Ministry of Justice

Published 23 November 2026

Transparency Data

Turnaround Programme Years 1-3 Management Information, England & Wales

1 January 2023 – 31 March 2025

Policy background

This statistical report presents management information data of the number of children supported by the Turnaround programme for the period from January 2023 to March 2025, the first three financial years of delivery. Turnaround aims to improve outcomes for children on the cusp of entering the youth justice system. The programme provided £56 million multi-year grant funding to Youth Justice Services (YJSs) across England and Wales from December 2022 until March 2025, with programme initiation taking place between 5 - 31 December 2022. It has since received a further four years of funding.

Main points

Management information submitted from all YJSs delivering Turnaround between 1 January 2023 – 31 March 2025 showed:

- A total of 42,531 children were referred into Turnaround between 1 January 2023 – 31 March 2025, of which just over half (52%) were referred following a community resolution or a no further action outcome from the police.[1]
- After being referred into Turnaround, 19,565 children received an in-depth Early Help style assessment of their needs, including family context, to inform bespoke Turnaround interventions.
- 17,583 children proceeded to the intervention stage of the programme, of whom 93% either completed them, or their interventions were still ongoing as of 31 March 2025.
- The proportion of girls referred into Turnaround was higher than among children entering the justice system as first-time entrants. Girls accounted for

[1] A very small number of children were referred into Turnaround in December 2022. These have been included within the January – March 2023 data return.

24% (9,975) of children referred into Turnaround, compared with 16% of first-time entrants to the justice system in the year ending December 2024.[2]

- At each stage of the Turnaround programme, the proportions of children who self-identified from ethnic minority backgrounds remained broadly consistent, with children from a Black ethnic background accounting for 10% of total referrals, and 8% of both assessments and intervention starts, whilst children from a Mixed ethnic background accounted for 7% of referrals, assessments, and intervention starts.
- Of the 15,060 children who completed Turnaround by 31 March 2025, 7% received a caution or judicial decision within 12 months of their case being closed, whilst 90% had no proven offences recorded, as reported by YJSs.[3]

Contents

The Turnaround Programme 3
This report 3
Methodology 4
Number of children involved with Turnaround 6
Number of referrals into Turnaround, by referral reason, age, and sex 7
Number of assessments, broken down by needs status 8
Number of Turnaround intervention starts 8
Number of Turnaround completions 9
Ethnicity breakdown across Turnaround stages 9
12-month offending outcomes for children who completed Turnaround 11
Glossary 11
Appendix A – Eligibility Criteria and Assessments for the Turnaround Programme 15
Appendix B – Technical Note 16
Contact 21

[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/first-time-entrants-fte-and-offender-histories-2025
[3] Offending outcomes for children were reported by YJSs to MoJ as part of routine, aggregate management information returns. No PNC data or child records were accessed directly by MoJ analysts. Outcomes could not be accessed by YJSs for 3% of children.

The Turnaround Programme

Turnaround is a youth justice early intervention programme led by the Ministry of Justice.[4] Between December 2022 and March 2025, the programme provided £56m funding with a target of supporting up to 17,100 children across this period.

Following two extensions (£15.4m in 2025/26 and £15.4m annually in 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29), a total of £117m funding has now been allocated between December 2022 and March 2029, with a target of supporting up to 32,500 children over this timeframe. This target is subject to ongoing discussions with the Welsh Government, where devolved funding arrangements from April 2027 may affect how Turnaround funding is used or delivery is implemented in Wales.

Turnaround is offered to children aged 10-17 years. Initially, 155 Youth Justice Services (YJSs) delivered Turnaround up to April 2025, and since then the programme has been funded across all 157 YJSs in England and Wales. Turnaround uses early intervention and prevention to support government commitments to halve knife crime in a decade and to intervene earlier to stop young people being drawn into crime, as well as tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB).[5] Turnaround principles build on the learning from the Supporting Families programme,[6] acknowledging the complex needs of children on the cusp of entering the justice system, focusing on addressing the root causes of offending through offering a structured, whole family approach delivered by YJSs. The programme recognises that YJSs best understand the needs of children in their local area and gives YJSs the flexibility to decide which interventions should be used, provided these are evidence-based. Children and families are involved in decisions about the support and interventions they receive.

Turnaround participation is voluntary. Eligible children do not have to admit guilt to receive support. This voluntary aspect aims to ensure that traditionally hard-to-reach children get the support they need to prevent an escalation to offending or reoffending.

More information about Eligibility criteria and assessments for Turnaround is provided in Appendix A of this report.

This report

As part of performance management, YJSs delivering Turnaround submit aggregate management information (MI) to the Ministry of Justice on a routine basis.

Turnaround programme year one MI was previously published within an ad-hoc statistical release in 2024, detailing the volume of children progressing through each

[4] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/turnaround-programme
[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-to-cut-youth-crime-and-make-streets-safer
[6] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-families-programme-evaluation-2015-to-2020

stage of the Turnaround programme, with key demographic breakdowns across programme stages.[7]

This publication seeks to provide an update to the previous publication using the quarterly MI provided to the Ministry of Justice by YJSs. This includes the volumes of children progressing from referral stage through assessment, intervention start, and intervention completion, along with breakdowns by referral reason, age, sex, ethnicity, and needs status at different stages. Offending outcomes for this cohort are also presented.

