



Inspection of
Youth
Offending

Archwilio Rhaglen Troseddwr Ifanc



Arolygiad ar y Cyd Cyfiawnder Troseddol

Core Case Inspection of youth offending work in England and Wales

***Aggregate report of the findings from
HMI Probation's Core Case Inspection programme.***

2009-2012

May 2013

Foreword

This report presents aggregate findings from our Core Case Inspections (CCI) of the work undertaken by Youth Offending Teams across England and Wales with children and young people who offend.

We have now completed the CCI programme and have made a start on our new inspection of youth offending work. This is therefore a good opportunity to take stock of what we learned in the CCI programme, which focused on two main elements of work with children and young people: safeguarding and public protection, both in terms of the *risk of harm to others* and the *likelihood of reoffending*. We noted halfway through the programme, in our aggregate CCI report on four of the English regions and on Wales, that the work of Youth Offending Teams was improving and we were again pleased to find that the majority of work with children and young people was of good quality. The inspections nevertheless revealed gaps in service quality and provision, particularly in work to protect the public, with considerable differences between individual Youth Offending Teams.

We also include in this report an analysis by ethnicity and other diversity characteristics of the children and young people being supervised. Although, overall, we found no evidence that any group being disadvantaged, we noted that the quality of work undertaken by the Youth Offending Teams with white children and young people was marginally better than with those from black and minority ethnic communities. Although these differences were not statistically significant, we would encourage practitioners and managers to reflect on these findings and redouble their efforts to ensure equality of service provision.

Finally, this report presents the results from our surveys of the children and young people who are being supervised and the victims of youth crime. It is encouraging that children and young people largely agree that the Youth Offending Teams are helping them to desist from crime and tackle their social needs. We are grateful to the victims of youth crime who replied to our survey and are pleased to see that the great majority were satisfied with the services provided to them.

LIZ CALDERBANK
HM Chief Inspector of Probation
May 2013

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Key findings

- This report presents aggregate findings from our Core Case Inspections of YOTs in England and Wales between 2009-2012. We inspected 156 YOTs, making detailed assessments of the work done with children and young people under supervision in 7,510 cases.
- The overall picture is that many YOTs are generally doing good work in child protection and keeping the risk of harm to others to a minimum. However, the quality of work can be variable within and between YOTs.
- On the main aspects of child protection and public protection work inspected:
 - the overall percentage of safeguarding work of sufficient quality was 68%
 - *this varied between 37% for the lowest score we recorded and 91% for the highest*
 - the overall percentage of work done sufficiently to minimise the risk of harm to others from the children and young people supervised was 62%
 - *this score varied between 36%-86%*
 - the overall percentage of work done sufficiently to reduce the likelihood of reoffending by the children and young people under supervision was 71%
 - *this score varied between 43%-88%.*
- On the great majority of key aspects of work, high risk cases (as recorded in the Asset assessment) were better managed than other cases, showing that YOTs are correctly prioritising risk of harm work.
- YOT workers took all necessary immediate action to protect the child or young person in nine out of ten cases.
- Effective oversight of vulnerability assessments and management, i.e. the harm or potential harm that a child or young person may be subject to, needed to be improved by YOT managers.

Background

HMI Probation has now completed Core Case Inspections (CCIs) in all of the Youth Offending Teams (YOT)¹ in England and Wales. This report presents aggregated results for the 7,510 cases we have assessed in the three years since April 2009. Sample sizes vary from around 38 to roughly 85, depending upon the size of the YOT. The case sample is broadly representative of the YOT caseload in terms of supervision type and diversity characteristics. Cases that had been under supervision for between six and nine months were selected to allow inspection staff to see the breadth of the work done by the YOT.

The CCI programme was based upon scrutinising a representative sample of individual cases of children and young people who had offended, had been through the courts and were under the supervision of a YOT. The main focus of the inspection was on assessing how often the public protection and safeguarding aspects of youth offending were done to a sufficient level of quality in the case sample.

Each inspection presents scores ('headline scores') for the public protection aspects - both work to keep to a minimum each individual's risk of harm to others, and to make each individual less likely to reoffend - and the child protection aspect. The scores indicate the percentage of the work examined which HMI Probation judged to have met a sufficiently high level of quality for each type of work.

In assessing public protection and safeguarding work as above, cases are assessed on HMI Probation's defined and published criteria, which are structured into the following three main elements:

- Assessment and sentence planning carried out with children and young people who offend.
- Delivery and review of interventions.
- Outcomes.

Scores are also produced for each of these 'general criteria'.

For each case, the scrutiny includes an examination of the case record and an in-depth interview with the case manager, based on a consistent set of questions each relating to a specific aspect of work reflecting the inspection criteria. Each question involves an assessment as to whether the aspect of work in that case was done sufficiently well or not. Each question also contributes to one of the 'general criteria' scores, and a number of the questions also contribute to one or more of the 'headline' scores.

¹ The term YOT is employed in this report as it is the terminology used in the legislation. However, we appreciate that teams are known by different names such as Youth Offending Services, Youth Justice Services and other terminology.

Findings presented in this report

The following findings are presented:

- 'Headline' and 'general criteria' scores across all the English and Welsh YOT areas are shown in aggregate.
- 'Headline' scores for each YOT area.
- Aggregate findings for certain key specific aspects of work on each of the 'headline' issues, derived from the defined set of questions used in the scrutiny of cases:
 - Safeguarding.
 - Work to keep to a minimum each individual's risk of harm to others.
 - Work to make each individual less likely to reoffend.
- Analyses of all of the specific aspects of work covered in, and of, the 'headline' and 'general criteria' scores by diversity characteristics of the child or young person:
 - Gender.
 - Ethnicity.
 - Whether the child or young person was 'looked after'.
 - Whether the child or young person had a disability.
 - Age.

Following each table with the findings for the specific aspects is a chart analysing the 'headline' and 'general criteria' scores by the diversity characteristic concerned. Tables also indicate, where applicable, whether the difference between the finding shown is statistically significant as so:

***	less than 0.1%	- highly statistically significant
**	less than 1%	- very statistically significant
*	less than 5%	- statistically significant
-	likely to have arisen by chance	- no statistical significance

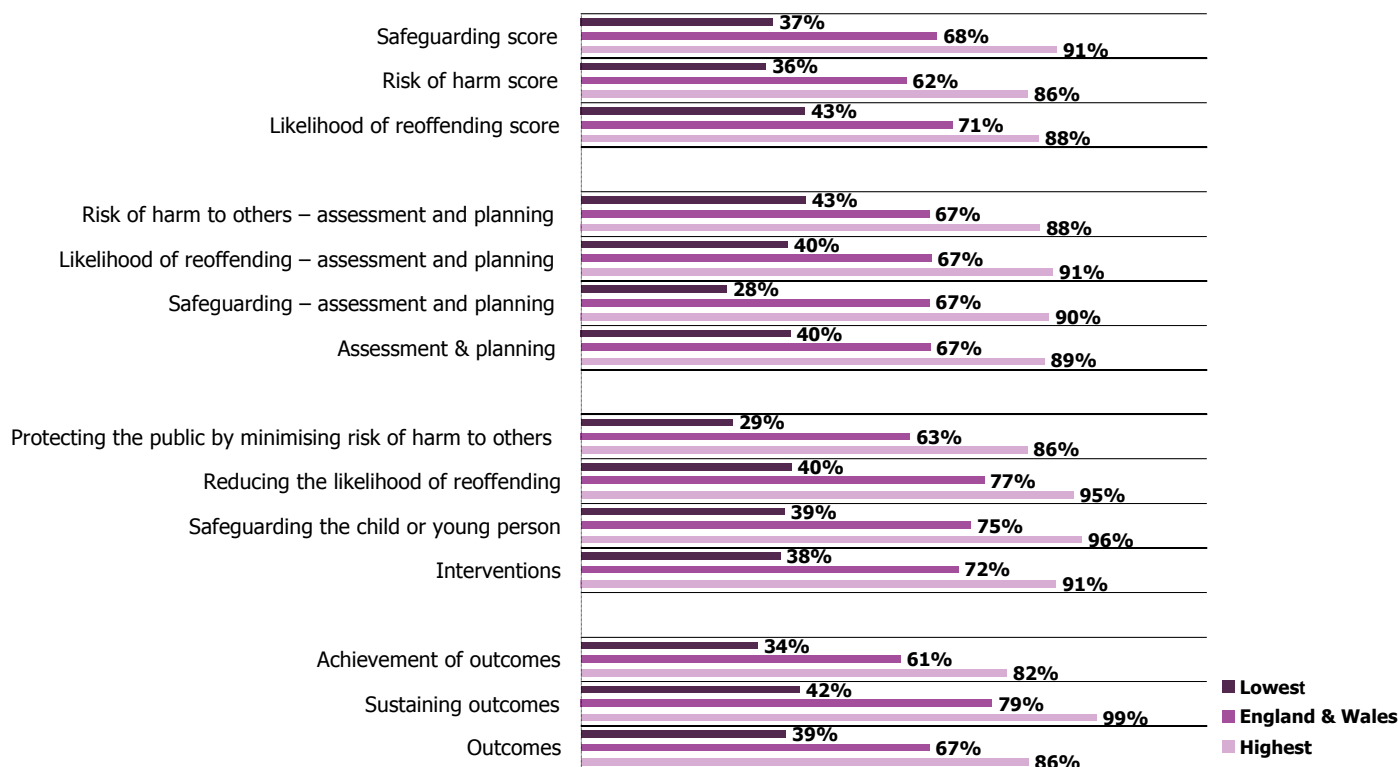
In considering findings broken down by certain diversity characteristics it should be borne in mind that some differences may reflect factors such as patterns of offending. These issues have not been explored for the purpose of this analysis - which focuses on the inspection findings themselves - but might be considered for further investigation.

Overall scores and variation for England and Wales

Chart 1 shows the aggregated headline and general criteria scores for all the 156 YOTs we have inspected in England & Wales and the range between the highest and lowest scoring YOTs. The gap between the best and worst scores is around 50% on average.

Overall CCI scoring for England and Wales

Core Case Inspection England and Wales 2009-2012



We have found that, overall:

- 68% of the work done to *safeguard* children and young people was done sufficiently well and this ranged from 37%-91% in individual YOTs
- 62% of the work done by YOTs to reduce *risk of harm* from the children and young people under supervision was done sufficiently well and this ranged from 36%-86% in individual YOTs
- 71% of the work done by YOTs to reduce the *likelihood of reoffending* by children and young people under supervision was done sufficiently well and this ranged from 43%-88% in individual YOTs
- 67% of the work done on *assessment and planning* was done sufficiently well and this ranged from 40%-89% in individual YOTs
- 72% of the work done in delivering *interventions* was done sufficiently well and ranged from 38%-91% in individual YOTs
- 67% of the work done in achieving and sustaining *outcomes* was done sufficiently well and ranged from 39%-86% in individual YOTs. (We inspect recent work by YOTs so our outcome measures are limited to what had been achieved in the first six to nine months of supervision).

Overall, we found that around two-thirds of YOTs were delivering good work in tackling these aspects of supervision. However, there is much scope for improvement, especially in *risk of harm to others*, in a number of YOTs.

The headline scores for each of the YOTs are presented below in order of the date of fieldwork. (The YOTs marked with an asterisk were reinspected to ensure they were making sufficient progress in their quality of service).

