

Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Author: Gareth Jones, Head of Service
Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service

Date: 19 June 2014

Introduction

The Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service came into existence on 1st October 2012 and was formally launched by Frances Done, the Chair of the Youth Justice Board in June 2013. This new organisation was the result of a review of Youth Offending Services conducted by the partners and Management Boards of the then Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Team and the Cheshire Youth Offending Service from 2010-2012.

A new partnership agreement was adopted in December 2012 and the Chair of the Management Board is defined as the relevant statutory Director of Children's Services within the Local Authority partners. The Chair will rotate on an annual basis between the three authorities with the first year, 2013-2014, being Warrington.

As of 1 April 2014, the Chair is Gerald Meehan, Director of Children's Services, Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council. The Management Board also has representation from:-

- Cheshire Constabulary
- Cheshire Probation Trust – to 1 June 2014 and from this date with representation from the National Probation Service (North West);
- Halton Borough Council
- Warrington Borough Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Cheshire Youth Court Panel - Magistrate member.
- Halton Clinical Commissioning Groups (representing the four CCG areas and three relevant Public Health Directors via Health Subgroup)
- Five Boroughs Mental Health Partnership.

In addition, both the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire and the Youth Justice Board (YJB) have non-voting but participatory representation.

Appendix A contains a list of current members of the Board and also a strategic structural chart showing the "location" of the YOS Board in relation to the strategic groups.

The Management Board members meet on a quarterly basis where they consider the strategic challenges to the delivery of high quality Youth Justice Services in the three local authority areas. Standing items on the agenda are:

- Finance including the annual approval of the YOS budget
- Performance
- Health and Safety
- Head of Service Report including staffing and HR issues
- Management Action Plan – implementation
- Relevant inspection report i.e. HMIP, OFSTED
- Relevant serious case reviews (SCRs)
- Health subgroup
- Prevention/Early Intervention - Divert programme (Youth Justice Liaison Diversion)
- YOS Corporate Risk Register.

The Head of Service is well placed within the local authority strategic framework and is a member of the three relevant Safeguarding Children Boards, Children's Trusts/Young People's Partnership, Community Safety Partnerships and Cheshire Criminal Justice Board. The Operations Manager is a member of the MAPPA Strategic Management Board and attends several Safeguarding subgroups in all three local authority areas. The YOS also has an active role and membership in the three Domestic Abuse Multi agency governance groups in the area.

The Head of Service currently has a primary role in the Association of YOT Managers. This seeks to improve Youth Justice outcomes nationally, by way of influencing strategic direction, as well as sector-led improvement and effective practice dissemination through links to academia and the wider Youth Justice arena. It is anticipated this role will continue for the duration of the strategy.

YOS Board members have an active role in ensuring that other strategic links are well informed of youth justice issues via other local strategic fora, eg Health and Well Being Boards.

An area for development has been the role of health representation following the extensive redesigning of the health landscape. The YOS Board has recognised the potential for

children and young people in the Criminal Justice System, to become potentially 'lost' and has formed a health subgroup of the Board, specifically to ensure the complex geographical and responsibility areas are discussed. The subgroup meets quarterly and is chaired by the Chief Executive of Halton Clinical Commissioning Group. He is the Health Representative on the main Board and ensures that all relevant health partners are involved in the identification, commissioning and delivery of services, designed to improve health outcomes and thereby reduce offending and reoffending. The group will ensure that local strategic needs assessments include those subject to YOS supervision, both at early and statutory intervention level. The subgroup reports to the YOS Board quarterly.

This strategic plan links to the Children and Young People Plans in all three local authority areas, as well as the relevant Community Safety Plans and the Cheshire Criminal Justice Board plan. The YOS plan also links to the plans of the three Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB) and that of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The local strategic environment is complex and extensive but this was recognised by all partners in their desire to maintain a YOS that would be compatible with the original YOT model, as defined in the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and also compliant with YJB guidance on Modern YOT Partnerships, October 2013.

The primary motive for the new partnership was to improve services and outcomes for children, young people, victims and communities in an age of diminishing resources.

Finance

The YOS is financed by the relevant partners in accordance with the approved budget which can be found in Appendix B.

The YOS is due to receive an allowance of £13k for the increased responsibility in delivering the unpaid work elements of youth sentences from 1 June 2014, which was previously the responsibility of Cheshire Probation Trust. The YJB are in the process of establishing the funding mechanism to distribute this element of the grant in future years.

The YOS also has a service level agreement with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the level of this funding is subject to annual negotiation.

The YOS has a pooled budget to cover all the statutory Youth Justice Service provision for the three locality areas which includes the ability to roll over efficiency savings to the

following financial year as approved by the Management Board. The YOS finances are subject to the financial rules and regulations of Warrington Borough Council and the regulations of funding/grant making authorities.

Staffing

As part of the review of the desirability and practicality of a merger between Halton and Warrington and Cheshire West Youth Justice provision, a thorough review was conducted in 2010-2012 including historical, actual and predictive workloads. A staffing structure was agreed to meet the identified needs and is shown in Appendix C.

There are no plans to increase or decrease the permanent staffing arrangements. Recruitment to vacancies, as they arise, will be reviewed by the YOS Management Board in terms of need, efficacy and resourcing prior to confirmation of a decision to recruit. Responsibility for employment remains with the 'parent' organisation for secondees and subject to secondment agreements with the relevant organisation. The majority of the workforce are subject to the terms and conditions of the relevant local authorities, Warrington and Cheshire West, and ongoing work to rationalise and harmonise these will continue within the timescale of this strategy.

The YOS is firmly committed to staff development; in addition to having a CWHWYOS Training Plan, we are also part of the Collaborative Training Group of the wider Merseyside YOT Managers' group. This allows for bespoke Youth Justice training to be commissioned across the wider group, resulting in quality and financial assurance and advantages. Safeguarding Training is provided by any one of the three LSCBs and this allows staff to have wider accessibility to relevant training.

Performance

High quality and effective Youth Justice provision is the primary objective of the YOS partnership and performance reporting/accountability and quality assurance frameworks are essential to achieving this aim.

CWHWYOS has the following five focus areas with an ambition to maintain and where possible improve, existing service outcomes:-

- Reduce first time entrants to the Youth Justice System;
- Reduce use of custody;
- Reduce reoffending;
- Reduce numbers of young offenders who are not in employment, education or training;
- Improve the accommodation outcomes for young people subject to youth offending supervision.

Performance is reported on a quarterly basis, subject to YJB validation and includes comparable regional and national data. In addition, each focus area is reported for each local authority area by way of a scorecard – 15 in total for each Management Board meeting. Performance figures for 2012-2013 are reported in Appendix D, as is an example of a scorecard for illustrative purposes.

The YOS currently has an allocated manager to review all policy and procedures with a quality assurance remit. This focus on quality assurance is enhanced by regular, at least quarterly, audits on areas of practice such as risk management including safeguarding, domestic abuse etc. The results of these audits are disseminated to staff through Practice and Performance Meetings and also inform the strategic direction of the YOS via the Management Board and other relevant bodies i.e. the Community Safety Partnerships, LSCBs, Children's Trusts/Partnerships. We are also involved across the three local authority areas with multi-agency audits where learning and practice changes are agreed at the aforementioned meetings and disseminated to staff through the Practitioners' Meetings.

In conjunction with the YJB, CWHWYOS has designed a local version of National Standards, which were implemented in April 2013. These Local Standards are over and above the YJB minimum National Standards.

The YOS is also implementing its YOS Quality Standards; the purpose of which are to evidence that all reasonable action to keep to a minimum the offender's risk of harm to others is taken in each case; and all reasonable action to keep to a minimum the risk of a child or young person coming to harm is taken in each case. By adhering to the Quality Standards, case managers will be able to ensure the quality of the work undertaken is of sufficient standards to meet the objectives stated. This benchmark approach will also facilitate quality assurance procedures by Managers and external Inspectorates.

YOS staff will continue to utilise risk and vulnerability tools to ensure appropriate levels of intervention are implemented and that appropriate use of early intervention and diversion processes are utilised. A Task and Finish Group is currently reviewing the process and timeliness of implementing the screening assessment tools linked to AssetPlus.

