

The Youth Criminal Justice System

Health & Wellbeing Board - June 2021

H&F Youth Offending Service

- Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Offending Service focus on getting the best possible outcomes for young people who offend by working with our partners to **support young people through the justice system**, reintegrating into their local communities and reducing their risk of reoffending.
- The YOS work with the council's **early help and intervention services** to prevent escalation and divert our young people away from statutory services, **including social care and the youth justice system**.
- Outside of Children's Services, we pride ourselves on our strong working relationships with **Community Safety** which includes our **Gangs Unit** and the anti-social behaviour unit.



The Team

Head of YOS

Court and Community Team

- Court sentences
- ISS court orders
- Bail
- Statutory cases
- Resettlement

Out of Court Disposal Team

- Pre-court and non-statutory work
- Diversion from CJS
- FTEs
- Reparations
- Victim work
- O OCD Panel

Community Team

- Supervises community orders
- Holds some cases where YP in custody

Wellbeing Team*

- SaL Therapist
- Education Psychologist
- YJ Liaison and Diversion worker
- CAMHs worker
- Substance Misuse worker

* seconded/commissioned/shared resource

Health and Wellbeing Services within the YOS

YOS Wellbeing and Risk Panel (YWRP)

This panel is used as a space to discuss MAPPA Level One cases in the interest of keeping the public safe, alongside cases where the young person is at risk of harm.

YOS Wellbeing Team

Our team of specialist workers ensure all young people's needs are identified and met to ensure the best outcomes and reduce the risk of reoffending. Every young person is assessed by our specialist team upon entering the service with regular reviews and intervention based specifically on the young person's needs

The Wellbeing Team is made up of health professionals who provide targeted support to cases across the Community, Court and Community, and Out of Court Disposal Teams.

The wellbeing team is a combination of NHSE, Local Authority and Public Health funded posts.

Speech and
Language
Therapist

Youth Justice
Liaison and
Diversion
Worker

Educational
Psychologist

CAMHS Worker

Substance
Misuse Worker

Youth Crime Prevention Partnership

- The Youth Crime Prevention Partnership (YCPP) is our strategic oversight board supporting Children's Services to drive our collaborative response to youth offending with the partnership's members.
- The multi-agency board consists of senior representatives from the police, national probation service, local authority, health and community representatives.
- The YCPP takes a coordinated approach in service delivery to drive improved outcomes for young people who offend, their families, victims of crime and the wider community.
- The impact of the YCPP has led to the creation of a sub-groups focused on both disproportionality and Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) cohorts to tackle the following challenges:
 - Male Black and Minority Ethnic young people are overrepresented in youth justice system;
 - Our NEET cohort is also overrepresented within the youth justice system. School exclusion is a key factor which impacts young people's engagement in criminality.



Key Facts and Figures*

YOS Cohort

- Current **56** CYP open to YOT both pre and post court disposals. **52** male, **4** female.

First-time Entrants

- Our number of first-time entrants continues to decrease. We are now below the London and national averages with comparative rates of **220 per 100,000**, well below the family average of **278 per 100,000**.

Reoffending

- Our re-offending rate remains high, at **50%** for the 12-month cohort of Jan-Dec 2018. However, live reoffending tracking shows the 2019/20 cohort tracking at **31.9%**, lower than the national (38.4%) and London (41.9%) rate.

Custodial Sentences

- Our rate of custodial sentences is currently below the London (**0.05**) and national (**0.04**) averages. We have worked hard to strengthen practice in this area. There were no custodial sentences between Jan-Mar 2021 and the **quarterly rate per 1,000 of youth population dropped to zero**.

