

Outcome 22 (O22) Guidance 2022

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) has agreed to these guidelines being circulated to, and adopted by, Police Forces in England and Wales.

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Document information

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These guidelines have been produced and approved by NPCC Out of Court Disposal lead. This document was considered and consulted upon by forces across England and Wales. It was approved by Chief Constables' Council in September 2022.

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework for police officers and staff for the use of the Home office Outcome code – Outcome 22. This Home Office code should be used where; “Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further action”.

It will be updated according to legislative and policy changes and re-published as necessary.

Any queries relating to this document should be directed to the office of the NPCC OoCD Lead, via NPCC Hub.

Information

The aim of this guidance document is to provide a framework for police and other practitioners for the use of Outcome 22 (O22).

Outcome 22 is the Home Office outcome code, intended to reflect where a diversionary intervention has been used to result a case that does not meet the public interest test to take any further action. It is an informal outcome that results in an NFA, for use with both adult and youth cases.

At the time of writing, the use of this outcome code is not consistently applied by all forces across England and Wales. Whilst it is not currently measured as positive action taken by Forces, its use in terms of diverting offenders from future criminality cannot be over-stated. With consistent use of this outcome by forces it may change the position on how it is measured.

Given the positive benefits derived from effective diversionary work, the lack of a positive detection should not deter you from using outcome 22.

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1. Introduction

Early intervention and diversion away from crime and violence remains the focus of The National Strategy for Out of Court Disposals (OoCD) 2022 - 2027. This Home Office Outcome provides greater opportunity for that and lends itself to a more public health approach. Through greater working relationships between the police and social and public services to implement early interventions, it is possible to prevent adults, children and young people from either becoming involved in crime or from becoming further embroiled in crime.

This continued focus on dealing with offenders by way of an Out of Court Disposal option, with an equal focus on charging where an intervention is not appropriate is in line with the [Policing Vision 2025](#) and [Beating Crime Plan](#).

Through the out of court disposals work, it has become apparent that much good diversionary work is done by policing which doesn't fall into an out of court disposal or other appropriate outcome within the current Home Office outcomes framework. However, the Home Office Crime Recording standards require each crime to be allocated an outcome and Outcome 22 has been the solution to that.

To date its use has shown to have positive impacts for children and young people, and is in line with current thinking on how to deal with children, where possible outside of the formal criminal justice system. By dealing with children and young people in this manner, we have an opportunity to prevent criminalisation, address the offending behaviour and provide support.

There is great value in the use of informal disposal options as an early intervention. Intervening early has been shown to have a greater impact on reducing reoffending. However, forces should not be defaulting to an NFA outcome automatically for either children, young people or adults, as each case should be dealt with on their own merits, given the facts and evidence available.

2. When to use Outcome 22

When making use of Outcome 22, all decision making should be clearly documented and address the diversionary activity that has been undertaken to deal with the offending behaviour. This should also include a clear rationale for why the OIC and/or supervisor believes this is a more effective outcome than a formal out of court disposal or charge.

Outcome 22 should NOT be used where there has been no rehabilitative diversionary, educational or intervention activity.

- It is to be used where no further action is taken, but diversionary intervention has been undertaken to address offending behaviour or prevent further offending. Diversionary options may be force specific.
- Outcome 22 can be used in instances where the adult, child or young person, has not made an admission of guilt or accepted responsibility. This differentiates its use from other outcomes such as Outcome 2, 3 or 8 where an admission of guilt or accept responsibility is required.
- The decision to deal with the offence by way of diversionary activity, can be made at any stage of the investigation. It could be early on where the victim does not support formal action or where the evidential threshold is not met for prosecution but the adult, child or young person agrees to diversionary activity.

- However, the exception to this rule is where O22 is used to result a Deferred Prosecution Scheme (DPS) case, where the evidential threshold **must** be met. Please see further explanation below.
- Outcome 22 recognises cases where investigations have taken place and although there is no formal outcome and the outcome is NFA, there has been action taken to prevent reoffending or change the behaviours of the offender, by addressing the root cause of the offending.
- Outcome 22 can be used where the diversion is used also as an alternative to formal OoCD, prosecution or further investigation where the victim has been informed or consulted. E.g. attendance at a victim awareness course, drug awareness course, engagement with addiction services, or referral to a DA perpetrator programme. This may also include some form of restorative justice or practice, with the consent of all parties involved.
- Outcome 22 should not be used where no diversionary activity has taken place.
- Cases that are to be resulted as Outcome 22, should not be closed under this outcome until the diversionary activity has been completed. This is especially important, where the outcome may be intended for use with DA cases, where it has been deemed suitable. In all instances where O22 is to be used for closing a DA case, a **supervisor of Inspector or above or Police Staff equivalent must have signed it off and provided their rationale.**

3. Outcome 22 or Outcome 8

There is a clear distinction between diversionary activity (Outcome 22) and a Community Resolution (CR) (Outcome 8).

The community resolution is a non-statutory disposal option intended to provide a timely and effective response to lower level crime and anti-social incidents. When a community resolution is issued the offender is required to accept responsibility for their actions, and there is no requirement for a diversionary activity to take place. After consultation with the victim, the outcome could involve an apology, reparation or some other activity deemed to be appropriate. The CR is a voluntary agreement and as such, the police have no powers to enforce it, should the offender fail to comply. Please refer to the latest NPCC CR guidance for more on this.

In contrast cases closed by way of an outcome 22, do not require an admission of guilt or acceptance of responsibility. This is to address a lack of trust of the police and the criminal justice system, by some ethnic minorities. This distrust, along with potential biases within the system has been shown to lead to a greater number of ethnic minority adults, children and young people receiving formal CJ outcomes, where an informal outcome may have been more appropriate and done more to divert them away from criminality and change the offending behaviour.

Should the offender fail to complete the diversionary activity and the evidential threshold is met the police have the power to enforce a formal disposal outcome. If an admission of guilt has not been made then this could mean a charge, since an admission of guilt is required to give an alternative OoCD such as a caution.

