



Welcome BFZ – our journey so far!

24th September 2025

What is Built for Zero?



Global movement proving homelessness is solvable

Evidence-based approach with measurable results



Real-time data

Person-specific tracking for informed decisions



Cross-sector collaboration

Breaking down silos between agencies



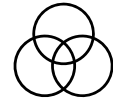
Measurable outcomes

Various achievements across communities

Why do we need to think about data differently?



Traditional data collection and reporting can treat homelessness too **simplistically**



Homelessness is **complex** and hard to demonstrate cause and effect



Our data needs to **reflect the changing** landscapes of homelessness

How RCT are using this data



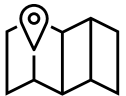
To identify quick wins



To plan and implement their first service improvement projects



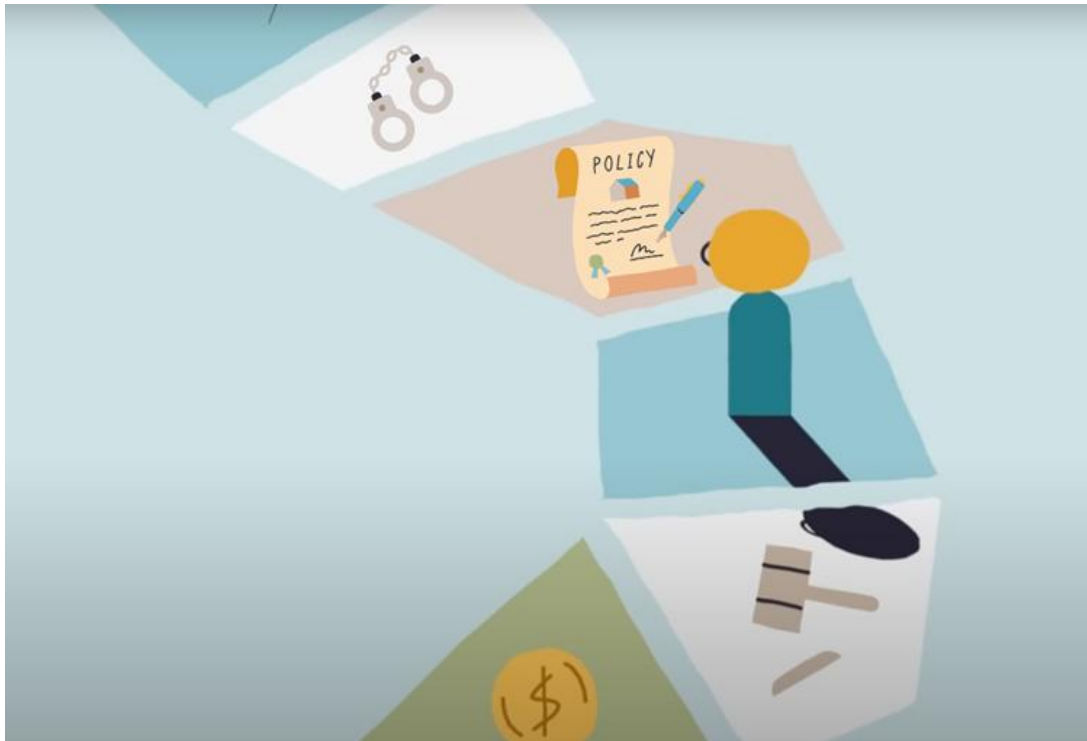
To check the BNL, and the outcomes from it, are equitable



To feed into wider work around the prison leaver pathway



What have we learned so far?



- 221 people have been added to the list since April 2024
- 1 in 3 people have accommodation they could return to (60 people), and of those 22 had their accommodation approved to return to (37%)
- 11 people have had more than 20 occasions in custody, and 44% have had over 5 occasions in custody.
- 85 people had between 1 and 5 previous presentations to RCTCBC (totalling 190 previous individual presentations). 19 people had 6+ presentations to RCTCBC totalling 157 previous presentations.
- 52% of people removed from the BNL have been housed, 20% of which had their tenancy sustained in custody.

