



THE LONDON BOROUGH

Bromley Youth Offending Service
Update – November 2021

Betty McDonald (Head of Service)

We launched YJ Strategic Plan 2020/23 and Annual Youth Justice plan 2021/22

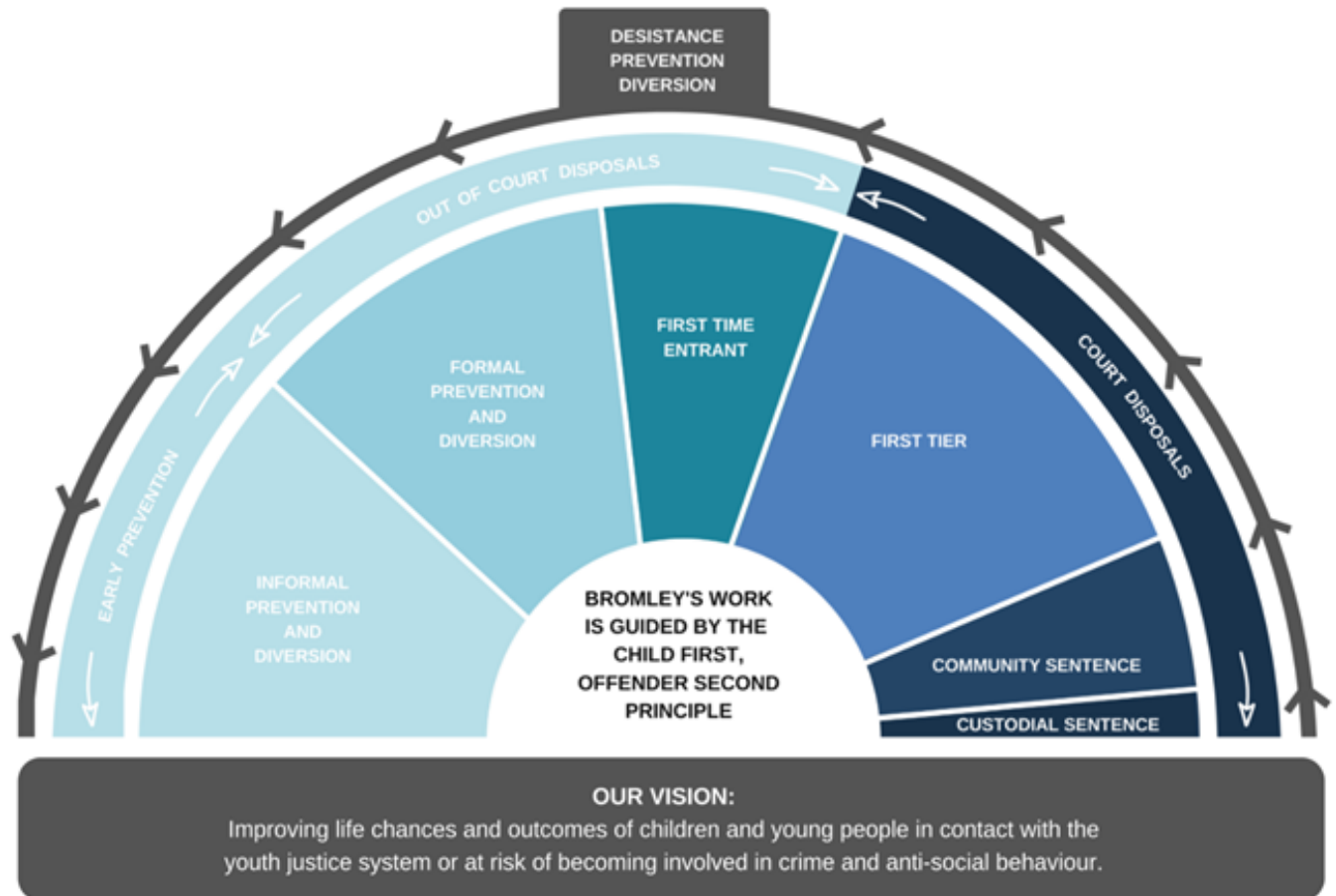
Vision and Strategy



The YOS Partnership have approved the 3-year Youth Justice Strategy 2020-23 that sets out our commitment to our children and young people. We have very high ambitions for our children as outlined in the Borough plan *Building a Better Bromley*.

