

Enhanced Case Management Evaluation

Phase 2: Analysis of reoffending rates

November 2023

Opinion Research Services



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Executive Summary

Introduction

Over the last decade, youth justice practice and policy has shifted towards a focus on highlighting and harnessing children's strengths, and greater use of diversionary measures. It is against this backdrop that the Enhanced Case Management (ECM) approach was developed. ECM aims to ensure that youth justice services' (YJS) practice and interventions are aligned with children's developmental needs.

Between 30th September 2019 and 31st March 2022, ECM was implemented in four YJSs: Bristol, North Somerset, Bath and North-East Somerset and South Gloucestershire. This current study forms part of the evaluation to assess the implementation of ECM and its impact on children's desistance, needs, and wellbeing in the four participating YJSs.

This Phase 2 report follows the Phase 1 report published in April 2023 which considered the qualitative evidence relating to the implementation and outcomes of ECM based upon detailed interviews with staff and participants involved in ECM.

The key aim of this study is to consider the following questions:

1. Are participants on the ECM project more or less likely to reoffend than those in the control group?
2. Is repeat reoffending lower or higher for those on the ECM project compared to the control group?
3. Is the severity of the offences committed by those who did reoffend from the ECM programme different to those in the control group?

Methodology

YJS case managers use the following eligibility criteria to determine which children participate in the ECM approach:

- Children who have previously offended.
- Evidence of complex needs.
- Evidence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- Those in receipt of statutory court orders in the community should be prioritised.
- Minimum of six months left on statutory order (or voluntary if agreed with the child).

37 children took part in ECM, and we had permission to access data for 20 of these children for the evaluation. We used AssetPlus data to identify 19 children with similar characteristics who had not taken part in ECM and were able to match reoffending data from the Police National Computer for 17 of the 19 ECM participants and their matching pair. All data in this report is based upon aggregate numbers from this dataset.

Findings

Our findings showed that ECM had no statistically significant effects on reoffending (relative to usual services), i.e. the number of reoffences were similar for children who took part in the ECM programme and for children who did not take part in the programme. Possible explanations for this finding are considered in the discussion section below.

In the year 2021/22, when the ECM project was still running, 13 of the 17 participants appeared on the Police National Computer data for new offences committed. This fell to eight in the year 2022/23, following the end of the programme. The equivalent numbers for the control sample drawn from the national youth justice cohort was 12 reoffended in 2021/22 and seven reoffended in 2022/23.

In terms of the number of separate offence incidents, four children who took part in the ECM programme and four children from the national youth justice cohort were involved in at least four separate incidents.

Of the nine children who had taken part in ECM and eight children from the national youth justice cohort who were sentenced in 2022/23, all received a disposal rank of 1. This means all the children's reoffences resulted in the most serious outcome.

Limitations

To be selected for the ECM programme, the child must have complex needs and that also applies to the matching pairs sample. Therefore, the results of this research are only able to tell us about the effect of ECM for children with complex needs.

46% of children chose to take part in the evaluation and have their data shared. These children may therefore have been more motivated to engage with ECM and the evaluation, than the 54% of children who took part in ECM but who did not take part in the evaluation.

Those in matching sample from the national youth justice cohort may have been receiving different types of support from youth justice services and other professionals. Therefore, we are not comparing the effect of ECM with no support, but the effect of ECM against a range of other programmes which already exist across the country.

Regional reoffending rates also vary, so this could be a possible cause of difference between ECM participants and the matched sample.

We would note that based upon the analysis conducted in Phase 1, reoffending rates are only one measure of the effectiveness of ECM and Phase 1 found many positive outcomes, which in turn mirrored the findings of earlier ECM evaluations in Wales.

The sample period for this study only runs for one year from the end of the ECM project, so it is reflecting short-term outcomes.

Discussion

A myriad of factors may explain these results:

1) ECM has no effect

One possibility is that ECM is simply ineffective in reducing reoffending among children with complex needs. However, for the reasons set out below, we cannot conclude that this is the case.

2) The sample size was too small

A larger sample would have offered a greater opportunity to find statistically significant differences (if these were present) between ECM participants and those not taking part in ECM.

3) The sample may have been biased

The fall from 37 participants in ECM to 20 agreeing to share their data with ORS to 17 being accessed on the Police National Computer also creates further uncertainty in the statistical analysis. We cannot be certain that the 17 participants in the final sample are a random sample from within the 37 participants on ECM.

4) ECM may not be effective for those with complex needs

All participants on ECM had complex needs such as family breakdowns, a history of abuse and low educational and mental development. Even if we were to conclude that ECM did not reduce reoffending for this group, it may still be the case that it could be effective for children who have less complex needs or who have committed less serious offences.

Overall Conclusion

The data set out in this report on reoffending rates shows no statistically significant impact for ECM. A key factor in this is the small sample size and that fact that the data on reoffending only ran for one year. It is also the case the ECM may have not been effective for those with complex needs or that the data was biased due to sample selection issues or through it being compared to those who have undertaken a range of other programmes across England.

This means we have insufficient evidence to confidently conclude that ECM is not effective.

Finally, it is important to consider that the data used in this report only considered reoffending. However, other outcomes such as the children's mental health or educational attainment are just as important. The Phase 1 report (Opinion Research Services, 2023) found qualitative evidence that these did improve for children suggesting a wider range of potential benefits of ECM.

Recommendations

A potential next step for ECM would also be to extend the programme to a wider group of children in the youth justice system. This would allow the scheme to be evaluated for all types of offence and not just the most serious offences.

It is possible to calculate required minimum sample sizes through power analysis. Our power calculations suggest that a sample of 290 matched pairs would be large enough to ensure an effect of ECM on reoffending could be detected.

Introduction

Background

Over the last decade, youth justice practice and policy has shifted towards greater use of practitioner autonomy, a focus on highlighting and harnessing children's strengths, and greater use of diversionary measures (Glendinning, Rodriguez, Newbury, and Wilmot, 2021). In tandem with this is the growing recognition that whilst the number of children in the youth justice system had continued to decline, reoffending remained high and there was a greater concentration of children with entrenched patterns of offending and complex needs. Therefore, interventions that focus on understanding children's life experiences are central to understanding their presenting behaviour and informing the support they are offered. It is against this backdrop that the Enhanced Case Management (ECM) approach was developed.

Between 2013 and 2016, the YJB worked with Youth Justice Services (YJSs) in Wales to develop and test ECM. ECM is a YJS-delivered, psychology-led, trauma-informed approach to supporting children with complex needs and known or suspected experience of trauma. The underpinning model of ECM is the Trauma Recovery Model (TRM) (Skuse and Matthews, 2015), which was developed through working with children in a secure children's home in South Wales. ECM views offending as a response to previous trauma. It seeks to work with children sensitively, empathetically, and non-punitively, in accordance with their individual needs.