A vibrant display of fireworks exploding in a dark night sky. The fireworks are primarily red and white, with some green and blue accents. They are scattered across the frame, creating a dynamic and celebratory atmosphere. The text "Quality Data" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Quality Data



Certificate of Achievement

celebrating

Rhondda Cynon Taff Community

Reaching the milestone of Quality Data

An internationally recognised standard of data, consistently capturing all people
experiencing homelessness on release from prison in RCT

Francesca Albanese

Executive Director of Policy
and Social Change

14th May 2025

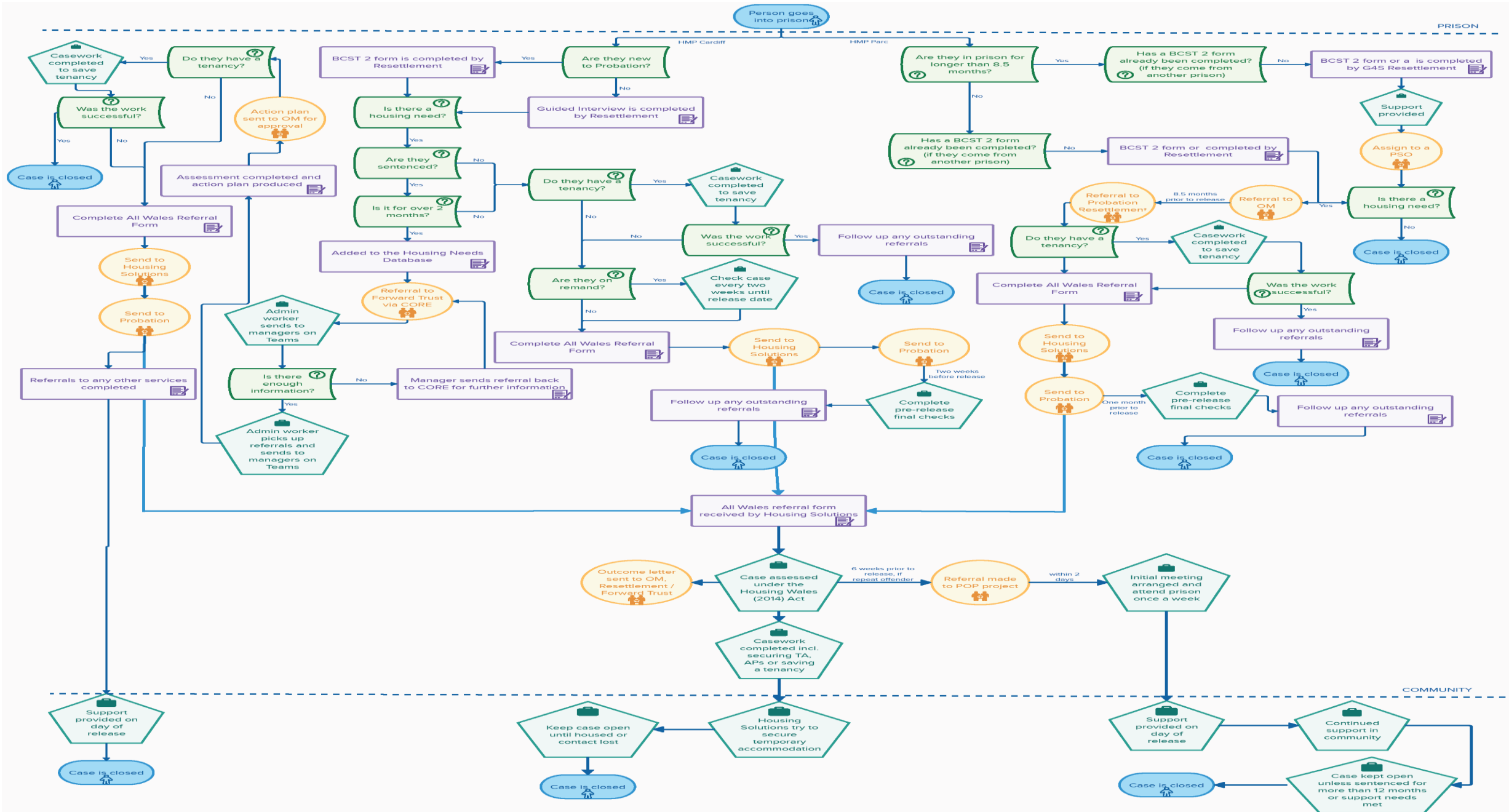
Date





BFZ Community Update— Emerging Themes / Trends





What is the BFZ Methodology?

BFZ enables us to understand the housing and support needs of Prison Leavers using real time data.



Partnership working and engagement from agencies is crucial for success of the project. We have established Community Executive and Service Improvement Teams.



Create a BNL – a database to capture real time information for Prison Leavers which includes their housing need and identified support needs.



How will we use the BNL: To identify barriers to meeting housing need / Coordinate actions and service delivery / implement plans to ensure housing and support needs are met appropriately,



Prison Leaver Data – Yearly Data

Hom Case - WHO12 T5 Main reason for being threatened with homelessness

▲	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	Total
01. Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate	155	149	179	56	539
02. Other relatives or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate	183	174	195	54	606
03i. Non-violent breakdown of relationship with partner	57	56	67	24	204
03ii. Violent breakdown of relationship involving partner	53	52	56	25	186
04vi. Violence or harassment which is due to another reason	34	30	25	9	98
05. Mortgage arrears (repossession or other loss of home)		3	3	4	10
06i. Rent arrears on Social sector dwellings			2		2
06ii. Rent arrears on Private sector dwellings	17	10	22	5	54
07. Loss of rented or tied accommodation	98	64	65	9	236
08. Current property unaffordable	4		3	1	8
09. Current property unsuitable	9	10	8	1	28
10. Prison leaver	142	165	108	18	433
11. In institution or care (e.g Hospital, residential home, army, prison etc)	6	13	11	20	50
