

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND APRIL 2019 TO MARCH 2020

I Graham and J Liddicoat
November 2020



Contents

* Table of Contents

	1 Executive Summary	Page 1
	2 Context	Page 2
	3 Youth Engagement Process	Page 3
	4 Youth Engagement Initiative	Page 4
	5 Findings	Page 7
	6 YJA Youth Engagement Survey	Page 17
	Appendix 1 – Tables	Page 19
	Appendix 2 - Methodology and Counting Rules	Page 31

Produced by Analytical Services Group,
Department of Justice

Analytical Services Group
Financial Service Division
Department of Justice
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SG

Telephone: 028 9052 0188

Email: statistics.research@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk

This bulletin is available on: [Department of Justice website](#) (opens in a new window)

Feedback on this publication can be provided directly to Analytical Services Group at the email address listed above.

All content in this report is licensed and available under the Open Government Licence v3.0.



To view this licence, go to:

[Open Government Licence Version 3](#) (opens in a new window)

1

Executive Summary

1.1 About this bulletin

This bulletin presents data on cases relating to young people (aged 10 to 17 years) coming into formal contact with the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland for the year 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020. It provides some detail on those referred for the Youth Engagement process, alongside information on the time taken for that process to complete and the subsequent outcomes. The first bulletin in the series was produced for the year to April 2019.

- There were 2,723 cases relating to young people coming into formal contact with the criminal justice system in 2019-20. This is a decrease of 99 (3.5%) from 2018/19.
- The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) assessed 44.8% (1,221) of cases suitable for resolution through the Youth Engagement process and 52.4% (1,427) as not suitable.
- The majority (76.8%, 2,091) of young people coming into formal contact with the justice system in 2019-20 were male.
- Over half, (52.0%, 1,417) of cases in 2019-20 were in relation to those aged from 10 to 15 at the time of their offence. The remaining 48.0 % (1,306) were aged 16 or 17 at the time of their offence.
- Of those assessed by PPS as not suitable for Youth Engagement, 48.4% (691) were deemed suitable for prosecution and 50.0% (714) were assessed as requiring no further action.
- The most common outcome for those going through Youth Engagement was a Youth Conference, with 40.0%, (488) receiving this outcome.
- Most of the cases (91.6%, 98) removed from the Youth Engagement process were returned to the PPS for a further decision on how the case was to be progressed.
- The median time for a case to be dealt with through the Youth Engagement process in 2019-20 was 49 days, an increase of 3 days from the median time recorded in 2018-19.
- Legal representation, while offered to individuals, was declined in the majority (80.1%, 789) of cases by the family.
- Of those who participated in a Youth Engagement clinic and responded to the survey question, 98.2% (503) of young people stated the clinic 'helped them understand the choices available to them'.

2 | Context

2.1 Background

Young people coming into contact with the criminal justice system may; go through the formal court process, be dealt with through an out-of-court diversionary disposal; or have no further action taken.

The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) decide which route may be appropriate for each young person dependent upon the circumstances of the case and the seriousness of any offence involved.

Those deemed suitable to be dealt with by an out-of-court diversionary disposal may be progressed through a process called Youth Engagement (YE). In most cases, where the PPS decides that a young person's case can be dealt with outside the court system, the young person will be asked to attend a YE clinic. The aim of the clinic is to make sure that young people have all the information they need to help them decide what to do.

At the clinic, the young person, their parent(s) or guardian(s) and solicitor meet with youth justice workers from the Youth Justice Agency (YJA) and the police (PSNI). They let the young person know what the PPS has decided in their case, what it means and explain the options available to them. A solicitor can help guide the young person through the process and explain things like the crime they have been accused of and the evidence that can be used against them. The steps within the YE process are outlined in the following diagram.



3 Youth Engagement Process

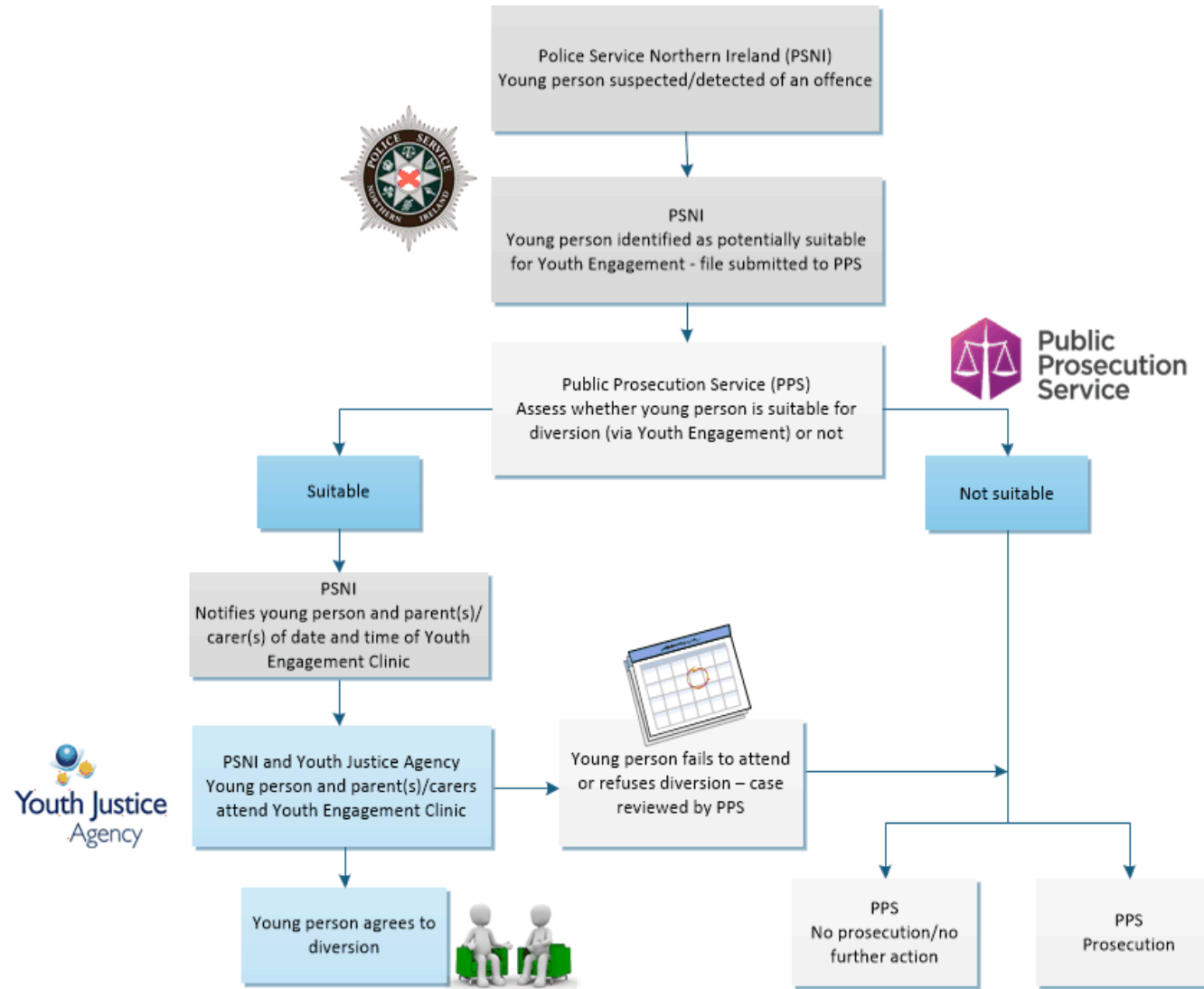
This flowchart shows the YE process from the point PSNI identify the young person suspected/detected of an offence. Once this has happened, the PSNI will assess if the young person is suitable for YE or not. If they are assessed as suitable, a file is submitted to PPS with this recommendation.

