

**Brighton & Hove Youth Justice Strategy
2014/15 to 2015/16**

1. INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory responsibility on local authorities acting with statutory partner agencies to establish a Youth Offending Team (YOT). The statutory function of the YOT is to co-ordinate the provision of youth justice services. The Act also sets out responsibilities in relation to the production of a Youth Justice Plan setting out how youth justice services are to be provided, how the YOT will operate and which functions it will carry out.

The Brighton & Hove Youth Justice Strategy will cover a two year period from 2014/15 to 2015/16 and will be refreshed annually to reflect any changes to the national and local youth justice landscape. The work of the YOS in Brighton & Hove is governed by the Brighton & Hove Youth Justice Strategic Management Board which comprises of the statutory partners: Sussex Police, Probation, Children's Services National Health Service and the Courts as well as the Voluntary Sector.

Brighton & Hove YOS works with Pan Sussex YOS providers to ensure that we provide a joined up YOS service across Sussex for those young people who may cross boundaries and also to develop better joint working with Pan Sussex partners. This has for example enabled work with Functional Family Therapy Team and the YMCA Reaching Your Potential projects to be developed across the whole area. The three Sussex YOS also work together with the Police and Crime Commissioner to address issues that affect young people and youth offending and are joint partners on the Sussex Criminal Justice Board, currently represented by East Sussex YOS

2. PURPOSE, PRIORITIES and VALUES

Purpose, Priorities and Values

The Youth Justice Plan overseen by the Brighton & Hove Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board will focus on three primary aims: to prevent and reduce offending, reduce the use of custody and improve the outcomes for young people by working proactively with them and their families and carers.

The Youth Justice Strategy incorporates the purpose and ambition of the city council's Corporate Plan which places great importance on the relationship between the council and the communities it serves and aims to:

- Tackle inequality
- Creating a more sustainable city
- Engage people who live and work in the city
- Modernising the council

With support from all partner agencies YOS staff are expected to achieve their personal best for our young people, families, communities, victims and for the city. In doing this the YOS Partnership will ensure staff have the knowledge and skills to adhere to the council's six values:

- **Respect**
- **Collaboration**
- **Efficiency**
- **Openness**
- **Creativity**
- **Customer Focus**

Brighton & Hove YOS seeks to create a reflective and efficient culture that continuously improves, responds to lessons learned and consistently achieves high performance.

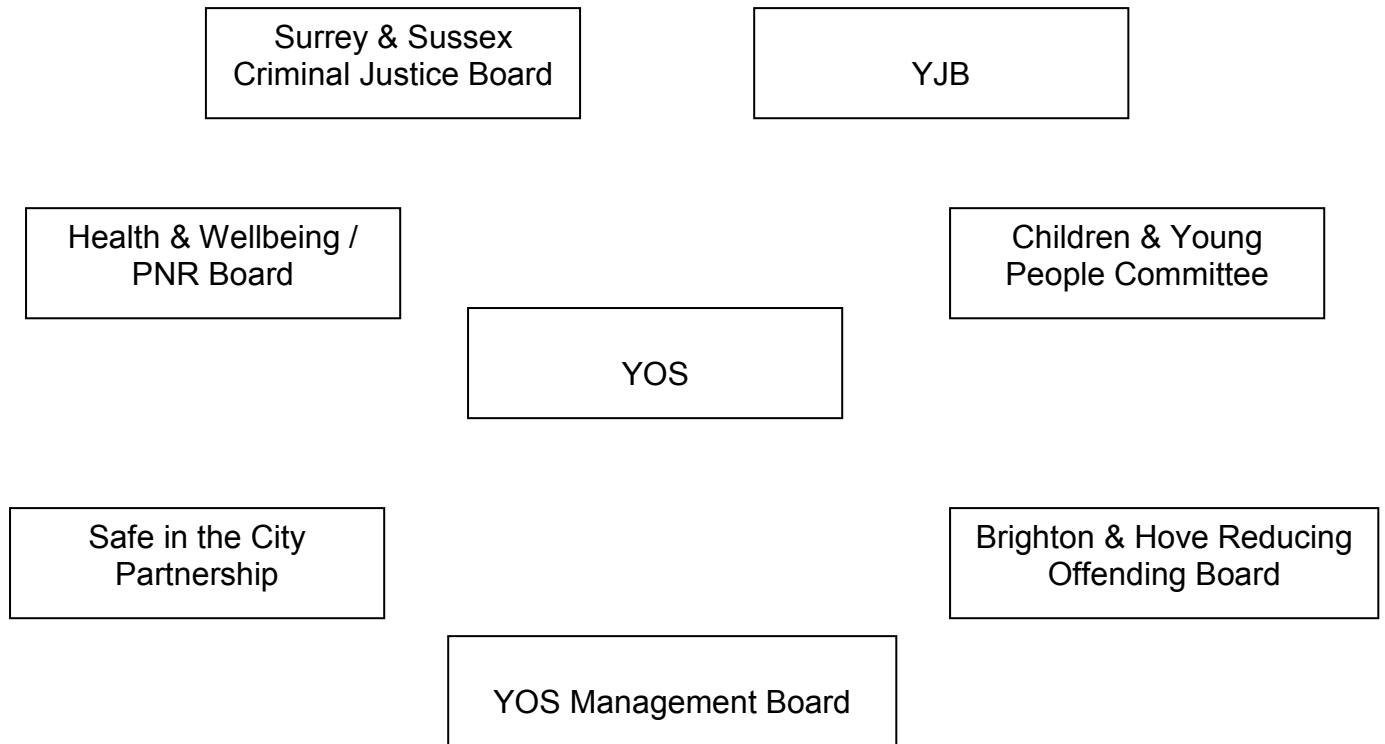
We aim to do this by managing risk and safeguarding all vulnerable young people in the Criminal Justice System or those at risk of entering it, taking into account their gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion or disability.

We will work collaboratively and creatively with young people, their families and carers to stop, or prevent the young person's offending and support them to realise their full potential and achieve positive outcomes for themselves. We will also support victims of youth offending and increase restorative justice measures.

We will build on our partnership working in collaboration with the Safe and the City Partnership Board to ensure that the Youth Justice Plan feeds into, works alongside and incorporates the wider strategic plans for the city, including the Safe in The City Strategy, Children's Strategy and the Public Health Business Plan.

3. STRUCTURES and GOVERNANCE

Structures and Governance



The YOS sits with the Stronger Families, Stronger Communities branch in the Children and Family Directorate within the city council. The YOS services manager is accountable to the Director of Children’s Services through the Assistant Director of SFSC who monitors the YOS operationally through regular supervision.

