

Reducing first time entrants in the Youth Justice System

Analysis of the performance data in relation to preventing first time entrants (FTE) into the Youth Justice System continues to be positive. This measure helps us to understand how effective the local area is in supporting young people not to offend. The number of First time entrants entering the criminal justice system is tracked by the YJS for an annual period. The latest figures available are for a 12 month period January 2021 – December 2021

- 40 Young people became first time entrants into the criminal justice system during January 2021 – December 2021.
- This is a 9% reduction (from 48 down to 40) in the actual number of first time entrants compared with the previous year.
- Bromley's rate of first time entrants has reduced annually by 21% and is 18% lower than the average for London. Bromley's rate is also 15% below the national average and is in line with our statistical neighbours. Bromley also has the lowest rate compared with the 6 surrounding boroughs. (Bexley, Croydon, Southwark, Lewisham, Lambeth, Greenwich)
- Bromley has the 5th lowest FTE rate in London and are ranked 45th out of the 154 YJS in the country.
- Bromley YJS are Triaging an average 100 cases a year and issuing an average of 17 community resolutions a month which is having a direct impact on keeping the number of first time entrants low in comparison to the London and national average. (A young person receiving a triage or community resolution for a 1st offence prevents them from becoming an n FTE).
- During January 2021 – December 2021, 55% entered the criminal justice system for violent offences. Of these violent offences 59% were either knife or weapon related crimes.
- 23% entered the criminal justice system for motoring offences. The YJS has seen a reduction in FTEs for possession of drug related offences due to the police now issuing community resolutions for these offence types
- Knife/weapon related crimes contribute heavily towards the numbers of first time entrants as knife related crimes are not eligible for triage. A triage intervention diverts a young person away from entering the criminal justice system and offers the young person a chance to engage in a voluntary intervention with YJS without going through the whole court process. YJS continues to work with the police in tackling knife crime, offering knife awareness & victim awareness sessions as an induction for young people engaged with the YJS. The YJS police continue to

offer triage interventions and community resolutions when applicable. The YJS may begin to see a reduction in triages cases for the possession of cannabis as the police moving towards issuing community resolutions for these offence types.

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