

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|---------------------|
| Subject: | Short Quality Screening of Youth Offending Service | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 25th January 2013 | | |
| Report of: | Interim Director, Children's Services | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Andy Whippey | Tel: 29-5391 |
| | | | 29- |
| | Email: | andy.whippey@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Key Decision: | Yes | | |
| Ward(s) affected: | All | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Inspection of Youth Offending work under the new arrangements identified by the Ministry of Justice in 2012 consists of the following four elements (see appendix 1):-
- i. A full Joint Inspection Programme will be targeted at a number of Youth Offending Services (YOS) each year where performance gives particular cause for concern, together with some YOS where published performance is strong and worth sharing.
 - ii. A themed programme will undertake a focussed Inspection of specific aspects of work across a range of YOS.
 - iii. HMI Probation will contribute to the forthcoming (May 2013) Ofsted led Inspection of child protection arrangements.
 - iv. There will be a short screening programme targeted at about 20% of YOS each year focussing on the start of sentences.
- 1.2 The Short Screening Inspections were started in November 2012 with Brighton and Hove being the first YOS to be inspected in the Country. There is a notice period given of two weeks for these Inspections, with Inspection staff normally on site from Monday lunchtime to Wednesday evening.
- 1.3 The focus of the Short Quality Inspection is the inspection of the quality of work from the start of the sentence in a small number of recent cases with children and young people who have offended through to the point when internal plans should have been in place post sentence.
- 1.4 The period is chosen as the Inspectorate believe that the quality of work undertaken in the initial period post sentence is critical to the likelihood of positive outcomes being achieved following completion of the sentence.
- 1.5 Shortcomings in assessment and planning were common themes in the Core Case Inspections undertaken by the Inspectorate across the country from 2009

to 2012 and the thematic Inspection of Court work identified the need for improvement in the quality of reports to Court.

1.6 The Assessment criteria used in the Inspection is as follows.

1.6.1 Reducing the likelihood of reoffending

- i. Assessment provides a robust framework for work to reduce likelihood of reoffending.
- ii. Planning increases the likelihood of work meeting the assessed needs.

1.6.2 Protecting the Public

- i. Assessment provides a robust framework for work to manage risk of harm to others.
- ii. Planning maximises the likelihood of victims being protected.
- iii. Required work is undertaken to manage risk of harm to others and this is of good quality.
- iv. Effective management ensures the public is protected.

1.6.3 Protecting the Child or Young Person

- i. Assessment provides a robust framework for work to protect children and young people and reduce their vulnerability.
- ii. Planning maximises the likelihood of children and young people being protected.
- iii. Effective management ensures that children and young people are protected and their vulnerability is reduced.

1.6.4 Ensuring the sentence is served

- i. The likelihood of successful outcomes for the sentence is increased by good quality engagement with the child or young person and their family.
- ii. Children and young people serve the sentence that they have received.
- iii. The likelihood of a successful outcome from the sentence is increased through attention to the health and wellbeing of the child or young person.
- iv. Effective management ensures that the objections of the Youth Justice System are met.

2. **Inspection Feedback**

2.1 In the words of the Inspectors “we found a varied picture at Brighton and Hove Youth Offending Service (YOS). The enthusiasm of case managers was a key asset and there was evidence of some highly competent work and effective joint working. However, there were substantial shortfalls in relation to the YOS management of risk of harm to others and management oversight arrangements were not effective in improving performance in this area or in ensuring the quality of safeguarding work’.

2.2 Whilst there were shortfalls the overall picture in terms of the scores identified by Inspectors is one of slight improvement since the last full Inspection.

2.3 The service was already undergoing a significant restructure prior to the Inspection with the restructure of the management levels having been completed earlier this year. Phase 2 of the restructure is currently underway which is focussed more on operational delivery. Phase 2 will take clear account of the Inspection findings.

2.4 A key aspect of the service restructure is aiming to:

- i. strengthen the management capacity to undertake quality assurance processes;
- ii. to provide more focus to key significant tasks;
- iii. to give a greater focus on prevention and re-offending.

2.5 An initial Action Plan has been devised in response to the issues raised in the report and this is attached (see Appendix 2).

2.6 A full Service Plan, incorporating the feedback from the Short Quality Screening, the consultation on the second phase of restructuring, service data and performance, will be presented to CYP Committee in March 2013.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 3.1 For Committee to note the contents of the YOS Inspection Report and note the Action Plan identified as a consequence of this Inspection.

4. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

Inspection framework.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Young Offenders, families, victims and other agencies are regularly involved in feedback on the service, and young people have been actively involved in the service redesign.

6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis

Legal Implications:

No legal implications

Lawyer consulted: Andrew Pack

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

An improved Youth Offending Service will ensure that young people are supported to address their behaviour at an early stage, and will reduce reoffending, and the impact this has on the community.

Public Health Implications:

The health and well-being of young offenders, and victims, are both addressed in the service plans.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

The effectiveness of work undertaken by the YOS has implications on levels of crime committed in the City.

7. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

7.1 No other options have been presented to date.

8. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The local authority must approve the action plan in response to the Short Quality Screening.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix 1 - Report of Short Quality Screening (SQS) of Youth Offending work in Brighton & Hove
2. Appendix 2 – YOS Inspection findings and action plan

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None