

The Children's Tribunal System Annual Report 2022



Annual Report 2022

Table of Contents

<i>Foreword by Chair of the Board</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>About The Children’s Tribunal System</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>How the Children’s Tribunal System works</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Key Features of the Children’s Tribunal System</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>The President’s Annual Report to the Convenor & Tribunal Board for 2022</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>The Children’s Convenor’s Annual Report to the Convenor & Tribunal Board for 2022</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Summary of the data for 2022</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Statistics in 2022</i>	<i>16</i>

This report covers the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. It summarises the activities and performance of the Office of the Children’s Convenor during that period and presents statistical information about children and young people referred and notified to the Children’s Convenor as well as the activities of the President of the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal during that period and presents statistical information about the membership of the Tribunal.

Foreword by Chair of the Board

It was my great pleasure to return to the Convenor and Tribunal Board in October 2021, and succeed Gill Couch as Chair from the start of 2022. It is difficult to overestimate the positive impact that Gill has had on the Children's Tribunal System (CTS) during her six years as Chair, such is her dedication and care for the services, but I hope to emulate her professionalism and thoughtfulness. On behalf of us all, may I offer Gill our sincere thanks for her contribution as Chair. I am delighted that Gill remains as a board member so we will continue to benefit from her wise counsel.

The CTS has once again had a challenging yet successful year, with complex factors impacting the work of the three elements that comprise the System. Covid continued to have an impact on the Tribunal processes, with flexibility required by all parties to ensure that Hearings could be achieved in a meaningful yet safe manner. Furthermore, the impact of the pandemic on families within the Bailiwick began to be increasingly visible as we experienced referrals of increasing complexity. It is important that the whole of the child welfare system is focused on supporting families at the earliest opportunity, as not only is this cost-effective, but it allows change to be facilitated before children and families experience crises. This will become increasingly important as the legacy of the pandemic continues to present itself.

The President of the Tribunal, Ashley Rawles, provides more information about the activities of the CYCT (see page 8), while the Children's Convenor, Karen Brady, provides more information on the activities of the Convenor during 2022 (see page 11).

The Children's Law Review was concluded in 2022, with a resulting policy letter taken to the States of Guernsey Assembly in November 2022. The CTS has much data and experience that we were able to share with the Review team, and we are grateful for those Deputies that were curious and open-minded about our work. It is perhaps inevitable that there will be differing opinions within the child welfare system, however different views and perspectives are vital if we are to ensure that the rights and welfare of children remain central to everything that we do. It is therefore important that all voices are heard in such a Review. To this end, I am most grateful to Alan Miller, who joined the Board during 2022, for his insightful presentations about CTS, to Deputies during the run-up to the November debate. We also offer our thanks to Deputies Roffey and Burford for laying amendments that we believe ensured consistency and adherence to the Kilbrandon Principles upon which the 2008 Children's Law is predicated. Whilst not all of these amendments were successful, the CTS will continue to work with all other child welfare professionals in an open and constructive way to implement the changes to the Law. We must all remain mindful though that it is vital that we carefully monitor those changes resulting from the Review to ensure that they deliver the intended outcomes and that new powers are used as intended. As with all public services, resources are naturally limited, and it is paramount that they are deployed to maximise their positive impact on the lives of children and families in our islands.

I wish to close by paying tribute and offering my grateful thanks to those three elements of CTS that together provide an innovative, quality-assured and child-centric service:

- The Children's Convenor and her staff, who continually provide a compassionate, professional and efficient service with resources that do not always match the demands placed upon them

- The President and her Tribunal Members who quietly and diligently undertake one of the most challenging, but important, voluntary roles in the islands
- The Convenor and Tribunal Board who offer the support, scrutiny and guidance that is so important given the wider challenges facing the CTS

Together, these three elements provide a small, but very effective service, as our results for 2022 demonstrate. The CTS is a place where people know what they do, and why; this is quite some super power.

About The Children's Tribunal System

The Children's Tribunal system is made up of three independent parts: the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal, the Office of the Children's Convenor and the Convenor and Tribunal Board.

The purpose of the Tribunal is to make decisions that protect children from harm and promote their proper and adequate health, welfare and development. The Tribunal is a legal forum and the decisions that it makes are legally binding. The Tribunal deals with the majority of children where some compulsory State intervention may be needed. The President of the Tribunal's main responsibilities are to manage the work of the Tribunal and monitor and develop the performance of the members of the Tribunal.

The Children's Convenor's main responsibility is to decide when a child or young person is referred to the Tribunal. The Children's Convenor also has many other legal responsibilities relating to children and young people and the Tribunal process.

The Board sets the overall strategic direction for both services and provides support and challenge to both the President and the Children's Convenor. The Board is responsible for securing the resources required to ensure that the Children's Convenor, the President and the Tribunal are able to carry out their respective duties.

The Children's Tribunal system relies on a number of highly inter-dependent roles that extend beyond the roles of the Board, Children's Convenor and Tribunal Members. This wider community includes the Committee *for* Health and Social Care which is responsible for giving effect to the decisions of Tribunal hearings, Social Workers, Safeguarders, Teachers, Advocates, Jurats and a range of other professionals and volunteers.

