



SWANSEA YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

PERFORMANCE REPORTING 2020-21

Quarter 3

October – December 2020

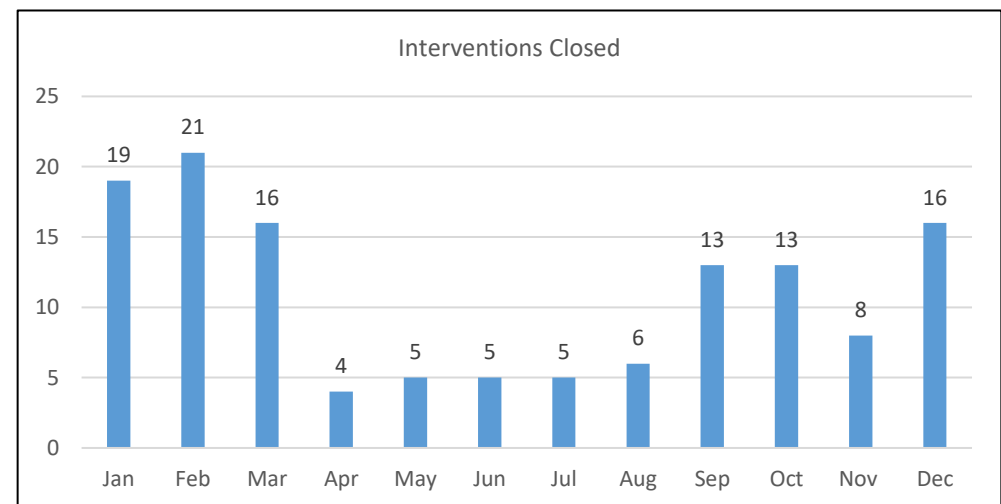
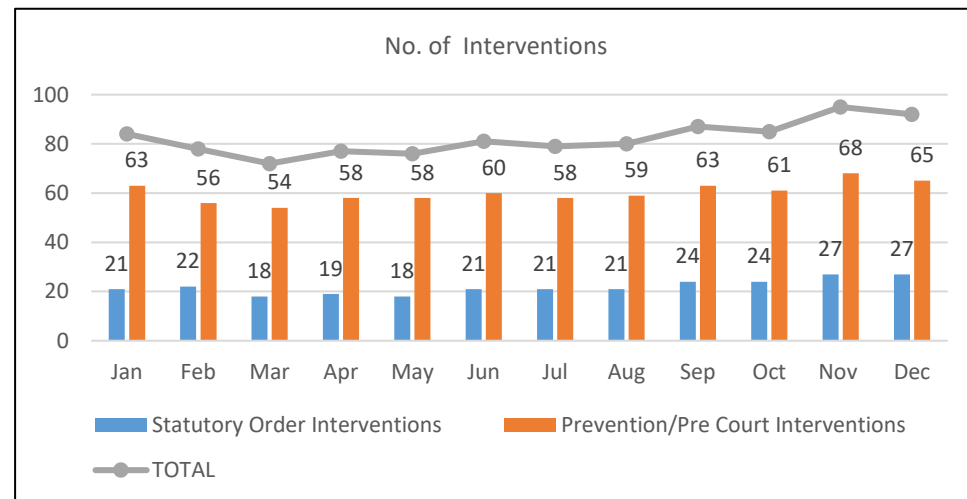
SERVICE PERFORMANCE

This table shows the number of interventions ongoing within the quarter.

No of Interventions	Jan - Mar 19	Apr - Jun 19	Jul - Sep 19	Oct - Dec 19	Jan - Mar 20	Apr - Jun 20	Jul - Sept 20	Oct - Dec 20
Prevention	67	85	82	74	67	55	60	41
Pre Court (Bureau)	38	33	33	29	28	15	23	20
Court	39	31	33	35	32	28	30	25
TOTAL	144	149	148	138	127	98	113	86

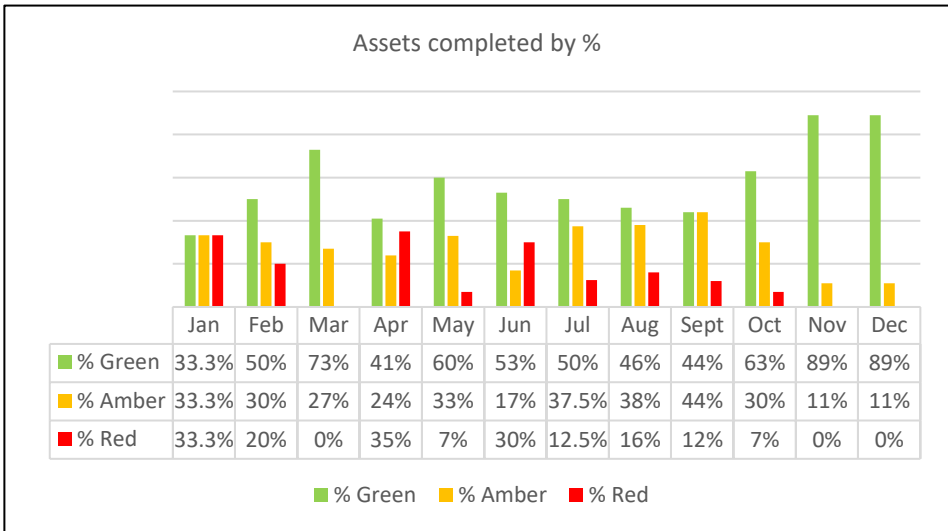
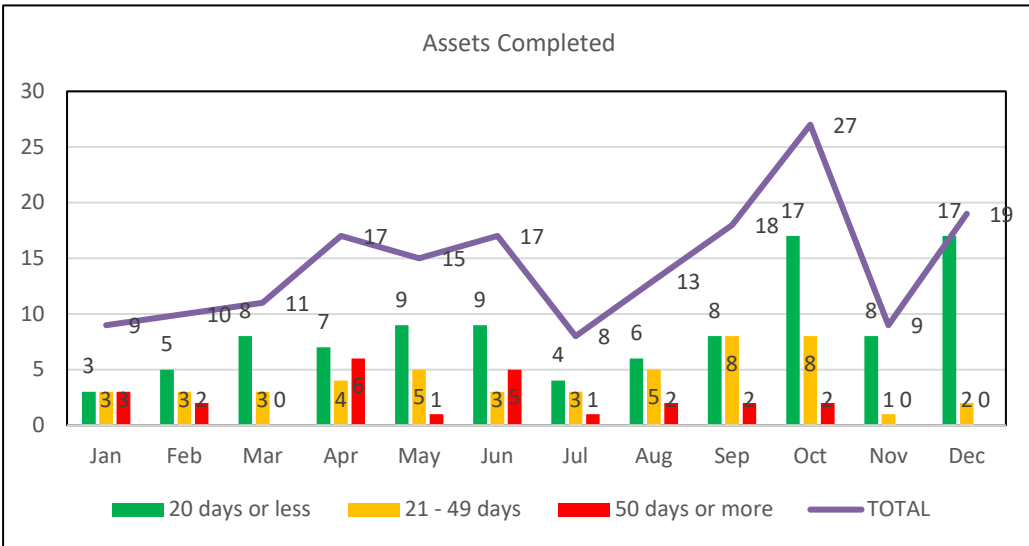
Comments

- The quarter (Oct – Dec) shows a decrease in Prevention interventions to 41.
- Pre- Court interventions are also showing a decrease to 20 from 23 in the previous quarter.
- Court interventions have also decreased to 25.
- Custodial sentences (including Licence) have decreased by 2 to 3 in total.
- Youth Rehabilitation Orders have decreased by 2 from 11 to 9 for the quarter.
- Referral Orders have also decreased by 1 to 13 open in this quarter.



Comments

The numbers of interventions open to the service remains consistent across statutory and prevention/early intervention.



Comments

- During Oct - Dec there were 55 completed Asset Plus assessments.
- These were completed in the timescales shown in the graph with the column showing the according RAG rating.
- 76% of assessments were completed in the 20 day target timescale.

