



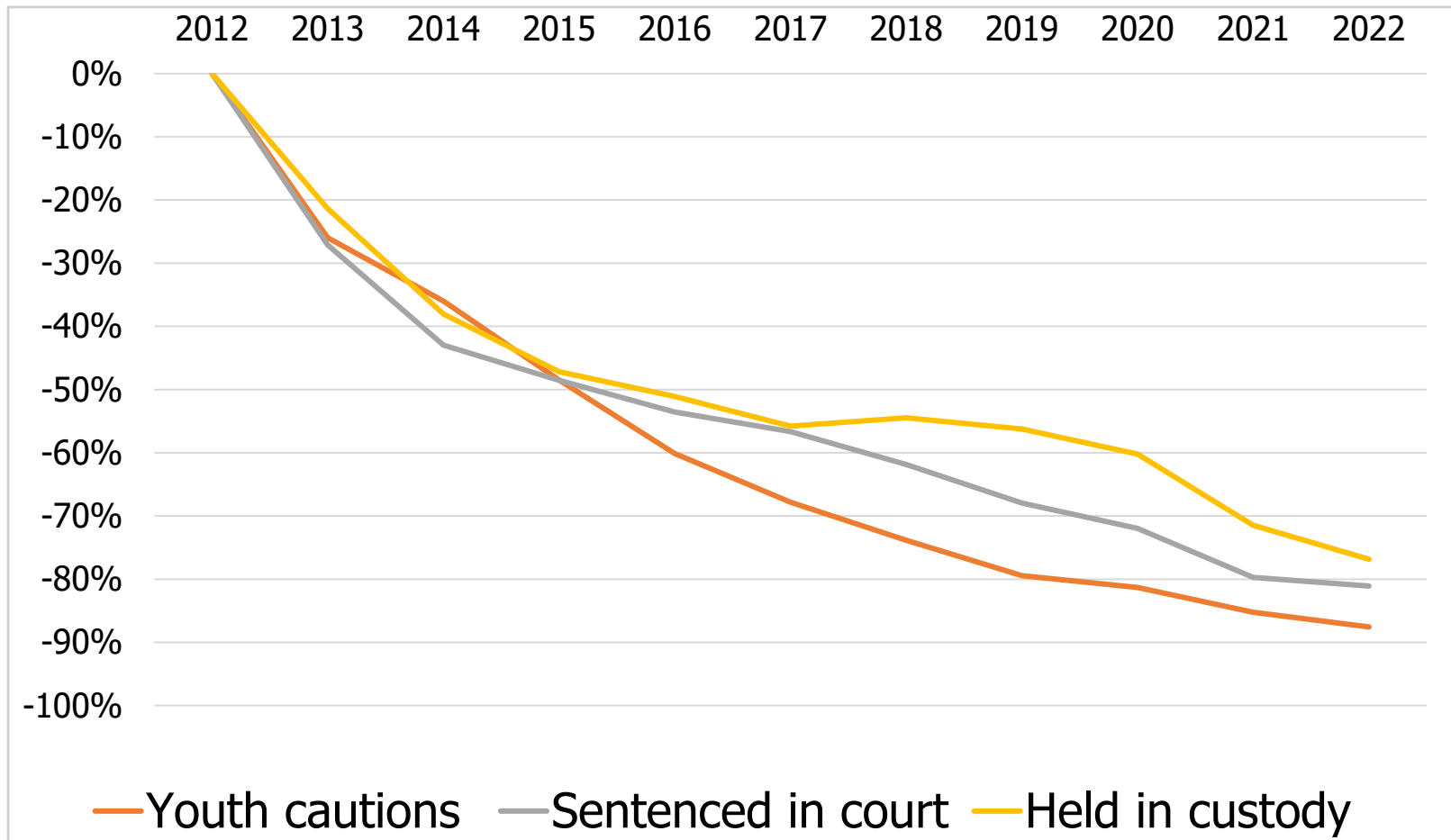
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2022 Annual Report: Inspections of youth offending services

