Appendix B

Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (CWBSC)
Scrutiny Recommendations and Information Request Tracker 2025-26

The Recommendations Tracker is a standing item on committee agendas, and documents the progress of scrutiny recommendations, suggestions for improvement, and information requests made by the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its public meetings and as part of task and finish group reviews. Scrutiny recommendations, suggestions for improvement, and information requests will not be removed from the tracker until full responses have been provided to the Committee by either the Cabinet, council departments, and/or external partners.

Recorded Recommendations to Cabinet from CWBSC

Meeting date and agenda item	Scrutiny Recommendation	Cabinet Member, Lead Officer, and Department	Executive Response	Implementation Status	Review date

Recorded Recommendations to external partners from CWBSC

Meeting date and agenda item	Scrutiny Recommendation	External partner	Response	Status

Recorded suggestions for improvement from CWBSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Suggestions for improvement	Council Department/External Partner	Response	Status
02 July 2025 - Brent Safeguarding Adults Board	To co-produce a SAB priority with those with lived experience.	Children, Young People and Community Development	The Board is underway with a community engagement project that will conclude in November. Our new Strategic priorities are due to be drawn up in January 2026, so we should be able to draw on learning from the project when setting new priorities.	

(SAB) Annual Report (2024/25)		Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair		
02 July 2025 - Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report (2024/25)	To commission a multi-agency safeguarding awareness campaign	Children, Young People and Community Development Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair	National Safeguarding Adult week occurs every year in November, where a lot of awareness and training is run and accessible to professionals supporting learning and awareness around keeping adults safe. Budget and resource constraints would not allow the Brent SAB to fund a stand-alone campaign.	
02 July 2025 - Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report (2024/25)	To recommend future reports list learnings and how they had been addressed.	Children, Young People and Community Development Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair	This will be considered within the format and structure of next year's report.	
02 July 2025 - Brent Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report (2024/25)	To recommend future reports reflect on national reviews and how they impact locally.	Children, Young People and Community Development Brent Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair	The Board does this informally via agenda items through the routine Board meetings that will touch on address national themes. We will work to indicate more explicitly in the narrative what these may be.	
02 July 2025 - Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Report (2024/25)	To recommend that the Committee have sight of the work being done around online safety.	Children, Young People and Community Development Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Independent Scrutineer	Work on the Online Safety Task and Finish Group commenced April 2025. It has representatives from: • London Borough of Brent: Adult Social Care • London Brough of Brent: Children Service • Secondary school education leader • Primary school education leader • Independent Scrutineer: BSCP • Young Person TBC	

			The work plan focuses on the following themes: • Mobile phone usage in schools • Review of knowledge gaps for professionals • Neurodiversity pathways for exploring the online world • Knife crime awareness • Voice of the child and managing transitions Findings and recommendations to be finalised December 2025 and a report shared with the Safeguarding Children Forum.	
02 July 2025 - Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Report (2024/25)	To receive a future report looking at how services are supporting young people from a transitional safeguarding perspective who are vulnerable but don't meet ASC threshold.	Children, Young People and Community Development Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Independent Scrutineer	The Safeguarding Children Partnership and The Safeguarding Adults Board established a Transitional Safeguarding Project in May 2025. This joint initiative will assess and strengthen safeguarding or young people aged 14-25. Three cohorts have been identified: • Additional needs • Care experienced • Exploitation Two workshops to be held: 1: What works well and what needs to be strengthened 2: Live case audits. Project outputs: • Complete a final report for the Joint Safeguarding Partnerships Executive Group with recommendations on how to ensure that children and young people in the 3 cohorts, with care and support needs, are supported through their transition to adulthood. • Develop a delivery plan for 2026 across SAB/SCP subgroups and member agencies • Continued work with young adults to hear views on progress of changes	

			The Safeguarding Children Partnership are also looking at new processes for Cases of Concern for those young people who do not make thresholds for review.	
02 July 2025 - Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Report (2024/25)	To recommend an improvement in safeguarding support for youth organisations.	Children, Young People and Community Development Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Independent Scrutineer	Support is currently and will continue to be offered through the partnerships multiagency training programme. The Independent Scrutineer to meet with Young Brent Foundation	
02 July 2025 - Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Report (2024/25)	For the Independent Scrutineer to contact Healthwatch to see how they can support the work of the partnership.	Children, Young People and Community Development Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Independent Scrutineer	Independent Scrutineer to set up a meeting with Healthwatch to discuss collaboration with the partnership.	
02 July 2025 - Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Report (2024/25)	Recommendation by Brent Youth Parliament – for the partnership to stretch out to different youth and community groups alongside schools.	Children, Young People and Community Development Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Independent Scrutineer	Independent Scrutineer to meet with BYP and explore appropriate youth organisations.	
02 July 2025 - Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Report (2024/25)	For future reports to include more data and KPIs.	Children, Young People and Community Development Brent Safeguarding Children Partnership Independent Scrutineer	New commissioned software via PHEW in place to support with this. Section 11 audit to be actioned.	

