

Gender Profile

10-17yr old FEMALE OFFENDING

INTRODUCTION:

This paper is produced to provide a gender profile of youth crime in Stockton on Tees. 10 years of data is available from the Youth Offending Service, which can be used to consider the offending behaviour of 10-17 year olds females in the borough.

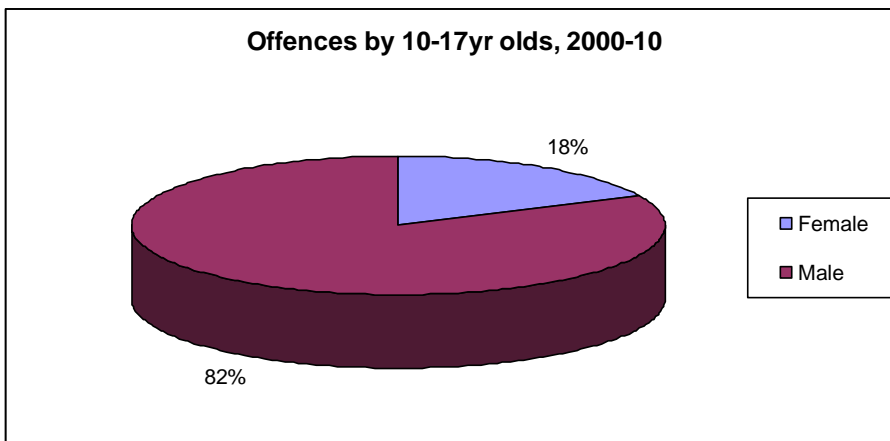
For the purposes of this report, offences are defined as those criminal incidents which have resulted in a substantive and formal pre-court and court outcomes. These range from police reprimands and final warnings, through to community court orders, and to custodial sentences.

INFORMATION:

Offence Numbers 2000 – 2010

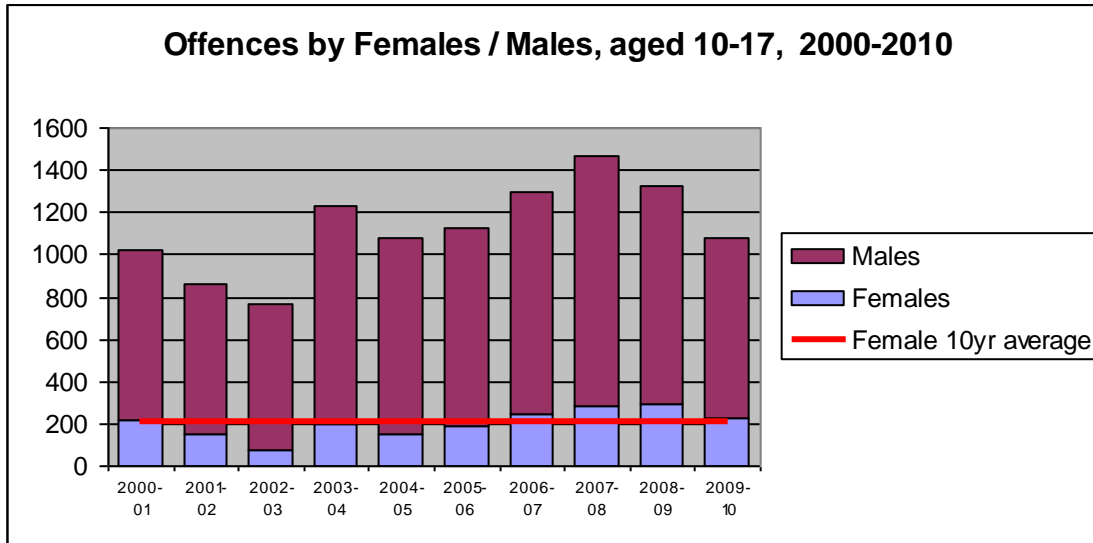
In 10 years, there have been **11,251 offences committed by 10-17 year olds**; an average of 1,125 per year.

Table 1:



Over the last 10 years, females have been responsible for 18% of total offences committed (2,044 of 11,251) and males for 82%, 9,207 offences. Approximately 1:5 female: male ratio.