The members of the Convenor and Tribunal Board in 2022 were:

Mrs Jane St Pier (Chair)

Mrs Gill Couch

Mrs Janet Gaggs

Mr Jon Beausire (outgoing in 2022)

Mrs Angharad Lewis-Jones

Mr Nigel Lewis

Advocate Peter Atkinson

Dr Beverley Workman

Mr Alan Miller (incoming in 2022)

How the Children's Tribunal System works

- An incident occurs or a concern arises that may require compulsory intervention and a child or young person is referred to the Children's Convenor.
- The Convenor investigates the incident or concern by requesting information from different sources. This can include information on the child's attendance and behaviour at school, their health and development, family background and involvement with other agencies.
- The Convenor evaluates the information and decides whether there may be a need for compulsory intervention (intervention in family life irrespective of the consent of the child and their parents). If so, the child is referred to a hearing of the Tribunal.
- If the Convenor decides that a hearing is needed, the child or young person and their family will attend a meeting arranged by the Convenor to consider the Children's Convenor Statement (legal reasons for the Hearing).
- A Hearing will take place once the grounds of referral are accepted or, if necessary, once the Juvenile Court has decided that they have been established on the basis of evidence presented by the Convenor.
- Each Hearing comprises of three Tribunal members, all trained volunteers from the local community. The child or young person and their family or carers are central participants in the hearing.
- At the Hearing the Tribunal members will hear from the child or young person and their parents or carers and from the professionals involved in their lives – for instance teachers and social workers.
- Having heard from everyone the Tribunal makes a decision on whether or not a legal order called a care requirement is necessary.
- If a care requirement is made, the Tribunal can attach conditions to this such as where the child shall live, who they will have contact with or that they will attend a programme to address their behaviour.
- Once made the Tribunal can review a care requirement and it can be cancelled, continued or changed.
- The Committee *for* Health and Social Care has a legal obligation to implement the decisions made by the Tribunal.

Key Features of the Children's Tribunal System

Welfare-based – the welfare of the child is the paramount consideration for all decisions and actions, irrespective of the reasons for concern.

Holistic – the Tribunal considers the child's whole circumstances, including their family and wider community. Compulsory intervention encompasses care, protection, guidance and control.

Integrated – concerns about children's behaviour and welfare are dealt with in one place at the same time, ensuring a co-ordinated approach is taken to the needs of young people.

Community based – the Members of the Tribunal are trained lay people who represent a diverse cross section of the local community. They receive professional and procedural advice to inform their decisions.

Rights respecting – the principles and ethos of the Children's Tribunal System resonate with a number of the rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children, parents and carers have rights throughout the process; these include the right to accept or deny the reasons for concern, the right to appeal decisions and the right to ask for a review of compulsory intervention.

Non-adversarial – whilst still observing legal procedures, the style and setting of Tribunal Hearings are relatively informal with participants sitting around a table to encourage full and frank discussions. Legalese and court language is set aside in favour of more straight-forward terminology, which contributes to a supportive atmosphere, encouraging children, families and professionals to participate.

Inquisitorial – the Tribunal's approach allows a full enquiry into the circumstances of a child or young person in a way that a court cannot, resulting in an enhanced understanding of the child's world.

Participative – the child or young person is at the centre of Children's Tribunal proceedings. It is in effect "their Hearing"; a place where their voice is heard and their views taken into account. Two-way communication and active participation is encouraged. This increases ownership of the presenting concerns and the solutions to these and therefore increases the prospect of successful intervention.

Transparent - Tribunal Members reach their decisions in the presence of the child, family and professionals and explain the reasoning for the decisions made.

Flexible – the Tribunal has the ability to change or alter the measures initially put in place for a child when this is necessary.

Confidential – all Hearings are conducted in private to ensure protection for the privacy of the child and their family.

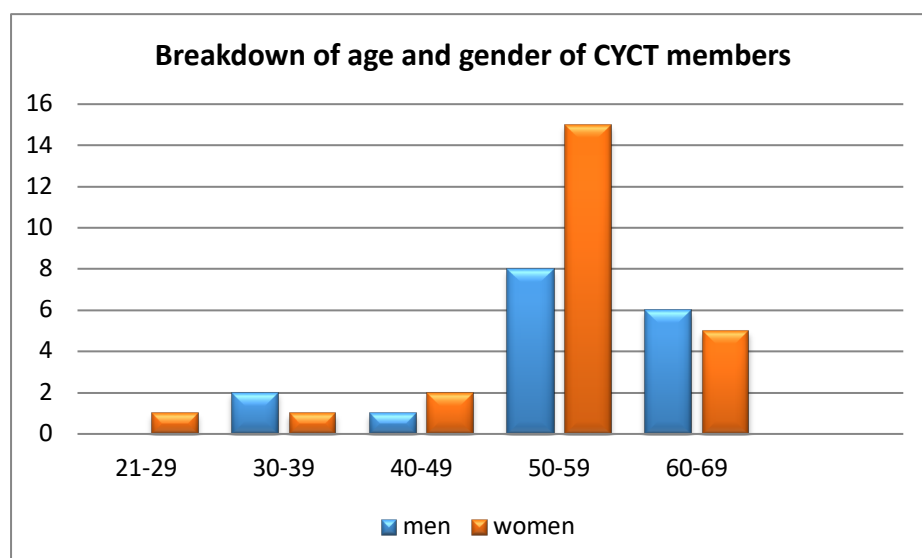
The President's Annual Report to the Convenor & Tribunal Board for 2022



During 2022 COVID continued to affect the operational aspects of the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal (CYCT). However, it is a great credit to the Tribunal and the Office of the Children's Convenor that we continued to hold hearings and ensure that the most vulnerable children and young people in the Bailiwick were afforded the care and protection they required. This was in no small part due to the increasing use of Microsoft Teams when persons could not attend hearings in person. My thanks go to both professionals and the families attending hearings, whether that was in person or remotely, for their patience and understanding as we continued to adapt our working practices.

