WEST MERCIA YOUTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

2019/20

Preface

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the Act) youth offending partnerships have a statutory duty to produce an annual youth justice plan which is submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State. The purpose of the plan is to outline how statutory youth justice services, as defined in the Act, are structured, funded and delivered in the area.

All statutory youth justice services within West Mercia are delivered directly or commissioned by West Mercia Youth Justice Service.

This plan outlines the vision and priorities for West Mercia Youth Justice Service and outlines key actions to be undertaken during 2019/20.

The content and format of the plan has been informed by and prepared in accordance with the guidance within in "Youth Justice Plans: YJB Practice Note for Youth Justice Partnerships" issued on behalf of the Secretary of State by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales in May 2019.

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1.0 Introduction

West Mercia Youth Justice Service (WMYJS) is partnership between the Local Authorities, National Probation Service, West Mercia Police, NHS organisations across West Mercia and the Office for the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner. The service is accountable to the WMYJS Management Board, comprised of senior officers from each partner agency. The service is hosted, on behalf of the Local Authorities and the partnership by the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

During 2018/19 the Management Board agreed a service vision and set of underlying principles. These are outlined in section 3.1 of this plan.

We adopted priorities for a two year period starting in 2018/19, so these remain the same for 2019/20. The priorities are a result of joint management board and management team workshops and were informed by a range of information and significantly the learning from a pilot inspection undertaken at the end of 17/18 which was reported on in the 2018/19 Youth Justice Plan. The priorities are based on the four themes of;

Our People
Our Partnerships
Our Performance, Quality and Practice; and
Our Governance

Service performance against the three national outcome indicators has improved over the past year. The performance in relation to the rate of young people receiving a custodial sentence has improved between 2017 and 2018 from 0.17 to 0.05 custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population, and this rate is significantly below the national rate of 0.32. The proportion of young people re-offending (cohort identified in 2016/17) is 33.4% which is significantly lower the national rate at 40.6%, and an improvement on the previous year when it was at 34.0%. The average number of re-offences per re-offender for the same cohort was 3.23, which is lower than the national rate of 3.90, and an improvement on the previous year when it was 4.38

The first time entrant (FTE) rate for the period Oct 2017 to Sep 2018 is at 294 FTE per 100,000 youth population and represents a major improvement on the previous year when it was at 408, however the West Mercia rate continues to be higher than the national rate which is 250 for the same period. The Management Board agreed a revised pre-court joint decision framework during 2018/19 which will be implemented across the local policing areas during 19/20, and this should contribute to reducing the FTE rate further.

The service and management board recognise that we do not work in isolation in reducing offending by children and young people and improving the outcomes for children and young people who have entered or at risk of entering the youth justice system. The board are committed to promoting better joint work between the service and other agencies at a local level, and this will particularly be the case in tackling the emerging and growing issue of criminal exploitation and county lines type activity.

1.1 Approval of the Plan

This plan was approved at the West Mercia Youth Justice Service Management Board held on 24th May 2019.

Signed: Karen Bradshaw Date: 24th May 2019

Karen Bradshaw

Chair – West Mercia Youth Justice Service Management Board

2.0 Review of 2018/19

2.1 Service Delivery Arrangements

There have been no significant changes to the governance or service delivery arrangements during 2018/19. An additional team manager post was established during the year. The post has a lead responsibility for performance and quality improvement and the successful applicant came into post during quarter 3 of the year.

2.2 Review of Key Developments

The Management Board agreed four main priorities and a delivery plan for the two year period 2018 to 2020. During 18/19 the following were achieved:-

- A service vision and underlying principles were agreed
- The staff appraisal systems was re-established and appraisals undertaken
- A staff survey was undertaken
- A process for monitoring other agencies engagement in high risk panel meetings was established
- Mental health training was provided for practitioners
- A system for flagging YJS involvement in cases was implemented by West Mercia Police
- Work was initiated to give youth justice practitioners access to social care information systems
- Research on the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences and trauma in a cohort of young people in the youth justice system was completed
- The identification of named management board members to lead on the implementation of the new National Standards for Youth Justice.

2.3 Responses to inspections

The service was not subject to a single agency inspection during 2018/19. The service was part of a Joint Targeted Area Inspection in Shropshire on the theme of child sexual abuse in the family context.

Improvement actions for WMYJS include; providing access to the youth justice service information for the Children Services front door, better co-ordinating the provision of substance misuse interventions for young people in the youth justice system between the community drug and alcohol service and WMYJS and ensuring consent is obtained, where possible, when making referrals to the front door. There is a multi-agency improvement plan in place.

The Management Board considered the thematic inspection “Out of court disposal work in youth offending teams” in May 2018. A new framework for joint decision making for out of court disposals is being implemented in first part of 19/20 and the recommendations and findings of the thematic inspection are informing this practice development.

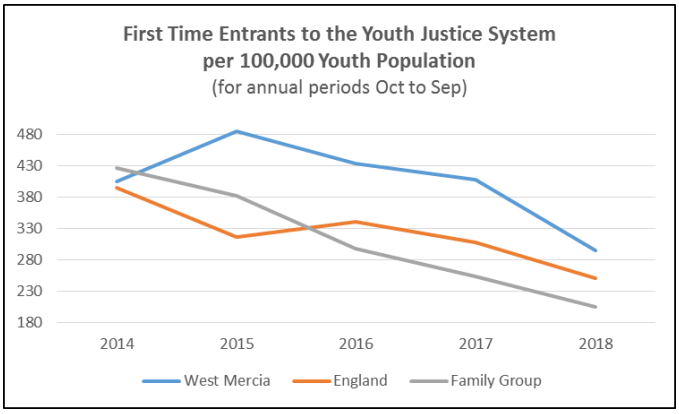
2.4 Performance

The Youth Justice Service is subject to three national outcome indictors

(i) First Time Entrants

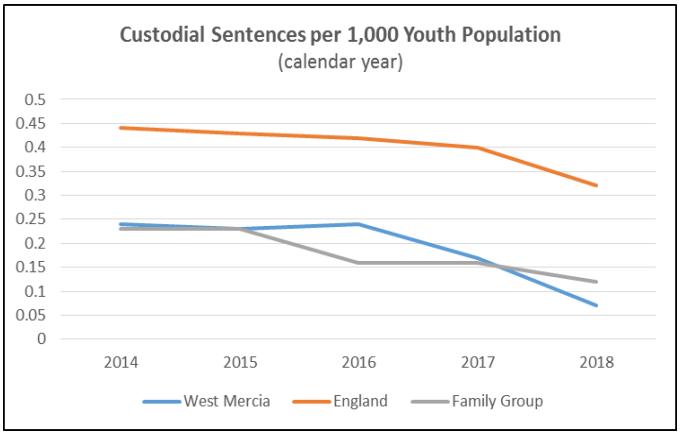
This measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants (young people receiving their first formal youth justice sanction, either a caution or conviction) per 100,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the number the better the performance.

The most recent published data is for the year Oct 2017 to Sep 2018, where the West Mercia performance was 294, compared to a national performance of 250 and statistical neighbour performance of 205. Although the West Mercia rate remains higher than both the statistical neighbour and national rate, the gap between both the West Mercia rate and the other two rates has been reducing since 2017. The range of rates nationally is from 63 to 573, placing the West Mercia performance in the second to top quartile of the performance range.



Although the rate has been reducing since 2015, the service recognises that that the rate is higher than might be expected and also accepts that the out of court disposal decision joint decision arrangements in West Mercia, although meeting statutory requires, is a contributory factor. A new joint decision making framework was agreed during 2018/19, with implementation due early in 2019/20.

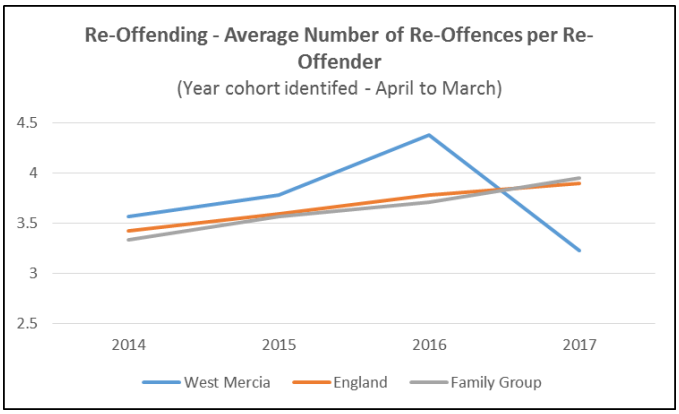
(i) Use of Custody



The use is custody indicator is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the rate the better the performance.