Launch event - Thursday 29 June 2023

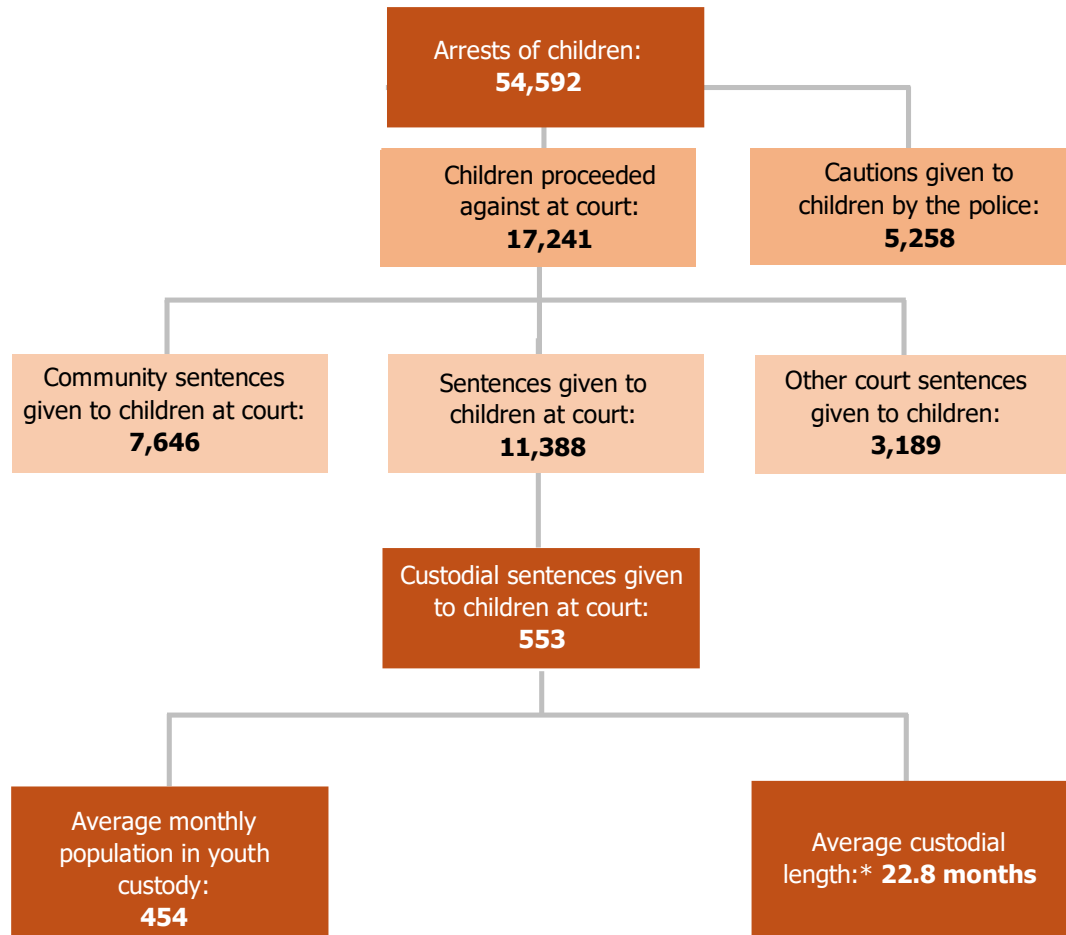


Trends over the last 10 years





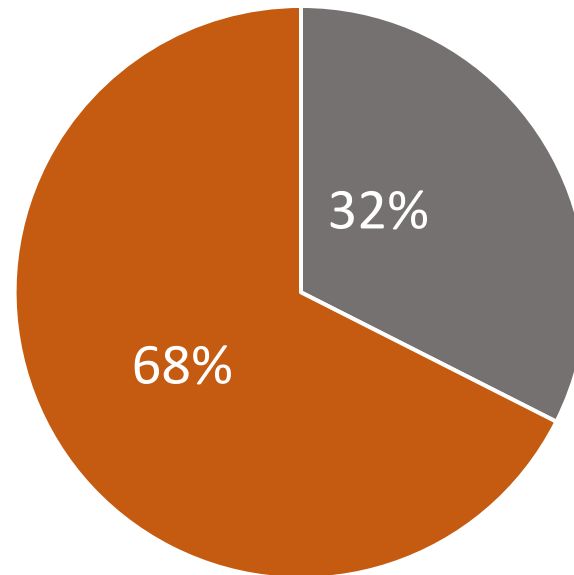
Youth Justice in 2022: Contextual Facts





Court vs Out-of-Court

Proportion of caseloads of inspected YJS 2021/22



■ Court Orders

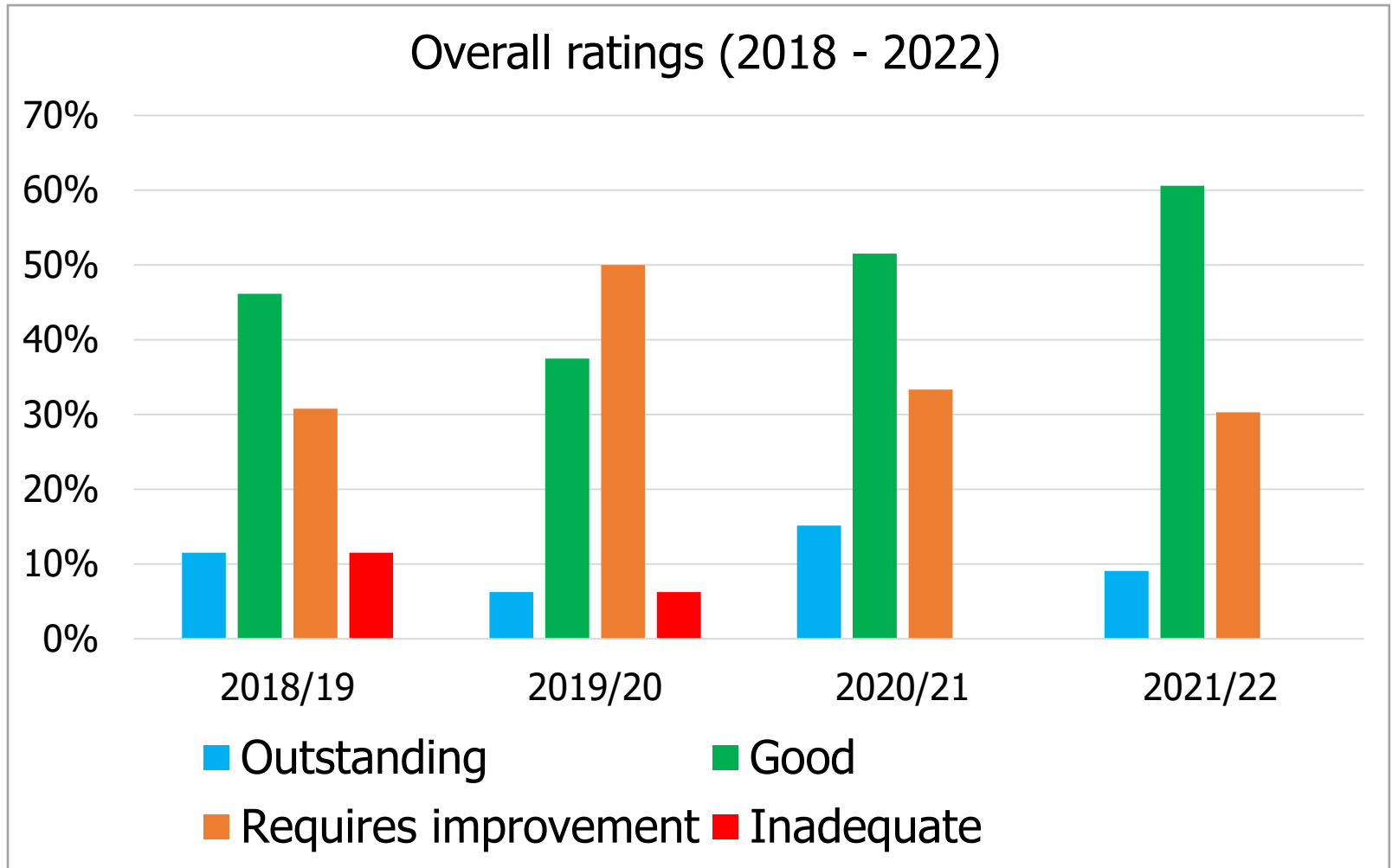
■ Out-of-Court disposals



Type of out-of-court disposal	Number	%
Youth caution (first caution)	81	15%
Youth caution (second or subsequent caution)	9	2%
Youth conditional caution	126	24%
Community resolution (or other restorative resolution)	283	53%
Unclear or other	32	6%



Our Ratings



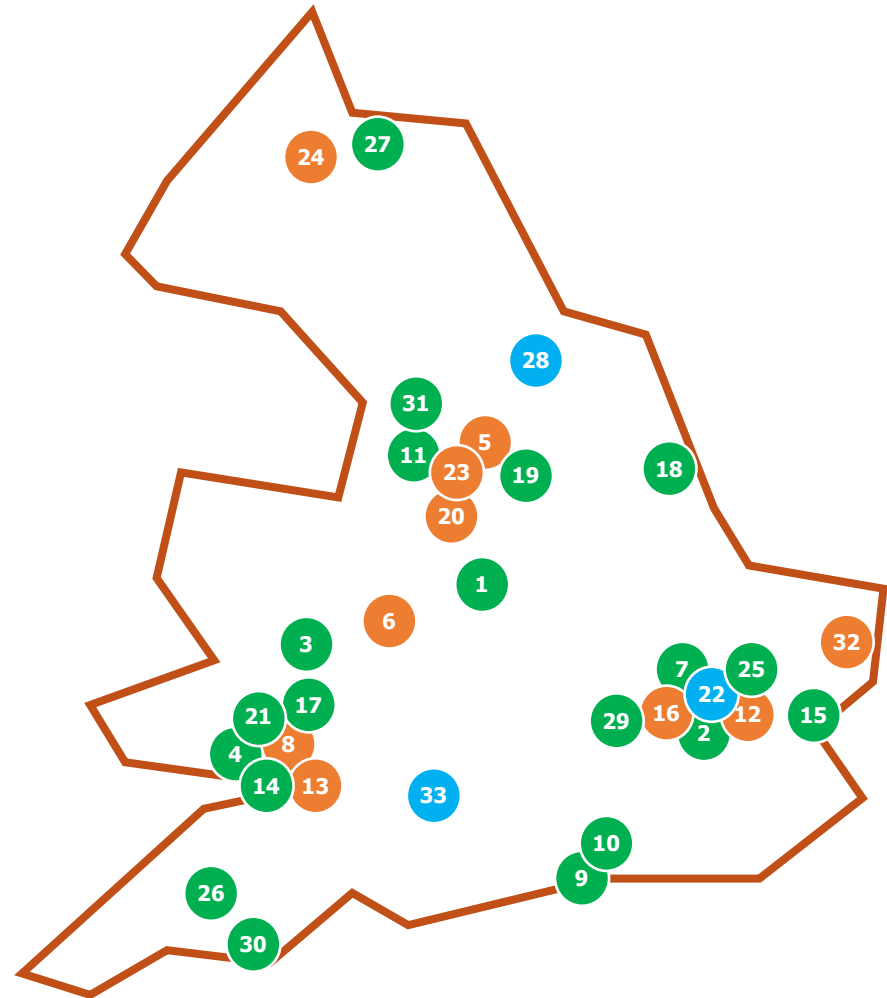


Youth Inspections 2021/2022

We inspected 33 youth justice services between October 2021 and October 2022

70 per cent of the services inspected were rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding'

No 'Inadequate' ratings were awarded



Recommendations: Key themes



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- Most frequent recommendations related to case practice with children (primarily children's safety and wellbeing and the risk of harm they present to others) followed by a focus on improving management boards and partnerships
- Increase in the number of recommendations relating to resettlement, disproportionality and out-of-court disposal policy and provision
- Fewer recommendations in relation to children and parents' participation
- Recommendations made directly to the Probation Service have increased and reflect our concerns about the current low numbers of probation officer secondments to YJSs.

