

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting13th February 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Youth Offending Service Inspection

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the outcome of a 'Short Quality Screening' (SQS) inspection of Stockton Youth Offending Service (YOS) by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation.

HMIP carried out an SQS of Stockton YOS during the period 25 - 27 November 2013 and published their report on 18 December 2013. The scoring descriptors used by HMIP for Full Joint Inspections were as follows:-

| Case Assessment Scores | Descriptor | Stars | |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|---|
| 80% | Good | 4 | |
| 65-79% | | Satisfactory | 3 |
| 50-64% | | Unsatisfactory | 2 |
| less than 50% | | Poor | |

1

Although not directly applied to the SQS process, these ratings provided an understanding of the expected range of scores. A report to the YOS Management Board on 14 January 2014 detailing the outcome of this inspection was attached to the report.

During the inspection, case files were examined and YOS Officers were interviewed. The focus of inspection was on community and custodial court orders imposed from March – September 2013.

The YOS had received very good feedback on its performance. The summary of the report stated:-

"Overall, we found a really positive picture in Stockton-on-Tees. The YOS can be proud of the progress made since our last inspection in 2010. Staff delivered high quality reports and assessments of reoffending, harm and vulnerability. They were well supported by their management team

through robust quality assurance procedures. There is scope for further improvement by ensuring that reviews are timely and completed in response to significant changes in the circumstances of children and young people”

This was an excellent outcome for the partnership in Stockton on Tees.

Key Strengths identified by inspectors:-

- Excellent engagement with children and young people and their parents / carers in carrying out initial assessments and intervention plans
- The identification of diversity issues and what needed to be done to overcome barriers to change
- High quality assessments of the likelihood of reoffending, risk of harm and vulnerability both at report and initial assessment stage

There was one recommendation for improvement:-

- In all cases, reviews of assessments and plans to tackle the risk of harm to others and vulnerability should be timely and completed quickly in the event of a significant change in circumstances

By the time of inspection, the YOS had already implemented activity to achieve more timely review of cases, as this was an area the YOS already knew that they needed to improve on.

The scoring in this area (85% and 80% respectively, as outlined in Appendix B of the report) evidenced that the improvement activity was already having an impact, as measured against the findings of their own case file audits earlier in 2013. Therefore, given the relatively high level of performance in this area, it was proposed that the Board allowed for the existing improvement activity to become embedded within the service.

This specific area would be monitored by managers for the next 3 months during the regular case file audit process and through staff supervision and report on results at the next Management Board meeting.

Detailed scoring for the YOS was attached to the report.

The chart showed an overall average score of 91% for Stockton on Tees, with scores ranging from 80% to 100%, broken down into the following themes:

- Reducing the likelihood of Reoffending – average of 91%
- Protecting the Public – 91%
- Protecting the Child or Young Person – 87%

- Ensuring that Sentence is Served – 96%

These were very high scores and compare very favourably to other SQS reports.

Members noted the excellent feedback from HMIP about the performance of Stockton YOS.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that Cabinet Members are aware of the inspection results.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 21st February 2014

Proper Officer
17 February 2014