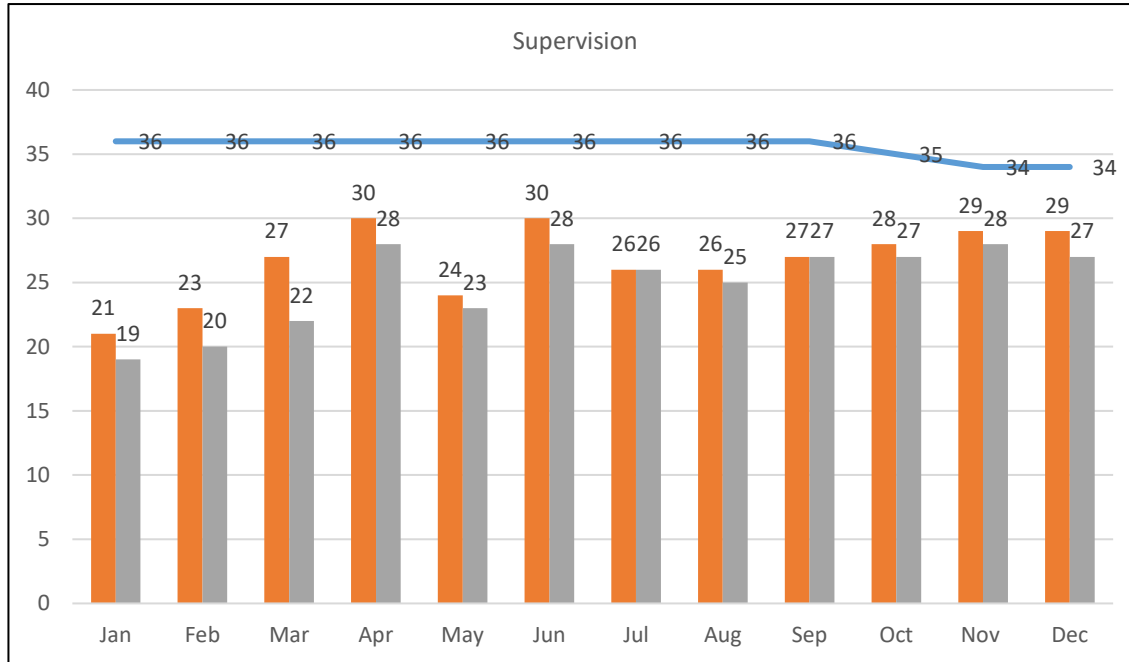
In the last quarter, there has been an increase in the number of assessments completed. October saw the highest number of assessments being completed on a monthly basis within the last 12 month period. This increase can be attributed to the need for all open assessments to be signed off by the end of that month in preparation for an upgrade of our case management system. Two assessments fell into the red during October, in one case this was due to a system error. The assessment had gone beyond the 20 days at point of sign off however the error had not been picked up until beyond the 50 days. The other assessment had not been signed off due to no request for the report to be countersigned.

The data evidences an improving picture in this quarter, with no assessments entering the red and only three entering amber in the last two months. In relation to these, one in November was signed off at 30 days, the delay related to a system error. The other two, in December, were both signed off within 25 days. In one case the delay related to the case manager being on sick leave and unable to complete necessary amendments within the timeframe. The other required some additional information gathering by the case manager before the assessment could be accurately signed off.

In order to maintain focus on this area of work, there is continued management oversight of assessment timeframes. Weekly checks are undertaken by the manager and case managers are reminded when their assessments are over the half way point, with a view of these pieces of work being prioritised. Where assessments go over the timeframe, case managers and seniors are asked to discuss the issues with the Manager and Principal Officer in order that

we can identify any patterns/trends that need to be addressed in terms of performance. Over the past two months case managers have been working hard to focus on this areas of their role and have been responding positively to the oversight.

In addition, on the 9th and 24th November 2020, two half day workshops were provided to all case managing staff in the team. These workshops focused on assessments and report writing respectively. A further workshop focusing on intervention planning and management was due to take place in January 2021 however, this has been slightly delayed and will now take place in February 2021.



Comments

Supervisions continues to be completed regularly, with high numbers of supervisions taking place each month

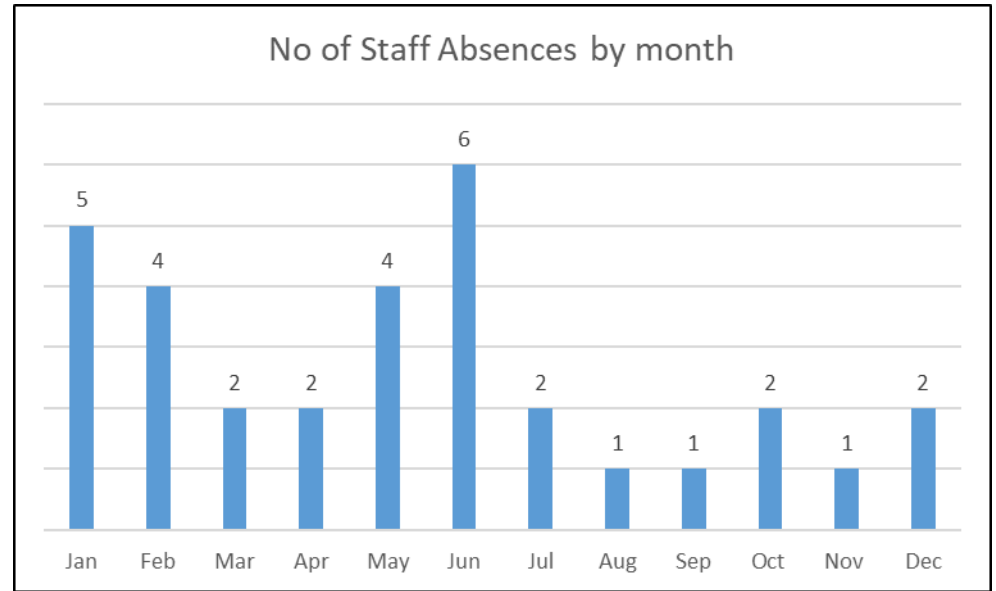
Raising the quality of supervision is the next phase for this area of work. A workshop is due to take place in February 2021 with all senior staff responsible for undertaking supervision. This has been slightly delayed due to staff leave in December 2020 and January 2021 and seniors focusing on the preparation of workshops for the staff around assessments and report writing in November 2020.

In preparation for this workshop, feedback will be sought from the team about their experience of supervision. The workshop will focus on improving any identified areas from this feedback.

In order to monitor progress in supervision quality, an audit of supervisions will take place three months following the workshop. Regular dip sampling will take place following this to ensure that quality is maintained.

Comments

Within this period, 5 staff members have had periods of sickness absence with only one requiring medical sign off for a two week period. All other staff self-certified for a few days, due to minor illness. Sickness levels have been significantly lower in the past 6 month period than the previous 6 month period and this is the first quarter, over the past 12 month period, we have not had staff off work in relation to work related stress. This indicates an improving picture.



**NATIONAL KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Local Data Only**

First Time Entrants

Using local data there were 12 first time entrants into the youth justice system in this quarter. There were also 12 in the quarter before, Quarter 3 of the previous year (2019 -20) showed 6 first time entrants showing an increase from the same time last year but remaining the same as the previous quarter this year.

Breakdown of First Time Entrants;

Gender	
Male	11
Female	1

Ethnicity	
White	10
Asian	1
Mixed	1

Age							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
0	0	0	0	1	3	5	3

Comments:

Of the 12 young people, 11 were in the higher age range. On analysis of first time entrants over the past 12 month period, this would appear to be a trend and consequently the Youth Justice Service intend on undertaking some work with young people known to the service, within this age range, to identify the most appropriate interventions/ways of working with them.

Our data has been used to inform the Adolescent Strategy and more recently the Serious Youth Violence Strategy and from these pieces of work we hope to be able to ensure we are targeting our interventions appropriately with this age group.

5 of the 12 young people were previously known to our service.

Of the 12 first time entrants, 6 appeared before the Youth Bureau:

- It is important to note that of these, 4 young people were involved in the same offence of Non–Domestic Burglary. One aged 15 and the others aged 16, all received a Youth Caution. None of these young people had any previous involvement with the service.
- Of the other two, one received a Caution for an offence of violence against the person and one received a Conditional Caution for Public Order offences. This young person has previously been before the Bureau and had received a Youth Restorative disposal and has since received a conditional discharge for Public Order offences, we know that in this case the young person has issues with the Police and this has been a factor in his offending.
- The imposition of Youth Cautions and a Youth Conditional Caution is representative of the context of the offences committed and the fact that one young person had previously been through the Bureau process.

4 young people were given Referral Orders ranging from 6 to 9 months in length. Of these, 3 had been previously known to the service, 2 had Youth Restorative Disposals from Bureau and one had been known under prevention.

- Of these young people, one had been previously known to us through a prevention referral. Two had previously been through the Bureau process. There does not appear to be any correlation between the current offending of these young people and their previous offending.
- The offences for which these young people received their Referral Order ranged from drug offences, Violence, Criminal Damage, sending offensive messaging, domestic burglary and Theft.
- One young person was responsible for a number of offences. He was a 16 yr old White, Male, who was given a 9 month Referral Order for 3 x Violence offences, a Criminal Damage offence and another offence relating to sending by public communication network an offensive / indecent / obscene / menacing message / matter. This young person became known to the service via prevention, unfortunately he declined to engage. The Referral Order has recently been imposed and the Service are attempting to support him to engage in the process, this is currently proving difficult. This young person is also currently known to MARAC due to there being restraining orders in place relating to two females.

