

Convenor and Tribunal Board



Annual Report

1st January to
31st December
2017

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Introduction

The Children's Tribunal system is made up of three independent parts: the Child Youth and Community Tribunal (CYCT), 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's cases where some compulsory State intervention may be needed. The President of the CYCT'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 enable the Children's Convenor and the CYCT 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 CYCT members. This wider CYCT 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 and a range of other professionals and volunteers.

The Members of the Board in 2017 were:

Mrs Gill Couch (Chair)	Mr Nigel Lewis
Mrs Janet Gaggs	Advocate Peter Atkinson
Mr Jon Beausire	Dr Beverley Workman
Mrs Jane St Pier	

Foreword

by Gill Couch,
Chair of the
Board

The Convenor and Tribunal Board are pleased to present the Annual Reports of the President of the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal (CYCT) and the Children's Convenor. These two independent statutory public officials and the teams they lead work tirelessly to secure the best possible outcomes for some of the islands' most vulnerable families. I pay tribute here to their dedication and professionalism and commend their Annual Reports to you.

The CYCT system was set up in the belief that in order for troubled children to become responsible, law abiding and happy members of society it is necessary to look at all aspects of their lives, and, crucially, those children should be helped to play a full part in any decisions made about them. We believe that where possible, these decisions are best made by a highly trained lay Tribunal in an environment that is supportive and non-adversarial, fair, transparent and lawful - but not a Court of Law. Tribunal proceedings are of course highly confidential and it is not possible to share first hand evidence of the quality of the experience for our young people and their families. But, I believe it is significant that we rarely ever receive complaints directly from our families and I never fail to be impressed by the passionate commitment and high levels of job satisfaction experienced by both our professional staff and our lay Tribunal volunteers. Research carried out on behalf of the Board this year has confirmed too, that our relatively young service is also meeting intended outcomes with regard to cost, timeliness and effectiveness. The CYCT is cheaper, quicker and more effective than the system it replaced.

While much has been achieved over the last 8 years to make a difference to the lives of children and young people who come into contact with our services, we know there is always more we can do to make sure our contribution is as strong as it can be. The new Children Law itself is not fully developed or implemented. We know children often come to our service too late. Resource issues in our partner agencies can impact on the achievement of the best possible outcomes. Dialogue with our partners has been most positive during the course of this year and we remain committed to reaching out to these important services in a spirit of openness and honesty to find new and innovative ways of working together to give full effect to the spirit of the Children Law.

2017 has been a very busy year for the President and those who support him in this role with a major focus on recruitment and development of CYCT members. Since the introduction of the CYCT in 2010 over 70 people have served the community in this important role. We are delighted that we continue to have a good response to our recruitment campaigns for volunteers which reflects the interest and support from the community to our unique system.

The Board's Strategic Plan 2014-2017 ended this year. It aimed to establish the CYCT system at the heart of the islands' provision for children and young people in need and at risk by securing adequate resources, developing an efficient and effective infrastructure and building the foundations of good communications with our partners. Reflection on our successes and identifying future needs was the Board's principle concern at the beginning of 2017 and resulted in a new Strategic Plan for the next three years which can be viewed in full at www.convenor.org.gg. It sets out our vision, ethos and values together with our priorities and intended outcomes.

As our service matures we are even more sharply focused on the quality of our work with children, young people and their families, ensuring their needs and participation are at the centre of all we do. In particular the Board is concerned that the right children are not always referred to the Convenor early enough. Our statistics show that only 34 % of children referred to the Convenor are aged under 10 and as many as 67 % of those placed on care requirements by the Tribunal are over 10. The Board has reflected on the implications of the Jersey Care Enquiry Report and understands that failure to intervene appropriately in the lives of children in need carries unacceptable risks. Research is overwhelmingly clear on the importance of the first 1001 days of a child's life. If we can get things right in the first few years it has the power to make the difference of a lifetime. The Convenor's Report shows we have experienced considerable success with offence related referrals for young people. Now we need to improve outcomes for children in need of care and protection.

Gill Couch

Chair of Convenor and Tribunal Board

How the CYCT System works

Referral

Incident

An incident occurs – for example, a child or young person's welfare may be at risk, they may have suffered abuse or their behaviour may be a cause for concern.

Referral to the Children's Convenor

Anyone can refer a child or young person to the Convenor when there may be a need to intervene on a compulsory basis.

Investigation

Children's Convenor Investigations

The Convenor will investigate the child or young person's case by requesting information about them and their circumstances. The level of information requested can vary significantly in each case. Depending on the nature of the concerns, the information required can include information on the child's attendance and behaviour at school, health and development, family background and involvement with other agencies. In some cases a comprehensive assessment of the child's circumstances is also required and information of an evidential nature.

Young people and their families are notified by the Convenor that a referral has been made and they can also provide the Convenor with information.

Decision

Children's Convenor Decisions

Once the information requested has been received, the Convenor will decide whether or not there may be a need for compulsory intervention. If there is, the child or young person is referred to a CYCT hearing.

If there is no need for compulsory intervention the Convenor can ask other agencies to provide voluntary advice and assistance. The Convenor can refer the child or young person's case to the Committee for Health and Social Care or any other agency for advice, guidance and assistance, or can decide that no formal action is required.

In many cases compulsory intervention is unnecessary as appropriate action has been taken to address the concern. In some cases agencies are already involved in supporting the family and the referral can be appropriately addressed by the existing arrangements.