The PPS will assess whether the young person is suitable for diversion or not. At this point, if they are regarded as not suitable, the young person will follow one of two paths:

1. the PPS will decide there should be no prosecution and therefore no further action or;
2. the PPS decide to pursue prosecution at court.

Should the PPS decide the young person is suitable for the YE process, then the PSNI will notify the young person and parent/carer of the date and time of a YE Clinic. The PSNI and YJA meet with the young person at the clinic. A diversion can be agreed at this point.

However, if the young person fails to attend or refuses the diversion, the case is returned to PPS to be reviewed. The case may then be processed for prosecution or, upon further reflection, no further action may be taken.



4 | Youth Engagement Initiative

4.1 Tripartite Initiative

YE is a tripartite initiative across Northern Ireland, involving PSNI, PPS and YJA. It was introduced following the conclusion of a pilot exercise in 2013. Its objectives are to:

1. assist with the diversion away from court, of young people who admit to low-level offences, into a reparative or diversionary process, with the option of support or intervention at an earlier stage;
2. support young people accused of a crime to make better informed decisions;
3. enhance the rehabilitative and restorative benefits of the disposal, by ensuring that youth cases are resolved as swiftly as possible;
4. improve processing times for youth cases that are unsuitable for diversionary action.



4 | Youth Engagement Initiative (speeding up justice)

4.2 Timely Resolution

Overall, these objectives contribute to speeding up the criminal justice system. This has been a priority for the Department of Justice (DoJ) since the devolution of responsibility for policing and justice in April 2010, both for cases resulting in out-of-court diversionary disposals and for cases dealt with at court.

Improving the efficiency of the justice system has been included as a priority under Outcome 7 ('We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other') of the Northern Ireland Executive's draft Programme for Government. Key actions outlined under Outcome 7 includes specific reference to Youth Engagement Clinics. "Deliver Youth Engagement Clinics to divert children from the formal system through the provision of appropriate, timely information and support." "[This initiative will] exit children from the youth justice system at the earliest point, with necessary support."

The efficiency of the criminal justice system is important for victims, witnesses, their families and communities, in terms of building confidence, as well as demonstrating legitimacy of the rule of law. Additionally, early resolution of cases can also help offenders understand the implications of their actions. The timely completion of cases, commensurate with the principles of a fair and just process, contributes to delivery of an effective and efficient justice system.

4 Youth Engagement Initiative (data)

4.3 About this Report

This bulletin, published annually, presents data on cases relating to young people coming into formal contact with the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland during the year 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020. It provides detail on those referred for the YE process, alongside information on the time taken for that process to complete and on subsequent outcomes. Detail on the structure of the population concerned is also included. Some comparison has been made with figures from the 2018-19 year, which was the first year this information was available.

This publication is based mainly on data from Causeway Data Sharing Mechanism (DSM1). Data were extracted primarily based on records contained on the Criminal Records Viewer (CRV). The CRV is held on DSM1 and utilises data which originated in the PSNI, PPS and from Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS). DSM1 is an interconnected information system, launched as a joint undertaking by the Criminal Justice Organisations (CJOs) in Northern Ireland.

To complete the dataset, data relating to YE clinic dates and outcomes are sourced from the YJA Management Information System and matched with the information from DSM1. Additional information relating to legal representation at clinics, as well as victim involvement, is sourced from the PSNI. Findings from a survey conducted on participants upon completion of the YE process, have also been included.

The figures reported in this bulletin relate to cases prosecuted by the PPS on behalf of PSNI, Harbour Police, Airport Constabulary or the National Crime Agency (NCA). The period covered by this bulletin is based on the date of charge (for charge cases) or date accused informed (for summons cases). The data relate to young people aged under 18 at time of offence.

The information within this bulletin is used to inform policy decisions within the DoJ and other criminal justice partners, as well as to inform responses to questions from other Government organisations, answers to Northern Ireland Assembly questions and queries from the press and general public.

5 Findings

5.1 Overview

There were 2,723 cases relating to young people coming into formal contact with the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland during the year 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020. The total number of referrals decreased by 3.5% from 2,822 in 2018-19.

In 2019-20, the PPS assessed 44.8% (1,221) of cases involving young people that were referred to them as suitable for resolution through the YE process and 52.4% (1,427) as not suitable. The figures for 2018-19 were 40.4% (1,139) and 57.3% (1,618) respectively.

At the end of September 2020, 2.8% (75) of cases were still awaiting a decision by PPS on whether they were suitable for YE. This is a half a percentage point increase in the numbers awaiting PPS decision, comparing 2018-19 to 2019-20. (Appendix 1, Table 1).

Figure 1: Cases assessed as suitable/not suitable for Youth Engagement

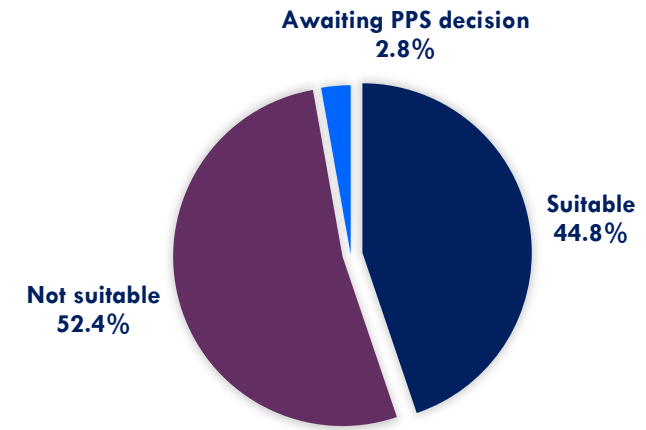
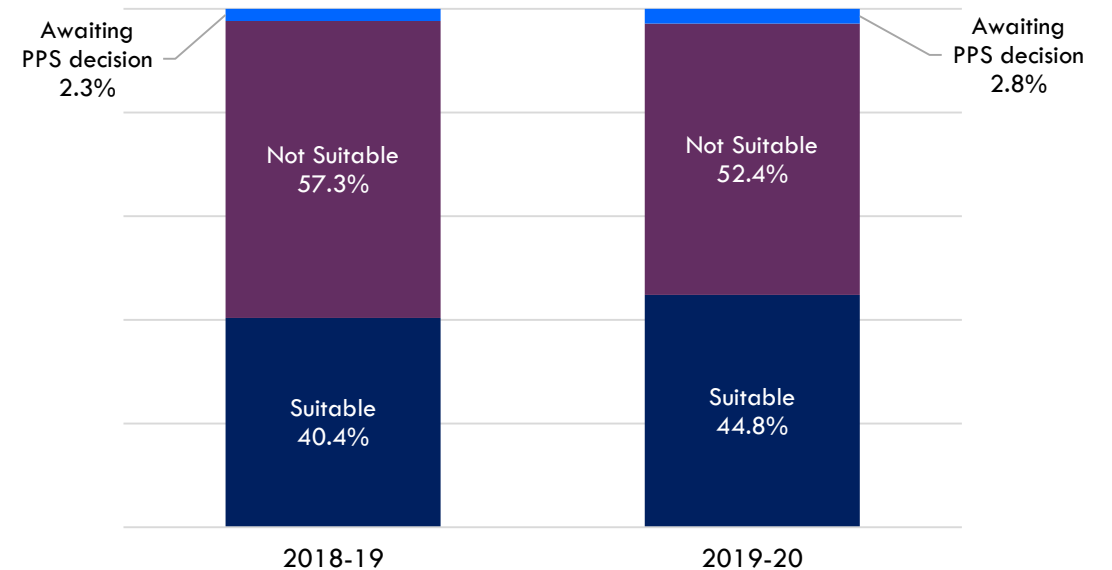


