

BRIDGEND YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

6 February 2025





Contents







- RAG
- Performance against indicators
- Prevention Partners
- Recommendations

1 PERFORMANCE DATA

1.1 RAG Summary of Bridgend Youth Justice Service (BYJS) September 2024

The RAG summary outlines where the service is performing well, areas that need improving and areas of concern. The colours indicate the assessed performance rating under each heading.

	Interventions The Youth Justice Service has seen a 30% rise in its interventions from the same time period in 2023 and there has been an increase in Bureau interventions which is limiting the amount of prevention cases that can be allocated within the service. There was an increase in the male population aged 17-18 years. Trauma integration is still needing to be developed across the service to ensure all children after the trial will be offered the same trauma intervention if they have consented to participate. Restorative and Diversionary Practices: there have been significant increases in Youth Restorative Disposal and Outcome 22 reflecting a positive shift towards rehabilitative, trauma-informed interventions. Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions also saw increases in numbers which reflects the increase in interventions through the Youth Bureau.
	Accommodation The vast majority of children are living in suitable accommodation, however for those who are currently living in unsuitable accommodation, an audit exercise has been undertaken with housing to understand the barriers and issues on a case-by-case basis and to ensure those cases go through Resettlement Panel where necessary so we are able to better plan as multi-agency organisations to improve the accommodation situation for the child.
	First time entrants There has been a rise in first time entrants in this time frame. This is a year-on-year rising trend over the last three years and seems to be a concern for the South Wales region particularly Bridgend where cases which have not been previously notified to the service have received a Youth Caution or above for their offence.
	Custody Custody figures have doubled, however this amounts to one to two children known to the service. The latest custodial sentence was a minimum sentence for a child who continued to be non-compliant after being offered several opportunities by BYJS and the court.

	<p>Children's Social Care involvement</p> <p>The number of care experienced children have slightly increased, indicating a need for monitoring to address underlying issues. Many placed children have complex needs, requiring close collaboration with Children's Social Care.</p> <p>Care and Support Plans have decreased, suggesting effective early interventions.</p> <p>Child Protection Plans have slightly reduced, reflecting progress in addressing concerns.</p>
	<p>Education, training and employment</p> <p>Attendance rates of children known to BYJS are still problematic in 2024 for school age children with only 47% attending the full 25 hours offered. This indicates a need for targeted support to address barriers affecting this group.</p>
	<p>Mental health</p> <p>Limited growth in the proportion of assessments suggests a modest increase in demand, which may outpace capacity for mental health assessments. Resource challenges require increased support to meet this demand and ensure timely access for children. The rise in assessments indicates progress in identifying and prioritising mental health needs within the youth justice system.</p>
	<p>Substance use</p> <p>The 63% increase in substance assessments shows rising substance misuse, requiring additional resources to manage effectively. While improved identification is evident, existing services may be strained, necessitating scaling of intervention and prevention efforts. The rise in assessments highlights a positive trend in addressing substance-related needs within the youth justice system.</p>
	<p>Additional Learning Needs (ALN)</p> <p>Data accuracy in ALN recording raises concerns, highlighting the need for an audit to ensure reliable information. Although the number of children identified with ALN has increased, the proportion of children open to BYJS with ALN has slightly decreased. We are aware of several children open to BYJS with undiagnosed needs, which needs further examination. The overall rise in children with ALN indicates progress in recognising additional learning needs within the youth justice system.</p>
	<p>Victims</p> <p>The current data reporting for victims does not reflect the focus of the new inspection framework. New performance data will be developed to ensure that the board are better informed of how effective the service has been in engaging with victims of youth crime.</p>



Management Board attendance

In 2024, full attendance (five out of five) by statutory partners was achieved, highlighting strong collaboration. In 2023, attendance was four out of five, indicating room for improvement. Full participation aligns with the Youth Justice Board's key performance indicator (KPI), supporting effective multi-agency coordination and planning for the service, however, a number of those attending were those deputising for the lead representative and there needs to be assurance from partners that those attending are able to make decisions for their service.

It is worth noting that the period October 2023 to March 2024 the Board attendance did drop again to four out of five with not all statutory partners attending.