In our joint effort to support our children we have committed to *reducing youth crime and anti-social behaviour in Bromley, through a partnership approach.*

Youth Justice strategy desistance, prevention and diversion model



Child First Principle

To recognise through our assessments and prioritise the needs of children, their capacity, and their potential. We do this by promoting the individual strengths of the child to develop pro social identity for them to desist from offending which will lead to fewer victims and more safer communities.

Risk Factors

- Family - poor parental supervision & discipline, condone offending, low income, housing and family size.
- School – low attainment, bullying, lack of commitment to school, truancy.
- Community – disadvantaged neighbourhood, neglect, availability of drugs.
- Personal and individual factors – hyperactivity & impulsivity, alienation & lack of social communication, early involvement in offending and substance misuse, pro-criminal peers.

Agencies under the YOS

Required:

- Social workers
- Education worker
- Police
- Health workers
- Probation officer

Additional:

- Speech & language therapist
- Parenting worker
- ETE worker
- Substance misuse worker
- Teacher

Interventions we provide

1-2-1 offending behaviour programmes which are evidence based and specific to the relevance of offence e.g. drug dealing; a number of tools are used to assist with these which included Weapons/gangs, anger management, violent offender programme, peer pressure worksheets, motoring programme.

Group work - cognitive behavioural programme - thinking through consequences of behaviours. Girls group.

Substance misuse psychosocial interventions.

Victim awareness sessions and restorative justice which may include direct and indirect mediation with the victim and letters of apology.

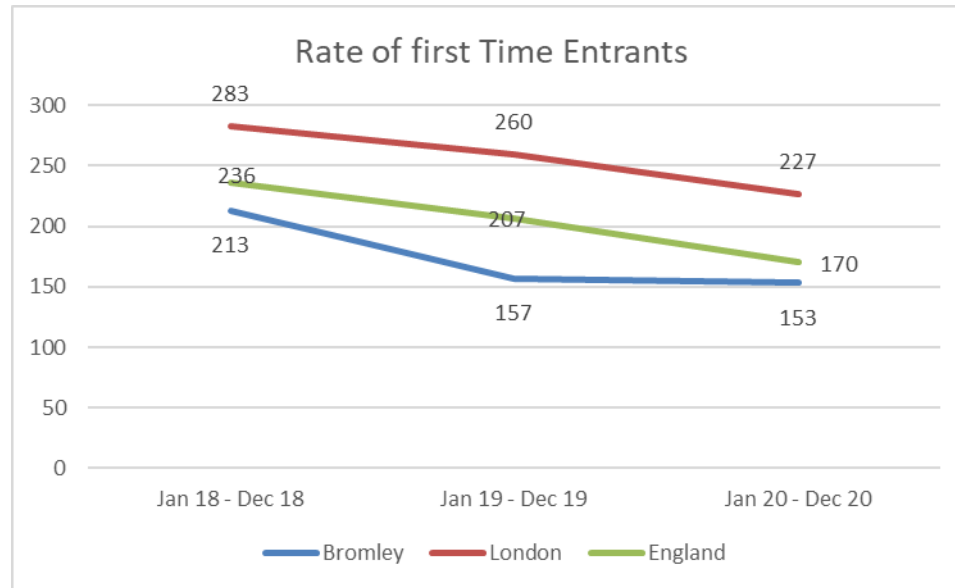
Resettlement support for those returning to the community from custody.

Parenting work – both in 1-2-1 and in groups such as Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities; work closely with Early Help service.

Motivational interviewing, brief solution focused therapy to help enable change.