One Young person received a Youth rehabilitation Order as a first time entrant.

- This was a 17 yr old, White, Female who appeared before the Court for an offence of violence against the person. She pleaded not guilty and was found guilty at trial. As a result she was not eligible for a Referral Order and received a 2 year Youth Rehabilitation Order. She had no previous involvement with the service.

One 17 yr old, White, Male, had a Fine for motoring offences and was also disqualified from driving. He was not previously known to the service. Due to the disposals he was given, there was no requirement for him to work with the service.

Use of Custody and Remand

Custody and Licence

There were no new custodial sentences given in this quarter. On analysis of the data, there were no young people appearing before the Court in this quarter who had committed offences which crossed the custody threshold.

In this quarter, one young person reached the end of their licence period. This is a significant outcome as this was her second custodial sentence in short succession after she re-offended within a day of her previous release from custody. In order to prevent a repeat of this, there was robust multi-agency working, throughout the custodial element of her Order. To effectively manage the complexities, this young person was resettled into a residential placement where the support was well suited to meet her needs. In addition, there was ongoing support from CAMHS and positive partnership working between the Youth Justice Service and Supported Care Planning. Weekly meetings were held during the custodial element of her Order, to plan for her resettlement and her licence conditions were agreed by all agencies, prior to her return to the community. These meetings were ongoing throughout her licence period and have continued since the licence period ended. The Youth Justice Service has continued to attend these meetings in order to provide ongoing support if required.

During this quarter there is one ongoing custodial sentence. This young person is now 18 and is subject to the Youth to Adult (Y2A) transition arrangements, a partnership between YJS and Probation to improve the experiences of young people going into the adult provision. Another young person, in custody during this period, has already been successfully transitioned to Probation for the remainder of his Custodial Sentence.

The Youth Justice Service, Probation Officer and Post Court Practice Lead are focusing on transition cases. This is any young person aged 17 and 6 months who is and will be, subject to a Court Order over their 18th birthday. Planning will begin for the formal transition process at 17 years and 9 months. There is positive partnership working between the Youth Justice Service and Probation, with monthly meetings taking place with Probation and Youth Justice Management, to agree which cases meet the criteria and plan to transition where appropriate.

Remand

There was no new remands in this quarter and no ongoing remands. However, the service was working with one young person who was remanded to Local Authority Care. This young person had been missing since the 4th December and turned 18 in January 2021. During this period, the Youth Justice Service provided the Crown Court, hearing the case, with a robust bail plan to avoid a remand to custody. This was accepted in principal by the Court.

Very recently this young person was arrested, outside of the local area, for additional offences and is now being dealt with through the Court process as an adult.

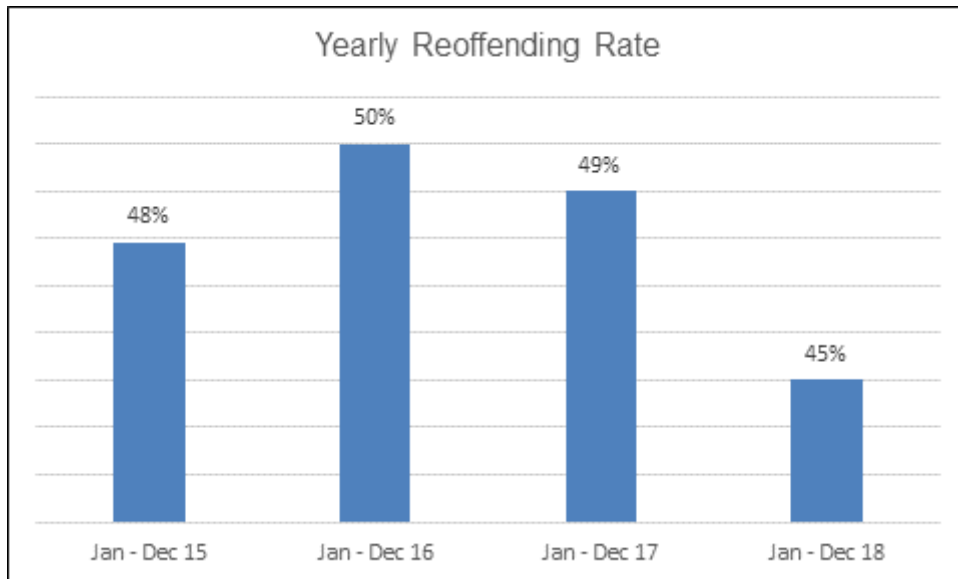
Reoffending

This measure tracks a cohort of young people who have received a youth caution, youth conditional caution or court outcome, known as substantive outcomes, within the period to see if they commit a further offence that also receives a further substantive outcome.

The way this is calculated has recently been changed and it now tracks a three month cohort instead of a 12 month cohort. The cohort is tracked for 12 months and then an extra 6 months is allowed for the conclusion of any court proceedings. This is why this data will always be reported sometime after the initial outcome has been given. The last data is from 2018.

The 4 quarterly figures are then added together to give a yearly figure.

The graph below shows the yearly percentage rates.



This table shows the breakdown by quarter for the latest reported year (Jan – Dec 18), which does show that there is some fluctuation by quarter.

Quarterly %	
Oct - Dec 18	50%
Jul - Sept 18	56.30%
Apr - Jun 18	36.40%
Jan - Mar 18	43.80%

This information is all produced using PNC data and no local data is available. It has not been available in previous reports as the YJB have not had access to the data.

The data shows that although the 2018 yearly figures show a decrease, this is a minimal change and our figures across the 4 year period from 2015-2018 appear to be relatively consistent.

WELSH PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (WDI's)

The Welsh performance data for the period October to December 2020 measures closed statutory cases only.

During this quarter (Q3), 4 young people had a statutory intervention that closed.

These were 3 community orders, all of which were Referral Orders and 1 Custodial Licence. The cohort was made up of 2 males and 2 females, all White. One young person was in the 10-15 yr bracket but the others were 16-17 yrs old.

Education Training and Employment

For the School Age cohort there was only 1 young person who was attending 25 hours at the start and 25 hours at the end. This is a 0% change in the average hours attended. The target number of average hours for this group is 25. This young person was subject to a Detention and Training Order during the first half of her sentence she attended education within the secure estate. During the licence element of her Order she was residing in a residential setting and was in receipt of education through this provision.

The Above School age cohort included 2 young people who were both NEET for the duration of their Orders. The target number of average hours attended for this cohort is 16.

One young person expressed an interest in doing the CSCS and was referred to the Early Hub NEET Team in order to progress this. Unfortunately he did not engage with the team and consequently they ended their involvement. This young person has turned 18 and due to a further offence is now being supported by Probation.

The other young person has a long history of substance use. During his Order he engaged with Careers Wales as he wanted to attend Inspire training (engagement level). Unfortunately they refused him a place as they felt it wasn't appropriate due to his use of substances. His Careers Advisor has since made efforts to contact him to explain the outcome and consider alternative options but hasn't been able to get in contact with him. Work with this young person is ongoing and ways of supporting him to communicate successfully with Careers Wales are being explored.

There was also one young person who was school age at the start of the intervention and above school age at the end. She was being offered 25 hours but attending 0 at the start but by the end was being offered and attending 25 hours. This is 100% increase.

This YP was refusing to attend school at the start of her order as her school was out of county. There were also ongoing family issues which were affecting her emotional health, attendance and behaviour. The Youth justice Service made links with the Career's Advisor attached to her school in order to ensure a transition plan was in place. This young person was keen to explore Health and Social care at College. Due to her offence this option was explored with the College and post-16 she engaged with the People Plus engagement programme.

As is evidenced in the above examples, it can often be more challenging to support young people to engage in education, training and employment when there are other factors in their lives, such as the use of substances. As a service, we work closely with local colleges and training providers in order to

support engagement, however, in situations where the risks are considered too high for the young person to safely access training, this can result in options becoming limited.

This is an area that needs further exploration and it is our intention to look back at the data over the past two years to identify where there have been challenges in accessing employment, training and education, what the barriers have been and consider in what ways we may have been able to do things differently. It is hoped that this will support our learning and enable us to consider how we approach this area of work moving forwards.

Access to Suitable Accommodation

All 3 young people on community orders were in suitable accommodation at the start and at the end of their orders, the 1 young person with a custodial order was in suitable accommodation at the start, at the time of release and at the end of her intervention.