17 September 2025 – The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery in Brent	The service should strengthen and expand partnerships with boxing clubs, music groups, and similar community-based initiatives that promote rehabilitation, foster pro-social identity, reduce the risk of reoffending, and help individuals remain engaged and focused on their future.	Children, Young People and Community Development	Brent YJS works with a range of community-based initiatives. These include St. Giles Trust mentoring, the I *Am Brent* consortium, Raheem Sterling Foundation, and the *Engage* Programme - youth work support in Police custody suites. A briefing paper outlining progress made to increase pathways to community based, voluntary sector and partner agency initiatives will be presented to CWBSC in March 2026.	
17 September 2025 – The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery in Brent	For the Youth Justice Service to consider engaging with Wembley Stadium to explore potential employment pathways in the security and hospitality sectors, aimed at supporting young people transitioning out of the YJS and reintegrating into the community.	Children, Young People and Community Development	Brent YJS will explore the development of Wembley Stadium employment pathways with Community Development colleagues. This work will seek to complement existing Employment, Training and Education (ETE) support provided to YJS from the Shaw Trust, and from Plias Resettlement. Both Services are co-located within the YJS and provide ETE mentoring and counselling support to children involved in Brent Youth justice System.	
17 September 2025 – The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery in Brent	The Youth Justice Service should strengthen collaboration with Brent's partners and the voluntary sector. As the current report did not focus on this area in detail, the Committee requests a future update outlining any progress made in developing these partnerships.	Children, Young People and Community Development	Brent YJS works closely with voluntary sector and youth justice partners. These include *Via* substance misuse support, the Young Brent Foundation, Probation Service, CAMHS, and the Police. A progress update on the entirety of this work will be included in the briefing paper presented to CWBSC in March 2026.	
17 September 2025 – Children's Oral Health	To get a strong message out to Brent parents, carers and communities via tools such as the Brent Magazine, Brent Health Matters, Libraries, Hubs, Family	Service Reform and Strategy	76% of settings that we have approached are successfully delivering the Supervised Toothbrushing Programme. However, we have only been able to reach just under 50% of the 314 settings in the borough. Since October, we have contacted 15 settings from IMD 1 and 2 and seven have agreed to sign up.	

	Wellbeing Centres and schools, focusing on areas with poorer oral health outcomes, about the use of fluoride on teeth.		Therefore, we will need to expand our reach and thus will appreciate the support and input from the council's corporate communications team in centring oral health for families. We will draft a paragraph for Brent magazine encouraging parents to ensure their children are brushing their teeth twice a day, specifically focusing the messaging on the role fluoride in toothpastes play in preventing decay. Also, encouraging visiting the dentist regularly who are able to provide high-strength fluoride varnish applications for children and greater risk of tooth decay.	
17 September 2025 – Period Dignity	To develop a plan to incentivise private sector organisations to offer similar products and information	Service Reform and Strategy	We will seek to work with colleagues both within and outside of the council to establish a plan. An example of how this could be established is through current activity to update our approach to Social Value i.e. encouraging our contractors and providers to provide free products	
17 September 2025 – Period Dignity	In developing projects and policies, to ask young people for their opinion, not just through BYP but other youth groups in the area.	Service Reform and Strategy	During the development phase of future projects and policies related to Period Dignity we will engage with young people, beyond BYP.	
17 September 2025 – Period Dignity	For any future report on pilots, to ensure a more structured way of evaluating the pilot, what the learning was, and what would be done for the future.	Service Reform and Strategy	The report presented does this to an extent, but we will make this clearer and more robust in the future.	

