



Inspection of
Youth
Offending

Archwilio Rhaglen Troseddwyr Ifanc



Arolygiad ar y Cyd Cyfiawnder Troseddol

Core Case Inspection of youth offending work in England and Wales

Report on youth offending
work in:

Walsall

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Foreword

This Core Case Inspection of youth offending work in Walsall took place as part of the Inspection of Youth Offending programme. We have examined a representative sample of youth offending cases from the area, and have judged how often the Public Protection and the Safeguarding aspects of the work were done to a sufficiently high level of quality.

We judged that the Safeguarding aspects of the work were done well enough 64% of the time. With the Public Protection aspects, work to keep to a minimum each individual's *Risk of Harm to others* was done well enough 49% of the time, and the work to make each individual less likely to reoffend was done well enough 63% of the time. A more detailed analysis of our findings is provided in the main body of this report, and summarised in a table in Appendix 1. These figures can be viewed in the context of our findings from Wales and the regions of England inspected so far – see the Table below.

Overall, we consider this a slightly disappointing and mixed set of findings. However, we were encouraged by the standard of practice that the new strategic lead manager wanted to achieve which was in-line with the criteria for this inspection. There were some signs of improvement in practice. Case managers were keen to learn and responded to the inspection feedback. Consolidating the progress already made and implementing the recommendations in this report will contribute to continued improvement of practice.

Andrew Bridges
HM Chief Inspector of Probation

March 2011

	Scores from Wales and the English regions that have been inspected to date			Scores for Walsall
	Lowest	Highest	Average	
'Safeguarding' work <i>(action to protect the young person)</i>	37%	91%	67%	64%
'Risk of Harm to others' work <i>(action to protect the public)</i>	36%	85%	62%	49%
'Likelihood of Reoffending' work <i>(individual less likely to reoffend)</i>	43%	87%	69%	63%

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Scoring – and Summary Table

This report provides percentage scores for each of the ‘practice criteria’ essentially indicating how often each aspect of work met the level of quality we were looking for. In these inspections we focus principally on the Public Protection and Safeguarding aspects of the work in each case sample. Accordingly, we are able to provide a score that represents how often the *Public Protection* and *Safeguarding* aspects of the cases we assessed met the level of quality we were looking for, which we summarise here. We also provide a headline ‘Comment’ by each score, to indicate whether we consider that this aspect of work now requires either **MINIMUM**, **MODERATE**, **SUBSTANTIAL** or **DRASTIC** improvement in the immediate future.

<i>Safeguarding score:</i>	
This score indicates the percentage of <i>Safeguarding</i> work that we judged to have met a sufficiently high level of quality. This score is significant in helping us to decide whether an early further inspection is needed.	
Score: 64%	Comment: MODERATE improvement required

<i>Public Protection – Risk of Harm score:</i>	
This score indicates the percentage of Risk of Harm work that we judged to have met a sufficiently high level of quality. This score is significant in helping us to decide whether an early further inspection is needed.	
Score: 49%	Comment: SUBSTANTIAL improvement required

<i>Public Protection - Likelihood of Reoffending score:</i>	
This score indicates the percentage of Likelihood of Reoffending work that we judged to have met a sufficiently high level of quality.	
Score: 63%	Comment: MODERATE improvement required

We advise readers of reports not to attempt close comparisons of scores between individual areas. Such comparisons are not necessarily valid as the sizes of samples vary slightly, as does the profile of cases included in each area’s sample. We believe the scoring is best seen as a headline summary of what we have found in an individual area, and providing a focus for future improvement work within that area. Overall our inspection findings provide the ‘best available’ means of measuring, for example, how often each individual’s *Risk of Harm to others* is being kept to a minimum. It is never possible to eliminate completely Risk of Harm to the public, and a catastrophic event can happen anywhere at any time – nevertheless a ‘high’ *RoH* score in one inspected location indicates that it is less likely to happen there than in a location where there has been a ‘low’ *RoH* inspection score. In particular, a high *RoH* score indicates that usually practitioners are ‘doing all they reasonably can’ to minimise such risks to the public, in our judgement, even though there can never be a guarantee of success in every single case.

Recommendations (primary responsibility is indicated in brackets)

Changes are necessary to ensure that, in a higher proportion of cases:

- (1) a timely and good quality assessment and plan, using Asset, is completed when the case starts (YJS Manager)
- (2) specifically, a timely and good quality assessment of the individual's vulnerability and *Risk of Harm to others* is completed at the start, as appropriate to the specific case (YJS Manager)
- (3) as a consequence of the assessment, the record of the intervention plan is specific about what will now be done, particularly by specialist workers, in order to safeguard the child or young person from harm, to make them less likely to reoffend, and to minimise any identified *Risk of Harm to others* (YJS Manager)
- (4) intervention plans take into account victim safety and the impact of any diversity or individual needs when setting targets (YJS Manager)
- (5) work is delivered in-line with the intervention plan, is regularly reviewed and the reviews correctly recorded in Asset with a frequency consistent with national standards for youth offending services (YJS Manager)
- (6) there is evidence in the file of regular quality assurance by management, especially of screening decisions, as appropriate to the specific case (YJS Manager)
- (7) there is a clear management focus on the quality of plans in particular the link between plans and actions from internal and external meetings (YJS Manager).