In addition, this framework also assists staff to elevate concerns when safeguarding and risk of harm processes are identified i.e. MAPPA, MARAC and Child Protection plans etc. The YOS is involved through Cheshire Probation with piloting the MAPPA Four Pillars approach to risk management (developed by Professor Hazel Kemshall) with its MAPPA cases. It is anticipated this will continue with the National Probation Service and the relevant Community Rehabilitation Company

Priority areas for 2014-2017

The maintenance and improvement of case outcomes is an ongoing feature of CWHWYOS strategy for the forthcoming three years. However following on from quality assurance processes such as audits, the following lessons learned from other formal reviews such as HMIP Thematic Inspections, OFSTED Inspections, Serious Care Reviews, National Guidance etc, have been identified as areas for more intense focus.

The priority areas also reflect priorities in the Police and Crime Commissioner Plan, LSCB plans, and other relevant strategic plans in the three local authority areas.

Victims, Restorative justice and use of volunteers

The challenge is to move from an organisation which provides high quality individualised interventions to one which 'puts the victim at the heart of the system' in accordance with the Victims' Charter. This will require a review and action plan to achieve a structural and cultural change within the YOS within existing resources. The policy and practice regarding the use of Volunteers will be reviewed and enhanced, particularly regarding the use of Restorative Justice. The review of Volunteering is linked to Restorative Justice developments but this is not an exclusive area of consideration and wider issues connected to Volunteering will be incorporated.

Action

Strategy identified	December 2014
Action plan implemented	December 2015
QA review	March 2016

Owner of action: Head of Service

Work with girls and young women

The YOS has noted within previous Equality assessments that bespoke interventions for work with girls and young women are not as comprehensive as for young men and boys. Whilst quality assurance reviews indicate an acceptable level of work, the learning from other YOS, such as the Leeds YOS Girls' Projects, indicate that a different use of existing resources may improve services and outcomes for girls and young women within the CHWHYOS areas.

Action

Review models of interventions	October 2014
Design model for CWHWYOS	December 2014
Implementation	March 2015
QA review and outcome improvements	March 2015

Owner: Operations Manager and designated Team Manager

Domestic abuse

Audits in 2014 indicate approximately 50% of YOS children and young people have been identified as experiencing domestic abuse. This is likely to be a significant underestimate.

A 'champion' for Domestic Abuse has been appointed at Team Management level and will act as a single point of contact for strategic domestic abuse issues across the three local authority areas. All staff have received mandatory training in this field and the biannual audits will continue to inform YOS policy and practice.

Action

Continue with biannual audits and disseminate learning to relevant partners	March 2015
Maintain Training emphasis on Domestic Abuse. A Bi-annual report to the Management on progress by way of a Scorecard will be introduced	

Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing From Home

The HMIP Thematic report on Out of Area Children (2012) included Halton and Warrington YOT and whilst feedback indicated high standards, there is still room for further improvements. In the light of the rise in national consciousness of the issue of CSE in the Office for Children's Commissioners' report in November 2013, re girls, gangs and sexual exploitation, a YOS Strategic group has been set up, chaired by the Operations Manager

Gareth Jones
Head of Service

Gerald Meehan
Chair, CWHWYOS Board

Signed...

Date.....

Appendix A

Current Management Board Members as of June 2014

Gerald Meehan, Director of Children's Services, Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council/Halton Borough Council (Chair)

Fiona Waddington, Assistant Director of Operations, Warrington Borough Council

Tracey Coffey, Operational Director, Halton Borough Council

Sandra Campbell, Head of Service Children and Families, Cheshire West and Chester

John Davidson, Assistant Chief Executive, National Probation Service

Superintendent Peter Crowcroft, Cheshire Constabulary

Detective Supt Andy Southcott, Head of Department of Criminal Justice, Cheshire Constabulary

Neil Ellwood, Partnerships and Commissioning Manager, Police and Crime Commissioner's Office

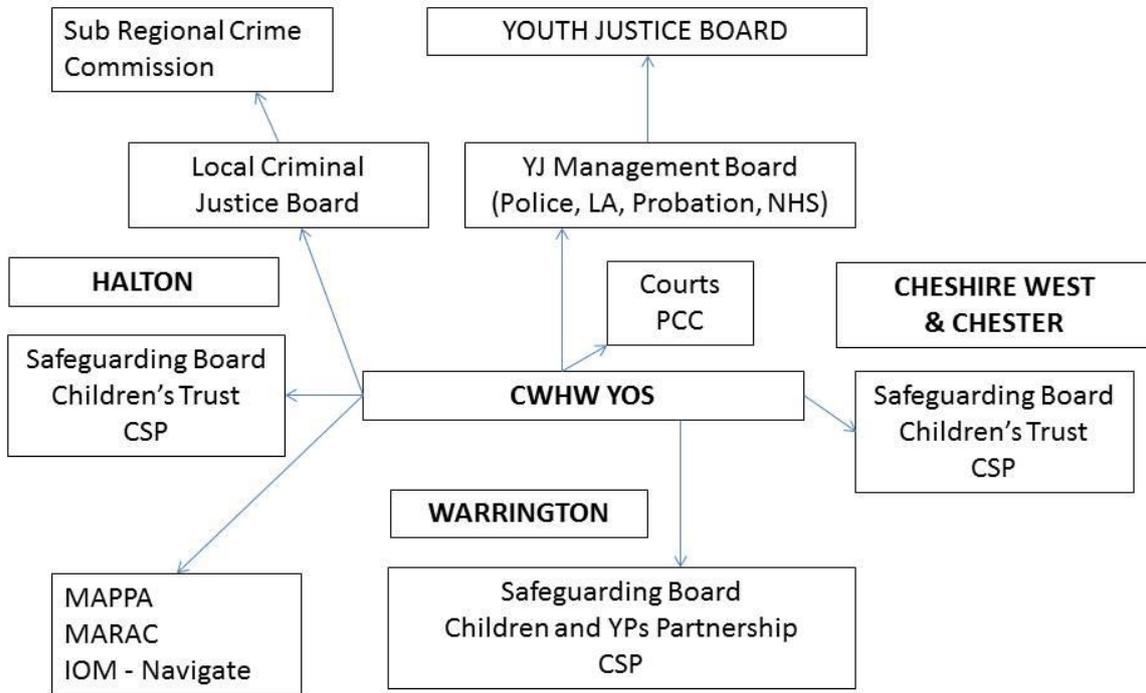
Simon Bell, Commissioning Manager, Halton Borough Council