Access to Substance Misuse Services

2 of the young people in this cohort were identified as requiring a substance misuse assessment however both of those young people were already in receipt of a service. One young person was open to the Choices Service and the other continues to engage with the Youth Justice, Substance Misuse Worker as part of his Youth Rehabilitation Order. This young person has been engaging with substance misuse support for a long period of time and was referred to our Substance Misuse Worker during a previous Order.

Access to Mental Health Services

All 4 of the young people were identified as requiring a mental health assessment, of those 3 were already in receipt of a service and 1 young person refused to access support.

Given that the service now has data over a two year period since disaggregation, we intend on looking back over our Welsh Performance indicators to establish if there are any trends or areas we need to focus on or develop. The data informs us of the situation at the start and end of the Order. However, we would like to review how some challenges within these areas have been overcome during the course of our involvement and identify where personal outcomes have or have not been achieved.

PREVENTION AND PRE COURT

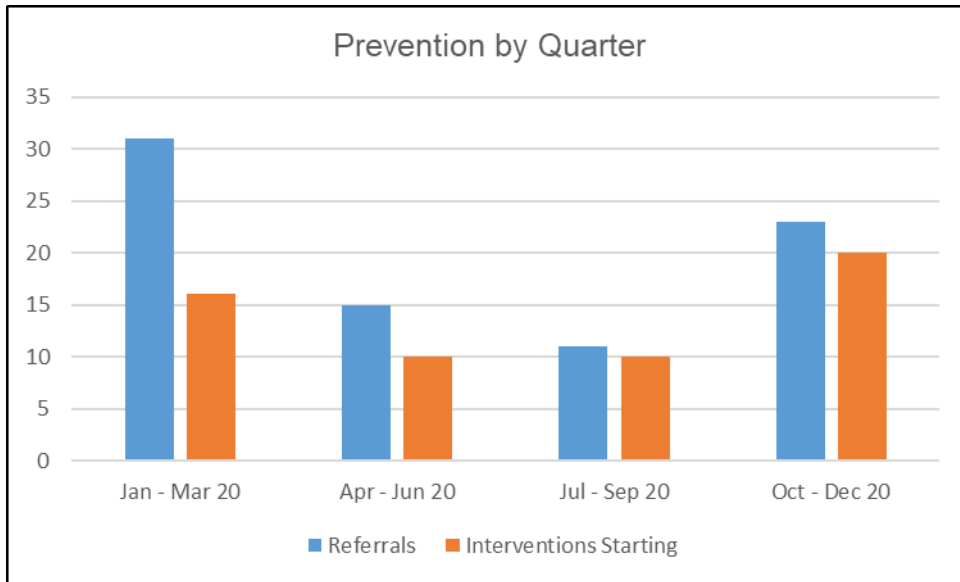
PREVENTION

This part of the service is accessed by referral only as the young people will not generally have an offence so will not be dealt with at Bureau or in Court. Prevention eligibility criteria includes sufficient concerns that the young person is highly likely to become involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour. Consent of the parent(s) and young person is required. The Youth Justice Service accepts referrals for children and young people aged from 10 to 17 years. Referral sources include: Schools, Pupil Referral Units and Colleges; IIAA and Social Services teams, Evolve, CAMHS, PCSOs and the Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Team.

During Quarter 3 (Oct -Dec) there were 23 referrals made for a Prevention Intervention.

The referrals for the this quarter were received from the following agencies:

- Child & Family Services – 7
- PCSO- 1
- IIAA-1
- Barod-1
- Bays+- 2
- School-4
- Safeguarding Hub- 2
- Early Help Hub-2
- PRU (KS4) – 2
- Home Tuition Service- 1



20 new prevention interventions started (some of these will have been referred in the previous quarter). This cohort was made up of:

Gender	
Male	15
Female	5

Ethnicity	
White	19
Other	1

Age								
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
0	3	1	1	3	7	3	2	

Comments:

On analysis of the data, between January and March 2020 the number of referrals received was 31. Of these, 10 were declined as they didn't meet the criteria. 5 were accepted by other services and the remaining 16 received a prevention intervention. Of the cases we declined, all had support in place to

meet their needs. This support included school pastoral care, counselling services and Channel prevent. Two young people had been arrested for offences and were being supported by the Youth Justice Service under Voluntary Support.

Between April and June 2020: The number of referrals received was 17. This was significantly less than the previous quarter. This drop can be attributed to the Covid- 19 pandemic. Of those referrals, 4 young people requested that support be put on hold until face to face contact was possible. Two were declined on the basis of not meeting our criteria and 1 young person did not give consent to support. The remaining 10 received a prevention intervention.

Between July and September 2020, 11 referrals were received. The low number of referrals received in this quarter also appeared to relate to Covid -19, however, we often see a reduction in referrals during this period due to the school holidays. Of these referrals, all were eligible and accepted with the exception of 1 young person who did not consent to the referral being made. All 10 received prevention support. It is worth noting that in this quarter, we amended and improved our referral form, supporting information and referral guidance. This appeared to have the desired effect of improved quality of referral information and all but one were eligible and accepted for prevention support.

During the current quarter, October to December 2020, there was a significant increase in the number of referrals received. There are also some notable trends in the types of support being requested in this period. There was an increase in referrals asking for support around domestic abuse (7 referrals) with the young person being the perpetrator and the parent the victim. It appears that this may relate to the Covid/lockdown situation with parents struggling to manage behaviour and trying to implement 'curfews' to avoid Covid breaches. By comparison, Quarter 3 Data for 2019 shows a comparable number of referrals of 32 with a higher number (26) being offered interventions, only 3 of those referrals requested support specifically around healthy relationships and issues relating to domestic abuse.

Referrals requesting anger management/ emotional wellbeing support also increased (8 referrals) and ranged from anger and aggression towards peers and property along with low mood, social isolation and difficulty with sleep patterns. Information elicited from screening assessments and conversations with our young people and their parents/carers in this quarter seems to indicate that family tensions, social isolation, lack of normality and routine, loss of peer networks face to face and home schooling may have contributed to the presenting behaviours and reasons for referral to our service.

Referrals for young people subject to the MISPER/ Risky Behaviour protocol totalled 4 and all were fast-tracked to the service as a result of the attendance of the Youth Justice Service at multi-agency meetings where concerns are discussed.

During this period we also received 3 referrals for substance misuse support and 1 referral for a knife/weapon concern.

Staff members have continued to work hard to develop creative ways to engage young people virtually during the lockdown periods. For example, in order to continue the Adventure Service Challenge Group, staff members were able to deliver group-work sessions to year group bubbles via Microsoft Teams which the school helped facilitate. Where it has been considered essential for face to face contact to take place this has been completed in line with the guidance. This has enabled the service to maintain voluntary contact with young people during a challenging period for all families.

In relation to some of the barriers we have faced, having to work within covid restrictions has meant that it has been more challenging to undertake sessions that allow young people the privacy they require. Many sessions have taken place on doorsteps or in the community or via virtual means where it has not been possible to ensure privacy from other family members. Needing to limit the number of young people who have access the Youth Justice Centre has also presented some barriers to full engagement. Those accessing the centre have had to be prioritised according to need and this has often meant that young people requiring essential sessions under Statutory Orders have had to be prioritised over young people accessing prevention support.

Work has also been undertaken to streamline the prevention referral process. We are now offering potential referrers a consultation with the Prevention Coordinator to ensure our eligibility criteria is met and to support the referrer to think about what specific support they want from our service. This should not only improve the quality of the information we receive but will also streamline and simplify the process for busy referrers and avoid ineligible referrals.

The Service has also been focusing on developing programmes of work to undertake with young people during this period. Some of the intervention are: The Consequences of Anti- Social Behaviour on individuals and Communities; Knife and Weapon Awareness, Criminal Exploitation and County Lines and Substance Misuse Awareness. These interactive workshops have been piloted with young people individually using WhatsApp video and Teams and we have received valuable, honest feedback from our young people, which has allowed improvements to be made.

The service is currently looking to develop programmes of work relating to Healthy Relationship and Domestic Abuse, building on the Respect Toolkit along with developing provision around Internet Safety and "Sexting".

Contextual Safeguarding:

In this last quarter, the new CMET panel was developed to discuss contextual safeguarding issues in relation to some of our most vulnerable young people. Since its introduction, a total 7 young people open to our service have been discussed, and as a result, we have been able to focus our work with these young people to address existing/emerging concerns. In addition, where specific groups or places have been discussed, we have been able to identify young people open to our service who may be at risk, and have been able to target and tailor support to these young people. From these meetings, there are preliminary discussions ongoing between the Pre-Court Practice Lead and partner agencies around providing an out of hours community work provision, this is being looked at done to consider how to disrupt the activities of young people and adults in certain areas that have been identified as areas of concern.