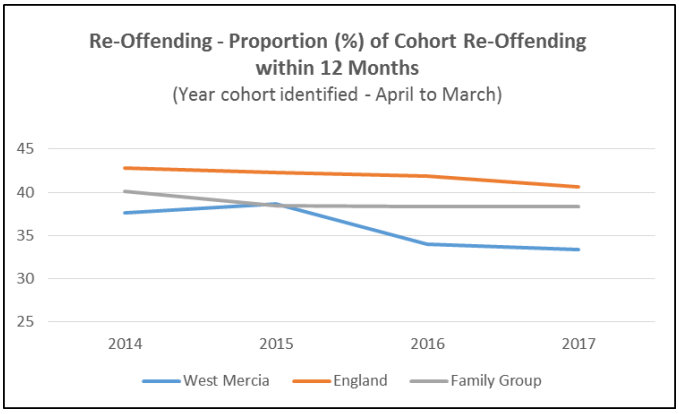
The most recently published data for this indictor is for the calendar year 2018, where the West Mercia rate was 0.07[1], which compares favourably against the national rate, 0.32 and the statistical neighbour rate of 0.12. The rate has been decreasing since 2016, following three years of stability. The range of rate nationally is between 0.00 and 1.44 placing the West Mercia performance in the top quartile of the performance range.

(ii) Re-Offending



There are two measures for the re-offending indicator, both for the same cohort of offenders (all young people receiving a formal justice system disposal (caution or conviction) within a specified period of time). The cohort is then tracked for any re-offending within 12 months, the first measure (frequency measure) is the average number of re-offences per re-offender, the second measure (binary measure) is the proportion of the cohort re-offending. For both measures a lower figure denotes better performance.

[1] Although the YJB published rate is 0.07, there is an error in the data held nationally and rate is actually 0.05, a total of 6 custodial sentences.



The most recently published data for this indicator is for the cohort identified April 2016 to March 2017.

The frequency measure for West Mercia is 3.23, which compares favourably against the national rate of 3.90 and statistical neighbour rate of 3.95. The range of rates nationally is from 2.30 to 6.67, placing the West Mercia in the top quartile of the performance range.

The binary measure for West Mercia is 33.4%, which compares favourably against the national rate of 40.6% and the statistical neighbour rate of 38.3%. The range of rates nationally is from 20.2% to 63.3% placing West Mercia in the second to top quartile of the performance range.

2.5 Service User Feedback

During 2018/19 the service has used an internet based survey, Viewpoint, to capture service user feedback. Responses to some key questions from the 42 surveys completed during the first three quarters of 18/19 are outlined below:-

- 35/37 (95%) young people said that the YOT took their views seriously
- 35/35 (100%) rated the service provided to them as good or very good
- 34/35 (97%) reported being fairly treated by the service
- 25/26 (96%) young people who responded to the question said they got the help they needed to stop offending and 24/26 (92%) to make better decisions.
- 31/35 (89%) said they now knew what things were more likely to make them offend and all 31 said they realised that change was possible.
- 29/35 (83%) reported being a lot less likely to offend and 4 said they were a bit less likely

In terms of improvements to the Youth Justice Service (YJS), most young people were unable to identify anything although two thought that the upper age for YJS services should be increased and one thought there should be more reparation options for girls.

3.0 Youth Justice Plan 2019/20 and Risks to Future delivery against the National Outcome Measures

3.1 Vision and underlying principles

During 2019/20 the West Mercia Youth Justice Service Management Board agreed a vision statement and underpinning principles for the service following a joint workshop with the service's management team and a staff consultation.

Vision:

Together, preventing offending and improving lives

Underlying Principles:

- *Ensure that we secure best practice, innovation and outstanding quality in all we do*
- *Reducing demand by preventing offending and effectively managing the risks posed by those who have offended*
- *Offer the best value for money by combining resources*
- *Work with victims and communities to repair harm from offending*
- *Recognising the capacity of young people to grow and develop with the right support*
- *Listen to young people's and victim's opinions and use them to shape what we do*
- *Building resilience within families and local communities*
- *Recognise the important role families play in preventing young people from getting involved in crime*
- *Grow and sustain a positive and stable workforce*

3.2 Priorities 2019/20

Service priorities were agreed for the two year period 18/19 and 19/20. The priorities were informed by the service needs assessment and a pilot inspection of the service undertaken in March 2018, which was reported on in the 2018/19 Youth Justice Plan. The delivery plan supporting the priorities is in section 3.5 of this plan.

Priority 1: **Our People**

1.1 Promote in-service progression and ensure that appraisals are used effectively

1.2 Strengthen staff development programmes

1.3 Improve staff morale, motivation and encourage engagement

Priority 2: **Our Partnerships**

2.1 Improve multi-agency engagement at high risk and decision making meetings

2.2 Ensuring young people's mental health needs are met

2.3 Review and improve policy and practice in relation to out of court disposal decision making thereby contributing to a reduction in the number of first time entrants

Priority 3: **Our Performance, Quality and Practice**

3.1 Develop our quality assurance and performance framework in collaboration with our partners

3.2 Ensure adequate interface with Children Services information systems

3.3 Develop our practice and encourage innovation

Priority 4: **Our Governance**

4.1 Communicate our vision and priorities to our staff, partners and stakeholders

4.2 Develop Board Member links to WMYJS to support service development and improve engagement with staff and service users

4.3 Anticipate and mitigate future risks to the long term delivery of our vision

3.3 Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains a key area of focus for the service. WMYJS has a key role in safeguarding young people, in terms of assessing and reducing the risk of harm to young people either from their own behaviour or the actions of others and reducing the risk of harm they may pose to others. The service continues to be active members of the children safeguarding partnership arrangements in each of the local authorities and there is a S11 action plan in place.

County line type activity has been identified as an emerging and growing issue across West Mercia and the service will, through the developing pre-court joint decision making arrangements, seek to avoid the criminalisation of young people on the edges of this activity. The service will work as part of the child exploitation strategy and operation groups and the Serious Organised Crime Joint Agency Groups (SOCJAG) to address the issues of county lines type activity, organised crime group and gang activities. Serious violent crime is not a significant issue in West Mercia currently, however we recognise that this may become an emerging issue associated with serious organised crime and the service will, as a result, be developing weapon crime programmes.

3.4 Integrated and Joint Working

The service will continue to seek opportunities for developing further the integrated and joint working arrangements with other agencies who are delivering services to young people in or at risk of entering the youth justice system.

3.5 Risks to the Future Delivery against the National Outcome Measures

The current performance against the national outcome measures are contained in section 2.4 of this plan. As the section notes although the FTE rate is higher than the national rate, the most recent performance is an improvement on the previous year. Locally services to prevent young people from becoming involved in criminal activity is within the early help strategies within each local authority area. Through the planned new out of court disposal joint decision making arrangements being implemented in 2019/20 the service and Police will seek to divert young people from formal justice system disposals through the use of informal responses to their behaviour. A child first approach will be used to inform all work of WMYJS, but particularly in respect of young people at the pre-court stage of the system.

The rate of custodial sentences remains very low, at 0.07 per 1,000 population. Re-offending performance has historically been volatile but has fallen over the past three years to 33.4%. The delivery plan at section 3.5 of this plan outlines actions which will mitigate the risks against future delivery of the outcome measures, the table below summarises key actions for each outcome measure.

Outcome Measure	Performance Indicator	Risk	Key Mitigating Actions
First Time Entrants	The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system per 100,000 youth population	The current out of court disposal joint decision making process is the cause for the higher than might be expected rate of FTEs	Implementation of the agreed new joint decision making arrangements across the 5 local policing areas.
Custody	The number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population	Absence of a remand management strategy may lead to an increase in young people being remanded	Development of a remand management strategy
Re-Offending	(i) The average number of re-offences per re-offender (ii) The proportion of offenders (%) re-offending within 12 months	Interventions not fully supporting desistence factors	Further developing and embedding trauma informed practice Implementation of AIM3 for young people demonstrating harmful sexual behaviour Senior Practitioners leading on improving and developing key areas of practice