Next steps

An improvement plan addressing the recommendations should be submitted to HM Inspectorate of Probation four weeks after the publication of this inspection report. Once finalised, the plan will be forwarded to the Youth Justice Board to monitor its implementation.

Service users' perspective

Children and young people

Nineteen children and young people completed a questionnaire for the inspection.

- ◆ Seven children and young people with a referral order contract said they knew what the contract was and it had been discussed with them. Two had not received a copy.
- ◆ The majority of children and young people knew what a supervision or sentence plan was. It had been discussed with them; however, two had not received a copy.
- ◆ Most of the children and young people who had a referral order contract or supervision plan remembered that it had been reviewed.
- ◆ The majority of children and young people knew why they were coming to the YJS and what would happen when they did. They felt staff were really interested in helping them and, apart from two children and young people, they also thought YJS staff listened to them and had taken action to help them.
- ◆ Just over two-thirds of respondents had completed a *What do YOU think?* self-assessment form.
- ◆ Just under one-quarter of children and young people agreed that certain things had made it harder for them to take a full part in their sessions with the YJS worker. This was because of a health issue or not having enough money to attend appointments.
- ◆ The majority of respondents thought that staff had made it very easy for them to understand how they could help. One said they would *"...speak clearly and helped me through things which I didn't understand. If I didn't hear what they were saying I asked them to repeat and they did"*.
- ◆ Five children and young people identified that there was something in their lives that made them feel afraid since they had been in contact with the YJS. Four felt that the YJS had helped a lot or quite a lot with these concerns.
- ◆ Eleven children and young people felt the YJS had helped them understand about their offending and ten with issues related to ETE. Typical comments were *"I never used to go to school now I go to college everyday"* and *"when I started the order I didn't know what I wanted to do but now I have a job and want to get me life back on track and put all this in my past"*. Eight respondents thought they were making better decisions and six had been helped with their use of alcohol; for example, *"...I have stopped drinking and not offending anymore and have a better relationship with my family and I feel happier in myself"*.

- ◇ Just over half the children and young people agreed that life had become better as a result of their work with the YJS, particularly in relation to ETE but less so for their health.
- ◇ Most of the respondents said the work of the YJS had made it less likely that they would offend in the future. Several commented that they now understood the consequences of their offending and how this had affected other people.
- ◇ Apart from two children and young people there was general satisfaction with the service provided by the YJS.

Victims

Four questionnaires were completed by victims of offending by children and young people.

- ◇ All four victims agreed that the YJS had explained about the services they offered and taken into account their individual needs.
- ◇ All respondents had had a chance to talk about any worries related to the offence or the child and young person who had committed it.
- ◇ Two victims had benefited from the work that had been done by the child or young person who had committed the offence.
- ◇ Three victims were concerned about their safety and two felt that the YJS had paid attention to this.
- ◇ All four victims were completely satisfied with the service from the YJS. One commented "*Glad I took the chance to meet with the YJS Restorative Justice Worker. He helped us talk more than if we talked by ourselves*".

Sharing good practice

Below are examples of good practice we found in the YJS.

Assessment and Sentence Planning

General Criterion: 1.2d

Craig was deaf and had a speech impediment. He was also diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The case manager in the intervention plan under diversity issues noted, *'arrangements made to assist Craig to complete reparation hours such as splitting up his hours into manageable chunks to take into account his short attention span'*. With reference to the target for completing his reparation the case manager recorded, *'reparation has been discussed with Craig. To complete reparation outdoors undertaking tasks of a practical nature. In relation to Craig's diversity needs reparation supervisor to directly face Craig when speaking to him and speak slowly so that Craig is able to lip read and shorter reparation sessions taking into account Craig's attention span'*. In the comments section for the target for victim awareness it was noted, *'Victim awareness work has been undertaken with Craig on a one to one individual basis using discussion as the preferred approach'*. This was an example of how diversity issues can be taken into account at the planning and review stage.

Outcomes

General Criterion: 3.2a

Mark had been involved in disruptive behaviour at his local youth club and excluded for a period. Towards the end of his YRO, he had been allowed back, although his behaviour continued to be problematic on occasions when he was influenced by peers. A joint visit was therefore arranged by the case manager with the youth worker, Mark and his grandfather, as part of her exit strategy at their last appointment. Mark's meeting with both workers reinforced the importance of him being able to continue attending the youth club after the end of his order and how to avoid a further ban. This meeting also helped Mark explore ways to avoid ASB in the future and be able to access alternative education provision.

All names have been altered.

1. ASSESSMENT AND SENTENCE PLANNING

1.1 Risk of Harm to others (RoH):

General Criterion:

The assessment of RoH is comprehensive, accurate and timely, takes victims' issues into account and uses Asset and other relevant assessment tools. Plans are in place to manage RoH.

