

SBPB 9th December 2021

<p>Quarter Three - Progress Against Priority Three of the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy: Priority Three – Keeping Young People Safe Partner – YOS, Police, Community Safety, Education, Probation, CCG</p>	
<p>Priority Three:</p> <p>The ambition is for our borough to be safe for our children and young people, where they can grow up, thrive, and have the best life chances in families who flourish, and are happy to call Bromley their home. To achieve this, we want to improve neighbourhoods affected by anti-social behaviour and crime. We want to reduce crimes that cause the most harm to children and young people, by preventing them through early intervention (where possible) for those who are at risk of offending, or re-offending. There are key interrelationships between this priority and our other priorities.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <p>To improve outcomes and life chances for children and young people in contact with the youth justice system, or at risk of becoming involved in crime and antisocial behaviour by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the number of first-time entrant children in the youth justice system, and reduce re-offending • Reducing the number of knife crimes, by volume and repeat victims and reduce levels of serious youth violence • Preventing and reducing substance misuse 	
<p>Commitments within the SBPS For YOS</p>	<p>RAG</p>
<p>1. Provide Support:</p> <p>Set up an in-house Prevention Support Programme, working closely with Community Safety and Children's Social Care to assist children to move away from offending at an early stage.</p> <p>We continue to offer support to those children on the cusp of offending and anti-social behaviour.</p>	
<p>Publish a serious youth violence toolkit.</p> <p>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. Overall there has been reductions in crime but not in relation to SYV.</p>	

<p>We have a very small number of children involved in such offending and we work to support desistance with these children.</p>	
<p>Deliver the cross-cutting key actions within the Youth Justice Strategy 2019- 22 and the Serious Youth Violence strategy 2018.</p> <p>We launched a new Youth Justice three-year strategy in 2019-22 and we are working and delivering against it and on target to meet the objectives set and agreed by the YOS Partnership Governance Board.</p> <p>The priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing first time entrants into the youth justice system • Reducing reoffending • Improve safety and well-being of children in the justice system • Address ethnic disproportionality and the over representation of other protected characteristics and vulnerable groups • Protect the public • Strengthening our partnership Board and workforce. <p>We continue to perform well against the national indicators:</p> <p>Bromley's rate of first-time entrants has reduced annually by 3% and is 33% lower than the average for London and is 27% below the national average. FTE's are 1% higher than our statistical neighbours. Bromley also has the lowest rate compared with the 6 surrounding boroughs. (Bexley, Croydon, Southwark, Lewisham, Lambeth, Greenwich).</p> <p>Bromley YOS reoffending rate is 10% lower than the average for London and 5% lower than National average. Bromley's rate is also reducing and is 3% lower than stat neighbours. Bromley has the lowest reoffending rate in London and are ranked 42 out of the 154 YOS in the country.</p> <p>Bromley's rate of custodial sentences is 10% below the average for London and is 4% below the National rate. Bromley's custody rate is 2% higher than the statistical neighbours.</p> <p>A Task and Finish group was set up to determine the level of disproportionality in the representation of BAME children and young people in the youth justice system, including through analysis of Bromley's YOS data profile and local, regional and national datasets and we continue to work with partners to address the overrepresentation of BAME children in the system.</p>	

The Task and Finish Group commissioned its own review of good practice nationally through a review of YOS Inspection Reports and has liaised with local authorities identified as 'Good' This learning has been beneficial in terms of what the borough can begin to implement to turnaround outcomes for BAME children and young people and has also helpfully informed the development of an Action Plan for the borough.

Some of the things we have done this year:

- Continued commitment to delivering high quality service provision
- Exploring 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

Probation:

The Probation Service remain a key statutory partner within the YOS management board. As a partner we support the transition of young people from child to adult services through the provision of a specialist practitioner seconded to the Youth Offending Service.

Across London, approximately 22% (21% for Bromley) of the Probation Service caseload consists of young people aged from 18-25. This significant proportion requires the Probation Service to strategically develop approaches to support young people through maturation and to facilitate their desistance from offending. This includes engagement in approaches that support multi-agency working, alongside senior managers that hold portfolio responsibility for young people.

The Probation Service work alongside key commissioning services such as MOPAC to deliver pilot projects, with recent activities such as the extension to the GPS tagging scheme highlighting the importance of partnership working and improved approaches around monitoring and enforcement.

