

STOCKTON YOT MANAGEMENT BOARD

19th August 2014

Present:

Geoff Lee	Chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership (Chair)
Neil Schneider	Chief Executive, Stockton Borough Council
Shaun McLurg	Head of Children and Young People's Services
Dave Willingham	Interim Youth Direction Manager
Gordon Lang	Chief Superintendent, Cleveland Police
Steven Rose	Chief Executive, Catalyst
Julie Allan	Lead for Cleveland Area, National Probation Service
Mandy Briggs	Teesside Magistrates Court
Lynda Brown	Head of Education, Early Years and Complex Needs
Miriam Sigsworth	Manager, Youth Offending Team
Lesley Harrison	Team Manager, Youth Direction (Minutes)

Guests:

Alison Booth	Chair of YOT Community Volunteers
Glenn Ward	Inspector, Cleveland Police
Sheila Whitehead	Operational Manager, Youth Offending Team
Tanya Evans	Operational Manager, Youth Offending Team

Apologies:

Emma Champley	Strategic Commissioner, Public Health
Karen Turner	Legal Team Manager, Teesside Magistrates Court
Steven Hume	Community Safety Manager
Karen Hawkins	Head of Commissioning and Delivery, CCG
Tony Hodgson	Local Partnership Adviser, YJB

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

A) Reducing Criminalisation of Looked After Children protocol

This is in the process of being refreshed and is currently with the Police.

ACTION: MS to bring to the next available meeting after completion.

B) Sexually Harmful Behaviour Procedures Update

DW advised that this is now a social care protocol and is in the process of being reviewed and refreshed through children's services processes.

C) Consultation with Young People

Currently in discussion with an Agency to complete specific research on this.

D) Induction Event

The Induction Event for new Board members went well and was facilitated by MS and TH. Good discussion by the group on the role of YOT Management Board. Looked at key priorities for the Board over the next year or so, including: relationship with new probation agencies, speech, language and communication issues, key performance outcomes; and exit strategies for young people. Members at the induction event also felt that an 'Expectations and Behaviours of Board Members' guide would be useful. The Board asked MS and LB to discuss this further and bring any suggestions to a future meeting.

ACTION: MS and LB to bring to a future meeting

E) YOT Management Board Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference had been updated and re circulated.

F) YOT Development Action Plan

Discussion took place on how the Board can monitor the Youth Justice Plan. MS suggested that the operational action plan, already in existence and used by the YOT management team could be used for this purpose and presented every 6 months. The Board agreed.

2. Community Engagement with Youth Offender Panels

SW & AB gave a presentation on the work of Youth Offender panels which are made up from members of the local community who take on this duty on a voluntary basis. A comprehensive training programme is given over several weeks as part of the recruitment process, with additional training on top throughout the year. SW and AB outlined the Panel process and the involvement of victims / restorative approaches. A full discussion took place with the Board members and it was agreed that the Board have an annual review of the Panel processes and the input of community volunteers. AB raised concerns that the annual get together and meal for panel members was at risk as a result of budget reductions and that this was a highly valued event for volunteers. The Board agreed that this event will be protected from any future budget pressures. GL thanked SW and the team and AB and the volunteers for their hard work.

**ACTION: Panel processes and community involvement to be reviewed annually
Annual volunteer event to be protected from budget pressures**

3. Out of Court Disposals

TE and GW gave a presentation on Out of Court Disposals which was introduced from April 2013. The Board acknowledged that as the new disposals have become embedded within the criminal justice system, more resources have had to be deployed within the YOT to support this area of work due to demand and throughput. Types of disposals are:

- Restorative Interventions
- Triage
- 1st Youth Caution
- 1st Youth Caution+
- 2nd/Subsequent Youth Caution
- Youth Conditional Cautions

TE gave an overview of the numbers in each category. The Board thanked TE and GW for the update.

4. Young People in Custody Report

MS presented information on the current custodial cohort, including criminogenic factors. As in previous cohorts, there is a high proportion of young people with a range of needs including substance misuse (including alcohol), mental health, SEN and a history of school exclusions.

5. School Exclusions

LB gave an update on the exclusion process from schools. LB advised that the only person who had the power to exclude a pupil is the Head Teacher on disciplinary grounds. LB also gave an update on permanent exclusions and advised that Stockton LA does not exclude LAC, SEN or Primary Sector pupils. LB reported that there has been an increase in permanent exclusions from 12 to 18 which was being looked into with schools. A Development Day had been arranged with Secondary Schools on exclusions and managed moves. Detailed work analysing the exclusion history of the YOT custody cohort has taken place and LB presented the findings to the Board meeting. It was agreed by the Board for MS and LB to work together to explore several of the cases and identify any learning points from it to feedback to the Board.