Score:

58%

Comment:

SUBSTANTIAL improvement required

Strengths:

- (1) An Asset RoSH screening was completed in well over three-quarters of cases. All except four were timely.
- (2) In 86% of cases we considered the Asset RoSH classification to be accurate.
- (3) Less than half the RoSH screenings indicated the need for a full RoSH analysis to be completed. All except one of these was completed and all except three were timely.
- (4) There were three Level 1 MAPPA cases. In all three, MAPPA had been notified and if relevant a referral had been made and the initial MAPPA level was appropriate. In two out of three cases the MAPPA notification and referral had been timely.
- (5) In three-quarters of relevant cases details of the RoSH assessment and management had been appropriately communicated to those staff and agencies involved.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) Half the RoSH screenings were not accurate. For example in one case previous inappropriate sexual behaviour and phone calls to female members of staff had not been noted.
- (2) In more than half the cases the RoSH assessment had not drawn adequately on all the information from MAPPA or other agencies' previous assessments.
- (3) In four cases we thought the Asset RoSH classification was too low and in one case too high.

- (4) When the RoSH full analysis had been completed, 9 out of 15 had not been completed to a satisfactory standard mainly because previous relevant behaviour or the risk to victims had not been considered. In one case previous offences of arson and assault were not included in the RoSH. Effective management oversight of the *RoH* assessment was evidenced in 4 out of 22 cases.
- (5) In 4 out of 15 cases an RMP had not been completed. Only 2 out of 11 RMPs were completed to a sufficient quality. Roles and responsibilities of staff in the management of the child or young person's *RoH* were not clear. Planned responses to any change in *RoH* were inadequate or unclear and victim issues were not covered. There was effective management oversight of the RMP in two cases.
- (6) Where there was not a requirement for an RMP in 4 out of 18 cases the need for planning for *RoH* issues had been recognised and acted upon.

1.2 Likelihood of Reoffending:

General Criterion:

The assessment of the LoR is comprehensive, accurate and timely and uses Asset and other relevant assessment tools. Plans are in place to reduce LoR.

Score:

56%

Comment:

SUBSTANTIAL improvement required

Strengths:

- (1) Almost all cases had an initial assessment of the LoR and the great majority were timely. We saw evidence of active engagement of the child or young person in 91% of cases, and with parents/carers in 87%.
- (2) Almost three-quarters of initial assessments had been informed by contact with, or previous assessments from, Specialist Children's Services and over two-thirds by the police and mental health services.
- (3) In five cases other relevant agencies had influenced the initial assessment.
- (4) In all ten custodial cases there was an intervention plan and most were timely.
- (5) Almost all community cases had an intervention plan and the great majority were completed on time.
- (6) Interventions plans or referral order contracts reflected sentencing purposes in 94% and had taken account of victim issues in 87% of community cases.

- (7) In nine out of ten custodial cases YJS workers had been actively and meaningfully involved throughout the custodial planning process and intervention plans had been reviewed at appropriate intervals.
- (8) In most cases, where relevant, secure establishments and other agencies had been actively and meaningfully involved in the planning process throughout the sentence.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) The initial assessment of the LoR was not satisfactory in more than half the cases, which was mainly due to unclear or insufficient evidence. There was also a failure to identify a whole range of diversity issues and vulnerability and ETE factors. There were a small number of cases where positive influences and behaviours associated with the offence had not been taken into account.
- (2) Only 9% of cases had evidence that the learning style of the child or young person had been assessed or that *What do YOU think?* had been used to inform the initial assessment.
- (3) There was little evidence in relevant cases that the initial assessment had taken into account information from secure establishments, ETE (in particular from schools or Pupil Referral Units), ASB team and physical health services. Over two-thirds of initial assessments did not have input from substance misuse services.
- (4) More than half of initial assessments had not been reviewed at appropriate intervals. Although a review of Asset was present in many cases the content was unchanged from the original assessment. In a minority of cases the initial Asset had been duplicated more than once.
- (5) Intervention and sentence plans did not sufficiently address factors associated with the child or young person's offence in eight out of ten custody and 29% of community cases. The factors that had not been addressed were mainly motivation to change, lifestyle, perception of self and others and living arrangements.
- (6) Intervention and sentence plans did not integrate RMPs or incorporate the child or young person's learning style. Proportionately more community intervention plans had taken into account Safeguarding (64%), diversity (47%) and positive factors (41%) than custodial sentence plans; however, even these percentages were low.
- (7) Objectives within intervention and sentence plans were prioritised according to *RoH* in less than one-quarter of cases and sequenced according to offending related need in one-third. Plans included appropriate Safeguarding work in 2 out of 8 custody and 9 out of 24 community cases and sensitive to diversity issues in 1 out of 5 custody and 7 out of 18 community cases. In four out of ten custody cases objectives had taken into account victim issues.
- (8) The child or young person was actively involved in the planning process in less than two-thirds of cases and where relevant 70% of parents/carers.