Meeting

Convenor's Meeting

If the Convenor decides that a CYCT hearing is required, 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 CYCT hearing sometimes referred to as grounds for referral or conditions of referral). A CYCT 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.

Hearing

The Hearing of the CYCT

Each CYCT hearing comprises of three CYCT members, all trained volunteers from the local community. The child or young person and their family or carers are central participants in the hearing. The Convenor records the decision of the hearing, but takes no part in the discussion and decision making. The role of the Convenor is to ensure that the CYCT hearing is fair and lawful and to provide procedural advice.

Outcome

The CYCT hearing can make a legal order called a care requirement. This can include conditions relating to where the child shall live and who they will have contact with, depending on the needs of the child or young person.

The Committee for Health and Social Care has a legal obligation to implement the decisions made by the CYCT.

The CYCT may decide that a care requirement is not required and discharge the case.

The President's Annual Report

The President's Annual Report to the Convenor & Tribunal Board for 2017

This report covers the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017. It summarises the activities of the President of the CYCT during that period and presents statistical information about the membership of the CYCT.

Presidents Statement

This report covers the second year of my term of office as President of the Child Youth and Community Tribunal (CYCT), following on from my appointment to the position by the Royal Court in January 2016. It has proved to be a very busy year, and I have found the advice and encouragement of the Convenor & Tribunal Board, the Office of the Children's Convenor, and the membership of the CYCT to be invaluable. I have been particularly grateful to Gill Couch (Chair of the Convenor & Tribunal Board), to Karen Brady (Children's Convenor) and Jane Betley (Deputy President of the CYCT) for their wise counsel and unconditional support throughout this exciting and challenging time.

Early in February 2017 we were honoured and delighted to be able to welcome His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder, and Lady Corder on their first visit to our CYCT hearing centre at Briarwood, in St Martin's. During the visit Sir Ian and Lady Corder spent time with some of our Tribunal members finding out more about their role. When interviewed by the local media, Sir Ian recognised that the CYCT was a sophisticated approach that was inclusive and positive, focusing on early intervention and making sure everybody had a voice. Sir Ian commented that he thought that the CYCT would benefit from greater awareness stating that he would like to see its profile gently raised across the community. This theme is one that is reflected in our Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2020 and I will be working with the Board during 2018 to explore how we will progress this.

In the President's Annual Report for 2016, I noted that we had commenced the process of recruitment of potential new members of the CYCT. Following interviews, held in January 2017, a small cohort of recruits was selected to embark upon pre-service training and assessment, prior to recommendation to the Royal Court for appointment. A considerable amount of time and effort was invested in the organisation of the training sessions, and in up-dating the accredited course materials in line with current practice. It was essential to retain all the components of the well-established and accredited programme delivered to earlier cohorts, whilst responding to, and incorporating, the various changes that have occurred within the Tribunal system throughout the last eight years. Our pre-service training programme consists of over 55 hours of learning delivered over 4 weekends and includes input on the law and procedure as well as child development and the range of issues that can impact on children and families. Further details of our pre-service training can be accessed on our website www.cyct.org.gg. I would like to express my thanks to all of the individuals from our partner agencies who contributed to the delivery of this training.

Throughout the training process, we continually emphasise, and provide opportunities to practise the skills and competencies which are essential in an effective CYCT member. During 2017 we were fortunate to have access to the services of Jane Hunter who acted as lead facilitator and provided an independent, on-going assessment of the trainees. Mrs Hunter has a wealth of skills and experience in Education, and Education Management, within the States of Guernsey. Training sessions were held throughout the spring and summer of 2017. On the completion of training in August, and after participation in

simulated hearings, all eight recruits were recommended for appointment by the Royal Court. They were sworn in as Tribunal members by the Bailiff at a sitting of the Royal Court in September 2017. After appointment, during October and November, they were able to observe some scheduled hearings, before participating as full members of the CYCT from the beginning of December 2017.

Almost as soon as this new group had completed their pre-service training, a further cycle of recruitment and initial training was launched with a substantial public relations campaign involving promotions in the Island's media, and the launch of a new corporate website for the CYCT and Children's Convenor. A small group of CYCT members featured in a series of posters, and in advertisements in the Guernsey Press. A new set of information leaflets was produced in support of this campaign. These leaflets advise potential volunteers of the qualities required in a CYCT member, and what they might expect to gain from their membership. They also provide guidance for employers on the ways in which their company could benefit from supporting CYCT membership within their staff. Information evenings and lunchtime drop-in events were held at a variety of locations across the Island, and a lunchtime pop-up station was established in the reception area at Sir Charles Frossard House. Expressions of interest were received from more than thirty individuals and, after interview at Beau Séjour, sixteen strong candidates were selected for pre-service training, scheduled to take place during the early months of 2018.

Throughout the year we have continued to strive to provide an effective package of support for all CYCT members, and to encourage them to maintain, and to further develop their skills and experience, focussing upon the key competencies required in an effective CYCT member. Mandatory Training sessions were held in February and October, and regular, additional Training/Information Evenings were held at approximately monthly intervals. One of the key responsibilities of the President of the CYCT is to monitor and develop the performance of members of the Tribunal. In this connection we have made changes to the procedure for the monitoring of members during 2017, moving towards a more rigorous, focused and developmental approach.

In May 2017 along with the Deputy President, I undertook a series of individual interviews with 18 CYCT members who were approaching the end of their first 3-year term of office. At these meetings, we offered the opportunity for members to review their experience of CYCT membership. Discussions were positive and will inform the ongoing development of training, monitoring and support for members during 2018.

