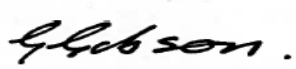


Report for: Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Title: Haringey Youth Justice Service - Looked After Children

Report

authorised by : 
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Lead Officer: Jennifer Sergeant, Head of Youth Justice and Targeted Response

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Describe the issue under consideration

This report provides information about young people looked after by London Borough of Haringey also known to the Youth Justice Service.

2. Recommendations

That Committee notes the contents of this report.

3. Background information

Haringey Youth Justice Service (HYJS) works with young people and their families when either referred, by the Police, for an Out of Court disposal or sentenced to a Court ordered disposal in criminal matters. The YJS also provides services to assist Youth and Crown Courts in making remand decisions and managing bail support programmes and remands into local authority accommodation (RILAA) and remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA) in the secure estate. All young people that are remanded via RILAA or YDA immediately become Looked After Children.

This report is based on a current snapshot of young people looked after by the local authority involved with the Youth Justice Service taken on 12th January 2019.

4. Contribution to strategic outcomes

First Time entrants (FTEs), Use of Custody and Re-offending rates are a condition of grant requirements and a statutory requirement for reporting performance to the Ministry of Justice, Youth Justice Board. The provision of the service contributes to Priority 1 of Haringey's Corporate Plan Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life.

Looked After Children in the Youth Justice System.

Haringey Youth Justice Service (YJS) works with young people and their families when either referred, by the Police, for an Out of Court disposal or sentenced to a Court ordered disposal in criminal matters. The YJS also provides services to assist Youth and Crown Courts in making remand decisions and managing bail support programmes and remands into local authority accommodation (RILAA) and remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA) in the secure estate. All young people that are remanded via RILAA or YDA immediately become Looked After Children.

This report is based on a current snapshot of young people looked after by the local authority involved with the Youth Justice Service on 12th January 2019.

Haringey Looked After Children Population

At the date of snapshot of data there were 297 looked after children between the ages of 10 and 18 (age range classification for young offenders) in Haringey, of whom 33 are also serving sentence and involved with the Youth Justice Service, representing 11% of the overall Haringey Looked after Children population.

The table below shows the current numbers and percentages, and demography of the Youth Justice cohort in Haringey compared to the looked after population in the cohort.

Table 1.

Youth Justice Service			Youth Justice Service		
Non-LAC Population			Looked After Population		
Total	82		Total	33	
Age Jan 2019	No	%	LAC Age Jan 2019	No	%
11	0	0%	11	1	3%
12	0	0%	12	0	0%
13	1	1%	13	1	3%
14	6	7%	14	0	0%
15	25	30%	15	6	18%
16	24	29%	16	8	24%
17	20	24%	17	17	52%
18	6	7%	18	0	0%
Ethnicity Jan 2019	No	%	LAC Ethnicity	No	%
Black or Black British	46	56%	Black or Black British	22	67%
White	24	29%	White	7	21%
Mixed	11	13%	Mixed	3	9%
Asian or Asian British	1	1%	Asian or Asian British	0	0%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	2	2%	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	0	0%
Gender Jan 19	No	%	LAC Gender	No	%
Male	72	88%	Male	27	82%
Female	10	12%	Female	6	18%

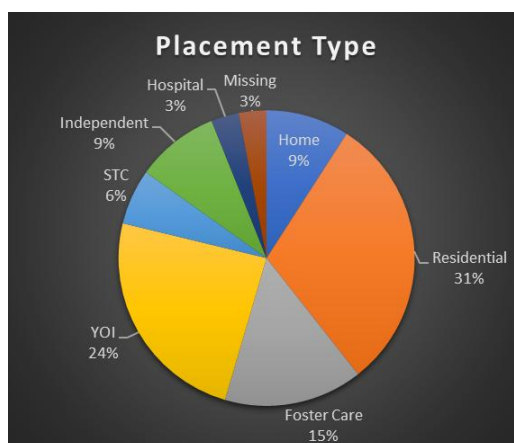
Table 1 shows that 94% of the LAC population in the YJS cohort are aged 15 to 17 compared to 83% for the general. There is a disproportionate number of young people from black communities within the LAC cohort with a 6% increase in the number of females in the cohort that are looked after. This clearly indicates that issues of disproportionately apply to the LAC population within the youth justice system.

Haringey YJS is actively involved in a disproportionality forum with the six other boroughs that utilise the North London Youth Court. This forum is working to explore potential discrimination and disproportionate outcomes in the youth court and develop strategies for addressing these. Haringey have requested that looked after children become a distinct group of young people to be considered within the work of the forum.

Placement Type

Table 2.

