

**The Executive**

**On 21 March 2006**

**Report Title:** Response to the report of the Council Committee Scrutiny Review of Reducing Youth Re-Offending

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To set out the response to the report of the Scrutiny Review of Reducing Youth Re-offending.

**2. Introduction by Executive Member**

2.1 I welcome the Scrutiny Review of Reducing Youth Re-Offending. This review is timely as the YOS is to be inspected in April, and also in June as part of the Joint Area Review. The review demonstrates how we are proactively working on looking into ways of further reducing re-offending in the borough. BME young people are disproportionately represented amongst YOS clients, and through the Review several projects have been highlighted which will benefit these young people.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 That the YOPB notes the response.

3.2 That the YOPB agrees to ensure the recommendations are progressed by the Youth Offending Partnership Board, with progress reported at regular intervals to the Safer Communities Executive Panel and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board.

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#### **4. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Review concentrated on the areas of:
- Prevention of youth offending and re-offending
  - Intervention; when young people have already offending, to prevent them from re-offending
  - Partnership working with the aim of preventing re-offending
  - Housing accommodation for young offenders and the impact on re-offending
- Recommendations were made for each area and this report details the Executive Response.
- 3.2 The report also considered the scale of youth offending both nationally and locally, and strategies for dealing with young offenders.
- 3.3 The forthcoming Inspection will require a response to the inspectors' recommendations. This response will be reported to the Executive at the draft stage to ensure Members comments are incorporated.

#### **4 Background**

- 4.1 Local residents historically have always stated that crime is their main concern. According to Haringey's Crime and Disorder Audit (2001 – 2004) young people between the ages of 10 – 16 are responsible for 66% of street crime in the Borough. Therefore reducing youth offending and re-offending are major issues for the Council.
- 4.2 Nationally, children's services are being reviewed, drawn together and developed using a multi-agency approach, with considerable new legislation and government guidelines being produced.
- 4.3 Youth Offending Service (YOS) in Haringey will be subject to a multi-agency inspection (led by HMI Probation) within the next two months. Plus the Joint Area Review of Haringey's Children's Service takes place in June 2006, and will draw on the findings of the YOS inspection.
- 4.5 The Executive welcomes the Scrutiny Review and the recommendations, some of which already represent work in progress.
- 7.6 The YOS is due to be inspected by HMI Probation, and the results will feed into the joint Area Review. The YOS inspection timetable is as follows;

13 <sup>th</sup> March 2006	Submit documents to Inspection Team
3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2006	Submit Self Assessment
24 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2006	YOS Fieldwork week (Inspectors on site)
19 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2006	Inspectors return on site
26 <sup>th</sup> July 2006	Draft Report to Council

- 7.7 The YOS Inspection will require a response from Haringey Council to the recommendations the inspectors will make.

## **7. Description**

### **8.1 Response to the recommendations:**

In total fourteen recommendations were made. Ten of the recommendations are agreed in full, with a further two agreed in principle, and two agreed conditionally.

The two recommendations agreed in principle cannot be otherwise agreed, because the Executive Member for Children and Young People cannot direct school head teachers on how/where to use their resources.

The two recommendations agreed conditionally, are dependent on a positive evaluation report on the clinical trial currently running on the Multi-Systemic Therapy Programme.

## **8. Consultation**

- 9.1 The Scrutiny Panel sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders during the review process. These stakeholders included officers from Haringey Council, from partner agencies and from national bodies, such as the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

## **9. Summary and Conclusions**

- 10.1 The Scrutiny Review involved the examination of five re-offending by young people in Haringey.

Of the 14 recommendations:

- 10 are agreed in full and some are already being implemented
- 4 are agreed either in principle or conditionally.

## **11. Recommendations**

- 11.1 The Executive is asked to consider and endorse the response to the Scrutiny Review.
- 11.2 The Executive requires progress against all of the agreed actions to be reported back to the Community Safety Scrutiny Panel/Safer Communities Executive Board and Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board at agreed intervals.

## **12. Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

- 12.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on this report and advises that the recommendations are consistent with the statutory and constitutional position.
- 12.2 In particular the commentary concerning recommendations numbered 6 to 8 in the Scrutiny Review correctly reflects the relationship between the Authority and maintained schools.

## **13. Comments of the Director of Finance**

- 13.1 There are no immediate financial implications for the YOS arising from the recommendations of the scrutiny review. Pressures on core funding from possible loss of external grant e.g. NRF, YJB funding will be identified and quantified as part of the 2007 PBPR as will the impact on performance of the team.

## **14. Equality Implications**

- 14.1 The re-offending data given for this report, included break down by age, gender and ethnicity. It was acknowledged that there are certain groups who are more likely to re-offend and the YOS have provided specialist interventions when this has been appropriate.