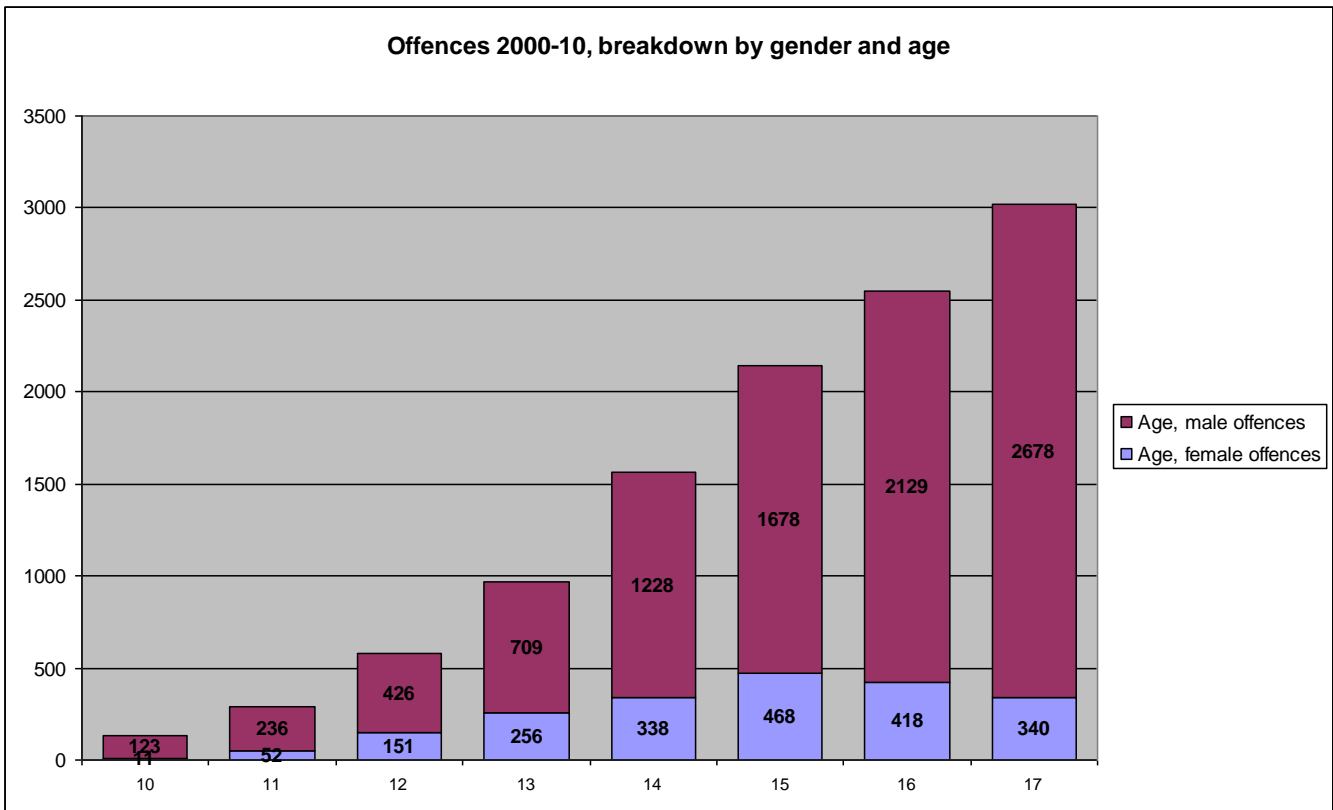
Table 2: Year by year breakdown of offences committed by females and males



Numbers of offences committed by both genders has varied over the years and some years have seen some variations from the 10 year average for females of 18%. For example, in 2002/03, females were responsible for 10% of offences, whilst in 2008/09, this had increased to 22%. In the last 10 years, females have committed an average of 204 offences per year. Males, 921 per year.

Gender & Age:

Table 3: Offences 2000 – 10, breakdown by gender and age



Note: the number of offences committed by 10 yr olds in the last 10 years is 134; 11 by females and 123 by males. This accounts for 1% of offences committed by all age groups.

Table 3 shows that the under 12's have been responsible for less than 4% of overall offences, 12-14 yr olds for 28%, and 15-17 yr olds for 68%.