ECM aims to ensure that YJS practice and interventions are aligned with children's developmental needs. In line with the TRM, ECM posits that strong, trusting relationships between children and their YJS case managers and other professionals are central to enabling them to engage with needs-led support packages and pro-social opportunities. This, in turn, will lead children to reduce reoffending, and to achieve improvements in a range of psychosocial and other life outcomes.

Enhanced Case Management (ECM)

The Trauma Recovery Model (TRM)

ECM is underpinned by the TRM, a seven-stage model that matches intervention/support to presenting behaviours and to underlying needs. The TRM advocates sequencing YJS interventions in line with developmental and mental health needs. It is based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, which proposes that people's basic physiological and safety needs must be met before they can achieve healthy psychological growth. The TRM proposes that practitioner's initial work with children must instil consistency and focus on building a strong, trusting relationship between them. This takes as long as necessary.

This relationship then forms a platform for the child to process the trauma they have experienced. Once this is well underway, the child may then be cognitively able to engage in offence-focused work, for which they must be capable of consequential thinking, showing empathy, and reflecting on their behaviour and life choices. However, children will not be able to fully understand their behaviour, circumstances, or offending, until they have progressed through the first four stages of the TRM. This is not always a linear journey.

Progressing through the TRM's layers requires the trusting relationship, support, and guidance from practitioners to continue. Once children have reached the final layer of the TRM, they should be able to live independently, healthily, and positively in their communities, with little or no additional support.

Characteristics of ECM

Broadly, ECM has the following components:

1. Initial training for all YJS staff on the TRM and the theory underpinning it, developed, and delivered by the creators of the model (Tricia Skuse and Jonny Matthew, via the TRM Academy). Ongoing / refresher training and guidance in developing and delivering ECM and trauma-informed practice, in line with staff's needs, developed and delivered by the ECM senior practitioners (trauma champions), with input from the ECM psychologist, as necessary.
2. An initial psychology-led case formulation meeting, attended by professionals from all the agencies which support the child. During the formulation meeting, information from the agencies, parents/carers/guardians, and from the child, is shared and collated into a developmental timeline of significant events in the child's life (called a genogram), which is used to plan interventions. ECM senior practitioners chair and coordinate the formulation (and review) meetings.
3. A case formulation report, written by the overseeing psychologist. The report uses the information shared at the meeting to plot the child's level of physical, emotional, cognitive, and social development against which level of the TRM they are assessed to be at. Based on this, it also sets out recommendations for the content and sequencing of the most appropriate interventions for the child.
4. Regular subsequent multi-agency review meetings, where those present share updated information about the child and discuss their progress. Led by the ECM psychologist, those present collaboratively review the child's TRM position (whether it has changed or not) and the content and sequencing of their interventions. Review meetings continue until the ECM team determine that they are no longer needed, or until the child transitions to adult services.
5. The ECM psychologist provides ongoing confidential clinical supervision for YJS case managers to assist them in managing cases, to develop their practice, and to reduce the impact of secondary trauma. The clinical supervision is provided in addition to regular management supervision.
6. Guidance for strategic and operational YJS managers to support them to develop and embed trauma-informed practice throughout their service.

7. Children and their families do not attend the formulation or review meetings. This is because information is shared about family history and circumstances which could be distressing for them to hear, and because it enables practitioners to speak freely without fear of causing upset.

These elements are summarised in a Theory of Change, which ORS developed as part of this evaluation. The Theory of Change is built on a logic model which was produced as part of a previous evaluation of ECM in Wales (Cordis Bright, 2017). It was used to shape the evaluation's methodology and research instruments, and it was revisited at key points throughout the evaluation considering stakeholders' feedback.

Specialist support

As noted, psychology input is central to implementing ECM. The YJB recommends that a clinical psychologist supports ECM because they are trained in formulation; can accurately assess the risk that children present to themselves and to others; and can pinpoint the cause(s) of their underlying issues. However, the YJB also notes that psychologists from other disciplines could be considered, provided they have the right knowledge, skills, and experience. The ECM psychologist must have knowledge of child development (especially attachment and trauma); experience of working with children in a youth justice and/or forensic mental health setting; and experience of multi-agency working (Youth Justice Board, 2020).

The YJS senior practitioner role is also central to ECM. Senior practitioners are trauma champions who support the psychologist and YJSs to deliver ECM by:

- Advising YJS case managers on the suitability of referrals onto ECM, helping to prioritise children according to need and ensuring they meet the criteria for referral.
- Supporting YJS case managers to maintain trauma-informed case records on children; and advising them on case management and intervention delivery.
- Arranging, chairing, and minuting case formulation and review meetings, helping to produce the genogram alongside the psychologist.
- Building relationships with representatives of other agencies which contribute to ECM, such as the police, social workers, education professionals, residential staff or foster carers, and others.
- Promoting the ECM approach by sharing information with and delivering training to wider agencies which have an interest in ECM, such as members of the judiciary, and YJS partnership boards.
- Producing detailed monitoring information about ECM cases.

Resourcing and implementation

The ECM pilot was taken forward by a partnership consisting of the four YJSs and:

- The YJB, who was the principal funder, and provided oversight of the pilot.
- Psychology provision:

- This was delivered by a part-time counselling psychologist between September 2019 and mid-September 2020.
- There was no ECM psychology provision between late-September 2020 and the end of February 2021, due to this psychologists' resignation and a replacement being recruited. During this period, no children were referred to ECM, and no case formulation meetings took place, but the two senior practitioners continued to discuss referrals with case managers, held case review meetings, and kept a "waiting list" of children who they felt should be prioritised for ECM, who were referred once psychology provision resumed in March 2021. The TRM Academy¹ also provided supervisory support to the senior practitioners when there was no ECM psychologist in place.
- Two part-time (equivalent to one full-time employee) Youth Custody Service (YCS)-employed forensic psychologists also supported ECM. One was in post between March and September 2021, and the other was in post between April and December 2021.
- A part-time educational psychologist who was employed by the YCS supported ECM between September 2021 and March 2022.
- NHS England (NHSE) South West Health and Justice team, which part funded the pilot.

As well as the psychology input (the equivalent of one full time post), the pilot included two part-time senior practitioners (which made up a full-time post). The senior practitioners are trauma champions, who work with two YJSs each, to support YJS case managers in the delivery of ECM and trauma-informed practice. The pilot was supported by operational and steering groups which met every six weeks and on a quarterly basis, respectively.

Capacity

Originally, the pilot aimed to deliver ECM with 25 children per year (so around 50 in total), distributed amongst the participating YJSs. This number was set before the start of the pilot and was based on the assessed capacity of a full-time psychologist. However, the overall number of children who participated in the pilot was 37 in total. This was lower than originally anticipated for several reasons.

Firstly, the gap in psychology provision between September 2020 and February 2021 prevented referrals onto ECM from being made. Secondly, staff shortages and redeployment during the COVID-19 pandemic among many of the ECM partner agencies delayed offences being processed and reaching court. As children could not be referred onto ECM without a statutory court order (or out of court disposal / participation in diversionary programmes, in some circumstances), these delays also prevented them from being referred onto ECM.

