

YOS MANAGEMENT BOARD
15th October 2007

Present:

Mike Batty – Head of Community Protection, SBC (MB) (Chair)
Miriam Robertson – YOS Manager (MR)
Jane Bradley – Preventions Manager, YOS (JB)
Tina Beckett – Assistant Director, Teesside Probation Service (TB)
Jane Edmonds – Strategy and Renewals Manager, SBC (JE)
Sue Maddison – Head of Drugs and Social Inclusion Strategy, Drug Action Team (SM)
Val Goodrum – Partnership Director – Stockton, LSC (VG)
Graham Liggitt – Operational Manager, YOS (GL)
Peter Lowe - Children's Society (PL)
Gary Gamesby – Chief Inspectors of Operations, Cleveland Police (GG)
Peter Seller – Head of C&YP Commissioning, SBC (PS)
Jane Humphreys – Head of Operations Children & Young People Services, SBC (JH)
Terry Frank – Integrated Youth Support Manager, SBC (TF)
Lesley Makin – Corner House Youth Project (representing Voluntary Sector) (LM)
Jean Bell – Court Legal Manager, Teesside Youth Court (JBE)
Sheila Whitehead – Operations Manager, YOS (SW)
Julia Morrison – Head of School Effectiveness, SBC (JM)

Kim Elliott – Admin Officer, YOS (Minutes) (KE)

Also in attendance:

Linda Bush – Workforce Development Advisor, YJB (LB)
Dan Parks – Lead Inspector (HMI Probation) (DP)

Apologies:

Wallace Wilson – Regional Head YJB North East, YJB (WW)

Presentation from Dan Parks, Lead YOS Inspector

DP outlined the scope and remit of inspection. Key dates: Inspection week beginning 22nd October 2007. DP will return to Stockton during week 2 of JAR in December where discussion of findings will take place with DP, JH, TF and MR. Any subsequent improvement plan will have a 12 month life and will be overseen by Regional YJB Manager (Wallace Wilson).

DP Presentation handout distributed in the meeting.

Presentation from Linda Bush, Workforce Development Advisor for the YJB

Linda attending in place of Wallace Wilson. Overview of national and regional developments given:

- The introduction of a 'Youth Rehabilitation Order' planning to come into effect in March 2009, replacing the majority of community sentences with one order.
- YJB allocated a standstill budget for 08/09

Regional challenges:

- Skills gap
 - 67% of assets deemed poor/unacceptable
 - ETE performance continues to be a struggle
 - FTE increased across the region
 - Recidivism is increasing in the region
 - Wiring Up Youth Justice → piloting North East
- Funding has been allocated for an - Asset reference group to tackle the issue of poor/unacceptable Assets.
 - Data analysis toolkit which allows drilling down in FTE – CareWorks doesn't recognise it.
 - Job shadowing initiative being launched in region, intended to increase understanding between staff in YOTs and secure estate

Discussion around:

1. Time limited funding - making it difficult to plan ahead and causes recruitment and retention issues.
2. Offences Bought To Justice (OBTJ) feedback – needs some fine tuning.
3. Wiring up secure email → E asset
4. Look at asset scores – Connectivity (Electric Yellow Envelope) and the Yellow Envelope – will both be running at the same time in November, eventually we will no longer be using the Yellow Envelope.
6. MR – observation comment – Stockton's performance is reflected in the regional performance, indicating that issues such as FTE is broader than just being a "Stockton issue"

LB/WW Presentation handout distributed in meeting

Minutes of meeting held 24th July 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

- Power Sharing Arrangement in SBC, with Ken Lupton as Leader of the Council – all going well so far.
- Respect Action Plan – Linda B to take comments back to the YJB.
- Action from previous minutes – Work Request, this is now underway.
- Feedback from consultation event with young people in Billingham, Mark Telford leading on this re the development of Youth Cafes.
- Follow up action ref Rose Lodge. SBC are negotiating out of the contract hopefully by mid-February.
- New Children's Plan being placed on the SBC website
- Voluntary representative – agreed that if LM cannot attend, another representative will attend the meeting to ensure CVS representation and input
- The Children's trust website now has a link to the YOS management board minutes

Youth Justice Plan Update (MR)

MR presented paper on the Youth Justice Plan Update and went through the 15 different themes looking at progress towards key performance targets.