The data in this release covers the period from January 2023 to March 2025, the first 3 years of delivery.[8]

Methodology

Coverage

This transparency data presents Turnaround programme MI across all YJSs who were receiving Turnaround funding across England and Wales, for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2025.

The implementation period of the programme took place between 5th December and 31 December 2022 and therefore a small number of children may have been referred into the programme during this time. Any referrals taking place in December 2022 were captured within the return for Quarter 1 of 2023.

Programme MI data was captured via a bespoke reporting process using a standardised form, which all funded YJSs are required to complete quarterly. Between January 2023 and March 2025, 155 YJSs received Turnaround funding and returned management information via this reporting method. The form captures data at all stages of progression through Turnaround, from referral, through assessment and interventions delivered, to outcomes of children who have completed Turnaround.

Analysis is based on a total of 1,386 quarterly reporting form returns, which represents a 99.6% coverage rate: The remaining 6 returns have not been provided by YJSs.

Existing Statistics

These figures should be considered alongside the previous Turnaround Management Information Year One ad-hoc statistical publication, which provides a breakdown of the same metrics covering year one data only (1 January -31 December 2023).[9] The previous publication includes additional breakdowns which are not included in this publication: reasons for children not continuing to

[7] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/turnaround-programme-management-information
[8] A very small number of children were referred into Turnaround in December 2022. These have been included within the January – March 2023 data return.
[9] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/turnaround-programme-management-information

assessment after being referred into the Turnaround programme, a breakdown of primary intervention types, information on partial intervention completions, regional breakdowns of demographics at referral and offending outcomes, and a comparison between age and sex breakdowns for the Turnaround cohort and the cohort of first-time entrants (FTEs) into the youth justice system. Data is no longer captured on the reason for withdrawals/ partial completion and primary intervention types.

Data Quality and Certainty

The data has been collected for operational purposes rather than for statistical or research purposes. Data quality is considered sufficient for describing the overall demographic profile of children progressing through Turnaround but should not be used to assess progression rates through the programme, due to potential differences in categorising and recording referrals.

The report is not intended to be an assessment of the performance of individual YJSs or of progression of the Turnaround Programme towards its stated target of supporting up to 17,100 children by 31 March 2025. It is also not intended to evaluate the effectiveness of Turnaround as a standalone programme. Rather it simply presents data on the numbers of children supported by the programme, progression through the programme, and offending outcomes.

Quarterly reporting returns from funded YJSs were collated and analysed centrally at Ministry of Justice. Further information on quality assurance processes can be found in the Technical Note in Appendix B of this report.

Interpretation and limitations

The analysis presents descriptive statistics at each stage of the programme (see Appendix B for description of counts at each stage), demographic characteristics of the Turnaround cohort (sex, age and ethnicity), and outcomes post-Turnaround completion.

Ethnicity categories used within this report do not align fully with the categories used in the ONS Census 2021. Within the census, the Gypsy, Roma, and Irish Traveller (GRT) ethnic group is a sub-category of White, meaning the White category includes individuals from a GRT background. However, Turnaround reporting tools include GRT as a distinct category from White. Therefore, the White ethnic category used within this report excludes children from a GRT ethnic background.

Youth Justice Services are required to report on the offending outcomes of children for a period of 12 months after the child's Turnaround interventions have completed and their Turnaround case is closed. This release presents outcomes reported by youth justice services up until 31 March 2025. Outcomes data are reported as up to one year after case closure. Interventions were completed at different timepoints for different children, and therefore the length of post-case closure monitoring periods for different cases varied as of 31 March 2025, whereby children who started their

12-month monitoring period after 31 March 2024 had not been monitored for the full 12-month period.

Caution must be taken when interpreting offending outcomes for the Turnaround cohort as a whole. This report does not compare offending rates for the Turnaround cohort to offending rates for similar children who do not receive Turnaround intervention and therefore does not constitute an impact evaluation.