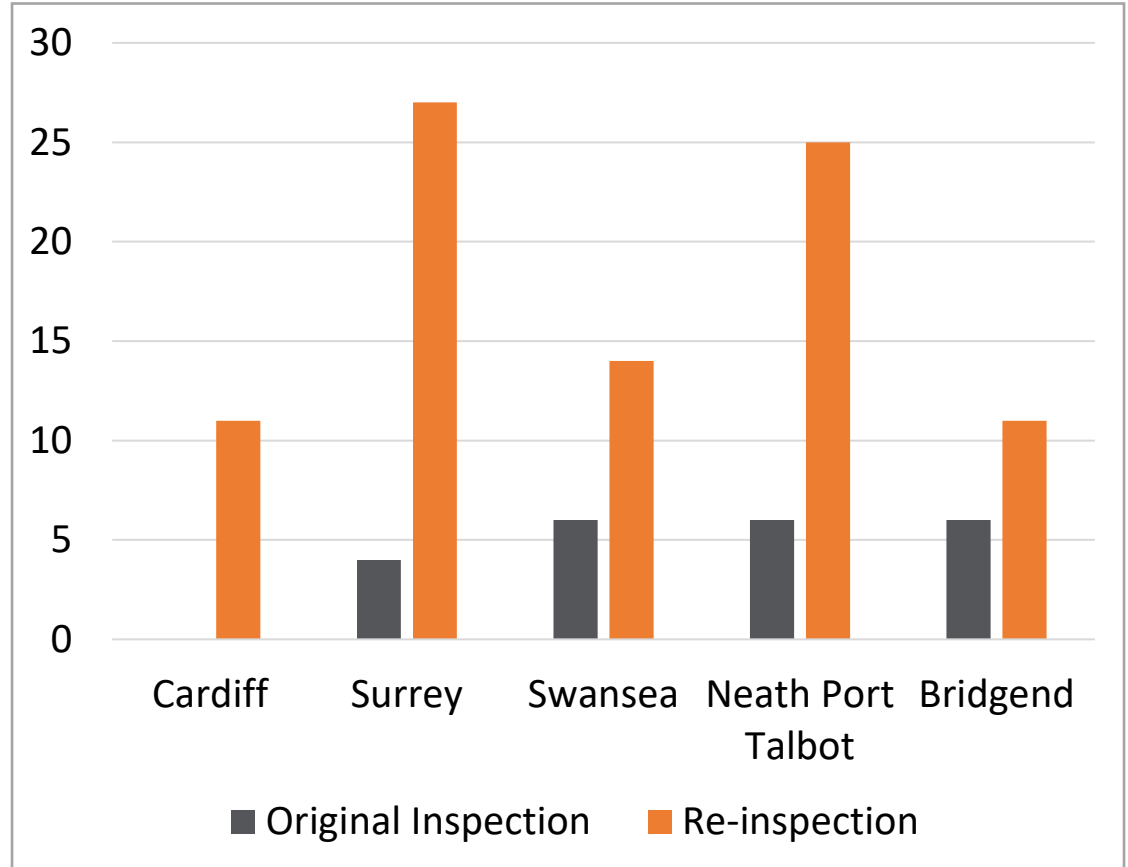




Reinspections

In previous inspections, Western Bay (2018), Surrey (2019) and Cardiff (2020) were all rated 'Inadequate' overall, requiring reinspection

All of these areas made improvements, with Surrey and Neath Port Talbot achieving an overall 'Good' rating, and Cardiff and Bridgend rated 'Requires improvement'





Surrey Reinspection

- Made the biggest improvement between the initial inspection and reinspection
- Learning and development had improved, and staff had a better understanding of risk in their cases
- Access to both health and education services had improved
- The quality of the casework inspected in both court and out-of-court work was impressive
- Provision for resettlement was also strong
- Innovative practice and the daily multi-agency risk briefings were an effective way of intervening with children at an early stage.





Organisational Delivery

Governance and leadership			
 Outstanding 5 services	 Good 15 services	 Requires improvement 12 services	 Inadequate 1 service
Staff			
 Outstanding 8 services	 Good 17 services	Requires improvement 8 services	Inadequate 0 services
Partnerships and services			
 Outstanding 6 services	 Good 19 services	Requires improvement 8 services	Inadequate 0 services
Information and facilities			
 Outstanding 4 services	 Good 22 services	Requires improvement 6 services	Inadequate 1 services



Organisational Delivery

Governance and leadership

Services rated as 'Outstanding' had high levels of board engagement and commitment

Staff

Services rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' had stable staff groups, who were motivated to deliver a quality service

Partnerships and services

In areas we rated as 'Outstanding' we typically found strong partnerships, with a depth of well-established links across a variety of partners

