

Youth Justice Team Annual Report 2015-2016

IoM Youth Justice Team: 2015-2016 Annual Report



Foreword

The Minister for Home Affairs

As the new Minister for Home Affairs, I am delighted to be able to introduce the latest annual report of our multi-agency success story, the Youth Justice Team. At a time when budgets continue to be tight, it is more important than ever that we use our resources effectively to generate positive outcomes, not only for those who are accessing our services today, but as an investment in their future. I was a political member of the Department of Affairs during a previous Administration and noted at the time the splendid work of this team in curbing youth offending. I am encouraged to note that the team has continued to make an impact over the intervening years in diverting young people away from crime.

In this report, as well as a first-hand account of restorative justice, are figures that focus on the positive outcomes achieved. It is of concern that the percentage of referrals that relate to looked after children has more than doubled and also that re-offending has increased for the first time in 3 years, but despite these figures the overall picture is one of successfully helping young offenders to turn their lives around.

Since its inception, the Youth Justice Team has provided a perfect example of multi-agency co-operation and partnership working, which has consistently demonstrated what can be achieved when Departments work closely together. The next stage in this process of early intervention is to extend the approach to older offenders. This proposal is currently under development and I hope to be able to present evidence of its positive impact over the coming year.

As Minister for Home Affairs, I believe strongly that assisting offenders to address their offending requires us not only to hold them to account for what they have done, but also to equip them in all areas of their life to avoiding making the same mistakes again and hence to become decent members of our Island society.

Hon. W M Malarkey, MHK

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IoM Youth Justice Team 2015-2016 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

The Youth Justice Team is multi agency, led by the police, and works to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people.

The team is based within the Department of Health and Social Care (Murray House, Douglas) and brings together professionals from two Departments of Government: Health & Social Care and Home Affairs.

The philosophy of the team can be described as: **Prevention**, **Restoration** and **Integration**.

Prevention: Tackling crime and reoffending through the underlying circumstances and needs in the children's and young persons' lives, by a move to earlier and more effective interventions when young people first offend. Using structured needs assessment to identify risk and protective factors associated with offending behavior to inform effective interventions that tackle each particular factor: personal, family, social, educational, training, employment or health issues.

Restoration: Ensuring that children and young people responsible for crime face meaningful consequences that hold them accountable for the harm caused to victims and the wider community. Punishment should be proportionate to the seriousness and persistency of the offending behavior and justice should be delivered for all concerned.

Integration: Seeking to retain children and young people who offend within mainstream society or to reconnect with them in ways that enable them to achieve the Government's desired outcomes for children.

The Youth Justice Team Staff:

Inspector Paul Bryan

Department of Home Affairs (Left YJT May 2016)

(Multi-Agency Police Protection Unit)

Inspector Neil Craig

Department of Home Affairs

(Joined May 2016)

MAPPU Inspector

(Multi-Agency Police Protection Unit)

Sergeant Kevin Quirk

Department of Home Affairs

MAPPU Sergeant/YJT Manager

Carol Best

Department of Health & Social Care (Joined YJT September 2015)

Part time Administrator

Verona Addy

Department of Home Affairs

Community Volunteer

Kevin Newburn

Department of Home Affairs

Police Constable

Jackie Pate

Department of Health & Social Care

Specialist Health Adviser

Sarah Proudlove

Department of Home Affairs (Joined YJT November 2015)

Probation Officer

Scott Wilson

Department of Home Affairs

Careers Advisor

Dave Surgeon

Department of Health & Social Care

Youth Justice Officer

Joanne Whittle

Department of Health & Social Care (Joined YJT January 2016)

Youth Justice Officer

Peter Christie

Department of Health & Social Care

(Left YJT June 2015)

Social Worker/Court Officer

Charlotte Lloyd

Department of Health & Social Care (Left YJT October 2015)

John Robertson

Department of Home Affairs (Left YJT November 2015)

Youth Justice Officer

Probation Officer

The Youth Justice Team in 2015-16

Inspector Paul Bryan

This year's report shows a slight increase in referrals to the team both in actual crimes and in individuals. The increase is within acceptable parameters, the most startling change being in the referral of vulnerable children who are looked after by the Department of Health and Social Care. This is an area that needs further exploration between the department to uncover any causation factors. The number of young people classed as recidivists (young people referred to the Youth Justice Team on three or more separate occasions) has remained within acceptable levels based on previous years with the vast majority of young people referred responding positively to interventions.

Restorative approaches to juvenile offending are still valued by the Youth Justice Team although staffing issues and shortages have seen less use of this approach to youth offending this recording year.

Supporting young people in the area of education and employment has now become the responsibility of each Youth Officer rather than having a specific specialist in the team, which is less effective but has come about as a result of staffing reductions. It will remain part of the team's drive to maintain the engagement of young people in mainstream education and employment to give them the best chance of achieving their full potential now and in the future.

The team has seen many changes this year and the reduction in head count has affected its resilience; the year ahead will be just as challenging with no sign of a reduction in workload commensurate with the reduction in staff. Last year's comment that efficient approaches to tackling offending behaviour will have to continue to be developed to maintain an effective and robust service provision still rings very true.

