

Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Annual Plan 2024 / 25

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Foreword by Chair of Sefton's Youth Justice Partnership

It is a privilege to be the new Chair for Sefton's Youth Justice Partnership Board and I am pleased to introduce the Youth Justice Plan for the coming year. As this plan demonstrates, there is a shared commitment from a wide range of partners to improve the outcomes for children and protect them as well as our communities from harm.

This plan articulates our tireless commitment to achieve the Partnership Board Vision through our suite of priorities, to ensure that we deliver an effective service for children and utilise our resources to secure positive outcomes.

I am impressed by the growing strength of the partnership who are committed to transparency and constructive challenge to continuously develop the quality of our collective services. We have a commitment to the Child First principles which underpins our trauma informed approaches and our ambition to become a trauma informed borough. I know that many partners have accessed high quality Trauma Informed Training this year, via the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership.

We are ambitious for children and for the services that we deliver to ensure that children are diverted from the criminal justice system and achieve their full potential. This plan sets out our focus for the coming year, building on the strengths of the partnership and our continued focus to advocate for children through all our services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Holden', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

*Paul Holden,
Superintendent Local Policing
Sefton, Merseyside Police*

1. Introduction, Vision, and Strategy

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) requires each Local Authority to complete a Youth Justice Plan that sets out how local Youth Justice Services (YJS) will be delivered within the available resources. Sefton's Youth Justice Plan illustrates our ambition, plans, and priorities for 2024 to 2025. This plan will highlight achievements from last year and areas of work in development.

YJS has been part of Sefton's Children's Services directorate since April 2023. There is a greater level of alignment with operational and senior staff and YJS has influenced practice standards for the wider services by encouraging others to be part of the trauma informed and Child First journey.

In April 2024, the responsibility for YJS was placed with the Assistant Director for Early Help, Help and Protection for Children. YJS has influenced a restructure within Early Help with a renewed focus on high quality early intervention services to be delivered through the Family Hubs. In addition, the Service Manager has supported the development of a new vulnerable adolescents' service "Springboard" which optimises the learning from the Turnaround Project and an in-house project called Community Youth Connectors.

Our performance against the Key Performance Indicators has remained stable across the last year. There is only one Sefton child in custody currently placed at Wetherby YOI and one child currently on remand.

Sefton YJS is committed to service improvement, and we have delivered an Annual Audit Plan which has illuminated some good practice and areas to improve that have been escalated to the Youth Justice Partnership Board (the Board). A key focus has been on the quality of out of court work and improvements have been noted across the last year. We have further focused on our use of resources to ensure consistency across delivery by refreshing the resource repository and purchasing some new up to date resources, including those to support speech and language.

The Board is well attended by senior leaders from partnership agencies, who have received an induction to understand their responsibilities as board members. The Partnership had a change of Chair in October 2023 and welcomed Paul Holden Superintendent of Local Policing for Sefton, Merseyside Police, who has a strong ambition for children and families. In April 24 the board welcomed a Community Member who is also a newly trained Panel Volunteer.

Sefton YJS has experienced some challenges across 2023 and into 2024. There has been some unavoidable long-term sickness, and one case manager left the team. Our team remains stable with little transiency although it took some time to recruit to the new case manager's role which impacted on others. We are still without a 0.5FTE Probation Officer and this has been the case for some considerable time, however we do appreciate the

Probation have experienced challenges in recruiting staff like many Children's Services. We are currently negotiating the transfer of funds in the absence of a suitable staff member.

1.1 Vision

The Partnership recognises the importance of having a vision that is ambitious and clearly identifies our focus. This Vision and Strategic Priorities were set in 2021 and were revised late 2023. Both remain relevant for our Partnership.

“Sefton Youth Justice Partnership is committed to working together to help children in Sefton thrive and to keep them safe. We will focus on preventing children from entering the criminal justice system, but when they do, we will strive to help them learn, make positive changes, and build a more promising future.

Ensuring that we see children as children above anything else, we will listen to them and understand their individual needs and we will provide them with the best opportunity to succeed by drawing upon the full resources of our local partnership.

We also recognise that at times our children need robust support and supervision, and we will ensure we deliver a proportionate response to offending that helps keep our local communities safe and delivers justice to victims.”

1.2 Strategic Priorities

Our Partnership has collectively determined the Strategic Priorities that we work towards in our respective agencies and roles. These link to our vision and our operational planning and delivery should be influenced by these priorities.

- **Preventing offending & reoffending** - delivery of high quality, strength-based interventions across our partnership.
- **Listening to our children so we understand their individual needs.**
- **Continually reviewing and improving our services** - to ensure they meet the needs of our children and local communities.
- **Reducing inequality** and minimising the impact of custody and the wider criminal justice system.
- **Reducing the harm** caused by violent crime, criminal and sexual exploitation, and association to gang culture.

At each Board, partners report on their achievements against one or more of these priorities outside of core business. This ensures that partners continue to focus on priorities.

We know that Sefton has issues with Organised Crime Groups who coerce and exploit young people into criminality. My SPACE (Sefton Protection Against Child Exploitation) has been in place since April 2023 and in June 2024 will move to the Service Manager for Youth

Justice. There are already excellent joint working relationships with MySpace and YJS attend daily meetings to oversee missing episodes and key concerns.

We value the voice of the children we work with and ensure that they are fully involved and are at the heart of all plans and decision making so that their voice that is heard and understood. We have adjusted our plans to ensure that they are child friendly and that the children co-produce their plans. It remains a challenge to create a group of children to consult with although there have been some excellent examples of how colleagues and children have developed trusting relationships where children have been forthcoming with their views and feedback. We are consulting with a child who is keen to attend our Board and we have continued to develop our Children's Survey which has provided feedback that has influenced our practice relating to interventions and what children want to engage in.

1.3 Local Context

Sefton is a metropolitan borough of Merseyside, and its local authority is Sefton Council. The Borough consists of a coastal strip of land on the Irish Sea and extends from the primarily industrial area of Bootle in the south to the traditional seaside resort of Southport in the north. In the south-east it extends inland to Maghull. Sefton has an approximate area of some 155km².

Sefton has a population of approximately 279,000 residents. Sefton has a high percentage of residents over 65yrs. Further detail is captured within Sefton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapters which are accessible via this link [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/jсна). The most current population data we have is from Census 2021, which shows Sefton having approximately 27,500 children aged 10-18yrs old. In term of ethnicity, 91.8% of Sefton's population is white British.

Information relating to children is captured within our cohort profiles.

2 Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

2.1 Sefton's Youth Justice Partnership Board

The Youth Justice Partnership Board is chaired by Sefton's Superintendent of Local Policing, Merseyside Police and provides governance for Sefton's youth justice arrangements. It links directly with other strategic boards including:

- Sefton Safeguarding Children Board
- Sefton Safer Together (and Safer Together Youth)
- Children and Young People's Board
- Children's Improvement Board
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Early Help Partnership

The Board includes a wide range of partners and has recently welcomed a Community Board Member who is also a Referral Order Panel Member. The Board provides strategic oversight and governance for the delivery of Sefton's Youth Justice Services and holds all

partners to account. The Board scrutinises YJS performance and the cohort profile. The Board is equally challenging and supportive, and the culture of the board has enabled partners to forge excellent relationships. The quality of the relationships has enabled constructive challenge as all partners are committed to the Vision and Priorities of the board. The Board Membership and Terms of Reference are at Appendix 1.

The board receives audits, case studies, progress reports from partners and has invited workers to highlight good news and best practice. Members participate in board development days as well as attending four board per year. Progress against the YJS Service Development Plan is also reported at the board.

Education attendance and support has strengthened alongside Health input and support. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services is an invitee and has offered support and provided welcomed challenge. The Cabinet Member has also visited the YJS on a number of occasions. Board members have been inducted so that they understand their responsibilities and the Inspection Framework.

YJS is now located within Children's Services and reports to an Assistant Director. A Service Manager leads the service and is part of a Senior Management Team with other service managers from Children's Services. The current remit of the Service Manager will soon expand to include MySpace and the new vulnerable adolescents service "Springboard" which will enable the learning from YJS and MySpace to influence the prevention work within Springboard.

YJS also reports to the Cabinet Members for Children's Services monthly. At a regional level, Sefton YJS is a member of the Merseyside Criminal Justice Board and the Youth Performance Improvement Group. Sefton YJS is represented on the Merseyside Reducing Re-offending Subgroup, Merseyside Domestic Violence Strategy Subgroup, Hate Crime Subgroup, and the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Strategic Management Board. YJS also supports the Merseyside Child Death Overview Panel.

YJS supports Sefton's local priorities for young people captured in the Children's and Young People Plan and through the work of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership. YJS supports and contributes to the following thematic work streams which meet the objectives of the local priorities.

- Early Help Partnership Board
- Harm Outside the Home Subgroup
- Practice Review Panel
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Information Management and Governance Group
- Multi-agency Response to Threat Harm and Risk (MARTHUR)
- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Merseyside Youth Justice Services

Within Merseyside, there are six boroughs, and each has a YJS. Each YJS lead along with the lead for Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington YJS form the Greater Merseyside Youth Justice Strategic Leads Collaboration.

The YJS Leads meet every 8-12 - weeks and aim to:

- Promote value in all YJS functions and resource management
- Use strategic intelligence to develop an informed and collaborative approach to improve effectiveness and practice across Greater Merseyside
- Promote effectiveness regarding safeguarding and public protection across Greater Merseyside.

This group along with the Youth Performance Improvement Group (YPIG) are key forums for collaboratively driving forward developments in youth justice practice with our partners.

3 Update on Previous Year - Progress on Priorities in Previous Plan

Cohort Profiles - Business Intelligence colleagues have continued to produce detailed cohort profiles with the support of the wider team. There has been a great deal of support offered relating to recording and data cleansing. The profiles are produced quarterly and cover the whole period rather than use a 'snapshot' on a given day as a sample. This information is shared with the Board to promote a shared response in addressing the needs in the cohort. The cohort profile is shared at Team Meetings and are reported alongside YJS Performance at Children's Service Performance Management Meetings.

Performance Oversight – there is a sharper focus on performance and quality including auditing against standards now that 0.5 FTE Quality and Assurance and Audit worker is in place.

Education Focus – following the implementation of the Education Working Group consisting of a wide range of partners there has been a reduction in children of statutory school age accessing less than 25hrs. Having a point of contact between the education and the youth justice service is assisting the wider team in being more confident in challenging schools and strongly advocating for children and young people and there are some excellent examples which evidence this. One notable example is one of our children has been reintegrated into mainstream education having spent time at the Pupil Referral Unit.

With our partners we also focus on Post 16yrs children preventing NEET. The YJS Service Manager is a Governor at Impact, Pupil Referral Unit and chairs the Safeguarding and Attendance Committee working with the Designated Safeguarding Lead ensuring there are policies and procedures in place for appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's and young people's welfare.

Prevention – we have successfully implemented Turnaround and utilised our third Police Officer to enhance our prevention service for children who has accessed direct support through 1:1 work and group work within schools.

Community Youth Connectors – we have embedded this offer across 13 schools within Sefton and the project was highlighted as best practice. It has been presented at the Northwest Development Forum as is included within the YJB Resource Hub.

Vacancy Management – we have successfully recruited to vacancies despite the national challenges experienced by Children’s Services. We now have limited long-term sickness.

3.2 Performance

The full performance report appears at Appendix 2 and not in this section due to its size. Sefton's performance has been stable across the last year.

First Time Entrants

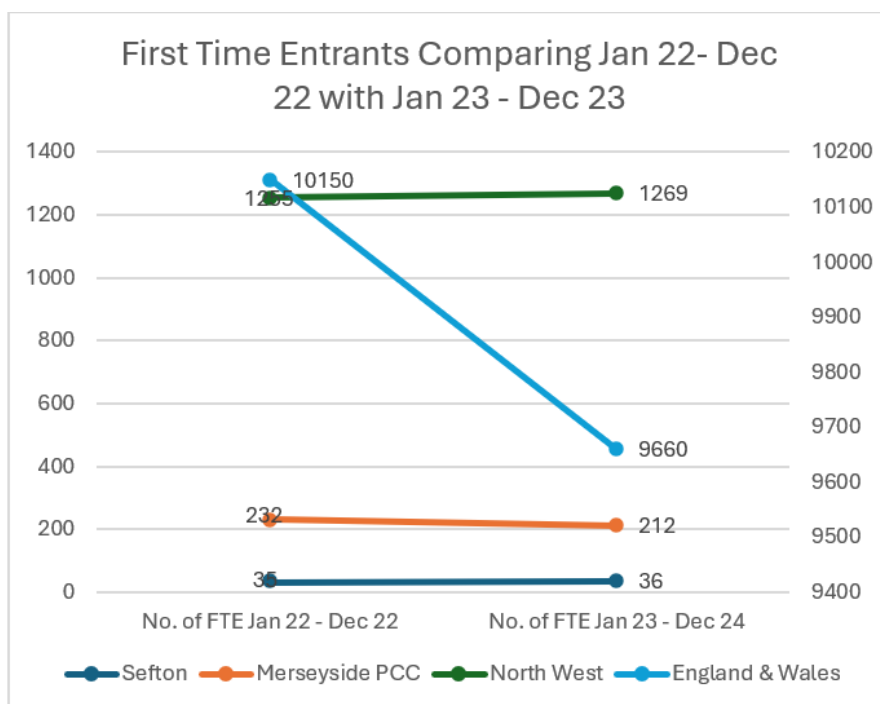


Figure 1 First Time Entrants

Figure 1 shows an actual increase of 1 child in the data comparison period.

First Time Entrants (FTEs) comparing Sefton with neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) – January 2022 – December 2023.

Local Authority.	Jan 22 – Dec 22		Jan 23 – Dec 23	
	No. of FTE.	Rate per 100 000	No. of FTE.	Rate per 100 000
Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington ¹	160	158	131	126
Knowsley	30	206	37	246
Lancashire	185	159	162	136
Liverpool	101	255	66	162
Sefton	35	143	36	146
St Helen's	30	179	34	199
Wirral	36	118	39	125

Figure 2 – FTE comparison

Figure 2 gives a clear indication of how Sefton compares to neighbouring LAs. In calendar year 2022, Sefton had the second lowest amount of FTEs. This is also the same for calendar year 2023.

Reoffending

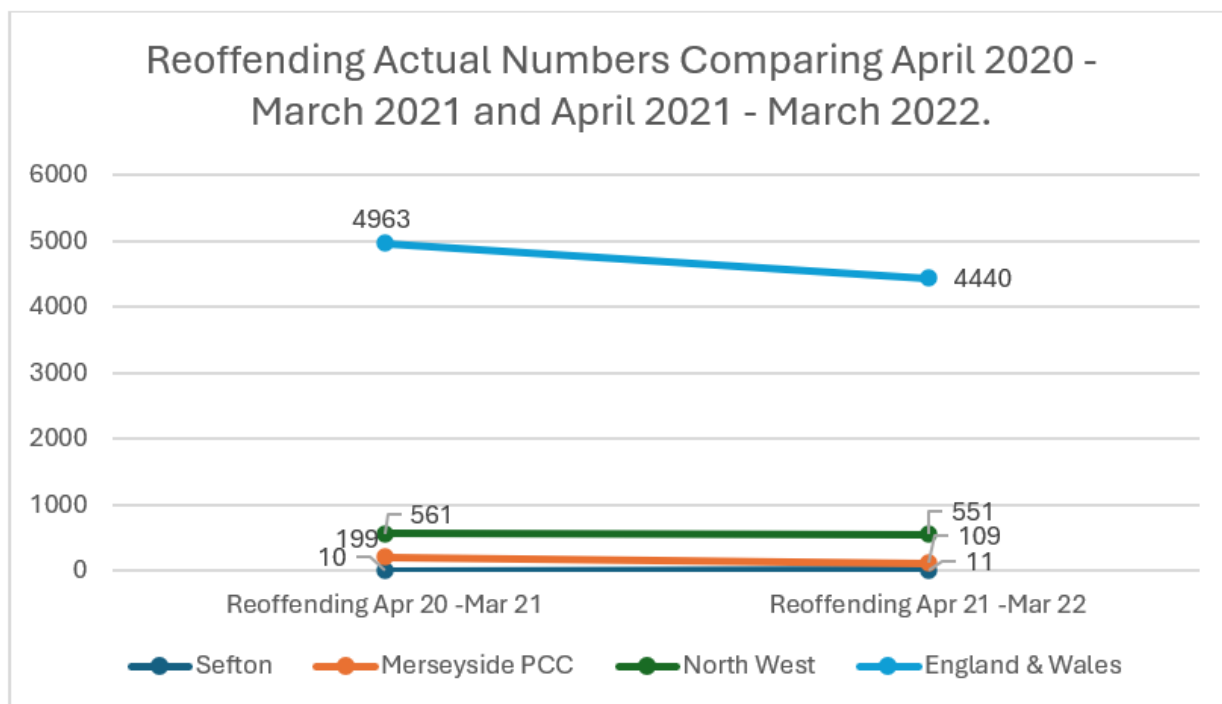


Figure 3 Reoffending

Figure 3 shows an actual increase of 1 child 2021 to 2022. There were 10 children identified as reoffending in financial year 20/21 compared with 11 in 21/22. The number identified as reoffending across the Merseyside PCC has decreased by 90 children from 199 to 109. The Northwest region has seen a decrease of 10 children from 561 to 551. Nationally, there has been a significant decrease of 523 children from 4963 to 4440.

