

# Re-offending Rates of Children & Young People placed within Hillside Secure Children's Home



## Report Summary

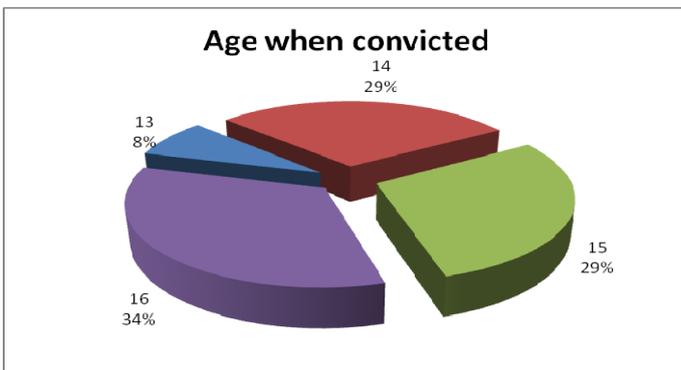
This report contains re-offending data that cover Children & Young People released from Hillside Secure Children's Home between 2006 – 2010 (4year period). A re-offence is defined as any offence committed and proven by a Court conviction or an Out-of-Court disposal.

## Subject Group

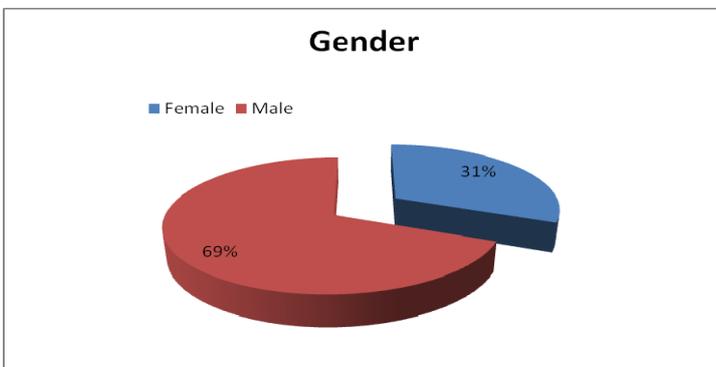
This research data is collated on a total subject group of 45 Children and Young People who have been placed at Hillside SCH on a sentence of 3 months or longer via the route of a court conviction. Children and young people who have been placed at Hillside SCH on Remand, and under Section 25 of the Children's Act have not been considered within this research.

## Young People Committing Offences by Age, Gender and Region

**Figure 1: Age When Convicted**

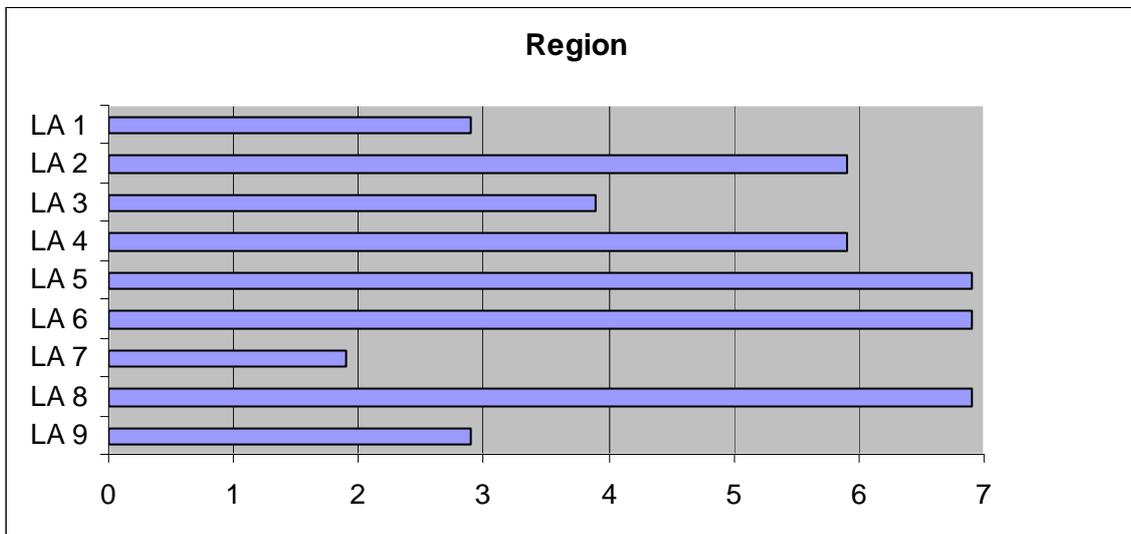


**Figure 2: Gender**



The Sample Group of 45 children and young people were from 9 South Wales Local Authorities referred to in this report as Regions. (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Region**



The subject group of young people that were reviewed were sentenced for a range of offences. Figure 4 provides a breakdown of the offences that young people were charged with.