Disproportionality

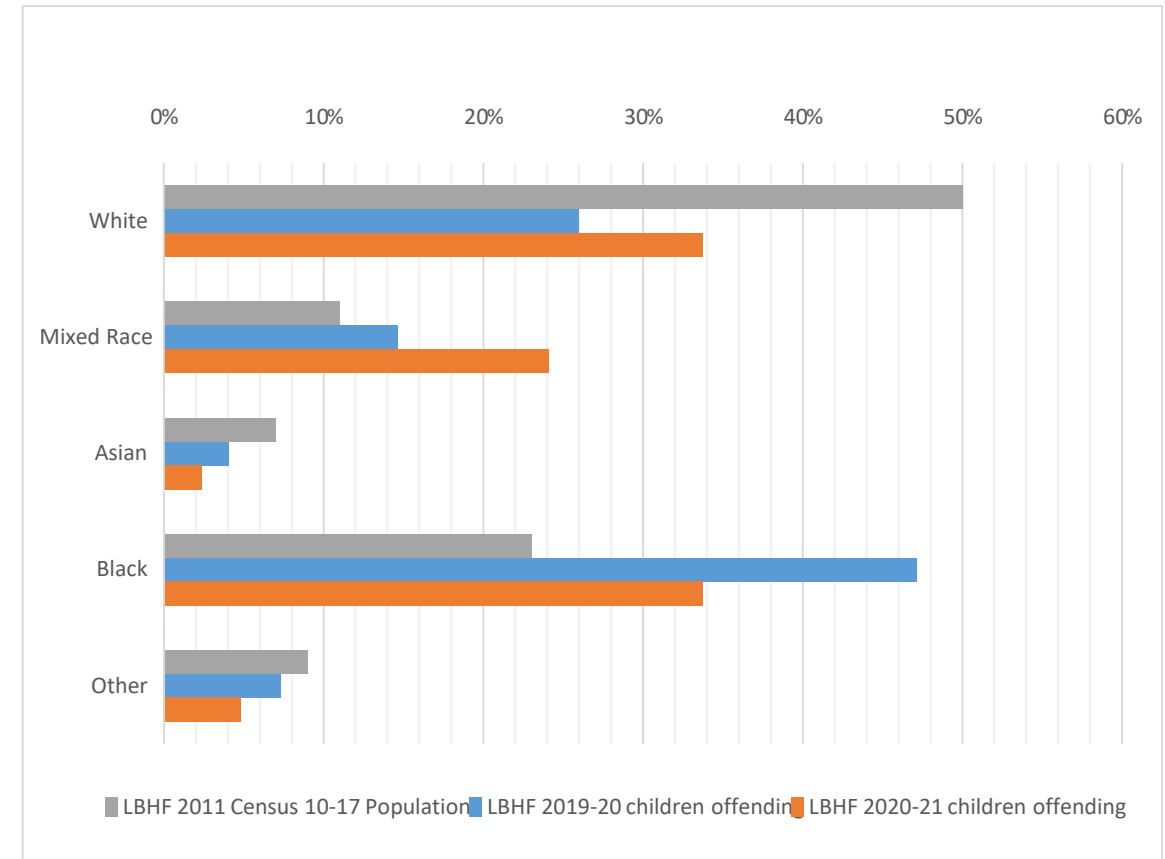
- Our CYP from BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) backgrounds are significantly overrepresented in the youth offending service. BAME represents approximately **32%** of our local population but **60-80%** of our YOS Cohort.

* Cohort data is tracked across a 2-year period with figures published 2-years following entry in to the system. 2019/20 data published May '21

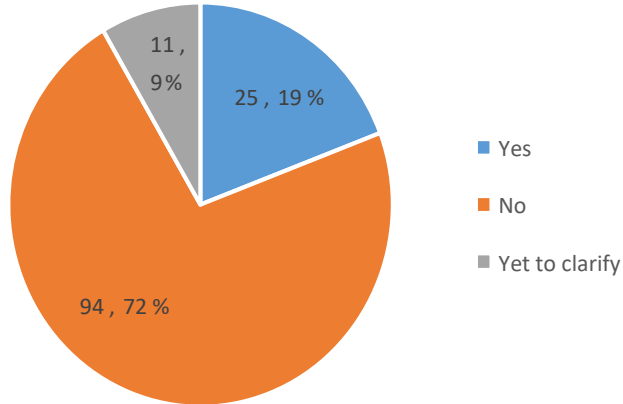
Our Challenges

- Between 17/18 & 18/19 **serious youth violence increased by 94%** in the borough, knife crime with injury increased by 20% and violent crime increased by 13%. There is a clear link between adverse trauma, poor educational attainment, drugs, exploitation and serious youth violence.
- Despite Black and Minority Ethnic groups representing **32%** of our community, **60-80%** of our YOS cohort are Black and Minority Ethnic demonstrating a dramatic overrepresentation.
- Black children and young people are the most highly over-represented. In the last year this has decreased from 21.6% to **15.3%** over-representation
- Children and young people from mixed heritage backgrounds this has increased from 6.0% to **12.9%** over-representation.