As a service we continue to be involved in all contextual safeguarding processes, sharing information and offering targeted support where possible. We have received 2 prevention referrals in the last quarter as a result of our attendance at these meetings. These referrals were made as a result of a joint visit between the Youth Justice Service and the Safeguarding Hub. A good practice example demonstrating the benefits of these joint visits/working, can be evidenced by the support provided to a young person who was arrested alongside an adult offender, for drug related offences. The initial visit evidenced that this young person was in fear of the adults who were believed to be coercing them to supply drugs. The young person was referred to the National Referral Mechanism, and the trusting relationships developed with this person and their family encouraged the family to open up about their experiences,

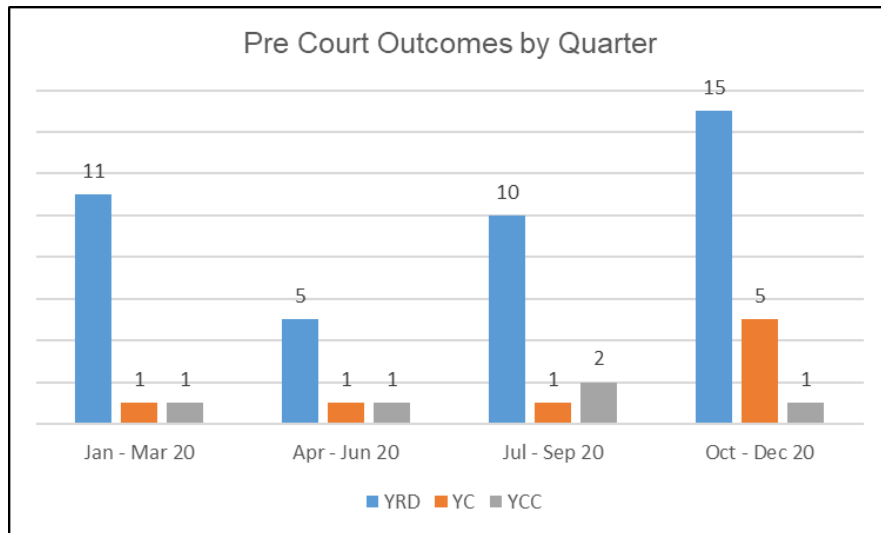
and has allowed agencies to develop a safety plan around them. Information gained was shared with the NRM process, and has resulted in a 'conclusive grounds' decision being made, which defines this young person as a victim of modern day slavery. This will be presented at Crown Court and should be taken into consideration when sentencing takes place, which will hopefully result in the young person receiving a better outcome.

We would hope that the number of referrals received in the future, increase. As a service we aim to look at our current available interventions, and through consultation with the young people, we aim to develop new interventions that tackle current issues.

PRE-COURT OUTCOMES

Pre court outcomes are given at the Bureau. This is a joint initiative between South Wales Police and the Swansea Youth Justice Team. The Bureau decision can be that the young person will receive a Youth Restorative Disposal (Non-Criminal), a Youth Caution or a Youth Conditional Caution.

During Oct - Dec there were 21 outcomes given at bureau, see breakdown below.



Comments:

This cohort for this quarter was made up of 14 males and 7 females, 15 were of a White ethnicity and 2 young people were Chinese or Other ethnic group, 3 were of a Mixed ethnicity and 1 was Asian.

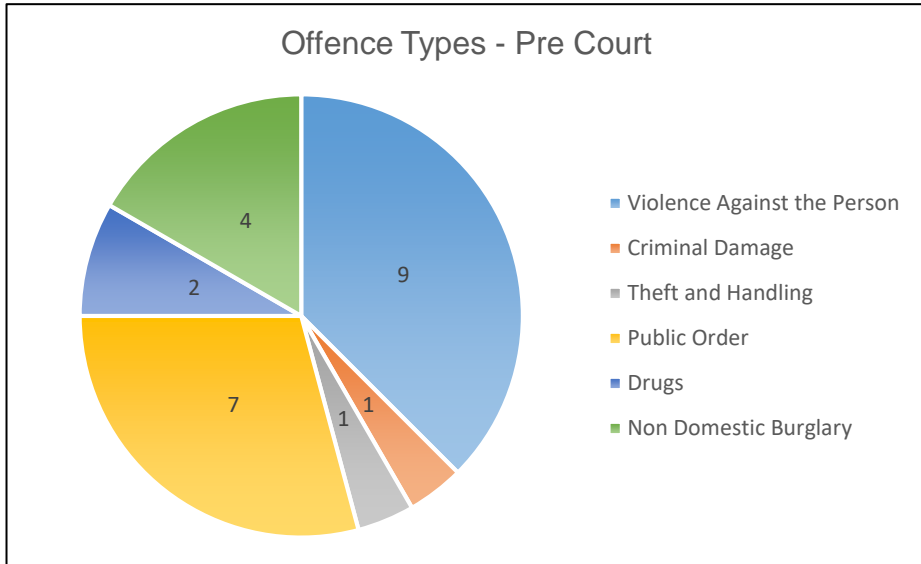
The age breakdown was

- 11 yrs – 0
- 12 yrs – 0
- 13 yrs – 1
- 14 yrs – 5
- 15 yrs – 3
- 16 yrs – 5
- 17 yrs – 7

Across all quarters over the past 12 months the Youth Restorative Disposal has been the main outcome from Bureau. There has however been an increase in Youth

Cautions during this period. This increase can be attributed to 4 young people receiving such a disposal for their involvement in one offence of Non-Domestic Burglary.

The 21 young people in the cohort committed 24 offences, broken down by type in the chart.



Comments:

The 9 offences classed as Violence against the Person break down to these specific offences

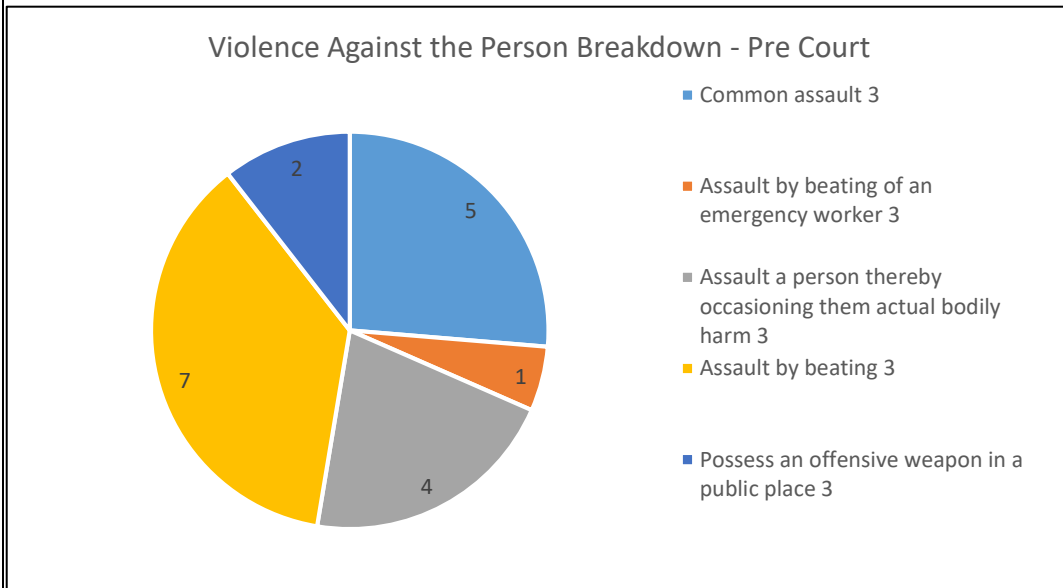
- 3 x Assault by Beating
- 3 x Assault thereby occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
- 2 x Possession of an Offence Weapon
- 1 x Assault by Beating of an Emergency Worker

These offences were committed by 9 different young people, 8 received a Youth Restorative Disposal and 1 received a Youth Caution.

The cohort committing these offences was made up of 3 Females and 6 Males, 7 of a White ethnicity, 1 Asian and 1 Mixed ethnicity. The age breakdown was

- 14 yrs – 4
- 15 yrs – 2
- 16 yrs – 1
- 17 yrs – 2

This chart shows a breakdown from **Jan 20 – Dec 20** of all the offences that were classified as Violence against the Person. These have all received a pre-court outcome.



Comments:

There were 19 offences that received an outcome at Bureau in this time period. The highest number of offences was Assault by Beating, accounting for 7 of the 19 offences (37%) closely followed by Common Assault which accounts for 26% of this offence type. This is lower than the previous rolling 12 month period (Oct 19 - Sept 20) when Assault by beating accounted for 43%.

These offences were committed by 15 young people who were given the outcomes as shown,

Youth Restorative Disposal	13
Youth Caution	1
Youth Conditional Caution	1

One young person had committed 5 of the violent offences in this time period.