CCI headline scores by YOT

Youth Offending Teams	Safeguarding	Risk of harm	Likelihood of reoffending
St Helens	74%	66%	72%
Salford	55%	55%	60%
Cumbria	61%	50%	67%
Sefton*	38%	36%	50%
Rochdale*	62%	49%	58%
Lancashire	52%	51%	60%
Stockport	60%	53%	66%
Halton and Warrington	79%	76%	78%
Bury	61%	45%	58%
Wirral	58%	53%	55%
Manchester	64%	51%	62%
Trafford	82%	69%	80%
Knowsley	79%	85%	82%
Liverpool	48%	49%	56%
Wigan	69%	60%	65%
Blackpool	61%	61%	66%
Bolton	58%	49%	55%
Oldham	67%	60%	62%
Tameside	57%	52%	61%
Cheshire	69%	69%	77%
Blackburn with Darwen	81%	64%	79%
North West	63%	57%	65%
North Tyneside	70%	73%	74%
Northumberland	66%	61%	67%
Gateshead*	51%	47%	52%
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	71%	71%	64%
South Tyneside	66%	70%	75%
Sunderland	68%	68%	68%
Stockton-on-Tees	79%	77%	81%
Hartlepool*	41%	52%	53%
Darlington	78%	78%	75%
South Tees	62%	61%	65%

* These YOTs were reinspected

Youth Offending Teams	Safeguarding	Risk of harm	Likelihood of reoffending
Durham	68%	64%	66%
North East	66%	66%	68%
Bournemouth and Poole*	46%	43%	55%
Devon	73%	67%	80%
Gloucestershire	76%	70%	75%
Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly	64%	58%	67%
Plymouth	70%	66%	74%
North Somerset	60%	46%	69%
Dorset	77%	76%	77%
Torbay	57%	61%	67%
Bristol	55%	49%	64%
Bath & North East Somerset	63%	49%	66%
Swindon	71%	72%	78%
Somerset	82%	81%	81%
South Gloucestershire	78%	78%	86%
Wiltshire	76%	76%	77%
South West	67%	63%	72%
Merthyr Tydfil	91%	83%	87%
Neath Port Talbot	64%	73%	79%
Ceredigion	74%	57%	69%
Newport	65%	58%	67%
Gwynedd Môn	74%	66%	74%
Bridgend	77%	63%	70%
Rhondda Cynon Taff	68%	65%	82%
Conwy Denbighshire	69%	65%	74%
Wrexham	61%	53%	61%
Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly	56%	54%	67%
Powys	66%	57%	70%
Flintshire	82%	77%	87%
Cardiff	72%	73%	78%
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	67%	69%	74%
Swansea	68%	53%	66%
Pembrokeshire	91%	76%	85%
Carmarthenshire	77%	65%	79%
Vale of Glamorgan	65%	55%	64%
Wales	72%	65%	74%

Youth Offending Teams	Safeguarding	Risk of harm	Likelihood of reoffending
Doncaster	64%	57%	66%
York	85%	81%	80%
Sheffield	66%	60%	71%
Kingston-upon-Hull	69%	60%	74%
Calderdale	67%	64%	74%
Rotherham	68%	59%	77%
Wakefield	58%	62%	74%
Leeds	84%	76%	83%
Barnsley	74%	70%	71%
North East Lincolnshire	78%	79%	79%
North Lincolnshire*	37%	36%	43%
North Yorkshire	80%	75%	77%
Bradford	65%	66%	80%
Kirklees	70%	56%	73%
East Riding of Yorkshire	45%	48%	58%
Yorkshire and the Humber	69%	64%	73%
Stoke-on-Trent	64%	58%	66%
Coventry	73%	65%	75%
Walsall	64%	49%	63%
Sandwell	65%	52%	62%
Dudley	75%	69%	75%
Staffordshire	74%	64%	75%
Warwickshire	77%	73%	77%
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	74%	63%	68%
Shropshire, Telford & the Wrekin	80%	74%	76%
Solihull	82%	77%	74%
Birmingham	68%	56%	70%
Wolverhampton	81%	74%	78%
West Midlands	73%	64%	72%
Milton Keynes	78%	69%	71%
Medway	67%	61%	71%
Slough	62%	54%	61%
Oxfordshire	71%	56%	68%
Windsor & Maidenhead	81%	81%	86%
Buckinghamshire	77%	70%	82%

Youth Offending Teams	Safeguarding	Risk of harm	Likelihood of reoffending
West Berkshire	75%	78%	83%
East Sussex	70%	66%	76%
West Sussex	67%	63%	69%
Reading	78%	65%	74%
Brighton & Hove	67%	55%	67%
Surrey	76%	73%	83%
Bracknell Forest	79%	73%	74%
Kent	59%	53%	68%
Wokingham	82%	72%	79%
Wessex	55%	56%	64%
Isle of Wight	68%	79%	68%
South East	69%	64%	72%
Havering	58%	54%	69%
Merton	53%	46%	62%
Hounslow	51%	47%	66%
Islington	47%	53%	55%
Enfield	75%	66%	73%
Tower Hamlets and City of London	64%	49%	71%
Barking and Dagenham	75%	65%	86%
Hillingdon	52%	47%	63%
Brent	65%	59%	62%
Kingston upon Thames	71%	75%	73%
Harrow	45%	43%	53%
Barnet	54%	52%	63%
Bexley	64%	51%	66%
Ealing	64%	59%	67%
Greenwich	44%	42%	56%
Hackney	47%	43%	58%
Redbridge	80%	69%	83%
Newham	55%	46%	60%
Richmond upon Thames	78%	69%	75%
Camden	90%	86%	84%
Bromley	81%	75%	82%
Lambeth	50%	42%	52%
Lewisham	75%	68%	80%

Youth Offending Teams	Safeguarding	Risk of harm	Likelihood of reoffending
Wandsworth	58%	47%	64%
Southwark	66%	64%	69%
Croydon	65%	56%	72%
Haringey	62%	57%	61%
West London Tri-borough	77%	61%	74%
Waltham Forest	68%	62%	73%
Sutton	80%	76%	82%
London	64%	57%	68%
Thurrock	75%	67%	76%
Hertfordshire	60%	49%	67%
Cambridgeshire	83%	73%	85%
Suffolk	83%	79%	83%
Peterborough	83%	77%	86%
Bedfordshire	77%	63%	76%
Luton	75%	73%	78%
Norfolk	70%	62%	75%
Essex	73%	68%	77%
Southend	85%	73%	88%
East of England	75%	67%	78%
Leicestershire	69%	63%	71%
Northamptonshire	80%	68%	76%
Derbyshire	78%	72%	79%
Nottingham City	81%	72%	78%
Leicester City	62%	49%	68%
Lincolnshire	79%	72%	85%
Derby City	65%	62%	69%
Nottinghamshire	78%	73%	80%
East Midlands	74%	66%	75%
ENGLAND & WALES	68%	62%	71%

Key aspects of the quality of supervision

Risk of harm

- 10% of the cases in our sample (698) were assessed by case managers as presenting a high or very high risk of serious harm to others using the structured assessment tool (Asset) to aid this professional judgement.
- The management of risk of harm to others is a matter of public concern, we report below how well the work was done with high risk of harm cases compared to other cases in the table below.

Good practice example from the Core Case Inspections

Fifteen year old Alan was involved in two assault cases within a short period of time. Both offences had indicators of racist behaviour, but were not classified as racist offences. The victim worker developed exercises relevant to Alan's offending and personal situation. She devised scenarios that included Alan taking his four year old nephew to an away football match, where they were surrounded by home fans, and his mother being picked on for shopping at a supermarket other than the one she routinely frequented; the victim worker then asked Alan to think about how he might feel and how his nephew and mother might feel in such situations. The worksheets were on file and the work was also well recorded in the case diary. The aim of the work was to increase Alan's victim awareness and empathy.

Carmarthenshire Youth Offending Team

- On most indicators (16 out of 17) high risk cases were better managed than other cases and the advantage was highly statistically significant.

Good practice example from the Core Case Inspections

Aged 16, and being supervised by the YOT following convictions for offences of dishonesty, Kerry's case manager arranged for her to have a mentor. Kerry turned up for one session with the mentor under the influence of alcohol and the mentor therefore cancelled the session. Kerry then reported to the case manager in a very upset state saying she had ruined her relationship with the mentor. The case manager held an immediate three-way meeting and facilitated an agreement to draw a line under the problem and establish sound ground rules for future meetings. This worked well and the mentoring relationship provided a sound source of support to Kerry for the remainder of her supervision period. This was a useful way for a young person to learn how to make a constructive outcome from a negative event.

Calderdale Youth Offending Team

Good practice example from the Core Case Inspections

Steve, aged 13, was charged with a serious offence of wounding towards a four-year-old sibling. The case manager worked hard during the remand period to build a positive relationship with this damaged and difficult young person. There was excellent multi-agency working and an insightful court report that resulted in a residential outcome that was both appropriate to his needs and protected the community.

Newcastle Youth Offending Team

- These results are a strong indication that YOTs are appropriately prioritising high risk of harm cases.

Good practice example from the Core Case Inspections

Darren was heavily involved in gun crime and was managed under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Category 3 Level 2 arrangements. Sentenced to an eight months detention and training order for perverting the course of justice, rigorous licence conditions were put in place. It was agreed he would live in a neighbouring borough on release, but, because of the inherent issues in his case, it would not be held on a caretaker basis, but transferred permanently. On release, despite the fact they were no longer responsible for his post custody supervision; Knowsley YOS continued to take an active interest in Darren. This proved a wise decision as he almost immediately committed an extremely serious new offence. Knowsley YOS took responsibility for ensuring Darren's family were notified of his situation and that police and others were informed so necessary risk of harm measures were prioritised and a robust risk management plan produced.

Knowsley Youth Offending Service

Good practice example from the Core Case Inspections

In order to make sure they were aware of all risk of harm to others, the case manager of a young person, who had engaged in sexually harmful behaviour, gathered information from children's social care; a neighbouring YOT; and police area and secured funding for a specialist assessment. They then arranged a risk management meeting with all relevant agencies. This meeting contributed to the completion of a comprehensive risk of serious harm analysis and risk management plan, which could not have been achieved by the case manager alone.

Blackpool Youth Offending Team

Key aspect of risk of harm work	All cases		High/very high risk of serious harm cases		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Did the objectives within the intervention plan/referral order contract take account of victims' issues?	64%	5,977	62%	570	-
Was an Asset Risk of Serious Harm screening completed on time?	80%	7,439	87%	696	***
Was an Asset Risk of Serious Harm screening accurate?	63%	7,324	79%	685	***
Was a risk management plan completed on time?	53%	2,801	64%	689	***
Was a risk management plan completed to a sufficient quality?	40%	2,797	47%	691	***
Was the notification and referral to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) timely?	70%	240	78%	150	**

Key aspect of risk of harm work	All cases		High/very high risk of serious harm cases		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Have all the details of Risk of Serious Harm assessment and management been appropriately communicated to all relevant staff and agencies?	64%	4,364	74%	672	***
Has there been effective management oversight of risk of harm assessment?	40%	5,062	52%	691	***
Has the risk of harm to others been reviewed thoroughly in line with the required timescales?	58%	6,805	65%	649	***
Has the risk of harm to others been reviewed thoroughly following a significant change?	43%	3,335	54%	462	***
Were changes in risk of harm/acute factors anticipated wherever feasible?	56%	3,973	72%	536	***

Key aspect of risk of harm work	All cases		High/very high risk of serious harm cases		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Were changes in risk of harm/acute factors identified swiftly?	60%	3,166	74%	457	***
Were changes in risk of harm/acute factors acted on appropriately?	53%	3,118	68%	454	***
Was effective use made of MAPPA in this case?	68%	285	79%	160	***
Have purposeful home visits been carried out throughout the course of the sentence, in accordance with the level of risk of harm posed?	72%	5,397	79%	610	***
Has high priority been given to victims' safety?	55%	4,661	64%	568	***
Has risk of harm to others been effectively managed?	62%	5,568	69%	678	***

Safeguarding children and young people

- The majority of key aspects of safeguarding work were done sufficiently well in 60% or more of the cases we assessed (12 out of 18). For 8 out of the 15 key aspects, the work was assessed as sufficiently well done in 75% or more of the cases.
- All necessary immediate action was taken to safeguard the child or young person in 87% of cases we assessed.

Good practice example from the Core Case Inspections

Casey, aged 16, had received a six month referral order for obstructing the police as they arrested her boyfriend who was under probation supervision. She disclosed having an abortion and a history of self-harming and so was referred to the YOS mental health worker for assessment and then support around self-confidence and harm reduction. The case manager liaised with probation staff and Children & Young People's Service personnel to gather and share information about Casey and to ensure her boyfriend was not released on Home Detention Curfew until a multi-agency plan was in place to support and protect her.

Haringey Youth Offending Service

- In over eight out of ten cases, YOT case managers had supported and promoted the well-being of the child or young person throughout the sentence to a sufficient extent.
- We are concerned that there is insufficient management oversight of safeguarding and vulnerability needs assessment in half of the cases we scrutinised.