The members of the Child Youth & Community Tribunal form a most extraordinary group of people who give generously of their time and energy in the best interests of some of the most vulnerable young people and families within our community. I am most grateful to them for their continued commitment to the CYCT throughout 2017. It continues to be an honour and a privilege to serve and support them in their work.

Statistics for 2017

Number of Child Youth and Community Tribunal (CYCT) members

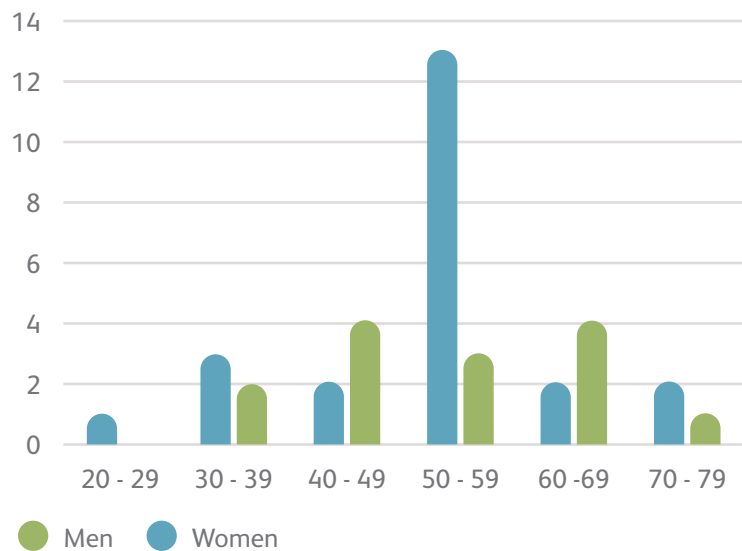
We started 2017 with thirty-nine (39) members of the CYCT. Seven members resigned during the course of 2017 and three were not re-appointed as they had reached the upper age limit.

Eight newly trained members of the CYCT were sworn in by the Royal Court between September and December 2017.

The resignation rate for CYCT members during 2017 was 18%. (This compares favourably with Scotland where the resignation rate is in the range of 20-25% a year).

At the end of 2017 we had 37 members of the CYCT. The breakdown of age and gender of these Tribunal members is represented in the chart below.

Age of current CYCT members



Monitoring of members

The performance of Tribunal members is monitored on an ongoing basis. Twenty-six (26) individual hearings of the CYCT were monitored in 2017. All Tribunal members were monitored at least once during the year.

Mandatory training

Two sessions of mandatory training were delivered in 2017. In April the training comprised of two parts, firstly, a session on Growth Mindset given by Jeremy Frith and Rachel Sykes, and secondly a presentation entitled Brain Development in Young People delivered by Dr Bryn Williams, Consultant Clinical Psychologist.

The October mandatory training was led by the Children's Convenor, Karen Brady and covered changes to practice relating to applying a decision-making checklist and refresher training in understanding the legal provisions relating to the appointment of a Safeguarder. Extra sessions were offered to Tribunal members to ensure 100% attendance.

Other training events

Information evenings were delivered to Tribunal members in 2017 by guest speakers from the School Attendance Service, Social Workers from Health and Social Care, and Community Drug and Alcohol Team (CDAT), Deputy Michelle Le Clerc spoke to the Tribunal members about poverty in Guernsey and Alun Williams and Andrea Nightingale gave a presentation to members regarding the results of the Guernsey Youth Survey. Also, some Tribunal members visited the Roseville Child Contact Centre for a presentation by the charity Children First.

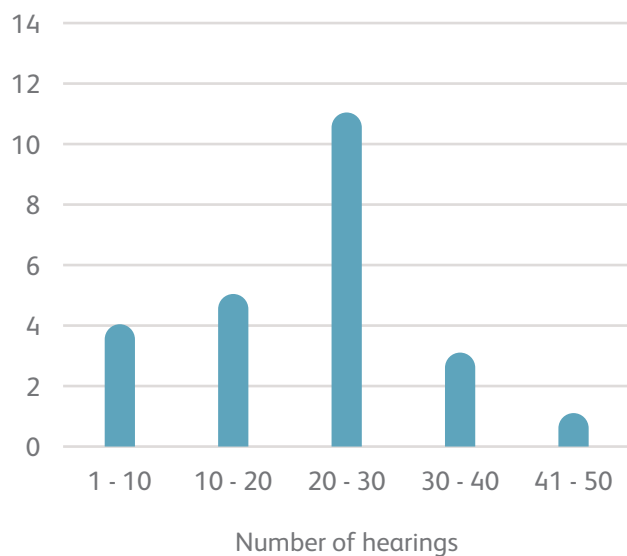
Number of hearings sessions held

During 2017 there were 219 hearing sessions of the CYCT. Within these 219 sessions, 243 hearings were held involving a total of 313 children (some children attended more than one hearing). This represents a decrease (15%) from the number of hearings in 2016 (291) involving 402 children.

Number of hearings by CYCT members

As illustrated by the graph below, for those members who were active during all of 2017 (42), the maximum number of hearings attended by a CYCT member was forty-one (41) and the minimum was six (6).

Number of hearings by CYCT members in 2017



David Raines
President of the CYCT

Children's Convenor's Annual Report

The Children's Convenor's Annual Report to the Convenor and Tribunal Board for 2017

This report covers the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017. 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.

Children's Convenor's Statement

Looking at our statistics you will see that we had a slight increase in the number of referrals and notifications received during 2017. Law Enforcement continued to be the main source of the referrals with the majority of children referred on offence related grounds. The number of children subject to compulsory intervention reduced with fewer care requirements made in 2017.