YOS Management Board

Governance of the YOS is provided by the YOS Strategic Management Board. It oversees the local delivery of responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for the Youth Offending Service. Chaired by the Director of Children’s Services, the Board is responsible for the governance of the Service and monitors and challenges the functions and performance of the YOS and the wider partnership. The Board reports to the City Council’s Children and Young People’s committee, to the Safe in the City Partnership, the Reducing Reoffending Board and the Youth Justice Board. The YOS is represented at strategic level on the Brighton & Hove Safe in the City Partnership. The YOS Board will also report to and seek governance from the Sussex Criminal Justice Board as appropriate.

The YOS Strategic Management Board meets quarterly and is made up of the members of the Community Safety Partnership who have statutory responsibility for YOS funding and other agencies, such as Courts and Voluntary sector. The board is made up of members who are senior representatives of their organisations and are able to make a significant contribution to the prevention and reduction of youth crime, with enough seniority and authority to be able to commit resources to the YOS and wider youth crime agenda.

The YOS Strategic Management Board scrutinise YOS performance and develop actions for improvement where necessary. Its purpose is also to provide clarity for partners about the scope of their role in governing the YOS and to maintain a good understanding of the range and quality of youth justice services delivered in Brighton & Hove. Staffing and resource issues are reviewed and the Board assists in setting the strategic direction of the YOS.

The YOS Management Board takes an active role in ensuring that young offenders and those at risk of entering the youth justice system have access to universal and specialist services within Brighton & Hove and that partner agencies recognise and maintain responsibility for contributing to the reduction of offending by children and young people.

What the Board does to ensure effective governance

- Supports the YOS in achieving its principal aims of reducing the number of first time entrants, reducing reoffending and reducing the use of custody.
- Ensures the effective delivery of youth justice services via monitoring of the implementation of the annual youth justice strategic plan.
- Monitors YOS performance against the National Indicators by scrutinising comprehensive quarterly performance reports and monitoring the progress of the actions for improvement where needed.
- Scrutinises the YOS annual spending to ensure that all core YOS services are delivered within the allocated budget.
- Ensures that the YOS is fully integrated into and able to influence strategic developments with which the partners are engaged.
- Reviews YOS delivery through case studies and thematic reviews

All key partners are represented on the Management Board and where appropriate the Board will extend its membership to other partners to ensure the progression of a specific development issue.

Membership

Name	Role and Agency
Pinaki Ghoshal	Director of Children Services, BHCC
Steve Barton	Assistant Director of Children Services, BHCC
Deb Austin	Head of Safeguarding, BHCC
Helen West	Inspector, Sussex Police
Peter Castleton	Community Safety Manager BHCC
Linda Beanlands	Commissioner, Community Safety, BHCC
Leighe Rogers	Acting Chief Executive Surrey & Sussex Probation (LDU Director Brighton & Hove and East Sussex, SSPT)
Claire Malarkey	Justice Clerk, Surrey and Sussex. HMCTS
David Standing	Chief Executive, YMCA
Kerry Clarke	Strategic Commissioner, Public Health, BHCC
Angela Smithers	Head of Housing, BHCC
	Youth bench member
Andrea Saunders	Director of Public Protection, National Probation Service
Katy Bourne	PCC

4. RESOURCING and VALUE for MONEY

Resourcing and Value for Money

Budgets

The YOS is funded through contributions from the statutory partner agencies in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. These are the Local Authority (including Education), the Probation Service, the National Health Service and the Police Service. The table below shows the amount of funding from each of the partner agencies for the year 2014 – 2015. The YOS also receives a Youth Justice Effective Practice Grant from the Ministry of Justice and a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner which has incorporated the monies previously received in the YOS via the Home Office Grant and Positive Futures Grant.

Below is the projected 2014/15 budget

Contributing organisation (2012/13)	Amount (£)	Expected reduction or increase	In Kind
YJB	342,452	Remains the same	Nil
PCC includes positive money future	90,692 (unconfirmed)	unknown	Nil
Police	17,449	Remains the same	1 IOM officer linked to the team 1 PC seconded to the team
Probation	12,000 (unknown)	unknown	1 probation officer
BHCC including DSG funding	950,972	Reduction £50k	0.1 Ed Psych
Health (SLA with SPFT, commissioned as part of CAMHS commissioning)	Nil	Nil	1 CAMHS nurse 0.1 term time psychiatrist Access to CASH nurse
Budget for 2014/15	1,413,565		

Funding contributions from the NHS through staff in kind has been maintained over the last few years, while the funding from the PCC has been maintained at last year's level and it is anticipated that the seconded Police Officer post will be formalised within the team.

The contribution from the Local Authority has been reduced by 5% from April 2014 and efficiency savings have had to be made. In respect of the Youth Justice Grants this year, there are no cuts to the YOS Efficiency Grant however the YJB will be making cuts in the grant related to remand costs. It is not yet known what this will be and is therefore hard to predict how this will affect the wider YOS or children in care services, however there will be an impact on the children in care budget.

With regard to probation the funding contribution is not yet known, however probation will maintain the PO post within the service and this will move to National Probation Service in June 2014.

During the period covered by this Youth Justice Plan, it is likely that all agencies will be looking for opportunities to make further savings due to the scale of the financial challenge ahead, and the YOS will come under increased pressure to demonstrate value for money to ensure continued financial support from partners.

It is vital therefore that over the coming year Brighton & Hove YOS partnership work with the PCC to look at and address the historical anomalies related to the funding of Youth Offending Services across Sussex from the police.

For the last 3 years the YOS in conjunction with Sussex Partnership Trust have received money from the NHS for a Liaison and Diversion pilot scheme. This was to identify those young people who may have mental health, learning difficulties or substance misuse issues who are coming into the criminal justice system and support their diversion out of criminal justice. This year that scheme is being rolled out pan Sussex and the money coming directly to Brighton & Hove will now be transferred to the pan Sussex project. This money has been used to purchase additional educational psychology and CAMHS nurse time into the YOS, it is likely that this additional time will be lost.

A costed plan giving a description of how the YJB Good Practice Grant will be completed in accordance with the requirements of the conditions of grant.

Staffing

In accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the YOS has a full skill set within the workforce which is made up of professionals from a variety of agencies whose skills and experience complement each other.

Staff are recruited into all the posts based upon their experience and expertise and their skills are developed through supervision, appraisal and training.

Regular analysis of need and review of service provision have underpinned staff training and development to ensure that partnership resources are used effectively. This will continue to be a priority and a workforce development plan will be put in place in order to ensure that staff have clear direction and are enabled to further develop the skills needed to respond to new Youth Justice legislation and the changing landscape in regard to regulation and inspection.

To ensure the quality of practice by the workforce and as part of the workforce development plan all staff will be supervised in line with children's service social work supervision policy and PDP's will be undertaken on a yearly basis with a 6 month review cycle. There will also be robust quality assurance framework in place to ensure staff are working in an effective evidence based way.