Reoffending Rates - comparing Sefton with neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) April 2020 – March 2022.

Local Authority.	Apr 20 – Mar 21		Apr 21 – Mar 22	
	No. of Reoffenders.	% of Reoffenders.	No. of Reoffenders	% of Reoffenders.
Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington	57	32.8%	69	34.7%
Knowsley	17	37.0%	12	33.3%
Lancashire	97	37.5%	84	40.2%
Liverpool	53	39.0%	46	36.8%
Sefton	10	21.3%	11	28.2%
St Helen's	15	31.9%	18	36.7%
Wirral	24	35.3%	22	47.8%

Figure 4 Reoffending Comparison

Figure 4 gives a clear indication of how Sefton compares to neighbouring LAs. In financial years 20/21 and 21/22, Sefton had the lowest rate of children reoffending in their cohorts. Please note the % of Reoffenders rates is based on each LAs cohort. It is not the full total of the LAs listed.

Custody Sentences – there was a decrease to zero from 2 children, in 2022 – 2023 for children sentenced to custody. Currently Sefton has one child in custody, placed in Wetherby.

YJB - Key Performance Indicators

The YJB KPI's have been in place for one year therefore there is no comparison to be made to previous years. There are 167 in the cohort for the reporting period.

Suitable Accommodation – there were 8 children identified as having unsuitable accommodation. The unsuitability related to family dysfunction, poor home conditions and temporary accommodation.

Education - for statutory school age children - at the end of Q4, 10 children were identified as being in an unsuitable ETE type/provision. The main reason for unsuitability was non-attendance at the setting or a recent permanent exclusion. There were 79 statutory school age children in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24. This makes 47.3% of Sefton's over all cohort of 169 children.

Education – Post 16yrs children - At the end of Q4, 16 children were identified as being in an unsuitable ETE type/provision. The main reason for unsuitability was Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). To encompass 23/24, there were 79 Post 16 children in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24. This makes 52.7% of Sefton's overall cohort of 169 children.

SEND – considering all children in Sefton's YJS cohort, 79 children either had an EHCP or were in receipt of SEN Support. This equates to 47.3% of the full cohort of 167 children.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs - 84 children were identified as having Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. This equates to 42.6% of the full cohort of 167 children. 22 children have been identified as having Autistic Spectrum Disorder needs. This equates to 13.2% of the full cohort. The 11 children identified as having Speech, Language and Communications difficulties includes Dyslexia. This equates to 6.6% of the full cohort.

Substance Misuse - In Q4, 34 children were identified as having Substance Misuse needs, which was an increase from Q3 of 7 children but still less than Q's 1 and 2. In addition, 16 children have had an intervention with Change, Grow, Live (CGL). Across 23/24, there has been a reduction of 10 children. 89 children (53.3%) out of the full cohort have been identified as having Substance Misuse needs

Out of Court Disposals - In total, 95 children had either completed or are completing an OOC. This equates to 56.9% of the full cohort.

Links with Other Services - In addition to YJS intervention(s), 68 children in Q4, have also been open to support from EH and CSC. This is a decrease of 4 children from Q2. The total number of children on a CSC Plan is 37 with 31 open to Early Help. Therefore, the need for CSC support and intervention outweighs EH.

There have been considerable increases in further support from EH and CSC since Q1. Overall:

- Early Help has seen an increase of 9 children.
- CIN has seen an increase of 11 children.
- CfC has seen an increase of 1 child.
- Whilst there was an increase in Q3; overall, CP has now levelled back to 5 children.

Management Board Attendance

There is a requirement for the following colleagues to attend board meetings:

- Senior Manager LA Children’s Social Care.
- Senior Manager LA Education.
- Senior Manager Police.
- Senior Manager Probation.
- Senior Manager Health.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Children’s Social Care	P	P	P	A
Education	P	P	P	P
Police	P	P	P	P
Probation	P	P	A	P
Health	P	P	P	P

P = Present. A = Apologies.

The table above shows that there has been a good level of representatives at board meetings. The new chair appointed in Q4 is a representative from the Police. There was no representative from Probation in Q3. However, they were fed back to accordingly with minutes from the Board meeting. Although there was no representative from Children’s Social Care in Q4, the YJS Service Manager is a member of the Children’s Social Care Senior Management Team (SMT). The Service Manager reports to SMT monthly with YJS progress and information.

Serious Violence - Violence Against the Person is the highest group with 13 children identified in Q4. This has increased by 3 children since Q1 (10 children). The Drugs offence group has increased by 1 child from 7 children in Q1 to 8 children in Q4. All other offence groups have remained the same. ‘Assault of a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm’, is generally abbreviated to ABH was the top offence. There was a slight fluctuation in Qs 2 and 3 for ABH by 3 children. This has now decreased to 7 children. Possession of Cannabis has remained the same consistently at 7 children. Assault by beating has levelled back to 5 children. Common assault has seen a decrease of 2 children (reduction of 50%). Possession of a knife/blade has remained the same at 2 children.

Victims - All victims of children's offences are offered support by ways of being involved in Restorative Justice (RJ). Victims can choose and are encouraged to attend face to face meetings with the child and be kept up to date with the progress children are making on their interventions.

engagement with and from Victims has rapidly increased. The acceptance of RJ has increased 11-fold from Q1 to Q4.

3.3 Risks and Issues

The risks that Sefton YJS are currently experiencing are as follows:

Resources - Sefton has some limitations relating to resources influencing the breadth and depth of our offer. Since last year we have secured an Education Welfare Officer (1 day per week) who supports the Education Working Group. We have utilised external funding to purchase CAMHS for 2 days per week and we are exploring additional CGL resource to meet demand.

We remain concerned about Speech and Language provision and continue to highlight the need for additional resources with Alderhey. We have linked with our health colleagues who support the belief that speech and language concerns are associated with an undiagnosed learning or disability need due to the long waiting lists for diagnosis both nationally and locally. Sefton also has a growing number of children with SEND. We have delivered training via Alderhey for staff to implement strategies to support children with speech and language concerns and we are mapping cases to highlight specific demand to secure in house provision. We have also purchased resources for staff to use to strengthen their approaches with children. We are currently (June 24) reviewing all service level agreements to develop provision from all partners and strengthen the partnership offer.

Budget Pressures – Merseyside YJS's have had a reduction in PCC funding although Sefton has retained the full budget contribution for 24/25. Should this be reduced or cease from April 25 then this will impact the ability to purchase additional services such as the CAMHS offer or budget for resources and diversionary activities that support Child First implementation. The CAMHS services are short term funded by Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership until July 24 and the YJS budget will cover the costs until July 25. We do not have reparation or parenting posts. Currently, delivery staff reparation however this is in addition to direct work with children. That said, the staff are resourceful and there have been some excellent examples of reparation.

Recruitment - where we have had vacancies it has taken time to recruit the right individuals and have experienced the same recruitment challenges as have Children Social Care. For the last three case manager vacancies it took multiple rounds of interviews to recruit. We have a manager on a Social Work placement (part of degree qualification) from September, and the Assistant Director has authorised agency cover to maintain stability for the management team.

Inspection Readiness - YJS features in not only HMIP inspections but Ofsted Inspections of Children's Services and Joint Targeted Area Inspections too. The Service Manager

attends the weekly management meetings and receives monthly supervisions, enabling risks to be shared and escalated. The AD is a Board Member and has received an induction.

YJS also acknowledges the findings of other HMIP inspections and will discuss these from a 'true for us' perspective. Other LA's inspection reports have been reviewed within Practice Development Sessions.

The YJS Service Manager attends the Northwest Heads of Service briefings to receive further information and link with colleagues to support Sefton's practice, generate ideas and make comparisons. We will continue to reflect on the Standards to ensure compliance and monitor our performance against the Service Development Plan. There are good links with the YJB Northwest Representative and performance is discussed quarterly as part of the Oversight Framework arrangements.

4 Plan for the Forthcoming Year

Child First Approaches

Sefton YJS is committed to developing our Child First approach. We have delivered Child First Training with all staff and the Partnership Board members (May 24). The four Child First principles and how we currently meet them are set out below:

- **See children as children:** Our staff are trauma informed trained and evidence this within their assessments, plans, and delivery. All staff have attended Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership Trauma Informed Training. We recognise that children have often experienced significant trauma that impacts on their wellbeing and behaviour, their ability to learn and that trauma is an intergenerational issue.

Plans for the coming year include closer working arrangements with Early Help and Primary Care Network (formerly Clinical Commissioning Group) to enable access to ACEs Recovery Programmes. We will also introduce a parenting group which will be facilitated by our prevention police officer and a case manager. There is scope to have a parent support facilitation also and we are in the early stages of developing this.

Develop pro-social identity for positive child outcomes: Our work focuses on the child's strengths, and we actively seek to support the child in areas of interest for them. A key strength of YJS is the ability to build relationships with children and staff have received excellent feedback from children and parents. We recognise that education is a strong protective factor and work in collaboration with Education colleagues to ensure that children access their full education offer. We recognise that newer approaches move away from offence focused work and support the child's sense of self and relationships. Within the financial envelope, we engage children in diversion activities so they can experiment with different roles and experiences.

- **Collaboration with children:** We encourage children's active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion. The child's voice is evidenced through the

child's record, and they are part of the planning process. As part of our Child First approach, we encourage children to be key stakeholders in determining the interventions that they want to engage in whilst working with us. This is demonstrated through the Child Friendly Plans that are produced with every child. We are keen to have children represented at the Board by a child who has accessed our service, so that the partnership can understand the contexts that influence a child's life first hand.

- **Promote diversion:** We actively seek diversion opportunities, and we welcome the opportunities that Turnaround brings in the context of understanding what works. We have developed our prevention offer with more to do. The Service Manager is part of the leadership team responsible for the restructure of Early Help, which includes a prevention strand for 10+yrs children. This offer will divert children at risk of entering the youth justice system at an early stage and will also integrate child first principles into practice.

4.1 Voice of the Child

We value the quality of the relationships with children to ensure that they feel psychologically safe and can share their views and feelings. The voice of the child is well captured within the children's assessments and the What Do You Think questionnaire. Case notes also evidence the child's voice following interventions. We utilise our Feedback Survey which has strengthened the voice of children and has influenced our decision making relating to diversion activities and interventions. For example, this prompted the use of external funding to purchase Media Courses for use across the next financial year. The Service Manager is also a member of the Sefton Youth Voice Strategic Steering Group.

To encourage engagement, we have adjusted our child friendly plan which all staff use. We will continue to use this rather than the plan included in the new Prevention and Diversion assessment which includes the child's plan.

At the time of writing we are planning to develop a Girls Group in response to Pippa Goodfellow's report 'Girls in the Youth Justice System and Custody' [Pippa Goodfellow - Girls in the youth justice system and custody - April 2024.pdf](#). Further to this, we have consulted with a girl who accessed our service who will attend the Youth Justice Partnership Board in July to share her experiences with us.

4.2 Resources and Services

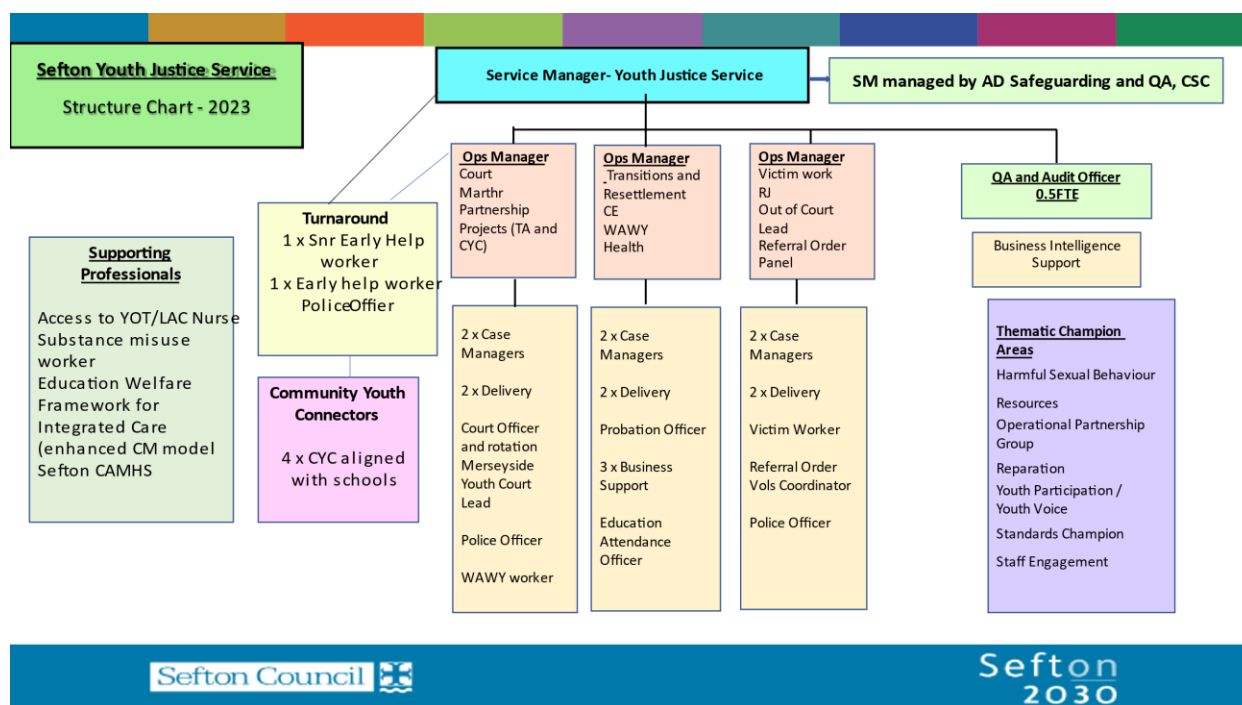
The YJS sits within Children's Services (since April 23) and utilises the Youth Justice Board Core Grant and partnership financial contributions to deliver core youth justice services. The grant and contributions including those from the PCC are solely used by the YJS in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The YJB grant also supports staff development including contributions to the Collaborative Training Group which produces a plan signed off by Merseyside Youth Justice Services.

We use our grant, partnership resources and available resources to deliver youth justice services to reduce reoffending, prevent offending and reduce first time entrants, prevent

children from custodial sentences and increase children’s safety and wellbeing. In addition, the work that we deliver encourages children to access education, engage in further education, training and employment and support good health outcomes both physically and mentally. We continue to strive for improvement and review our services and performance throughout the year, primarily through performance data and service reviews through audits. The Youth Justice Budget is shown at Appendix 3.

The YJS Service Manager has statutory responsibility to lead the YJS and review budgets, service delivery, quality, and performance. There is a continued commitment to service improvement which is mirrored by the YJS whole team. The wider team includes partners as highlighted in the Team Structure (below) demonstrating compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act.

Figure 5 – Structure Chart



The YJS management team comprising of a Service Manager and three Operational Managers has been stable with managers remaining in posts for a considerable time. In July 2023 we welcomed a new Operational Manager who was previously with the team as the Quality Assurance and Audit Officer. We have subsequently recruited to that post and now have a skilled and competent management team.

We have 6 Case Managers (including 4 social workers) and 6 Delivery Staff. We have a Victim and Restorative Justice Worker and a dedicated Court Officer who works within the Merseyside Centralised Youth Court. We also have a small Business Support Team.

We have access to a Dedicated Cared Experienced and YJS Nurse Service and Clinics are convened across the borough which are easily accessible for children. Where there is a need, Nurses can do an assessment in the child’s home. For a lengthy period, we have been

without a Probation Officer which has impacted on children's transitioning to Probation. This has been raised several times and it is recognised that recruitment is a challenge nationally for Probation. We have requested the equivalent funding as a Probation Officer has not been successfully recruited. We have maintained good relationships with Career Connect and Sefton@work who support children into further education, training and employment and they are represented at the Partnership.

We have three Police Officers embedded within the team, one officer is funded through Supporting Families.

We have a good relationship with Change Grow Live (substance misuse worker) and have a dedicated worker who works closely with the team. In addition, the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership has provided some funding for therapeutic support which has enabled Alderhey to second a member of staff for two days a week. This member of staff delivers consultation for staff, assessment and completes direct work for children. We have secured funding to continue this provision through to July 2025.