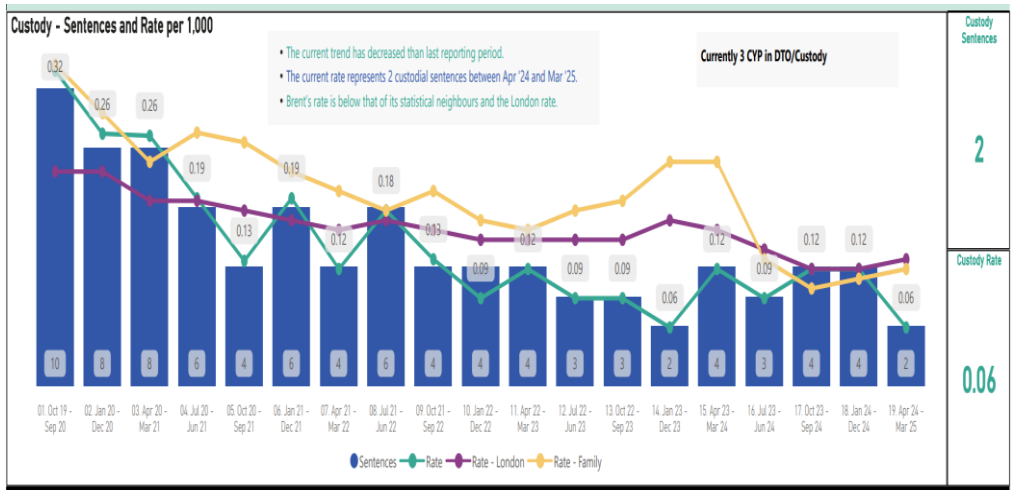
Information requests from CWBSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Information requests	Council Department/External Partner	Response
17 September 2025 – The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery in Brent	As agreed by the Corporate Director, the Committee requests an explanatory note detailing the methodology used to produce the 2024/25 data presented in the report.	Children, Young People and Community Development	The report: *The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery in Brent*, contains seven statistical tables. The accuracy of four of these tables was questioned during the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee meeting on 17 September 2025. Below are detailed responses to each of these questions: **Data source and counting methodology** Every quarter, all Youth Justice Services in England and Wales submit case level data to the Youth Justice Board (YJB). This information is uploaded from local authority youth justice case management systems. Information is collated by the YJB. This is done in adherence to YJB counting rules that are applied consistently to all Youth Justice Services to allow comparative analysis at a national, regional and local level. This data is then published by the YJB and includes rate of reoffending, rate and number of reoffending, number of children remanded into custody, and the number of children sentenced to custody. **Re-offending** The narrative and data provided in *The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery in Brent* follows: *"Re-offending rates are prone to fluctuation and tracked over a period of 18-months. The low rates of reoffending that Brent has experienced in recent years is likely to have been influenced by the considerable programme of preventative work undertaken at this time."* **Table 3: Brent youth reoffending rates, October 2018 to June 2023**

Early Help response
A cohort of “repeat offenders” is identified every quarter, then tracked for a period of eighteen-months to determine the cohorts rate of reoffending. The results are published three-months later, meaning data relates to a period of analysis commencing 21-months earlier.

Table 3 shows that the Brent rate of reoffending decreased sharply in the period January to March 2021, increased sharply six-months later, fell sharply in the period January to March 2022, before increasing gradually in the five quarters that followed. There is however reason to be cautious about the accuracy of this data as it was counted during the height of the Pandemic. During this time crime statistics were affected by factors including restrictions on social movement, and the slow progression of cases through the judicial system which ultimately created a backlog of juvenile cases waiting to be administered.

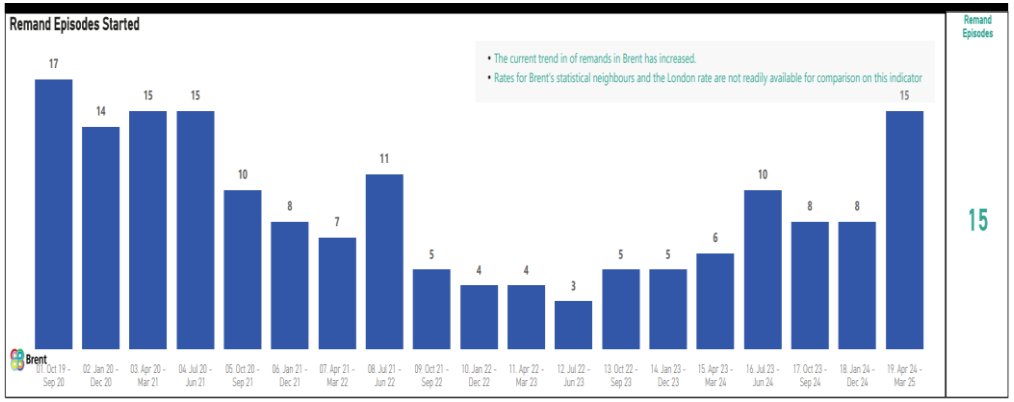
It may never be understood whether Brent’s performance was exceptional during the time or a biproduct of COVID-19. This question was posed to the YJB throughout this time; the response was limited to the possibility that due to pandemic related

			staffing issues affecting YJB data officers, Brent's data may not have been processed as thoroughly as usual. The "low rate of offending Brent has experienced in recent years" is referenced to the most recent rate of reoffending (33.3%) being almost half of that recorded in the period October to December 2019 (63.3%), when Brent's rate of reoffending was significantly higher than the London and Family Group rates – it is currently marginally higher than both. The complex nature of reoffending data warranted further explanation than that outlined in *The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery* report. Future reports will ensure this level of detail is provided. **Custody** The narrative and data provided in *The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery in Brent* included: *"Brent's custodial population is lower than both our statistical neighbours and the London average."* **Table 4: Brent youth custody rate and numbers, October 2019 to March 2025** 