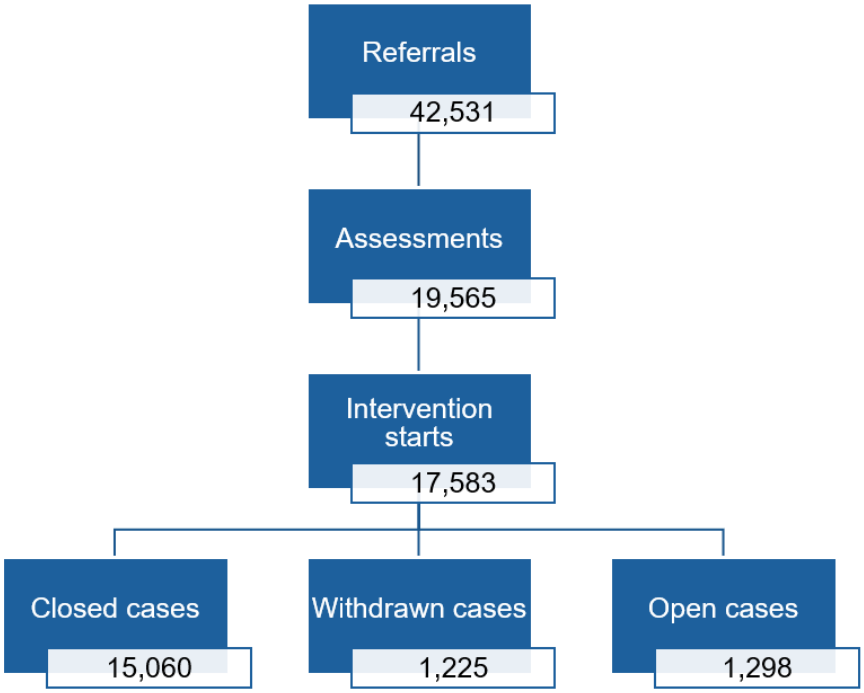
It is important to note that the reporting captures aggregate quarterly figures for each YJS, within which individuals are not identifiable. Figures returned each quarter have been summed to produce the total cumulative annual figures for the period covered in this publication. Outcomes measures do not consider the unique circumstances pertinent to each child supported by Turnaround. Therefore, inferences cannot be made about individuals, and the data do not trace progression through the programme at an individual-level.

All percentages have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole percent. Total figures in tables or charts may not always sum up to 100% exactly, due to rounding.

Number of children involved with Turnaround

Figure 1 illustrates the flow of children through Turnaround.

Figure 1. Flow of children progressing through each stage of the Turnaround programme, England and Wales (1 January 2023 - 31 March 2025)



Number of referrals into Turnaround, by referral reason, age, and sex

YJSs work with strategic partners on referral routes into the programme. Referrals are received from multiple sources, including the police, Community Safety Teams, joint decision-making arrangements (e.g. Young Futures panels), Children's Services Front Door Services, MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub), education services, Local Family Help (in England) or Families Prevention services (in Wales), and self-referrals from families.[10]

Table 1 summarises the referrals into Turnaround between 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2025, broken down by referral reason, age, and sex.

Table 1: Breakdown of referral reason, age, and sex of children referred into Turnaround, England and Wales, (1 January 2023 - 31 March 2025)

		Number of children (n)	Percentage of children (%)
Referral reason	Acquitted at court	60	0
	ASB[11]	3,879	9
	Community resolution	10,987	26
	Discharged by court	251	1
	Fined by a court	100	0
	First youth Caution	1,199	3
	Interviewed under caution	5,034	12
	No further action	10,949	26
	Released under investigation/ pre-charge bail	10,071	24
Age	10-11	1,942	5
	12-13	8,892	21
	14-15	16,022	38
	16-17	15,653	37
Sex[12]	Female	9,975	24

[10] Turnaround Programme Guidance (Version 5) March 2026: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a7c52e9114277b327805c9e/turnaround-programme-guidance.pdf

[11] ASB referral includes 4 sub-types of referrals: ASB community protection; ASB acceptable behaviour contract; ASB second warning; ASB civil order.

[12] A minority of children reported their sex as 'prefer not to say' (n = 346). Percentages represent 'sex, where known'.

	Number of children (n)	Percentage of children (%)
Male	32,207	76
TOTAL	**42,531**	**100**

Note: The following data was not available and has not been included in table 2: referral reason (n = 1), age (n = 22), sex (n = 3).

There were 42,531 referrals between 1 January 2023 – 31 March 2025, the highest proportions of referrals were for:

- Children subject to a community resolution (26%), no further action (26%), and released under investigation or pre-charge bail (24%)
- Children aged 14-15 years (38%), or 16-17 years (37%)
- Boys (76%)

Whilst boys represented a higher proportion of referrals than females, a larger proportion of the Turnaround cohort were female (24%) compared with the proportion of female first time entrants into the youth justice system (aged 10-17) in the years ending December 2023 and 2024 (16%).[13]

Number of assessments, broken down by needs status

Following referral, cases undergo a light-touch screening to determine if a child is eligible and would benefit from a more in-depth assessment. The YJB Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool is mandated for some Turnaround cases. For cases where it is not mandated, the Turnaround programme team encourage YJSs to use the Local Authority's Early Help assessment (Families First in Wales). The assessment explores the child's needs and considers ways to best provide support.

- Overall, 19,565 children proceeded from screening to in-depth assessment between 1 January 2023 – 31 March 2025
- 15% (2,892) of all assessed children were recorded as Child in Need (CIN) or had a Care and Support Plan (CSP)
- 29% (5,622) had a formally recognised Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) in England, or Additional Learning Need (ALN) in Wales

Number of Turnaround intervention starts

YJSs reported that 17,583 children proceeded to intervention start between 1 January 2023 – 31 March 2025.

