

What Can Probation in Wales Learn from Youth Justice?

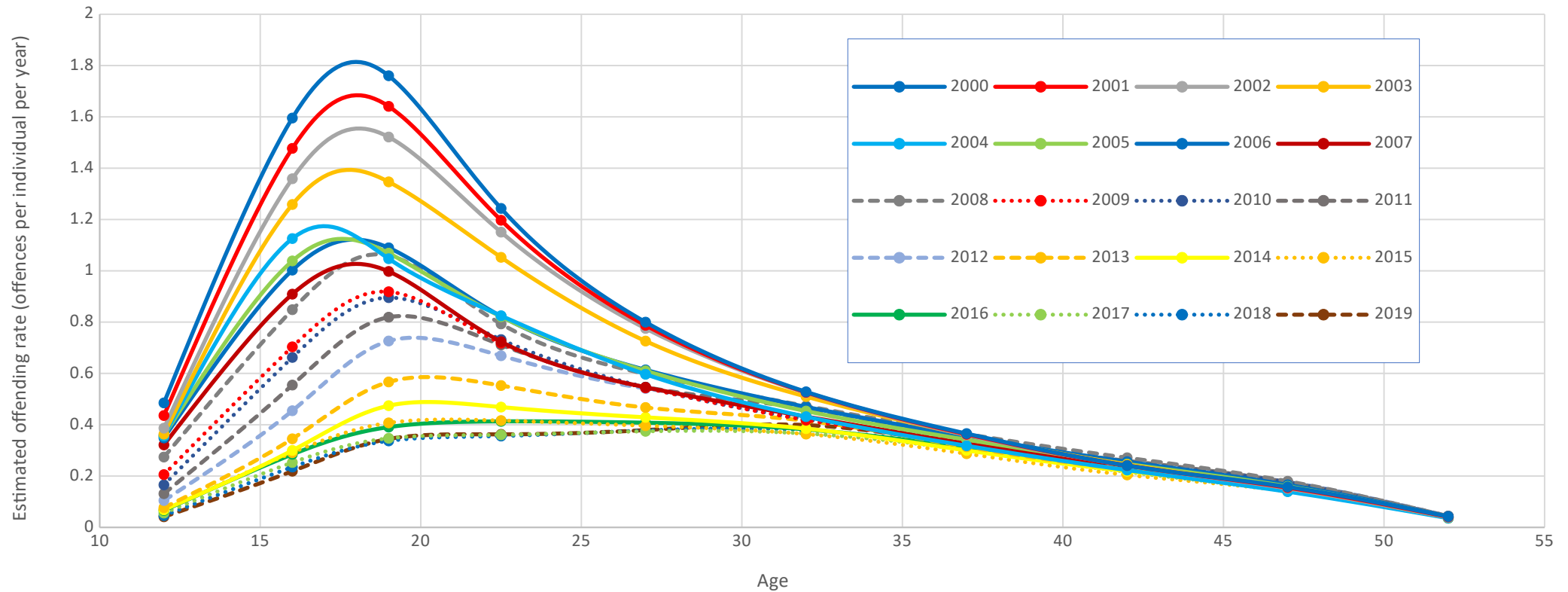
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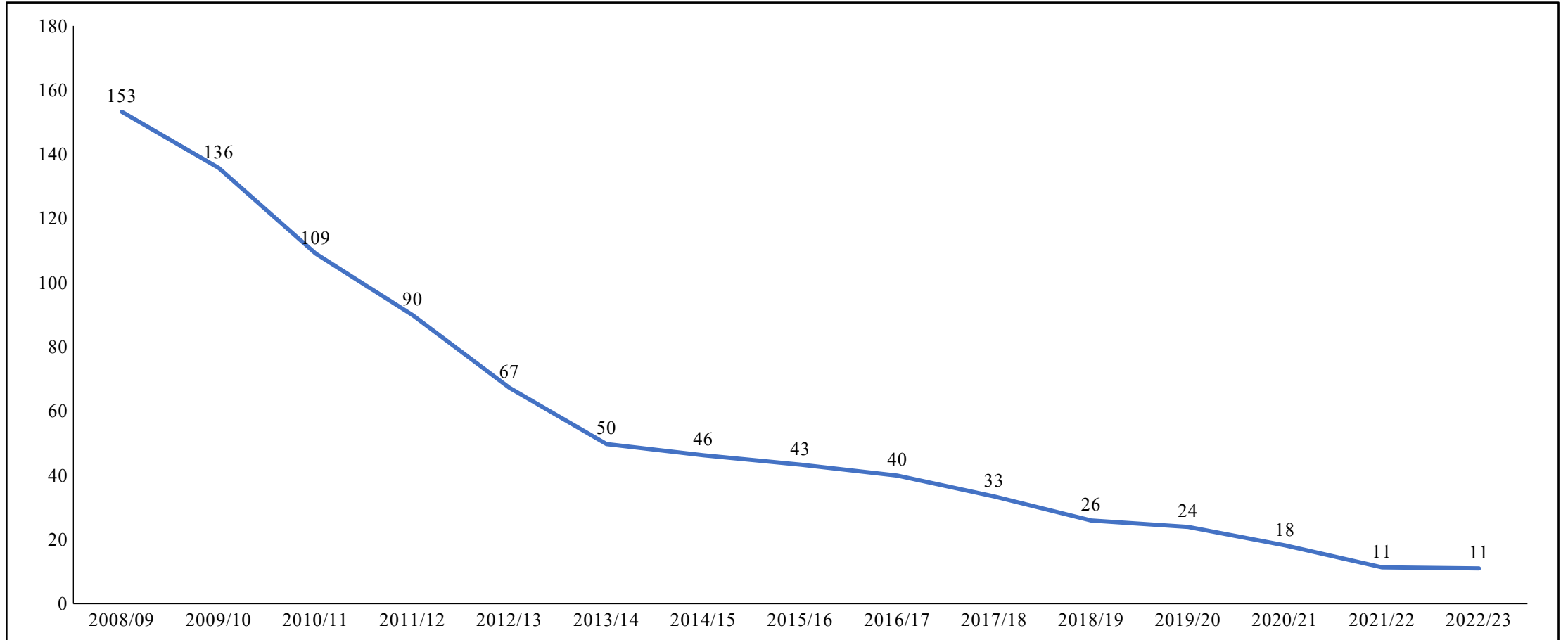
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WYJAAG Paper 1: Appendix 2