12. Other (including homeless in emergency, returned from abroad, sleeping rough or in hostel)	88	59	50	18	215
Total	846	785	794	244	2669

TA placement Data

Prison Leaver TA Placements using the start date to determine Year/Qtr

Sequential moves to other TA's treated as the same placement.

Placements for the same household where there has been a break in service treated as a new placement

Financial year - Start date	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
+ 2022-2023	33	27	31	33	124
+ 2023-2024	26	29	26	36	117
+ 2024-2025	25	31	24	18	98
+ 2025-2026	15	8			23
Total	99	95	81	87	362

Identified Pressures and Demands

Late Referrals - does not allow required enquiries to take place.

Significant increase in demand for Temporary Accommodation for offenders / limited Temporary Accommodation provision in particular for RSO's

Some clients will exhaust their temporary accommodation options due to past behaviours and TA will no longer be available.

Housing system is at "Crisis Point". No longer guaranteed a housing option through Homelessness due to distinct lack of single person housing move on options.

Remand cases – releases are unknown to majority of services which creates pressures on housing to identify an option.

Average stay in Temporary Accommodation is between 12-24 months this will continue to increase due to demand.

High need complex clients is increasing, and limited suitable options being available to manage these needs.

A need for the Prisoner Pathway to be reviewed to ensure agencies are aware of their role and joint working across all services in place, with the main aim to prevent homelessness from occurring.

More structured and timely support for offenders.

What were the areas the BFZ Community highlighted as barriers from the Data?

Early data tells us that more robust work at reception into Prison with an offender may help with early notification to LA's where housing needs are identified / or tenancies identified.

More robust risk assessing of addresses for offenders by all agencies to determine suitability earlier which may help in offenders returning to previous accommodation / family / friends.

To monitor reset cases and the impact this has upon Homelessness Services.

Met with RSL's to discuss their role with their Contract Holders when they enter custody with the view to accommodation sustainment. Many of the RSL's are involved with the BFZ project.