2. Work with Partners to disrupt gangs:

Tracking and sharing information on those young people who have associations with gangs, through the weekly Missing, Exploited, Gang Affiliated (MEGA) meetings continues. Safeguarding is a statutory duty as defined in the Children's Act 1998 and 2014 and in Working Together.

The YOS carries out its responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. The Head of Service continues to provide quarterly reports to the Safeguarding Board on how the service is fulfilling its duties. YOS staff receive safeguarding training as well as access to a wide variety of training both in house and externally. The issue of Serious Youth Violence has become a higher priority across London and locally. The YOS attends and contributes to the MEGA and shares information on the children known to the YOS.

The above continues to be a key part of how we work in the borough to share intelligence and information to keep children safe.

Community Safety

Due to the gang conflict between London boroughs, the gangs SPOC officer has established further links with Lambeth, Southwark and Merton and has led on the South London Serious Youth Violence and Gangs Leaders meeting which was held in June & September 2021 the purpose was to monitor the cross borough tensions and address gang nominals housing relocation risks. The next meeting is scheduled for early 2022. Partnership have been developed Bexley, Greenwich, Wandsworth, and Merton.

The officer has been proactive in communicating, on a regular basis, with local community partners and members of the MEGA panel. This has ensured that any potential changes around gang or group tensions could be managed using multi-agency partnership approaches. They have provided input into strategic meetings where there have been gang conflicts with neighbouring boroughs. There has been an initial meeting with the Bromley Fire service and the SPOC to discuss potential training and signposting for fire fighters on the field.

Consultations are being given to social workers and school safeguarding officers around potential youth violence and gang intelligence.

Throughout the quarter the Officer has proactively looking at provision for young adults 18+ as the police intelligence indicate the borough gang profile is aged between (17- 25) with this in mind the officer is working with DWP community outreach team and Bromley probation service on working with adults linked to gangs and gang violence.

The officer has delivered presentations to the adult safeguarding board, MACE panel and adult mental health service, to highlight the concern of serious youth violence and the evolution of the gang issue within borough.

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Met Police

The gang matrix continues to be monitored daily. At the weekly proactive meeting and the monthly Tactical Tasking meeting, risk in relation into each of the gang nominal's is assessed and officers tasked accordingly

Probation

The Probation Service remain, alongside the Police, the key operational partner in the delivery of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme. The implementation of a new operational framework in June 2021 has effectively shifted the emphasis from acquisitive to violent crime. As a consequence the IOM scheme will see an uplift in focus around violent crime, especially those perpetrators who may be pivotal in the exploitation of young people.

The key to an effective IOM scheme remains the involvement and engagement of key stakeholders and partners, which have included substance misuse providers and ETE services. The scheme provides individuals with opportunities to desist from offending, whilst also ensuring a more robust approach to sentence management to those who continue to offend.

Outside of the IOM approach, the Probation Service remains committed to engagement with key partners to effectively share information in the disruption of crime and criminal activity.

Provide gang awareness training

As reported last year, all YOS staff and a small number of colleagues from the Youth Service attended a training session on gangs on 18 January 2021. This was externally facilitated by Gangsline and was well received.

The training covered understanding the mindset of street gangs and those involved in violence, tools to use in working with young people and those vulnerable to gangs. It provided a good insight into dispelling the myths about gangs and gang affiliation. There is no further training identified at this time in respect of gangs although we are exploring other evidence based methods including Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and Trauma informed approach to practice working with our children many of whom have had adverse childhood experiences.

The YOS will be piloting "Your Choice" which is a CBT programme for working with children involved in SYV. This is funded by MOPAC/VRU and supported by the Directors of Children Services. This is an intensive programme that will be delivered individually to selected children designed with NHS VRU.

Children and young people most at need of high intensity therapeutic services are least likely to access them in a clinical setting, and the programme builds upon existing multi-disciplinary adolescent services. CBT-enhanced practice will allow young people to access services within a broader context of support and behavioural change. 100 young people's practitioners from 32 boroughs will undergo 5 days training in CBT principles. The intended outcome is that this will change behaviour and thinking which will in turn reduce SYV.

Probation

As a minimum expectation, all practitioners within the Probation Service should undertake regular training around serious group offending, including an understanding of adult transitions and maturation. This training forms part of the mandatory training from new staff, including all those within qualified, training or entry level practitioner roles.

