
Scrutiny Review - Preventing Youth Crime

WEDNESDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 2011 at 18:00 HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD,
WOOD GREEN, LONDON N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillors Newton (Chair), Christophides, Engert, Gibson, Reece and Waters

Co-opted: Mr Singh and Two Young Advisers

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair will consider the admission of any late items of urgent business. Late items will be considered under the agenda item where they appear. New items will be dealt with at item 7 below.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgment of the public interest and if this interest affects their financial position or the financial position of a person or body as described in paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct and/or if it relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to them or any person or body described in paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct

4. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 4)

To note the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2010.

5. DISCUSSION WITH PARENTS

To discuss with and hear the views of parents of young people who have been in contact with the Prevention Team within the Youth Offending Service and/or with the targeted youth support team on the services provided and their effectiveness.

6. FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE (PAGES 5 - 12)

To receive feedback from the Members who meet with young people at Keston Road on 9 December 2010.

7. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items admitted under item 2 above.

Ken Pryor
Deputy Head of Local Democracy and Member
Services
5th Floor
River Park House
225 High Road
Wood Green
London N22 8HQ

Carolyn Banks
Principal Scrutiny Support Officer
Tel: 020 8489 2965
Fax: 020 8489 2660
Email: carolyn.banks@haringey.gov.uk

5 January 2011

5 NOVEMBER 2010

Councillors present : Newton (Chair), Christophides, Engert, Gibson, and Waters

Young Advisers: Derekston James.

Youth Justice Board: John Anthony

Police: Chief Inspector Aidan Gibson

Sgt George Hawthorne

PC Graham Brazier

PCSO Chris West

PCSO Benn Save

PCSO Paul Marshall

Catch 22: Angela Francis

Probation Service: Joe Benmore

Education Welfare: Michael Welton

Linda James: Strategic Manager YOS

Ayten Kiani – Targeted youth service

Catherine Williams- Baffoe – Prevention Team YOS

PYC6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Reece.

PYC7 .URGENT BUSINESS

None.

PYC8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PYC9. PRESENTATION FROM YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

John Anthony from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales gave a presentation to the Panel on the current position and future challenges in preventing youth crime. He referred to changes to targets that had taken place within the police, which had led to more diversionary activities for young people rather than an attitude of just getting them into the system.

Details of the types of targeted prevention programmes that had previously been adopted by Authorities were given. He stated that, in Haringey the Youth offending service had a well established prevention programme.

Characteristics of best practice for prevention included:-

- a strong needs analysis to ensure that the services provided reflected the needs required,
- a good use of ONSET and an increasing use of the CAF aligned to the assessment process (especially if CAF was embedded in the borough;

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- youth prevention closely linked with other prevention activity (looking at the whole family approach);
- strong links with schools;
- Triage in place (whether delivered by the YOS or Integrated Youth Support).

There were a number of future challenges and changes ahead which included amongst others:-

- less central government monitoring and targets with the implication to ensure quality assurance,
- changes and uncertainty to the funding and delivery mechanisms, it was likely that the ring -fenced status of the YJB funding would be maintained but with payment by results,
- delivery opened up to third sector involvement,
- a greater understanding of value for money,
- understanding of unit costs,
- benchmarking and how to link unit costs with outcomes,
- greater links with schools in identification of young people at risk and working jointly with the prevention services.

An issue for the Council was how to align services for children attending out of borough schools. It was noted that some boroughs such as Barking and Dagenham had adopted Multi -Agency locality teams, whereby an officer dealing with prevention was based in the six localities that had been set up in the borough. There was also a need to ensure that the prevention activity matched the characteristics of the first time offenders to ensure that the services were correctly targeted. There was a suggestion that the number of referral Panels could be streamlined.

With regard to the future of the grant received from the Youth Justice Board the meeting was advised that there was likely to be a minimum of a 10% reduction in funding post April 2011 over the next 3 years.

Mr Anthony outlined some issues for further consideration. In particular the meeting noted that the YJB were trying to refine the tool kit which had been produced to be able to identify a unit cost for crime prevention , but at present it was not very effective as borough's were inputting different data. It was noted that boroughs did share good practice but this was more likely to happen on an informal basis.

In response to a question around models of good practice in respect of targeted intervention particularly for young black African or black Caribbean males it was noted that some borough's such as Hammersmith and Fulham and Redbridge have bespoke programmes, details of which would be provided.

Mr Anthony was thanked for his presentation.

Action:

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That the Panel be provided with the bespoke programmes for young black African or black Caribbean males in operation at Hammersmith and Fulham and Redbridge.

PYC9 DISCUSSION WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

There was a consensus that the sharing of information between the Authority and partners was effective. However, with regard to the Probation Service work was taking place to improve links. It was noted that the Probation service, was represented on both the Gangs Action group and the YOS partnership board, which helped to ensure any concerns over particular young people were fed into the process.

The Council's child poverty and needs assessment were seen as good tools for identification of vulnerable families. A report on this was due to go to the Children's trust in December 2010/January 2011. The Panel asked to see a copy of this as soon as it was published.