4. Finalising cases

Cases are to be finalised as Outcome 22 only **after** the diversionary activity has been completed. Should the activity not be completed and the evidential threshold is met, consideration needs to be given to other disposal options, which would result in the use of a different outcome code.

5. Deferred Prosecution Schemes Guidance

A brief inclusion of DPS within this guidance is being included due to the continued confusion between O22 and DPS. It is important to understand that O22 is not deferred prosecution and deferred prosecution is not O22. O22 is how a case is closed.

Deferred Prosecution Schemes (DPS) are a non-statutory disposal, where by the police have the option to put on hold a prosecution or caution until a diversionary activity is under taken within a specified period of time. This disposal option is currently not employed by all forces across England and Wales and the decision to employ is one that is left to forces to make.

Deferred Prosecution Scheme is an umbrella term used to encompass both **deferred prosecutions** and **deferred cautions** and is used interchangeably and is available for use with both adult and youth offenders.

Forces are to ensure that practitioners and stakeholders clearly understand that DPS and O22 are not the same thing. DPS is a disposal option available, whilst O22 is how a DPS case will be recorded in accordance with National Crime Recording Standards.

An O22 code, does not automatically imply that a DPS has been used as a disposal option. But all DPS cases, should be recorded as O22.

Where a **deferred prosecution** is offered the decision to prosecute is put on hold, whilst the offender completes the agreed diversionary conditions. Should the offender fail to comply, then the prosecution is upheld. However, successful completion of the conditions, will result in no further action being taken. The same applies to a **deferred caution**, however, in this instance non-compliance will result in the caution being issued. An admission of guilt will need to have been made at the time of deferring the caution or prior to the caution being issued, in order for a caution to be given.

Where consideration is being given to use of a deferred caution with either the youth or adult conditional cautions (diversionary or youth conditional caution), it is important that officers are aware and make clear to the offender that they will be given another set of conditions with that caution if they fail to comply with the diversionary activity. It is therefore advised that a deferred conditional caution is not given where it is felt the offender is unlikely to comply with conditions set, as it may indicate an unwillingness to comply with the additional conditions of the conditional caution.

As with all other disposal options, the victims should also be consulted with and their views taken into consideration.

The evidential test will need to have been met for all DPS cases.

6. Recording

Officers/staff should record the rationale for the use of diversionary activity to deal with the offending, as well as the diversionary activity undertaken and any other relevant information.

Once the activity has been successfully completed, the crime is to be appropriately recorded as an Outcome 22. This will allow for forces and others to be able to accurately identify all crimes dealt with by a diversionary activity.

Any non-compliance and the actions taken as a result of the non-compliance should also be recorded.

PNC records should be appropriately updated to show the diversionary activity engaged with or any non-compliance, where a PNC record has been opened.

Reports and PNC records should not be updated with an O22 code until the intervention has been successfully completed and the case is ready for closure.

7. Training

National training is not mandated, but it is recommended that forces should ensure that officers have an understanding of O22 and when it can be used, this includes when used to result a Deferred Prosecution Scheme case. They should also understand what constitutes effective diversionary activity.

In addition to making this guidance document available, forces should also ensure that they have produced local guidance as to where and how Outcome 22 should and should not be used. The guidance in this document is to form the basis of any local documents produced.

8. Examples for practitioners

This table gives a list of examples of where outcome 22 may be used if no other formal outcome has been used or would be a more appropriate to use. This list is not exhaustive and therefore will not cover all possible scenarios. Practitioners are to use seek further advice from their force Subject Matter Experts (SME) if they are unsure about when to apply this outcome code.

Example	Detail
<p>Where a referral to Youth Justice Services has been made, which also included an intervention pathway delivered directly by YJS.</p>	<p>Where linked to another formal outcome E.g. A referral to YJS as part of a Youth conditional caution would still be recorded as a Youth Caution = Outcome 2. A CR = Outcome 8.</p> <p>Outcome 22 would be appropriate where a deferred caution was given and complied with or some other diversionary intervention that does not fall within another outcome code or where you are seeking support for a child which will not result in their criminalisation and it is a justifiable alternative.</p> <p>*YJS Police Officers or the OIC should be following up with YJS to establish what intervention etc. has taken place and when it was completed in order for the case file to be closed.</p> <p>** Interventions may not always be delivered by the YJS and could also be delivered by the police, Local Authority and/or third sector organisations on their behalf?</p>
<p>Drug possession cases where offender is diverted into an educational course</p>	<p>Where this is not as a result of another formal outcome such as an adult or youth caution or community resolution.</p>
<p>Domestic violence cases where the offender is diverted onto an educational programme.</p> <p>*Not for use with DVPN/DVPO/DAPN/DAPO cases. But DAPN/DAPO will be reviewed after the pilot stage.</p>	<p>Where this is not as a result of another formal outcome, e.g. a Youth Conditional, Adult Diversionary (for those with dispensation to use them) or Community Resolution as they would still be recorded as such.</p> <p>But where for example the victim is not supportive of a prosecution and the offender has been diverted into a perpetrator programme. Or where a deferred caution or prosecution is given and successful completion of the conditions will result in a no further action.</p>

<p>Stalking Protection Orders</p> <p>* Children and young people under the age of 18 can also be protected by SPOs. They can also be made subject to an interim or full SPO.</p>	<p>Where this is not as a result of another formal outcome and the order includes positive requirements such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attend an assessment of suitability for treatment; • attend an appropriate perpetrator intervention programme; • attend a mental health assessment; • attend a drugs and alcohol programme; • surrender devices; • provide the police with access to social media accounts, mobile phones, computers, tablets and passwords/codes; and/or • Sign on at a police station. <p>This list is not exhaustive and is intended to provide examples of positive interventions/diversions that will aid in reducing reoffending and changing the offender behaviour. Close as O22 once the positive diversion is complete.</p>
<p>Ancillary and Civil orders</p> <p>*E.g. Community Protection Warnings and Community Protection Notices to stop both Anti-Social behaviour.</p> <p>Orders tend to be applied at court, so please consider with the use of O22 is appropriate.</p>	<p>Offenders who are dealt with through ancillary orders where this is not linked to another formal outcome and a <u>diversion has been successfully applied and complied with.</u></p> <p>*Not for use with Serious Crime Prevention Orders.</p>
<p>Incidents dealt with by way of troubled families intervention schemes</p>	<p>Force specific schemes – where offences are not linked to another formal outcome</p>
<p>Mediation</p>	<p>Where offences are not linked to another formal outcome</p>
<p>Restorative Justice</p>	<p>Where the victim requests Restorative Justice as an alternative to more formal action and the offender agrees to participate this should be recorded as outcome 8.</p>
<p>Deferred Prosecution</p>	<p>Where offender is diverted to a deferred prosecution or deferred caution scheme such as Checkpoint, Pathfinder, ‘Chance to Change’, or other local scheme.</p>
<p>Low level sexual offences where education is provided to the offender</p>	<p>Low level sexual offences where education is provided as a result of the investigation but no formal outcome is given. (NB: this is not intended to replicate Outcome 21. Youth produced sexual imagery should be dealt with in accordance with existing O21 guidance).</p>