¹ The TRM Academy was established by the founders of the TRM. It provides training, resources, and support for organisations with implementing the TRM. Further information can be found here: [TRM Academy - Trauma Informed Practice](#)

Training

To prepare for delivery of ECM, the TRM Academy delivered full ECM training on attachment, the impact of childhood trauma and the TRM to YJS managers and practitioners in 2016, December 2018, and in January 2019. The TRM Academy has since delivered full ECM training on an ad-hoc basis throughout the four YJSs. In addition, various elements of refresher training, and training based on specific aspects of trauma-informed practice, has been delivered by the senior practitioners and the ECM psychologist, throughout the pilot.

Previous evaluations of ECM

Two previous ECM evaluations have been conducted. Both explored the implementation and impact of ECM in several YJSs in Wales (Cordis Bright, 2017; Glendinning et al., 2021). Cordis Bright (2017) recommended that the ECM approach should be implemented and trialled further. This was due to strong stakeholder support for the approach and its wider roll-out, high fidelity with the original ECM model across all YJSs, and qualitative and quantitative evidence of improvements in engagement and in various outcomes for participating children.

Glendinning et al. (2021) also found that ECM had benefitted children in several ways. These included improved relationships with practitioners from YJSs and other agencies, greater confidence to approach services for support, improved emotional regulation, sense of self-worth, and positivity about the future.

The current evaluation sought to take account of these previous findings and continue to build and expand the evidence base, to consider for the first time the impact of ECM relative to a cohort of children who had not taken part in ECM, to support improvement of the ECM approach, and identify lessons which can be learned in developing trauma-informed practice in youth justice settings. The Phase 1 report (Opinion Research Services (2023) Enhanced Case Management (ECM) Evaluation Phase One Report) published in April 2023 considered the qualitative evidence relating to the implementation and outcomes of ECM based upon detailed interviews with staff and children involved in ECM. Findings from the Phase 1 report are summarised below.

Phase 1 Report: Perceived impact on children's outcomes

ECM was perceived to have contributed to improvements in a range of psychosocial outcomes. For example, ECM partner agencies placed some children in more appropriate accommodation. The support provided by YJS case managers was perceived to have enabled children to live independently and to have helped rebuild family relationships. This was perceived to have been facilitated through foster carers or placement staff attending ECM meetings.

ECM was reported to have helped to improve some children's mental health. This was linked to improvements in accommodation, and to family or carer relationships, which were

brought about by the support provided through ECM and professional's greater understanding of children's needs. Finding employment or engaging in education or training was also a notable improvement which was reported to have been achieved by some children since starting ECM.

Some children supported by ECM were reported to have demonstrated positive gains in emotional well-being and development. For example, some were said to have showed improved coping skills and were better able to understand the impact of their behaviour. Improvements in children's behaviour, skills, aspirations, and goals were also reported.

ECM was perceived to have fostered some children's engagement with the YJS and other agencies. This was attributed to the strong relationships between children and YJS case managers, which were central to the ECM approach.

Although ECM was not perceived to have any negative impacts for children, it reportedly placed an increased sense of responsibility onto case managers. Support from the ECM psychologist was perceived to mitigate against this.

Phase 1 Report: Impact on YJS practice

Trauma-informed practice has largely become embedded throughout the YJSs and is starting to become embedded within partner agencies. Case managers were using ECM tools and techniques with their wider caseload, which reflects wider embedding of the approach.

ECM has enhanced case managers' knowledge and understanding of working with children who have experienced trauma. Many were already working in a trauma-informed, relationship-focused way before ECM was implemented, although ECM "gave them permission" to do so.

Case managers displayed positive attitudes towards trauma-informed practice. Their increased confidence in delivering trauma-informed practice had enhanced their work with all children. This confidence had started to transfer into the wider professional network.

ECM had also supported case managers to flexibly adapt aspects of their practice which were not working; to have strengthened their advocacy skills through collaborating with partner agencies; and to have enhanced their playfulness, through their increased understanding of how best to engage children with youth justice interventions.

The child-focused, individually tailored nature of ECM was reported to have strengthened case manager's relationships with children. This bond had formed a prototype for children's future relationships. However, the need for case managers to avoid falling into a "mentoring" role was also highlighted.

This report

Between 30th September 2019 and 31st March 2022, ECM was implemented in four YJSs in the South-West of England: Bristol, North Somerset, Bath and North-East Somerset (BANES), and South Gloucestershire, with North Somerset YJS acting as the YJS lead. This current evaluation seeks to **assess the implementation of ECM and its impact on children's desistance, needs, and wellbeing in the four participating YJSs.**

This Phase 2 report follows the Phase 1 report published in April 2023 (Opinion Research Services (2023) Enhanced Case Management (ECM) Evaluation Phase One Report), and summarised earlier.

This Phase 2 report seeks to identify whether children who participated in ECM were less likely to reoffend than children who didn't take part in ECM. This study has been undertaken through a comparative analysis of Police National Computer (PNC) reoffending data from children supported by ECM and a matched sample of children who have not participated in ECM from the national youth justice cohort, during ECM, and for a 12-month period after the end of the pilot.

The analysis undertaken in this current report is important as this is the first evaluation looking at reoffending rates using a quantitative analysis rather than from self-reported source (e.g., interviews with practitioners). This in turn should reduce reporting bias and identify if ECM has had a statistically significant impact on reducing reoffending.

The key aim of this study is to consider the following questions:

1. Are participants on the ECM project more or less likely to reoffend than those in the control group?
2. Is repeat reoffending lower or higher for those on the ECM project compared to the control group?
3. Is the severity of the offences committed by those who did reoffend from the ECM programme different to those in the control group?

Methodology

Eligibility

In partnership with the psychologist and senior practitioner, YJS case managers use the following eligibility criteria to determine which children participate in the ECM approach:

1. Children who have previously offended.
2. Evidence of complex needs. These include child protection registration and/or social services involvement; being looked after by the local authority; substance misuse; brain injury and/or other neurological disabilities; mental and /or emotional health problems; learning difficulties or disabilities; speech, language, and communication issues; child sexual and/or criminal exploitation; and involvement in serious youth violence.
3. Evidence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). These include emotional, verbal, physical, sexual abuse, or neglect; parental separation; witnessing domestic abuse; living with someone who has a mental illness, abuses alcohol and/or drugs, or has been incarcerated; and experience of significant bereavement.
4. Those in receipt of statutory court orders in the community should be prioritised. In exceptional cases, those who have received an out of court disposal, and/or other diversionary programmes, can also be considered.
5. Minimum of six months left on statutory order (or voluntary if agreed with the child).

Children who are in custodial settings were not eligible for ECM, although ECM review meetings can continue when children who were already on ECM are remanded in custody or serving short sentences.

Analysis

It was anticipated that around 50 children would take part in ECM, but the final number was 37. Parametric based statistical test such as t-tests typically require around 30 sample observations to be effective, so 37 cases would have been sufficient, but as set out below, ORS were not in a position to utilise all the data gathered from the ECM program. However, we did undertake t-tests and also post-hoc Bayesian inference.