Interventions

Intervention by age and gender

Summary of data:

Age of child at start of intervention	Number of children (April to September 2023)	Number of children (April to September 2024)
10	0	0
11	0	1
12	8	1
13	12	14
14	15	24
15	19	23
16	21	22
17	23	40
18	18	24
Total	115	149

Gender	Number of children (April to September 2023)	Number of children (April to September 2024)
Female	26	31
Male	89	118
Total	115	149

Analysis of intervention data by age and gender (Bridgend Youth Justice Service)

Between April and September 2023, and the same period in 2024, the total number of children receiving interventions rose from 115 to 149, marking a 29.6% increase. This growth is evident across both age and gender groups.

Age analysis

Key trends include:

- No children aged 10 in either year.
- Age 11 increased slightly from zero to one (0.6%).
- Age 12 saw a significant decrease from eight to one (6.4%).
- Age 13 rose from 12 to 14 (a 1.1% decrease).
- Age 14 grew from 15 to 24 (3.1%).
- Age 15 increased from 19 to 23 (1.1% decrease).
- Age 16 remained stable, slightly increasing from 21 to 22.
- Age 17 changed significantly from 23 to 40 (6% increase).
- Age 18 rose from 18 to 24 (0.5%).

Overall, older adolescents (16–18) account for the largest increase in interventions.

Gender analysis

Both males and females saw an increase in interventions, but the rise was more pronounced among males.

- Females increased from 26 in 2023 to 31 in 2024, with their proportion slightly decreasing from 22.6% to 20.8%.
- Males rose from 89 in 2023 to 118 in 2024, with their proportion growing from 77.4% to 79.2%.

Combined Observations

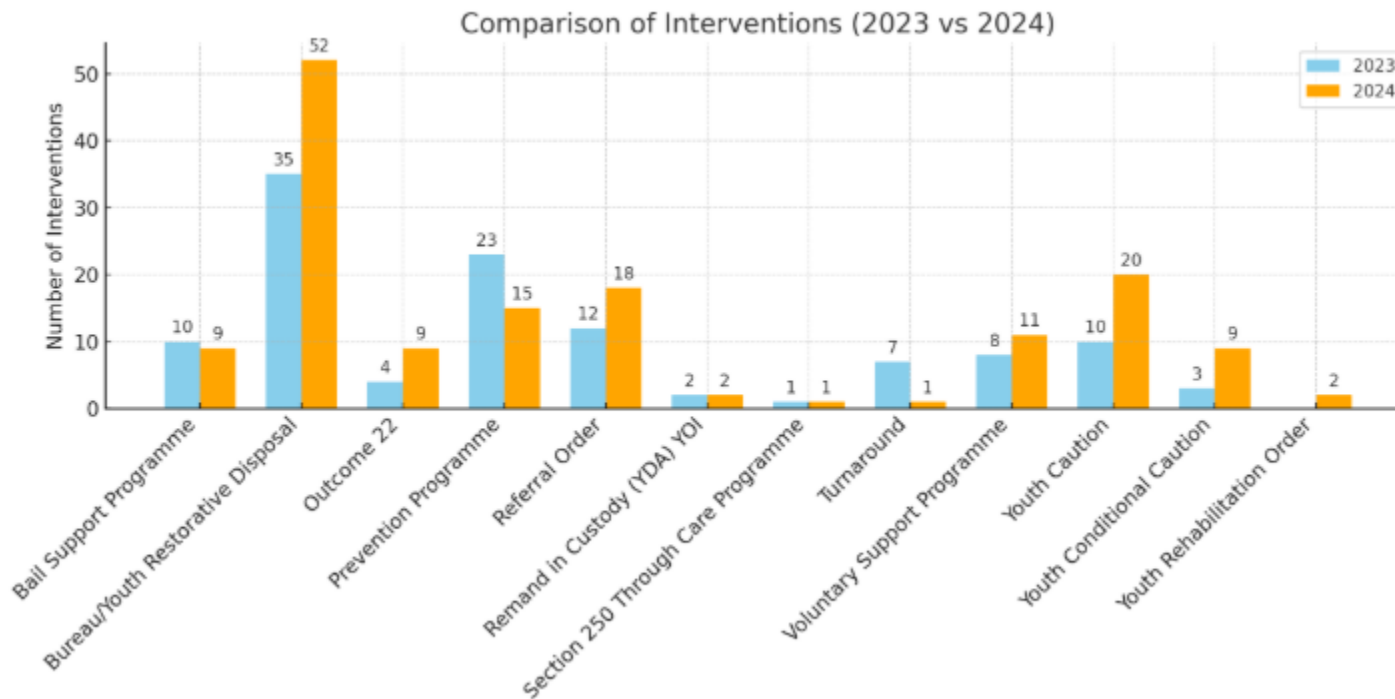
The most significant increase occurred among male children aged 17 and 18, indicating a rising trend of justice involvement in this demographic. Males consistently make up the majority of interventions, with their proportion increasing, suggesting a need for targeted programmes addressing male-specific risks.