**Figure 4: Sentences YPs received**

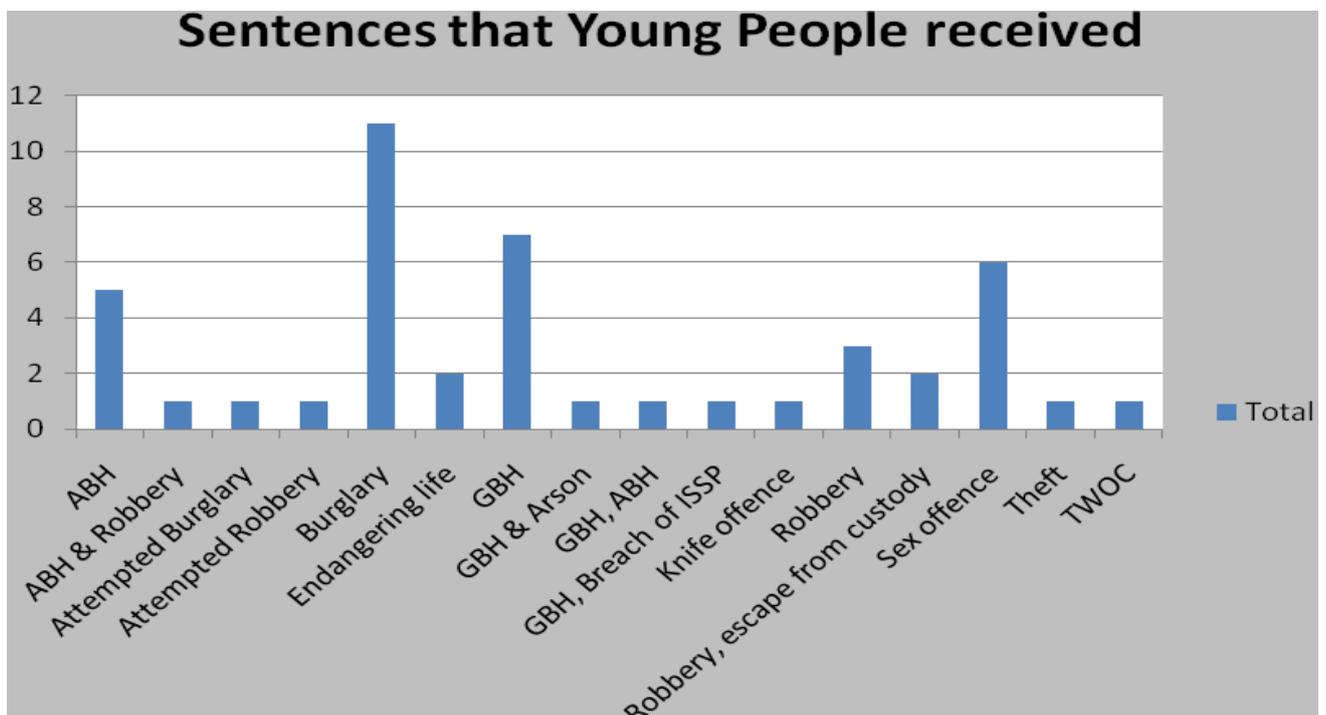
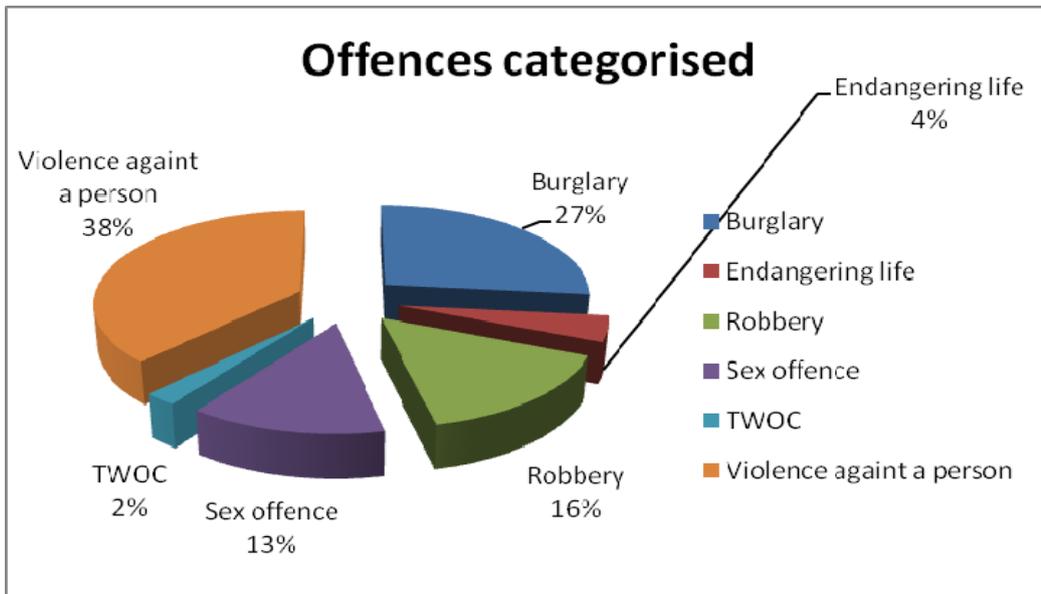
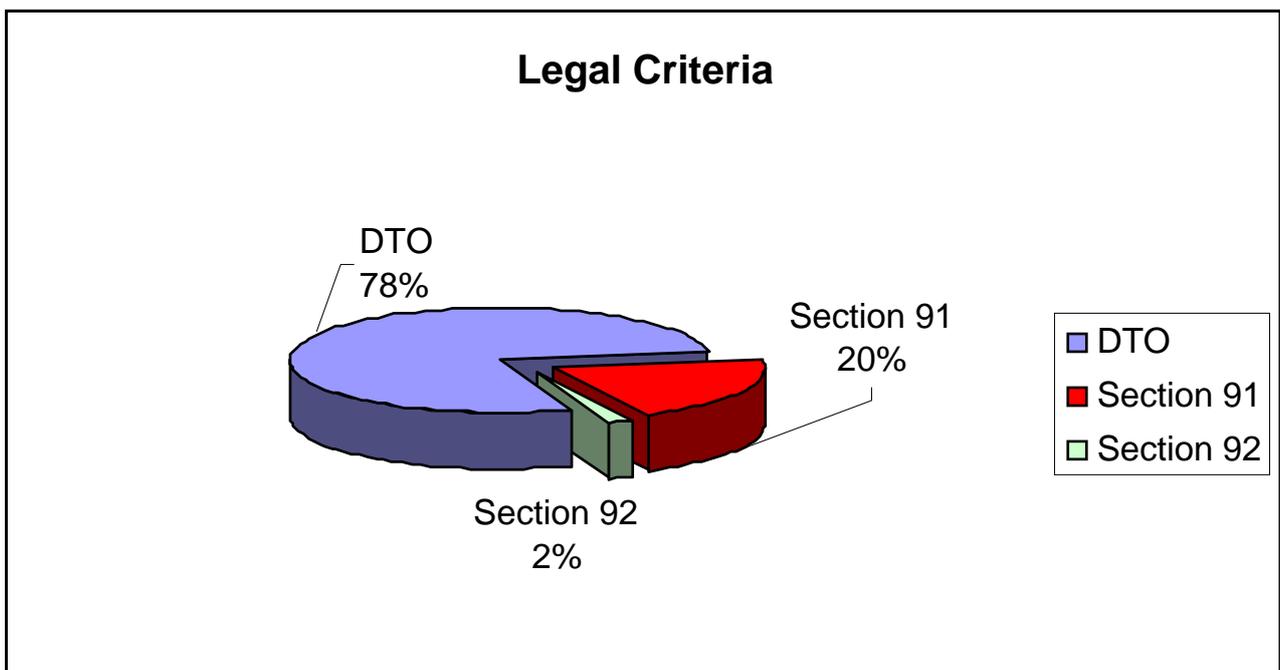


Fig. 5 illustrates that the majority of young people were sentenced to offences of Assaults, Burglary and Robbery. In fact, the young people sentenced to these offences make up a total of 81% of the subject group. This chart also identifies that 17% of the subject group is made up of more serious offences including those convicted of sex offences and endangering lives.

