

Barnsley Youth Justice Plan

2017/18

Introduction

Barnsley's Youth Justice Service sits within the Local Authority's Targeted Youth Support Service. The governance of the provision has changed in 2016/17. In collaboration with the Community Safety Partnership the governance of Youth Justice provision has changed with the Youth Offending Management Board merging with a Community Safety Partnership sub-group to develop a new Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Board.

This development enables the service to consider crime and anti-social behaviour across all ages and to recognise the distinctive needs and behaviours of children and young people within this area. The Board is chaired by Margaret Libreri, Service Director for Education, Early Start and Prevention and the Barnsley Crime Manager, DCI Waring.

With any new arrangement it is appropriate to review the effectiveness of change after a period and the Board will be reviewing how well the new arrangements work after the first year.

In 2016, Barnsley's Youth Justice provision was inspected by HMI Probation, who undertook a Short Quality Screen inspection focusing on post court work. The outcome of the Inspection was very positive with inspectors commenting favourably on a range of different aspects of service delivery they had seen.

Structure and governance

Barnsley Council is divided into three operational directorates; People, Place and Communities. The Youth Justice Service is based within the Education, Early Start and Prevention Business Unit within the People Directorate. The Youth Justice Service forms part of the Targeted Youth Support Service based within that Unit.

The Youth Justice Service Manager is line managed by the Head of Service for Early Start, Prevention and Sufficiency.

The Local Authority provides oversight of Youth Justice provision through the Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Board. The Local Authority includes performance data from Youth Justice provision in its corporate quarterly reporting and performance data set.

This oversight arrangement extends to Community Safety and Public Protection Incidents, issues arising from late submission of information following a young person going to a custodial setting and completion of the National Standards audits.

The Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Board, through the Board's action plan, is able to support Youth Justice provision in addressing barriers to service delivery and service improvement. The new Board structure sees a broader range of partners engaged and offers a fuller opportunity to address barriers as they arise.

The Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Board monitors performance against the conditions of grant by exception. There have not been any recent issues with the timely submission of data. Information for the secure estate is generally provided on time and where not the Youth Justice Board Business Support Team within the region liaise directly with the Youth Justice Service Manager enabling any systemic issues to be quickly identified and overcome. Community Safety and Public Protection Incidents, where relevant, are managed through local Safeguarding Board procedures and through internal reviews of practice.

The Youth Justice Service has an Improvement Plan which is closely monitored. Recommendations from Community Safety and Public Protection Incidents, National Standards Audits and other areas are managed through the Youth Justice Improvement Plan.

The Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Board regularly reviews information at a case level, principally in relation to custodial sentences and the use of remand. Through consideration of case level information and information at a more systemic level the Board is able to support the Youth Justice Service as part of an effective multi-agency partnership.

The Local Authority is also to shortly undertake a review of services to teenagers and their families. The Targeted Youth Support service, in which Barnsley's Youth Justice Service sits, will be in the scope of the review and staff, managers and service users will contribute to the review's findings.

Resources and value for money

The Youth Justice grant is used to fund Youth Justice provision within Barnsley and is not used for any other purpose.

The staffing structure supporting Youth Justice provision demonstrates that the partnership is supported currently by staff from South Yorkshire Police, the HMPPS, the NHS, Local Authority Education services and Children's Social Care.

Partnership Arrangements

The Youth Justice Manager is an active member of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board attending both the full Board and a number of sub-committees. The Youth Justice Manager, in addition to work for the Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Board also attends the other two Operational groups for the Community Safety partnership and the Community Safety Partnership itself.

The Youth Justice Service Manager also represents the four South Yorkshire Youth Offending Teams at the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board. Youth Justice provision within Barnsley is also represented at the MAPPA Strategic Management Board and the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortia at an operational and strategic level.

Youth Justice provision is regularly represented within MARAC, including chairing MARAC meetings when appropriate.

The Youth Justice Service Manager also chairs the Channel Panel and attends the Silver Prevent group. Staff who deliver Youth Justice provision have received WRAP training as part of the work of 'PREVENT'.