Membership

At the start of 2022 there were forty-six (46) members of the CYCT. Five members resigned during the year for a variety of reasons. Therefore, at the end of 2022 the CYCT had forty-one (41) members. The breakdown of age and gender of the current membership is represented in the following chart:



Members continue to come from diverse backgrounds. Some work full-time, some part-time and some are retired. Members are or have been teachers, accountants, HR staff and sports coaches to name but a few. The role of a Tribunal member is a voluntary one with a small allowance paid to each member per Tribunal.

Number of hearings held

During 2022, the Tribunal sat on 183 occasions. During these sittings 210 hearing were held to consider children's cases. These hearings related to 88 children (some children appearing before the Tribunal on more than one occasion). The number of sittings and hearing sessions was slightly more than in 2021 and would be expected given the acute disruption caused that year by COVID restrictions.

Monitoring of members

The monitoring of the performance of CYCT members is an important process to ensure Tribunal Members continue to demonstrate the behaviors and attitudes expected of them and that they continue to meet the competencies required of the role. Monitoring in 2022 was once again impacted by COVID and yet despite this all but two (2) members were monitored at least once during the year, with a third monitored twice or more. My thanks go to the monitoring team who persisted to ensure that Tribunal Members were monitored and feedback provided so that I can attest that the standards we set our members are being maintained.

Training

In addition to sitting on hearings, Tribunal Members are mandated to attend 2 training sessions each calendar year. These were held in May and November and both sessions were received well by everyone in attendance. Attendance at both sessions was 65% and 68% of the sitting members.

Children's Law Review

During 2022 discussions about proposed changes to the Children's Law and Tribunal system continued, culminating in the issue being discussed in the States of Guernsey in November 2022. I was very pleased to have been offered an opportunity to share the views of the Members of the Tribunal System when I met the Children and Young People's Board in May. All Tribunal Members are volunteers and since the Tribunal system was introduced in 2010 over 100 Islanders have served on the Tribunal. These are ordinary members of the Bailiwick wanting to serve their community and having firsthand experience of the Children's Tribunal and the ways in which it can help.

The welfare of children is at the heart of the current Law and the Tribunal provides the opportunity for children in need or in trouble to be heard outside a court environment. The atmosphere in the Tribunal is non-adversarial, where the circumstances of the child or young person are considered holistically. The whole process is child-centred and children, young people and their families are treated respectfully and fairly. It was these values that I was able to share with the Children and Young People's Board to ensure that they were not overlooked in any changes.

In 2022 I was re-appointed as President for a second term of three years. I am immensely grateful to the support from my Deputies Tim Bush and Richard Hamilton as well as members of the Convenor and Tribunal Board and the staff at the OCC. I consider it to be a privilege to be part of the Children's Tribunal System working in conjunction with such a dedicated Team.

Finally, I consider it an honour to represent, as President, a group of such committed individuals as my fellow Tribunal members, who give their time so selflessly to preparing for and sitting on hearings. There is no doubt that this has, once again, been a challenging year for us all and I have been so grateful for the support of the membership whose continued commitment has meant the service has met those challenges with minimum disruption. As a result, the children and young people of the Bailiwick have continued to be afforded the care and protection of the Children's Tribunal system.

Ashley Rawles

President of the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal

The Children's Convenor's Annual Report to the Convenor & Tribunal Board for 2022

After two years of unprecedented challenges, 2022 saw our team return to a more settled means of operating. Reflecting on the experiences of the last couple of years we have learned a lot from operating during a pandemic. We learned how agile we can be and how quickly we can adapt and change our practice when faced with challenges. I am immensely proud of every member of the team as each played an important part in keeping the service running throughout this time.

Our data for 2022 reflects this wider recovery within the care and justice system with referral numbers returning to pre pandemic levels as children returned to their routines and activities and were therefore more visible to services. Law enforcement continued to be the main source of referrals to the Convenor, with an increase of 25% on the number referred in 2021. Referrals from Health and Social Care Services almost doubled, with an increase of 87%. Referrals from both the School Attendance Service and Education Services also increased. Of note was the significant increase in referrals from other services and individuals. This increase is positive and indicates that there is greater awareness of the fact that anyone can refer a child or young person to the Children's Convenor when there are concerns about their behaviour, care or welfare that might require compulsory intervention.

During 2022 there was an increase in the number of children referred because of concerns that they were suffering or likely to suffer significant impairment to their health or development and an increase in those referred because of concerns that they had displayed violent or destructive behaviour or were otherwise beyond parental control. Much has been written about the impact of the pandemic on families. Reports are beginning to emerge highlighting the significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing as well as the learning and development of many children and young people. There are also indicators from research in the UK that some forms of child abuse increased and that the pandemic has impacted on people's relationships, finances and physical and mental health. These are all factors that can place families under heightened pressures. It is therefore no surprise that more children are being identified as in need or at risk and I anticipate that this will continue into 2023.

Alongside our statutory responsibilities a key focus of our work in 2022 was informing and contributing to the discussions and decisions relating to review of the Children's Law. We continued throughout 2022 to support the significant majority of the changes proposed and to make the case against extending the powers of the Court and lowering the threshold for Court orders. The policy letter presented by the Committee for Health and Social Care was debated by the States in November 2022 with the States making 28 resolutions relating to the family care and justice system. Although this includes some extension of the Court's power the President of the Committee for Health and Social Care and those Deputies who are members of the Children and Young People Board confirmed during the debate that these new and additional powers would be used very rarely and some will only be available in exceptional cases. The changes are intended to reduce duplication and delay within the system and improve outcomes for children and young people and during 2023 we will be working with our partners to implement the changes that have been approved.