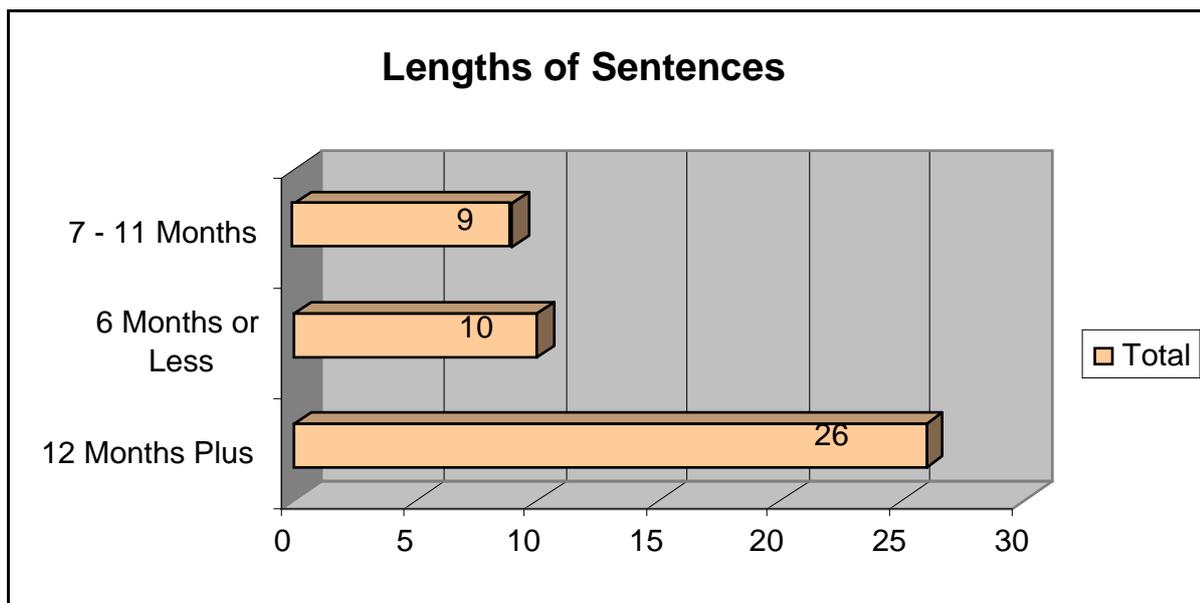
**Figure 5: Offences Categorised**



**Figure 6: Legal Criteria**



**Figure 7: Lengths of Sentence**



Of the 45 subjects, the sentences that the young people received varied depending on the severity of their offence committed, as determined by the Courts of Law. The majority (78%) were sentenced to Detention & Training Orders under the Crime & Disorder Act, 1998. The remainder (22%) were sentenced to Section 91 or Section 92 under the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. All sentences required young people to serve half the sentence in custody, and the remainder of the sentence was served in the community. Depending on the length of sentence and nature of crime, many young people serving 8 months or longer in custody were entitled to apply for Early Release, which allowed them the opportunity to serve less time in custody, and the remainder of the sentence on license. Early release was determined by good behaviour and set requirements (as outlined by the Youth Justice Board) had to be achieved in order to be successful in gaining early release.

Fig 7 illustrates that 58% of young people were sentenced to 12 months or longer, 22% served 6 months or less and 20% served 7-11 months at Hillside SCH. The amount of time that these young people served at Hillside SCH, was in line with the sentence length that they received, and they ranged from 4 months to 3 years 6 months.

### **Method of Research**

The method used to collate the information gathered on each young person was direct interviews and completion of questionnaires with YOS Workers. Each YOS accessed their IYOS system in order to access appropriate information. This is an information

system that stores confidential data and information on each young person who is known to their local authority as a result of their offending behaviour.