On a personal note I would like to thank the team for its hard work and dedication in continuing to assist and address the offending behaviour of the island's young and vulnerable people; - the work done by the team is undoubtedly effective and leads to young people striving to become the best they can be even if they find themselves at odds with the law. I have enjoyed leading the team for in excess of 3 years and now pass the baton on into the capable hands of Inspector Neil Craig as I move on to pastures new; I wish him and the team continued success in the challenging but rewarding world of youth justice.

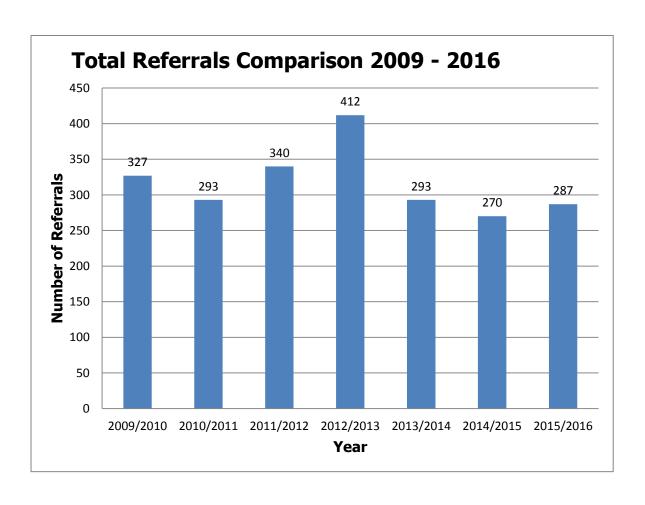
Paul Bryan

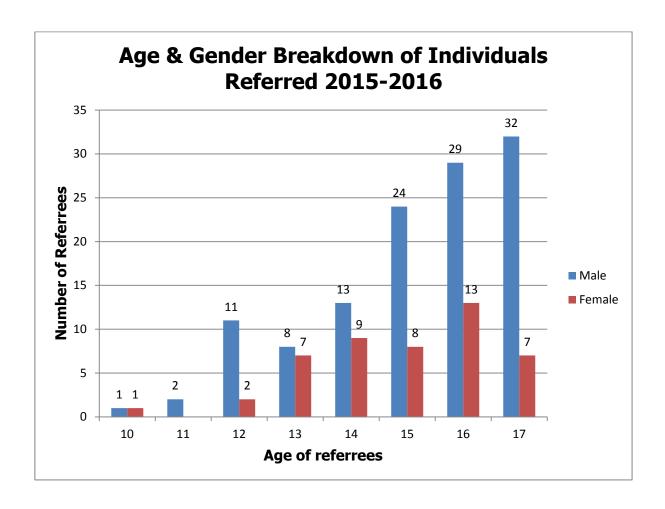
FORMAL REFERRALS TO THE YOUTH JUSTICE TEAM

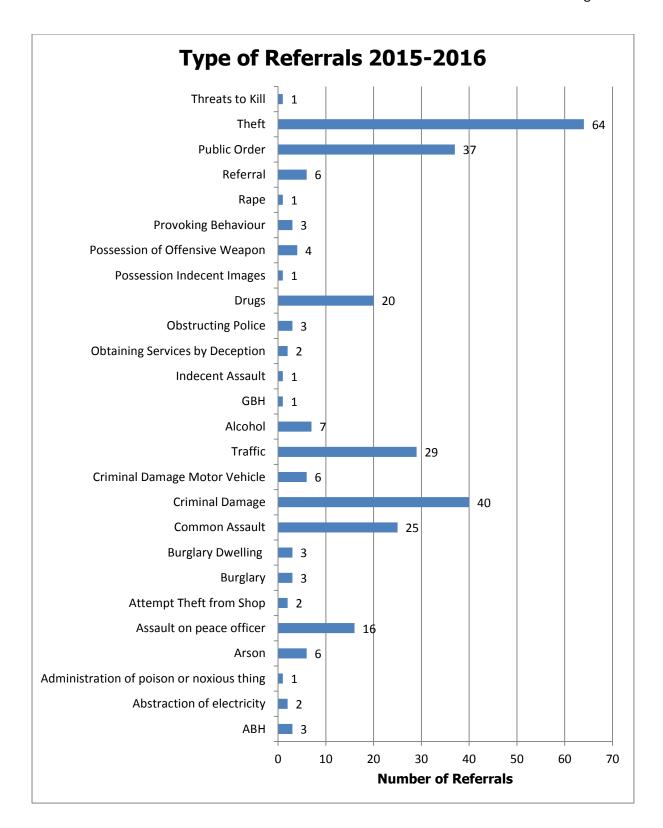
The data presented here includes all children and young persons under the age of eighteen who have been referred to the Youth Justice Team either by Police for an offence committed or from other agencies that have decided specialist work or an assessment from the Youth Justice Team is required.