Simon Banks, Chief Officer, Halton Clinical Commissioning Group

Debbie Garner, Assistant Director of Operations, Five Boroughs Partnership

Colin Dutton, Chair of the Cheshire Youth Panel

CWHWYOS Strategic Position



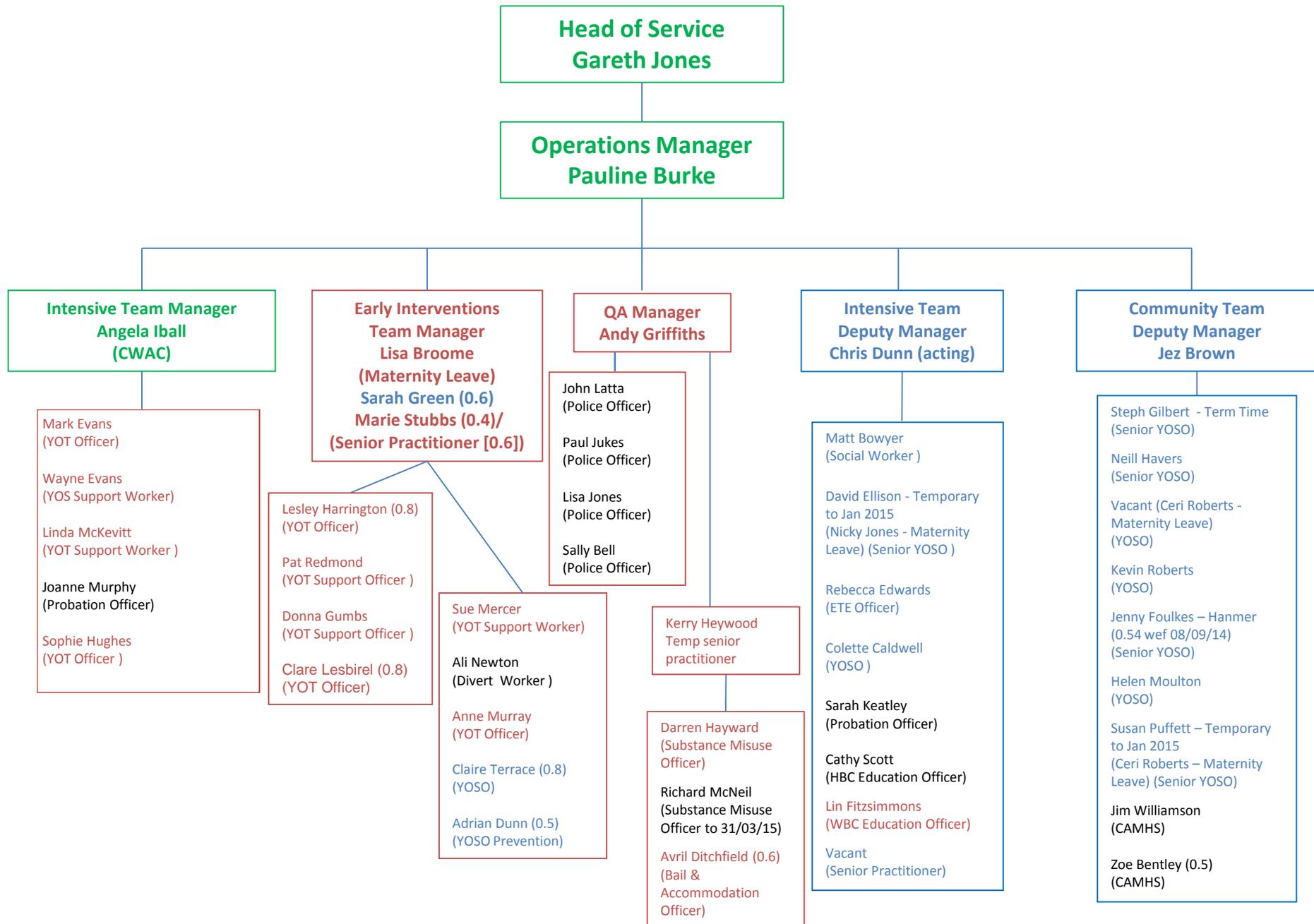
Appendix B

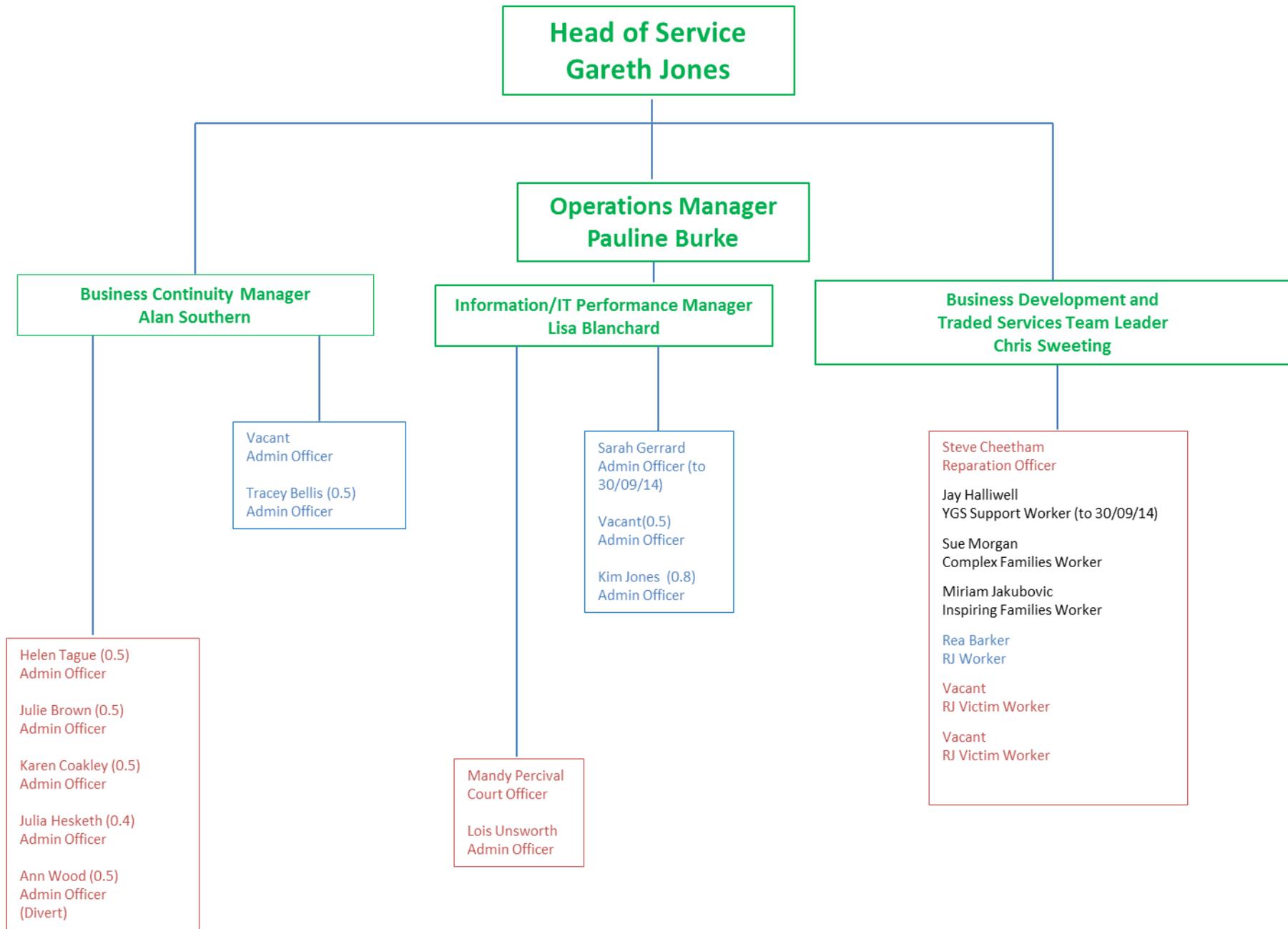
Cheshire West, Halton & Warrington Youth Offending Service	
Budget 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015	
	Budget
EMPLOYEES	
NJC Local Gov - Salaries	1,455,915
NJC Local Gov - NI	97,394
NJC Local Gov - Superann	298,293
Standby Payments/AA	0
Other Staff - Salaries (Probation/5BP)	94,940
Relocation Expenses	1,730
Training	10,000
Employee Expenses	3,600
Recharge - Staffing Insurance	1,168
	1,963,040
PREMISES	
Rent of Premises	2,820
	2,820
TRANSPORT	
Vehicle Maintenance	100
Diesel - Pool Car	1,050
Travelling Allowance	3,670
Rech Car Lease Ins	11,637
Car Leasing Charges	3,336
Car Allowances	134,535
	154,328
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	
Equipment Purchase	1,140
Furniture & Fittings	0
Cleaning Materials	50
Materials	240
Sundries (Catering)	2,490
Photocopier	400
Stationery	3,500
Fees	1,000
Postages	170
ICT Equipment Purchases	10,000
ICT Line Rental	12,000
Computer Software Maintenance	12,379
ICT - CWAC Migration to Childview	65,500
Court Costs	1,440
Volunteer Travel Expenses	1,650
Subscriptions	3,040
Hospitality	150
Recharge Other Ins	2,091
	117,240
TRANSFER PAYMENTS	
Accommodation Allowance	1,210
	1,210

cont'd

SUPPORT SERVICES		
SLA Debtors		89
SLA Insurance		772
SLA HR Advisory		7,579
SLA Legal		1,504
SLA BSC Employee Services		8,446
SLA Learning & Development		4,709
SLA BSC Exchequer Services		3,042
Print Section		1,320
Carecall		2,256
		29,717
TOTAL		2,268,355
FINANCED BY:		INCOME
YJB		905,968
CWAC COUNCIL		401,000
HBC		218,117
WBC		223,640
WBC CORPORATE RECHARGES		14,896
WBC SLAs		26,141
CHESHIRE PCC		140,152
CHESHIRE PROBATION		125,820
HALTON CCG		10,000
WARRINGTON CCG		12,344
DoH - YJLD GRANT		44,777
H&W RESERVES (1)		80,000
CWHW RESERVES (2)		65,500
TOTALS		2,268,355
(1) To fund Troubled Families agenda		
(2) Revised CACI/Childview Estimated Project Costs		

Appendix C – CWHWYOS Organisational Structure





Appendix D

Performance Measures 2013-14

1. To reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time

131 FTEs into the criminal justice system

2. To reduce reoffending by young offenders in the criminal justice system

80 YP were on the Reoffending Cohort and tracked for 12 months, of which 38 reoffended (47.5%)

3. To minimise the use of custodial sentences to only those required to protect the public

3.6% Custody Rate from all court disposals (13 court disposals out of from 361 were custody).

