



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH



Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Meeting

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 2026*

Location

Siambr Hywel Dda - Council Offices, Shirehall St Caernarfon LL55 1SH

***There will be a briefing meeting for members at 10:00am**

This meeting will be webcast

https://gwynedd.public-i.tv/core/l/en_GB/portal/home

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(DISTRIBUTED 22/01/26)

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Plaid Cymru (11)

Councillors

Menna Baines
Linda Morgan
Meryl Roberts
Jina Gwyrfai
Sian Williams
Elin Walker Jones

Rheinallt Puw
Gwynfor Owen
Einir Wyn Williams
Berwyn Parry Jones
Geraint Wyn Parry

Independent (5)

Councillors

Elwyn Jones
Eryl Jones-Williams
Angela Russell

Anwen J. Davies
Beth Lawton

Gwynedd First (1)

Gareth Coj Parry

Ex-officio Members

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT MATTERS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meetings of this committee held on the 18 December be signed as a true record. (attached)

5. KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER STRATEGY 4 - 29

The current provision and available resources need to be scrutinised in order to deliver the strategy.

6. YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM 30 - 111

Ensuring that the service is efficient.

7. 16+ TEAM (LEAVING CARE) 112 - 126

Assurance in relation to the 16 plus provision.

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 18 DECEMBER 2025

Present:

COUNCILLORS:

Elwyn Jones, Jina Gwyrfai, Menna Baines, Elin Walker Jones, Sian Williams, Meryl Roberts, Berwyn Parry Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Einir Williams, Rheinalt Puw, Angela Russell and Gwynfor Owen.

Officers present:

Llywela Haf Owain (Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor), Courtney Leigh Jones (Civic and Democracy Services Officer).

Present for item 7:

Councillor Paul Rowlinson (Cabinet Member for Housing and Property), Carys Fôn Williams (Head of Housing and Property Department), Lowri Cadwaladr Roberts (Assistant Head of Housing and Property Department), and Sion Elwyn Hughes (Senior Executive Officer - Housing and Property Department).

Present for item 6:

Councillor Menna Trenholme (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Supporting Families), Aled Gibbard (Assistant Head of Children and Supporting Families Department), Sharon Williams Carter (Assistant Head of Children and Supporting Families Department), Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services).

Present for item 7:

Councillor Dilwyn Morgan (Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being), Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department), Mari Wynne Jones (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department) and Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Gareth Coj Parry, Gwynfor Owen, Linda Morgan, Elin Walker Jones, Einir Wyn Williams.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 20 September 2016, as a true record.

5. HOUSING AND PROPERTY CABINET MEMBER PERFORMANCE REPORT

The report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property and the Head of Department. It was highlighted that the report included information about the department's performance from April to the end of September 2025. The Cabinet Member explained that he would report on the latest figures to give a correct picture to committee members as the original meeting had been postponed. The statistics for the number of empty houses that have come back into use due to Council support in Gwynedd was corrected as well as the number that have come back into use via the empty homes grant. Reference was made to the measures, and it was noted that 306 houses had come back into use because of the Council's support, with 123 of these via the Empty Homes Scheme grants. It was noted that the figures had increased by the end of November to 321 houses that had come back into use, and 128 via the Empty Homes Scheme, this reflected a huge success. It was stated that the Empty Homes Schemes continued to be successful, and were at the forefront in Wales in terms of bring empty homes back into use for local owners.

Concern was expressed that the current system for grants applications was rather bureaucratic. It was noted that many people waited a long time during the process and could not commence the work required before they moved in. It was asked whether it was possible to amend elements of the grant to speed-up the process? It was suggested that an additional measure should be introduced to identify what took so much time. It was also noted that the deadline of 6 months by which time the owners had to undertake the work was unfair, bearing in mind how busy contractors were, especially in rural areas. It was asked whether it was possible for people to get a time extension? In response, details were given about the grant provision, and it was noted that it was specifically to provide a financial support grant for people to restore essential features in housing to make the houses warm and safe. Because of this, it was emphasised that it was difficult to create a scheme that was suitable for all.

Details were given of the projects underway in the department, to act on the pledges in the 2023-28 Council Plan. The successful progress made during last year was reported on, noting that the department was on its way to delivering every goal. Members were guided through the report as they were updated on the progress of each project to achieve the objectives of the Council Plan.

It was noted that the Tŷ Gwynedd Scheme was making good progress as part of the Homely Gwynedd scheme. It was noted that the Dol Afon Goch development had nearly been completed, and the lettings process was underway. It was stated that the development of the former Ysgol Babanod Coed Mawr, Bangor, was also making good progress with structural work underway. It was noted that 433 social housing units had been let through the Social Housing Construction programme and the partnership with the Housing Associations, which demonstrated that they were on track to achieve the target of 500 by the end of the financial year. The developments of the Buy to Let Scheme were elaborated upon, noting that they had successfully purchased 51 homes to date, 20 of which had been let to local people.

The work of the Energy Service was detailed noting that the residents' support team offered vouchers to pay for energy. It was confirmed that 5,788 vouchers had been distributed since the start of the scheme, worth £239,565. It was noted that the team was busy holding conferences and promotional events, home visits and referring individuals for additional support such as foodbanks, Age Cymru, CAB, etc. There was pride in the team's work, and it was noted how essential the service was during the winter.

Information was provided on the ongoing work to tackle homelessness in Gwynedd, and it was noted that the 137 Bangor High Street site was now open, with individuals having moved there in August and September 2025. It was confirmed that a company has been appointed to carry out mechanical and electrical works on the former Crown Building, Penrallt. The purchase of Tŷ Glyn in Bangor had been completed and it would be suitably modified by the department before aiming to open during 2026. It was noted that the ambitious designs for the Crown building in Caernarfon had now arrived, and that work was underway to develop the project. It was noted that there will be a supportive element for residents at Tŷ Glyn, with various services coming into one safe and suitable space. It was noted that S4C had commissioned a series to follow the work of the homelessness team, which highlighted the good work carried out by the team. It was noted that again this year the team had raised money to give Christmas gifts to children living in emergency accommodation, and the department prided itself on the team's generosity, dedication and efficiency in supporting Gwynedd residents to find accommodation.

Concern was expressed that many people in Gwynedd were still waiting for a house, and it was recognised that the need was challenging to address. It was confirmed that the department was acting on this to reduce the numbers, and in the new year a portal would be launched for residents to track their applications and receive updates. It was expanded that they would be able to share relevant information directly with the portal, which would speed up the process of processing their applications. It was added that it would be possible to receive current statistics through the portal, which would provide constant and transparent updates to residents on the waiting list. It was noted that developments were underway to add a feature that assists Councillors to speak directly on behalf of their constituents.

It was asked what the expenditure on the Tŷ Gwynedd project was, in comparison to other projects such as letting Social Housing. It was highlighted that the projects addressed different needs and provided various benefits to residents in different circumstances. The purpose and attributes of the projects were outlined, by comparing their differences. It was noted that the Tŷ Gwynedd project provided support to residents who wished to own a house, and therefore the Council provided financial support for them to do so at a discount. Reference was made to Tai Gwynedd, which was being developed in Llanberis, stating that they would provide a household for 3 local families who had already been identified. It was explained that a significant grant percentage was being given for the development of Social Housing. It was acknowledged that the cost of developing Tai Gwynedd was greater, but it was reiterated that it was for a

different purpose. The pressure on the Council as a result of high rental prices from private sector landlords was recognised.

It was noted that the Department was looking at the Housing Action Plan in its entirety with a view to progressively develop and improve the scheme. Reference was made to the increase in the council tax premium, and a member expressed concern because of the 150% increase. Concern was expressed about empty houses in Gwynedd, particularly houses that have been vacant for a long time. In response, it was clarified that this was a matter for the Finance Department as they dealt with the register. It was recognised that this issue was challenging, and it was noted that it was a political issue to put pressure on the Westminster Government to address the lack of information in the system.

It was asked how many empty houses had been purchased by the Council and remained empty? In response to this, the Cabinet Member confirmed that the figures had been included in the report. It was confirmed that 28 houses were currently not let and that 5 of these were ready for letting. It was noted that 15 houses were currently being refurbished, and work programmes were being developed for the other 8 houses.

Details were given of the 'drop in' sessions' and the One Stop Shop, which provided support for a range of different residents. It was noted that the sessions were held during and after normal working hours, to provide a service to people at a convenient time. It was expressed that they managed to reach a large number of people. It was asked how many people attended the sessions, and whether the vast majority were employed or on benefits? It was confirmed that the department would collect and share the figures with committee members soon.

In response to an enquiry, details of the specialist housing group that provided a household for residents with additional needs were provided. It was noted that officers and occupational therapists were working together to develop bespoke features and provisions in the houses to meet unique needs. It was noted that the cross-departmental project had been very successful, and that the housing associations had contributed significantly to it and shared the burden. It was noted that this was quite unique to Gwynedd in order to meet the need. It was suggested that more attention should be paid to these developments, and that a press release should be drafted to publicise the innovative work being carried out by the department.

DECISION

- 1. To accept the report**
- 2. To ask the Finance Department to correspond with the valuation office agency to get a list of all the empty houses in Gwynedd.**
- 3. To ask the Cabinet Member to send a letter to the government to express concern about high rent in the private housing sector and press upon them to introduce measures to ensure that the list is affordable and reduces homelessness.**

- 4. To encourage the Housing and Property Department to publicise new specialist housing developments for people with specific needs.**

6. ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING CABINET MEMBER PERFORMANCE REPORT

The report was presented by the Cabinet member for Adults, Health and Well-being and the Head of Department. It was noted that the report was based on the performance of the Adults department up to the end of August. It was acknowledged that the data and figures were now dated since the original date of this committee meeting, as this data changed daily. The Cabinet Member confirmed that he was reporting on the data contained in the report. The Cabinet Member thanked all department staff and in particular the large number of staff who will be working over the Christmas period. The various key partners of the department, the third sector and the volunteers were all thanked. The department's main projects were outlined noting that the department continued to deliver despite the local and national challenges, with the increasing demand and limited capacity.

Members were guided through the report, demonstrating how the department was operating to deliver on the pledges in the 2023-28 Council Plan. An overview of the day-to-day work of the department was given and information was shared about the external audits that have taken place in the period in question. An overview was given of the impact of the challenges raised in the Llechen Lân report, which highlighted the financial and operational pressures in the health and care system.

Details were given of the project to modernise care resources to meet future needs. It was noted that upgrading the residential homes at Hafod Mawddach and Cefn Rodyn had been completed, and the dementia unit at Bryn Blodau had been opened. It was noted that the dementia unit was about to open at Plas Hedd and confirmation of the opening date was expected shortly. It was noted that discussions were developing in relation to the provision of Extra Care Housing in Caernarfon, and the site had been identified. It was highlighted that the next outline business plan for the Penyberth site had recently been approved by Cabinet. It was confirmed that construction had commenced on suitable care housing development at the Penyberth site, with a view to being ready by October 2026. It was also confirmed that the refurbishments to the Dolfeurig site were progressing and that significant developments had taken place over the last few months. It was elaborated that a resource had been identified to commence work on Extra Care Housing in the Dolgellau area and that work had commenced.

Details were shared about the increasing use of technology in the department, to improve the ability of Gwynedd residents to access care support. The telecare provision was detailed on the Council's website, which allowed the people of Gwynedd to see what was happening within their communities. It was stated that over 80% of the county's telecare devices had been transferred to new digital devices, at no further cost to the county's residents. It was noted that this was groundbreaking, and this supported individuals to be independent. Reference

was made to the development of the direct payments service and that this was ongoing. It was noted that new packages were offered a digital account, equivalent to a 'virtual wallet'; to be able to easily manage their direct payment packages.

A report was provided on the developments that had taken place as the Council worked with Health Services to enable people to live their best life in the community. It was confirmed that the Mental Health Service and the workforce had been established at the Council's offices in Caernarfon and Penrhyndeudraeth. It was noted that progress would be monitored over the coming months. Details were given of the effective collaboration between the Ysbyty Gwynedd Discharge Team and the Community Resource Teams. Praise was given to the good work and effective collaboration between the agencies. Information was shared about the work of the Team, as they prioritised ensuring that individuals were discharged from hospital promptly, so that they are less likely to deteriorate and consequently increase their care needs. It was explained that this avoided overprovision and therefore reduced the strain on the health service and care provisions.

The Career Pathways for residents with learning disabilities were expanded upon. The developments, training opportunities and work available for individuals in need of support were detailed, noting that the Learning Disability Career Pathway Co-ordinator worked across Gwynedd and Anglesey to promote opportunities and support individuals into paid work. It was noted that 3 support Officers were also working to promote and support individuals, and that this had been a success since the start of the project in 2023.

The progress of the Llechen Lân Project was elaborated upon. It was noted that the research and report had been completed, reporting that other counties in Wales had shown considerable interest in the findings. It was emphasised that this work had been vitally important to look ahead to the future. Action had been ensured on the recommendations in the Llechen Lân report with several notable milestones now reached. It was noted that the recommendations would continue to form part of the Adult Department's plan which would be developed over the coming months.

The Cabinet Member highlighted that he remained Chair of the Regional Board and emphasised that the good collaboration taking place between the counties and agencies was moving projects forward quickly and successfully. Reference was made to the unpaid carers in Gwynedd and their tireless work in caring for Gwynedd residents, and it was highlighted that they needed support. It was confirmed that work was being developed to support unpaid carers.

The department was thanked for their work in supporting the county's most vulnerable residents. The developments were commended, and the challenges facing the department due to the challenging nature of the health and care area were recognised. They were thanked for the developmental work in Penrhos.

Concern was expressed about the number who remained on the waiting list for domiciliary care in Gwynedd and the shortage of nursing bed provision. It was

acknowledged that the situation was worse in some areas, and it was explained that this tended to be due to the changing nature of domiciliary care. The areas of Bethesda, Dyffryn Nantlle, Tywyn and Pen Llŷn had been identified as areas of concern. This was recognised as challenging for the department and it was confirmed that the waiting list had come down since August. It was explained that staff shortage factors, due to illness and reliance on external provision, contributed to this. It was reported that the department was co-ordinating and taking action to ensure that fewer people were waiting for domiciliary care.

Concern was expressed about the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) assessment figures and the domiciliary care waiting list. In response to the concerns, it was confirmed that the members had received training (DOLS). It was noted that two new officers had been appointed to support the work of reducing waiting lists in the department. It was explained that recruiting to the posts had been challenging, and individuals with experience in the field, who were keen to complete further training, had to be appointed. It was confirmed that they had attended the appropriate training and were close to completing the qualification. It was confirmed that the numbers on the waiting list had reduced, and it was hoped that they would be reduced further by the next committee meeting.

In response to an enquiry, it was confirmed that there had been a change in direct payment processes. It was asked what the identified barriers were in using these. In response, it was confirmed that this system was now run in-house within the Council. It was noted that social workers had been trained to promote direct payments, which was identified in the Llechen Lân report as the way forward. It was emphasised that the voice of the individual was crucial to this, and that the new system gave them more power and freedom to choose their own care in a way that was convenient for them. It was confirmed that this system was available to people who already had a care package. The barriers that arose with the new system were identified and it was recognised that support needed to be provided to individuals who did not have the capacity to act financially or who had no one to act on their behalf.

The flexibility and dedication of staff was praised while recognising that they often worked extra, long hours and often travelled across the county to provide care for residents. Their willingness to ensure that there was no true crisis of care in the county was applauded. It was recognised that staff were under exceptional stress and that the department was trying to respond to this by providing and offering them constant support. It was emphasised that attracting and recruiting staff was a challenge, which meant that the Council at times had to rely on staff from external agencies. It was expressed that the needs of residents were also intensifying, which increased the demand for care. It was explained that safeguarding staff and residents was a priority for the department, and that this was part of the work in looking at the condition of the residential homes and renovating them where necessary.

With the increase in Health Board employees using masks in hospitals to protect against winter infections such as norovirus and flu, it was asked if there was a plan in place to protect staff? It was confirmed that the Council had received a message from the Health Board about employees wearing masks in hospitals, and it was explained that there was not yet a demand for this in the community, but of course, people were free to choose to do what was suitable for them.

Details were provided on the Care Academy which had been launched to address staff shortages in the care sector. It was noted that it offered a professional developmental pathway for individuals wishing to pursue a career in care, while offering practical experience and opportunities for expert-led development. It was noted that a new cohort would be welcomed to the academy in the new year.

In response to an enquiry, it was confirmed that social workers now worked one day a week at Ysbyty Gwynedd. It was noted that this gave them the opportunity to work closely and continuously with patients, as part of the wider effort to discharge patients from hospitals earlier, through the Hospital Discharge project. It was explained that this gave them the opportunity to develop a close relationship with the patients and to identify their needs sooner. It was noted that this allowed them to provide proportionate and appropriate support in the community and reduced the increasing demand on hospitals. In response to an enquiry, it was confirmed that discussions were ongoing to expand the project to provide support for Gwynedd residents who attended Bronglais and Maelor hospitals in the future. A progress report on the falls protocol was requested to confirm that a protocol was in place to protect Gwynedd residents.

DECISION

- 1. To accept the report.**
- 2. To recognise the good work being done in the department expressing concern about the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) assessment figures and the domiciliary care waiting list.**
- 3. To ask for a progress report on the falls protocol.**

7. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CABINET MEMBER PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Chair asked what was the latest with the work programme responding to the Child Practice Review – Justice Through Our Courage and when would the committee receive a report on the work programme? In response, the Corporate Director confirmed there would be an extraordinary meeting of the Committee in January 2026. The process was explained, noting that the Council had established a Board and Response Plan, which had been revised and renewed since the Child Practice Review was published, and it was confirmed that there would be an opportunity for scrutiny at the extraordinary meeting. It was ensured that the Department was committed to act and respond fully to the recommendations. A request was made by members of the Committee for an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council to give all members the opportunity to scrutinise this all-important Plan.

The report was presented by the Cabinet member for Children and Families. An update was provided on what had been achieved by the children's department up to the end of September. It was noted that the Children and Supporting Families Department had two projects in progress in the Council's Plan, the Autism Plan and the Children's Residential Provision Development Scheme in small group care homes.

The Autism Plan was detailed, noting that the work was thriving and the demand for a service continued to rise. It was noted that the consultation system between the Autism Team and the social workers was working effectively, and several cases of early intervention and specialist support had resulted in a decrease in need and status, with many cases closed following intervention.

It was noted that the staff training programme continued and was developing with different levels of training, and the exact level to be achieved depended on the post. It was elaborated that the team was now training employees to facilitate and run support and educational groups and programmes for parents and carers as well as identity groups for autistic young people. It was reported that the 'Cuppa and Chat' groups for parents and carers and a Neuro club for young people continued to be successful. It was noted that the Niwro Cymru App, which had been developed by Awtistiaeth Gwynedd to provide information, advice and support to the community, was now available. It was noted that the funding for the scheme expired in 2027 and therefore consideration would need to be given to how to ensure future continuity of service from a sustainability perspective.

The plan to develop residential provision for children in care in a small group home, which had developed significantly, was detailed. It was noted that a home in Morfa Bychan was now operational, with two children living there. In response to an enquiry, it was confirmed that there was room for two children only in the home, to ensure a homely household for the children in line with the national strategy. It was explained that developments were taking place at the Deiniolen site, noting that a deputy manager had been appointed along with five residential workers for the second house in Deiniolen. It was confirmed that the staff had commenced in their posts. It was noted that the department was still awaiting official registration of the homes, and this was expected soon from Care Inspectorate Wales. It was explained that other counties in Wales were developing residential provisions for children, which placed pressure on Care Inspectorate Wales, therefore, there was now a waiting list for registration. It was hoped that both houses would be fully registered by February 2026. It was noted that the Department was in the process of purchasing a house in Cricieth and hoped that the work would be completed in 2026. It was noted that there was an effort to provide a residential home as part of the residential provision scheme in the Meirionnydd area, but it was highlighted that there were restrictions due to the housing market and the difficulties of finding a suitable home for the children.

The Department's day-to-day work was detailed, noting that there were 283 looked after children in Gwynedd. It was expressed that the Department had seen positive developments, with 4% of children leaving care and returning home in the last year. It was evidenced that the voice of the child and young people was a priority for the department, noting that the child's voice and opinions were

heard in 94% of case conferences. It was noted that the number of young people entering the Youth Justice Service had fallen by 13% fallen by -13%. It was reported that Gwynedd Family Service had been successful in extending a 2-year-old childcare scheme with 9 additional provisions enabling more families to receive support.

Concerns were raised about the number of referrals received by the referrals team. It was reported that 2025 had been the busiest year since its inception. The Derwen Service was reported to be under pressure, with over 500 open cases. It was noted that the 16+ Team also continued to report that demand for services was at its highest, with 238 cases open. It was explained that the number of cases and staff shortages created concern and high work pressure. The measures in place to address the challenges were outlined, noting that 5 bids to fund 7 posts in the operational teams had been successful. It was noted that this had ensured additional support for the Derwen service and provided consistency to support services for children and families in Gwynedd.

During the discussion, the following comments arose.

- It was expressed that Gwynedd had more looked after children than any other county in Wales. In considering this, the good work that was going on in the department to meet the need in the county was praised, thanking all the staff for their tireless work in supporting the children and families of Gwynedd.
- It was suggested that new measures should be developed to manage and monitor looked after children and that they are regularly seen by Council staff, as part of the Council's responsibilities as a corporate parent
- It was suggested that measures showing progress should be developed with a Response Plan to the Child Practice Review report, for this Committee to monitor and measure performance.
- A question was asked about the success of foster carer recruitment campaigns and what was the situation with the number of foster parents in Gwynedd at present. In response, details were given of the recruitment campaigns, and it was noted that they were successful in attracting an increasing number of foster parents. It was noted that there are approximately 70 foster families in Gwynedd, but it was stated that the Council continued to make use of external agencies due to the increasing and ongoing demand. It was elaborated that the Council works regionally and works collaboratively across the 6 counties of North Wales to provide foster care.
- It was recognised that it had been a challenging time for the Children and Families Department and the concerns about the stability and management of the department were recognised. The department was thanked for their hard work to ensure the welfare and safety of children. It was expressed that the Council was working to develop a stable position in the department, noting that the employees were constantly receiving support, occupational health services and counselling. It was explained that the Cabinet would soon consider a financial bid to respond fully to the Children's Plan Review.

DECISION

- 1. To accept the report.**
- 2. To ask the Chair of the Council to consider convening an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council to give every member an opportunity to discuss and scrutinise the Response Plan to the 'Our Bravery Brought Justice' Child Practice Review.**
- 3. To request that the department develops new measures, showing that looked-after children are regularly seen by Council staff and another showing progress with the response Plan to the Our Bravery Brought Justice Child Practice Review.**

8. COMPLAINTS TASK AND FINISH GROUP BRIEF

A presentation was given on the complaints task and finish group brief. It was confirmed that the Scrutiny Forum had approved the resources to hold the Task and Finish Group. Five members were elected to be in the group, with one reserve member.

DECISION

- 1. To adopt the brief.**
- 2. To elect Councillors Elwyn Jones, Sian Williams, Menna Baines, Angela Russell and Elin Walker Jones to be members of the task and finish group. Councillor Beth Lawton was elected as a reserve member.**

The meeting commenced at 10.30am and ended at 13.10pm.

MEETING	Care Scrutiny Committee
DATE	29 January 2026
TITLE	Keeping Families Together Strategy
REASON TO SCRUTINISE	The current provision and available resources need to be scrutinised in order to deliver the strategy.
AUTHORS	Sharron Williams Carter Gwenan Medi Hughes Sue Layton Caren Brown
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Menna Trenholme

1. Why does it need to be scrutinised?

- 1.1 The current provision and available resources need to be scrutinised in order to deliver the strategy.

2. What exactly needs to be scrutinised?

- 2.1 We will be looking specifically at four questions to scrutinise the keeping families together strategy.
1. What is being done to keep families together?
 2. How many families receive support?
 3. Do the available resources meet the needs/demand for the service?
 4. Do the preventative services help to keep families together and reduce the number of children needing care from the Council?
- 2.2 To respond to these questions, we will provide an outline of the strategy and which teams within the Children's Department are specifically involved in the keeping families together strategy, as well as multi-agency work.

3. Summary of the Key Matters

- 3.1 A key part of the Keeping Families Together Strategy is our Preventive Programme and Services. This work is crucial, and it focuses on providing timely and specific support to keep families together and safe before reaching a crisis point and ultimately it prevents children and young people from going into care. The Department's main aim is to keep children and young people with their families if it is safe to do so.
- 3.2 In this report we will look at which services in the Children's Department are principally involved in the Keeping Families Together Strategy. The main

preventative services are the Families First Programme, Team Around the Family, Family Support Team and the Operational Teams. The Trobwynt Service, Post-16 Team and Derwen also provide support for young people and families. Good collaboration also takes place through community hubs to facilitate multi-agency work and provide the best service to the people and children of Gwynedd. Any request for services (referrals) will go through our Intake Team, referrals, who decide about the need to carry out an assessment, agree thresholds and then pass it on to the appropriate service if this is appropriate.

4. Background / Context

- 4.1 Families First was designed to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. It places an emphasis on early intervention, preventative activity and offering support for whole families, rather than individuals. The programme promotes multi-agency work to ensure that families receive coordinated support when they need it.
- 4.2 The programme is intended to provide early support to families, with the goal of preventing problems from becoming worse. Families First supports the Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy and works alongside other programmes such as Flying Start.
- 4.3 The Welsh Government provides funding to local authorities to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.
- 4.4 Each local authority has developed a Families First Action Plan which describes how they will implement Families First locally:
 - People of working age in low-income families who gain employment and make progress
 - Children, young people and families, who live in or are at risk of poverty, who are fulfilling their potential
 - Children, young people and families who are healthy and enjoy well-being
 - Families who are confident, nurture resilience and are safe.
- 4.5 Performance measures have been established to ascertain how well the programme is performing within local authorities.
- 4.6 What do we want to see Families First achieve?**
- 4.7 Families First must demonstrate that it can improve outcomes for families, to ensure they are confident, nurturing and resilient. Moving Wales Forward includes a commitment to supporting families and parents to reduce adverse childhood experiences, and Families First is a key approach to achieve this.
- 4.8 Specifically, the programme should seek to:
 - Design and develop innovative services which can support families to achieve positive and sustainable outcomes

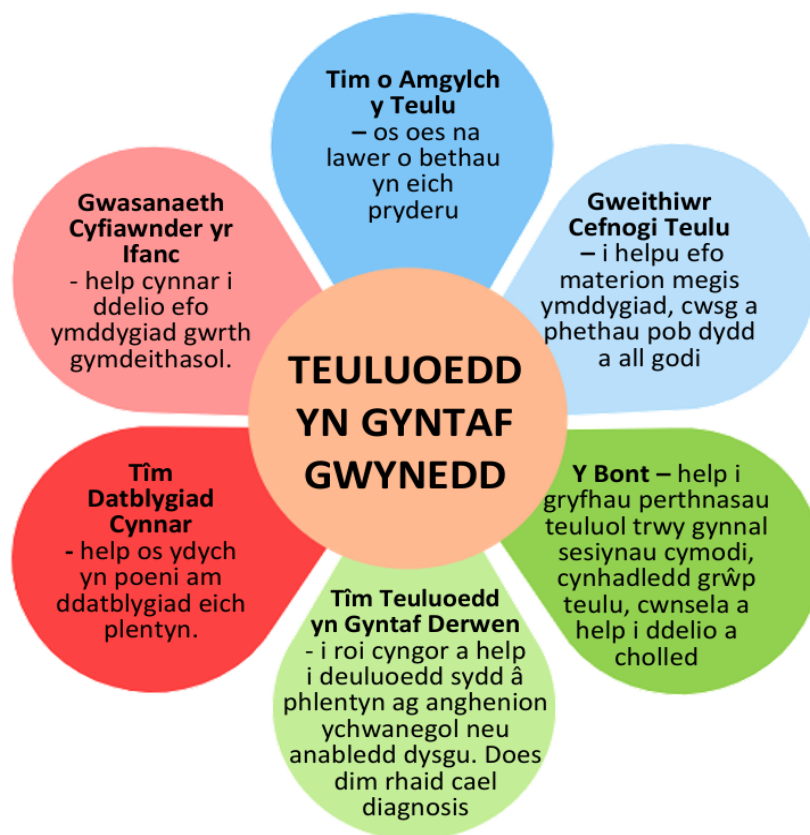
- Encourage a culture of learning around continued improvement to service delivery, sharing best practice and lessons learned
- Promote effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery through an “invest to save” approach, which has a sharp focus on early intervention and prevention
- Work collaboratively and cooperatively with other agencies and programmes to ensure service delivery is aligned with no gaps or duplication in services

4.9 The Families First Principles delivered through the programme consider the following key principles:

1. Family-focused
2. Bespoke
3. Empowering
4. Integrated
5. Intensive
6. Local
7. Proactive
8. Sustainable

4.10 Commissioning Gwynedd Families First – 2025/26

- 4.11 Cyngor Gwynedd is clear in its intention to improve the alignment of support for the Families First programme with statutory provision, and as part of this the council has created a Children and Families Early Intervention and Preventive Structure which reflects the existing statutory area teams (Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd).