The peak age for offences by females is 15 (23% of female offences by this age group), whilst for males, this is 17 (29% of male offences). Table 3 shows that the overwhelming majority of offences are committed by those aged 14 and above, of both genders.

First Time Entrants (FTE), by gender:

The reduction of first time entrants into the criminal justice system is a key National Indicator for the YOS Partnership.

Table 4: FTE 2000-10, broken down into numbers and gender

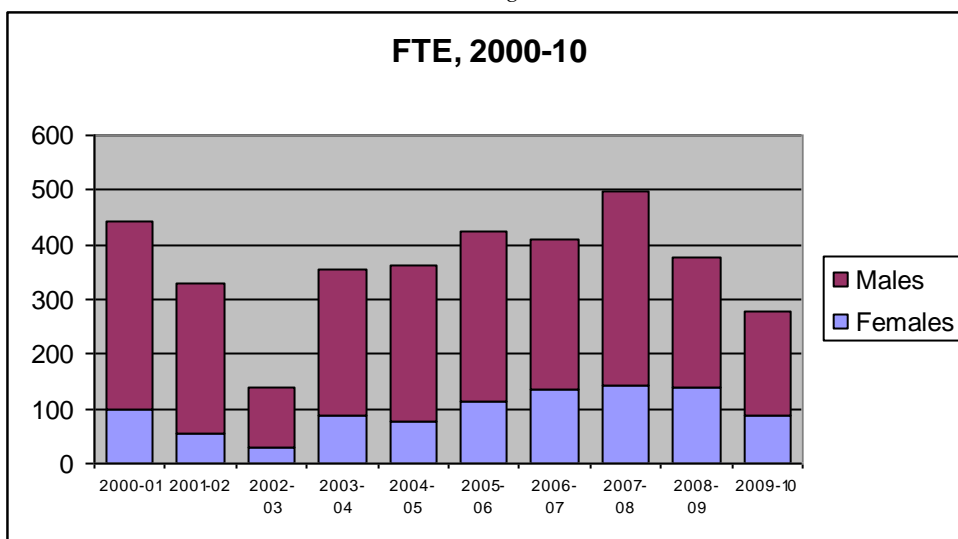
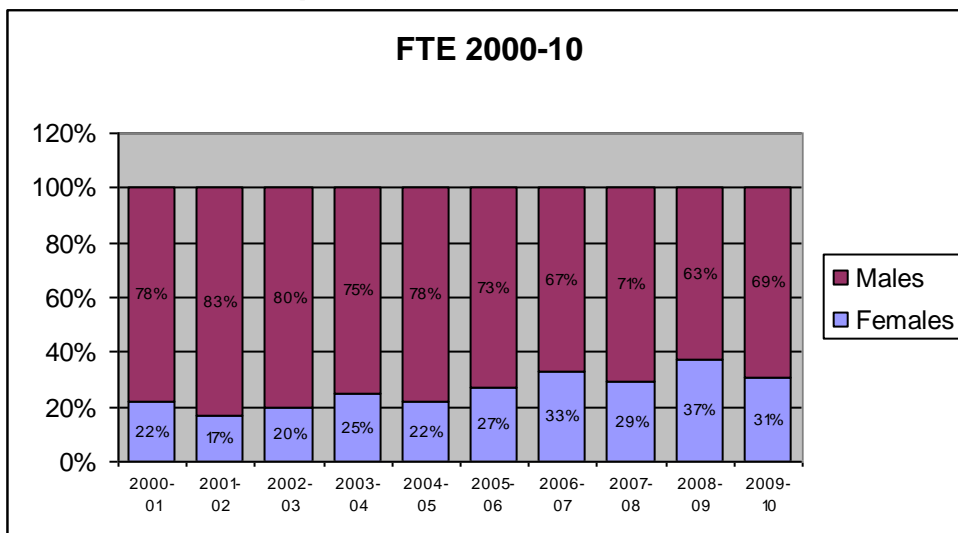