Early Help response
The rate and number of Brent children sentenced to custody has fallen significantly since analysis within Table 4 commenced in the 12-month period October 2019 to September 2020 (0.32 children per thousand – 10 children) and ended in the period April 2024 to March 2025 (0.06 children per thousand – 2 children. It is currently well below both the London and family rate.

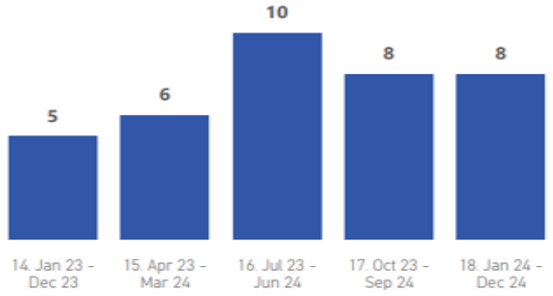
Remands
The narrative and data provided in *The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery in Brent* included:
"…the number of remands has increased by three compared to the previous year (five) to total eight in 2024/25. This increase is attributed to two serious incidents involving eight children in 2024/25."

Table 5: Brent youth remand numbers, October 2019 to March 2025



Early Help response
"…the number of remands has increased by three compared to the previous year (five) to total eight in 2024/25. This increase is attributed to two serious incidents involving eight children in 2024/25."

This statement mistakenly refers to the 2024/25 financial year. It is in fact a correct comparison of the calendar years 2024 and 2025:



A correct explanation of the reason why the number of children on remand increased significantly is provided. However, there is an absence of an explicit reference to the 15 children who were remanded into custody in the period April 2024 to March 2025.

A clearer narrative to provide context is as follows:
…the number of remands in the 2023 calendar year was five. This figure increased to eight in the 2024 calendar year. In the twelve-month period ending March 2025,15 children received custodial remands. This increase is attributed to two serious incidents involving eight children.

First-time entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs)
The narrative and data provided in *The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery in Brent* included:
*"T*he number of children entering the Youth Justice System has also been falling for more than a decade, at a national and local level."

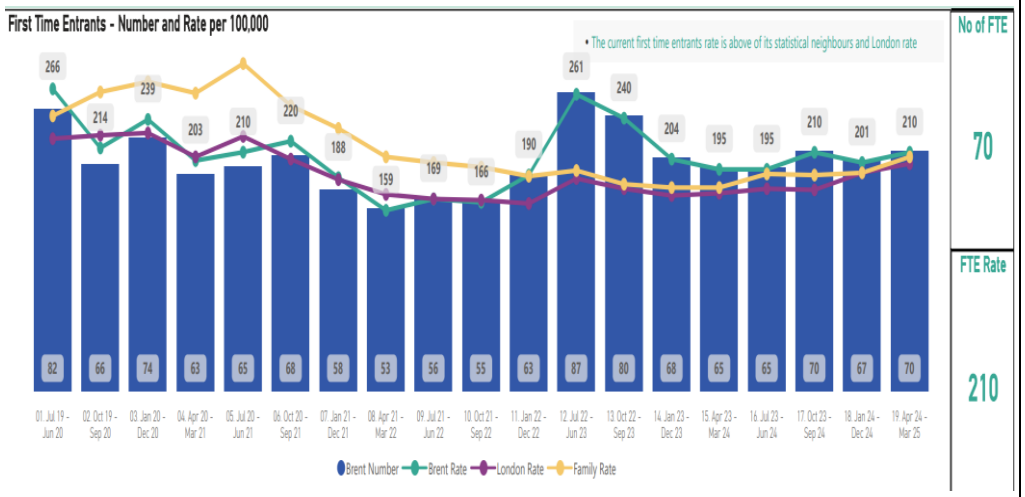
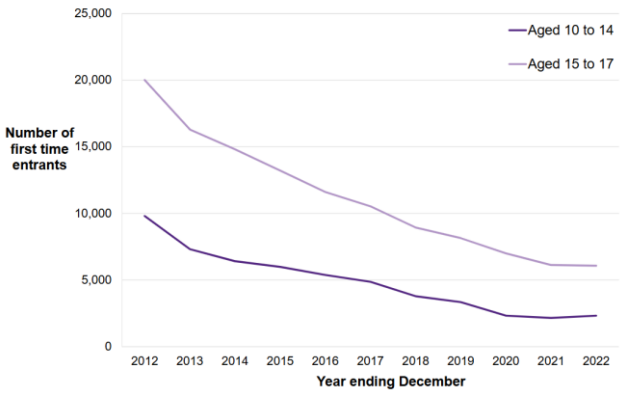
			Table 6: Brent first-time entrants to the youth justice system, July 2019 to March 2025  **Early Help response** More context was needed to support this statement: YJB Accredited official statistics provided in **Youth Justice Statistics: 2022 to 2023, Youth Justice Statistics: 2022 to 2023 (accessible version) - GOV.UK** Published on 25 January 2024, show that the national number of FTEs has fallen sharply since 2012.

