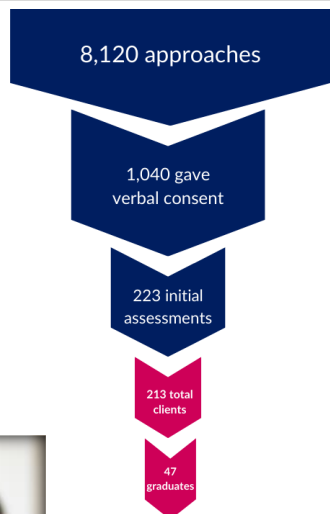


SOUTH YORKSHIRE PLAN B CUSTODY NAVIGATORS

Plan B Navigator Service

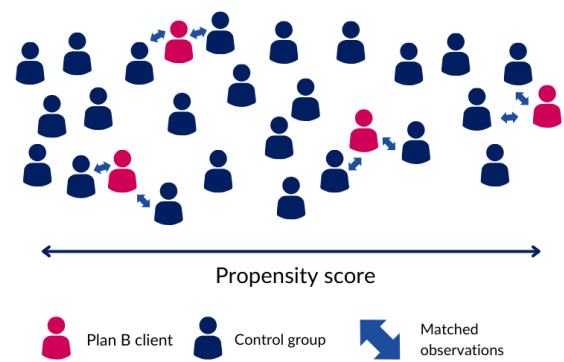
The Plan B service, commissioned by South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), has been operating from three custody suites (Barnsley, Doncaster and Shepcote) since 2020. Based upon a 'reachable moments' approach the service seeks to engage those over 16 and who are detained in police custody due to their suspected involvement in a violent offence. Offering intensive support in the community Plan B Navigators seek to enable clients to seek alternatives to crime and support them away from future criminality.



Methodology

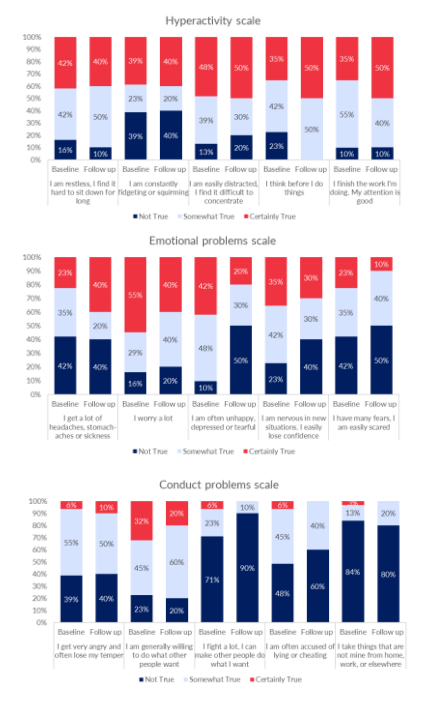
A quasi-experimental design utilising a naturally occurring control group of people detained in custody who had not had the opportunity to be offered the Plan B service. Propensity matching between those entering Plan B and this control group has allowed statistical comparison of rates of reoffending, time to reoffending and severity of reoffending between those who have received support and those who haven't.

Through consultation with the VRU and the Plan B team the evaluation embedded the SDQ as a tool to both support action planning with clients and capture outcome measures in relation to social, emotional and behavioural risk factors for further offending.



SDQ Results

There is emerging evidence that the service contributes to the development of protective factors that may be associated with future desistance from offending. SDQ data suggests that those receiving support experience improved mental health and wellbeing, increased positive relationships and improved problem solving. These findings are also supported by interviews with clients.

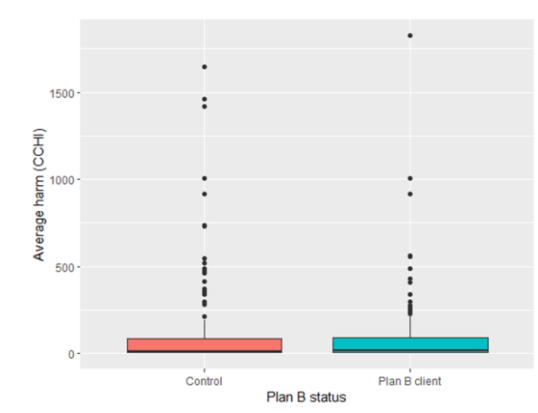
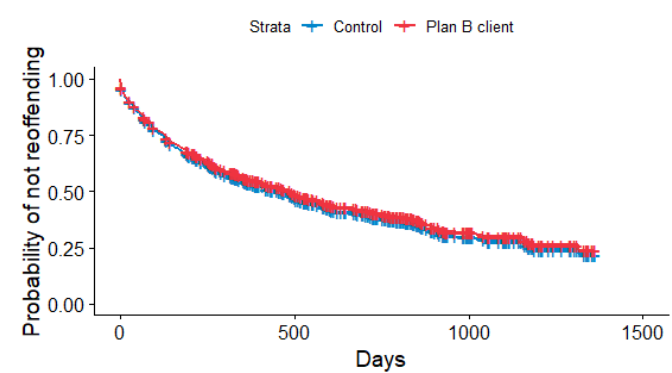


Quasi-Experimental Results

There is no statistically significant difference in reoffending frequency, time to reoffending or severity of reoffending between those that have access support and those that had not been approached by the service.

The majority of Plan B clients (65%; n=132) had reoffended within the measured period (until September 2023) and 35% (n=72) of Plan B clients did not reoffend. The figures are similar among the control group, with 40% (n=165) of those in the control group not reoffending within the period, and 60% (n=243) reoffended in the measured period

	Control (Not approached)	Treatment (Plan B clients)
No reoffence	165 (40%)	72 (35%)
Reoffended	243 (60%)	132 (65%)



Discussion and Limitations

- Crimes may have occurred in other police forces
- Desistance theory suggests that desistance from crime can take a considerable length of time and a number of interventions, possibly spanning 5 to 10 years. This makes the evaluation of a service over any shorter period of time, and not knowing the context of other service interventions, difficult.
- Even with propensity score matching, we cannot be sure the control group was a fair control. Professional intuition influences client selection but not control group selection
- The numbers of clients positively exiting the service (graduating) are currently too low to allow for statistical comparison however proportionate rates of reoffending between graduates and those not approached by the service are similar.
- SDQs showed some improvement, but there are large number of measures with only a small sample size, meaning statistical analysis would be unreliable.