3.6 Delivery Plan 2019/20

Priority Area	OUR PEOPLE		
Sub Priority	**Promote in-service progression and ensure that appraisals are used effectively**	**Strengthen Staff Development Programmes**	**Improve staff morale, motivation and encourage engagement**
Planned Actions	1.1.1 Agree a revised appraisal process for 19/20 to ensure it is more suitable to needs of service 1.1.2 All appraisals completed within Q1/Q2 1.1.3 Confirm if able to access Police apprenticeship levy 1.1.4 Annual report on appraisal outcomes	1.2.1 Complete work on a staff learning and development framework 1.2.2 Confirm and formalise access to Local Authority training 1.2.3 Identified joint training plan LA/YJS 1.2.4 Agree training plan for 19/20	1.3.1 Deliver a staff conference including staff awards 1.3.2 Establish staff engagement group 1.3.3 Use staff survey responses to develop action plan 1.3.4 Develop staff recognition scheme
Impact	Proportion of appraisals completed Proportion of appraisal objectives met Improved proportion of positive responses to relevant questions in the staff survey		
Priority Area	**OUR PARTNERSHIPS**		
Sub Priority	**Improve multi-agency engagement at high risk and decision making meetings**	**Ensuring young people's mental health needs are met**	**Review and improve policy and practice in relation to out of court disposal decision making thereby contributing to a reduction in the number of first time entrants**
Planned Actions	2.1.1 Regular monitoring by the management board of agency attendance at HRPs 2.1.2 Implement a framework for assurance reporting from partners to evidence how they are actively supporting WMYJS priorities	2.2.1 Agree common core role for MH workers 2.2.2 Refresh WMYJS/CAMHS protocols in each area 2.2.3 Develop links with L&D in each area	2.3.1 Implement the agreed joint decision framework in each LPA 2.3.2 Revise and implement the OoCD assessment tool 2.3.3 Agree a joint pre-court decision making protocol with West Mercia Police
Impact	Increase in proportion of attendance/reports from other agencies to HRP Sustained or improved positive responses to relevant questions in service users feedback Reduction in FTE rate		
Priority Area	**OUR PERFORMANCE AND PRACTICE**		
Sub Priority	**Develop our quality assurance and performance framework in collaboration with our partners**	**Ensure adequate interface with Children Services information systems**	**Develop our practice and encourage innovation**
Planned Actions	3.1.1 Develop and implement a new performance and quality assurance framework 3.1.2 Review of Asset+ QA tool 3.1.3 Undertake National Standards readiness self assessment 3.1.4 Inspection standards self assessment	3.2.1 Implement assess to ChSC systems for YJS practitioners, supported by access agreements 3.2.2 Implement access for ChSC front door/MASH to CV, supported by access agreements	3.3.1 Agree and implement role of SPs in practice development 3.3.2 Develop specification for support required to further implement and embed a trauma informed approach to practice 3.3.3 Review remand strategy 3.3.4 Develop revised resettlement framework 3.3.5 Implement AIM 3 arrangements
Impact	Sustain/improve asset plus quality Sustain/improve compliance to scaled approach requirements Reduction in re-offending Sustain or improved use of custody rate		
Priority Area	**OUR GOVERNANCE**		
Sub Priority	**Communicate our vision and priorities to our staff, partners and stakeholders**	**Develop Board Member links to WMYJS to support service development and improve engagement with staff and service users**	**Anticipate and mitigate future risks to the long term delivery of our vision**
Planned Actions	4.1.1 Development and implementation of a service communication plan 4.1.2 Develop and implement WMYJS website 4.1.3 Management board to implement a programme of assurance reporting	4.2.1 Identify MB lead for each National Standard area 4.2.2 Agree & implement process of MB member engagement in National Standards self assessment 4.2.3 Agree role of MB members in oversight of practice within QA framework	4.3.1 Review WMYJS Board membership and the supporting governance framework for the partnership
Impact	Improved proportion of positive responses to relevant questions in the staff survey Management board is assured that the needs of young people in or at risk of entering the youth justice system are met		

Appendix 1

West Mercia Youth Justice Service - Resources 2019/20

Income

The Youth Offending Service has a complex budget structure comprising of partner agency cash, seconded staff and in kind contributions and the Youth Justice (YOT) Grant from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. The table below outlines the agreed contributions for 2019/20.

Agency	Staffing Costs – Secondees (£)	Payments in kind (£)	Other Delegated Funds (3)	Total
Local Authorities[2]			1,179,999	1,179,999
Police Service	237,892		63,000	300,892
National Probation Service	63,033		10,000	73,033
Health	129,860		36,894	166,754
Police and Crime Commissioner			180,293	180,293
YJB – Youth Justice Grant			1,184,541	1,184,541
Other (movement from reserves)			16,261	16,261
Total	**430,789**		**2,670,988**	**3,101,773**

The Attendance Centres grant, £50,043, is included in the total for the YJB Youth Justice Grant in the table above. Additional staff have been recruited to the Attendance Centres in 18/19, and consideration is being given to how the work might be expanded to support the out of court disposal developments being implemented during 2019/20

The YJB Youth Justice (YOT) Grant

The YJB Youth Justice (YOT) Grant is provided for the provision of youth justice services with an aim of achieving the following outcomes; reducing re-offending, reducing first time entrants, reducing the use of custody, effective public protection and effective safeguarding. The grant will form part of the overall pooled partnership budget for WMYJS, which is used to deliver and support youth justice services across West Mercia. The outline draft budget for 2019/20 is provided below; the expenditure against the Youth Justice Grant is included in this budget.

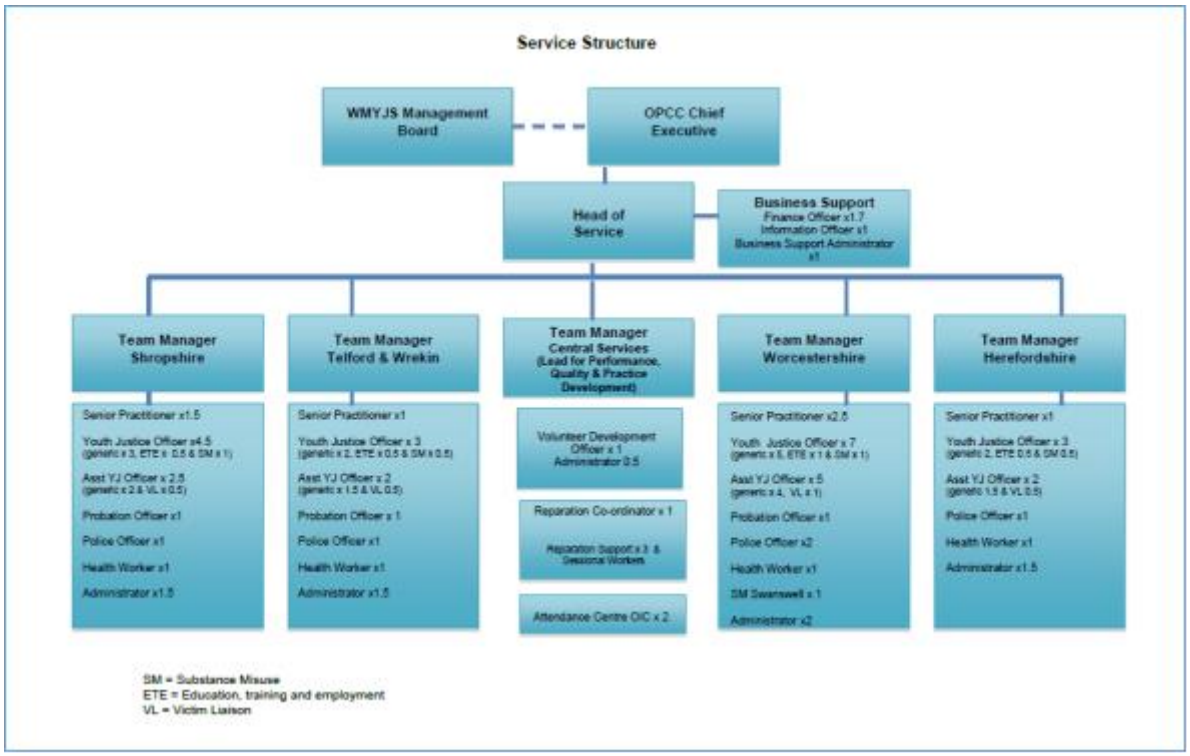
Category	Budget (£)
Employee Costs	2,058,977
Other Employee Costs	31,200
Premises	163,295
Supplies and Services	61,710
ICT	99,060
Third Party Payments	169,696
Transport	87,050
TOTAL	**2,670,988**

[2] Where YOTs cover more than one local authority area YJB Youth Justice Plan guidance requires the totality of local authority contributions to be described as a single figure.

Appendix 2

West Mercia Youth Justice Service - Structure and Staffing Information

The West Mercia Youth Justice Service comprises four multi-agency service delivery teams, aligned to the Local Authority areas to deliver the majority of services. The reparation service and volunteer services are co-ordinated centrally across the whole service, as are the finance and data and information functions.



WMYJS is compliant with the minimum staffing requirements outlined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as can be seen from the structural diagram above. There are three HCPC registered Social Workers within the staffing group.