The cohort of the 15 young people was made up of;

Gender	
Male	9
Female	6

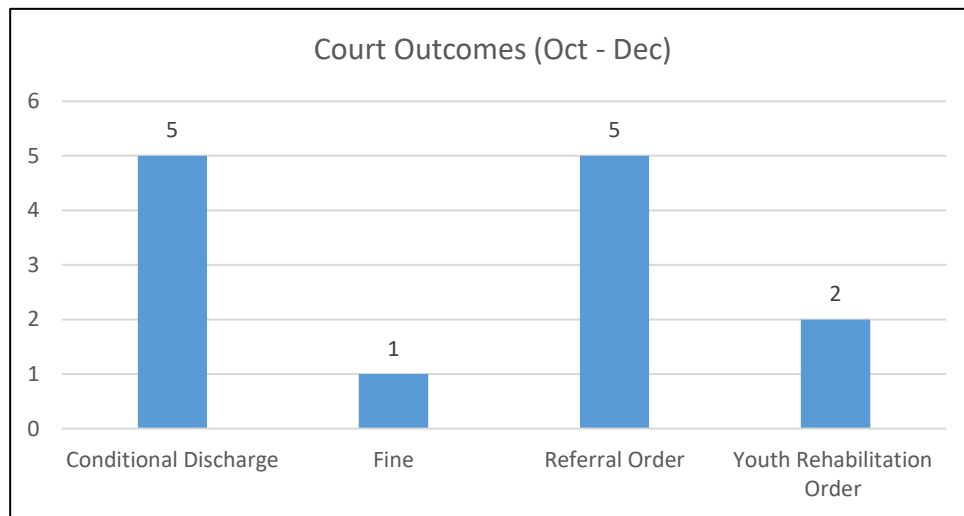
Ethnicity	
White	13
Asian	1
Mixed	1

Age							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
0	0	0	2	4	5	2	2

Having considered the data we recognise that violent offending is an issue amongst the young people we are working with. Given this, the next piece of work we need to concentrate on is an audit of these cases in order to analyse the findings and to consider how we are effectively targeting our interventions to address this behaviour. This will also enable us to consider if there are any gaps in our intervention offer and enable us to plan how we are going to ensure we best meet the need.

POST COURT OUTCOMES

During the quarter 3 period there were 13 outcomes given at Court to 12 young people, broken down as shown below.

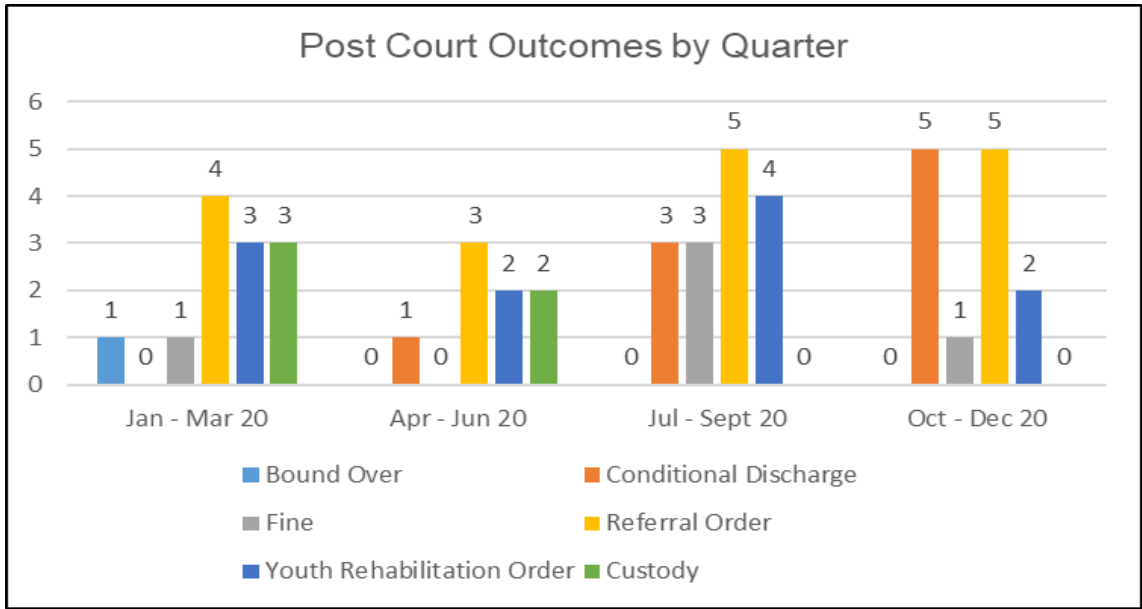


Comments:

The cohort was made up 11 males and 1 female of which their ethnicities are 1 Asian and 11 White.

The age breakdown was

11 yrs – 0
 12 yrs – 0
 13 yrs – 0
 14 yrs – 0
 15 yrs – 1
 16 yrs – 6
 17+ yrs – 5

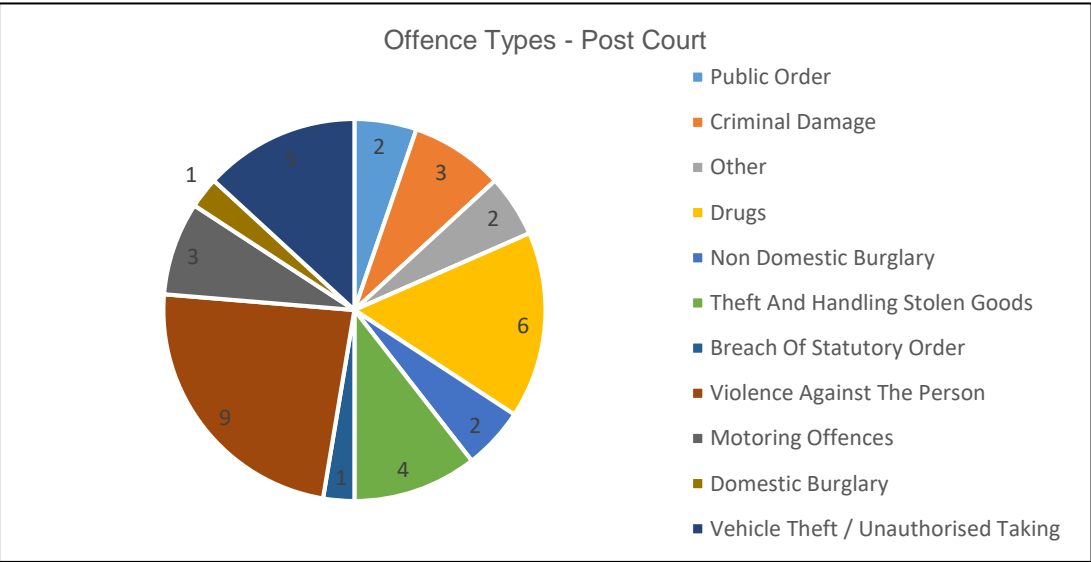


As is evidenced by this chart, across each quarter over the past 12 months, Referral Orders have been the most imposed outcome. In the current quarter the numbers of conditional discharges imposed by the Court has increased and the number of Youth Rehabilitation Orders has halved since the last quarter.

It is likely that the increased use of Conditional Discharge in Court is due to the increase in RUI offences that pre-date existing court orders. It is sensible to address the court as a 'stand down' and deal with the matter on the day rather than adjourn for reports and look to resentence. We can add a Conditional Discharge running alongside the existing Order, in some case the duration of which extends beyond the existing Order and acts as an additional punishment.

It is possible that the high levels of Referral Orders in Court are due to the number of offences that are above the gravity/seriousness for Bureau or the young person has not accepted responsibility at Bureau but pleaded guilty in court.

The decrease in YRO during the period is consistent with the lower levels of 'all options' reports and the higher proportion of medium/low ROSH in the period.



The 12 young people committed offences broken down by type in the chart.