Youth Justice provision within Barnsley is supported by several services commissioned from 3rd sector providers. Working in partnership with neighbouring Youth Justice Services, Barnsley commissions South Yorkshire's restorative justice services, victim liaison and unpaid work capacity through a South Yorkshire tendering process. The tendering work is commissioned from Sheffield City Council and the current providers of this service are Remedi.

Provision of Appropriate Adult services to young people (and vulnerable adults) detained by the police from Doncaster, Barnsley and Sheffield is also a joint tender and this service is currently provided by SOVA.

The Youth Justice Service in Barnsley commissions Educational Psychology capacity directly from the Local Authority Community and Education Psychology service.

The service is closely aligned with the Liaison and Diversion provision in the area. Liaison and Diversion staff are based within the Youth Justice Service and assess and screen young people in the Criminal Justice System in Barnsley.

Barnsley's Youth Justice Service is also supported by direct commissioning of services through the Local Authority. This provision provides support to the diversion scheme, provision of ETE mentors and support for families. Support for families, through a model of Family Mediation is extended as a result of investment from the Troubled Families programme and this service is provided by Remedi. During the first quarter of 2017/2018 the provision of children's substance misuse services has been transferred to the Targeted Youth Support Service following the external provider going into administration in April 2017.

Risks to future delivery against the Youth Justice outcome measures

The overall performance in reducing First Time Entrants has been good over the past two years. Recently there has been a levelling off in the trajectory of improvement. Through work with South Yorkshire Police via the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board a refined policy has been agreed which will improve the level of First Time Entrants further. The service is currently negotiating at the Barnsley district level, implementation dates for this process.

The non-court disposal model has been influential across the region. Barnsley's re-offending rates have remained good throughout the last year and remain around 30%, significantly better than the English, South Yorkshire or family averages. However, as the cohort shrinks through reducing First Time Entrants it is forecast that the re-offending rate will increase if no further changes are made.

The introduction of the revised model within the Barnsley district will allow the service to begin to work with young people at risk of re-offending significantly earlier than currently. It is anticipated that this will lead to positive change in re-offending rates.

Having enabled the non-court disposals model to embed as the service undertook a number of organisational changes the service will start to regularly track re-offending rates across the whole youth justice cohort. This will enable the service to identify areas for improvement.

In partnership with Remedi the service has significantly re-worked the Referral Order Panel model in Barnsley. The model has moved from a focus on activities to a focus on outcomes. Evaluation data is suggesting that the new model is being very positively received by those who participate in it. This new approach will play a key role in improving re-offending rates for Referral Orders. It is positive to note that this model of Referral Order Panel, since its development in October 2016, has been taken up by a number of other services across the country.

As we conclude negotiations at Barnsley district to introduce changes to how the non-court disposal process works the service will be able to introduce the same approach to non-court disposals that is used with Referral Orders, further strengthening them as an intervention and improving the service to young people, their families and the victims of offences.

The service will move then to introduce the same approach for Youth Rehabilitation Orders and Detention and Training Orders.

The number of young people sent to custody who are resident in Barnsley has fluctuated through the year, but is currently increasing. A challenge with this area of performance is the relatively low numbers of young people involved, meaning that a small increase can show a high percentage shift. The Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Board has requested a multi-agency audit of this area and this will be completed in September 2017 with outcomes and actions tracked through the Board.

Of the cohort of young people who have gone to custody, several have received custodial sentences for serious first offences. Of the remainder, the majority, most have gone to custody due to persistent non-compliance with court orders. The service continues to review and refine the approach to young people in breach of their orders to ensure that the service is working hard to make engagement our issue.

Children in Care.

Data suggests that young people in care are a relatively small component of the First Time Entrant population. The manager who oversees the allocation of non-court disposals is aware of the need to ensure that behaviour that would not be criminalised in a family home is not criminalised within a Children's Home. The service also seeks to ensure that the Code for Crown prosecutors is applied when considering non-court disposals. Overall we see very few young people who are Looked After entering the criminal justice system.