<p>Youth produced Sexual Imagery</p>	<p>Outcome 21 should be used in these instances. However, should other interventions or diversionary activity be put in place, then O22 may be considered appropriate.</p> <p>In January 2016 the Home Office launched a new outcome code (Outcome 21) to help, in part, formalise the discretion available to the police relating to the handling of crimes such as youth produced sexualised imagery.</p> <p>A key objective of the Police guidance was to outline a proportionate response to investigating youth produced sexual imagery which in turn reduces the potential over criminalisation of children through Outcome 21.</p>
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9. Consistency of Use and Monitoring

Outcome 22 was voluntary for forces when it went live in the 2019-2020 recording year. It will become **mandatory** in 2023 and data collected through the Home Office Data Hub. The application of its use has been monitored since 2019-2020. Updates to this guidance has come about due to this monitoring and we will continue to monitor its application and amend guidance accordingly to ensure its consistent use across all forces.

Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the difference between diversion, education and intervention?

A. There is not always a great deal of difference between diversion, education and intervention, but below are some examples of what might be considered for each. Please note that these are examples and the lists are not exhaustive.

Diversion = Youth programmes, courses, change behaviour therapy, diverting behaviour to something else, such as sports, arts, libraries etc.

Education = Victim awareness courses, films or programmes about the effects of drugs.

Intervention = family support, housing help, drug help, benefits support, support groups in the local community.

Words of advice, whilst it might be appropriate in some minor situations, is not in the spirit of the legislation and does not constitute diversionary, educational or intervention activity.

Q. I am dealing with an incident of youth produced sexual imagery. How does O22 differ from O21?

A. Outcome 22 does not replace existing practice with regards Outcome 21. OIC should refer to the existing briefing note on Outcome 21 for these types of offences.

Q. What will appear on PNC & PND when I apply Outcome 22 to a case I am dealing with?

A. Home Office outcomes and PNC outcomes are not the same. However, as this is an NFA HO outcome, if a suspect is arrested and the outcome of the investigation is NFA, then an NFA outcome is also applied to PNC if it is a recordable offence.

As the outcome is designed to keep offenders away from the criminal justice system, then NFA is particularly important for schemes such as deferred prosecution.

Forces should add outcome 22 in free text on PNC if there is an arrest or Voluntary Attendance notified intended prosecution, as well as the diversionary activity undertaken or non-compliance.

The force retains a record of their investigation on their own records management system, and this may be captured in PND searches.

Q. What are the implications for disclosure and barring checks?

A. The individual circumstances of a case are assessed and there is no blanket approach with Outcome 22. The disclosure and barring service operates under Part V of the Police Act (for disclosure) and Para 19 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (for barring functions). Within the Act for disclosure purposes a chief officer of a force can disclose 'any' information that they reasonably believe to be relevant and in their opinion ought to be disclosed. Without any specific reference within law (like certain offences under 12 and 13 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956) to ensure that this information can't be disclosed then essentially everything is available for disclosure purposes, should the tests of relevancy, credibility and proportionality be passed.

Neither disclosure in accordance with s113B(4) of the Police Act 1997 (on Enhanced Criminal Record Certificates), nor the provision of information to the DBS in accordance with Paragraph 19, Schedule III of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (both as amended in particular by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012) are outcome driven – **it is about the potential risk that the individual poses to either or both of the vulnerable groups that are protected by the statutory safeguarding regime.**

Q. Am I able to use Outcome 22, when an offender has been issued a DVPO/DVPN?

A. No, Outcome 22 cannot be used for DVPO/DVPN.

There is no automatic conversion or progression of a DVPN to a DVPO at court, meaning that the recording of Outcome 22 could in many cases be inaccurate.

In the vast majority of cases (if at all) perpetrator diversionary or educational activity are not applied to a DVPO or DVPN.

The intervention activity recommended on a DVPN and eventually agreed on the DVPO most typically centres on banning the perpetrator from contacting the victim. In fact in the COP guidance <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/domestic-abuse/arrest-and-other-positive-approaches/domestic-violence-protection-notices-and-domestic-violence-protection-orders/#top>

It clearly states 'The process is designed to give breathing space to victims by granting a temporary respite from their abuser and allowing referral to support services without interference. The point at which victims seek help or leave their abuser can be when they are most at risk'. There appears to be no intention for the DVPN/O to be used to facilitate activity that addresses the behaviour of the perpetrator in the long term.

Q. Am I able to use Outcome 22, for domestic abuse cases?

A. Yes - Where diversionary activity is deemed to be the most appropriate method of dealing with a domestic abuse offence, a clear rationale should be provided on the case file and a supervisor of inspector or above or police staff equivalent should have agreed. As with all cases that will be closed as O22, this should not be done until the diversionary activity is complete.

In a domestic abuse case this also provides the opportunity to remain in contact with the victim, throughout and provide continued support, should it be required or wanted. It also ensures that there is a timely response to any non-compliance, with the diversionary activity. This could mean a different disposal option is considered or further engagement is made with the victim to ensure their safety

Q. Does the child need to be arrested and interviewed under PACE?

A. It is not necessary for an arrest to have taken place for a case to be closed by way of an O22. The child, young person or adult could have made a voluntary attendance.