Ethics

ORS obtained internal ethical approval from the YJB before commencing the evaluation. The following ethical issues were considered when planning and delivering the evaluation.

Informed consent, confidentiality and anonymity

The YJB privacy notice for ECM participants did not include reference to sharing the data with research bodies such as ORS. Therefore, ORS could not be presented with the data for the 37 participants without seeking further permission.

ORS drafted permission forms and information sheets for children (and their parents / carers / guardians, for children aged under 16), and for staff who participated in the evaluation. An example is shown in Annex 3. The permission forms outlined what taking part in the evaluation would involve; how participants' data would be collected, used, and stored; how confidentiality would be assured; that participation was optional; that participants did not have to answer any questions they did not want to; and that they were free to withdraw from the evaluation at any time. ORS liaised with senior practitioners and case managers to distribute the information sheets and permission forms, oversee the forms' completion, and return to ORS. 20 out of the 37 children who were supported by ECM gave their permission to participate in the evaluation.

For Phase 2 of this report, ORS were then provided with the PNC numbers and matching AssetPlus data for 19 participants (one participant's data did not come with a valid PNC number) in the ECM project.

This data was used to match the participants to similar cases on the national youth justice cohort database. The children recorded in this database had not provided explicit permission for their data to be used. However, only information relating to their age, local authority, complex needs, date of offence, type of offences and legal outcomes was provided to ORS. ORS were not provided with the names or addresses of participants on the national youth justice cohort database, so they were not personally identifiable.

ORS then provided the 19 PNC numbers of the participants and the 19 PNC numbers of the matching sample to the Ministry of Justice Police National Computer & Criminal Histories Team who identified any record of the PNC numbers appearing on the Police National Computer records from October 2019 onwards. The Police National Computer & Criminal Histories Team were able to match 17 of the 19 PNC numbers for both the ECM participants and their matching pair and they consider this to be a high rate of success.

All data in this report is based upon aggregate numbers from this dataset. We have not identified any individual, or any offence which may be linked to an individual.

Data matching

To assess how effective the ECM programme has been in reducing repeat offending, it is necessary to compare those taking part in the programme with a control group, i.e. a

group of children who were not involved in ECM. More details on the process applied can be found in Annex 1 of this report.

The children on the ECM programme were invited to take part because their personal circumstances and history of offending. Therefore, they were a selected sample, not a random sample from within the youth justice system in Bristol, North Somerset, BANES, and South Gloucestershire. This in turn means that we cannot compare reoffending rates for those on the ECM programme with those not in the programme within the area.

On this basis it was necessary to identify a control group from across the rest of England and Wales of children in the youth justice system who were of a similar age, had similar circumstances and committed similar offences at similar times.

To support the development of this control group, ORS were provided with the AssetPlus records for people in the youth justice system from across England and Wales from 2019 onwards. AssetPlus is an assessment and intervention planning framework which is used by YJS to record key information about children's circumstances, family, health, offending and anti-social behaviour, risk, contact with other services, and intervention plans.

We firstly narrowed down the YJS national database to children who were born within three months of the child, who had committed offences within three months of the child and were the same ethnicity and gender. A manual check of each one of these was then applied to identify which one case best matched the type of offence and personal complex needs of the ECM participant.

At the end of this process, ORS had 19 PNC numbers for children taking part in the ECM programme and 19 PNC numbers from the best matches across the country. The 19 numbers were submitted to the Ministry of Justice Police National Computer & Criminal Histories Team in June 2023. They were able to match 17 of the 19 PNC numbers for both the ECM and National Youth Justice cohort participants.

In September 2023, the Police National Computer & Criminal Histories Team sent ORS a data file containing the following information recorded from September 2019 to March 2023:

1. Offence Start Date
2. Offence Category
3. Court Caution Date
4. Disposal Rank with 1 being the most serious outcome and 8 being the least serious.

Care had to be taken with the data because it does date back to September 2019 and this includes many of the offences which saw the participants join the ECM programme, but it does provide a full one year of data from April 2022-March 2023 after the ECM programme was completed.

The data therefore allows for a consideration of whether the child has reoffended, how often they have reoffended and the seriousness of any offences committed.

Definitions of Outcome Measures

Reoffending Rates

Reoffending is measured by any appearance on the Police National Computer from April 2021 to March 2023, with a particular focus on the period after March 2022, when ECM ended.

Number of Reoffences

An event is defined by the number of different days with an offence where the child appears on the Police National Computer. If they were arrested for multiple offences on one day then that only counts as one event for reoffending.

Seriousness of Reoffending

This is measured by the Police National Computer Disposal Rank with 1 being the most serious outcome and 8 being the least serious.

Findings

Reoffending Rates

Our overall findings showed that ECM had no statistically significant effects on reoffending, i.e., the number of reoffences were similar for children who took part in the ECM programme and for children who did not take part in the programme.

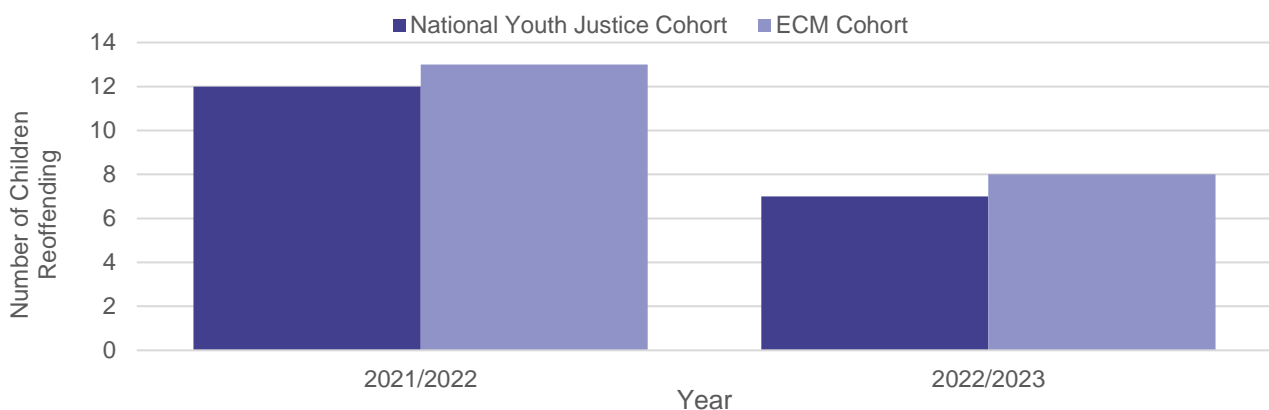
The following section provides more detail on the analysis conducted to reach this conclusion.

Figure 1 shows that in the year 2021/22, when the ECM project was still running for participants, 13 of the 17 participants appeared on the Police National Computer data for new offences committed. This fell to eight in the year 2022/23, following the end of the programme in March 2022.

