

# Children First, Offenders Second

A new model of juvenile justice

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**Children First, Offenders  
Second is NOT:**

**Welfare based**



# Justice based

**Risk factor based**

‘The basic idea ... is very simple: Identify the key risk factors for offending and implement prevention methods designed to counteract them. There is often a related attempt to identify key protective factors against offending and to implement prevention methods designed to enhance them.’ (Farrington, in Maguire, Morgan and Reiner 2007: 606)

# Children First, Offenders Second emphasises:

# Prevention




# **Diversion from the criminal justice system**

**Eschews individualised  
offence and offender  
based thinking in favour  
of responding to the  
child in their social  
context**

## The Bureau

The Swansea Bureau is an innovative initiative designed to divert young people out of the formal processes of the Youth Justice System. The Bureau extends beyond simple diversion grounded in minimal or non-intervention and into tackling the underlying causes of youth crime through mechanisms that normalise youth offending and promote prosocial behaviour, children's rights, youth participation and the engagement of both parents/carers and the local community. Inter-agency working is pursued in a political, strategic and operational context of viewing young people as 'children first, offenders second'.



Disposal	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
NCD	n/a	n/a	110	41	123	46	152	64
Reprimand	117	56	93	35	98	36	61	26
Final warning	45	22	32	12	22	8	12	9
Prosecution	47	22	34	13	27	10	13	5

**Decision-making and outcomes for FTEs in Swansea from 2008/09 to 2011/12 (April-March)**

	2008/09			2009/10			2010/11		
		Reconvicted			Reconvicted			Reconvicted	
	N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%
NCD	n/a	n/a	n/a	110	10	9	123	13	11
Reprimand	117	28	24	93	10	11	98	21	21
Final Warning	45	6	13	32	6	19	22	6	27
Prosecution	47	11	23	34	13	38	27	3	15

**FTEs reconvicted in Swansea 2008/09-2010/11 (April-March)**

Country	YOT	% change from 2008 baseline	Top YOT % change	Bottom YOT % change
England	All	-4	-82	+78
	All except Scaled Approach Pilots	0 (-0.2)	-82	+78
	Scaled Approach pilots only	-22	-42	-3
Wales	All	-6	-46	+62
	All except Scaled Approach Pilots	-17	-46	+18
	Scaled Approach pilot only	+62	n/a	n/a
	All except Children First	-4	-46	+62
	Children First only	-45	n/a	n/a

**Reconviction rates in England and Wales for the January-March 2009 cohort**

**Thank you**