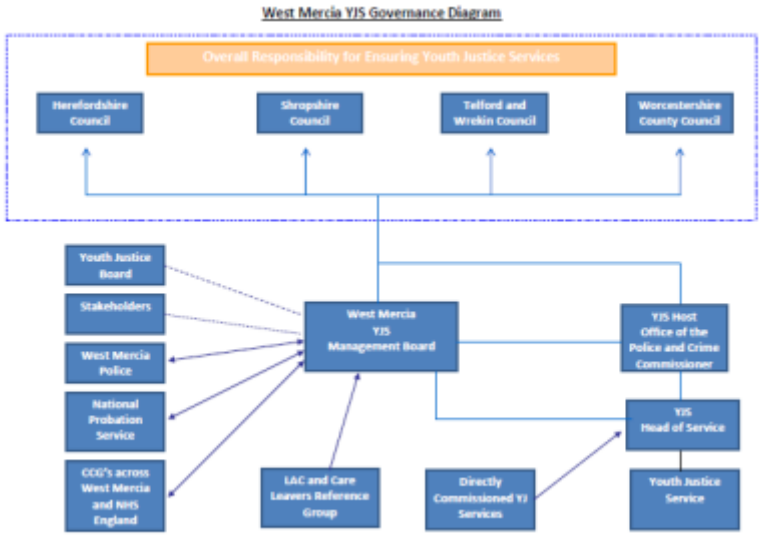
Appendix 3

West Mercia Youth Justice Service -Governance and Partnership Information

Governance

WMYJS is managed on behalf of the Local Authorities and the WMYJS partnership by the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Day to day management of the Head of Service is provided by jointly the Chief Executive of the OPCC and the Chair of the Management Board (DCS Shropshire). The Youth Justice Service is accountable to the WMYJS Management Board and the Management Board is accountable to each of the Local Authorities for the commissioning and delivery of youth justice services.

The partnership Youth Justice Plan is approved by the Management Board and by each of the four top tier Councils. The diagram below outlines the governance arrangements of West Mercia Youth Justice Service.



The Youth Justice Service Management Board is currently chaired by the Director of Children Services for Shropshire Council. The Membership of the Board at 1st April 2019 is outlined in the table below:

Agency	Representative	Role
Worcestershire County Council	Catherine Driscoll	Director of Children, Families and Communities
Shropshire Council	Karen Bradshaw	Director of Children Services
Telford and Wrekin Council	Clive Jones	Director of Children, Family and Adult Services
Herefordshire Council	Chris Baird	Director of Children and Families
National Probation Service	Jackie Stevenson	Head of West Mercia
West Mercia Police	Dawn Hartland	Head of Criminal Justice
West Mercia Clinical Commissioning Groups	Dawn Clarke	Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience, Shropshire CCG
Office for the West Mercia PCC	Andy Champness	Chief Executive

The Management Board meets every two months and monitors the performance and quality of the service through regular reporting. Where necessary the Management Board will monitor compliance with the YJB Grant conditions through exception reports.

The Management Board has considered a number of thematic deep dives and practice presentations, the purpose of which is to identify any issues, in particular with regards to provision of services and multi-agency working, and agree actions for the Management Board or individual board members in order to improve services for young people in the youth justice system.

The Management Board has a process in place to ensure that cases that would have previously been notified to the YJB under the Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incident Review process are now reported into the Management Board, and where appropriate learning reviews undertaken. This will be reviewed to investigate if other types of cases should also be included in this reporting process as part of the governance review scheduled for 2019/20.

Management Board members ensure that, where relevant, commissioning across partner agencies takes account of the needs of young people in or at risk of entering the youth justice system, and where appropriate explore joint commissioning arrangements.

Partnerships

The Youth Justice Service only has one outsourced service, the provision of Appropriate Adults for young people in Police custody. The service is provided by a local voluntary sector organisation YSS.

WMYJS is a member of the four Safeguarding Children Boards and several of the board's sub groups and the Children's Trusts or equivalent partnerships and the early help strategic groups. WMYJS intends to participate in the new and developing safeguarding partnership arrangements in each of the four areas.

WMYJS is represented on the Crime and Disorder reduction partnerships at the unitary or top tier authority level. WMYJS is an active member of the West Mercia Criminal Justice Board, the West Mercia Crime Reduction Board, the West Mercia Victim and Witness Board and the MAPPA Strategic Management Board.

WMYJS is represented on the Channel Panels across West Mercia established as part of the Prevent strategy. WMYJS staff have undertook WRAP training in 2018/19. The service are participant members of the area reducing re-offending groups and the Serious and Organised Crime Joint Agency Groups.

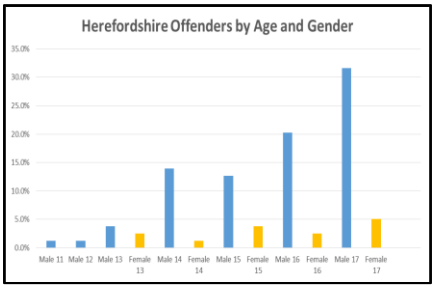
WMYJS will be developing strategic and operational links with the Liaison and Diversion schemes currently being implemented across the West Mercia area.

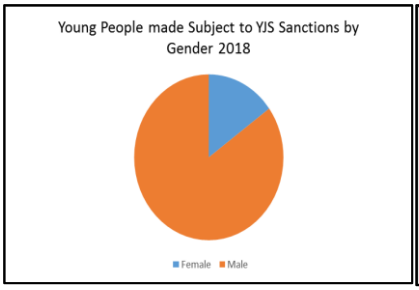
Appendix 4

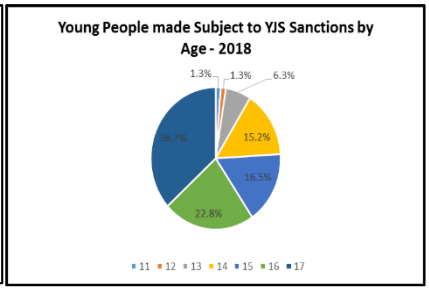
Herefordshire Local Information

Youth Offending Population Overview

There are 16,434 young people aged 10 to 17 years in Herefordshire. According to WMYJS records there were 98 formal justice system sanctions[3] (cautions and convictions) made on Herefordshire young people during 2018. A total of 79 individual young people accounted for the 98 outcomes, 0.48% of youth population.

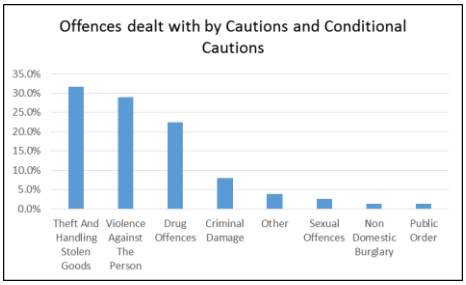






Of the 79 young people receiving youth justice sanctions in 2018, 67 (85%) were male. The majority, 76% were aged 15 years or more, with 17 year olds accounting for just over a third (36%) of all young people receiving a youth justice sanction. There is little difference in the peak age between the two genders, with 37% of sanctions received by young males being for 17 year olds and 33% of sanctions made on young females being for 17 year olds.

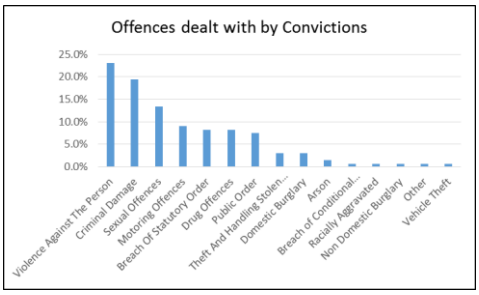
Youth Offending Population for Out of Court Disposals



Out of court disposals are a method of resolving offences without prosecution before the court, and include the formal Police sanctions of Youth Cautions (YC) and Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC). In 2018, according to WMYJS records, there were 61 YCs or YCCs issued for 55 individual young people for a total of 76 offences, ten of these outcomes were supported by an intervention from WMYJS.

The most commonly occurring offence was theft and handling stolen good (32%), followed by violence against the person (29%) and drug offences (22%). These three offence types accounting for 83% of all offences dealt with by cautioning.

Youth Offending Population for Court Disposals



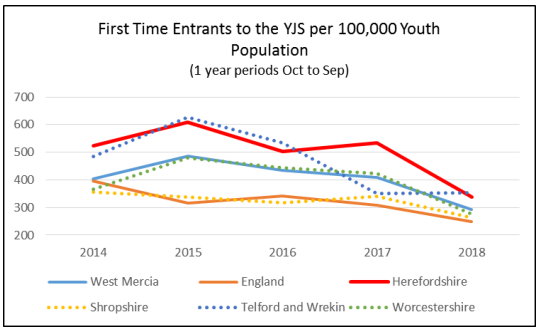
In 2018 a total of 24 individual young people received 37 court outcomes for a total of 134 offences. Court orders requiring management by WMYJS accounted for 23 (62%) of the court outcomes. The majority of young people, (92%) receiving court outcomes were aged 16 and over with 17 year olds accounting for 67%.