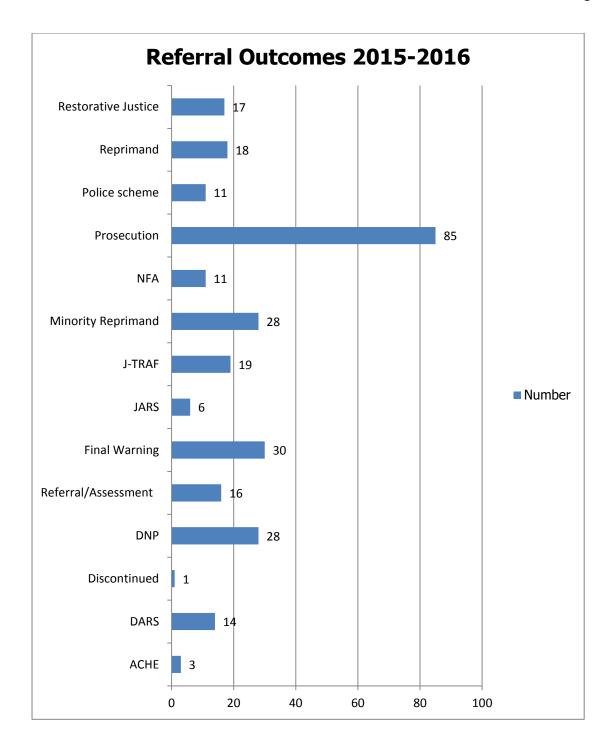
Breakdown of Referrals from 1st April 2015 until 31st March 2016 compared to the previous 3 years:

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Total Referrals	412	293	270	287
From Police	405	282	259	280
Other Agencies	7	11	11	7
Number of	277	193	162	167
Individuals Referred				
Looked After	34 (13 individuals)	25 (12 individuals)	35 (10 Individuals)	73 (17 Individuals)
Children Referrals				









DNP - Detected No Proceedings

J-TRAF - Juvenile traffic (Scheme)

JARS - Juvenile Alcohol Referral Scheme DARS - Drugs Arrest Referral Scheme

NFA - No Further Action

ACHE - Assaults Can Hurt Everyone (Scheme)

Link Progressive Framework

EARLY INTERVENTION

Early intervention with children and young people is crucial. One of the main activities in this regard is the 'Link' scheme.

LINK is a progressive framework for interaction and engagement with children and young people who have been identified by the police as being on the periphery of criminal, antisocial and drink-related behaviour. LINK, which is administered by the Youth Justice Team, diverts children and young people away from the criminal justice system.

The LINK framework involves parents by informing them of situations their children encounter, allowing the parents to take ownership and address the issues identified. LINK now includes referrals to Manx Sport and Recreation offering options for the young people identified to obtain personalised physical activity. Restorative Justice is also now introduced into LINK bringing young people face to face with the issues they are causing.

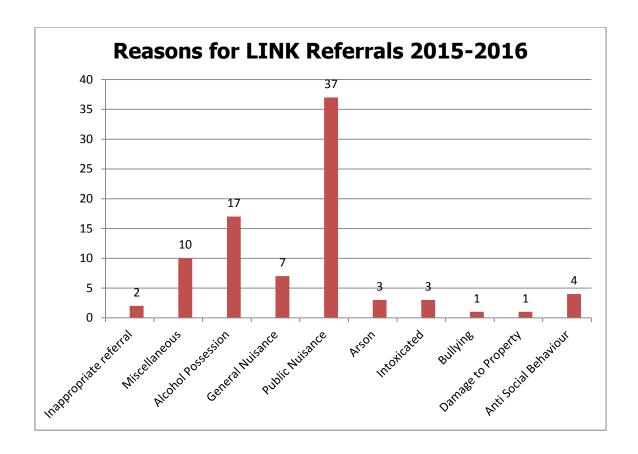
Where alcohol is identified as a contributory factor in the child or young person coming into contact with the Police, they are given education through the Juvenile Alcohol Referral Scheme ('JARS' - detailed later in the report). This education is carried out on a one to one basis, the sessions being interactive involving the young people and their experiences. The parents of the young people are also able to have an input.

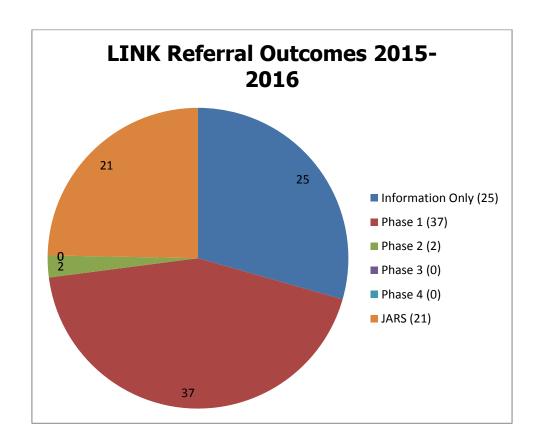
The Youth Justice Team also offers tobacco intervention, provided one to one by our Specialist Health Adviser, who can assist those young people who wish to give up smoking.