Information and facilities

In areas we rated as 'Outstanding', we found YJS facilities to be of a high quality. The venues for seeing children were welcoming, safe, child-friendly spaces



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Key Findings: Children subject to court orders



YJSs continue to have access to a wide range of services



An increasing proportion of children on court orders present a serious risk of harm to others and have committed offences involving violence



Work to promote desistance is generally stronger than work to address safety and wellbeing and risk of harm to others



Effective management oversight is crucial to effective practice



Contingency planning needs to be child-specific, setting out clear and tailored actions, and how to respond if risks and concerns increase



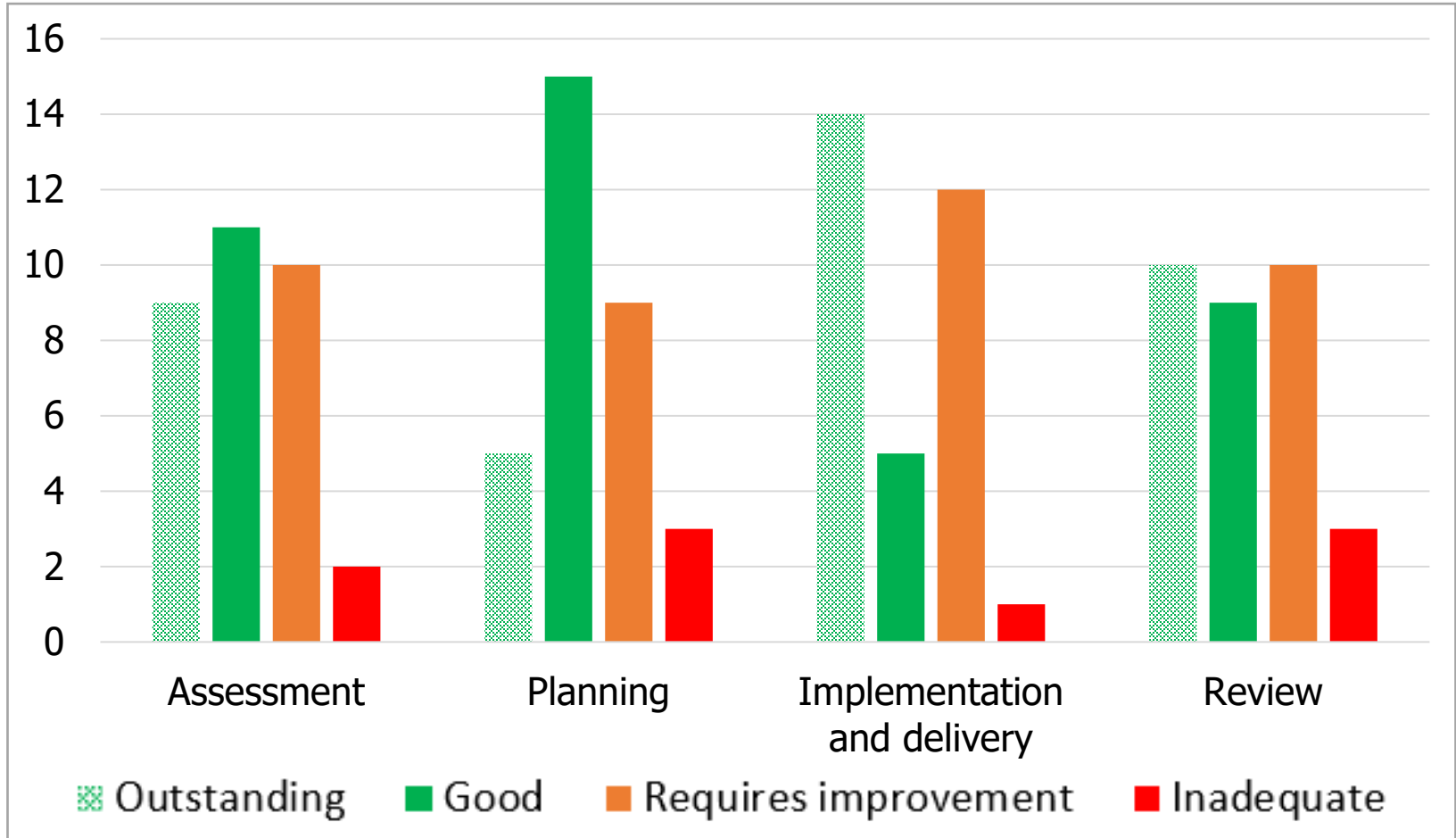
More attention needs to be given to the needs of victims



Committed staff dedicated to developing strengths and protective factors and to involving and encouraging the child are central to a successful YJS



Ratings Across the Standards: Court cases



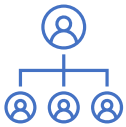


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Key Findings: Out-of-court disposals



An increasing number of children are dealt with through out-of-court disposals, but decision-making processes are designed locally and there is currently no clear national template



Most areas have consultation arrangements in place that involve the YJS, police and other relevant organisations agreeing the outcome for all but the most minor offending



Inspectors found that in 92 per cent of cases the panel agreed the out-of-court disposal outcome without the need for escalation



There were too many instances where the YJS had incorrectly classified the child's level of safety and wellbeing needs and the risk of serious harm they posed to others



In some YJSs, case managers had no knowledge about a case until it was allocated to them, after the disposal decision had been made

