

YOS PERFORMANCE 12/13

Introduction:

This report is prepared to update the YOS Management Board on the service's performance and to support discussion and agreement of performance targets for 13/14.

Information:

In the absence of national performance targets, local targets for the YOS in 12/13 were established using data from the YOS case management database:

- FTE: To reduce FTE by 2% during 12/13 (actual number 227 or less)
- Use of Custody: Custody to be no more than 5% of the sentences imposed during 12/13
- Reoffending: To reduce reoffending to a rate of 1.23 (or less) for the Jan-March 12 cohort.
- ETE: 90% engagement rate (95% for school age and 82% post 16)

Detailed information on YOS Performance 12/ 13 is attached in Appendix 1. Information on both the old and new measurements is attached.

Information highlights the following:

First Time Entrants: Target for 12/13: 2% reduction. Actual Performance: 1% increase (tbc)

The numbers of FTE, as recorded by the YOS database, is showing a slight increase of 2 young people (231 in 11/12; 233 in 12/13). From the peak year of 2007/8 when the number was 464, FTEs have been halved in 4 years but year on year, the rate in which FTEs has fallen has slowed and has now stalled during 12/13.

The latest PNC data, however, shows a different picture and shows that using population figures, FTEs are still falling. It is notable, however, that FTEs for the Cleveland YOTs remain significantly higher, and almost double in some cases, the regional, family and English averages. These reflect Cleveland Police approaches to youth crime and the fact that Stockton on Tees YOS is one of a handful of services in the country which does not deliver either pre-reprimand disposals and/or triage in the police custody suite (the latter was introduced through YCAP funding and now mainstreamed in most services and Police Forces). Agreement for this could not be secured with Cleveland Police.

Cleveland Police have recently revised their approach and it is anticipated that the introduction of their new Restorative Justice pilot aimed at Under 18s and the new range of out of court disposals will positively impact upon future FTE performance from April 13, but it is not known by how much at this stage.

Reducing Reoffending: Target for 2012 Cohort: 1.23 (12 months). Actual Performance to date: 0.87 (9 months)

The whole year performance rate for the 2012 cohort will be available in July 13. However, it would appear from the year to date YOS data, that reoffending rates by the 2012 cohort are on course to be the lowest since 2006.

The first 9 month data for the Jan-Mar 12 cohort shows that less young people have reoffended and they have committed a lower number of reoffences, than in the same period in the previous year; 36 of 117 young people (31%) committing 102 reoffences.

More detailed interim analysis evidences that the decrease is partially due to the fact that there were no young people from custody in the 2012 cohort.

National and local evidence shows that this group of young people are disproportionality likely to reoffend; therefore this has had a positive impact upon local statistics. However, even if this group had been represented in the cohort, using a 5 year average of reoffending rate for this group of 4.00, the current rate would still be lower than the same period last year.

National data on reoffending is also measured through the use of PNC and is published quarterly on the MoJ website. The data reports on historical performance and the latest period published is from April 10 – March 11. This data show a different picture of reoffending, albeit it is measuring different points of time. PNC data highlights that the local reoffending rate of 1.27 is an increase on the previous year's 0.95. Whilst PNC data shows similar increases in reoffending rates at a regional, family and national level, local reoffending data is higher than the average.

Use of Custody: 12/13 Target: No more than 5% of sentences. Actual Performance: 8.2%

Custodial sentences amounted to 8.2% of sentences imposed in 12/13 (actual number 22, which is an increase on 6% (actual number 21) in the previous year.

This is the highest figure for several years and is above our long-standing performance target of 5%. However, this does not give a truly reflect the picture given the lower numbers of court outcomes in 12/13. Nonetheless, we have had a small increase of custodial sentences being imposed.

Analysis evidences that there is a small number of young people (actual number 5) who have received more than one short custodial sentence on separate occasions, during 12/13. They are a small, but difficult to engage group of young people, who are disproportionately responsible for a large number of offences. The service is working in partnership with a range of support and enforcement agencies to try to manage this group of young people.

YJMIS data shows a similar picture of an increased use of custody. The custody rate of 1.38 per 1,000 is an increase from 0.9 rate for the same period in the previous year. Of significance and of some concern, is the fact that local custodial rates are increasing, in the face of decreasing rates elsewhere.

In 12/13, the service has reviewed the way in which it delivers a range of services to young people with the express aim of improving engagement and compliance and it is hoped that this may have an impact upon the custodial rate by reducing the numbers of young people who are sentenced into custody for non-compliance with court orders.

Reductions in the use of custody is a key priority for the YJB and mechanisms are being introduced to enable this to be measured, not only by the actual number of custodial sentences, but also the number of remands episodes and 'bed nights' in the secure estate.

Stockton has seen a significant increase in the use of secure remand by the courts from 9 in 11/12 to 19 in 12/13, although as above, this has not resulted in a similar level of increase in custodial sentences. It must be noted that 2 remands were subsequently age assessed as adults (in the UK illegally and charged with drug cultivation offences).

A small number of youths have been remanded on more than 1 occasion, with at least 1 youth having been remanded on 4 separate occasions. This youth has never received a custodial sentence and has been sentenced by way of a number of community penalties. This raises questions about the appropriateness of some remand decisions.

ETE: 12/13 Target: 90% engagement. Actual Performance: 77.2%

Whilst 97.1% of school age children are engaged at the end of their court order, performance of post 16s has slightly dipped to 60.5%, resulting in an overall performance figure of 77.2%.

A multi-agency YOS ETE performance groups meets quarterly to monitor individual and service performance but the post 16 engagement is proving stubbornly difficult, particularly for the small numbers of young people who are repeat offenders and in and out of custody.

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