Link Progressive Framework

The approach is to escalate the intervention through a series of phases:-

Phase	1 Letter sent to parent/guardian. If alcohol is involved: JARS referral;
Phase	2 Second letter hand delivered, face to face contact established between neighbourhood police officers and parents/guardians; Referral letter completed for MSR assessment.
Phase	3 Restorative Meeting
Phase	4 Acceptable Behaviour Contract issued and explanation of Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO)
Phase	5 Anti-Social Behaviour Order





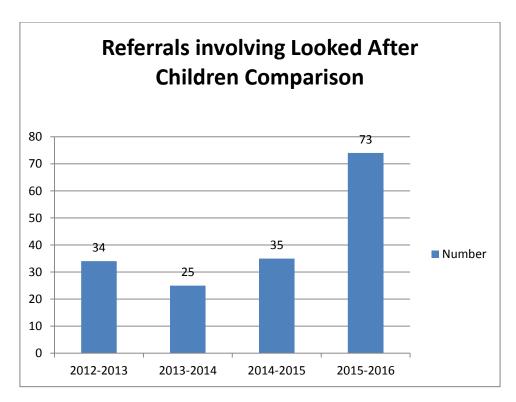
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The YJT has for a long period of time advocated that a large number of looked after children arrests and subsequent referrals are linked to the concept of 'criminalisation via institutionalisation'.

Many looked after children have become engaged with the criminal justice system via conflict with care staff and minor damage to care establishment property. Many of the offences disclosed are focussed upon staff assaults, primarily of a minor nature, and damage to property.

The Youth Justice Team very rarely, if ever, receive referrals from the parent(s) of children or young people not in care; it is normally the case that parents resolve such matters within the family without recourse to the criminal justice system. The Youth Justice Team has therefore continued to support the concept of Corporate Parenting.

The main intention is to reduce the amount of referrals generated through minor damage and inappropriate behaviour within care establishments by looked after children. This aims to reduce "criminalisation via institutionalisation".



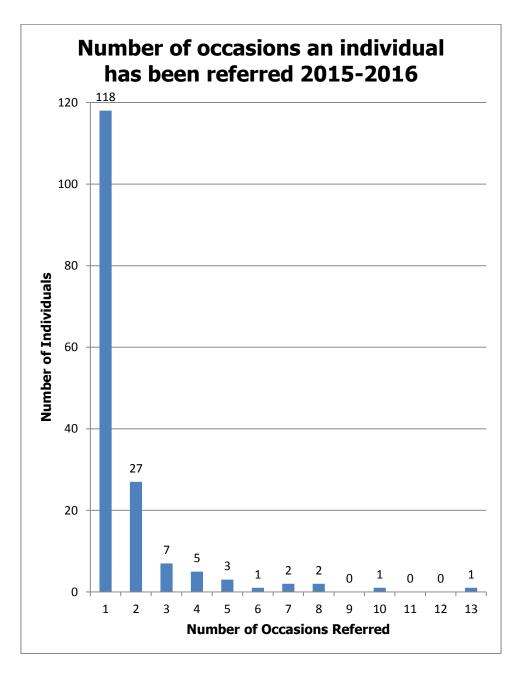
Whilst there is a marked increase in the number of referrals made during the last 12 months, it has become evident that there is now a greater awareness and appreciation of Safeguarding risks and considerations across all agencies - through more frequent training and CPD, which in part includes more higher profile awareness and input arranged and

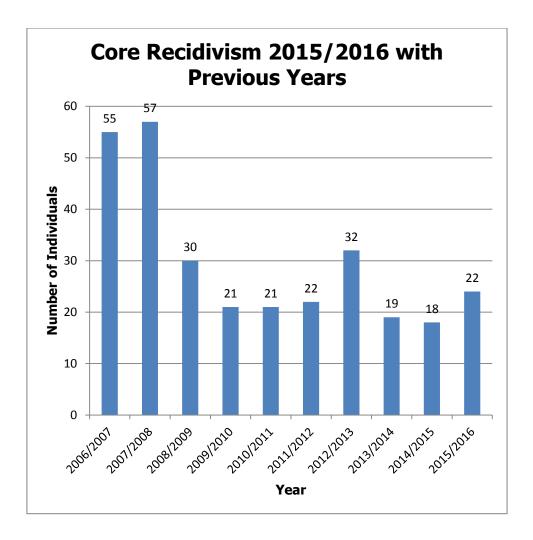
delivered by the Safeguarding Children Board. Safeguarding is therefore at the forefront of more people's minds when they are dealing with issues involving juveniles, and as a consequence of this agencies and individuals are significantly more alive to "digging deeper" and highlighting concerns (however minor) far earlier than may have been done historically.

The fact that there has been a notable increase in referrals doesn't necessarily show that more "offences" themselves are being committed, simply that more of the relevant issues and concerns are being identified early and referred through. This is evident when it is considered that of the 73 referrals made, these are attributable to a core of 17 individuals who have been referred on a number of occasions.

RECIDIVISM

Recidivism is one of the most fundamental concepts in criminal justice. It refers to a person's relapse into criminal behaviour, after receiving sanctions or undergoing intervention for a previous crime. The recorded number of 'Core Recidivists' is based on individuals who have been referred to the Youth Justice Team on three or more separate occasions for offending during the reporting period. Recidivism has followed much the same profile as in previous years; young people referred on a multiple basis are very much in the minority which underlines the value of the Youth Justice Team in diverting young people away from a life of crime.





MINORITY REPRIMANDS

Minority reprimands were developed to reduce the numbers of first time entrants into the criminal justice system and prevent children and young people obtaining unnecessary formal cautions that could impact on subsequent employment and educational aspirations. This approach recognises that children and young people often act childishly and cause problems that they don't always interpret as criminal in orientation or intent.

The programme is based around the following broad principles:

A minor offence has been committed.

The child/young person is of previous good character.

There has been low impact on any victim.

