

Youth Offending Services

Children & Families' Scrutiny Committee

12 November 2020



Improving
LIVES

What does a Youth Offending Service do?

- Youth offending teams work with young people who get into trouble with the law.
- They look into the background of a young person and try to help them stay away from crime.
- They also:
 - run local [crime prevention programmes](#)
 - help young people at the police station if they're arrested
 - help young people and their families at criminal courts
 - supervise young people serving a [community sentence](#)
 - stay in touch with a young person if they're sentenced to [custody](#)



Who is involved in the Youth Offending Service?

- The Youth offending team is part of Children's Services and separate from the police and the courts.
- The team includes:
 - Police officer and a Police intervention worker
 - Probation officer
 - Team Leaders x 2 (East & West)
 - YOT Professional Practitioners
 - Youth Intervention Workers (including RJ, Victim Support, volunteer co-ordinator)
 - Forensic Psychologist
 - Speech & Language therapist
 - Education Inclusion Worker (new role November 2020)
 - Business Support & Business Information
 - Volunteers and Volunteer referral order Chairs



Inspection History

- Inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation
- Last inspection 2016 – GOOD
- Next inspection anticipated Spring 2021



Who are the young people the service works with?

- Between 60 and 80 young people
- As of 1st March 2020, the average young person in contact with the YOS is:
 - White male (76%)
 - Aged between 16 and 17 years (66%)
 - 'Violence Against the Person' is the most common offence type, (33% of all offences active).
 - Living at home with one or more parent (55%)
 - Most likely to live in one of a town (46% live in Taunton, Yeovil or Bridgwater)
 - 43% in education (full & part-time), 12% in Employment
 - 27% have an Education, Health and Care plan
 - 38% have previously been, or are currently, in care
 - 13% are 'Out of County' Young People
 - 80% have Speech, language, or communication problems



What does the Youth Offending Service do well?

- Speech and Language therapy outcomes praised in 2020 SEND inspection report (jointly funded with CCG)

“Speech and language therapy provision for young people in the Youth Offending Team is well established. Therapists provide frontline staff with the skills to understand the needs of individual young people. As a result, previously unmet needs are identified, and young people receive effective support”





What does the Youth Offending Service do well?

Youth resettlement work from custody to community – supporting YP from custody to community praised in national thematic inspection Oct 2018 - April 2019

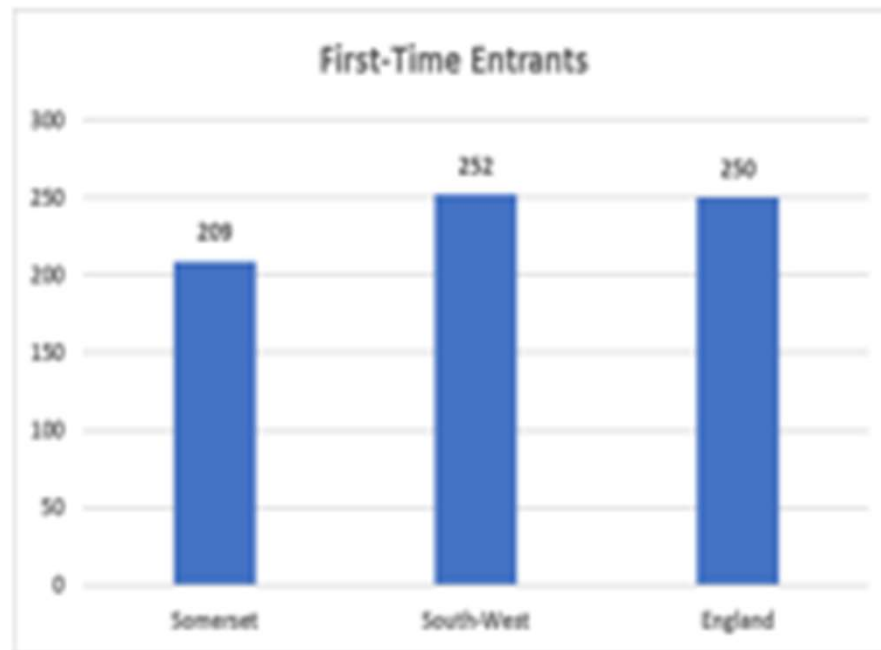
Overwhelmingly positive feedback received about the wrap around multiagency working led by YOT and Childrens Services in the 2 case examples examined - to ensure effective support for YP, to prepare for life after release:

[that despite] “different databases, differing team remits and priorities, separate roles and responsibilities, and the barrier of the prison walls, the professionals used a **‘team around the child’** approach and **worked seamlessly together**. The YOI case manager took a full part as the lead professional within the YOI, and the **YOT case manager was the lead externally. Excellent communication and cooperation ensured that planning progressed**, and that **James and his family were at the heart of the work**. When he left custody, all necessary services were in place to offer him the opportunity to lead a different life. **Three months after release, James was in settled accommodation and had not reoffended”**

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/cji/inspections/youth-resettlement-work-interim-report-into-work-in-custody-october-2018-april-2019/>

What does the Youth Offending Service do well?