The number of children referred on non-offence grounds has been declining over the last few years. I would however suggest that it is too early to draw any firm conclusions from this. There have been considerable changes underway in the organisation and operation of Children and Family Services within the Bailiwick over the last two years and this may have had an impact on these figures. We will continue to monitor these statistics carefully along with our key partners to ensure that children and young people are being referred to the Convenor at the appropriate time. The profile of referrals to the Convenor does not appear to fully reflect the nature of concern for children's welfare generally. A significant proportion of the referrals made to the Multi Agency Support Hub (MASH) for family help and support relate to children exposed to domestic abuse, neglect and abuse yet only twenty seven percent (27%) of the referrals received by the Convenor related to care and protection concerns.

A theme of my Annual Report over the last few years has been our focus on avoiding delay in decision-making for children and young people. I am pleased to report that during 2017 we improved on our target timescales for decision-making with eighty three percent (83%) of Convenor decisions on referral made within 50 working days.

We have also worked hard on improving our services and facilities for children and families. Many of the families that we meet are attending our premises at a time of high stress, anxiety and uncertainty. It is therefore important to me that we are able to provide a safe, comfortable, relaxed and welcoming environment. During 2017 we carried out some work to our hearing suite at Briarwood to add a second private waiting room and an additional washroom. The hearing suite facilities were also painted and refreshed.

We have also focused on improving and supporting the participation of children and young people attending hearings of the CYCT. We have increased the notice time given to ensure that there is appropriate time to prepare for the hearing. We are also making greater efforts to ensure that every child has the opportunity to attend their hearing if they wish to and to fully participate within it. I am pleased to report that during 2017 we saw an increase in the number of children and young people who participated directly in their hearings. During 2018 we will continue with this work and will explore with our partners options for additional support and advocacy for children and young people.

Many of the cases that we deal with involve children and families who face considerable adversity in their lives. While intervention by the Convenor and CYCT is intended to be temporary (its purpose being to assist the parents with a view to returning to a situation where there is minimal or no intrusion in their family life) sadly for some children the risks are such that it is no longer possible for them to continue to reside in the care of their parents. Making decisions in these circumstances is extremely difficult for everyone involved. A large part of our focus during 2017 has been on reviewing and updating our practice tools and training relating to decision-making when children may be removed from the care of their parents.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the team of staff who support me in delivering my functions and to thank them for their individual contributions. In view of the sensitive and confidential nature of our work, much of what they do is not visible. During 2017 I have observed numerous examples of their fair, thoughtful and compassionate approach to their case work; from supporting young people to express their views, wishes and feelings to facilitating professional discussions to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved for children and young people.

In reference to developments elsewhere I was interested to read Sir James Munby's lecture to the Howard League in October 2017 (Sir James Mumby is President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales). He suggested that the court systems in England and Wales for dealing with children are "far too complex, far too little co-ordinated, and serving far too many different and often conflicting objectives, to be effective in furthering the welfare of children and their families". Similar themes were reflected at the 7th International Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights that I attend in June. I would suggest that the Bailiwick's CYCT system has been designed to provide a solution to these issues. The CYCT system is integrated – treating children and families holistically with the ability to look at all aspects of behaviour and concern whether they relate to the child or the parent. The CYCT system has less of the formalities of a court process making it directly accessible to children and parents. The CYCT system has one paramount objective - the child's welfare.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to the children, young people and their families who come into contact with our services. I continue to be impressed by the respect and understanding that they display when engaging with us in what can often be a very difficult and stressful time for them.

Karen Brady
Children's Convenor

Summary of our activities during 2017

Summary of highlights, developments and activities within the Office of the Children's Convenor during 2017

January

The Deputy Convenor met with the Health Promotion Unit to discuss and explore issues related to the Tobacco strategy.

February

We delivered training to Law Enforcement officers on the role of the Convenor and CYCT.

March

We worked with the Board and President of the CYCT to develop our collective strategic plan for the next 3 years.

A Scheme of Delegation was introduced for those operating under the delegated authority of the Children's Convenor.

The Deputy Convenor and Assistant Convenors attended the Family Proceedings Advisory Service conference.

April

Natalie Aitken joined the team as Executive Officer (job share).

May

We participated in the Children and Young People Plan refresh.

A new Practice Direction was issued on notifications and papers for CYCT hearings.

June

We made improvements to our hearing suite facilities, adding an additional washroom and private waiting room.

One of the Assistant Convenors attended the Drug & Alcohol Strategy and Community Drug and Alcohol Team conference.

The Convenor attended the 7th International Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights in Dublin.

We welcomed the Alderney Jurats to Briarwood for a briefing on the role of the Convenor and work of the CYCT.

July

We reviewed and updated the procedures for the Convenor Referral Meeting (CORM).

A case work audit framework was developed and launched.

Following feedback from children and families we made improvements to our main waiting room to make this brighter and more welcoming.

August

The Deputy and Assistant Convenors attended training on decision-making.

September

The Deputy and Assistant Convenors attended a workshop on ADHD.

The Assistant Convenors attended the Island's Safeguarding Children Partnership practitioner's forum.

We developed a new leaflet for the victims of youth crime.

October

We contributed to the Ofsted inspection of the Family Proceedings Advisory Service.

The Deputy Convenor visited Alderney to meet with professionals supporting children and families on the island.

We developed and delivered further training for CYCT members on decision-making.

We developed a checklist for CYCT members when making decisions that result in a child being removed from the care of a parent.

