custody. SGYJS have completed a Resettlement Policy (2025) and shared with the team.

The service will review the new ROTL framework for children in custody (May 2026) to ensure that this is considered for all eligible children in custody.

Working with families

South Glos YJS currently 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 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.

We are starting to see the implementation of the changes from the Children's Well-Being and Schools Bill (2024) all of which 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 has been backed by new Council funding for the financial year 2026/27 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. The Police have since Feb 2026 formed into the pilot in SG
- **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 will continue for the next 3 years.

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.

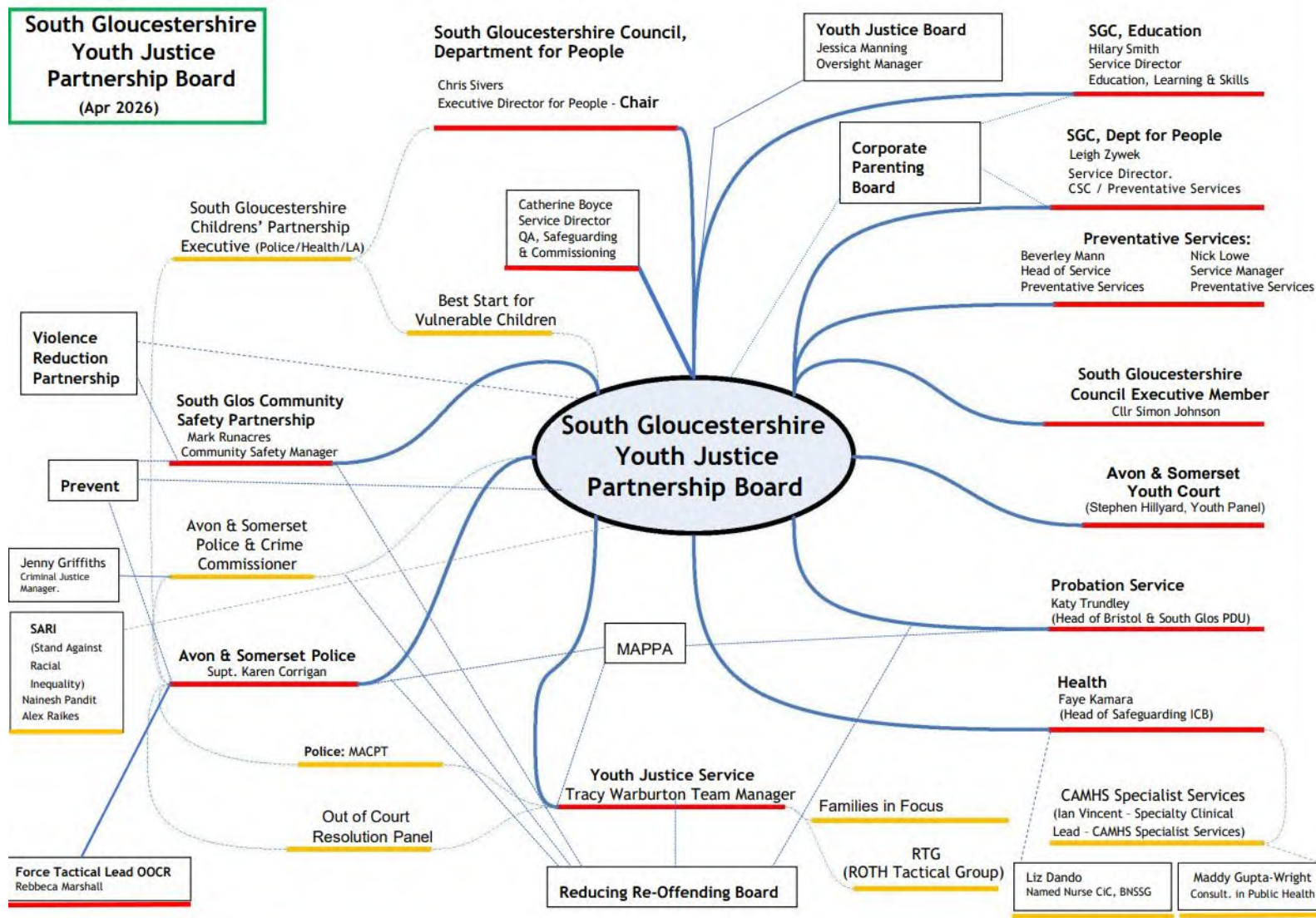
Chair of YJ Partnership	Chris Sivers
Signature	
Date	15.06.2026