			Figure 2.2: Number of child first time entrants by age group, England and Wales, year ending December 2012 to 2022  The number of FTEs in Brent in 2012 cannot be provided due to changes in case management systems that occurred at this time. It does however roughly correlate to the decline experienced nationally. A central government FTE target for Brent in the late noughties was approximately 400. Although the dataset provided in Table 6 cannot be extended to include this period, more explanation is needed. Future narratives of first-time offending will afford equal attention to recent change. In this way, the narrative relating to the period contained in *The Impact of Youth Justice Service Delivery in Brent,* will include additional information as follows: *"T*he number of children entering the Youth Justice System has also been falling for more than a decade, at a national and local level." In Brent, a historical low of 53 FTEs was recorded in the twelve-month period between April 2021 to March 2022. This increased to 87 in the period July 2022 to June 2023, before falling to 68 between January and December 2023. The number of FTEs plateaued at this time and most recently totalled 70 in the period April 2024 to March 2025. This is marginally higher, and comparable, than both our Family and the London rate of FTEs.

17 September 2025 – Children's Oral Health	For the Committee to be provided with the response made to the NHS Dentistry Contract consultation, and any follow-up responses made as a result of the findings of the consultation.	Service Reform and Strategy	Brent Council worked in collaboration with NWL dental liaison group to respond to the survey questions that formed the NHS Dentistry Contract consultation, and we will request for a local summary of the responses to the questions. NHS Dentistry Contract consultation which closed in August 2025, and the findings are being considered. However, the DHSC expects that the proposals package may start to be implemented from April 2026. We will share any information from the implementation of the proposal with the committee when this happens.
17 September 2025 – Period Dignity	To provide the list of schools that had confirmed they were providing free period products.	Service Reform and Strategy	Between 2020-2024, the schools listed below have provided free products (this list does not necessarily mean the schools provided products every year). More comprehensive insights are available via the Department for Education: Period product scheme: management information - GOV.UK • Newman Catholic College • Skills Training UK • JFS • Capital City Academy • Ark Academy • Ashley College • E-ACT Crest Academy • Claremont High School • Kingsbury High School • Saint Claudine's Catholic School for Girls • Wembley High Technology College • Queens Park Community School • Alperton Community School • Sudbury Primary School • Preston Manor School • Salusbury Primary School • Woodfield School • Gladstone Park Primary School • Ark Elvin Academy

			• Michaela Community School • St Andrew and St Francis CofE Primary School • St Gregory's Catholic Science College • Oakington Manor Primary School • Furness Primary School • Manor School • Braintcroft E-ACT Primary Academy • The Kilburn Park School Foundation • Chalkhill Primary School • Mitchell Brook Primary School • Newfield Primary School • The Stonebridge School • Preston Park Primary School • Northview Junior and Infant School • Lyon Park Primary School • Leopold Primary School • Uxendon Manor Primary School • Harlesden Primary School • Brentfield Primary School • Anson Primary School • St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School • Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School • St Joseph's Catholic Junior School • Fryent Primary School • Oliver Goldsmith Primary School • Wykeham Primary School • Barham Primary School • Kingsbury Green Primary School • Islamia Primary School • Sinai Jewish Primary School

			• St Mary's CofE Primary School • Princess Frederica CofE Primary School • John Keble CofE Primary School • Christ Church CofE Primary School • Roe Green Junior School • Mount Stewart Junior School • Wembley Primary School • Phoenix Arch School • Byron Court Primary School • St Mary's RC Primary School • St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School • The Village School • Our Lady of Grace Catholic Junior School • St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School