Young people were consulted on the provision offered, although it could take time to engage with the young people in the process. Regarding referral to the prevention teams these came from a variety of sources including CAF, Social Services, police, Triage, School, the family and self-referral. In order to be able to assess the effectiveness of the referrals the Panel asked to be provided with the latest file audit from the prevention team in the YOS.

Whilst currently the teams operated on a borough- wide basis, this had not always been the case, as they had started operating just in Bruce Grove ward. However, as it was considered to be an issue across Haringey the service had been made available borough- wide. In response to a request for a list of services available on a Ward basis, members were advised that the Youth Space website identified where activities were available.

There was some discussion around young people who attended out- of- borough schools and the police spoke of the number of young people whose history was unknown and concerns that the recent housing benefits changes would result in more vulnerable families moving into Haringey. The police advised that they were constantly building links with agencies and schools. YOS had a designated teacher in all Haringey secondary schools and colleges. With regard to any bespoke prevention activity in colleges, a suggestion was made that Haringey could link with neighbouring boroughs on this.

The police spoke about the Junior Citizenship scheme offered to Haringey's primary schools which was currently targeted at year 6 pupils, but it was suggested that it might be better targeted at year 2 and 3 pupils as the propensity to commit crime was now occurring at an earlier age. Also the Council has started to deliver restorative programmes for younger children in schools in any attempt to reduce conflict at a younger age.

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The Panel noted that the Gangs Action group was an example of joint working with Enfield and other partners. Although there were already links with Broomfield School, it was suggested that there could be more bespoke links with Enfield's education department. It was noted that West London Authorities appeared to work more closely and jointly commissioned specific work.

The Strategic Manager for the YOS spoke about a non-ring-fenced Early Intervention Grant (EIG) which was to be established by pooling funding from a range of early intervention and preventative services. No firm details as to how much Haringey would receive and there was some concern that the money was to be spread across a range of areas.

The representative from Catch 22, the voluntary organisation that ran the Intensive Intervention programme gave details of the work that they carried out. She explained that their work was needs led, and mainly done on a 1-1 basis. The organisation had received funding of £200,000 but this was due to cease at the end of March 2011.

The Panel heard from the Young Adviser on what he thought was important in relation to youth crime. He explained that he was surprised to hear that crime was in decline. However it appeared there was a discrepancy between what young people perceived as a crime and what was defined as a crime i.e. theft of a mobile phone was not considered to be a crime by a young person. There was an issue of young people not reporting a crime for fear of being seen as a "snitch". A suggestion was made that there should be an increase in the ability to report a crime through the schools. There was a general discussion in respect of the role of the police officers linked to schools and how effective they were.

Action:

1. That the Panel be provided with anonymous case file audit.
2. That the Panel be provided with a copy of the Child poverty and needs assessment report as soon as it becomes available.

MARTIN NEWTON
Chair



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

Scrutiny Panel – Preventing Youth Crime***on 12 January at 2011***Report Title: **Feedback from meeting with Young People**Report of: **Cllrs Newton and Gibson**Wards(s) affected: **ALL****1. Purpose**

1.1 To report back on the meeting with young people held at Keston Road.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the feedback from the meeting with young people be noted.

Contact Officer: Carolyn Banks Principal Scrutiny Support Officer, Tel 0208 489 2965**3. Executive Summary**

3.1 As set out in the attached report

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

4.1 N/A

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None

- 6.1 Members will recall that it had been agreed that Councillors Newton and Gibson represent the Panel at the meeting with young people at Keston Road on 9 December. The young people were either low level offenders who have been through the court system or those who have been through the Targeted Youth Support Team.

- 6.2 Set out in the Appendix is the feedback from Councillors and the notes taken by the Administrative officer from the Centre.

APPENDIX

Meeting with Councillors on 9th December 2010 – NOTES FROM ADMIN OFFICER

Regarding working with the Youth services (Targeted Youth Inclusion, Youth Inclusion Project and Challenge and Support).

Comments from young people :-

Gives me something to do
Takes me to Court
Helps with prevention – helps me doing things
Gives you a say /personal choice
Finds us things to do/activities
Role models – helps me parenting my child
Organised trips to places like Thorpe Park (now stopped)
Only got the support when I got into trouble
The youth project helped me get back into college
Need more youth clubs
Makes friendships
Held a football tournament – kept us off the streets
Belong to the boxing club

Made me change the way I think
The workshops changed me
Asked what I want to do
Made a music video
Kept me busy
Kept me off the street
Helped me get into college

When you become a bad kid that is when you get help.

Fit for Life works.

Quick activities are good but need to continue for a longer time.
Substance misuse education gives freedom
If you bored you turn to criminal activity

Gangs

Young people belong to gangs because they are bored
Young people are judged as being in gangs even if they aren't
Labelling young people is wrong
Is it a bad thing to be in a gang?
People leave gangs because they become more mature, because they see no hope, because it is scary and life is for living.

Education

Get bored easy
Play truant
Peer teaching – if you are good at a subject

Respect young teachers

Authority is needed in the classroom

Making music helps us to stay out of trouble – say in a song how to stay out of trouble.