Good practice example from the Core Case Inspections

Ian was assessed as medium vulnerability and had been accommodated by the local authority for a number of years. He had moved within the looked after system on a number of occasions. The vulnerability management plan included innovative actions such as "*social worker, 16 plus team and YOS to praise Ian for pro-social actions/activities*", "*Ian to be encouraged to communicate any concerns with 16 plus staff, social worker and/or YOS*". He responded well to this and there was a clear reduction in his vulnerability and an increase in his self-esteem.

Shropshire Telford & the Wrekin Youth Offending Service

Key aspect of safeguarding work	All cases	
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.
Have other YOT workers and relevant external agencies been actively and meaningfully involved in the planning process: children's social care services?	59%	3,118
Was an Asset vulnerability screening completed on time?	75%	7,432
Was an Asset vulnerability screening completed to a sufficient quality?	56%	6,595
Are safeguarding needs reviewed as appropriate?	67%	7,427
Was the secure establishment made aware of vulnerability issues prior to, or immediately on, sentence?	83%	1,520
Has there been effective management oversight of the vulnerability assessment?	42%	5,324
Have purposeful home visits been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with safeguarding issues?	72%	5,105
Has all necessary immediate action been taken to safeguard and protect the child or young person in custody?	87%	715
Has all necessary immediate action been taken to safeguard and protect the child or young person in the community?	76%	2,636
Are specific interventions to promote safeguarding in the community identified?	77%	4,896
Do specific interventions to promote safeguarding in the community incorporate those identified in the vulnerability management plan?	74%	1,961
Are specific interventions to promote safeguarding in the community delivered?	69%	4,765
Are specific interventions to promote safeguarding in the community reviewed every three months or following significant change?	51%	4,255
Has there been effective management oversight of safeguarding and vulnerability needs in custody?	59%	1,294
Has there been effective management oversight of safeguarding and vulnerability needs in the community?	49%	4,963

Key aspect of safeguarding work	All cases	
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.
Have all relevant staff supported and promoted the well-being of the child or young person throughout the course of the sentence in custody?	86%	1,791
Have all relevant staff supported and promoted the well-being of the child or young person throughout the course of the sentence in the community?	82%	7,222
Has all reasonable action been taken to keep the child or young person safe?	75%	5,963

Likelihood of reoffending

- For most key issues that relate to the likelihood of reoffending (19 out of the 24), the work done with children and young people was done sufficiently well in 60% or more of assessed cases. For half of these key aspects (12 out of the 24), the work was done sufficiently well in 75% or more of the cases.
- In 88% of cases the YOT case manager actively motivated and supported the child or young person throughout the sentence.

Good practice example from the Core Case Inspections

Following a conviction for theft, Paul faced a number of challenges, including: mental health, alcohol and drug misuse; and anger management issues. He had self-harmed in the past. The case manager mobilised a multi-disciplinary team to support Paul and to monitor his ability to cope on a day-to-day basis. Paul's family had been included in the work. Progress was assessed on a weekly basis and Paul had responded positively to the support he was receiving. Supervision was due to end and the case manager had produced a comprehensive exit strategy. This included continuing support being offered to Paul by the local mental health services.

Dorset Youth Offending Team

- In 84% of cases the YOT worker actively engaged the parents/carers of the child or young person throughout the delivery of the sentence.
- We were concerned that the learning style of the child or young person was taken into account in less than half of cases (44%).
- Interventions in the community were not well sequenced in 45% of cases and were not reviewed appropriately in 43% of cases.
- The frequency and severity of offending had been reduced in 57% of cases.

Good practice example from the Core Case Inspections

Sarah, a 16 year old with complex needs, had been sexually abused at a young age. She was looked after and was placed in Northumberland by a neighbouring authority. Because of her violent outbursts Sarah had had extensive therapeutic involvement and was moved on several occasions; placements had included accommodation on a two-to-one basis. She had received a range of court orders supervised by the YOS and in 2007 was sentenced to a detention and training order. Although on release Sarah refused further mental health involvement, her YOS case manager was able to persuade her to work with the YOS health worker. A number of vulnerability issues were addressed with Sarah, including self-harming and the termination of her pregnancy. The case manager had liaised well with managers in both local authorities and had identified a number of safeguarding issues in the home that affected both Sarah and other vulnerable residents. This had resulted in improved safeguarding procedures in the children's home and better communication between staff in the home and other professionals. This had also led to improved communications and services to Sarah and other residents.

Northumberland Youth Offending Service

Key aspect of reducing likelihood of reoffending work	All cases	
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.
Was there active engagement to carry out the initial assessment with the child or young person?	81%	7,134
Has the case manager assessed the learning style of the child or young person?	44%	7,033
Was the initial assessment of likelihood of reoffending completed on time?	78%	7,381
Was the initial assessment of likelihood of reoffending of sufficient quality?	65%	7,374
Was the intervention plan/referral order contract completed on time?	83%	7,158
Did the intervention plan/referral order contract sufficiently address criminogenic factors?	67%	6,931
Has the child or young person been actively and meaningfully involved in the planning process?	71%	7,189
Are delivered interventions in the community implemented in line with the intervention plan?	72%	6,958
Are delivered interventions in the community appropriate to the learning style?	69%	7,072
Are delivered interventions in the community of good quality?	75%	7,061
Are delivered interventions in the community designed to reduce the likelihood of reoffending?	84%	7,086
Are delivered interventions in the community sequenced appropriately?	55%	7,098
Are delivered interventions in the community reviewed appropriately?	57%	7,083
Do delivered interventions in the community incorporate all diversity issues?	70%	6,996
Throughout the sentence, has the YOT worker actively motivated and supported the child or young person in custody?	88%	1,817
Throughout the sentence, has the YOT worker actively motivated and supported the child or young person in the community?	88%	7,243

Key aspect of reducing likelihood of reoffending work	All cases	
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.
Throughout the sentence, has the YOT worker actively engaged parents/carers, where appropriate, in custody?	87%	1,575
Throughout the sentence, has the YOT worker actively engaged parents/carers, where appropriate, in the community?	83%	6,392
Have other YOT workers and all relevant agencies worked together to ensure continuity in the provision of mainstream services in the transition from custody to community in respect of education, training and employment and the Connexions provider?	84%	1,579
Where the child or young person has not complied, has the authority taken enforcement action sufficiently well?	69%	3,358
Does there appear to have been a reduction in the frequency of offending? ²	57%	6,142
Does there appear to have been a reduction in the seriousness of offending?	57%	5,672
Has full attention been given to community integration issues during the custodial phase?	81%	1,782
Has full attention been given to community integration issues in the community?	82%	7,078

² The figures given for reduction in frequency and seriousness of offending are estimates, as the question format was changed later in the programme to allow for some further offending rather than complete desistance.

CCI overview report from the Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has worked in tandem with HMI Probation throughout this last programme of inspection, with a view to inspecting and assessing the health service contribution to youth offending. Inspections were carried out by the CQC in a proportionate number of YOTs within each region and a separate post-inspection findings letter was issued to the health representative on each YOT Management Board. Any recommendations made were aligned with existing health regulatory outcomes and requirements.

In the vast majority of inspections YOTs were able to demonstrate a significant degree of progress since the review of the previous cycle of inspections (*Actions Speak Louder – CQC and HMI Probation 2009*). This progress had been reflected in a further interim joint report issued in 2011 (*Re-Actions*) and the remaining regional inspections confirmed those findings, although there were more significant inconsistencies in the London region findings than elsewhere.

Case assessments undertaken by HMI Probation showed that health services usefully informed initial assessments by YOT workers in at least two-thirds of the cases reviewed and had a similar input into planning processes. Inspections by the CQC also demonstrated good evidence of training having been delivered to case managers to support more accurate health assessments on Asset. The tools for independent health assessments by YOT health practitioners were more likely to be nationally validated and there were generally better links to universal specialist health services such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Despite these improvements, around one-third of cases reviewed had physical health, lifestyle or emotional and mental health needs which were not addressed in the initial assessment carried out by a YOT worker. Substance misuse issues, however, were more likely to be picked up, which would correlate with the number of YOTs where every new admission to the YOT had a specialist substance misuse assessment.

YOT workers, in inspection, were seen to have an increased awareness of healthy living issues with children and young people, such as the usefulness of regular exercise and a healthy diet, although there sometimes remained an absence of awareness of the impact of common conditions such as asthma, epilepsy or diabetes and how these might need to be managed. The degree of general health promotion could also still be improved.

Over one-fifth of assessed cases indicated that the child or young person had a disability with the vast majority of those relating to learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Where the latter was concerned, the most common occurrences related to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and those with special educational needs. Although these aspects were, again, more likely to be ascertained during the assessment process, the adaptation of interventions to meet identified needs was not always consistent.

Overall, there were good relationships between case managers and health practitioners, despite a small percentage of inappropriate referrals being made where specialist health interventions were not required. However, the management of health information can still be problematic. Clear information sharing protocols and open channels of communication with children and young people, their family

and other professionals are essential to identify, capture and address all relevant needs.

Comprehensive safeguarding policies existed in each of the YOTs inspected with health staff generally having received good levels of safeguarding training. Indeed, the level of support provided to health workers is now usually good, with clearer line management arrangements and some good clinical supervision arrangements.

In many areas, there was a lack of educational health promotion generally within the criminal justice system. As our understanding of how significantly health needs affect the understanding and behaviour of children and young people, it is essential that this is communicated to partners such as the police, judiciary and magistrates, in order to ensure their appropriate management and sentencing.

There is an improved range of health materials available for interventions and more effective partnership arrangements allow a variety of treatments to be offered. Service users have also become more involved in contributing both to assessments and to the subsequent intervention plans. Indeed, the engagement of children and young people and their families or carers has certainly improved with more flexible appointment times and venues together with helpful reminders using text messaging or emails. There is, additionally, a greater awareness of the impact of diversity on the work undertaken by health practitioners. However, the assessment of speech, language and communication can be inconsistent which is unfortunate given the potential scale of these problems and the significance they can play in the understanding and execution of a community sentence.

There remain some problems with transitions between secure and community health services as well as those between children and young people's and adult health services, although the general issues here have been well documented in another joint inspectorate publication (*Transitions: An inspection of the transitions arrangements from youth to adult services in the criminal justice system – 2012*). More than one-fifth of the cases examined by inspectors in this cycle were not able to demonstrate sufficient joint working for physical health and substance misuse services between custody and the community. The figure for emotional and mental health services was significantly poorer. Again, processes here must exist and be adhered to, in order to ensure continuity for health interventions and the likelihood of more successful outcomes.

Monitoring tools and outcome measures have been generally improving and it has become easier now to assess the health progress of individual cases. The use of the tools, however, was neither collated well nor linked sufficiently well to offending behaviour in too many areas. Where information was being well captured, it was often not being communicated, or used to inform future resource or commissioning decisions. Additionally, the YOT Management Boards often received limited health outcome information.

Although the average level of percentage contributions to YOT budgets by health services had risen to a more acceptable level, there were worrying signs in two out of the last three regions that significant variations were starting to appear. This is an area which needs to continue to be monitored, particularly given the uncertainties which exist about the forthcoming changes to health commissioning structures.

Overall, the CQC has been reassured by their inspection findings in that health services linked to YOTs have taken note of the recommendations from previous reviews and have made significant progress in the intervening period. There is, however, still much to be done to consistently meet the increasingly complex health needs of this vulnerable group of children and young people who are, or may become, involved in offending behaviour.

Breakdown of results by diversity characteristics

There are 59 key aspects of effective practice presented in this report. Each aspect of the work considered relates to a combination of one or more of the following:

- Protecting the public (risk of harm).
- Child safeguarding.
- Reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

We will report those where differences between groups were statistically significant.

Gender

Of the cases we assessed 15% were female and 85% were male.

