

5th April 2011

Safer Stockton Partnership

10 May 2011

Present:

Mike Batty	Head of Community Protection (Chair)
Shaun McLurg	Head of Children and Young People's Operational Services
Peter Seller	Assistant Director of Commissioning (PCT)/Head of Children & Young People's Strategy (LA)
Terry Frank	Integrated Youth Support Services Manager
Miriam Robertson	Manager, Youth Offending Service
Regina Harrington	Housing Options (on behalf of Caroline Wood)
Jenna Ditchburn	Admin Officer, Youth Offending Service

Apologies:

Mick Williams	Chief Inspector, Cleveland Police
Caroline Wood	Housing Options Manager, Strategy & Development
Tony Hodgson	Senior Performance Adviser (North East), YJB

1. YOS Improvement and Development Programme

Tony Hodgson was to do a presentation on this, but submitted his apologies.

MR advised that Tony was going to provide an update on the following:

- National discussions on the evolving performance framework for YOTs.
- The key priorities are to reduce First Time Entrants, Re-Offending and Youth Custody. 'Payment by Results' to be introduced for 25% of the new Youth Justice Grant from 2012/2013 (subject to consultation).
- The deadline for the Youth Justice Plan is end of June; however, we will not be in a position to submit it within deadline due to the impending YOS reviews. MR has liaised to the YJB about this.
- Reoffending measurement is changing later this year and will be based upon PNC data. It is acknowledged nationally that YOT and PNC data will be different as they measure different things, ie YOT data includes all offences on youths normally resident in Stockton but committing offences elsewhere. The YOS has explored mechanisms to access PNC data but is unable to do so, for the purposes of measuring reoffending. MR and MB are liaising with Supt Darren Best over this issue. This is the more pressing given that the YOS structures and delivery are soon to be reviewed and the anticipated introduction of 'Payment by Results'.

2. Minutes & Matters Arising (18.01.11)

'Breaking the Cycle' Criminal Justice Green Paper: The YOS Partnership response prepared by MR was submitted via a broader Safer Stockton Partnership response. The consultation is now closed and government response to the feedback is awaited. The Safer Stockton Partnership response was circulated for the Board's information with the meeting papers.

Health Benchmarking: PS advised that he is no longer with the PCT - Khalid Azam or Paul Whittingham will attend future Board meetings.

ACTION: PS is to liaise with Paul and Khalid about attending meetings.

Re-offending Analysis from 2010 Cohort: This will be presented at the July meeting.

YCAP Update: TF advised that the FIP report has been submitted and contracts have been extended for three months. They are being reviewed in the “others” strand of the IEG review. PS advised that reports will be going to him tomorrow and he will then take them to the Project Team on 5th May – they are looking at 25% plus efficiencies. SM highlighted that it is a non-statutory service and statutory services will be looked at first. FIP received universal recognition at SGMT.

YCAP street-based contracts have been extended for three months and TF is feeling optimistic that they will be extended further.

Intensive Supervision & Surveillance Programme: MR advised that the disaggregation and TUPE process have been completed. ISS delivery will be considered under the forthcoming YOS Review process. It has been a smooth transition.

3. YOS Income and Service Review

MR provided the Board with a report to update on the confirmed income (to date) for the YOS for 2011/12, to assist in determining the best way forward in respect of service and budget planning for 11/12 and changing strategic landscape for the YOS and YOS Partnership.

There is a reduction of over 90k for 11/12, which amounts to a 7% reduction overall. However, some financial savings have already been achieved by the service which it is hoped will mitigate the impact of this.

Lengthy discussion on the YOS’ income for 11/12 and the national and local developments, including discussions with other LA’s in the Tees Valley to discuss joint working.

The YOS Management Board authorised a review of the YOS structure and delivery, to take into account the following:

- Reduced income for 11/12
- Deployment of resources to ensure best outcomes for young people
- The opportunity presented by the unring-fencing of budgets in order to achieve better outcomes

The review to consider the redeployment of resources within the YOS to achieve better outcomes, particularly around reducing reoffending as well as giving some thought to 2012/13.

It was agreed that MB, SM, MR and TF lead on the review and bring a report to the next Board meeting for consideration. Participation from any other interested Board members to be invited.

TF highlighted that staff received 90 day consultation letters in December (some staff have also received “at risk” letters) – if we do not discuss the report until July, staff will not find out about their jobs until October. It was agreed that HR advice would need to be sought to determine the best way forward.

ACTION: SM/TF to liaise with HR re: communicating the current position to staff.

MB/SM/TF/MR plus one other Board member are to put together a report and present it to the Board at the next meeting in July.

4. IYSS Restructure

TF gave an update on the IYSS review. This is an SBC EIT review as part of the overall Early Intervention Grant review. Cabinet agreed on February 17th to delegate authority to the DCS and lead member for CYP reconfigure IYSS taking account of the Universal Youth review. A proposed structure has been shared with staff as part of the formal consultation process that began on 18th March 2011. The consultation will conclude in June 2011 and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

5. YOS Performance

NI19: The current re-offending rate is 0.83, which is slightly worse than our position last year which was 0.81%.