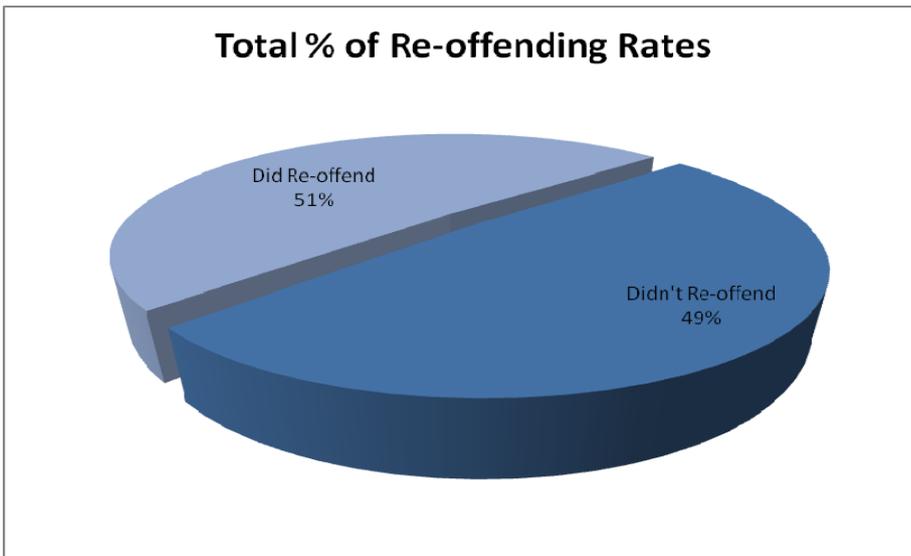
**Breakdown of Numbers in Custody, March 2010 (x)**

<b>TOTAL in Custody</b>	<b>2,209</b>		
Boys	2,089		
Girls	120		
Population by sentence	Remands	569	
	Detention & Training Orders	1,193	
	Section 90	27	
	Section 91	342	
	Section 226 (Indeterminate Sentence)	37	
	Section 228 (Extended Sentence)	41	
Population by type of facility	Secure Training Centres (STCs)	158	Small centres with tailored programmes, constructive, education/rehabilitation focused. Include input from health and social-care professionals. Run by private operators on Home Office contracts.
	Local Authority Secure Children's Homes (LASCHs)	258	Small homes for children and young people aged 12 – 17 years with a high ratio of staff-young people focusing on physical, emotional and behavioural needs. Run by local authority social services departments.
	Youth Offenders' Institutions (YOIs)	1,793	Larger capacity centres for 15-21 year olds already known to the police and the courts, YOI's primary aim is to prevent offending and reduce reoffending. Run by the Prison Service.

## Research Outcomes

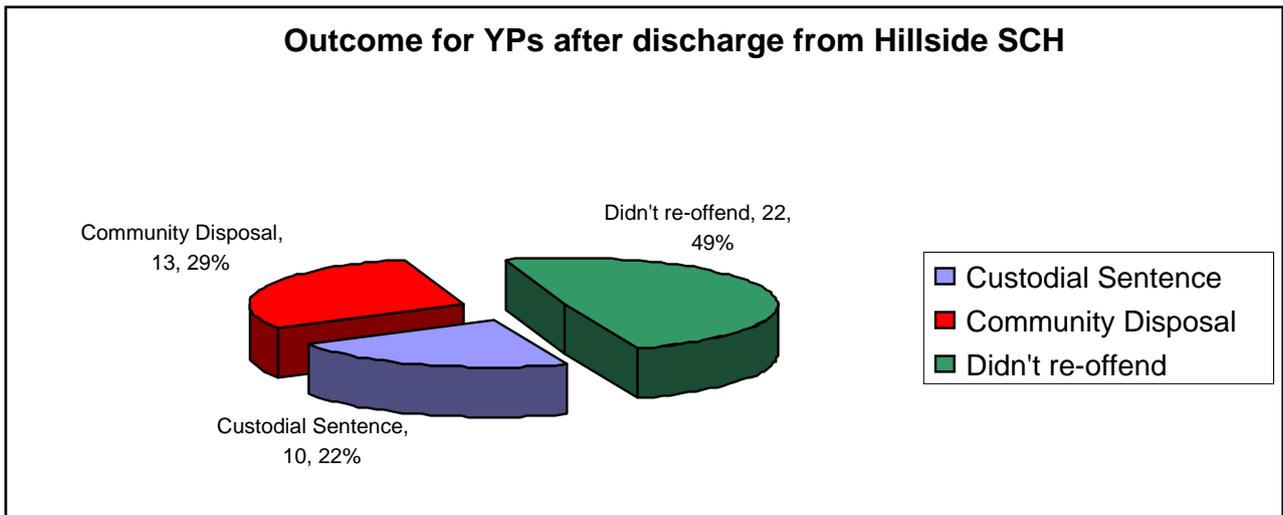
After reviewing all of the individual cases of the young people that were placed at Hillside SCH, the evidence gathered indicates that of the total 45 subject group 22 young people did not re-offend in comparison to 23 young people who did re-offend. Thus, Fig 8 illustrates that 51% did re-offend in comparison to 49% who didn't.