After a couple of challenging years, the wellbeing of our staff team has also been a key focus in 2022. Being part of a system designed to support and safeguard children places us in a

privileged position, however this also means that we have to work with some very disturbing and traumatic events and experiences of children and young people. As well as an increase in the number of referrals, like our colleagues in the UK, we are also seeing an increase in complexity. It is therefore important that we look after our talented and committed team and ensure that we have a healthy and happy workplace. With this in mind, at the end of 2022 we commenced a review to ensure that we are fit for the future and able to support the delivery of all of the statutory functions of the Children's Tribunal System. This work has continued over into 2023 and will further assist us in our journey to being a trauma informed and responsive organisation.

We ended the year in 2022 with a sense of closure, thankful that both the review of the Children Law and the pandemic had reached a conclusion and looking forward to continuing to improve the experiences of all of those who come into contact with the Children's Tribunal System. The experiences of the last few years means we are better equipped to deal with the new challenges and opportunities that this will bring.

Karen Brady
Children's Convenor

Strategic Aims and Targets for the Children’s Tribunal System

The strategic aims for the Children’s Tribunal System are:

<p>Care</p> <p>Delivering our services in an environment that is supportive, trauma-informed and non-adversarial.</p> <p>Ensuring our staff and Tribunal Members are valued and supported.</p>	<p>Connect</p> <p>Increasing participation and engagement of children and young people.</p> <p>Nurturing our relationships with children, young people and their families, our partners, the community and the environment.</p>
<p>Collaborate</p> <p>Working effectively with our partners to improve outcomes for children and young people and ensure they get the right help at the right time.</p> <p>Share information and data to inform understanding and raise awareness of the roles of the Tribunal and Convenor and the issues faced by children.</p>	<p>Change</p> <p>Continue to develop effective services in imaginative and innovative ways.</p> <p>Increase our use of technology.</p>

Presented below is our activity and progress on these strategic aims during 2022:

Care

- We developed Guidance for Tribunal members in managing virtual hearings
- We commenced a review of our service delivery and structure to ensure we are fit for the future
- We worked with partners through Community Partnerships to support young people exhibiting anti-social behaviour
- Members of the team attended a number of training and information events throughout the year as part of our continuous learning and professional development
- We undertook an audit of Convenor decision making

Connect

- We developed a working protocol with partners at the Family Proceedings Advisory Service
- We participated in a number of workshops to inform the review of the Children Law
- Our Board members gave a presentation to Deputies on the Children’s Tribunal System and our views on the implications of the changes proposed to the Children Law
- We continued to develop our social media presence and posted regularly to provide information to the community about our services

- We continued to deliver training on the role of the Children’s Convenor and the Tribunal

Collaborate

- In partnership with Islands Safeguarding Children Partnership (ISCP) we developed two further sessions for the Safeguarding Learning Network
- We provided training on the role of the Convenor and Tribunal to Bailiwick Law Enforcement staff
- We contributed to the development of ISCP Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework and procedural guidance
- We contributed to several rapid reviews undertaken by the ISCP and participated in a number of Partnership sub-groups
- We developed a plan to action the learning from a Serious Case Review undertaken by the ISCP
- We participated in an ISCP event on developing the ISCP values, culture and vision

Change

- We developed our use of Office 365
- We provided training to CYCT members on the use of Microsoft Teams
- We reviewed and updated our Practice Direction in relation to notifications and papers for Hearings and Convenor Meetings
- We reviewed with partners the pathway for criminal referrals

Performance and targets 2022

The Children’s Tribunal System had five key performance targets for 2022:

- The percentage of Convenor decisions made within 50 working days was 56%. We therefore did not meet our target of 70%. Our performance was significantly impacted by the fact that we continued to experience challenges receiving information to inform these decisions with only 47% of information and report requests received on time. This may reflect the resource pressures on partner agencies
- The percentage of Tribunal Hearings that concluded within 90 minutes was also lower than in previous years with 59% concluded within this timescale. Our performance target for 2022 was 70%
- There were no appeals against the decision of a hearing of the Tribunal during 2022 therefore our target of no appeals upheld due to procedural errors was met.
- 58% of children and young people aged 6 or over actively participated in one or more dispositive hearing held during 2022 to consider their circumstances. This was an improvement on 2021 and exceeded our target of 40%
- We received no complaints from children, young people or their carers about our service during 2022
- As in previous years we were within our budgetary targets for 2022

Summary of the data for 2022

Throughout the year we gathered information to inform our practice and to share with our partners. Here is a summary of our data for 2022. Further information can be found in the Statistics section of the report.

324 children and young people referred to the Convenor

- There was an increase in the total number of referrals received by the Convenor during 2022 of more than 100 referrals. Non-offence referrals increased by 141% and offence referrals decreased by 12.5%.

74 children referred on care and protection concerns

- A high percentage of the of non-offence referrals received (64%) included concerns about the care and protection being given to children and young people by their parents or carers. 25% of the children referred on non-offence reasons were aged five or under.

14 years the most common age of referral

- The most common reason for referral to the Convenor was that the young person had committed an offence (58%). Traffic offences made up 33% of the total offence referrals received, with 79% of these relating to young people who were under the age of 17.