November

We launched our new corporate website www.convenor.org.gg.

We provided administrative support to the President's recruitment campaign for new CYCT members.

We refreshed a number of our information leaflets.

Sammy de Jersey joined the team as CYCT co-ordinator and receptionist.

December

We all participated in a planning day to develop the business plan for the Office of the Children's Convenor for 2018.

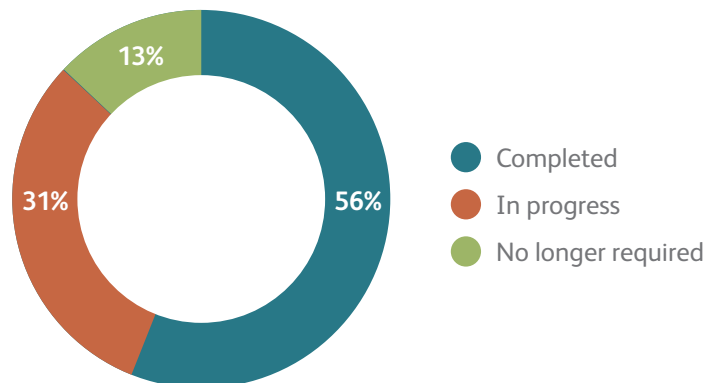
Business Plan 2017

Business Plan 2017

Throughout the year, as well as undertaking day to day case work activities, our focus has been on delivering the key actions outlined in the Children's Convenor's Business Plan for 2017.

9 out of the 16 actions set were fully delivered within 2017. 5 were in progress at the end of 2017 and have been carried forward to the Business Plan for 2018. 2 of the actions were no longer required.

Business plan progress



Performance and targets 2017

Our performance in 2017 reflects our focus on improving the timescales for decision-making for children and families.

We exceeded the target set by the Board for the percentage of Convenor decisions made within 50 working days of receipt of referral (80%). During 2017 83% of decisions were made within 50 working days. This was an improvement on our performance in 2016.

Our other targets for the year were met with over 90% of our business plan activities completed or on track.

2017 also saw an increase in the percentage of hearings where the child or young person actively participated in the process. This reflects our continuing efforts to support children and young people to give effect to their rights to have a say in all decisions that affect their lives.

We received no complaints from children, young people and their carers about our services during 2017.

We also met our budgetary targets for 2017.

Summary of the data for 2017

Throughout the year we gather information to inform our practice and to share with our partners. Here is an outline of what our data tell us:

- **There was a small increase in the overall number of referrals received during 2017. The number of children referred on offence grounds increased while the number of children referred on non-offence grounds decreased.** The most common reason for referral to the Convenor during 2017 was that the young person had committed an offence (73 %). This reflects the pattern that we have seen since 2010.
- **83% of the decisions made by the Convenor were made within 50 working days of receipt of the referral.** This was an improvement on our performance in previous years and resulted in more timely outcomes for children and their families.
- **The most common reason for referral of a child or young person to the CYCT by the Convenor was because they were suffering or were likely to suffer significant impairment to their health or development (58%).** This has been the most common reason for the past three years.
- **Young people and/or their parents or carers accepted the reasons for the referral to the CYCT in 55% of cases.** This rate is lower than in previous years when between 70-80 % of concerns were accepted. During 2017 many of the cases where the concerns were not accepted involved multiple siblings and due to the relatively small number of cases this factor has disproportionately impacted on the percentage figure for 2017.
- **50% of child's plans requested by the Convenor were received within 35 working days.** This is consistent with the performance in 2016 and reflects the challenges faced by the Committee for Health and Social Care in the recruitment and retention of social workers. The CYCT must approve the child's plan before making a care requirement and delays in receiving relevant information can delay decision-making.
- **The number of new care requirements made decreased as did the number of children who were the subject of a care requirement at the end of 2017.** This is in line with the trend over the last three years. **The majority of young people who were subject to a care requirement at 31st December 2017 were aged 11 and over (65%).**
- **In 95% of the cases where the care requirement was revoked during 2017 the desired outcomes for the child or young person had been met or partially met.**

Our Statistics in 2017

This section of the report includes the number of children and young people referred to the Convenor; the reasons why children and young people are referred; the decisions made by the Convenor and the CYCT; and care requirements made. Further details on how the CYCT system works are set out on pages 7 and 8 of this report.

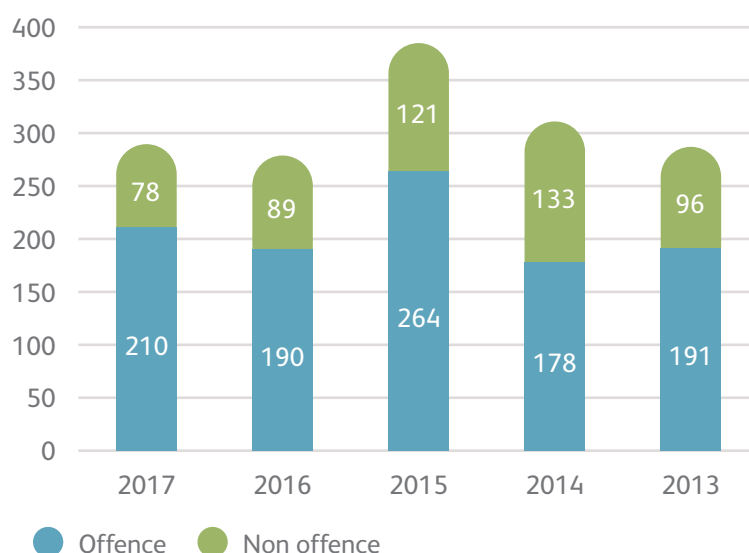
(Some counts between 1 and 4 are replaced by "<5" to ensure the anonymity of the data)