Appendix 1: Attendance Record: YJ Partnership Meeting

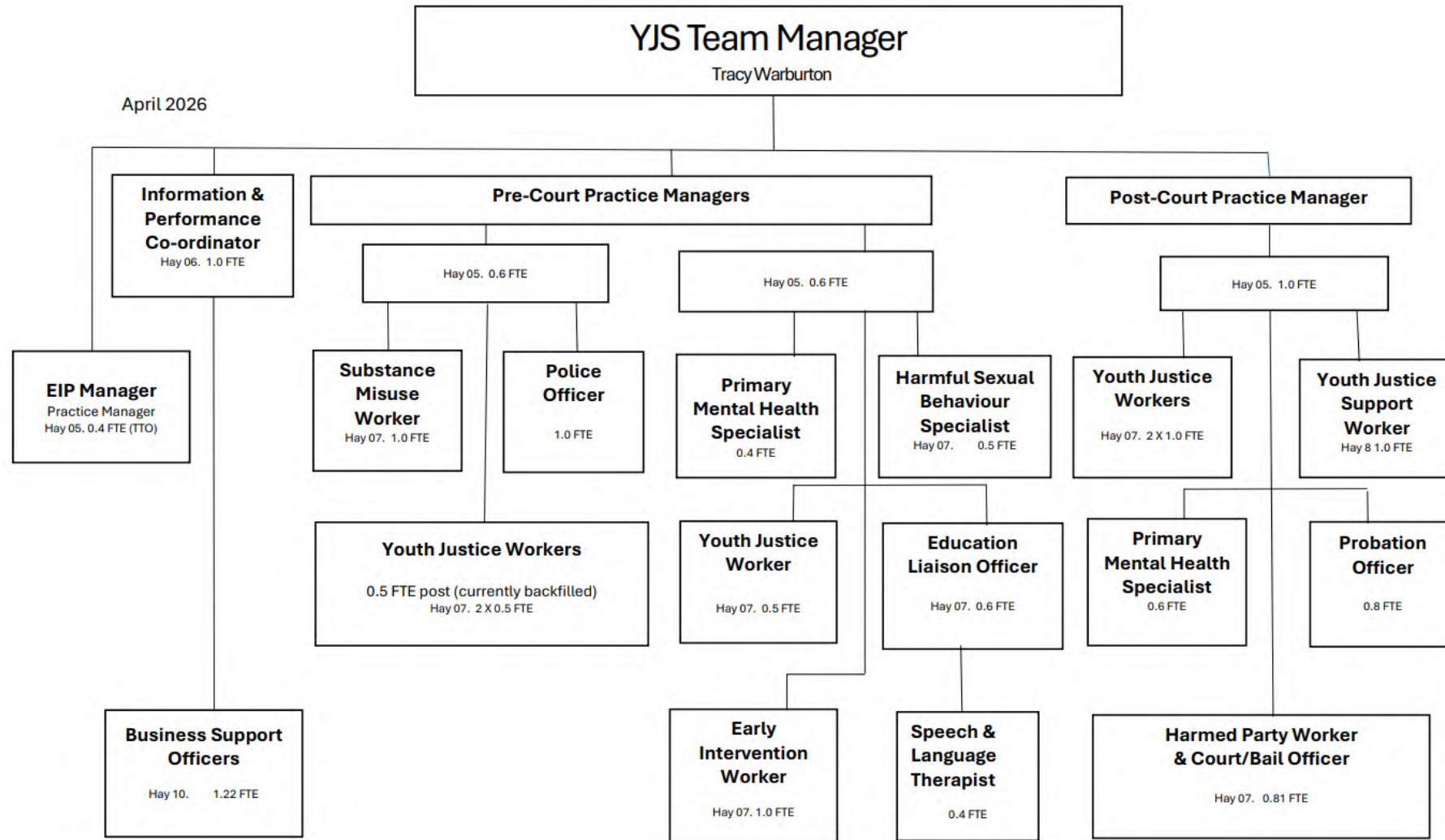
Job Title	Organisation	Jun 25	Sept 25	Dec 25	Mar 26	Jun 26
Executive Director People Dept (Chair)	South Glos Council	Y	Y	N	Y	N
Service Director for QA, Safeguarding and Commissioning/ Service Director CSC and PS./ HoS Preventative	South Glos Council	Y	Y	Y (C)	Y	Y
Head of Safeguarding	BNSSG Integrated Care Board	Y (R)	N	Y	N	Y
Head of Bristol/SG PDU	Probation	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Speciality Clinical Lead	South Glos CAMHS	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Area Commander/ Chief Inspector	Avon and Somerset Police	Y	Y	Y (R)	Y	Y
Lead for Early Intervention Police	Avon and Somerset Police		Y	Y	Y	Y
Community Safety Manager	South Glos Council	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (R)
Lead Member for Children and Families	South Glos Council	N	N	N	N	Y
Preventative Services Manager	South Glos Council	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Service Director Education, Learning & Skills	South Glos Council	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Chair of Magistrates/ Magistrate	Bristol Court	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
YJ Oversight Manager	Youth Justice Board	Y	Y (R)	Y	N	Y
Team Leader	SARI		Y	Y	N	Y
Consultant	Public Health		Y	Y	Y	Y
Team Manager: Youth Justice Service	South Glos Council	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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 and Gender of Staff in YJS (April 2026)