NI43: 4.8% which is below the 5% target. It was 4.7% this time last year.

NI45: We are no longer required to report on EET in the future. We will continue to monitor within performance clinics. The Board agreed to keep this also.

NI111: This started to decrease slowly, but is now picking up. There are 192 First Time Entrants in the first three quarters, which is a 15% decrease from this time last year.

The main challenge is improving re-offending performance. The performance measurement is subject to regular analysis and drilling into the different cohorts.

SM highlighted his concerns with the re-offending rates, as it has been a year since the inspection and it is still an issue. It was noted that a more detailed report is already planned for the July meeting.

MR is to bring Reported Youth Crime Figures to future meetings (these will be available quarterly).

ACTION: MR is to provide a more detailed analysis report at the next meeting and bring any areas for improvement.

6. Preventions Update Report

MR presented the report on behalf of Barbara Jordan. Preventions is reported through the YOS Management Board at the present time due to it having been previously funded by the YJB. This is no longer the case and preventions is being considered within the EIG review. MR queried whether the information still needs to come to the YOS Management Board. MB highlighted that we need to look more at Preventions work with YOS, not as a service. In future, we will just report on Preventions work with YOS.

7. YOS and Preventions QA Audit Findings

MR provided a report on the outcome of case file audits. There is still evidence of more robust QA audit processes, with better and stronger trails of management oversight.

There has been an issue with the cloning of documents – further training on case recording is to be delivered to all practitioners in June 11.

This report will be available every six months.

The Restorative Justice Policy is currently under review. MR will report back to the Board.

ACTION: MR is to report back to the Board on the Restorative Justice Policy.

8. Feedback from LSCB

PS advised that the Safeguarding Board have looked at efforts management and Serious Incident Reports. Management will review young people who have committed sexual offences.

The Children's Trust Board is continuing with the Children & Young People's Plan, with an interim plan for this year. Partnership groups, plans and strategies are being reviewed. They will overlap the Youth Justice Plan into the Children & Young People's Plan and draft it in.

Colin Morris commenced his role as the Independent Chair in November 2010. The structure has been reviewed - the full board and executive model will meet 3-4 times a year and they will be looking at where certain parts of the meeting will be discussed.

A report on the death of a Looked After Child (named Colin for the purpose of the report), has been finalised and will be signed off June 2011. It will be published along with the guidance.

9. Serious Incident Summary

MR presented the Board with a report to advise of the occurrence of a Serious Incident, as defined by the YJB. Whenever a young person is charged or convicted of a serious criminal offence, the YJB expects there to be a review within the YOS to determine if there are lessons to be learned, both from a YOS service and a YOS partnership perspective.

An interim local management review into the case was also carried out (YJB Review Template also provided to the Board). This review contains three recommendations:

- YOS risk management process to be amended so that Final Warning initial Assets are monitored for levels of risk and vulnerability in the same manner as those for statutory orders to ensure early identification of failure to review documents promptly.
- Remind staff that care should be taken when cloning documents.
- Review of joint working arrangements between social care, the YOS and other agencies, to manage the behaviour of young people who display sexually harmful behaviour.

It was agreed that recommendations would be acknowledged and signed off by the Board, with an action plan being devised which will come back for review with an audit trail within the minutes to ensure actions are being completed. MR will bring an updated version of the action plan to the next meeting - this can then be signed off by the Board.

ACTION: MR is to discuss with Lynn Sparrey direct referrals to Bridgeway.

MR is to bring the "LMR author recommendations" back to the next meeting with updates in the form of an action plan.

10. YP in Custody Report

MR advised that there are 12 young people, 4 in the community. They are all male and White British and none of them are LAC. All but one is serving a DTO and most have accrued previous offences. They have been placed in a variety of establishments, one being Hindley (they were moved due to overcrowding).

The report currently has 'N/A' in the last two columns (Exclusion from School & Mainstream/SEN). This is due to the young people being over school age, but it was agreed that it would be useful to know what their situation used to be – so this is now to be included for over 16's in future – and other boxes e.g. substance misuse, will include 'nil' entries where appropriate, rather than being left blank..

11. AOB

HMIP Core Case Inspections of YOTS: Aggregated Findings: This was circulated to the Board. Stockton have done very well out of the process.

YJB Publication on Safeguarding in the Secure Estate: The key challenge is the YJB not being the provider, this is NOMS.

Lord McNally Letter: Copy provided to the Board. This letter is the response to a local councillor who had queried YJB funding. At the end of the letter Stockton YOT were congratulated on their recent positive performance.

MR recently received a report on Court work within YOTS. MR is liaising with a colleague in South Tees as they use the same Courts.

ACTION: MR is to circulate this report with the minutes.

SM advised that the Social Work Protocol has been updated and some positive changes have been made.

ACTION: MR is to circulate the revised protocol with the minutes.

Next Meeting: 12th July 2011, 10am-12noon at Bayheath House (3rd Floor)
(Apologies from Mike Batty - Shaun McLurg is to Chair)