We have excellent relationships with Education and have an Education Welfare Officer 1 day per week, who also supports our new Education Working Group, in addition to the Head of Education and Virtual School Head.

4.3 Board Development, Reporting and Influence

In addition to the Cohort Profiles, the board has engaged in a development session relating to the new draft HMIP Inspection Framework. This enabled members to reflect on Domain 1 and how connected the board is to YJS delivery. Board members were invited to visit the YJS, and the new Chair has attended a Full Team Meeting. Staff members have been invited to observe the board and a Case Manager is scheduled to deliver a case study at the July Board.

The Board attended a development session focusing on the YJB Oversight Framework. We have also delivered sessions on the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System and Child First Principles.

The board has previously received a report relating to escalating concerns about Risk of Serious Harm and Violence within the cohort. The proposals within this report were escalated to the Children Social Care Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet Members. A key proposal of the report was to develop a targeted prevention service which has influenced the decision to create the vulnerable adolescent service. At the time of writing, budgets are being agreed, the adolescent service (proposed name Springboard) is part of the wider Early Help restructure and proposals were put forward and agreed at Full Cabinet end May 24. A period of consultation will ensue with Trade Unions and staff, with a view to recruit and launch the new structure later this year.

4.4 Workforce Development

Sefton with other Merseyside YJSs is part of the Collaborative Training Group where we pool resources to deliver cost effective training. Each year, YJS managers agree an annual training plan for staff. This enables Sefton YJS to identify gaps in knowledge based on our cohort profile and plan to enhance the team's skills. Staff are expected to undertake Sefton's mandatory training which is corporately scrutinised. Staff were consulted when developing the training plan so that they were integral in producing the training plan. Ad Hoc training occurs throughout the year where those opportunities arise.

The list of training that staff have accessed appears at Appendix 4.

YJS staff have access to a wider training offer as are part of Children's Services which is implementing a suite of actions to develop services including workforce training. Staff can also access training offered by the Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

There are monthly Practice Development workshops which are planned to collaborate with the team and develop practice across various themes.

Sefton's Corporate Learning Centre are in the process of defining a specific training offer for each role including mandatory training. The YJS Service Manager is part of the Training Steering Group that meets Quarterly. Service Managers for children's services have had a full planning day to map out essential and desirable training.

4.5 Evidence Based Practice and Innovation

Turnaround

Our Turnaround Programme is a strong offer of focused intervention and support. The team meet with the Police weekly to scrutinise the numbers of children who have been Released Under Investigation and others who may be eligible for the programme. Children who have accessed the programme have engaged in some excellent projects including a Media Course which increased the children's aspirations to learn and achieve. We have committed funding to deliver this project to the wider cohort of children across the YJS due to the impact that we have noted on those that have already engaged. One child who attended a media course is volunteering for a course currently being delivered which demonstrates them building a pro-social identity and developing their leadership and supportive skills.

Community Youth Connectors (CYC)

We have successfully bid for further funding from the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to continue the CYC project until end March 2025. In September 2023, Liverpool John Moores university evaluated the project. This project delivers support to girls who experience emotional wellbeing concerns and are at risk of harm. The project has been well regarded and a presentation was delivered at the Northwest Development Forum in April 2024. The presentation can be accessed [here](#). The project was also included in the YJB Resource Hub.

During 2023/24 the Community Youth Connectors have reached out to provide 1:1 sessions to 94 children in addition to providing whole year group support sessions on topics identified by schools as being of need. There has been a 97% engagement rate for children accessing the support, the support has extended beyond the sessions with the children and provided

wider family support, connecting them to other support services where there are wider needs. CYC have provided support throughout the year, holding group activities during school holidays forming them based on the children's interests.

Next steps goal setting and outcome-based measures have been used throughout interventions for the children to identify positive areas of their life and areas of support needs to help develop support plans. Through outcome-based measuring it has been established that the interventions have had a positive impact on children's wellbeing, engagement in positive activities and school. On average children's attendance has increased by 6.5%. No children have become known to Sefton Youth Justice through out of court or statutory interventions.

Mental Health first aid has been offered as part of the interventions, providing children with an opportunity to be trained and receive an accreditation.

Feedback from children, families and other professionals:

*"Since asking for support for my daughter's mental health through community youth connectors and being assigned our worker, I can't even put into words how different things are now, and all for the better. She has been my biggest support in getting myself and my daughter the correct services involved as well as supporting both of us with our mental health along the way. She has attended some significant meetings with me and provided me with the best support I could ask for. She fully encouraged me to reach out for help from an early help worker, something I was anxious about, but it's turned out to be a great decision, she has also put me in touch with parent carers and sent me contact details for ADDvanced solutions for even more support. The work she has done with my daughter has been a massive help with understanding her mental health but also provided me with more knowledge on my daughter's additional needs and getting us on the right pathway for a diagnosis, something I've been battling for, for 8 years. I really couldn't have done it without her, and I'll be forever grateful." **Parent***

*"The support has provided to all the pupils was a massive stepping stone in either improving self-esteem, attendance, behaviour of their general well-being" **Pastoral lead***

*"It's great that the girls have completed an accredited course over the summer- it shows how resilient they can be!" **Head of SEN***

*"My daughter was referred to CYC following issues at home regarding her anger. She was at the time having angry outbursts several times a week, sometimes becoming violent towards myself and her brothers. Since seeing CYC, she has become much calmer and less prone to these fits of anger. She has been opening up to me at home a lot more and the violence has stopped. This has made such a difference for us all and she and I are closer as a consequence. I'd like to thank CYC for the time she has spent with my daughter and the positive impact she has had on her and our family as a whole" **Parent***



Koestler Awards – two children who accessed the DMC Media Programme were put forward for the Koestler Arts Awards having submitted the video that they produced. They received certificates and their worker was very proud to present them.

Supporting Families – in Q1 of 2024, a submission was made to Supporting Families Framework evidencing sustainable outcomes for families for the previous year. YJS was the Top Team for the number of families who achieved outcomes that the Council could claim for (26 families) and two YJS staff were in the Top 5 Staff for the most families. This evidences the strength of whole family working.

4.6 Evaluation

In December 2023 we welcomed our new QA and Audit Officer to the team. From this point onwards we have steadily increased QA within the team. This commenced with a multi-agency Harm outside the Home Audit allocated by the Safeguarding Children’s Partnership. A key learning action from this audit for YJS, was to revisit the KPI’s and strengthen the quality of our recording. This is already in progress through the practice workshops that are being delivered as part of our service development plan.

In addition to the above we our Out of Court (Q4) audit was completed. It was rewarding to see that from the Harm Outside of the Home Audit some of the wider team learning was evidenced in some of the children’s records. We have a clear direction of travel for the coming year, and we are keen to ensure that we continue to sustain and improve our performance.

5 Priorities for the Coming Year

5.1 Standards for Children

The service has undertaken audits against all the National Standards Some areas of improvement were initially identified in the out of court audit, specifically around drift and delay, and tenacity in contacting children and families. Following this, development workshops were delivered to improve practice and this area is subsequently audited quarterly. We have seen improvement in this area and audits will continue as we begin to embed the new Prevention and Diversion assessment tool. The latest audit findings were reported to the Partnership Board in April 2024.

Following the Court Standard audit, some actions were taken to improve practice across Merseyside due to having a centralised court. In addition, recording improvements were made in our service relating to the child understanding their rights and responsibilities. Audits will continue through the year relating to the Standards and quality of practice. All managers will be involved in undertaking audits and areas for development will feature within the Practice Development Workshops. In addition, where there are identified concerns, the QA and Audit worker will sample cases in more depth and develop actions to secure improvement.

Moving forward we are planning to develop the way we undertake some of our audits. Where possible, we will hold reflective learning conversations with our team members so that they have an opportunity to share their experience of working with child and their family. This gives us the opportunity to explore what we have read on the child's record and determine whether to contact the child and their family for their perspectives.

5.2 Service Development

Service Development Plan - Sefton YJS maintains a Service Development Plan which is updated quarterly. This is also shared with the Partnership Board. In January 2024 the plan was adjusted to capture the new KPI's and was amended for the Board in April 24. The plan also includes the pillars for wider children's services and how YJS aligns with these. The April version of the plan appears [here](#).

The service is committed to embedding Child First into practice and training has been delivered with Board Members and Staff to enable this. We are proposing a Child First Steering Group and are in the preliminary stages of proposals to the Board.

Key Performance Indicators – In line with the YJS Strategic Plan (24-27) we continue to scrutinise our KPI's and where there are concerns to understand the narrative behind the metrics. We are rated in Quadrant 2 within the Oversight Framework and meet quarterly with the YJB Representative for the Northwest.

Practice Development – the Managers deliver monthly practice development workshops with the team and all actions will be included in the Service Development Plans from July 24. The focus has been quality of practice against the standards, HMIP Inspection Framework and refreshing our approach to embedding child first practice. The QA and Audit Worker will review any emerging themes or concerns. Practice audits against the standards will take place across the next year and they will inform future workshops.

Additional Support for Children – we continuously review the quality of our assessments and how we meet the needs of children. We recognise that many children require speech and language support, therefore we commit to raise this concern to the Board and seek additional services to complement the YJS to meet the needs of children.

6 National Priority Areas

6.1 Children from groups which are over-represented

Sefton as a borough has a predominantly white British population which for some areas would be a disproportionate representation. Sefton has previously been a borough with low ethnic minority populations which is reflected in the cohort with approximately 90% white British.

The YJS has accessed Disproportionality Training which was regarded as excellent by participants.

6.1.2 Mental Health Concerns

Sefton YJS have previously implemented the Community Youth Connectors project to address the disproportionate number of girls with mental health issues with a focused-on prevention. We submitted a further bid and have secured funding to deliver this project until end March 2025. Learning from this project will be fed into the new targeted services within Early Help. We have secured funding for YJS CAMHS workers to be part of the team until July 2025. Workers offer support through consultation for staff, direct work with children and fast-tracking referrals.

6.2 Policing

We have an excellent working relationship with Local Policing. We have three police officers as part of the team and the Board chair is the Superintendent for Local Policing. Police colleagues support our Out of Court Panel, Risk Management and Welfare Meeting, deliver prevention work including an offer for schools and support diversionary activities through football and other outdoor activities. We can raise any risks or concerns through Police management systems and are well supported in managing concerns.

6.3 Prevention and Diversion

YJS is grateful to Merseyside Police for seconding a third police officer to YJS. This officer's work complements Turnaround and delivers prevention interventions to children. The Police Officer has added value for children who are not eligible for Turnaround yet have unmet need and are at risk of further offending behaviour. We have agreed for the Prevention Police Officer to work with those children. The intention is for the Officer to utilise existing assessments and work in partnership with existing services, utilising the prevention resources within the YJS.

In addition, in partnership with YJS Delivery Staff the Police Officer has developed a School's based intervention called ROOTS. The offer to schools is to identify a small cohort of children who would benefit from four 1 hr sessions covering topics of the school's choice, although most commonly those topics are healthy relationships, bullying, exploitation, and the dangers of drug use. As the vulnerable adolescent's service develops, the Police Officer and Turnaround (until that project ends) will align to deliver a targeted prevention service.

The YJS Service Manager is involved in the transformation of Early Help Services which will include a new targeted service for children 10-18yrs. The proposal is to have a dedicated team to support children

The wider council offer an Early Help service has also transitioned into Children's Services. The Service Manager for YJS sits on the Early help Partnership and the Service Manager for Early Help has agreed to sit on the Youth Justice Partnership. A new structure for Early Help has been agreed by Cabinet and the Targeted Service for children 10-18yrs will be led by the YJS Service Manager. The overarching aims for the service are:

- Developing relationships
- Discovering talent
- Building connections
- Developing positive sense of self.

The service will embrace a whole family approach and collaborate with children and families to develop a tailored plan to address assessed need. The service will link with Youth Justice Prevention and MySpace and the offers will be integrated once the new team is established. The timeline for launch is estimated to be October 24.

Police Supporting Prevention

Our YJS Police Officers have delivered prevention work as follows:

ROOTS - Helping young people grow – intervention in schools.

The aim of this project is to engage with children nominated by the school who they have worries about or feel need some support. The school choose the topics from a list including Drug awareness, knife crime and joint enterprise, healthy relationships, violence against women and girls, anti-social behaviour, consequences of crime and cyber safety. The Police Officers deliver to small groups of 8. Whilst the resource is limited, we are delivering to a small number of schools.

Our Police Officers have supported a number of children through direct work and have received feedback from parents including '***This is a great thing you're doing***', and '***I will do anything to keep my child safe***',

Police preventative work is Identified through weekly triage and from liaising with Social Care and Early Help for children who does not fit the criteria for Turnaround. The Police Officers have secured good engagement and noted that being a police officer has not been a barrier with either the parents or child.

Below are some comments from parents:

- '***FINALLY, SOMEONE IS HELPING US***'
- '***Thanks for your continued support with XX I'm very grateful and will pass on to other parents not to be afraid to have services involved to get best results and keep our kids safe***'
- '***You've been amazing***'

Our Police Officers have also supported the Community Connectors with interventions such as pizza making, crabbing at Crosby Beach and cinema trips, talking sessions around anti-social behaviour how and when to call the Police, how the Police can help, what is anti-social behaviour, how to be safe in the community. They have engaged with 22 children who could have been at risk of entering the youth justice service. This demonstrates **Child First** work through actively promoting a pro social identity and engaging children in positive activity.

There have been some excellent examples of support and direct work with children by our Police Officers, through actively supporting case managers and delivery staff with carrying out intervention work including work around relationships, consequences and engaging with sports-based activities including numerous football sessions, trampoline park and skateboarding. Our Summer Activity planning is well underway with a number of sessions planned with different groups of children.

Direct work has also focused on building good relationships with children and supporting their re-engagement back into education and support at Panel.

Reframe

Re-Frame is a diversion programme for 10–17-year-olds who have been found in possession of class B or C controlled drugs that aims to reduce substance use and offending. This is a study programme with Kent University which our Police Officers were asked to assist with and is due for completion in August 2024.

Part of the programme involved being interviewed by the University and attend quarterly meetings where updates are provided. The reframe programme provides two sessions, approximately 45 minutes each. Delivered by the qualified youth substance misuse workers at Change Grow Live, the sessions are delivered either in person or online.

6.4 Released Under Investigation

Up until recently, Sefton YJS did not intervene with children who are Released Under Investigation (RUI) however through the Turnaround Project, RUI children can be referred for support and this is an area to develop in the context of wider youth prevention. We have tracked data relating to Sefton's RUI's and are currently analysing which of those children access a service.

6.5 Youth Service

Sefton has a Youth Service which sits within the Communities Department. The below highlights the Youth Service offer which is shared with children who engage with YJS.

Outreach - Staff go to local hotspots and engage with young people in the areas, signpost to local activities/Youth Centres.

Youth Bus - Staff go into local areas and work with children and families, they can also deliver projects in local areas. Projects include Street Cooking, Forest School Projects. Diversionary Activities at specific points in the year (Halloween/Bonfire etc). The team

deliver some Exploitation Awareness and have access to the video screen on the bus to show informal educational videos. Staff deliver Stay Safe work to regular attendees. Staff understand and will make MASH referrals where there are concerns.

New Beginnings – this referral-based service officers 1x Night per week in Bootle. 1x School Session Meols Cop. The sessions deliver a safe space for young LGBTQIA + young people. The team provide a youth work setting covering topics such as sexual health, healthy relationships, drugs and alcohol awareness, exploitation as well as delivering project work such as working with partners at The Open Eye Gallery and The Atkinson. Young People also take part in Liverpool City Region Pride and are always involved in Youth Voice Activities and consultation. This service also provides support for parents/carers.

Sexual Health (Inclusive Program) This programme can be delivered in schools over several weeks as well as Family Wellbeing Centre. The age group of from 13yrs plus due to nature of subject matter.

ASB Awareness Project (Project delivered in schools) This is a project that has been co-produced with children, the aim of this is to raise children's awareness of ASB and reduce it in the community.

Youth Voice/Consultation Activities (across all sessions) Children's views are requested to inform decision making and improve services for children so that we understand their needs.

Open Access Sessions - These sessions are available to anyone age 11-19 (age-appropriate groups) We also have a junior session (8-11). These sessions are aimed at engaging children in projects and activities where they are guided on topics including Exploitation, ASB, Drugs/Alcohol Awareness, Healthy Relationships and Healthy Lifestyles. Junior sessions are aimed at supporting children through transition from primary school to secondary school as well as some of the other activities listed above.

Mental Health Awareness - While we are not mental health trained professionals, we do across all sessions have awareness on how to support and talk positively about mental health. We can support children using resource books to discuss topics such as self-harm, body image, self-esteem and can use activities to help promote positive mental health. All staff are aware of the mental health support that is available to children and can signpost to Kooth.