Figure 2: Cases assessed as suitable/not suitable for Youth Engagement by year



5 Findings (referrals)

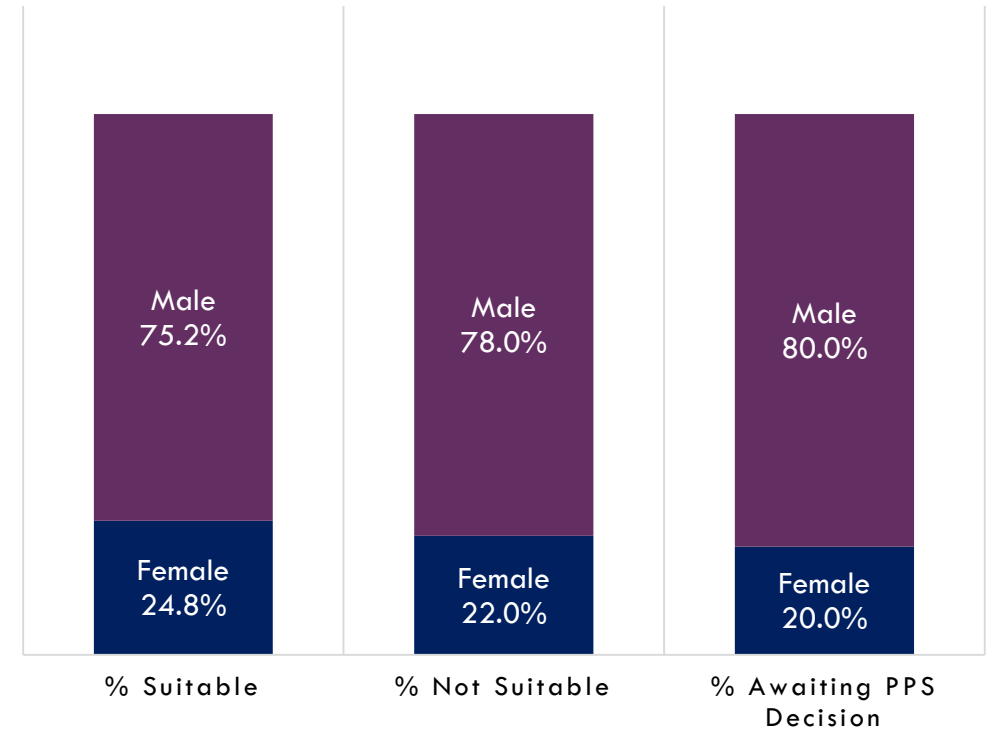
5.2 Numbers of Referrals for Youth Engagement by Gender

The majority of young people (76.8%, 2,091) coming into formal contact with the justice system in 2019-20 were male and 23.2% (632) were female. Of all those adjudged suitable for the YE process, males made up 75.2% (918) while females made up 24.8% (303). The proportion of males adjudged not suitable for the YE process was slightly higher, at 78.0% (1,113) whilst 22.0% (314) of females were adjudged not suitable for YE. (Appendix 1, Table 2).

Proportionately, males were more likely (53.2%, 1,113), to be assessed as not suitable for YE, in 2019-20 compared to females (49.7%, 314). Conversely, the proportion of females (47.9%, 303) assessed as suitable for YE was slightly higher in 2019-20 than that for males (43.9%, 918).

In September 2020, males made up 80.0% (60 out of 75) cases where a PPS decision on how those cases were to proceed had still to be taken.

Figure 3: Youth Engagement referrals by gender



5 Findings (referrals and cases assessed)

5.3 Numbers of Referrals for Youth Engagement by Age

Almost half (48.0%, 1,306) of cases in 2019-20 involved young people aged 16 or 17 at the time of their offence (20.0% and 28.0% respectively). The remaining 52.0% (1,417) of cases were made up of those aged from 10 to 15 years. (Appendix 1, Table 3a and 3b).

Young people aged 16 and 17 at date of offence, made up 38.9% (475) of all cases assessed as suitable for YE. They also made up the majority of cases assessed as not suitable 55.2% (788). Within this group, those aged 17 at date of offence made up the largest proportion of each category.

Under 16s were more likely to be assessed as suitable for the YE process, than not, with 52.6% (746) of young people in this age group being assessed as suitable for YE. Conversely, only 36.4% (475) of young people aged 16 to 17 at date of offence were assessed as suitable for YE.

5.4 Cases Assessed as Not Suitable for Youth Engagement by PPS

Of the 52.4% (1,427) of cases assessed by PPS as not suitable for progression through the YE process, 48.4% (691) were sent forward for prosecution at court, whereas in 50.0% (714) of the cases, PPS decided that there should be no further action. Additionally, 1.5% (22) of cases were assessed as not suitable for YE for other reasons, such as the young person agreeing to participate in the Northern Ireland Driver Improvement Scheme. (Appendix 1, Table 4).

Figure 4: Youth Engagement referrals by age

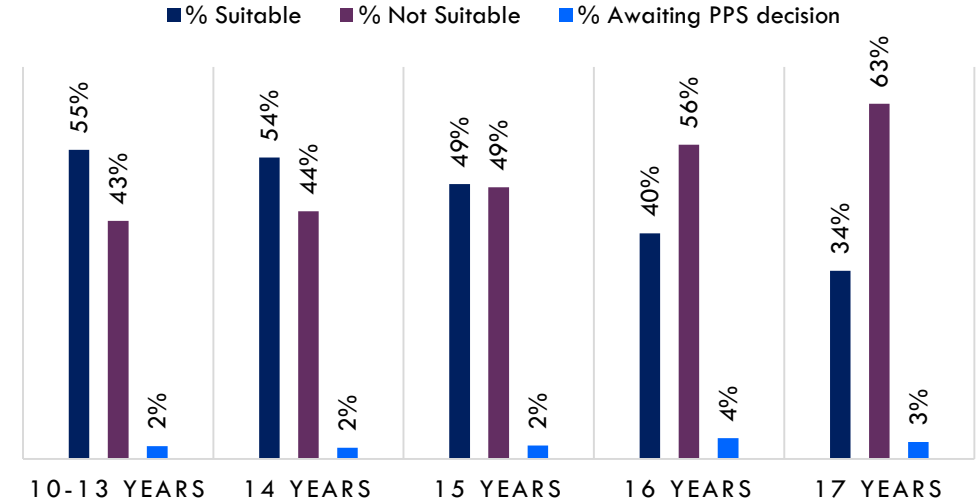
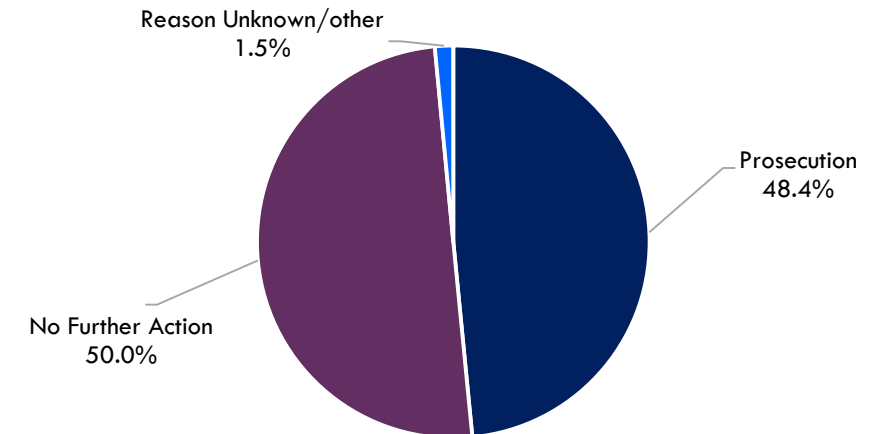