4. To find suitable education, training or employment (ETE) provision for young people upon completing their YOS Intervention

74.8% (181 YP out of 242) were engaged in suitable ETE

5. To find suitable accommodation for young people upon completing their YOS Intervention

98.3% (234 YP out of 238) were in suitable accommodation

**Cheshire West, Halton & Warrington Youth Offending Service
FTE Performance Scorecard – Cheshire West June 2014**

Outcome: To reduce the number of First Time Entrants

Service performance measures:

	YOT Careworks Data	FTE	
		Quarter 3 2013	Quarter 4 2014
First-time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system aged 10-17 (Cheshire West only)		9	6

Performance Information

The FTE figures above detail a comparison of the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system ages 10-17 in Cheshire West for Quarter 3 2013 compared to Quarter 4 2014. Notably these figures indicate a significant reduction of 3 for this quarter, which would indicate that the introduction of the Divert Programme is having a consistent impact on FTE figures.

Reports are submitted to the Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington YOS Management Board on a quarterly basis in relation to number of FTEs and the following information will be depicted as part of the analysis of the FTE and this has been provided below:

- Age breakdown as at date of offence
- Gender breakdown
- Ethnicity breakdown
- Offence breakdown
- Outcome type

The graphs shown below represent the number of FTE in Cheshire West for January – March 2014 (6 FTE).

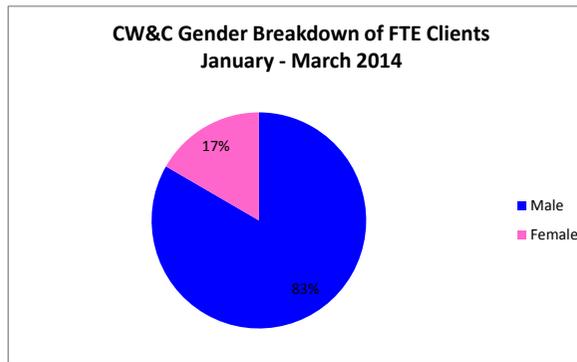
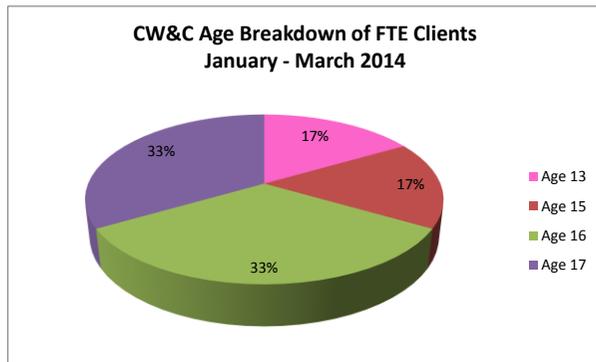


Table 1 : Age 13 (17%), Age 15 (17%), Age 16 (33%)
Age 17 (33%).

Table 2 : Male (83%, Female (17%).

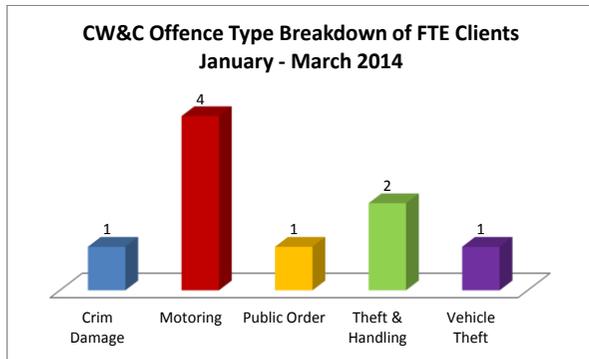


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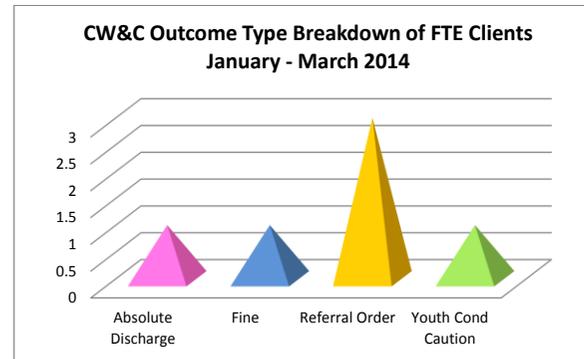


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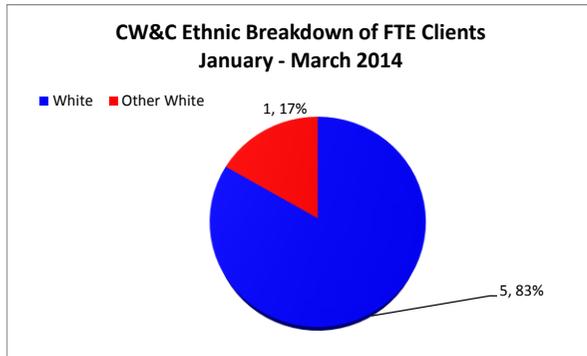


Table 5: White (83%), Other White (17%)

The 6 FTEs for this quarter have been further analysed to look at those young people who went straight to Court without any previous disposals in relation to what routes of diversion were sourced. We found that in total 5 young people were not considered for the Diversion Programme and were subsequently summonsed to Court. Having looked at these cases in closer detail, the following explanations account for why these young people did not receive a diversion outcome; 2 young people pleaded not guilty; 2 young people had previously completed the Diversion Programme and their new offences were an escalation in seriousness and one young person was not eligible for the Diversion Programme based on the gravity of their offence.

Divert Project

Background/Context - The Diversion Project is a scheme currently provided in Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington and was initially developed in 2008 under Halton and Warrington YOT. The scheme is currently funded by NHS England until March 2015. The referrals for this scheme come directly from Cheshire Police and the scheme is currently available to all young people who are being considered for an out of Court disposal. As part of the process, upon receiving a referral, one of the Diversion workers will undertake an assessment with the young person which will identify any concerns and further refer to the appropriate services and/or provide a package of support. Contact will also be made with any services including Children's Social Care to glean any further information and also make agencies aware that the child or young person is currently under the Diversion scheme. A full comprehensive feedback form is then provided to Cheshire Police ahead of the child or young person answering bail with a view that any

identified concerns or difficulties will be taken into consideration by the Police with the matter potentially having no further action taken (NFA) and the young person diverted away from the YJS. Currently in Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Cheshire Police provide a fortnightly report of all children and young people who have received a Police Restorative Justice disposal. A letter is sent to the parents/carers of all children & young people who have received an RJ disposal and they are made aware should they require support to contact the Diversion workers.

The Diversion Scheme started being delivered in 6 pilot areas one of which was Halton and Warrington. The University of Liverpool evaluated the scheme across the 6 pilot areas between 2008-2011 using control sites. Following the completion of the evaluation report in 2011 CWHWYOS became one of 37 pathfinder sites. We continue to undertake local reports on performance and report into the CWHWYOS Management Board.

