



Report Title: Response to the Scrutiny Committee's Review – Reducing Re-offending by Young People

Report of: Assistant Chief Executive (PPP&C)

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Non-Key Decision

1. Purpose

To agree the report outlining the work carried out with regard to the conclusions and recommendations of the Review.

2. Recommendations

That Members review and approve the progress made by the Youth Offending Service and partners in relation to the recommendations of the Youth Offending Scrutiny Review report.

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3. Executive Summary

This report is to provide an update for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, of actions taken to date resulting from the Scrutiny Review of Youth Offending 2006.

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development

N/A

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

4. Strategic Implications

4.1 None

5. Chief Financial Officer Comments

5.1 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no specific comment to make.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this progress report and has no specific comment to make.

7. Equalities Implications

7.1 The Youth Offending Service provides a service to all young people (aged 10 – 18) who have or are at risk of offending and to their families, regardless of their cultural or faith background, or gender.

8. Consultation

8.1 The Review report has been submitted to the relevant departments for consideration of technical accuracy and feasibility of the recommendations.

9. Feedback Report

9.1 Background

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee commissioned a Scrutiny Review into Reducing Re-offending by Young People as part of its work programme for 2005/06. The review topic was chosen in response to concerns amongst local residents in relation to crime and community safety. The Scrutiny Review Panel's aim was to assess how efficiently Haringey Council, in partnership with local voluntary groups and the police, delivered services for Haringey's young people who have offended or are at risk of offending or behaving in an anti-social manner.

9.2 Highlights

There were 13/14 recommendations, the progress of which is outlined below.

1. The Youth Offending Service (YOS) produced a business case for the Executive in 2006. This was updated in 2007 and clearly establishes the requirement for additional funds so that the YOS can fulfil its statutory duties, as various funding streams come to an end in March 2008.
2. The Youth Crime Reduction Strategy 2006-08 was produced in October 2006.
3. The YOS has service level agreements (SLAs) with various partner agencies which are reviewed regularly – generally on an annual basis.
4. The MST (Multi-Systemic Therapy) programme was a three year pilot study and Haringey YOS has been involved in this clinical trial from the outset. For various reasons, the trial has been extended for two years and the final evaluation is not due until March 2009 at the earliest. The nature of a clinical trial is such that the results will only be available at the conclusion of the trial.

5. The Head of Safer Communities with the Director of the Brandon Centre (who provides the MST service) attempted but were unable to obtain further funding from the Youth Justice Board. Other funding streams were identified to extend the clinical trial by two years.
6. Reducing the incidence of bullying is a very high priority and reflects concerns raised consistently by children and young people themselves. We have provided a revised framework for schools to use when they are reviewing or developing their own policies in this area. We have also produced and disseminated leaflets and other information for children and young people themselves providing sources of advice and support that they may access. In addition, all secondary schools, with the exception of one, participated in an anti-bullying march and rally during November 2006, organised by the Youth Council and supported by the Police, Children and Young People's Service, Community Safety and Tottenham Hotspurs Football Club. This raised the profile of our anti-bullying stance in a very public way and we are working very closely with children and young people themselves to build on the outcomes from the day.
7. Relevant executive leads will be meeting with secondary headteachers and Chairs of Governors to reiterate the contribution that they can make to the safety and well-being of children and young people and to further explore the opportunities for collaboration with the full range of partners to prevent youth crime, particularly crimes related to violence between young people.
8. As above
9. A letter was prepared and sent to relevant departments for the Executive member for crime and community safety in March 2006
10. A YOS Operational Manager is a member of the Community and Police Consultation Group Youth Panel and several staff members and YOS young people were involved in the street crime event held at CONEL in November 2007.
11. The YOS has been actively involved in the Supporting People Service Review and obtained a very good assessment report. As a result it was recommended that the Supporting People Board should consider awarding a small increase of 3% to fund the YOS accommodation officer. Funding has been agreed for 2008/9, but no increase is possible due to reductions in the Supporting People Grant.
12. The YOS accommodation officer has been in post since February 2006.
13. The YOS has access to one move-on accommodation unit and negotiations are taking place with the Housing Prevention and Options Manager to increase this number. We expect to be able to do this in 2008. A SLA/protocol has been drawn up between the YOS and Prevention and Options Service.
14. The Police & Justice Bill received Royal Assent recently and will come into force in February 2008. Much of this Act refers to internal policing reform and standardisation. Stricter conditions will be applied to conditional caution schemes with introduction of a power of arrest for breach of a Conditional Caution. Some elements of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership working have been strengthened through this Bill, and a Community Call to Action has been introduced which allows residents to request action by the police or partners on community safety issues, when they feel these have not been adequately addressed. The range of agencies that can enter into parenting contracts is extended beyond those listed in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

9.3 Next Phase Activities

The Youth Justice Board is currently consulting on the introduction of the model for the scaled approach, revised National Standards for Youth Justice Services and new Case

Management guidance. The scaled approach involves a move from the “one size fits all” model to one where the type and intensity of interventions matches the young person’s assessed risk of re-offending and the risk of serious harm they pose to others.