To continue to identify key agencies to be part of BFZ and SIT Team. This will assist with joint working across agencies.

To explore options of a presence in Court on sentencing to inform agencies of outcome – this would help identify referrals earlier in the process.

Continue to identify areas for improvement using the data and escalate this with view to making changes.

What we have achieved to date

Getting a BNL
up and
running

Referrals

Operational
Work

Spend to save

Wider Welsh
Government
interest

Quality data

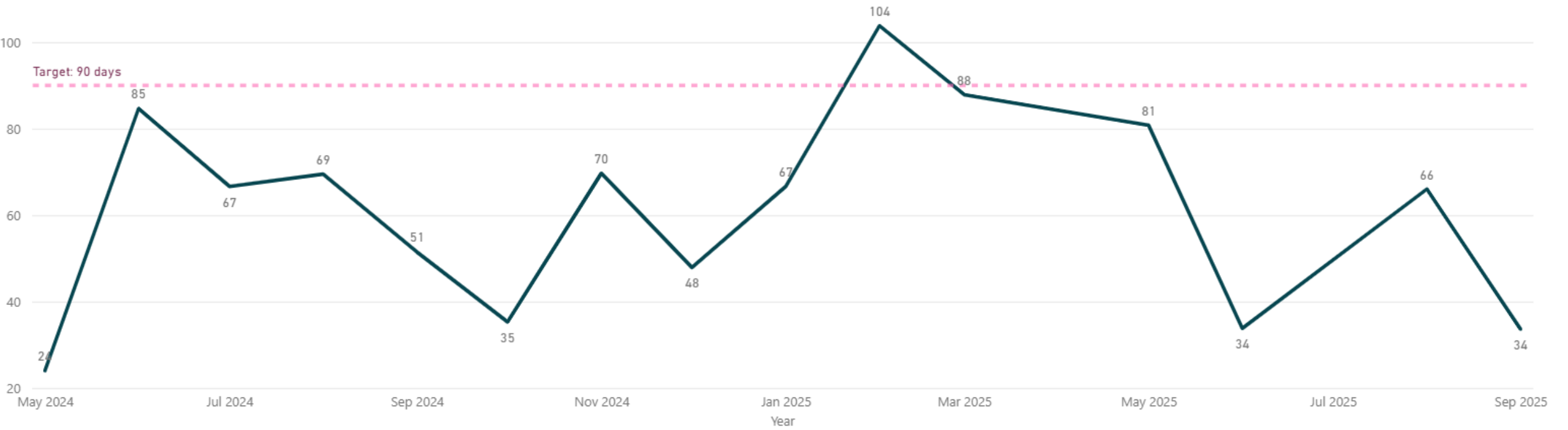
Getting a BNL up and running.

- BFZ Community identified key areas that would enable us to track client journey and needs.
- Information to identify risk factors and re-offending risks.
- Client support needs to be captured with the view to targeted support being in place to reduce risk of future homelessness / re-offending.
- Need to identify in the data the pressures and barriers to support the BFZ methodology to target change.