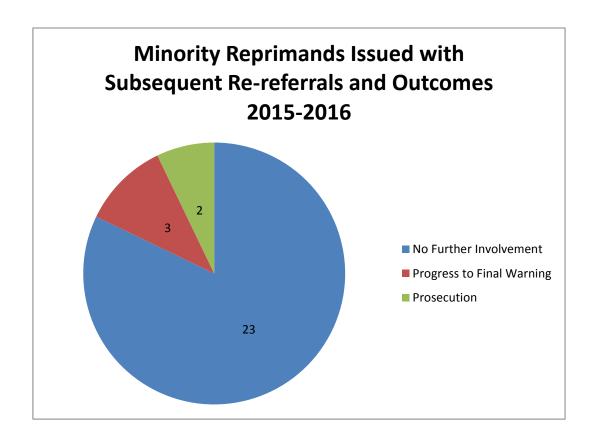
There is a restorative element i.e. an apology in person or via letter, compensation or reparation.

A Minority Reprimand is a contract signed up to by the child/young person with the proviso of no subsequent offending within the 6 month period from date of issue, resulting in there being no necessity for official recording of the matter other than on YJT databases.

Any breach of the criteria is dealt with via escalation to other disposals.

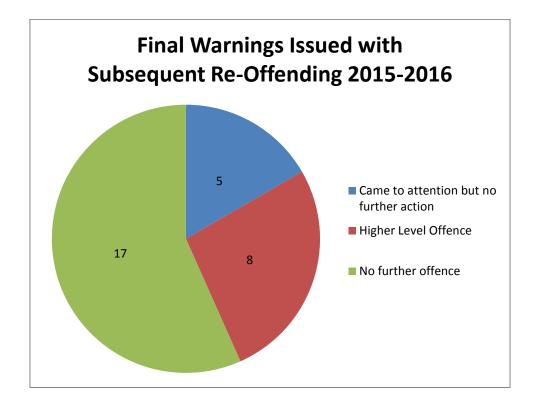
Minority Reprimands Issued in comparison to previous years

	Minority Reprimands Issued	Re-referrals following issue	Breach of Minority Reprimands within specified period (%)
2007-08	51	14	27.5
2008-09	56	7	12.5
2009-10	48	2	4.2
2010-11	31	4	12.9
2011-12	53	4	7.5
2012-13	21	4	19
2013-14	20	3	15
2014-15	17	4	23.5
2015-16	28	4	14.3



FINAL WARNING

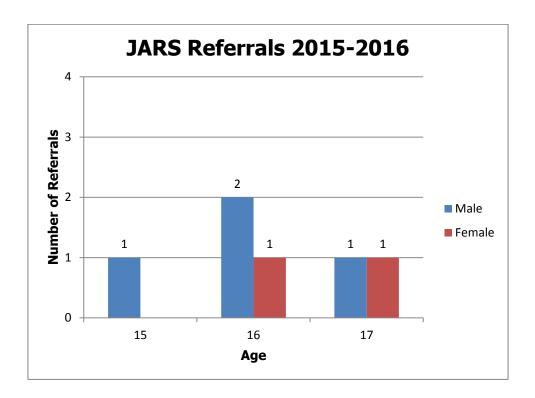
A Final Warning consists of a number of meetings with a Youth Justice Officer who risk assesses the likelihood of reoffending. Based on the assessments, a programme of work with the child or young person is formulated. The work focuses on particular problems identified and always takes into account the effects on any victims. If the young person offends again within two years they are considered for prosecution.



Note: Some individuals given final warnings as an outcome for their offending had multiple offences committed over a short period of time grouped into one final warning disposal covering several offences.

REFERRALS RESULTING IN DIVERSION SCHEMES Juvenile Alcohol Referral Scheme (JARS)

'JARS' is a scheme aimed at providing a non-punitive approach to alcohol related offending, for first time offences involving alcohol. It provides an educational approach where the young person either attends an evening session in company with their parent/guardian, which is run by the Alcohol Advisory Service/Motiv8 in conjunction with a police officer from the Youth Justice Team, or they attend a one to one session conducted by a member of the Youth Justice Team or Motiv8.

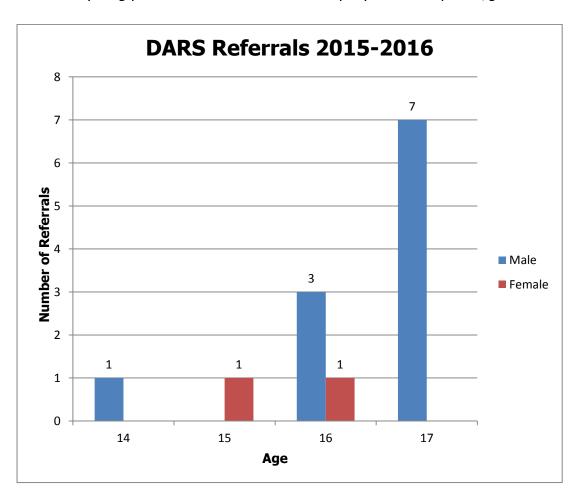


Type of Offences resulting in a JARS Outcome 2015-2016

During the period 2015-2016 all JARS outcomes were related to the offences of Drunk and Incapable or Drunk and Disorderly.