Table 5: FTE, broken down into percentages and by gender

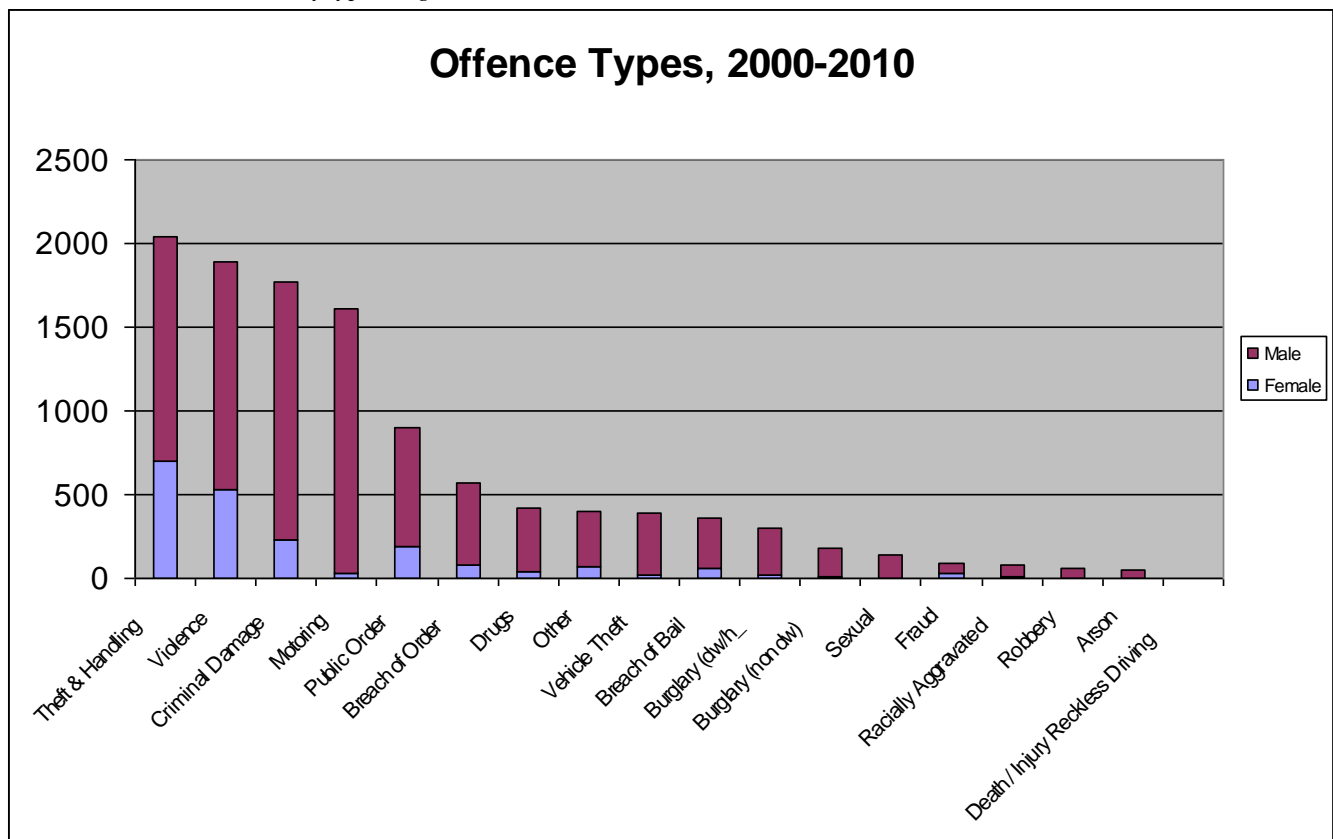


Tables 4 & 5 evidence that increasing numbers of young people became FTEs from 2002/03 to 2007/08, after which steady decreases are shown. Over the last 10 years, females have constituted an average of 26% of the FTE cohort, although there are some significant variations, from 17% in 2001/02, to 37% in 2008/08.

Offence Types, by gender:

In the last 10 years, the overwhelming majority of offences committed by all young people are: Theft & Handling (18%); Violence (17%); Criminal Damage (16%); and Motoring Offences, excluding Vehicle Theft (14%). Offences resulting from non-compliance with either a court order or bail conditions constituted 12%; Public Order 8%; Drugs 4%; Vehicle Theft 4% and Dwelling Burglaries 3%. The least common are Robbery and Arson (less than 1% each).