Of those that do we see low levels of re-offending for most young people. Their social workers, carers and the young people themselves do a great job in changing behaviour and making good progress. For a very small number of young people who Looked After we do see higher rates of re-offending. Further on in our plan we talk about becoming a Trauma Informed Service. Part of our drive to do this comes from reflecting on the needs of some of our Looked After young people and asking how we can meet their needs better.

Higher rates of re-offending lead to more serious sentences and some of those young people from Barnsley who are sent to custody are Looked After. When this happens we work closely with our colleagues in Social Care to make sure their needs are met in custody and that we plan well for their future when released.

Priorities

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board recently agreed a new policy around neglect, recognising the significant impact this has on children and young people's lives. Teenagers rely on the parents and carers for emotional support, for guidance and boundaries and help in becoming young adults.

Many of the young people the service works with and who present with the greatest challenges have been neglected by their parents or carers. That neglect leaves them vulnerable to sexual and criminal exploitation and involvement in problematic peer relationships and interactions.

We have begun to learn recently too about the impact of trauma on those same children. Advances in science have shown how the brains of traumatised children have a different shape and how prevalent the experience of trauma is.

Research through the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers has shown the prevalence of learning difficulty and disability amongst the young people we work with and it is hypothesised that the parents may have additional need too.

Neglect, trauma and learning create real challenges in practice. Through the Liaison and Diversion partnership the service is better able to routinely assess whether children have learning needs. In partnership with Liaison and Diversion and BSARCs the service will shortly begin work looking at how it will become a trauma informed service. Through the service's work with the Neglect Strategy and its implementation, the service will support staff to gain a greater understanding of neglect and how to respond to it.

The good practice in Barnsley over the last 3 years with First Time Entrants and re-offending needs to be further embedded and refined. The service has agreement through the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board to change the referral routes between the Police and the Youth Justice Service and those changes need to come be implemented as a matter of priority in 2017. These changes will ensure that Barnsley's re-offending rates can continue to be some of the best in the region.

The Local Authority is planning to undertake a review of the delivery of services to teenagers and their families. Targeted Youth Support including the Youth Justice Service will be in the scope of the review. The review will take place during 2017/18. The service will contribute to the review and ensure that the needs of young people in the criminal justice system are reflected in the outcome of the review.

Young people in the criminal Justice system are disproportionately likely to mental health and developmental issues. Our alignment with local Liaison and Diversion services has produced benefits for young people with these needs. However, we remain concerned at the way in which young people with autism receive a timely diagnosis. This can currently take a long time and a key priority is to see this process speeded up.

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Youth Justice Plan for 2017/18

Priority Area	Action	Owner
First Time Entrants	Bring FTE's to below 350 per 100,000 of the eligible population	South Yorkshire Police and Targeted Youth Support – Early Intervention and Prevention Manager and Youth Justice Manager
	Introduce an outcomes focussed, strengths based approach to non-court disposals learning from Referral Order practice changes	
Re-offending	Ensure that the overall figure remains at 30%	Targeted Youth Support
	Track re-offending rates and begin to refine service delivery against observed changes.	Youth Justice Service Manager
	Introduce the refined Police-Youth Justice referral pathway	South Yorkshire Police and Targeted Youth Support – Early Intervention and Prevention Manager and Youth Justice Manager
Use of Custody	Ensure that custody use, where a community sentence is a viable alternative, does not increase.	Youth Justice Service Manager
	Undertake a multi-agency audit of young people going to custody to learn how to change practice in the future	Youth Justice Service Manager
Practice	Audit and change service delivery to ensure that it is sensitive to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning need • Neglect • Trauma 	Youth Justice Service Manager
Children in Care	Continue to monitor service performance for children in care across First Time Entrants, re-offending and custody.	Youth Justice Service Manager and Head of Service, Children in Care.
Young people with autism	Ensure that the time taken for diagnosis and assessment of Autistic Spectrum needs is completed within 6 months of referral	Youth Justice Service Manager, CCG Representative, YOT Board.