4.13 Team Around the Family - TAF

- 4.14 Anyone can make a referral to access a wide range of Families First and Team Around the Family services.
- 4.15 The number of single referrals has increased (families receiving one commissioned service rather than families with a higher number of needs needing coordinated services).
- 4.16 Here is an overview of some of the needs of families referred for early intervention support during the last quarter:
- Challenging behaviour of children and young people at home and/or school and parents and carers asking for help to address the underlying problem.
 - Families of children and young people who are on a waiting list for an ASD/ADHD assessment requesting help while waiting to be seen.
 - Families of children and young people diagnosed with ASD/ADHD who don't know what help is available next.
 - Concern about children and young people's low attendance or children refusing to attend school.

- Concern about the mental health of children and young people who do not meet the threshold for CAMHS support.
- Concern about the mental health of parents and carers and the impact this has on the children.

4.17 What is being done by the Family Support Team to keep families together?

- 4.18 The Family Support team undertakes preventive work at different intervention levels to strengthen families and reduce the risk of crisis. We work closely with agencies and other workers to support the families e.g. health, education, third sector services and many more. The work consists of several different elements:
- 4.19 Sharing information and raising awareness is essential for the service. They will provide information about support to families in areas such as parenting, behaviour and healthy relationships. Virtual resources are used, such as 'Solihull Online' and 'Togetherness', along with Government messages such as "Give It Time".
- 4.20 The team promotes positive relationships by organising family fun sessions that encourage positive time together and strengthen relationships. Over the past year, 28 Hwyl sessions were held with 813 children and 502 families in attendance
- 4.21 Parental support groups are held to share parenting practices, post-natal support, strategies to cope with stress, and ACE's. They offer interventions for:
- Challenging behaviour
 - Conflict between parents
 - Increasing confidence
 - Support for parents of children with autism or neurodivergent needs
 - Dealing with violent situations (by a child against a parent or domestic violence)
- 4.22 These situations can place significant stress on families, and therefore the groups offer practical strategies to support them.
- 4.23 When one-to-one support is needed it's important that it is tailored to the individual family to ensure that they get support that is suited to their needs. Families can receive personal support from a Family Support Officer. Officers assess the family, identify the family's strengths, discuss concerns, and can jointly plan strategies tailored to individual needs.
- 4.24 Support is offered by specialist officers in the team that works with fathers, young people, Autism, *Out of Court* situations following a Police referral (e.g. where a parent has used physical punishment).

4.25 Working in partnerships and creating networks are essential for the success of the service. The team includes Families First and Flying Start officers, working in partnership to ensure comprehensive support.

4.26 The aim of this work is to strengthen families, reduce vulnerability, and promote the well-being of children and parents in the early years.

4.27 What is being done to keep families together by the Trobwynt Service?

4.28 In addition to the work of Families First and Flying Start, preventative work is also undertaken by the Trobwynt Service. The Service offers a wide range of evidence-based programmes to support parents, carers, children and young people. These interventions help strengthen relationships, improve emotional well-being and create safer and more nurturing homes. Preventive work the service undertakes includes intensive interventions (approximately 10 hours per week) for up to a year with families. The support they provide ranges from parents who are pregnant to post-16 young people. When individuals reach the age of 16+ they receive support from the post-16 team. They also work with parents to break the cycle of recurrent pregnancies and care procedures.

4.29 How do Derwen and Hafan y Sêr work to keep families together?

4.30 Derwen and Hafan y Sêr also support families. Derwen provides training on emotional regulation by offering a weekly skills class to teach and shape the learning of new skills and managing emotions for children and young people with disabilities. There are workshops and courses for parents that focus on some of the key difficulties that families experience and discuss what strategies can be used to support their child. Talking to other parents in a similar situation is often the most effective emotional support. The aim of the service is to provide safe and friendly opportunities for parents to talk to other parents. This is provided through the workshops, art sessions and support groups. Derwen also has a service providing a supportive element for children with disabilities through a support worker taking a child/young person to groups, out into the community and undertaking activities of interest to the child. This helps the children to be involved in activities outside school and enjoy different experiences. This also provides a respite element for the family. Several children who use the Derwen service also use the Hafan y Sêr Service which is a residential setting that provides respite for parents who are also carers.

4.31 When families need a service and support from the Children's Department everything goes through the Intake Team to ensure that the information is assessed correctly in order to provide the best service for families.

4.32 Collaboration with Agencies and Services

4.33 Community hubs are also a way of sharing information for families to know what kind of support is available and for referring individuals to the right services. This also reinforces multi-agency collaboration between statutory, preventive and third sector services. One of the hubs is Hwb Dinas Bangor; they work closely with

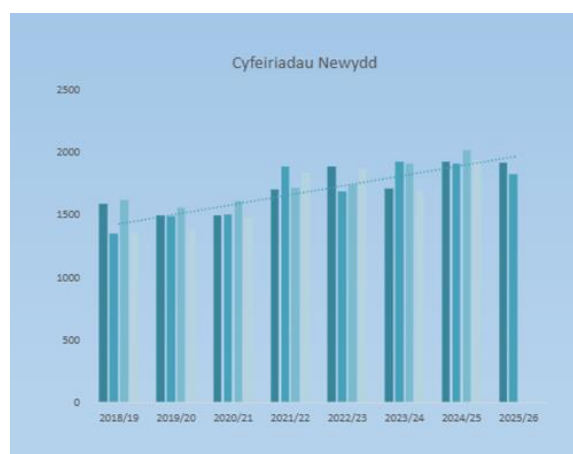
children's services, and we are in the process of setting up a children and young people's hub for Bangor which will complement Hwb Dinas Bangor. This has been requested to ensure that good partnerships are formed, that services are not duplicated, that there is ongoing awareness of who is providing what, joint requests are made ensuring that a consistent and concerted message is promoted to all parents, trusted adults, carers and anyone who works with those groups, as well as, of course, supporting Children and Young People directly. At Hwb yr Orsaf, Penygroes, the Flying Start Family Support team have provided parent and baby sessions. At Hwb Porthi Dre, Caernarfon there is collaboration with several children, autism and family support teams. This is a way for the community to know which services are available to support families.

- 4.34 We are also collaborating with the Housing and Property Department. The emergency accommodation responsibility for families is operated through the Housing and Property Department. By acting through the Housing and Property Department's protocol, temporary emergency accommodation need not have an impact on keeping families together. The service does not separate families. Its priority is always to ensure that families are kept together, including parents and children, even when emergency accommodation is needed at short notice. When a request for emergency family accommodation is received, they will try, wherever possible, to secure a suitable family room as an emergency solution. If there are children in the household, we work actively to reduce the length of stay in emergency accommodation and to move the family on as soon as possible to more suitable temporary accommodation. In most cases, this will be through a PSL (Private Sector Leasing) property, which is our private sector leasing scheme, or another suitable temporary accommodation option.

4.35 How many families receive support?

- 4.36 As almost all enquires come through the Intake Team it is possible to gauge the increase over recent years in the number of individuals and families who need support from the Children and Supporting Families Department. The graph below shows an increase in the number of referrals received, last year the number of referrals was almost 8,000 during the year.

4.37



4.38 This means that as more individuals and families receive support, there are more individuals with a statutory care and support plan in place. The figures below also show an increase over recent years.

4.39

21-22	686
22-23	765
23-24	745
24-25	846
25-26	(Approx) 908

4.40 Number of families receiving support from Families First

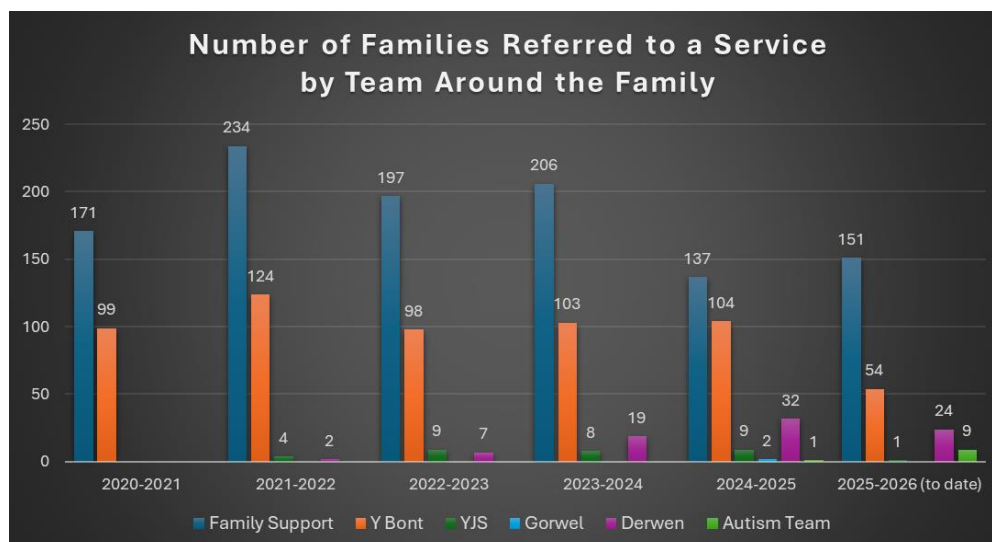
2020 – 21	167 families
2021 – 22	326 families
2022 – 23	279 families
2023 – 24	355 families
2024 – 25	403 families
2025 – 2026 (to date)	281 families

*the above figures show how many families have contacted the Children's Referrals Intake Team and have received early intervention support through Gwynedd's Families First scheme.

There has been a noticeable increase in numbers over the last 2 years. *

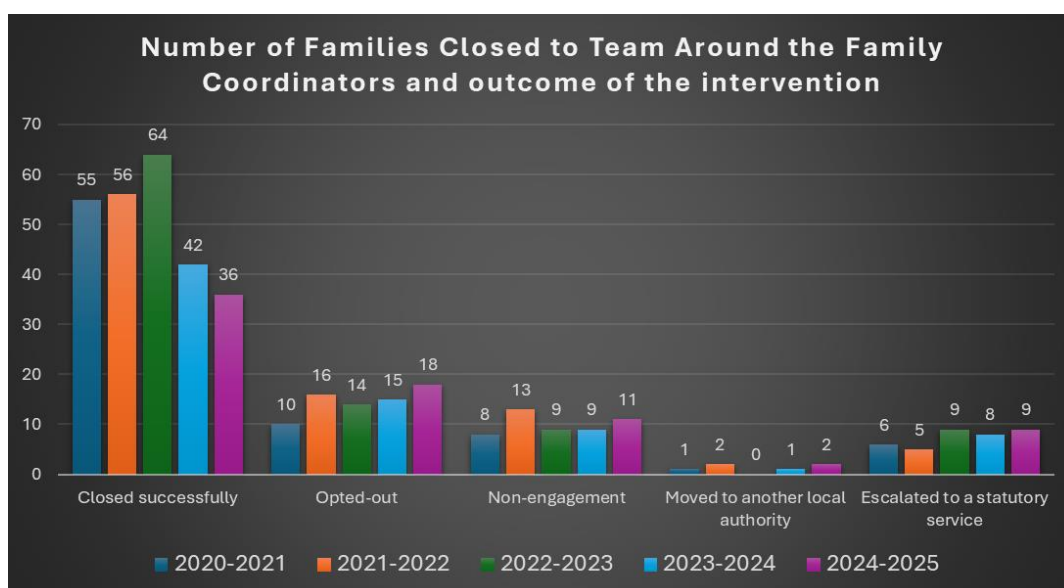
4.41 The next graph shows how many referrals are made to services commissioned by Families First funding here in Gwynedd:

4.42



4.43 The graph below shows how many families have been closed to Team Around the Family coordinators and what was the outcome of the intervention. These are the families who receive the most intensive support:

4.44



4.45 One of the reasons for a reduction in cases having been successfully closed over the last 2 years is due to the fact that the nature of the referrals receiving support has intensified and therefore cases tend to remain open for much longer periods before we see any progress. We measure "distance travelled" through our "outcome star" impact assessment tool and we ask the organisation we commission to report quarterly. To keep an eye on the effectiveness of our programme and to adapt in a timely manner if necessary.

4.46 This is a feature of the Families First programme across Wales.

4.47 Number of families receiving support from Family Support, Flying Start officers

4.48 The table below shows the numbers receiving 1-to-1 support from Flying Start officers who are part of the Early Years service.

4.49

Area	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 (Term 1)
Bangor	28	28	32	6
Caernarfon	65	59	79	21
Blaenau & Dolgellau	94	71	85	17
Bethesda & Deiniolen	26	30	28	6
Talysarn	18	15	18	8
Total	231	203	242	58

4.50 Number of individuals/families receiving support from the Trobwynt Service

4.51

22/23	23-24	24-25	April 25- December 25
Trothwy worked with 178 children	Trothwy worked with 147 children	Trothwy worked with 209 children	Trothwy has worked with 180 children since April 2025.
48 of the 178 were in the child protection process at the start of the intervention.	40 out of the 147 were in the child protection process at the start of the intervention.	74 of the 209 were in the child protection process at the start of the intervention.	76 of the 180 were in the child protection process at the start of the intervention.
64 of the 178 were children in care with the intention for them to stabilise or return home.	55 out of the 147 were in the child protection process at the start of the intervention.	56 of the 209 are children in care with the intention for them to stabilise or return home.	33 of the 180 are children in care with the intention for them to stabilise or return home.
20 babies before birth.	21 babies before birth.	37 babies before birth.	6 babies before birth.
50 CASP- 11 child protection or ICO ended.	43 CASP-17 child protection or ICO ended.	63 CASP-21 child protection or ICO ended.	52 CASP- 12 child protection or ICO ended.
21 Child out of care through revoking of care orders.	12 Child out of care through revoking of care orders.	12 Child out of care through revoking of care orders.	6 children out of care through revoking of care orders since April.
1 Child on a "step down" plan in this period.	2 Children on a "step down" plan in this period.	6 Children on a "step down" plan in this period.	3 Children on a "step down" plan in this period.

4.52 The data overview from the Trobwynt Service shows that its preventative work helps families stay together when it is safe to do so and for children and young people to potentially return home.

4.53 As can be seen from the above data, the referrals to receive all services are rising and the needs of individuals and families have also intensified in recent years which means that services are working with the families over an extended period of time.

4.54 Number of individuals/families supported by Derwen and Hafan y Sêr

4.55 For disability-focused activities see the table below. Figures here do not include a cuppa and chat, fun sessions and information-sharing sessions.

4.56 Disability-focused activities and groups: -

22-23	128
23-24	103
24-25	170
25-26 (data to date)	90

4.57 Numbers seeking support and service from Derwen have increased, and that is why we have organised a range of different activities and organised group sessions to respond to the demand and to assist families while they're waiting for a specific service or in conjunction with preventative services. The December figure shows that 483 children and young people are open to Derwen services and of the 483 figure, 214 receive a supportive service.

4.58 With a residential respite service provided by Hafan y Sêr, they provide a service to 43 children and young people with disabilities. During 2024 the number of respite nights was 1,048 over the year and there was an increase to 1,417 for the year 2025.

4.59 Do the available resources meet the needs/demand for the service

4.60 Families First

4.61 We use information from the Referrals Intake Team to help understand the nature of the problems faced by families and find any local patterns and use this information to ensure that we commission the most effective and beneficial services and interventions.

4.62 Services commissioned through Gwynedd Families First are now firmly established in terms of the provision available. They are also flexible and able to adapt to the needs of the family.

4.63 Demand for our family support service has greatly increased with a high number of our referrals requesting help with behaviour. There is now less focus on helping families with more practical issues. It would be good to be able to also offer this to families if more funding was available.

4.64 Grant funding funds a large part of the Department's preventive work, including Families First and Flying Start. There is a risk that the Welsh Government could reduce Cyngor Gwynedd's allocation, which would significantly impact the Department's ability to provide preventive services in the same way. This is an issue that has been recorded on the Council's Risk Register.

4.65 Family Support Team

4.66 Currently, there is a waiting list for one-to-one support, reflecting a significant increase in the need for the service. The emerging cases require support at a

more intensive or specialised level, and as a result, the duration of support extends over a longer period.

- 4.67 The number of families receiving support through groups has decreased, mainly due to family vulnerability and low levels of mental health. In addition, several officers are on maternity leave, which affects our ability to respond fully to the needs of Gwynedd families.

4.68 Trobwynt Service

- 4.69 As the nature, complexity and workloads are increasing, it is not always possible to meet the needs/demands for services in a timely manner. Data from December shows 287 children in care and 116 on the child protection register. The number of cases is high and therefore it is difficult to provide a timely service to everyone. It is possible to allocate one worker to work with four families at a time. Sometimes two workers are required for some families, depending on the risk and nature of the work.

4.70 Derwen and Hafan y Sêr

- 4.71 As the needs of children and young people have intensified over recent years, there are now waiting lists due to the increases. The service strives to ensure that every family receives the service they need in a timely manner. There is currently a waiting list for the Derwen support service as well as a waiting list for access to a nursing service.
- 4.72 The situation with the demand for respite nights in Hafan y Sêr is similar, and due to this there are 19 children on the waiting list to receive the service. Hopefully the waiting list will decrease over the coming months.

4.73 Do the preventative services help keep families together and reduce the number of children needing care from the Council

4.74 Families First

- 4.75 Families may be referred for one of the services we commission, or they may receive more intensive support from a Team Around the Family co-ordinator. This reduces pressure on statutory and more complex services.
- 4.76 If the family is open to Families First for any support, this Team deals with any incoming police report or further referrals for support if it is not of significant concern. We work closely with the Intake Team to ensure that families receive the right support and make joint visits if there is a growing concern about a family. Sometimes it is inevitable that a family is escalated to receive statutory support.
- 4.77 We will certainly see a significant increase in the statutory workload if the Families First resources and funding are lost or reduced by the Government.

4.78 Family Support Team

- 4.79 This is certainly the best opportunity for us to meet the needs of the families and provide information and support that builds on the parents' strengths and skills. The parents have provided very positive feedback regarding the support.

4.80 Trobwynt Service

- 4.81 Many more children would need care or would be unable to return home without the preventative services.

4.82 Derwen and Hafan y Sêr

- 4.83 The work that the Derwen and Hafan y Sêr service undertake is invaluable with disabled children and young people. The sessions and training enable families and young people to cope before things reach a crisis point. It also provides a forum for parents to discuss with each other in groups and form connections. It also provides a respite for parents who are the carers of children and young people. This benefits the child/young person as well as the whole family because otherwise families can break down due to the stress and demands of care, therefore preventing them from reaching crisis level.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation is constantly undertaken in this area, because much of the work is grant funded, which means that various agencies and families need to be consulted to see whether the scheme is working as part of assessing the efficiency of the work. Families First supports the Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy, therefore consultation takes place through the Welsh Government as well as services such as Flying Start to consult with families to see what kind of services they require. Following this there will be decommissioning/recommissioning at the beginning of a new financial year.

6. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- 6.1 Have you **included** residents / service users? If not, when and how do you intend to consult them?
- 6.2 We have considered the relevant well-being goals under this act. We are already involving residents and service users in the development of work in this area. In addition, collaboration at a multi-agency level, both internally and externally, is already taking place.
- 6.3 Have you considered **collaboration**?

- 6.4 Collaboration happens regularly, as the strategy of keeping families together relies on multi-agency collaboration through joint working between Council Departments and the third sector.
- 6.5 What has been done or will be done to **prevent** problems arising or worsening in future?
- 6.6 Prioritising preventative work will help to reduce the need for statutory services within the Children's Department which is already overwhelmed. Preventative work prevents problems from getting worse for the families who really need help and provides support to families before reaching crisis point.
- 6.7 How have you considered the **long-term** and what will people's needs be in future years?
- 6.8 Looking at statistics for the last 5 years, more families need support from the Children's Service, particularly the preventative element. In addition to this, the support needed by families has been more intense over recent years because needs are now more intense and complex. We hope that the programme will continue to be funded by the Welsh Government for the coming years. Without the receipt of grant funding it is not possible to provide the service we offer.
- 6.9 To ensure **integration**, have you considered the possible impact on other public bodies?
- 6.10 Integration is constantly taking place between the Children and Supporting Families Department and the third sector. Without the grant funding to carry out preventive duties that are either within the Department or commissioned by the third sector, more money would have to be invested by the government because more children and young people would come into care. In addition to this, families would have to receive a statutory rather than the preventative service they currently receive.

7. Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh Language and the Socio-Economic Duty

- 7.1 We have addressed the above features and as a Department we follow the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 in our daily work. This ensures that individuals and families receive a service and receive their assessments in their language of choice.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1 We will be submitting a revised Families First and Flying Start Action Plan in February for Government approval through the CCG Grant. We hope there will be minimal change to the amount we receive through the grant.

Appendices

Keeping Families Together Strategy



FAMILIES FIRST DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26

Local Authority:

The Delivery Plan comprises four sections, each of which must be completed prior to submission.

Section A – Local Authority Overview of Families First Delivery Plan.

Section B – Delivery of Elements

Section C – Challenges and Risks

Section A - Overview

Please provide an overview of, and rationale for, the proposed Families First programme within your area for 2025-26. You should identify the needs of the area and how your plan addresses them. Where changes to delivery are being made, please explain how they remain aligned with FF programme.

The Gwynedd Family Support and Parenting Strategy

Gwynedd Council have developed and updated its Children and Families Strategy. Our focus remains on the strategic direction that is set within the Family Support and Parenting Commissioning Strategy. The vision is that families in Gwynedd will be 'strong, resilient, and prosperous' to ensure that:

- *Children get the best start in life.*
- *Parents, carers, and families receive the right type of support at the right time to enable them to provide the best level of care and opportunities for their children.*
- *Children and young people achieve their full learning potential and develop skills.*
- *Children, young people, and families enjoy the best possible health and have fair access to energetic, cultural, play and leisure opportunities.*
- *Children, young people, and families, are, able to voice their opinions confidently and make a positive contribution to their communities.*

- *Children, young people, and families live in suitable and stable homes and accommodation*
- *Young people develop into confident, successful, and independent adults.*

The Gwynedd Children and Families Leadership Group and Gwynedd Council's Cabinet have agreed the vision. We are therefore focusing on the following outcomes and commissioning services in line with what we seek to achieve, namely that:

- working with families whose children could be affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)
- children, young people, and families, in or at risk of poverty achieve their potential.
- children, young people, and families are healthy, safe and enjoy wellbeing.
- families are confident, nurturing, and resilient.

These outcomes are underpinned by a range of key principles that are core to the potential solutions you may design. These are:

- **Needs based** – access to services is based on **need** rather than where families, parents, children, or young people live.
- **Preventative** – re-directing our focus towards stopping problems developing and reducing dependency.
- **Targeted** – protecting and nurturing people and addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged communities.
- **Personalised** – ensuring that serviced are **tailored** so that they effectively meet people's needs and provide flexibility to respond in Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd.
- **Integrated** – agencies who deliver services must work together to meet needs and therefore tender in partnership for families signalling a conscious shift towards more integrated services.
- **Consistency and flexibility** – Many stakeholders underlined the need for consistency to promote equality of access across the County. Alongside this, stakeholders and partners called for flexibility across the three areas of Arfon, Meirionnydd and Dwyfor, in order, to link up rather than displace continuing service provision in some areas and plug gaps in others.
- **Empowering and strengths based** – all family and parent support should be **empowering** – supporting people to do things for themselves, building on identified strengths and assisting in making change sustainable.
- **Family focused** – all services need to **place families at the heart of their approach** – families first not service first (**Ffordd Gwynedd**)

- **Value for Money** – all family and parenting support services must offer value for money linked to an appropriate outcome measurement framework – **cost and quality**.
- **Bilingual** – all family support and parenting support services will be offered in the **language of choice**.

Programme delivery:

- ACE's focus and priority
- Age range shift for family and parenting support interventions with an increased focus on elements of the programme on the 8-18year groups; 0-7, **7-12, 13-18 (25*)**
- Increased support for parents, children and young people living with disability and parents with learning difficulties or mental health problems.
- Cessation of financial services support
- Greater awareness of substance misuse problems in families (parents and children, links to domestic violence and domestic abuse)
- No requirement for Learning Sets, however we need to consider a Training and Learning Forum for all aspects of the Families First projects.
- Fathers (resident or non-resident).
- Gypsy and Travelling Families
- Families experiencing imprisonment.

Section B - Delivery

Local Authorities are also expected to prioritise the Team Around the Family model and continue to ensure multi-agency working remains an integral feature of Families First.

JAFF/TAF

To ensure seamless access to preventative and/or statutory services dependent on the level of need, Gwynedd have adopted and continue to use the regional SSWBA assessment and care planning templates. We have made some adjustments to these to reflect best working practice captured in Gwynedd.

The regional referral form has been adopted that enables referrers to use one form to access preventative and /or statutory services. The referral form includes and is structured to consider the families strengths and considers what their wellbeing outcomes are. It also captures the “what matters” question so that any referral focuses on what are the important issues that the family want support or assistance with.

Following on from this, Gwynedd has adopted the regional Part 3 care and support assessment and eligibility tool across preventative and statutory services enabling families

to move easily between provision if, and when the need arises, as such reducing the assessment burden on them.

The key elements included in the JAFF have been retained in the part 3 assessment document due to the keenness of the group to have one overall assessment tool.

The JAFF and Part 3 Assessment tool share a common language, and both are underpinned by the same principle of building upon and recognising family's strengths.

The TAF structure will retain its position as coordinators of support and senior case managers for the 3 **Family support Teams**; 3 coordinators allocated to the Arfon Team and 1 each to the Dwyfor and (commissioned) Meirionnydd Teams.

Disability Services

Service Provider - DERWEN

Through our close work with families with disabled children we have identified number of areas which are needed to support families and children to improve outcomes for parents and young people. These areas cover the full age range in terms of enhancing parent skills and resilience and targets older children in enhancing their own skills in understanding and dealing with their emotions. Specifically:

1. Preventative mental health work for children and teenagers with learning disability

Enhancing the skills of young people with learning disability (LD) to better understand and tolerate their emotional experiences is likely to affect their own well-being, reduce challenging behaviour and mental health difficulties, and have a 'knock-on' effect on their family. Providing skills/training on emotional and mental health for young people with LD is a neglected area or preventative work.

Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) is a treatment for individuals with extreme emotional sensitivity, i.e. whose emotional responses are quicker, bigger and take longer to return to baseline than average. These responses often lead to risky and impulsive behaviours to reduce and tolerate emotional experiences. DBT usually involves group-based skills training; a weekly skills class to teach and shape the learning of new skills to manage emotions. It involves mindfulness, distress tolerance, emotion regulation and interpersonal effectiveness (e.g. asking/saying no, keeping/ending relationships, and self-respect). DBT is an evidence-based approach and is routinely available for young people without learning disability, adults with mental health difficulties, and adults with learning difficulties. It is not currently available for adolescents with learning disability.

After a successful pilot in the special schools the service continues to provide emotional regulation groups (either face to face or virtually) also during the pandemic these sessions were offered on a 1:1 basis. These sessions were also a success with regular positive feedback received from the families. The project is now delivering the sessions in mainstream schools.

We have continued with the work of delivering an adapted DBT course to young people with learning disability and to evaluate the work to add to the knowledge base of how to enhance the skills of young people with LD. Their schools or other agency as likely to benefit from this kind of work would identify the young people. All special schools in the area will continue to be offered group-work and support in continuing with the work themselves.

The service has extended to young people with LD outside special schools. We also offer the groups to children and young people who have additional needs other than a learning disability who are in mainstream schools. We have found that the course we offer benefits many children and young people who are under the neurodivergent umbrella as many struggles with their emotional regulation.

We have developed a series of 2 workshops for parents to discuss, understanding and managing their child's emotions. There is also an emphasis within these workshops on the parents / carer's emotional wellbeing. These are discussed further in part 2.

2. Senior Parent Support Officer and Parent Support Officers.

Having a child with a disability presents many additional challenges alongside the usual challenges, families face. Given recent experience, increasing families' chances of participating in an evidence-based group intervention through appropriate support is likely to enable more people to benefit from the programmes that are on offer. The Parent Support Officers are responsible for supporting families to access these evidence-based intervention groups.

The Senior Parent Support Officer along with the Parent Support officers identify where and when a group is needed, organise the people needed to run the groups, and support them in running them.

Locally we have a wealth of skilled workers in statutory services and third sector who are trained and able to run evidence-based preventative interventions for families. The team has been working collaboratively with several different services including Health, Social Services, Families First Teams in running various parenting programs and workshops.