Drug Arrest Referral Scheme (DARS)

'DARS' is similar in format to JARS, aimed at providing a non-punitive approach to drug related offending, for first time drug related offences. It provides an educational approach where the young person attends a session in company with their parent/guardian.



Type of Offences resulting in a DARS Outcome 2014-2015

During the period 2015-2016 all DARS outcomes were related to the offence of possession.

It is clear from the figures above that the numbers of DARS referrals themselves have more than doubled over the last 12 month period, however the noted figure of 7 juveniles having been referred to the scheme should be taken in context with the overall population figure of the Island. In terms of nuancing the causational factors around this increase, this is attributable to greater pro-active policing measures taken in relation to the information, intelligence or circumstances associated with each of these recorded 7 male juvenile offenders.

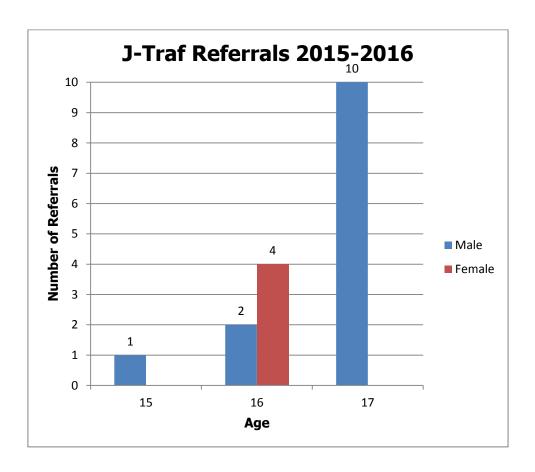
Juvenile Traffic Referral Scheme (J-TRAF)

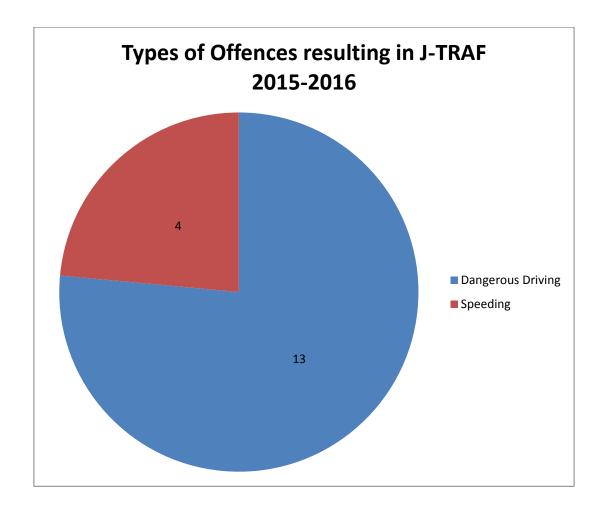
J-TRAF is an initiative designed to allow young drivers to access additional driving education for their first driving offence. The aim of the scheme is to prevent further offending and reduce the prospect of young drivers being involved in incidents on the road as the young people gain knowledge and skills.

The young person agrees to attend two driving lessons, or in the case of J-TRAF+ for more serious offences, four driving lessons with a qualified driving instructor of their choice, paid for by themselves. These lessons concentrate on the possible deficiencies in their driving skills highlighted by the offence, with a brief report to the YJT being prepared by the instructor, confirming completion. The lessons are organised by the young person.

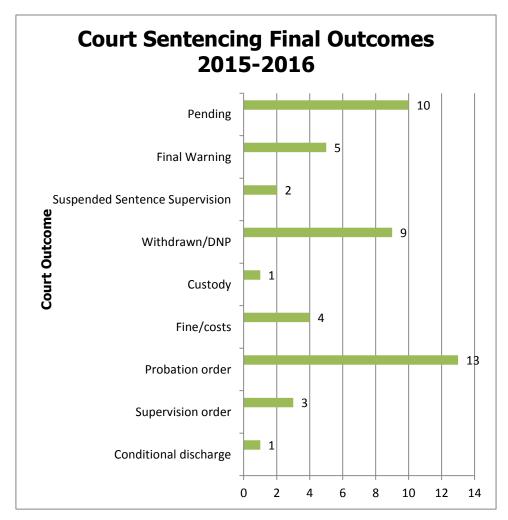
A Roads Policing Unit officer also contacts the young person and conducts an input with them around the offence they committed and road safety as a whole.

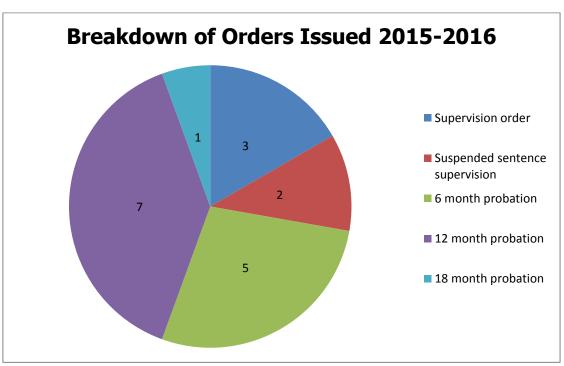
The majority of offences recorded during the period involved driving without due care and attention, which includes misjudging distance, clearance, & speed and excessive speed having regard to road conditions.