Children and younger people referred to the Convenor

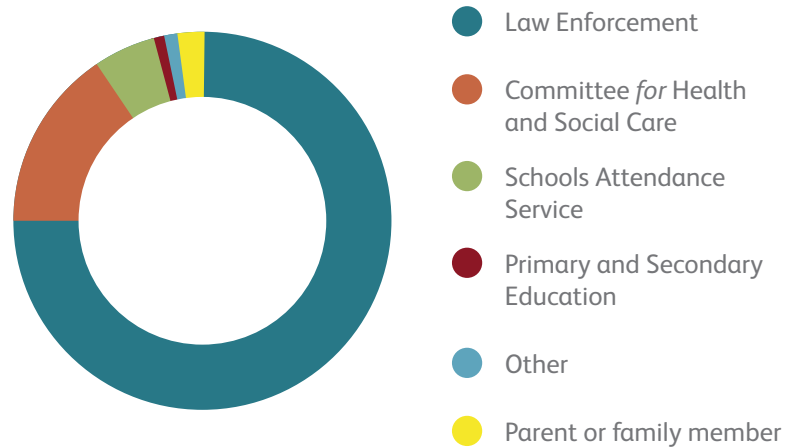
Referrals received by the Convenor

In 2017, 288 referrals were received by the Convenor; 210 offence related referrals and 78 non-offence referrals. Law Enforcement were the main source of referrals comprising 74% of all referrals.

Number of referrals 2013 - 2017



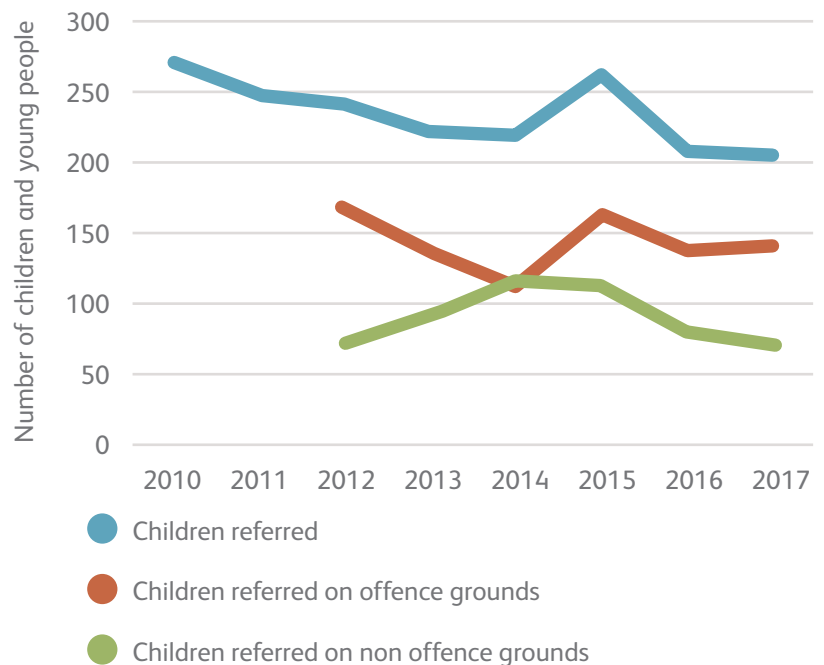
Source of referrals



The referrals received in 2017 related to 204 individual children. Most children and young people were referred only once, with 12% referred three or more times. Some children were referred on both offence and non-offence grounds.

- 210 offence grounds (141 individual children)
- 78 non-offence grounds (71 individual children)

Children and young people referred by year



*offence and non offence splits are unavailable prior to 2012.

Types of Concern

The grounds or reasons (“conditions for referral”) 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 is greater than the total number of referrals received.

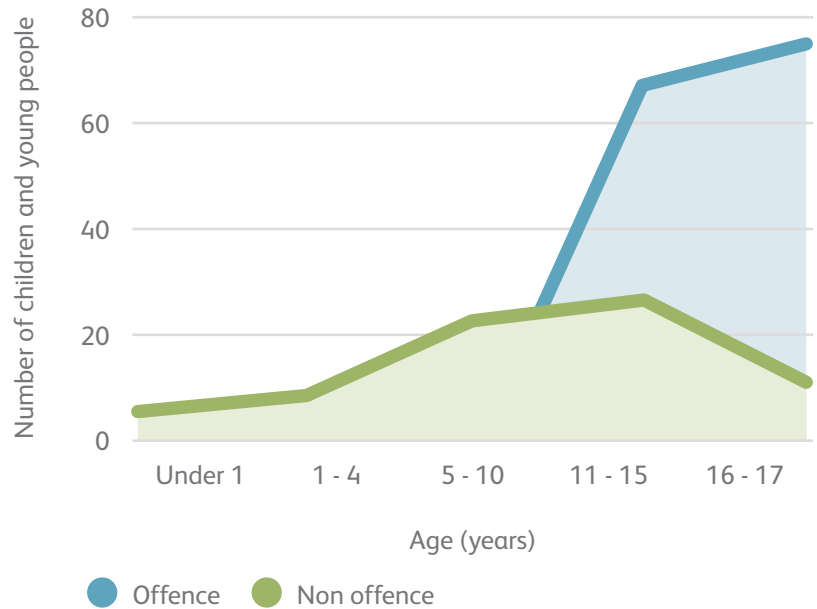
The most common ground for referral was that the young person had committed an offence. In total 141 young people were referred on this ground.