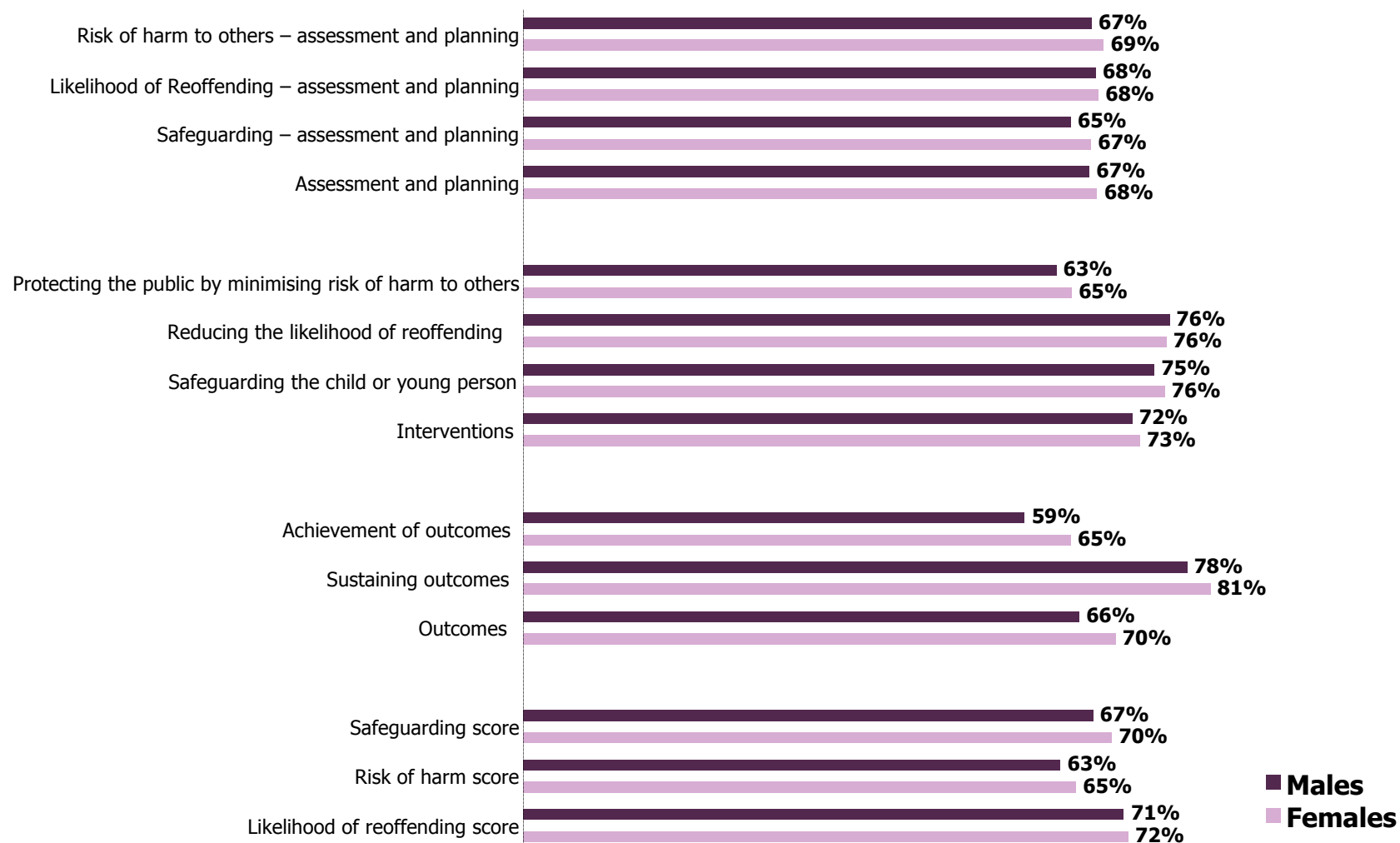
- Whilst work with girls and young women was generally of a better quality than with boys and young men, there are few differences which are statistically significant (15 of the 59 key aspects).
- It is of note that girls and young women are making better progress in reducing their frequency and severity of offending than boys and young men – this finding was statistically significant and outside the margin of error.
- We also show the headline and general criteria scores broken down by gender. Although the scores for girls and young women appear marginally better, the differences are not statistically significant.

Key practice question	Males		Females		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Was the initial assessment of likelihood of reoffending of sufficient quality?	65%	6,228	68%	1,133	*
Was the intervention plan/ referral order contract completed on time?	83%	6,046	80%	1,100	*
Was an Asset vulnerability screening completed on time?	74%	6,277	79%	1,142	***

Key practice question	Males		Females		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Was an Asset vulnerability screening completed to a sufficient quality?	55%	5,520	61%	1,065	***
Was the secure establishment made aware of vulnerability issues prior to, or immediately on, sentence?	82%	1,386	91%	133	**
Has there been effective management oversight of the vulnerability assessment?	41%	4,384	45%	934	**
Has the risk of harm to others been reviewed thoroughly in line with the required timescales?	57%	5,759	61%	1,033	*
Has all necessary immediate action been taken to safeguard and protect the child or young person in custody?	86%	628	94%	87	*
Are specific interventions to promote safeguarding in the community identified?	76%	3,968	81%	922	**

Key practice question	Males		Females		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Are specific interventions to promote safeguarding in the community delivered?	68%	3,850	74%	908	***
Has there been effective management oversight of safeguarding and vulnerability needs in the community?	48%	4,042	54%	915	**
Has risk of harm to others been effectively managed?	61%	4,759	67%	801	**
Does there appear to have been a reduction in the frequency of offending?	55%	5,219	65%	913	***
Does there appear to have been a reduction in the seriousness of offending?	56%	4,839	64%	824	***
Has full attention been given to community integration issues during the custodial phase?	81%	1,630	87%	151	*

General criteria and headline scores breakdown



Race and ethnic origin

- Twenty-six out of the fifty-nine key aspects showed statistically significant differences in the quality of supervision between white, and black & minority ethnic groups.
- We appreciate the need for caution when interpreting sample data; however, we were concerned to note the following:
 - Purposeful home visits to manage risk of harm to others and for child safeguarding are less likely to have been carried out for children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups.
 - Community interventions are less likely to consider diversity for children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups, and less likely to promote their safeguarding.
 - Risk of harm to others is less likely to be effectively managed in cases involving children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups.
 - All reasonable safeguarding action was less likely to be taken with children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups.
- We also present headline and general criteria scores broken down by ethnicity. It is of note that every score is worse for children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups. However, the differences are not statistically significant and thus could be due to chance factors.

Key practice question	White groups		Black and minority ethnic groups		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Was there active engagement to carry out the initial assessment with the child or young person?	80%	5,728	87%	1,371	***
Was the initial assessment of likelihood of reoffending of sufficient quality?	66%	5,931	61%	1,407	*
Was the intervention plan/ referral order contract completed on time?	83%	5,774	79%	1,351	**

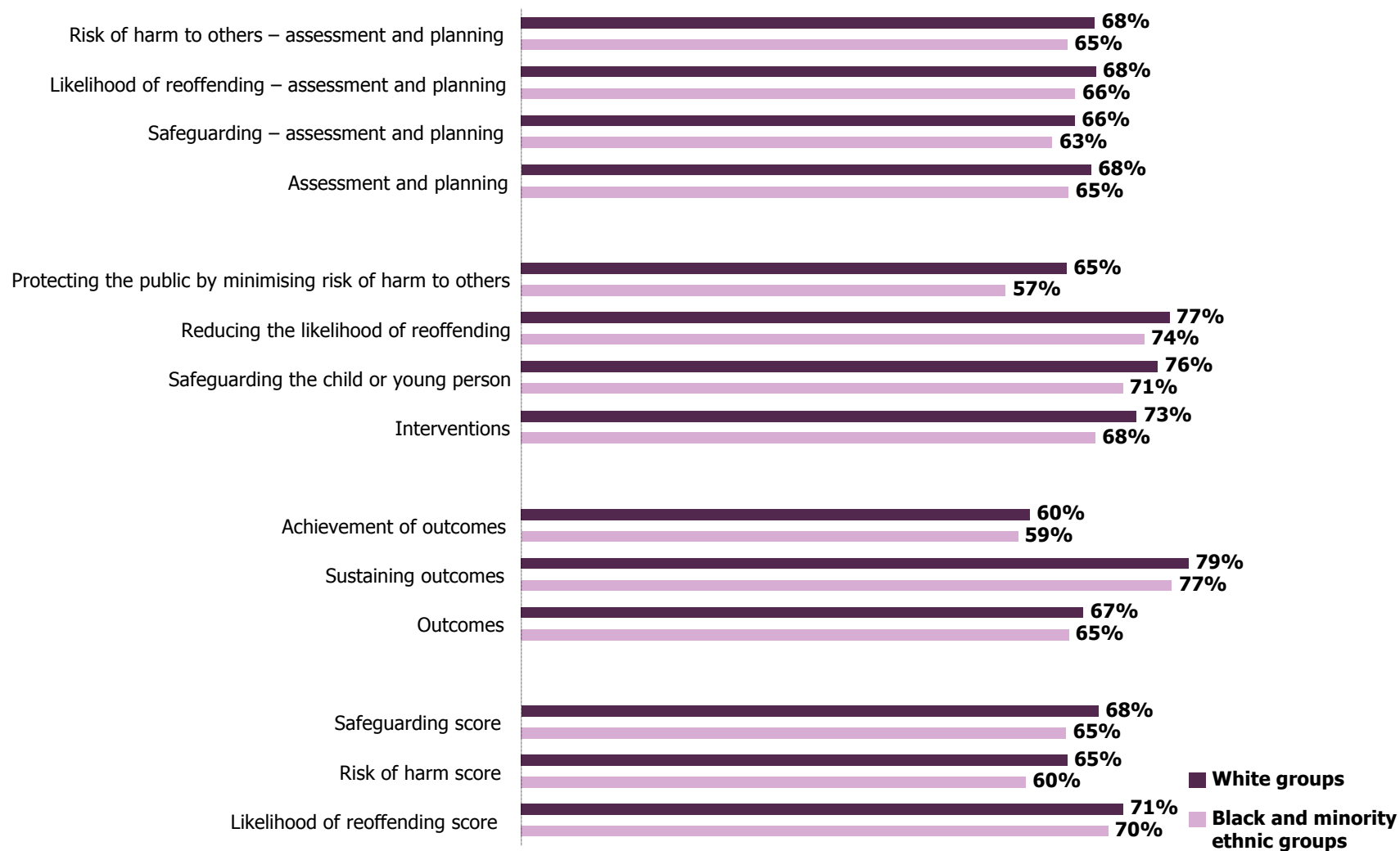
Key practice question	White groups		Black and minority ethnic groups		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Did the intervention plan/ referral order contract sufficiently address criminogenic factors?	68%	5,579	63%	1,319	***
Did the objectives within the intervention plan/ referral order contract take account of victims' issues?	64%	4,833	61%	1,116	*
Has the child or young person been actively and meaningfully involved in the planning process?	72%	5,780	68%	1,377	**
Was a risk management plan completed on time?	53%	2,115	51%	677	**
Was the notification and referral to MAPPA timely?	76%	188	49%	51	***
Have all details of Risk of Serious Harm assessment and management been appropriately communicated to all relevant staff and agencies?	65%	3,381	60%	966	**

Key practice question	White groups		Black and minority ethnic groups		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Has there been effective management oversight of risk of harm assessment?	42%	3,956	36%	1,084	**
Was an Asset vulnerability screening completed on time?	76%	5,983	69%	1,412	***
Was an Asset vulnerability screening completed to a sufficient quality?	57%	5,470	51%	1,092	**
Has there been effective management oversight of the vulnerability assessment?	43%	4,341	36%	960	***
Has the risk of harm to others been reviewed thoroughly in line with the required timescales?	59%	5,447	53%	1,322	***
Has the risk of harm to others been reviewed thoroughly following a significant change?	44%	2,612	39%	707	*

Key practice question	White groups		Black and minority ethnic groups		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Have purposeful home visits been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with the level of risk of harm posed?	74%	4,279	62%	1,092	***
Have purposeful home visits been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with safeguarding issues?	74%	4,149	64%	931	***
Do delivered interventions in the community incorporate all diversity issues?	71%	5,616	64%	1,348	***
Throughout the sentence, has the YOT worker actively engaged parents/carers, where appropriate, in the community?	85%	5,151	78%	1,212	***
Are specific interventions to promote safeguarding in the community identified?	78%	3,978	72%	895	***

Key practice question	White groups		Black and minority ethnic groups		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Are specific interventions to promote safeguarding in the community delivered?	71%	3,878	64%	867	***
Are specific interventions to promote safeguarding in the community reviewed every three months, or following significant change?	52%	3,455	47%	780	**
Has risk of harm to others been effectively managed?	63%	4,383	55%	1,159	***
Does there appear to have been a reduction in seriousness of offending?	56%	4,554	61%	1,089	**
Has all reasonable action been taken to keep the child or young person safe?	77%	4,840	66%	1,095	***
Has full attention been given to community integration issues during the custodial phase?	83%	1,394	77%	382	*

General criteria and headline scores breakdown



Looked After Children

- It is a somewhat mixed picture for Looked After Children, but overall they are supervised to a broadly similar level of quality as other children and young people.
- Of the 12 key aspects that were found to have highly statistically significant differences, six of those differences worked in the favour of Looked After Children.
- Only half of the Looked After Children cases saw a reduction in the frequency and severity of offending, compared to 59% of other children and young people.
- The overall picture is that Looked After Children receive as good a service from YOTs as other children and young people.
- We can also see that the differences in headline and general criteria scores between Looked After Children and others are marginal and not statistically significant.