For information the current reporting mechanism includes tracking a cohort of young people over a 12 month period referred to the scheme by Cheshire Police between Jan-March 2013 to analyse:

- Number of referrals in this period (Jan-March 2013)
- Number of young people who engage
- Numbers of young people who offend/re-offend post Divert intervention
- Number of young people who offend/re-offend who declined Divert intervention
- If Diversion scheme had an impact on level of disposal administered by Cheshire Police

In addition to this we also analyse on a quarterly basis and this is reported on within a separate report to the YOS Management Board:

- Number of referrals received by Cheshire Police
- Profile of young people referred
- Number of young people who engage in the service
- Barriers to engagement

Monitoring our own local data will enable us to ensure that we are targeting our resources effectively, expanding our service successfully and continuing to aid the reduction of First Time Entrants into the CJS. Additionally that we successfully divert those young people already known to the CJS but who go on to commit a further low level offence, this will prevent automatic escalation in the CJS.

The cohort for 2014 is currently in the process of being collated and as such will be reported on in the next performance scorecard. The new cohort will include those young people who have been diverted and any out of Court disposals administered to young people, the cohort will not include those young people on statutory Court Orders as these will appear within the re-offending cohort which would be duplication in data.

The Management Board will be aware from the project management update that the funding has been received by NHS England until 2015. More details in relation to the funding and the impact upon service delivery of the programme will be outlined further in the Management Board Project Update report.

THEME :

EFFORT

- 1. To monitor the number of FTEs following the Police refresher training.**
- 2. To continue to raise the profile and embed the completion process of the new Divert recording mechanism with all staff who attend Court.**
- 3. To build a cohort of young people to be tracked over a 12 month period.**

EFFECT

- 1. Police Officers to be referring all young people eligible for an out of court disposal to the Diversion Scheme thus potentially reducing the number of FTE's into the CJS.**
- 2. All YOS staff have now completed Court training in November 2013 so are now are confident in making appropriate representation to the Youth Court Bench in respect of Divert. The number of referrals made to the Diversion scheme will continue to be monitored as will the pre-court identification tool.**
- 3. To ensure that the performance of the Divert Programme reflects the overall successful outcomes of Diversion Programme.**

CHESHIRE WEST DIVERT CASE STUDY

A young person was referred through to the YOS in December 2013, for an offence of 39 assault committed in September 2013. He was residing at the family home however there were clear complex family issues present and a history of intermittent social care assessment. The young person was part of a large family, living in a three bedroomed property and attended Hartford High School and was a Year 10 pupil. Whilst school reported that he was doing well, there were concerns around his levels of emotional and cognitive development. The young person was associating with other young males who were criminally active and regularly consuming alcohol. Although he was previously known to the YOS this was over twelve months earlier and he had engaged well on a Final Warning intervention. The young person engaged in a Divert assessment and agreed to engage with YOS on a voluntary basis whilst Police final outcome decision was made.

The young persons' two co-accused were summonsed to Court due to increased involvement and previous offence history. Due to his divert engagement, remorse shown and previous voluntary engagement with YOS, the recommendation to Police was a Youth Conditional Caution. The family were referred through the Early Support Access Team and a Family Case Worker was allocated-this has enabled the family to bid on larger properties and be supported. The young person has engaged in 12 sessions with the YOS which covered consequences, using violence to resolve conflict, alcohol awareness, peer associations and encouragement to engage in constructive leisure.

To date there have been no further offences, the young person has significantly reduced his alcohol intake, he has disassociated himself from offending peers and has joined the local boxing club. He has also written a letter of apology to the victim of his assault and has apologised in person to him at College.

Area for focus and improvement. How can we do better?	What do we plan to do? (Action plan)	Suggested commissioning priorities.
1. Continue to raise and embed awareness of the Divert Project within Cheshire Police across all three local authorities.	1. To continue to deliver refresher training to Cheshire Police via Police training days.	1. N/A

**Cheshire West, Halton & Warrington Youth Offending Service
FTE Performance Scorecard – Halton June 2014**

Outcome: To reduce the number of First Time Entrants

Service performance measures:

	YOT Careworks Data	FTE	
		Quarter 3 2013	Quarter 4 2014
First-time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system aged 10-17 (Halton only)		9	11

Performance Information

The FTE figures above detail a comparison of the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system ages 10-17 in Halton for Quarter 3 2013 compared to Quarter 4 2013. This highlights an overall increase of 2 young people compared to that from Quarter 3.

Reports are submitted to the Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington YOS Management Board on a quarterly basis in relation to number of FTEs and the following information will be depicted as part of the analysis of the FTE and this has been provided below:

- Age breakdown as at date of offence
- Gender breakdown
- Ethnicity breakdown
- Offence breakdown and gravity score
- Outcome type

In addition we will provide a further analysis of these figures by highlighting those cases who appeared in court as a FTE with no previous diversion or prevention input and look at the reasons behind these decisions.

The graphs shown below represent the number of FTE in Halton for January 2014 – March 2014 (11).

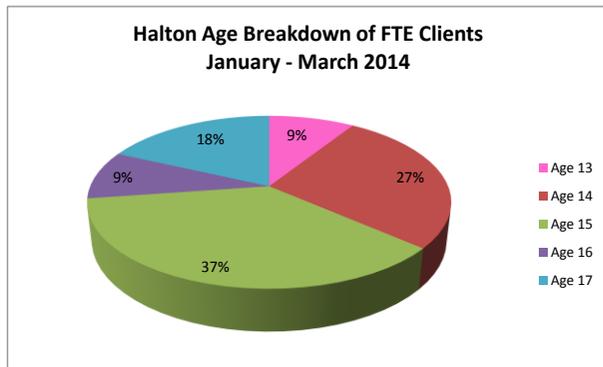


Table 1: Age 13 (9%), Age 14 (27%), Age 15 (37%), Age16 (9%), Age 17 (18%).

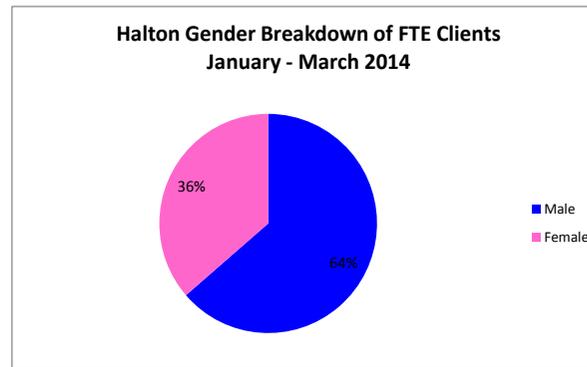


Table 2: Male (64%), Female (36%).

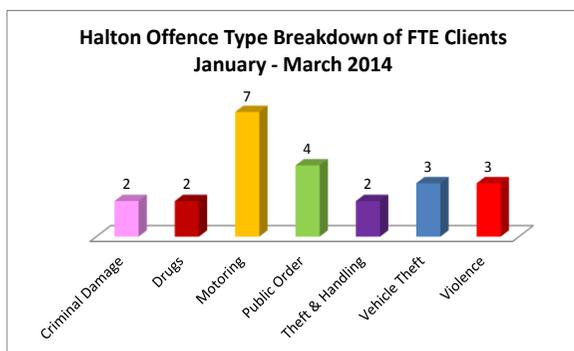


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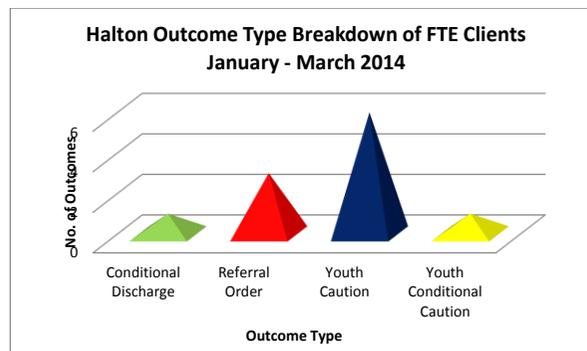


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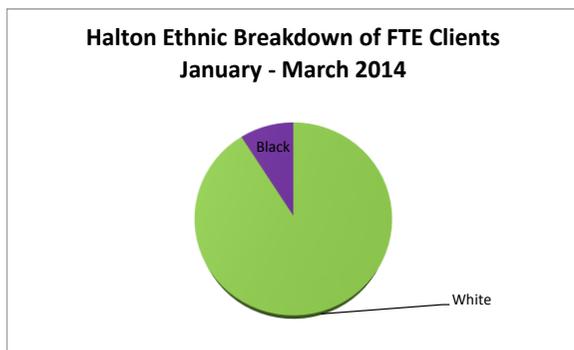


Table 5: White 10, Black 1.