The senior Parent Support officer uses the above knowledge and strategies to link in with and support the two parent support officers in the team to complete individual work with families e.g. assisting with behaviour management strategies or other parenting activities.

These are the workshops and evidence-based programmes we have found to be successful in supporting families of children with additional needs in Gwynedd: Since September 2023 we have run the **Riding the Rapids Course** 4 times in Gwynedd. Riding the Rapids is a course designed for parents and carers of children who are autistic, on the pathway for an autism assessment or who have significant learning disabilities or other complex disabilities. The course aims to help parents to

understand and support their child's well-being, and reduce stress, distress and distress-related behaviours, or other behaviours of concern.

Research shows that parents and carers who attend Riding the Rapids can develop effective strategies to support their children and increase their coping skills and confidence therefore reducing stress.

Riding the Rapids was developed in Manchester by the Specialist Community Service—Learning Disabilities and Autism. The Social Policy and Research Unit at the University of York have researched it.

There are two separate courses: one for parents/ carers of primary-aged (reception to year 6) children and one for parents/ carers of secondary aged teenagers (school years 7-11).

Feedback from attendees of the Riding the Rapids course has been positive. Parents have reported that they feel listened to, and parents really valued being able to get together, the sessions were 'almost like a therapy session'. A lot of parents feel Riding the Rapids has given them some great strategies and use them still. Parents reported that relating to other parents' struggles has been good and connecting with others and offloading in a safe space.

Sleep workshops and support. We can offer support to Families of children with Learning Disabilities and or additional needs. Some parents are unable to attend workshops, so we offer 1:1 support either online or by Visiting the home. One of the parent support officers has recently completed the Cerebra Essential Paediatric sleep advice consultant training.

ACT (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy) sessions have been provided for parent who are struggling with their child's diagnosis, these have been a success and will be a part of our future programmes.

MAKATON sessions were provided after numerous parents requested assistance with communication techniques.

Parent Support groups, The Meet and Make sessions are held twice a month virtually. These groups are a parent support and wellbeing group. We also organise face to face sessions across the county.

We also co run the **Cuppa and Chat sessions** with the Gwynedd Autism Team and Specialist School Nursing Team. The sessions allow parents a safe space to meet with other parents of children with additional needs and to chat with Services such as ours who offer support.

We also organise **play sessions** during half term holidays.

Support for **young carers**, we can offer an assessment and support for children who may be undertaking additional tasks because of a sibling with a disability.

Sensory workshops and support. Research shows that around 90% of individuals with ASC have some sensory processing difficulties. Therefore, it is important to supporting parents to recognise and understand their child's sensory needs.

We can offer 1:1 support or workshops. Members of the team have attended an Accredited Sensory Needs Practitioner Training course. This course enabled the attendees to have access to a programme, which allows professionals to assess an individual's needs and creates targeted sensory programmes for that individual.

Understanding and Managing Emotions support. We can offer support to families of children with Learning Disabilities and or additional needs. Some parents are unable to attend workshops, so we offer 1:1 support either online or by visiting the home. In these sessions we discuss why some children with a learning Disability, or additional needs find it difficult to regulate their emotions. We discuss the importance of children understanding their emotions and we try out different strategies for parents to support their child to regulate their emotions. We also discuss the importance of parents looking after their own well-being.

Programmes like those mentioned above aim to support and empower parents of disabled children and children with additional needs in their parenting role to understand their child's communication and behaviour, and appropriately manage behaviour to prevent escalation in challenging behaviour due to parent-child 'mismatch'. The workshops and programmes have also been successful in bringing parents together. Many parents feel isolated and may not have the same support networks as other parents. Coming to a session or a course can be very daunting. We collaborate closely with parents to make sure they feel comfortable with attending sessions. Parents have reported that they feel listened to and that the advice and support they receive from other parents is so important. This would not have been available to them if they had not attended the group/course.

We are also looking into other evidence-based programmes:

Kent university have developed EPATS (Early Positive Approaches to Support). This is a program for parents / carers with children under the age of five with a learning disability. The team is currently looking into how we can provide the service in Gwynedd.

Commissioned services or projects

- 1. Parenting support**
- 2. Support for young people.**

Project: Lot 2: A Family Support Service; Therapeutic, Counselling and Mediation Services

The project will be one of three specialist **Family Support Services (FSSs)** projects and will provide specialist support to the 3 **Family Support Teams (FSTs)** in Gwynedd; Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd.

The following work will be delivered:

- Therapeutic Counselling for children 10-19yrs based on nationally recognised Therapeutic and Counselling qualifications provided by appropriately trained staff.
- Inter-parental Relationship Conflict Therapy based on nationally recognised Therapeutic and Counselling qualifications and provided by appropriately trained staff.
- Evidence based interventions that use the nationally recognised Motivational Interviewing practice.
- Parent-Child (to include absent fathers) mediation.
- Evidence based Family Group Conferencing programmes that resolve issues within the family, which hinder the family's ability to provide a stable and happy home life environment.
- Evidence based counselling for children and young people who have experienced Bereavement or Loss of significant adults and influences in their lives.
- Person centred Counselling
- Evidence based programmes for fathers (who present violence towards partners/ family).

This will be done through one-to-one work, group work, mediation, and group conferencing. Although some interventions should relate to appropriate adult-based theories (the parents), the outcomes should be child focused, fully considering the mitigation of **Adverse Childhood Experiences**.

Provider will have experience of delivering services to children, young people, and families, including those affected by Domestic Abuse, suffer from poor mental health, and have a learning disability. To meet the needs of users, sessions may be centre based, community based or within the home.

As part of the wider project, it is expected for the successful organisation(s) to work closely with Gwynedd Council Children's Services and the Family Support Teams and the other Specialist Services providing support for the Families First Programme in Gwynedd.

There will be development of a specific referrals and screening process for case and family allocation, the successful applicant(s) will be required to contribute towards and comply with agreed referral and assessment processes.

Ensure that the people of Gwynedd are at the centre of everything we do – 'Ffordd Gwynedd'.

Lot 2 services will be available through the referral of the Information Advice and Assistance process and TAF Team (the Gwynedd Team around the Family).

Project: Lot 5: Family Support Team for Arfon, Dwyfor & Meirionnydd Area - Gwynedd

Provider: Plas Pawb

A comprehensive Family Support Team specification is provided and will cover the whole of Gwynedd – (**Dwyfor, Meirionnydd and Arfon**) and will work in collaboration with the Meirionnydd Team and the TAF team to ensure a clear and effective referral and case management route and progression.

The main high-level outcomes for the projects are set out in the Welsh Governments '**Families First Programme Guidance**' (April 2017)

This Lot includes provision of:

Parenting

1. Evidence based parenting interventions and programmes (formal, informal and peer led) on an outreach basis to parents / families with children and young people between the ages of 5 and 25 years old. Provision will therefore need to be delivered flexibly on a 1-2-1 basis and in group settings according to the needs of parents and families.
2. Evidence based family support service to parents, families with children and young people between the ages of 5 and 25. Again provision should be delivered flexibly within the home and from outreach family centres according to the needs of parents/families.
 - Developing positive attitudes, aspirations, and resilience
 - Enhancing positive parenting skills
 - Increasing parents' confidence and skills in providing a positive home learning environment and supporting their child with their learning
3. Bespoke services to promote the mental health and emotional wellbeing of parents and to promote and sustain effective relationships with the family.
 - Improving parent-child and parent-parent relationships
 - Increasing parents' confidence in their parenting role
 - Strengthening parents' understanding of child development
 - Supporting parents to achieve good mental health.
 - Supporting parents to achieve positive emotional wellbeing.

Young People

4. Bespoke services for parents/families with children and young people under special circumstances e.g. children / young people at risk of becoming NEET, young people at risk of offending, children/ young people with additional learning needs and young people at risk of becoming homeless.
 - Empowering young people to become active and productive participants in society.
 - Increasing confidence and resilience
 - Improving social and emotional wellbeing
 - Improving the life chances of young people

In addition to these, services should also aim to support young people in the following areas:

- Building the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control.
- Developing positive attitudes, behaviour, and aspirations
- Developing the ability of young people to manage personal and social relationships.
- Preventing needs from escalating
- Protecting young people from the damage caused by exposure to ACEs and other similar experiences.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing - The service model recognises the importance of embedding an appropriate response in the family environment to support the young person's recovery from mental health and wellbeing issues and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

Ensure that the people of Gwynedd are at the Centre of everything we do – 'Ffordd Gwynedd'.

Lot 5 services will be available through the referral of the Information Advice and Assistance process and TAF Team (the Gwynedd Team around the Family).

Project – LOT 6 Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Youth Justice Service

Provider: Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Youth Justice Service

- To provide an early intervention (as part of the Families First Programme) service to young people at risk of offending and of anti social behaviours that is likely to bring them into contact with the Police and the criminal justice system. This will include universal and targeted education, prevention programmes and structured work with young people. It will also facilitate access to a range of interventions for young people at risk of substance misuse.
- To provide a specialist service to young people identified as having a range of above issues through the Families First **Family Support Teams**.
- This service will provide a comprehensive assessment and intervention for those young people identified as having moderate to high level needs including referring those in need to the appropriate service and interventions.
- To provide a direct service to children and young people in informal education and community group settings across the area providing appropriate information about substance use/misuse, risk reduction, health, and social well-being.
- Provide casework services to children and young people referred from **FSTs** using recognised theoretical models, an action plan and review systems.
- Support community groups and informal education settings to develop, plan and review drug and alcohol education prevention programmes to be delivered to children and young people in educational settings.
- Support youth workers/ community group leaders to deliver appropriate education prevention programmes to children and young people in their settings.
- Suitability screening of referrals

- Assessment of referral, child and Family using appropriate and proportionate assessment Tool (Asset+, Bureau Assessment, Prevention/Onset)
- Child Centred intervention which take into account Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma
- Specialist Screening (Substance Misuse, Mental Health, Education Training and Employment)
- Opportunity to refer to YJS Health Panel for specialist Advice, assessment and intervention.
- Risk assessment relating to Offending and Public Protection.
- Extensive Restorative Justice and Victim work (Reparation, Mediation)
- Possible referral to Parenting Worker for parents and Carers.

Interventions -

- Child on Parent violence intervention
- Activities to promote health and wellbeing.
- Understanding Crime and the Justice system
- Responsibilities and Children's Rights
- Choices and Consequences work programmes.
- Reparation activity projects
- Victim impact programmes
- Resilience Interventions
- Healthy Living learning (Smoking cessation, healthy diet, good sleeping patterns etc)
- Anger Management and Emotional Regulation

Ensure that the people of Gwynedd are at the Centre of everything we do – 'Ffordd Gwynedd'.

Lot 6 services will be available through the referral of the Information Advice and Assistance process and TAF Team (the Gwynedd Team around the Family).

Section C - Challenges and Risks

Please outline any areas of challenge or potential risks to the implementation of the Programme within your Local Authority area and how you plan to overcome them.

The main risk for 2025/ 2026 remains as previous year's - the uncertainty about the future of the programme and grant funding and therefore there is a high risk that staff will move to other posts therefore reducing the service available to families in Gwynedd, but hopefully early confirmation of secured funding received will help in reducing any staffing issues due to short term contracts.

The commissioned project will remain in contract until March 31, 2026.

MEETING	Care Scrutiny Panel
DATE	29 th January 2026
TITLE	Youth Justice Service
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	Ensuring that the service is efficient.
AUTHOR	Stephen Wood, Youth Justice Service Manager Gwynedd and Anglesey
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Menna Trenholme

1. Why does it need to be scrutinised?

- 1.1 The Youth Justice Service (YJS) is hosted by Gwynedd Council and operates across Gwynedd and Anglesey. It is a multi-agency team that works with children and young people who are at risk of offending or have offended.
- 1.2 It is necessary to ensure that it operates efficiently and that the service has appropriate resources.

2. What needs to be scrutinised?

1. Reviewing the numbers of children being supported
2. The support given to keep young people out of prison
3. The various projects provided by the service, the challenges faced, and the successes

3. Summary and Key Issues

3.1 General

- 3.2 The Gwynedd Mon YJS is a multi-agency service, hosted by Cyngor Gwynedd Council and based in private rented offices in Felinheli. The statutory functions of the service are founded in the ***Crime and Disorder Act of 1998*** (C&D Act) and requires the service to prevent the offending and reoffending of children. The C&D Act established YJSs as a partnership requiring Local Authorities, Police, Probation and Health to work together to provide funding, resources and governance in order to ensure an effective youth justice system for the chosen area, in our case this is the 2-county area of Gwynedd and Ynys Mon.
- 3.3 As host authority for the Youth Justice Service Gwynedd Council provides; line management for the service manager, finance management, training, and development framework (available to seconded staff also) IT support and Health

and Safety for the offices and buildings. The service conducts its business and staff management under the policies and procedures set out by Gwynedd Council.

- 3.4 The service receives Strategic Oversight and Governance from Gwynedd and Ynys Mon YJ Management Board, the board consists of Heads of Service, Senior Managers and Leaders from the local partnership; Local Authority (Education and Children's Services) Health, Nation Probation Service, North Wales Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Magistrates Bench, His Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service and Youth Justice Board (YJB). The Management Board is currently Chaired by the Gwynedd Corporate Director for Social Services, chairing responsibilities rotate between the 2 local authorities. The Management Board meets quarterly and will have; finance, performance, safeguarding and monitoring improvement programmes, as standing items.

3.5 Strategic Planning

- 3.6 One of the main statutory responsibilities of the management board and the service manager is the production of the Annual Youth Justice Plan (**appendix a**). The Plan evaluates the performance of the service over the previous 12 months and measures its progress on the previous Plan and any improvement/work plans that have been initiated. It monitors the commitment and engagement of the statutory partners, which includes finance and resourcing. Our 2025-26 was submitted to the YJB/MOJ in June 2025, we received sign-off in Sept 2025, furthermore the YJB have requested permission from our Management Board to use our Plan as an example of good practice within the sector.
- 3.7 The strategic and operational business of the service involves both devolved non-devolved responsibilities, our work with criminal justice partners receives oversight, guidance and reporting to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Home Office (HO). Much of this work is coordinated through the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, who are a Public Sector Long-arm body of the Ministry of Justice. The role of the YJB is:
- 3.8 *"To oversee the youth justice system in England and Wales, with a core role to prevent children from offending by advising the government, monitoring system performance, promoting best practices, commissioning research, and ensuring secure placements for youth in custody, all under a "Child First" approach that treats children as children and prioritizes their strengths and rehabilitation."*
- 3.9 All youth court matters are heard at Caernarfon Youth and Crown Court, with the resultant extra travel burden on families to ensure attendance at Caernarfon court; this is a particular issue for families who live in some of our more remote communities where the public transport provision is limited. We have reciprocal arrangements with our colleagues in Conwy and Denbighshire and Flintshire YJSs, for youth court cover in Llandudno YC or Mold Crown should any of our children attend. When required and there is a case risk, the service will operate a standby Saturday Remand Court provision supporting our colleagues in Flintshire where the Remand Court (Mold) takes place.
- 3.10 All police custody matters are processed in Caernarfon Custody suite, again extra demands on families to attend.

- 3.11 The service has a duty to support victims of youth crime, we have a dedicated team of staff who communicate and support victims throughout the justice journey;
- 1 x Victim Liaison Worker
 - 1 x Reparation and Restorative Justice worker
 - 1 x Referral Order Coordinator
 - 1 x Senior Practitioner Victims and Restorative Justice
- 3.12 Their role is to ensure the voice of the victim is heard within justice processes and impact statements are used effectively to plan interventions and support. To keep the victim fully informed of the child's progress and outcomes. To deliver appropriate community linked restorative programmes that help the child learn about the importance of community, impacts on victims and ways to avoid crime.
- 3.13 In addition to youth justice support the service hosts the two-county Young Person's Substance Misuse Service (**Be 'dr Sgor**) and Gwynedd's Harmful Sexual Behaviour Prevention Team (**Tim Emrallt**)
- 3.14 Full staffing structure can be accessed in **Appendix a**
- 3.15 There is a specific Regional YJB team for Wales (YJB Cymru), who, in addition to the above, work to ensure alignment with Welsh Government Programming and Priorities and maintaining effective partnership arrangements in Wales.

3.16 Performance and Inspection

- 3.17 The YJB monitor the National Standards and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), a full list of the KPIs and the service's response to performance is outlined in sections **5** and **8** of the Youth Justice Plan 2025-26 (**appendix b**).
- 3.18 Current *Quadrant* performance grading from the YJB for our service is;
- Quadrant 2** (Good overall performance)
- *Staff participation in the Board (e.g. thematic presentations) is strong.*
 - *Partners continue to make positive and constructive contributions.*
 - *Work on OoCRs across the region is starting to show a positive impact on children.*
- 3.19 The service received a Youth Justice Standards Inspection from HMIP in November 2023, the report was published in March 2024;
- 3.20 "Overall, Gwynedd & Ynys Môn YJS was rated as '**Good**'. We also inspected the quality of resettlement policy and provision, which was separately rated as '**Requires improvement**'."
- 3.21 *"The service is child focused, committed to helping children to desist from further offending. An individualised approach helps to ensure that children's diversity needs are recognised, and support put in place to help them thrive and achieve positive decision-making. Staff and volunteers are a strength. They are kind, thoughtful, work well together as one team, and are positive advocates for the children they supervise."*

- 3.22 *“The Tim Emrallt (problematic and harmful sexual behaviour) offer is excellent and making a real difference in supporting practitioners to improving children’s attitudes and behaviours. The Be di’r Sgôr (substance misuse service) provides high-quality interventions.”*
- 3.23 *“The YJS can be rightly proud of the way it reaches out to children with compassion to help them live out their best lives.”*
- 3.24 The service was required to create an Inspection Improvement Plan (IIP) in response to the 7 main findings;
1. *Ensure consistent attendance at the management board from senior education and health leaders, to achieve positive education and health outcomes for all children.*
 2. *Address the disconnect between the strategic management board and frontline practitioners.*
 3. *Address the gap in speech, language, and communication provision for children and ensure that services are provided which assess and respond to children’s communication needs.*
 4. *Improve the quality of assessment and planning work to keep children safe and manage the risk of harm they present to others.*
 5. *Ensure that management oversight is consistently effective in reviewing Asset Plus activity and contingency planning, so that practitioners are clear about what they need to improve.*
 6. *Provide practitioners with comprehensive guidance that supports the completion of effective out-of-court assessment and planning work.*
 7. *Improve the knowledge and understanding of practitioners to identify when children are being exploited so that timely action is taken to keep children safe.*
- 3.25 A copy of the IIP can be seen in (**Appendix c**), progress on the IIP is regularly monitored by YJS Management Board, with the Board committed to conduct a final review on delivery, in March 26.

4. Background / Context

4.1 Working with Children

- 4.2 The service fully supports and promotes the ‘Child First’ principle in Wales, our approach is to;
- *Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential.*
 - *Promote children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their identity, all work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.*
 - *Encourage children’s active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their family.*
 - *Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.*
- 4.3 The service is ‘Trauma Informed’ and incorporates Adverse Childhood Experiences into our assessment and reporting processes. The service also practices the

Trauma Recovery Model as part of our intervention and support, with support from the regional Forensic Adolescent Consultation and Treatment Service (FACTS) to deliver Enhanced Case Management, where complex cases can be 'Formulated' with the assistance of a Consultant Psychologist.

4.4 Delivery

- 4.5 The Service Office base is located in the village of Felinheli about 3 miles from both Bangor and Caernarfon and utilises both public and private sector facilities for meeting children and young people, as well-as home visits. Service delivery is very much peripatetic, and this type of delivery has significant time and cost implications for staff and partnership funders.
- 4.6 The service operates 3 Pool cars (2 x cars 1 x Utility Van), cars are used by staff for community visits and the van is used for community projects including Unpaid and Reparation work. The use of pool cars helps in reducing service travel costs for a peripatetic service operating in a large rural community. We also hold a large selection of Equipment and Tools for unpaid and reparation projects; Litter collection, gardening, and general maintenance.
- 4.7 The service provides travel assistance to children and families who may otherwise struggle to attend office meetings, Court, or police meetings. The support comes in the form of Travel vouchers for local bus services.
- 4.8 The service continues to build on our extensive Interventions Packs and programmes, the Resilience Interventions (although still in research trials) joins and already well used;
- *Positive Choices*
 - *Time Out for Teenagers (Parenting)*
 - *Teen Talk*
 - *Clued-Up*
 - *Star*
 - *Family Matters*
 - *Escape (Parenting)*
 - *Olivia's Story*
- 4.9 In addition, the service holds a growing library of online resources which is informed and built on by our involvement with our Regional YJS Interventions Forum, this includes Violence and Knife crime awareness.
- 4.10 In 2025-26 the service will benefit from a very generous contribution (£16,200) from the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner to purchase for 12 months the use of ***Virtual Decisions***. Virtual Decisions is a virtual reality programme that is delivered using video headsets and allows children and staff to explore different community scenarios (these can be crime or staying safe based) where children are able to interact and make decisions to change narrative and outcomes. The programme is supported by Extended Learning Packs which facilitate the interactions between staff and child, promoting improved decision making and outlining the consequences of actions.
- 4.11 The service has purchased 5 headsets with the following programmes;

- *Knife Crime*
- *Identity*
- *Influence*

4.12 Caseload Data

4.13 There are 2 main cohorts the service works with, these are;

4.14 Prevention and Diversion

4.15 The service has for the last 12 years delivered a successful and effective prevention and diversionary programme of work, in 2013 only 15-20% of our caseload was pre-court, in 2025 that figure will be closer to 80%. This significant change has been achieved through legislation, policy development and improved quality of practice delivery across the YJ Sector partnership.

4.16 In this area the service works to keep children away from the formal justice system by delivering the following;

4.17

Referred to a Prevention Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred by Schools, Yellow Card ASB (NWP), Social Services • Prevention is a support programme of targeted interventions to be delivered by a variety of agencies, but which is coordinated by the Prevention staff • Prevention is aimed at young people at risk of offending, ie: have not yet committed an offence but there may be evidence of anti-social behaviour, problematic substance use, non-attendance at school, problematic behaviour in school or at home. There needs to be several factors present for the referral to be suitable.
Turnaround Programme	<p>MOJ Funded Prevention Programme (2022-2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to work with children on the cusp of offending, ASB notifications, NFAs, RUIs • Strengths based interventions • 10-12 weeks intervention • Referrals and cohort numbers/outcomes monitored by national Turnaround team.
YJS/Police Decision Making Panel Out of Court Disposals Outcome 22 Outcome 8 Outcome 20 Youth Cautions (Formal Outcome)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred by the Police, in response to an offence of a gravity level of 4 or below (public order, low level assaults, criminal damage, theft, possession of class B; and others) • The Panel made up of; YJS Police Officer, a Community Volunteer, the YJS Operational Manager, YJS RJ & Victim senior Practitioner, case workers (RO coordinator). It is intended to divert young people from the court process, thereby assisting them to not to get a criminal record and to receive intervention to prevent them entering the youth justice system in future. • An assessment is completed, from which a report is produced. The young person reports to the Panel, which formulates a disposal agreement comprising of targeted interventions, which the young person agrees to. <p>There are 3 possibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcome 8,22,20 - the most frequent disposal means that the young person does not get a criminal record whereas the other two mean that they do. - Youth Caution

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Conditional Caution – if YP does not comply YP can be returned to court - The Intervention typically lasts up to 3 months. Where necessary this is extended and exit plans/strategies are arranged.
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4.18 Statutory Court Orders

4.19

Referral Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-12m duration • YP has an assessment, from which a report is produced. The young person reports to a Referral Order Panel, made up of community volunteers, which formulates a contract of interventions which the young person agrees to. • 3 monthly reviews, followed by a Final Review, at which the Panel decides if the contract has been fulfilled. If it has the Conviction becomes 'spent' at the end of the Order, which means that the conviction does not need to be declared to future employers (with certain exceptions). If not the rehabilitation period, before which the conviction will become 'spent', will vary as according to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. A Referral Order will appear on a DBS check. • Restorative Encouragement & enforcement through the Panel and Court • Intensive supervision and Surveillance Programme (most intensive form of community supervision/alternative to custody – 25 hrs per week) • Curfew & Electronic Monitoring (mostly for young people on ISS) • Activity requirement: usually for the YP to complete an amount of reparation hours • Unpaid work • Programme: eg: Knife Crime, Citizenship, Anger Management
Youth Rehabilitation Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-36months duration • 3 monthly Reviews with Case Manager and Interventions staff • Reviews and or Breach hearings in court • Restorative encouragement and enforcement meetings • Possible requirements: • Supervision: includes offending behaviour related work, attendance with Substance use worker, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service support •
Detention and Training Order	<p>4-24 months duration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodial sentence in Young Offender Institutions. • Periodic custodial reviews according to the length of sentence • Early Release meeting to consider whether the young person can be released early with an electronic curfew & tag • Followed by a period of supervision on licence in the community • Reviews and or Breach hearings in court • Restorative encouragement and enforcement meetings • Resettlement begins at point of sentence! • OMG will provide Resettlement Panel process when needed.
Section 250 (previously 90/91)	<p>Custody Sentence More than 24 months duration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodial sentence in Young Offender Institutions. • Periodic custodial reviews according to the length of sentence • Early Release meeting to consider whether the young person can be released early with an electronic curfew & tag

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Followed by a period of supervision on licence in the community • Reviews and or Breach hearings in court • Restorative encouragement and enforcement meetings • Resettlement begins at point of sentence! • OMG will provide Resettlement Panel process when needed.
Youth Detention Accommodation Secure Remand	<p>Should only be used by Court when absolutely necessary and when bail is refused.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court should have consideration of welfare of child • YJS should propose Bail alternatives to avoid YDA's • Asset+ Bail and Remand module to be sent to YCS immediately to inform suitable placement. • A+ should focus on individual needs of Young person and highlight any risk or safety and wellbeing concerns. • YJS to schedule initial planning meeting within 5 working days. • Regular meetings to take place up to sentencing Court date. • All YDA's have looked after status – Social care to attend meetings. • We have a management group which has oversight of any YDA episodes.
Voluntary	<p>There are times when a family or the child requests extended support from the YJS beyond the terms of the court order, the service will support this where benefits are identified, or the child is in transition/experiencing significant changes.</p>

4.20 Referral/Caseload data

4.21 In the period April 2024 to Aug 2025 the service received the following referrals;

County/Intervention	Turnaround/Prevention	O22/O8	YC/YCC	Referral Order	YRO	DTO/Remand	Totals
Gwynedd	57	79	24	17	3	1	181(64%)
Ynys Mon	20	52	14	9	5	0	100 (36%)
Out of County	0	2	2	9	2	0	15
Total	77	133	40	35	10	1	296

4.22 There are currently 121 children open to the service

4.23 The YJS Management Board recently completed a comprehensive analysis of the caseload and needs the following is a short synopsis of the findings;

- I. **Gender:** We have observed an increased number of girls entering the justice system in recent years, this report indicates a reduction in numbers in the last 12-18 months, but not yet to previously low figures. However, it is pleasing to note that girls do not progress through the system at the same rate as boys. Timely and trust/relationship-based interventions seem to have a more positive affect on girls. The average age of girls is slightly higher than boys, this possible increased maturity may have a positive influence in girls success and engagement in the informal and formal Out of Court Resolutions offer.
- II. **County:** There are some significant anomalies in certain cohorts (YROs) with regards to the county split, we do occasionally observe this and normally this will be short-term or linked with group offending or police targeting (operational). In this report across the cohorts, we see a normal county referral split and when factored in to longitudinal data there are no concerns. We have seen an increased number of Out of Area children (Looked After Children

Placed in our area in Residential units), there are 15 in this sample which is a 30% increase in previous years and places additional (unfunded) demand on our service. There is a duty set out in YJB Case Management Standards that YJS will Caretake and Provide support to other LA children placed in their area who are on youth justice orders. Holyhead, Bangor and Caernarfon are the areas with highest levels of Youth Crime.