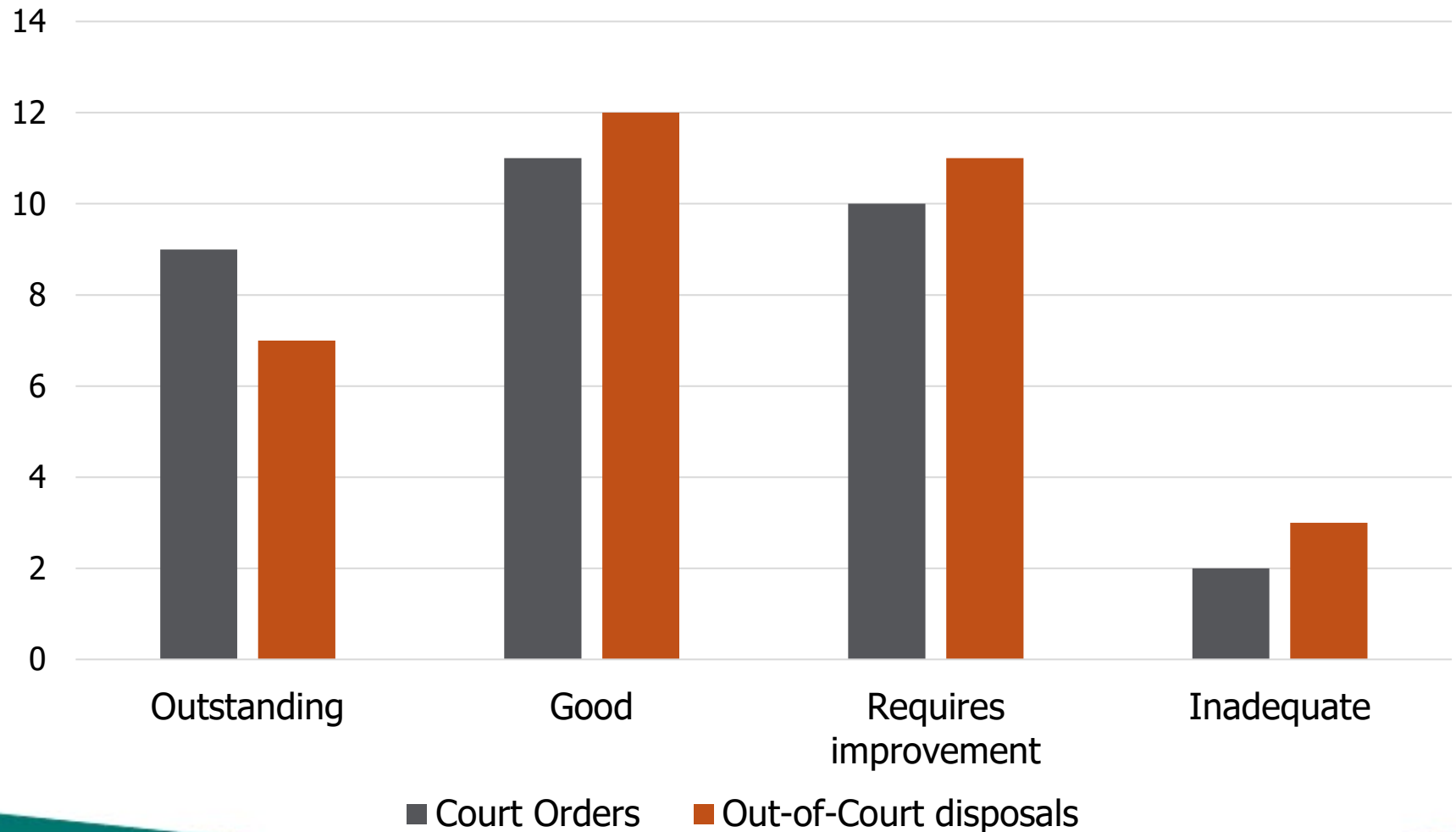


The agendas of many management board meetings often included, as a priority discussion, the diversity and disproportionality of Black, Asian and minority ethnic children