Having now moved to a unified Probation model, incorporating services previously managed under the London Community Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service, from June 2021 the Probation Service have commissioned the charity Catch-22 to deliver a number of interventions to our people on Probation around the strands of social and personal well-being. The interventions being delivered to people on probation, especially those aged 18-25, include work around identity and personal safety. Although not specifically entitled gangs training, this intervention specifically targets those individuals vulnerable to influence and exploitation from others, therefore reducing the risk of involvement in serious offending.

The Probation Service also remains focussed on delivering interventions through requirements such as unpaid work and senior attendance centres (SAC). The SAC's adopt a similar approach to the commissioned provider in having holistic interventions that enable young people to develop social capital and identity within the areas where they reside (SAC eligibility is only for those aged 18-25).

Support young people to exit gangs, as well as applying for gang injunctions where appropriate.

Probation

The challenge of effective probation practice remains the balancing of restrictive and rehabilitative interventions. As such, whilst there remains a requirement to strictly monitor and enforce engagement and compliance

against court-imposed sentences, this works most effectively when managed alongside rehabilitative interventions that support desistance.

Operationally this involves the referral of young people to supportive interventions, being either external projects or via the commissioned rehabilitative services (CRS). The most effective practice will also include liaison and engagement with significant others, such as family members to support and improve compliance and engagement.

Where appropriate the Probation Service will also ensure the imposition of standard or bespoke licence conditions that promote desistance from involvement with people or places where crime is more likely to take place. For instance, this may include prohibited activities, such as attending music events or festivals; exclusion from specific post code or geographical areas; non-contact with specific individuals (especially those known to be associated to criminal activity; or even restrictions on activities such as the number of mobile phones the person is able to possess (which is often utilised in cases aligned to counter lines activity. Whilst such conditions are not always initially seen as supportive by people on probation, such exclusions and prohibitions enable individuals to avoid potentially high-risk situations there enabling them to keep themselves safe.

3. Work with partners to tackle knife crime, serious youth violence, child exploitation and anti-social behaviour

YOS continue to deliver the knife crime intervention programme for young people who carry weapons, working on a robust approach to prevention in identifying young people through Merlin reports. Individual weapons awareness work has been carried out virtually with young people but has been reduced due to covid-19 restrictions. The team is actively seeking to commission a knife crime programme that staff will deliver to young people.

Probation:

The Probation Service remain a statutory partner within the violence and vulnerability plan, which provides oversight and accountability around agency service provision and how this can be pivoted towards key local objectives. As an organisation the Probation Service has worked with MOPAC in the delivery of GPS tagging for knife crime offenders, therefore ensuring this cohort of people on probation have an improved level of oversight around their movements in the community. The Probation Service regularly engaged with Police and local authority colleagues

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around the summer violence action plan, implemented to improve the regularity of information sharing forums between key operational partners.

The Probation Service are also the lead agency for individuals subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), which coordinated the activities of key statutory partners and duty to cooperate agencies in the management of individuals deemed to present the high risk of serious harm, including those who present a risk to the exploitation of children into violence or serious crime.

Education

The Education department has worked in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service and Bromley Secondary Headteacher's Association to implement a new 'School Safe' offer to all schools. Individual schools can choose from the following range of preventative and educational initiatives:

- Youth Panels – opportunity for students to meet regularly with Safer Schools Officers to discuss what is relevant to them and represent their peers.
- Safer Routes refresh
- School patrols – joint patrols with SSO's and schools
- School community drug and weapon sweeps – officers, teachers, parents, students.
- Talks from the South Area LGBT forum providing hate crime awareness sessions.
- Knife crime awareness talks – crimes and consequences.
- Knife arches – joint teacher and officers knife arch operation.
- Online Child Sexual abuse and exploitation – SSO's to discuss and provide online safety presentation.
- Violence against women / Sexual harassment and sexual abuse discussions/personal safety in light of recent Ofsted review into sexual abuse in schools and colleges ("Everyone's Invited" website"). Includes a PowerPoint and covers the issue of consent.

Partnership taskings to develop and deliver the Local Violence & Vulnerability Plan (previously VRAP).

Community Safety

Reduction of violence is delivered via the work streams within the Violence Reduction Action Plan (VRAP) now rebranded as the Local Violence and Vulnerability Plan (LLVP), the Gang Violence Matrix, the

MPS Violence Against Women & Girls strategy, the Youth Justice Strategy and the Police led Violence Reduction Team.

