

By: Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Amanda Honey, Corporate Director – Communities Directorate

To: Customer and Communities Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 15th September 2011

Subject: Kent YOS Improvement Plan resulting from the HMIP CCI report

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report details the nature and outcome of the recent Core Case Inspection of the work of the Kent Youth Offending Service and the improvements which are already underway and are contained within the Improvement Plan. The Improvement Plan has been submitted to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation and the National Youth Justice Board to monitor its' implementation.

Members are asked to NOTE and COMMENT on the contents of the Improvement Plan.

Introduction

1. Kent YOS was subjected to an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspection of Probation in April 2011, part of a national inspection programme for all youth offending teams. This involved an inspection of 85 current and closed cases from across the county and interviews with the relevant caseholders. In addition, information relating to the operation of YOS was submitted in advance and questionnaires were sought in order to capture the views of victims and young people.
2. The report detailing the outcome of the inspection was published by HMIP on 3 August 2011 and contained five recommendations for improvement. The report stated that Kent achieved a higher than average rating around the reduction of the likelihood of re-offending. When re-offending did occur, the seriousness of the offence was not as grave as second-time offences elsewhere in the country. Another positive finding was that the views of the young people contained in the 138 questionnaires which were returned: over 98% stating that YOS workers were really interested in helping them while 74% stated that the work of YOS had made their lives better. Kent YOS was required to submit an Improvement Plan covering the following five areas:
 - i. A timely and good quality assessment and plan, using Asset, is completed when the case starts;

- ii. A timely and good quality assessment of the individual's vulnerability and *Risk of Harm to others* is completed at the start, as appropriate to the specific case;
 - iii. The record of the intervention plan is specific about what will now be done in order to safeguard the child or young person from harm, to make them less likely to reoffend, and to minimise any identified *Risk of Harm to others*;
 - iv. The plan of work with the case is regularly reviewed and correctly recorded in Asset with a frequency consistent with national standards for youth offending services; and
 - v. There is a regular and effective oversight by management, especially of screening decisions, that is clearly recorded within the case record, as appropriate to the specific case.
3. The actions detailed in the Improvement Plan are all in progress and Members are asked to review the Plan.

Conclusion

4. The Improvement Plan will be monitored by the Kent County Youth Justice Board and any action required to deliver improvement will be reported to this Partnership Board.

Recommendations

5. Members are asked to note and comment on the contents of the Improvement Plan.

Director:

Name: Angela Slaven

Job Title: Director of Service Improvement

Telephone Number: 01622 221696

Email: angela.slaven@kent.gov.uk

Contact Officer:

Name: Andy Birkin

Job Title: Interim Head of Youth Offending Service

Telephone Number: 01622 696370

Email: andy.birkin@kent.gov.uk

Background documents:

YOS Improvement Plan – attached

Kent YOS Inspection Report: www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmi-probation