Street Doctors – We have worked Merseyside Violence Reduction Unit to obtain login access to Street Doctors which will allow us to educate children using these resources online as well as delivering face to face sessions.

6.6 Education

The Virtual School works in partnership with the Youth Justice Team to champion the education, employment, and training of our young people. Cared For young people who are known to the service have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) as part of their care planning. Although Sefton remands tend to be minimal, we are concerned about the education

provision. We will therefore ensure that any children on remand as well as having an allocated social worker, will also have a PEP to ensure education continuity.

To support children and young people to achieve positive outcomes, the work Sefton Youth Justice Service works with schools, academies pupil referral units, alternative provision and colleges is key. Our links with the School Support Service has been strengthened along with work to support inclusion, increased tracking of data has enabled this to be recognised as a partnership response. Monthly Education Review meetings are well established, providing a forum to discuss support for children who are not in receipt of the statutory offer. These meetings are also an opportunity to ensure that any needs in literacy, numeracy and wellbeing in education are addressed. Sefton YJS also has an Education Welfare Officer seconded to the team, one day per week. This officer tracks school attendance, suspensions and exclusions and those young people who have reduced education provision. They also support children and parents and are the single point of contact between the education services and the Youth Justice Service and assisting staff to liaise with the individuals in schools and Services within Education Excellence Services.

The Education representatives on the partnership board provide strategic oversight of the quality of Education provision for the Youth Justice cohort of young people.

6.7 Restorative Approaches and Victims

Sefton has a dedicated victim worker, and an operational manager has thematic responsibility. We place emphasis on supporting victims and each victim is contacted and offered support. An independent volunteer contacts victims at the end of their involvement with YJS to obtain feedback on their experience of the support they have received from the YJS. All feedback received has been positive, some examples are shown below. The Victim Worker attends the Out of Court Panel to support decision making and Risk and Welfare Management Meetings relating to children, to ensure that victims needs and wishes are shared.

Our victim worker is a very experienced R.J. Practitioner. He is registered with the [National Restorative Justice Council](#) as an Advanced Practitioner.

'Advanced Registered Practitioners lead restorative processes involving cases of all levels of complexity. They perform a variety of casework or restorative processes and can apply a range of techniques in a variety of challenging context'.

Information relating to contact with victims since August 23:

- Statutory Orders 40 Non-Statutory 39
- 11 are corporate victims
- 68 individual victims
- 4 victims have had a face-to-face meeting or direct reparation
- 11 victims accepted letters from children supported by their caseworkers
- Victim leaflets have been refreshed re YJS/R.J./Victims Code/Support available
- New victim survey introduced to try to improve levels of victim feedback. Traditionally this can be very low. The new survey can be communicated to victims in person or by phone/letter/email/text or WhatsApp via a QR code or link.

- Victim feedback was obtained in 8 cases
- Sefton YJS Victim Worker has a very good relationship with the Sefton based Probation Service Victim Liaison Officer
- Sefton YJS Victim Worker is compliant with the [Code of Practice for Victim's of Crime](#) and assists victims with points relevant to the role of the YJS.
- Sefton YJS Victim Worker has attended a Board meeting this year to tell Board members about his role and to raise awareness of R.J.

Victim Feedback Snapshot:

"It was brilliant"

"Everything went well"

"Contact with victim worker, explanation of process, help if needed etc"

"Nothing could've been better"

"Couldn't do anything better"

Making a Difference

Children's Service celebrate good performance and good practice examples. In April 24, an example of YJS Restorative Practice was showcased following very successful RJ meeting. Very positive feedback was obtained from the victim, the child and child's mother. Quote from victim:

The meeting was relaxed, well structured, professional but allowed us to relax and share some jokes and "banter" I got a great deal of job satisfaction from the meeting ... it gave me a feel-good factor and boosted my morale.

The child greatly benefited from this practice and enjoyed a strong sense of achievement.

Further support is offered for additional safety and well-being. Since August 2023 there has been only one request for additional support from other agencies. It is apparent from the involvement with victims that wider agency involvement in some instances is already in place and victims make the worker aware of this.

Referral Order Community Panels

In 2024, we have recruited 14 new panel member volunteers recruited, vetted, and trained and now active along with existing 5 volunteers.

Panel forms have all been revamped including child friendly contracts, panel feedback forms and panel member scripts and a handout for children and parents regarding spent convictions and Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

6.8 Serious Violence, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

Serious Youth Violence

Within the cohort profile, violence tends to be the top offence closely followed by drug related offences. The Partnership has oversight of the cohort and has specifically requested audits to enhance the Partnership's understanding. In May an audit was completed to

establish the connection between violence and school exclusion. The finding of this audit will be shared with the Partnership Board and other boards within the wider children's services.

In conclusion, the findings were as follows:

- This activity found that 10.3% of the cohort have been cautioned or convicted of a violent offence and received a fixed term exclusion and / or permanent exclusion, showing some correlation.
- The average age when the offence took place was 15.1 years for boys as compared to girls which was 13.8 years.
- The most common offence type for boys was drugs followed by violence against the person. Whereas, for girls it was violence against the person followed by drugs. Interestingly, robbery did not feature as an offence.

Serious Violence Duty

The YJS has worked in partnership with Community Safety to ensure that Sefton complies with the Serious Violence Duty. Merseyside has Serious Violence Strategy which Sefton Council contributed to. Sefton Partnership has a Delivery Plan which has objectives that YJS are responsible for, including the below:

- Educating children relating to risk of harm and exploitation
- Deliver and monitor the Community Youth Connector project
- Deliver Turnaround and support early intervention and diversion for children who receive a 'no further action' outcomes or are released under investigation
- Promote out of court disposals
- Monitor the impact of school exclusions on serious youth violence
- Continue to offer specialist services through Framework for Integrated Care, MySpace and YJS (camhs)
- Support children not accessing education, training, or employment

Exploitation (Harm outside the Home – HOTH)

As part of the Sefton's Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP), there is the Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) subgroup, chaired by Local Policing D/Chief Inspector, the YJS and MySpace Manager is the Deputy Chair. In line with developments for the SSCP, the HOTH group has revised the workplan to meet a suit of objectives that have been agreed by the Three Key Leads. This plan is 'live' as of April 2024 and is robustly monitored. Each of the subgroup leads formally reports to the Three Key Leads bi-monthly to maintain momentum and accountability.

MY SPACE (Sefton Protection Against Child Exploitation)

My SPACE is a wraparound service for Sefton young people who are at risk of harm through exploitation. This team provides intensive interventions to children focusing on:

- Educating children around the risk of exploitation and grooming
- Diverting children into positive activities and opportunities
- Disrupting exploitative relationships and CE locations and hotspots.
- Support prosecutions for any perpetrators of child exploitation.

My SPACE team also works in close partnership with colleagues from other organisations including Merseyside Police, Sefton's YJS, Alderhey Framework for Integrated care team for

emotional and mental health support and PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation). The team focuses on children going missing and will complete interviews upon their return within set timescales. The team has accessed Child First training and has an action plan to develop practice across the next year.

NRM Referrals

Sefton YJS monitors and records National Referral Mechanism (NRM's) through the recording system. NRM's are included within the cohort profiles to enable the partnership to identify and respond to trends showing within the profile linking NRM's with CE and wider intelligence through MySpace. This team will ensure that for children they are working with that do not access YJS will be flagged as being referred to the NRM.

Safer Knives Scheme

Sefton has worked with the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to develop the Safer Knives Scheme. This is a knife replacement scheme for families to receive rounded end knives in return for pointed knives, which will reduce the potential to cause harm by stabbing. Since October 22, (to date) 13 packs of knives have been exchanged and 53 knives confiscated.

6.9 Detention in Police Custody

Detentions that extend beyond 15hrs are monitored via a pan Merseyside scrutiny group which is attended by the Emergency Duty Team who links in with the YJS Service Manager and shares information relating to any such detentions. The Local Policing lead shares information relating to the trend of more than 15hrs detentions across Merseyside to highlight emerging issues. During office hours, YJS can attend police custody setting to be an Appropriate Adult (AA) and likewise the Emergency Duty Team for out of hours. Sefton also has a volunteer who is AA trained and can attend where available for out of hours work. Sefton does not have an emergency bed arrangement. The YJS Operational Manager is due to train a new cohort of AA volunteers from across the organisation to create capacity.

6.10 Remands

Sefton had no remands throughout the last year until May 2024 where one child was remanded to Wetherby. YJS has supported a new policy for Children Social Care relating to the allocation of a social worker and where relevant a Personal Assistant for children on remand or serving a custodial sentence. In addition, YJS is working with the Virtual School to ensure that there is an education plan for any child on remand. Sefton YJS strives to keep young people out of custody as such as possible. During the last year there were some pre-sentence reports highlighting all options available and there were a couple of children that perhaps came close to being remanded however this was not the case.

6.11 Use of Custody and Constructive Resettlement


Since 2019, Sefton has not had a child serve a custodial sentence until March 2023. Sefton has not supported a child leaving a custodial setting back into the community for considerable years.

However, Sefton YJS has a Resettlement Policy in place that clearly outlines timescales and responsibilities of all professionals involved in supporting a young person in custody and planning a smooth, effective, and robust resettlement plan upon release.

6.12 Working with Families

YJS considers the wider context of the child including families, home life, the impact of existing issues and current and previous trauma. To provide support staff have delivered direct work and support to families such as arranging access to debt and housing advice, making referrals to partners such as Parenting 2000, Sefton@work and Active Sefton for diversion. We have good links to Early Help and can support families to access the Family Hub offer. Staff ensure that children are visited in their home so that we understand the context of home life. The voice of the care giver is also captured. We are developing our ideas to create a Parents Group which will be led by our Victim and RJ Officer and our Police Colleagues.

7 Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Partnership Board	Paul Holden (Supt. Local Policing, Sefton)
Signature:	
Date:	28 th June 2024

Appendices

Appendix 1 – YJ Partnership Board Membership and Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 – Performance Report

Appendix 3 – Financial Composition and Contributions

Appendix 4 – List of Training Accessed by Team Members

Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Terms of Reference

Role and Purpose

The Sefton Youth Justice Partnership brings together the statutory partner agencies as identified in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and non-statutory partners who make a significant contribution to:

- the effective delivery of youth justice services in Sefton and
- the achievement of the right outcomes for young people

The purpose of the board is to ensure that the Youth Justice Service and the collective and individual efforts of partnership organisations:

- reduces offending, re-offending and the use of custody in line with the national objectives of the Youth Justice Board
- deliver key functions effectively with children and young people on the edge of or within the criminal justice system including:
 - Engagement in education, training and employment
 - access to suitable accommodation provision
 - access to substance misuse services
 - access to health services

The role of the Partnership is to:

- Work effectively as a partnership to ensure that the delivery of youth justice services reduces offending, re-offending and the use of custody and positive outcomes are delivered.
- Support, challenge and hold the Locality Service Manager, the Youth Justice Service and partner organisations to account for the delivery of agreed outcomes and plans.
- Consider the needs of the children and young people within the service and represent the needs of the YJS to their respective organisations to ensure co-ordination and value for money.
- Oversee Performance against key outcome indicators.
- Provide a strategic overview of the work of the YJS and promote positive outcomes in the context of the youth justice system and Children's and Young People Plan
- Provide support and guidance to YJS to ensure it engages with local and national priorities, promotes equality and maintains diversity.

- Improve outcomes for Children, Young People and the Community
- Promote the work of the YJS and advocate this work through their own services.
- Ensure that Children and Young People who receive Youth Justice Services are Safeguarded.
- Flag up risks or blockages to the delivery of youth justice prevention priorities.
- Ensure children and young people involved in the youth justice system have access to universal and specialist services delivered by partners and other key agencies.

Objectives

- Agree, and monitor the implementation of the annual Youth Justice Plan ensuring that it complements the council and partners youth justice objectives.
- Agree an annual budget including in kind contributions and to provide support for additional targeted funding to meet identified and agreed need.
- Oversee the performance of the YJS, providing strategic guidance and challenge, and hold the service and partners to account when necessary.
- Agree the protocols, contracts and service level agreements between YJS and partner agencies.
- Provide a forum for the discussion of community issues which impact upon or are affected by the work of YJS.
- To be a forum for the exchange of youth justice information between partners and YJS to promote a pro-active approach to partnership working.
- Listen to and consider the views of service users, victims of crime, sentencers and wider community.
- To ensure that the YJS is contributing to the thematic outcomes within the Sefton Children and Young Peoples Plan
- Promote a culture of learning and lessons from community safeguarding & public protection incidents that meet the YJB serious community Incident criteria, including inspection findings and internal/ external reviews of cases.

Membership of the Partnership

The Board shall comprise:

- a representative from each of the statutory partners
- a representative from any other partner providing resources.
- co-opted members

The Partnership may co-opt representatives of agencies involved in criminal justice, representatives of the community, representatives of the voluntary sector involved in youth

offending work and any other individual who in the view of the Board would have a contribution to make to the effective operation of the Youth Offending Service. Co-options shall normally be for a minimum of two years.

Conduct of meetings

- Meetings will be held quarterly.
- A quorum shall be 3 statutory partners plus a representative of Chief Executive of Sefton Council.
- Any subgroups established by the Partnership will be reviewed annually to ensure that the role and purpose of the group is still relevant.
- Partners may nominate substitutes.
- Chair will be Sefton's Area Commander Dawn McNally, Merseyside Police from August 2022.
- Agenda papers to be forwarded to the Administrator 1 week prior to the meeting for consideration by the Chair.
- The meetings will last no longer than 3 hours.
- All members will commit to reading the papers prior to the meeting to enable them to challenge and ask questions about the information/issues raised.
- Progress and Performance Reports presented to the Board will be sent to the Chair of Sefton Safeguarding Children's Board

Standing Agenda Items and Reports

Standing items on the agenda to include key strategies, performance and budget decisions and safeguarding.

Youth Justice Partnership (Revised April 2024)

Organisation	Role	Name
Merseyside Police	Local Policing Lead and Chair	Paul Holden
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Children Social Care	Mandy Williams
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Communities	Mel Ormersher
Sefton Council	YJS and MySpace Service Manager	Rosanna Stanley
Sefton Council	YJS Operational Managers	Adele Maddocks Moirra Adams Amie Clarke

Probation Service	Head of Liverpool and Sefton Probation Senior Probation Officer	Janet Marlow Rachel Hall
Sefton Council	Assistant Director Education Excellence Virtual School Head Dep Virtual Head	Deps – Tracy McKeating Mary Palin Tabitha Walker Simmonds
Sefton Council	QA and Audit Officer Business Intelligence	Nicola Read Mike Edwards
Merseycare	Director of Operations	Maria Sumner
Sefton@Work	Employment & Skills Manager	Claire Maguire
Sefton Council	Administrator	YJS Business Support
Sefton Council for Voluntary Services	Strategic Lead for Children and Families	Sharon Cotterall
Change Live Grow	Agency Lead	Akeem Serrano
Secondary Schools	Head of Chesterfield High	Amanda Ryan
Alder Hey	Head of Camhs	Vicky Killen
Career Connect	Head of Service	Sarah Vaughan

Appendix 2 – Performance Report

Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Annual Plan 2024 / 25 – Performance Report.

This section covers our performance which has been stable across the last year. We are aiming to maintain stability and perform well across all Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The KPIs have now been in place for a year.

First Time Entrants (FTEs) Actual Numbers – January 2022 – December 2023.

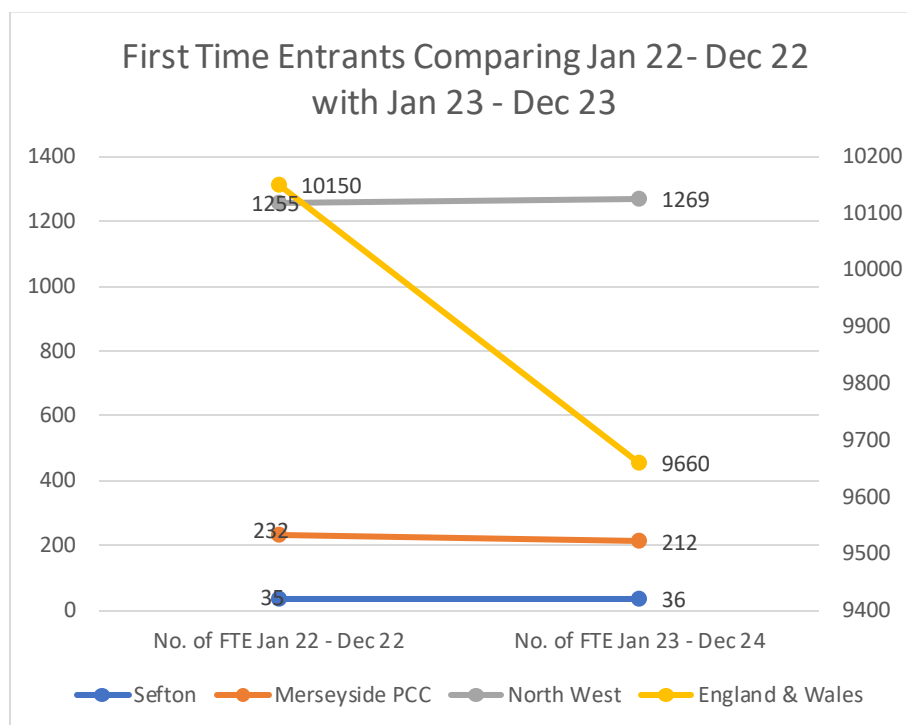


Chart 1.
Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.

