

Stockton Youth Offending Service

YOS Management Board
22nd January 2008

Agenda Item No: 4
Safer Stockton Partnership
18 March 2008

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)
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)
Sheila Whitehead – Operations Manager, YOS (SW)
Wallace Wilson – Regional Head YJB North East, YJB (WW)

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

Also in attendance:

Margaret Maynard (PIP Support Worker) (MM)

Apologies:

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)
Jean Bell – Court Legal Manager, Teesside Youth Court (JBE)
Julia Morrison – Head of School Effectiveness, SBC (JM)

Agenda Item 1

Presentation from Margaret Maynard, PIP Parenting Officer

On behalf of Elaine Daghish, MM presented a DVD showcasing PIP activity. MB asked if any re-offending rates when parents had been involved with PIP had ever been looked at. MM stated that she was unsure if these figures had ever been looked at. WW commented that rather small scale studies had taken place in other areas and it was noted that there was a significant reduction in the re-offending rates; however no study had been completed in the North East. PS added that the developing local parenting strategy has links with PIP and that other government initiatives surrounding parenting are coming into place in April.

MM then left the meeting.

Agenda Item 2

Minutes of meeting held 15th October 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2007 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Amendment to be made on the last page, sentence to read 'PS stated he was unsure at this stage'.

Matters Arising

- Equality Impact Assessment completed by Ian Birch. This has gone well and is going to be used as a tool for others.
- Preventions Report now has additional extra column stating number of live cases.
- Action from previous minutes – Work Request, this is now underway.
- Parenting DVD shown in today's meeting.

PS updated the group on the current situations with funding:

- Children's Fund – PS not yet in a position to confirm funding until council sign off the proposed budget late February. In meantime, a report is going to Children's Trust Management Team relating to schemes tomorrow. Looking at 08/09 being a transitional year with projects. MB queried if 25% still ring fenced for Prevention / diversion activities. **Action: PS to investigate.** JH advised that Prevention is a key priority for ISA / IYSS developments. MB queried how the YOS Management Board will be able to inform / influence commissioning arrangements. PS advised that the Joint Commissioning Unit has reviewed current CF provision, which can come to the next YOS Management Board to assist in planning for 09/10. **Action: PS / MR for next agenda.**
- All NRF money is to end on 31/03/08. Schemes that are deemed successful will continue to receive funds for another 12 months from 'Working Neighbourhood Funds' allocation. The hope is then to establish these schemes on a 3 year cycle with a hope to mainstreaming.

Agenda Item 3

Inspection Feedback (MR)

MR presented a paper on the Inspection Feedback and summary of key recommendations from feedback received to date. MR stressed to the group that these findings were emerging findings and that the final report would not be published until 21st March 2008. A meeting has been arranged with statutory members of the YOS Management Board tomorrow to look at responding to early feedback.

A meeting is arranged on 25th February 2008 1:30pm – 3:00pm at the Education Centre in Norton for Dan Parks to deliver Inspection Feedback, all staff and YOS Management Board will be invited.

It is not anticipated that any area of YOS activity have been highlighted as an area of significant weakness. Key issues for the YOS are; Recidivism Performance, FTE, ETE and addressing inconsistencies in performance.

Action: MR will bring the Inspection Improvement Plan to the YOS Management Board meeting on 15th April 2008.

Agenda Item 4

YOS Performance Update

MR presented a paper on Stockton YOS performance. Most areas performing well; current national standards, performance measure and a further paper looking at how these figures relate to 'Stockton's family', the North East and nationally. FTE, recidivism and ETE proving difficult. Detailed discussion about FTE and various options.

MR recently attended a Safer Stockton Partnership meeting where the FTE figures were discussed, this is an issue nationally. Stockton YOS placed an order before Christmas for a new software package from Careworks to enable the YOS to drill down into the FTE figures to highlight any trends. Careworks have not come back to the YOS as yet with a definite date as to when this software will be launched and MR was uncertain that this would be within the next month.

JB explained to the group about the new referral system which has very recently been set up in a few areas of Stockton. Police and PCSO's can now refer to Preventions at an earlier stage. JB to monitor progress. It is hoped by referring the young people sooner that FTE figures can be reduced. This has only been running for 10 days currently, indications are good but no figures are available as yet. LM asked if the Joint Action Groups where this new system for referring was developed are linking in with other agencies, i.e. voluntary groups. JB advised that this is the case.

JH commented that all ISA areas are going to have panels; this is currently being developed based on the best practice model of the YISP panels.

WW confirmed that an FTE is classed at reprimand stage. WW spoke to the group about a scheme that Durham is developing to start from April, whereby any young people under the age of 14 at risk of committing an offence are referred to YISP as soon as possible. This is similar to a scheme that was being developed last year in Stockton, working with the police and the Preventions team.

