

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive Director (People)
to Cabinet

(5th October 2016)

HMIP Inspection of Barnsley Youth Offending Team

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide members with the outcome of the Short Quality Screen (SQS) Inspection of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) during 25th to 27th July 2016.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the positive findings of the SQS Inspection in terms of the quality of service provided to support young offenders and the continued progress being made in the Borough (see Appendix 1).

3.0 Introduction

3.1 Summary

3.2 The outcome of the inspection was excellent and the report highlights the high quality work being undertaken within the service.

3.3 The Inspection found that the Barnsley YOT was performing well with a highly skilled and tenacious group of practitioners. Staff were committed to the young people with whom they worked and demonstrated understanding of the issues and obstacles they needed to overcome on the path to leading offence-free lives. The team were well supported and directed by managers who were viewed as knowledgeable, competent and committed.

3.4 The report highlighted significant strengths, in particular;

- Assessments were high quality, comprehensive and timely. They included the perspectives of the child and parent, drew on a range of sources of information and were reviewed and kept up to date.
- Pre-Sentence Reports were well written and generally of a good standard, they provided appropriate advice to the court regarding sentencing options. Safeguarding and vulnerability needs were clearly and appropriately explained in all cases.
- Case Planning was exemplary with appropriate management oversight in all cases and this was accompanied by good quality plans developed with young people and their parents.

- Risk assessments were well completed and plans were focussed and effective. They were reviewed appropriately in all cases.
- Assessments and case work drew in a range of agencies to help manage risk to the child or to others and included particularly close work with Police, Social Care and CAMHS colleagues.
- The work inspected showed a sensitive and responsive approach to the diverse needs of the children the YOT works with.

3.5 As part of the service's strategy of continuous improvement the Inspectors identified that the service could be strengthened further by developing bespoke victim safety plans in all cases and to ensure the service makes the best use of the breach processes.

3.6 The inspectors also considered the overall performance of the service and the following key performance indicators:

- First time entrants: These have reduced over two years from over 900 per 100,000 of the population entering the criminal justice system to under 400, giving the service some of the best figures in the region. This ensures that resources are focused on those with most need and who are experiencing increasing levels of complexity and challenges in their lives.
- Re-offending rates: Re-offending by young people in Barnsley continues to be some of the lowest in the country and the best in South Yorkshire.
- Custody: The use of custody has reduced significantly indicating better engagement (and a reduction in breach) and the committing of less serious offences by young people.

4.0 Consideration of Alternative Approaches

4.1 This report concerns the positive outcomes which have emerged through a recent inspection of youth offending services in the Borough and, therefore, no such consideration has been required.

5.0 Proposal and Justification

5.1 The enclosed inspection report will provide assurance to the Cabinet on the quality of support being given to children and young people to prevent them from re-offending and enable them to lead more enriching, offence free lives, that will improve their potential and prospects.

6.0 Implications for Local People and Service Users

6.1 The outcomes of the inspection will also provide reassurance to local people and users of Council services, throughout the Borough, that the progress being made to support young people at risk of re-offending, has benefited communities through its impact in helping reduce crime, disorder and anti social behaviour.

7.0 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications.

8.0 Employee Implications

There are no direct employee implications.

9.0 Communications Implications

9.1 The outcome of the inspection has been communicated to members of the Youth Offending Management Board and key stakeholders who have welcomed the findings.

10.0 Consultations

10.1 The Senior Management Team has been consulted on the outcomes of this inspection.

11.0 The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

11.1 Please see Paragraph 5.1.

12.0 Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

12.1 The HMIP's inspection report does not make any specific reference to equality, diversity or inclusion. However, in commenting on the quality which has been evident in undertaking assessments and plans for children and young people who may be at risk of re-offending, the HMIP will have been satisfied that any specific needs arising through equality and diversity, are being addressed in a sensitive and responsive way, in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

13.0 Tackling the Impact of Poverty

13.1 Please also see Paragraph 5.1.

14.0 Tackling Health Inequalities

14.1 The HMIP report refers to the co-location of a range of partner agencies, including services for mental health, learning and disability support and multi systemic therapy, with the result that the assessment and planning process will have a positive impact on reducing any health inequality between those children and young people at risk of re-offending and their peers.

15.0 Reduction of Crime and Disorder

15.1 The report confirms that the Youth Offending Team is working well and having a positive impact, with its partners, in reducing crime and disorder.

16.0 Risk Management Issues

16.1 The HMIP inspection report presents a very positive picture on the quality of youth offending work in Barnsley. The report makes reference to two areas of activity which are in need of improvement and these will be progressed as part of the post inspection action plan and risk log.

17.0 Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Issues

17.1 There are no implications for the general health and safety of the public or employees arising through the inspection report.

18.0 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

18.1 There are no implications for the Convention.

19.0 Conservation of Biodiversity

19.1 There are no implications for the local environment or the conservation of biodiversity emerging through this report.

20.0 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

20.1 CAMHS – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
HMIP – Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probations
SQS – Short Quality Screen inspection
YOT – Youth Offending Team

21.0 List of Appendices

21.1 Appendix 1 – HMIP Report of the Short Quality Screening of Youth Offending work in Barnsley.

22.0 Details of Background Papers

22.1 No additional background papers have been used in the production of this report.

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Date: Financial Implications/
Consultation <i>(to be signed by senior Financial Services Officer where no financial implications)</i>