Residence Type	No
Home	3
Residential	10
Foster Care	5
YOI	8
STC	2
Independent	3
Hospital	1
Missing	1



Disposal Types and Reoffending

The table below shows the range of disposals and re-offending rates of Young People who are looked after in comparison to those young people in the cohort who are looked after.

Table 3.

Youth Justice Non-LAC population			Youth Justice LAC Population		
Interventions	No	%	Interventions	No	%
Triage	12	15%	Triage	0	0%
YCC	2	2%	YCC	0	0%
Referral Order	40	49%	Referral Order	11	33%
Reparation Order	1	1%	Reparation Order	0	0%
Youth Rehab Order	20	24%	Youth Rehab Order	7	21%
Youth Rehab ISS	0	0%	Youth Rehab ISS	0	0%
Bail/Remand	1	1%	Bail/Remand	5	15%
Report (PSR)	1	1%	Report (PSR)	4	12%
Detention & Training Ord (Custody)	4	5%	Detention & Training Ord (Custody)	1	3%
DTO Licence	0	0%	DTO Licence	3	9%
s91 Custody	1	1%	s91 Custody	1	3%
s91 Licence	0	0%	s91 Licence	1	3%

2017 Cohort Re-Offending Rate	27%	2017 Cohort LAC Re-Offending Rate	52%
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There are fewer young people looked after subject to an Out of Court disposal that suggests young people that are looked after are not being diverted away from the Court system as young people who are not. This is an area for the service focus of attention to ascertain any trends that might be apparent to inform improvements in the local system's response to young people who are looked after earlier for diversion from offending and entry to the Youth Justice and negative outcomes.

The number of young people currently serving the custodial element of a Detention and Training Order is 4 and 1 respectively with the overall numbers subject to all custodial sentences being 6% for children who are not looked after LAC and 18% for those who are. This indicates that looked after children are more at risk of a custodial sentence than the overall population and is further compounded by the higher reoffending rate of the cohort in the YJS caseload.

Issues that can make it more difficult to achieve positive outcomes with looked after children, particularly in relation to reoffending includes placement changes.

When looked after children placement is moved to another area, the responsibility for delivering interventions falls to the YOT in the area within which the young person resides, with oversight by Haringey YJS. Implications for young people from changes in placements and in compliance with orders in these circumstances includes their reduced availability at short notice for attending interventions and having to engage quickly with staff and services unfamiliar to them.

Offence Types

Table 4.

Youth Justice Non-LAC population			Youth Justice LAC Population		
Charged Offences	No	%	LAC Charged Offences	No	%
Robbery	43	23%	Robbery	18	17%
Violence Against the Person	45	24%	Violence Against the Person	33	32%
Theft and Handling	34	18%	Theft and Handling	1	1%
Drugs	30	16%	Drugs	9	9%
Domestic Burglary	0	0%	Domestic Burglary	10	10%
Public Order	3	2%	Public Order	0	0%
Breach of Statutory Order	6	3%	Breach of Statutory Order	3	3%
Non Domestic Burglary	0	0%	Non Domestic Burglary	1	1%
Criminal Damage	4	2%	Criminal Damage	4	4%
Motoring	7	4%	Motoring	1	1%
Vehicle Theft	3	2%	Vehicle Theft	12	12%
Breach of Bail	1	1%	Breach of Bail	2	2%
Other	5	3%	Other	5	5%
Racially Aggravated	2	1%	Racially Aggravated	1	1%
Breach of Conditional Discharge	0	0%	Breach of Conditional Discharge	0	0%
Sexual	1	1%	Sexual	1	1%
Fraud and Forgery	4	2%	Fraud and Forgery	3	3%
Death or Injury by Dangerous Driving	0	0%	Death or Injury by Dangerous Driving	0	0%
Arson	0	0%	Arson	0	0%
Total	188		Total	104	
Avg Offences per Yp	2.3		Avg Offences per Yp	3.2	

Charged with knife offence	No	%	Charged with knife offence	No	%
Yes	39	48%	Yes	19	58%
No	42	52%	No	14	42%
Total	81		Total	33	

The table above details the offence type committed by young people in the YJS cohort. Violence against the person and vehicle theft are offence types that are significantly higher for young people who are looked after. Drugs offences are however lower. The average number of offences for young people looked after in the cohort are also higher.

The rate of knife related offences is higher for young people who are looked after at 58% compared to 48% (the number in the table relates to offences not young people). This indicates focus of attention for the service for understanding to address reasons behind this, albeit it being a significant issue across for all young people involved in the service and is a priority for the service.

Assessment

All young people involved with the YJS are assessed using the YJB National Assessment tool, Asset Plus. This assessment focuses on several areas including significant life events, desistance and includes a self-assessment in order to elicit young people's views in relation to their current situation, offending and life experiences. The assessment includes sections in relation to harmful behaviour and safeguarding concerns and rates the young person in terms of the risk of harm they pose to others, the safety and wellbeing status of the young person and likelihood of reoffending.

