

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN QUARTER 3

Introduction:

This purpose of this Report is to update members on the performance of the YOS against the key Youth Justice Board (YJB) performance indicators. As requested by a previous meeting, comments will be focused upon those areas under performing.

There are 2 attachments to this Report: the first (to be distributed at the meeting) is the YJB published data on the YOS' performance April – September 07, informed by the last quarterly submission; the second is the latest YOS internal monitoring report, which is used by CESC and YOS to monitor performance in the monthly performance clinics.

Information:

The YJB monitors performance against 12 national performance measures and associated targets. These 12 Performance Measures are reported annually for Ethnicity and Recidivism and quarterly for Prevention, Final Warnings, Use of Secure Estate, Use of Restorative Processes and Victim Satisfaction, Parenting, Detention and Training Orders, Education, Training and Employment, Accommodation, Mental Health and Substance Use. For a detailed breakdown of each Performance Measure and its targets, please see the attached appendices, on which each section is explained in full.

As can be seen, there are many areas of strong performance in the YOS, which reflect a strong commitment by staff and partner agencies.

There are some areas for improvement focused on:

- First Time Entrants
- Recidivism
- Education, Training and Employment

First Time Entrants (FTE) – There has been year on year increases in the number of children and young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time in Stockton. As well as being the subject of discussion at this Board, the Criminal Justice Board, the Safer Stockton Partnership and the Children's Trust Board, it is now highlighted in the inspection as a key area for improvement.

It is acknowledged that performance targets related to the *Bringing Offences to Justice* initiative have had an impact upon this particular performance indicator and its recognised that a multi-agency response is required. Increased numbers entering the youth justice system is not just an issue for Stockton; some YOTs are experiencing similar challenges. A meeting is due to take place next week attended by the representatives from all regional Police Forces, the YJB and YOTs in the North East to discuss FTE.

As highlighted by the inspection, planning is currently hampered by a lack of understanding of what's happening 'on the ground'. Manual drilling down into the YOS data is slow and largely unproductive. We have recently purchased a new MI Toolkit from Careworks which will allow us to drill down into the figures to get a more comprehensive picture, which will aid planning. Planning is currently hampered by a lack of understanding of what's happening 'on the ground'. We are waiting for a date for delivery and installation from Careworks.

There are a number of areas of activity which can be included in a more structured strategy. For example, the Prevention Unit has developed a strong relationship with local Police in Parkfield, Portrack and Victoria and we are now piloting an early preventative and intervention approach with the Police and PCSO's to refer 'at risk' children and young people at an earlier stage to hopefully reduce the number of reprimands.

We are also making links with other YOS and Police Forces with lower rates of FTE to establish how they have responded to these challenges.

Recidivism: YOS performance in re-offending rates of children and young people is an area which needs attention and improvements and we are currently exploring how we tackle this issue. Given the proposed changes to the YOS performance framework, there are changes to how recidivism will be monitored and these will need to inform our new approach.

Education, Training and Employment: Against a target of 90%, we are currently at 79.2%, which represents a mixed picture of 89.8% for pre 16 and 60.8% for post 16.

YOS capacity to respond to these challenges is enhanced by several recent developments: the new ETE worker starting in post; Connexions to continue their level of input into the YOS; newly established ETE monthly performance clinics; and attendance by Behaviour for Learning and Support Services at those clinics.

FTE, Recidivism and ETE are likely to be ongoing areas for improvement.

Current Caseload:

The information provided by MIS shows that there are 209 young people open to the YOS, excluding those currently in the court system. This includes 54 on Preventions Programmes (Switch, Contact and PAYP), and 155 young people are on Statutory Orders. Of these, 26 are on Final Warnings, 39 on Referral Orders, 65 on Community Supervision, 16 on Attendance Centre Orders and 9 are serving Custodial Sentences (5 on licence in the community). In addition to this, 8 statutory and 48 voluntary Parenting Programmes, 19 RAP Aftercare Programmes and 12 Curfew Orders are running alongside main orders.

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15 January 08