The equivalent numbers for the control sample drawn from the national youth justice cohort was 12 reoffended in 2021/22 and seven reoffended in 2022/23.

This does not imply that the ECM programme performed worse than the control group. Instead, this clearly shows minimal difference between the two samples. We would also note that the sample was designed to be a matching pair exercise and if we look at sets of matching pairs, in 2022/23, four sets of matching pairs both reoffended, but four children who took part in ECM and three children from the national youth justice cohort reoffended without their matching pair doing so.

Figure 1: Reoffending Numbers for ECM Participants and the National Youth Justice Cohort (Source: Police National Computer Database)



If we take these figures as being an accurate reflection of the real rate of reoffending, they imply that 53% of ECM participants reoffended and 47% of those on the matching pairs sample reoffended.

As a comparison, the Youth Justice Board Youth Justice Statistics 2021/22 note that for the year ending March 2021 across England the proven reoffending rate was 31.2% and that the children who did reoffend committed an average of 3.54 reoffences per reoffender. This figure of 3.54 offences per reoffender is not directly comparable with the data used in this report, which considers the number of separate days for arrests, not the total number of offences committed.

From the observed reoffending figures, we can calculate the confidence intervals for each group. These are set out in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Confidence Intervals for ECM and National Youth Justice Cohort (Source: Police National Computer Database)

Sample group	Rate per 1,000 persons aged 75+	Lower 95% confidence interval	Upper 95% confidence interval
ECM Participants	53%	35.2%	70.6%
National Youth Justice Cohort	47%	23.4%	70.8%

The 95% confidence interval for those taking part in ECM runs from 35.2% to 70.6%. To put this into context, if we were able to take multiple random samples and calculate a 95% confidence interval for each sample, it would be expected that the true population proportion would fall within the confidence interval for approximately 95% of those samples.

Clearly, the confidence interval for both samples are extremely wide, with the national sample having a wider confidence interval due to the potential population being larger, due to the small number of cases in each group and they overlap by a wide margin.

It is possible to run a two sample two tailed t-test to ascertain if we there are any statistically significant differences between the two samples. The observed difference between the two samples is 6% (53% and 47% reoffending). To be confident at the 95% level, the required difference between the two sample would have had to have been 29.5%.

Therefore, the observed differences between ECM and national youth justice cohort for reoffending are not close to being statistically significantly different. To put the figure in terms of probability, the p value for the two tailed t-test is 0.74 and to show a statistically significant outcome at a 95% confidence level would have required the figure to be below 0.05.

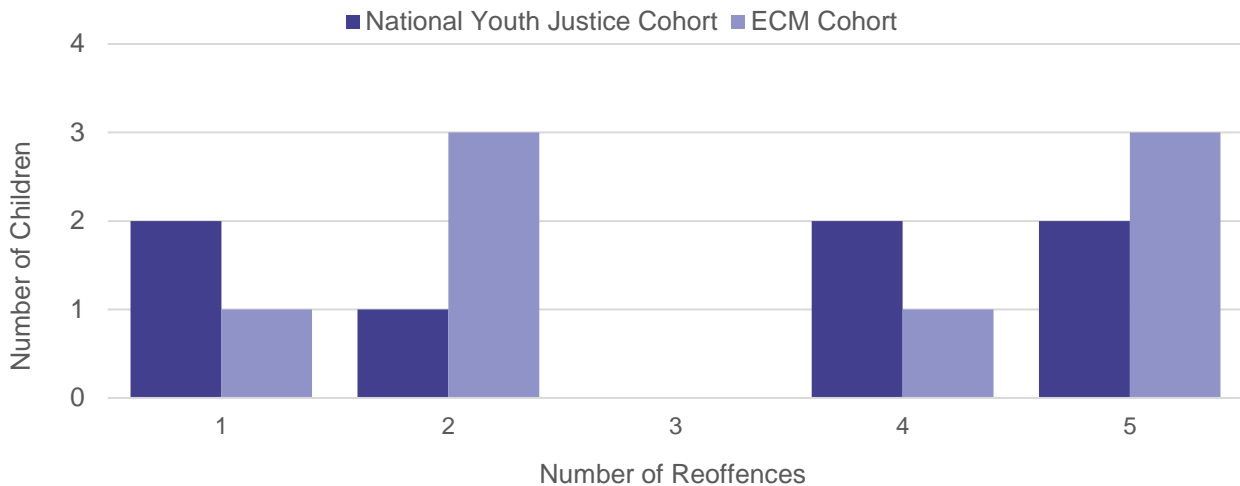
While there is a small visual difference between the two groups in the data, this further analysis of the data shows no clear statistically significant difference between reoffending rates for ECM participants and the control group from the national youth justice cohort.

Further analysis of the data using Bayesian inference is available in Annex 2. This uses post hoc modelling and the findings of this analysis suggest that, as above, there are no grounds to suggest that there is a difference in reoffending between ECM children and a comparison group of children.

Number of Reoffences

Figure 3 shows that in the year 2022/23, four children who took part in the ECM programme and four children from the national youth justice cohort were involved in at least four separate incidents. Therefore, again there is no evidence that there is any difference between the two samples based upon the number of reoffences committed.

Figure 3: Number of Reoffences for ECM Participants and the National Youth Justice Cohort (Source: Police National Computer Database)



Reoffending Seriousness

Of the nine children who had taken part in ECM and eight children from the national youth justice cohort who were sentenced in 2022/23, all received a disposal rank of 1. This means all the children's reoffences resulted in the most serious outcome. Therefore, there was no difference in outcomes between the two samples given the outcomes are the same as the reoffending rates.

Limitations

The evaluation has the following methodological limitations:

The study contains data for only 17 out of the 37 children who participated in ECM (46%). As noted above, Originally, the pilot aimed to deliver ECM with 25 children per year (so around 50 in total), distributed amongst the participating YJSs. This number was set before the start of the pilot and was based on the assessed capacity of a full-time psychologist. However, the overall number of children who participated in the pilot was 37 in total. A sample of 37 is still sufficient to consider for a parametric statistical test such as t-tests, but this reduced to 19 participants when informed consent was also required. While this is a small sample to identify statistically significant differences from a control group

drawn from across England it is still possible to analyse the data through comparing means and t-tests and Bayesian analysis as set out above.

It is possible to calculate required minimum sample sizes through power analysis. This calculation is used to estimate the smallest sample size needed for an experiment, given a required significance level, statistical power, and effect size such as the reoffending rate of children. In many statistical tests it is appropriate to allow for a 5% probability of detecting a significant difference when the treatments are equally effective. This is the risk of producing false positive findings. If we assume that 50% of children will reoffend then to produce a 5% risk of a false positive finding will require a sample of 105 in each randomly generated matching pair. However, if we assume that 30% will reoffend then this will require a sample of 290 in each matching pair.

On this basis a sample in the hundreds is required to begin to generate findings in which we can have statistical confidence.