Q. How does Outcome 22 differ from other informal outcomes such as Outcome 20/21 and CR and where is it more appropriate to use this outcome?

A. The Home Office descriptors below, describe which cases should be closed with which outcome code.

- Outcome 20: Action undertaken by another agency/body.
- Outcome 21: Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest.
- Outcome 22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further action.

Please see the section above which explains the difference between O22 and O8 (CR).

- Q. Does the decision to apply Outcome 22 need to be made jointly with the Youth Justice Service?**
- A.** There is no requirement for decisions to be made jointly with YJS, however, it is recommended. There is a need for diversionary or educational activity to have been completed and that this needs to be clearly documented along with the reason the OIC believes this is the most effective outcome. Joint decision making/discussions would enable an assessment of the child's needs and referral to appropriate support and activity to be provided by the YJS, Local Authority or another suitable agency.
- Q. How do we know what intervention/activity is proportionate and suitable to include where Outcome 22 is used as a deferred prosecution?**
- A.** Needs assessments should be completed for all offenders (child, young person or adult) to ensure that the root cause of the offending behaviour is identified and addressed. Where the offender is a child, consideration should be given to the possibility that they may have multiple and complex needs and have experienced trauma. The YJS may have a more holistic picture of the child and therefore may be able to help identify potential causes for the child's offending. Decisions taken in consultation with local youth justice services may aid decision making, when deciding on the most appropriate and proportionate intervention or diversionary activity.

Appendix B: Case Studies

Case Study 1 – 18-24 Pathway Sec 47 Assault

Crime

- 1 Victim – 52 year old male
- 2 The victim who is the ex-partner of the offender's mother held a birthday party for his daughter where a number of her friends were present. The victim made inappropriate remarks regarding 14 year old girls present at the party. The offender challenged these remarks and then struck the victim with his fist the victim's eye resulting in injuries consistent with S.47.
- 3 The victim was unwilling to cooperate with the Police in relation to any prosecution however was supportive of diversion or intervention which he felt would benefit the offender given his age and circumstances. Victim did not wish the offender to be criminalised and
- 4 Statements were provided by 2 witnesses to the assault.

Offender

- 1 18 year old male
- 2 Diagnosed with ADHD and Tourette's syndrome
- 3 No offending history.
- 4 Mother of offender states he had recently been introduced to mainstream education which he found difficult and did not feel accepted by his peers. He struggles with self-confidence and controlling his emotion when he feels frustrated.

Outcome

- 1 NFA disposal – Outcome 22 utilised via the 18-24 Pathway to provide support to the Offender. Issues highlighted by mother were shared with NE youth who delivered the intervention to create a bespoke programme of support to the offender and address why he had offended to reduce the risk of reoffending. Offender was very willing to engage and adhered to the conditions of the deferred prosecution.
- 2 Offender elected to continue to work with NE Youth voluntarily following completion of the conditions of the deferred prosecution to receive ongoing support

Reasons for Outcome

- 1 Offender provided a 'no reply interview'. It was considered that the evidence was sufficient evidence to charge and support a victimless prosecution.
- 2 Offender had not previous recorded offending history and would have been eligible for out of court disposal via simple caution/conditional caution had he admitted the assault.
- 3 The offender's mother who had acted as appropriate adult felt that she and the offender had received poor advice from legal representative in pre interview consultation.
- 4 The views of the Victim were obtained and the victim fully supported the outcome believing this would provide support to the offender which he had previously lacked.
- 5 The OIC was in agreement with diversion and contacted the TREAD team to discuss available options. Outcome 22 via the 18-24 pathway was deemed to be the most effective outcome on reviewing the needs of the offender and wishes of the victim.
- 6 Victim was highly satisfied with outcome

Case Study 2 – Employment Pathway - Criminal Damage

Crime

1. Victim – Corporate
2. Police Officers on patrol in plain clothes observed offender writing graffiti tags on central escalator area in Metro Station.
3. Cost to rectify damage less than £100
4. Victim supportive of diversion

Offender

1. Offender is a 34 year old male
2. No adult offending history. Reprimand and warning after reprimand for criminal damage as a juvenile and 1 further warning after reprimand for possession of Cannabis.
3. Previous history indicates offender distrusted the Police as a youth.

Outcome

1. NFA disposal – Outcome 22 utilised via the Employment Pathway to provide support around training and employment to the Offender. Offender was very willing to engage and adhered to the conditions of the deferred prosecution. He has elected to continue to work with The Recruitment Junction voluntarily and is receiving ongoing support to find permanent employment responding positively with engagement. The disposal was recorded as ‘no further action’.
2. He secured a 2 days a week sales role and he has also been given an offer to turn his voluntary youth training and coaching into a paid role, along with some private work. Offender has later reported that although he regrets his actions and is ashamed by his offending he now uses this as an example for the benefit of the young people he works with. He valued the more intangible confidence building and support he was given by the pathway and was immensely grateful that he had been given such an opportunity as a result of offending.

Reasons for Outcome

1. Offender fully admitted Criminal Damage and expressed a good deal of remorse. States prior to causing damage that he had argued with his partner and was frustrated by his lack of permanent employment and the loss of his former business and saw red after a difficult day dealing with these issues.
2. Offender was identified as eligible for out of court disposal via simple caution/conditional caution or community resolution
Simple caution would not provide any support or compel him to engage with support
Community resolution would provide an opportunity to compensate victim but again provide limited opportunities to address offending related needs. Victim did not consider compensation to be an issue. Offender was very remorseful and offered to carry out reparation work which was declined by the victim.
Conditional caution appropriate via Employment pathway, however would incur positive disposal on offenders record.

Case Study 3 – Criminal Damage

Crime

M came to the attention of the police for his part in an offence of criminal damage. His case was sent to the Joint Decision Panel where the decision was made that he should be given the opportunity to have a Youth Restorative Intervention (YRI – Local term used for Outcome 22 NFA) rather than a more formal disposal for this offence. The Youth Support Team (YST – local term for Youth Justice Service) were allocated to work with M as a result of the YRI.