363 reports requested by the Convenor

- 47% of the reports and information requested by the Convenor to inform decisions were received on or before the due date.

289 decisions made

- A final decision was made by or on behalf of the Convenor on 289 referrals. The Convenor referred 59 of these referrals to the Tribunal. This is a increase in the percentage referred in 2021 (31%). 56% of Convenor decisions were made within 50 working days (26% of the decisions made on care and protection concerns, 72% of the decisions made on behaviour related concerns and 31% of the decisions made on school attendance concerns).

74 Convenor Meetings held

- The grounds for referral were accepted by young people and their parents or carers in 100% of the cases considered at a Children's Convenor Meeting or thereafter.

210 Hearings of the Tribunal held

- The number of hearings of the Tribunal held in 2022 increased by 15%, although the number of children or young people who attended them decreased by 11%. The most common reason for referral to the Tribunal was because the child or young person was suffering or likely to suffer significant impairment to their health or development.

25 Care Requirements made

- There was an increase in both the number of children who were made subject to a care requirement in 2022 and those who were subject to a care requirement at the end of 2022.

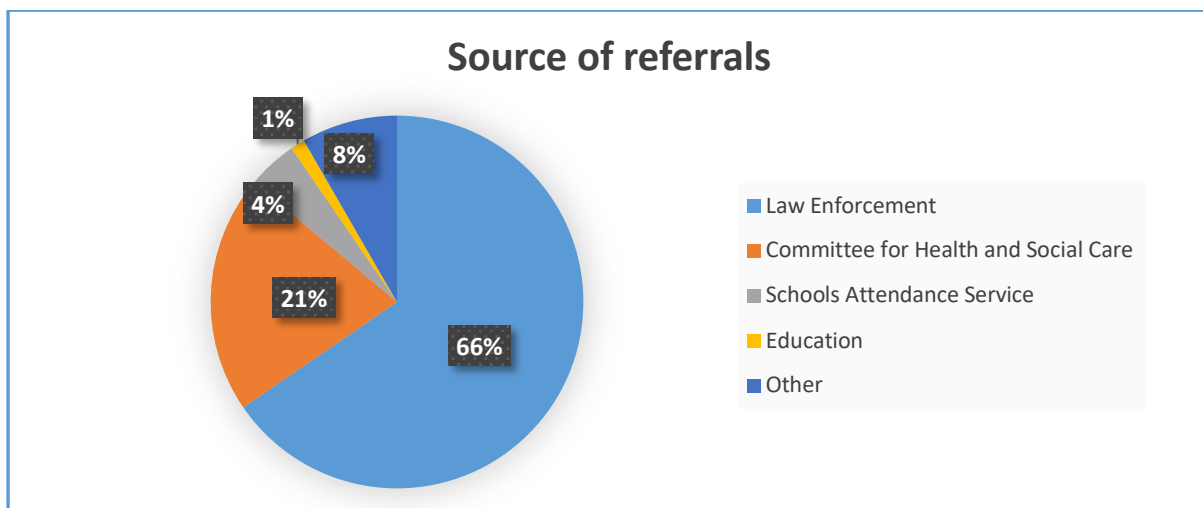
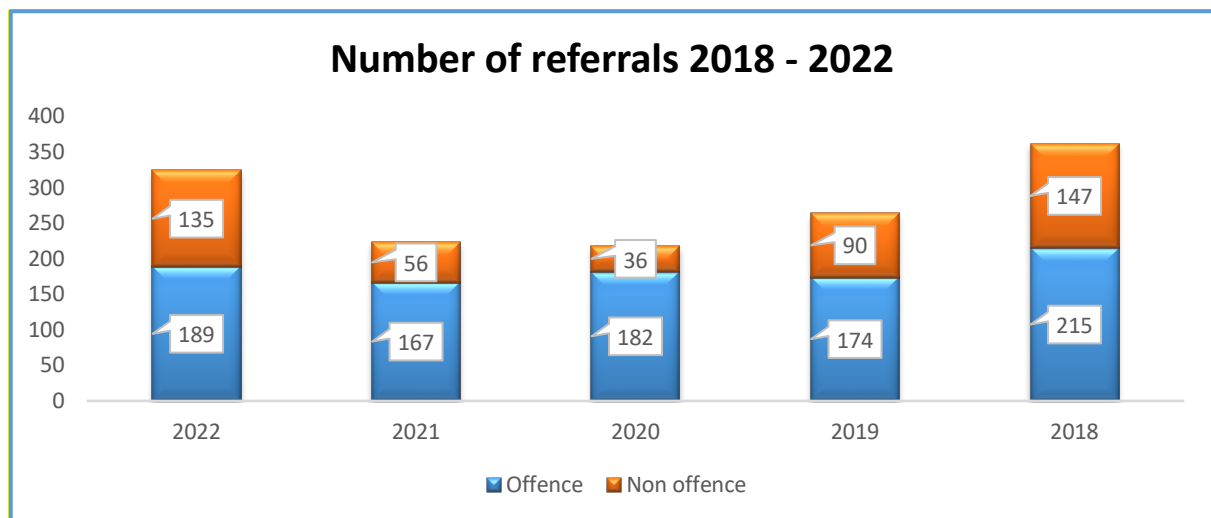
Statistics in 2022

This section of the report includes the key statistics for 2022.