Key practice question	Looked After Child		Not a Looked After Child		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Was the intervention plan/ referral order contract completed on time?	79%	1,335	83%	5,762	**
Did the intervention plan/ referral order contract sufficiently address criminogenic factors?	61%	1,285	69%	5,588	***
Did the objectives within the intervention plan/ referral order contract take account of victims' issues?	60%	1,088	64%	4,839	**

Key practice question	Looked After Child		Not a Looked After Child		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Has the child or young person been actively and meaningfully involved in the planning process?	64%	1,341	72%	5,788	***
Have other YOT workers and relevant external agencies been actively and meaningfully involved in the planning process: children's social care services?	67%	1,299	53%	1,796	***
Was a risk management plan completed on time?	58%	691	51%	2,089	**
Was a risk management plan completed to a sufficient quality?	44%	693	38%	2,083	*
Was the notification and referral to MAPPA timely?	79%	73	66%	167	*
Was an Asset vulnerability screening completed on time?	82%	1,392	73%	5,978	***
Was the secure establishment made aware of vulnerability issues prior to, or immediately on, sentence?	86%	335	81%	1,170	*

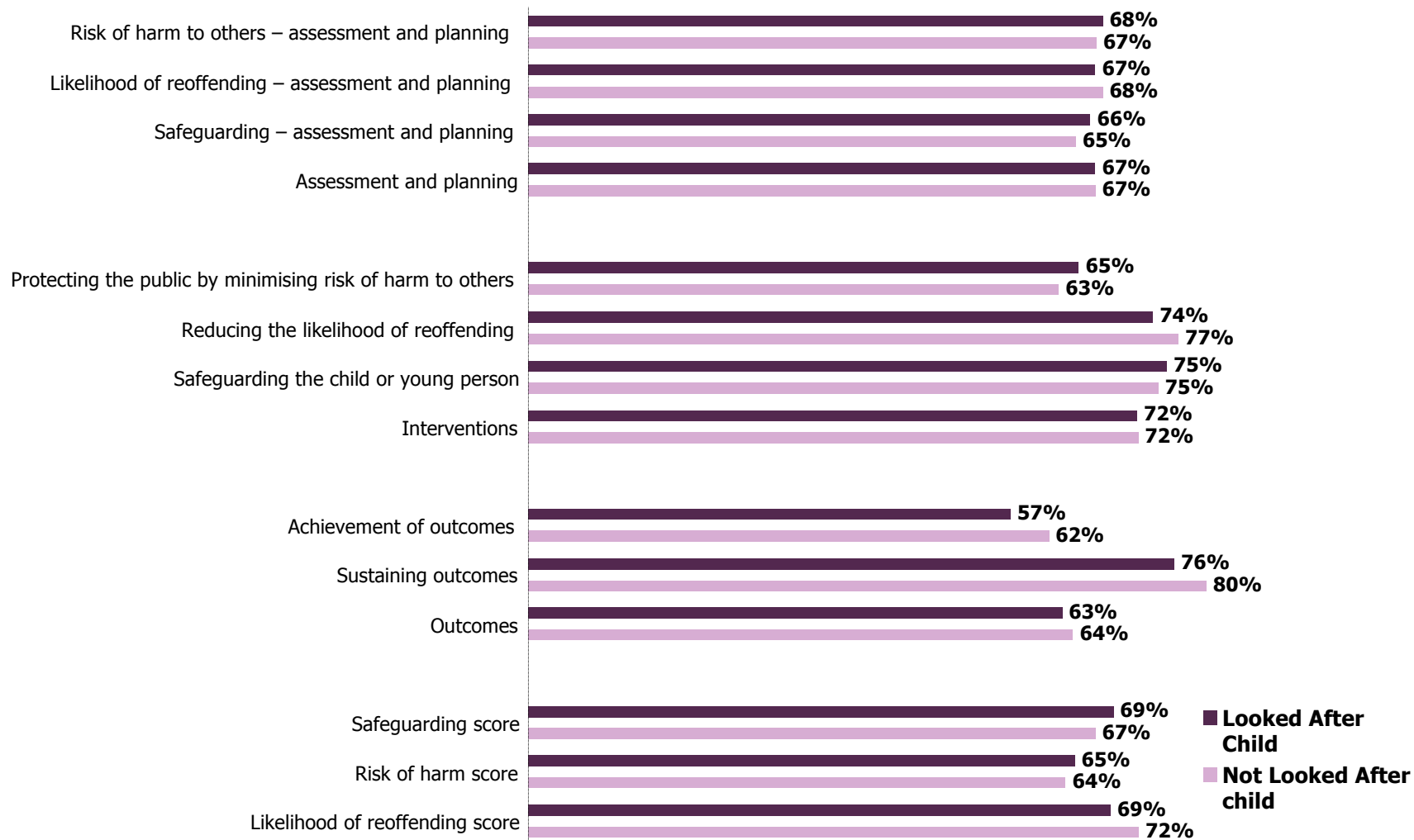
Key practice question	Looked After Child		Not a Looked After Child		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Has the risk of harm to others been reviewed thoroughly following a significant change?	48%	844	42%	2,463	**
Were changes in risk of harm/acute factors anticipated wherever feasible?	61%	930	55%	3,014	**
Were changes in risk of harm/acute factors identified swiftly?	64%	805	58%	2,333	**
Were changes in risk of harm/acute factors acted on appropriately?	58%	798	51%	2,292	**
Was effective use made of MAPPA in this case?	77%	87	63%	197	*
Have purposeful home visits been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with the level of risk of harm posed?	76%	1,080	70%	4,271	***

Key practice question	Looked After Child		Not a Looked After Child		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Have purposeful home visits been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with safeguarding issues?	76%	1,172	71%	3,891	***
Has high priority been given to victims' safety?	59%	1,012	53%	3,608	**
Are delivered interventions in the community implemented in line with the intervention plan?	67%	1,279	74%	5,619	***
Are delivered interventions in the community appropriate to the learning style?	64%	1,307	70%	5,704	***
Are delivered interventions in the community of good quality?	72%	1,303	76%	5,698	**
Are delivered interventions in the community designed to reduce likelihood of reoffending?	80%	1,304	85%	5,722	***
Are delivered interventions in the community sequenced appropriately?	52%	1,307	55%	5,732	*

Key practice question	Looked After Child		Not a Looked After Child		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Are delivered interventions in the community reviewed appropriately?	53%	1,300	57%	5,724	**
Do delivered interventions in the community incorporate all diversity issues?	67%	1,291	70%	5,648	**
Throughout the sentence, has the YOT worker actively engaged parents/carers, where appropriate, in custody?	83%	265	88%	1,293	*
Has all necessary immediate action been taken to safeguard and protect the child or young person in the community?	80%	658	75%	1,950	**
Have all relevant staff supported and promoted the well-being of the child or young person throughout the course of the sentence in the community?	80%	1,349	83%	5,813	*

Key practice question	Looked After Child		Not a Looked After Child		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Where the child or young person has not complied, has the authority taken enforcement action sufficiently well?	76%	749	66%	2,579	***
Does there appear to have been a reduction in frequency of offending?	50%	1,230	59%	4,863	***
Does there appear to have been a reduction in seriousness of offending?	49%	1,150	59%	4,477	***
Has full attention been given to community integration issues during the custodial phase?	77%	358	83%	1,406	*
Has full attention been given to community integration issues in the community?	79%	1,322	83%	5,699	*

General criteria and headline scores breakdown



Reported disabilities

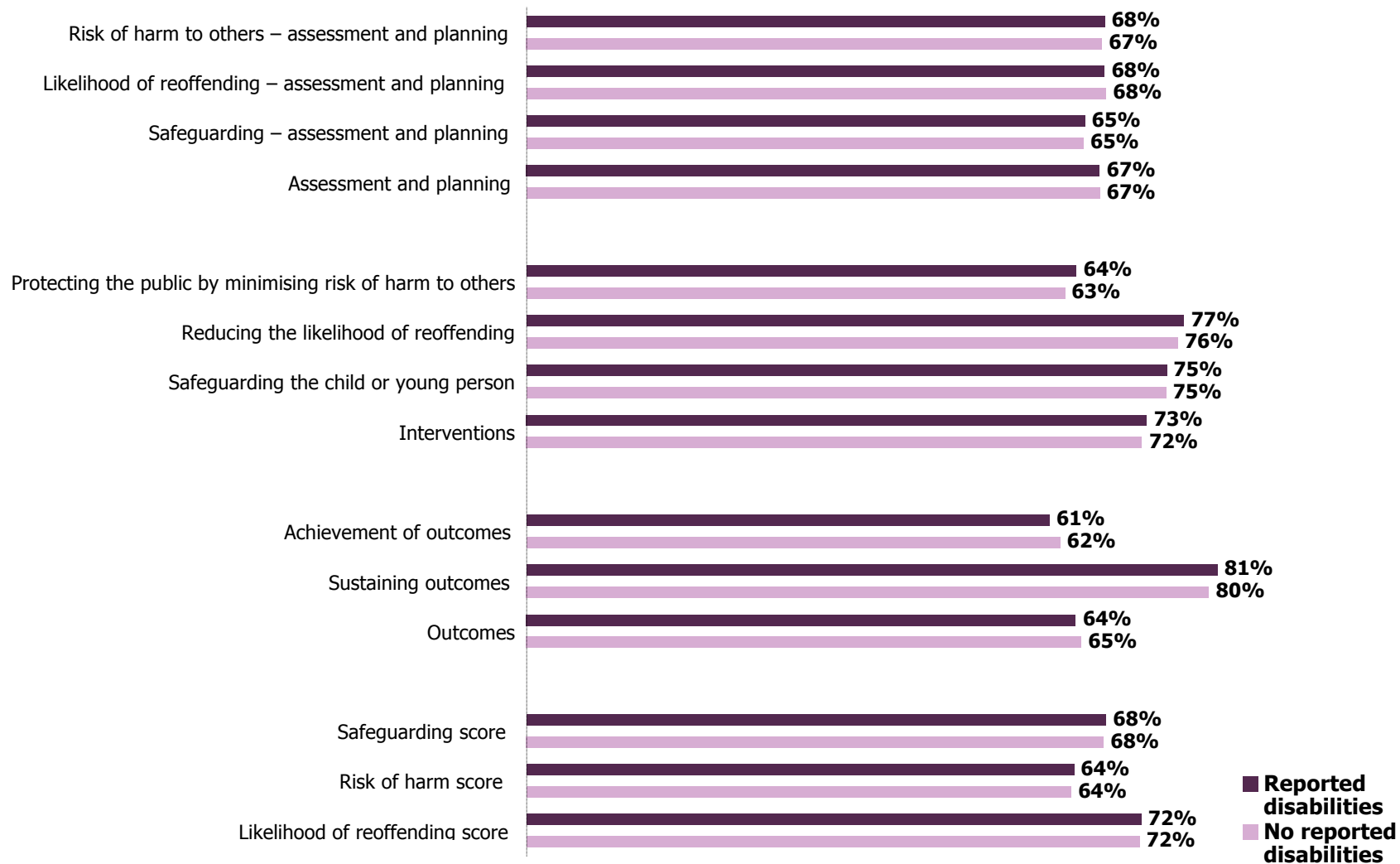
- The breakdown of key questions by reported disabilities is, again, a mixed set of results.
- In only seven key aspects of supervision did we find that there were highly statistically significant differences between those with reported disabilities and those without. For four of those seven, we found that those with reported disabilities had received better supervision.
- It is of note that those with reported disabilities were less likely to have reduced the frequency and seriousness of their offending.
- We can see that the differences in headline and general criteria scores between those with reported disabilities and those without are marginal and the differences are not statistically significant.