The VRU has reviewed the VRAP template and it's now known as (LLVP) to ensure that the actions remain up-to-date and have a focus on violence, vulnerability and a public health multi-agency approach.

The plan template contains 7 different themes each with a set of mandatory actions as well as a menu of optional actions contained within a separate tab:

1.Governance- this provides an oversight of the leadership and governance of violence locally, detailing the senior leadership structure as well as collaboration between Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to support a public health approach to reduce violence

2.Analysis and Enforcement- understanding of how analysis and local enforcement tactics are used to disrupt violence locally, including the Strategic Needs Assessment, monthly tasking meetings and using ISTV and wider public health data.

3.Reducing Access to Weapons- how partners are working jointly to minimise access including using Trading Standard initiatives and weapons sweeps

4.Safeguarding and Educating Young people- the most detailed section within the plan that contains actions that include focussing on reducing exclusions, support for children in care and care leavers, working with parents and carers and ensuring schools are safe and inclusive spaces.

5.Working with Communities and Neighbourhoods to Reduce Violence- ensuring that local delivery works closely with communities to reduce violence including VCS.

6.Supporting Victims of Violence and Vulnerability- ensuring co-ordinated referral and support to victims and those who are vulnerable.

7.Positive Diversion from Violence- recognising that children and young people should be offered interventions which help them before or to move away from criminality.

The governance of the LVVP plan (which contains the actions in the associated plans and strategies as highlighted above, sits with

<p>Community Safety, partners have had sight of the updated version and have contributed their actions.</p> <p>Probation</p> <p>Within the violence and vulnerability plan, previously the VRAP, Probation Services are key partners in various enforcement and rehabilitative strands, including a requirement to ensure appropriate licence conditions are imposed upon individuals leaving custody. These actions are reviewed with regularity by Probation Services, as to ensure fully accountability across operational partners.</p>	
<p>Working with partners to recognise that child exploitation must also be understood in terms of its connectivity with a wider range of vulnerabilities that young people can be exposed to, including harmful sexual behaviours, missing children, gang involvement and youth crime.</p> <p>Staff have been trained in using the Youth Justice Board nationally recognised assessment tool which includes assessing risk. There has been additional risk training delivered to staff and we remain committed to keep our skills and experience up to date so additional training is provided as needed.</p> <p>Met Police</p> <p>At the beginning of the school year in September, CI Craig Knight spoke at the Bromley head teacher's forum at The Warren and consulted with them regarding the development of the SchoolSafe proposal. In the light of the recent Ofsted review into the sexual abuse in schools and colleges, the murder of Sabina Nessa and Sarah Everard and the ongoing fight against knife crime, CI Knight and Insp Morteo have created a proposal they have called SchoolSafe. This provides a list of activities that can be offered by the Safer Schools officers designed to address these safeguarding issues. For example, weapons sweeps, knife arches, presentations on relationships and consent, knife crime awareness briefings, student forums, safer schools routes etc. The schools are able to select the activities that they feel are most suitable for their venue and promote their membership to SchoolSafe and collaboration with the MPS, to parents and community. This proposal letter has now been drafted and will shortly be sent to schools.</p> <p>Safer Schools officers continue to receive training refreshers with most recent updates regarding indecent images and attempted abduction offences.</p>	

Communication between MPS and schools remains effective and at the beginning of this school year, each school was reminded of the details of their dedicated Safer school's officer, School liaison officer as well as the details of PS Lisa Foley and Insp Kathy Morteo.

Probation

Given Probation Services does not work directly with children, it is ideally positioned to provide a holistic assessment of those who perpetrate offences towards children or are deemed to present a future or present risk. The Probation Service actively contributes to information sharing through a variety of operational channels, including MASH, which enable services to understand the role of significant others (parents or siblings) into the life of a child. In Bromley, the Probation Service remains a key statutory partner within safeguarding boards for children, whilst also contributing in arenas such as the YOS management board.

Working in partnership with the Police Anti-Social Behaviour Team, and schools to address anti-social behaviour issues, through the adoption of an early intervention approach, that utilises informal approaches that can be escalated to formal enforcement where necessary or appropriate.

There are examples of good joint working between agencies, and the ASB Team together with the police engages with children, parents, Housing Associations, Children's Services and schools to develop appropriate approaches that deal with the issues reported and which seek to prevent the child entering the criminal justice system.