- (9) In under half of the relevant cases physical and mental health services and the ASB team had not been involved in the planning process. There was slightly more involvement of Specialist Services in 13 out of 19 cases (68%); accommodation in 7 out of 11 cases (64%); ETE in 20 out of 35 cases (57%); substance misuse in 12 out of 22 cases (55%); and the police in 7 out of 14 cases (50%).
- (10) Intervention plans in the community were reviewed at appropriate intervals in only 54% of cases.

1.3 Safeguarding:	
<p>General Criterion:</p> <p><i>The assessment of Safeguarding needs is comprehensive, accurate and timely and uses Asset and other relevant assessment tools. Plans are in place to manage Safeguarding and reduce vulnerability.</i></p>	
<p>Score:</p> <p>56%</p>	<p>Comment:</p> <p><i>SUBSTANTIAL improvement required</i></p>

Strengths:

- (1) The Asset vulnerability screening was completed and timely in the majority of cases.
- (2) Secure establishments were made aware of vulnerability issues prior to or immediately on sentence in all eight relevant cases.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) The Asset vulnerability screening was completed to a sufficient quality in 53% of cases.
- (2) There were 17 cases where, in our opinion, a VMP should have been completed. However, only five were completed, of which four were on time and only two were judged to be of sufficient quality. VMPs were insufficient mainly because the roles and responsibilities of those who were managing the child or young person's vulnerability were not clear and planned responses for any factors that could increase their vulnerability were inadequate or unclear.
- (3) VMPs did not contribute to, and inform, interventions in three out of five cases and other relevant plans in three out of four cases.
- (4) In 5 out of 12 cases copies of other plans (e.g. care plans) were on file. In one out of eight a contribution had been made through the CAF to other assessments and plans designed to safeguard the child or young person.

- (5) Effective management oversight of vulnerability assessments was not evidenced in 18 out of 24 cases.
- (6) Safeguarding needs were reviewed appropriately in 61% of cases.

OVERALL SCORE for quality of Assessment and Sentence Planning work: 56%

COMMENTARY on Assessment and Sentence Planning as a whole:

There had been a practice of duplicating the PSR Asset at the start of an order. In some cases the start of the order Asset continued to be duplicated for reviews. However, the new strategic lead manager for YJS had prepared a core case improvement plan in August 2010.

Intervention plans were often a checklist of actions for the case manager rather than a plan that the child or young person was actively involved in. Many targets involved no more action than a referral to a specialist worker in the YJS. Intervention plan targets were rather vague about exactly what specialist workers would be aiming to achieve with the child or young person.

Case managers' definition of a vulnerability issue was too narrow. Consequently, there were a number of cases where screening documents were not adequate and VMPs had not been completed.

2. DELIVERY AND REVIEW OF INTERVENTIONS

2.1 Protecting the public by minimising Risk of Harm to others (RoH):

General Criterion:

All reasonable actions have been taken to protect the public by keeping to a minimum the child or young person's RoH.

Score:

48%

Comment:

SUBSTANTIAL improvement required

Strengths:

- (1) Effective use was made of MAPPA in two cases and case managers and other agencies had made useful contributions to it.
- (2) In all 10 custody cases and 14 out of 19 community cases case managers and all relevant staff contributed effectively to other multi-agency meetings. In one instance there was evidence that the case manager had worked effectively with the Prevent and Deter Panel and the Children At Risk of Exploitation Panel.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) *RoH* had been reviewed thoroughly in-line with required timescales in less than half of cases. Following a significant change *RoH* was reviewed in only 4 out of 12 cases.
- (2) Changes in *RoH* were anticipated in 3 out of 16 cases. Such changes were identified swiftly in 4 and acted on appropriately in 6 out of 13.
- (3) Purposeful home visits had been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with the level of *RoH* and Safeguarding issues in just over half of the relevant cases.
- (4) A full assessment of the safety of the victim had not been carried out and a high priority had not been given to victim safety in less than two-thirds of cases. Not all case managers were aware of the work that the victim worker had done or where it was recorded on YOIS.
- (5) In just over one-quarter of cases appropriate resources had not been allocated throughout the sentence to *RoH*.
- (6) Specific interventions to manage *RoH* were delivered as planned in 1 out of 6 custody and 9 out of 21 community cases. They were reviewed following a significant change in 1 out of 4 custody and 6 out of 13 community cases.

- (7) There had been effective management oversight of *RoH* in 2 out of 7 custody and 6 out of 24 community cases.

