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)
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 <mark>same offence</mark> 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.