The YOS has a good range of specialist services 'in house'. Specialist services located within or attached to the YOS team include:

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) specialist nurse, CAMHS consultant, substance misuse worker, sexual health worker, education psychologist, education workers, parenting worker, a restorative justice coordinator, reparation workers and victim worker.

The substance misuse worker while employed by the YOS is linked to ru-ok, the young person's specialist substance misuse service.

The YOS sexual health worker is a post held within the CASH service that provides outreach into the YOS and undertakes physical health as well as sexual health assessments on all young people who access the YOS.

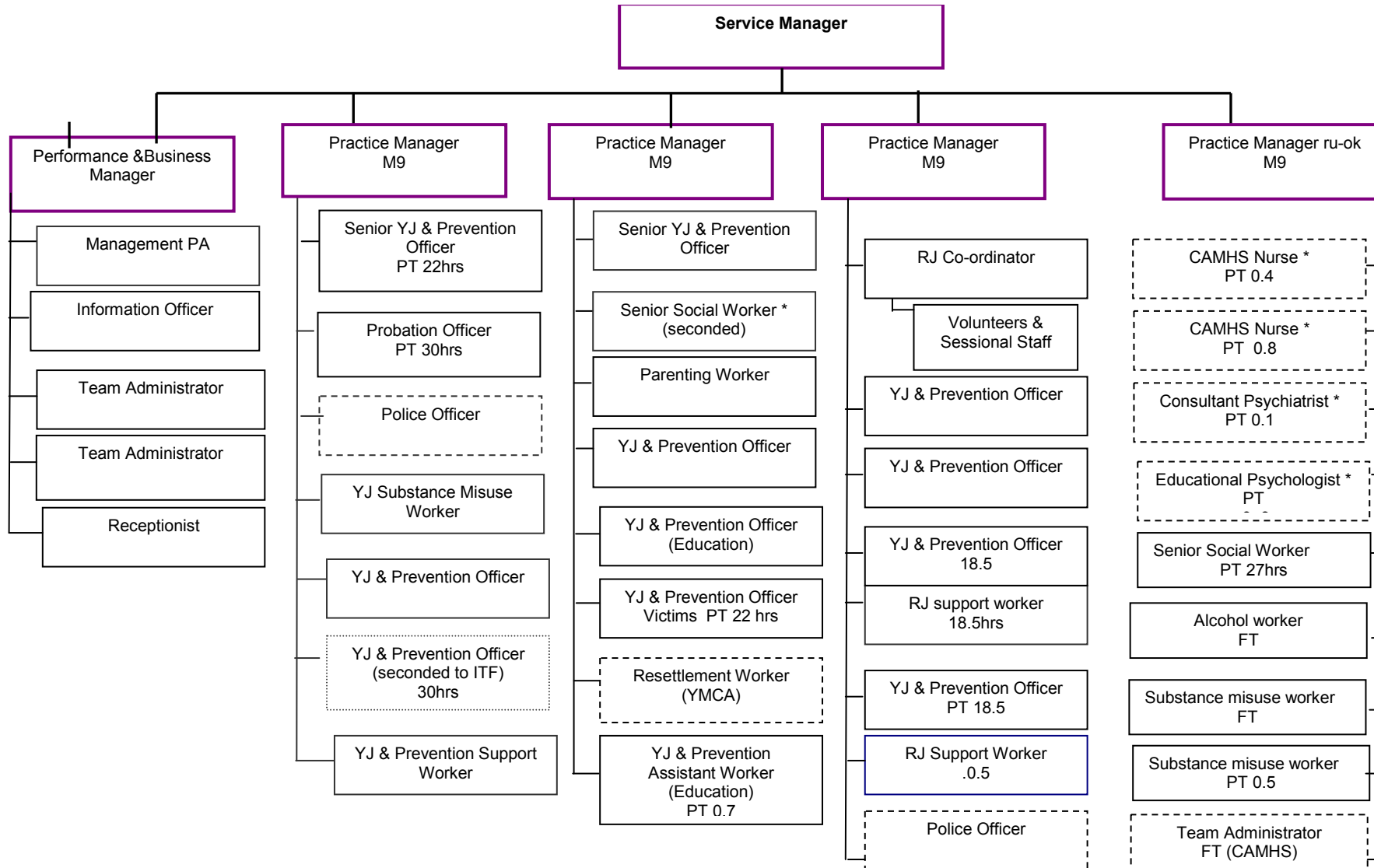
CAMHS provide the full time equivalent of a mental health nurse into the service and a consultant for 1 session (4 hours) per week during term time.

Through the provision of the two education workers, the YOS is now able to support young people into education, employment and training (ETE) as well as work with the behaviour and attendance team to address the education needs of young people working with the YOS.

In order to achieve the 5% cuts in local authority funding a Practice Manager post has been deleted in 2014/15. During 2013/14 a vacant admin worker post and youth crime prevention worker post were deleted to make efficiency savings and a further post was deleted following a voluntary severance agreement made towards the wider council efficiency savings.

Pan Sussex Liaison and Diversion Scheme 2014/15 will offer a service to young people across the whole of Sussex, the details of this have yet to be agreed with health. It is likely there will either be CAMHS Nurse or Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) time available.

Youth Offending Service Staff Structure Chart April 2014



Key Code - - - - - seconded to YOS seconded out of YOS

5. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Partnership arrangements

The Brighton & Hove YOS is a partner on the Surrey & Sussex Criminal Justice Board (SSCJB) and it is through this Board that the Pan Sussex work is monitored and the YOS is represented on the Board and all of the sub groups. The 3 Sussex YOS managers represent each other at all the Pan Sussex meetings, with East Sussex currently the YOS representative on the Surrey & Sussex Justice Board and Brighton & Hove and West Sussex on the subgroups. They have also recently set up meetings with the Surrey part of the Surrey & Sussex Criminal Justice Board. Through the SSCJB the Pan Sussex and SE7 protocols to reduce offending and reoffending of Looked after Children have been developed and rolled out across all partner agencies.

The YOS is a partnership which includes, but also extends beyond, the direct delivery of youth justice services. In order to deliver youth justice outcomes, the YOS must be able to function effectively in both of the two key sectors within which it operates:

- criminal justice services
- services for children and young people

The YOS partnership must ensure a strong strategic fit with both the Children's Services and the Safe in the City Partnership, and through these into the wider local strategic partnerships and strategies.

