
To: The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board
Date: 10th November 2016

Subject: Coventry Youth Offending Service (CYOS) Youth Justice Plan 2016/17

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing note is to provide the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) with information about the Coventry Youth Offending Service (CYOS) Youth Justice Plan, which has been agreed and signed off by its Statutory Partners, and to seek endorsement of the plan.
- 1.2 In addition, it will provide an update on the outcome of HM Inspectorate of Probation Short Quality Screening inspection that was undertaken in July 2016 and the service's response.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) is recommended to:
 - 1) Endorse the Coventry Youth Offending Service (CYOS) Youth Justice Plan that will be submitted to The Parliamentary Library in line with the requirements of the Crime Disorder Act, 1998.
 - 2) Identify any further recommendations to the appropriate Cabinet Member.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act imposed a duty on each Youth Offending team to complete and submit a Youth Justice Plan each year.
- 3.2 The Plan provides an overview of Coventry Youth Offending Service's (CYOS) achievements against key indicators, plans and targets, and identifies the key strategic actions for the next 12 months.
- 3.3 The Plan has been agreed and signed off by the Statutory Partners (Police Health, Probation and the Local Authority, represented by the Director of Children's Services (People Directorate.)

4 The Youth Justice Plan

- 4.1 The Plan is completed annually, agreed by CYOS Management Board members and submitted to The Parliamentary Library. The current Plan has secured Board sign off and Cabinet Members endorsement is being sought. If the plan is not submitted as required it places CYOS in breach of its Youth Justice Board (YJB) conditions of Grant agreement. This year 2014/15 the YJB grant is £ 492,205 which represents 34% of the services budget.
- 4.2 CYOS is required to report against three national indicators. They are
 - Reducing the number of young people entering the criminal justice system (FTE)
 - Reducing re offending
 - Reducing the use of custody for young people

4.3 Headlines from 2015/16 include

First Time Entrants

- Whilst there has been an increase in FTEs, the total for the year was still 16% lower (75 young people) than the services family group members for the previous year
- In the 18 month period from October 2014 to March 2016, CYOS has tracked 110 young people who have been subject to an Enhanced Community Resolution (ECR) of whom only 7 have reoffended

4.4 Reoffending

- The binary reoffending rate fell again by 0.6% while the national rate rose by 1.2% (YJB Divisional Report)
- Whilst there has been an increase in the frequency rate of 2.85 the rate for England rose by 7.1% (YJB Divisional Report)
- In real terms, when compared to the previous period CYOS had 19 less young people go on to reoffend and 57 less offences committed
- In the last HMIP young person's e-Survey 80% of 40 respondents stated that their work with CYOS had made them a lot less likely to reoffend

4.5 Custody

- The use of custody fell to record low rates for the city, at 0.62 per 1,000 young people, which equates to 18 young people receiving a custodial sentence
- Remand use has also declined sharply, with the number of bed-nights used falling from 1,447 to 650

4.6 Our priorities for 2016/17 include

- Seek to reduce the number of LAC young people entering the Criminal Justice System (CJS). We will work with partners to increase the impact of restorative justice approaches within care homes
- Sustain a range of Out of Court Disposal (OCD). Enhanced Community Resolutions provides an early intervention to young people and their families without the stigmatisation of a formal criminal justice record
- Embed the use of AssetPlus and enhance the quality of management oversight
- Maintain and build on the timely response to "new" offending by CYOS and partners. Live tracking enables agencies to quickly review planning and resources to young people in order to respond to reoffending. The tracking tool also enables emerging patterns of offending to be identified and responded to
- Recognise the impact of maturation of young people via the delivery of a bespoke court approach to the 18-24 year old cohort. Coventry has been selected to be part of a pilot by T2A and The Centre for Innovation which will adapt adult court procedures in order to recognise levels of maturation and ensure procedural fairness (young person's perception)
- Continue to develop the Coventry Attendance Centre. The centre provides a range of interventions and this year we will be increasing the number of accredited activities with the Open College Network
- Retain our focus on ensuring that all remands are appropriate and it is only used as a last recourse
- Reduce the number of unplanned exits from alcohol and substance misuse service

- Enhance victim protection. We will ensure that Case Planning meeting explicitly identifies actions to ensure victim safety and fully consider restorative approaches
- Ensure that CYOS are fully integrated in to responses to “missing episodes”. This will include auditing of case files to ensure that return home interviews (RHI) have been received and responded to in safety and well-being planning and using our statutory appointments to support completion of RHI

Short Quality Screening inspection update

4.7 The inspection was conducted from 28-30 June 2016 as part of HMIP programme of inspection of youth offending work. The report is published on the HMI Probation website.

4.8 Context

4.9 The aim of the youth justice system is to prevent offending by children and young people. Good quality assessment and planning at the start of a sentence is critical to increasing the likelihood of positive outcomes. Twenty cases were examined of children and young people who had recently offended and were supervised by Coventry Youth Offending Service (CYOS). Wherever possible, this was undertaken in conjunction with the allocated case manager, thereby offering a learning opportunity for staff. Coventry CYOS had only recently moved premises, changed to the use of a new database and implemented AssetPlus.

4.10 Summary

4.11 The published reoffending binary rate for Coventry was 36.0%. This was slightly better than the previous year and better than the England and Wales average of 37.8%.

4.12 HMIP stated that:

“Overall, we found that Coventry CYOS was performing well in most areas of practice. Case managers were engaging children and young people from the outset of their supervision, as well as their parents/carers. Where it was necessary, they were also enforcing orders. The assessment of factors contributing to offending behaviour was a strength, as was the understanding of diversity issues. Improvement was required in the assessment of vulnerability and the planning for safeguarding work, and in the effectiveness of management oversight.”

4.13 HMIP identified as key strengths:

- Committed and experienced staff.
- Assessment and review of factors contributing to reoffending.
- Efforts to understand and work with diversity needs.
- Enforcement and compliance.

4.14 HMIP identified areas requiring improvement:

- Assessment of vulnerability and planning for safeguarding work.
- Management oversight of public protection and safeguarding work.

5 CYOS comment

5.1 The Inspectorate recognised that the service was experiencing significant transitions including new IT, new site, and new data base and assessment framework. In addition to this there were staff reductions approximately 18 months ago and a formal restructure is underway at the moment.

5.2 CYOS were assessed as performing well in most areas although it is recognised that the service needs to move forward from the changes and ensure consistent practice embeds

across all areas. Managers' time has been utilised very heavily resolving IT/ system / provider issues, which is ongoing, and cascading training to staff but as we go in to the autumn it is expected that consistent practice and oversight will become increasingly evident

- 5.3 CYOS have an Action Plan in place that was presented to LSCB Safeguarding Effectiveness and Quality Subcommittee on the 13 September 2016. The service is delivering against that plan and this will be monitored by the CYOS Board.
- 5.4 Actions in the plan include:
- 5.5 Learning more from a very high performing YOS
 - Additional training workshops
 - Additional performance support to YOS to enhance the risk / performance register
 - Lowering the threshold for audit activity to include low risk cases under safety and well-being activity
 - Increase reflective practice opportunities and formalise the integration of RIP model for supervision
 - Test impact of training workshops via case file audits

Appendix 1: Coventry SQS report 0616

Appendix 2: SQS CYOS Action Plan

Appendix 3: Youth Justice Plan 2016-17