Referrals & children and young people referred

Referrals received by the Convenor

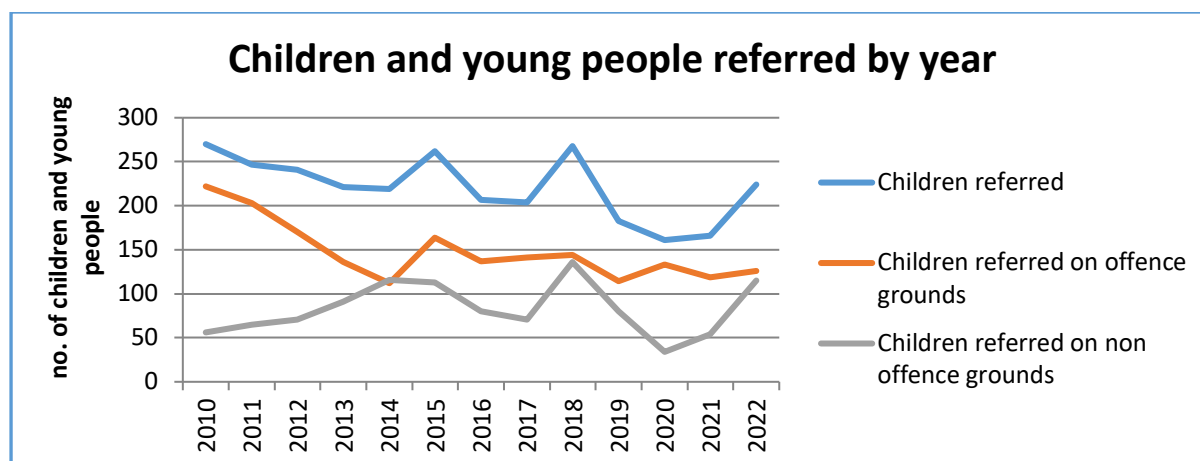
In 2022, 324 referrals were received by the Convenor; 189 offence related referrals and 135 non-offence referrals. Law Enforcement continued to be the main source of referrals comprising 66% of all referrals.



The referrals received in 2022 related to 224 individual children. Most children and young people were referred only once, with 11% referred three or more times. Some children were referred on both offence and non-offence grounds.

- 189 offence grounds (126 individual children)
- 135 non-offence grounds (115 individual children)

There were more males than females referred on both offence and non-offence grounds.



	Non-offence*		Offence*	
	F	M	F	M
F=Female M=Male				
No of children	56	59	36	90
Proportion	49%	51%	29%	71%

*some children were referred on both offence and non-offence grounds

Types of Concern

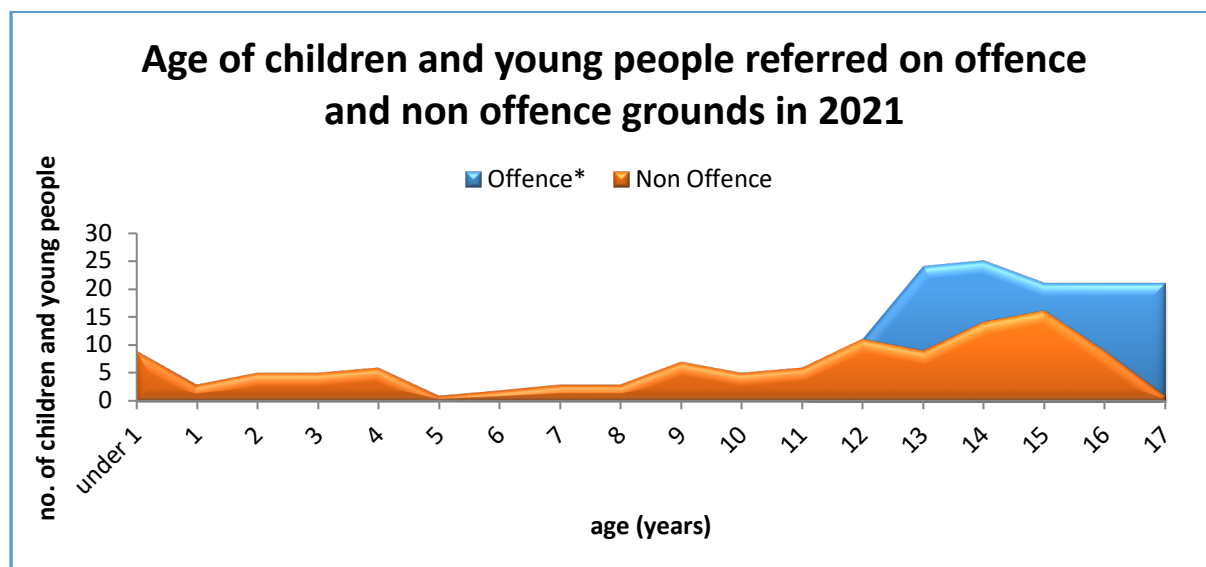
The grounds or reasons on which children can be referred to the Convenor are set out in section 35(2) of the Children (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2008 and are summarised in the chart below. These reflect the range of concerns identified by those referring children and young people to the Convenor. Some children were referred on more than one ground hence the number of grounds for referral in the chart being greater than the total number of referrals received.

The most common ground for referral was that the young person had committed an offence. In total, 126 young people were referred on this ground. 33% of the offence referrals received related to traffic offences.