**Figure 8: Total % of Re-offending Rates**

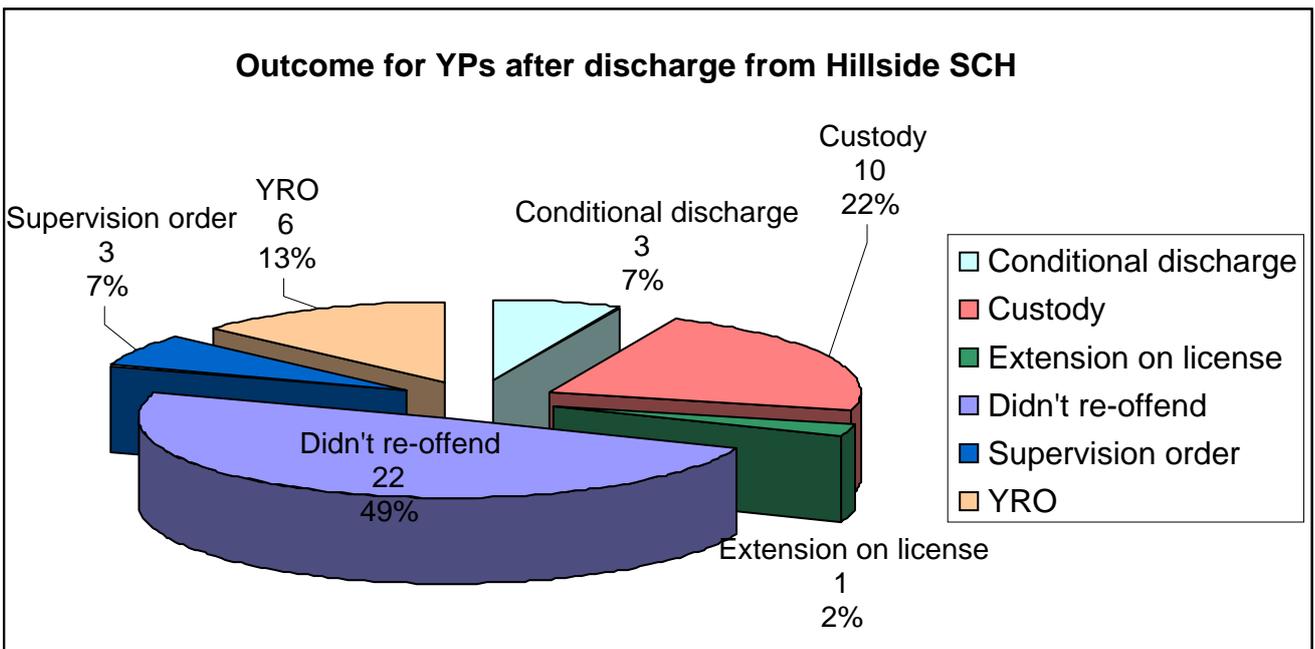


A further breakdown of the outcomes that occurred in respect of re-offending of the young people within the first year after their discharge from Hillside is highlighted in Fig 10. The data gathered informs us that of the 23 young people who did re-offend, less than half of them returned to custody. Thus a total of 22%, that's a total of 10 young people of the total subject group returned to custody as a result of their re-offending. As fig. 09 illustrates, the remaining 29% of the subject group who did re-offend went on to have community outcomes. These 'community outcomes' ranged from Supervision Orders, Youth Referral Orders (YRO)s, conditional discharges and an extension of their current license conditions.