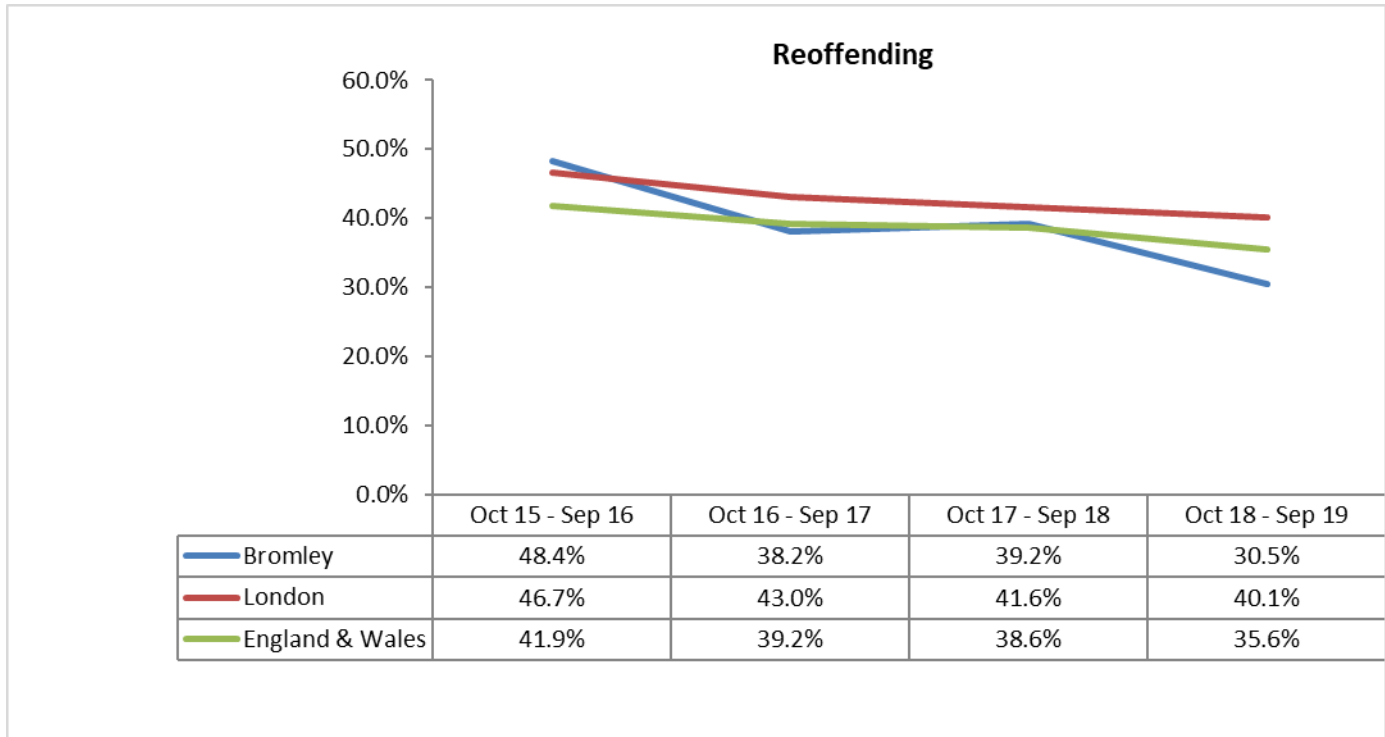
Reparation projects – projects designed to repair the damaged caused by offending. Including Bike maintenance, painting etc,