Reasons for referral	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
(a) Significant impairment to health or development	91	46	29	67	126
(b) Physical or sexual abuse	13	8	6	22	22
(c) Misuse alcohol, drugs or volatile substance	3	1	2	2	6
(d) Exposed to moral danger	6	5	4	2	13
(e) Violent or destructive behaviour/beyond parental control	29	3	6	21	20
(f) Allegedly committed a criminal offence	189	167	182	174	215
(g) Failure to attend school without good reason	19	11	3	18	8

Age of children and young people referred

The most common age for children and young people to be referred on offence grounds was 14. The most common age of referral on non-offence grounds was 15.



*the age of criminal responsibility in the Bailiwick is 12 years.

Children's Convenor Decisions

During 2022, a final decision was made on 289 referrals received by the Convenor. The chart below shows a breakdown of the decisions made. 20% were referred by the Convenor to the Tribunal. The most common reason for referral to the Tribunal continued to be on the grounds that the child or young person has suffered or was likely to suffer significant impairment to their health or development.

	No. of referrals (289)
Arrange a Hearing of Tribunal	59
No indication of a need for compulsory measures	21
Retained by or referred to HM Procureur	32
Refer to Committee for Health and Social Care	18
Refer to other Committee or Agency	1
No Hearing required as measures already in place	43
No Hearing required as child referred to the Tribunal for other reasons	8
Diversion to Road Traffic Awareness Programme	29
No Hearing required as action taken by family	16
Diversion to Restorative Justice	12
Convenor interview	39
Insufficient evidence to proceed	10
Duplicate referral	1

Children's Convenor Meetings

94 Children's Convenor Meetings were held during 2022.

For the Convenor Meetings that concluded during 2022 the reasons for concern (grounds for referral) were accepted by the young person and their parents or carers in all cases.

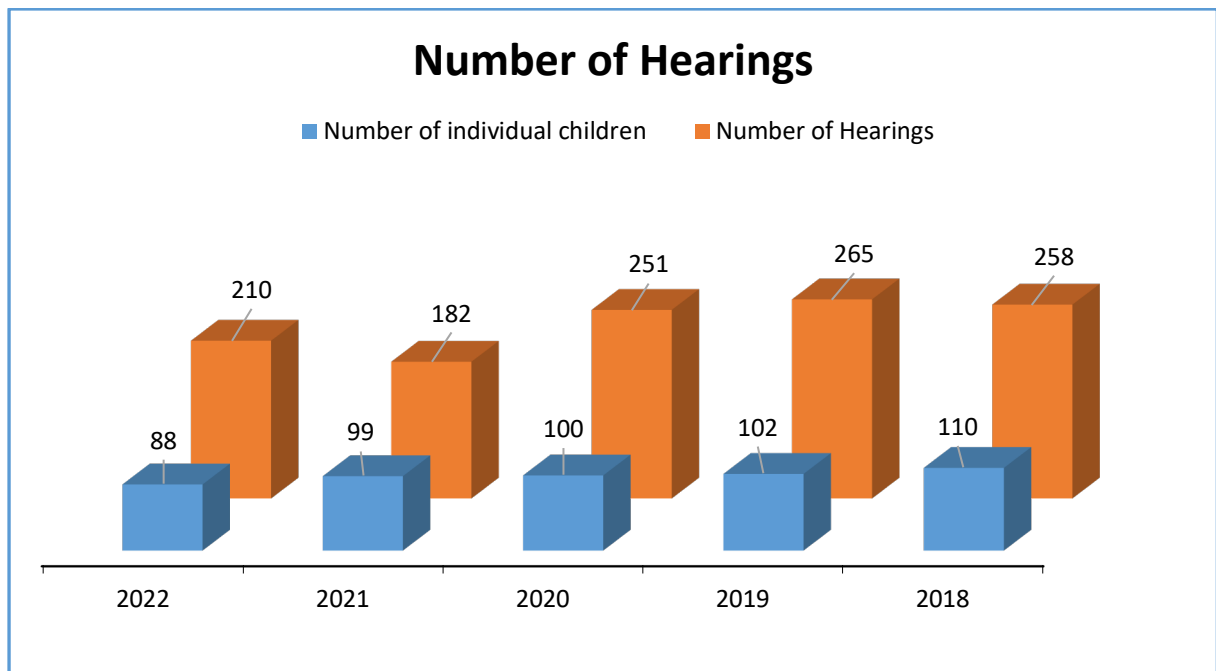
Applications to the Juvenile Court

One application made by the Convenor for a finding on disputed facts was concluded by the Juvenile Court in 2022. The conditions for referral was established by the Court. The time taken to conclude this application was 15 weeks.

Hearings of the Child, Youth & Community Tribunal

Number of Hearings

During 2022 there were 210 hearings of the Tribunal held. These related to 88 individual children (some children appeared before the Tribunal more than once). Hearings took on average one hour and 28 minutes to reach a decision during 2022.