**Figure 9: Outcome for YPs after Discharge from Hillside SCH**

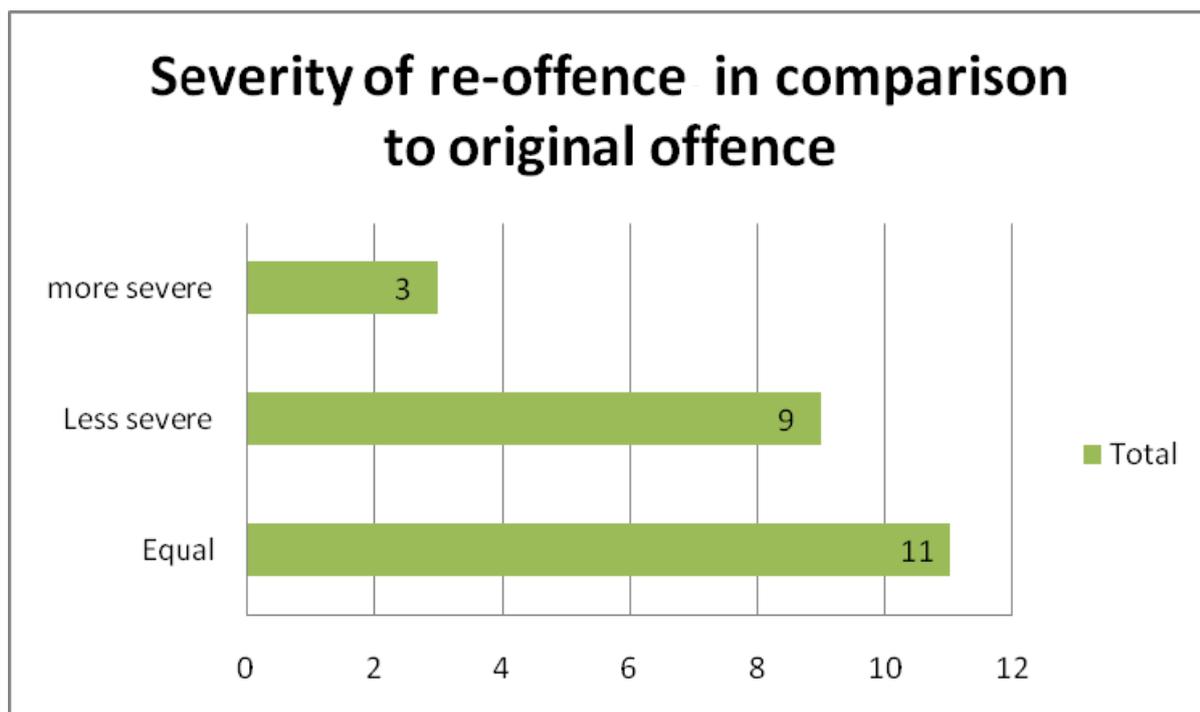


**Figure 10: Outcome for YPs after Discharge from Hillside SCH**



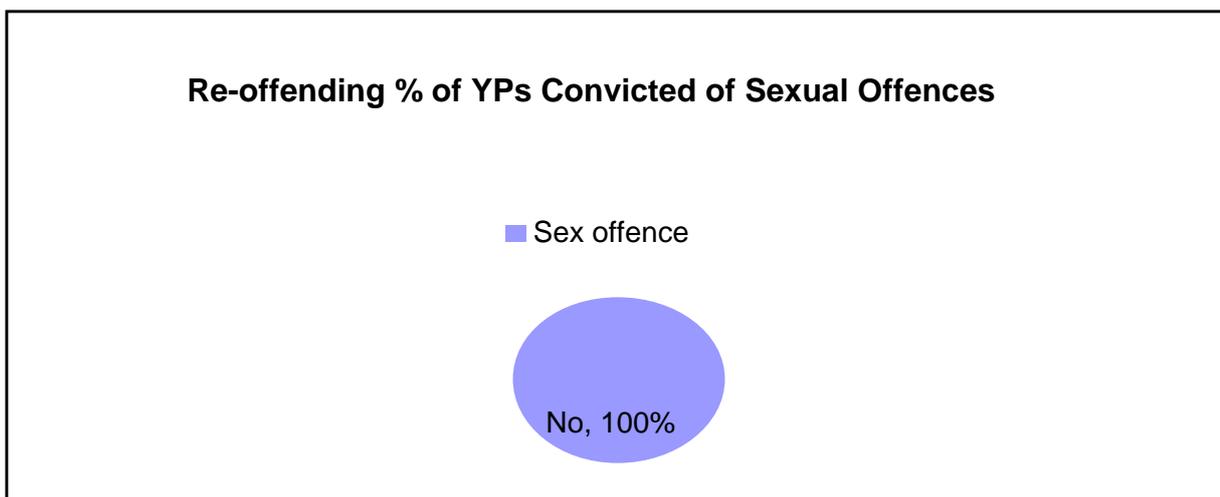
Of the young people who did re-offend, the data gathered also highlighted that of 23 who did re-offend, 11 young people went on to re-offend and committing offences that were of an equal severity to their initial index offence that they were sentenced for to Hillside SCH. A further 3 young people did progress to offend in crimes that would be considered more severe than their original index offence, and the final 9 young people who re-offended committed offences that were considered less severe than their original index offence. See Figure 11 for illustration of this information.