ASB Team Case Study:

The Team received an application for an ABC from a school who specialises in additional needs for a student we will call John.

The school had concerns about John's behaviour towards other students, and many of the students in this school were vulnerable. The school had already placed John on a PSP due to disruptive behaviour, aggression in school, and attempts at trying to manipulate situations, so that he could remain control. As a side note, John had previously been excluded for fighting, intimidation and non-compliance.

As a result of the above, the school applied for an ABC, in order to engage an external agencies (including the ASB Team) that could work together.

During the Team investigation, the Officer highlighted that John was on a child protection plan, as such, she automatically linked in with his social worker, and worked closely with the school, the school's Police Officer as well as the social worker; however, John and his mother declined to attend the appointment to discuss and serve the ABC. Therefore, the ABC was applied in his absence, and on his return, the implications of the ABC were fully explained to him. Unfortunately, John breached the ABC, and the Officer attended school to discuss his behaviour. During the meeting, John disclosed that he was having problems with a young man who was a gang member, and who lived nearby. John explained that he was being threatened with serious violence, that he felt the need to carry a weapon to protect himself, and that an older man had promised him protection, but he did not want to engage with the Police.

The Officer's concern was John was about to be a potential victim of gang violence, and that he may be being groomed. All of which fed into John's behaviour and decision making at school. The Officer passed all of the information to John's social worker, informed the school Police Officer, as well as the Police gang's team. She advised the social worker to refer John to MEGA, in order that he be properly supported by all agencies.

Met Police

LBB now part of MPS working group via Inspector Morteo looking for options to steer children away from crime such as London Village Network and the Crystal Palace Trust

4. Carry out joint operations with Trading Standards, Licensing and Police

Deliver a programme of test purchasing in respect of age-restricted legislation pertaining to products and activities including, sale of alcohol, cigarettes knives, as well as underage gambling and drinking on licensed premises.

Three test purchasing operations have been completed this year focussing on alcohol and fireworks. Follow up operations due in December. We are still awaiting Ministerial clearance on the Offensive Weapons Act and our best estimate is the statutory guidance may be released around the New Year. This Act introduces new restrictions on the sale and delivery to under 18s of corrosive substances as well as tightening the law further in relation to under-age sale of knives.

TS are planning their next underage op – vapes and alcohol – and the next part of our C25 programme for early in Q4 if not sooner with C25.

<p>Met Police are due to undertake knives test purchasing in November under Op Sceptre, and TS provided data and an area steer for them to use for targeting. Once feedback is received, TS will review their strategy which will coincide with the Offensive Weapons legislation coming into force.</p> <p>Licensing LBB licensing team completed two operations with Police targeting the night-time economy. These small operations consist of two to four officers from police and licensing to intelligence lead problem premises to undertake during performance inspections and licence compliance, linking with the noise team to tackle the impact of noise and AAB in the community.</p>	
<p>5. How we know if we are on track</p> <p>This theme is included as a substantive discussion item at the Safer Bromley Partnership Board at Q3 and at end of year. In addition, the YOS has three national key performance indicators set by central government: Reducing First time entrants, reducing offending and reoffending and reducing the demand for custody. These indicators are used by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to measure our performance. There has been a delay on the part of the Ministry of Justice in publishing the latest data, so we are reliant on the previous data outturn, which is has been delayed by 7 months.</p>	
<p>First time entrants into custody and re-offending will be monitored through national KPIs.</p> <p>The number of First time entrants entering the criminal justice system is tracked by the YOS for an annual period. The latest figures available are for a 12 month period January 20 – December 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 Young people became first time entrants into the criminal justice system during January 20 – December 20. • This is a 2% reduction (from 49 down to 48) in the actual number of first time entrants compared with the previous year. <p>The YOS tracks a cohort of offenders who received a pre-court, court disposal or were released from custody in a 12 month period. The latest figures available are for a 12 month period October 18 - September 19. (Tracked until the end of September 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 105 Young people were sentenced between October 18 - September 19. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This cohort of young people being tracked has reduced over the past 4 years where 234 young people were serving YOS interventions by the end of September 2015. This is an 55% (129 cases) reduction over a 4-year period. <p>The latest figures available are for the 12 month period of July 2020 – June 2021. Good performance is typified by a low figure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Young people were sentenced to custody Between July 2020 - June 2021. • This is an annual reduction of 7% in the rate per 1000 of custodial sentences, compared with the same period last year (5 custodial sentences) Bromley’s rate of custodial sentences is 10% below the average for London and is 4% below the National rate. Bromley’s custody rate is 2% higher than the statistical neighbours. <p>Probation</p> <p>Although the Probation Service does not track first time entrants into the system, at least not in the same way as the Youth Offending Service, our role in supporting the transition of young people from youth to adult services is key. Most of the cases that transition from young people to adult services do so as they are in custody at the point of their 18th birthday. Through effective information sharing between YOS and Probation a holistic picture can be developed for the young person enabling effective intervention to be devised and delivered. The Probation Service has also recently implemented a transition programme to support this move to adulthood, which was nominated and received a Butler Trust Award</p>	
<p>Youth Offending Service will complete an in-depth analysis to identify areas of focus for the above.</p> <p>The YOS has a detailed improvement action plan that charts all aspects of work of the service, and this is overseen by the AD and DCS. The YOS has an improvement Board to monitor key actions and overseen by AD and DCS and the service is preparing for an inspection which is led by HMI Probation and is an unannounced inspection. This continues to meet and oversee the YOS work towards continual service improvement.</p>	
<p>Serious youth violence will be measured by the Mayor’s Office for Policing & Crime Weapon Enabled Crime Dashboard and also through local data.</p>	