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	0	1	2	2	4	11	1	2	3	1	0	0	10	17
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
Total	0	1	2	2	4	11	1	2	3	1	0	0	10	17

Appendix 5: Funds and Expenditure Statement for South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service 2025/26

Agency	Source of Funds (Budget 25/26) (£)	Actual Staff Costs (£)	Non-Staff Costs (£)	Total Cost at 31/3/26 (£)
South Gloucestershire Council	555,560	498,340	57,220	555,560
Avon & Somerset Police	115,740	76,740	39,000	115,740
Probation Service	49,199	49,199		49,199
Health: South Gloucestershire ICB	116,907	114,707	2,200	116,907
Police and Crime Commissioner/SG CSP	30,000	30,000		30,000
YJB Good Practice Grant	251,472	251,472		251,472
*Other (ECM, CYP Health, Preventative)	25,900	25,900		25,900
Total	1,144,778	1,046,358	98,420	1,144,778

*** ECM Project £17,000 and CYP Health Cash £5,000 +
£3900 from Preventative Services**

Appendix 6: YJMIS data

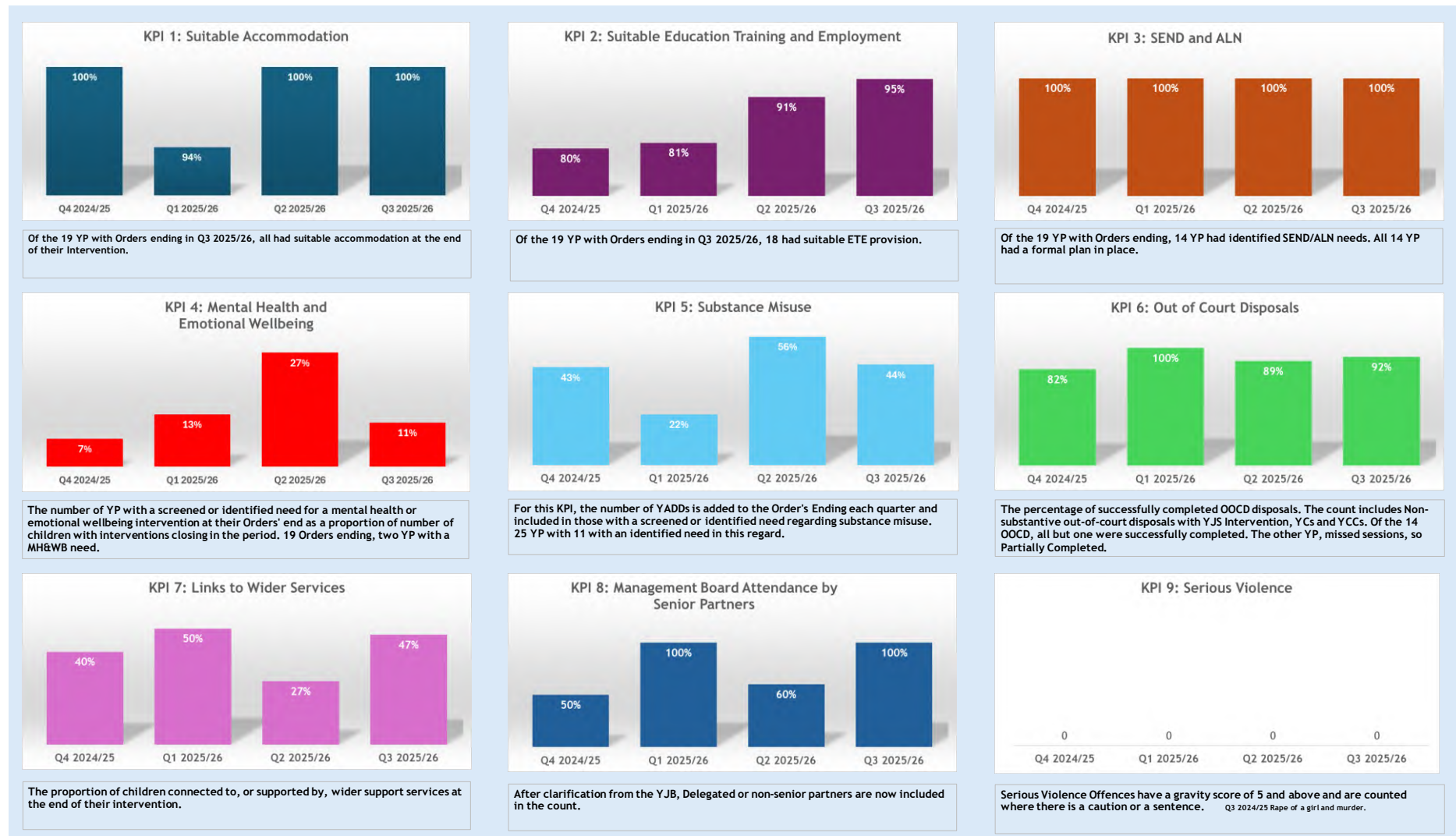


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South Gloucestershire Data Summary April - December 2025