[13] Proportion where sex was known. Table 3 of Offending History and First Time Entrants table (2025): https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/first-time-entrants-fte-and-offender-histories-2025

Turnaround allows YJSs to offer and provide interventions bespoke to a child's (and their family's) individual needs to maximise engagement. Examples of Turnaround interventions include social and emotional interventions, interventions focusing on mentoring and supportive relationships, educational and vocational interventions, practical life skills, restorative justice, sports, music and arts based intervention, mental health and therapeutic intervention, work with speech and language therapists, and access to substance misuse treatment. Intervention can also focus on meeting wider family needs. This support can be crucial to avoiding children becoming more involved in criminality.

Number of Turnaround completions

- 15,060 children (86% of those who started intervention) were recorded as having completed their Turnaround intervention successfully between 1 January 2023 – 31 March 2025
- 1,225 children (7% of those who started an intervention) were classed as having withdrawn from their intervention.

Interventions were ongoing for the remainder of children who had started intervention.

See Glossary terms 'Closed case' and 'Withdrawals' for more details about children who started Turnaround Interventions and may not have been recorded as completed.

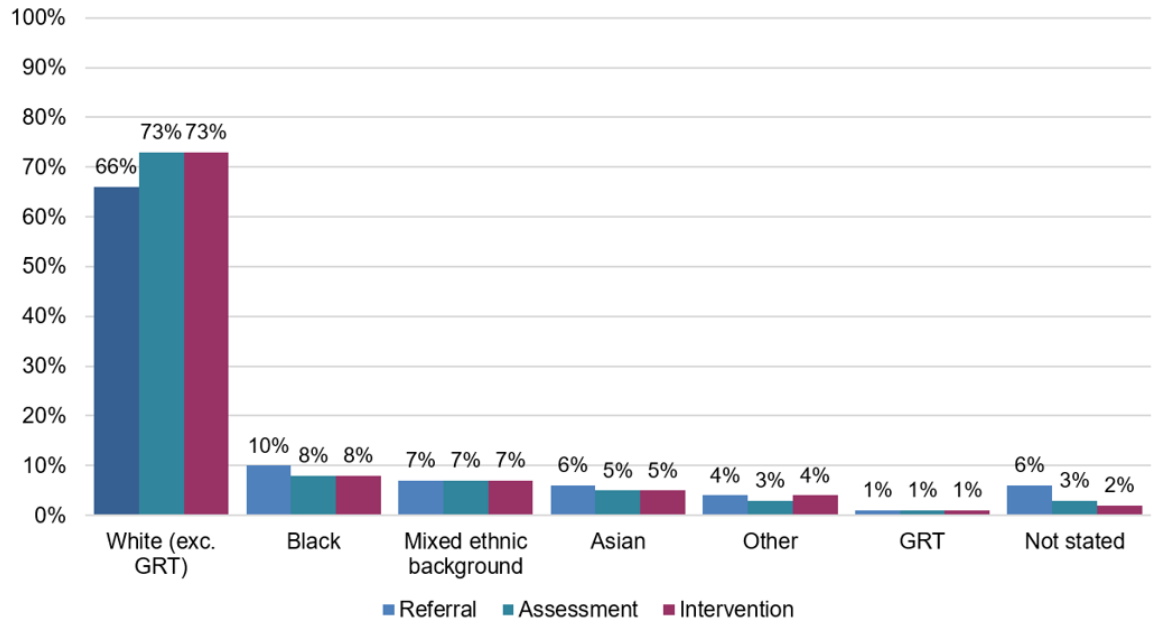
Ethnicity breakdown across Turnaround stages

Ethnicity was recorded at each stage of the Turnaround programme (referral, assessment, and intervention start) to understand how children from different ethnic backgrounds progress through the programme.[14] Recorded ethnicity reflects a child's self-defined ethnicity.[15]

Figure 2 shows that the ethnic composition of the Turnaround cohort remained relatively consistent at different stages of the programme.

[14] Since analysis of the data in this report, the Turnaround programme has simplified its data collection, and ethnicity data at the referral stage is no longer collected.
[15] Ethnicity categories are based on the 2021 Census, with the exception of the 'Gypsy, Roma, or Irish Traveller' option, which is recorded as a separate category for Turnaround reporting, rather than a subgroup of White. 'Other' includes Arab and any Other ethnic group.

Figure 2. Ethnicity breakdown of children at referral, assessment, and intervention stages of the Turnaround programme, England and Wales (1 January 2023 - 31 March 2025)



Note: Ethnicity data is not available for 4%, 24%, and 25% of children at Turnaround referral, assessment, and intervention stages, respectively.[16]

Children from a White (exc. GRT) ethnic background made up the largest grouping at referral (66%), assessment (73%) and intervention start (73%) stages.

