

STOCKTON YOS MANAGEMENT BOARD

22ND October 2013

Present:

Mike Batty	Head of Community Protection (Chair)
Shaun McLurg	Head of Children and Young People's Services
Miriam Sigsworth	Manager, Youth Offending Service
Dave Willingham	Interim Youth Direction Manager
Joe Howard	Local Delivery Unit Manager, Durham Tees Valley Probation
Emma Champley	Strategic Commissioner, Public Health
Neil Schneider	Chief Executive, Stockton Borough Council
Gordon Lang	Chief Superintendent, Cleveland Police
Lesley Harrison	Team Manager, Youth Direction (Minutes)

Apologies:

None

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

NS explained that due to MB's impending retirement, he was looking at succession planning and would be attending and chairing future meetings. As part of the transitional plan, Geoff Lee will take on the role as Interim Chair.

HMIP Thematic Inspection Report: Looked After Children:

MS met with AF to check protocols from a Police perspective. The police view is that the protocol needs to be updated as written over 3 years ago. MS, social care and police to update the protocol. GL to identify the police representative for MS to work with

ACTION: MS & GL

Remand Strategy:

To be circulated with the minutes of today's meeting.

Multi Agency responses to children and young people who sexually offend:

SM to confirm that this report has been to the Executive Meeting. Outcome to be noted at the next meeting.

ACTION: SM to confirm report had been to Executive Meeting at next YOS Board Meeting.

Note – immediately following the meeting, S McLurg confirmed, via the Chair, that the report had been considered by SLSCB Executive Meeting in August 2013

LSCB Feedback:

MS presented the annual YOS Assurance Report to the SLSCB in September and a further 6 monthly report was presented in October.

2. YOS Review

SM provided an update on the YOS Review. Job Descriptions and Person Specifications completed and with HR for Job Evaluation. Once this has been agreed, the formal consultation process will commence which should be before Christmas. SM to provide an update at the next meeting in January.

ACTION: SM to provide a further update at the next YOS Board Meeting

3. YJB Consultation on YOT Partnership Guidance

MB circulated the YJB consultation document 'Modern YOT partnerships – guidance on effective youth offending team governance in England' with a copy of the local partnership response. Clarity given on the health side. MS advised that the guidance is expected to be signed off in November and launched by the end of November at the youth justice convention.

4. Budget Prospects 14/15

MS updated the Board by presenting a summary of the current position on the budget prospects for 14/15. The process had been difficult as most agencies who contribute funding / in kind staff have been unable to confirm even indicative funding levels at this stage due to the lack of clarity over their own funding levels for 14/15. The only confirmed funding at this stage was from the LA who agreed their contribution which saw a 40% reduction.

It is anticipated that Cleveland Police and Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust would continue to second posts as this is a statutory duty. Both GL and JH confirmed that they were not aware of any proposed changes to the arrangements. JH advised that it was likely that the individual would be seconded by the new National Probation Service to the YOS.

MS advised that it has recently been confirmed that the Clinical Commissioning Group has the statutory responsibility for YOTs and health needs of young offenders. Further discussions will need to take place around this and there was a discussion about CCG representation on the Management Board. NS to progress this with CCG to ensure appropriate representation. EC advised that the CAMHS post would be funded as there was a statutory duty for this and that the funding from Public Health would continue into 14/15.

MS updated on the PCC funding to the YOS and that the position on this element of funding is unconfirmed at this stage. MB advised that he was meeting with the PCC on 30th October and would raise the issue about their contribution to YOS then.

The YJB is a significant financial contributor to YOS but their budgets have been cut and although it was anticipated that funding will continue, this is not normally confirmed until February / March of each year.

**ACTION: NS to progress CCG representation on the Management Board
MB to progress PCC funding
MB to consider writing to the YJB if delays are likely**

5. HMIP Findings Report

MS presented a report summarising progress of YOT inspections and key findings and learning.

SQS involve a small team of Inspectors on site which usually takes 2 and a half days. The written reports are short and focussed and identify key strengths and areas for improvement and are addressed to the Chair of the YOT Management Board.

FJI involves a multi-inspectorate and are conducted over two week period. These are very much risk lead. Key themes are Governance and Inspectors will look at structures of the YOS, structures of the YOS Management Board, effectiveness of the YOS management Board and the roles they play. They will also look at workforce management issues such as the skills and expertise of staff and their training and they will look at effective partnerships. HMIP continues to

up-skill the sector in Inspections and sets benchmarks for performance. MS advised that having a member of her management team trained as a Local Assessor had been invaluable.

6. Draft Self Assessment into Management / Governance by YOS

MS provided a summary on the Full Joint Inspection – Inspection Criteria for Governance module document, a summary of FJI's governance findings to date and the YJB self-assessment template. The agenda item was put forward to generate a discussion on self assessment and how to take this forward. MB proposed half a day event for the YOS Board to look at this. DW and MS to ask members of the YOS Board for views before the half day. MS and DW were tasked with arranging the event.

ACTION: MS & DW to organise event

7. Inspection Benchmarking Exercise: Key Findings

MS advised that the management team had looked at standards set by HMIP and throughout May, June and July carried out an Inspection benchmarking exercise. Cordis Bright were also asked to carry out an audit to gain the views from an external perspective on standards of YOS work. The report looked at 7 cases. For Detention and Training orders the findings were rated as sufficient. For Youth Rehabilitation Orders the findings were that vast majority were sufficient but one case was poor. This finding has made the management team change the way in which they work and has resulted in an update on how case work is managed and monitored. The management team have had several development sessions and an action plan has been drafted and updated to reflect the changes made. MS advised that the vast majority of cases have been audited. Most staff have been positive towards the changes which have been implemented.