The most frequently occurring offence was violence against the person (23%), followed by criminal damage (19%), sexual offences (13%) and motoring offences (9%). These four offence type accounting for 64% of all offences dealt with by convictions in the court.

[3] Note, there will be a cohort of young people whose behaviour may be dealt with informally by the police, the data contained within this appendix is for young people made subject to formal justice system disposals only.

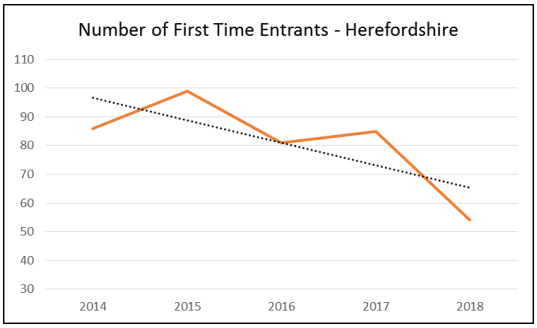
Performance Against the National Indicators

(i) First Time Entrants



This measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants (young people receiving their first formal youth justice sanction, either a caution or conviction) per 100,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the number the better the performance.

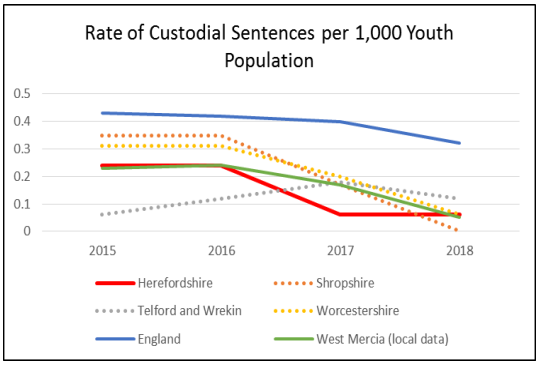
The most recent published data is for the year Oct 2017 to Sep 2018, where the Herefordshire rate was 338, compared to a national performance of 250. Although the Herefordshire rate remains higher than national rate, the gap between both the Herefordshire rate and the national rate has been reducing since 2017, when the gap between the rates was 226 compared to 88 in 2018.



The actual numbers of young people entering the youth justice system is fairly low, with only 54 young people entering the system in the period October 2017 to September 2018. Although there are variations year to year the overall trend has been downward since 2008 when 310 young people entered the youth justice system for the first time, the current number of 54 represents a reduction of 83% over the 10 year period.

The service recognises, however, that that the rate is higher than might be expected and also accepts that the out of court disposal joint decision making arrangements in West Mercia, although meeting statutory requirements, is a contributory factor. A new joint decision making framework was agreed during 2018/19, with a phased implementation due in 19/20 starting in the Herefordshire Local Policing Area.

(ii) The Use of Custody

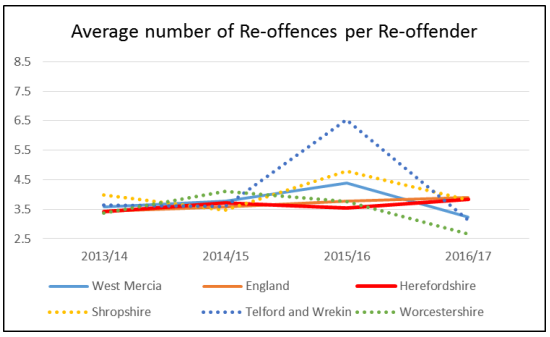


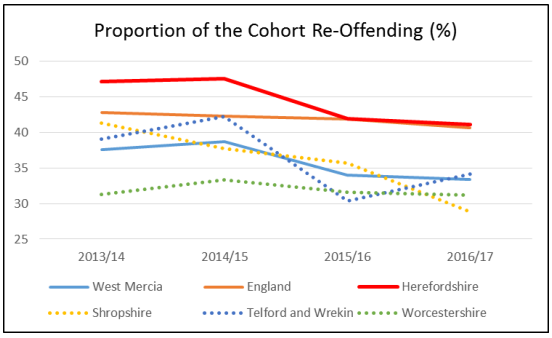
The use is custody indicator is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the rate the better the performance.

The most recently published data for this indictor is for the calendar year 2018, where the Herefordshire rate was 0.06, which compares favourably against the national rate, 0.32. The rate has been decreasing since 2015. The rate of 0.06 in Herefordshire represents one Herefordshire young person receiving a custodial sentence during 2018.

(iii) Re-offending

There are two measures for the re-offending indicator, both for the same cohort of offenders (all young people receiving a formal justice system disposal (caution or conviction) within a specified period of time). The cohort is then tracked for any re-offending within 12 months, the first measure (frequency measure) is the average number of re-offences per re-offender, the second measure (binary measure) is the proportion of the cohort re-offending. For both measures a lower figure denotes better performance.





The most recently published data for this indicator is for the cohort identified April 2016 to March 2017.

The frequency measure for Herefordshire, 3.83, is similar to the national rate of 3.90. The range of rates nationally are from 2.30 to 6.67, placing Herefordshire in the second to top quartile of the national performance range.

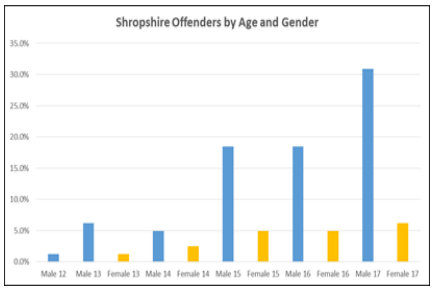
The binary measure at 41.0% is also similar to the national rate 40.6%. The range of rates nationally being from 20.2% to 63.3% which means that Herefordshire sits just within the second to top quartile of the national performance range. The binary rate in Herefordshire has been reducing since 2013/14 when it was 47.1%, representing an overall reduction of 13% in the proportion of young people re-offending over the three year period.

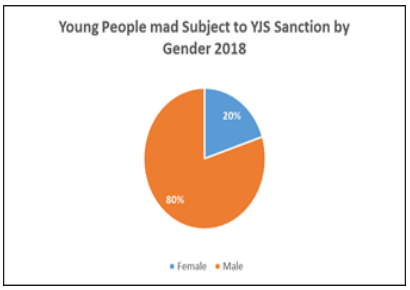
Appendix 5

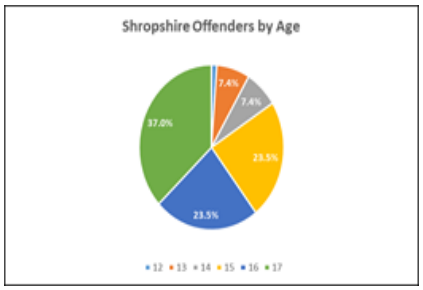
Shropshire Local Information

Youth Offending Population Overview

There are 28,588 young people aged 10 to 17 years in Shropshire. According to WMYJS records there were 96 formal justice system sanctions[4] (cautions and convictions) made on Shropshire young people during 2018. A total of 81 individual young people accounted for the 96 outcomes, 0.28% of youth population.

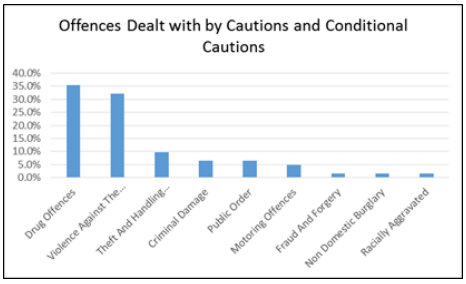






Of the 81 young people receiving youth justice sanctions in 2018, 65 (80%) were male. The majority, 84% were aged 15 years or more, with 17 year olds accounting for just under a third (30%) of all young people receiving a youth justice sanction. There is little difference in the peak age between the two genders, with 38% of sanctions received by young males being for 17 year olds and 31% of sanctions made on young females being for 17 year olds.