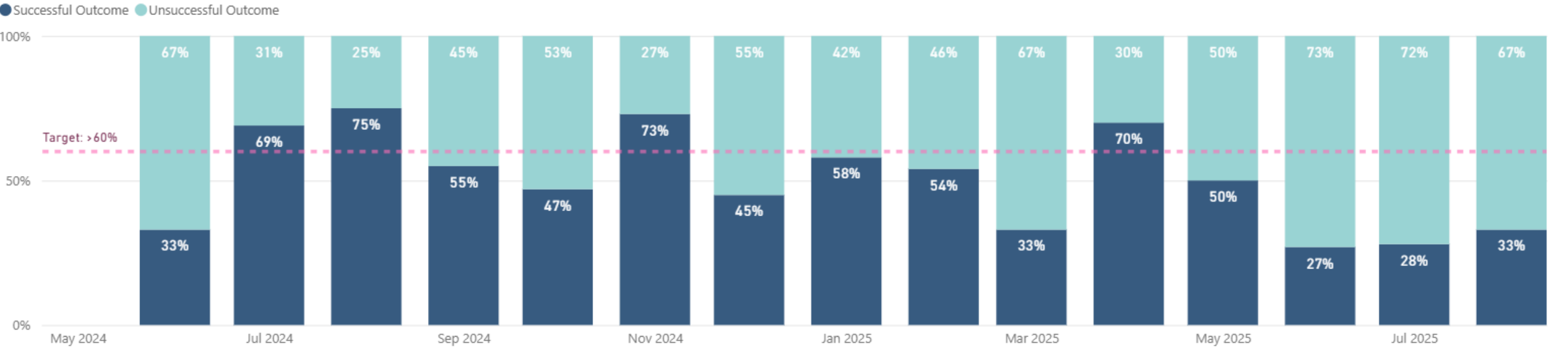
Referrals

- BNL enables us to track prison releases for the next 6 months.
- Enables the BFZ community to monitor referrals and input information that may identify barriers in resolving homelessness with the view to discussing how to overcome.
- Capturing key dates of referrals has allowed us to use data to support evidence of late referrals which creates pressures across all agencies.
- Data is suggesting that the earlier the referral then the higher chance of a positive outcome being obtained.