Intervention by type

Analysis of Bridgend Youth Justice Service interventions

Intervention	Number of interventions (April to September 2023)	Number of intervention (April to September 2024)
Bail Support Programme	10	9
Bureau/Youth Restorative Disposal	35	52
Outcome 22 (Diversionary, educational or intervention activity)	4	9
Prevention Programme	23	15
Referral Order	12	18
Remand in Custody (YDA) YOI	2	2
Section 250 Through Care Programme (previously Section 90/91)	1	1
Turnaround	7	1
Voluntary Support Programme	8	11
Youth Caution	10	20
Youth Conditional Caution	3	9
Youth Rehabilitation Order	0	2
Total	115	149

Analysis of Bridgend Youth Justice Service Interventions



Between April and September 2023 and the same period in 2024, the total number of interventions increased from 115 to 149, a 30% rise. The service has expanded its trauma-informed approach, improving outcomes for children involved in the justice system. Currently, over half of these interventions receive trauma assessments, screenings, and timelines. These cases benefit from extensive trauma recovery planning, helping to understand the child's experiences and developmental needs. By late 2025, there will be a need to continue and expand this trauma model to ensure consistent support for all children entering the youth justice service.

Bureau/Youth Restorative Disposal

The 48.6% increase in diversionary approaches evidences an increase in efforts to divert children from becoming first time entrants in the Prevention and Diversion joint decision-making process.

Outcome 22

The rise in diversionary and educational activities reflects a shift toward early, proactive engagement with at-risk children, preventing stigmatisation and criminalisation.

Youth Caution and Youth Conditional Caution

The increase in these interventions demonstrates a move toward community-based, rehabilitative approaches, avoiding court proceedings. However, the Youth Conditional Caution still requires statutory engagement which requires stringent monitoring of compliance from the service and the police.

Voluntary support programme

The 37.5% rise in voluntary support focuses on post-intervention engagement, empowering children to seek support on their own terms. These programmes provide tailored, trauma-sensitive support, fostering trust and long-term behavioural change.

Youth Rehabilitation Order

The slight increase in Youth Rehabilitation Orders (higher level court order) indicates slightly more individuals had more persistence or seriousness in offending behaviour. This court order provides a more structured approach for children with complex needs, offering a balanced level of support and rehabilitation.

Areas of Concern

Decline in prevention interventions

The 34.8% decrease in prevention cases correlates with an increase in Youth Bureau interventions. Early intervention is critical for identifying and addressing trauma, but limited access to preventive programmes can delay necessary support, leading to offending behaviours and police arrest. It is vital that partners identify referrals where there is a risk of offending or harm to others, at the earliest point to prevent children from being involved in incidents where the police are involved.

Decline in Turnaround Programme

The reduction in Turnaround interventions suggests fewer children are meeting the criteria for the programme. Turnaround can provide structured support for high-risk children; however the stringent criteria can sometimes prevent children entering the programme. Intensive, trauma-sensitive programmes like Turnaround are essential for children with severe behavioural and emotional needs however criteria need to be widened and there needs to be future prevention funding to ensure adequate resource.

Conclusion

The increasing focus on restorative, cautionary, and voluntary interventions reflects a shift toward trauma-sensitive practices. However, declines in prevention and intensive programmes highlight a focus for developmental action on particular programmes of intervention. By embedding trauma-informed approaches across all intervention types, Bridgend Youth Justice Service can maximise positive outcomes and better support children in overcoming their challenges.