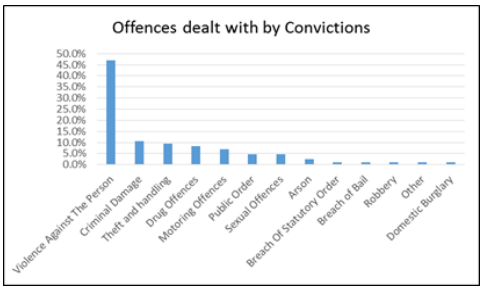
Youth Offending Population for Out of Court Disposals



Out of court disposals are a method of resolving offences without prosecution before the court, and include of the formal Police sanctions of Youth Cautions (YC) and Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC). In 2018, according to WMYJS records, there were 58 YCs or YCCs issued for 54 individual young people for a total of 62 offences, 21 of these outcomes were supported by an intervention from WMYJS.

The most commonly occurring offences were drug offences (35%), followed by violence against the person (32%) and theft and handling stolen goods (10%). These three offence types accounting for 77% of all offences dealt with by cautioning.

Youth Offending Population for Court Disposals



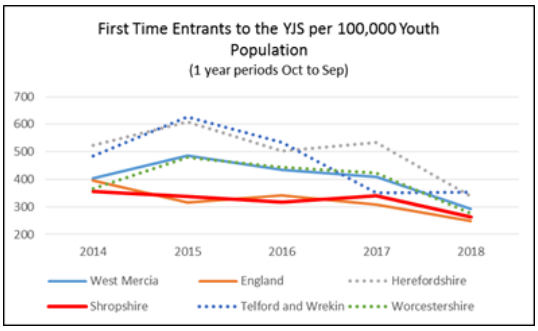
In 2018 a total of 27 individual young people received 38 court outcomes for a total of 85 offences. Court orders requiring management by WMYJS accounted for 31 (82%) of the court outcomes. The majority of young people, (78%) receiving court outcomes were aged 15 and over with 17 year olds accounting for 37%.

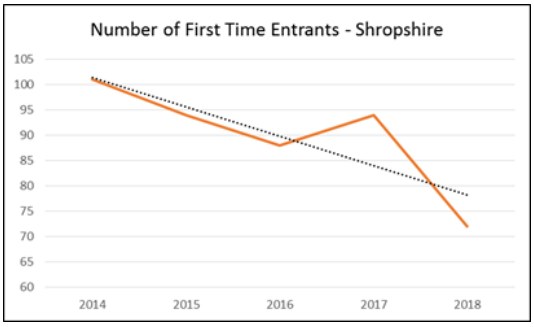
The most frequently occurring offence was violence against the person (47%), followed by criminal damage (11%), theft and handling (9%) and drug offences (8%). These four offence type accounting for 75% of all offences dealt with by convictions in the court.

[4] Note, there will be a cohort of young people whose behaviour may be dealt with informally by the police, the data contained within this appendix is for young people made subject to formal justice system disposals only.

Performance Against the National Indicators

(i) First Time Entrants





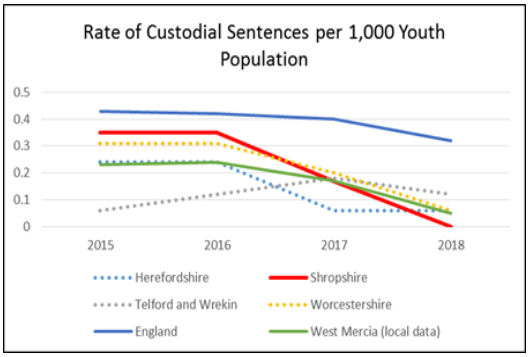
This measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants (young people receiving their first formal youth justice sanction, either a caution or conviction) per 100,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the number the better the performance.

The most recent published data is for the year Oct 2017 to Sep 2018, where the Shropshire rate was 262, compared to a national performance of 250. Shropshire has the lowest rate of the four areas in West Mercia. Although the Shropshire rate is slightly higher than national rate, the rate of reduction follows a similar trend as the reduction in the national rate.

The actual numbers of young people entering the youth justice system is fairly low, with only 72 young people entering the system in the period October 2017 to September 2018. Although there are variations year to year the overall trend has been downward since 2008 when 359 young people entered the youth justice system for the first time, a reduction of 80% over the 10 year period.

The service recognises, however, that that the rates across West Mercia are higher than might be expected and also accepts that the out of court disposal joint decision making arrangements in West Mercia, although meeting statutory requirements, is a contributory factor. A new joint decision making framework was agreed with West Mercia Police during 2018/19, with a phased implementation due in 19/20.

(ii) The Use of Custody

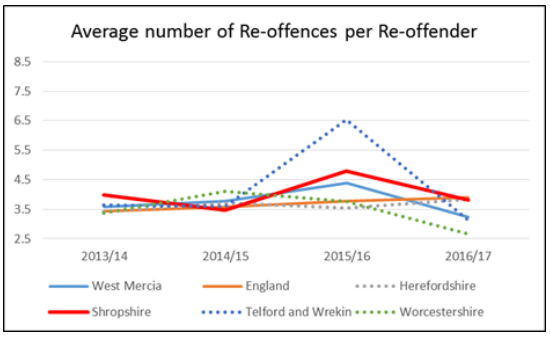


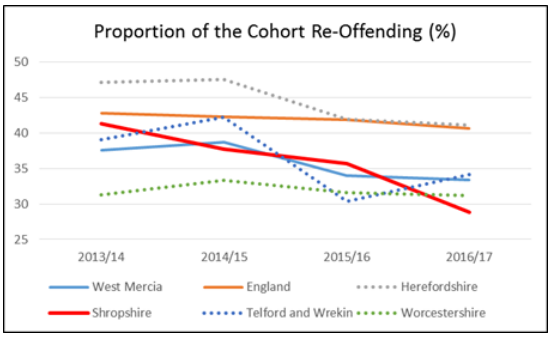
The use is custody indicator is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the rate the better the performance.

The most recently published data for this indictor is for the calendar year 2018, where the Shropshire rate was 0.00 as there were no custodial sentences on Shropshire young people in the year. The national rate was 0.32 and West Mercia rate was 0.05 for the same period.

(iii) Re-offending

There are two measures for the re-offending indicator, both for the same cohort of offenders (all young people receiving a formal justice system disposal (caution or conviction) within a specified period of time). The cohort is then tracked for any re-offending within 12 months, the first measure (frequency measure) is the average number of re-offences per re-offender, the second measure (binary measure) is the proportion of the cohort re-offending. For both measures a lower figure denotes better performance.





The most recently published data for this indicator is for the cohort identified April 2016 to March 2017.

The frequency measure for Shropshire, 3.81, is better than the national rate of 3.90. The range of rates nationally are from 2.30 to 6.67, placing Shropshire in the second to top quartile of the national performance range.

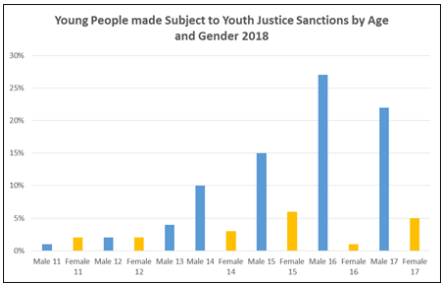
The binary measure at 28.9% is significantly better than the national rate 40.6%. The range of rates nationally being from 20.2% to 63.3% which means that Shropshire sits within the top quartile of the national performance range. The binary rate in Shropshire has been reducing since 2013/14 when it was 41.3%, representing an overall reduction of 30% in the proportion of young people re-offending over the three year period.

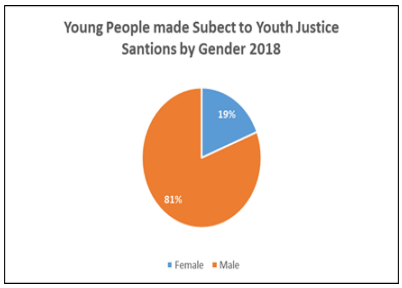
Appendix 6

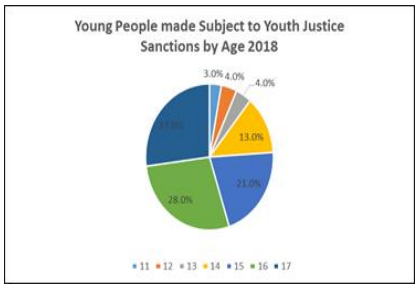
Telford and Wrekin Local Information

Youth Offending Population Overview

There are 16,578 young people aged 10 to 17 years in Telford and Wrekin. According to WMYJS records there were 120 formal justice system sanctions[5] (cautions and convictions) made on Telford and Wrekin young people during 2018. A total of 100 individual young people accounted for the 120 outcomes, 0.60% of youth population.