GG commented that the Police have put barriers in place to make sure that Police Officers are using discretion when issuing reprimands / final warnings.

MR spoke to the group about the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill Conference that she attended last week in London. Leicestershire Police Force have liaised with the Home Office and have introduced RJ outcomes that are classed as sanctions at the Reprimand stage, this can be writing a letter of apology to the victim.

JB added to the discussion that Alison Brown (YJB Consultant) has asked all YOS's in the region to take a snap shot week and to drill down the figures and report back. A meeting has been arranged in February to look at the results.

MB spoke to the group regarding a meeting which is due to take place on 29 January, YOS Management Board chairs, YOS Managers and Admin of Justice have all been invited.

WW added to the discussion that Stockton YOS is a level 5 YOS and needs to be representing this in the figures. Furthermore WW commented that some research is currently being carried out looking at deprivation and the relationship between the YP and their workers, in relation to the effect that this has on the regions statistics, although it's very early days for any finding at the moment.

MR commented that ETE has been a challenge for the service for sometime, both Pre and Post 16. The YOS now has an ETE worker in post and ETE performance clinics have commenced

monthly looking at individuals to see are they being offered the 25 hours of education and if so, why are they not completing this.

Action: ETE to be tabled as a substantive item at the next YOS Management Board (15/04/08). Need to ensure that Management Board is receiving the most up to date performance figures possible. Action: JH / MR

Agenda Item 5

YJB Performance Framework Update (WW)

From April, the YOS will be required to report quarterly on;

- Recidivism
- FTE
- ETE
- Placements and suitable accommodation
- Use of Custody
- Diversity

YOS's will not be asked to report on Substance Misuse, Mental Health, DTO, Parenting, RJ and FW's. However WW strongly recommended to the group that the YOS will continue to collate this data as the figures have an effect on recidivism rates. JH asked the question if all YOS's on the North East will be continuing to report on this data as comparing the data across the region is very helpful. WW will be advising all YOS to continue to record all current figures. There will no longer be a scoring process for YOS's. YOS's will be encouraged to set their own baselines. This is to commence in April. A Capability and Capacity Assessment is replacing the Youth Justice Plan. **Action: The Management Board agreed to continue, until further notice with existing performance monitoring framework, for internal use.**

Agenda Item 6

YOS Manager's Report (MR)

Due to time constraints this report was tabled in depth and accepted by the Board.

Agenda Item 7

Preventions Unit Update (JB)

As agenda item 6, due to time, the report was tabled and accepted by the Board.

Agenda Item 8

ISA / IYSS Consultation (PS/TF)

PS spoke to the group about the ISA / IYSS consultation. Consultation is closing on 31/01/08, so any comments need to be sent by this date.

In view of the risks (and potential benefits) relating to partial devolution of the Preventions function,

MB suggested that a 'stock-taking' review process is built in to allow a review after 12 months, this was agreed. **Action: PS, MR to agenda for Board Meeting summer 2008.**

WW commented that the YJB may have some concerns about the proposal and suggested a meeting outside the group to discuss further. **Action: WW to organise.**

MB commented that there are both risks and opportunities in proposals and reminded people that a deadline for comments is 31/01/08.

LM raised some concerns about capacity issues for the voluntary sector at representing all the ISA panels.

Board members agreed not to share all of the papers as one of the papers was produced specifically for the group and is not yet a public document. All other documents can be found on the Children's Trust website.

Agenda Item 9 **Youth Custody Project (MB)**

MB discussed the Youth Custody Project with the group which is due to come to the end of its funding on 31/03/08. The project has been a pilot scheme commissioned by the Home Office.

To carry on running this project Cleveland Wide for 12 months would cost £180k. Cleveland Police may contribute but Stockton would be looking at needing to find approximately £35k.

The group had some queries in relation to the proposal. JH asked the Chair if other local authorities were definitely going to commit the money, as if Stockton could raise the £45k the project may still not continue if other local authorities could not raise the funds.

MR raised that several budget pressures for YOS and that she thought it unlikely, but this could be explored further at budget meetings later that day. Agreed that future funding of this project be considered in the individual partners respective budget setting meetings.

Agenda Item 10 **Community Representation (MR)**

MR had attended the Safer Stockton Partnership meeting where it was requested that the YOS Management Board consider having community representation at the meeting.

Discussion for Residents Groups Association took place around this proposal. It would need to be about what the purpose of having a community representative would be.

PS currently working with the Community Empowerment Network to look at this issue. **Action: PS to explore YOS Management Board with CEN.**

Agenda Item 11 **Feedback from all other meetings**

None

AOB

Sue Maddison is leaving her current post. Her contribution to YOS Management Board noted.

MB commented that diverting young people from offending will be a priority under the new Community Safety Plan for 1008 – 2011.

Next Meeting: 15th April 2008 at 10:00am Bayheath House