Accommodation

Analysis of accommodation data for children involved with Bridgend Youth Justice Service

Summary of data:

Accommodation type	Number of interventions (April to September 2023)	Number of intervention (April to September 2024)
Suitable	103	129
Not suitable	10	16
Unknown	2	4
Total	115	149

Analysis of accommodation data for children involved with Bridgend Youth Justice Service

The data highlights the accommodation status of children engaged with the Bridgend Youth Justice Service between April and September 2023 and 2024. Accommodation plays a crucial role in supporting children's stability, well-being, and rehabilitation.

Increase in suitable accommodation

The number of children in suitable accommodation rose from 103 in 2023 to 129 in 2024.

Increase in unsuitable accommodation

The number of children in unsuitable accommodation increased from 10 in 2023 to 16 in 2024.

Unknown accommodation status

The number of cases with unknown accommodation status doubled, from two in 2023 to four in 2024.

The increase in suitable accommodation is a positive trend, reflecting efforts to meet children's housing needs. There is only a slight rise in unsuitable and unknown cases (9% of cases in 2023 compared to 11% of cases in 2024). An in-depth audit has been carried out with housing to understand those cases in more depth and it is also positive that case managers are now identifying the rationale for unsuitable accommodation as part of their recording, so we are better able to understand their needs. Focus on referral to resettlement, transitions and custody panel, trauma-informed housing, early risk identification, and collaborative solutions are all interventions we are utilising to better support children's needs.

First time entrants

First time entrants - baseline
October 2022 - September 2023

First time entrants - current
October 2023 - September 2024

First time entrants	Number	2022 population	Rate per 100,000	Number	2023 population	Rate per 100,000
Bridgend	19	13,822	137	26	13,828	188

New YJS Family

Northumberland	50	28,030	178	53	28,532	186
Sefton	37	26,620	150	21	25,073	84
Cumberland	n/a	n/a	n/a	50	24,657	203
Nottinghamshire	96	77,083	125	108	79,319	136
Neath Port Talbot	20	13,532	148	21	13,488	156
Stockton-on-Tees	34	20,837	163	34	21,374	159
Cwm Taf	67	28,705	233	37	29,035	127
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	24	17,433	138	9	17,569	51
Derbyshire	130	72,264	180	69	73,606	94
Lancashire	182	119,258	153	164	121,581	135
Family average	71	44,640	159	57	43,423	130

The service has seen an increase in first time entrants to the Youth Justice System, with seven additional young people becoming involved for the first time at the caution stage or above. This rise reflects a variety of factors, including potentially increased vulnerability, social challenges, and the impacts of early-life experiences and not having an opportunity for intervention prior to coming to the attention of the police and subsequent arrest. Addressing the underlying causes of these entries is crucial for supporting these young individuals and preventing future involvement in the justice system. By focusing on early intervention, education, and tailored support with partners, the service can work towards reducing offending rates and promoting positive outcomes for these children.

Reoffending

Bridgend's reoffending latest produced data from the YJAF system currently only runs from periods October 2021-December 2021 compared to October 2022-December 2022. This data is the latest available reoffending data, as the way in which the reoffending

data works is it tracks cases a year post their intervention. Hence, the latest data is only available currently up until December 2023. We are currently awaiting reoffending data to be published for 2023-2024. Additionally, the published data has been audited by the service and is deemed inaccurate. This data has been challenged, and we are awaiting re-published data for 2022.

Custody

Use of custody - baseline October 2022 - September 2023

Use of custody - latest data October 2023 - September 2024

Use of custody	Number	2022 population	Rate per 100,000	Number	2023 population	Rate per 100,000
Bridgend	0	13,822	-	1	13,828	0.07
New YJS Family						
Northumberland	0	28,030	-	0	28,532	-
Sefton	1	24,620	0.04	1	25,073	0.04
Cumberland	0	0	-	6	24,657	0.24
Nottinghamshire	1	77,083	0.01	2	79,319	0.03
Neath Port Talbot	1	13,532	0.07	2	13,488	0.15
Stockton-on-Tees	6	20,837	0.29	7	21,374	0.33
Cwm Taf	4	28,705	0.14	8	29,035	0.28
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	1	17,433	0.06	1	17,569	0.06
Derbyshire	4	72,264	0.06	1	73,606	0.01
Lancashire	12	119,258	0.1	13	121,581	0.11
Family average	3	40,176	0.07	4	43,423	0.09

Although the data table only shows a figure of one, our custody figures have seen an increase, though the overall number of cases remains relatively small, with only one to two children known to the service receiving custodial sentences. The most recent custodial sentence reflects the challenges faced by BYJS in managing cases of non-compliance. Despite multiple opportunities for intervention and support, the child in question persisted in their behaviour, ultimately leading to a minimum custodial sentence. This highlights the complexities involved in ensuring accountability while balancing the need for rehabilitative efforts and support.