Offender

It became evident through the assessment that there were difficulties in M's life around education, peer groups and that the presenting situation had adversely impacted the relationships within the family. This had become so bad that the parents were asking for M to be put into care. The family were open to children's services, but the situation was still difficult.

YR Intervention

The YST started by understanding the situation from everyone's perspective, what the motivation and resulting benefits were for each individual. Working with the family in this way allowed for a more systemic understanding of the interactions, which was formulated with the family. The family agreed that the pattern of interactions reflected back to them was an accurate representation of what was taking place. This was mapped out in a visual way for the family to understand the patterns of interaction. This increased their motivation to do things differently.

Alongside the work with the family, support was provided around education through liaison with M's school. The YST helped the school to understand the difficulties that M was facing both in school and at home. The school were able to provide a taxi which improved attendance. However, on reviewing this it was found that by moving the taxi collection time later by 15 minutes M's attendance improved even more and it reduced conflict in the family in the mornings. The improved family relationships improved school attendance and attainment which further benefited the relationships at home.

Outcomes

1. M has not reoffended.
2. Improved school attendance.
3. Reduced family conflict- family reported spending more time together and their cases was closed to children's services.
4. The YRI allowed M to receive support but without the long-term consequences of a formal criminal conviction.

Case Study 4 – Assault

Crime

B came to the attention of the Youth Support Team (YST) having admitted to an assault on his mother. B was given the opportunity to have a Youth Restorative Intervention ((YRI – local term used for Outcome 22 NFA) rather than a more formal disposal for this offence.

Offender

The YST worker met with B and his Mum and got an understanding of the family circumstances. The assessment identified that B's parents had separated when he was small, yet he had retained regular contact with his father. Educationally, B had experienced a managed move that was unsuccessful. This resulted in him not have an education placement as his original school were unwilling to have him back or permanently exclude him. Discrepancies in the parenting approach and B's difficult relationship with his Mum were also noted, which resulted in verbal arguments at home.

YR Intervention

The family work spent time reframing B's understanding of his mother's actions, so rather than being unkind or controlling as she put in boundaries, he was able to see her as concerned and caring about him. This reduced the levels of blame and conflict between them, creating an opportunity to work on improving their relationship.

A pattern of negative interaction between B and his mum was explored. The negative thoughts of one about the other would influence their feelings and the resulting actions. This pattern was addressed by working on helping Mum and B to first identify their negative automatic thoughts and then showing them how to reframe them into something more realistic or neutral. This was then supplemented by an approach which highlighted the positives in the family, no matter how small, and making them more likely to happen again. This in turn helped to improve the relationship between Mum and B with B feeling more supported at home.

In parallel to the family work, the YST education team challenged the school around providing an education placement for B. This became more urgent as B started to exhibit low mood due to thoughts around having messed up his life as he did not have an education placement. The school were told that having him on role and not offering education or permanently excluding him was not legal. This resulted in the school offering education to B.

Outcome

1. B in education and reporting he is enjoying this.
2. Mum and B have reported that they have a much better relationship and feel closer to each other.
3. There have been no reported conflict at home and B is complying with the rules that his Mum puts in place.
4. B has apologised to his Mum and has completed the YRI.
5. B has not reoffended and does not have a formal criminal conviction.

Case Study 5 – Possession of a knife

Crime

B was brought to the attention of the Joint Decision-making Panel (JDP) having been arrested for being in possession of a knife in school. B was given the opportunity to have a Youth Restorative Intervention rather than a more formal disposal for this offence as the Joint Decision-making Panel believed that this would be the most appropriate way to deal with the matter.

Offender

The assessment of B's circumstances by the YST revealed he had social difficulties as result of both Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as well as learning difficulties. B had been disruptive in a lesson at school the previous day as he had wanted to leave, this had antagonised another group of students who had threatened him after the lesson. It was this intimidation that was the causal factor for B choosing to take a knife from his kitchen at home and bring it into school. The school found out about the knife and B was immediately excluded from the school.

YR Intervention

The assessment identified parental separation and physical, verbal and emotional abuse from peers at school. The intervention with B focused around understanding the cause of the offence and working with the school to address these issues. The head teacher and pastoral support lead were both supportive of this work. This liaison helped to reintegrate B back into the school and to identify trusted adults he could confide in if he should experience similar intimidation in future so he would not feel forced to carrying a weapon. This built on existing strengths to reduce the impact of the difficulties B was experiencing at school.

Work with B was also conducted around having an understanding of the consequences of carrying weapons. This work was matched to B's needs and the session were kept short to match his levels of concentration, but he had more sessions that would have been typical to compensate. It was during this part of the intervention that B was able to express both his remorse and talk about how he was glad that the school had found the knife as he did not want to harm anyone.

B's family were supportive and were keen to work with the school to avoid a similar situation taking place in the future.

Outcome:

1. B has not reoffended.
2. B is back in school and attending regularly.
3. B does not have a criminal record due to the YR Intervention.
4. Support is available for B in school which will reduce the chance of a similar offence happening again in the future.
5. B is now expressing anti-weapon sentiments, this also reduces the likelihood of him using a weapon again.

Case Study 6 – Possession of cannabis, Affray, Assault

Crime

P came to the attention of Children First following the offences of Affray, Assault and Possession of Cannabis. The decision was made that dealing with these matters via a diversionary process would be the most suitable outcome due to P's needs.

Offender

P had a history of social care involvement as a result of family difficulties. The case worker was unable to locate P and gain their agreement to accept the Children First offer. As a result this was returned to the Joint Decision Panel where the decision was made to offer more time.

YR Intervention

As a result of this extra time engagement with P was made possible and it was identified that she was not living in her supported accommodation but staying between her parents. Unfortunately P's parents both had no bedroom for their in their homes. P had also experienced a high level of instability throughout their childhood as well as physical and emotional harm.

YST worked with children & family team around P's CIN plan, the break down in relationships with her parents. The case officer and programme officer were able to build a good relationship with P which enable the delivery of work around impact of further offending and cannabis use. Additionally, work was undertaken around emotional regulation, helping P to understand the triggers and resulting behaviours. The victim of the assault was contacted by the YST victim worker whose preference was for P to complete work around victim empathy which was completed but also fed into work around her familial relationships which were difficult. It is also notable that during the Covid-19 situation that P continued to have socially distanced face to face contact with the YST workers to maintain the positive relationship that had been built up.