We would also note that the operation of ECM within the four local authorities brought in some bias. For example, more of the cases came from Bristol than the other 3 local authorities. If the implementation of ECM was different across local authorities, then this could have caused biases within the ECM group.

As also noted above, we cannot conclude that the sample of 17 participants in ECM are a representative sample of the 37 children who took part in the programme. Therefore, we cannot necessarily assume that any findings of the data can be extrapolated to a wider population.

46% of children chose to take part in the evaluation and have their data shared. These children may therefore have been more motivated to engage with ECM and the evaluation, than the 54% of children who took part in ECM but who did not take part in the evaluation.

Those in the matching sample from the national youth justice cohort may have been receiving different types of support from youth justice services and other professionals. Therefore, we are not comparing the effect of ECM with no support, but the effect of ECM against a range of other programmes which already exist across the country.

To be selected for the ECM programme, the child must have complex needs and that also applies to the matching pairs sample. Therefore, the results of this research are only able to tell us about the effect of ECM for children with complex needs. The effect of ECM may not be the same with children who do not have complex needs.

This study is only considering reoffending as an outcome. Phase 1 showed that ECM was perceived through qualitative evidence to have had wider benefit for the children taking part such as improvement to their mental health and education attendance.

The sample period for this study only runs for one year from the end of the ECM project, so it is reflecting short-term outcomes.

As noted above, the Youth Justice Board Youth Justice Statistics 2021/22 note that for the year ending March 2021 across England the proven reoffending rate was 31.2% and that the children who did reoffend committed an average of 3.54 reoffences per reoffender. Based upon sections 9.4 and 9.5 of the Youth Justice Board Youth Justice Statistics

2021/22, those who have previously committed more frequent or serious offences are more likely to reoffend. The participants in the ECM programme and their matching sample have more complex social circumstances and committed more serious offences, so may also have been expected to have a higher rate of recidivism.

Discussion and Conclusions

The data for the ECM participants is consistent with the findings for the Phase 1 review which found on Page 20 that:

'Analysis of AssetPlus records, case formulation and review reports and notes, and observations of these meetings suggests that children who were supported by ECM are fairly equally split with regards to those who desisted from and those who continued offending. A number of those involved were, at their last review meeting, remanded in custody. However, a few had not reoffended at all.'

Several case managers reflected that children's offending had decreased in severity and frequency during ECM. In one case, it had ceased altogether. In another, re-offending had stopped during statutory contact with the YJS but had continued once this ended, despite the child continuing to engage with the YJS voluntarily.'

We would note that based upon the analysis conducted in Phase 1, reoffending rates are only one measure of the effectiveness of ECM and Phase 1 found many positive outcomes, which in turn mirrored the findings of earlier ECM evaluations in Wales. Phase 1 found that ECM was potentially effective on other outcomes for children such as their mental health and educational outcomes.

This study is however, the first to attempt to assess ECM by looking specifically at reoffending rates using a quantitative analysis rather than from self-reported source. This should have reduced reporting bias and identify if ECM has had a statistically significant impact on reducing reoffending. Given the findings set out above that ECM had no statistically significant effects on reoffending we need to consider why this might be the case and have set out a range of factors below:

- 1) ECM has no effect

One possibility is that ECM is simply ineffective in reducing reoffending among children with complex needs. However, for the reasons set out below, we cannot conclude that this is the case.

- 2) The sample size was too small

As noted earlier, parametric tests typically require a sample size of 30 for a reasonable normal distribution assumptions to apply. A larger sample would have offered a greater opportunity to find statistically significant differences between ECM participants and those not taking part in ECM.

- 3) The sample may have been biased

The fall from 37 participants in ECM to 20 agreeing to share their data with ORS to 17 being accessed on the Police National Computer also creates further uncertainty in the statistical analysis. We cannot be certain that the 17 participants in the final sample are a random sample from within the 37 participants on ECM. For example, we could envisage a situation where a child benefitted enormously from ECM and stopped offending. They were then asked to share their data with ORS they chose not to because their life had moved on in a different direction. Equally we could envisage a situation where someone's behaviour didn't change as a result of ECM and they kept offending regularly and had no interest in assisting the ECM programme by sharing their data. Therefore, there could be a bias in the data and we cannot know in which direction this bias runs.

A further potential bias in the data is that more of the cases came from Bristol than the other three local authorities. Difference in the implantation of ECM across the different local authorities may have biased the outcomes.

4) ECM may not be effective for those with complex needs

All participants on ECM had complex needs such as family breakdowns, a history of abuse and low educational and mental development. Even if we were to conclude that ECM did not reduce reoffending for this group, it may still be the case that it could be effective for children who have less complex needs or who have committed less serious offences.

Overall Conclusion

The data set out in this report on reoffending rates shows no statistically significant impact for ECM. A key factor is this is the small sample size and the fact that the data on reoffending only ran for one year. It is also the case the ECM may have not been effective for those with complex needs or that the data was biased due to sample selection issues or through it being compared to those who have undertaken a range of other programmes across England. This means we have insufficient evidence to confidently conclude that ECM is not effective.

The data used in this report only considered reoffending, yet other outcomes such as the mental health or educational attainment of children are just as important. The Phase 1 report found that these did improve.

Recommendations

Implementation of ECM in the future

ECM sits as part of Child First approaches by focusing on the child and their needs. It is intended to be used with children who have experienced trauma and is tailored to start from an understanding of this, which is what makes it different to starting from the position of the offence and then building from there.

At the completion of Phase 1 of this study, based upon feedback from case officers and participants, ORS recommended that ECM is implemented in the participating YJSs. due to qualitative feedback about a range of different observed benefits both for practice and child outcomes, and is extended to other YJSs in future, subject to its ongoing monitoring and review.

The findings from Phase 2 of this study are inconclusive for reoffending rates and therefore do not alter this finding. Instead, it points the way to a key issue for the future, which is the monitoring of any potential roll out of ECM more widely.

Further monitoring, evaluation, and review of ECM

A range of factors have led us to the conclusion that the findings in this phase of the study are inconclusive and this offers potential recommendations for future studies.

A key reason that only 17 children were considered in the final sample was that the privacy notice issued to participants by the YJSs did not include that data would be shared with any research organisation such as ORS, requiring separate permission to be obtained. Future evaluation would be able to obtain a larger sample size if this issue was avoided.

Because this study is not able to draw a conclusion about whether ECM is effective or not, if ECM is implemented more widely, it is important that a much larger scale evaluation is included in the roll out. A key feature for any future ECM evaluation should be that the sample size is larger and also that the data analysed is a representative sample of those taking part in ECM.

It is possible to calculate required minimum sample sizes through power analysis. Our power calculations suggest that a sample of 290 matched pairs would be large enough to ensure an effect of ECM on reoffending could be detected.

A final recommendation is to consider evaluation of ECM with a wider range of children in the youth justice system.

Annex 1: Data Matching

Data matching

To assess how effective the ECM programme has been in reducing repeat offending, it is necessary to compare those taking part in the programme with a control group, i.e., a group of children who were not involved in ECM.