Chart 1 shows a slight increase of 1 FTE into Sefton’s YJS. There were 35 FTEs in calendar year 2022 compared with 36 in 2023. The number of FTEs across the Merseyside PCC has decreased by 20 FTEs from 232 to 212. The Northwest region has seen an increase of 14 FTEs from 1255 to 1269. Nationally, there has been a significant decrease of 490 FTEs from 10150 to 9660.

	FTEs Jan 22 - Dec 22.	FTEs Jan 23 - Dec 23.
Sefton	35	36
M/side PCC	232	212
North West	1255	1269
England & Wales	10150	9660

Table 1

Table 1 shows the figures that are illustrated in Chart 1. From this, we can see that in calendar year 2022; Sefton's YJS had 35 out of the 232 children identified as FTEs (15.1%) reported by Merseyside PCC. Out of the 1255 FTEs reported by the Northwest region, Sefton YJS had 2.8% of this cohort. Out of the 10150 FTEs reported nationally, Sefton YJS had 0.3% of this cohort.

The table also illustrates that in calendar year 2023; Sefton's YJS had 36 out of the 212 children identified as FTEs (17.0%) reported by Merseyside PCC. Out of the 1269 FTEs reported by the Northwest region, Sefton YJS had 2.8% of this cohort. Out of the 9660 FTEs reported nationally, Sefton YJS had 0.4% of this cohort.

To compare and summarise between calendar years 2022 and 2023:

- Sefton has seen an increase of 1 child identified as an FTE.
- The Merseyside PCC FTE cohort has decreased by 20 FTEs. Sefton FTE cohort holding of the Merseyside PCC cohort has increased by 1.9%.
- The Northwest region cohort has increased by 14 FTEs. Sefton's FTE cohort holding of the Northwest region has stayed the same.
- The National cohort has decreased by 490 FTEs. Sefton's FTE cohort holding of the National figure, has increased by 0.1%.

First Time Entrants (FTEs) per 100 000 – January 2023 – December 2023.

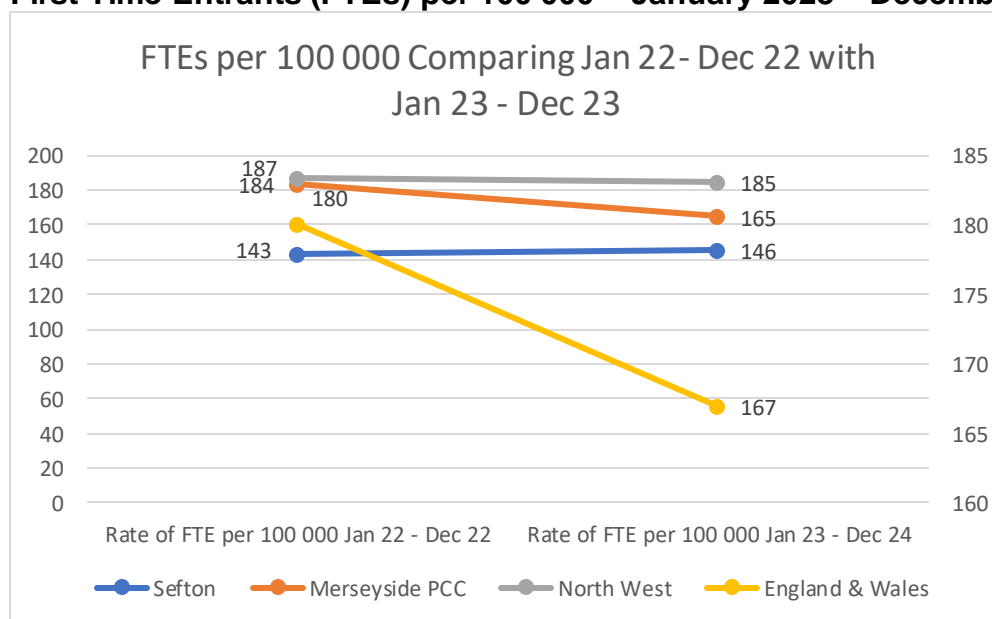


Chart 2. Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.

Chart 2 shows a slight increase of 3 FTE per 100 000 into Sefton's YJS. This is representative and coincides with Chart 1 displaying Sefton having an increase of 1 child into Sefton's YJS. The number of FTEs across the Merseyside PCC, the Northwest region and at national level have decreased. Chart 2 illustrates that Sefton is below the national, regional and Merseyside PCC's FTE rate.

First Time Entrants (FTEs) comparing Sefton with neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) – January 2022 – December 2023.

Local Authority.	Jan 22 – Dec 22		Jan 23 – Dec 23	
	No. of FTE.	Rate per 100 000	No. of FTE.	Rate per 100 000
Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington ²	160	158	131	126
Knowsley	30	206	37	246
Lancashire	185	159	162	136
Liverpool	101	255	66	162
Sefton	35	143	36	146
St Helen's	30	179	34	199
Wirral	36	118	39	125

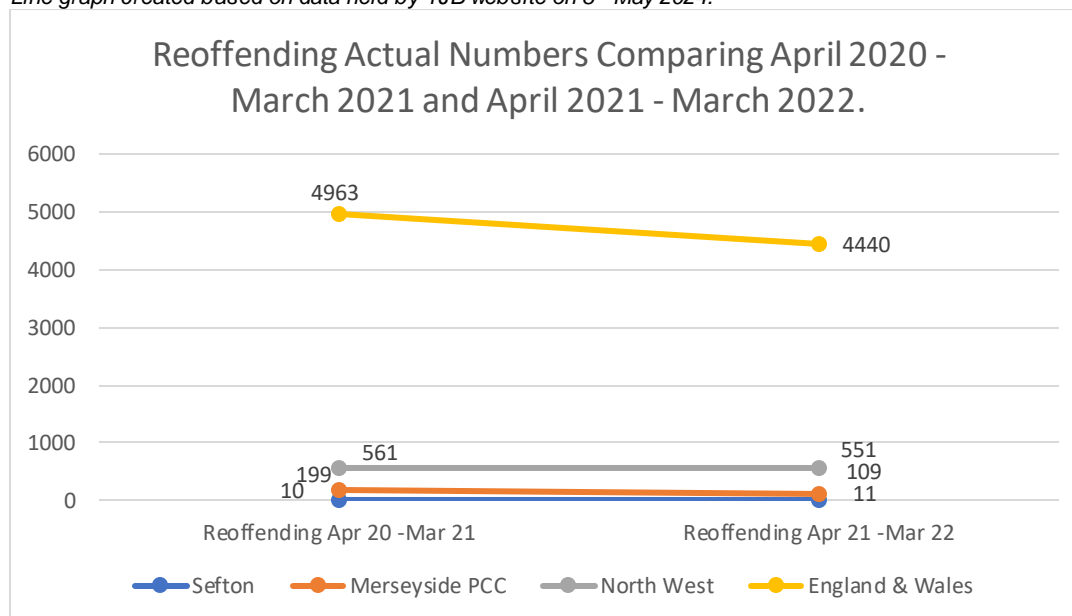
Table 2

Table 2 gives a clear indication of how Sefton compares to neighbouring LAs. In calendar year 2022, Sefton had the second lowest amount of FTEs. This is also the same for calendar year 2023.

Reoffending Actual Numbers – April 2020 – March 2022.³

Chart 3.

Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.



² These 4 LAs share a central YJS.

³ Unfortunately, at the time of writing this report, the latest figures published by YJB for Reoffending currently go up to March 2022.

Chart 3 shows a slight increase of 1 child identified as reoffending into Sefton’s YJS. There were 10 children identified as reoffending in financial year 20/21 compared with 11 in 21/22. The number identified as reoffending across the Merseyside PCC has decreased by 90 children from 199 to 109. The Northwest region has seen a decrease of 10 children from 561 to 551. Nationally, there has been a significant decrease of 523 children from 4963 to 4440.

	No. of Children Reoffending Apr 20 - Mar 21.	No. of Children Reoffending Apr 21 - Mar 22.
Sefton	10	11
Merseyside PCC	199	109
Northwest	561	551
England & Wales	4963	4440

Table 3

Table 3 shows the figures that are illustrated in Chart 3. From this, we can see that in financial year 20/21; Sefton’s YJS had 10 out of the 199 children identified as FTEs (5.0%) reported by Merseyside PCC. Out of the 561 children reported by the Northwest region, Sefton YJS had 1.8% of this cohort. Out of the 4963 children reported nationally, Sefton YJS had 0.2% of this cohort.

The table also illustrates that in calendar year 2023; Sefton’s YJS had 11 out of the 109 children identified as FTEs (10.1%) reported by Merseyside PCC. Out of the 551 children reported by the Northwest region, Sefton YJS had 2.0% of this cohort. Out of the 4440 FTEs reported nationally, Sefton YJS had 0.2% of this cohort.

To compare and summarise between financial year 20/21 and 21/22:

- Sefton has seen an increase of 1 child identified as reoffending.
- The Merseyside PCC FTE cohort has decreased by 90 children. Sefton’s reoffending cohort holding of the Merseyside PCC cohort has increased by 5.1%.
- The Northwest region cohort has decreased by 10 children. Sefton’s reoffending cohort holding of the Northwest region has increased by 0.2%.
- The National cohort has decreased by 523 children. Sefton’s FTE cohort holding of the National figure, has stayed the same at 0.2%.

Reoffending Rates (%s) – April 2020 – March 2022.

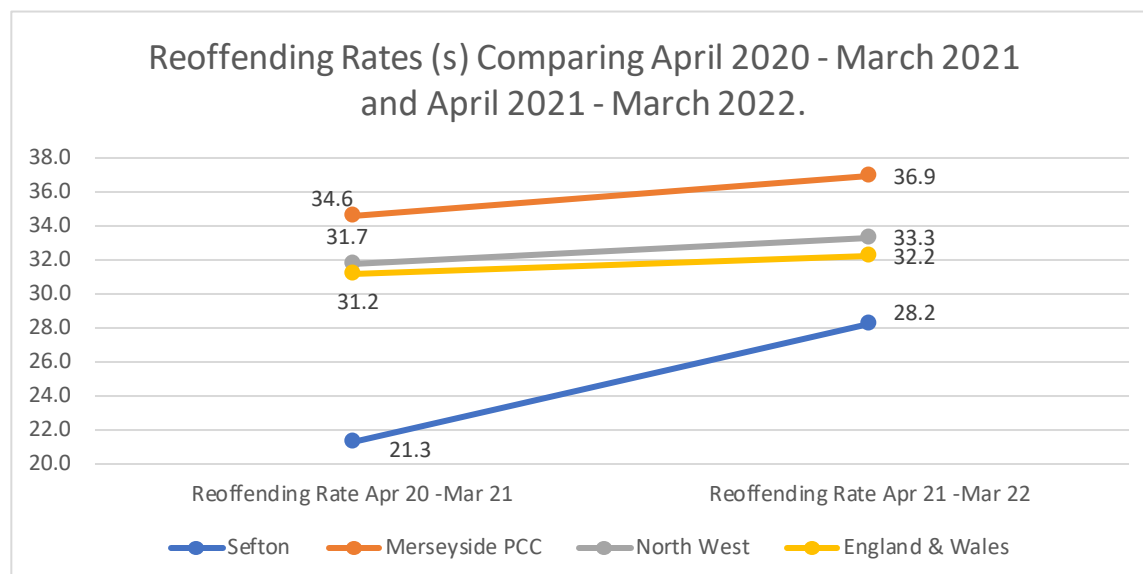


Chart 4.
Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.

Chart 4 shows increases in reoffending across all areas. Sefton’s YJS has seen an increase of 6.9%. The Northwest region has increased by 1.6%. Merseyside PCC has increased by 2.3%. Nationally, there has been an increase of 0.9%.

‘The reoffending rate for children increased by 0.9 percentage points to 32.2% following seven years of year-on-year reductions, while the number of children in the cohort continued to decrease.’

Quote taken from Statistician’s comments regarding the National reoffending rates in latest article about Youth Justice Statistics: 2022 to 2023.⁴

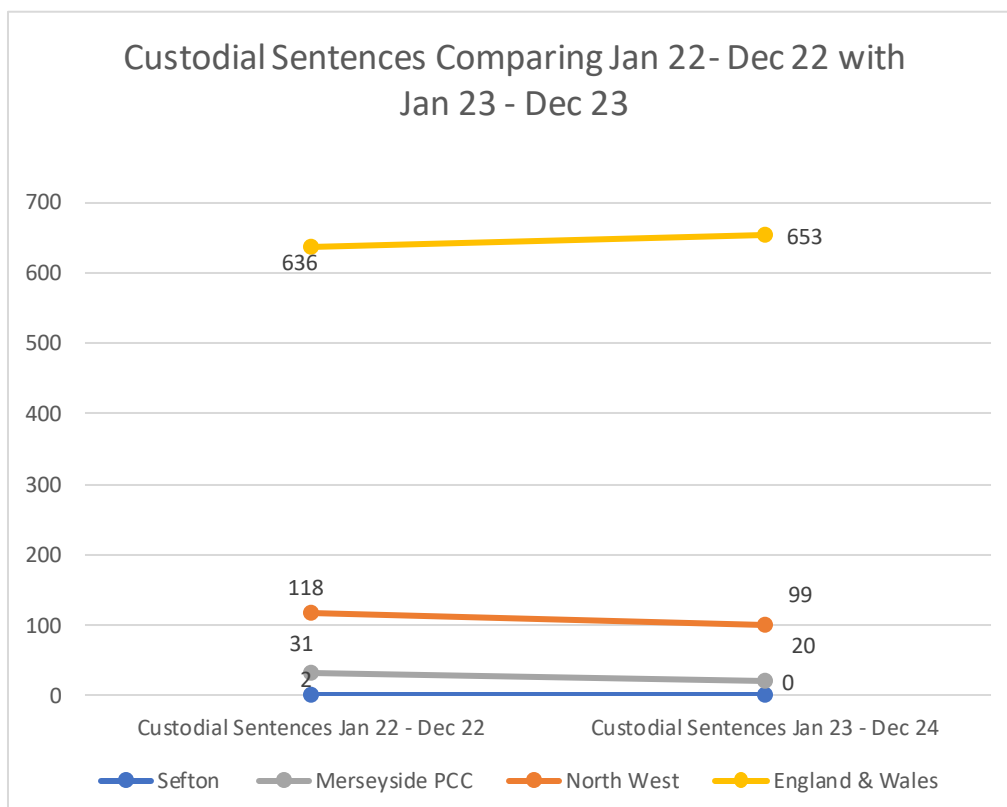
Reoffending Rates - comparing Sefton with neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) - April 2020 – March 2022.

Local Authority.	Apr 20 – Mar 21		Apr 21 – Mar 22	
	No. of Reoffenders.	% of Reoffenders.	No. of Reoffenders	% of Reoffenders.
Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington	57	32.8%	69	34.7%
Knowsley	17	37.0%	12	33.3%
Lancashire	97	37.5%	84	40.2%
Liverpool	53	39.0%	46	36.8%
Sefton	10	21.3%	11	28.2%
St Helen’s	15	31.9%	18	36.7%
Wirral	24	35.3%	22	47.8%

Table 4

Table 4 gives a clear indication of how Sefton compares to neighbouring LAs. In financial years 20/21 and 21/22, Sefton had the lowest rate of children reoffending in their cohorts. Please note the % of Reoffenders rates is based on each LAs cohort. It is not the full total of the LAs listed.

Custodial Sentences Actual Numbers – January 2022 – December 2023.



Statistics: 2022 to 2023
[to-2023-accessible-statisticians-comment](#)

Chart 5.
Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.

Chart 5 shows a significant decrease of 2 custodial sentences in calendar 2022 to 0 in calendar year 2023. The number custodial sentences across the Merseyside PCC have decreased by 11 from 31 to 20. The Northwest region has seen a decrease of 19 custodial sentences from 118 to 99. Nationally, there has been a slight increase of 17 custodial sentences from 636 to 653.