Key practice question	Reported disabilities		No reported disabilities		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Was there active engagement to carry out the initial assessment with the child or young person?	79%	1,471	82%	5,618	*
Has the case manager assessed the learning style of the child or young person?	51%	1,456	42%	5,531	***
Did the intervention plan/ referral order contract sufficiently address criminogenic factors?	63%	1,432	69%	5,454	***
Was an Asset vulnerability screening completed on time?	81%	1,535	73%	5,850	***

Key practice question	Reported disabilities		No reported disabilities		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Were changes in risk of harm/acute factors anticipated wherever feasible?	61%	970	55%	2,978	**
Have purposeful home visits been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with the level of risk of harm posed?	76%	1,160	70%	4,194	***
Have purposeful home visits been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with Safeguarding issues?	77%	1,186	70%	3,885	***
Are delivered interventions in the community appropriate to the learning style?	72%	1,461	68%	5,555	**
Have all relevant staff supported and promoted the well-being of the child or young person throughout the course of the sentence in the community?	80%	1,481	83%	5,687	*

Key practice question	Reported disabilities		No reported disabilities		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Where the child or young person has not complied, has the authority taken enforcement action sufficiently well?	74%	740	67%	2,593	**
Does there appear to have been a reduction in frequency of offending?	51%	1,318	59%	4,782	***
Does there appear to have been a reduction in seriousness of offending?	50%	1,226	59%	4,407	***

General criteria and headline scores breakdown



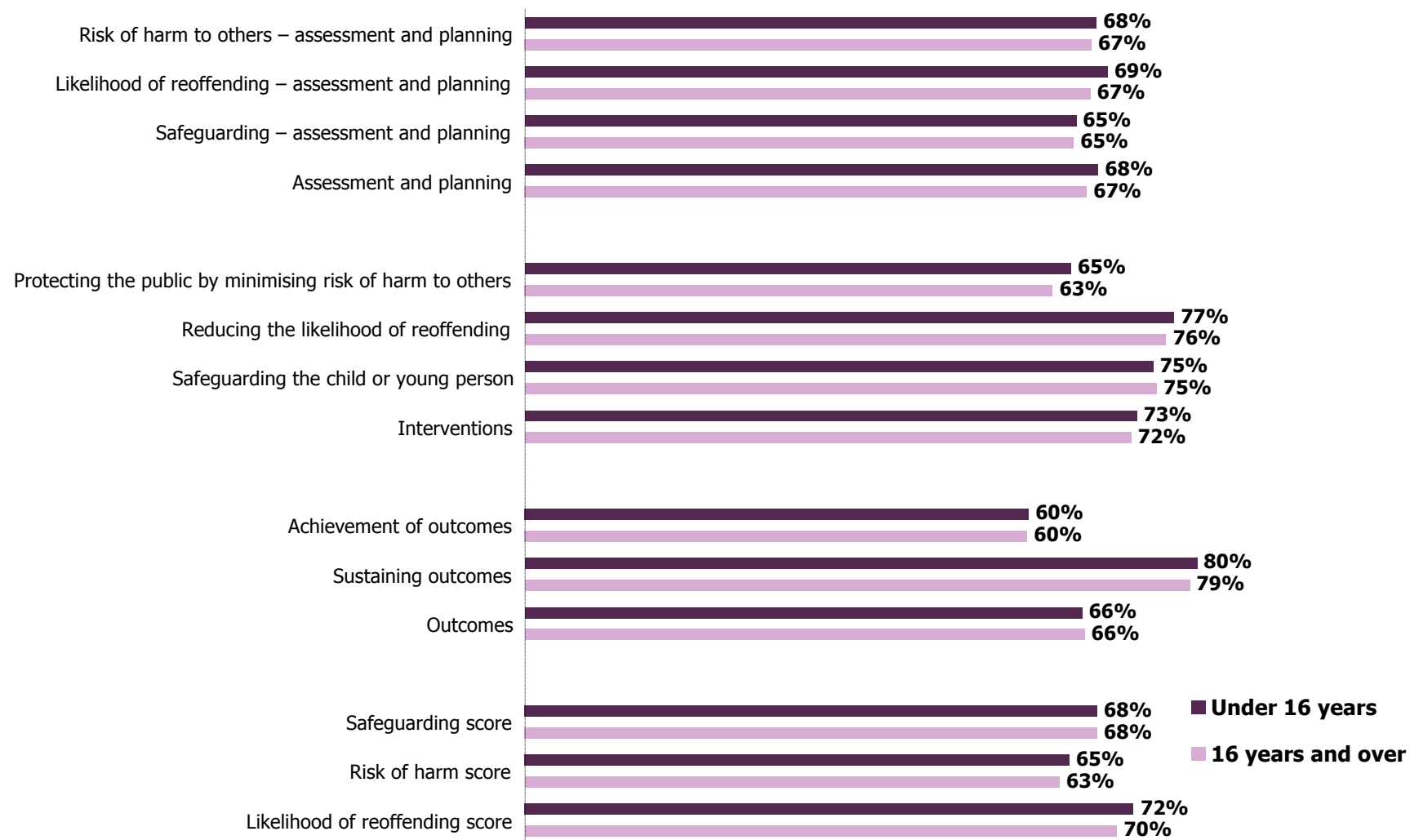
Age group

- When we examine the key questions by age group – those under 16 and 16 years of age and over – we can see that the quality of supervision is broadly the same for all.
- There are only 5 out of the 59 key aspects of supervision that show differences between those under and over 16 years of age that are of high statistical significance.
- We should be careful about drawing any strong conclusions on these data but note that those under 16 years old tended to have their supervision assessed as somewhat better.
- We can see that the differences in headline and general criteria scores between those aged under and over 16 years old are marginal and are not statistically significant.

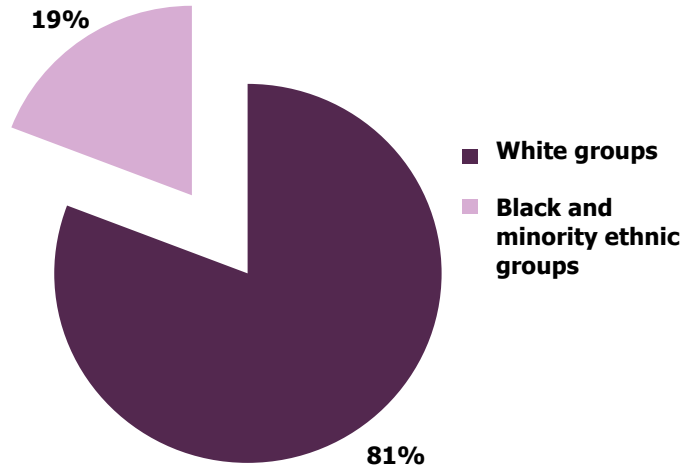
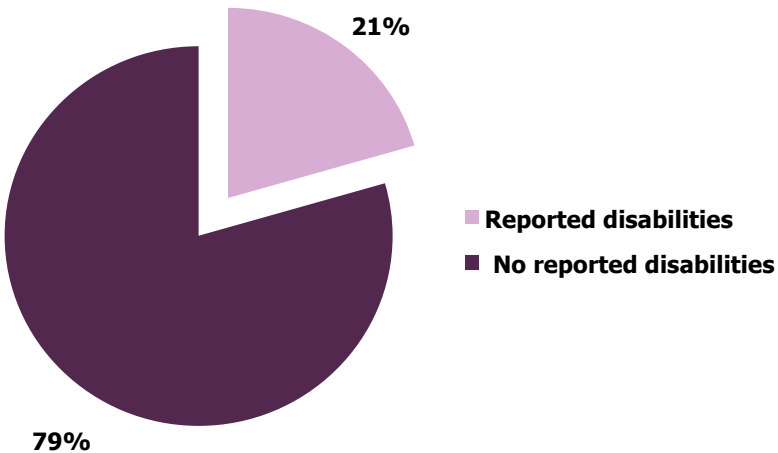
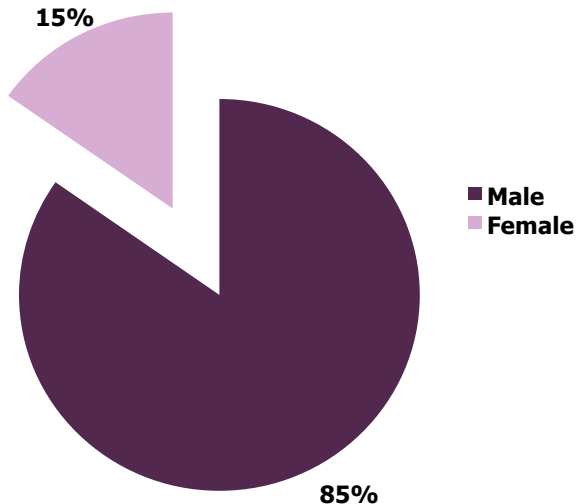
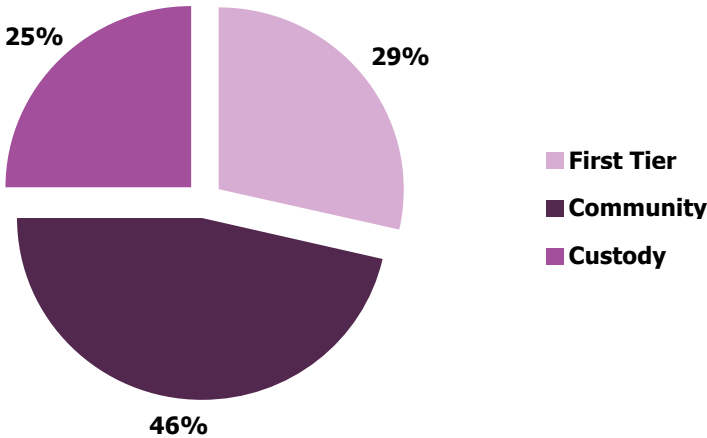
Key practice question	Under 16 years of age		16 years of age and over		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Has the case manager assessed the learning style of the child or young person?	47%	2,284	42%	4,740	***
Did the objectives within the intervention plan/ referral order contract take account of victims' issues?	69%	1,988	61%	3,982	***
Have purposeful home visits been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with the level of risk of harm posed?	76%	1,740	69%	3,649	***

