

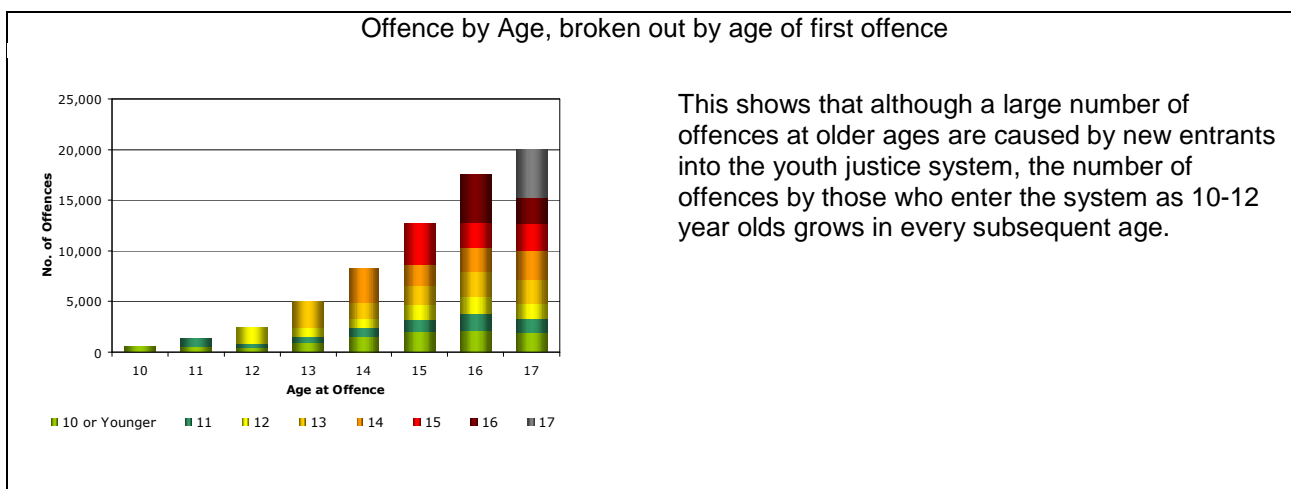
Understanding our Youngest Offenders

Bradford YOT Customer Insight Project With CACI – Sept 2011

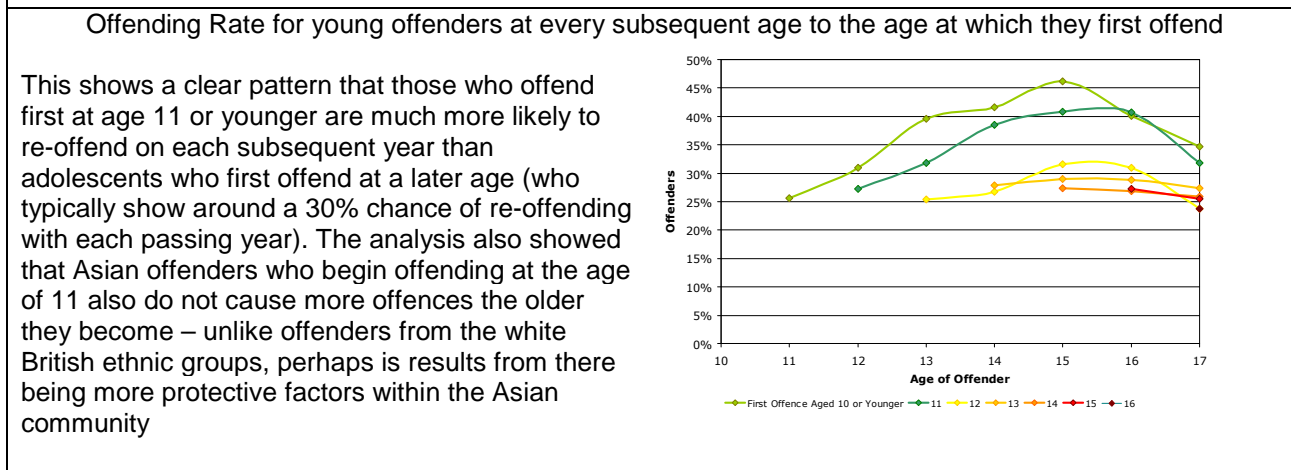
Challenge - The youngest offenders are especially challenging for the YOT. How can we be sure that we are getting our assessments right on our youngest clients? Are we fully taking into account their childhood history and the risks that they pose for the future. Do offenders that we first see when 10-12 years old become long standing offenders in spite of our work at that age?

What did we do - Working in partnership with CACI we undertook a customer project to analyse 10 years worth of YOT data covering all our offences, interventions, assessments and prevention activities over that time. This was matched to data from our council's Data Observatory including local housing, economy, health and education outcomes as well as CACI's data repository on demographics, income and lifestyles.

CACI analysed the longitudinal journeys of offenders over time to look at their full engagement with us – thereby providing a first view of how young offenders respond to interventions.



This shows that although a large number of offences at older ages are caused by new entrants into the youth justice system, the number of offences by those who enter the system as 10-12 year olds grows in every subsequent age.



Learning Points - The analysis confirms the weighting that is included within the scaled approach for those offenders who first offend at the earliest ages. However, it goes on to more precisely calibrate the numbers re-offending at latter ages and specifically separates out cultural effects arising from ethnicity.

Changes – The findings of the project were presented by the project team to the wider Bradford YOT Senior Officer steering group. They asked that further research was undertaken looking to integrate data from multiple agencies such as Schools, Education Welfare Officers and Pupil Referral Units to build a fuller picture of their childhood. It is hoped that such an approach might point to early points of intervention to change their offending journey.

For further info contact: