

10th November 2009**Present:**

Mike Batty	Head of Community Protection (Chair)
Shaun McLurg	Assistant Director/Head of Service, Children and Young People's Operational Services
Miriam Robertson	YOS Manager
Terry Frank	Integrated Youth Support Services Manager
Peter Seller	Head of Children and Young People's Strategy (LA) / Assistant Director of Commissioning (PCT)
Ted Allen	Chief Inspector, Cleveland Police
Mike Robinson	Benefits Manager, Citizens Advice Bureau
Julie Higgins	Housing Strategy Team Leader (on behalf of Jane Edmends)
John Graham	Senior Probation Officer (on behalf of Tina Beckett)
Jenna Ditchburn	Admin Officer, Youth Offending Team (Minutes)

Apologies:

Jean Bell	HMCS Magistrates Court
Darren Coulton	LSC, Partnership Manager, Stockton
Julia Morrison	Assistant Director/Head of Service – Children, Schools and Complex Needs
Tina Beckett	Assistant Director, National Probation Service - Teesside
Lyn Burns	Interim Head of Service / Assistant Director, Children and Young People's Operational Services
Jane Edmends	Housing Strategy & Development Manager

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

MR was to arrange a Stakeholder Event with regards to the Scaled Approach and Youth Rehabilitation Order; however, this had to be cancelled due to diary commitments. MR and Sheila Whitehead are meeting with agencies on an individual basis.

Marc Mason has been nominated to work with TF and MR on the Social Care Protocol.

Items on Preventions and Health Benchmarking have been deferred to the January meeting.

All other actions complete.

2. YOS Inspection

MR did a PowerPoint presentation which went through the themes, criteria, methodology, scoring and judgements and key recommendations for improvement from the HMIP Inspection. MR has recommended that MB be responsible for the outcomes, ensuring that the analysis of outcome data is used to inform the interventions offered by the YOS and its partners. Mike Robinson is to identify a CAB referral process. The next steps will be as follows:

- Feedback to HMIP on draft 13th November 09
- Publication of Report 6th January 2010
- Improvement Plan submitted to HMIP within four weeks of publication
- Implementation will be overseen by YJB Head of Region

ACTION: Mike Robinson is to identify a CAF referral process.

The Board went through the Core Case Inspection of Youth Offending Work Report. MR had requested consideration be given for the comment on Page 19 "Substantial improvement required" be amended to "Moderate improvement required", as this showed an apparent inconsistency. This was discussed and the Board agreed to leave it as "Substantial". MR will provide a draft copy of the Improvement Action Plan at the next meeting, which will then be submitted by early February 2010.

MB emphasised the team effort which had been put in to achieve the great results of the inspection and wanted to give MR a fair chunk of the credit as the Service has improved since she came into post.

ACTION: MB is to write a letter, on behalf of the Board, to all YOS staff congratulating them on the results of the inspection and highlighting that external publicity will follow once the report is published.

3. Ofsted/Health Inspection

MR provided the Board with a copy of a letter she has received from Ofsted with regards to the Regional Inspection of EET provision for young offenders. The Lead Inspector spent one day at YOS and spoke with the YOS Management Team and key providers, which seemed to be a positive experience. The outcome from the inspection will not be published, they provide feedback via letter. TF advised that there are some factual inaccuracies in the letter. PS suggested that we reply to the letter as acknowledgement, point out the inaccuracies, suggest that they amalgamate the inspections, rather than doing them separately and combine the improvement plan. MR highlighted that the Youth Justice Plan for 2010/2011 will capture the action plans.

ACTION: HMIP and Ofsted action points are to be discussed at the next meeting.

PS advised that a Regional Report will be produced on the Health Inspection.

4. Scaled Approach

Sheila Whitehead provided an update on the Scaled Approach and Youth Rehabilitation Order, which will be implemented on 30.11.09. At present, we are focussing on training staff and ensuring we have good links with the Courts. One of the development days for staff is taking place on 16.11.09, and a member of staff from the National Scaled Approach Team will be attending to go through the assessment. We will probably be running two systems for quite a while and will be providing further training to identify any gaps. Training will be taking place this Saturday for Referral Order Volunteers, to show them how they will use the Scaled Approach to compile contracts. Initial discussions have taken place with partners and meetings have been arranged with them to ensure everything is in place.

Attendance Centre: Currently providing a comprehensive range of sessions.

Unpaid Work: This is delivered by Probation.

Reparation: The demand for activities may increase substantially.

Programmes: Car/Knife Crime developing all the time.

Electronic Curfew: No change.

Mental Health: The assessment is done by doctors, but requires consent, so may not be used so much. There are ongoing discussions between CAMHS and Stash with regards to this.

Intensive Fostering: This is not available in our area and there are no plans for it in the future.

Education: This is being looked at by Education.

Intensive Supervision & Support: The arrangements will remain the same; however, the Custody threshold will be increased.

MR advised that once the Scaled Approach is implemented, it will be monitored for six months and a report will be presented to the Board. The Attendance Centre and Nominated Officer will lead on this and ensure compliance. There is a potential 15% increase on caseloads for staff, which will increase the demands on the Service and potentially some resource implications.

PS advised that we need to consider the financial impact on the budget next year.

ACTION: MR is to provide an update for the next meeting on the budget implications.

5. Childrens Fund

PS advised that finance will be looking at all the budgets, which will not be ring fenced this year. We should receive clarity over the next couple of months. MB advised that he has not seen the figures yet with regards to the play schemes.

6. Youth Crime Action Plan

TF provided an update on the Youth Crime Action Plan:

Family Intervention Project

FIP are currently working with seven families. Referrals are being made via the YISP Panels.

After School Patrols

Blue Tooth is now in place and messages are being sent to young people advising them of activities available and provide warnings in their area.

Operation Stay Safe

Additional sessions took place on Bonfire night and Halloween and they had an excellent result. Three young girls from Hardwick were found with a group who were drinking – their parents were delighted that the operation was in place as the girls had lied about their whereabouts.

Reparation

There are currently 52 young people engaging and activities have been taking place on a Friday and Saturday as well.

YOT Workers in Custody Suites

South Tees have recruited people to work with Hartlepool to provide a triage.

Street Based Teams of Wardens

The Police, Anti-Social Behaviour and Youth Support Teams have been working together in Hardwick, as this is a hotspot. 13 out of 15 young people on the police list have now been linked into the Safe Programme and 3,000 young people have engaged since April.

Paul Surtees will be doing a presentation at the Youth Task Roadshow, to showcase alcohol reduction.

7. YOS Performance

MR provided the stats for the following:

NI19 – Rate of proven re-offending by young people who offend:

0.52 - This is higher than last year, but monthly meetings are taking place to look at this.

NI43 – Young People receiving a conviction in Court who are sentenced to Custody:

5.8% - The highest figure we have had in some time. The cases have been looked at and will be monitored, so hopefully it is just a blip.

NI44 – Ethnic composition of young people on youth justice system disposals:

The way this is reported needs to change - it should not be in the red as the orders are represented.

NI45 – Engagement in education, training and employment:

84.6% - Performance not as strong as last year – this is to be monitored by the ETE Clinic.

NI46 – Access to Accommodation:

100%.

NI111 – First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17:

There has been a 30% reduction from last year.

8. Social Care Protocol

This was discussed at the last meeting and TF, MR and Marc Mason have since drafted a protocol for Joint Responsibilities between the Youth Offending Service and Social Care Functions, which has subsequently been agreed; however, may need tweaking due to the Scaled Approach. The Youth Offending and Social Care agendas need to be looked at. If a young person who is a Child in Need offends, then YOS lead to look at criminal justice and the social worker will lead upon broader safeguarding issues, so there will be a lot of joint working.

9. Accommodation Move

TF advised that we were out bid for the second floor of Bishopton House; however, we have been offered the third floor as they have advised they will end the tenancy of the organisation that bought it, but did not move in. The proposal has been put in by Stockton Borough Council; however, they are expecting it to be declined. IYSS will be moving to the My Place building in 2012.

10. Safeguarding

SM advised that the Safeguarding Board have had a discussion around Quality Assurance and Audit, in line with the inspection on detailed case work and around better audits and potential proposals for multi agency working, which needs to be looked at.

CESC have had discussions to see how we audit Social Care when managers are looking at case files. The Head of Service and Director will report yearly to focus on Social Care. We need to look at a parallel process within YOT. This has been taken to the Children's Trust Management Team and they are looking at detailed case working and understanding the issues.

ACTION: SM & TF will discuss this.

11. Safeguarding in Custody

MR presented the Board with a report. MR added that she is still awaiting an update on the numbers of injuries during restraints at Castington YOI.

12. Young People in Custody

MR provided the Board with information of Young People in Custody. There are six on licence and 13 in custody. Two of these 19 are Looked After Children (one on licence and one in custody). All of these young people are receiving support from their case manager (on release) and the IRS Team (up to six months towards the end of their custodial sentence).

13. Feedback from other meetings

This agenda item was not discussed.

14. AOB

No other business to discuss.

18.11.09/JD