Assessment: comparison between Court Orders and Out-of-court disposals

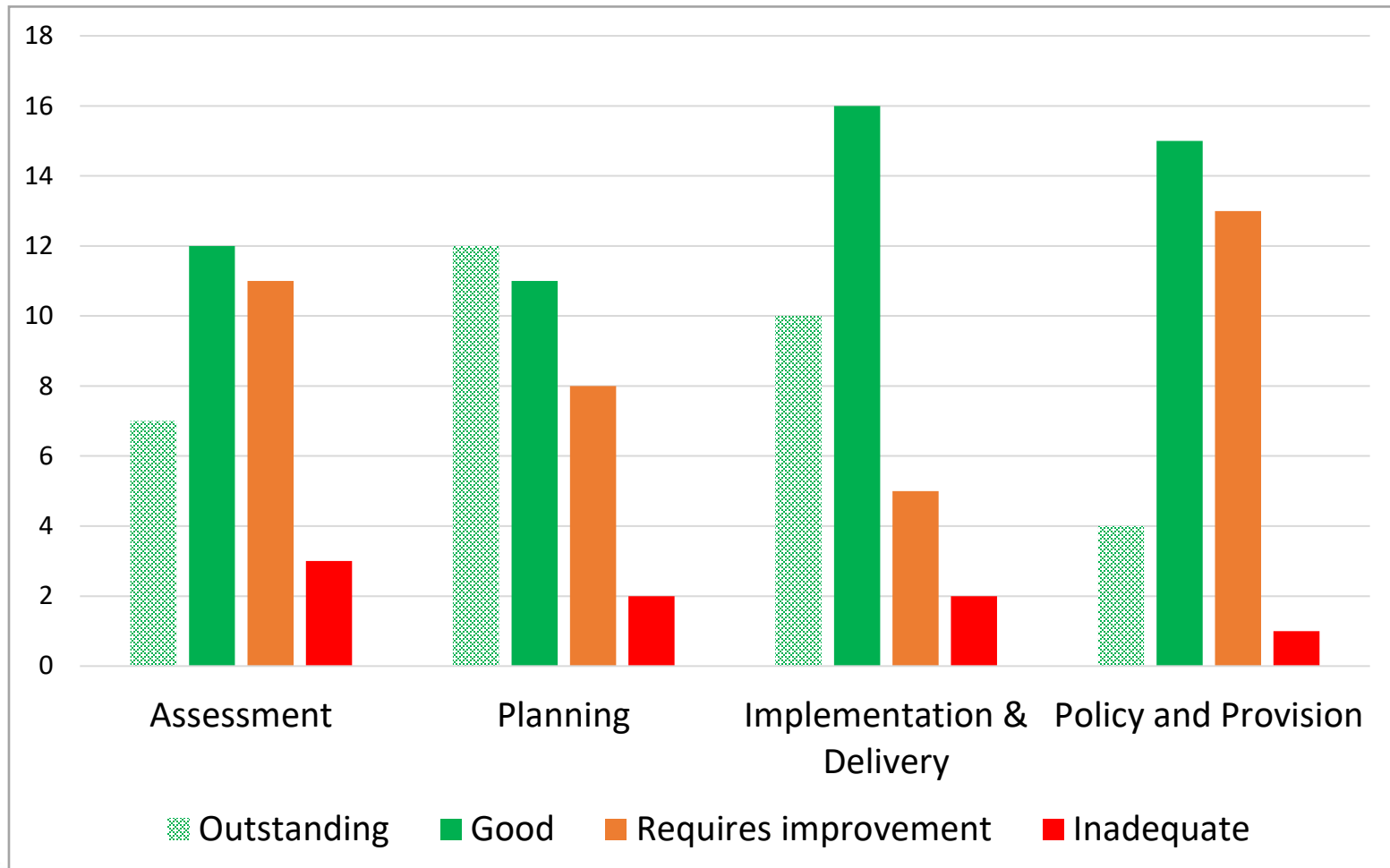


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Ratings Across the Standards: Out-of-court disposals





Key Findings: Education, training and employment (ETE)

- We made 18 recommendations on this theme, which was twice as many as the previous year
- From our thematic inspection of this area, we found that 64 per cent of 181 inspected cases had been excluded from school at some point, 29 per cent had been permanently excluded and 25 per cent were not in any form of education, training or employment
- Both the thematic and core inspections found gaps in provision and major barriers to children's participation in ETE
- We continue to see high proportions of older children who are not in any form of education or training after the age of 16.

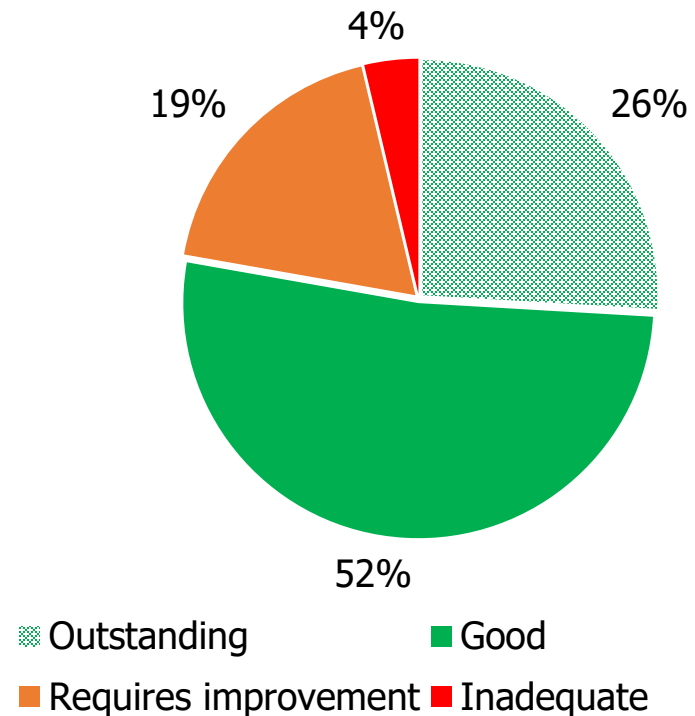




Key Findings: Resettlement

- The introduction of the resettlement standard to our inspection programme appears to have had a positive impact
- Almost 80 per cent of inspected services achieved a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' rating against our resettlement standard
- Almost all YJSs inspected had in place, or were developing, a standalone resettlement policy that promoted a high-quality, constructive and personalised resettlement service for all children.