In order to do this the YOS contributes to a number of the working groups which have been set up to develop and deliver appropriate plans and services to support the priorities for the Brighton & Hove Children and Young People

The YOS is represented on the following multi agency strategic groups with Children's Services

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Partnership
- Parenting Strategy Group
- Participation Strategic Group
- Youth Early Intervention Group
- Functional Family Therapy Strategy Group
- RYP Steering group
- SFSC Delivery Board

In relation to the Community Safety Partnership, the YOS is represented on the following multi agency strategy groups:

- Safe in the City Partnership
- Reducing Reoffending Board
- Pan Surrey & Sussex Justice Liaison Diversion Steering group
- Child Sexual Exploitation Operational group
- Integrated Offender Management Strategy group

The YOS is also a statutory partner on the Local Safeguarding Children Board

The YOS during 2013/14 developed protocols with Children's Social Care, to reduce the offending of children known to them and to define roles and responsibilities in regard to the management of cases where both services are involved with the young person / family. During 2014/15 work will be undertaken between the YOS and Children's Social Care teams to ensure all staff are aware of the protocols and joint working is developed between the services.

Wider partnership agreements

The YOS has developed a number of wider partnership arrangements with the community and voluntary sector and across the statutory sector not just in Brighton & Hove but with East and West Sussex.

In conjunction with East and West Sussex YOS, Brighton & Hove have joined together with the YMCA to develop a resettlement project, Reaching Your Potential (RYP), supporting young people in custody and upon their return to community. This project is funded by the Big Lottery. It recognises that young people who receive custodial sentences are more likely to be at risk of reoffending upon their release in the community. The aim of the project is to not just support their rehabilitation back into the community during the period of their licence but to offer ongoing longer term support.

Brighton & Hove along with East and West Sussex have also worked in collaboration with Functional Family Therapy team (FFT) to provide FFT to those at risk of receiving custodial sentences or entering care as a result of their offending.

With the court provision significantly reducing across Sussex and the role out of one Saturday court for the whole of Sussex, again along with East and West Sussex YOS Brighton & Hove have collaborated to pool resources and now share the management and staffing for the Saturday court between the 3 services. This has reduced the number of staff required from each area needed to work on Saturdays.

For the last 3 years Brighton & Hove with Audio Active have received funding for a Youth Music mentoring project. This has seen 86 young people go through the project and 10 went on to train as music leaders and have gone onto paid employment as music mentors. The YOS and Audio Active have just had confirmed a bid to Youth Music Programme for a continuation of the project until May 2016. Audio Active and the YOS also have a funding from Artsmark to develop a creative Restorative Justice programme.

YOS has also worked in the past with Brighton Dome and Miss Represented and it is hoped through the Artsmark funding to undertake further projects in 2014/15.

Local Strategic Plans

The strategic plans which most closely relate to the strategic priorities of the YOS are the Corporate Plan, the Safe in the City Strategy and the Substance Misuse Strategy.

The role of the YOS partnership is to ensure that local partnerships and strategies give sufficient priority to the needs of children and young people at all stages of their involvement, (or potential for involvement) in the youth justice system.

Surrey & Sussex Justice Board

Brighton & Hove YOS is a member of the Sussex (and Surrey) Criminal Justice Board (SSCJB), along with the East and West Youth Offending Services.

Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) are an important element of the Criminal Justice System (CJS). The aim is to join up local criminal justice agencies, across an area, and create a system where they work together to achieve common aims and objectives. The Surrey & Sussex Justice Board are working together to link up across the wider area and making significant progress in achieving both nationally and locally set targets. The aim is to deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive Criminal Justice System for victims and the public.

The Surrey & Sussex Criminal Justice Board are fully signed-up to delivering improvements for victims and witnesses, suspects and offenders, and the general public of Surrey & Sussex through investments in modern technology and better ways of working.

Following significant groundwork by partners during the period leading up to April 2014 it is the intention of the Surrey and Sussex Criminal Justice Board to deliver the following by April 2015:

- Identify priority areas of work through an annual Delivery Plan
- Identify areas of risk where a multi-agency response is necessary
- Identify performance measures necessary to monitor progress

- Commit appropriate resources in support of partnership work-streams
- Agree a delivery model aligned to the Delivery Plan
- Agree a communications and information sharing protocol
- Respond to consultation requests where resources allow
- Provide a well-equipped Support Team to support delivery
- Provide reports from meetings with decisions taken
- Provide access to approved non-confidential documents on a public facing website

Representation on the SSCJB for YOS is undertaken currently by the three Heads of East Sussex Youth Offending Service on a rotation basis. There are a number of working groups set up to develop and deliver the SCJ Board's priorities. These are made up of representatives of the Criminal Justice Agencies within Sussex and YOS representation on these working groups is shared amongst the Sussex YOS Managers. Currently Brighton & Hove is a member of the Efficiency Board, the Video Task and Finish group and the RJ task and finish group. The role of the efficiency board group is to review IT systems across the criminal justice system and address where efficiency can be made through the linking up of IT systems and the use of video conferencing.

6. RISK TO FUTURE DELIVERY

Risk to Future Delivery

The greatest risk to future delivery, post 2014, is the financial uncertainty faced within the public sector. The statutory members of the YOS partnership, including the Local Authority, are all experiencing pressures within their own agencies and this will inevitably affect the degree to which they are able to contribute financially and 'in kind' to the YOS.

During 2014/15 we will also see the transfer of Unpaid Work requirement from Probation into the YOS and await guidance and confirmation on funding around this, and the transition of Junior Attendance Centres to the YJB with a view that in 2015 the Attendance centres will transfer to local YOS teams. At present there has been neither guidance on the transfers nor agreement on funding, either locally or nationally. It is important that we work with the YJB to address these issues at both a local and national level.

The current plan for delivery of youth justice statutory services can be delivered in 2014/15 within the resources available. However, it is difficult, at this point in time to predict future delivery for the following year covered by this Strategic Plan. The future budget position affecting the statutory partners is uncertain and further cuts are forecast. It is known that the Children's Services will have to find approximately £5million each year for the next four years, what this will mean to the delivery of the YOS service is unknown.

From 2014, the YOS staff compliment will reduce by one FTE practice manager and this work will have to be covered by the remaining management team. The YOS restructure in 2013/14 has enabled the YOS to use staff resources creatively, by mixing roles and responsibilities of statutory, preventative and part time staff in order to meet the needs of the client group and service priorities. While the YOS Partnership has ensured that flexibility and a range of skills are contained within the workforce there has over the last 3 years been a gradual reduction of staff and posts and in the future the YOS partnership will have to review what it delivers as resources become more constrained.

As a result of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) which came into force in 2012/13, remand budgets previously funded from central government became the responsibility of Local Authorities in 2013/14. While funding in 2013/14 was provided by the Youth Justice Board for this initial year it appears this funding will be significantly reduced in 2014/15. This will have significant impact on the Out of Area LAC budget and it remains unclear what impact it may have on the YOS. It is also difficult to both predict the number of remands and determine the placement, as placement decisions are made by the YJB placement team, therefore making it hard to forecast any possible overspend.