Figure 5: Youth Engagement – reasons not suitable



5 Findings (outcomes)

5.5 Outcomes of Youth Engagement Clinics

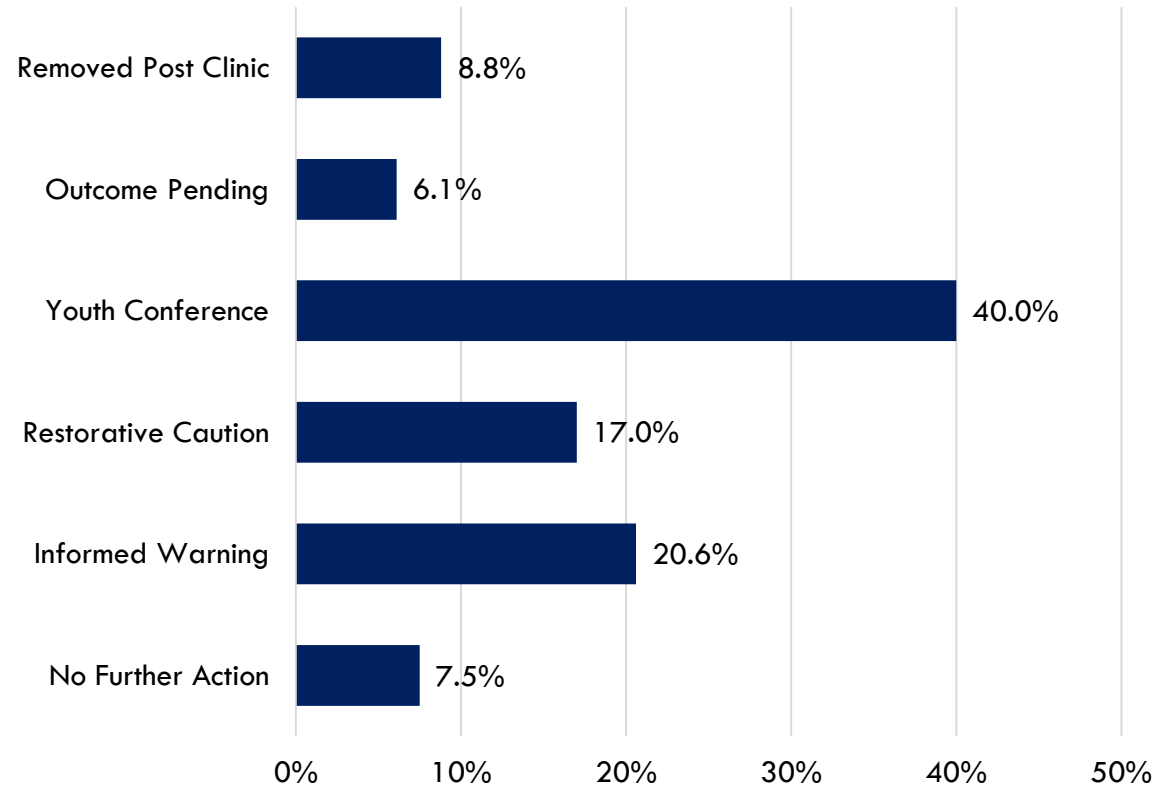
In 2019-20, 40.0% (488) of the 1,221 cases assessed by PPS as suitable for YE, resulted in a youth conference plan. A further 20.6% (252) of cases resulted in an informed warning and 17.0% (207) cases resulted in a restorative caution being issued. The corresponding percentages for these outcomes in 2018/19 were 49.5%, 18.9% and 17.7% respectively.

The remainder of the cases, i.e., those which did not result in a youth conference plan, restorative caution or informed warning, were either returned to PPS for further consideration post-clinic (8.8%, 107) or resulted in a decision of no further action being taken (7.5%, 92).

The number of cases where there was an outcome pending is higher (6.1%, 75) than usual in 2019-20. This is likely due to the effect of the delay introduced to the justice system as a result of the lockdown which occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Appendix 1, Table 5)

Of the 107 cases returned to PPS post-clinic, the majority 91.6% (98) were recorded as returned to PPS for further decision regarding either prosecution or no further action. A smaller proportion 8.4% (9) of those removed from the YE process were recorded as being removed due to non-attendance. (Appendix 1, Table 8)

Figure 6: Outcomes of Youth Engagement Clinics



5 Findings (outcomes continued)



5.5 Outcomes continued

A youth conference plan was the most common outcome for both males and females as a result of participation in the YE process, with 40.5% (372) of males and 38.3% (116) of females receiving this outcome in 2019-20. The second most common outcome for both males and females was an informed warning, with 20.9% (192) of males and 19.8% (60) of females receiving this outcome. A restorative caution was the outcome for 17.2% (158) of males and 16.2% (49) of females, as a result of participation in the YE process in 2019-20. No further action was the outcome for 9.9% (30) of females compared to 6.8% (62) males in 2019-20.

Regardless of age, the most common outcome for young people going through the YE process is a youth conference plan, an outcome associated with 40.0% (488) of all cases in 2019-20. This was the outcome for 34.5% (99) of 10-13 year-olds and the outcome for 45.7% (100) of 16 year-olds. Informed warnings were received in 20.6% (252) of all cases, ranging from 17.1% (42) for 15 year-olds to 25.7% (55) for 14 year-olds. While a restorative caution was the outcome in 17.0% (207) of all cases in 2019-20, the proportion varied across age groups, with this being the outcome for 12.6% (27) of 14 year olds, compared to 21.1% (54) of 17 year olds.

No further action was the outcome for 12.2% (35) of cases involving 10-13 year olds but for only 1.4% (3) of cases involving 16 year olds in 2019-20. Additionally, 11.1% (32) of cases involving 10-13 year olds were removed for the YE process post-clinic, in comparison to just 5.6% (12) of cases involving 14 year olds. (Appendix 1, Table 6 to 7).

5 | Findings (time taken)

5.6 Time Taken for Completion of Youth Engagement Process

While it is important to examine outcomes for young people coming into formal contact with the justice system, the length of time taken for cases to process through the system, in a sense the efficiency of the criminal justice system, is also important for victims, witnesses, their families and communities, in terms of building confidence, as well as demonstrating legitimacy of the rule of law. Additionally, early resolution of cases can also help young people understand the implications of their actions.

For the above reasons, this report includes information on the time taken for cases to complete the YE process, as well as in relation to the individual constituent stages. For a variety of reasons cases can take differing times to complete and because of this, it was decided to report both the time taken to process 50% (the median point) and the point at which 80% of cases have been completed.