- Low rate of first-time entrants to criminal justice system

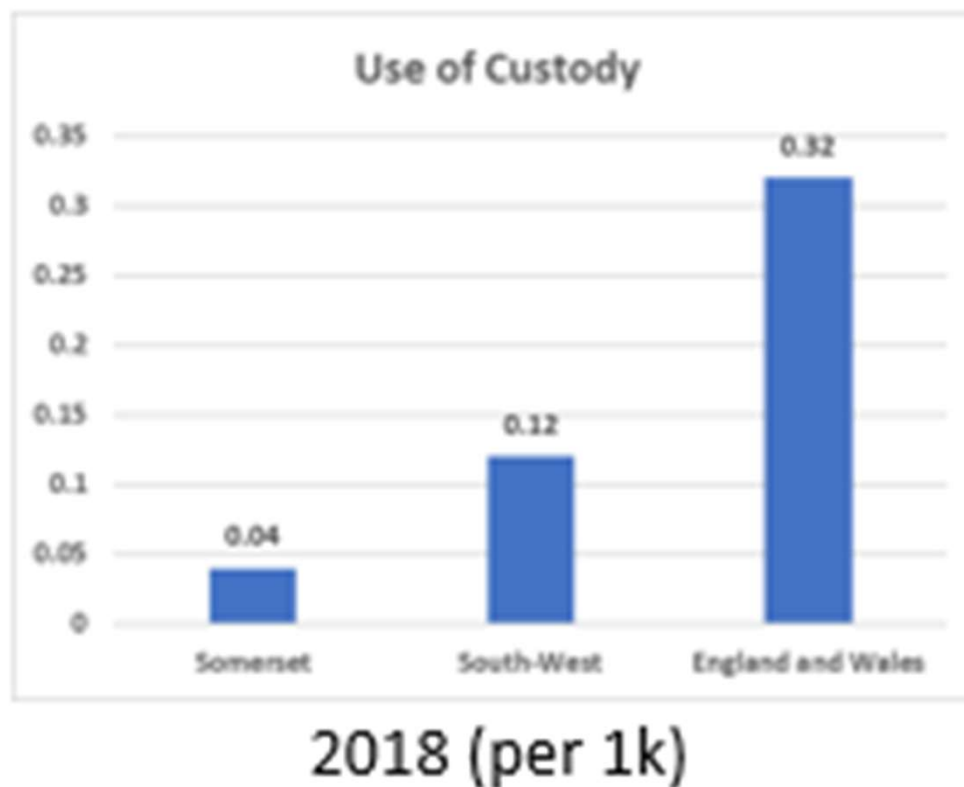


Oct 17 – Sep 18 (per 100k)



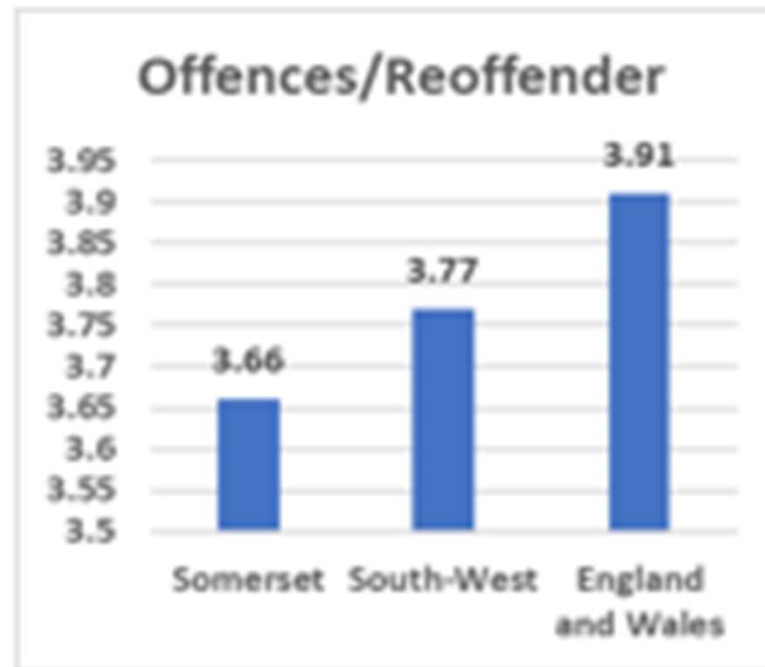
What does the Youth Offending Service do well?

- Low use of custody



What does the Youth Offending Service do well?

- Good first-time outcomes



Apr 16 – Mar 17



What does the Youth Offending Service do well?