Children with Children Services involvement

Category	Number of Children with Children Services involvement (April to September 2023)	Number of Children with Children Services involvement (April to September 2024)
Children with a care and support plan	24	22
Children with a child protection Plan	13	12
Children looked after	5	6

Children's Social Care involvement comparing April to September 2023 and April to September 2024

Children with a Care and Support Plan

There has been a slight decrease in the number of children with a care and support plan, suggesting a minor reduction in the need for these services.

Children with a Child Protection Plan

The number of children with a child protection plan has also slightly decreased, reflecting a small reduction in the need for child protection involvement.

Care experienced children

The number of children looked after has increased slightly, indicating a modest rise in the need for out-of-home care.

Overall, the data highlights a slight decrease in the number of children with care and support plans and child protection plans, indicating a minor reduction in the need for these services. Despite these changes, the overall trends remain relatively stable, with minor fluctuations across the categories.

Education, training and employment (ETE)

Number of ETE hours offered April to September 2023	Number of children in this cohort	Number of children attending full hours offered	Percentage of children attending 100% hours offered	Percentage of children attending 80% or more of full hours offered
Employed/training	7	7	100%	100%
25 hours	48	20	42%	69%

16 to 24 hours	22	13	60%	64%
5 to 15 hours	9	8	89%	89%
0 to 4 hours	29	28	97%	97%

Number of ETE hours offered April to September 2024	Number of children in this cohort	Number of children attending full hours offered	Percentage of children attending 100% hours offered	Percentage of children attending 80% or more of full hours offered
Employed/training	6	6	100%	100%
25 hours	92	43	47%	70%
16 to 24 hours	13	9	69%	69%
5 to 15 hours	8	5	63%	63%
0 to 4 hours	30	30	100%	100%

When comparing the two tables of education, training, and employment (ETE) data for April to September 2023 and 2024, a key trend emerges: while 100% attendance for all offered hours is low in some cohorts, the percentage of children attending at least 80% of those hours is significantly higher. For example, in 2023, 42% of children attended all 25-hour sessions, yet 69% attended 80% or more of the hours offered. Similarly, in 2024, 47% attended all 25-hour sessions, but 70% engaged with at least 80% of the hours. This pattern is consistent across other cohorts as well. In the 16 to 24-hour cohort, 60% attended all offered hours in 2023, while 64% attended at least 80%. In 2024, though 69% attended all 16 to 24-hour sessions, 69% also attended 80% or more of those hours.

The same trend can be seen in the 5 to 15-hour and 0 to 4-hour cohorts, where even though the percentage for full attendance may be lower, the percentage of children attending 80% or more of the hours is notably higher. This highlights that while achieving 100% attendance remains challenging, the engagement in meaningful portions of the sessions is more consistent, offering children the opportunity to benefit from substantial participation in their educational and developmental activities.

Mental health

Number of children who received a mental health assessment (April to September 2023)	Number of children who received a mental health assessment (April to September 2024)
31	43
27%	29%

The data shows an increase in the number of children who received a mental health assessment by the Bridgend Youth Justice health nurse between April to September 2023 and the same period in 2024. In 2023, 31 children were assessed, and in 2024, this number rose to 43.

Although the total number of assessments increased, the percentage of children assessed only grew slightly, from 27% in 2023 to 29% in 2024. This indicates that while more children are receiving assessments, the overall growth is gradual compared to the total number of interventions.

This trend highlights a greater focus on mental health within the youth justice system, likely due to improved identification processes and increased accessibility to services. However, it also underscores the continued need for more resources and interventions to ensure that all children who require mental health support can receive timely assessments and care.

Substance

Number of Children who received a Substance Assessment (April to September 2023)	Number of Children who received a Substance Assessment (April to September 2024)
62	101
54%	68%

The data on substance assessments conducted by the Bridgend Youth Justice substance use worker between April and September 2023 and the same period in 2024 shows a significant increase in both the number and percentage of children receiving assessments.

