

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN'S SERVICES

TITLE: OUTCOMES OF THE INSPECTION OF YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES IN BARNSELY

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	16 August 2023
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Children's Services
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To provide Cabinet with an update on the findings of the recent HMIP (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation) inspection of Youth Justice Services in Barnsley.

Council Plan priority

The purpose and findings of the inspection report, primarily support the Council's Priority of a **Healthy Barnsley**, ensuring young people are safe from harm as well as ensuring communities feel safe from the effects of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. **Considers this report and recommends that it be submitted for consideration at the meeting of Full Council on 28th September 2023.**
2. **Notes that any recommended actions within the report will be considered in response to the outcome of the report through an associated improvement plan**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council received notification of a single agency full joint inspection of Youth Justice Services in the Borough on 17th March, to be led by the HMIP. The inspection began with inspection fieldwork during the following week and continued up to and including the week commencing 24th April, when the

inspection team arrived on site in Barnsley. The inspection considered a large amount of evidence which was provided in advance, and also focused on sixteen cases in detail (nine involving young people who had been issued with an Out of Court disposal, six cases where a court disposal was issued and a case which considered resettlement from custody).

- 1.2 This inspection is part of HMIP's programme of youth justice service (YJS) inspections.

The Inspection framework considers the following areas:

- Arrangements for organisational delivery of the service (Domain 1)
- Quality of the work done with children sentenced by the Courts (Domain 2)
- The quality of out of court disposal work (Domain 3)
- Resettlement

This was the latest in the series of HMIP inspections in the Borough and followed the inspection of youth justice services in 2010, together with the inspection of the Barnsley Youth Offending Team in July 2016.

As part of the post inspection process the service have responded to the factual accuracy check and requested a number of amendments to the draft report which is appended. This includes a strengthened recognition of the continuous service improvement and transformation journey which the service has undertaken since 2021, planned reviews to structures and case allocation processes through the Council wide service review programme, inaccuracies in relation to recruitment of volunteer panel members. The service also felt that the context within the report did not fully reflect the strong service performance in relation to First Time entrants and reoffending rates which are both below national averages. HMIP will include these amendments in the revised report which is published.

- 1.3 The HMIP's inspection report is appended to this report. Overall, Barnsley Youth Justice Service was rated as **GOOD**. HMIP also inspected the quality of resettlement policy and provision, which was separately rated as **OUTSTANDING**. Practice in relation to court disposals assessment and review was identified as being **OUTSTANDING**. Inspectors recognised that staff within the service and partnership were passionate, committed and proactive in their engagement of children and families, with a consistent focus on diversity/inclusion in all elements of practice. Practice to support children's desistance from offending is strong.
- 1.4 However, elements within the 9 cases assessed within Domain 3 (Out of Court) were deemed to require improvement or be inadequate. Practice relating to desistance scored strongly but there were elements of some of these cases which did not meet the benchmark for sufficiency in the inspection framework.
- 1.5 An inadequate rating does not mean the cases themselves are individually inadequate, but rather that less than half of those inspected cases have

specifically reached HMIP expected standards in those specific areas of the case file assessment. This relates to a complex scoring system where individual cases are scored against a large number of specific questions, which then generates a score overall. The numerical score generated through this process dictates the grade for each case against a sliding percentage score.

- 1.6 As Domain 3 was deemed to not meet sufficient standards, this consequently limits the leadership and governance grade within Domain 1 to requires improvement.
- 1.7 In summary, the inspection report highlighted a number of significant strengths in the service particularly in relation to practice within the organisational delivery, court work and resettlement. It also provides a clear steer on improvements required in relation to the assessment, planning, implementation and delivery of out of court work.
- 1.8 HMIP made six recommendations, namely, that the Barnsley Youth Justice Service should:
 - Together with South Yorkshire Police, review the out-of-court provision and ensure there is a suitable policy in place that pays attention to risk management and safety and wellbeing, and that this is understood by all staff.
 - Support staff through training, guidance, and effective management oversight to deliver effective risk management and safeguarding work in all aspects of practice.
 - Increase and diversify the pool of YJS referral order panel volunteers.
- 1.9 In addition, the chair of the Barnsley Youth Crime and Anti-social Behaviour Board should:
 - Take the necessary measures to improve the YJS's ability to produce data reports that provide the right level of detail to understand the needs of children on out-of-court disposals.
 - Further develop the processes to monitor and track progress against all strategic priorities and to oversee the quality of YJS practice.
- 1.10 Further, South Yorkshire Police should:
 - Work with the YJS to review the policy and provision for out-of-court disposals and prioritise the consistent attendance of a senior representative at the Barnsley Youth Crime and Anti-social Behaviour Board.
- 1.11 The service has already commenced decisive work to address the areas of improvement which will be formalised through an agreed plan following publication of the report. This includes strengthening the processes within out of court work to align this to practice which is recognised as outstanding with in court work.

2 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

2.1 Financial and Risk

2.2 There are no emerging financial implications arising from HMIP Inspection report or is any anticipated from the proposed Improvement Plan to address identified areas of improvements. It is envisaged that any improvements would be resourced from existing core and grant funding.

2.3 Legal

2.4 There are no legal implications emerging through the HMIP's inspection report. The report's recommendations relate exclusively to ensuring greater consistency in the quality of practice.

2.5 Equality

2.6 One of the inspection domains focused upon the issue of diversity (*Please see Page 13 of the Appendix*). A number of strengths in the quality of practice and provision were noted and the two areas which were outlined for further improvement will be addressed by the Youth Justice Board and its individual partners

2.7 Sustainability

2.8 There are no implications for sustainability in the Borough arising through this report.

2.9 Employee

2.10 There are no implications for the recruitment and retention of staff emerging through the inspection report. In Page 8 of the report, the HMIP has graded the quality and calibre of staff as 'Good' and has commented upon a range of strengths. However, the staff development needs identified within the report will be focused upon with a view to ensuring improvements in practice.

2.11 Communications

2.12 The outcome of the inspection will be published by HMIP and will be shared and disseminated with partners and stakeholders as part of ensuring continued and consistent improvement in the range of provision

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 The Council's Senior Management Team has been consulted on the outcomes of the inspection, together with the action to be taken to instigate continuous improvement in the range of provision

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The purpose of this report is to enable Cabinet and Full Council to consider

the outcomes of the recent inspection of Youth Justice Services in Barnsley together with the action to be taken to implement the recommendations of the HMIP to build upon a range of good practice. one

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Please see Paragraph 4.1 of this report.

6. GLOSSARY

6.1 Not applicable.

7. LIST OF APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: HM Inspectorate of Probation: An inspection of Youth Offending Services in Barnsley (9 May 2023)

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date <i>Joshua Amahwe (21/06/2023)</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Sajeda Khalifa</i> <i>28.06.2023</i>

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