Work in the Courts





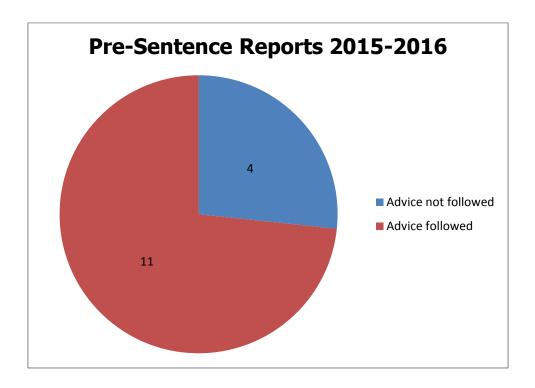
Pre-Sentence Reports

Pre-Sentencing Reports (PSR) are requested by Courts on "findings of guilt", to assist in the sentencing of juveniles.

Pre-sentence reports are not necessarily requested for every juvenile, but are more likely to be requested when offences are more serious in nature or the young person has previous convictions. These reports provide insight into the young person's life history and the factors which influence their offending behaviours and are expected to contain a recommendation for sentencing. In making a recommendation, for any form of formal supervision of a young person in the community, the PSR will highlight areas of work to be undertaken with the young person.

The information contained is sourced from the young person, their parents and agencies which have had involvement with the young person. An assessment is carried out which identifies the focus for work with the child or young person to reduce their risk of reoffending.

Pre-Sentence Reports 2015-2016



Specialist Health Advisor (SHA)

The SHA has responsibility for Looked After Children and Young People that come under the umbrella of the IOM YJT.

The SHA conducts holistic health reviews on children and young people referred to the Youth Justice Team and makes necessary interventions and acts as a signpost to service access.

Collaborative working with other team members has increased fluidity of the SHA's role within the YJT; she has taken part in collaborative sessions over the past year.

In close working practice with colleagues the SHA continues to act as a conduit gaining the confidence of the young person by attending with them to their appointments with the GP, mental health services, A&E department and sexual health clinic.

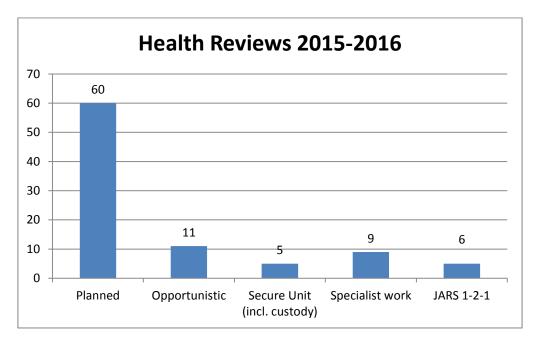
The SHA provides delivery of JARS 1-2-1. This gives an increased opportunity to develop "in house" support and education to young people with issues relating to alcohol use. (5 sessions of JARS during the year, 1-2-1)

The SHA is retiring at the end of September 2016 after 40 years in nursing. She is currently negotiating service level agreements and a care pathway to continue to meet the needs of YJT young people through the wider arena of Community Health Services, allowing continued access to health by these young people when her input ends.

The overarching aim is to ensure children and young people, upon leaving the supervision of the Youth Justice Team, are equipped to deal with their own health needs, and know how to access health services appropriately should the need arise.

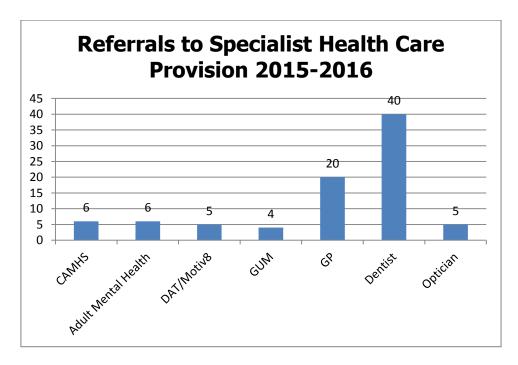
Number of holistic health reviews 2015/2016 - Total 90

These are the numbers of reviews undertaken with young people referred to the YJT. Not every individual has need of assessment, or will engage with the SHA when a review is offered, hence the disparity of total reviews to YJT referrals.



Specialist work = Day Programme – joint working with young people who domestically abuse.

JARS 1-2-1 = Juvenile Alcohol Referral Scheme One to One health education around alcohol.



In addition there were a further 62 occasions where liaison took place with various professional agencies.

APPENIDX: Qualitative Examples

The following case studies provide examples of the range of situations and circumstances encountered by the Youth Justice Team on a daily basis.

Restorative justice conference Friday 31st July 2015 @ Thie Roisyn

Background: This involved the theft of approximately £440.00 pounds in envelopes from the victims House. The two 14 year old perpetrators gained access to the house on the basis that they were Carol singing in the area at the time.

On the evening in question, the 21st December 2014, the two perpetrators had been out together in Colby. They had allegedly lost their bus fare home to Castletown and decided to go Carol singing in Colby to get money for their bus fare home. They went to the victim's house and gained entrance when one of them asked to use the toilet. That distracted the victim and whilst showing one of the perpetrators to the toilet, the other perpetrator has taken what we believe to have been ten transparent envelopes with money therein from an unlocked cabinet within the lounge of the property.