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill, currently passing through Parliament, will introduce the Youth Rehabilitation Order which replaces most of the current orders with a generic order comprising 14 different requirements. This will require accurate assessments and a more targeted and tailored approach to interventions.

9.4 Conclusions

- The YOS has continued to develop since the Scrutiny Committee report was produced, against a background of increasing caseloads and uncertainty with regard to future funding. A snap shot of the YOS in September 2007 puts the caseload at 530, including prevention, parents and young offenders. This is an increase of 31% (404) from Sep 2006 and 59% (334) from 2003. Statutory cases currently stand at 315 young people - again an increase of 38% since September 2006.
- A number of short term grants end in March 2008 and negotiations are continuing to secure the future of the YOS, so that it can carry out its statutory duties to the young people in Haringey and contribute to the protection of the public.
- In 2006/7 the YOS’s performance increased from level 3 to level 4 (top level 5). Performance is measured over 4 different areas: 15 key performance indicators relating to such issues as substance misuse, mental health, parenting, use of custody etc (level 4); National standards which prescribe how frequently young people are supervised etc (level 4); re-offending, where a cohort of young people are tracked for one year in terms of their offending (level 5); effective practice quality assurance (EPQA) which currently consist of 4 self audits in relation to resettlement, remand and bail, mental health and substance misuse (level 1). We have action plans in place to improve the EPQA scores. The improvement in performance is, in the main, due to the commitment of staff in the service and the support of partner agencies. Haringey was in 44th highest place nationally out of 155 YOS’s, second in London (just below Richmond) and 1st in our family which is made up of demographically similar YOS’s.

Appendix

Recommendation	Actions	Progress
<p>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</p>	<p>1. The Youth Offending Service (YOS) produced a business case for the Executive in 2006. This was updated in 2007 and clearly establishes the requirement for additional funds so that the YOS can fulfil its statutory duties, as various funding streams come to an end in March 2008.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>2. The Youth Crime Reduction Strategy 2006-08 was produced in October 2006.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>3. The MST (Multi-Systemic Therapy) programme was a three year pilot study and Haringey YOS has been involved in this clinical trial from the outset. For various reasons, the trial has been extended for two years and the final evaluation is not due until March 2009 at the earliest. The nature of a clinical trial is such that the results will only be available at the conclusion of the trial.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>4. The Head of Safer Communities with the Director of the Brandon Centre (who provides the MST service) attempted but were unable to obtain further funding from the Youth Justice Board. Other funding streams were identified to extend the clinical trial by two years.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>5. That a Service Level Agreement be produced between the YOS and agencies supporting intervention where appropriate.</p>	<p>5. The YOS has service level agreements (SLAs) with various partner agencies which are reviewed regularly – generally on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>6. That the Executive Member for Children and Young People ensure that schools identify young people who are either at risk of bullying/offending</p>	<p>6. Reducing the incidence of bullying is a very high priority and reflects concerns raised consistently by children and young people themselves. We have provided a revised framework for</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>or being a victim of bullying or offending and target their extended school activities towards those young people</p>	<p>schools to use when they are reviewing or developing their own policies in this area. We have also produced and disseminated leaflets and other information for children and young people themselves providing sources of advice and support that they may access. In addition, all secondary schools, with the exception of one, participated in an anti-bullying march and rally during November 2006, organised by the Youth Council and supported by the Police, Children and Young People's Service, Community Safety and Tottenham Hotspurs Football Club. This raised the profile of our anti-bullying stance in a very public way and we are working very closely with children and young people themselves to build on the outcomes from the day.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>7/8. Relevant executive leads will meet with secondary headteachers and Chairs of Governors to reiterate the contribution that they can make to the safety and well-being of children and young people and to further explore the opportunities for collaboration with the full range of partners to prevent youth crime, particularly crimes related to violence between young people.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>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).</p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>9. A letter was prepared and sent to relevant departments for the Executive member for crime and community safety in March 2006</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>10. A YOS Operational Manager is a member of the Community and Police Consultation Group Youth Panel and several staff members and YOS young people were involved in the street crime event held at CONEL in November 2007.</p>	<p>Completed</p>

<p>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.</p>	<p>11. The YOS has been actively involved in the Supporting People Service Review and obtained a very good assessment report. As a result it was recommended that the Supporting People Board should consider awarding a small increase of 3% to fund the YOS accommodation officer. Funding has been agreed for 2008/9, but no increase is possible due to reductions in the Supporting People Grant.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>12. The YOS accommodation officer has been in post since February 2006.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>13. The YOS has access to one move-on accommodation unit and negotiations are taking place with the Housing Prevention and Options Manager to increase this number. We expect to be able to do this in 2008. A SLA/protocol has been drawn up between the YOS and Prevention and Options Service.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<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>14. The Police & Justice Bill received Royal Assent recently and will come into force in February 2008. Much of this Act refers to internal policing reform and standardisation. Stricter conditions will be applied to conditional caution schemes with introduction of a power of arrest for breach of a Conditional Caution. Some elements of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership working have been strengthened through this Bill, and a Community Call to Action has been introduced which allows residents to request action by the police or partners on community safety issues, when they feel these have not been adequately addressed. The range of agencies that can enter into parenting contracts is extended beyond those listed in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>