Proportions of children who self-identify as Black, Mixed ethnic background, Asian, and Other ethnic background remain broadly consistent throughout the programme:

- Children from a Black ethnic background account for 10% of referrals, and 8% of the cohort at both assessment and intervention start stage.
- Children from a Mixed ethnic background remain at 7% of the cohort through referral to intervention stage
- Children from an Asian ethnic background accounted for 6% of referrals, and 5% of assessments, and intervention starts.

[16] Figure includes ethnicity data collected by YJSs included those marked as 'not known/ not stated'. However, no ethnicity data was reported for some children, and some ethnicity data was removed during data cleansing as it could not be quality assured.

12-month offending outcomes for children who completed Turnaround

YJSs report offending outcomes of children who have completed Turnaround interventions, over the 12-month period after their case is closed.[17,18]

- 90% (13,568) of children who completed their Turnaround intervention between 1 January 2023 – 31 March 2025 had not received a judicial decision or caution for offending ('no proven offending'), within 12-months of their case being closed
- 7% (979) of children who completed Turnaround intervention across the same time period had received a caution or judicial decision ('proven offence') within 12-months of their case being closed[19]
- The remaining 3% (512) have been categorised as 'outcome cannot be accessed'.

See Appendix B for full definitions of offending outcomes.

Glossary

Acquitted at court: An acquittal is a finding by the jury or judge that the defendant is not guilty after a jury or a bench trial, or an appeal.

Additional learning need (ALN): As defined by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018,[20] this is when a person has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for additional learning provision. Learning difficulties and or disabilities make it harder for a child to learn compared to children of the same age.

Adult: This term is used to describe those aged 18 years old or above.

Age: This refers to the child's age at the point of referral.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB): As defined by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014,[21] this includes criminal and non-criminal behaviour such as threatening, harassing or unruly behaviour in public spaces, drug use, vandalism, graffiti, fly-tipping and littering, and disrupting neighbours consistently.

ASB acceptable behaviour contract (ABC): An acceptable behaviour contract is between an individual and an agency such as local authority, housing provider or the

[17] Outcomes data are reported as up to one year after case closure. Interventions were completed at different timepoints for different children, and therefore some children within the cohort had not yet reached the end of their 12 month monitoring period.
[18] Turnaround quarterly reporting form was amended in 2024. See Technical Note in Appendix B for details of changes.
[19] Data is not captured about offence type or offence group; therefore, it is not possible to make inferences about severity of the recorded offending
[20] Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. (2018). Legislation.gov.uk. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2018/2/contents
[21] Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (legislation.gov.uk)

police. It is a voluntary, not legally binding, written agreement which can be issued to, and signed by, an individual over the age of 10 involved in anti-social behaviour. In signing the contract, the individual agrees to abide by its terms and to work with the relevant support agencies.[22]

Care and Support Plan (CSP): A care and support arrangement with an emphasis on protection or risk management that seeks to remove or reduce the risk of abuse or neglect. This is also known as a Care and Support Protection Plan (CASSP)

Children in need (CIN): Under section 17 of the Children Act 1989,[23] a child is defined as 'in need' for a variety of reasons and in need of varying types of support or intervention; this includes but is not limited to: their health and/ or development is likely to be significantly impaired, they are disabled or unlikely to achieve a reasonable standard of development without provision of services by a local authority.

Children or child: In the context of youth justice statistical publications, the term 'children' refers to anyone between the ages of 10 and 17, unless stated otherwise.

Civil order for ASB: Also known as a civil injunction, which is a civil order available in the youth court for children under 18. To obtain an injunction the court must be satisfied that an individual has engaged in, or threatens to engage in, conduct capable of causing nuisance and annoyance.

Closed case: A closed case is counted where a child has had an assessment, an intervention plan implemented and the child has engaged to a point where the YJS determined the child made sufficient progress against the intervention plan for the case to be closed. This includes children who have completed a minimum four weeks of intervention(s) before being withdrawn from the programme.[24]

Community protection warning/notice: Introduced under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 as a way of addressing people who are involved in Anti-social behaviour. They are issued by local councils. Failure to comply with a notice is an offence.[25]

Community resolution: A non-statutory out of court disposal intended to provide a response to low-level crime without recourse to a formal criminal justice sanction.

---

[22]Anti-social behaviour powers. Statutory Guidance (2025): https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-policing-bill-anti-social-behaviour

[23] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/17

[24] If a child has received a guilty outcome as a result of being on RUI/PCB whilst on Turnaround, the case can be counted as "closed" rather than withdrawn under the following criteria: The child must have had a completed Turnaround assessment; there has been a minimum of 4 weeks intervention carried out before the child becomes ineligible.

[25] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-policing-bill-anti-social-behaviour

Discharged by a court: A discharge means that the person is released from court without any further action. But they will still get a criminal record. An *absolute discharge* means that the court has decided not to impose a punishment because the experience of going to court has been punishment enough. A *conditional discharge* means that, if the offender commits another crime, they can be sentenced for the first offence and the new one.[26]

Ethnicity: Children were asked to self-identify from a standardized list of ethnic groups, used within the ONS Census 2021. The full list is available in the Technical Note in Appendix B.