- III. **Age:** It is positive to note that there are no 10-year-olds in the caseload and those aged 11 years were in the Prevention or Turnaround cohort where no crime was linked. The OofCR cohort has a very broad age range but 75% over the age of 15yrs with evidence to suggest that work in this cohort is slowing down progression into more formal outcomes or attendance at court. In all cohorts Girls are slightly older than Boys and no significant age difference between counties. Out of area children are slightly younger in most cohorts than local children.
- IV. **Offending:** Violence remains the most common offence in all cohorts and with both boys and girls, 71% of Referral Orders had a violent offence linked. The presence of sexual offences physical and online/social media is of concern. Arson offences appear in formal court orders in relation to well publicised incidents involving several children; however, some arson incidents were criminal damage by fire and were dealt with appropriately through out of court formal sanctions and educational interventions. Knife possession offences are common across the cohorts, national and local attention on youth knife crime has contributed to police and education actions resulting in increased stop and search and response to intel. Public protection and risk management are the main consideration to decision making for possession offences with outcomes for fair and child centred. Where there is a real threat to individuals (persistent possession or threats to use) appropriate sanctions are applied unfortunately this does not have the desired effect! Section 18 wounding cases should have been avoided. Measures are in place to learn from these events and to minimise future incidents. New interventions have been sourced within the service and the service is active with CSP and partners to work with schools on preventative interventions and education programmes to spread awareness of Violence, Exploitation and Knife Possession/Crime.
- V. **Status:** The child's journey through the youth justice system is often mirrored by their journey with children's services support;

Cohort	Known to Children's Services (%)	LAC Number
Prevention & Turn	9	4
OofCR	19	11
YC&YCC	15	4
Ref Order	35	6
YRO	100	5
Custody	100	1

- VI. **Education:** There is concerning evidence within the dataset to suggest that educational outcomes for children in the justice system is potentially poor.

Average across the cohorts are School aged Children **16% NEET**, above School age **38% NEET**. Highest figures are **33%** of school aged children on a referral order were **not in full-time education**, and **66%** of above school aged children on a YRO were **NEET**.

- VII. **General:** The service has invested (Via OPCC funding) in '*Virtual Decisions*' interactive **Knife Crime, Influence and Identity** interventions, these programmes aim to improve our effectiveness to reduce violence, knife crime and exploitation risks. In addition the service is working in collaboration with the CSP and other partners on the Serious Violence Duty support in schools raising awareness on violence, drug and Vape use. The service will refresh our arrangements, policies and practice around the management of Out of Area children to ensure effective management of cases and maintain monitoring of demand.
- VIII. **Further analysis** on ALN and Mental Health and Wellbeing and revisit Disparity and Disproportionality data is required before April 26 to inform Youth Justice Plan (2026-27) and Operational programming.

4.24 Public Protection and Safeguarding

- 4.25 The service has a comprehensive approach to risk management and public protection, all assessments focus on the risk the child poses to themselves and others. These assessments are quality assured by Team Managers at Start, Mid-point and End of support/supervision, with quality assurance Audits completed annually. In addition, the monthly service *Risk Panel* provides an opportunity to staff and managers to assess risk levels, adjust, and reset planning and support which will include communication with other services.
- 4.26 Where there is serious risks the service has active and effective relationships with MAPPA and MARAC arrangements, these arrangements are reviewed annually to ensure clear and consistent communications and monitor practice changes. Children who are on transition from custody to community or who are moving to adult service (Probation), there are policy and practice agreements in place with the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme lead by NW Police and HMPPS.
- 4.27 The service operates through the Safeguarding Policies of Gwynedd Council and is compliant with All Wales Safeguarding Procedures. Safety and Wellbeing are key assessment components of our assessment framework. The service is aligned with and fully contributes to the safeguarding and child protection practice of both local authorities. Staff and managers are fully engaged with children's services in all aspects of safeguarding practice, all staff receive safeguarding training to the appropriate level for their role, and we are currently working with Cyngor Gwynedd in the development and implementation of the new rollout of safeguarding training.

4.28 Funding

- 4.29 The YJS is a multi-funded service which requires reporting and monitoring processes at both local and national levels. Approximately 46% of the service is

funded by grants, with the remainder provided by the Local Partnership (Local Authority, Police, Health and Probation).

4.30 Finance management and oversight is provided by Cyngor Gwynedd with a Group Accountant attached to the service. The Management Board review service finances and risks at all quarterly meetings.

4.31 The Tables below outline the current budgets for 2025-26;

4.32 Table 1 (Cash)

Source	2024-25 (£)	2025-26 (£)	% contribution
Gwynedd Council	187,530.65	210,570.00	48.08%
IOACC	142,890.00	156,180.00	35.66%
North Wales Police	27,897.00	28,900.00	6.60%
BCUHB (Health)	34,000.00	37,320.00	8.52%
Probation	5,000.00	5,000.00	1.14%
Sub Total	397,317.65	437,970.00	100.00%

4.33 Table 2 (Secondment)

Source	2024-25	2025-26 (Estimate)	% Contribution
Gwynedd Council	54,630.73	60,470.00	27%
IOACC	54,789.07	55,540.00	24.7%
North Wales Police	61,693.55	61,693.55	27.5%
BCUHB (Health)	27,500.00	27,500.0	12.2%
Probation	19,365.18	19,365.18	8.6%
Sub Total	217,978.53	224,568.68	100%

4.34 Table 3 (Grants) Requires Quarterly reporting

Source	2024-25	2025-26
Welsh Gov PPE (CCG)	252,926.47	256,120.00
OPCC North Wales	16,793.28	16,790.00
YJ Grant	277,943.00	282,000.00
Welsh Gov FF (Gwynedd)	18,000.00	18,000.00
Sub Total	565,662.75	572,910.00

4.35 Table 4 (Totals)

Source	2025-26 £
Statutory Partner Contribution (Cash)	437,970.00
Secondment (in-kind)	224,568.68
Grants (46%)	572,910.00
Total	1,235,448.68 (+4.6%)

4.36 Representation has been made at local and national levels to highlight the current burden placed on Local Authorities in regard to the inequality of financial support for Youth Justice in Wales. This is not just the contributions it also includes the costs of hosting and costs linked to Remand.

4.37 Current funding support for the service is safe and well-manged but we cannot ignore the risks when a high proportion of the funding is made on annual grant arrangements.

5. Consultation

5.1 We have not had the opportunity to consult with other services/partners in the preparation of this report.

6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

6.1 Have you **included** residents / service users? If not, when and how do you plan to consult them?

6.2 All formal assessment AssetPlus and PaDAT (mandated assessment tools, YJB/MOJ) on children require reported consultation and feedback from children and their parents/carers. This feedback and contribution (*'voice of the child'*) is quality assured and reviewed by team managers during audits and supervision.

6.3 In addition, the service commissions 'Viewpoint' a YJ based survey programme that we use for independent gathering of children's views of the service provided a recent report can be accessed in **Appendix d**.

6.4 As part of our Resilience Intervention Research 60 survey questionnaires have been completed with children and parents/carers. The results from the analysis will be shared with staff and the Management Board on completion of the study. The

questionnaires explore both the quality of the new intervention created and also the child's improved understanding of resilience and dealing with adversity.

- 6.5 Within our various multi-agency Panel meetings (Education, Health, Risk and Allocation) we invite our partners to feedback and influence our work. They are provided with the opportunity to contribute to Assessments, Planning and Decision making their input enhances the quality of work and they are able to access the feedback from the children.
- 6.6 As part of our delivery of Referral Orders and Out of Court Resolutions there is a requirement for the use of Volunteers at RO Panel meetings and Decision-Making Panels. We have an active group of 8-10 volunteers at any one time and they provide vital, impartial support to the children and the service, representing the community and victims whilst recording the voice of the child which will be included in assessments and reports.
- 6.7 In Youth Court Panels, the service is given feedback from the Sentencers and Court Staff on the quality of support, assessment and reports they receive. This information is used to inform wider QA processes and maintains high quality services.
- 6.8 Have you considered **collaborating**?
- 6.9 We are collaborative service with a multi-agency staff group, in addition to meeting the needs of the child, we and our partners seek 'Outcomes of mutual benefit' when considering our approach to service support.
- 6.10 We have Service Level Agreements with partners in Health, North Wales Housing, Careers Wales and IOM.
- 6.11 The service operates within the wider children's services support, contributing to;
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Meetings
 - Child Protection Conferences
 - Look After Child reviews
 - Serious and Organised Crime Groups
 - Exploitation Panels
 - Community Safety partnership
 - Safeguarding Children Board
 - Senior Management Teams (Children's Services)
 - Families First and Children's and Community Grant Planning.
 - Criminal Justice Board
 - Area Planning Board
 - Vulnerability Board
 - Serious Violence Duty Groups

- 6.12 How have you considered the **long-term** and what will people's needs be in years to come?
- 6.13 The Youth Justice Plan for Gwynedd and Mon sets out the short to medium-term planning for the service and the Management Board, and through our work with the Youth Justice Advisory Panel, Welsh Government and the YJB we are constantly analysing data and trends to ensure effective horizon scanning, innovation and best practice development.
- 6.14 We contribute to the regional and national Criminal Justice Boards, participation in these boards and project groups ensures the service is well sighted on policy changes and demand risks across the justice system.
- 6.15 One of the main considerations currently being explored by the Welsh Government and Ministry of Justice is the Devolution of Youth Justice in Wales, there are live work programmes scoping; Funding Arrangements and the Structural Requirements should political will be agreed.
- 6.16 To ensure **integration**, have you considered the potential impact on other public bodies?
- 6.17 The service is constantly looking at how our work and findings affect partners and other services. Our multi-agency Management Board ensures that our relevant partners are fully sighted on our work and have the opportunity to identify opportunity to learn from and contribute to the service. One of the main requirements of Management Board members is to disseminate information from the service within there own agency, and to provide information to the work of the Board from the wider public service partnership.

7. Impact on Equality Characteristics, Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Duty

- 7.1 Gwynedd and Ynys Mon have the highest percentage of Welsh Language speakers per population in Wales; Gwynedd 64.4% and Anglesey 55.8%. Therefore, the YJS workforce needs to reflect this. Currently of the 40 staff (across the 3 services), 37 (93%) are First Language Welsh speakers, 2 are Welsh learners (intermediate), and 1 with limited Welsh language ability (Basic). All interventions, communications and support are delivered in the families or child's language of need, the service works to achieve the requirements of the Cyngor Gwynedd Welsh language Policy.

8. Next Steps

8.1

1. Continue with our effective response to HMIP findings.
2. Consolidating our work to improve representation and participation at the Strategic Board.
3. Ensure the effective implementation of the new '*Regional Youth Out of Court Disposal Policy*' with a view to increasing the use of Outcome 22, reducing First-time Entrant numbers, working with colleagues in the YJB and local policing to monitor and affect change.
4. Continue with efforts to improve Strategic Oversight and Leadership.
5. Maintain good and effective service delivery in the context of financial pressures.
6. We will work closely with the service and our colleagues in the wider partnership to Prioritise;
 - *Youth Violence,*
 - *Education Training and Employment monitoring (including exclusion practice)*
 - *ensuring that our Exploitation practice and support keeps children safe.*
7. We will work with colleagues in YJB Cymru and the YJB Data team to maintain effective Performance reporting.

8.2 Our performance regarding Education Training and Employment in 2022-25, was below standards, the most concerning area was that of school aged children, we have recorded a rise in the number of; exclusions received by the children we work with, alternative timetables below the required 25 hrs and we perceive a distinct deterioration in the relationship between schools and families. This will continue to be a considerable focus for the service in the next 12 months, looking specifically at the number and types of ACEs and levels of trauma experience by those children not in full-time education.

8.3 The service has been without Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) support for 6 years. Despite numerous attempts and securing finance for a secondment, our local SLCN Team has been unable to provide resource. Work continues to explore other options for resourcing/support, additional pressure being felt following HMIP recommendations from our inspection in November 2023. Our efforts are hindered due to decisions made by Welsh Government not to prioritise Youth Justice in their '*60%-Giving them a Voice*' (2023) Report and rejecting recommendation 3 & 6. It should be noted that our local SaLT colleagues have been very supportive in the creation of training and resource plan for service staff.

8.4 Probation secondment continues to present difficulties for the service especially following findings from our 2023 Inspection where the absence of a Probation

Officer was graded as an area for improvement. Since 2022 the service has had a Probation Service Officer secondment in place of a qualified Probation Officer due to limited resources in our local probation teams, this arrangement works well for our service, as we maintain very close strategic and operation links with our local NPS/IOM senior officers and DPU lead. However there seems to be conflicting opinions from HMIP and HMPPS on how YJSs are resourced, this is a national issue, the service has limited influence in decisions being made.

- 8.5 Our disproportionality figures for BAME children are low, however there are children we work with who do not classify themselves as White British, where this occurs we seek support from others to ensure that the child's needs are fully met (see **Appendix e**). Our focus of disproportionality will be on Care experience Children, the service is at the centre of the work to roll out the new Welsh Government Protocol and Toolkit on the Decriminalisation of Care Experienced Children and Young People. We will use our position within the partnership to raise awareness and ensure that the work is included in the Serious Violence Duty needs assessment, and the new Regional Out of Court Resolution Policy.
- 8.6 Quality Assurance is a key component to effective service delivery and to ensure children receive support of the highest quality. The conduct QA audits on an annual basis as part of our planning, with the Management Board directing focus on areas work. In 2025 the service was tasked to Audit 'Assessments' and 'Work with Victims' an example of our work can be accessed in **Appendix f**.

Appendices

- a. **Staffing Structure**
- b. **G&M Youth Justice Plan 25-26**
- c. **HMIP Inspection Improvement Plan**
- d. **'Viewpoint' Report**
- e. **Disproportionality Report**
- f. **Quality Assurance Report 2025**

Gwasanaethau Cyfiawnder Ieuentid Gwynedd a Môn Youth Justice Services
Be yw'r Sgôr (YPSMS) and Tim Emrallt
Stwythur Staff / Staff Structure

Stephen Wood (F)
 Rheolwr Gwasanaeth / Service Manager

Theresa Adshead (F)
 Uwch Swyddog Gweinyddol /
 Senior Admin Officer

Malcolm Vaughan (F)
 Rheolwr Gweithredol Tîm Rheoli
 Achos / Case Management Team
 Operational Manager

Llyr Peters (F)
 Rheolwr Gweithredol Adnoddau
 / Resource Operational Manager

Emma Louise Jones (F)
 Gweinyddol /
 Administration
 (Mat Leave)

Ann Carran (F)
 Gweinyddol /
 Administration

Llinos Rees (F)
 Uwch Ymarferydd / Senior
 Practitioner RJ Victims
Manon Roberts (F)
 Cydlynnydd Gorchymyn Cyfeirio /
 Referral Order Co-ordinator

Pat Griffith (P)
Cari Jones (P)
 Gweithwyr Cyfiawnder Adferol a
 Dioddefwyr / Victim and
 Restorative Justice Workers

Mari Lloyd Jones (P)
 Gweinyddol /
 Administration

Lois Williams (P)*
 Swyddog Cyswllt Addysg /
 Education Liaison Officer
Kaelie Peters (P)
 Gweithiwr Gyrfa Cymru /
 Careers Wales Worker

Ella Mair Jones (F)
 Gweithwyr Achos
 Ataliol / Prevention
 Case Worker (TAF)

Gareth Roberts (F)
 (Turnaround)
Tesni Jones (P)
Aimee Jones (F)
Lois Williams (P)*
 Gweithwyr Achos
 Ataliol / Prevention
 Case Workers

Tomos Gashe (F)
Llinos Evans (F)
Lynne Roberts-Price(P)
Sion Roberts (F)
 Rheolwyr Achos Ôl Llys
 / Post Court Case
 Managers

Elin McGee (P)
 Rhiantu/Parenting

Aron Coleman (F)
 Gweithiwr Llety /
 Accommodation
 Worker (NWH)

Rob Owen (P)
 Gwaith Di-Dâl/
 Unpaid Work

Be y'dr Sgor/YPSMS
Paula Owen – Team Manager
Tracey Evans – Arfon and YM Tier 3 Worker
Catrin Price – Tier 2/3 Meirion/ Dwyfor
Elin Owens – Health Liaison Worker (YG)
Cajina Elias – Tier 2 Arfon
Lee Richardson – YM Tier 2 (**Maternity**)
Holly Jones – EI&P Education Worker (Tier 2)
Elin Williams – EI&P Education Worker (Tier 2)

Barry John (F)
 Swyddog Cyfranogiad /
 Participation Officer

Rebecca Davies (F)
 Swyddog Heddlu /
 Police Officer

Marie Williams (P)
 Gweithiwr Iechyd /
 Health Worker

Tim Emrallt
Gina Carty (F)
 Senior Practitioner
Anest Eifion (F)
Caryl Ellis (F)

CAMHS
 Lisa Owen (P)

095059



Gwynedd ac Ynys Môn
Gwasanaeth Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid/Youth Justice Service
Cynllun Cyfiawnder Ieuenctid/Youth Justice Plan
2025-6

***‘Supporting us to do the best we can by staying away from crime’
(The Kids)***

***‘Supporting children to reach their full potential by living crime-free lives’
(Gwynedd Mon YJS)***

Foreword (from YJS Strategic Management Board)

In my first 9 months of chairing the Gwynedd and Mon Youth Justice Service, I have made a deliberate effort to familiarise myself with the operational functions of the service and to meet and learn from the staff. It has been very pleasing to find a service that is clear on its primary objective to effectively support the children of Gwynedd and Ynys Mon, and a staff group who are driven, dedicated and innovative in their approach. I am very grateful to the previous chair and the members of the management board for the secure and optimistic position I have inherited.

There remain challenges in terms of; the ever changing needs of the children we work with, financial pressures on public sector, and legacy gaps in provision. In addition new legislation and strategy developments (*Crime and Policing Bill, 2025*, new HMIP Youth Justice Inspection Framework and revision of the YJ BluePrint for Wales), these developments will be significant on how we progress and develop over the next few years. We continue to make good progress on the HMIP Improvement Plan, and take all opportunities to benefit from YJB Cymru Support and Oversight and make best use of our excellent partnership with our sister YJSs in North Wales.

For 2025-26 the our priorities will be;

- 1. Continue with our effective response to HMIP findings.**
- 2. Consolidating our work to improve representation and participation at the Strategic Board.**
- 3. Ensure the effective implementation of the new '*Regional Youth Out of Court Disposal Policy*' with a view to increasing the use of Outcome 22, reducing First-time Entrant numbers, working with colleagues in the YJB and local policing to monitor and affect change.**
- 4. Continue with efforts to improve Strategic Oversight and Leadership.**
- 5. Maintain good and effective service delivery in the context of financial pressures.**
- 6. We will work closely with the service and our colleagues in the wider partnership to Prioritise; Youth Violence, ETE monitoring (including exclusion practice) and ensuring that our Exploitation practice and support keeps children safe.**
- 7. We will work with colleagues in YJB Cymru and the YJB Data team to maintain effective Performance reporting.**

Huw Dylan Owen, Chair of the YJS Strategic Management Board.

1. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

1.1 For 2025-26 the YJS Strategic Management Board (SMB) will be chaired by the Corporate Director for Social Service Cyngor Gwynedd; their chairing term began in September 2024 and will be for a period of 2 years. Chairing responsibilities are due to transfer to Ynys Mon Council in Autum 2026.

1.2 Members of the board include;

- *2 x Heads of Children's Services*
- *2 x Directors of Social services*
- *National Probation Service (Wales) LDU Lead Officers*
- *Clinical Assistant Director, BCU Health Board*
- *Chief Inspector (Western Partnership) North Wales Police*
- *Representative from North Wales OPCC (Chief Executive)*
- *2 x Head of Education.*
- *2 x Elected Members (one per Local Authority, Social Services, Children and Young People or CSP Portfolios)*

Associate members;

- *Chair of the Local Youth Magistrate Bench.*
- *1 x Senior Manager HMCTS*

1.3 The Terms of Reference for the Management Board includes the use of deputies, Management Board members are requested to used deputies when they are unable to attend scheduled meetings. Deputies must be notified to the Chair before the meeting and have the ability to make decisions on behalf of the agency they are representing.

1.4 The Gwynedd and Mon YJS Operational Management Group (OMG), the OMG is a management level below, and is accountable to, the SMB.

1.5 The Group is chaired by a senior service or operational manager from the wider youth justice partnership, at present the chair is a senior operational manager from Gwynedd Children's Services, and our deputy is from North Wales Housing Association. The OMG meets quarterly and reports to the SMG on workplan progress, whilst supporting the YJS to develop and maintain;

- *Effective communication across the children's support services partnership on the work and developments of youth justice in Wales (including the Blueprint)*
- *Seeks collaboration and cross-partnership working opportunities.*
- *Offers impartiality to service auditing and review processes.*

- Maximises training opportunities for themes and new approaches.
- Assists in problem-solving and removing barriers to service delivery.
- Supports the SMB to deliver on the youth justice plan and other major work programmes.
- Provides an environment for good practice and innovation sharing.

1.6 Work programmes for the SMB and the OMG are included in our **Implementation Plan**.

1.7 Our **'Youth Justice and Partner Conference'** took place on the 4th July 2023 and was deemed to be a great success by all. It has been agreed at both the SMB and the OMG that an Annual Conference would place significant demands on the service, a 2 year cycle was agreed. The plan is to hold the 2025 Conference in the Autumn. Although the agenda has not yet been set the focus will again be;

- A 1-day event with engagement from criminal justice and children's services partners
- Children and young people involvement (lived experience and participation)
- Sharing and Reflecting on our work with Exploitation, Violence, and Disproportionality (CEC)
- Specialist speakers invited; Education Training and Employment, Research and Innovation
- Celebrating success awards ceremony with children, staff and partners.

2. **Local context**

2.1 The Gwynedd Mon Youth Justice Service is jointly commissioned by the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council. Gwynedd Council is the host authority; there are 22 GCC employed staff and 8 seconded and project staff within the service this constitutes 27.5 full-time equivalent staff. As host authority for the Youth Justice Service Gwynedd Council provides; line management for the service manager, finance management, training, and development framework (available to seconded staff also) IT support and Health and Safety for the offices and buildings. The service conducts its business and staff management under the policies and procedures set out by Gwynedd Council. The staffing structure is included in **appendix 1**.

2.2 In addition to youth justice support the service hosts the two-county Young Person's Substance Misuse Service (**Be 'dr Sgor**) and Gwynedd's Harmful Sexual Behaviour Prevention Team (**Tim Emrallt**),

2.3 The two-county area covered by the service has a 10-17 years population of 17,000, (this and increase of 1000 since 2016). Due to the rural and remote nature of our geography and communities we have a high number of primary and secondary schools.

Table 1

County	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
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Ynys Mon	40	5	1	46
Gwynedd	82	14	2	98
Total	122	19	3	144

The combined geographical area of Gwynedd and Ynys Mon is 51% of the North Wales region and although the population spread, in the main, would be described as rural in nature, both counties have distinct port and market towns of relatively high population; Holyhead, Amlwch and Llangefni on Ynys Mon, and Caernarfon, Bangor, Porthmadog and Dolgellau in Gwynedd.

- 2.4 The majority of the Islands' coast-line has *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty* (ANOB) status, and almost two thirds of Gwynedd is protected by National Park status, this very much limits infrastructure development. There is one dual-carriage 'A' road, the A55, passing through north Gwynedd and the length of Ynys Mon, and one main rail route following the same path. The Service Office base is located in the village of Felinheli about 6 miles from both Bangor and Caernarfon and utilises both public and private sector facilities for meeting children and young people, as-well-as home visits. Service delivery is very much peripatetic, and this type of delivery has significant time and cost implications for staff and partnership funders.
- 2.5 All youth court matters are heard at Caernarfon Youth and Crown Court, with the resultant extra burden on families to ensure attendance at Caernarfon court; this is a particular issue for families who live in some of our more remote communities where the public transport provision is limited.
- 2.6 All police custody matters are processed in Caernarfon Custody suite, again extra demands on families to attend. We have reciprocal arrangements with our colleagues in Conwy and Denbighshire and Flintshire YJSs, for youth court cover in Llandudno YC or Mold Crown should any of our children attend. When required and there is a case risk, the service will operate a standby Saturday Remand Court provision supporting our colleagues in Flintshire where the Remand Court (Mold) takes place.
- 2.7 For Out of Court Disposal and referral Order panel meetings, the service staff make best use of North Wales Police community stations for Voluntary Attendance and restorative justice meetings, and we have excellent arrangements with community operators (private and public sector) for the use/hire of local venues.
- 2.8 The service covers Appropriate Adult Duty 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday, the 2-county Out of Hours team provide this service Evenings, weekends, and Bank Holidays. All YJS staff and Out of Hours receive annual National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN) training in March 2025, and we have register as 'Gold' account holders with NAAN, which provides access to all available resources and training material.
- 2.9 Gwynedd and Ynys Mon have the highest percentage of Welsh Language speakers per population in Wales; Gwynedd 75.5% and Anglesey 63.3%. Therefore, the YJS workforce needs to reflect this, currently of the 32 staff (across the 3 services), 29 (91%) are First Language Welsh

speakers, 2 are Welsh learners (intermediate), and 1 with limited Welsh language ability (Basic). All interventions, communications and support are delivered in the families or child's language of need.

- 2.10 The service has formal arrangements and regular representation with local **Serious Organised Crime** and **Child Exploitation Panels**, contributing to Risk Assessment, Intel Gathering and Mapping Exercising.
- 2.11 The area of North Wales and Gwynedd and Anglesey especially, is a very popular area for private providers of residential care units. There are 8 main units in our area that offer short to medium term placements for Children in Care from across England and Wales. The service receives approximately 12-15 'Caretaking Request' per annum from local authorities placing children and young people in our area who also require youth justice assessment or supervision; this can provide a significant demand on a medium sized YOT. However, this is a reduction on previous years, it is positive to note that after significant work with our residential units, and the development of a **Joint Working Protocol** as seen an improvement in the support for these children and the average number of Out of County cases managed at any one time within our statutory caseload has decreased in the last 2-3 years.

3. Resources and Services

- 3.1 Despite the ongoing public sector 'squeeze' on spending, the service benefits from excellent cash funding commitment from our local statutory partners, who have remained committed to service delivery, development, and innovation. In 2025-26 they have made an initial 10% increase in cash contribution. It should be noted, both local authorities continue to shoulder the burden placed on the services costs (cost of living and NI increases).

Table 2 (Cash)

Source	2024-25 (£)	2025-26 (£)	% contribution
Gwynedd Council	187,530.65	210,570.00	48.08%
IOACC	142,890.00	156,180.00	35.66%
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Probation	5,000.00	5,000.00	1.14%

Sub Total	397,317.65	437,970.00	100.00%
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10.2% increase

Table 3 (Secondment)

Source	2024-25	2025-26 (Estimate)	% Contribution
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Probation	19,365.18	19,365.18*	8.6%
Sub Total	217,978.53	224,568.68*	100%

*To be confirmed

Table 4 (Grants)

Source	2024-25	2025-26
PPE (Gwy & YM)	252,926.47	256,120.00
OPCC North Wales	16,793.28	16,790.00
YJ Grant	277,943.00	282,000.00
FF (Gwynedd)	18,000.00	18,000.00
Sub Total	565,662.75	572,910.00

Table 5 (Totals)

Source	2025-26 £
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Statutory Partner Contribution (Cash)	437,970.00
Secondment (in-kind)	224,568.68
Grants (46%)	572,910.00
Total	1,235,448.68 (+4.6%)

- 3.2 The service operates 3 Pool cars (2 x cars 1 x Utility Van), cars are used by staff for community visits and the van is used for community projects including Unpaid and Reparation work. The use of pool cars helps in reducing service travel costs for a peripatetic service operating in a large rural community. We also hold a large selection of Equipment and Tools for unpaid and reparation projects; Litter collection, gardening, and general maintenance.
- 3.3 The service continues to build on our extensive Interventions Packs and programmes, the Resilience Interventions (although still in research trials) joins and already well used;
- *Positive Choices*
 - *Time Out for Teenagers (Parenting)*
 - *Teen Talk*
 - *Clued-Up*
 - *Star*
 - *Family Matters*
 - *Escape (Parenting)*
 - *Olivia's Story*
- In addition, the service holds a growing library of online resources which is informed and built-on by our involvement with our Regional YJS Interventions Forum, this includes Violence and Knife crime awareness.
- 3.4 The service provides travel assistance to children and families who may otherwise struggle to attend office meetings, Court, or police meetings. The support comes in the form of Travel vouchers for local bus services.
- 3.5 In 2025-26 the service will benefit from a very generous contribution (£16,200) from the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner to purchase for 12 months the use of **Virtual Decisions**. Virtual Decisions is a virtual reality programme that is delivered using video headsets and

allows children and staff to explore different community scenarios (these can be crime or staying safe based) where children are able to interact and make decisions to change narrative and outcomes. The programme is supported by Extended Learning Packs which facilitate the interactions between staff and child, promoting improved decision making and outlining the consequences of actions.

The service has purchased 5 headsets with the following programmes;

- *Knife Crime*
- *Identity*
- *Influence*

- 3.6 In partnership with a local academic the service has developed a new and innovative approach and intervention to tackle Child on Parent Abuse known to the service as 'Cam Ymlaen'. This is a collaborative intervention, allowing workers on a multi-agency basis to have a conversation with a family, and to come to a joint agreement on the current areas for development to address this form of abuse in a 'whole family', compassionate and safe manner. The main principles of the Cam Ymlaen toolkit is that it offers the family an intervention plan to address this form of abuse, whilst building on strengths, promoting positive empowerment and giving parents/carers a voice as experts of their own experiences.