## Scrutiny Review of Reducing Youth Re-offending

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE	COMMENTARY	LEAD OFFICER(S)	COMPLETION DATE
1. That the YOS produces a business case for the Council Executive identifying areas requiring additional core funds in the next round of the budget making process, showing the likely impact on performance against national targets	Agreed	This will be carried out and included in the 2007/08 budget setting process.	YOS Strategic Manager  Head of Safer Communities	March 2007
2. That the YOS develops a Corporate Youth Crime Prevention Strategy as a matter of urgency, pulling together all current activities ensuring agreed priorities and objectives and effective integration of work in this area.	Agreed	The YOS recently held a Youth Crime Prevention Seminar attended by partner agencies across the Borough.  A Youth Crime Prevention Steering Group has since been developed, chaired by Prevention Operational Manager (YOS), which will develop a corporate Youth Crime Prevention Strategy.	Prevention Operational Manager  YOS Strategic Manager	Completed  July 2006
3. That the Executive explore the feasibility of embedding Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) within the YOS as part of its long term strategy for reducing re-offending	Agreed – condition ally	This MST Programme is a pilot project and Haringey is the first UK YOS to carry out a clinical trial of MST, and thus it is being closely monitored and evaluated.  Evaluation results will not be known for another year; the YOS Partnership Board will then receive a full report.	Intervention Operational Manager  YOS Strategic Manager	On-going  April 2007
4. That the YOS, supported by the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety, produce a business case for the Youth Justice Board to fund the MST programme in Haringey as a strategy to reduce re-offending on a permanent basis.	Agreed – condition ally	See above. The Head of Safer Communities and the Director of the Brandon Centre (who provide the MST programme) will meet with the Youth Justice Board to request they consider longer term funding of this programme in March 2006.	Head of Safer Communities	March 2006

5. That a Service Level Agreement be produced between the YOS and agencies supporting intervention where appropriate.	Agreed	The previous service level agreements/protocols are currently being reviewed and where there are gaps, these are being written.	YOS Managers	May 2006
6. That the Executive Member for Children and Young People ensure that schools identify young people who are either at risk of bullying/offending or being a victim of bullying or offending and target their extended school activities towards those young people	Agreed - in principle	Headteachers accountability is to the governing body. The Executive Lead Member for Children and Young People can strongly advise or request that schools target their extended schools programmes in such a way but has no powers of direction. A letter will be prepared to that effect for the Executive Lead Member to send to every Haringey school.  The Local Safeguarding Children's Board has identified bullying as one of its top priorities for 2006/07,	Head of Access & Pupil Support Children's Service	April 2006  April 2006
7. That the Executive Member for Children and Young People ensure that schools work with the Youth Service and the YOS to ensure that young people are encouraged to participate in schools inclusion programmes where appropriate.	Agreed – in principal	See comment above. The letter will include this point.  The Youth Service and YOS meet with secondary school head teachers under a forum set up by the Director of Children's service. This forum will enable the YOS and Youth Service managers to negotiate with heads of secondary schools to include those at risk of offending or re-offending in schools inclusion programmes where appropriate.  The 11-16 Forum (sub group of the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership) includes the YOS and agencies working with this age group.	Head of Access & Pupil Support  Head of Youth Service  YOS Strategic Manager	April 2006  Meetings held each term (ongoing)  March 2006
8. That the Executive Member for Children and Young People writes to all head teachers setting out their responsibility to the YOS partnership (following the development of the corporate Youth Crime Prevention Strategy).	Agreed	A letter will be prepared for the Executive Member for Children and Young People, after the Youth Crime Prevention Strategy has been prepared and agreed.	Prevention Operational Manager (YOS)	August 2006

9. That the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety write a letter to the Home Office outlining the consequences for Haringey's YOS following the re-organisation of the Probation Service.	Agreed.	A letter will be prepared for the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety.	Head of Safer Communities	March 2006
10. That the role of the Youth Champion (as recommended in the Youth Democracy Scrutiny Review) be extended to include the work of the Community and Police Consultative Group Youth Panel as a mechanism for consulting and canvassing the views of young people in the borough.	Agreed	The role of Youth Champion is currently being developed by the Children's Service and will include linking with all the young people's groups/forums across the borough that are used for consultation.	Head of Youth Service	May 2006
11. That the Council ensures ownership of the Supporting People programme at a corporate level to ensure that funding opportunities are enhanced for a longer term approach to attracting Supporting People grant funds for the provision of housing related support.	Agreed	Currently the funding for the YOS Accommodation Officer has been agreed from Supporting People funding until March 2008, as reducing offending is a commissioning priority for SP funding, as previously agreed by the Executive. Prior to March 2008 information will be received as to whether there will be further funding or if it needs to be included in the request for core growth money.	Supporting People Programme Manager	Completed  March 2008
12. That the post of Accommodation Officer be filled as a matter of urgency in order to assist the YOS achieve the target set by the Youth Justice Board for the provision of suitable accommodation and support for vulnerable young people.	Agreed	This post has now been recruited to and the person will start work in the YOS this week.	Intervention Operational Manager (YOS)	Completed
13. That suitable supported accommodation for young offenders is identified particularly to ensure continued and adequate housing provision under the Arms Length Management Organisation arrangements.	Agreed	A SLA will be prepared between YOS and ALMO to ensure the YOS continue to have access to a minimum of 3 move-on accommodation units. This will need to be reviewed on an annual basis.	Intervention Operational Manager (YOS)	July 2006

<p>14. That the Council considers how it responds locally to the Police and Justice Bill, taking into account the implications for the Executive, and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>	<p>The Safer Communities Partnership will be preparing a response to this Bill when the details are sent out for consultation. A briefing will be prepared for the Executive which will include the implications across the Council.</p>	<p>Community Safety Manager</p>	<p>June 2006</p>
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