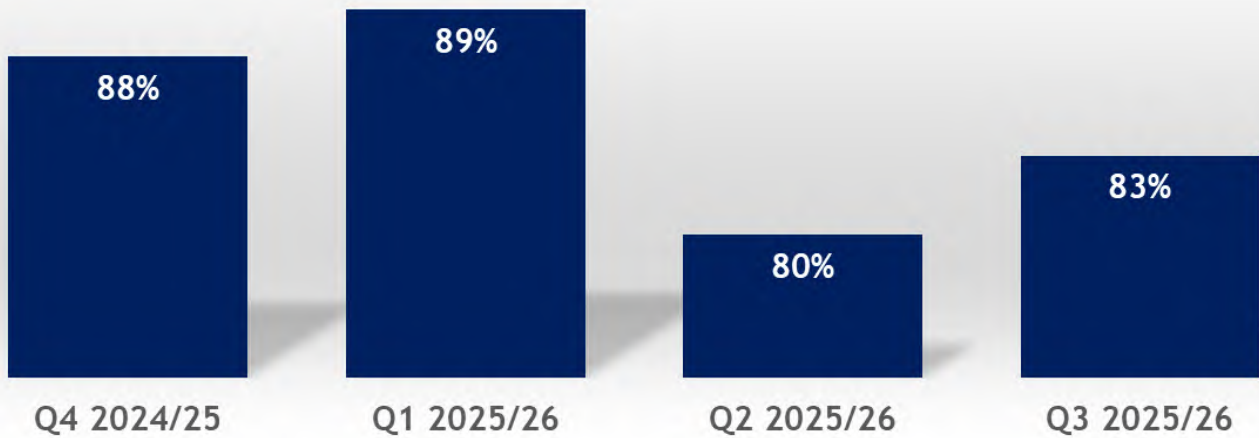
	South Gloucestershire	Region	PCC area Avon and Somerset	YJS family*	YJS comparison group selected**	England & Wales	England
Indicators							
FTE rate per 100,000 of 10-17 population **Good performance is typified by a negative percentage							
From Q2 2023/24, FTE is taken from case level data instead of MoJ PNC data.							
Jan 25 - Dec 25	98	111	110	115	115	150	152
Jan 24 - Dec 24	94	143	120	117	117	163	163
Percent change from selected baseline	4.4%	-22.5%	-8.3%	-2.3%	-2.3%	-7.5%	-6.9%
Use of custody rate per 1,000 of 10-17 population **Good performance is typified by a low rate							
Jan 25 - Dec 25	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.09
Jan 24 - Dec 24	0.11	0.09	0.12	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.10
change from selected baseline	-0.11	-0.04	-0.08	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Reoffending rates - Three month cohorts							
Reoffences per reoffender Jan 24 - Mar 24 cohort (latest period)	1.50	4.57	5.44	5.04	5.04	4.64	4.66
Reoffences per reoffender Jan 23 - Mar 23 cohort	21.00	4.86	6.50	4.27	4.27	4.53	4.51
change from selected baseline	-92.9%	-6.0%	-16.3%	18.1%	18.1%	2.4%	3.3%
Binary rate - Jan 24 - Mar 24 cohort (latest period)	20.0%	29.6%	34.0%	29.2%	29.2%	31.4%	31.6%
Binary rate - Jan 23 - Mar 23 cohort	14.3%	35.4%	33.8%	29.0%	29.0%	33.1%	32.8%
percentage point change from selected baseline	5.71	-5.83	0.28	0.12	0.12	-1.66	-1.15
Reoffending rates - yearly cohorts							
Reoffences per reoffender Apr 23 - Mar 24 cohort (latest period)	3.25	4.56	5.48	4.52	4.52	4.44	4.47
Reoffences per reoffender Apr 22 - Mar 23 cohort	7.00	4.33	4.94	3.89	3.89	4.36	4.36
change from selected baseline	-53.6%	5.2%	11.0%	16.1%	16.1%	1.9%	2.6%
Binary rate - Apr 23 - Mar 24 cohort (latest period)	26.7%	28.6%	33.8%	29.5%	29.5%	31.8%	31.7%
Binary rate - Apr 22 - Mar 23 cohort	30.0%	31.3%	28.8%	30.9%	30.9%	32.5%	32.3%
Percentage point change from selected baseline	-3.33	-2.70	5.02	-1.47	-1.47	-0.69	-0.56

Appendix 7: KPI Dashboard #1



Appendix 7: KPI Dashboard continued:

KPI 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 counting rules.