Fined by a court: A fine is the most common form of punishment for an offence given by the criminal courts. The judge will decide how much the fine is and any other costs to be paid including compensation to the victim. Where the child or young person is aged under 16, the court has a duty to order the parent or guardian to pay.

First time entrant (FTE): A first-time entrant to the criminal justice system is an offender residing in England and Wales at the time of the offence, who has been recorded on the Police National Computer by an English or Welsh police force as having received their first conviction or caution.

First time youth caution: Children aged 10–17 years old can be given a youth caution if they admit a criminal offence. A youth caution is a formal out of court disposal.

Interviewed under caution: A person who is the subject of a criminal investigation who has voluntarily attended a police interview.

Interviewed under caution following arrest: An interview under caution after being arrested by the police.

Multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH): Arrangements that allow organisations with responsibility for the safety of vulnerable people to work together by sharing information and co-locating staff from the local authority, health agencies and police.[27]

No further action (NFA): Outcome whereby the police decide not to charge someone with an offence, including outcome 22, and outcome 23 once the mandatory intervention is completed.

No proven offence: This outcome category captures children who were monitored by YJSs for 12 months after completing Turnaround and are not recorded under the 'Proven offence' category of outcome.

---

[26] https://sentencingcouncil.org.uk/about-sentencing/types-of-sentence/discharges/

[27] Multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

Outcome 22: A police code used when it is decided the case does not meet the public interest test for any further action and the individual has been given the opportunity to engage with diversionary activity.

Outcome 23: Child Deferred Prosecution – Agreed diversionary activity has been undertaken and completed by the individual, and it is not in the public interest to take any further action.

Outcome cannot be accessed: Where a YJS is unable to access offending outcomes for a child and are therefore unable to report on the outcome. The most common reason for this is children turning 18 years old and being moved into the adult youth justice system, which uses a separate database.

Pre-charge bail (PCB): Bail is an alternative to custody – it allows the police to continue the investigation without the suspect being detained and can involve placing conditions on the suspect.[28]

Proven offence: This outcome category captures children who were monitored by YJSs for 12 months after completing Turnaround. It is recorded by YJSs where an offence has been confirmed by receipt of a court sentence or caution. In the first 12 months of Turnaround delivery only those proven by court sentence were counted as a proven offence.

Public space protection orders: Introduced under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 as a way of addressing people who are involved in anti-social behaviour. They are issued by local councils. Breach is a criminal offence.[29]

Released under investigation (RUI): When a suspect is released from custody without charge, is not subject to 'no further action' (NFA) and is not on bail.

Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND): a child or young person has special educational needs and disabilities if they have a learning difficulty and/or a disability that means they need special health and education support. Within Turnaround, this is recorded at assessment stage and relates only to formally recognised needs and disabilities. Within Wales, this is referred to as Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

Sex: Children are asked to self-identify their sex as male, female, or prefer not to disclose. This information is collected at point of referral.

Turnaround worker: Staff members who are leading the delivery of Turnaround support for children. They are part of the frontline delivery participant group.

Youth justice system: The part of the criminal justice system that only deals with children. The youth justice system in England and Wales works to prevent offending

[28] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-charge-bail-statutory-guidance/pre-charge-bail-statutory-guidance-accessible
[29] *Ibid.*

and reoffending by children. It is different to the adult system and is structured to address the needs of children. Children within the youth justice system are defined as children who have been deemed guilty of an offence either by caution or sentence at court.

Youth Justice Service (YJS): YJSs are multi-agency teams made up of representatives from police, probation, education, health and social services, and specialist workers, such as accommodation officers and substance misuse workers. YJSs were previously referred to as Youth Offending Teams (YOTs). YOTs were set up following the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act with the intention of reducing the risk of young people offending and re-offending.

Appendix A – Eligibility Criteria and Assessments for the Turnaround Programme

Eligibility Criteria

Children aged 10-17 who fit one or more of the following criteria are eligible for Turnaround:

- those who have come to the notice of agencies with enforcement powers for repeated involvement in anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- those involved in ASB who have received:
    - Community Protection Warning/Notice (CPW/N)
    - Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC)
    - Civil Order for ASB
- those who are interviewed under caution following arrest or subject to a criminal investigation attending a voluntary interview
- those who are subject to No Further Action (NFA) decision*
- those who are subject to a Community Resolution*
- those receiving a first-time youth caution, not including conditional caution*
- those released under investigation (RUI) or those subject to pre-charge bail (PCB)
- those discharged by a court (including conditional discharge)
- those acquitted at court and/or
- those fined by a court.

Note: The criteria marked with an asterisk relate to children subject to out of court resolutions (OOCRs) and must be considered against further criteria.

Completing assessments

An in-depth holistic assessment of the needs of a child, including family context.