Reason for referral	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Significant impairment to health or development	54	72	81	89	59
Physical or sexual abuse	7	5	9	12	10
Misuse alcohol, drugs or volatile substance	5	2	3	2	2
Exposed to moral danger	3	2	4	2	2
Violent or destructive behaviour/beyond parental control	12	6	24	32	22
Allegedly committed a criminal offence	210	190	284	178	191
Failure to attend school without good reason	18	11	19	24	19

Age of children and young people referred

The majority of referrals received related to young people aged eleven and over. Sixteen and seventeen were the most common ages of referral for offence grounds.

Age of children and young people referred on offence and non-offence grounds in 2016



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

Decisions made by the Children's Convenor

During 2017 a final decision was made on 260 referrals received by the Convenor in 2017 or earlier. The chart below shows a breakdown of the decisions made.

15% were referred by the Convenor to the CYCT (58% of the decisions made on care and protection concerns, 10% of the decisions made on behaviour related concerns and 32% of the decisions made on non-school attendance concerns).

The most common reason for referral to the CYCT was on the grounds that the child or young person has suffered or was likely to suffer significant impairment to their health or development.

Breakdown of decisions made by the Convenor in 2017	Number of referrals (260)
Arrange a Hearing of CYCT	38
No indication of a need for compulsory measures	14
Referral to be dealt with by HM Procurer	53
Refer to Committee for Health and Social Care	4
Refer to other Committee or Agency	11
No Hearing required as measures already in place	39
Diversion to Road Traffic Awareness Programme	47
No Hearing required as action taken by family or others	9
Diversion to Restorative Justice	20
Convenor interview	18
Insufficient evidence to proceed	7

Children's Convenor Meetings

35 of the referrals that the Convenor decided to refer to the CYCT in 2017 were considered at a Children's Convenor meeting during 2017. 60 meetings were held relating to 31 individual children.

The grounds or reasons for concern (conditions for referral) were accepted by the young person and their parents or carers at the Convenor's meeting in 55% of cases. The most common reason for concern not accepted was that the child had, or was likely to suffer significant impairment to their health or development.

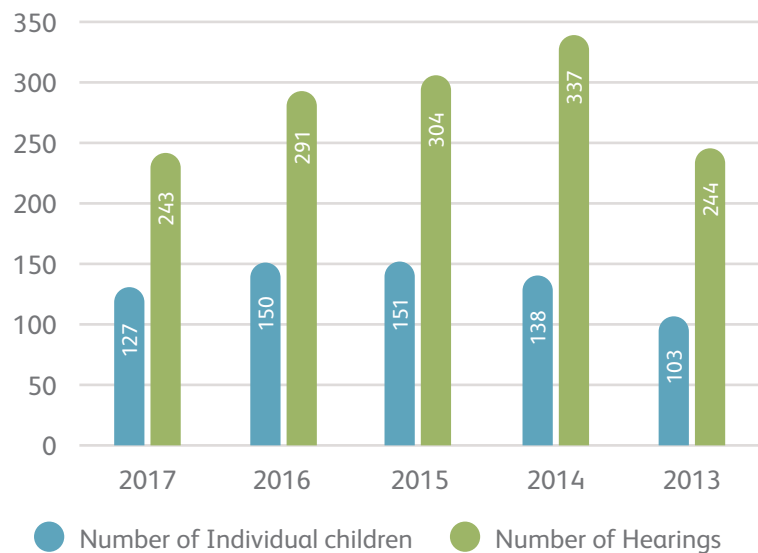
Applications to the Juvenile Court

During 2017, 6 applications made by the Convenor were considered by the Juvenile Court. These related to 6 individual children. The reasons for concern were established by the Court in all 6 applications. The average time taken to conclude these applications was 14 weeks, with 5 of the 6 applications concluding within 12 weeks.

Hearings of the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal (CYCT)

During 2017 there were 243 hearings of the CYCT held. These related to 127 individual children (some children appeared before the CYCT more than once).