Age crime curves (England and Wales) for successive years from 2000 to 2019



Welsh Children in Custody: WYJAAG Paper 1



Key Messages

Local Governance and Partnerships within a national framework

Diversion

Shifting practice from 'programme fetishism' to building meaningful interpersonal relationships with service users

Community engagement and advocacy

Listening to Service Users (which includes 'acknowledging limited life chances', Smithson, Gray and Jones, 2020)

Nurturing a supportive but critical practitioner culture that is open to new ideas, evidence and evaluation

Values, Principles and Language



Justin Russell (Russell,2023)

Success of YJS

‘...reflects the greater resilience and potential for flexibility and innovation that’s possible with locally run and accountable services, for the most part now firmly embedded in local authority children’s services. These strong relationships are also cemented by local YJS management boards. These include senior representatives of all services with which the YJS will be working, who have the power to get things sorted within their own services on behalf of the children on each YJS caseload.’

The Case for Locally Managed Probation Services

‘...for the great majority of the probation caseload, all the most important relationships are local, with locally run and accountable partners. These include police services; local authority housing and social service departments; mental health trusts; and drug and alcohol services. To make the most of those partnerships, PDU probation leaders need the freedoms to commit resources and staff; to agree local contracts; to decide on investments in infrastructure and to be able to speak publicly to both defend and advocate for their area’s services. But they feel heavily constrained in relation to all these freedoms and flexibilities by current structures.’

References

Russell, J. (2023)

[21 September 2023 – A farewell from Chief Inspector, Justin Russell \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/21-september-2023-a-farewell-from-chief-inspector-justin-russell/)

(Last Accessed 28/04/2024)

Smithson, H., Gray, P. and Jones, A. (2021) ““They really should start listening to you””: The benefits and challenges of co-producing a participatory framework of youth justice practice’, *Youth Justice*, 21(3), pp. 321-337.