	No. of Children with a Custodial Sentence Jan 22 - Dec 22.	No. of Children with a Custodial Sentences Jan 23 - Dec 23.
Sefton	2	0
Merseyside PCC	31	20
Northwest	118	99
England & Wales	636	653

Table 5

Table 5 shows the figures that are illustrated in Chart 5. From this, we can see that in calendar year 2022; Sefton’s YJS had 2 out of the 31 children identified as having a custodial sentence (6.4%) reported by Merseyside PCC. Out of the 118 FTEs reported by the Northwest region, Sefton YJS had 1.7% of this cohort. Out of the 636 custodial sentences reported nationally, Sefton YJS had 0.3% of this cohort. The table also illustrates that in calendar year 2023; Sefton’s YJS had 0 custodial sentences. Therefore, the percentages from calendar year 2022 are now depleted at 0%.

Custodial Sentences per 100 000 – January 2023 – December 2023

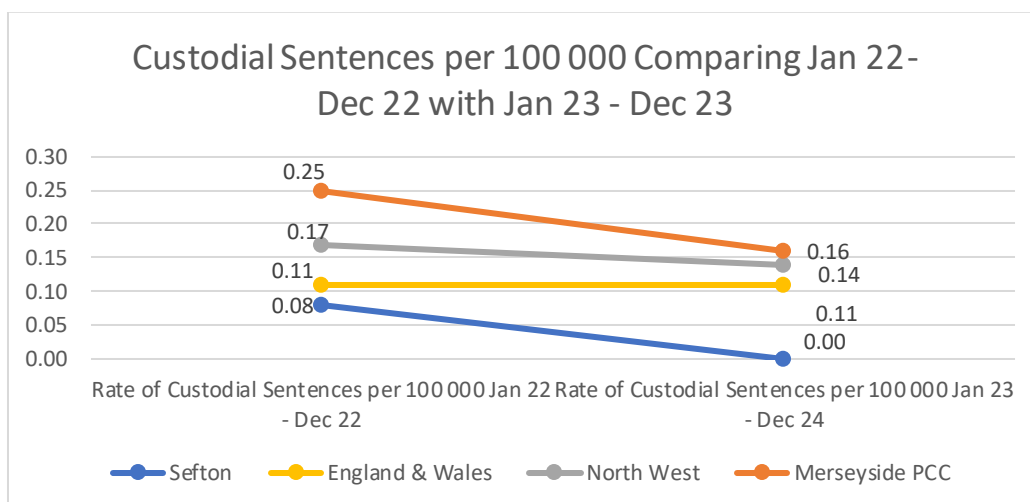


Chart 6 Line graph created based on data held by YJB website on 8th May 2024.

Chart 6 shows decreases of custodial sentence rates per 100 000 into Sefton's YJS, the Northwest region and Merseyside PCC. Sefton has seen a decrease of 0.08. The Northwest region has decreased by 0.03. Merseyside PCC has decreased by 0.09. The National rate has remained the same at 0.11.

Custodial Sentences - comparing Sefton with neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs) - January 2022 – December 2023.

Local Authority.	Jan 22 – Dec 22		Jan 23 – Dec 23	
	No. of Custodial Sentences	Rate per 100 000	No. of Custodial Sentences	Rate per 100 000
Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington	12	0.12	9	0.09
Knowsley	1	0.07	1	0.07
Lancashire	15	0.13	16	0.13
Liverpool	19	0.48	9	0.22
Sefton	2	0.08	0	0.00
St Helen's	5	0.30	7	0.41
Wirral	4	0.13	3	0.10

Table 6

Table 6 gives a clear indication of how Sefton compares to neighbouring LAs. In calendar year 2022, Sefton had the second lowest rate of custodial sentences. With there being no custodial sentences in calendar year, Sefton now has the lowest rate. Sefton is also the only LA listed above that has had no custodial sentences in 2023.

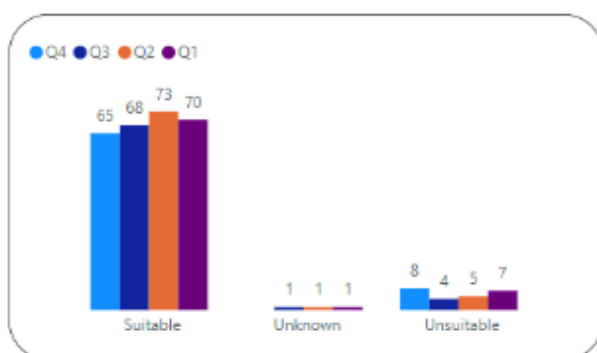
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) 2023/2024 ('23/24')⁵.

Prior to April 2023; the Youth Justice Board (YJB) set out its requirements for YJS's to record and report upon a set of additional KPI's. There are 10 individual KPIs. This section of the report gives Sefton's own statistics based on quarterly figures for financial year 23/24.

Please note that this section of the report considers children who have had or currently progressing with a statutory or non-statutory intervention. It does not include children on Turnaround and Prevention Programmes.

For the purpose of calculating percentages for the full year; **167 children** have been identified as being a part of Sefton YJS's cohort for 23/24.

1. Accommodation Suitability



April 2023; therefore a year on year comparison cannot be made.

Visual 1a Accommodation Suitability.

Accommodation Suitability	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
Suitable	65	89.0%	↓ -3	68	93.2%	↓ -5	73	92.4%	↑ 3	70	89.7%
Unsuitable	8	11.0%	↑ 4	4	5.5%	↓ -1	5	6.3%	↓ -2	7	9.0%
Unknown			↓ -1	1	1.4%	→ 0	1	1.3%	→ 0	1	1.3%
No. of Children	73		0	73			79			78	

Visual 1b Accommodation Suitability.

The three categories for Accommodation Suitability are: Suitable, Unsuitable and Unknown. Visual 1a illustrates how the three categories have increased and decreased over each quarter of 23/24.

Visual 1b details the figures. The recording quality for Accommodation Suitability has progressed over 23/24. At the end of Q4 all children had either Suitable or Unsuitable identified. This shows that YJS Case Workers are carrying out assessments of each child's home. For the 8 children identified as living in unsuitable accommodation in Q4; an in-depth analysis has taken place to ascertain where their home is unsuitable. The reasons for unsuitability included family dysfunction, poor home conditions and temporary accommodation.

Accommodation Suitability	No. of Children	%
Suitable	148	88.6%
Unknown	3	1.8%
Unsuitable	16	9.6%
Total no. of children.	167	

Visual 1c Accommodation Suitability.

To encompass 23/24, Visual 1c details 88.6% of children were living in suitable accommodation. 11.4% of children were either living in unsuitable accommodation or the suitability was unknown.

2. Education, Training and Employment (ETE).

For the purpose of this report, ETE will be split into three sections as follows:

2i. Statutory school age children.

The school year range for this cohort is any child in Year 11 or lower. The general age range is 10-16 years old. The youngest age of a child in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24 was 12 years old.

2ii. Post 16 children.

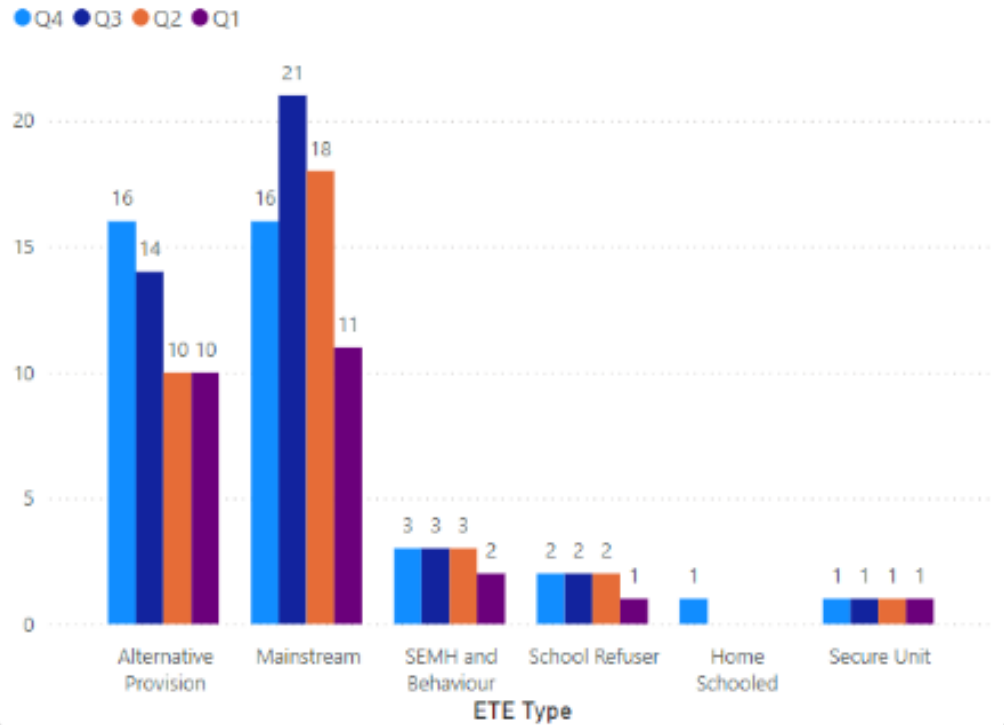
The school year range for this cohort is any child in Year 12 to 14. The general age range is 16-18 years old. The eldest age of a child in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24 was 18 years old. Although YJSs cater for children aged 10-17, a child may reach their 18th birthday towards the end of their intervention.

2iii. All of Sefton's YJS cohort.

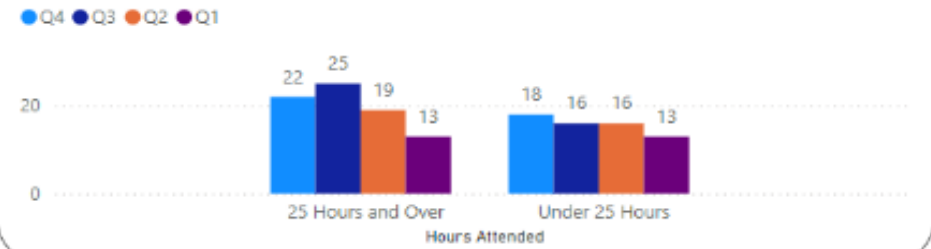
The two school age groups stated above combined.

2i. Statutory school age children.

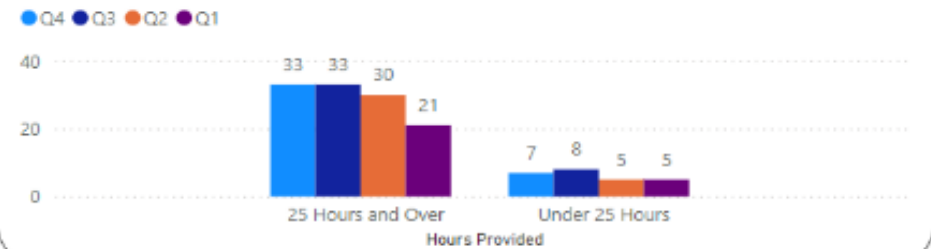
ETE Type per Quarter 23/24.



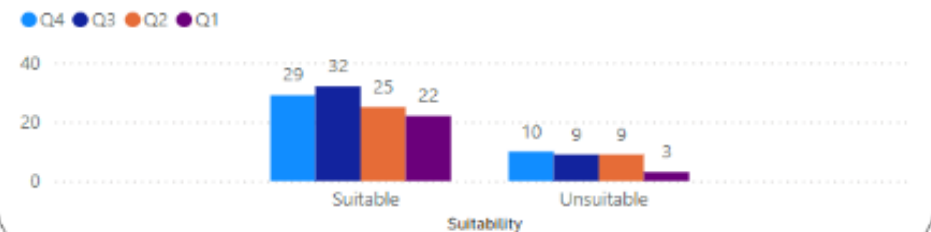
Hours Attended per Quarter 23/24.



Hours Provided per Quarter 23/24.



ETE Suitability per Quarter 23/24.



ETE Type	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
Alternative Provision	16	41.0%	↑	2	14	34.1%	↑	4	10	29.4%	→	0	10	40.0%
Home Schooled	1	2.6%	↑	1										
Mainstream	16	41.0%	↓	-5	21	51.2%	↑	3	18	52.9%	↑	7	11	44.0%
School Refuser	2	5.1%	→	0	2	4.9%	→	0	2	5.9%	↑	1	1	4.0%
Secure Unit	1	2.6%	→	0	1	2.4%	→	0	1	2.9%	→	0	1	4.0%
SEMH and Behaviour	3	7.7%	→	0	3	7.3%	→	0	3	8.8%	↑	1	2	8.0%
No. of Children	39			-2	41			34				25		

Hours Attended	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
25 Hours and Over	22	55.0%	↓	-3	25	61.0%	↑	6	19	54.3%	↑	6	13	50.0%
Under 25 Hours	18	45.0%	↑	2	16	39.0%	→	0	16	45.7%	↑	3	13	50.0%
No. of Children	40			-1	41			35				26		

Hours Provided	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
25 Hours and Over	33	82.5%	→	0	33	80.5%	↑	3	30	85.7%	↑	9	21	80.8%
Under 25 Hours	7	17.5%	↓	-1	8	19.5%	↑	3	5	14.3%	→	0	5	19.2%
No. of Children	40			-1	41			35				26		

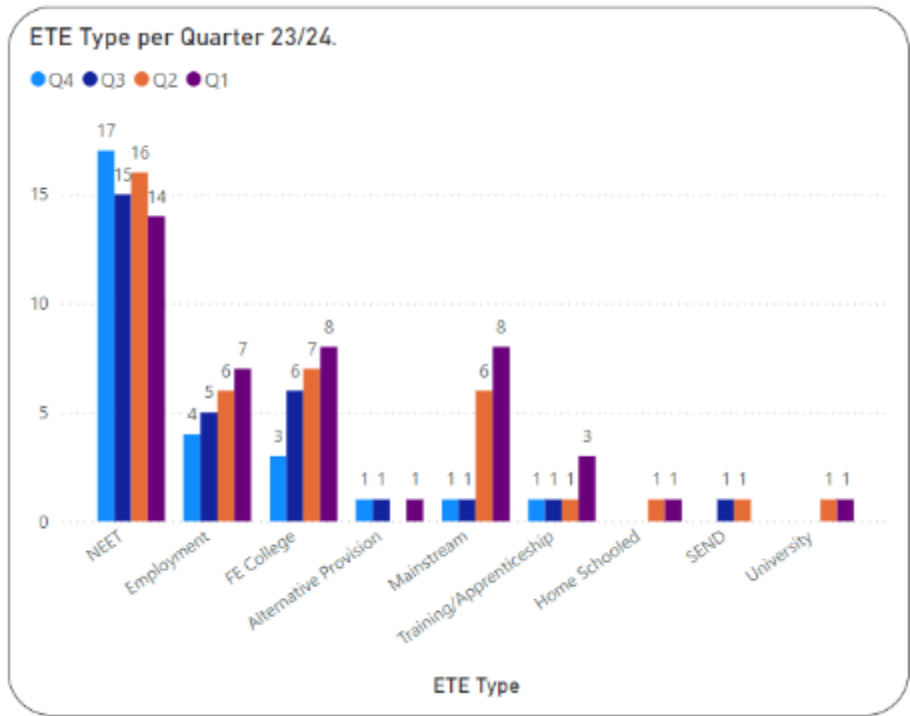
Suitability	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
Suitable	29	74.4%	↓	-3	32	78.0%	↑	7	25	73.5%	↑	3	22	88.0%
Unsuitable	10	25.6%	↑	1	9	22.0%	→	0	9	26.5%	↑	6	3	12.0%
No. of Children	39			-2	41			34				25		

The visuals on Pages 11 and 12 detail the ETE type, hours attended, hours provided and ETE suitability for statutory school age children. The percentages in the tables on the right-hand side relate to the total number of statutory school age children in Sefton's YJS cohort per quarter.

At the end of Q4, 10 children were identified as being in an unsuitable ETE type/provision. The main reason for unsuitability was non-attendance at the setting or a recent permanent exclusion.

To encompass 23/24, there were 79 statutory school age children in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24. This makes 47.3% of Sefton's over all cohort of 169 children.

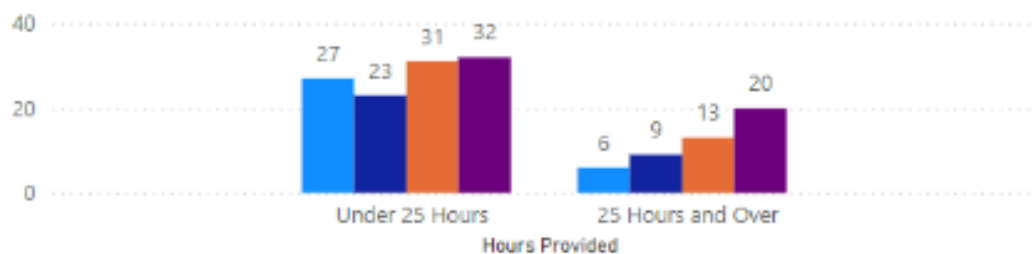
2ii. Post 16 children.