Number of Hearings

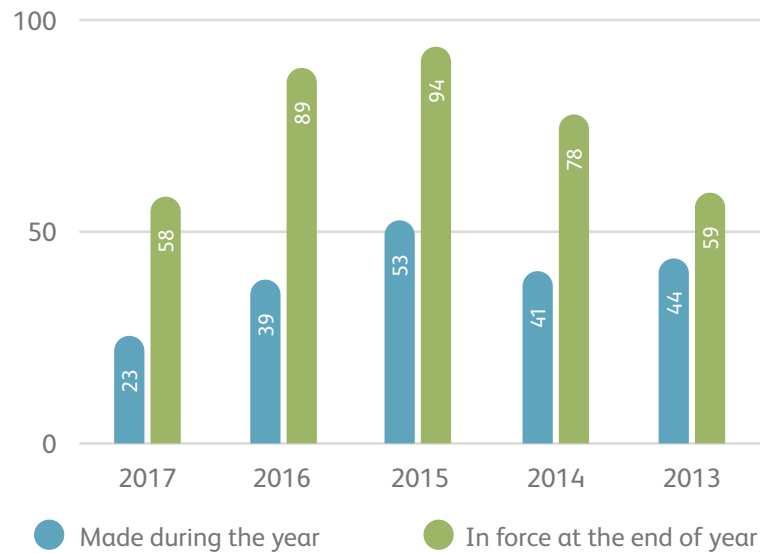


Outcomes

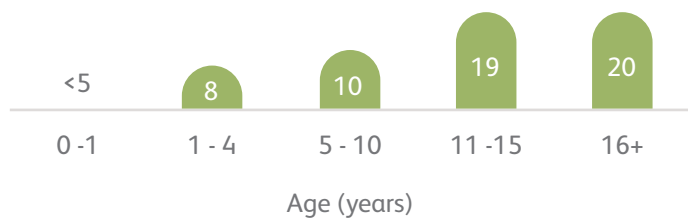
CYCT Hearing Decisions

A care requirement is the legal order that can be made by the CYCT when it is considered that compulsory intervention is needed for a child or young person. In 2017, 23 care requirements were made. 58 children were subject to a care requirement at the end of 2017.

Number of care requirements



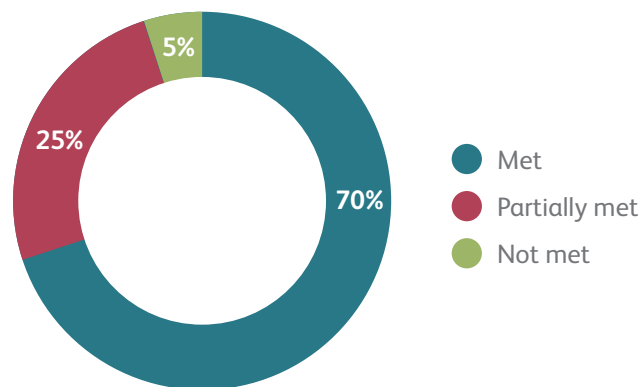
Ages of Children subject to Care Requirements on 31 Decmber 2017



Reasons for revocation of the care requirement

For 54 children the care requirement was revoked during 2017. For 43 children the care requirement was revoked by the CYCT and for 11 the care requirement was removed by the court when making a parenting order. In the large majority of cases where the care order was revoked by the CYCT the desired outcomes for the child or young person were met or partially met and therefore compulsory intervention was no longer necessary.

Outcomes



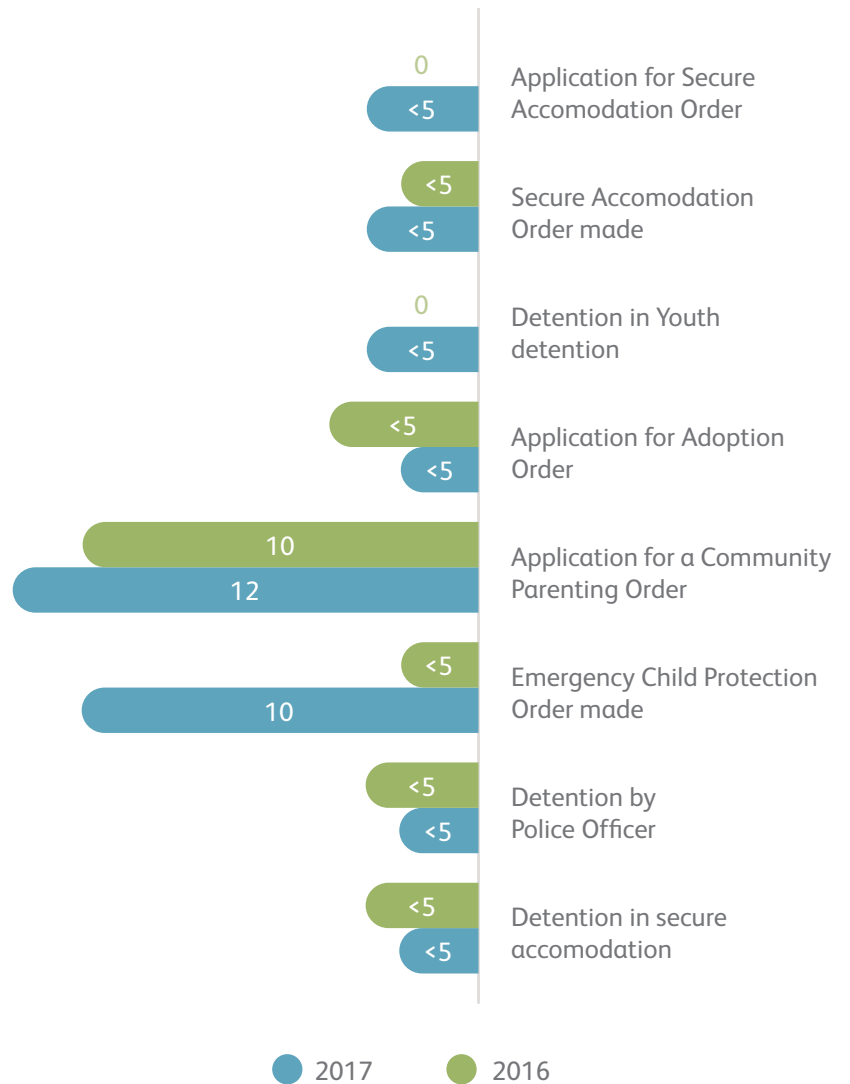
Appeals

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 CYCT. In 2017, there were two appeals made against the decision of a hearing of the CYCT. Both appeals were subsequently withdrawn. One appeal made in 2016 was concluded in 2017. This appeal was upheld.

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) that must be notified to the Convenor. In 2017, 30 notifications were received relating to 19 individual children.

Notifications received in 2017 and 2016



Karen Brady
Children's Convenor



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