4. Child First and Voice of the Child

- 4.1 The service fully supports and promotes the 'Child First' principle in Wales, our approach is to;

- *Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential.*
- *Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their identity, all work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.*
- *Encourage children's active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their family.*
- *Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.*

- 4.2 All YJS staff are trained in both Trauma Informed Practice and ACE awareness. There are management processes in place to ensure Assessment, Planning, Interventions are strengths based and desistance focused, and that Supervision reporting and recordings are quality assured by

managers for Child-centred, Trauma informed evidenced. In 2024-25 service staff completed TrACE training from Public Health Wales and and 1 staff member completed the Trauma Informed Schools diploma and another started the course.

- 4.3 The service commissions **Viewpoint** to administer child and family progress and feedback surveys, several children's feedback reports were presented to the Operational Management Group. In 2024-25 the results from our previous review and updates to the process can be seen in the Dec 24 Report (**Appendix 3**)
- 4.4 The service continues to collect the child and parent/carer's voice as part of both the AssetPus and PaDAT assessments. New Quality Assurance process includes scrutiny on how the child's voice is captured and presented and how the child contributes to the planning and intervention stages.
- 4.5 As part of our Resilience Intervention Research 60 survey questionnaires have been completed with children and parents/carers. The results from the analysis will be shared with staff and the Management Board on completion of the study. The questionnaires explore both the quality of the new intervention created and also the child's improved understanding of resilience and dealing with adversity.

5. Performance and Priorities

5.1 First-time Entrants

(The following Data is sourced from National YDS 122 (April 24- March 25), local reports and auditing processes.)

Table 6

YOT/Area	Number	Rate/100,000
Gwynedd Mon	41	241
Conwy & Denbigh	46	238
Flintshire	23	153
Wrexham	9	67
NWPCC	124	192
Wales	420	142
England & Wales	8,713	148

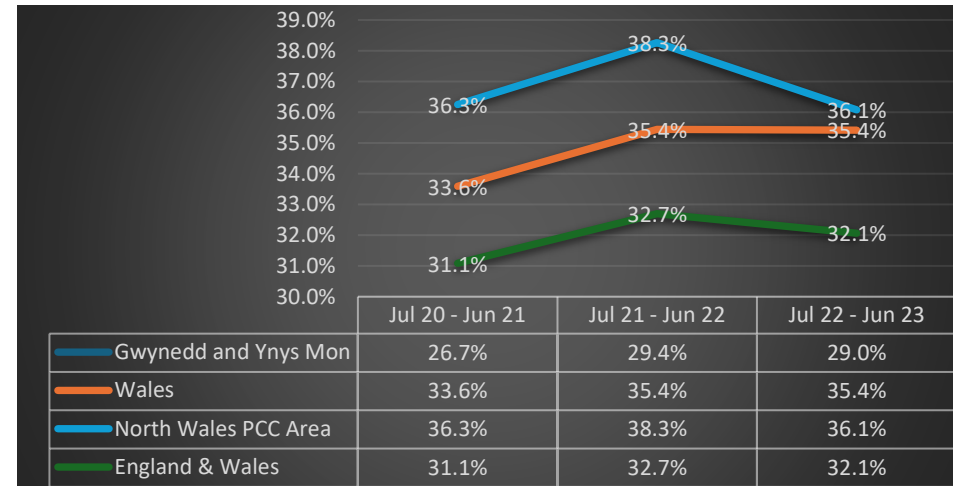
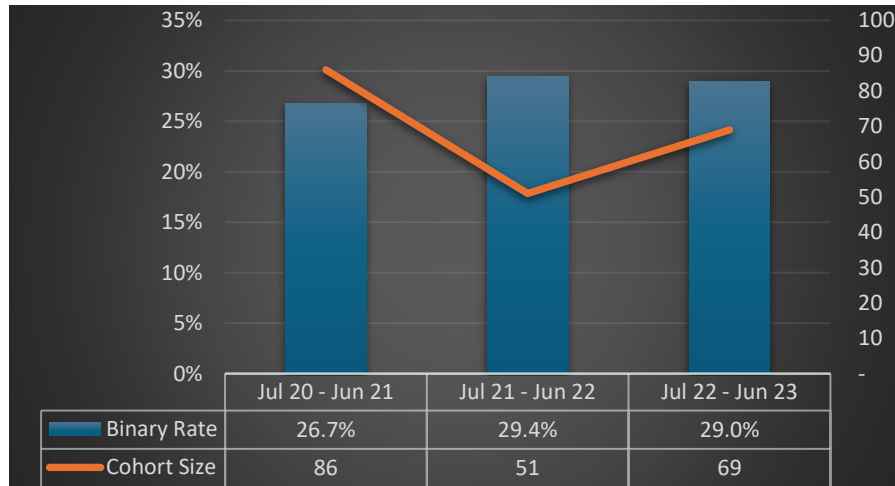
Managers comments: We continue to record disproportionate high numbers of FTEs in 2024-25, it is positive to note that we have observed a steady decrease in the last 2 quarters but not significant enough to affect change compared with North Wales and Wales performance. For the last 18 months NW YJS have worked in partnership with NWP and the Centre for Justice Innovation to develop a Regional OofCD Policy, the policy went live on the 1st May 2025, it is too early to effectively measure impact.

We will continue our work with YJB Cymru, other YJS in the region and North Wales Police to monitor the following;

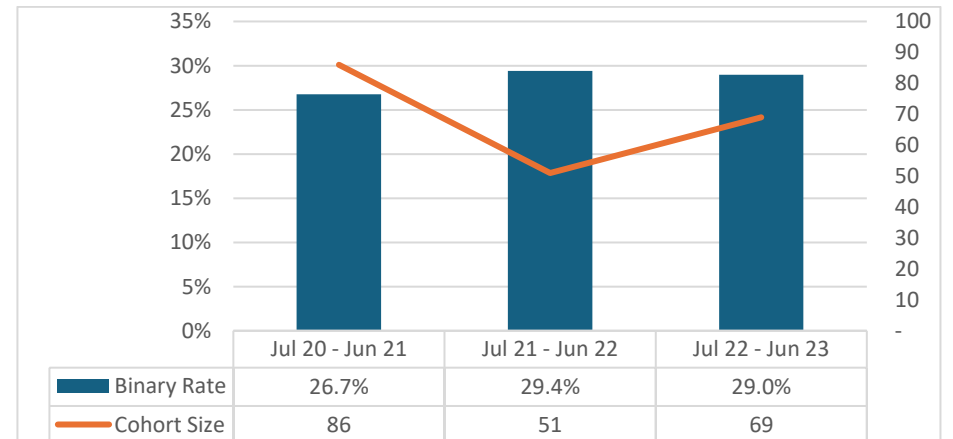
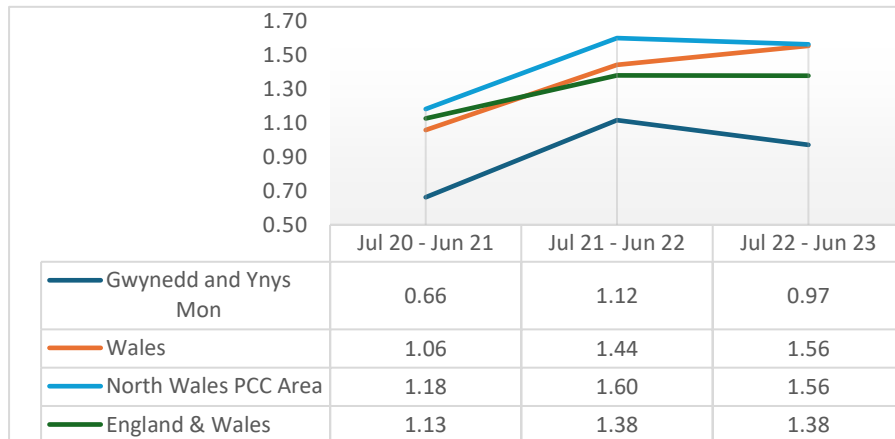
- Implementation of the 'Regional OofCD Policy (May 2025)
- Police and YJS decision making processes for OofCD
- Increased use of outcome 22
- Review the role and ToR for the service's *Decision-Making Panel*

5.2 Reoffending

Binary



Frequency



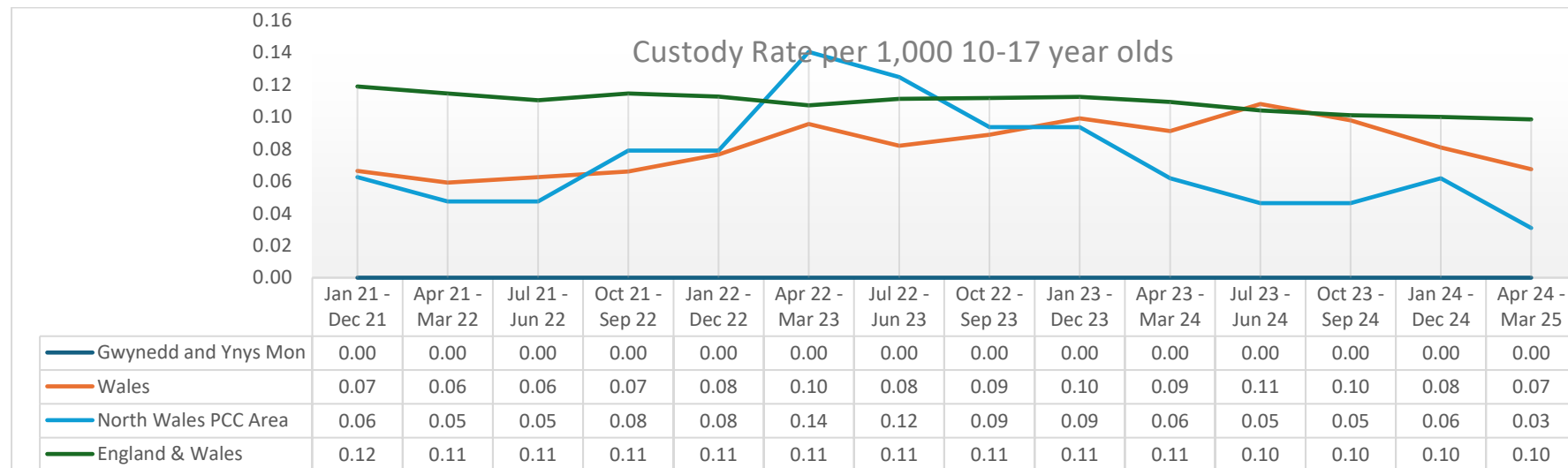
Managers Comments: The table presented report on the cohort from 2022 tracked for 24 months. In 2024 we recorded our lowest reoffending rates for this cohort, 29% a reduction on the previous year (29.6%) and remain lower than local and national comparisons. More importantly the number of individuals in the cohort has increased from 51 to 69 a 35% increase, again we need to consider that this cohort is from a period affected by covid when caseload numbers were below average, the increase can be seen as a natural change.

- Of the **69** in the cohort **20** reoffended a binary rate of **29%**
- **67** offences were committed by cohort frequency of **0.97**
- **20** reoffenders committed **67** offences reoffenders frequency of **3.35**.

Our reoffending rate remain good for this cohort, a slight concern remains around the frequency of offences by reoffender and although this is not outside normal parameters it indicates that there could be a small number of children committing a large number of offences.

On receipt of YDS 123 the service will complete a structured analysis of the children who are disproportionately contributing to these figures. In addition the service has already committed to analysing our Informal OofCD and Prevention Cohort reoffending rates, YJB, LCJB and SMB will have sight of this in Sept 2025.

5.3 Use of Custody



Managers comments:

The service continues to perform well against the custody indicator, the above table from YDS 122 reports 0 custody episodes in the period. There have been no children sentenced to Custody since July 2023.

Custody risks

- We are currently managing 2 YRO ISS cases in the period both 17 yr old males; No current concerns, 1 x case resented to YRO.

- 4 PSRs have been requested since Oct 2024, with all options open consideration, all led to community orders.
- No Saturday Remand Court cover requested in the last 12 months.
- No current Remand (YDA) risk.

5.4 Table 7 KPI Performance

KPI	Performance	Problems and Issues
ETE	<p>24-25 has again proven to be a very difficult year for ETE performance, only 66% of the cohort were in suitable education provision at the end of their intervention, a slight improvement on 23-24, with some significant improvement by the 3rd Qtr.</p> <p>The majority of issues experienced in 2023-24 with recording and reporting have been corrected and our internal cross-referencing processes confirming accuracy we are confident to use YJB KPI performance.</p>	<p>The reasons for continued this below normal performance are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of children on reduced timetable or alternative education packages • Continued high percentage of children experiencing exclusion or school transfer. • Although not accounting for a high number, some above school-aged children experiencing difficulties maintaining placements in FE or training. <p>Schools in both counties reporting difficulties in managing behaviours within and around the school; disruptive and aggressive behaviour, drug use and possession, and poor engagement/communication with parents and carers.</p> <p>Pressures on education finance resulting in reductions and cuts to alternative and specialist provision.</p>
Accommodation	<p>In this period of April to December 2024 there were 114 closed cases. Of the 114 cases, 101 in suitable accommodation (88.5%), 13 children were judged to have been residing in unsuitable accommodation. This is 6 percentage point drop on the previous 12 months.</p>	<p>Care placements at home or child protection cases where parenting capacity is limited is now assessed by the service as not a protective factor for offending staff will now record this as unsuitable hence the decrease in performance from previous years.</p> <p>Also, to note the service has observed an increased number of children from both counties who are in Operating Without Registration placements, the number is not high however it is difficult to record these placements as suitable.</p> <p>The service has provided the SMB with and analysis report on the unsuitability judgements for 24-25 (June 25), and action plan will be</p>

		created to continue with our efforts for consistent and fair recording.
ALN	<p>Overall performance data for our ALN recording looks positive with only 4 cases recorded in the 9 months to Dec 24. Of the 4 cases 3 had active ALN Plans in (75%) with the 4th case having a plan in development. We are more confident in 24-25 that our assessments are collecting better information, and our recording is much more accurate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording requirements are new to some staff (Pre-Court) Further training required for managers monitoring case closures. 	<p>Staff are not recording ALN correctly on MIS Child View, despite significant training staff have not SEND/ALN tabs correctly (end date) therefore data has not pulled through on extract New training from CACI is being arranged for July 2024. The Service will request support from YJB Data team to resolve inaccuracies in previous submissions. <u>Update May 25</u></p> <p>Significant improvement in analysis and recording, we have increased pre-submission checks on our data and staff have received further training on recording.</p>
Mental Health	Data not available from YJAF KPI Tableau	Please see Data Monitoring and Reporting letter YJB June 25.
Victims	Data not available from YJAF KPI Tableau	Please see Data Monitoring and Reporting letter YJB June 25.
SMS	<p>Number of children with a screened or identified need for intervention or treatment to address substance misuse for the period April 24 – Dec 24 was 25 or 21%. This is a significant increase on the 2.2% in 2023-24. This reflects more accurate recording and reporting rather than increased demand.</p>	<p>2025-26 will provide better comparison and tracking opportunities now that we have more accurate figures. Staff in BDS need to be recognised for their work to improve recording and the swiftness of intervention. The new diversion options contained within the Regional Out of Court Disposal practice policy will ensure that possession offences are dealt with swiftly and children can access support and interventions at the right time and avoid disproportionate criminalisation.</p>
Wider Services links	<p>16 Of the 114 cases closed in the period were known to wider services (14%). Wider services are children who have active arrangements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care and Support Plans Child protection arrangements Looked After Children. <p>Our 2024-25 figures remain in-line with those of 23-24, we do suspect that recording may continue to be an issue for this measure</p>	<p>Once the service has received the full 12 month performance report on YJAF, we will conduct an analysis of the cohort and report to the MB in Sept 25 on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of the child Reasons for C&S, CP and LAC Recording issues (PaD?) Possible tracker report for LSCB and Children's Services.

5.5 Quality Assurance (Assessment)

Please see **Appendix 2** (*QA Report to SMB June 2025*)

Main findings

Overall findings are good and demonstrate a high standard of assessment standard within the service. There are a number of issues which were identified in our HMIP Inspection (Nov 2023) that persist;

Service needs

- Professional Analysis skills are not effectively embedded within the service.
- Contingency planning remains weak for some staff.
- Safety and Wellbeing and Risk of Harm recording has improved, however, there is evidence that some staff are not; fully utilising information from wider services or including these elements in all areas of the assessment.
- Explanations and accounts, at times, continue to be narrative driven and not demonstrating the case managers ability to understand the nature of the child's behaviour and the possible reasons for this.

Individual staff

- 'Voice of the Child' recording didn't always reflect the child's voice, 3rd person wording, and was of inconsistent quality.
- Spelling and Grammar errors were too common, with typing errors contributing to confusion.
- PaDAT assessments completed in the period sept-Oct 2024, had a significant number of sections that were incomplete, (un-ticked boxes).
- Evidence of rushed assessments and '*assessment fatigue*', (end sections of assessments are of a poorer quality than the earlier sections)
- Evidence of 'Copy-Paste' information from other external documents.

6. Progress on previous plan

6.1 Table 8 Progress analysis

Area of work	Planned Development Carry-over
Management and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to raise awareness on how social media can influence Youth Violence. • Ensure the SMB & OMG have an agreement on roles and responsibilities throughout the membership.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The OMG will commit to assisting the YJS to develop an education audit tool; accurate and consistent recording, offer and attendance, ALN, ACE and Trauma. This will provide robust information and data which can be reported to SMB, Education dept and Schools. (Not just New Key performance Indicators)
Out of Court Disposals and Prevention Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work completed
At Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work completed
Work with Victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RJ links have been re-established with the OPCC but mainly at a regional reporting level at the Criminal Justice Board, further work is still required to establish stronger links with Victim Contact Centre.
In the Community Including Reoffending Violence Interventions Safeguarding (CCE/CSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Lines and CCE developments within the service and in the wider partnership (increased awareness of specific risks to G&M including Contextual Safeguarding Training) Seek support and guidance from YJB on Deep-dive reoffending analysis (Updated Reoffending Tool required). In-dept review of violence related crime across the cohorts.
In Secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Assessment & Pre-sentence Reports and report findings to Strategic Management Board and Local Safeguarding Delivery Group.
Transition and Resettlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work completed
Key Performance Indicators (Wales)	
1. ETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a Deep-Dive review of all School Aged closed cases in 2023-24, investigating the reasons for poor ETE performance/Exclusion.
2. Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with YJB and WG in reviewing Accommodation KPI measurements for Wales. Complete an assessment of all post 16 accommodation providers in the 2-county area.
3. Substance Misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Audit of SMS case management (YJS and Be d'r Sgor) Review SMS assessment Tools
4. Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review SLA and working practice with CAMHS.
Participation and 'Voice of the Child'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work completed
Safeguarding and Quality Assurance	<p>Provide Safeguarding Report for Local Safeguarding Delivery Group to include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custody and remand use

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YJS links to County Lines, OCG and Exploitation Threats
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6.2 Incomplete actions will be included in the revised Implementation Plan.

7. Challenges, Risks and Issues

- 7.1 It is unfortunate that we continue to experience some issues with the use of our Management Information Systems (ChildView) in both preparing the Data Extract for the YJB to populate the New YJ KPI requirement and creating local reports, however new performance reports suggests improvement. A review of the YJ KPIs has been completed by the YJB Data Team with refreshed guidance provided. Caution on the use of Data from 2024-25 has been raised by the YJB and we will need to continue with our very close monitoring of both recording, of the refreshed KPIs, and the reporting within the YJAF.
- 7.2 Significant work on Out of Court Disposal practice has been completed in 24-25; New case Management Standards, new Assessment tool, greater scrutiny locally and regional and the introduction OofCD in national KPIs. Add to that programme, development around Turnaround and Outcome 22 and we have a very busy and increasing complex area of work. The implementation of our new Regional OofCD Policy will need to be monitored rigorously in the next 12 months to maintain the confidence of the police and victims/community.
- 7.3 Modern Day Slavery and Exploitation remains a concern for all services working with children who present with complex needs. The business of Organised Criminal Gangs/Individuals is ever adapting to avoid justice whilst continuing to target vulnerable children. The service will ensure staff are regularly trained and updated on local and regional threat and National guidance. We will also make sure casework learning and intelligence is used to inform our partners within children's services and police around risks activity and potential harm. The refresh of the Local SOC panels and the 'Clear Hold Build' Partner Operations in Arfon will important engagement activities in 2025-26 for the service.
- 7.4 It will be noted throughout this document of the perceived increased youth violence reporting, some of which we believe is linked to increase drug and alcohol use, social media, and Domestic Violence (Child on parent/sibling). We have growing data evidence to indicate that this is a national as well as a local risk. The service will seek to bring clarity to these potential challenges in the coming 12 months through further analysis, engagement with North Wales Police, contribution to the Serious Violence Duty processes (SVD funding focused on children and young people) and discussions with YMC colleagues and YJB Cymru.

- 7.5 The newly mandated Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool (PaDAT) has created significant workload for the service, and with our increased focus on Outcome 22, this has resulted in additional demands on staff time and higher caseload numbers. The Management Board has agreed to fund an additional Pre-Court worker for 2025-26 to ease some of this burden on staff.
- 7.6 Our performance regarding Education Training and Employment in 2022-25, was below standards, the most concerning area was that of school aged children, we have recorded a rise in the number of; exclusions received by the children we work with, alternative timetables below the required 25 hrs and we perceive a distinct deterioration in the relationship between schools and families. This will continue to be a considerable focus for the service in the next 12 months, looking specifically at the number and types of ACEs and levels of trauma experience by those children not in full-time education.
- 7.7 The service has been without Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) support for 6 years. Despite numerous attempts and securing finance for a secondment, our local SLCN Team has been unable to provide resource. Work continues to explore other options for resourcing/support, additional pressure being felt following HMIP recommendations from our inspection in November 2023. Our efforts are hindered due to decisions made by Welsh Government not to prioritise Youth Justice in their '*60%-Giving them a Voice*' (2023) Report and rejecting recommendation 3 & 6. It should be noted that our local SaLT colleagues have been very supportive in the creation of training and resource plan for service staff.
- 7.8 Probation secondment continues to present difficulties for the service especially following findings from our 2023 Inspection where the absence of a Probation Officer was graded as an area for improvement. Since 2022 the service has had a PSO secondment in place of a PO due to limited resources in our local probation teams, this arrangement works well for our service, as we maintain very close strategic and operation links with our local NPS/IOM senior officers and DPU lead. However there seems to be conflicting opinions from HMIP and HMPPS on how YJSs are resourced, this is a national issue, the service has limited influence in decisions being made.
- 7.9 Our disproportionality figures for BAME children are low, however there are children we work with who do not classify themselves as White British, where this occurs we seek support from others to ensure that the child's needs are fully met. Our focus of disproportionality will be on Care experience Children, the service is at the centre of the work to roll out the new Welsh Government Protocol and Toolkit on the Decriminalisation of Care Experienced Children and Young People. We will use our position within the partnership to raise awareness and ensure that the work is included in the SVD needs assessment. Table 9 outlines our current disparity performance.

Table 9

YJS	Legal Outcome Group	Gender	Black	Other	White	Total
Gwynedd & Ynys Mon	First-tier	Female			7	7
		Male		1	56	57
		Subtotal		1	63	64
	Pre-Court	Female	1		12	13
		Male			27	27
		Subtotal	1		39	40
	Community	Male			17	17
		Subtotal			17	17
	Subtotal			1	1	119
Total			1	1	119	121

- Of the 121 new cases to the service in 2024-25, 2 children identified as non-white (1.6%)
- Both children received pre-court of first-tier interventions.

8. Implementation Plan

- 8.1 The service was inspected by HMIP in November 2023, 21 cases were reviewed, children and parents were interviewed and the Inspectors had access to a very wide range of partners for consultation.
- 8.2 The Gwynedd Mon YJS Management Board and Staff are very pleased with an overall **'Good'** rating from our recent HMIP Youth Justice Inspection. We want to send our thanks to our partners in both Local Authorities, the Local Criminal Justice System, and the Voluntary Sector for their support during preparation and the Inspection week.
- 8.3 The inspectorate identified; strong senior partnership arrangements that were driving and resourcing effective work with children and families, a staffing group that were well supported and supervised, and that children and parents were actively involved in planning and delivery of support.

- 8.4 We have areas for improvement most of which were not a great surprise to us, and our responsibility now is to act on these to ensure we are providing high quality support for the children and communities of Gwynedd and Ynys Mon.
- 8.5 We are particularly pleased and proud that YJS staff were specifically highlighted in the report for the high quality of engagement and support they provide to children and their families. And we should not forget the children many of whom gave their time to speak with and provide feedback to the inspectors, we are very thankful for this.
- 8.6 Our Inspection Improvement Plan (IIP) was first submitted to HMIP and the YJB on the 5th of April 2024, the IIP is regularly reviewed by the SMB
- 8.7 The full report can be accessed at; <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/gwynedd2024/>
- 8.8 There were seven main recommendations from the Inspectors findings;

- 1. Ensure consistent attendance at the management board from senior education and health leaders, to achieve positive education and health outcomes for all children.**
- 2. Address the disconnect between the strategic management board and frontline practitioners.**
- 3. Address the gap in speech, language, and communication provision for children and ensure that services are provided which assess and respond to children's communication needs.**
- 4. Improve the quality of assessment and planning work to keep children safe and manage the risk of harm they present to others.**
- 5. Ensure that management oversight is consistently effective in reviewing Asset Plus activity and contingency planning, so that practitioners are clear about what they need to improve.**
- 6. Provide practitioners with comprehensive guidance that supports the completion of effective out-of-court assessment and planning work.**
- 7. Improve the knowledge and understanding of practitioners to identify when children are being exploited so that timely action is taken to keep children safe.**

8.9 **Table 10 Implementation Plan**

Key

S.Wood

May 2025

Less than 25% of work programme complete	25%-40% of programme complete	40%-60% of programme complete	60%-80% of programme complete	Work programme completed
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Area of Work	Planned Developments	Outcomes and objectives	YJ Grant contribution	Responsibility	RAG status (Quarterly) (Reviewed June 2025)
Management and Governance	<u>Strategic Management Board</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> SMB Chair will reinforce the importance of consistent attendance at YJS Board Meetings. Support the service to correct the issues of YJ KPI recording and reporting and responding to the KPI refresh. Ensure the service completes the work from the HMIP Improvement Plan; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure consistent attendance at the management board from senior education and health leaders, to achieve positive education and health outcomes for all children. Address the disconnect between the strategic management board and frontline practitioners. 	<p>Successful completion of the HMIP Improvement Plan</p> <p>Increased management Board influence and contact with front line practice.</p> <p>Work with Health Reps and Local SLC Team to explore opportunities to improve SLC resource within the service</p>	3,793	Management Board Chair	
	<u>Strategic Priorities</u> <p>Violence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategic Board will initiate a programme of work which will seek to learn more about the drivers and influencing factors to youth violence, with a specific focus on Knife crimes and Serious Violence. Contribute towards the Strategic Needs Assessment required for the 	<p>Ensure the SMB & OMG have an agreement on roles and responsibilities throughout the membership.</p>		Service Manager	

	<p>implementation of the Regional Serious Violence Duty, including influence on how SVD Funding is used in our area.</p> <p>Education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen links with Education Departments and Schools including Head Teachers and Governors Groups to ensure priority status for Children in the justice system The Strategic Management Board will require regular (standing item at Board meetings) reports on 'Education Offer and Attendance' for the YJS cohort, this will include Case studies. This will provide clear oversight of education provision and opportunity to effect change. <p><u>Operational Management Group</u></p> <p>Violence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will support the service to complete further surveys and engagement with children to learn more on the factors which lead to youth violence. With wider partnership (Education Youth services, CSP, Health) groups explore options for violence awareness raising projects for children and young people. Work with the YJS to commission and encourage partner engagement with Domestic Violence (Child on parent/Sibling) training programme. 	<p>Increased confidence in the governance and delivery of the service, through the delivery of the Implementation Plan and Inspection Improvement plan</p>		<p>Management Board Members</p>	
		<p>Improved recording and reporting, providing better data for strategic decision making, and informing partners.</p>		<p>OMG Chair and Service Manager</p>	
		<p>Stronger voice of the child at management level</p>		<p>OMG Members</p>	