Following the appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) for each of the Country's police force areas, funding to YOS previously supplied by the Home Office was transferred to the PCC. To date the PCC has continued to give the YOS the equivalent level of funding to the Home Office grant, however future funding arrangements are not known.

In addition to the financial risk there are significant changes happening with the Criminal Justice arena with Transforming Rehabilitation and the resulting changes not only to the delivery of probation services but also the delivery of unpaid work to under 18's and to Junior Attendance Centres. We will need to ensure during 2014/15 that as the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company develops locally that the joint work with the YOS board is maintained and we are able to continue to work to address transitions of those young people into adult services, to ensure they receive a safe and appropriate service which address their needs as offenders but also as young people.

We also need to ensure that when the delivery of unpaid work is moved from probation into the YOS there are good plans in place that both enable the work to continue in a safe way, for the offender and community, that resources are transferred and in place and there is a good understanding of any new guidance and protocol on delivering this service within the YOS, as well as transition plans of young people into probation. Equally we need to be addressing in 2014/15 the impact of Attendance Centres being moved to YOS in 2015/16 and in particular the fact that Brighton & Hove attendance Centre is a Pan Sussex resource.

During 2014/15 the YOS with Social Care will undertake a joint audit of a case to explore how the YOS works with young women and whether the wider service is able to think about needs of young women and their vulnerabilities. This will then be looked at in light of findings (yet to be published) from the thematic inspection on young women in the criminal justice system and a development plan will be put in place to address the needs of young women. This will take place alongside the Children's Service review of services to vulnerable adolescents.

7. KEY PRIORITIES

Key Priorities

Throughout all of the priorities there will be some cross cutting themes that the management board will monitor. These will be:

- Quality of practice monitored through the workforce development plan
- Service user perspective and participation, monitored through service user feedback and the development of a service user forum in line with the wider children service participation strategy which is being developed
- Equality and Diversity which will be through the Equality Impact Assessment on the Strategic plan
- Pan Sussex work through the Sussex Criminal Justice Board.

In order to ensure that the priorities are being met across all agencies there will be annual analytical review of the causes and patterns of crime and disorder in the city. Key findings from the analysis will inform both the YOS strategic review and plan but also partners business plans. It will include a review of offence types and characteristics of offenders.

The key priorities for 2014/15-2015/16 are:

1. Preventing youth crime and reducing offending
2. Reducing Reoffending
3. Keeping the number of children and young people in custody to a minimum
4. To effectively manage risk of harm for victims and harm caused by perpetrators
5. To reduce the number of looked after children within the criminal justice system and support those within the system away from offending behaviours

Priority 1:

Preventing Youth Crime and Reducing Offending

Why is this a priority?

Intervening earlier to address risk factors, challenge anti-social behaviour and improve parenting prevents children, young people and their families from becoming socially excluded within their communities and therefore less likely to offend or reoffend in the future.

What is our aim?

Building on our success in the reduction of the number of First Time Entrants (FTE's) into the Youth Justice System and recognising that the numbers have now stabilised.

We aim to reduce the number of FTE's to 70

To prevent those receiving early Out of Court Disposals from progressing further into the Criminal Justice System

To increase the number of appropriate and timely referrals into the YOS Prevention Service by Police Neighbourhood Teams, the Schools Police Officer and Children's Social Care Teams

To ensure the YOS partnership is embedding in the development of the Youth Early Help Hub and MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)

How will we measure success?

Referral rates into prevention services (Early Help Services) alongside the number of FTE's will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the YOS Performance Management Board.

The YOS will also report to the management board:

- Number of young people successfully completing a prevention intervention programme
- Number of young people whose risk of reoffending have been reduced after completing an intervention programme
- Number of young people completing a prevention programme who have not been charged within 6 months of completion

What we will achieve.

- Maintain a low level of first time entrants into the Youth Justice System whilst ensuring that those who do not respond to prevention programmes are escalated appropriately
- Closer working between and including ITF (Integrated Team for Families), PCST (Partnership Community Safety team), social care and the police to achieve a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour with the children and young people from families who meet the ITF criteria
- Implement the 2014/15 YOS Action Plan and embed crime prevention in the Youth Early Help hub

How will we do this?

- Continue partnership working with Youth, ru-ok, YES (Youth Employability Service) and ITF. YOS to deliver the youth early help pathways and work with partners on the development and implementation of the Youth Early Help hub
- Continue to raise awareness of the Prevention Service to the Police Neighbourhood Teams, the Schools Police Officer and Children's Social Care Teams
- All parents/carers whose children are referred into the YOS Prevention Service will be offered an individual or group parenting intervention.
- Regular Meetings will take place between partners and the YOS to discuss current cases/vulnerable young people, children in care and identify those at risk of offending to offer early interventions and diversion away from the criminal justice system
- Work in partnership with Sussex Police in relation to joint decision making for first time entrants into the Youth Justice System

Priority 2:

Reducing Reoffending

Why is this a priority?

Reducing reoffending by children and young people can significantly improve their life chances as well as having a wider impact on local communities. By breaking the cycle of reoffending means that our local community will be safer and there will be fewer victims of crime.

Reducing reoffending by Children in Care (CIC) is particularly important as this group of children and young people are already disadvantaged by their earlier life experiences and their offending can be the result of poor coping skills, rather than criminal intent. Nationally CIC and care leavers are over represented in the Criminal Justice System and all agencies need to work together to ensure that this over representation is not reflected locally.

It is recognised that within Brighton & Hove over the last few years while the cohort of offenders has reduced, from 350 in 2010-11 to 212 in 2011-12 and the number of offences committed has reduced, from 549 in 2010-11 to 349 in 2011-12 the reduction has not been at the rate of the national average and Brighton & Hove remains above the national average for the frequency rate of reoffending.

What is our aim?

It is a small proportion of young people who do reoffend, 91 in 2011-12, compared to 135 in 2010-11 and within this number it is a small cohort who commit a significant number of offences. We aim to address reoffending with our partner agencies, targeting those high risk young people and ensure there are robust joined up plans in place, which will lead to a reduction in offending behaviour and enhance public protection.

We aim to reduce the number of young people reoffending in 2014/15.

How will we measure success?

Data will be provided quarterly to the YOS Performance Management Board on the reoffending rate.

The YOS will also provide:

- Proportion of statutory interventions completed successfully (without reoffending or breach)

- Proportion of young people whose risk of reoffending (Asset score) has reduced on completion of a YOS intervention

What will we aim to achieve this coming year.