ETE Type	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
Alternative Provision	1	3.7%	→	0	1	3.3%	↑	1		↓	-1	1	2.3%	
Employment	4	14.8%	↓	-1	5	16.7%	↓	-1	6	15.4%	↓	-1	7	16.3%
FE College	3	11.1%	↓	-3	6	20.0%	↓	-1	7	17.9%	↓	-1	8	18.6%
Home Schooled							↓	-1	1	2.6%	→	0	1	2.3%
Mainstream	1	3.7%	→	0	1	3.3%	↓	-5	6	15.4%	↓	-2	8	18.6%
NEET	17	63.0%	↑	2	15	50.0%	↓	-1	16	41.0%	↑	2	14	32.6%
SEND			↓	-1	1	3.3%	→	0	1	2.6%	↑	1		
Training/Apprenticeship	1	3.7%	→	0	1	3.3%	→	0	1	2.6%	↓	-2	3	7.0%
University							↓	-1	1	2.6%	→	0	1	2.3%
No. of Children	27			-3	30			39				43		

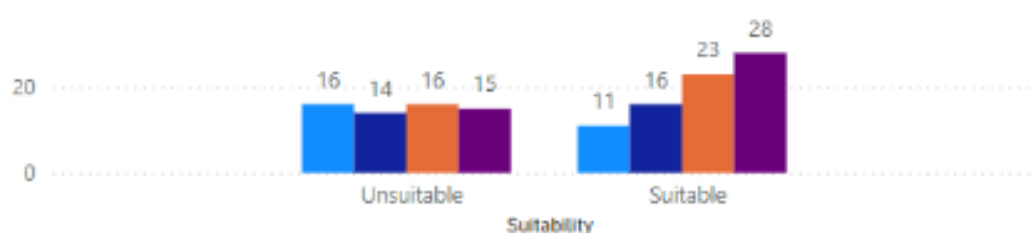
Hours Provided per Quarter 23/24.

● Q4 ● Q3 ● Q2 ● Q1



ETE Suitability per Quarter 23/24.

● Q4 ● Q3 ● Q2 ● Q1



Hours Attended	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
25 Hours and Over	6	18.2%	↓	-3	9	28.1%	↓	-3	12	27.3%	↓	-7	19	36.5%
Under 25 Hours	27	81.8%	↑	4	23	71.9%	↓	-9	32	72.7%	↓	-1	33	63.5%
No. of Children	33			1	32			44				52		

Hours Provided	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
Under 25 Hours	27	81.8%	↑	4	23	71.9%	↓	-8	31	70.5%	↓	-1	32	61.5%
25 Hours and Over	6	18.2%	↓	-3	9	28.1%	↓	-4	13	29.5%	↓	-7	20	38.5%
No. of Children	33			1	32			44				52		

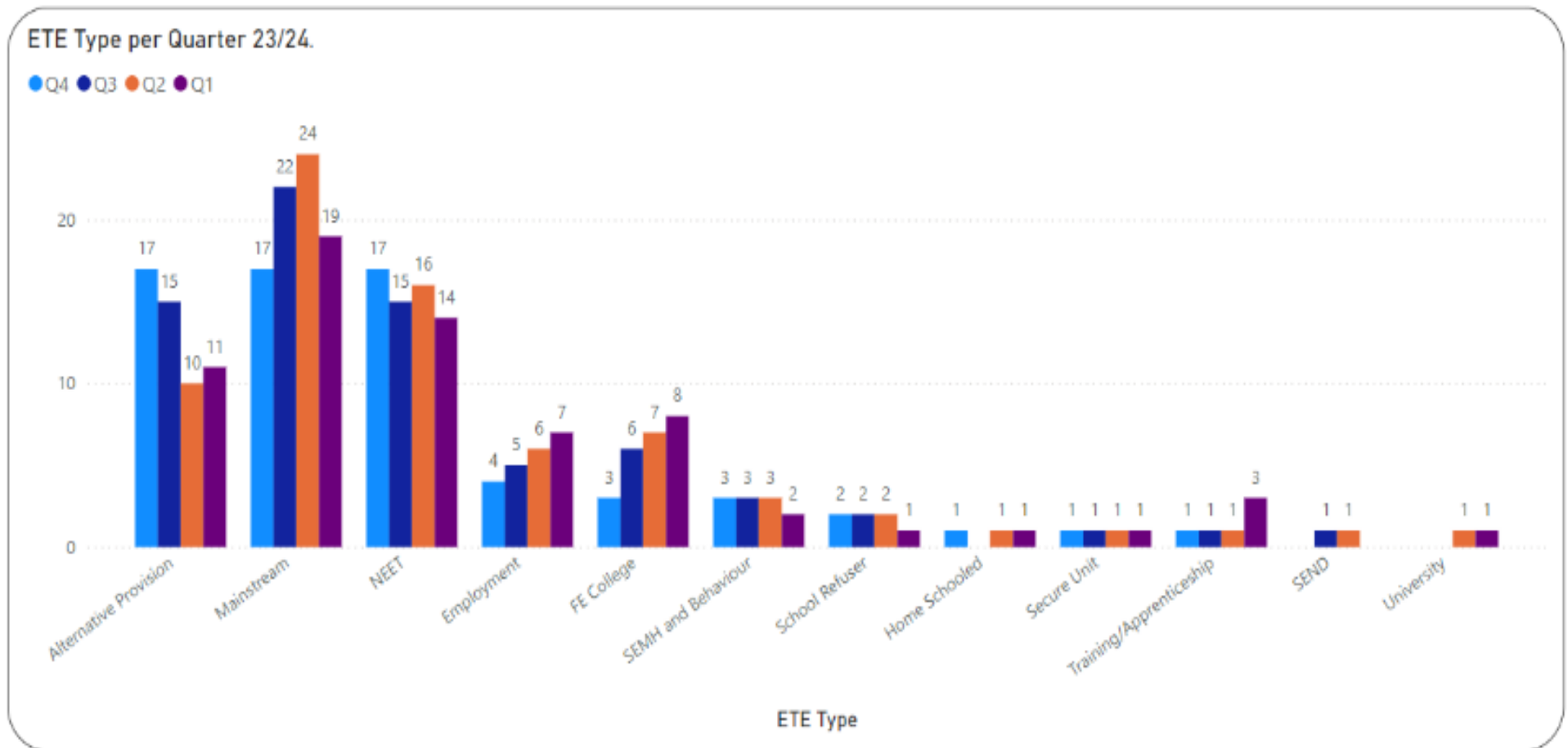
Suitability	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children			
Suitable	11	40.7%	↓	-5	16	53.3%	↓	-7	23	59.0%	↓	-5	28	65.1%
Unsuitable	16	59.3%	↑	2	14	46.7%	↓	-2	16	41.0%	↑	1	15	34.9%
No. of Children	27			-3	30			39				43		

The visuals on this Pages 14-17 detail the ETE type, hours attended, hours provided and ETE suitability for Post 16 children. The percentages in the tables on the right-hand side relate to the total number of Post 16 children in Sefton's YJS cohort per quarter.

At the end of Q4, 16 children were identified as being in an unsuitable ETE type/provision. The main reason for unsuitability was Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

To encompass 23/24, there were 79 Post 16 children in Sefton's YJS cohort for 23/24. This makes 52.7% of Sefton's overall cohort of 169 children.

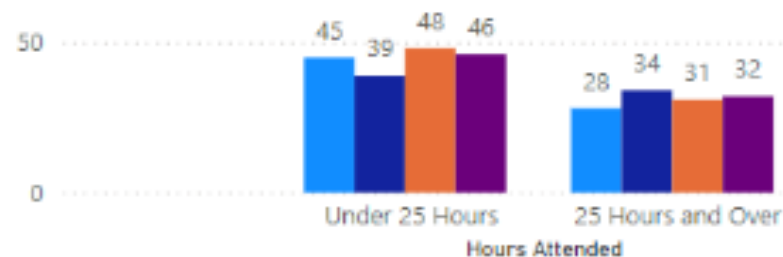
2iii. All of Sefton's YJS cohort.



ETE Type	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
	5	10	13.7%	↓	-1	11	16.2%				
	-1	6	8.2%	↓	-1	7	10.3%				
	-1	7	9.6%	↓	-1	8	11.8%				
	-1	1	1.4%	→	0	1	1.5%				
	-2	24	32.9%	↑	5	19	27.9%				
	-1	16	21.9%	↑	2	14	20.6%				
	0	2	2.7%	↑	1	1	1.5%				
	0	1	1.4%	→	0	1	1.5%				
	0	3	4.1%	↑	1	2	2.9%				
	0	1	1.4%	↑	1						
	0	1	1.4%	↓	-2	3	4.4%				
	-1	1	1.4%	→	0	1	1.5%				
	73				68						

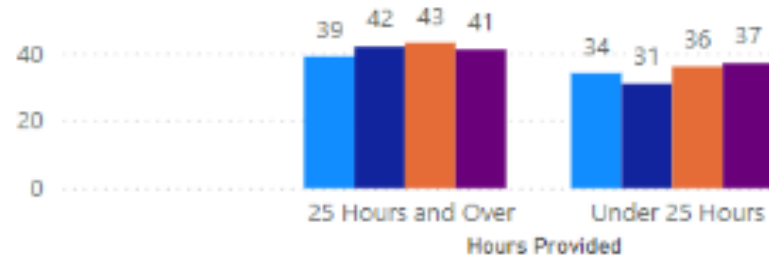
Hours Attended per Quarter 23/24.

● Q4 ● Q3 ● Q2 ● Q1



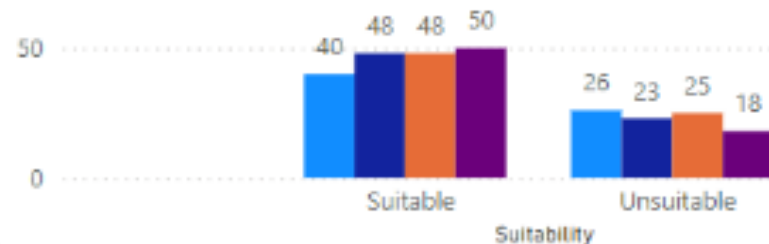
Hours Provided per Quarter 23/24.

● Q4 ● Q3 ● Q2 ● Q1



ETE Suitability per Quarter 23/24.

● Q4 ● Q3 ● Q2 ● Q1



Hours Attended	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
25 Hours and Over	28	38.4%	↓ -6	34	46.6%	↑ 3	31	39.2%	↓ -1	32	41.0%
Under 25 Hours	45	61.6%	↑ 6	39	53.4%	↓ -9	48	60.8%	↑ 2	46	59.0%
No. of Children	73		0	73			79			78	

Hours Provided	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
25 Hours and Over	39	53.4%	↓ -3	42	57.5%	↓ -1	43	54.4%	↑ 2	41	52.6%
Under 25 Hours	34	46.6%	↑ 3	31	42.5%	↓ -5	36	45.6%	↓ -1	37	47.4%
No. of Children	73		0	73			79			78	

Suitability	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
Suitable	40	60.6%	↓ -8	48	67.6%	→ 0	48	65.8%	↓ -2	50	73.5%
Unsuitable	26	39.4%	↑ 3	23	32.4%	↓ -2	25	34.2%	↑ 7	18	26.5%
No. of Children	66		-5	71			73			68	

The visuals on Pages 19 -22 detail the ETE type, hours attended, hours provided and ETE suitability for all children in Sefton's YJS cohort per quarter.

3. Special Education Needs (SEN) Levels.

3 SEN Levels

SEN Level	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
SEN Support	17	23.3%	→ 0	17	23.3%	↑ 1	16	20.3%	↓ -3	19	24.4%
EHCP	21	28.8%	↑ 1	20	27.4%	↑ 2	18	22.8%	↑ 3	15	19.2%
No SEN Identified	35	47.9%	↓ -1	36	49.3%	↓ -9	45	57.0%	↑ 1	44	56.4%
No. of Children	73		0	73			79			78	

Visual 3a SEN Levels.

Visual 3a details figures of SEN Levels across all quarters in 23/24 and includes all children in Sefton's YJS cohort. 79 children either had an EHCP or were in receipt of SEN Support. This equates to 47.3% of the full cohort of 167 children.

SEN Need	No. of Children
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	84
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	18
Specific Learning Difficulties	17
Cognition and Learning	11
Speech/Language/Communication Difficulty	11
Behavioural Difficulties	9
Communication and Interaction	8
Moderate Learning Difficulties	8
Emotional Difficulties	5
Social & Communication	5
Autism	4
General Learning Difficulties	4
Sensory and/or Physical Needs	4

Visual 3b SEN Visual 3b SEN Need quarters in all children cohort. 84 having

Levels.⁶

details figures of Types across all 23/24 and includes in Sefton's YJS were identified as Social, Emotional

and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. This equates to 42.6% of the full cohort of 167 children. 22 children have been identified as having Autistic Spectrum Disorder needs. This equates to 13.2% of the full cohort. The 11 children identified as having Speech, Language and Communications difficulties includes Dyslexia. This equates to 6.6% of the full cohort.

4. Mental Health.

4 Mental Health

Mental Health	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
Yes	30	41.1%	↓ -2	32	43.8%	↑ 5	27	34.2%	↓ -2	29	37.2%
No	43	58.9%	↑ 2	41	56.2%	↓ -11	52	65.8%	↑ 3	49	62.8%
No. of Children	73		0	73			79			78	

⁶ Please note that some children may have more than one need identified. Hence, the full total does not calculate to 167 children.

Visual 4 Mental Health.

Visual 4 details figures of Mental Health levels across all quarters in 23/24 and includes all children in Sefton’s YJS cohort. The number of children identified as having Mental Health needs includes those who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) as an identified need on their EHCP or SEN Support plan. This also includes children who have a Mental Health category identified for Substance Misuse.

Of the 30 children identified as having SEMH in Q4: 14 children have an EHCP (46.7%). 7 children are receiving SEN Support (23.3%).

Where the full cohort for 23/24 is concerned, 63 children were identified as having Mental Health needs. This equates to 37.7% of the full cohort.

5. Substance Misuse.

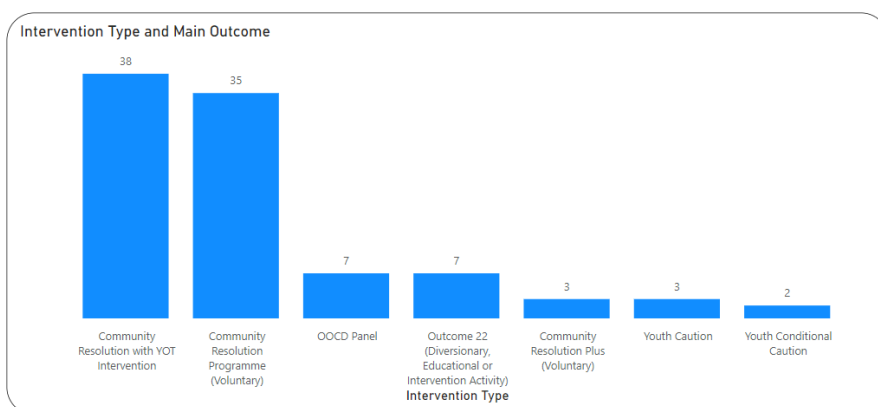
5 Substance Misuse											
Substance Misuse Identified	Q4	% of Children	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	% of Children	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	% of Children	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1	% of Children
Yes	34	47.2%	↑ 7	27	37.0%	↓ -9	36	45.6%	↓ -8	44	56.4%
No	38	52.8%	↓ -8	46	63.0%	↑ 3	43	54.4%	↑ 9	34	43.6%
No. of Children	72			73			79			78	

Visual 5 Substance Misuse.

Visual 5 details figures of Substance Misuse levels across all quarters in 23/24 and includes all children in Sefton’s YJS cohort. In Q4, 34 children were identified as having Substance Misuse needs, which was an increase from Q3 of 7 children but still less than Q’s 1 and 2. In addition, 16 children have had an intervention with Change, Grow, Live (CGL).

Across 23/24, there has been a reduction of 10 children. 89 children (53.3%) out of the full cohort have been identified as having Substance Misuse needs.