	Education <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will support the service to complete further surveys and engagement with children to learn more on the factors which lead to difficulties with education (link to Violence work) possible engagement events/interventions. 2. The OMG will support the service to investigate and resolve Performance recording and monitoring for New KPIs. 3. Review membership, attendance, and effectiveness of the OMG. 	Effective engagement with Education and Schools to ensure improved attendance and achievement for children know to the YJS.			
Out of Court Disposals and Prevention Work (inc NS)	Effective Implementation of the Regional Out of Court Disposal Policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Out of Court' Audit tool be developed and introduced; • New Audit Tool to be embedded in practice • Briefing for Strategic Management Board and Operational Management Group. • Monitor the effective implementation of new OofCD Assessment Tool. • Revisit staff training on use of new assessment tool (PaDAT) following findings from May 25 Audit. HMIP Recommendation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the quality of assessment and planning work to keep children safe and 	<p>Establish and embed monthly review of local FTE data by Prevention Manager and Police staff.</p> <p>Increase resources to prevention support through the service restructuring programme.</p>	50,780	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational managers</p>	

	<p>manage the risk of harm they present to others.</p> <p>There will be changes to OofCD Panel process and systems;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will move to weekly allocation panel Align documentation with Regional Review outcomes. Trauma Informed Practice introduced to assessment process. There is a need to make changes to how FTE reports are collated (ChildView) 	<p>New Assessment completion improves the quality of both assessment and planning.</p> <p>Evaluation of roles and responsibilities of Prevention staff in line with GCC policy and programme work</p> <p>Asset Plus and PaD Assessment Training (Safety and Wellbeing risk of Harm) scheduled for Sept 2025.</p>		<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational manager</p> <p>North Wales Police</p> <p>Heads of Children's Services and Families First Leads.</p>	
<p>At Court</p> <p>HMIP Recommendations</p>	<p>The service will develop improved methods of ensuring impact statements of the offence on the victim are included in Court reports and explore options with case managers and the Restorative Justice and Victim team.</p> <p>The service will focus its QA processes of court work on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post Court reports, completion of Custody Modules on AssetPlus and actions to send to the Youth Custody Service (YCS). Outcome and process information shared with parents and carers. 	<p>Improved Court reporting</p> <p>Better service to victims</p> <p>Improved feedback to Case Managers</p>	0	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Manager Case Management</p> <p>Youth Court Forum</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record of discussion with child re Court Outcome. Confirmation of Victim contact or recoding of Victim wishes and feeling on sentence. Carry forward findings of Desistance Audit <p>NS Audit</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create Specific Remand Avoidance Practice Document. There should be a particular focus on SLC and ALN, for our colleagues in Health and Education within PSRs and Stand-down Reports. 	Improved Health and Education reporting at Court		Operational Managers	
<p>Work with Victims</p> <p>New HMIP Framework</p>	<p>Ensure the Service understands and adopts all elements of the Victim Code (Work with OPCC and CJB)</p> <p>RJ links will be re-established with the OPCC but mainly at a regional reporting level at the Criminal Justice Board, further work is still required to establish stronger links with Victim Contact Centre.</p> <p>Develop Voice of the Victim Tool within our Viewpoint System</p> <p>HMIP (Readiness)</p> <p>The new framework for YJ Inspection will include significant focus of services/support to victims.</p> <p>Complete Victim Satisfaction Audit July 2025</p>	<p>Improve the level and quality of RJ processes delivered at pre-court stage</p> <p>Increased use of RJ in all areas of the service.</p> <p>Increased use of direct and indirect reparation.</p> <p>Increased number of victims involved with YJ services.</p>	22,567	<p>Service manager</p> <p>Operational Manager (Resource)</p> <p>Regional YOT Managers Group</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Tool created New Victim Standards briefings <p>The service will review resources and practice and monitor the development of the framework, in readiness for new standards.</p>			YJS manager and Operational Managers	
In the Community <u>Including</u> Reoffending Violence Interventions Safeguarding (CCE/CSE)	<p>County Lines and CCE developments within the service and in the wider partnership (increased awareness of specific risks to G&M including Contextual Safeguarding Training)</p> <p>Increased monitoring of Violent crime reporting.</p> <p>In-dept review of violence related crime across the cohorts (Jan 2023)</p> <p>Ensure TIP is embedded into practice via desistance programme.</p> <p>HMIP IIP</p> <p>Contribute to Regional Serious Violent Crime (County Lines, OCG and CCE) needs assessment.</p> <p>The service will reinstate bi-monthly Case Management Forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review quality of assessments. Promote high standard of safety and well being and Risk of Harm analysis. The Forum will be chaired by the Operational Manager with responsibility for Quality Assurance. <p>Maintain ECM priority at Regional and local level</p>	<p>Reduction in the reoffending rates of our higher risk (older) cohort</p> <p>Greater support systems for those young people released from custody or are at risk of custody</p> <p>Amend as required following YJB review of YOT reoffending Data.</p> <p>Effective targeted work on OCG, County Lines and Drug offences.</p>	74,083	Service manager Operational Manager (post-Court) Probation Operational Management Group	

	<p>Service to host and develop networks for the new PSB/HSB Team in Gwynedd. (Look to share practice and developments with Ynys Mon)</p> <p>Seek support and guidance from YJB on Deep-dive reoffending analysis (Updated Reoffending Tool required)</p> <p>Review of Resilience research to include presentations to Strategic management Board and Operational Management group.</p> <p>Staff will receive training on contingency planning in regard to intervention and case management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring changes in circumstances Increased professional analysis of progress and possible barriers. Desistance modules in AssetPlus are completed in all cases, more attention needs to be paid to 'routes to desistance and explore how this can be enable using community resources. <p>*need to embed in practice*</p> <p>HMIP</p> <p>The service will review the operation and function of the 'Risk Panel' with a view to improve decisions and actions are recorded and the panel contributes to improved safety and wellbeing and Risk of Harm management.</p>	<p>Development of a Serious Violent Crime Plan that measures Knife Crime and associated harm.</p>		<p>Police, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance.</p> <p>Operational Management Group.</p> <p>Service Manager and Operational Manager.</p>	
In Secure	<p>Work with other YOTs in N Wales to monitor the safeguarding and support provided in the Secure Estate</p>			Service manager	

	<p>Audit Pre-sentence Reports and report findings to Strategic Management Board and Local Safeguarding Delivery Group.</p> <p>The service will contribute strategically and operationally to development of the YJ Blueprint <i>Custody in Wales</i> scoping exercise.</p> <p>Review and report on all Custody Cases since 2020-23 (including remand episodes), report to YJS Management Board and LSDG.</p>	<p>Continued reduction in the use of Custody</p> <p>Improved resettlement planning for young people released from custody.</p> <p>Comprehensive review of Custody cohort.</p> <p>Improve the quality of support for children sentenced to custody.</p>	42,479	<p>Operational Manager</p> <p>(post-Court)</p> <p>Regional Safeguarding Children's Board.</p> <p>Operational Management Group.</p>	
<p>Transition and Resettlement</p> <p>HMIP Recommendations</p>	<p>HMIP IIP</p> <p>The service will create a new Resettlement Practice Document, we will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek best practice within Wales. Re-affirm with OMG Chair and Members of their responsibility to form a Resettlement Panel when required. Consult with YJB Cymru on relevant reading and policy documentation. <p>Ensure Diversity and Protected Characteristics are included in the document.</p> <p>Service staff need to make better use of the Operational Management Group representatives to ensure adequate services and support are available</p>	<p>Provide an improved practice guidance for staff for Transitions and Resettlement work.</p> <p>Improving outcomes for Children released from Custody.</p>	3,501	<p>YJS Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers</p>	

	<p>for young people returning to the area from secure or unsuccessful care placements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service needs to have better recording of contacts, referrals and efforts made to source specialist support and provision. Efforts need to be made to improve joint planning and practice. 	<p>Young adults transferring to probation.</p> <p>Children moving in and Out of the county on placement.</p>		<p>OMG representatives</p> <p>IOM Lead.</p>	
<p>Key Performance Indicators (Wales)</p> <p>1. ETE</p> <p>2. Accommodation</p>	<p>There requires an extensive programme of work to investigate problems with recording and reporting on KPIs from our Management Information System (Childview). The service will seek support and advice from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> YJB Cymru and Data Team CACI Childview provider. <p>Ensure Education and Schools are part of the new HSB Framework and Audit process.</p> <p>We will develop more Positive desistance linked ETE focus within Assessment Supervision and contacts.</p> <p>Conduct a Deep-Dive review of all School Aged closed cases in 2023-24, investigating the reasons for poor ETE performance.</p> <p>Engage with YJB and WG in reviewing Accommodation KPI measurements for Wales.</p> <p>Complete an assessment of all post 16 accommodation providers in the 2-county area.</p>	<p>Improve reporting to YJB on KPIs.</p> <p>Continued effective monitoring in the school age group cohort within the service</p> <p>Increased participation hrs through improved links with training and employment providers</p> <p>More young people accessing suitable accommodation</p>	80,797	<p>Service manager</p> <p>Operational Manager (Resources)</p> <p>Operational Manager (Resource)</p> <p>Senior Education Officers</p> <p>ETE Forum and Operational Management Group</p> <p>Service manager</p> <p>Operational Manager</p>	

3. Substance Misuse	<p>Develop a new risk assessment process for Accommodation applications.</p> <p>Accommodation will be part of the NS Audit for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of Court Disposals • Community • Custody • Resettlement and Transition <p>Fully integrate new Children & Young Peoples SMS support to YJS partnership, including management oversight by the Operational Management Group.</p> <p>Complete Audit of SMS case management (YJS and Be d'r Sgor)</p> <p>Review SMS screening process and Tools</p> <p>Complete work on MIS/Careworks/WCCIS access for SMS team.</p>	<p>provision on release from custody.</p> <p>Reduce the number of young people known to YJS experiencing difficulties with families and moving to independent living or Care provision.</p> <p>Health Panel to include more emphasis on general Health assessment and support.</p> <p>Increase the number of young people receiving comprehensive Health assessments</p>		<p>(post-Court)</p> <p>Housing stock agencies</p> <p>Service manager</p> <p>Operational Manager (Resource)</p>	
Participation and 'Voice of the Child'	<p>Ensure our work and learning contributes towards RJ and Trauma Informed practice.</p> <p>Create a support Plan for the Voice of the child to be heard at the MB, improving Viewpoint reporting documentation and layout.</p>	<p>The Management Board is more focused on the Voice of the Child</p>	4,000	<p>Management Board Champion</p>	

	<p>Manage the implementation of the New Voice Of the Young Person programme and associated questionnaires.</p> <p>Create a Young Person's Participation Focus Group to support local practice and contribute towards regional and national Hwb Doeth planning.</p> <p>Seek opportunities for Accreditation for our Participation Strategy.</p>	<p>Increase the number of children and young people that complete the Viewpoint questionnaire and Have your say.</p> <p>Increase the number of case studies presented to the Management Board.</p>		<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Participation Worker</p> <p>Operational Managers</p> <p>Service Staff</p>	
<p>Safeguarding and Quality Assurance</p> <p>HMIP Recommendation</p>	<p>Brief SMB, OMG, and safeguarding Partners on the YJB Serious Incident Notification Report (YJB, 2022-23, annual requirement)</p> <p>Operational Manager (CM) to review the Risk and Vulnerability Panel</p> <p>Provide Safeguarding Report for Local Safeguarding Delivery Group to include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custody and remand use • HSB delivery and future planning (adoption of new PSB/HSB team) • County Lines, OCG and Exploitation Threats <p>HMIP IIP</p> <p>The service will request Child Exploitation Leads/Barnardos from both Counties and North Wales Police provide Exploitation and Extra Familial</p>	<p>Improvement in the Oversight and management of APIS (AssetPlus processes throughout the service.</p> <p>All managers and staff are engaged with the QA process and understand the reasons for practice improvement.</p> <p>Highest level of safeguarding and Child protect is achieved.</p>	0	<p>Management Board Oversight</p> <p>Service Manager</p> <p>All team managers</p>	

	Harm briefings/Training for YJS staff and managers, this will include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness and Identification Child Exploitation Panel Process and Practice. Modern Day Slavery and National Referral Mechanism. 	Improved staff awareness and response to Exploitation risks.		Service Manager	
TOTAL 2025-26			282,000		

9. Sign-off and Approval

Chair of the Gwynedd Mon YJS	Huw Dylan Owen
Designation	Corporate Director Social Services Cyngor Gwynedd.
Signature	
Date	/06/2025

10. Appendices

1. Staffing structure



Service Structure
25-26 Plan.docx

2. Child's Voice Viewpoint report



GWY_MON
Viewpoint Report 24-

3. Quality Assurance Report



G&M QA report
24-25.docx

4. Disproportionality



SMB
Disproportionality Eth

***Gwynedd and Ynys Môn YJS
HMIP Inspection Nov 2023
Improvement Plan***

1. Introduction

1.1 The Gwynedd Môn YJS Management Board and Staff are very pleased with an overall **‘Good’** rating from our recent HMIP Youth Justice Inspection. We want to send our thanks to our partners in both Local Authorities, the Local Criminal Justice System, and the Voluntary Sector for their support during preparation and the Inspection week.

The inspectorate identified; strong senior partnership arrangements that were driving and resourcing effective work with children and families, a staffing group that were well supported and supervised, and that children and parents were actively involved in planning and delivery of support.

We have areas for improvement most of which were not a great surprise to us, and our responsibility now is to act on these to ensure we are providing high quality support for the children and communities of Gwynedd and Ynys Môn.

The YJS Management Board and senior managers have already started the process of improvement, a meeting was held on the 31st January to review our draft report and findings for the purpose of effective and efficient response, we have until the 5th April to submit our Improvement Plan.

We are particularly pleased and proud that YJS staff were specifically highlighted in the report for the high quality of engagement and support they provide to children and their families. And we should not forget the children many of whom gave their time to speak with and provide feedback to the inspectors, we are very thankful for this.

2. Findings (HMIP Report)

2.1 This inspection is part of our programme of youth justice service (YJS) inspections. We have inspected and rated Gwynedd & Ynys Môn YJS across three broad areas: the arrangements for organisational delivery of the service, the quality of work done with children sentenced by the courts, and the quality of out-of-court disposal work.

Overall, Gwynedd & Ynys Môn YJS was rated as ‘Good’. We also inspected the quality of resettlement policy and provision, which was separately rated as ‘Requires improvement’.

The service is child focused, committed to helping children to desist from further offending. An individualised approach helps to ensure that children's diversity needs are recognised, and support put in place to help them thrive and achieve positive decision-making. Staff and volunteers are a strength. They are kind, thoughtful, work well together as one team, and are positive advocates for the children they supervise. The service collects the voices of children and their parents or carers effectively. This informs the development of services and service improvements. Staff have access to a range of interventions to help children and their parents or carers. In particular, the Tim Emrallt (problematic and harmful sexual behaviour) offer is excellent and making a real difference in supporting practitioners to improving children's attitudes and behaviours. The Be di'r Sgôr (substance misuse service) provides high-quality interventions.

The strategic management board has some committed members who work well to mobilise financial resources for the YJS. Since the pandemic, however, there has been a disconnect with frontline practitioners. This has left some staff not fully understanding the work of the board. Furthermore, there has been a notable absence from health and education partners at board meetings. The YJS has identified disproportionately in poorer education outcomes for its cohort of children, and the need for a speech and language resource. These findings need a more urgent focus at a strategic level. There also needs to be a greater drive and focus at a strategic level to ensure that YJS children are receiving the best possible service and the YJS is supported to deliver high quality interventions.

Engagement and the quality of the relationships that practitioners have with children are a strength, but work associated with supporting children's safety and wellbeing and their potential to cause harm to others is variable. This needs to improve. Our inspection found that, across court and out-of-court work, not all staff understood and applied the systems and processes consistently to keep children safe and prevent them from causing harm to others.

The YJS can be rightly proud of the way it reaches out to children with compassion to help them live out their best lives. It must now focus on using the findings from this inspection as a springboard to bring about further change. In this report, we make seven recommendations to improve further the work of the Gwynedd & Ynys Môn YJS. We trust that they will assist the service as it continues its improvement journey.

2.2 Local Preparation

At the Strategic Management Board (SMB) in January 2024, the Board invited members of the Operational Management Group (OMG) and management staff to join them to review the Inspection draft report and to begin the response process. The following Improvement Plan has been informed by the discussions and contributions made by the group.

In addition the OMG had a further meeting on the 23rd March where additional contributions were made to response planning.

3. Domain 1 (Organisational delivery)

3.1

Recommendations

- 1. *Ensure consistent attendance at the management board from senior education and health leaders, to achieve positive education and health outcomes for all children.***
- 2. *Address the disconnect between the strategic management board and frontline practitioners.***
- 3. *Address the gap in speech, language, and communication provision for children and ensure that services are provided which assess and respond to children's communication needs.***

Area for Improvement (R1)	Action	Who	When
a) <i>The frequency of attendance and representation at the SMB needs to be regular across all statutory partners.</i>	<p>SMB Chair will reinforce the importance of consistent attendance at YJS Board Meetings</p> <p>YJS Admin will keep an attendance log and provide a report to the SMB chair twice yearly.</p> <p>Representatives will be required to report to the SMB on representation and attendance when issues occur.</p> <p>New requirements will be added to the MB Terms of Reference.</p>	<p>SMB Chair</p> <p>YJS Manager and Administration</p> <p>All SMB members</p>	Ongoing from the 1 st April 2024.
b) <i>There has been a notable absence from health and education partners at board meetings.</i>	SMB Chair and Service Manager will write to Directors of Education and of Health outlining the findings of the Inspection and request full cooperation in the actions outlined in R1a .	SMB Chair, Service manager	April 2024

c) <i>The YJS business plan (2023–2025) is not explicit in identifying or addressing disproportionality and the needs of children with different protected characteristics.</i>	<p>The G&YM YJ Plan for 2024-25 will have a section on Disproportionality and protected cha, this will include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gender</i> • <i>Additional Learning Needs</i> • <i>Mental Health and Neuro-Developmental</i> • <i>Ethnicity</i> • <i>Speech and Language</i> • <i>Care Experienced Children</i> 	<p>SMB Chair</p> <p>YJS Manager</p>	July 2024
d) <i>The statutory requirement of a probation officer in the YJS is absent.</i>	<p>The MB Chair and members (supported by the service manager) will continue their representation and communications with Local NPS and National HMPPS to secure a Probation Officer secondment within the service.</p> <p>In addition, the service will support the actions of Yot Managers Cymru and YJB Wales in their negotiations with HMPPS in order to address the national issues around Probation secondments to YJ.</p> <p>The Board/Chair will write to Local NPS Lead and Wales HMPPS to notify them of HMIP findings G&M YJS inspection.</p>	<p>Management Board Members</p> <p>Management Board Chair</p> <p>Service Manager</p>	May 2024

3.2

Area for Improvement (R2)	Action	Who	When
<p>a) <i>Since the pandemic, there has been a disconnect with frontline practitioners. This has left some staff not fully understanding the work of the board.</i></p> <p>b) <i>The induction experience of board members is variable.</i></p>	<p>A new Service Induction Guidance Manual has been developed (Dec 2023), the document is for Staff, Volunteers and MB members and includes details on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB visits to YJ Office • Staff representation at SMB meetings • Key actions and decisions from SMB meetings to be shared with staff and volunteers. <p>New Induction Guidance Manual to be reviewed by MB in April 2024 meeting.</p> <p>The Operational Management Group (OMG) will review its Role and Terms of Reference and report to the SMB on changes and development, with the intention of ensuring there is a clear accountability to the SMB and no barrier between the service and the SMB is being created. (Agreed by OMG on the 20/3/24)</p>	<p>Management Board Members</p> <p>MB Chair</p> <p>Service Manager</p> <p>OMG Chair, Service manager, Operational Managers.</p>	<p>June 2024</p> <p>May 2024</p>
c) <i>Volunteers and YJS staff should be given more opportunities to contribute to the youth justice plan.</i>	Staff and Volunteers will be invited by the SMB and Operational Management Group to review the Youth justice Plan before submission to YJB,		
d) <i>Benchmarking of performance against HM Inspectorate of Probation thematic</i>	All HMIP Thematic Inspection Reports will be shared with, and reviewed at, SMB and OMG meetings.		

<i>reports and other research findings is needed.</i>	<p>Reports will be prepared to inform the Board on the services position in respect to Thematic findings and recommendations.</p> <p>Standing item for SMB agenda when appropriate.</p>	<p>MB Chair</p> <p>Service Manager</p>	Ongoing from the 1 st April 2024.
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3.3

Area for Improvement (R3)	Action	Who	When
<p>a) <i>The SMB needs to be more proactive and urgent in its response to identified need – for example, providing a speech and language resource.</i></p> <p>b) <i>Education, training, and employment, and speech, language, and communication outcomes for children are not high enough.</i></p>	<p>The SMB will continue with its communications with Regional Speech, Language and Communications Service to explore options for secondment or support.</p> <p>The SMB will continue with its commitment to secure funding for Speech Language and Communication resourcing.</p> <p>In reference to action R1(b), the SMB will priorities the ETE and Communication needs of children in the justice system by requesting reports on the factors affecting engagement with education and training for the next 12 months. This will include National KPI data and local/cohort data and Individual Case studies.</p> <p><i>Explore options for regional YJ SpL&C commissioning</i></p>	<p>MB Chair, Health and Education Representatives and Service Manager</p> <p>MB Chair, Health and Education Representatives and Service Manager</p> <p><i>Regional YJS (Chairs and Service Managers)</i></p>	Ongoing and reviewed quarterly

<p>c) <i>There is very limited evidence of robust conversations about protected characteristics and diversity at SMB meetings.</i></p>	<p>Quarterly reports will be provided to the SMB on protected characteristics and diversity levels within the cohort of children known to the justice system, this will include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gender</i> • <i>Additional Learning Needs</i> • <i>Mental Health and Neuro-Developmental</i> • <i>Ethnicity</i> • <i>Speech and Language</i> • <i>Care Experienced Children</i> <p>Quarterly reports and responses from the SMB and Service will be included in the annual YJ Plan.</p>	<p>MB Chair</p> <p>SMB Members and Service Manager.</p>	
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4. Domain 2 (Court Orders)

4.1

Recommendations

1. Improve the quality of assessment and planning work to keep children safe and manage the risk of harm they present to others.
2. Ensure that management oversight is consistently effective in reviewing Asset Plus activity and contingency planning, so that practitioners are clear about what they need to improve.
3. Provide practitioners with comprehensive guidance that supports the completion of effective out-of-court assessment and planning work.
4. Improve the knowledge and understanding of practitioners to identify when children are being exploited so that timely action is taken to keep children safe.

Area for Improvement (R1)	Action	Who	When
<p>a) Assessment activity did not always identify all the risks to the child's safety and wellbeing.</p> <p>b) Assessments to identify all relevant factors linked to keeping other people safe were weak.</p> <p>c) In some cases, it was unclear to whom the child presented a risk, and the nature of this risk.</p>	<p>There is a need to commission Safety and Well-being and Risk of Harm Training for all staff within the service.</p> <p>The service manager and operational managers will scope available training providers S&WB Training with local partners (Children's Services and Safeguarding Board) to practice consistency.</p> <p>The service will explore Risk Management Training options with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probation LDU • YJB • YMC <p>And commission appropriate training for case management staff and wider supporting staff</p> <p><i>(Consult with Local Authority Training Department to ensure parity of commissioning and practice)</i></p>	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p>	Complete by June 2024
		<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p>	Complete by July 2024
d) Practitioners did not consistently gather relevant information from other agencies and analyse controls and interventions to promote the safety and wellbeing of the child.	<p>The service will reinstate bi-monthly Case Management Forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review quality of assessments. • Promote high standard of safety and well being and Risk of Harm analysis. 	Service Manager	May 2024

<p>e) Where necessary, practitioners collected information from other agencies but, this was not always integrated into their assessments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Forum will be chaired by the Operational Manager with responsibility for Quality Assurance. <p>The forum will also review the quality of information requested from other agencies in the assessment and planning stages.</p> <p>The service will commission Analytical Skills training for the Case Management staff, to ensure that the information gathered from assessments and from partners is used to improve Safety and Wellbeing and Risk of Harm Assessment, Planning and Review.</p> <p>Analysis and shared risk</p>	<p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p>	<p>Commission Training by Aug 2024</p> <p>Review improvement through QA Audit Oct 2024, report to MB Dec 2024.</p>
<p>f) Multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) training is not delivered to all staff, to provide a more robust understanding of the breadth and depth of the work needed for effective risk management.</p>	<p>MAPPA training for all case management staff has taken place on the 23rd Jan 2024 (Provider: Regional MAPPA coordinator for North Wales)</p> <p>Reinstate mandatory annual MAPPA training for the service as part of Service Training Plan. This to be reviewed by OMG annually.</p>	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p> <p>OMG Chair</p>	<p>Ongoing from the 1st of Jan 2024</p>

4.2

Area for Improvement (R2)	Action	Who	When
<p>a) Contingency planning was not consistent. Arrangements needed to be much more precise about the actions required if the level of risk increased.</p> <p>b) Controls to maximise safety and wellbeing had been examined well but contingency planning was particularly weak and required further attention.</p> <p>c) Practitioners did not always respond effectively to changes in factors related to risk of harm, which meant that plans to protect others from harm were not adjusted.</p>	<p>As part of the training commissioning arrangements outlined in R1 (a,b,c) actions the service will require the training provider to ensure contingency planning around safety and wellbeing and Risk of Harm are included.</p> <p>Contingency planning will be included in development of the new case management quality assurance processes to be developed (R2 e) ensuring consistency and effective monitoring.</p>	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p>	Oct-Nov 2024
d) Additionally, decisions taken at risk management panels to keep others safe were not always actioned in a timely manner.	The service will review the operation and function of the 'Risk Panel' with a view to improve decisions and actions are recorded and the panel contributes to improved safety and wellbeing and Risk of Harm management.	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p>	May 2024
e) Management oversight addressing safety and well-being, and risk of harm work is not consistent.	<p>The service will develop a New Quality Assurance process and policy in-line with both YJB Case Management Guidance and HMIP Inspection findings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Desistance</i> <i>Child First/Strengths</i> 	Service Manager	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Safety and Wellbeing</i> • <i>Risk of Harm</i> • <i>Contingency Planning</i> • <i>Recording</i> • <i>Analysis</i> • <i>Outcomes</i> 	Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners	Sept 2024
<p>f) Not all managers have received the appropriate level of training, for their role or responsibilities, in the last 12 months.</p> <p>g) Not all staff have had a formal appraisal.</p>	<p>The service will update Staff Training Plan and appraise the management training for Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners.</p> <p>The service will update the Supervision and Appraisal Policy (Included in the Service Induction Guidance Manual, Domain 1 R2a)</p> <p><i>Need to refer to GC Guidance</i></p> <p>The Service will report annually to the SMB on staff Supervision and Appraisal</p>	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p> <p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p>	<p>Oct 2024</p> <p>Feb 2025</p>
h) Interventions specifically for girls	<p>The Service will audit resources within the service that specifically target support for girls.</p> <p>The service will enquire with colleagues in Wales and the YJB and the Regional Practice Forum, best practice with regards to developing resources with Girls</p> <p>The service will consult with girls known to the service what type of resources and support would address their needs</p>	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p> <p>Case managers and supporting staff.</p> <p>Participation worker</p>	Sept 2024.