Comments:

There were 9 Violence against the Person offences that received outcomes in this period. These breakdown to

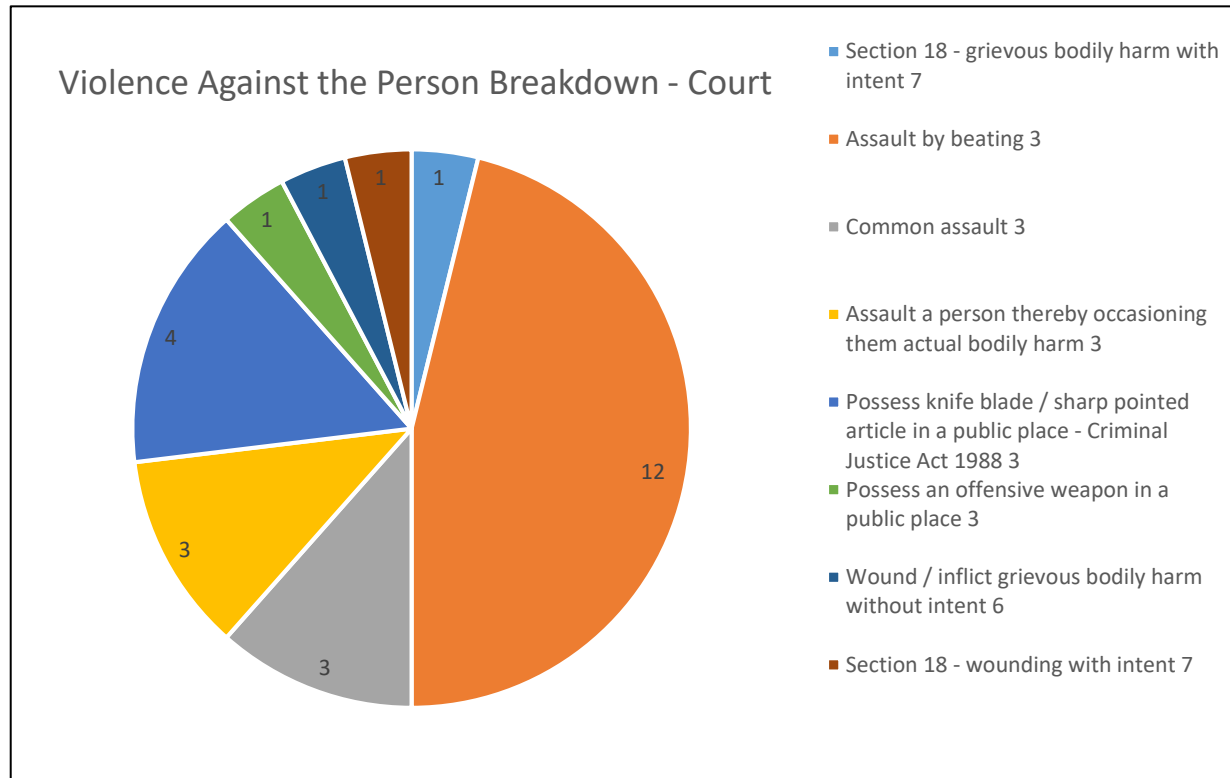
- Assault a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm
- Assault by Beating x 5
- Common Assault x 2
- Possess knife blade / sharp pointed article in a public place

These offences were committed by 4 young people, 3 males and 1 female, all of a White ethnicity, aged 16yrs x 2 and 17yrs x 2.

These offences resulted in one Conditional Discharge, 2 x Referral Orders, and a Youth Rehabilitation Order.

We are aware that we need to ensure that there are specific programmes available to address violent offending and we are undertaking an audit of the existing programmes we use and how effective they are. We are also considering alternative programmes and need to look at effective practice through the Youth Justice Board and how other Youth Justice Services are having success and whether this would apply to us in Swansea.

This chart shows a breakdown from **Jan 20 – Dec 20** of all the offences that are classified as Violence against the Person. These have all received an outcome at court.



Comments:

Within this time period there were 26 offences overall that were categorised as Violence against the Person, of these the highest number of offences was Assault by Beating which account for 12 of the 26 offences (46%). This lower with the previous rolling 12 month period (Oct 19 – Sept 20) when this was 53%.

These offences were committed by 14 young people and resulted in 15 outcomes at court. 1 young person had more than one outcome in the period.

The outcomes received are broken down below,

Conditional Discharge	1
Referral Order	4
Youth Rehabilitation Order	8
Custody	2

The cohort of the 15 young people was made up of;

Gender	Count
Male	12
Female	2

Ethnicity	Count
White	11
Black	2
Asian	1

Age	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	0	0	0	1	1	3	5	4

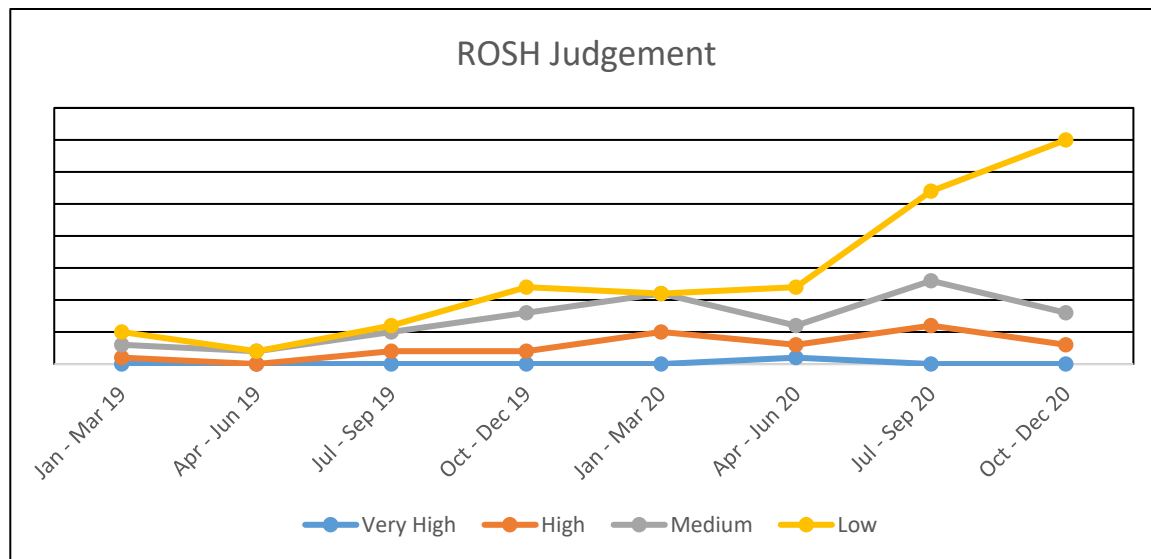
NB if the young person had more than one outcome then the age was counted at the time of their latest outcome.

If we look at the most serious, violent offences committed over the last year, which have included Arson, Aggravated Robbery and Grievous Bodily Harm with possession of weapons where in two cases victims were stabbed. In all cases the young people were at high risk of custody and it would be fair to say that the confidence that the Courts in Swansea have with the Youth Justice Service have enabled the young people to have community based alternatives. These have included Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) programmes and similar intensive programmes where young people have been under age 15. We are pleased to report that in all these cases that there have been no further offences which is significant given the seriousness of the original offences. We could surmise that if they had gone to custody, all the positive connections and progress made in the community with these young people would not have been achieved. Being able to deliver 25 hours a week intensive provision, whilst significantly impacted by Covid, has required the team to be creative in terms of programme delivery. The commitment, creativity and persistence of the staff group and the relationships that have been built with some of the most difficult to engage young people has been the reason we are able to report these outcomes.

The Youth Justice Service intends on using the live tracker in relation to the cohort of young people who have been involved in violent offending. This will enable us to track progress and identify any trends or patterns in the behaviour. We are hoping to be able to provide a more detailed analysis through this process. The Youth Justice Board have offered to support us to understand how best to use the tracker and we intend on taking up this offer and starting this work in February 2021.

SAFEGUARDING

Risk Levels



Comments

- Since Jan 19 there has been 1 initial assessment where the ROSH level was judged to be Very High.
- As the graph shows most of the initial assessments are judged to be of a Low ROSH level.
- In this quarter, there were 35 initial assessments completed, of these
 Very High = 0
 High = 3
 Medium = 5
 Low = 27

No Asset plus assessments were scored 'Very High' during the last quarter.

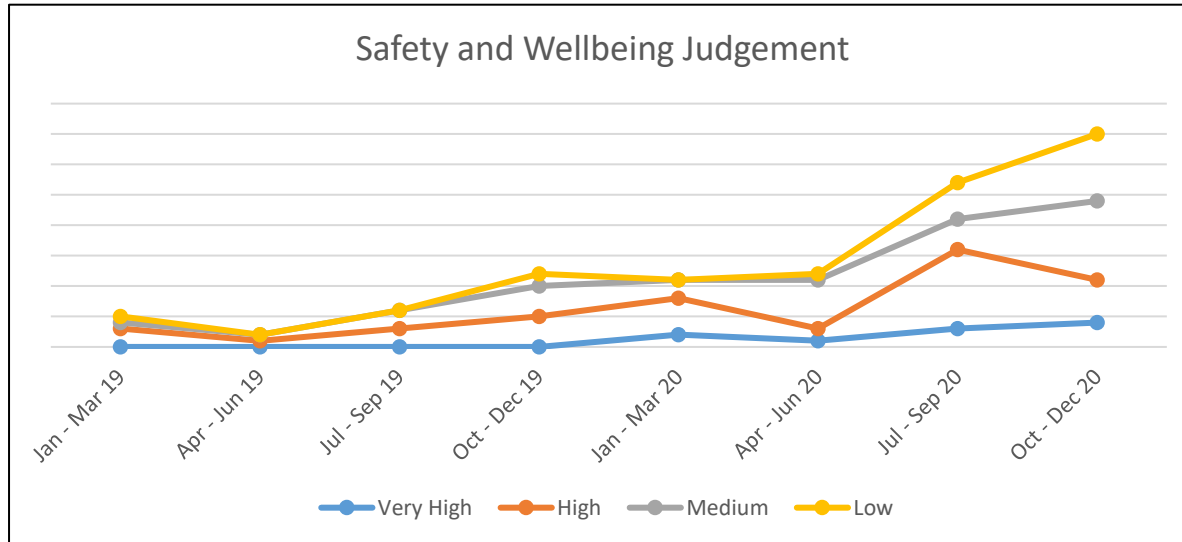
During this quarter, no assessments were undertaken on young people whose offending met the custody threshold. It is therefore understandable that we had no one meeting the very High ROSH level.