The children on the ECM programme were invited to take part because their personal circumstances and history of offending. Therefore, they were a selected sample, not a random sample from within the youth justice system in Bristol, North Somerset, BANES, and South Gloucestershire. This in turn means that we cannot compare reoffending rates for those on the ECM programme with those not in the programme within the area. Those taking part in the ECM had on average more complex personal circumstances and histories of offending than the average child involved with the local youth justice service. Based upon sections 9.4 and 9.5 of the Youth Justice Statistics 2021/22, those who have previously committed more frequent or serious offences are more likely to reoffend. Based on what we know about factors associated with reoffending, the children who took part in ECM would therefore be expected to be more likely to reoffend again than the average child involved with the local youth justice service. This means that any difference in reoffending between children who took part in ECM in the area and children who did not take part in ECM in the area could be due to differences in their individual characteristics rather than being due to involvement in the programme.

On this basis it was necessary to identify a control group from across the rest of England and Wales of children in the youth justice system who were of a similar age, had similar circumstances and committed similar offences at similar times. These children would be assumed to have a similar likelihood of reoffending as children who had taken part in ECM. As a result, any difference in offending between children who had taken part in ECM and children who had not taken part in ECM, we could assume would be likely to be as a result of having taken part in ECM rather than being due to differences in the characteristics of the children in the two groups.

To support the development of this control group, ORS were provided with the AssetPlus records for people in the youth justice system from across England and Wales from 2019 onwards. AssetPlus is an assessment and intervention planning framework which is used by YJSs to record key information about children's circumstances, family, health, offending and anti-social behaviour, risk, contact with other services, and intervention plans. It is completed for every child in the youth justice system and is then stored on a national database.

The YJB were able to provide ORS with a very extensive set of records from AssetPlus from 2019 onwards which ran to over 57,000 rows of data. However, this was not the records of 57,000 children because the same child could appear on multiple occasions if

they had multiple offences. Therefore, each offence committed by the child appears as a separate entry in the system, even if they occurred or were sentenced on the same day.

The data file contained the following information:

1. Date of birth.
2. Local authority area
3. Ethnicity
4. Gender
5. Age at time of recording the data
6. PNC number
7. Risk of self-harm
8. Complex personal circumstances
9. Offence date
10. Offence description and YJB category
11. YJB seriousness of offence score (More details can be found in Appendix 2 of AssetPlus Guidance [Formal document \(proceduresonline.com\)](https://proceduresonline.com))
12. Outcome in terms of sentencing

Therefore, ORS were provided with a very wide range of information to seek a match between children on the ECM programme in the South West of England, and children with similar characteristics who were involved with youth justice services nationally but who had not taken part in the ECM programme. The process we applied was to take each ECM participant on a case by case basis. We first narrow down the YJB national database to children who were born within three months of the child, who had committed offences within three months of the child which led to the sentence bringing them to ECM and were the same ethnicity and gender. This was just to start with a group who almost the same age as the child and had the same length of time to reoffend.

Narrowing the cases down by date of birth, ethnicity, gender and date of offence reduced the number of potential matches down rapidly, so that for most ECM participants there were less than 50 potential matches. Anyone from the YJB national database who received a custodial sentence from the matching offence was also excluded from consideration. A manual check of each one of these was then applied to identify which one case best matched the type of offence and personal complex needs of the ECM participant. The manual check considered the types of complex needs for each participant and also the number of offences they had committed.

When a single best match for the ECM participant was identified, their PNC number was recorded in a separate file. This process was completed for all 19 ECM participants, so each one had a best match from elsewhere in England and Wales.

At the end of this process, ORS had 19 PNC numbers for children taking part in the ECM programme and 19 PNC numbers from the best matches across the country. The 19 numbers were submitted to the Ministry of Justice Police National Computer & Criminal Histories Team in June 2023. They were able to match 17 of the 19 PNC numbers for both

the ECM participants and their matching pair and they consider this to be a high rate of success.

In September 2023, the Police National Computer & Criminal Histories Team sent ORS a data file containing the following information recorded from September 2019 to March 2023:

1. Offence Start Date
2. Offence Category
3. Court Caution Date
4. Disposal Rank with 1 being the most serious outcome and 8 being the least serious.

Care had to be taken with the data because it does date back to September 2019 and this includes many of the offences which saw the participants join the ECM programme, but it does provide a full one year of data from April 2022-March 2023 after the ECM programme was completed.

The data therefore allows for a consideration of whether the child has reoffended, how often they have reoffended and the seriousness of any offences committed.

Annex 2: Bayesian Inference

Bayesian Inference

An alternative approach to consider for assessing sample data is Bayesian inference. This identifies a probability for an event based upon a prior estimate for the probability, an observed probability from a sample and a likelihood function.

The Bayesian inference equation is expressed as:

$$P(B|A)=P(A|B)*P(B)/P(A)$$

Where:

P(A) is sample evidence for ECM participants. In this case this is 0.53 from the 53% who reoffended in the sample period.

P(B) is the prior probability. Therefore in this case, B is the estimate of the probability of reoffending for anyone with complex needs taking part in ECM, before the current evidence was observed. We set this out with a range of option below.

P(A|B) is the probability of observing A given B i.e. what probability of seeing someone from sample A if B is true, which in this case should be one because the everyone in A is part of B.

P(B|A) is the updated probability that B is correct given A i.e. after A is observed. This is the probability that the prior probability could still hold given the observed evidence .i.e this is the probability that B still holds after we observe A.

It is important to understand in this case that Bayesian inference is not testing whether there is a difference between ECM participants and their matching pair drawn from the National Youth Justice Cohort. Instead, it is analysing a prior estimate for reoffending from ECM participants and then seeking to update that probability based upon the observed outcome from the sample of 53% reoffending.

For example, if we take the national reoffending rate of 31% and assume that this is the prior assumption for ECM participants and that if this was the case then P(A) would be 31% as well, then the Bayesian inference formula produces the following outputs.

$$P(B|A)=(1*0.31)/(0.53)$$

hence

$$P(B|A)= 0.58$$

What this is saying is that if we initially believe that reoffending rates for ECM participants would be 31%, but the observed rate is 53%, then the data is showing a 58% probability that B could still be 31%.

If we had assumed that reoffending would be 53% then the formula gives an output of 1, which means we cannot reject the null hypothesis the true value is 53%. If we had

assumed that the reoffending rate for ECM participants had matched the national youth justice cohort figure of 47%, then the data shows that this there is an 89% support for this null hypothesis. However, if we had assumed that ECM would have a large impact on reoffending and the prior figure was 10% then the model generates a support of 11% for this null hypothesis.

In summary, Bayesian inference does not allow us to compare differences between ECM participants and the non ECM participants, but it does allow us to set plausible assumptions for reoffending rates. The findings set out above suggest that we cannot reject a null hypothesis that ECM participants reoffend at the same rate as all other youth offenders.