A discussion took place on the findings by the YOS Board. SM asked whether the new procedures and quality framework were in place. MS advised that new procedures were in place and that all assets were now fully quality checked by managers. SM asked where this was reported. MS replied that all findings would come to the YOS Sub Group and then the YOS Management Board. MS advised that the management team had picked up good practice from peer reviews and through T Evans conducting Assessor Inspections and that it was hoped for S Whitehead to also receive this training if available.

It was agreed by the YOS Board that MS would submit a summary report of case file audit outcomes at every meeting of performance covering both case management and management oversight.

ACTION: MS to provide a report for every YOS Management Board Meeting. This can be reviewed in 12 months time

8. Probation Update

JH provided an update on NPS. NPS currently going through a review which will result in part of the service remaining in NPS and staff becoming civil servants and part of the service going to CRC owned by the Secretary of State then after one year this part will go out to tender. No redundancies expected but staff unsure as to where they will work. Concerns have been raised both locally and nationally at the speed of the change, suggesting pilots or slowing down the process of change but no change. From April Probation Service will take on short term prison sentences. Durham Tees Valley have also been kept as they are and not amalgamated with other neighbouring areas. MB advised that Stockton Borough Council were involved in the tendering process, deadline 31/10/13.

9. YOS Performance

MS advised that as part of the YOS data summary we continue to measure performance on old measurements but also monitoring performance on new guidelines. There has been a significant decrease in 1st Time Entrants which may be as a result of the new range of restorative justice pilot and change in Cleveland Police practice with the introduction of out of court disposals. 5 young people were sentenced to custody compared to 14 last year. The rate of re-offending was also low. ETE performance had improved and the data was more positive than before.

MB welcomed that change in practice by Cleveland Police.

The Board had a discussion about the data and how this is captured and reported.

EC mentioned having data about complexity of caseloads. MS advised that the information database is set up to report on certain criteria and anything extra would rely on manual trawls through records which was time consuming. MS and EC to pick this up outside of the meeting.

**ACTION: MS & EC to discuss data reports.
MS to amend performance reporting format to include information on levels of YOS activity in relation to out of court disposals.**

10. Custody Analysis

MS gave a summary of analysis of custodial remands and sentences imposed during 2012/13. During 2012/13 19 custodial remands and 23 custodial sentences were imposed on young people. YOS were unable to identify one single contributory factor on why remand sentences were so high.

Out of the 19 on remand one could have been prevented, this has been picked up and we are liaising with other agencies to prevent this happening again in the future.

23 custodial sentences were imposed on 22 young people. 2 were sentenced at Crown Court. All apart from one were known to YOS. Evidence suggests that the cause is a small number of determined young people were responsible. In all the custodial sentences imposed they were all justifiable. The management team has been examining mechanisms to improve engagement of young people and parents / carers as this could have an impact on numbers of young people receiving custodial sentences for non-compliance and the service has introduced a range of measures such as intervention planning meetings and compliance panels.

11. Young People In Custody

MS presented information on the current custodial cohort, including criminogenic factors. MS advised that there were 10 young people currently subject to custodial sentences. MS noted that young people were also being placed in Hassockfield and Aycliffe Secure Centre rather than YOI establishments. Most of the young people had substance use issues, mental health issues and SEN statements. All had a history of exclusion from school. JH noted that substance misuse habits were changing away from heroin to alcohol and cannabis.

12. ETE Report

MS presented analysis on ETE performance. Engagement amongst school age young people has improved. Engagement amongst post 16 had also improved. Barriers identified for young people not engaging in ETE were due to high numbers who are SEN, homelessness, substance misuse and mental health issues and poor school attendance. The report highlighted that the close partnership working taking place was essential in order to achieve successful outcomes for young people and their families.

MS also highlighted that a pilot had been undertaken with Speech and Language. This had shown that 20% of those young people involved required a specialist assessment for this. MS is currently in discussion with Speech and Language to see if they can deliver training to YOS staff and

support but there would be a cost attached to this. The meeting agreed it would be useful to talk to the CCG representative (once identified) about this.

13. Internal Audit Outcome

MS presented the audit report from Stockton Borough Council, which ranked the YOS as providing "Full Assurance" of having sound management, financial and auditing systems in place.

14. Feedback from SLSCB

SM advised that the Early Help Strategy had been agreed and was in place and the Implementation Plan was in circulation.

Cordis Bright had undertaken a review of referrals for Childrens Social Care – found inappropriate referrals for non-urgent cases unaccompanied by CAFs.

CAF assessments were low, form has been revised. For those cases that are not immediate Child protection need to have a CAF. Any case not Child Protection must have consent – this will be operational from 4th November.

Funding – significant funding pressures on Safeguarding Board – members reviewing the funding of this.

Serious Case Review – in the process of commencing a Serious Case Review

15. Feedback from Partners

DW advised that he and MS had met with Mandy Morris with regards to the CAF.

16. A.O.B

A. Updated YOS Management Board Induction Pack – MS has refreshed this to include the strategic priorities for 13/14. MS to refresh the whole document and bring to the next Board meeting.

ACTION: MS to deliver inductions to new members of the Board and refresh the induction pack

B. All Party Parliamentary Enquiry into Youth Justice & Youth Courts – noted

Next Meeting – 14th January 2014, 10-12 noon. YOS Conference Room