Of the three young people who were assessed as High ROSH, two were subject to being 'Released Under Investigation' by the Police for serious offences and these behaviours were reflected in the ROSH scoring as other behaviours of concern in addition to the known offences.

- One young person is open to us under voluntary support. A prevention element of our work with higher risk young people. This young person is also under the risky behaviour protocol. He was assessed as high ROSH due to being released under investigation for alleged involvement in a robbery with knife with two other young people known to Youth Justice Service. This young person had no previous involvement with the service. Should this young person be convicted of the outstanding offence it is hoped that his engagement with the service will support a recommendation for a community disposal.
- One young person has over 30 previous offences and been known to the Youth Justice Service since the age of 11. At the time of assessment he was scored as High ROSH having been released under investigation for Possession with Intent to Supply Class A and Robbery with a knife (co-defendant with young person above). This young person was previously convicted for an arson offence in 2017. This young person is currently on Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation YDA for offending on bail. Prior to this, he was subject to a Civil Secure Order due to concerns relating to potential involvement in county lines and criminal exploitation.
- One young person has been involved with the service for 2 years. He has been involved in 18 offences during this time, including theft, burglary and possession of drugs. His high ROSH assessment included reflections on his significant substance use including opiate dependence and his involvement with older seasoned adult offenders and drug users. There are additional concerns relating to his behaviour, around the potential for him to be involved in the supply of substances and concerns that he may be carrying a weapon. Recently he has been arrested in possession of a knife. This young person is also under the Risky Behaviour Protocol and is currently subject to the Youth to Adult transition process as he is 18 years old in March.

The above data highlights a peak during this quarter, of young people assessed as low ROSH. This may relate to a higher number of pre-court disposals within the quarter where ROSH levels are lower. It is also possible that it is related to a group of young people who have higher safety and wellbeing needs rather than the concerns being associated with the risk of harm they pose to others. Given the peak, an audit of the ROSH scoring in this quarter will take place to ensure that we are confident our assessments are accurate.

Safety and Wellbeing Levels



Comments

- Since Jan 19 there have been 10 initial Asset Plus assessments that have been judged to have a Very High Level of Safety and Wellbeing concerns.
- Generally most assessments have a judgement of High or Medium
- In this quarter, there were 35 initial assessments completed, of these
 Very High = 4
 High = 7
 Medium = 13
 Low = 11

This last quarter has seen a significant increase in the number of assessments completed with a 'very high' safety and wellbeing rating. Of the four young people scored at this level, three are Looked After Children. There are significant safeguarding concerns with all four, one is being discussed under Child Sexual Exploitation protocol and two in Risky Behaviour meetings. One of these young people are currently on a s.25 Secure Welfare Order, an Order made subsequent to concerns that this young person was being criminally exploited in the community and running a County Line. Three of these young people have substance misuse issues, one of which is known to use Heroin and Spice. Three of these young people experience mental health issues. One of these young people's mental health issues have led to a number of hospital admissions due to multiple overdose attempts. Two of these young people are on a statutory Court ordered Youth Rehabilitation Order, and two are on a youth bureau disposal.

Of the young people who scored 'high' in Safety and Wellbeing, three were first-time entrants to the system, entering via the youth bureau process. Whilst a service addressing the issues relating to the high score was offered to two, one of these young people was considered to have sufficient support in place via specialist therapeutic means, and is no longer open to the service. Two of these young people are Looked After Children, one of which is being discussed via Risky Behaviour Protocol; the concerns of which relate to criminal exploitation and gang involvement. Two of these young people are open on a prevention basis, however their needs are complex, and both are being discussed at Risky Behaviour meetings, one is due to be transferred to Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol.

MANAGER OVERVIEW

Key areas of work:

- **Assessments**

At the last board there was a focus on our assessment figures and the challenges we were facing in meeting our targets. Over the last quarter we have maintained focus on this area of work and are able to share data with the Board today that shows this as an area of improvement. Management oversight of assessments in progress continues, with an expectation that where assessments are likely to go over timescale, case managers provide a rationale for this beforehand so that any support they require can be put in place. In addition, there has been a focus on staff workshops focusing on assessments and report writing which has provided a valuable opportunity to revisit the purpose and importance of timeliness.

- **Transitions**

During this quarter the service has been focusing on transitions, specifically the Youth to Adult (Y2A) transition. There has been positive progress in this area of work with regular meetings between the YJS and Probation Service. Our seconded Probation Officer and Post Court, Practice Lead are leading on this area of work. During this quarter one young person serving a lengthy custodial sentence over his 18th birthday has been successfully transferred to Probation with clear planning and handover taking place. Another is in the process of being transferred in time for his licence period to be managed by Probation.

- **Prevention**

We have seen an increase in referrals during this quarter. It is possible that the impact of Covid made a difference to referrals in previous quarters. We have been focusing on improving the referral process and providing the opportunity for potential referrers to discuss referrals beforehand. Although early days, it appears that this may be having a positive impact in appropriate referrals being made. The next development for prevention is ensuring that all prevention assessments are completed using ASSET plus rather than the screening tool currently used in some cases. By making this change we will be able to provide clearer data in relation to our prevention cohorts.

- **Patterns and trends**

We can see from the data in this quarter, as with previous quarters, that violence against the person is a prevalent offence type amongst our young people. We recognise the importance of understanding this apparent trend better, especially in relation to the effectiveness of the interventions we are undertaking to address this behaviour. It is possible that there may be an association with this type of offending and other risks such as substance use and criminal exploitation. In order to understand patterns/correlations better we intend on looking more closely at this cohort. Given we now have two years' worth of data since disaggregation we hope to be able to look back at past data to identify if we are seeing an escalation in violent offending.

- **Interventions and participation**

During this quarter staff have been reviewing the interventions we have been using to support young people and have been developing new interventions that can be undertaken virtually, given the current restrictions on the way we are able to work with young people. These are currently being piloted and feedback is being sought from young people to enable us to improve the way we are working.

We are also conscious that from our data it is evident that the majority of young people who are accessing our service are in the higher age bracket (15-17yrs). As part of the development of participation in the service we intend on speaking to young people in this age range to gain their views on how we can work more effectively with them.

Impact of Covid 19:

Under the current lockdown restrictions the team have needed to return to virtual contact and remain working from home. While all staff are working really hard to maintain contact this can prove challenging and frustrating for both staff and the young people we work with:

- We have some staff members who are currently shielding. This is currently impacting on case management responsibilities especially regarding assessments where virtual contact is not possible. Staff who are able to undertake essential visits are working alongside case managers to support this process.
- Court processes have not changed during this lockdown and we are continuing to provide face to face appropriate adult duties when young people are arrested.
- Young people are reporting that they miss having the opportunity to attend the Youth Justice Centre and staff are also finding it challenging to have to adapt their work in the community without the current use of the Centre. Particularly for young people who require regular contact as part of their Court Orders. To address this, we are in the process of considering how we can safely use the Centre for essential contacts.
- Staff are also responding to any crisis situations or any concerns about a young person's emotional and mental health by undertaking doorstep contact where essential.
- The team as a whole are continuing to find it hard to work in isolation from their colleagues. Developmental work can also be harder over a virtual platform. We have weekly team meetings, daily check ins and check outs each week to provide staff with opportunities to be together and talk through any issues.
- Staff have been working hard to develop creative ways of working with young people and keeping them engaged and a number of the young people have been involved in the development of these pieces of work.

Next steps:

- Developing an audit plan for the next 12 months
- Continued work around the development of interventions that meet the needs of our young people
- Continued focus on maintaining the positive progress on assessment timeliness and quality.

Disclaimer: Due to the sensitive nature of the details contained within the case information, which could potentially identify a young person, the contents of this report cannot be shared outside of the Management Board.