Annex 3: ORS ECM Young People's Information and Permission Form

Introduction

We are a research organisation called ORS (Opinion Research Services). We have been asked by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to assess whether the Enhanced Case Management (ECM) approach is helping young people.

You might not have heard the words “Enhanced Case Management” or “ECM” before. ECM involves your YOS worker spending some more time getting to know you, doing activities that are well-matched to you, and trying to help you to avoid getting into trouble in future.

This form contains some information about the research, and a permission form that we would like you to fill out, if you agree to help us with it.

What is the evaluation for?

We are doing the evaluation to find out if ECM is working and helping young people.

Why are you asking me to take part?

We are asking you to take part in the research because you have been working with the YOS using the ECM approach. We would like to talk to you about how you found working with the YOS, and whether it has made a difference to you. We would also like to use some information that the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the YJB, and your YOS has about you to find out how well ECM is working for you.

What will taking part involve?

1. Talking to some researchers about how ECM is going for you

If you agree to take part in the research, one or two researchers would like to **either** come to the YOS to meet with you once, or to meet with you on Zoom or over the phone once during the next couple of months.

This meeting would count towards one of your YOS contacts. You would not be asked to have an extra meeting with the YOS to speak with us. During our meeting, we would like to talk about what activities you have done with your YOS worker, whether or not you feel the activities have helped you, and how you feel they could be improved.

If it is ok with you, we would like to record our meeting to make sure we hear everything that you have to say. Only a small group of researchers will hear the recording. We promise to keep it safe and will delete it after the project is finished in April 2023.

2. Letting us work with some information that the MoJ, your YOS, and the YJB has about you, and going to some meetings about how ECM is going for you

We would like to compare some information that the MoJ has about you with some information from other young people in the UK who are like you but who have not done ECM.

The information we would like to work with is:

- The date and type of any offence(s) you commit
- Court caution date
- Case type code
- Police National Computer (PNC) disposal code.

We would like to link this information up to some other information that your YOS and the YJB has about you. This information is from your AssetPlus and ECM records.

We would also like to go to some meetings which your YOS has with other people who help you. They could be from your school, your social worker, the police, or other agencies.

The information we would like to work with from your YOS and the YJB, and the meetings we might like to go to, are about:

- Your history and background
- Things you might need help with
- How the YOS and other services are working with you
- How ECM is helping you
- Your offence(s).

At the meetings, we would just like to listen and take some notes. We would not write down your name or anything that could identify you.

Only a small group of researchers will see the information that we would like to work with, and the notes we take at the meetings. The researchers will keep it safe. They will delete it after the project is finished in April 2023. None of the information or notes will have your name on it, so the researchers won't be able to identify you from it.

Do I have to take part?

No. You don't have to take part in the research if you don't want to. Even if you say yes now, it is ok to change your mind later. If you change your mind about taking part, please tell your YOS worker or phone or email the researcher in charge of the project. Her name is Liz Puntan: her email address is liz.puntan@ors.org.uk.

Who will know what I've said and will see my information?

The only people who will know that you are taking part in the research or will see your information is you, your YOS worker, the people who look after the information at the YOS,

the YJB, and the MoJ, and the researchers. Your parent(s) or guardian will also know, but only if you are under 16.

Only a small group of researchers will hear the recording, see the notes from the meeting, and look at the information.

They will not tell your YOT worker or your parent(s) or guardian what you talk about and it will not affect your case or how you are treated. The only time we might have to pass on something that you have said is if you say something that makes us believe that you or somebody else might be hurt or about to be hurt.

We will not give your name, or which YOS you are working with, in any of the reports we write. We will not include any personal information that could identify you.

Do I get anything for taking part?

If you take part in an interview, you will get a £20 shopping voucher to say thank you, and a special certificate to keep which says that you have helped us with the research.

Will you tell me the results?

When we have finished the research, we will write two reports about what we found which will be put on the Gov.uk website, one in 2022 and one in 2023.

Who can I talk to or ask questions to?

If you would like some more information or have any questions about the evaluation or about taking part in it, please contact the ORS Project Manager, Liz Puntan, at liz.puntan@ors.org.uk or YJB Senior Researcher Yaz Romani, at yaz.romani@yjb.gov.uk.

If you would like to know more about what happens when we collect your information, please see our privacy notice here: https://www.ors.org.uk/privacy_policy.php.

You can also see the YJB's privacy notice here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/712244/Privacy_notice_2018.pdf.

Or, you can contact the YJB's Data Protection Officer, Radha Muthuswamy, about this, at Radha.Muthuswamy@yjb.gov.uk.

What happens next?

If you are happy to take part in the research, please fill in the form on the next page and give it back to your YOS worker. If you don't want to take part, that's ok: please tell your YOS worker. If you agree to take part, your YOS worker will tell you when our meeting happens as part of your normal YOS contact. We will also start working with the information that the YOS, the MoJ, and the YJB has about you.

Thank you for reading this information and for thinking about taking part in the research.

Permission form

Please read each point below and check the boxes if you agree with them.

- I have read and understood the information form. I have been able to ask questions about it and am happy with the answers I have had.
- I understand that I don't have to take part in the research, and I can change my mind about taking part at any time without saying why.
- I agree to meet with a researcher at the YOS or on Zoom or over the phone to talk about what activities I have done with the YOS and my thoughts about them.
- I agree to let the researcher make notes on and record what I say to them when we meet.
- I agree to let the researchers compare some information that the MoJ has about me with some information from other young people in the UK who are like me but who have not done ECM, and to link it up with some other information that the YJB and my YOS has about me.
- I agree to let the researchers go to some meetings which my YOS has with other people who help me.
- I understand that the researchers will use what I say and some of the information that the YOS, YJB and MoJ have about me to write two reports, which will be put on the internet.
- I understand that the researchers will not name me, which YOS I am with, nor include any other information that could identify me in the reports that they write.

Name

Date

Signed

OR: CASE MANAGER TO COMPLETE ON BEHALF OF YOUNG PERSON

Please read each point below and check the boxes if the young person agrees with them.

- I have read the information form to the young person and have ensured that they understand it. I have invited them to ask questions about it and they are happy with the answers I have given.
- The young person understands that they don't have to take part in the research, and they can change their mind about taking part at any time without saying why.
- The young person agrees to meet with a researcher at the YOS or on Zoom or over the phone to talk about what activities they have done with the YOS and their thoughts about them.
- The young person agrees to let the researcher make notes on and record what they say to them when they meet.
- The young person agrees to let the researchers compare some information that the MoJ has about them with some information from other young people in the UK who are like them but who have not done ECM, and to link it up with some other information that the YJB and their YOS has about them.
- The young person agrees to let the researchers go to some meetings which the YOS has with other people who help them.
- The young person understands that the researchers will use what they say and some of the information that the YOS, YJB and MoJ has about them to write two reports, which will be published on the internet.
- The young person understands that the researchers will not name them, which YOS they are with, nor include any other information that could identify them in the reports that they write.

Young person's name

Date

Signed (case worker)

Case worker's name

Young person's Police National Computer (PNC number)

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