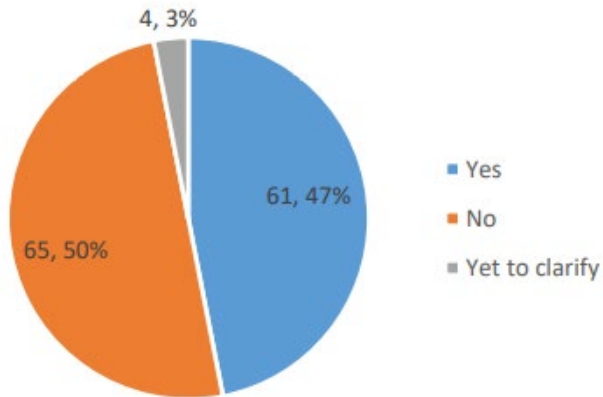
Percentage of children who have offended vs youth population



Our Challenges



Identified Special Educational Needs or Disabilities



Contact with Mental Health Services

- Approximately **19%** of the YOT cohort have identified Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.
- Approximately **37%** of the YOT cohort present to the service with **Speech and Language** concerns.
- Eleven young males (**21%**) open in the service either have an **EHCP** or are undergoing an assessment. Eight of whom have been charged with/committed serious violent offences including murder.
- **47%** of young people had some form of contact with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- Often these health and wellbeing needs were unidentified and previously unsupported at the point of entry in to the service.

Case Study

- Youth Justice Liaison and Diversion (YJLD) worker assessed a 13-year old young person during their first appearance in court.
- It was clear this young person had speech and language needs, and would require support through the court process. YJLD worker brought the case to the monthly YOS Wellbeing team meetings, Strategic Leadership Team and the Educational Psychologist ensuring a joint assessment. This highlighted several communication needs, particularly around expression and understanding, as well as emotional needs.
- The Strategic Leadership Team and Educational Psychologist requested the young person have intermediary support whilst in court, to better understand and engage in the process, and ensure a fair and equitable trial.
- The young person was referred to YOS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) for further support around his emotional needs. The Educational Psychologist was then able to highlight these needs to school, and request an EHCP (educational health care and support plan).

Impact: The joint assessment highlighted special educational needs, ensured the young person had a fair trial and access to the right resources and support. The joint assessment also reduced waiting times for individual services, and meant the young person wasn't subject to multiple assessments by multiple professionals.

Our Response

- Our **Youth Ambitions Board** ensures we are working in collaboration to produce the best outcomes for our CYP. Led by our Chief Executive, with senior attendance across the council including membership by key Councillors.
- The **H&F Gangs Unit** work closely with our team to identify young people at risk and develop effective safeguarding responses.
- We are working to mitigate the risk of young people becoming victims to violence through the provision of **Street Doctor training** sessions.
- We are part of the **7-borough disproportionality group** alongside all boroughs who share Highbury Corner Youth Court. We believe the group has made positive steps which are starting to produce noticeable outcomes.
- The YOS has ongoing group work available for young people delivered by our community partners including **Key4Life, QPR in the Community, Violence Intervention Project (VIP), Wipers Youth and Active Successful Engagement (ASE)**. Programmes include:
 - The **Parent and Carer Champion network** working with parents of CYP who have been through the criminal justice system or may be at risk to provide support and prevent younger siblings entering the system.
 - Our **Prevent and Prosper programme** is one way we are addressing disproportionality, keeping CYP out of the criminal justice system. A project worker who sits as part of the multi-agency Out of Court Disposal (OCD) Panel provides additional support to CYP subject to pre-court orders.



A young person undertaking an art project as part of a restorative justice programme

Youth Justice Plan

- The YOS has submitted our multi-agency Youth Justice Plan 2020-22 to the Ministry of Justice signed by the Director of Children's Services and Cllr Culhane which draws together our response and how we are meeting our key priorities.
- Our annual Youth Justice Plan is a statutory document produced in consultation with our partner agencies: National Probation Services, Police Services and Health Authority with input from our strategic oversight board the Youth Crime Prevention Partnership (YCPP).

FOREWORD

The last 12 months have been both a time for celebration, challenge and change for the Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Offending Service (YOS). The YOS have shown themselves to be resilient, adapting to the conditions necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic in order to ensure that the needs of our most vulnerable young people continued to be met.

In the last couple years, we have seen a rise in serious youth violence across the country. In March 2019 a young man was tragically murdered in the borough. The 17-year old was known to the YOS and the senseless loss of life at such a young age reminds us of the importance of this plan in shaping services and initiatives which support young people, keep them safe and help them achieve their dreams. Our thoughts are with his family as they come to terms with the loss of a son and brother.

This Youth Justice Plan 2020/22 is aligned with the wider corporate plans of tackling crime, keeping people safe and supporting children to reach their potential with the following objectives:

- Reducing First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the youth justice system
- Reducing the rate of reoffending
- Reducing Disproportionality and the overrepresentation of BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) groups within the youth justice system
- Minimising the use of custody

The Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Offending Service have recently moved out of Cobbs Hall and into 145 King Street in September 2020. This move will strengthen partnership work with other teams in Children's Services and provide a more appropriate location for meeting with young people and their families. We would like to thank the Youth Offending Service and its partners for their continued collective drive and determination to support young people and their families in Hammersmith and Fulham.



Cllr Larry Culhane
Cabinet Member for Children
and Education