<p>This data is published and used to measure outcomes. Repeats monitored by Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime dashboard and local data. Measure success of reduction in weapons crime through published data on Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime performance framework.</p>										
<p>Community Safety will attend and add value at Youth Offending Service Board Missing, Exploited, Gang Affiliated and Multi Agency Child Criminal Exploitation.</p> <p>The AD of Public Protection continues to be an active member of the YOS Partnership Board providing comprehensive update and reports on every occasion. The HoS for Community Safety, Environmental and Domestic Regulation will also start attending as a deputy moving forwards</p>										
<p>Victims will be monitored by local data over time to look at reductions of numbers.</p> <p>Victim referrals from 1st April to 18th June were 26, with the RJ service being offered to 20 victims. This is an increase in numbers compared with the same period in 2020 (first lockdown).</p> <p>The reasons for not offering the RJ service to a victim during this period includes no contact being achieved using the contact details provided by the YOS police and police not having any specific victim details recorded.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="209 1375 1241 1630"> <thead> <tr> <th>RJ service referrals</th> <th>2020 (April – 18 June incl) NB First lockdown</th> <th>2021 (April – 18 June incl)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Victim referrals</td> <td>12</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Victims offered RJ service</td> <td>11</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Probation</p> <p>As a national provider the Probation Service manages a Victim Liaison Service (VLS) which seeks to engage with all victims where the perpetrator has been convicted of a serious violent or sexual offence carrying a sentence of over 12 months in custody (some discretionary rules do apply). Although each Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) is assigned a victim liaison officer, their management and the governance of the work sits outside of the PDU as to allow a clear separation between the offender and victim services.</p>	RJ service referrals	2020 (April – 18 June incl) NB First lockdown	2021 (April – 18 June incl)	Victim referrals	12	26	Victims offered RJ service	11	20	
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<p>In addition to VLS provision, victims of service users sentenced to domestic abuse offences which involve an accredited programme of Building Better Relationships, are also assigned a Women's Safety Officer. This provision is applied to anyone over the age of 18.</p>	
<p>6. Impact of COVID 19 on Business as Usual</p> <p>Bromley Youth Offending Service continued through the pandemic to operate a service to children, families, and victims. Regular contact was maintained with vulnerable and high-risk children as well as others in contact with the justice system using digital engagement. This included home visits and setting tasks for children to complete in relation to their offending. There were issues regarding isolation as a direct result of having to self-isolate and restrictions in place caused by the lock down, but staff tried to increase contact with young people via telephone and other media in response to this.</p> <p>The decision to use digital media as opposed to telephone calls was to provide a more robust supervision and management of risk and to seek compliance from the children and young people. This was particularly important especially in relation to those children vulnerable to exploitation. This period of delivering interventions appears to have been effective with staff reporting good engagement with parents as well a more consistent approach with young people appearing to be willing to be open and discuss issues over digital platforms. It was anticipated that there might be an increase in non-compliance but this was not been the case. Post lockdown, we continue to operate the service with some face to face contact but we remain business as usual and work to reduce offending and protect the public is our focus.</p> <p>Probation</p> <p>As with most if not all providers, Covid had a significant impact on service delivery, which manifested in a number of ways, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial reduction in the volume of cases held on Probation caseloads as a consequence of reduced court activity • A decrease in footfall into local offices owing to more service users being seen via planned telephone contact rather than face to face • A reduction in the delivery of interventions – due to reduced capacity to run groups, due to social distancing, or the closure of unpaid work projects in the local community • An identifiable reduction in partnership engagement owing to initial challenges around access to technology. 	