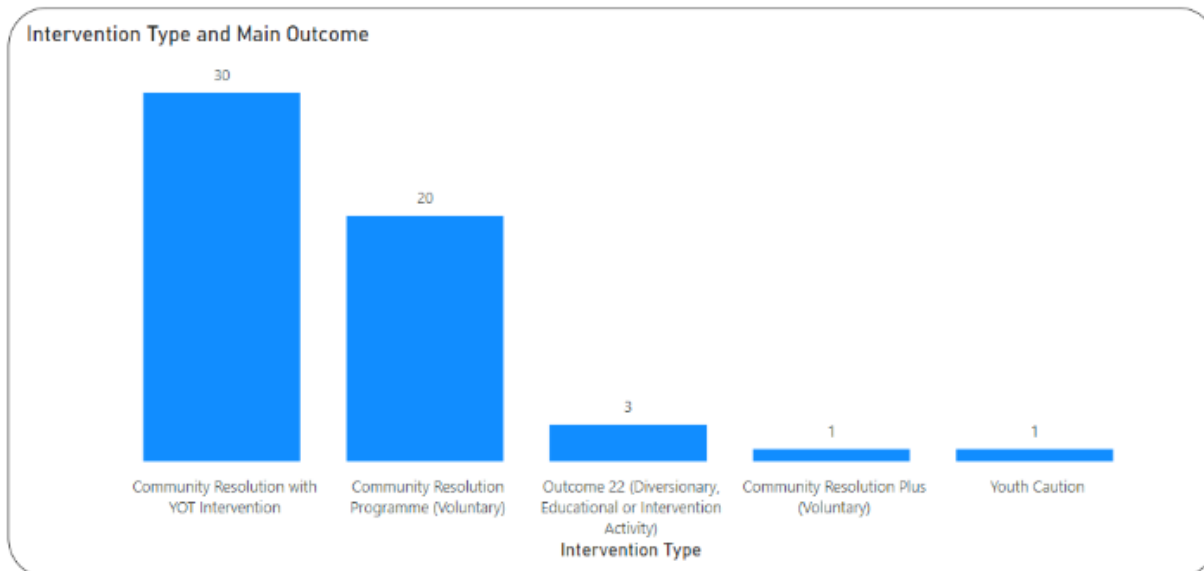
6. Out of Court Disposals (OOCs).



Visual 6a OOCs.

Visual 6a details figures of O OCD levels across all quarters in 23/24 and includes all children in Sefton’s YJS cohort. In total, 95 children had either completed or are completing an O OCD. This equates to 56.9% of the full cohort.

Visual 6a O OCDs – Successful Completions.



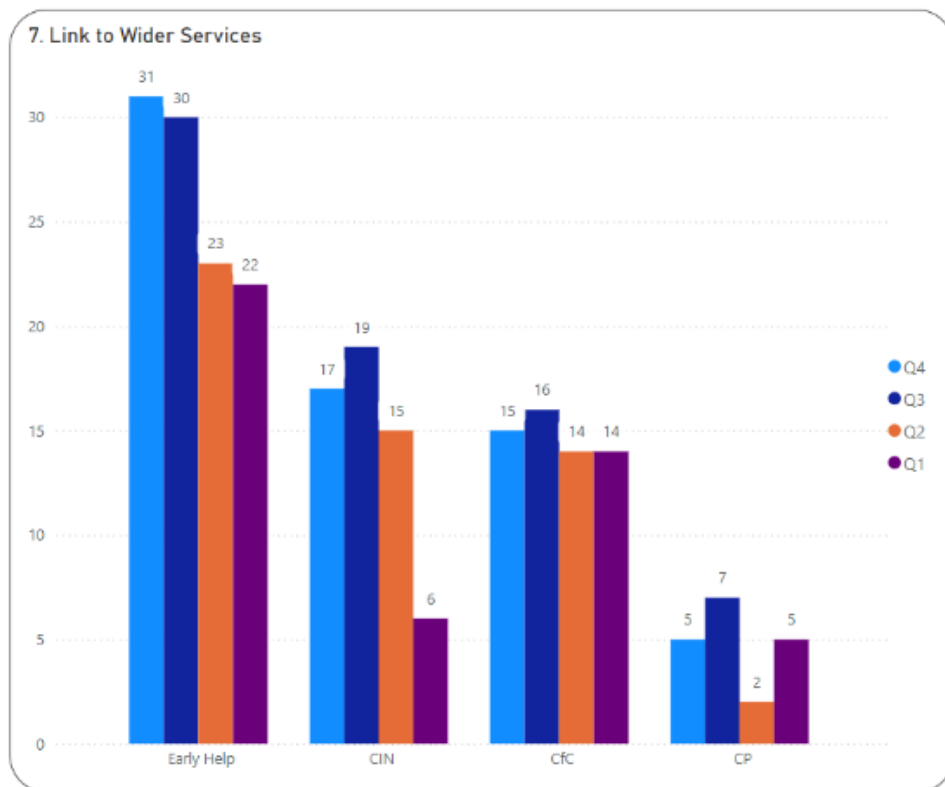
Visual 6b details figures of O OCD levels and successful completions across all quarters in 23/24 and includes all children in Sefton’s YJS cohort. In total, 55 children had successfully completed an O OCD. This equates to 32.9% of the full cohort and 57.9% of the cohort completing an O OCD intervention (95 children). The three categories of Community Resolutions are the most used at 76 children.

Of the remaining 40 children:

- 1 was not completed due to child missing sessions.
- 1 was not started due to the programme no longer being appropriate.
- 7 were partially completed due to missed sessions.
- 2 had a referral elsewhere as the programme was no longer appropriate.
- 1 child refused the programme.
- 28 children are currently completing their O OCD as of Q4.

7. Link to Wider Services.

This KPI details whether a child has also been open to Early Help (EH) and or Children’s Social Care (CSC) services. CSC services include Child in Need (CIN), Child Protection (CP) and Cared for Child (CfC).



Visual 7a Links to Wider Services.

Service Area	Q4	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	Difference between Q2 and Q3	Q2	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1
CfC	15	↓ -1	16	↑ 2	14	→ 0	14
CIN	17	↓ -2	19	↑ 4	15	↑ 9	6
CP	5	↓ -2	7	↑ 5	2	↓ -3	5
Early Help	31	↑ 1	30	↑ 7	23	↑ 1	22
Total	68	-4	72	18	54	7	47

Visual 7b Links to Wider Services.

In addition to YJS intervention(s), 68 children in Q4, have also been open to support from EH and CSC. This is a decrease of 4 children from Q2.

The total number of children on a CSC Plan is 37 with 31 open to Early Help. Therefore, the need for CSC support and intervention outweighs EH.

There have been considerable increases in further support from EH and CSC since Q1. Overall:

- Early Help has seen an increase of 9 children.
- CIN has seen an increase of 11 children.
- CfC has seen an increase of 1 child.
- Whilst there was an increase in Q3; overall, CP has now levelled back to 5 children.

8. Management Board Attendance.

There is a requirement for the following colleagues to attend board meetings:

- Senior Manager LA Children's Social Care.
- Senior Manager LA Education.
- Senior Manager Police.
- Senior Manager Probation.
- Senior Manager Health.

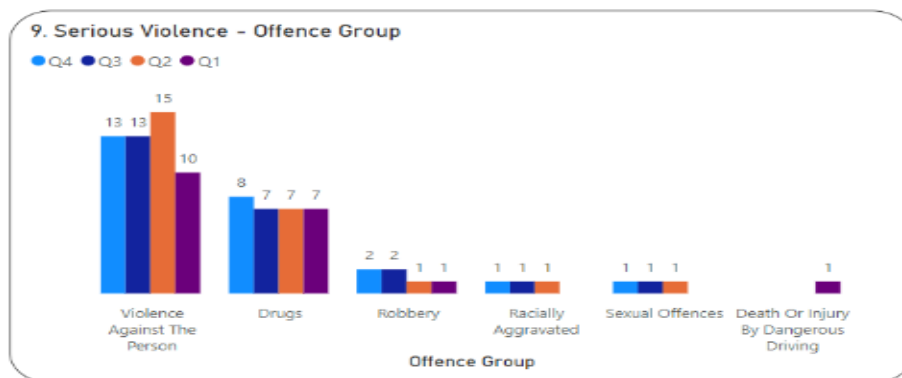
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Children's Social Care	P	P	P	A
Education	P	P	P	P
Police	P	P	P	P
Probation	P	P	A	P
Health	P	P	P	P

P=

Present. A = Apologies.

The table above shows that there has been a good level of representatives at board meetings. The new chair appointed in Q4 is a representative from the Police. There was no representative from Probation in Q3. However, they were fed back to accordingly with minutes from the Board meeting. Although there was no representative from Children's Social Care in Q4, the YJS Service Manager is a member of the Children's Social Care Senior Management Team (SMT). The Service Manager reports to SMT monthly with YJS progress and information.

9. Serious Violence.

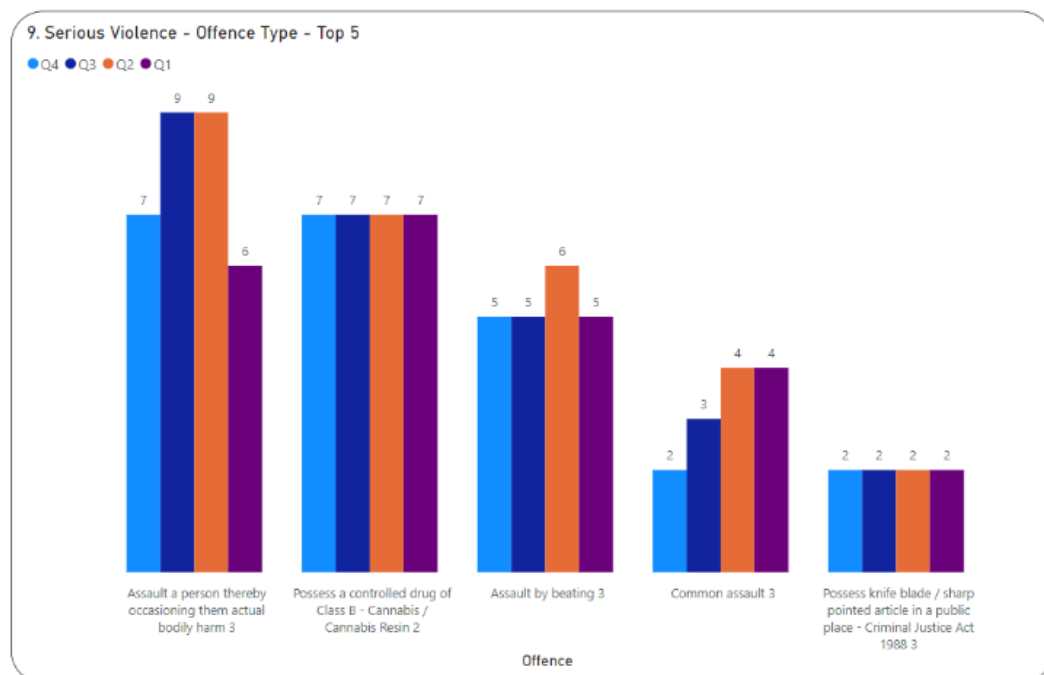


Visual 9a Serious Violence – Offence Groups.

Offence Group	Q4	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1
Violence Against The Person	13	→	10	↓	15	↑	10
Drugs	8	↑	7	→	7	→	7
Robbery	2	→	2	↑	1	→	1
Racially Aggravated	1	→	1	→	1	↑	1
Sexual Offences	1	→	1	→	1	↑	1
Death Or Injury By Dangerous Driving						↓	1
Total	16		16		17		11

Visual 9b Serious Violence – Offence Groups Figures.

Visual 9a illustrates how the Serious Violence offence groups have increased and decreased over each quarter of 23/24. Visual 9b details the figures. Violence Against the Person is the highest group with 13 children identified in Q4. This has increased by 3 children since Q1 (10 children). The Drugs offence group has increased by 1 child from 7 children in Q1 to 8 children in Q4. All other offence groups have remained the same.



Visual 9c Serious Violence – Top 5 Offences.

Visual 9c illustrates the top 5 offences per quarter. ‘Assault of a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm’, is generally abbreviated to ABH. There was a slight fluctuation in Qs 2 and 3 for ABH by 3 children. This has now decreased to 7 children. Possession of Cannabis has remained the same consistently at 7 children. Assault by beating has levelled back to 5 children. Common assault has seen a decrease of 2 children (reduction of 50%). Possession of a knife/blade has remained the same at 2 children.

10. Victims.

All victims of children's offences are offered support by ways of being involved in Restorative Justice (RJ). Victims can choose and are encouraged to attend face to face meetings with the child and be kept up to date with the progress children are making on their interventions.

10. Victims	Q4	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1
No. of Victims Contacted	56	21	35	↑ 13	22	↓ -9	31
Offered RJ	54	38	16	↑ 4	12	↑ 2	10
Accepted RJ	34	32	2	↓ -1	3	→ 0	3

Additional Support	Q4	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1
Additional Support Provided	116	-43	159	↑ 52	107	↓ -90	197
Additional Support Requested	33	4	29	↑ 16	13	↓ -50	63

Information and Updates	Q4	Difference between Q4 and Q3	Q3	Difference between Q3 and Q2	Q2	Difference between Q2 and Q1	Q1
Update provided to Victim		↓ -1	1	↑ 1		↓ -18	18
Victim Provided with Information	7	↑ 3	4	↑ 4			

Visual 10a RJ, Support and Updates offered and provided.

Visual 10a provides evidence that engagement with and from Victims has rapidly increased. The acceptance of RJ has increased 11-fold from Q1 to Q4. Although the visual shows that Additional Support Provided and Requested has decreased over the quarters with the number of victims increasing; there will be duplicate victims across the quarters. For example, if a Victim was identified and contacted in Q3, they will roll over to Q4.

Appendix 3

YJS Financial Contributions for 2023/24 (incl. Variance with 2022/23)

Agency/Funding Stream	Cash Contribution 2023/24 £	Payment in Kind 2022/23	Cash Contribution 2022/23 £	Variance 2023/24 to 2022/23 £
Youth Justice Grant – Good Practice Grant	435,873		375,752	60,121
Merseyside Police Crime Commissioner	70,889		65,000	5,889
Merseyside Police		1 fte Police Officer (42,893)		
Merseyside Probation Trust	5,000	0.5 Probation Officer (26,712)	5,000	0
Health – Clinical Commissioning (North &	25,371	1.6 Band 6 (63,115)	25,371	0

South Sefton)				
Sefton Council	1,287,996		1,218,123	69,873
<u>Total</u>	<u>£1,825,129</u>		<u>£1,689,246</u>	<u>£135,883</u>

Appendix 4 – List of Training Accessed (across the team)

Safeguard, compliance and Diversity training
Safeguarding Adults Awareness (Mandatory e-Learning)
AIM 3 refresher
Diversity and Equality training
Brook Traffic light Tool
Neurodiversity Training
Oliver McGowen - Autism Training
Restorative Justice
Disrupting the Bias
Conversational Referral Model Briefing (Front Door)
Cyber Crime Prevent
NRM Virtual Briefing
Children and Young People's Mental Health
Next Steps training
AIM refresh training
NHS Autism awareness training
Protecting Children against Exploitation
Serious Child Safeguarding Cases
Caring Dad's Training
Coercive Control
Working Together to Safeguard Children
Domestic Abuse Awareness
LCS Training
MySPACE Briefing (Child Exploitation)
The Million Pieces Experience – Lads Like Us
Information Compliance, Sharing and Guarding
Health and Safety
Climate Change - All Staff Mandatory
Code of Conduct
Corporate Induction
Mental Health at Work
EHM System Training
Private Fostering
Fire Safety At Work
Social Isolation Awareness
Equality and Diversity Awareness
Emergency First aid
Payprus Suicide Prevention
Relax kids
Online Safety training
Working together to safeguard children
Building bonds and breaking cycles of ACES
Liverpool CAMHS Bitesize – Social media and Mental Health
Liverpool CAMHS Bitesize – Eating Disorders
Anti Exploitation training - SSCP
Serious – self harm / suicide prevention training- SSCP
Merseyside VRP Trauma Informed Training
Writing analytically through practice with research in practice
Neglect training (Arthur and Star)

Building effective networks
Child First
Inspection readiness-Management oversight & data analysis
Counter Terrorism
Assessment training
Behaviour as Communication- CAMHS
Thrive Model Workshop
EHM Systems Training
CAMHS Stress Response
CAMHS Anxiety Training
Harmful Sexual Behaviour
Body Positivity- NHS
The Oxford Brain Story – Youth Justice Board
Anti Bias Training- Sefton Council
CAMHS Adolescent Brain Development
Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training- NUCO
Exploring Youth Justice
Turning Up the Volume of the Child
CAMHS-Body Image
Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
Neglect Screening Tool
ACES 'Building and Bonds' Training
MVRP Trauma Informed Training
LGBTQAI+
Early Help Assessment Training (Sefton Council)
Unitas / Youth Justice Initiative Effective Practice Award (Diversion)
CACI via MST
KPI Reporting and Recording; this workshop is suited to anyone who monitors KPI recording.