Appendix 8: HMIP improvement plan Dec 2025

Recommendation	What will be done?	Who will do it?	Timetable for completion:	Review date and RAG Rating:
A) The South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Partnership should:				
proactively drive improvement work with victims, including holding relevant partners to account and ensuring adequate resourcing and capacity to support the delivery of work with victims	Work with victims will be a standing agenda item at the quarterly YJ Partnership meetings from December 2025.	YJS Manager/ Chair YJ Partnership	Dec 2025	
	A Victim lead will be identified from the Partnership Board to drive this work, including holding relevant partners to account.	YJ Partnership	Dec 2025	
	The Partnership board will request and receive regular reports on work with victims, to review progress regarding the improvement work and understand any barriers/ gaps that need to be addressed at a strategic level.	YJ Partnership	This will be ongoing across 2026 alongside development plan	
	YJ Partnership will review operational work with victims in the YJS with a view to exploring and identifying the resourcing and capacity that is needed to enable this area of work to develop.	YJ Partnership	This will be ongoing across 2026 alongside development plan	

assure themselves the YJS victim development plan and operational practice is resulting in the delivery of high quality, individualised, and responsive services to victims.	The YJS development plan will be reviewed at each quarterly YJ Partnership meeting. The YJ Partnership will request and receive regular reports on work with victims including audit work undertaken and feedback from victims, in order to assure themselves of the improvement in delivery of high quality services for victims.	YJ Partnership YJ Partnership	This will be ongoing across 2026 alongside development plan	
B) South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service should:				
implement and embed the victim development plan and initiate improvement activity to ensure the initial contact with victims is of consistently high quality, individualised, and responsive to victims' needs	The YJS management team will review the whole victim process and offer. We will review and strengthen the current “<i>Working with harmed parties and restorative justice policy</i>” to clarify the joint arrangements with Avon and Somerset Police. This review will consider victim consent; equity, diversity and inclusion; how victims exit support from the YJS; staff supervision and support; case recording; monitoring and evaluation of the quality-of-service delivery; and governance arrangements. Auditing of victim work will be undertaken 6 monthly and reported to the YJ Partnership alongside ongoing audit work as part of supervision and management oversight. Staff team day planned to go through revised victim policy/ victim development plan so that all staff are familiar with the arrangements around working with victims and to reiterate victims work as a development priority.	YJS Team Manager and Practice Managers	July 2026	

	The YJS will review the current arrangements for initiating contact with victims to ensure they are of high quality, individualised and responsive to their needs. We will consider early contact (text/ letter) advising of the YJ offer and reason for contact (Leaflet). We will advise of contact arrangements and invite all victims to have a face-to-face meeting. This will be monitored via victim feedback and also by increased management oversight of this area.	YJS Team Manager and Practice Managers	Audit scheduled March 2026	
		YJS Team Manager, Practice Managers and Staff	Scheduled for Feb 2026	
	Ensure all victims have an opportunity to feedback regardless of length of engagement/ involvement. Review feedback process to ensure it is appropriate and look to develop shortened feedback for those brief interventions.	YJS Team manager and Practice Managers	March 2026	
		YJS Team Manager, Practice Manager and YJ Harmed Party Worker	March 2026	

improve the quality of planning practice so it consistently identifies how to keep the child and community safe	Practice Managers will facilitate focussed, practice workshops for YJS staff on 'what good looks like' for our Plans: using good practice examples and building on strengths. Management Oversight: Practice Managers will ensure that our plans are of high quality through the Quality assurance process (PAD, Asset+) of approval and sign off. It will be a priority to develop a standalone Plan for children on court orders (Asset+) that mirrors PAD plans and encompasses how to keep children and communities safe and which is accessible for children YJ Audit work will be undertaken to quality assure that this area of planning work is improving and reviewing the need for further training/ support.	YJ Practice Managers YJ Practice Manager YJ Practice Managers YJS Team Manager and Practice Managers	April 2026 Dec 2025 April 2026 This will be ongoing across 2026	
improve the quality of planning practice so it is collaborative with parents and carers	Practice Managers will facilitate focussed, practice workshops for YJS staff on 'what good looks like' for our Plans: using good	YJS Practice Managers	April 2026	