2.2 Reducing the Likelihood of Reoffending:	
<p><i>General Criterion:</i></p> <p><i>The case manager coordinates and facilitates the structured delivery of all elements of the intervention plan.</i></p>	
<p><i>Score:</i></p> <p><i>64%</i></p>	<p><i>Comment:</i></p> <p><i>MODERATE improvement required</i></p>

Strengths:

- (1) In all ten custody cases the YJS had been appropriately involved in the review of interventions in custody.
- (2) Based on the YJS assessment of LoR and RoSH the initial Scaled Approach intervention level was judged to be correct in almost all cases.
- (3) In 73% of cases appropriate resources had been allocated according to the assessed level of LoR throughout the sentence.
- (4) Throughout the sentence YJS workers had actively motivated and supported the child or young person and reinforced positive behaviour in all custody and the great majority of community cases.
- (5) YJS workers had actively engaged parents/carers, where appropriate in most custody and community cases.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) Delivered interventions in the community were reviewed and of sufficient quality in 51% of cases. Just under one-quarter had taken into account the child or young person's learning style and less than half were implemented in-line with the intervention plan and sequenced appropriately. Interventions had incorporated all diversity issues in 58% and were designed to reduce the LoR in 62% of cases.
- (2) Allocated resources were insufficient in five areas of work, thinking and behaviour, attitudes to offending, substance misuse, ETE and family and personal relationships.
- (3) In 3 out of 14 cases all requirements of the sentence had been implemented.

2.3 Safeguarding the child or young person:

General Criterion:

All reasonable actions have been taken to safeguard and reduce the vulnerability of the child or young person.

Score:

70%

Comment:

MODERATE improvement required

Strengths:

- (1) Necessary immediate action had been taken to safeguard and protect the child or young person and other affected children and young people in all relevant custody cases.
- (2) In all relevant custody cases all necessary referrals to ensure Safeguarding had been made to other relevant agencies.
- (3) YJS workers and all other relevant agencies had worked together to promote the Safeguarding and well-being of the child or young person in custody in all cases except one. In community cases this was only evident with secure establishments and the police.
- (4) In the majority of custody cases other YJS workers and all relevant agencies worked together to ensure continuity of provision of mainstream services in the transition from custody to community.
- (5) Specific interventions to promote Safeguarding in custody were in the majority of cases identified and reviewed every three months or following a significant change.
- (6) All relevant staff supported and promoted the well-being of the child or young person throughout the course of the sentence in all custody and 81% of community cases.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) In community cases all necessary action was taken to safeguard and protect the child or young person in 15 out of 22 cases and other affected children and young people in 6 out of 10 cases.
- (2) Referrals to ensure Safeguarding had been made in 19 out of 26 community cases.
- (3) The majority of relevant agencies had worked together to promote the Safeguarding and well-being of the child or young person in less than three-quarters of community cases.
- (4) Specific interventions to promote Safeguarding in the community were identified in 16 out of 23 and reviewed every three months or following a significant change in 7 out of 20 cases. In both community and custody cases

there was less evidence that interventions were delivered or incorporated those actions identified in the VMP.

- (5) There was effective management oversight of Safeguarding and vulnerability needs in 3 out of 7 custody and 12 out of 26 community cases.

OVERALL SCORE for quality of Delivery and Review of Interventions work: 61%

COMMENTARY on Delivery and Review of Interventions as a whole:

There were a number of cases where case managers were reacting to one crisis after another in the child or young person's life rather than implementing the intervention plan. Sometimes this was legitimate, however it meant that interventions to address offending behaviour or victim awareness were then not covered with the individual.

It was not clear what the link was between the RoSH, RMPs and Prevent and Deter Panel meetings.

3. OUTCOMES

Our inspections include findings about initial outcomes, as set out in this section. In principle, this is the key section that specifies what supervision is achieving, but in practice this is by necessity just a snapshot of what has been achieved in only the first 6-9 months of supervision, and for which the evidence is sometimes only provisional.

3.1 Achievement of outcomes:

General Criterion:

Outcomes are achieved in relation to RoH, LoR and Safeguarding.

Score:

66%

Comment:

MODERATE improvement required

Strengths:

- (1) When required, appropriate enforcement action was taken in 21 out of 23 cases.
- (2) In almost three-quarters of relevant cases there was evidence of a reduction in frequency and seriousness of offending.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) *RoH* had not been effectively managed in 15 out of 25 cases mainly due to insufficient assessment and planning and interventions that the YJS had not delivered.
- (2) Children and young people had complied with the requirements of their sentence in 39% of cases.
- (3) There was no overall reduction in Asset scores in around half of the cases we assessed. The factors relating to offending that had reduced most often were thinking and behaviour and attitudes to offending (36%); lifestyle (31%); ETE (26%); and substance misuse (24%).
- (4) There had been a reduction in risk factors linked with Safeguarding in 9 out of 25 cases.
- (5) All reasonable action had not been taken to keep the child or young person safe in 9 out of 30 cases. The most common reasons for this were insufficient assessment and planning and referrals not made or interventions delivered.

3.2 Sustaining outcomes:

General Criterion:

Outcomes are sustained in relation to RoH, LoR and Safeguarding.