- Prevent those receiving early out of court disposals from reoffending and progressing through the Youth Justice System
- Reduce the rate of reoffending of the local cohort of young offenders and ensure that Brighton & Hove performance compares favourably with the overall performance of the South East region
- Reduce the reoffending rate amongst Brighton & Hove Children in Care
- Increase the use of Restorative Justice amongst partner agencies and placement providers working with Children in Care to enable alternatives to prosecution to be considered
- Ensure continuation of support from partner agencies following completion of Court Ordered interventions by YOS so that the risk of reoffending is reduced

How will we do this?

- We will offer voluntary intervention to young people and families when a child or young person has received an Out of Court Disposal
- Through YOS Quality Assurance processes and partnership working we will ensure that intervention plans to prevent reoffending are robust, prioritised and targeted at the risk factors closely linked to the likelihood of reoffending and risk of harm to others
- Ensure that on case closure the exit strategy provides appropriate support from partner agencies, including education, for the child or young person and their family to prevent them reoffending
- Monitor and review intervention plans for Children in Care who offend with social care teams and education services
- Roll out joint working protocol with social care and education services to ensure there is robust joined up work at both a prevention level and for those within the criminal justice system
- Develop a young woman pathway to ensure those who do enter the criminal justice system are not marginalised and have their needs met while also appropriately addressing their offending behaviours.

Priority 3:

Keeping the number of children and young people in custody to a minimum

Why is this a priority?

We know that Custody has a detrimental impact on the lives of children and young people and their families and resettlement into the community is difficult.

Reoffending statistics show that short custodial sentences that are received for persistent reoffending or noncompliance are not effective in reducing further offending on release. It is a priority for YOS to encourage the courts to use community sentences in place of custody for all but the most serious cases

Legislative changes, through the introduction of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, have increased the cost of remand to Youth Detention Accommodation to the Local Authority in terms of financial and staff resources.

What is our aim?

Ensure that only those who commit the most serious offences or present a risk to the local community are remanded or receive a custodial sentence

Maintain the confidence of partner agencies and the general public by providing robust interventions in the community as an alternative to Custody

Ensure that children and young people leaving custody receive effective support and supervision as they transfer from the secure estate and resettle into the community to prevent them returning to custody for failure to comply with Licence condition.

We aim to keep the numbers entering custody below 14.

How will we measure success?

Data will be supplied to the YOS Performance Management Board on the numbers of young people remanded or sentenced to Custody on a quarterly basis

The YOS will also provide

- Number of young people sentenced to custody
- Number of remand episodes and number of young people

What will we aim to achieve this coming year

- Ensure that only those young people who have committed the most serious offences or are a present risk to the public receive a custodial sentence or remanded to custody
- Provide robust alternative to Custody or Remand packages, providing these with partner agencies and in conjunction with social care.

How will we do this?

- Provide the Courts with robust bail supervision packages, which include support from partner agencies, to reduce the risk of remand into Youth Detention Accommodation
- YOS Service Manager will work with the Her Majesties Court Services to improve the process for youth cases going through the courts, in order to avoid long periods of remand
- YOS, social care and education will develop robust joint working processes to identify at an earlier point those who may be at risk of remand and ensure support packages are in place, particularly around education and accommodation issues.
- For those young people who are in Custody, YOS will begin planning for a young person's release from Custody (remand or sentence) at the earliest opportunity and work with Reaching Your Potential to ensure there is additional support in place upon leaving custody.
- Develop custody panels that review all custody cases and lessons learnt taken forward. The panels will also review the custody plans and exit plans and ensure ROTL (Release on Temporary Licence) are considered for all young people.

Priority 4:

Managing risk of harm for victims and perpetrators

Why is this a priority?

Effective Risk Management protects the public from harm and reduces the impact of offending in the local community

What is our aim?

Our aim is to robustly supervise children and young people who pose a risk of harm to others towards the successful completion of their Court Order or Individual Support Plan and achieve a reduction in the risk they pose by case closure

How will we measure success?

- The YOS partnership will closely monitor relevant cases through the Multi Agency Risk Management Meeting and put in place actions to reduce risk of harm
- We will monitor the number of young people who are subject to MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements)-and work towards the reduced MAPPA level

The YOS will also provide:

- Proportion of young people whose risk of harm (Risk of Serious Harm ROSH score) has reduced on completion of a YOS intervention

What will we aim to achieve this coming year

- Convene monthly Management of Risk Meetings (MRMP), chaired by a YOS Practice Manager or Police Sergeant to facilitate defensible decision making and share accountability
- We will aim to have no Public Protection incidents meeting the criteria for reporting to the Youth Justice Board
- Development of a new Integrated Offender Management (IOM) policy and joint working pathway.

How will we do this?

- Cases will be Quality Assured by Managers and discussed at 4 weekly Staff Supervision meetings and Risk Focus meetings
- Multi Agency Risk Management Plan (MRMP) meetings will identify IOM with the police and ensure IOM plan is in place.
- Relevant cases will be referred to MAPPA and YOS will attend all meetings
- Intelligence will be shared with Police and at MAPPA /IOM meetings
- To work with Safe in the City partnership to develop and roll out the Pan Sussex and Brighton & Hove IOM (Integrated Offender Management) strategy and ensure multi agency focus on IOM young people.

Priority 5:

Reducing the number of children in care within the criminal justice system and support those within the system away from offending behaviours

Why is this a priority?

Children in Care continue to be significantly over represented in the youth justice system relative to their non-looked after peers who are 2 to 3 times less likely to offend. Furthermore, unacceptably high numbers of CIC are in the prison system. A survey (**Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds** Results from the Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR) longitudinal cohort study of prisoners Ministry of Justice February 2012) published in March 2012 looking at the past and present family circumstances of 1,435 newly sentenced (2005 and 2006) prisoners reported that 24% stated that they had been in care at some point during their childhood. Those who had been in care were younger when they were first arrested, and were more likely to be reconvicted in the year after release from custody than those who had never been in care.

What is our aim?

- To reduce the number of young people in care entering the criminal justice system
- To reduce the number of young people in care becoming persistent offenders
- To ensure that all those young people who are looked after and enter into the adult criminal justice system, either through transition or reoffending are fully supported and an understanding of the looked after status and support needed is considered within their plan by probation and CRC's (Community Rehabilitation Companies).

How will we measure success?

Data on the number of children in care in the CJ system in Brighton & Hove will be provided to the YOS management board on a quarterly basis

The YOS will provide

- Number of looked after young people on the caseload on the last day of each quarter (excluding remand LAC status)

- Proportion of First Time Entrants to the criminal justice system who are Looked After.

Through social care the partnership will also monitor the level of offending for those placed out of area.

What will we aim to achieve this coming year

- Reduction in the number of CIC who are entering the criminal justice system
- Reduction in CIC who go on to be repeat offenders
- Reduction in number of CIC whose outcome results in a period of remand.

How will we do this?