Table 6: Breakdown of offences by type and gender



Females have been involved in almost the full array of offence types in Stockton on Tees over the last 10 years, excluding death / injury by reckless driving, although in varying proportions depending upon offence type and in ways often quite different to their male peers.

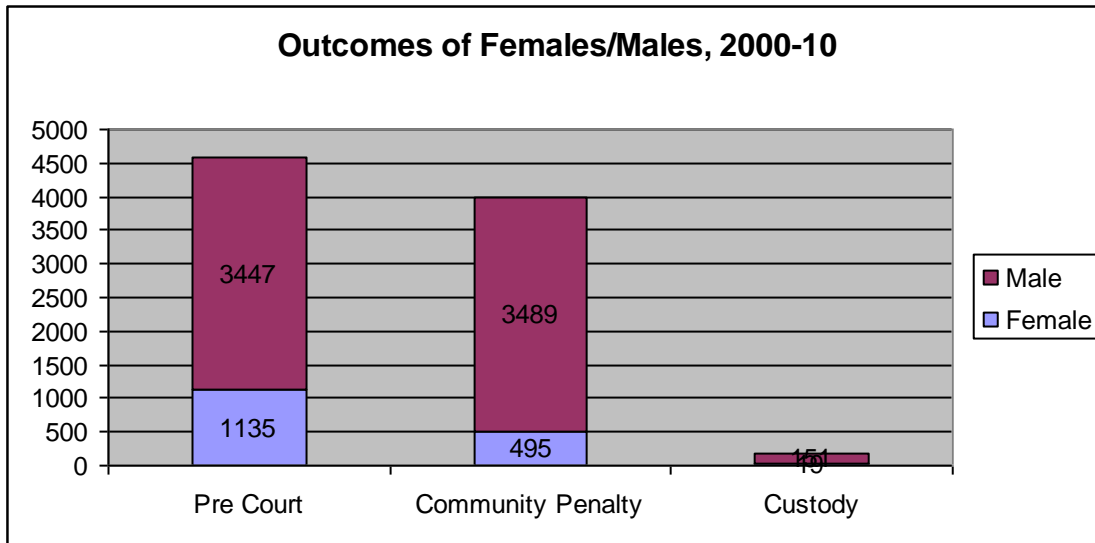
Table 6 highlights the disparity between male and female offence types. The most common female offences are: Theft & Handling; Violence; Criminal Damage; and Public Order. Indeed, females are over-represented in the following offence types:

- Thefts & Handling - 1 in 3 committed by a female (34%); peak age 15-16
- Violent offences – over 1 in 4 (28%); peak age 14-15

There are some offence types where females are significantly under-represented. The one that stands out are Motoring offences which account for 14% of offences committed by 10-17yr olds in the last 10 years. Females were responsible for only 2% of these offences; peak age 16-17.

Offence Outcomes:

Table 7: Offence Outcomes 2000-10, broken down by type and gender



Note: there have been 170 custodial sentences imposed in the last 10 years: 151 for offences committed by males; and 19 by females.

Table 7 shows that there have been **8,736 substantive outcomes since 2000/01**. 19% for female offences and 81% for male offences. This is broadly in line with the ratio of 1:5 female: male offending.

Just over half of all offences (52%) resulted in a pre-court outcome: Police Reprimands (37%) and Police Final Warnings (15%). Custody accounts for 2% of overall outcomes (actual number 170). 89% of custodial sentences were imposed for male offences; 11% for female. Community disposals ranging from curfew orders, referral orders to supervision with intensive supervision and surveillance programme, account for 46% of outcomes.