4.3

Area for Improvement (R4) Shared with Domain 3 (OofCD)	Action	Who	When
a) Learning, development, and training are not yet leading to effective and consistent work to address safety and wellbeing, and risk of harm to others.	The service will review the Service Training Plan and ensure training on Safety and Wellbeing and Risk are key elements of the Plan. Refer to Domain 2 R1 a,b,c	Service Manager Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners	June-July 2024
b) More activity is needed to embrace fully the range of protected characteristics that children possess.	Training will be provided to staff and managers on Protected Characteristic and diversity/disproportionality. Decision making consideration on protected characteristics and diversity will be factored into a review of the Health and Education Panels – data collected for reporting to OMG and SMB.	Service Manager Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners	Aug 2024
c) We identified failures to appropriately consider or respond to exploitation concerns and suggest this is an area that requires additional training, understanding and focus by the service.	The service will request Child Exploitation Leads from both Counties and North Wales Police provide Exploitation and Extra Familial Harm briefings/Training for YJS staff and managers, this will include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness and Identification Child Exploitation Panel Process and Practice. 	Service Manager Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners	June 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern Day Slavery and National Referral Mechanism. 		
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5. Domain 3 (Out of Court Disposals)

5.1

Area for Improvement (R3)	Action	Who	When
a) Areas relating to the safety and wellbeing of children were not explicitly covered in the policy. There was limited attention to wellbeing needs, vulnerability, and the perception of the child about her/his safety concerns.	<p>The Service has already introduced the new;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Principles and Guidance for Prevention and Diversion (PaD) (Welsh Government)</i> <i>Case Management Standards for Prevention and Diversion (YJB)</i> <p>Practice will be fully embedded by May 2024.</p>	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p>	May 2024
b) There were no guidelines to support practitioners better to assess, analyse, and plan for work to keep children safe and protect others from harm.	<p>The service will review and update the Risk and Vulnerability Policy to reflect the adoption of the new PaD documents and ensure staff are fully aware of how safeguard and manage risk of children subject to Out of Court Disposals.</p>	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p>	July 2024

c) The regional assessment tool was not providing sufficient detail to help practitioners gather and analyse the information they needed for effective assessments to keep children safe and protect others from harm.	<p>New nationally mandated <i>Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool</i> adopted by the service on the 1st April 2024.</p> <p>National Training not available until Sept-Oct 2024.</p> <p>All new cases</p> <p>In-house support and guidance provided by managers and senior staff who have experience with Asset+.</p> <p>The Operational Management Group will quality Assurance Audit.</p>	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p> <p>Members of the OMG (Audit)</p>	<p>Partly completed April 2024</p> <p>Oct-Nov 2024</p>
d) There were no internal scrutiny processes or procedures to assure decision-making.	<p>The service will reinstate Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service and Operational Managers • Chair of Magistrates Bench • Local Inspector (NWP) 	Service and Operational Managers	Sept 2024
e) Arrangements, including social services and education staff representation at the Bureau, were not yet embedded.	<p>Children's Services and Education representatives are part of the Out of Court Disposal Allocation and Review Panels (Bureau), however too early to evaluate their contribution and experience, the service will review these arrangements and consult with the OMG and NWP on changes or further developments.</p>	Service manager	Oct 2024
f) Insufficient consideration had been given to the introduction of Outcome 22	<p>North Wales Police and Regional YJS launched 'Second Chance' practice arrangements in March 2024. This practice</p>		

	<p>introduced the inclusion of Outcome 22 to the options for an Out of Court Disposal.</p> <p>The practice is early 'test' stage, the service will keep the OMG and SMB briefed on progress and issues, and continue to collaborate with the NWP (Prevention Hub and the OPCC on development and roll-out.</p> <p>The service will provide some oversight and QA via the reinstatement of the OofCD Scrutiny Panel.</p>	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p>	<p>Ongoing (partly dictated by regional planning and NWP Prevention Hub)</p>
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6. Resettlement (Policy and Procedures)

6.1

Area for Improvement (Resettlement)	Action	Who	When
<p>a) Insufficient attention was given to supporting practitioners in promoting children's safety and wellbeing (safeguarding) and risk of harm to others.</p> <p>b) Meeting the needs of actual and potential victims was not explicit in the policy.</p> <p>c) There was no mention of MAPPA in the policy.</p> <p>d) The recommended reading list had not been updated to include more current</p>	<p>The service will create a new Resettlement Practice Document, we will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek best practice within Wales. Re-affirm with OMG Chair and Members of their responsibility to form a Resettlement Panel when required. Consult with YJB Cymru on relevant reading and policy documentation. 	<p>Service Manager</p> <p>Operational Managers and Senior Practitioners</p> <p>Operational Management Group (Chair)</p>	<p>May 2024</p>

information about diversity and other resettlement areas of practice. e) Insufficient attention was given to broader protected characteristics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Diversity and Protected Characteristics are included in the document. 		
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7. Improvement Plan Journey


7.2 Approved by SMB Members and submitted to HMIP and YJB 5th April 2024. Feedback from HMIP and response by end of April 2024.

7.3 HMIP Improvement Plan paper to be presented at SMB meeting 23rd April 2024.

7.4 HMIP Improvement Plan to be presented at Council Cabinet Committees April 2024.

7.5 HMIP Improvement Plan will be incorporated into the Gwynedd and Mon Youth Justice Plan (2024-25) in June 2024. The Implementation of actions will be monitored at SMB (YJB in attendance) and OMG quarterly meetings.

8. Sign-off

Name Designation	Signature	Date
Fôn Roberts Chair of the Gwynedd Mon YJS Management Board.		08.04.2024
Stephen Wood Service manager Gwynedd Mon YJS.		

Gwynedd and Môn Youth Justice Service?

Youth Engagement and Outcomes

Introduction and summary

This report is based on feedback from young people engaged with the Youth Justice Service in 2024. It focuses on young people's views about their engagement with the service and their outcomes.

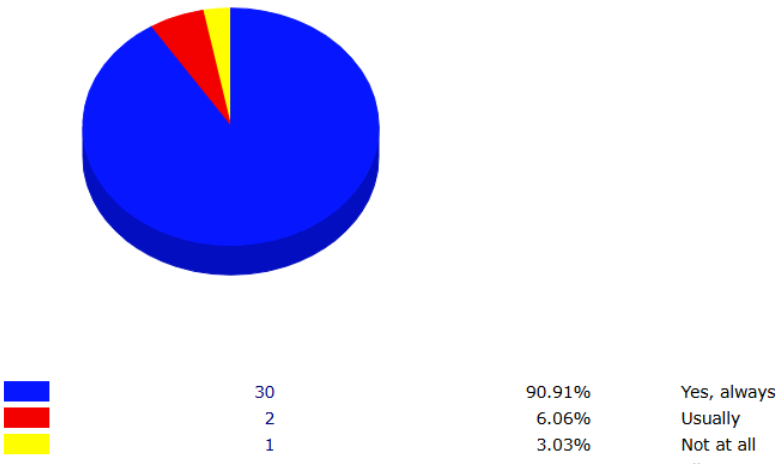
In recently published research 'Child First? Examining children's perspectives of their effective collaboration with youth justice decision making' December 2024, Kathy Hampson (Aberystwyth Law School) et al emphasise 'participation and engagement in youth justice processes is vital particularly since the Youth Justice Board adopted Child First Justice as its guiding principle and key strategic objective. Child First is an evidence-based framework for working with young people incorporating 4 tenets: see children and children; develop pro-social identity for positive child outcomes; collaboration with children and promoting diversion away from the justice system'.

The feedback from young people about their experience of working with the YJS shows how the Child First principles are being met.

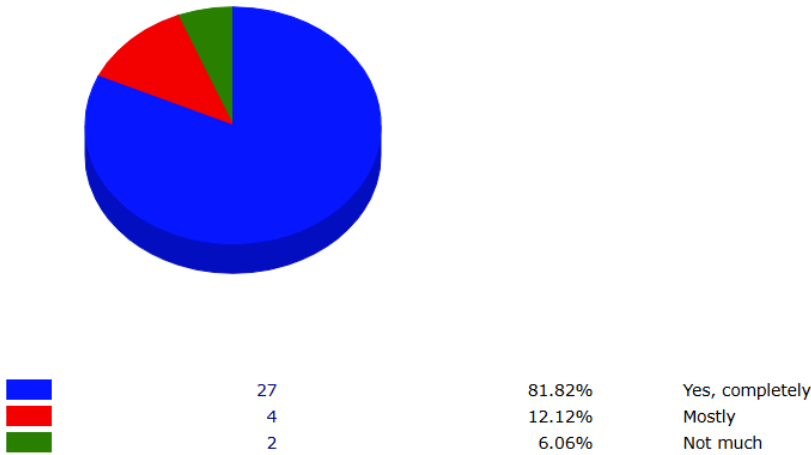
- Young people strongly confirm their sense of collaborative working and that their 'voice' is respected and responded to. They describe this experience in their own words quoted in the report
- Young people are also positive about their learning and changed attitudes and behaviours. They are able to describe these changes in their own words. There is evidence of the development of pro-social behaviours and movement away from the justice system

In their feedback they identify the main problems they face in the community. Having 'nothing to do' is seen as a problem and there are examples of how work with the YJS has given them new things to do...and behaviours to avoid

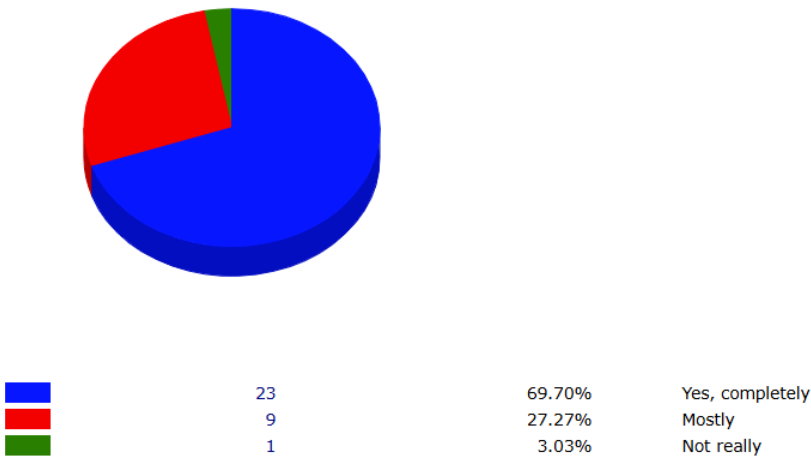
Were you given a chance to say what you wanted to say in your Intervention plan? (Was your voice heard?)



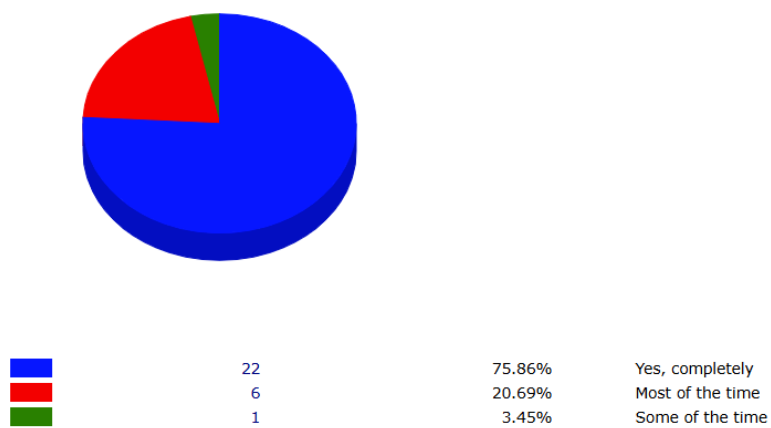
Did the Intervention Plan include things that were important to you?



Did you understand what you had to do as part of your Intervention Plan?



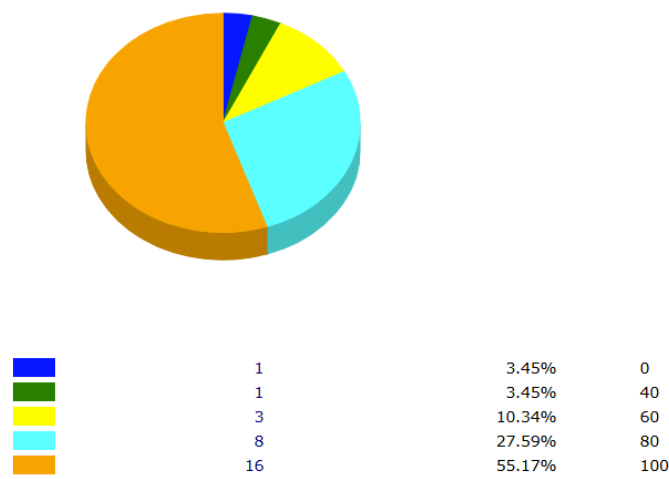
Do you feel that your voice has been heard throughout your time with YJS?



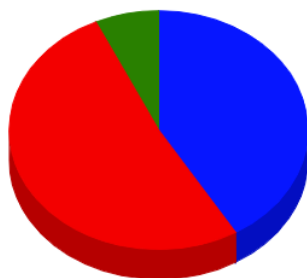
Please give an example of when you had a say in what was going on

Llinos has help me about writing a letter as i think it was good to do and my work with Barry i always had a say on what said	When I spoke to Llinos and had a proper conversation about it
when me and Barry were talking in our appointments	Yn y assessments
When i was with Llinos and had a conversation about what i had done and learnt from it	when i wanted to go to the gym
So when we first started and you understood my position on why i did it	Was see at school sometimes
When i asked for a femaile yots worker in my assessment	Litstening to what was going on outside of school
yn fy apwyntiadau	Pan oedd ni siarad mewn apwyntiad, oedd chi yn gwrando arna fi
I was asked if I wanted to talk about things during meetings, and asked how I feel and stuff.	Meeting RJ
Every time I MET ONE OF THE STAFF, i was able to explain my situation.	When we spoke about how it can effect my future
barry appointment	when i was accused of something i didn't do
BOB TRO GOFYN OS OEDD GENAI CWESTIYNAU	My opinion of the story case study
Had a meeting with Careers Wales - told them what I want to do in the future	EVERY TIME I SEE YOU
When I asked to go fishing as it was something I've always wanted to do	just with my behaviour
you explained me it well and helped me lots	During the Panel meeting I was asked what would help me the most, and Llinos Evans often asked what would help me and how I wanted sessions to run.
Our appointments	Was asked where I would like to do reparation
RJ conference	

Has the intervention plan helped your thinking and your behaviour?



Did you learn anything from your time with YJS



12
15
2

41.38% Yes, lots
51.72% Yes, some
6.90% Not much

Please give examples

*how a small amount can effect someone a lot learnt
how it can effect my future for example all
insurance*

ffordd dwi meddwl

*think before doing, i don't have to do everything my
friends do*

dysgu am meddwl yn well

think before actual doing

how it can effect my future

be gallu digwydd i fi, a empathy

when i visited the Garage

*They helped me think about consequences. They
helped me realise drinking and stuff adds to me
getting into trouble.*

Consequences.

It made me think before doing something

NOT TO BE NAUGHTY

*I knew thqt my behqviour was out of place, therfore I
was aware of my wrong doing*

how to behave, and how it can effect your future

dangers smoking cannabis

*Impact on victims. also, driving information - it is
illegal to use your mobile to pay whilst going through
a drive through.*

*Understand what would happen if I had a criminal
record*

*Resilience work has been good - will help in the
future*

resilience work, criminal record

*Learnt where I went wrong that day, and how to
manage difficult situations in the future. I'm calmer
now.*

playing ches- problem solving

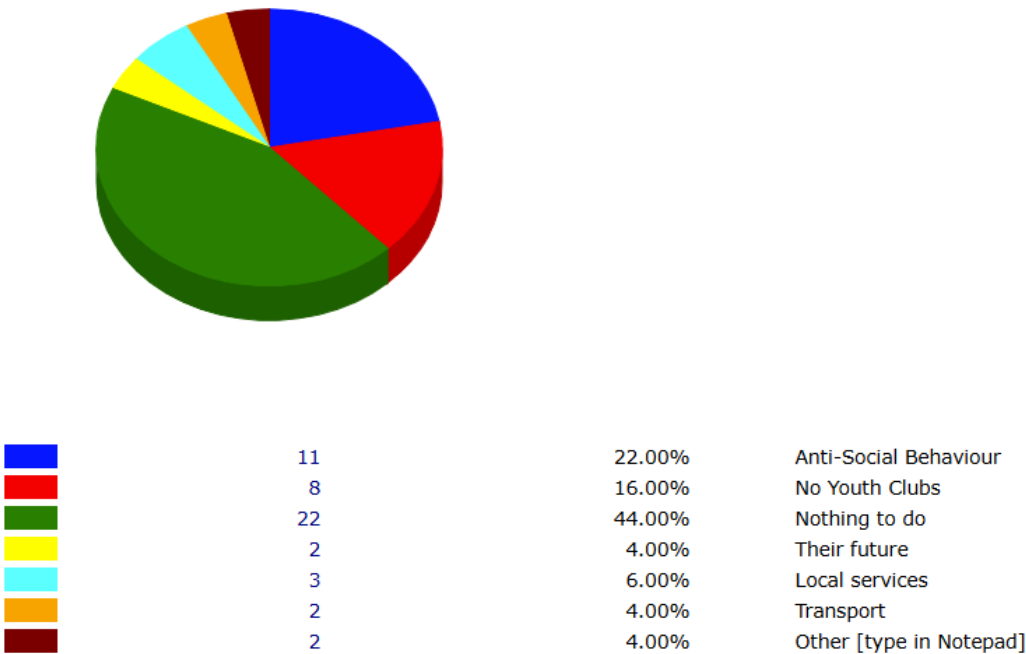
*Learn that my actions have consequences not just
my self, but people around me*

*my mate asked me to go drinking, and i thought
about it and said no*

Not me naughty on the streets

Not to fight

What are the main problems young people face in your community?



GWASANAETHAU CYFIAWNDER

IEUENCTID GWYNEDD MÔN

GWYNEDD MÔN YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES



Report to: YJS Management Board

Date: 26th March 2025

Reporting Officer: Stephen Wood

Subject: YJ Disproportionality/Disparity Report

1. Purpose of the report and content

- 1.1 The Board will be aware that in the YJ System much attention is paid to the significant disproportionate representation of BAME boys. Our HMIP inspection in Nov 2023 asked us some difficult questions on the matter, asking us to provide evidence of how we monitor and report on disproportionality.
- 1.2 This report has collected data from our case management system, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and North Wales Police to analyse deeper, and to make more accurate comparisons with general population statistics.
- 1.3 We need to be sure that the extremely low numbers of BAME boys who appear on our caseload are in fact lower than general population percentages, and that arrest to referral rates are not disproportionately criminalising these boys.

2. General Population.

2.1 The following data is sourced from the Office for National Statistics 2021: [Ethnic group, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)
There are some age specific data sets within the ONS reports, but none that cover the specific 10-17 years for Youth Justice cohorts and no combined Gwynedd/Ynys Mon data. Consequently, the comparison across the 2 data sets has a certain limitation to accuracy.

2.2 Gwynedd

Ethnicity	%
White (Welsh, British, Scots, NI, English)	93.3
White (Irish)	0.5
White (Gypsy/Traveller)	0.1
White Other (Euro)	2.3
Total	96.2

Ethnicity	%
Black (African, Caribbean)	0.4
Mixed (African, Caribbean)	0.8
Asian	1.3
Mixed (Other)	1.2
Arab	0.1
Total	3.8

2.3 Ynys Mon

Ethnicity	%
White (Welsh, British, Scots, NI, English)	96.3
White (Irish)	0.6
White (Gypsy/Traveller)	0.1
White Other (Euro)	1.1
Total	98.1

Ethnicity	%
Black (African, Caribbean)	0.2
Mixed (African, Caribbean)	0.3
Asian	0.6
Mixed (Other)	0.6
Arab	0.1
Total	*1.8

*0.1 % of the population (other) of Ynys Mon self-identifying ethnicity cannot be categorised within the 9 main ethnic groups used within this report.

2.4 Summary

It would serve little purpose to find an average across the 2 counties, for effective comparison with the caseload data we will leave these figures separate and where individuals are identified we will note the county.

2.5 **1.8%** of the population on Ynys Mon self-identify as an ethnicity other than white (BAME).

2.6 **3.8%** of the population in Gwynedd self-identify as an ethnicity other than white (BAME).

2.7 Please note, some of the data analysis from ONS suggests that these percentages could be lower in the 0-18 yrs population.

3. Case Management Data.

3.1 The YJS Case management system (ChildView) categories ethnicity in domains similar to ONS. There are some exceptions, where this occurs we will highlight in the report.

3.2 For the purposes of this report we will be using new referrals to the system data in 2 periods;

- New referrals 1st Oct 2022 – 30th Sept 2023 (117)
- New referrals 1st Oct 2023 – 30th Sept 2024 (108)

In addition, we will identify those children known to us who are from another authority, where we have caretaking responsibilities. Our children for only a short period of time, who have not entered the justice system in our area.

3.3 New referrals 1st Oct 2022 – 30th Sept 2023 (117)

Ethnicity	Number	%	Notes
White (Welsh, British, Scots, NI, English)	113	96.5	10 children Identified as White Welsh
White Other (Euro)	1	0.85	Child self-Identified as white European (Gwy)
Black (African, Caribbean)	1	0.85	North London Out of County
Mixed (African, Caribbean)	1	0.85	Case transferred from Conwy to Ynys Mon.
Moroccan	1	0.85	Gwynedd

3.4 New referrals 1st Oct 2023 – 30th Sept 2024 (108)

Ethnicity	Number	%	Notes
White (Welsh, British, Scots, NI, English)	103	95.4	1 child identified as White Welsh
White Other (Euro)	1	0.92	Gwynedd
Black (African, Caribbean)	1	0.92	Gwynedd *same incident
Asian Mixed	1	0.92	Gwynedd
Mixed (Other)	1	0.92	Gwynedd, No offence accepted Turnaround support.
Hispanic	1	0.92	Gwynedd *same incident

3.5 For the 2022-23 cohort **97.5%** of the children self-identified as white;

- 1 child identified as Black African/Caribbean, they were from another local authority in England and the service had caretaking responsibility for a short time, whilst the child was in a residential care placement. Primary offence and police and court processing did not occur in our area.

- 1 Child living on Ynys Mon had moved to the area with offences pending, the case was fully transferred to the service.
- 1 Child from Gwynedd identified as north African (Moroccan) received an OofCD for offences relating to Criminal Damage and trespass.
- All 3 children were male.

3.6 For the 2023-24 cohort **96.3%** self-identified as white;

- All children (4) who self-identified as BAME, lived in the Gwynedd area.
- 2 of these children were involved with the **same offence** incident (knife procession). Background and mitigating circumstances were included in the YJS assessment, police were able to avoid prosecution and the children received an OofCD.
- 1 child was referred to the service for preventative support and received Turnaround interventions.
- All 4 children were male.

4. North Wales Police Arrest data

4.1 Both HMIP and the YJB expect YJS to analyse more than just caseload data for identifying ethnic disparity across the system. To do this we have engaged with a senior analyst within NWP to access youth arrest data and ethnic self-reporting. Police systems use a slightly different ethnicity categories to YJS and ONS.

4.2 NWP have provided us with 5 years of youth arrest data for the Western Division and individual Local authority areas. There was a total of **704** youth arrests in the 4.5 year period, (2024 incomplete)

4.3 The following table provides information on the *recorded ethnicity* at point of arrest;

Arrested Ethnicity	Arrest Count	%
Black	5	0.7%
Not Recorded	6	0.9%
Unknown	23	3.3%
White - North European	667	94.7%
White - South European	3	0.4%

4.4 The following table provides information on *self-identifying* ethnicity following arrest;

Arrested Self-defined Ethnicity	Arrest Count	%	Revised Arrest Count	%
A1. Asian - Indian	1	0.1%	1	0.1
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.1%	1	0.15
B2. Black African	2	0.3%	2	0.35
B9. Any other Black background	3	0.4%	3	0.5
G02	4	0.6%	4	0.7
M3. White & Asian	1	0.1%	1	0.1
N03	93	13.2%	0	0
Not Recorded	9	1.3%	0	0
O9. Any other ethnic group	14	2.0%	14	2.3
W1. White British	482	68.5%	482	80.3
W2. White Irish	8	1.1%	8	1.3
W9. Any other white background	86	12.2%	86	14.2
Totals	704		602	

*G02 = White Gypsy or Irish Traveller (coded as G02 in Business Objects as W3 was previously used for White Welsh)

**N03 = Not Stated

4.5 There is a major issue with these sets of data, the significantly high number of not recorded or not stated (14.5%).

4.6 For the purpose of this report we have removed the non-recorded/not stated numbers from the data sets and revised the percentages. We can only view this as partial information and indicative of ethnic groups.

5. **Results and Recommendations**

5.1 Our BAME numbers are low in both general and youth justice populations, to the point where one individual person increase/decrease significantly alters percentage comparisons. Example, where a child from another authority is placed in our area (LAC residential)

5.2 There are no obvious disparity or disproportionality in the Gwynedd Mon YJS referral cohort, numbers and percentages are similar, if not lower than general population figures.

5.3 YJS in the region to engage further with NWP Analyst to explore options for comparable data sets.

5.4 Further work may be required to look at how the service and practitioners engage with and support the needs of BAME children accessing the service.

5.5 Recommend that the service conducts an ethnicity data analysis annually to track/monitor changes.

5.6 YJS Management Board to receive disproportionality data analysis on Care Experienced Children (CEC) in the justice system.

GWASANAETHAU CYFIAWNDER

IEUENCTID GWYNEDD MÔN

GWYNEDD MÔN YOUTH JUSTICE

SERVICES



Report to: YJS Management Board

Date: 25th June 2025

Reporting Officer: Stephen Wood

Subject: Quality Assurance Audit (Assessment May 2025)

1. Purpose of the report and content

- 1.1 To provide the Management Board with information on how the Quality Assurance Audit was conducted.
- 1.2 To provide the Management Board on the outcomes of the Audit.
- 1.3 To explain how the service will use the results of the audit to affect change/improvement.

2. Context

2.1 Case management quality assurance is conducted by managers during information gathering and on all completed assessments, with formal feedback given to case managers for changes and improvements.

2.2 Our HMIP Inspection in Nov 2023 identified that there were improvements to be made in our assessment and planning work in the following areas;

- *Safety and Well Being*
- *Risk of Harm*
- *Contingency Planning*
- *Evidence of professional analysis*

2.3 In addition there have been significant changes and demands made to our assessment processes with the introduction of the YJB Mandated *Prevention and*

Diversion Assessment Tool in Sept 2024. This new assessment is considerably larger and more comprehensive than the previous prevention assessment.

2.4 In the last 12 months Board members have been regularly updated on the commissioned training provided to staff, this training was a response to HMIP findings and our Implementation Plan;

- **Risk of Harm (RoH)** training has been commissioned from Silver Bullet (long established YJ provider) Sept and Oct 2024 staff and managers.
- **Safety and wellbeing (S&W)** has also been commissioned from Silver Bullet as part of Assessment Planning Intervention and Supervision Training. Both sets of training will include **Consistency of Recording** and **Contingency Planning**.
- Dr Kathy Hampson has agreed to deliver training on **Analytical skills and Recording**, this training will take place in Oct and Nov 2024.
- All Case management Staff and Managers received **MAPPA training** in Jan 2024 and March 25 from local NPS coordinator, now mandatory training.

2.5 Results from the Audit will be included in our YJ Plan 2025-26 and we will update our HMIP Implementation Plan, thus providing evidence of progress on actions.

2.6 There are two main assessments completed by the service which are the basis for all planning, safeguarding, interventions and risk management work we conduct with children;

- **Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool** (PaDAT was introduced in Sept 2024), this assessment is used for all cases where a formal out of court disposal is to be delivered, it is now the YJB/MOJ mandated assessment.
- **AssetPlus** (current iteration has been in use for 10+ years) used for all court orders, Pre-Sentence Report and has been used for Youth Conditional Cautions. YJB/MOJ Mandated assessment.

3. The Process

3.1 A Long sample list was created from our management Information System (*ChildView*) of all AssetPlus Assessments completed by the service in the period 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 (**24**)

3.2 A Long sample list was created from ChildView of all PaD Assessments completed by the service in the period 1st Sept 2024 – 31st March 2025 (**82**)

3.3 For impartiality and transparency purposes, audit case selection was completed by members of the YJS Operational Management Group. They were provided with an anonymised long-sample and asked to select cases on the basis of gender, case manager, and risk level.

- **7** AssetPlus cases were selected (29%)
- **14** PaDAT cases were selected (17%)

3.4 Using the Assessment Audit tools recommended by the YJB, the service has worked with other YJSs to create bespoke Audit Tools, please see **appendices 1 & 2**. The tools offer a scoring systems for the completion of areas of the assessment and opportunity for additional scoring and notes on quality and evidence analysis.

3.5 At the YJS OMG meeting on 30th April the dates of 29th and 30th of May were agreed by members to complete the Audits, members also agreed to provide additional oversight to the Audits by joining us as *critical friends*. (Please see **appendix 3**)

3.6 The service manager took the opportunity to dip-sample Audit results following completion, the aim was to ensure consistency of audit scoring across the two samples. 6 cases were sampled; 3 AssetPlus and 3 PaDAT.

4. Results

4.1 Please refer to Results Table **Appendix 4**

4.2 Table 1 (findings)

Asset+	Very Good	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
7	3	4	0	0
PaDAT				
14	5	7	2	0
Totals	8	11	2	0

Please note.

During a scoring verification exercise conducted by the Service manager, it became evident that the audit tool over-scored assessments due to errors in the development of the tool. The scoring system was altered, the result of which was a reduced (and more accurate) score levels for some assessments.

4.3 **20%** of the of the total Assessments completed in the period were audited.

4.4 No assessment were of an **Inadequate standard**, and only 2 PaDAT assessments were of a **Requires Improvement** standard.

4.5 **38%** of assessments audited very of a **Very Good** standard and **52%** score **Good**.

4.6 Staff who complete Asset+ have been completing these assessments for a considerable period of time, they have experienced previous audits and have

completed 1 or more HMIP Inspections. The majority have professional qualifications (Social Worker, Probation).

4.7 Staff completing PaDAT are new to comprehensive assessment completion, and PaDAT was only introduced to staff in Sept 2024, training was provided. The majority do not have professional qualification, although we do have 2 qualified teachers working in this team.