- Engagement and informed consent from the child and parent or care givers must be obtained before the assessment commences, including clearly specifying how personal data will be used.
- Practitioners should follow these key principles:
    - Family circumstances as well as those of the child should be reflected in the assessment.
    - A strengths-based approach is taken to assessing needs and risk.
    - The child's environment should be considered, including engaging and involving the support network around a child, including the family, parents or care givers, and school.
    - The assessment should include the voice of the child and involve them in the design of their plan and the interventions they are offered.

Turnaround Programme Guidance (version 5) was last updated and provided to YJSs in March 2026.[30]

Appendix B – Technical Note

This technical note outlines the categories used in the following counts: ethnicity, not proceeding to assessment, not proceeding to intervention, withdrawing from intervention, and offending outcomes. It then goes on to outline discrepancy checks undertaken on the MI data.

Count of Ethnicity

Ethnicity categories follow those of the 2021 Census, with the exception of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller ethnic background, which is recorded as a separate category, not as a sub category of 'White'.

- Asian: this includes Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, and any other Asian ethnic background.
- Black: this includes African, Caribbean, and any other Black ethnic background.
- Mixed ethnic background: this includes White and Asian, White and Black African, White and Black Caribbean, and any other Mixed ethnic background.

[30] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a7c52e9114277b327805c9e/turnaround-programme-guidance.pdf

- White (exc. GRT): this includes British, English, Welsh, Irish, Northern Irish, Scottish, and any other White background, but excludes those who identify as being from a GRT community.
- GRT: this includes children from Gypsy, Roma, and Irish Traveller (GRT) communities.
- Other: this includes Arab or any other ethnic background.
- Not stated: ethnicity is not known for any reason.

Count for 'not proceeding to assessment'

Children are counted as not proceeding to assessment in the following cases:

- **declined to participate**: This includes a child not responding to initial contact. Turnaround is a voluntary programme so there is no formal requirement for a child to engage with the programme – they may opt-out at any stage.
- **receiving support elsewhere**: If a child is already receiving support from Early Help or other services, they are not eligible for support through Turnaround and are recorded in this category.
- **did not meet threshold for assessment**: While Turnaround does not set specific thresholds around support, if at eligibility screening the YJS determines the child would not benefit from an assessment based on their level of need, they are entered into this category.
- **out of country case**: Cases where a child is out of the country so cannot complete an assessment.

Count for 'not proceeding to intervention'

Children are counted as not proceeding to intervention if they fall into the following categories:

- **declined to participate:** Turnaround is a voluntary programme so there is no formal requirement for a child to engage with the programme – they may opt-out at any stage.
- **other:** There may be several reasons why a child does not receive an intervention which could relate to the child's individual circumstances or the availability of services to support their needs.

Count of 'withdrawals from intervention'

Data were collected on the number of withdrawals from intervention according to reason for withdrawal:

- Child withdrawn after guilty verdict from pre-Turnaround offence

- Child escalated to Child Protection Plan (CPP) or Care and Support Protection Plan (CSPP)[31]
- Child becomes ineligible because they have committed an offence that means they are on the YJS statutory caseload
- Child becomes ineligible for other reason, such as disengaging from intervention

Count of 'proven offending'

In this report, proven offending captures the number of children who have offended or reoffended within 12 months of their Turnaround case closure as confirmed by a court sentence or by receiving a caution for an offence.

However, for the first year of Turnaround, proven offending only counted those determined by judicial decision. The definition was expanded within the fifth period of reporting to include cautions. This means the offending analysis in this report is not comparable to the year one report.

Most children within the Turnaround cohort were still within their 12-month monitoring period when this change was enacted, so any cautions they received were captured as a 'proven offence'. However, where a child had already been monitored for the full 12-months, YJSs were not mandated to retrospectively change reported outcomes to fit the new categories. It is therefore likely that a small number of children who received a caution during this period were counted as 'No proven offending'.

A total of 343 children (2% of the total closed cases from Years 1-3) had reached the end of their 12-month follow up period prior to the change in outcome counting rules. Of these, 17 children were counted as having a proven offence by judicial decision and 326 were counted as 'No proven offending'.

Modelling was undertaken to estimate how many of these 343 children may have received a caution:

- After 'proven guilty by caution' was added as a separate outcome, the 'proven guilty by caution' percentage ranged between 1.97% and 2.65% across returns, with an average rate 2.28% of closed cases.
- The upper and lower rates have been applied to the 343 children who completed their 12 months monitoring before cautions were included in the offending outcome count.
- Between 7 and 9 children would likely have received a caution and would now be counted in the 'no proven offence' outcome category, **but for the**

[31] As of April 2025, children who were escalated to a CSP or CSPP were no longer ineligible for Turnaround and would no longer be withdrawn for this reason.

purposes of this report have been counted in the 'no proven offence' outcome category.

Count of 'outcome cannot be accessed'

There are a small proportion of cases where it is not possible to monitor outcomes for children for the full 12-month period after they complete Turnaround. A new outcome category of 'outcome cannot be accessed' was also added within the fifth reporting period. Prior to this, an outcome of 'No proven offending' would have been recorded where a child could not be monitored for the 12-month period and did not have a proven offence reported.