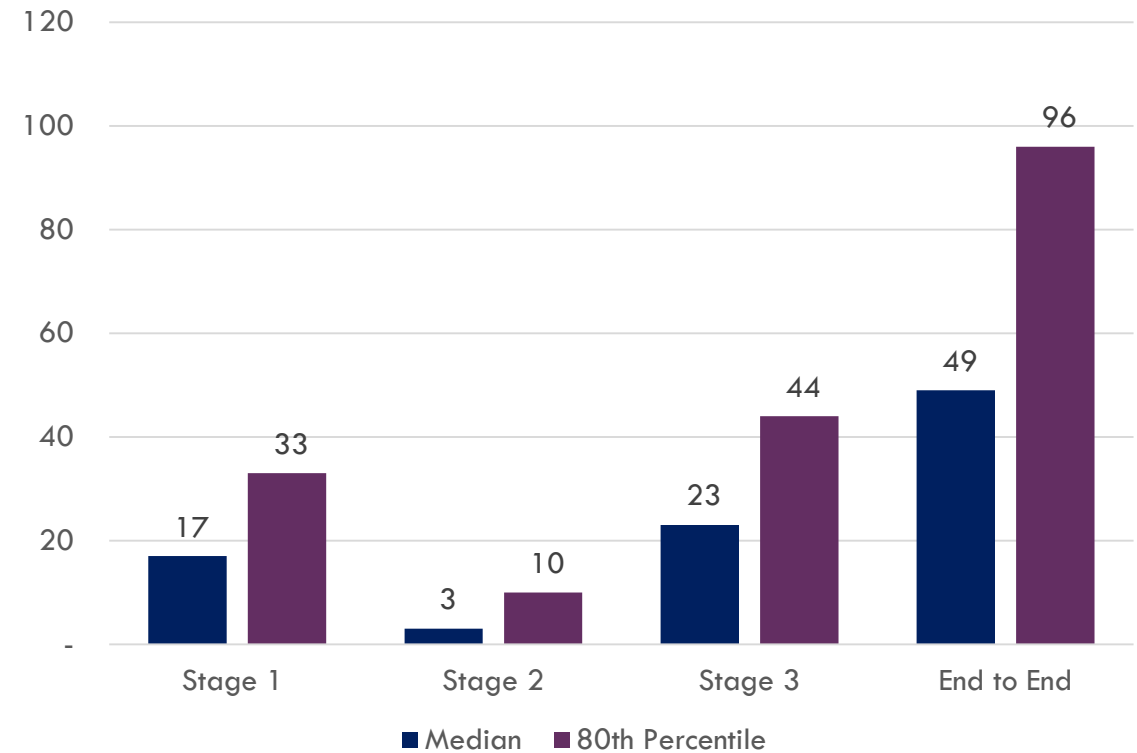


5 Findings (median time taken)

5.7 Median Time Taken for Completion of Youth Engagement Process

In 2019-20, the median time taken for cases, i.e. the time for half of such cases, to complete the YE process, from the date an individual was charged or informed to the Youth Engagement first clinic date, was 49 days (46 days in 2018-19). While 80% of cases were completed within 96 days (89 days in 2018-19), the longest time taken for a case to complete the YE process in 2019-20 was 294 days. (Appendix 1, Table 9).

Figure 7: Time in days for stages in the Youth Engagement process



Stage of Process
Stage 1 - Date accused informed to date file submitted to PPS
Stage 2 - Date file submitted to PPS to date of PPS decision
Stage 3 - Date of PPS decision to date of clinic (1st appointment)
End to End - Date 'accused informed' to date of clinic (1st appointment)

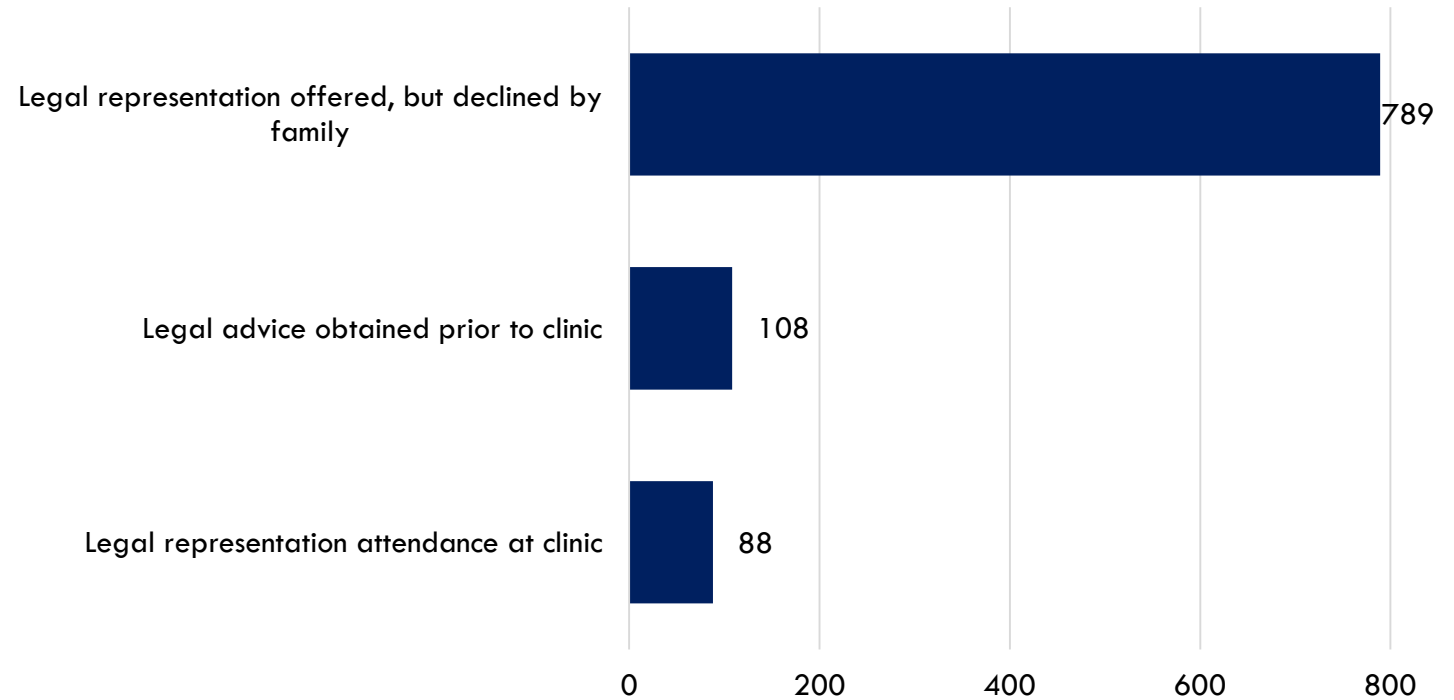
5 Findings (legal representation)

5.8 Legal Representation at Youth Engagement Clinics

As part of the YE process, all young people are offered legal representation, to help guide them through the process and explain things such as the crime they have been accused of and the evidence that can be used against them.

During the year 2019-20, legal representation, while offered, was declined by the young person or their family in 80.1% (789) of cases (2018-19, 73.5%) Legal advice was obtained prior to the clinic in 11.0% (108) of cases (13.2% in 2018-19) and in the remaining 8.9% (88) of cases (13.3% in 2018-19) the young person had legal representation present at the YE clinic. (Appendix 1, Table 10).