The 11 FTE's for this quarter have been further analysed to look at those young people who went straight to Court without any previous disposals in relation to what routes of diversion were sourced. We found that in total 4 young people were not considered for the Diversion Programme and were subsequently summonsed to Court. Having looked at these cases in closer detail, the following explanation accounts for why these young people did not received a diversion outcome ; 2 young people had previously been through the Diversion Programme of which their new offences were serious and marked an escalation in gravity, 1 young person was a British Transport Police prosecution, and 1 young person received a Referral Order at Court which could have potentially been eligible for the programme.

Divert Project

A cohort has been produced for Halton & Warrington that includes all the YP referred to the Divert Scheme between 1st January and 31st March 2013. The current reporting mechanism includes tracking a cohort of young people over a 12 month period referred he scheme by Cheshire Police between Jan-March 2013 :

- Number of referrals in this period (Jan-March 2013)
- Number of young people who engage
- Numbers of young people who offend/re-offend post Divert intervention
- Number of young people who offend/re-offend who declined Divert intervention
- If Diversion scheme had an impact on level of disposal administered by Cheshire Police

In addition to this we also analyse on a quarterly basis as part of the Divert Project update report:

- Number of referrals received by Cheshire Police
- Number of young people who engage in the service
- Barriers to engagement

Monitoring our own local data will enable us to ensure that we are targeting our resources effectively, expanding our service successfully and continuing to aid the reduction of First Time Entrants into the CJS. Additionally that we successfully divert those young people already known to the CJS but who go on to commit a further low level offence, this will prevent automatic escalation in the CJS.

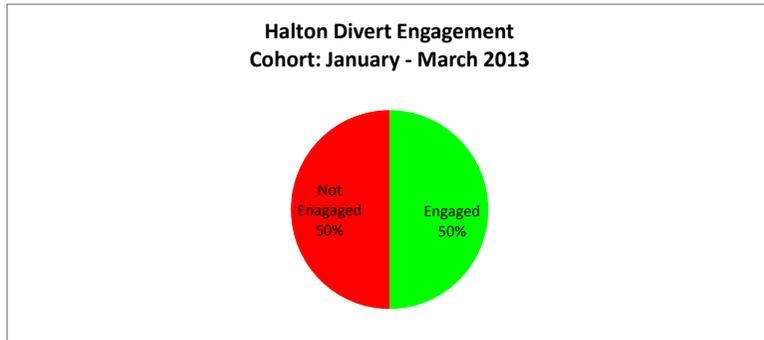


Table 6 : The graph shows the number of young people who voluntarily engaged with the diversion process in Halton during January to March 2013. Engaged 5, Not Engaged 5.

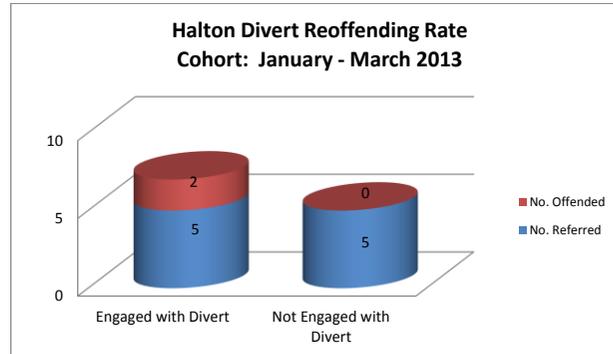


Table 7: Above

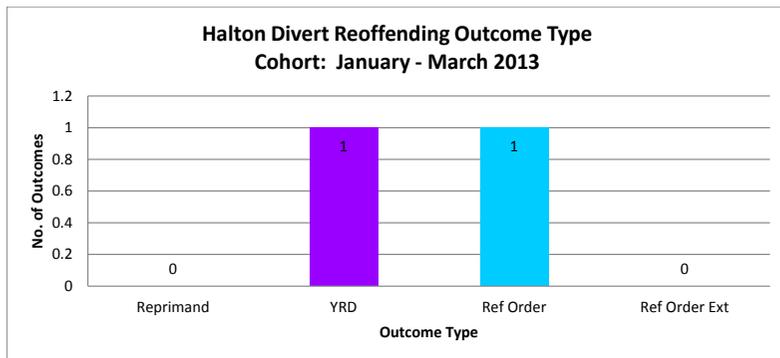


Table 8 : This graph highlights which young people re-offended in Halton from the identified cohort and what outcomes were received.

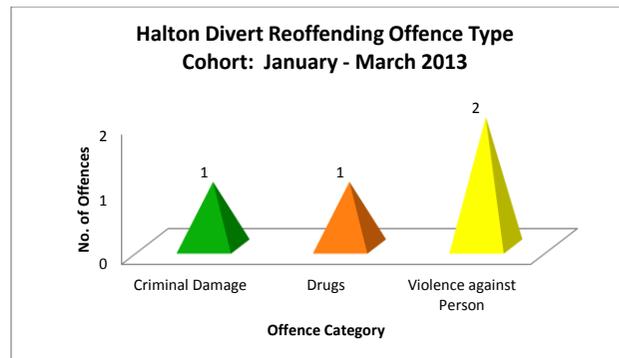


Table 9: This graph highlights the offence type for those young from the identified cohort who have reoffended

In Halton during January to March 2013, 10 young people were referred to Divert, of which 5 engaged (50%) and 5 refused support (50%), in summary the analysis has shown that of those young people that engaged with Divert (5) 2 young people went onto re-offend. Of those young people who did not participate in the programme (5) none of these young people have re-offended. Having reflected on these outcomes it has been recognised that the initial sample size for this cohort to be tracked was indeed far too small and not sufficient to gain a true analysis of the overall performance of the Divert Programme.

As a result, the next cohort that is currently being compiled will include significantly more young people to be tracked over the 12 month period. The new cohort will include those young people who have been diverted and any out of Court disposals administered to young people, the cohort will not include those young people on statutory Court Orders as these will appear within the re-offending cohort which would be duplication in data.

The Management Board will be aware from the project management update that the funding has been received by NHS England until 2015. More details in relation to the funding and the impact upon service delivery of the programme will be outlined further in the Management Board Project Update report.

THEME :

EFFORT

1. To attend Police training days to undertake refresher training on the Diversion Scheme in Halton.
2. To continue to raise the profile and embed the completion process of the new Divert recording mechanism with all staff who attend Court.
3. To build a new cohort of young people to be tracked over a 12 month period.

EFFECT

1. Police Officers to be referring all young people eligible for an out of court disposal to the Diversion Scheme thus potentially reducing the number of FTEs into the CJS.
2. All YOS staff have now completed Court training in November 2013 so are now are confident in making appropriate representation to the Youth Court Bench in respect of Divert. The number of referrals made to the Diversion scheme will continue to be monitored as will the pre-court identification tool and raised with individual staff members who attend Court.
3. To ensure that the performance of the Divert Programme reflects the overall successful outcomes of Diversion Programme.

HALTON DIVERT CASE STUDY

YP was arrested and charged with Shoplifting X 5 and Attempted Theft X 1. Co-accused had been referred to Diversion Scheme. YOS felt young person should be considered for Divert also as first offence in 3 years, and information from Police made it clear that young person had admitted offence. Diversion Assessment was carried out prior to first court appearance.