In the end it was decided that the relationships with her parents had deteriorated and it was no longer suitable for her to remain living at home.

Outcomes

1. P has not reoffended.
2. P moved back into support accommodation which provided P with their own bedroom/space and a keyworker for support.
3. P has enrolled at Bridge Training and is doing well on mechanics course (2yr course).
4. P has also been able to gain a part-time job in coffee/dessert shop. This independence has enabled P and their parents to start to rebuild the relationships. It is felt that this is because P has more stability which results in fewer arguments. This means that the police are no longer needed to be contacted. It is likely that these outcomes for P would not have been possible if they had been processed by the formal criminal justice route.
5. Children First has ensured that P has avoided having a formal criminal record which means that the options for her future have not been constrained and P has avoided this potentially stigmatising effect of labelling.

CASE STUDY

Case Study 7 – Drunk and Disorderly

Female L – 37 years old - Bideford

Offence:

- L was arrested for a call that was made to the police regarding a female refusing to leave a Public House. She continued to swear at everyone then went outside for a smoke then was fighting her way back into the Pub being threatening and abusive – arrested for Drunk & Disorderly.

Background:

- L is in a job that she hates and is affecting her mental wellbeing and alcohol intake.
- L is an on/off drinker and has been for many years. She can go for years being dry but when she falls she falls hard.
- L has a depression and anxiety diagnosis.
- L has an alcohol issue
- L has many debts at present.
- L has family support but they do not live locally. L has many friends which some are bad influences, especially the drinkers.
- L has issues with a current relationship.

Needs:

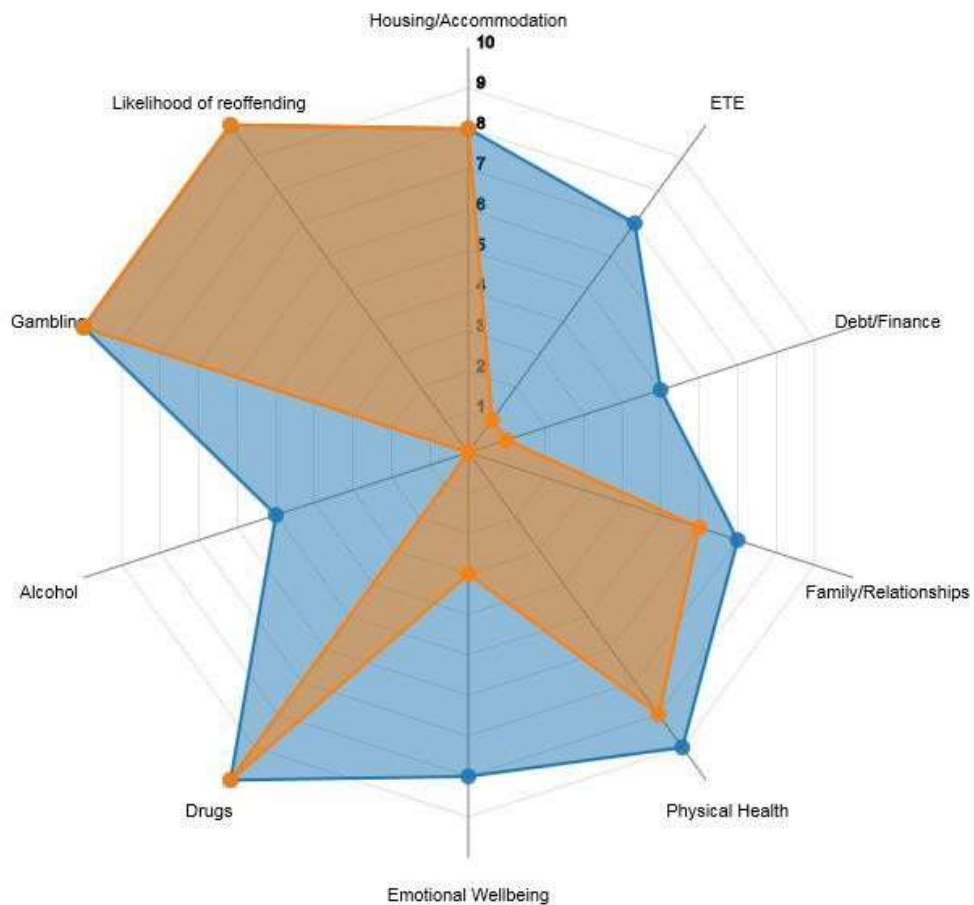
- Housing – L lives in a private let bedsit which is suitable but falling behind on rent. L has a good relationship with the landlady and they have an agreement which is being supported by the landlady.
- Employment – L is in a job she hates, this is affecting her wellbeing both mentally and alcohol consumption.
- Finances – L is in debt with Council Tax, overdrafts, catalogues and loans. She is also behind on rent but seems to have this sorted at the moment.
- Family – L has good relationships with her family and has regular contact with mum usually daily by phone. She has siblings and nieces and nephews which she adores but just see often as they don't live locally.
- Physical Health – L is physically fit but her drinking is taking its toll on her body.
- Emotional Wellbeing – L is taking mild anti-depressants for her depression and anxiety. She is not in a good place at present but has no suicidal thoughts.
- Alcohol – L is drinking daily and will get through at least one bottle of wine a night and drinks more at weekends.