Table 8: Outcomes 2000-10, Female Breakdown

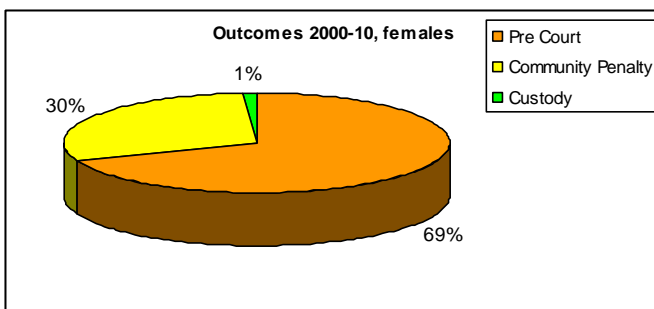
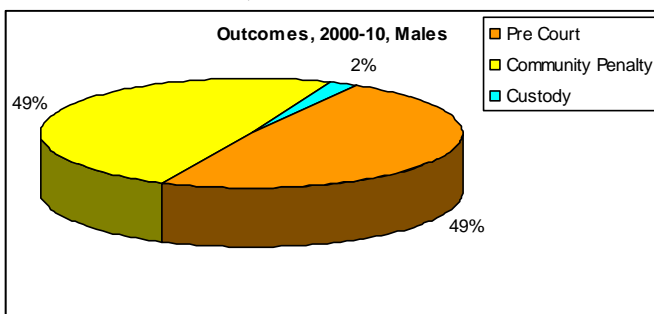


Table 9: Outcomes 2000-10, Male Breakdown

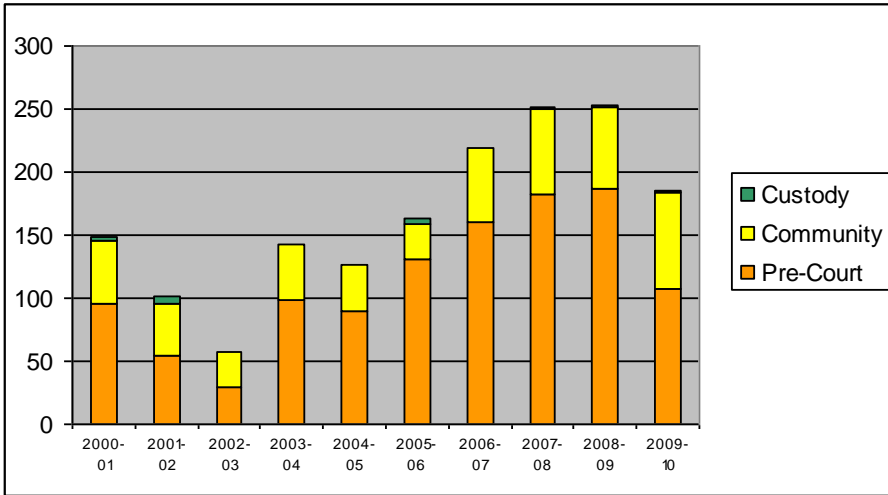


Tables 8 & 9 show some significant differences in outcomes for females and males, over 10 years

Table 8 shows that 69% of female outcomes were ones dealt with by Police at the pre court stage, with less than a third being the more serious outcomes imposed by a Court

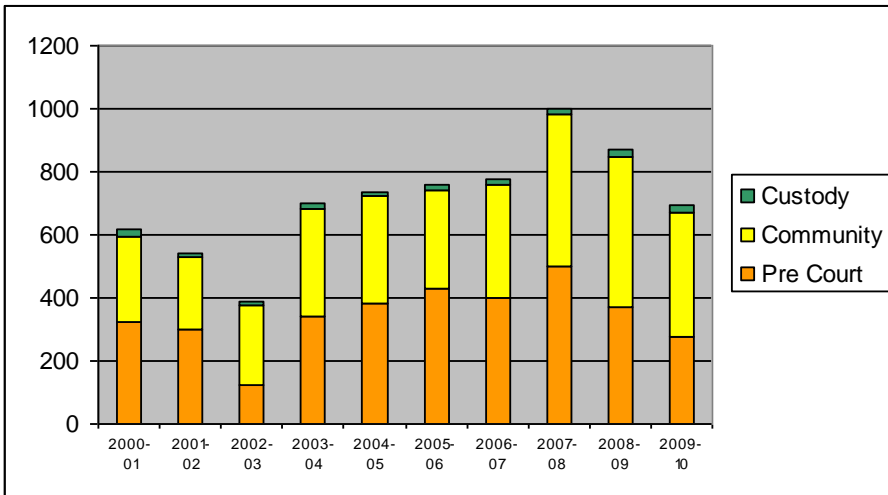
Whereas for males, Table 9 shows that, only 49% were pre court outcomes, whilst just over half were outcomes imposed by the court

Table 10: Female Outcomes 2000-10, broken down by Year



Tables 10 & 11 show female and male outcomes over the last 10 years.

