

# Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

5 October 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Update on Youth Offending Team Inspection Action Plan	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
<b>Originating service</b>	Youth Offending Team (YOT)	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Sally Nash	Head of Service YOT
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	People Leadership Team	19.9.2016
	SEB	27.9.2016

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Review the progress in respect of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) Inspection Action Plan.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Scrutiny Panel to review the progress in respect of the YOT Inspection Action Plan.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 A Full Joint Inspection of the Wolverhampton Youth Offending Team occurred in November/December 2015 with very positive outcomes. The achievements out of a maximum of four stars were as follows:

- Reducing Reoffending – four stars
- Ensuring the sentence is served – four stars
- Protecting Children and Young People – three stars
- Protecting the Public – four stars
- Interventions – four stars
- Governance and partnerships – three stars

This was a very high standard of performance and placed the local YOT as one of the highest performing units in the country.

- 2.2 Notwithstanding the level of performance any YOT subject to a Full Joint Inspection is required to produce an Improvement Action plan. This action plan had to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board and Her Majesty's Inspector of Probation (lead inspector) for approval. This action plan is monitored via the YOT Management Board where the Youth Justice Board local performance manager is ultimately responsible for tracking progress and performance. This plan is RAG rated and regularly reviewed at quarterly meetings for progress and update within the partnership.

- 2.3 The Inspectorate itemised six key areas for improvement which are cited in a left hand of the action plan and these are:

- Education Training and Employment for children and young people should be improved to ensure they are equipped with skills that contribute towards maximising their chances of employability
- Leaders and managers should exercise their influence at all levels to secure an improved education and training offer that meets the behavioural and vocational needs of YOT young people
- Ensure the YOT Management Board has Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) representation
- Ensure child sexual exploitation is a feature on the YOT Management Board agenda
- Evaluation of intervention outcomes to understand impact
- Work to eliminate barriers to engagement and further evidence of consideration of diversity

2.4 It can be seen that the first two recommendations relate to the educational engagement level of YOT young people which has been a local area of underperformance for a number of years. The third recommendation relates to a gap in representation relating to the restructure of health provision in the City. The Inspectorate were particularly exercised and concerned to be assured about the City wide response to child sexual exploitation and therefore suggested that this receive priority attention at our Strategic Board. The Inspectorate considered our interventions with young people to be very effective but suggested that we should look to evaluate what was effective. The final recommendation in respect of diversity, reflects the national trend that young people from ethnic backgrounds tend to be overrepresented in the Youth Justice system and that there should be constant efforts to improve our engagement.

### **3.0 Progress on the Action Plan**

- 3.1 It can be seen from the attached action plan that all actions are rated amber or green and there has been significant progress in each area.
- 3.2 The first two recommendations relate to the concerns in respect of educational engagement by YOT young people in Wolverhampton. Following the Inspection report, the City of Wolverhampton Directors of People and Education commissioned a review into provision for those aged 14 – 19 years. The detail cited in the action plan relates to this work. Notable progress to date includes the development and now pilot Quality Assurance Framework standards for all alternative provision. In addition, there has been the development of the 'Work Box' virtual careers prospectus which will enhance existing information and guidance provision. The YOT has also been successful in achieving a part time placement from the European Funded Youth Employment Initiative scheme which should improve the intensive mentoring and support for our hard to engage young people. It is also of note that the Virtual Head for Looked After Children also now includes the needs of YOT young people within his portfolio of responsibility. This is assisting communication with schools.
- 3.3 The YOT Management Board now has representation from our local CAMHS provider – Black Country Partnership Foundation Trust (BCPFT) and as such this recommendation is flagged green. In the September Management Board there is to be a presentation on the CAMHS transformation agenda jointly by the Clinical Commissioning Group and BCPFT.
- 3.4 The July Management Board received a comprehensive presentation on the City wide response to child sexual exploitation (CSE) from the Head of Safeguarding who is now to take a seat on the Board and provide regular updates on our CSE work. As such this recommendation is now flagged as green.
- 3.5 The Principal Educational Psychologist and the YOT Head of Service are ensuring that an in house Masters student undertakes her dissertation study exploring the effectiveness of YOT evaluations. This research is expected to take place in autumn of 2016 through to spring 2017. The current work with pre court interventions is also under evaluation by Loughborough University as organised by West Midlands Police.

3.6 The national Youth Justice Board has developed a toolkit to address diversity and further analyse YOT data to understand key areas where intervention and attention is needed to address the particular needs of our community. The YOT is working with our local performance manager to ensure we progress the use of this toolkit. In addition, the YOT utilises local voluntary sector organisations that have particular engagement skills with hard to reach groups e.g. BASE25 and CATCH22. This recommendation is currently rated as amber.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications, work in relation to this action plan is being undertaken from within existing resources.  
[NM/21092016/1]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications in respect of this report.  
[TS/20092016/H]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 An equalities analysis is being undertaken.

#### **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 There are no environmental implications in respect of this report.

#### **8.0 Human resources implications**

8.1 There are no human resources implications in respect of this report.

#### **9.0 Corporate Landlord implications**

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications in respect of this report.

#### **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

10.1 The YOT Inspection report was previously considered by Cabinet on 24 February 2016.