Actions:

- Referral to Together Drug and Alcohol Services.
- Support with Finances – Citizens Advice
- Look into Universal Credits.
- Support in looking for other employment that would suit and aid her mental wellbeing recovery.
- Encourage running/fitness as this is the only positive thing in her life at the moment.
- Give full emotional support throughout the contract period

Progress:

- Referral made to Together, this proved difficult as there working times clashed with L so was unable to arrange a meeting. I worked as a go between and this was finally made and initial assessment was completed. L was then put on a waiting list and never received help by the time the contract period ended. L managed to stop herself with my help, family and friends and I have recently spoken with her (after contract) and she is 4 months without a drink.
- Myself and L attended CAB who did an assessment and directed her to their financial support. During the contract period L was given support and most debts have been dealt with either by writing them off or setting up payment plans. I also supported in setting a payment plan for her Council Tax. By the end of her contract her financial state was looking a lot better and the pressure was off.
- We attended the Job Centre and signed up to Universal Credit. This took a little while to come through but did take the pressure of her as she had quit her job.
- During the contract period L tried many other jobs, because of the universal credit the pressure was taken off and encouraged to find something she really wanted to do to aid her recovery.
- As above L applied and tried many different jobs and when contract ended was working as a carer. This didn't suit but kept with it and the last job she was applying for was McDonalds which she really wanted to do.
- L kept running throughout her contract and was encouraged by myself (as a fellow runner) to do so. She volunteered to help on many Park runs (for her voluntary activity) She competed in a 10k and 10 mile race which I watched and supported her and she has just informed me that she has been accepted for the London Marathon 2020. This will aid her recovery and keep her focused.
- Support was given a lot throughout the contract period as L needed it. I was able to be there for her and pick her up when she was down through a simple visit or coffee out. I was amazed and proud of how L pulled herself together and how strong she became. L's self-esteem rocketed and her physical appearance changed dramatically from our first meeting. Pathfinder definitely made a difference to this lady's life.



Orange = beginning of Pathfinder
 Blue = end of Pathfinder and progress made

CASE STUDY

Case Study 8 – Child Neglect

Female E - 27 Years Old- Teignmouth

Offence:

- E was dealt with as a voluntary attender along with her partner L for two offences of cruelty to or neglect of a child.
- E and L's two young children were not collected from school in Honiton, and a follow up welfare check by children's services found their flat was in a terrible state, and not fit for the children to live in. The flat was dirty, covered in flies and the children's bedrooms had bare lightbulbs and no sheets on the beds. There was very little food in the house and attending officers considered the flat to be a fire hazard due to the amount of rubbish collected in it.
- Children's services stipulated that E and the children should move back to Teignmouth to live with E's mother, who could act as support for the family whilst CYPs completed their investigation and the CP plan was put into place. L remained living in the flat in Honiton and was dealt with by a fellow Pathfinder colleague. This also meant that E could no longer work.

Background:

- E had no involvement with police previously to this incident.
- E was the only adult in the family working, L had never been in paid employment. E was working full time for a catering company.
- E stated that although she was working full time, she was still expected to do all of the housework, cooking and childcare, L did not, or was unable to care for the children adequately.
- Both E and L are bisexual, and E had also been confused about her gender identity since her teenage years. She felt that her family was not supportive of her struggles, and did not approve of her.
- E had suffered from depression and anxiety since her teenage years, and had a period of self-harming after a close friend in college committed suicide.
- During her time with Pathfinder, E disclosed that she and her sister had both been sexually abused as children by her mother's partner, and this further complicated her sense of self.

Needs:

- Presenting needs: E was extremely tearful and suffering from depression and anxiety, and had recently been diagnosed with PTSD at the start of the scheme.
- E was confused about her sexuality and gender identification and felt unsupported in this by her family.

- E felt that her mother had not supported her when she became aware of the sexual abuse of E and her sister by mothers partner.
- E was suffering from a chronic lack of self-esteem.
- E was confused by her relationship status with L, and concerned about the involvement of CYPS.
- E was, along with L, in rent arrears, and unable to find somewhere else for herself and the children to live.

Actions:

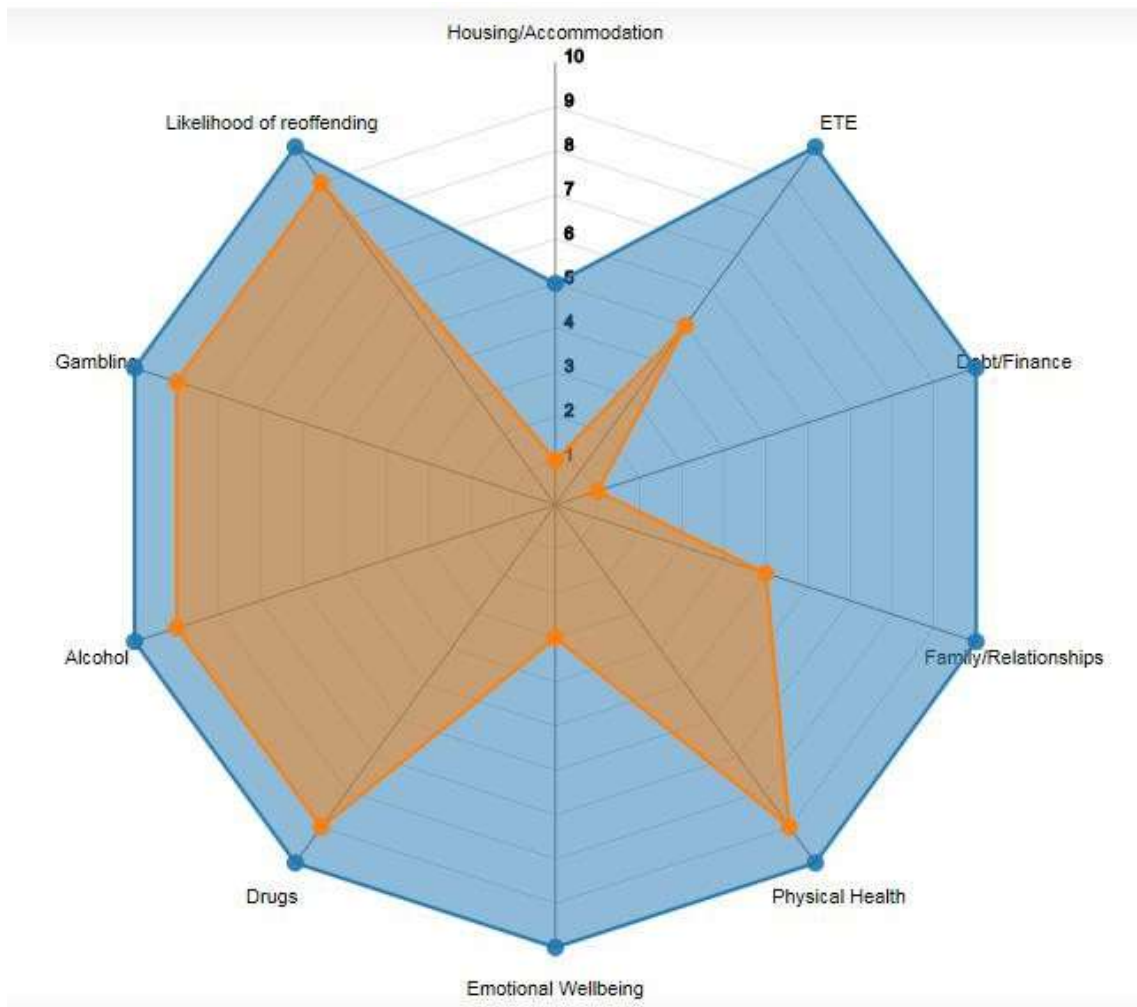
- E had already self-referred to Talkworks, and had been diagnosed with PTSD and depression and anxiety for which she was about to start counselling specifically for PTSD.
- E's confusion over her sexuality and gender identity was a source of serious anxiety for her. She was put in touch with the Intercom Trust who were able to offer her support with these very specific issues.
- With support, E made a formal report of the abuse that she had suffered during her childhood to police.
- We explored strategies to help improve E's self-esteem and sense of isolation. She is a very talented dress maker, and takes part in the Cosplay scene, which enabled her to explore her gender further. E joined an amateur dramatics group, and began working behind the scenes in costume and lighting.
- E was supported in her attempts to sort out her rent arrears and finances, finally securing a DRO, which would enable her to remove herself from the tenancy on the flat in Honiton and to find somewhere new to live in Teignmouth, close to her family.
- Pathfinder supported E by attending the CP meetings where she then felt more confident to voice her point of view.