- Roll out of joint working protocol with social care teams
- Training provided to social care teams and IRO's on LASPO and criminal justice system
- Training provided to the police on CIC
- Roll out with criminal justice partners the SE7 and Pan Sussex protocols.
- Develop better working between the 16+ team and CRC's/probation for the care leavers.

Appendix

Current Performance

Preventing youth crime and reducing offending

Referrals to YOS Prevention

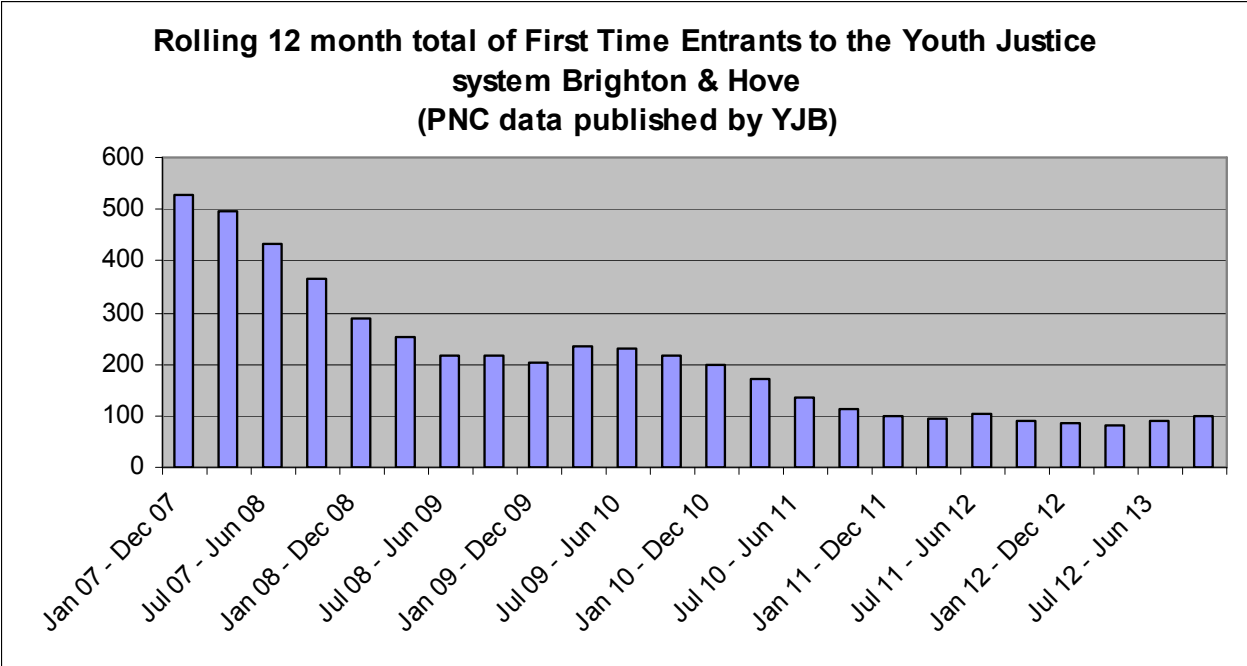
In September 2013, the Youth Early Help Pathway (YEHP) was launched by Brighton & Hove City Council. This has enabled referrals to Youth, YES, ITF, YOS prevention to be looked at as a multi-agency referral and the partner most appropriate to address the need of the young person and family.

From September 2013 to January 2014 there were 180 YEHP referrals with 30 of these being allocated to YOS prevention.

Between May 2013 and March 2014, 76 young people were referred to YOS Prevention by Sussex Police. These young people were offered a restorative intervention in order to avoid a criminal conviction.

First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system

The number of young people entering the youth justice system is low in Brighton & Hove and has reduced significantly from a high of 609 FTEs in 2006/7 to 100 for the period October 2012 to September 2013. Since January 2011 the number of FTEs has evened off to between 85 and 100 FTEs per 12 month period.



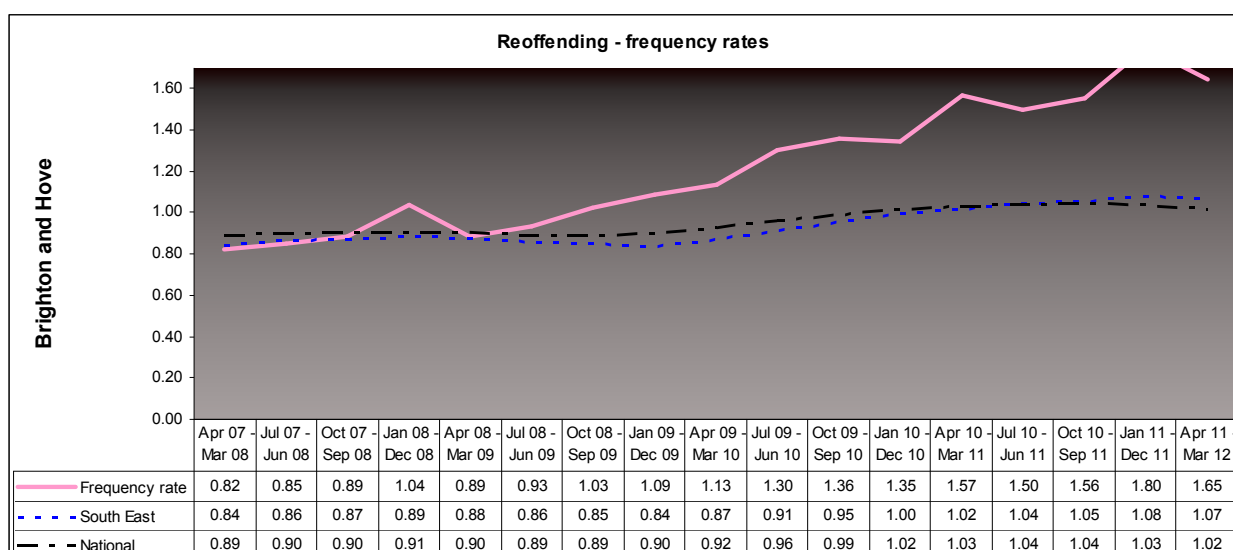
Comparative data is available as a rate of FTEs per 100,000 young people population. For the most recent available 12 month period, October 2012 to September 2013, Brighton & Hove had 471 FTEs per 100,000 young people population (actual number of FTEs is 100). This figure is slightly higher than the National rate for England of 460 FTEs per 100,000 population. It is anticipated that numbers have fallen following the introduction of Youth Early Help pathway and police triage process in September 2013.

Reducing Reoffending

Most recent reoffending data published by the Youth Justice Board is for a cohort of young people who offended between April 2011 and March 2012. During this period there were 212 young people in the cohort (compared to 350 for the same period the previous year).