Modelling was undertaken to estimate how many of the 343 children may not have received a full 12-months monitoring prior to the counting rule change:

- Of the 343 closed cases, 17 had a proven offence, meaning 326 were either 'no proven offence', 'all other outcomes' or their outcome was not captured.
- After 'outcome cannot be accessed' was added as a separate outcome, the 'outcome cannot be accessed' percentage ranged between 0.96% and 3.17% across returns, with an average rate of 2.17% of closed cases.
- The upper and lower rates have been applied to the 326 children who completed their 12 months monitoring before 'outcomes cannot be accessed' was included as a separate outcome count and had not been recorded under 'proven offence'.
- It is likely that between 4-11 children did not receive the full 12 months outcomes monitoring and were counted in the 'no proven offence' outcome category.

Prior to April 2024, where a child did not have an outcome reported due to having been found guilty of a pre-Turnaround offence, this was counted under 'All other outcomes'. From April 2024 an 'outcome cannot be accessed' category was included on the reporting form, with YJSs instructed to count such cases within this box in future returns. Children recorded as 'all other outcomes' from earlier data have been recategorized as 'outcome cannot be accessed' to group outcomes in a consistent manner across the full data reporting period.

Impact of changing offending outcome counts

Between 11-20 children could have been entered as 'No proven offending' using the old counting rules, who would no longer fall into this category since the counting change. This includes the 7-9 children who would likely have received a caution, and the 4-11 children for whom it was likely outcomes could not be assessed. This equates to a maximum percentage inflation of 'no proven offending' of 0.13% of all Turnaround closed cases.

Between 7-9 children could have been entered as ‘no proven offending’ using the old counting rules but would instead be counted under ‘proven offending’ using the new counting rules, as the likely would have received a caution. This equates to a maximum percentage deflation of ‘proven offending’ of 0.05% of all Turnaround closed cases.

Discrepancy checks on management information

The following discrepancy checks and data cleaning steps were applied to the Year 1-3 MI data used to produce outputs in section 4 of this report, to ensure the quality of the data:

- **Underreporting in age fields:** 4 YJSs had missing data for child age at referral into Turnaround; age at referral was missing for 22 children in total. This represents less than 0.1% of referrals.
- **Underreporting in sex fields:** 2 YJSs had missing data in the sex fields; sex data was missing for a total of 3 children. Note that ‘prefer not to say’ was an option in the sex field so was not counted as ‘missing data’. This represents less than 0.1% of referrals.
- **Underreporting in ethnicity fields:** 22 YJSs has missing data across the ethnicity fields (either at referral, assessment, or intervention); ethnicity data was missing for a total of 118 children. Note that ‘not stated’ was an option in the ethnicity fields so was not counted as missing data. This represents 0.3% of referrals.
- **Overreporting in ethnicity fields:** Where the sum of children reported by a YJS in the ethnicity fields was greater than the total number of children who were in the respective stage, ethnicity data was removed for that YJS across every stage of the programme. For example, if a YJS reported 15 assessments, but the ethnicity breakdown at assessment stage totalled more than 15 children, ethnicity data for the YJS at **all stages** of Turnaround was excluded. This is because it was not possible to verify which ethnicity fields had been incorrectly completed and amend the relevant field. This approach prevents both inaccurate ethnicity data being included, and data skews, which would occur if ethnicity data was removed only at a single stage of the programme or quarter. Ethnicity data were excluded for 8 YJSs for this reason, representing 3.6% of referrals.
- **SEND/ALN:** Where a YJS reported a higher number of children at assessment stage as having a formally recognised special educational need or disability (SEND) in England, or additional learning need (ALN) in Wales, compared to the total number of assessments completed that quarter, SEND/ALN data was excluded for that quarter. Data from 1 YJS were excluded for 1 quarter for this reason, representing less than 0.1% of assessments.

- **CIN/CSP:** Where a YJS reported a higher number of children at assessment stage as a child in need (CIN) or with a Care and Support Plan (CSP) in place, compared to the total number of assessments completed that quarter, CIN/CSP data was excluded for that quarter. Data from 1 YJS were removed in 1 quarter for this reason, representing less than 0.1% of assessments.
- **Progression between stages:** There is evidence of discrepancies in the volume of children flowing between stages of Turnaround in returns from some YJSs. For example, some YJSs reported more children at assessment stage than at referral stage, some report more at intervention than at assessment stage, and some report more at post intervention stage than intervention stage. This can happen due to undercounting at earlier stages or erroneously double counting a child as both progressing and not progressing to the next stage. No changes were made to the data as a result of these discrepancies being discovered, as feedback from early implementation indicated that underreporting was the likely source of these discrepancies.

Contact

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/about/media-enquiries

Non-press enquiries relating to this publication should be sent to:

Turnaround Programme

Youth Justice and Offender Policy Directorate
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Email: Turnaround@justice.gov.uk

© Crown copyright Produced by the Ministry of Justice. Alternative formats are available on request from Turnaround@justice.gov.uk.