Table 5.

Youth Justice Non-LAC population			Youth Justice LAC Population		
Concerns re: Safety and Wellbeing	No	%	Concerns re: Safety and Wellbeing	No	%
No	13	20%	No	3	11%
Yes	51	80%	Yes	25	89%
Total	64		Total	28	
ASSET Serious Harm Level	No	%	ASSET Serious Harm Level	No	%
Low	22	34%	Low	3	11%
Medium	29	45%	Medium	6	22%
High	13	20%	High	18	67%
Total	64		Total	27	

The concerns for safety and wellbeing and risk of harm to others are often linked very closely together and are in many cases tied to issues of trauma, gang violence and exploitation. As can be seen from the above table a higher percentage of looked after young people present with concerns in relation to their safety and wellbeing and a considerably higher number of young people present high risk in terms of public protection (harm to others). All young people that pose a high risk in either domain are discussed at the YJS Risk Management Panel, a multi-agency panel attended by YJS, Police and social care. 40% of the highest risk cases are young people who are looked after (8 out of 20). Improvements to align young people identified as high risk in YJS at the RMP are also cross referenced with Children's Social Care Exploitation panel to strengthen management arrangements for planning and reducing young people's risk of harm or to others.

Interventions

Haringey YJS provides a range of interventions to young people including Haringey and other local authorities looked after children, placed in Haringey. Youth Justice Board protocols exist in order to ensure that the local YOT manages orders and delivers interventions in relation to young people placed in their area whilst also ensuring that the 'home' YOT retains case management responsibility for LAC, from their own area, in terms of overall oversight and enforcement.

Haringey Looked After Children are allocated a case manager in the YJS wherever they are placed. The case manager is responsible for liaising with the YOT in the area in which they are placed, if outside of Haringey, or directly delivering and coordinating interventions to young people living locally.

A key area of focus for intervention is education, training and employment. Table 5. gives the figures for young people that are in suitable, full time ETE. The figures relate to all young people over the age of 10 including those above statutory school age, thereby including 17- and 18-year olds. As can be seen the figure is comparable across both cohorts and can be favourably compared with recent YJB data of national averages of approximately 40% for young people involved with YOTs. Young people looked after in the cohort are availed support in this area from both education specialists responsible for LAC (Virtual School) and the dedicated specialist Education, Training and Employment worker in the YJS.

Table 6.

Youth Justice Non-LAC population			Youth Justice LAC Population		
ETE Status Jan 19	No	%	LAC ETE Status Jan 19	No	%
IN Education, Training/Emp	55	75%	IN Education, Training/Emp	15	71%
NEET	18	25%	NEET	6	29%
Total	73		Total	21	

A range of interventions available to all children and young people at the YJS include;

One to one session: these sessions are tailored to the needs of the young person and may focus on issues such as peer pressure, consequential thinking and offence focused work.

Victim awareness: raising the understanding of victim issues and developing levels of empathy

Restorative Justice: Developing levels of understanding with a view to attaining the point where mediation can take place between the young person and victim. This may also involve the writing of letters of apology

Indirect Reparation: participation in community projects that repair harm

Weapons Awareness: group sessions that address the physical and legal impact of weapon enabled offending

Serious Youth Violence: exploring young people's involvement in lifestyles that are typified by gangs and the use of violence.

Substance misuse: intervention from specialist substance misuse practitioners

ETE: YJS ETE worker undertakes direct sessions with young people to support them back into education and to access opportunities for appropriate provision.

Outcomes and Voice of the Child

Table 7. represents the breach rate during the year of 2018 and details that it was higher for Looked After Children than others during that period; in conflict with the findings on the current caseload.

Table 7.

Youth Justice Non-LAC population			Youth Justice LAC Population		
Breach Rate 2018	No	%	Breach Rate 2018	No	%
Successfully Completed	80	71%	Successfully Completed	24	62%
Breached	33	29%	Breached	15	38%
Total	113		Total	39	

Consideration needs to be given to the breach rate for LAC and how case managers approach non-compliance with young people who may often have a history of strained relationships with professionals that can adversely influence their ability and willingness to engage with yet another service and / or professional.

The YJS has developed an exit questionnaire, results of the first 17 completed since September 2018 reveal the following;

85% of young people were involved in the development of their plan

76% rated the relationship with their case manager as the best aspect of working with the YJS

82% stated that their case manager always listened to them

65% said that their opinions were considered

These results are extremely promising in respect of young people's voice being heard and them feeling valued by those working with them. Several actions are in place to improve the feedback rate of young people exiting the service and includes differentiating the views of young people who are looked after for response in service improvements.