Resettlement Policy & Provision Ratings
(27 inspections)





Key Findings: Diversity

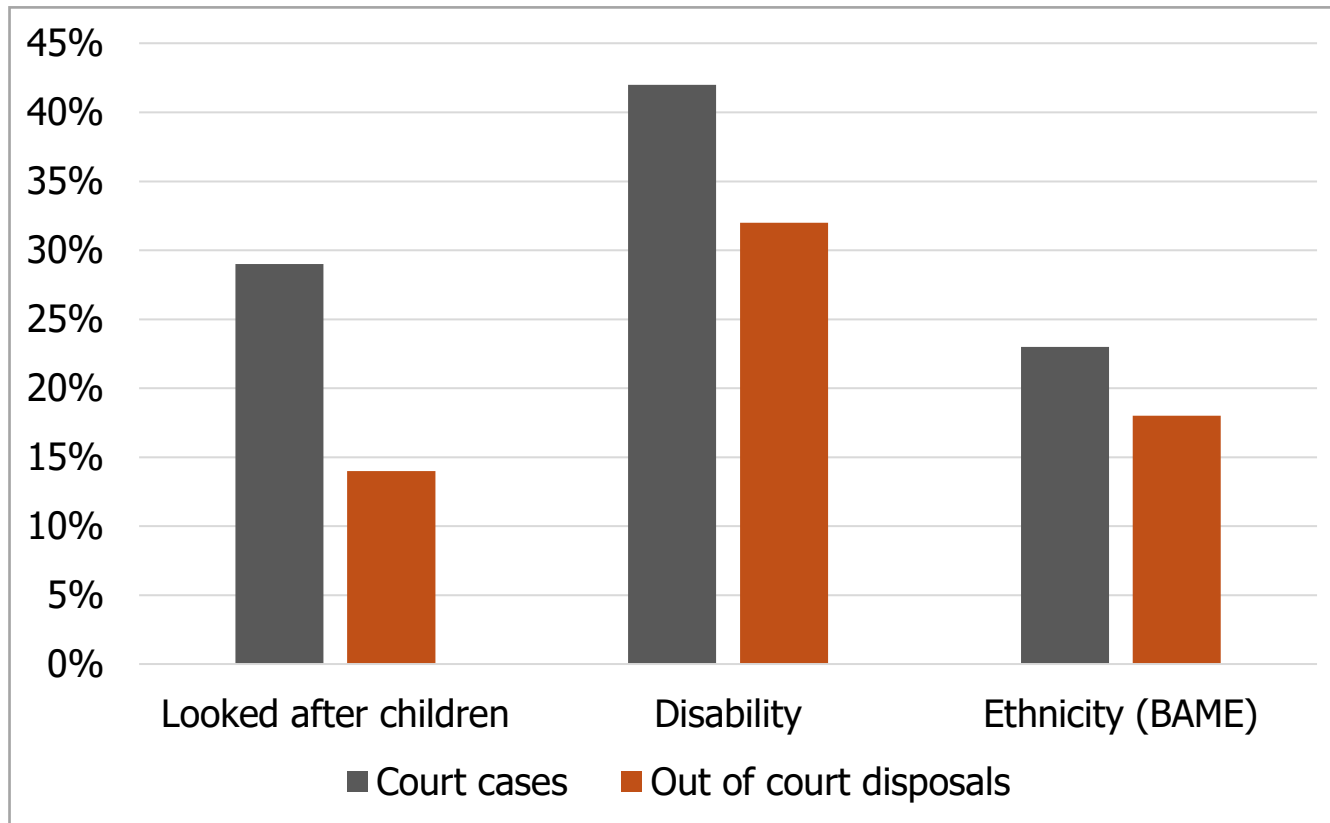
- The percentage of Black and mixed heritage children receiving a caution or sentence has increased in the last 10 years, while the percentage of white children has decreased
- Many YJSs report that they are finding that the number of girls coming into their local services is increasing. Few inspected services took a clear gendered approach to practice
- Our 2021/2022 inspections suggest there is little difference in the quality of case work for children who are in care and for those who are not, both for court orders and out-of-court disposals (however, the sample is relatively small)
- The majority of YJSs understand the significance of speech, language and communication difficulties and the challenges these present for children in the youth justice system
- Information relating to a child's sexuality and religion was not always recorded on YJS case records
- YJSs focus on children's mental health needs, and support and interventions are in place in most services.





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Characteristics of Children on YJS Caseloads





Child Participation



Over the period of this report, we spoke to: 138 children, 34 parents and two carers

- Nearly all children and parents/carers who responded understood the aims of the YJS that supervised their child
- 158 out of 160 respondents* agreed that the YJS worker had the right skills to work with the child, and most children were positive about their YJS worker
- There were a small number of negative comments in relation to places where the YJS workers saw the children

“The best thing about my YJS worker was that she didn’t make me feel like a bad person and listened to me.”

“My YJS worker is amazing, knows her stuff and looks out for me.”

“My case manager was brilliant. She was a good listener, always came with a good mind set.”



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What is next for the youth inspection programme?

- Development has commenced on the new youth inspection programme
- Draft standards being developed
- Roadshows and consultation events due to take place in England and Wales during August and September
- Completion of the current programme by late 2024
- Stakeholder working group, expert advisory group, and youth justice inspectorate group established to support the development of the new programme
- New programme to be piloted in 2024.





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