Average number of days between referral and release by month added

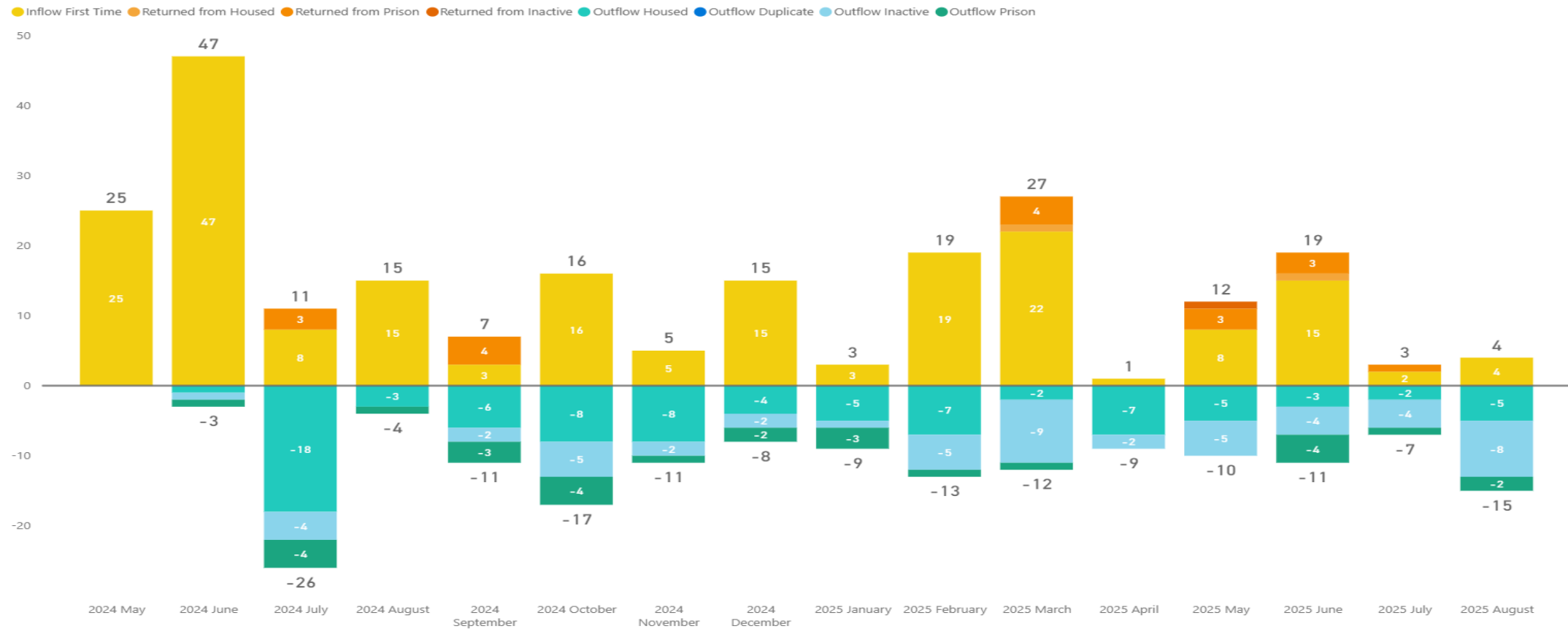


Successful vs Non-Successful outcome by Month



Inflow vs Outflow

Inflow vs Outflow



Operational Work

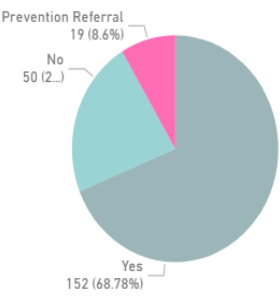
- Identified the need for more prevention opportunities where tenancies remain available for offenders going into custody.
- Using the release data allows us to escalate cases which may create pressures on Homelessness Services if no referrals are received.
- More focus on risk assessing suitability of addresses available for offenders with key agencies.
- Having a designated Offender Officer within housing services allows one point of contact with expertise in working with offenders – is there an opportunity for a WG Funded Role to align with Prison Pathway review?

Spend to Save Pilot – Focus on prevention to sustain tenancies for offenders who are incarcerated.

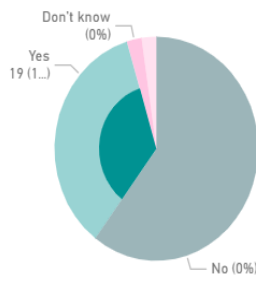
- To align with prevention work to sustain accommodation options for offenders, LA visit to HMP's across South Wales to identify key contacts within Resettlement Teams with the view to increase contact between services and early notification of cases where accommodation is available.
- Members of BFZ community are part of Focus Group led by Josh Williams to roll out Spend to Save Pilot across all LA's, working closely with Probation's Homelessness Prevention Team and Prison's.
- We have seen an increase in referrals where accommodation has been sustained for offenders on release easing the anxiety of having to present to homelessness services and starting again.
- Significant buy-in from RSL's who are also identifying cases and referring into Offender Officer within LA.