- Subject to a Care Order under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989. She is a Child In Care and open to Halton Children's Social Care due to neglect and parents ability to keep her safe. Living in Foster Care in Wirral.
- Previously in secure accommodation due to risk concerns around Child Sexual Exploitation. Work had been carried with her to address this and appears to have made a positive impact.
- Since being placed with Foster carer in July 2013, she has made excellent progress. She has developed a good relationship with foster carer and has proven that she can be trusted to return to her placement at an agreed time when she goes out either to see friends or her family. She has a travel pass and through agreement with her foster carer decides when she would like to visit her family members and friends.
- She intends to stay in the care of her foster carer in the short-term future. She is unsure whether she would like to move into semi-supported accommodation when she reaches to age of seventeen years or stay in the foster care until she is eighteen or nineteen years of age. She will continue to maintain contact with her mother and siblings.
- Have been a few recent occasions when she has failed to return back to her placement at the agreed time and her foster carer has reported her to the police as missing from care. However she stated that she had not actually absconded from care as she did intend to return to her placement but was enjoying spending time with her friends and chose to stay out later than had been agreed. She says that she knows how to keep herself safe and has met with the Catch 22 Missing from Home Service in Wirral regarding this.
- Attends since Everton Free School located within Wallasey School and is working towards GCSE's. She is doing well and takes her education seriously. She has good attendance and is due to finish in June. She is looking at returning in September on an apprenticeship.
- She has friends in school, and in her home Town of Runcorn who she visits frequently. She uses cigarettes and cannabis, and sometimes uses alcohol but not to excess. She has received information and education around substance use whilst in secure accommodation and in her current education placement. She does not feel that a further referral for support to address her substance use is necessary.
- Previous pre court disposals and convictions – Reprimand, Final Warning, 4 Month Referral Order, Referral Order Extension (8 months), Conditional Discharge. Last offence committed in March 2011.

Outcome:

- YOS liaised with Wirral YOS and agreed that an O OCD would be appropriate for her case and they would be willing to manage a Youth Conditional Caution if necessary.
- The Court agreed to adjourn the matter for a Youth Conditional Caution to be issued.
- Conditions are: YOS appointments for 3 months on a minimum fortnightly basis which would involve offence focussed work, victim awareness work and community reparation.
- YOS has further liaised with Cheshire Police and Wirral YOS to ensure that YCC is issued. Police have taken advise from YOS in regards to details of the Conditional Caution, and have authorised for YOS Police Officer in Wirral to issue the YCC so YP does not have to come back to our area. Wirral YOS will manage the YCC.

Area for focus and improvement. How can we do better?

1. Continue to raise and embed awareness of the Divert Project within Cheshire Police across all three local authorities.
2. To continue to raise awareness with YOS Court staff and judicial staff in relation to identifying those cases which have been pursued to Court but could be appropriate for Divert or the imposition of an Out of Court disposal

What do we plan to do? (Action plan)

1. To deliver refresher training to Cheshire Police via Police training days.
2. Ongoing monitoring of DIVERT referrals through the pre-court tracking mechanism tool.

Suggested commissioning priorities.

1. N/A
2. N/A.

**Cheshire West, Halton & Warrington Youth Offending Service
FTE Performance Scorecard – Warrington June 2014**

	YOT Careworks Data	FTE	
		Quarter 3 2013	Quarter 4 2014
Outcome: To reduce the number of First Time Entrants			
Service performance measures:			
First-time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system aged 10–17 (Warrington only)		16	7

Performance Information

The FTE figures above detail a comparison of the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system ages 10-17 in Warrington for Quarter 3 2013 compared to Quarter 4 2014. Notably these figures have significantly reduced for this quarter by 9.

Reports are submitted to the Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington YOS Management Board on a quarterly basis in relation to number of FTEs and the following information will be depicted as part of the analysis of the FTE and this has been provided below:

- Age breakdown as at date of offence
- Gender breakdown
- Ethnicity breakdown
- Offence breakdown and gravity score
- Outcome type

The graphs shown below represent the number of FTE in Warrington for January – March 2014 (9 FTE).

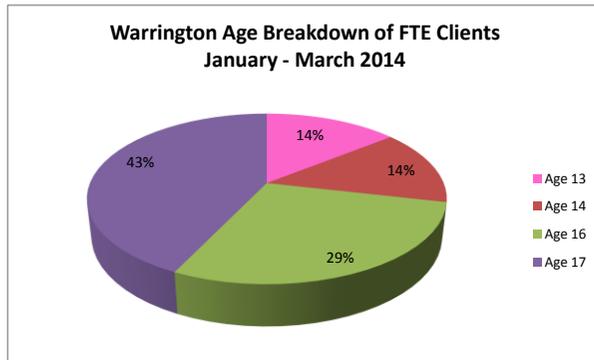


Table 1: Age 13 (14%), Age 14 (14%), Age 16 (29%), Age 17 (43%)

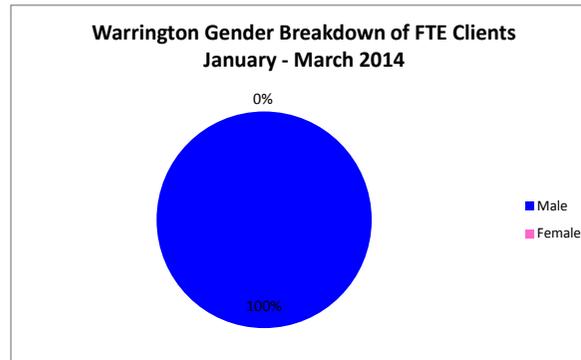


Table 2 : Male (100%).

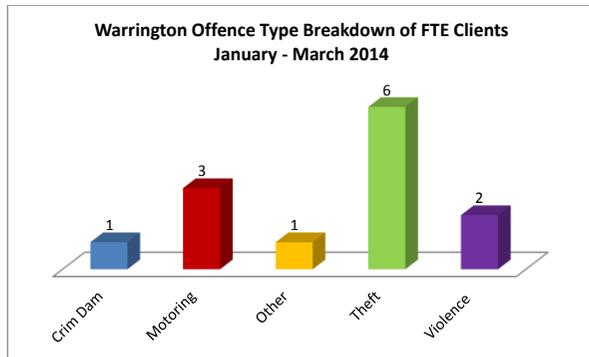


Table 3 : Above

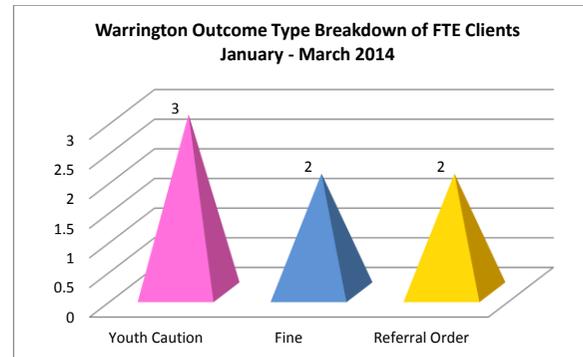


Table 4: Above

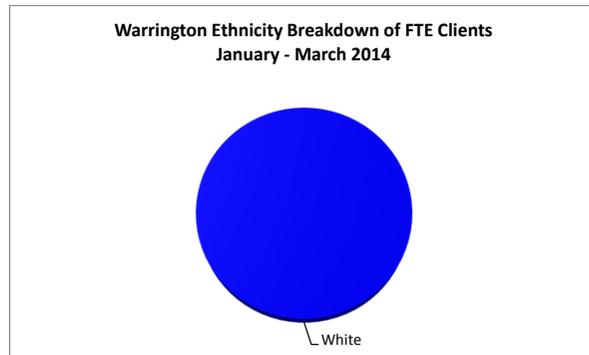


Table 5: White (7).

The 9 FTEs for this quarter have been further analysed to look at those young people who went straight to Court without any previous disposals in relation to what routes of diversion were sourced.

We found that in total 4 young people were not considered for the Diversion Programme and were subsequently summonsed to Court. Having looked at these cases in closer detail, the following explanation account for why these young people did not received a diversion outcome; 1 young person were not eligible for the Diversion Scheme based solely on the gravity of their offence, 2 young people had previously been through the Diversion Programme and their new offences were an escalation in seriousness, 1 young person received a Referral Order at Court who could have potentially been eligible for the programme.