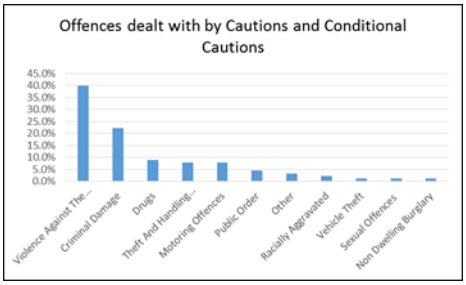






Of the 100 young people receiving youth justice sanctions in 2018, 81 (81%) were male. The majority, 76% were aged 15 years or more, with 17 year olds accounting for just over a quarter (27%) of all young people receiving a youth justice sanction. The peak age for young males was 16, with 16 year old males accounting for 33% of all males receiving sanctions, and for females, 15, with 15 year old females accounting for 32% of all females receiving a youth justice sanction.

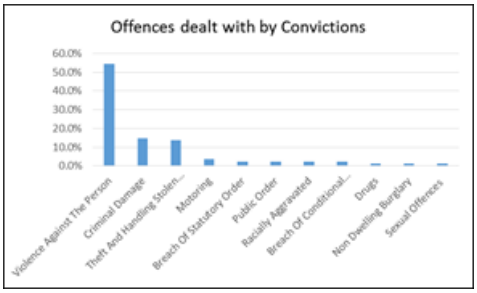
Youth Offending Population for Out of Court Disposals



Out of court disposals are a method of resolving offences without prosecution before the court, and include of the formal Police sanctions of Youth Cautions (YC) and Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC). In 2018, according to WMYJS records, there were 75 YCs or YCCs issued for 68 individual young people for a total of 90 offences, 13 of these outcomes were supported by an intervention from WMYJS.

The most commonly occurring offence was violence against the person (40%), followed by criminal damage (22%) and drug offences (9%). These three offence types accounting for 71% of all offences dealt with by cautioning.

Youth Offending Population for Court Disposals

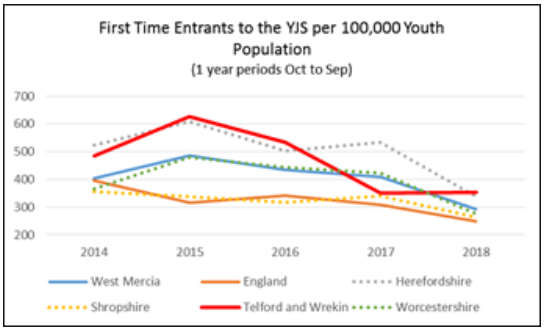


In 2018 a total of 32 individual young people received 45 court outcomes for a total of 90 offences. Court orders requiring management by WMYJS accounted for 32 (71%) of the court outcomes. The majority of young people, (69%) receiving court outcomes were aged 16 and over with 17 year olds accounting for 38%. The most frequently occurring offence was violence against the person (54%), followed by criminal damage (15%) and theft and handling stolen goods (14%). These three offence types accounting for 83% of all offences dealt with by convictions in the court.

[5] Note, there will be a cohort of young people whose behaviour may be dealt with informally by the police, the data contained within this appendix is for young people made subject to formal justice system disposals only.

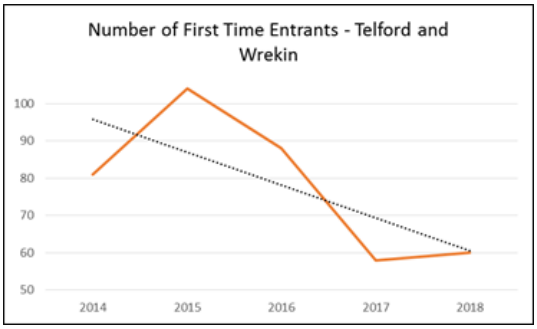
Performance Against the National Indicators

(i) First Time Entrants



This measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants (young people receiving their first formal youth justice sanction, either a caution or conviction) per 100,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the number the better the performance.

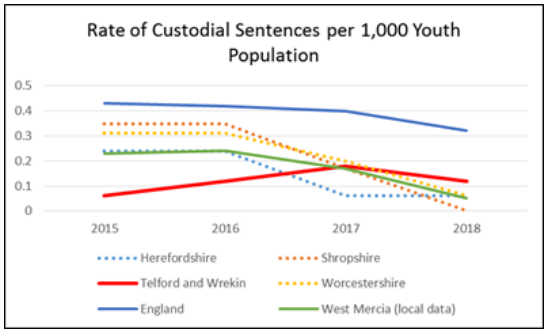
The most recent published data is for the year Oct 2017 to Sep 2018, where the Telford and Wrekin rate was 353, compared to a national performance of 250. Although the Telford and Wrekin rate in 2018 is slightly higher than the previous year when it was 350, the overall trend since 2015 is downward.



The actual numbers of young people entering the youth justice system is fairly low, with only 60 young people (58 in the previous year) entering the system for the first in the period October 2017 to September 2018. Although there are variations year to year the overall trend has been downward since 2008 when 382 young people entered the youth justice system for the first time, a reduction of 84% over the 10 year period.

The service recognises, however, that that the rate is higher than might be expected and also accepts that the out of court disposal joint decision making arrangements in West Mercia, although meeting statutory requirements, is a contributory factor. A new joint decision making framework was agreed during 2018/19, with a phased implementation due in 19/20.

(ii) The Use of Custody

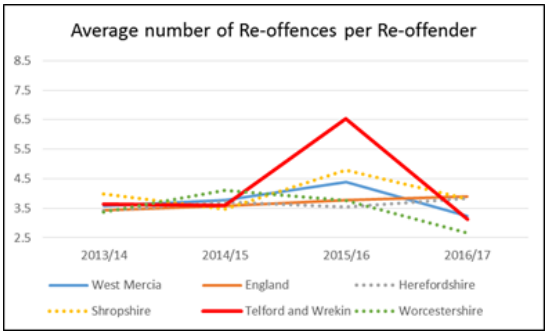


The use is custody indicator is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the rate the better the performance.

The most recently published data for this indictor is for the calendar year 2018, where the Telford and Wrekin rate was 0.12, which compares favourably against the national rate, 0.32. The rate has decreased from the previous year when it was 0.18. The rate of 0.12 in Telford and Wrekin represents two Telford and Wrekin young people receiving a custodial sentence during 2018.

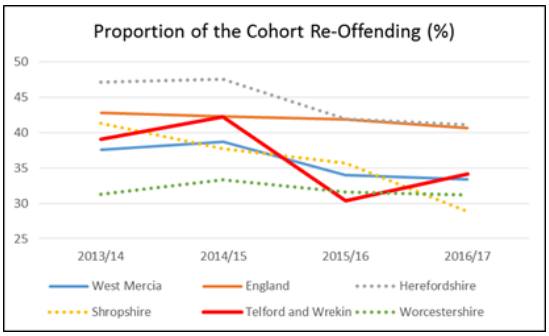
(iii) Re-offending

There are two measures for the re-offending indicator, both for the same cohort of offenders (all young people receiving a formal justice system disposal (caution or conviction) within a specified period of time). The cohort is then tracked for any re-offending within 12 months, the first measure (frequency measure) is the average number of re-offences per re-offender, the second measure (binary measure) is the proportion of the cohort re-offending. For both measures a lower figure denotes better performance.



The most recently published data for this indicator is for the cohort identified April 2016 to March 2017.

The frequency measure for Telford and Wrekin, 3.12, is better than the national rate of 3.90. The range of rates nationally are from 2.30 to 6.67, placing Telford and Wrekin in the second to top quartile of the national performance range.



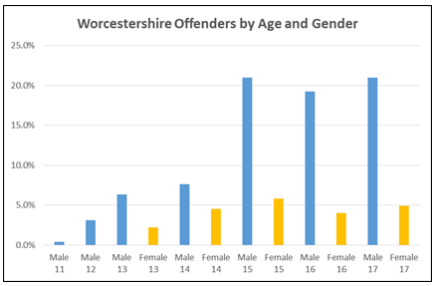
The binary measure at 34.2% is significantly better than the national rate 40.6%. The range of rates nationally being from 20.2% to 63.3% which means that Telford and Wrekin sits within the second to top quartile of the national performance range. Although the binary rate has risen slightly from the previous year, the overall trend has been reducing rate since 2014/15 where it was at 42.2%

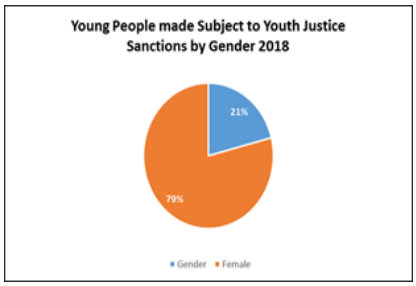
Appendix 7

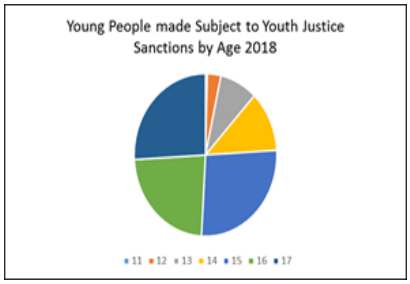
Worcestershire Local Information

Youth Offending Population Overview

There are 51,282 young people aged 10 to 17 years in Worcestershire. According to WMYJS records there were 282 formal justice system sanctions[6] (cautions and convictions) made on Worcestershire young people during 2018. A total of 224 individual young people accounted for the 282 outcomes, 0.44% of youth population.