First Time Entrants



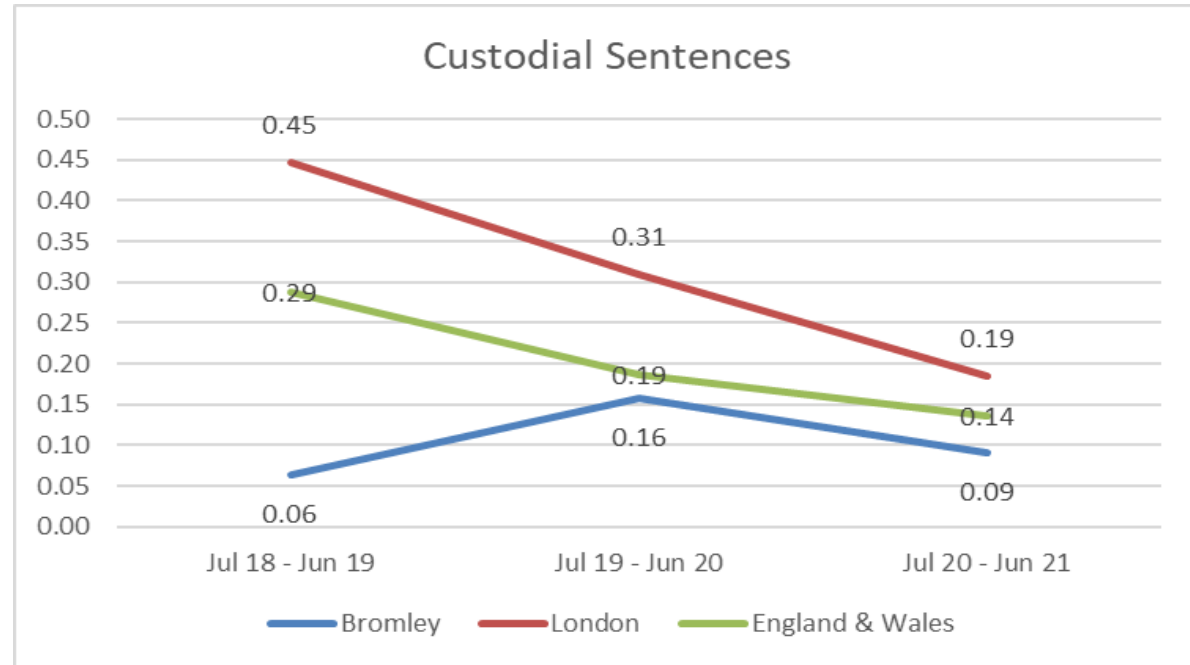
- Bromley have achieved a year on year reduction in the rate of FTE.
- Bromley's rate of FTE is consistently lower than the national and London averages.

Re-offending Rate



- Bromley have achieved an annual reduction in reoffending and the rate is currently lower than the national and London averages
- Bromley has the lowest reoffending rate in London