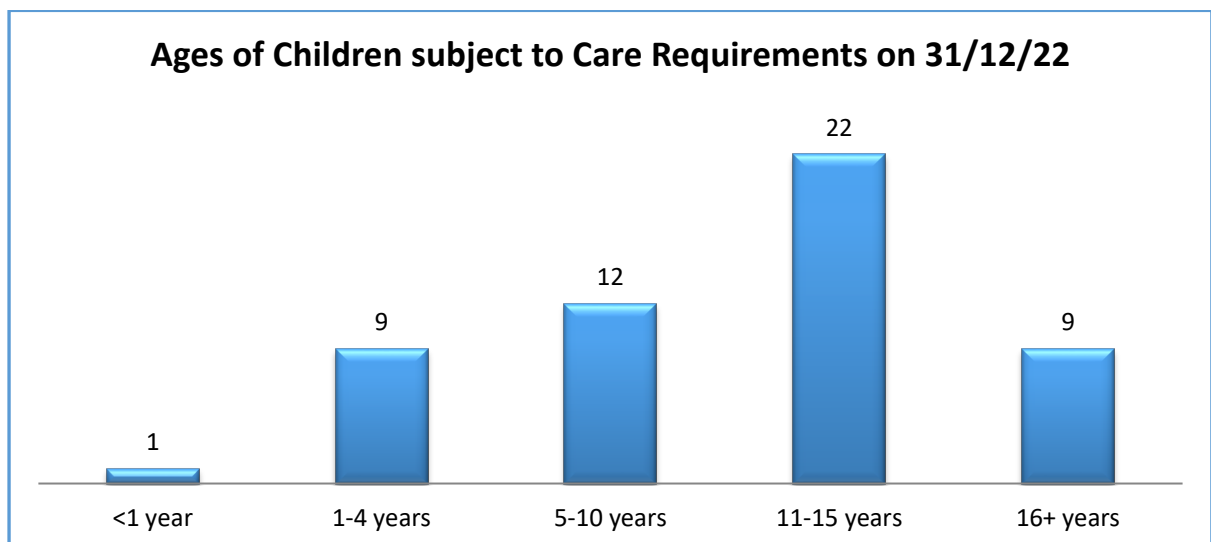
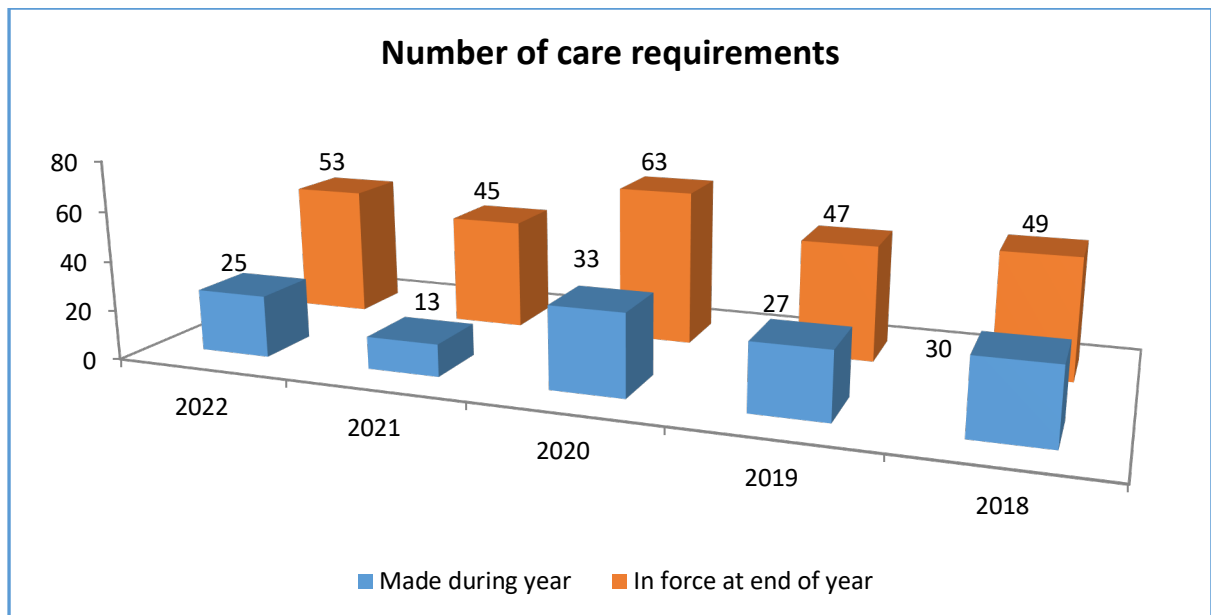


Outcomes

Hearing Decisions

A care requirement is the legal order that can be made by the Tribunal when it is considered that compulsory intervention is needed for a child or young person. In 2022, 25 care requirements were made. 53 care requirements were in force at the end of 2022.

A final decision was made by the Tribunal for thirty two children in 2022. The average time from the Convenor's decision to refer the child to the Tribunal to the final decision of the Tribunal was 31 weeks with 41% concluding within 26 weeks.



Appeals

Children, their parents or carers and the Committee for Health and Social Care can appeal to the Juvenile Court against the decision of a hearing of the Tribunal. In 2022, there were no appeals made against the decision of the Tribunal.

Rereferrals

Children are included in the rereferral count if they had a final decision made by the Convenor or Tribunal during 2021 on one or more referral and were subsequently rereferred to the Convenor within a period of 12 months of the date of the decision (referrals where there was insufficient evidence to support one or more condition for referral have not been included within the calculation). 167 children had a final decision made in 2021. 29 children were rereferred within a period of 12 months (17%). This re-referral count includes all categories of referral and therefore includes both offence and non-offence related referrals.

Notification to the Children's Convenor

Section 36 of the Law and section 2 of the Children (Children's Convenor) (Guernsey and Alderney) Regulations, 2010 set out a number of matters (15) relating to children and young people that must be notified to the Convenor. In 2022, 15 notifications were received relating to 12 individual children.

	No. of notifications
Application for secure accommodation order	<5
Secure accommodation	<5
Secure accommodation order made	<5
Application for a community parenting order	9
Application for adoption order	<5
Youth detention	<5
Section 17 application	<5
Emergency child protection order made	<5