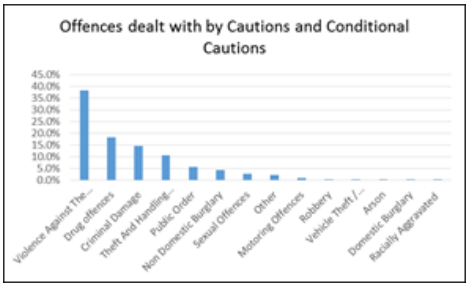






Of the 224 young people receiving youth justice sanctions in 2018, 176 (79%) were male. The majority, 76% were aged 15 years or more, with 17 year olds accounting for just over a quarter (26%) of all young people receiving a youth justice sanction. There is little difference in the peak age between the two genders, with 27% of sanctions received by young males for both those aged 15 and aged 17 and 27% of sanctions received by young females by those aged 15 and 23% on those aged 17.

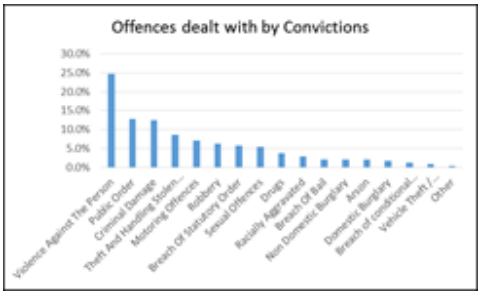
Youth Offending Population for Out of Court Disposals



Out of court disposals are a method of resolving offences without prosecution before the court, and include of the formal Police sanctions of Youth Cautions (YC) and Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC). In 2018, according to WMYJS records, there were 171 YCs or YCCs issued for 155 individual young people for a total of 214 offences, 47 of these outcomes were supported by an intervention from WMYJS.

The most commonly occurring offence was violence against the person (38%), followed by drug offences (18%), criminal damage (15%) and theft and handling stolen goods (10%). These four offence types accounting for 81% of all offences dealt with by cautioning.

Youth Offending Population for Court Disposals



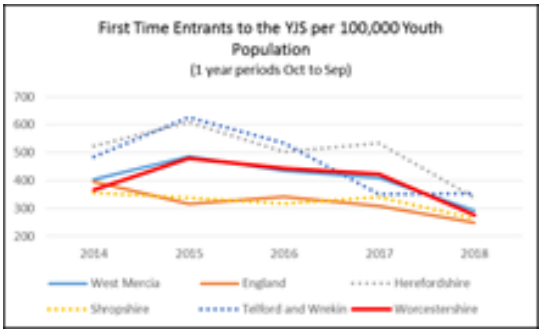
In 2018 a total of 69 individual young people received 111 court outcomes for a total of 242 offences. Court orders requiring management by WMYJS accounted for 90 (81%) of the court outcomes. The majority of young people, (90%) receiving court outcomes were aged 15 and over with 17 year olds accounting for 30%.

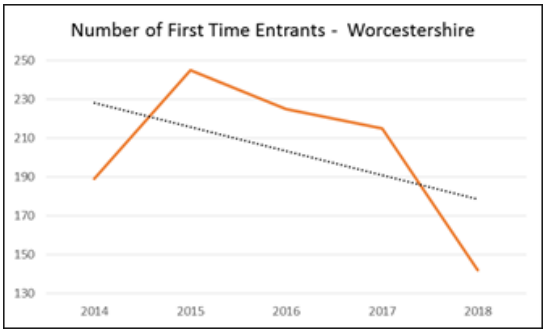
The most frequently occurring offence was violence against the person (25%), followed by public order (12%), criminal damage (12%) and theft and handling stolen goods (9%). These four offence type accounting for 58% of all offences dealt with by convictions in the court.

[6] Note, there will be a cohort of young people whose behaviour may be dealt with informally by the police, the data contained within this appendix is for young people made subject to formal justice system disposals only.

Performance Against the National Indicators

(i) First Time Entrants





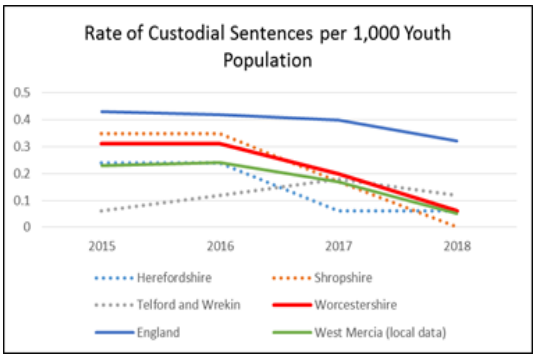
This measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants (young people receiving their first formal youth justice sanction, either a caution or conviction) per 100,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the number the better the performance.

The most recent published data is for the year Oct 2017 to Sep 2018, where the Worcestershire rate was 277, compared to a national performance of 250. Although the Worcestershire rate remains higher than national rate, the gap between the Worcestershire rate and the national rate has been reducing since 2015, when the gap between the rates was 164 compared to 27 in 2018.

The actual numbers of young people entering the youth justice system is fairly low, with only 142 young people entering the system in the period October 2017 to September 2018. Although there are variations year to year the overall trend has been downward since 2008 when 777 young people entered the youth justice system for the first time, representing a reduction of 82% over the 10 year period.

The service recognises, however, that that the rate is higher than might be expected and also accepts that the out of court disposal joint decision making arrangements in West Mercia, although meeting statutory requirements, is a contributory factor. A new joint decision making framework was agreed during 2018/19, with a phased implementation due in 19/20.

(ii) The Use of Custody

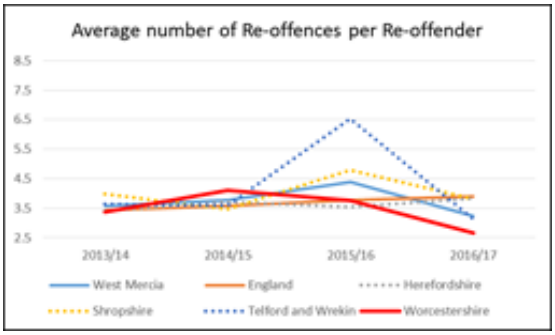


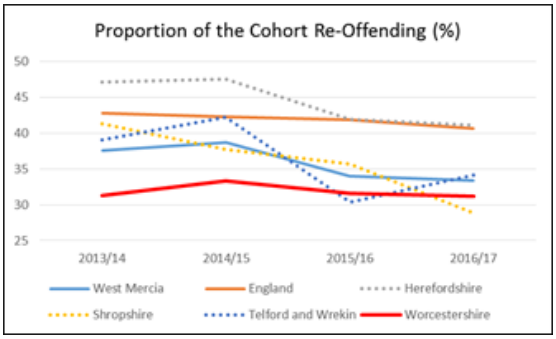
The use is custody indicator is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the rate the better the performance.

The most recently published data for this indictor is for the calendar year 2018, where the Worcestershire rate was 0.06, which compares favourably against the national rate, 0.32. The rate has been decreasing since 2015. The rate of 0.06 in Worcestershire represents three Worcestershire young people receiving a custodial sentence during 2018.

(iii) Re-offending

There are two measures for the re-offending indicator, both for the same cohort of offenders (all young people receiving a formal justice system disposal (caution or conviction) within a specified period of time). The cohort is then tracked for any re-offending within 12 months, the first measure (frequency measure) is the average number of re-offences per re-offender, the second measure (binary measure) is the proportion of the cohort re-offending. For both measures a lower figure denotes better performance.





The most recently published data for this indicator is for the cohort identified April 2016 to March 2017.

The frequency measure for Worcestershire, 2.65, is better than the national rate of 3.90. The range of rates nationally are from 2.30 to 6.67, placing Worcestershire in the top quartile of the national performance range.

The binary measure at 31.2% is also better than the national rate 40.6%. The range of rates nationally being from 20.2% to 63.3% which means that Worcestershire sits within the second to top quartile of the national performance range. The binary rate in Worcestershire has returned to the same level as in 2013/14 following a rise to 33.3% in 14/15.