

Subject:	Youth Justice Board Validation of the Youth Offending Team (YOT)		
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2009		
Report of:	Director of Children's Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Nigel Andain	Tel: 296167
	E-mail:	Nigel.andain@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has a statutory responsibility for monitoring the youth justice system and within that context the YOT produced its annual Youth Justice Plan for the Youth Justice Board on 8th August 2008. The Board conducted its validation visit on 15th October 2008 as part of the Youth Justice Planning Framework process. Performance is measured against the following National Indicators:

- NI 19 Proved rate of re-offending,
- NI 111 First Time Entrants (one of the 35 priority indicators for Brighton & Hove City Council),
- NI 43 Convicted young people sentenced to custody,
- NI 44 Ethnic composition of young offenders,
- NI 45 Engagement in suitable education, training or employment,
- NI 46 Access to suitable accommodation.

1.2 The Planning Framework Validation Judgement has four categories: Performs poorly, performs adequately, performs well and performs excellently. The YJB's South East Regional Team found that, 'current and future capacity and capability of the service to deliver has been assessed (based upon past performance, completion of plan and site visit etc) and validated in October 2008 as performing well. It is, 'a YOT partnership that consistently meets above minimum requirements'. The report also stated that, 'the validation site visit gave an opportunity to further explore information contained within the YJ Plan. The service clearly displays a culture of enthusiasm, passion and innovation with respect to the types of intervention and support offered to ensure that positive outcomes for young people'.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the Board notes the results of the Youth Justice Board Validation Report. (Appendix 1)

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The YJB has identified five performance drivers that will inform an understanding of performance and improvement priorities. They are:
- YOT Governance
 - Use of resources and Value for Money
 - Workforce and Organisational Development
 - Performance and Quality systems
 - Citizens and Service Users
- 3.2 YOT Governance: The YJB found that the YOT Management Board (the Youth Justice Strategy Group) consists of members who have sufficient seniority to commit resources, that it is aligned well to other local strategies and plans and there is a strong sense of corporate ownership of the youth crime agenda. It noted that the YOT Management Team has carried vacancies, notably at Operational Manager level, a role that has been absorbed by the current YOT Manager. It also noted that pressure has been high on case managers due to issues relating to current office location which has no access for young people: this has put pressure on the whole team as they have to see young people off site and the YOT has had to create two administration centres (Ship St and Ovest House). Grade 3
- 3.3 Since the validation visit, the new Head of Youth Strategy and Justice has been appointed and taken up post.
- 3.4 Use of Resources and Value for Money: The YOT has pooled its prevention budget of £150,000 to support the development of the Targeted Youth Support Service, which will focus on youth crime, teenage pregnancy, drugs and alcohol misuse and those young people Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET). The YJB recommended a greater level of analysis of performance data, especially in relation to re-offending data. This should enable the better targeting of resources. It also noted that challenges around the use of ICT due to the split site problem and the difficulties of accessing ICT facilities. This should be addressed both by the recent installation of Citrix and, in time, by the relocation of the YOT offices. It found that the YOT produces the best performance reports seen throughout the validation exercises in the SE region. Grade 2
- 3.5 Workforce and Organisational Development: The positioning of the service within the broader CYPT strategy of Integrated Youth Support Service was regarded as, 'highly useful to ensure the youth crime agenda is delivered in a true joined up manner'. The YJB recommended the creation of an operational support group within the YOT to facilitate team members having greater involvement in performance data analysis. Grade 2
- 3.6 Performance and Quality Systems: The Regional Team conducted an Assessment, Planning, Intervention, Supervision Case sampling exercise and concluded that the overall picture regarding Risk Management Plans,

Vulnerability Management Plans and completed ASSET (The YOT assessment tool) reviews was of a very good standard. Grade 2

3.7 Citizens and Service Users: The YOT has a variety of methods to ensure that public confidence is improved, including opening the YOT once a month to other agencies, art projects including public exhibitions, the development of a service users' group, the YOT Employment Project and the Listen and Learn schools programme. This work was considered to be good. Grade 2

3.8 Current performance: The latest quarterly report July – September 2008.

NI 111: First Time Entrants: Target is a 5% reduction on the 2007/8 baseline of 443. On the traffic light system (RAG) it is currently Green, this is a 58% reduction on the same period last year.

NI 45: Engagement by young people who offend in suitable education:

Target is 80% of young people of school age. The rating is currently Red and this is because this target is measured at the end of an order and a smaller proportion of orders finished this quarter, which has skewed the figures.

Target is 55% of young people above school age in ETE, this is currently Green.

NI 44: Ethnic composition of young people in youth justice: Target is overall ethnic composition of young people to remain at less than 10% of all young people in the YOT. It is currently Green. 6% last quarter April – June and 10% July to September

NI 46: Access by young people who offend to suitable accommodation: Target is 95% of young people in suitable accommodation at the end of their order. It is currently Amber.

NI 43: Young people receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody: Target is 5% of those receiving a custodial sentence. It is currently Amber.

NI 19: Rate of proven re-offending of those young people who offend. The target is to ensure that re-offending does not rise above 38% on a 2005 baseline figure. It is currently Green. See Appendix 2

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The YJB validation report and quarterly performance reports have been presented to the Youth Justice and Strategy Group. Membership includes: the Police, Probation, Housing, Learning and Skills Council, Partnership Community Safety Team, Hove YMCA, the Targeted Youth Support Service and is chaired by the Assistant Director for West Area and Youth Support.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

The report updates on recent and future performance and plans for the Youth Offending Team.

Finance Implications:

5.1 The current developments within the report for the YOT namely; the proposed office move, the recruitment of the new manager of Youth Strategy and ICT

developments (Citrix) will be funded from within the existing budget or grant funding. The developments highlighted however will still need to be reviewed to ensure there are no additional costs to the council.

Finance Officer Consulted: Alan Haworth

Date: 5/12/2008

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report as it is for noting only.

Lawyer Consulted: Hilary Priestly

Date: 08/12/08

Equalities Implications:

The Youth Offending Team adheres to the CYPT's equalities principles and addresses the needs of some of the most socially excluded young people in Brighton & Hove. The team therefore contributes to the reduction of poor outcomes.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The YOT supports the sustainable communities goal as well as climate change and energy. The location of a multi agency team as a one-stop shop facilitates the support of vulnerable clients without recourse to multiple visits and assessments

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The YOT works with young offenders from the ages of 10 – 17 (and up to 20 in some instances) with a target to reduce re-offending and First Time Entrants. We also support the preventative Targeted Youth Support Teams in the three areas.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Financial and legal risks are set out above.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The YOT is a multi-agency team working across the three CYPT areas with strong links to the Partnership Community Safety Team and the Police. This ensures that the cross council priorities of working with those vulnerable and at risk young people are adhered to and that young people get the best service available.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The recommendation to the Board is that it notes the results of the Youth Justice Board's validation report. There are no alternative options.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The YOT strives to ensure that strategies and interventions are developed which address the issue of youth crime in Brighton and Hove. These strategies include effective multi-agency working, innovative projects such as the Employment

Project and various art events. The YOT's working relationships with the enforcement agencies such as the Police, Probation and Courts are excellent and ensure that young people who offend receive the most effective service.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. The Youth Justice Board Validation Report
2. The YOT Quarterly Report (July – September 2008)

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. The Youth Justice Plan 2008 - 9