The victim, a 94 year old male, lived alone in a small independent accommodation on a small estate in Ballacriy Park, Colby. The estate is back from the main road and is a quiet area. Prior to the theft of his money, the victim had been making up Christmas gifts in the form of money in envelopes for his grandchildren. He had been assisted in this task by his daughter. The money had been placed in envelopes ready for posting. The victim had then placed the envelopes in the open cabinet in the lounge.

One of the perpetrators played a more active role in the actually theft and distribution of the money.

This individual shall be known as Perpetrator no 1. Perpetrator no 2 played more of a passive role in the offending behaviours.

Once Perpetrator 1 had stolen the envelopes containing the money, he offered perpetrator 2 twenty pounds (£20.00) which was accepted. He kept the rest of the money for himself, with which he subsequently purchased an ipad.

The offence having been reported by the victim and his family was featured on CCTV and in that the perpetrators identities were discovered by Police.

The two perpetrators were arrested and interviewed. The complete file went to the Youth Justice Team and following deliberations it was determined that both perpetrators would be dealt with by way of each being given a final warning.

Contact was made with perpetrator 1 and his family at their home address. An assessment was undertaken to see if the young man was suitable for the restorative process. It was determined that the restorative process would not be appropriate for this young man.

Contact was made with perpetrator no 2 to assess once again suitability for the restorative process.

The young man and his family were assessed as being suitable, as they were highly motivated to engage.

The victim was consulted via one of his daughters. It became clear that the victim at that stage was still badly affected by the offence. This made him uncertain at that time as to his willingness to engage in a restorative intervention.

Over time contact was maintained by the restorative team with the victims, perpetrators and the Police. Information was shared with the victim that Perpetrator 2 would be willing to make financial reparation to the victim, to the sum of £150.00. This was an important moment for the victim and his family. He had already received a letter of apology from Perpetrator 2, and this, combined with the offer, provided the victim with enough evidence of the young man's contrition. He therefore decided to meet with the young man approximately 8 months after the commission of the offence.

Prior to going ahead with the Conference, the Restorative team met with all parties to final arrangements and brief them with what to expect. On Friday the 31st July 2015 the Conference took place exactly 5 days after the victim had agreed to participate. The facilitators had previously assessed the suitability of the venue in terms of its location and user friendly environment.

Consideration was given on the suitability assessment to the victim's hearing impairment. A decision was taken to seat victim and perpetrator together (side by side) to accommodate this. This proved to be a positive decision as did the general seating arrangements for all participants.

The Conference was based on a traditional model allowing all participants the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about what had taken place. From the outset the victim expressed a strong sense of forgiveness towards the young perpetrator, immediately accepting his apology. He held out his hand in friendship. The young perpetrator explained he had found part time work, saved £150 and wanted to offer this as a gesture of compensation and expression of remorse. The response of the victim was heart-warming as he said after a short pause; "Thank you, I'm ok, I don't need the money but I would like you to use the money to buy your mother something nice." This response permeated into a very emotional atmosphere for all concerned including the facilitators. The young man then took this opportunity to try to explain his actions/inactions. He told the victim that he was deeply ashamed of himself and remorseful for his behaviour. So ashamed had he been that he admitted he could not bring himself to tell his parents what he had done. His misdemeanour had only been discovered by his family when he received a home visit from the police 3 days before Xmas day. This led into a discussion via his mother who said she was deeply distressed and ashamed of her son's behaviour which had caused her whole family extreme distress and anxiety over the Xmas period. Despite all of this she expressed a strong sense of pride in her son's decision to meet face to face with the victim in this way. She expressed the hope that lessons had been learned and that her son had reached a massive learning curve which would safeguard his future. She did stress that he had been raised with a strong sense of morality which made his offending behaviour all the more shocking to her and the family.

The perpetrator's father spoke at this point endorsing his wife's comments. It emerged that he had been in Ireland over the Xmas period at the funeral of his elderly father. He related to what had taken place, as his own father had lived alone and would have been vulnerable to the type of offence committed by his son. This was a poignant moment particularly for the victim's family who began to see that the perpetrator's family were as traumatised by events as they had been.

The victim's two daughters had attended in support of their dad. One of the daughters expressed a strong sense of empathy with the perpetrators family after she listened to the highly emotional impact their son's offending behaviours had caused. She informed the meeting that having listened to the perpetrator's family's experience her understanding of their trauma had increased. The second daughter was then invited to speak. She began by saying she had initially been sceptical about the whole Restorative Justice process and had not really encouraged her father to engage. Having now been part of the process in which she experienced the thoughts and feelings of all parties, her point of view had been radically changed. She said it had been incredibly positive in terms of the benefits to her father. She moved from having a negative view of the perpetrator and his family to one where she had understanding and acceptance of his remorse. All in all she felt the Restorative process a thoroughly worthwhile experience.

Closure.

At the end of the meeting all participants including the facilitators were given the opportunity to feedback on their experiences of the process. This was met with a unanimously positive response. Each and every one of the participants had benefitted in some important way by being part of the meeting. The endings of Restorative Justice Conferences can sometimes reflect how emotive and intimate the process has been. In this particular case, both sets of families embraced one another and became emotional in the process of doing so.

June Scully and John Robertson.

Restorative Justice Facilitators.