Diversionary programmes led by the YOS (by the YOT Police worker) such as the Choice & Consequences & Youth Drug & Alcohol Diversion scheme demonstrate a low reoffending rate or suspicion of further crime.

2019 – 2020 - Choice and consequences

- 04/01/2019 – Present (26/08/2020) 91% success rate
- 320 young people passed through the programme. 29 incidences have been reported of re-offended/suspects of further crime.
- Indicating a 9.1% rate of re-offending/suspicion of offending

2016 – 2020 - YADD

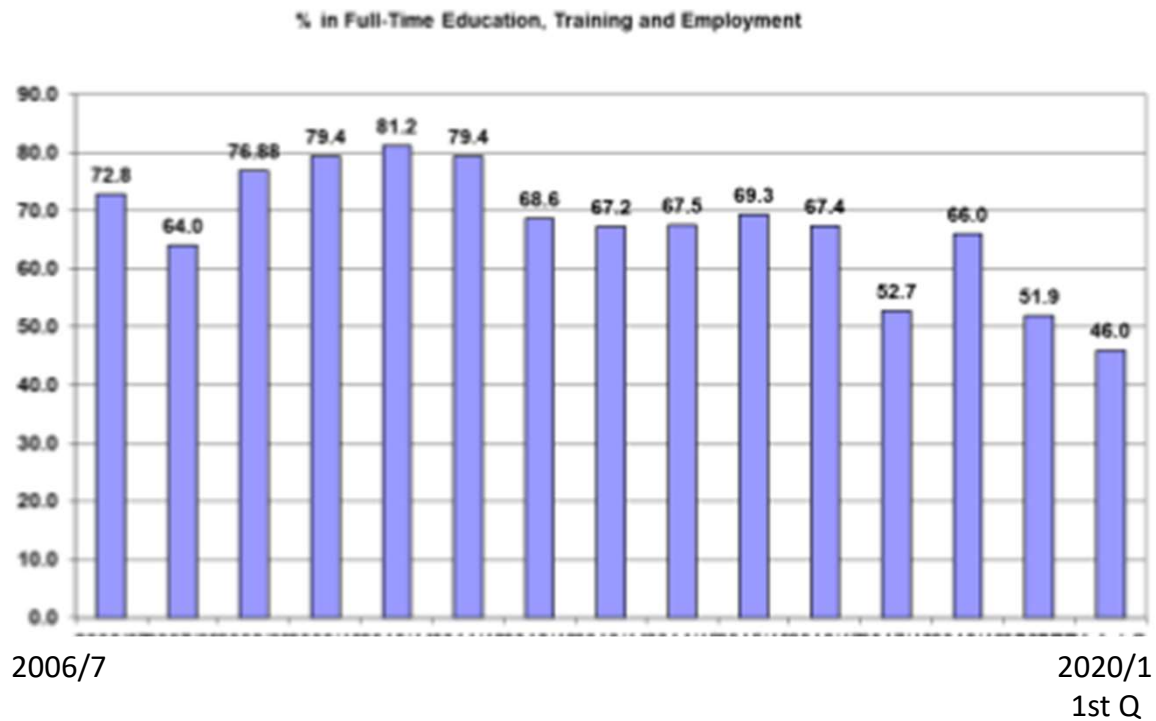
- 16/05/2016 – Present (26/08/2020) 91% success rate
- 333 young people passed through the programme. 29 Incidences of re-offending/suspicion of crime have been reported.
- Indicating an 8.7% rate of re-offending/suspicion.



What could be improved and how will we do it?

- Education attendance and outcomes

The graph below shows the performance in this area since 2006/07. The overall trend is down since 2010/11.



What have we done

- Education attendance and outcomes
 - Increased **joint working** around cases with **Virtual School** (Learning Support Team)
 - Appointed new dedicated **Education worker** to work with schools to enable these young people to access full time education places and work with Learning support services (worker starts end Nov)
 - **Ongoing weekly tracking** by YOS Team Leaders and caseworkers with data officer
 - **Training** for caseworkers (data recording, wider education support systems i.e. SEND, ESS, VS)
 - Dedicated time from **data apprentice** (weekly) tracking with the team
 - Review of more **effective case management system** and business case in progress



What could be improved and how will we do it?

- Staff qualification and career pathway

Currently low level of specialist qualification, although a skilled and stable team

What have we done?

- Most staff now achieved or working towards youth justice effective practice certificates
- Agreed to offer social work training so increase qualification level up to 2 workers overall
- Leadership & Management (ILM) training made available to staff member
- Better links to Children's social care with joint in house training on key issues such as Harmful Sexual Behaviour, exploitation and motivational interviewing
- Training programme through team meetings and briefings following recent YOS training audit
- Delivery by YOS to CSC "introduction to Youth Justice" (CPD)