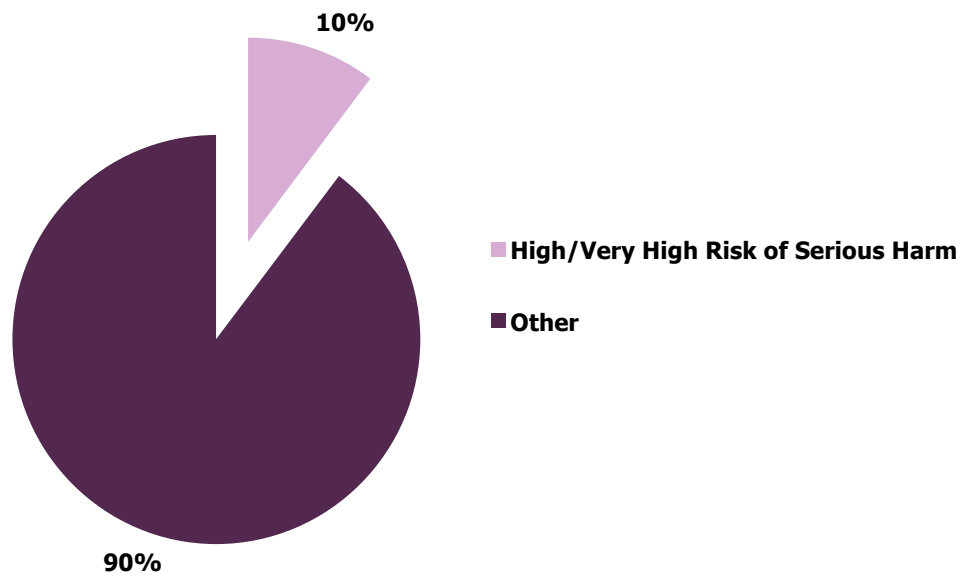
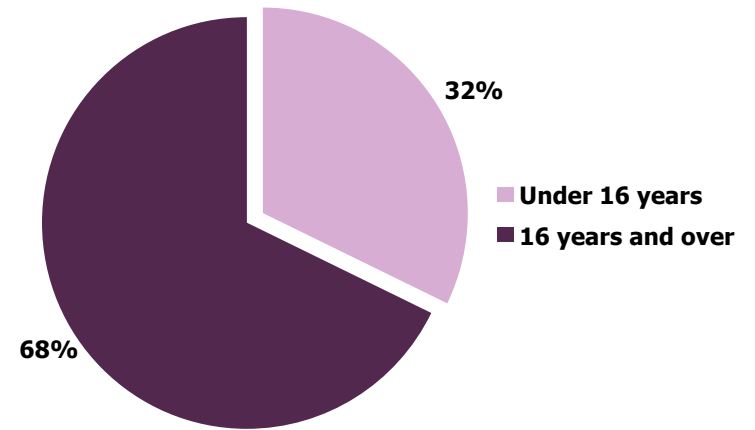
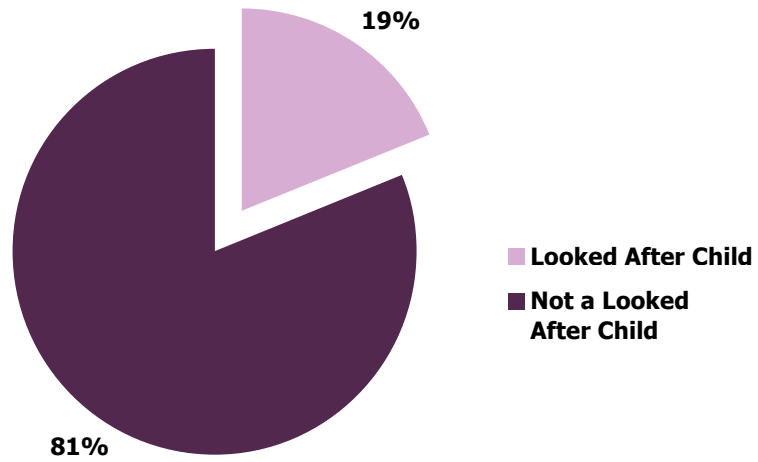
Key practice question	Under 16 years of age		16 years of age and over		Statistical significance
	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	% of work done sufficiently well	No.	
Have purposeful home visits been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with safeguarding issues?	75%	1,818	70%	3,279	***
Has high priority been given to victims' safety?	58%	1,555	53%	3,097	**
Are delivered interventions in the community appropriate to the learning style?	71%	2,314	68%	4,748	**
Throughout the sentence, has the YOT worker actively engaged parents/carers, where appropriate, in the community?	85%	2,259	82%	4,124	**
Where the child or young person has not complied, has the authority taken enforcement action sufficiently well?	73%	992	67%	2,360	***

General criteria and headline scores breakdown



Characteristics of the CCI sample





Views of children and young people being supervised by YOTs

In all of our inspection programmes HMI Probation seeks the views of service users. In the CCI programme we invested in a web survey in each YOT to give the children and young people an opportunity to provide us with their opinions and experiences of supervision. Although these surveys do not influence the overall scores and judgements of the work we have assessed, we found this feedback very helpful in forming a view of youth justice at the local level.

These are the results of the 3,850 responses from children and young people under supervision. We are grateful to all those who took the time to complete the questionnaire.

The questionnaire itself is quite short and focuses upon:

- what the child or young person recalls of their sentence planning and their perception of that process;
- what the child or young person recalls of the work done with them;
- and finally, their views about the supervision and their own perception of their likelihood to reoffend.

HMI Probation is aware of the research evidence that offenders are poor predictors of their future likelihood of reoffending[‡], therefore the outcomes data from this survey should not be taken as evidence of what works in reducing reoffending. Nevertheless, this is useful evidence of the degree to which children and young people under supervision have confidence in the YOT and in their own capacity to change.

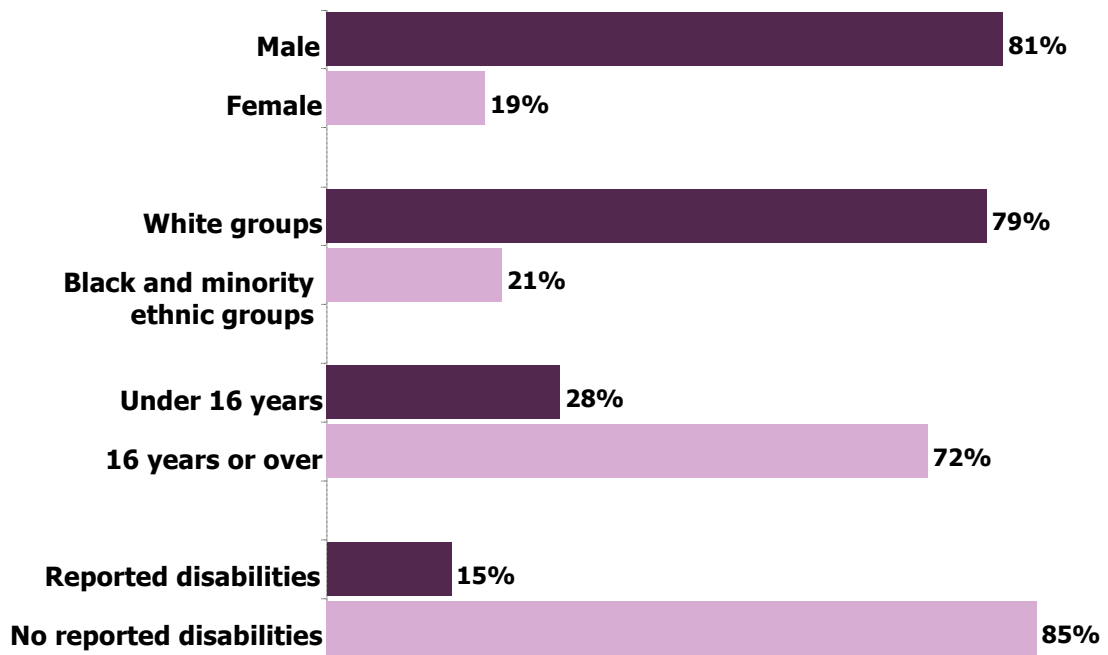
The respondents

3,850 children & young people took part in our survey.

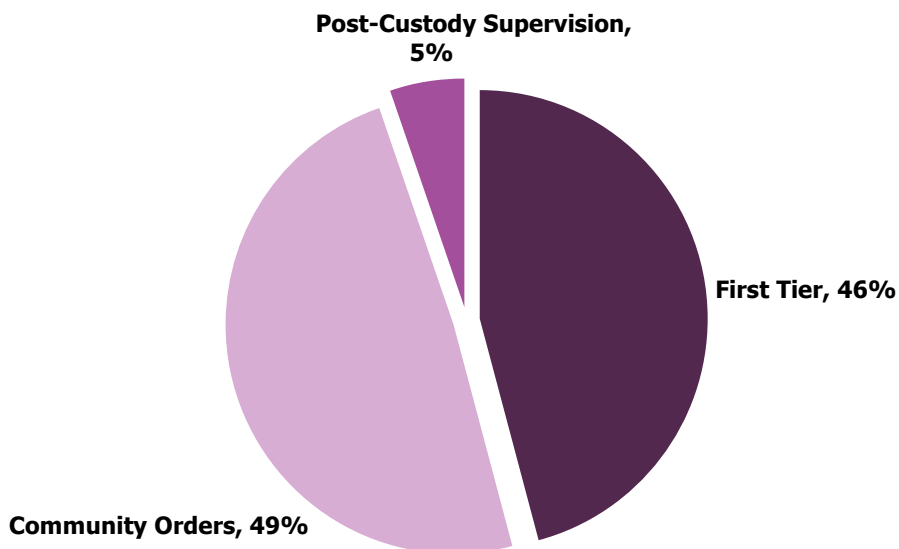
Of those:

- 81% are male and 19% are female
- 81% are white and 19% are from black, and minority ethnic communities
- 72% are aged 16 years or over
- 15% reported they had disabilities
- 18% reported they had a Statement of Educational Needs (but a further 19% of the total did not know this information or declined the question, so this may be an inaccurate estimate)
- 73% lived with their parents.

[‡] Moore, R. (2009) *Predicting re-offending with the OASys self-assessment questionnaire*, Research Summary 05/2009, Ministry of Justice, London



All the respondents were being supervised in the community. Almost half were on 'first tier' supervision. First tier sentences are referral orders, reparation orders, fines and discharges.



Key findings

Note: These findings relate to what the children and young people themselves reported to be their type of supervision.

Referral orders

- 92% of those concerned stated that they understood what a referral order contract was.
- 98% recalled a discussion with the YOT worker about the referral order contract.
- 84% remembered being given a copy of the referral order contract.

At the YOT - quotation from child or young person:

"[The YOT worker] told me straight what he could do and how he could help."

Reviews

- 70% stated that they recalled having their contract or plan reviewed.

Reoffending - quotation from child or young person:

"I realised how bad my actions were and it made me realise what consequences there are for offending."

Being helped

- 91% thought that the YOT 'definitely' or 'mostly' took action with things that they needed help with.
- 67% believed something in their life had improved as a result of work with the YOT.
- Of children and young people who felt afraid about something in their life, 74% thought that the YOT helped them with these.

At the YOT - quotation from child or young person:

"[The YOT worker] explains everything fully to me and in full detail."

Supervision and sentence planning

- 78% stated that they understood what a supervision or sentence plan is.
- 97% recalled discussing their supervision or sentence plan with the YOT worker.
- 73% remembered being given a copy of their supervision or sentence plan.

Being helped - quotation from child or young person:

"I can have a good conversation and talk about things."

At the YOT

- 8% stated that they understood why they had to come to the YOT.
- 93% recalled being told by staff what would happen at the YOT.
- 96% were satisfied that YOT staff listened to them.
- 73% remember completing a *What do YOU think?* self-assessment form.

At the YOT - quotation from child or young person:

"We have group meetings to discuss ways to avoid causing trouble and doing positive things rather than negative things."

Being helped continued

- Children and young people were most likely to report being helped with:
 - understanding their offending – 24% of the sample
 - making better decisions – 19% of the sample
 - Education, training and employment advice – 14% of the sample.
- Only 4% felt they were not helped.

Being helped - quotation from child or young person:

"They asked if there was anything we need to talk about and made sure everything was OK outside the YOT."

Reoffending - quotation from child or young person:

"I don't like coming to the YOT, as it takes up too much of my time. I don't like coming to Community Service on a weekend and I don't want to end up in prison."

Reoffending - quotation from child or young person:

"I'm on this order as I stole bikes - we look at losses and gains. Like if I nick a bike, what I gain and what I lose. We did a diagram, YOS worker clearly explains sessions."