Score:

80%

Comment:

MINIMUM improvement required

Strengths:

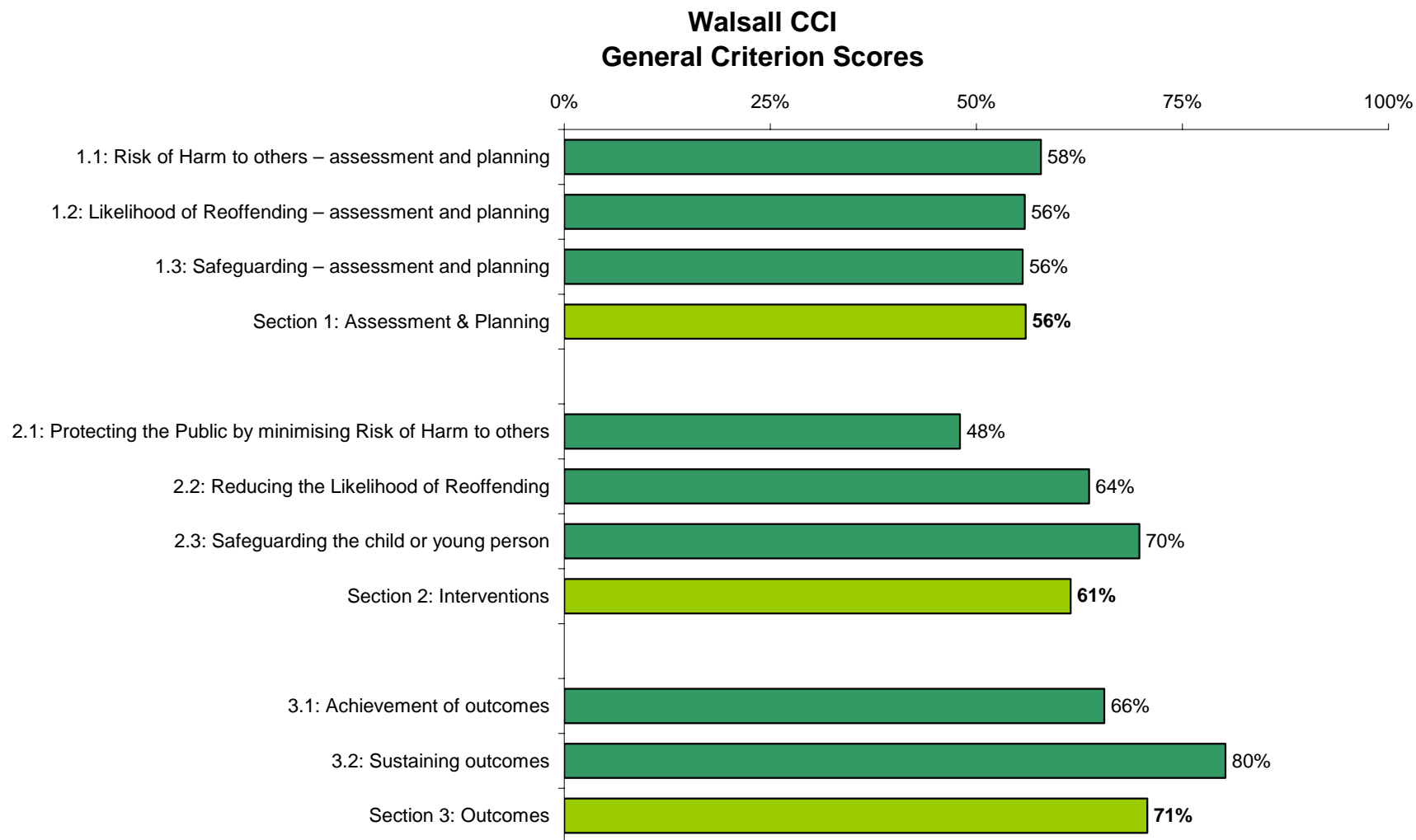
- (1) Full attention had been given to community reintegration issues in 90% of custody and 79% of community cases.
- (2) Action had been taken to ensure positive outcomes were sustainable in 90% of custody and 76% of community cases.

OVERALL SCORE for quality of Outcomes work: 71%

COMMENTARY on Outcomes as a whole:

In many cases Assets had not been reviewed or rescored which would have had an impact on the demonstration of outcomes being achieved.

Appendix 1: Summary



Appendix 2: Contextual information

Area

Walsall YJS was located in the *West Midlands* region of England.

The area had a population of 253,499 as measured in the Census 2001, 11.0% of which were aged 10-17 years old. This was higher than the average for England/Wales, which was 10.4%.

The population of Walsall was predominantly white British (86.4%). The population with a black and minority ethnic heritage (13.6%) was above the average for England & Wales of 8.7%.

Reported offences for which children and young people aged 10-17 years old received a pre-court disposal or a court disposal in 2009/2010, at 33 per 1,000, were below the average for England/Wales of 38.

YJS

The YJS boundaries were within those of the West Midlands police area. The Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust and the Walsall Community Health and Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust covered the area.