<p>As of October 2021, the Probation Service in London has now exited its exceptional delivery model (EDM) resulting in a broad return to some business as usual approaches. Whilst there remain challenges around aspects such as social distancing and how this impacts upon the volume of staff in offices on any given day, in its broadest sense the Probation Service has set its intention on delivering services in accordance with its target operating model.</p>	
<p>7. General Update of achievements</p> <p>YOS</p> <p>In the last year we have published our Youth Justice Strategy 2020/23 for the first time that sets out our ambitions for our children by improving their life chance and outcomes. Our work as a YOS Partnership is guided by the Child First, Offender Second principle. Our priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce reoffending by children <input type="checkbox"/> Improve the safety and wellbeing of children in the youth justice system <input type="checkbox"/> Address ethnic disproportionality and over representation of other protected characteristics and vulnerable groups <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting the public and victims <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthening our Partnership Board and workforce. <p>We are focused on desistance, prevention and diversion from offending and have developed a safeguarding rainbow well-being model, so we have built on this idea to reflect on our YOS cohort.</p> <p><i>National standards for youth justice</i></p> <p>Last year the YOS Partnership were required to undertake an audit of the national standards to enable the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to monitor adherence to the standards in line with their statutory responsibilities. The Standards, set by the Secretary of State for Justice, aim to:</p> <p>Provides the framework for youth justice practice and ensure that quality is maintained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and encourage innovation and good practice to improve outcomes for children who commit crime • Every child lives a safe and crime-free life, and makes a positive contribution to society aligning with the YJB's child first principle • Assist the YJB and inspectorates when they assess whether youth justice services are meeting their statutory requirements. 	

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The YJB have concluded the moderation of all the self-assessment submissions received and then select a small minority of areas to do a validation exercise.

We have been informed that in relation to our submission:

The moderation exercise has concluded that your self-assessment offers an evidenced reflection of the judgements against service standards. The YJB do not intend to carry out a validation visit to your service.

We have focused our attention on practice improvement throughout the last year and in ensuring that we deliver a high-quality service to all of our children and families.

We continue to monitor progress via our YOS improvement plan.

MPS update November 2021

Over the last six months Insp Morteo has brought together a network of Youth Service providers who now meet virtually once a month. This meeting has grown in popularity and attendance has reached over 30 youth service providers from across Bromley. The purpose of the meeting is for providers to network and become more aware of the services each other delivers with the hope that this will enable a broader spectrum of activities to benefit more young people. For example, it was identified that during the last summer holidays, provision was available for the two weeks at the beginning of the holiday period but there was much less towards the end and there were more activities for boys but less for girls. Members from the meeting will be able to better coordinate activities in the future. It is also hoped that relationships can be built between grass root organisations for a more collaborative and therefore successful, approach when applying for funding streams. At the most recent meeting, youth forums have been discussed and the opportunity of bringing together young people from the forums, NEET cohort and selected youths from PRU's and local schools, to form a youth congress. The congress will provide a platform for the voice of youth to be heard in board room level meetings in statutory organisations. This Bromley youth providers meeting has been discussed during YOS board sub group meetings, First time Entrants and Reducing offending & Reoffending. The discussion, outcomes and activities will be fed into these meetings.

Probation

The Probation Service has undergone a significant change in service delivery since October 2021. On a national level this has involved the ending of 21 separate CRC contracts and a move of staff into a unified

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service. In London, the 12 NPS areas and 5 CRC areas have been aligned to 18 separate PDU's.

Having completed the transition phase of the unification, the Probation Service is now seeking to mobilise activities by aligning several separate process and systems across into one organisation. At a local level this has presented challenges but has not diminished our level of engagement and involvement across local stakeholder and partnership meetings.

Whilst it is recognised that such a significant transition may be disruptive, the opportunities of an aligned Probation Services, and the prospect of engagement in local commissioning approaches will enable benefits and improvements to service delivery.