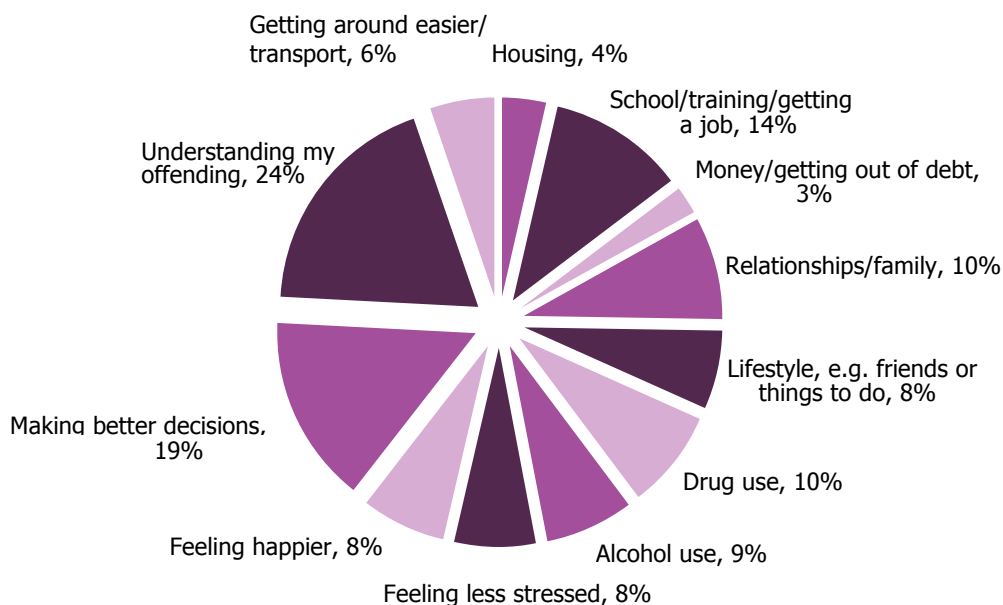
Being helped - quotation from child or young person:

"My YOT worker explained what had happened when I got drunk in the past and what would happen if I continued to get so drunk. This made me realise I had to give up drinking alcohol altogether."

Being helped - quotation from child or young person:

"The Connexions worker helped me put together a C.V."

Which of these things has the YOT helped you with?



Reoffending - quotation from child or young person:

"I am not hanging around with the same group who I got into trouble with and I am staying away from people who take drugs and alcohol"

Reoffending - quotation from child or young person:

"I have realised the real consequences of what my actions will be and the fact that I don't want to be some low-life scum when I'm older. I want a job, I want nice things and a nice house so if I carry on offending that really won't happen".

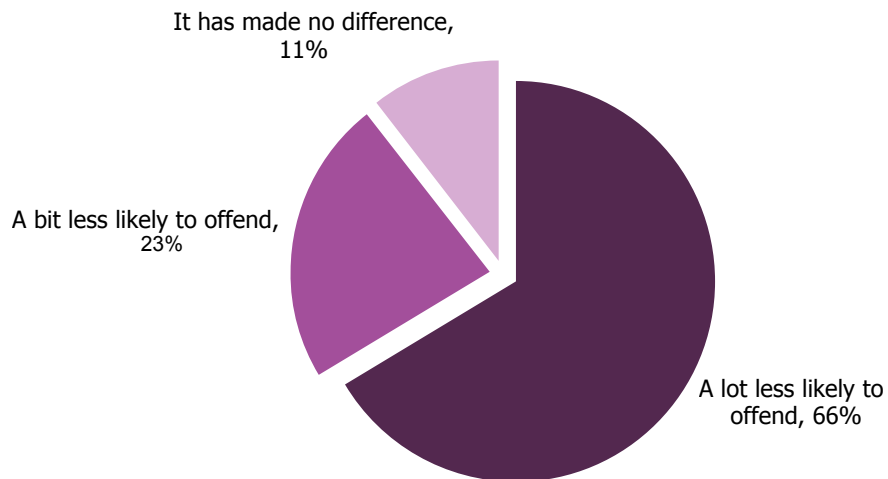
Reoffending

- 66% believed that they were a lot less likely to reoffend as a result of YOT supervision.
- 23% believed that they were a bit less likely to reoffend.
- 11% believed that the YOT had made no difference to their reoffending prospects.

Reoffending - quotation from child or young person:

"YOS is a very hard order to keep without messing it up and it makes you never want to do YOS again."

Do you think your work with the YOT has made you less likely to offend, or has it made no difference?



Satisfaction with the YOT

- Children and young people were asked to give the YOT 'marks out of 100':
 - 48% gave the YOT 80 or more marks (very satisfied).
 - 26% gave the YOT between 66 and 80 marks (broadly satisfied).
 - 21% gave 50 or less (dissatisfied).

Improving the YOT - quotation from child or young person:

"We need more understanding YOT workers who know what we are going through."

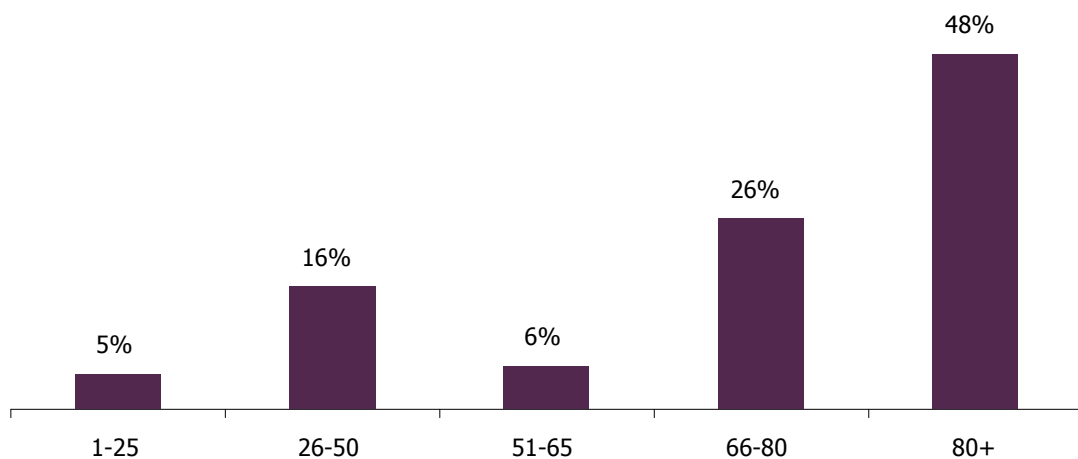
Improving the YOT - quotation from child or young person:

"Offer more Support after Order has End to prevent them getting involved in crime again, as I feel this would help a number of young people like me."

Improving the YOT - quotation from child or young person:

"Try not to treat older teens like they are ten, its more likely they will turn back to crime if you treat them like that, this is because the fact that you make them feel dumb, thick also worthless, bear this in mind YOS."

How satisfied are you with the service given to you by the YOT?



- 17% had ideas for improving the service, typical suggestions were:
 - to improve the range of activities and recreation
 - to have access to computers
 - to improve the office environment
 - to have more things to eat and drink.
- One-third (29%) had help (almost all from a YOT worker) in completing the questionnaire.

Improving the YOT - quotation from child or young person:
"Make it more interesting!!!!!"

Improving the YOT - quotation from child or young person:

"It would be a lot easier for me, if the YOT was a bit more organised. The YOT meetings I have are great, but it's not really that clear where I have to be at what time."

Improving the YOT - quotation from child or young person:

"2 many courses and 2 much training in a very short amount of time."

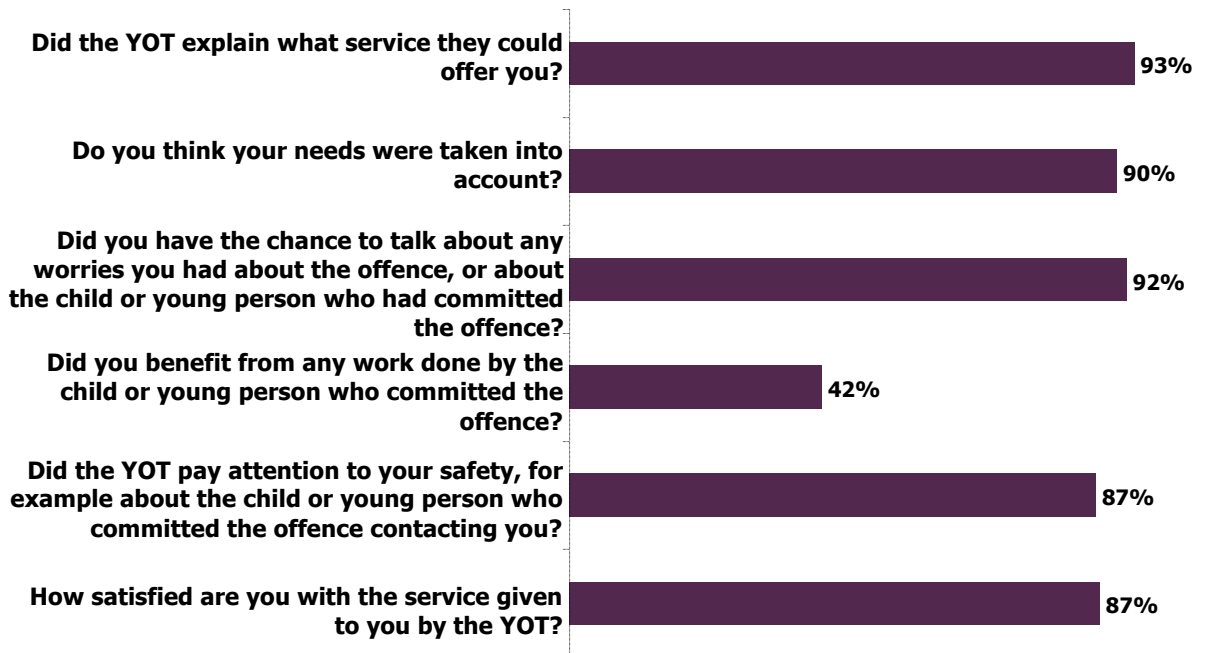
Views of the victims of crimes committed by children and young people

Listening to the views of victims of crime is especially important to help us understand where justice services are perceived to be succeeding or failing.

A questionnaire was sent by post (via the YOT) to victims of crime by children and young people (where there was a named individual). We received 1,309 responses from victims of crime.

The great majority of victims were satisfied by the service and consideration shown to them by YOTs. Nine out of ten reported they were satisfied on the four key aspects of service we asked about and, again, nine out of ten were satisfied overall.

42% reported that they had personally benefited from reparation work done by the child or young person who had offended against them. This is around what we would expect, as it is inappropriate for all children and young people to undertake direct reparation to their victims.



Victims write about their experience with the YOT

"I am very pleased that this was arranged. It has really helped me to get how I feel "off my chest" with the offenders and I really do feel that he now fully understands the outcome of his actions upon other people. The real advantage of this scheme is that it means that the offender and the victim are no longer anonymous to each other and it helped me a lot to be able to explain my personal situation at the time the crime was committed and just how devastating it was to me. I would strongly recommend this service and would like to commend the Youth Offending team that dealt with my case. Thank you very much."

"You could improve the service by contacting the victim further down the line to see if they have fully recovered from their injuries, and to see if their lives have gone back to normal. It's six months after the attack on me and it has affected my confidence."

"This has been an excellent service from start to finish - very professional and providing me with updates regarding the offender's progress. I was very impressed with the work that was carried out and the philosophy of the programme in general. I felt very uplifted to know that there is such an effective and productive service available for the youths that find themselves in serious trouble and that it seems to properly provide the assistance and guidance for them to really make a true change for the future and hopefully - one would hope - not find themselves in the damaging prison system. It is clear that most youth offenders have complicated and unhappy home lives - and so I was happy to hear that the service also provides support for this, which in most cases I imagine is the core of their problems. We need to deal with these young offenders as a whole and this is what the service seems to truly embrace."

"I believe the service offered to us was wonderful, very compassionate and understanding, particularly as we were offended against by a young neighbour and my husband is a disabled and vulnerable adult. The team kept in regular contact, updated me at every available opportunity and gave me the confidence to continue to carry on in my very difficult caring role."

Glossary

<i>Asset</i>	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
<i>Interventions; constructive and restrictive interventions</i>	<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.</p> <p>NB. Both types of intervention are important</p>
<i>Likelihood of reoffending</i>	See <i>constructive</i> Interventions
<i>Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements</i>	Where probation, police, prison and other agencies work together locally to manage offenders who pose a higher <i>risk of harm to others</i>
<i>Risk management plan</i>	A plan to minimise the individual's <i>risk of harm</i>
<i>Risk of harm to others</i>	See also <i>restrictive</i> Interventions
<i>'Risk of harm work'</i>	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>
<i>Risk of Serious Harm</i>	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>
<i>Safeguarding</i>	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.
<i>Vulnerability management plan</i>	A plan to safeguard the well-being of the individual under supervision
YJB	Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
YOT/YOS/YJS	Youth Offending Team/Youth Offending Service/Youth Justice Service

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/about/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:

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