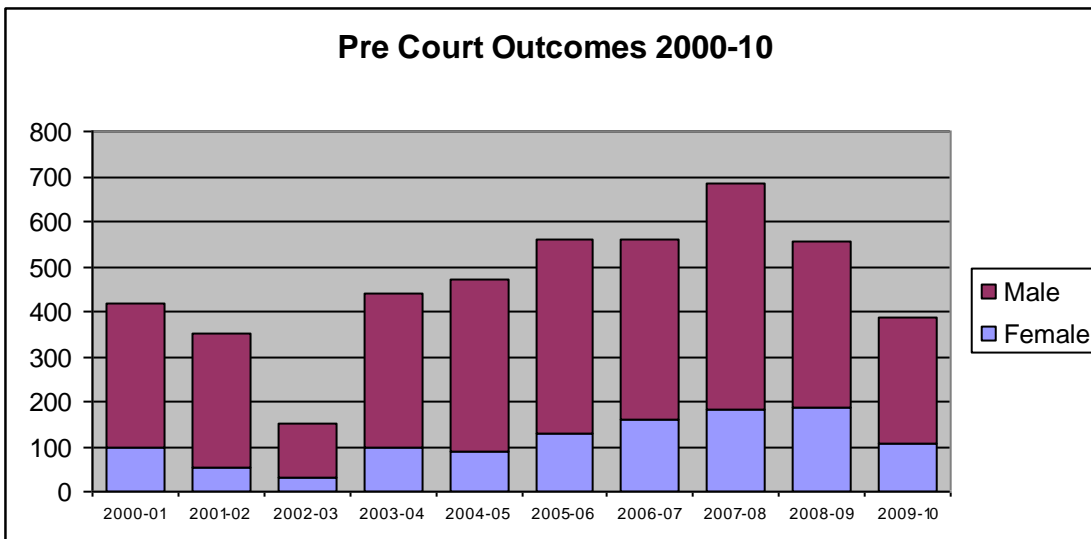
Table 11: Male Outcomes, Broken down by Year



Pre-Court Outcomes:

Table 12 explores trends in offence outcomes for females and males for 2000-10, focusing upon pre-court outcomes, since this is the biggest outcome type for females.

Table 12: Pre-Court Outcomes 2000-10 broken down by gender



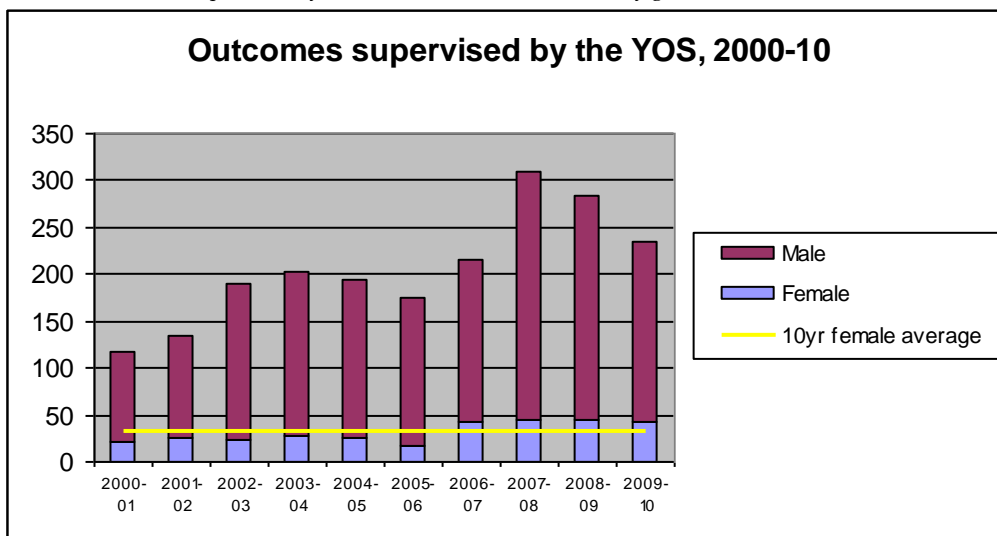
There have been some variations in the numbers and proportions of females receiving pre-court outcomes, year by year. This has been steadily increasing over the last few years. In 2001/02, 15% of pre-court outcomes were used for females; this increased to 34% in 2008/09 and 28% in 2009/10.