The YJS was located within the Integrated Young People Support Service, part of Universal Services of the Children's Services Directorate. It was managed by the Strategic Lead Targeted Youth Support and Youth Justice Services.

The YJS Management Board was chaired by the Assistant Director of Children's Services. All statutory partners attended regularly.

The operational work of the YJS was based in Walsall. ISS was provided by a consortium of Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall YOTs. Dudley YOT managed ISS.

YJB National Indicator Performance Judgement

The YJB National Indicator Performance Judgement available at the time of the inspection was dated July 2010.

There were five judgements on reoffending; first time entrants; use of custody; accommodation; and employment, education and training.

On these dimensions, the YJB scored Walsall 18 of a maximum of 28 (for English YOTs); this score was judged by the YJB to be performing well.

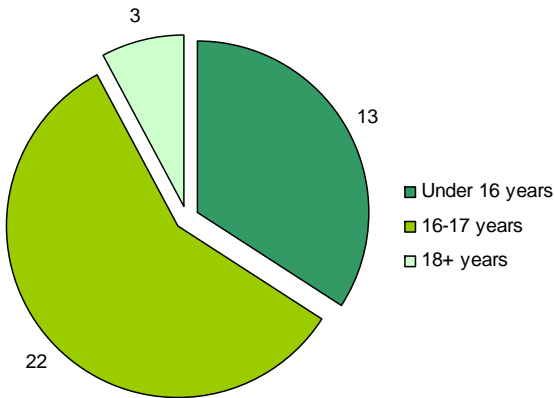
Walsall's reoffending performance was judged by the YJB to be improving significantly and was significantly better than similar *family group* YOTs.

For a description of how the YJB's performance measures are defined, please refer to:

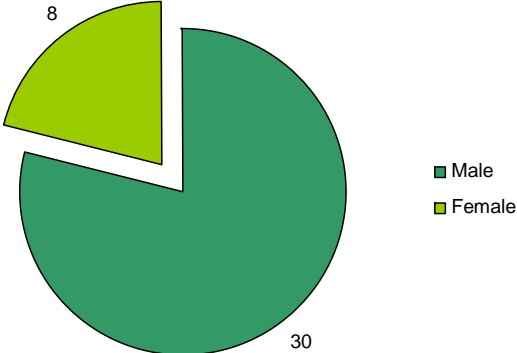
<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/en-gb/practitioners/Monitoringperformance/Youthjusticeplanning/>

Appendix 3a: Inspection data chart

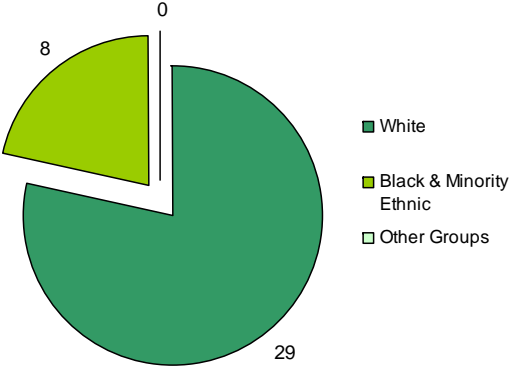
Case Sample: Age at start of Sentence



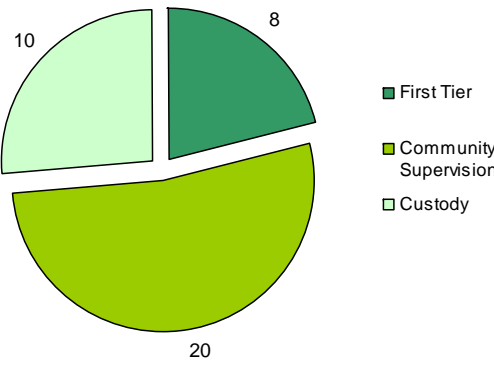
Case Sample: Gender



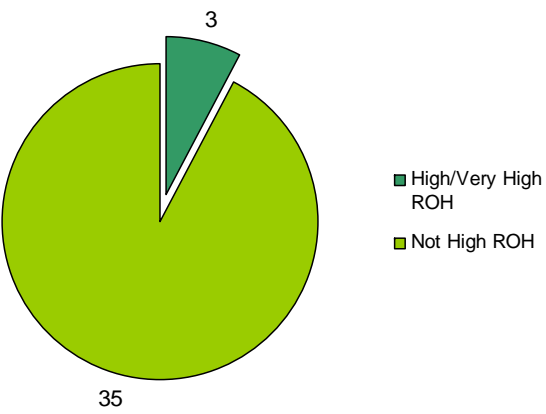
Case Sample: Ethnicity



Case Sample: Sentence Type



Case Sample: Risk of Harm



Appendix 3b: Inspection data

Fieldwork for this inspection was undertaken in November 2010

The inspection consisted of:

- ◊ examination of practice in a sample of cases, normally in conjunction with the case manager or other representative
- ◊ evidence in advance
- ◊ questionnaire responses from children and young people, and victims