Custodial sentences



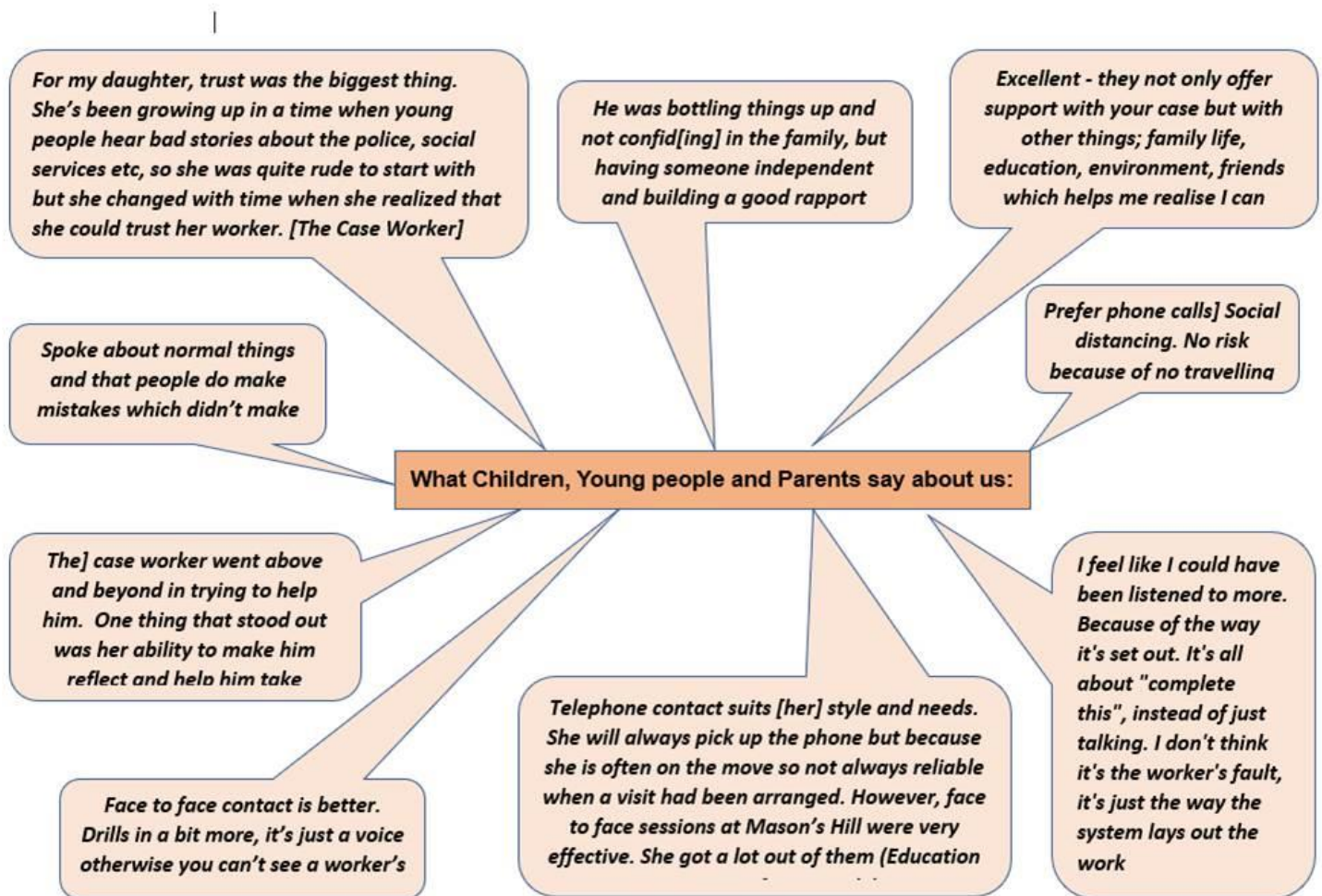
- Bromley have achieved an annual reduction in the rate of custodial sentences.
- Bromley's rate of custodial sentences is consistently lower than the national and London averages.

Serious offending

The operational definition of serious youth violence (SYV) used by the Youth Justice Board is a drug, robbery or violence against the person offence that has a gravity score of 5 or more. Robbery offences carry a gravity score of 6. Gravity scores range from 1 (least serious) to 8 (most serious). In the year ending March 2021 there were 13 offences of SYV committed by children in Bromley.

Serious youth violence continues to be a cause for concern and with heightened attention as we constantly hear of tragic incidents of fatalities and other serious injuries caused by a small number of people.

Voice of the child and parents/carers involved in the youth justice system



Prioritise for 2021/22

- Keeping young people safe.
- Continued commitment to delivering high quality service provision.
- **Developing** wider evidence base on what works to reduce offending and continually upskilling of our staff through training and supervision.
- Sharing our work with partners at all levels to increase their insight and understanding of the work of the service.
- Greater partner involvement and updates of how they advocate and promote the work of the YOS in their organisations.
- Inclusion of a court representative on the YOS Partnership Board
- Our Quality assurance framework of audits and practice reviews will remain and followed.
- Understanding disproportionality and focus on making a difference
- Learning from research, inspection, and serious cases reviews through the YOS and beyond to help develop and enhance our services and support.
- Ensure that we use the voice of the child and parents in our planning and service development
- Implement some of the learning from our covid recovery plan 2020.

Achievements

Bromley YOS is committed to improving the lives of children, young people, their families and the wider community through its key priorities which, in line with national drivers

- **Prevention offer**
- **Strong partnership working**
- **Stable workforce**
- **Work to address desistance**
- **Strong performance against national indicators**
- **Fewer children coming into the justice system**
- **Film project “Take me Please” (2019)**
- **Reparation directory of local projects**
- **Managing well during the pandemic**



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