Current Prevention Activity - Offenders

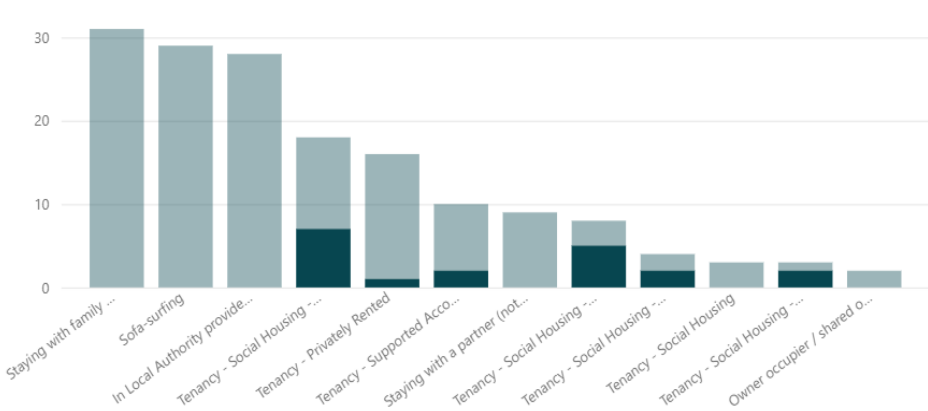
Referral Received



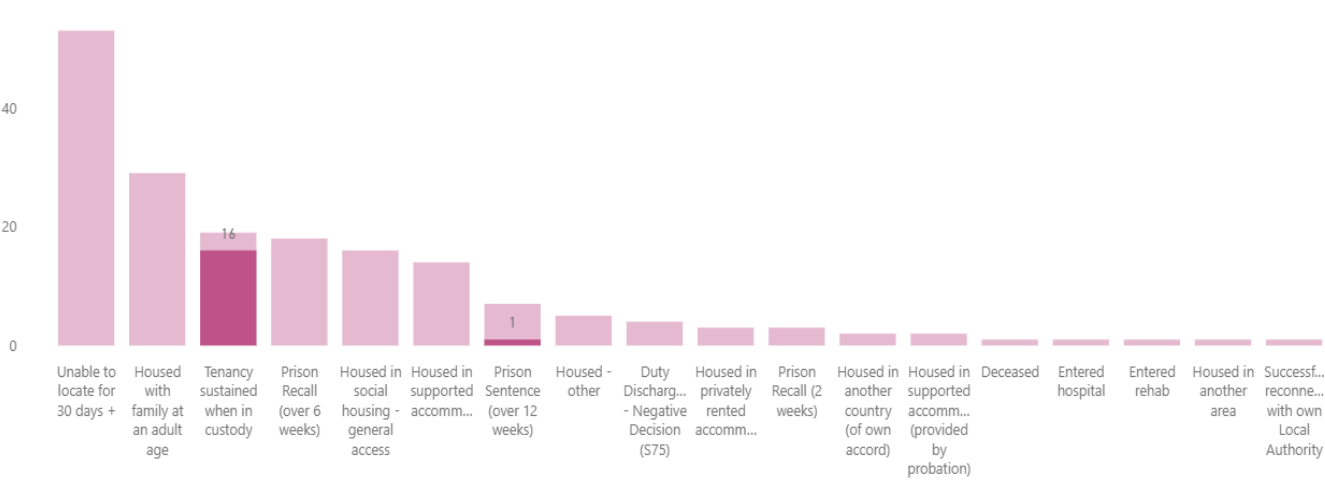
Accommodation to return to?



Where were they living prior to prison?



Once closed, what was the outcome?



Referred to POP project

(Blank)

Referred to POP

All

Wider Welsh Government Interest

- Identified the Prison Pathway as being complex and out of date.
- Subgroup set up led by Carl Spiller to review the Prison Pathway as part of Housing (Wales) Act 2014 legislation.
- Members of BFZ Community involved within the Subgroup to share experience and findings of working to the current pathway and what needs to change / improve.
- Remand Prisoners to be considered as part of the pathway.
- Identify agency responsibilities as part of the pathway which will enable improved working and communication.

Quality Data

- RCT Community have reached Quality Data.
- Continue to provide accurate data through SIT Meetings to ensure continued robust data is generated.
- Engagement from agencies is key to maintain positive data inputting which ultimately will inform change where data suggests changes are required.

Development Of Offender Accommodation supported by POP

- Developed Shared Accommodation Units via PRS landlord specifically for offenders leaving prison in housing need.
- Offenders attached to POP Support where their involvement will remain in place whether in community or back in custody.
- Data suggests that placements are being sustained longer than in Bed and Breakfast.
- Support model in place is having a positive impact on offenders.

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What Next ?

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Timeline - next 6 months

Service Improvement Projects

Pilot with a small number of Prison Leavers who are seen as “revolving door cases” to see if engagement improves through POP support model.

Early Referrals – provide an escalation point 3 months prior to an offenders release to ensure referrals are received in a timely way.

Early Prevention – What we will continue to take forward as a Community?

Continue positive working relationships with all agencies, in prison and in community to ensure we reduce numbers of offenders being released from prison into homelessness.

Agencies to continue to identify housing need of an offender going into prison so that early notification to LA's are completed to allow enquiries to begin.

To continue to get as much information provided in any referral to allow robust enquiries to be made at point of referral (pilot referral in place where LA's have been involved in what information is required to assist with their enquiries).

RSL's to continue to work with Housing Solutions Services so that no offender is left without accommodation that is available to them before seeking appropriate advice.

LA's to continue to work with landlords in both private and social sector to increase availability of housing options for offenders.



Thank You
BFZ Community!