We have also seen YJB performance data and assessments relating to this YJS

Appendix 4: Role of HMI Probation and Code of Practice

Information on the Role of HMI Probation and Code of Practice can be found on our website:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-probation>

The Inspectorate is a public body. Anyone wishing to comment on an inspection, a report or any other matter falling within its remit should write to:

*HM Chief Inspector of Probation
2nd Floor, Ashley House
2 Monck Street
London, SW1P 2BQ*

Appendix 5: Glossary

ASB/ASBO	Antisocial behaviour/Antisocial Behaviour Order
Asset	A structured assessment tool based on research and developed by the Youth Justice Board looking at the young person's offence, personal circumstances, attitudes and beliefs which have contributed to their offending behaviour
CAF	Common Assessment Framework: a standardised assessment of a child or young person's needs and of how those needs can be met. It is undertaken by the lead professional in a case, with contributions from all others involved with that individual
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services: part of the National Health Service, providing specialist mental health and behavioural services to children and young people up to at least 16 years of age
Careworks	One of the two electronic case management systems for youth offending work currently in use in England and Wales. See also YOIS+
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau
DTO	Detention and Training Order: a custodial sentence for the young
Estyn	HM Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales
ETE	Education, Training and Employment: work to improve an individual's learning, and to increase their employment prospects
Family Group	Used by the YJB for comparative performance reporting, this is a group of YOTs identified as having similar characteristics
FTE	Full-time equivalent
HM	Her Majesty's
HMIC	HM Inspectorate of Constabulary
HMI Prisons	HM Inspectorate of Prisons
HMI Probation	HM Inspectorate of Probation
Interventions; <i>constructive</i> and <i>restrictive</i> interventions	<p>Work with an individual that is designed to change their offending behaviour and/or to support public protection.</p> <p>A <i>constructive</i> intervention is where the primary purpose is to reduce Likelihood of Reoffending.</p> <p>A <i>restrictive</i> intervention is where the primary purpose is to keep to a minimum the individual's <i>Risk of Harm to others</i>. Example: with a sex offender, a <i>constructive intervention</i> might be to put them through an accredited sex offender programme; a <i>restrictive intervention</i> (to minimise their <i>Risk of Harm</i>) might be to monitor regularly and meticulously their accommodation, their employment and the places they frequent, imposing and enforcing clear restrictions as appropriate to each case. NB. Both types of intervention are important</p>
ISSP	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme: this intervention is attached to the start of some orders and licences and provides initially at least 25 hours programme contact including a substantial proportion of employment, training and education
LoR	Likelihood of Reoffending. See also <i>constructive</i> Interventions
LSC	Learning and Skills Council

LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board: set up in each local authority (as a result of the Children Act 2004) to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of the multi-agency work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality.
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements: where probation, police, prison and other agencies work together locally to manage offenders who pose a higher <i>Risk of Harm to others</i>
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills: the Inspectorate for those services in England (not Wales, for which see Estyn)
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PPO	Prolific and other Priority Offender: designated offenders, adult or young, who receive extra attention from the Criminal Justice System agencies
Pre-CAF	This is a simple 'Request for Service' in those instances when a Common Assessment Framework may not be required. It can be used for requesting one or two additional services, e.g. health, social care or educational
PSR	Pre-sentence report: for a court
RMP	Risk management plan: a plan to minimise the individual's <i>Risk of Harm</i>
RoH	<i>Risk of Harm to others</i> . See also <i>restrictive Interventions</i>
'RoH work', or 'Risk of Harm work'	This is the term generally used by HMI Probation to describe work to protect the public, primarily using <i>restrictive interventions</i> , to keep to a minimum the individual's opportunity to behave in a way that is a <i>Risk of Harm to others</i>
RoSH	Risk of Serious Harm: a term used in Asset. HMI Probation prefers not to use this term as it does not help to clarify the distinction between the <i>probability</i> of an event occurring and the <i>impact/severity</i> of the event. The term <i>Risk of Serious Harm</i> only incorporates 'serious' impact, whereas using ' <i>Risk of Harm</i> ' enables the necessary attention to be given to those offenders for whom lower <i>impact/severity</i> harmful behaviour is <i>probable</i>
Safeguarding	The ability to demonstrate that all reasonable action has been taken to keep to a minimum the risk of a child or young person coming to harm.
SIFA	Screening Interview for Adolescents: Youth Justice Board approved mental health screening tool for specialist workers
SQIFA	Screening Questionnaire Interview for Adolescents: Youth Justice Board approved mental health screening tool for YOT workers
Specialist Services	Specialist Services in Walsall covered the same area of work as Children's Services in other local authorities.
VMP	Vulnerability management plan: a plan to safeguard the well-being of the individual under supervision
YJB	Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
YOI	Young Offenders Institution: a Prison Service institution for young people remanded in custody or sentenced to custody
YOIS+	Youth Offending Information System: one of the two electronic case management systems for youth offending work currently in use in England and Wales. See also Careworks
YOS/T, YJS	Youth Offending Service/Team, Youth Justice Services