Divert Project

A cohort has been produced for Halton & Warrington that includes all the YP referred to the Divert Scheme between 1st January and 31st March 2013. The current reporting mechanism includes tracking a cohort of young people over a 12 month period referred he scheme by Cheshire Police between Jan-March

- Number of referrals in this period (Jan-March 2013)
- Number of young people who engage
- Numbers of young people who offend/re-offend post Divert intervention
- Number of young people who offend/re-offend who declined Divert intervention

If Diversion scheme had an impact on level of disposal administered by Cheshire Police

In addition to this we also analyse on a quarterly basis as part of the Divert Project update report:

- Number of referrals received by Cheshire Police
- Number of young people who engage in the service
- Barriers to engagement

Monitoring our own local data will enable us to ensure that we are targeting our resources effectively, expanding our service successfully and continuing to aid the reduction of First Time Entrants into the CJS. Additionally that we successfully divert those young people already known to the CJS but who go on to commit a further low level offence, this will prevent automatic escalation in the CJS.

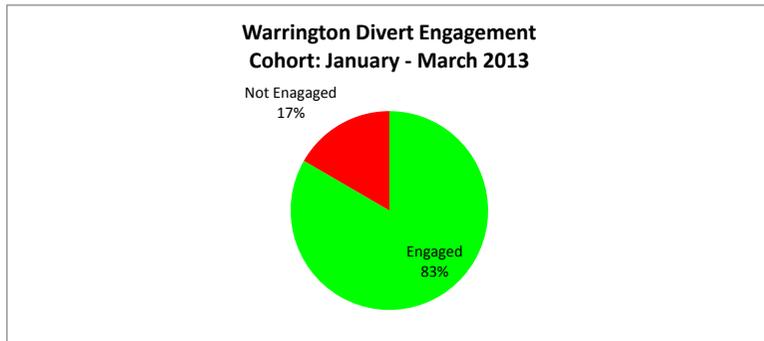


Table 6 : The graph shows the number of young people who voluntary engaged with the Diversion Process in Warrington during January to March 2013. Engaged 10, Not Engaged 2.

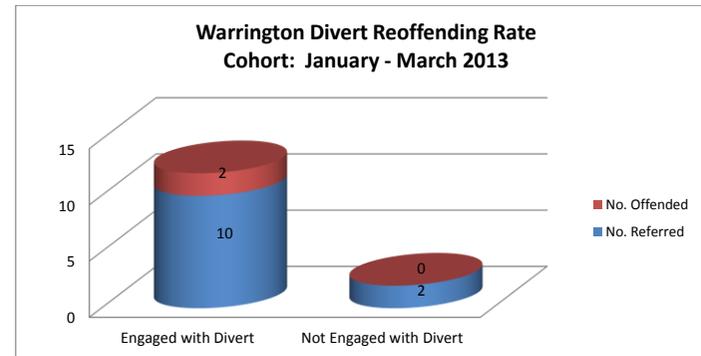


Table 7: This graph highlights that of the 2 young people who did not engage with Divert during this period, none of these have re-offended to date. Of those young people who did engage (10) 2 re-offended (committing 3 offences).

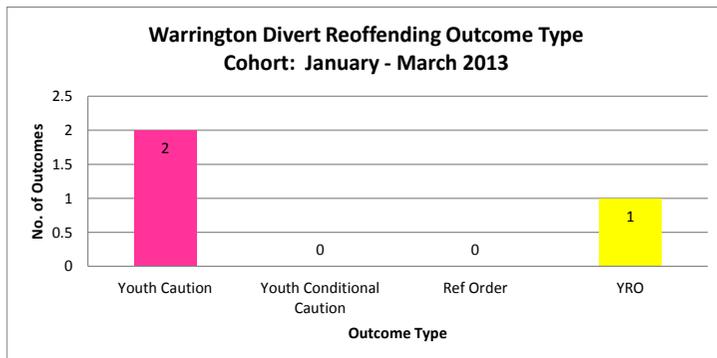


Table 8: The 2 young people who reoffended in Warrington received the indicated outcome

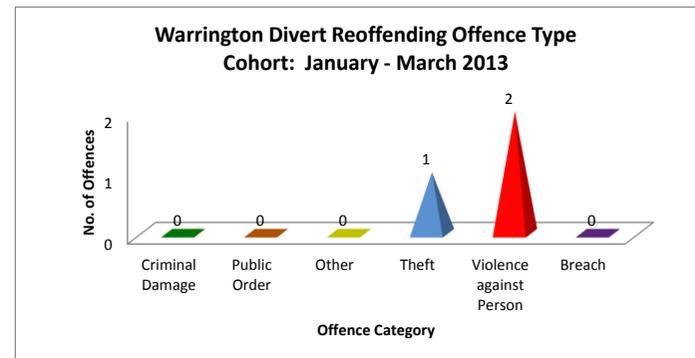


Table 9: This graph highlights the offence type for the 2 young people who re-offended.

In Warrington during January to March 2013, 12 young people were referred to Divert, of which 10 engaged (83%) and 2 refused support (17%), in summary 2 young people who engaged with Divert have gone on to re-offend (25%), committing offences of violence against a person (x2) and theft.

Having reflected on these outcomes it has been recognised that the initial sample size for this cohort to be tracked was indeed far too small, and not sufficient to gain a true analysis of the overall performance of the Divert Programme. As a result, the next cohort that is currently being compiled will include significantly more young people to be tracked over the 12 month period. The new cohort will include those young people who have been diverted and any out of Court disposals administered to young people, the cohort will not include those young people on statutory Court Orders as these will appear within the re-offending cohort which would be duplication in data.

THEME :

EFFORT

1. To attend Police training days to undertake refresher training on the Diversion Scheme in Warrington.
2. To continue to raise the profile and embed the completion process of the new Divert recording mechanism with all staff who attend Court.
3. To build a new cohort of young people to be tracked over a 12 month period

EFFECT

1. Police Officers to be referring all young people eligible for an out of court disposal to the Diversion Scheme thus potentially reducing the number of FTEs into the CJS.
2. All YOS staff have now completed Court training in November 2013 so are now are confident in making appropriate representation to the Youth Court Bench in respect of Divert. The number of referrals made to the Diversion scheme will continue to be monitored as will the pre-court identification tool and staff members who attend Court .
3. To ensure that the performance of the Divert Programme reflects the overall successful outcomes of Diversion Programme.

WARRINGTON DIVERT CASE STUDY

Child A was referred to Divert on the 14 March 2014 for being Drunk and Disorderly. She is a 14yr old female who is known to our service for offences such as Theft and Assault, and in the past there have been concerns in regards CSE as she will put herself in risky situations with older males and she regularly drinks alcohol . There are already many services involved with this YP due to concerns in regards her vulnerability and also her parents inability to keep her daughter safe.

YOS arranged to meet with Child A and her mother and when we arrived there was a police officer already talking to the family. The police officer was from the CSE unit and had come to speak to Child A as she had been picked up in a hotel at the weekend with an older male. It was agreed with the police officer that this takes priority over the referral and I will arrange to meet with the family later on in the week.

Before YOS had arranged the next appointment we were made aware by CSC that Child A has been placed in care as she was assessed as high risk of vulnerability and it was felt her mother could not keep her safe if she remained at home. She was placed out of area and into a therapeutic environment which offers intensive support to young people with complex needs.

Due to the information received I contacted the officer involved with the referral offence of D&D and asked if this could be NFA'd as it would not be in the public's interest to pursue this matter further as Child A will be going through a stressful time being parted from her family and being moved out of an area she has known all of her life. He agreed and the matter was NFA and closed to Divert.

Area for focus and improvement. How can we do better?	What do we plan to do? (Action plan)	Suggested commissioning priorities.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to raise and embed awareness of the Divert Project within Cheshire Police across all three local authorities. 2. To continue to further raise awareness with YOS Court staff and judicial staff in relation to identifying those cases which have been pursued to Court but could be appropriate for Divert or the imposition of an Out of Court disposal 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To deliver refresher training to Cheshire Police via Police training days. 2. Ongoing monitoring of DIVERT referrals through the pre-court tracking mechanism tool. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. N/A 2. N/A.