ACTION: MS & LB to present key learning points.

6. Special Educational Needs Reforms

LB gave an update on the Children and Families Act which was given Royal Assent in March 2014. Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) will replace Statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty

Assessments (LDA) for children and young people aged 0 – 25. LA has 3 years in which to transfer LDA's to EHCP but Stockton has set a target to complete this in 2 years with systems in place to do so.

7. YOT Performance Q1

MS presented information on the Q1 performance. First Time Entrants showed a decrease which was very positive as less young people are receiving a criminal record. Re-offending numbers were also falling. For engagement in ETE numbers had increased to 88% which was above the 85% target. Throughput data showed an increase from April 14 to June 14 that from 149 outcomes 84 had required input from YOT.

The Board noted that Q1 figures were produced earlier that day to the Safer Stockton Partnership which contained some wrong information. SM highlighted this and asked for reassurance that the correct information would be given. GL and MS reassured that this was in hand and that MS had already been tasked with contacting democratic services to ensure this. SM, DW and MS to meet to discuss data assurance.

**ACTION: MS to contact Democratic Services
SM, DW and MS to meet regarding data assurance.**

8. YOT Managers Report

MS presented a Report containing local and national updates.

- MS raised concerns at the level of staff absence and instability at the present time, due to sickness, maternity leave and staff moving on to other employment. MS advised that a number of actions had been taken to try to address this. SM advised that he and DW were monitoring sickness absence closely as high, in line with SBC Absence Policy.
- New guidance had been issued with regards to the YOT Police Officer role with the focus on: Intelligence and information; Early intervention and prevention; Youth cautions and youth conditional cautions; and Integrated Offender management approaches to managing those at high risk of reoffending. MS advised that the YOT was compliant with the new guidance.
- YOT has received funding from YJB for Restorative Justice Training. YOT has also invited a manager from residential social care services to attend the restorative conference training and are in talks with colleagues in Community Safety. MS also offered the invite to SEN Team. SM asked if Spark of Genius could be included in any training.
- The YOT are required in September to submit a National Standards self-audit to benchmark local performance against national expectations. MS to bring the findings of this to the next Board meeting in November.
- As from 1st June the responsibility for the delivery of Unpaid Work for Under 18s has transferred to YOTs. It is a mandatory requirement that the public are able to nominate projects for Unpaid Work. The YOT will need to explore the development of space on SBC/Safer Stockton webpages. SR advised that YOT could also consider using the Catalyst webpages as well.
- MS advised that there are proposals to transfer Junior Attendance Centres from the National Offender Management System to YOTs and LA during 2015/16. MS will update the Board of progression.
- MS also provided an update on HMI Probation. This included information on National Standards Self Audit, Young Peoples Survey by HMIP and the Integrated Inspection process and the impact this may have on YOT.

**ACTIONS: SM & DW to monitor staff sickness.
MS to provide findings of National Standards Self Audit for the next meeting.
MS to invite Spark of Genius to Restorative Justice training conference.**

9. YOT Financial Position

MS gave an update on the financial position of the YOT. Discussion about the projected savings and their potential use: carry forward into future years and user engagement were suggested and agreed at this stage.

10. Feedback from Stockton Local Safeguarding Children Board

SM advised that the YOT update which was provided at the last meeting by MS had been well received. Broader improvement activities in relation to Safeguarding had been pulled together in to one plan by SLSCB and work is underway to implement this. A serious case review has taken place (Gavin) which was presented to the Board and signed off. This will be published on 6th October and will appear on SBC website. A serious case review (Harry) is currently ongoing no specific issues with YOT. Ofsted Inspection Framework – Board are monitoring using a self-evaluation against these criteria.

11. Partner Updates

JA provided an update on the new National Probation Service (NPS) structures. A divisional hub had been set up to cover 8 areas from Berwick to Lincolnshire. Cleveland area settling and moving forward, meeting leads from all YOTs in the area. CRC cover medium risk, Probation high risk. The Board discussed the changes and agreed to invite the CRC onto the Board.

ACTION: MS to invite a CRC representative onto the Board

12. Reflection on Meeting

GL asked the Board for feedback on if the meeting had the right balance between guest speakers/presentations and standard agenda items. SM felt we needed to get the balance right and that more time should be given to performance items.

13. AOB

None

Next Meeting: 11th November 2014