Figure 8: Number of cases with legal representation at clinics



5 Findings (victim involvement)

5.9 Victim Involvement in Youth Engagement Process

Where the outcome of a YE clinic is a restorative caution, there is an opportunity for the young person and their parents to meet with the victim and anyone else who has been affected by the crime. Everyone is given a chance to talk about the impact the crime has had on them. There is a signed written record of the meeting, with the young person agreeing to apologise, take part in work to make amends to the victim or community, or go to classes to address their offending behaviour.



5 Findings (victim involvement continued)

5.10 Victim Involvement Data 2019-20

In 2019-20, for clinics held where the outcome was a restorative caution, there were 94 cases (90 in 2018-19) where a victim was associated with the offence committed.

In 5.3% (5) of these cases, the victim or their representative was present. This is a decrease of 10 cases from 2018-19 when 16.7% (15) of cases had a victim or their representative present.

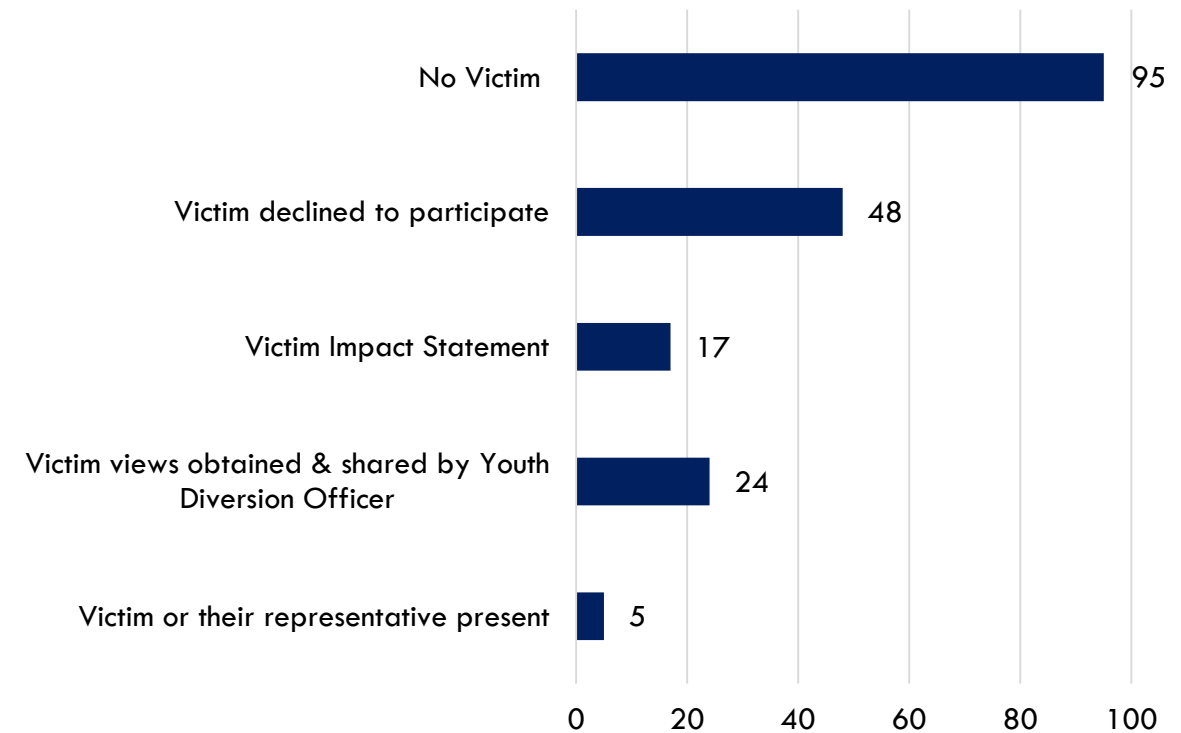
There was also a decrease in the number of cases where the victim's views were obtained and shared with the young person involved by the Youth Diversion Officer (YDO). This fell from 46 (51.1%) cases in 2018-19 to 24 (25.5%) cases in 2019-20.

In 17 (18.1%) cases, a victim impact statement was shared with the young person concerned. This increased from 11 (12.2%) in 2018-19.

There was an increase in the number of cases in which the victim declined to participate in the YE process from 18 (20.0%) cases in 2018-19 to 48 (51.1%) cases in 2019-20.

The remaining 95 cases in 2019-20 related to offences where there was no victim. (Appendix 1, Table 11).

Figure 9: Number of cases with victim/representative involvement (Restorative Cautions only)



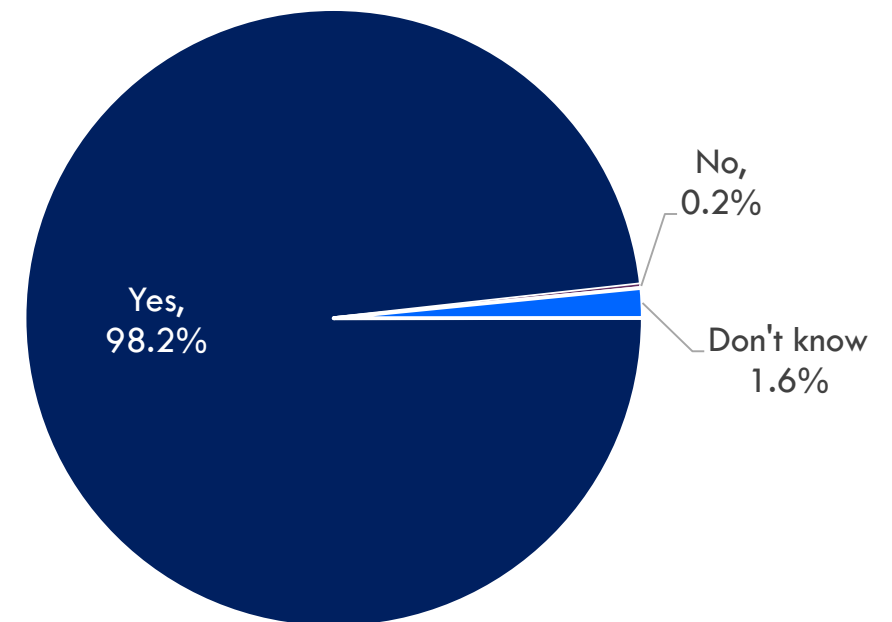
6 Youth Justice Agency Youth Engagement Survey

The YJA complete a YE Clinic Satisfaction Survey for both the young people attending the clinics and the parents/carers of the young people. During 2019-20 there were 541 responses from young people and 497 from parent/carers. Those surveyed may not have provided answers to all questions and figures are therefore based on the number of responses for each individual question.

6.1 Young People Survey 2019-20

Of the 512 who responded to the question, 98.2% (503) young people stated the YE Clinic “helped them understand the choices available following the meeting”.