What helps?

Youth organisations give a lot of support – they care about us.

Free transport will help

Help with motivation and flexibility

Long term help looking at jobs.

Mentors

If you see trouble coming you can stop it

Families can help with anger

Anger management courses

Keeping friends together so they don't get into trouble with others from different areas.

Future

Young people are getting involved in politics – student demonstrations for examples

Notes From Cllr Newton

Meeting with Young People at the Keston Centre on 9th December 2010

We met with a number of young people aged around 16-18 and there was a varied response to questions from just yes/no/no response to a fuller answer from others. In general we talked to a few young people at a time and they appeared to be more responsive to informally chatting and reacting to what others were saying rather than responding to direct questions. The most responsive group came at the end and this was probably helped by having a couple of 'mates' attending as well as the young offenders. There was only one girl attending who requested to talk one-to-one rather than in a group with the boys and Cllr Gibson talked to her separately.

A few general points from talking to the young people as follows:

- Young people saw Youth Workers as someone to help young person who is trusted and gives good advice not just going to court but to go to college and find things to do and help stay out of trouble.
- Support needed sooner as soon as a young person starts to be a problem in class or gets excluded (more support around 12yrs was mentioned).
- If a young person starts to be a problem in class this can lead to teachers picking on some young people and treating differently and can make the problem worse. Once a young person is labelled bad they get no treats and no way of getting back into normal class - needs to be better balance between how young people are treated.

- Mentoring could help but it was felt that there was insufficient provision.
- Younger teachers could help as young people can relate to them but they also need to be able to show some authority.
- There appeared to be a fairly common problem with anger that could lead to getting into trouble ... anger management had helped ... walking out of class before anger explodes better than staying and getting excluded.
- Programmes like 'Fit for Life' were initially thought of by young person as not worth going to but once encouraged to go they really enjoyed things like potholing and canoeing and other challenges. Activities may only be provided once a week but may help young people keep out of trouble for longer period.
- More youth clubs.
- Problem of young people going to clubs and not getting on with other groups. Needs to be things that different groups of young people can do together at different places ... their own friends.
- Help young people stay out of trouble by telling them through something they relate to - make a record.
- Football course helped (Connections?) and made new friends ... one friend suggested to go to it and then I suggested others.
- Young people are not encouraged to believe in themselves and that they can do anything.
- Ambitions included army, mechanic, entrepreneur or rapper. Found it difficult to aspire to jobs like solicitor.
- Army Cadets suited one person but others did not like cadets and being ordered around.
- Boxing was helping a couple of young people.

Notes from Cllr Gibson

Perception of teachers/education

- a) Young people feel that children that behave badly get more attention on the classroom.
- b) Sometimes the teachers frustrate children into doing things that they don't want to do
- c) Sometimes teachers allow some unacceptable stands just to keep the peace.
- d) They relate to younger teachers better as they feel they have a better understanding of young Minds.
- e) Many saw that discipline was necessary but should not be excessive.
- f) They didn't think that older teachers be strict and relaxed at times.
- g) Some did not find their educational environment stimulating and found the pace of the teaching and slow and tiring This contributes to boredom.
- h) Peer Teaching/learning was a good practice in the classroom if the student is good at the subject,

Perception of Youth Offending Team:

- a) Gives them something to do
- b) Takes them to court
- c) Saw the youth offending officers as authority figures as well as mentors.
- d) Quite a few youth officers have dipped into their pockets to provide goods and services for
The young people.
- e) They believed that the officers genuinely cared about their wellbeing.
- f) They valued the fact that it was their personal choice to attend the programme.
- g) They enjoy the activities that they do there such as Thorpe Park.
- h) Some of them who are now parents stated it helped to prepare them for parenthood.
- i) They only got support when they get into trouble. Had they not had contact when they would
Have got into worst trouble.
- j) Offered guidance on College courses which helps many to get back on track.
- k) More youth clubs is needed to engage young people.
- l) Helped them to make new friends. Activities such as the tournament not only kept them off
The street, but helped to engage them.
- o) Some of the young people who had issues with depression were able to be encouraged to
the house and get onto College courses as well rebuilding the relationship between child and
mother.

The Impact the service has had on young people:-

- a) Changed the way they think
- b) Questioned future direction

- c) They made a music video
- d) Kept me off the streets
- e) Helped me get into College

Gangs

- a) Young people belong to gangs because they are bored.
- b) Young people are judged as being in gangs when they aren't
- c) Labelling young people is wrong.
- d) Is it a bad thing to be in a gang? The definition of a gang was under debate.
They concluded
That a gang could be any group.
- e) People leave gang when they become more mature.

What helps:

- a) They would appreciate free transport.
- b) They need more help with motivation and enjoy flexibility.
- c) They need long term help looking for jobs.
- d) They would like to see more mentors in the early stages to avoid them getting into trouble.
- e) Anger management should help

Future:

- a) Young people are getting involved in politics for the first time this year.
- b) This is because this is an issue that affects them –student demonstration.
- c) They feel they can go further but, the limited in terms of finances etc.

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