	practice examples and building on strengths. With a focus on improving engagement with parents/carers Management Oversight: Practice Managers will ensure that our plans are of high quality and collaborative with parent/carers through the Quality assurance process (PAD, Asset+) of approval and sign off. It will be a priority to develop a standalone Plan for children on court orders (Asset+) that mirrors PAD plans and ensures that the voice and participation of parent/carers is embedded in the plan. YJ Audit work will be undertaken to quality assure that this area of collaborative planning work is improving and reviewing the need for further training/ support.	YJS Practice Managers	Dec 2025	
		YJS Practice Managers	April 2026	
		YJS Team Manager and Practice Managers	This will be ongoing across 2026	

ensure consistent high-quality diversity practice across assessing, planning, and delivery, which recognises, analyses, and responds to children's ethnicity, culture, lived experiences, and identity	Identify training and development opportunities for staff and Practice Managers either through SG Council or through collaboration with SARI to address: - social graces - intersectionality Ensure YJS staff complete the training and development identified above and this will be made mandatory for all YJS staff. Management Oversight: Practice Managers will reflect on and address ethnicity and culture when discussing children and young people in supervision. Reflections, analysis and actions will be recorded within supervision notes. Practice Managers will ensure that high quality diversity practice is addressed and analysed within assessments/ reports through quality assurance and sign off processes. Quality assurance activity: undertake regular audit work and provide reports to YJ Partnership to provide assurance on whether high quality diversity practice is occurring.	YJS Team Manager, Practice Managers and SARI member YJS Practice Managers YJS Practice Managers YJS Practice Managers	Jan 2026 Monitored across 2026 Dec 2025 Dec 2025	

	SARI will be invited to validate audit work around ethnicity and culture.	YJS Team Manager, Practice Managers and SARI	This will be ongoing in 2026	
Ensure practitioners are consistently skilled at identifying and responding to potential and actual exploitation concerns relating to children.	Review training needs of the whole team given that there is now a new Risk Outside of the Home process in SG. The LA lead in exploitation (Practice Development Manager, PDM) will deliver a bespoke and mandatory workshop to the whole service. Management Oversight: Practice Managers will feel skilled in supporting staff to reflect on and identify exploitation concerns and to use supervision to explore, identify and action plan for any exploitation concerns. Reflections, analysis and actions regarding exploitation will be recorded within supervision notes. This will be aided through additional consultation and training with the PDM, so Practice Managers further develop their skills around risk outside of the home.	YJS Team manager, Practice Managers. Practice Managers	May 2026 May 2026	

	Management Oversight: Practice Managers will ensure that gatekeeping process enables early identification and consideration of exploitation and that this is addressed in assessments. Quality assurance activity: undertake regular audit work and provide reports to YJ Partnership to provide assurance on whether high quality practice relating to exploitation is occurring. PDMs can validate this work.	Practice Managers YJS Team Manager/ Practice managers and independent validation person (TBC)	Dec 2025 This will be ongoing across 2026	
C) Avon and Somerset Police should:				
improve the information it provides about the diversity, protected characteristics, and vulnerabilities of victims that consent	The new Police child element of the My Out of Court Resolutions App has gone live as of 26/11/25. The app is based on the child gravity matrix and is to support Police Officers with their OOCR decision making and the next	A&S Police	Dec 2025	

	consent. This group will continue to develop work in this area. The Police will ensure that police training encompasses this area of work, as part of wider training on the new child element of the My Out of Court Resolutions App and new expectations of obtaining victim demographics. The training undertaken by the YJ Police Officer and YJ Victim Worker to the new police trainees will reinforce the work with victims undertaken by YJ.	A&S Police YJ Police Officer and YJ Harmed Party Worker	April 2026 January 2026	
Name of person completing this plan: Tracy Warburton		Designation: YJS Manager		Date: 8/9/25