Outcomes:

- E engaged with the scheme extremely well. She attended all meetings and was responsive and open to all offers of support.
- E admitted that she had become totally overwhelmed by the responsibilities of working full time, and having to care for the children and house. She felt isolated living in Honiton so far from her family and friends, and L's family were not supportive. E accepted that the relationship between herself and L could not continue as it was not a healthy environment for their children. She is now finding that she is capable of coping alone and does not need L in her life, although he continues to see the children.
- E engaged fully with CYPS, and the children have been removed from the child protection register.
- E is far more accepting and relaxed about her sexuality and gender identity. She is continuing to explore these areas with support from the Intercom Trust.
- E continues to be involved with the amateur dramatics group, which completed the voluntary aspect of her Pathfinder contract, and has enrolled herself on a college course studying costume design. This has improved her self- confidence and her socialisation.
- E is still looking for somewhere to live for herself and her children, but remains living with her mother at this time. E feels more confident voicing her opinion to her mother

and the children are both thriving and doing well at school.

- E feels positive for the future, and is confident that she can continue to improve life for herself, and more importantly, for her children.
- Pathfinder scheme successfully completed, and E is happy to provide a positive review of her time with the scheme and is of the opinion that her involvement with the scheme has helped her to face her complex needs head on, and improved her confidence and self-esteem.



Beginning of Scheme

End of Scheme

For other case study Examples visit - <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/tag/Pathfinder>

Appendix C: Disposal Options Table

Youth Disposal Chart

Disposal	No Further Action				Community Resolution	Youth Caution	Youth Conditional Caution	Charge
	All other relevant NFA codes	Outcome 20 ¹	Outcome 21 ²	Outcome 22 ³				
HO Outcome Codes	All other relevant NFA codes	Outcome 20 ¹	Outcome 21 ²	Outcome 22 ³	Outcome 8	Outcome 2	Outcome 2	Outcome 1
Formal Conviction (child becomes FTE)	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Disclosed on DBS (standard or enhanced) *	Not automatically disclosed	Not automatically disclosed	Not automatically disclosed	Not automatically disclosed	Not automatically disclosed	Not automatically disclosed	Can be disclosed on basic, standard or enhanced checks.	Yes
Requires acceptance of responsibility or admission of guilt.	No	No	No	No	Acceptance of Responsibility	Admission of guilt	Admission of guilt	No
Can be used for deferred prosecution	No	No	No	Force decision	No	Force decision	Force decision	Force decision
Diversions/education activities to be completed	No	Yes- but voluntary and by another agency/body	Yes- but voluntary	Yes	No - but can be voluntary	No – but can be voluntary	Yes	Yes
Stage of youth Gravity Matrix	1	1/2	1/2	2/3/4	2/3	4	4/5	5
Joint decision required with YOT	No	No- but recommended	No- but recommended	Yes	No- but recommended for 2 nd CR or above	No, but recommended. Yes for 2 nd YC.	Yes	No
Restorative Justice	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Adult Disposal Chart

Disposal	No Further Action				Community Resolution	Community Caution	Diversionsary Caution	Charge
HO Outcome Codes	All other relevant NFA codes	Outcome 20 ¹	Outcome 21 ²	Outcome 22 ³	Outcome 8	Outcome 3	Outcome 3	Outcome 1
Formal Conviction	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Disclosed on DBS (standard or enhanced) *	Not automatically disclosed	Not automatically disclosed	Not automatically disclosed	Not automatically disclosed	May be disclosed	Yes	Yes	Yes
Requires acceptance of responsibility or admission of guilt.	No	No	No	No	Acceptance of Responsibility	Admission of guilt	Admission of guilt	No
Can be used for deferred prosecution	No	No	No	Force decision	No	Force decision	Force decision	Force decision
Diversionsary/education activities to be completed	No	Yes- but voluntary and by another agency/body	Yes- but voluntary	Yes	No- can be voluntary	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stage of Adult Gravity Matrix ⁴	1	1/2	1/2	3	1	2	3/4	4
Restorative Justice	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

¹ Outcome 20: Action undertaken by another agency/body.

² Outcome 21: Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest.

³ Outcome 22: Diversionsary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further action.

⁴ Based on the 2019 adult gravity matrix.