4.8 Overall findings are good and demonstrate a high standard of assessment standard within the service. There are a number of issues which were identified in our HMIP Inspection (Nov 2023) that persist;

Service needs

- Professional Analysis skills are not effectively embedded within the service.
- Contingency planning remains weak for some staff.
- Safety and Wellbeing and Risk of Harm recording has improved, however, there is evidence that some staff are not; fully utilising information from wider services or including these elements in all areas of the assessment.
- Explanations and accounts, at times, continue to be narrative driven and not demonstrating the case managers ability to understand the nature of the child's behaviour and the possible reasons for this.

Individual staff

- 'Voice of the Child' recording didn't always reflect the child's voice, 3rd person wording, and was of inconsistent quality.
- Spelling and Grammar errors were too common, with typing errors contributing to confusion.
- PaDAT assessments completed in the period sept-Oct 2024, had a significant number of sections that were incomplete, (un-ticked boxes).
- Evidence of rushed assessments and '*assessment fatigue*', (end sections of assessments are of a poorer quality than the earlier sections)
- Evidence of 'Copy-Paste' information from other external documents.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Managers will review assessment audit results with individual staff within supervision, with individual action plans created.

5.2 Managers will review our QA Audit Tools, address issues identified during the audit process and responding to some of the feedback from external auditors. We will include YJB Cymru in this process.

5.3 The service will commission further staff training for *Analysis Skills* and *Contingency Planning*.

5.4 The service will arrange peer-auditing sessions for staff using the revised Audit Tool.

5.6 The service will create a short QA tool for general feedback to staff, to be used where necessary at Start, Review and End stages.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 AssetPlus Audit Tool



Gwynedd Mon A+
Audit tool May 2025-

Appendix 2 PaDAT Audit Tool



Gwynedd Mon
PaDAT QA Audit Tool

Appendix 3 Case Allocation and Schedule



Gwynedd Mon YJS
Audit Schedule and C:

Appendix 4 Table of results



Appendix 3 Audit
Results Table June 20.

MEETING	Care Scrutiny Committee
DATE	29 January 2026
TITLE	16+ Team (Leaving Care)
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	Assurance in relation to 16 plus provision
AUTHOR	Aled Gibbard
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Menna Trenholme

1. Why is scrutiny necessary?

1.1 In order to be assured that the Council provides suitable services and provides value for money.

2. What exactly needs to be scrutinised?

1. The team's area of work and the demand for services
2. How the team deals with service users including those between 16 and 18 and asylum seekers, any challenges and implications of that on the Council's resources.

3. Background

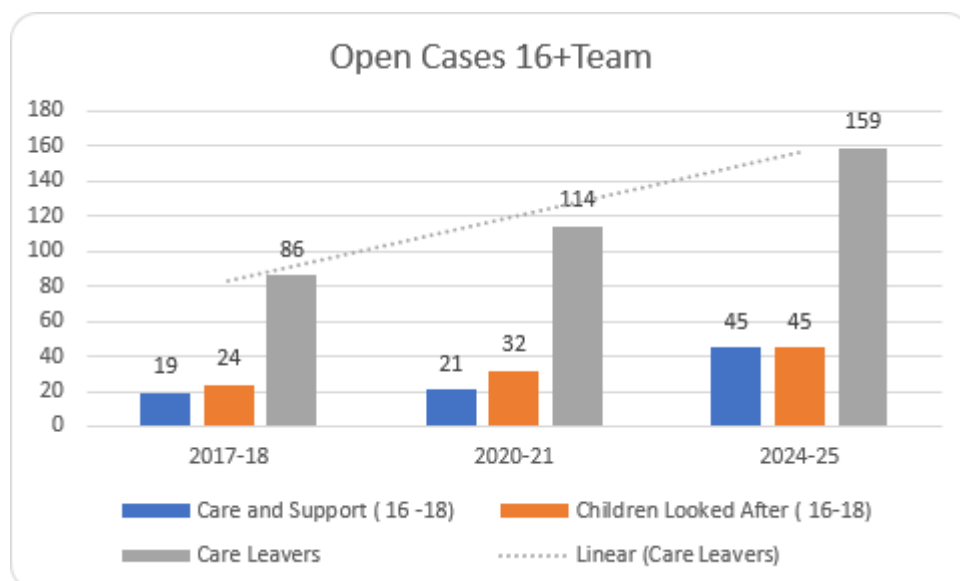
- 3.1 The Post 16 Team has been established as a specific team to focus on those cases which are open to the Children and Family Support Department between the ages of 16 and 25.
- 3.2 The team's work is defined within the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014. Specifically that is under:
- Part 3 of the Act, which is the duty to assess a child's needs for care and support,
 - Part 6 of the act which relates to children in care and the duty to develop plans and support children and their families and review them regularly.
 - Part 6 of the act which relates to supporting young people leaving care.
- 3.3 The Team's total budget for meeting the needs of young people is £1,040 million. £800,000 of that budget is for accommodation and support needs. £88,000 is for practical support in Care and Support cases and children looked after. There is a budget of £92,000 for allowances for young people (bearing in mind that young people on a Care Order are not eligible for benefits as the local authority is the corporate parent).

4. The demand for the Service

- 4.1 For Care and Support cases the team receives referrals directly from the Referral Team as well as requests for joint assessments with the Homelessness unit in the Housing Department.
- 4.2 During the period April 2024 to March 2025 the Team received 44 new referrals for assessment. This compares with 32 over the same period in the previous year.
- 4.3 Between April 2024 and December 2025, 14 cases of children in care who reached the age of 16 were transferred.
- 4.4 At the beginning of January 2026 a total of 249 cases were open to the Team.
- 4.5

Open cases January 2026	
Care and Support (16-17) (Part 3)	45
Children looked after (16-17)	45
Care Leavers (18-24)	159
Total	249

- 4.6 This year so far 15 Section 47 safeguarding inquiries have taken place and 46 strategy meetings under the Safeguarding Procedures. There has been an increase in the number of 16 and 17 year olds on the Child Protection Register.
- 4.7 There has been an increase in the cases open to the Team since 2017-18 by 48%. Of course Asylum Seekers account for some of this increase, but demand at a general level has increased in the same period. See below for the increase in demand over time:
- 4.8



5. How does the team deal with service users?

- 5.1 A worker is designated for each case. The type of worker is dependent on the type of case.
- 5.2 For Care and Support cases, a Social Worker undertakes the assessment. After assessment the case can be run by a Social Care Practitioner or Social Worker. The majority of these cases relate either to safeguarding issues or where there is dispute and tension between parents and the young person, often where there is a possibility of being homeless.
- 5.3 45 children in care are open to the Team and a Social Worker is designated for each one.
- 5.4 For young people leaving care we appoint a Personal Adviser in accordance with the Act.
- 5.5 The intervention offered is dependent on the individual case, but at a general level this means working with other agencies to plan and meet the individual's needs. Working with other agencies is a core part of their work.
- 5.6 The Team's casework focuses on well-being, stability, education, work or training and developing independence skills.
- 5.7 While a young person is under 18 and needs accommodation it is the responsibility of the local authority to find and organize that accommodation. This is met in several ways. The first priority for those cases that are with her parents is to support and maintain the situation at home, if it is safe to do so. For young people in care the majority are in foster care (24). 3 of the young people are in residential care, 4 live with parents under a Care Order arrangement and 14 live semi-independently with support.
- 5.8 Accommodation provision with support is a core element of provision for the Team and for the young people. To meet this need there is a cross section of arrangements working with other partners. We have a Service Level Agreement with Gsda and North Wales Housing Association. The Team also uses 2 private providers who can offer accommodation and support to individuals.
- 5.9 On turning eighteen the Team continues to offer support. All young people leaving care are expected to have a Pathway Plan, and it can be confirmed that performance on this is 100%. Statutory Reviews are not held once a young person leaves care, but the pathway plan is reviewed as necessary.
- 5.10 A young person can choose not to receive support once they reach the age of eighteen. The individual's wish is respected, but the authority has a duty to keep in touch. This is done at least annually. The individual has the right to re-connect for support if desired. Very few young people choose not to keep in touch at all.

- 5.11 See **Appendix 1** which provides an analysis following a questionnaire with the members of the Team.

6. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

- 6.1 As part of the Home Office's National Transfer Scheme, each local authority has received a quota of young people to receive under the scheme. Of the total 249 cases open to the Team, 32 of these are Asylum Seekers (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children).
- 6.2 While the young person is under 18, they are treated as children in care. When they turn eighteen they become Care Leavers and are the responsibility of the local authority until they are 25 years old.
- 6.3 4 of the Asylum Seekers are now under 18 years of age, with the rest being adults who receive Aftercare support. 9 of them are in Gwynedd, 8 in South Wales and the rest in England.
- 6.4 Some of the challenges and implications:
- Lack of background information, wishes, needs, trauma, emotional well-being. When receiving a very basic information address it contains. It is not possible to check and confirm basic information about the young person.
 - Language – Significant diversity in the countries of origin of the individuals. The majority come from Afghanistan, with a total of 13 countries represented among the young people.
 - The young people's uncertainty, lack of understanding about the process, managing expectations. They usually become Gwynedd's responsibility after spending a short period in a centre. The process of claiming asylum is complex and it is not easy to explain everything. In addition, some young people come with clear expectations that they want to live in a city and not a rural area like Gwynedd.
 - Locations – Finding suitable location or accommodation is not easy. Many want to live in a city. Sometimes they are in contact with others in another part of the country. Often their location is a combination of what they want and what is available to them.
 - Exploitation. "Trafficking" concerns. With a lack of background information it is difficult to ascertain if there are other factors in the background. Strategy meetings are held where there is doubt to discuss further.
 - The asylum claim process takes a long time. In addition, it is not always easy to find a lawyer to deal with the application. 17 of the 32 in Gwynedd have been given the right to stay. 12 have been rejected.
 - Age assessments are an additional complication. As it is not possible to confirm the age of the individuals, there are times when there is doubt as to whether it is a child or not. In these cases it is necessary to undertake an age assessment. Specific training is required to undertake this assessment.
 - High demands on the employees e.g. visits, difficult to create a relationship, communication through a translator, planning for them.

- For 2024-25 the cost of housing and supporting Asylum Seekers in Gwynedd was approximately £780,000. The Council receives a refund which is set at a level by the Home Office. For 2024-25 this refund was £686,000.
- The Council has temporarily allocated additional funds to employ 2 Workers within the Team to increase capacity to deal with these additional cases.

5. Consultation

5.1 We have not consulted with service users for the purposes of this report.

6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- 6.1 Have you considered **collaboration**?
- 6.2 Collaboration is essential as part of the work. The Team has regular contact with other agencies such as North Wales Police, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Coleg Menai, Gisda, North Wales Housing Association, Gwynedd Council Housing Department.
- 6.3 What has been done or will be done to **prevent** problems from arising or worsening in the future?
- 6.4 No specific work has been done on preventing problems from arising or worsening in the future.
- 6.5 How have you considered the **long term** and what will people's needs be in years to come?
- 6.6 A population needs assessment at the regional level has been completed and will be updated.

7. Impact on equality features, the Welsh language, and the socio-economic duty

- 7.1 We have considered the above features and, as a Department, we follow the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 in our daily work. This ensures that individuals and families receive services and assessments in their language of choice.

Appendices

Post-16 Questionnaire

Questions

There were 3 main questions asked about each individual



Living Situation?

Where does the individual live now?

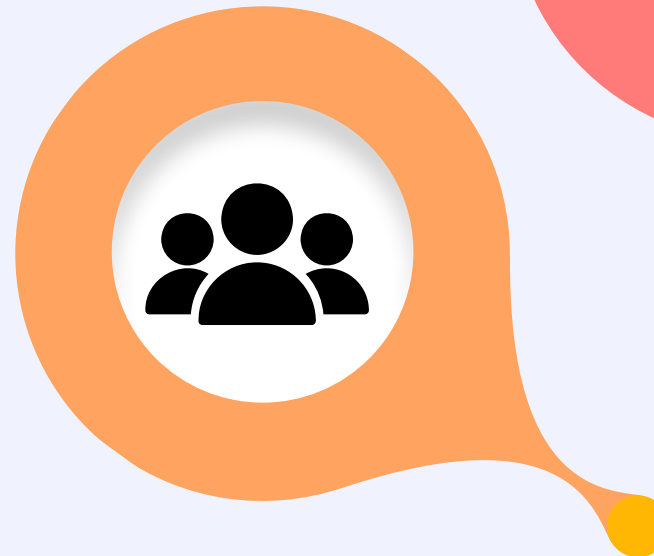


Homeless?

Have they been homeless?
If so, why?

Officers

14 post-16 team officers assisted with the review



Individuals

A review document was provided that outlined 237 individual details regarding who the post-16 team supports



Contact?

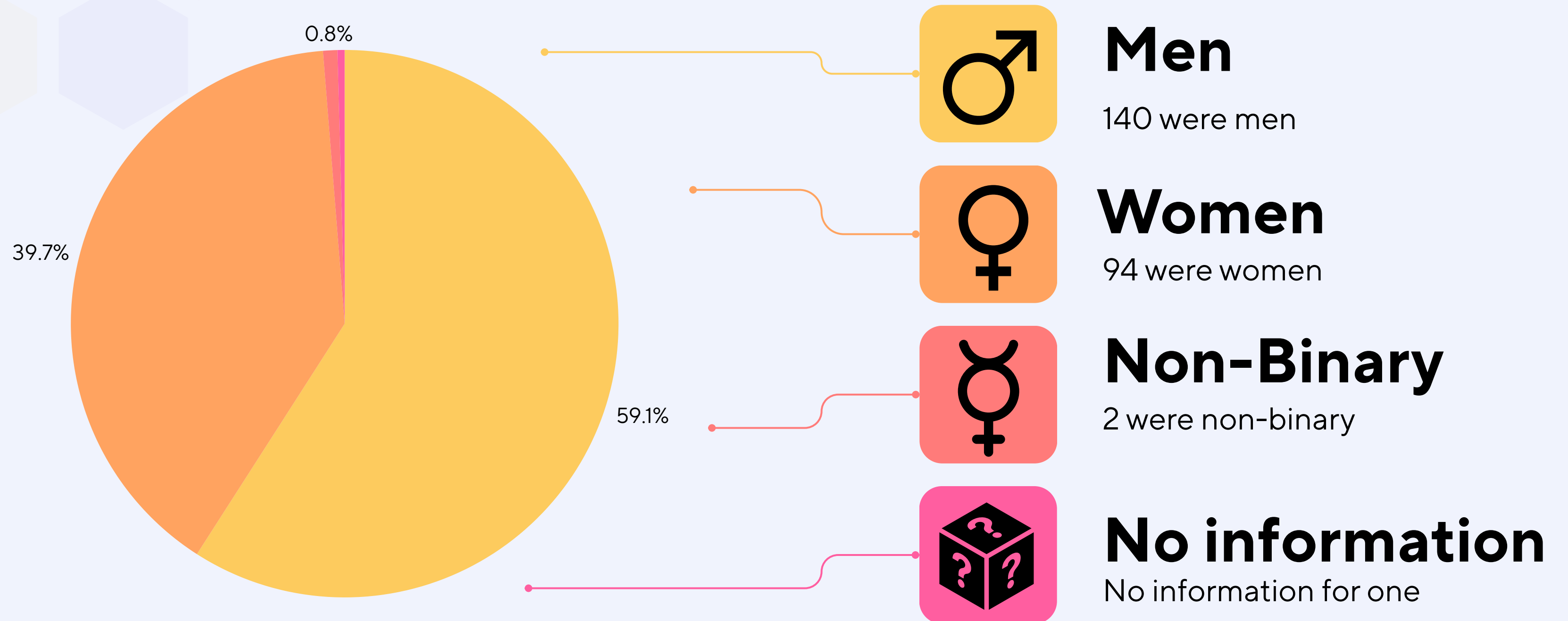
How often will an officer see or have contact with the individual?



16 PLUS QUESTIONNAIRE

Individual Details

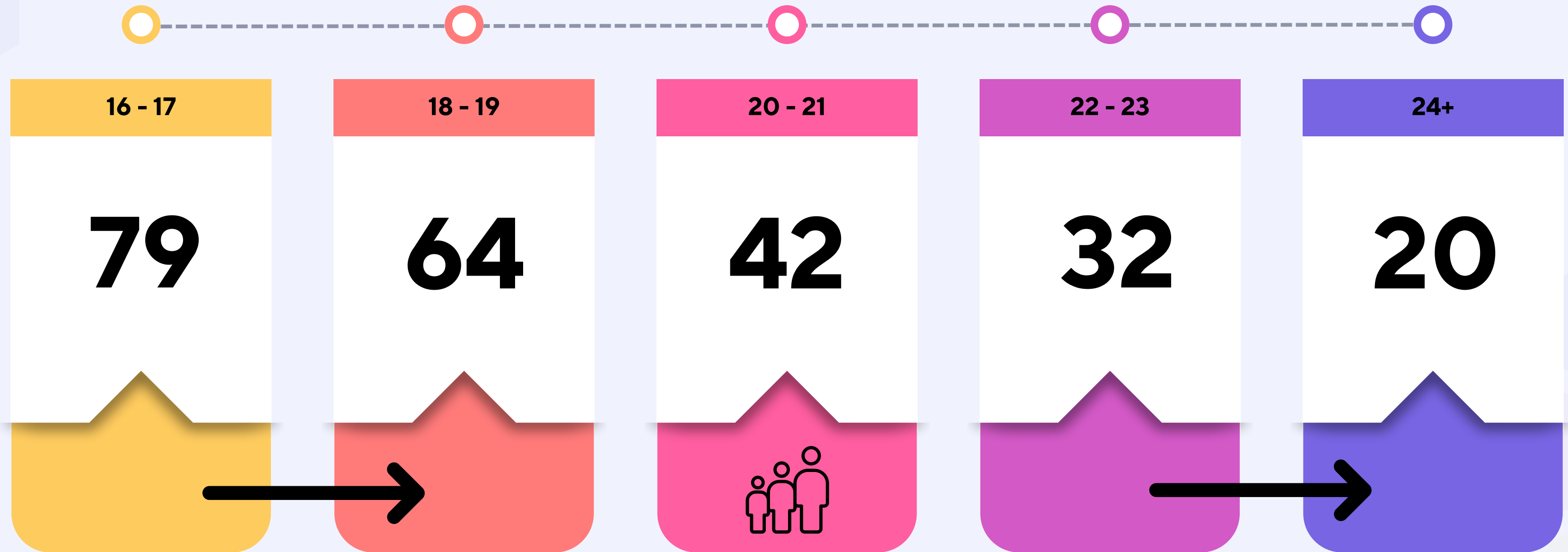
In the reviewed document, 237 individuals were being supported by the post-16 team.



- One individual is in the process of transitioning from female to male; however, this has not yet been officially confirmed.

Age Category

The average age of individuals receiving support is 19.71 years, below everyone is divided into age categories



Work Allocation

Below shows how the cases are allocated per officer:



Meeting Frequency

The information below provides an overview of how frequently individuals meet with or have contact with post-16 team staff.

Monthly is the most common meeting frequency.



Most are seen on an 'as needed' basis, that is, as the individual requires.

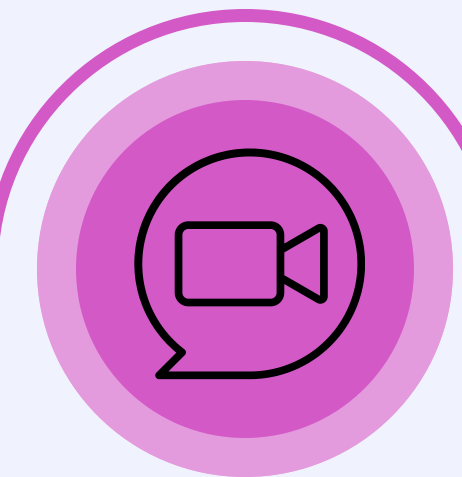
Some individuals are seen every two days to respond to their needs.



4 - 6 weeks is the second most common in terms of meetings.



Digital contact is a popular way to meet.



Unfortunately, there are problems with getting through to a number of individuals, but the officers continue to try to make contact.



Living Category

The living situations of the 237 individuals can be grouped into broad categories as shown below:



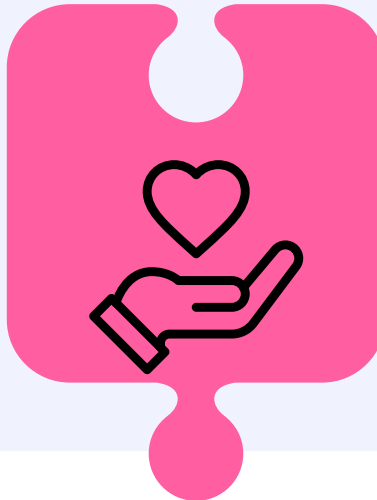
**67 living with
parents /
extended
family**



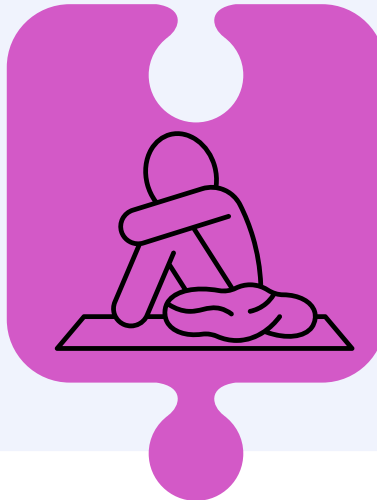
**37 living with
a foster family**



**70 living
independently**



**36 in supportive
accommodation
/ Anheddau/
Bed Space / Byw
Bywiog / GISDA
/ Gorwel / Pen
Dinas / Hostel**



**6 in different
accommodation
each night /
hotel / homeless**



**4 moved to
University**



**2 in a
residential
settings**

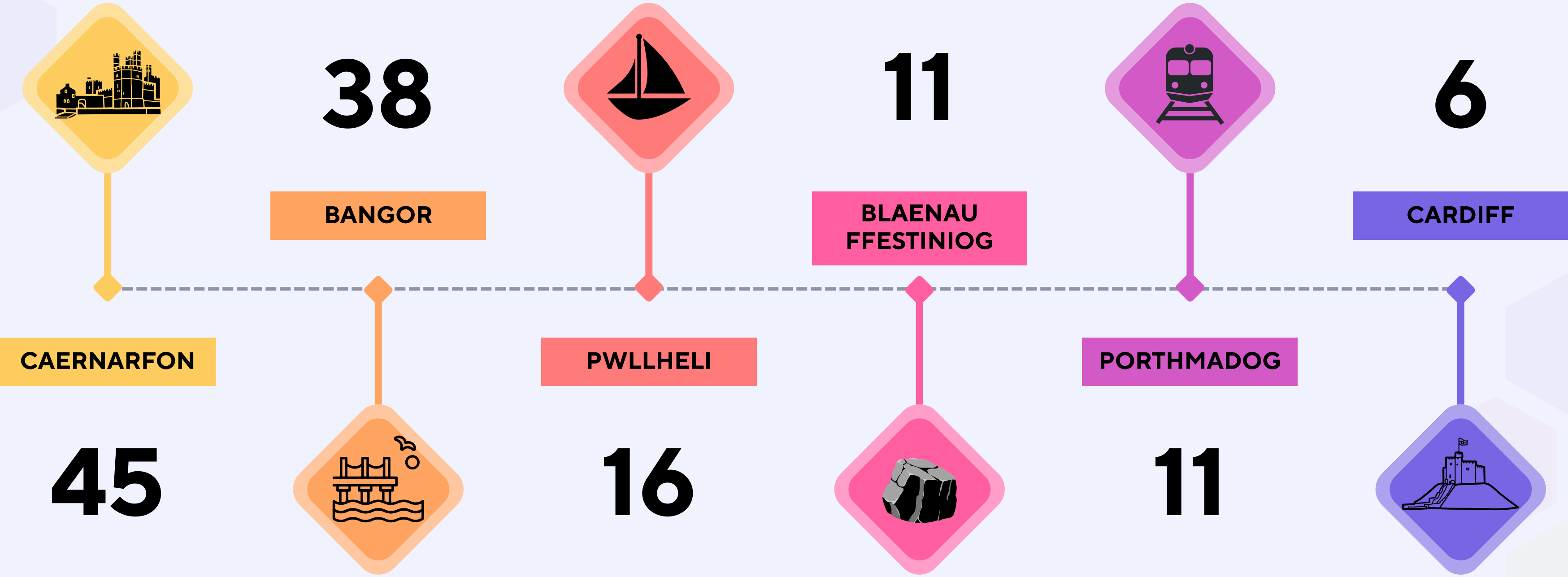


3 in jail



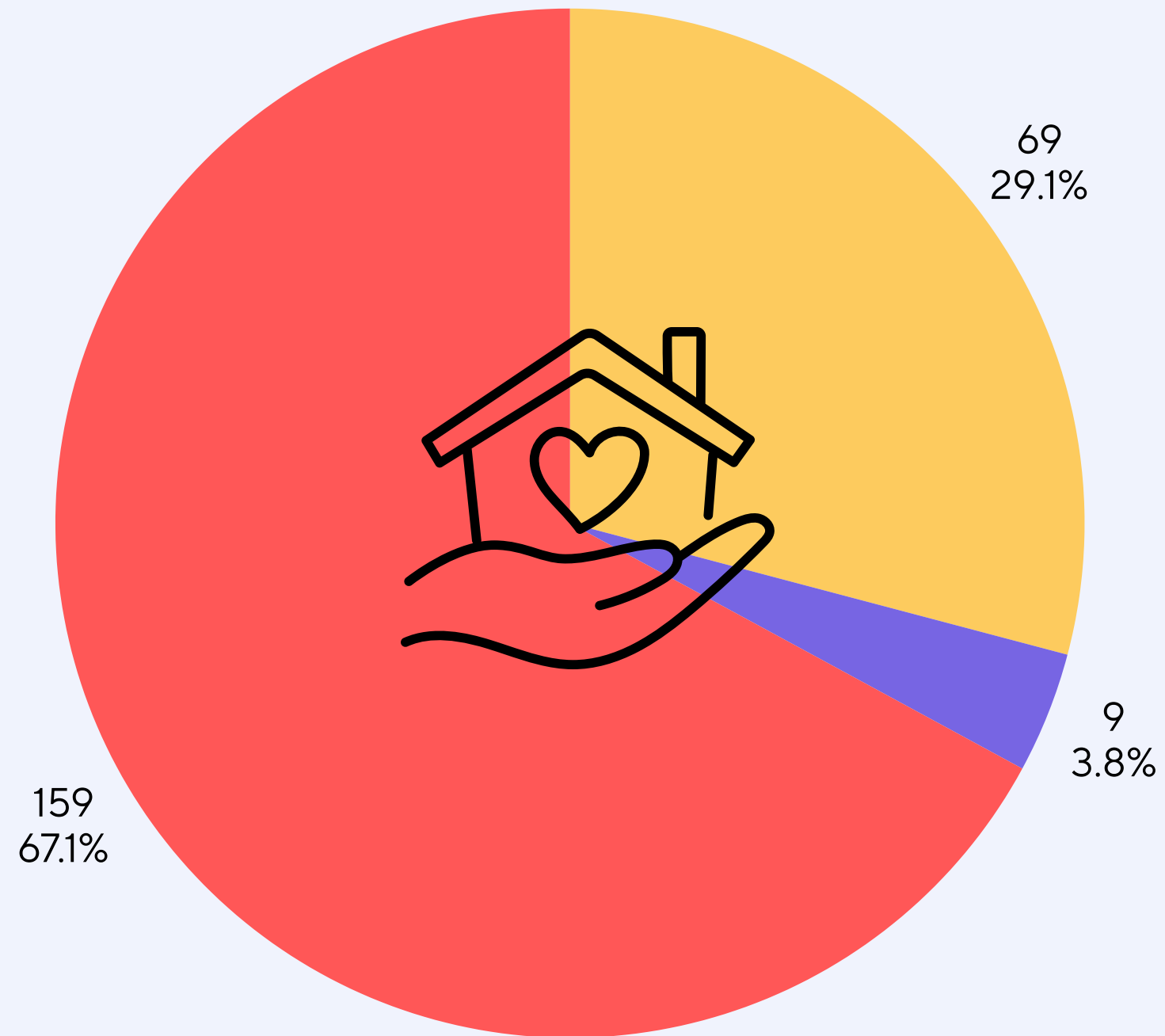
**12 in prison
have either
been closed
or stopped
engaging**

The most common place for individuals to live:



Homeless

- It was noted that 69 had presented as homeless during their time with the post-16 team
- Unclear whether 9 have presented as homeless or not
- 159 noted that they had never presented themselves as homeless



Reasons for Homelessness