Over 10 years, 22% of pre-court interventions for females have been Final Warnings, whilst the remaining 78% have been dealt with by way of a Police Reprimand. For males, the picture looks different. Over 10 years, 33% of pre-court interventions have been Final Warnings, with the remaining 67% being Police Reprimand.

Court Outcomes and Community Orders:

There have been increases in the proportion and numbers of females receiving court orders requiring supervision by the YOS.

Table 13: Outcomes supervised by the YOS 2000-10, broken down by gender



In 2009/10, the YOS was supervising twice as many young people as in 2000/01; female proportions increasing broadly in line with males, other than in 2005/06, when the proportion of females being supervised fell to 10%.

In 2009/10, 18% of cases were of females (actual number 43); and 82% were male (192).

Risk of Harm and Vulnerability:

All young people supervised by the YOS are screened for Risk of Harm (ROH) posed by them to the Public and to identify their own safeguarding needs. Where necessary, more in depth, Risk of Serious Harm (ROSH) and Vulnerability assessments are carried out.

In 2009/10, 111 Risk Management Plans were implemented by the YOS across the multi-agencies, 21 of these to manage high ROSH cases: 3 female and 18 male cases.

122 Vulnerability Management Plans were implemented in that period: 49 female cases and 73 males. 40 cases (19 females: 21 males) were considered to be at risk of significant and imminent harm, leading to immediate and coordinated multi-agency activity.

2009 Cohort

In 2009/10, 208 young people receiving a substantive outcome from January to March 2009, were tracked for a 12 month period, to monitor their reoffending behaviour. 52 of the cohort were females (25%).

Deter Young Offender:

Within the cohort, 17 were identified as belonging to the Deter Young Offender (DYO) strategy; 4 females; and 13 males.

Reoffending:

35% of the overall cohort reoffended within 12 months; consisting of 73 young people:

- 11 females, committing 30 reoffences (average of 2.5 offences each)
 - 4 of which are DYO's, 20 reoffences
- 62 males, committing 263 reoffences (average of 4 offences each)
 - 11 of which are DYO's, 91 reoffences

First Time Entrants:

More than half the females in the 2009 Cohort were First Time Entrants (FTE), the overwhelming majority having received a Police Reprimand (25 of 28). Male FTE comprised 63 of the 208, the majority having received a Police reprimand (53 of the 63).

Reoffending by FTE in 09/10:

- Of the 28 females, 4 re-offended in 12 months, committing 5 reoffences.
- Of the 63 males, 16 reoffended in 12 months, committing 37 reoffences

SOME INITIAL CONCLUSIONS:

Despite being slightly more than half the 10-17yr old population in Stockton on Tees, females are significantly less likely to offend, *and* to reoffend, than their male peers, and when in the criminal justice system, there is evidence that they are treated differently to males, ie – statistically more likely to receive less restrictive and 'less serious' disposals, such as police reprimands and final warnings.

In the last 10 years, females have been responsible for an average of 18% of crimes, committing on average 204 offences per year, compared to 921 offences for males.

Relatively few offences for females under 12. From 13/14, the numbers increase steadily, with the peak age being 15, after which it starts to drop away again.

Females are over-represented in certain offence types, namely Theft & Handling Stolen Goods and Violence Against The Person; and under-represented in others, of which Motoring Offences stand out.

The use of pre-court outcomes has shown an upward trend for females for many years, until 2008/09, as have the numbers and proportion of females on orders supervised by the YOS. For those supervised on community and custodial sentences, a small number of females were deemed to pose a risk of serious harm to the public, whilst disproportionately the number of females deemed to be vulnerable and in need of activity to safeguard was higher than their male peers.

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17th September 2010