The graph below shows the reoffending rate (average number of offences per offender in the cohort) for Brighton & Hove is almost double that of the South East and National average.

The April 2011 to March 2012 Brighton & Hove cohort committed 349 offences, compared to 549 for the same period the previous year. These figures indicate that whilst the cohort and number of offences are reducing, the rate is rising.



Graph produced by the YJB and published on YJMIS

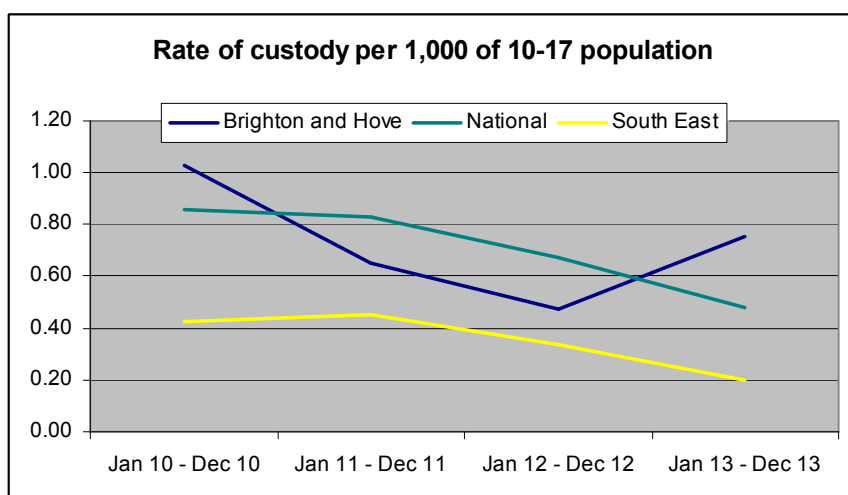
42% (91) of young people in the cohort reoffended within the following 12 month period. This compares to 38.57% (135) of young people reoffending in the same period the previous year. The number of young people reoffending in Brighton & Hove has reduced but when expressed as a percentage this figures is increasing. Comparative data also shows a rise nationally in the percentage reoffending but at a lower rate than seen locally, with the South East figure of 35.16% and National of 35.39%.

Keeping the number of children and young people in custody to a minimum

Most recently published YBJ data shows that there were 16 sentences to custody in January to December 2013, annual comparisons are shown in the table below.

Number of custodial sentences in Brighton & Hove by calendar year			
Jan 10 - Dec 10	Jan 11 - Dec 11	Jan 12 - Dec 12	Jan 13 - Dec 13
22	14	10	16

Comparative data is shown on the graph below as a rate of custodial sentences per 1,000 young people population. The rate for Brighton & Hove has been reducing but has increased for the most recent period and is slightly higher than the National and South East figure.



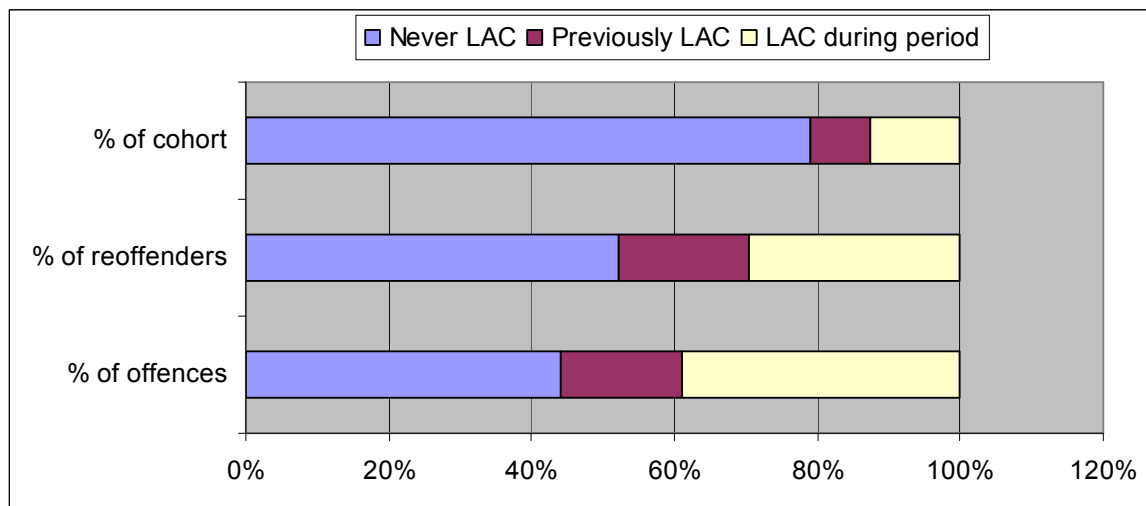
Local data from January 2012 to December 2013 shows that 2 out of 29 custodial were Section 90/91 with one for 4 years and one for 6 years. The DTO sentences averaged a term of 10 months. The average age of those receiving a custodial sentence was 16 years.

Most recently published YJB data shows there were 206 remand bed-nights in 2012/13 compared to 351 in 2011/12. The placement type is detailed below alongside the estimated costs based on most recent YJB figures.

	2012/13 Remand bednights			
	Secure Children's Home	Secure Training Centre	Young Offenders Institution	
Number of bednights	21	112	73	
Cost per night	£575	£759	£164	Total
Estimated cost	£12,075	£85,008	£11,972	£109,055

Reducing the number of looked after children within the criminal justice system and support those within the system away from offending behaviours

Local analysis of reoffending data (2011) found that Looked after Children (LAC) make up a higher proportion of young people who offend when compared to young people who had never been looked after. They also committed a higher proportion of offences and were more likely to reoffend.



Graph showing reoffending data for 2011 cohort (119 young people)

A Snap Shot Characteristics of cases as of 17th January 2014

As can be seen below, as young people progress into the criminal justice system and commit either further offending or more serious offences that require a higher tariff outcome those young people are known to a significantly higher proportion of services and have higher needs in terms of their own vulnerabilities and care needs.

Characteristics: Referral Orders

	Number (of 33 in total)	%
% SEN	3	9.1
% LAC	8	24.2
% NEET (from Aspire)	4 (28 records found on Aspire)	14.3
% social care involvement	17	51.5

Characteristics: YRO

	Number (of 34 in total)	%
% SEN	5	14.7
% LAC	8	23.5
% NEET (from Aspire)	10	29.4
% social care involvement	26	76.5

Characteristics: DTO/DTO Licence/Sec 90/91

	Number (of 9 in total)	%
% SEN	4	44.4
% LAC	6	66.7
% NEET (from Aspire)	4	44.4
% social care involvement	9	100.0

MANAGEMENT BOARD SIGNATURES

NAME	ROLE	SIGNATURE
------	------	-----------

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.