In 2023, 62 children were assessed for substance use, while in 2024, this number rose to 101 children—a substantial increase of 39 assessments.

The significant rise in assessments highlights the growing need to prioritise substance-related support services within the youth justice system. This increase may indicate a need for more resources to manage the higher demand, such as improved intervention programmes and community-based support for substance misuse prevention and recovery.

The data reflects a positive trend in addressing substance-related issues through assessments. However, it also highlights the importance of addressing the underlying causes of substance misuse. Continued efforts to combine education, prevention, and intervention strategies will be crucial in reducing these challenges for children.

Additional learning needs (ALN)

Number of children who have an ALN (April to September 2023)	Number of children who have an ALN (April to September 2024)
31	37
27%	25%

The data, sourced from CAPITA, shows a slight increase in the number of children identified with additional learning needs (ALN) between April to September 2023 and the same period in 2024. In 2023, 31 children were recorded as having ALN, which rose to 37 in 2024. However, the proportion of children with ALN compared to the total population decreased from 27% in 2023 to 25% in 2024.

It is important to note that the BYJS is uncertain about how up to date the information recorded in CAPITA and indeed whether a number of children who are struggling educationally have been assessed for ALN. To address this, an audit of ALN will be undertaken by BYJS in March 2025 to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data. This process will help clarify whether the observed trends are reflective of actual changes or potential gaps in recording practices.

Victims

Number of identified victims of child offences (April to September 2023)	Number of identified victims of child offences (April to September 2024)
14	19

The data shows an increase in the number of identified victims of child offences recorded by the Bridgend Youth Justice Service between April and September 2023 and the same period in 2024. In 2023, 14 victims were identified, and this number rose to 19 in 2024.

Future Board meetings will be provided with a more comprehensive overview of victim work in Bridgend so that the Board can better understand service performance against inspection criteria.

This increase suggests improvements in the identification and reporting processes for child offence victims, reflecting a stronger focus on victim support and safeguarding. However, it may also indicate a rise in the occurrence of such offences, requiring further investigation to understand the underlying trends and contributing factors. Ongoing efforts to ensure timely identification, support, and intervention for victims are crucial to effectively addressing this serious issue.

Management Board attendance

BYJS Management Board attendance is a key performance Indicator (KPI) set by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to ensure effective collaboration among statutory partners in delivering youth justice services. Between April and September 2023, attendance by statutory partners stood at four out of five, indicating some level of engagement but room for improvement in achieving full participation. However, between April and September 2024, the attendance improved to five out of five, demonstrating full engagement by all statutory partners. However, even though the period between April and September indicates 100% it is worth noting that October to March 2023 -2024 the attendance did drop with not all statutory partners attending.

Violent offences

A report has been attached to show an in-depth analysis of violent offence data for children involved with the Bridgend Youth Justice Service in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. It looks at the gender and age of the children, the types of interventions used, and the severity of offences. By comparing the two years, it has identified trends and patterns in youth crime and the justice response. This report has been shared with the Serious Violence Board chair for further ongoing analysis and action with the wider partnership in conjunction with other partner data.

Summary

This analysis of BYJS data highlights several key trends that require focused attention. One of the observations is the increase in interventions, particularly among older male adolescents, which could reflect the shifting dynamics within the youth justice system. While there are positive developments, such as the adoption of restorative practices and a stronger emphasis on mental health support, challenges remain—especially with the reduction in prevention programmes and increase in Out of Court Disposal interventions which emphasises a potential gap in effectively identifying and supporting children with complex needs at that earliest point.

The data underscores the need for a more tailored approach that addresses the distinct needs of various age groups and genders. A greater emphasis on early intervention, trauma-informed care, and the fostering of collaborative partnerships is essential to creating a nurturing environment for young individuals. BYJS will strive to understand the unique experiences and risks faced by different demographics, ensuring that interventions are both appropriate and impactful.

Additionally, strategic and sustainable resource allocation, enhanced data collection and analysis are crucial for informing evidence-based practices. By forming partnerships with mental health services, education providers, and social support networks, BYJS can better address the multifaceted needs of young people. Implementing sustainable, holistic approaches will not only improve outcomes for these individuals but also contribute to a reduction in offending rates and reoffending, fostering a more rehabilitative and responsive youth justice system that fits the needs for Bridgend and the children most likely to enter the system.