Figure 10: It (YEC) helped me understand the choices available following the meeting

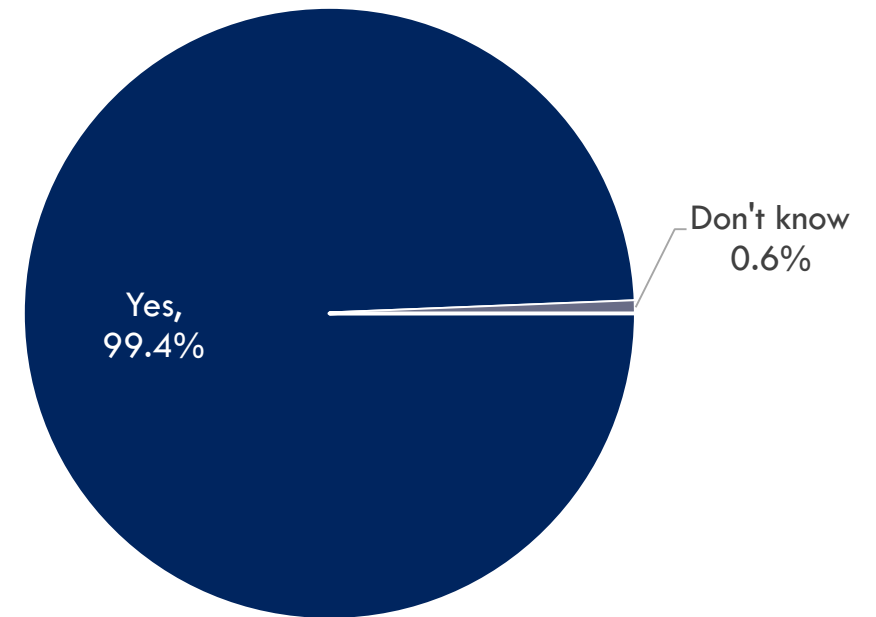


6 Youth Justice Agency Youth Engagement Survey (continued)

6.2 Parents/Carers Survey 2019-20

Of the 470 who responded to the question, 99.4% (467) parents/carers stated the YE Clinic helped them “understand the choices available to the young person concerned following the meeting”. There were no responses stating ‘No’ in answer to the question, with only 3 (0.6%) stating they were ‘Not sure’.

Figure 11: It (YEC) helped the young person understand the choices available following the meeting



Appendix 1 (table 1)

Table 1: Youth Engagement referrals and cases assessed as not suitable for Youth Engagement

All Cases	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20 %
Suitable for YE	1,139	1,221	44.8%
Not Suitable for YE (see Table 4)	1,618	1,427	52.4%
Awaiting PPS decision	65	75	2.8%
Total	2,822	2,723	100.0%

Appendix 1 (table 2)

Table 2: Number of Youth Engagement referrals and cases assessed as not suitable for Youth Engagement by gender of young person involved, 2019-20

Number of Cases	Female	Male¹	Total
Suitable for Youth Engagement	303	918	1,221
Not suitable for Youth Engagement	314	1,113	1,427
Awaiting PPS decision	15	60	75
Total	632	2,091	2,723

% Cases	Female	Male¹	Total
% Suitable for Youth Engagement	24.8%	75.2%	100.0%
% Not suitable for Youth Engagement	22.0%	78.0%	100.0%
% Awaiting PPS decision	20.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Total	23.2%	76.8%	100.0%

¹ Figures for males include a small number of young people whose gender is unknown

Appendix 1 (table 3a)

Table 3a: Number of referrals and cases assessed as not suitable for Youth Engagement by age of young person (at offence), 2019-20

Age at offence	Suitable	Not suitable (see Table 4)	Awaiting PPS decision	Total
10 - 13	287	221	12	520
14	214	176	8	398
15	245	242	12	499
16	219	305	20	544
17	256	483	23	762
Total	1,221	1,427	75	2,723

Appendix 1 (table 3b)

Table 3b: Percentage of referrals and cases assessed as not suitable for Youth Engagement by age of young person (at offence), 2019-20

Age group as percentage of Suitability

Age at offence	% Suitable	% Not suitable (see Table 4)	% Awaiting PPS decision	Total
10 - 13	23.5%	15.5%	16.0%	19.1%
14	17.5%	12.3%	10.7%	14.6%
15	20.1%	17.0%	16.0%	18.3%
16	17.9%	21.4%	26.7%	20.0%
17	21.0%	33.8%	30.7%	28.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Suitability as percentage of Age Group

Age at offence	% Suitable	% Not suitable (see Table 4)	% Awaiting PPS decision	Total
10 - 13	55.2%	42.5%	2.3%	100.0%
14	53.8%	44.2%	2.0%	100.0%
15	49.1%	48.5%	2.4%	100.0%
16	40.3%	56.1%	3.7%	100.0%
17	33.6%	63.4%	3.0%	100.0%

Appendix 1 (table 4)

Table 4: Reason cases assessed as not suitable for Youth Engagement, 2019-20

Not Suitable for Youth Engagement	Number of Cases	% Cases
Prosecution	691	48.4%
No Further Action	714	50.0%
Reason Unknown/other	22	1.5%
Total	1,427	100.0%

Appendix 1 (table 5)

Table 5: Outcome of Youth Engagement Clinics

Outcome	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20 (%)
No Further Action	70	92	7.5%
Informed Warning	215	252	20.6%
Restorative Caution	202	207	17.0%
Youth Conference	564	488	40.0%
Outcome Pending	2	75	6.1%
Removed Post Clinic (see Table 8)	86	107	8.8%
Total	1,139	1,221	100.0%

Appendix 1 (table 6)

Table 6: Outcome of Youth Engagement Clinics by gender of young person involved, 2019-20

Number of Cases	Female	Male	Total
No Further Action	30	62	92
Informed Warning	60	192	252
Restorative Caution	49	158	207
Youth Conference	116	372	488
Outcome Pending	20	55	75
Removed Post Clinic (see Table 8)	28	79	107
Total	303	918	1,221

% Cases	Female	Male	Total
No Further Action	9.9%	6.8%	7.5%
Informed Warning	19.8%	20.9%	20.6%
Restorative Caution	16.2%	17.2%	17.0%
Youth Conference	38.3%	40.5%	40.0%
Outcome Pending	6.6%	6.0%	6.1%
Removed Post Clinic (see Table 8)	9.2%	8.6%	8.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Appendix 1 (table 7)

Table 7: Outcomes of Youth Engagement Clinics by age of young person (at offence), 2019-20

Number of cases	10 - 13	14	15	16	17	Total
No Further Action	35	19	22	3	13	92
Informed Warning	64	55	42	41	50	252
Restorative Caution	41	27	43	42	54	207
Youth Conference	99	83	107	100	99	488
Outcome Pending	16	18	12	12	17	75
Removed Post Clinic (see Table 8)	32	12	19	21	23	107
Total	287	214	245	219	256	1,221

% Cases	10 - 13	14	15	16	17	Total
No Further Action	12.2%	8.9%	9.0%	1.4%	5.1%	7.5%
Informed Warning	22.3%	25.7%	17.1%	18.7%	19.5%	20.6%
Restorative Caution	14.3%	12.6%	17.6%	19.2%	21.1%	17.0%
Youth Conference	34.5%	38.8%	43.7%	45.7%	38.7%	40.0%
Outcome Pending	5.6%	8.4%	4.9%	5.5%	6.6%	6.1%
Removed Post Clinic (see Table 8)	11.1%	5.6%	7.8%	9.6%	9.0%	8.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Appendix 1 (table 8 and 9)

Table 8: Reason for removal from process post-clinic

Outcome	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20 %
Did not attend	16	9	8.4%
Diversion refused	0	0	0.0%
Returned for PPS Decision	70	98	91.6%
Total	86	107	100.0%