**Figure 11: Severity of Re-offence in Comparison to Original Offence**



The research also indicates that of the 6 young people who committed offences of a sexual nature, none of them were found to re-offend. See Figure 12 for illustration.

**Figure 12: Re-offending % of YPs Convicted of Sexual Offences**



All 6 of these young people received assessment and one-to-one therapeutic intervention from the Barnardo's Service known as TAITH during their time served at Hillside SCH. This service works directly with Children & Young People who are found to exhibit sexually harmful behaviours and access the service through a referral system at Hillside SCH.

Out of these 6 young people who accessed the Barnardo's, TAIITH service, research indicates that none of the young people have re-offended since their discharge from Hillside SCH. 3 of the young people have successfully completed their community element of their order, and have not required any further intervention from the local authority YOS. 1 of the young people breached the conditions of their license 12 weeks after their discharge from custody, and is currently recalled to custody to serve the remainder of their sentence. A further 2 are still in the process of completing their community element of their order, however have so far complied with all aspects of their license conditions, and are working well with agencies and support put in place.

## **Conclusion**

In considering the data and information gathered relating to the young people who were placed at Hillside SCH there appears to be significant differences in comparisons made with National Statistic rates of re-offending. The difference would support that re-offending rates are evidenced as being significantly lower than those identified within the National Statistics across England & Wales which reflect Children & Young People who have been accommodated in YOIs, STC and SCH. It is also worth noting that the subject group that have been identified for the purpose of this report meet specific criteria, including being sentenced and being placed at Hillside for a period of 3 months or longer, whereas the National Statistics does not appear to differentiate time served in custody.

The evidence collated within this research does indicate that the rates of re-offending and importantly those who return to custody as a direct result of re-offending (22%) are significantly lower than the national average (69%). It is arguable that this may be related to the intensive therapeutic intervention and support that the young people receive during their time at Hillside SCH. The services and interventions that are provided at Hillside that have a significant and constant positive impact on children are:-

- The Barnardo's Sexualised Behaviour Assessment of therapeutic intervention that achieves very positive results.
- The WGCCADA Substance Misuse Assessment, Education and therapeutic intervention and detoxification programmes.

- The Social Care Assessments and programmes of work that covers emotional and behavioural development e.g. self esteem, self harm, anger management, peer relationships and many more.
- A child focused Clinical Psychologist Assessment and child development focussed intervention plan and direct therapeutic work.
- A detailed Personal Education Plan across 10 secondary curriculum subjects constructed from Education based Assessments aimed at attaining maximum achievement and accreditation.
- Clinical Psychiatric Assessments, treatment and therapeutic work for children with intensive emotional and behavioural development needs mental health and high risk behaviours.

All of these services work closely together to ensure the assessments and interventions provided are planned and targeted to achieve the best outcomes as evidenced within this report.

It also remains important to recognise that upon young people's discharge from Hillside SCH, they receive support from the local authority Youth Offending Services (YOS), whereby young people are required to maintain stringent conditions that relate to their community element of their sentence. Another area to consider as a factor for re-offending is the individual young person's personal motivations for wanting to turn their life around, and consequently the factors that are able to support this to happen. It is therefore evident that there are many variables that need to be considered in whether a young person has the ability to transform their lifestyle, and not re-offend, and at this stage it is important to be clear that numerous factors play a significant role in this. However as previously mentioned, it is important to note that there certainly is a significant difference of re-offending rates within this report relating to young people placed in Hillside Secure Children's Home to that of the national averages, and consequently this is the one factor that differs from the national data which explores young people placed in all secure accommodation and does not distinguish between different accommodations available.

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