Performance strong in most areas. Those areas requiring further improvements: FTE, Recidivism, Parenting and ETE are being explored in finer detail at monthly PI meetings attended by managers within YOS and CESC. The YOS is also now able to monitor performance by ethnicity, gender and age. We are currently awaiting feedback on the recently submitted Equality Impact Assessment of the Youth Justice Plan.

Action: Monthly PI meetings to continue and MR to keep Management Board updated on performance. Exception reports to be presented. MR to update the Board on feedback from the Equality Impact Assessment

Preventions Unit update (JB)

JB presented the Preventions Unit Report.

There has been a poor response to the case manager advert, possibly due to the post only being advertised for a contract to 31/03/08, due to fixed term funding.

The other vacant post, funded by Connexions is now filled. Parents and young people were involved in the recruitment process, holding their own interview prior to the formal interview, under the supervision of a member of staff. All comments and decisions were unanimous between staff and service users.

The Preventions Unit and the Corner House Youth Project are working in partnership, on a project funded by the St Anne's Partnership. The CHYP has employed two workers to the project, one of which (Parent Support Worker) is seconded to the Preventions Unit to work alongside the existing parenting worker. Early indications on the success of the project are extremely positive.

A member of the Preventions Unit is chairing and leading on the development of the Thornaby Youth Providers Forum. The success of this partnership has resulted in discussions regarding the setting up of such forums in other areas.

The Preventions Celebration Event is to be held at the ARC on Thursday 25th October 2007, occupying the two top floors. All Management Board Reps are invited to attend. Councillor Cunningham will be presenting young people and parents with their certificates of achievement.

Discussions regarding the data provided re panel, and whether this was adequate and detailed enough for the Board. It was requested that a further column was added regarding live cases.

Action: Extra column to be added stating how many live cases Preventions have had each month.

YOS Managers Report (MR)

MR presented a paper to the Management Board. Information given on preparations for inspection; particularly the strong commitment to support staff in the lead up to Inspection.

Problems being experienced with the CareWorks database; unknown as yet if these require technical, operational and/or systematic solutions. MR has approached CareWorks to undertake an audit. They will visit Stockton in November to look at how we use the system and suggest some improvements.

Senior Members of the YJB came to visit Stockton and the Its Going To Work project. The visit appeared to go well and additional funds of £500 per young person have been offered to the Project by the YJB General Manager, well done!

Evidence in Advance (MR).

Previously distributed to Board members. For Information

JAR & APA (JH)

JH gave a verbal update.

The draft APA letter - positive feedback, very few areas for improvement, 4* children's service.

JAR – week commencing 3rd & 10th December. Marie McGuinness is the lead inspector. It is anticipated that there will be a focus upon LAC, Child Protection, LDD and Safeguarding. There also might be cross cutting lines of enquiry, such as Diversity.

10 files will be read; 3/10 are young people who are known to the YOS. All partner agencies have been alerted.

Parenting Update (GL).

GL gave a verbal update on parenting. Target of 20% was achieved in the 2nd Quarter (Jul-Sept), which is good given that the target recently doubled from 10% in previous years.

Current arrangements with PiP and recent changes outlined, which have resulted in more staff time for work in Stockton. An opt out service now being offered to all parents / carers of young people who offend.

Action: DVD to be shown in next YOS Management board meeting.

ISA/IYSS Update (JH)

JH gave a verbal update.

The ISA posts have all been appointed too. All managers are treble/double running currently. Jane Humphreys to identify which managers go into which ISA. ISA managers will receive a full induction programme.

The Complex Needs post still vacant, (joint funding by PCT & SBC). Interviews are taking place next week.

Children's Fund (PS)

PS gave a verbal Update. Current funding ends in March 08. Future funding still to be determined. MB enquired whether the 25% ring fencing to preventative activity would continue; PS stated he was sure at this stage.

PCT – diversity plan. Getting evidence out to people as soon as possible. Partners are aware & up to date.

Sue Maddison handed out some additional reading PSA 25 – drugs & alcohol

Next meeting

January 22nd 2008, 10.00am at Bayheath House.