Table 9: Time in days for each stage in Youth Engagement process

Stage of process	2018-19 Median	2018-19 80th Percentile	2019-20 Median	2019-20 80th Percentile	2019-20 Minimum	2019-20 Maximum
Stage 1 – Date accused informed to date file submitted to PPS	15	32	17	33	0	260
Stage 2 - Date file submitted to PPS to date of PPS decision	5	17	3	10	0	215
Stage 3 – Date of PPS decision date to date of clinic (1st appointment)	21	34	23	44	0	268
End to End - Date accused informed to date of clinic (1st appointment)	46	89	49	96	0	294

Appendix 1 (table 10 and 11)

Table 10: Cases where there was legal representation at clinics

Cases	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20 %
Legal representation attendance at clinic	123	88	8.9%
Legal advice obtained prior to clinic	122	108	11.0%
Legal representation offered, but declined by family	679	789	80.1%

Table 11: Number of cases with victim/representative involvement – Restorative Cautions only

Cases	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20 %
Victim or their representative present	15	5	2.6%
Victim views obtained & shared by Youth Diversion Officer	46	24	12.7%
Victim Impact Statement	11	17	9.0%
Victim declined to participate	18	48	25.4%
No Victim	72	95	50.3%

Appendix 1 (table 12 and 13)

Table 12: YJA Youth Engagement Clinic Satisfaction Survey - Young Person survey, 2019-20

The YE clinic helped me understand the choices available after the meeting	Number	%
Yes	503	98.2%
No	1	0.2%
Don't know	8	1.6%
Total	512	100.0%

Table 13: YJA Youth Engagement Clinic Satisfaction Survey - Parent/Carer survey, 2019-20

The YE clinic helped me understand the choices available to the young person concerned following the meeting	Number	%
Yes	467	99.4%
No	0	0.0%
Don't know	3	0.6%
Total	470	100.0%

Appendix 1 (notes)

1. Tables 1 to 9 relate to cases where the suspect was reported within the period specified.
2. Figures relating to scheduled clinic dates are taken as those on which the clinic occurred or which were scheduled but on which the defendant did not attend. They do not include dates which were scheduled but were listed as postponed.
3. To allow full information to be provided without the need for suppression, figures for males in Tables 2 and 6 include a small number of young people for whom gender was not recorded or who identified as transgender.
4. Figures in Tables 5 - 9 relate to cases recorded as 'Suitable for Youth Engagement' in Table 1.
5. Figures in Table 9 relate to the number of calendar days between the listed dates for each stage.
6. Figures relating to legal representation and to victim participation in Tables 10 and 11 are supplied by PSNI. They relate to clinics which occurred within the period specified.
7. Table 11 shows victim representation for those clinics resulting in a restorative caution only.
8. Figures in Tables 10 - 13 relate to clinics which occurred within the period specified.
9. Figures in Tables 12 and 13 are sourced from the YJA Youth Engagement Clinic Satisfaction Survey.
10. Table 12 - 29 survey respondents did not answer this question.
11. Table 13 - 27 survey respondents did not answer this question.

Appendix 2 (methodology and counting rules 1.1)

1.1 What are we counting?

The figures reported in Tables 1 – 9 of this bulletin relate to cases prosecuted by the PPS on behalf of PSNI, Harbour Police, Airport Constabulary or the National Crime Agency (NCA). The period covered by this bulletin is based on the date of charge (for charge cases) or date accused informed (for summons cases). The data relate to young people aged under 18 at time of offence.

Tables 10 and 11 are based on Youth Engagement clinics which happened within the year 2019-20.

After the Youth Justice Agency has engaged with children via a Youth Engagement Clinic, they conduct a satisfaction survey in order to monitor their services. The survey is issued to both the children and their parents/carers by telephone, post, and in person. The analysis within Tables 12 and 13 of this publication is based on survey responses (not the date of the clinic) collected between April 2019 to March 2020 and completion of the survey is optional.

All tables relate to young people aged under 18 at time of offence.

Where an offender has been charged with, or accused of, several offences on the same occasion, only one offence, the principal offence, is counted. The principal offence is generally the most serious offence in terms of the potential penalties in law and is set in each case at the time the file is submitted to PPS from police.

This bulletin does not include cases where young people coming into contact with the police are dealt with by way of an informal out-of-court community resolution. These resolutions allow officers to use their professional judgement and discretion in managing low level and local crimes and are therefore dealt with differently. Information on numbers of community resolution notices issued are published separately by PSNI.

Appendix 2 (methodology and counting rules 1.3)

1.3 Data quality and validation

While the relevant CJOs (from which the data are sourced) have a vested interest in maintaining the accuracy of data within their management information systems, a number of additional accuracy, quality assurance/validation procedures have been conducted on the dataset used to compile this data series. This ensures the data extracted are accurate, complete and fit for the statistical purposes for which they are to be used. Both automated and manual checks have been carried out, at individual case level and, where possible, data corrected to ensure that:

- key fields are complete and logical;
- a general check of the data as a whole suggests no other anomalies.

Examples of some of the changes made to the dataset as part of the validation process for 2019-20 included: the removal of duplicate records, amendment where the defendant had an incorrect date of birth recorded and in one case, the date of offence was corrected.

Nevertheless, users should be aware that the statistics contained in this publication originate from various administrative data sources, which have different purposes, aims and objectives and are kept for non-statistical purposes, e.g., CRV is maintained for reviewing and vetting individuals' criminal records.

Appendix 2 (methodology and counting rules 1.4)

1.4 Interpreting the data

Figures reported relate primarily to the numbers of young people coming into the justice system: whether they are deemed suitable or not suitable for Youth Engagement and the reason why. For those assessed as suitable, some analysis is provided on the outcomes of subsequent Youth Engagement clinics held, alongside a breakdown on the time taken for relevant stages within the process to complete.

The figures reported are based on individual cases relating to young people coming into formal contact with the justice system. However, some young people may, legitimately, be counted more than once in the figures reported. For example, in 2019-20, the 2,723 cases reported relate to 1,801 young people. Where a young person comes into contact with the justice system on more than one occasion, in relation to separate cases, these have been counted separately.

For the purposes of this publication, scheduled clinic dates are taken as those on which the clinic occurred or which were scheduled but on which the defendant did not attend. They do not include dates which were scheduled but were listed as postponed.

Figures reported in Table 9 relate primarily to the average time taken from the date the young person was charged, or informed they were to be prosecuted, to first date set for the Youth Engagement clinic. The form of average reported on in this bulletin is the median, or the value at which 50 percent of cases were completed. Figures for the time taken to deal with cases at the 80th percentile (the time in which 80% of cases were dealt with) are also reported. The median is used as a measure of average in this report as a relatively small number of cases may have taken a significantly long time. Using the median to find the midpoint in the series avoids any possible skew caused by outlying, longer cases.

Appendix 2 (methodology and counting rules 1.5)

1.5 Statistical coverage

The data included in the bulletin are, for Tables 1 – 9, based on cases where a young person was charged or informed by police in relation to an offence during the year 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020. Statistical coverage is restricted to those criminal cases which were considered by PPS on behalf of the PSNI, the NCA, the Airport Constabulary or Harbour Police. Figures included in Tables 10 to are based on findings from Youth Engagement clinics which occurred within the period.

Cases involving young people, where the complainants were government departments, public bodies and private individuals are not included, as their prosecution is beyond the remit of the DoJ. The operational structure of the justice system in Northern Ireland does not equate to that of England and Wales, Scotland or the Republic of Ireland and therefore no comparisons have been made between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK and Ireland.