

**YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION
INSPECTION AND DRAFT IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

To: **Children and Young YP committee**

Meeting Date: **11th July 2017**

From: **Wendi Ogle-Welbourn
Executive Director, Children Families and Adults**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **For note**

Purpose: **To note the report of the recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation inspection into the services for young people who offend in Cambridgeshire and draft improvement plan.**

Recommendation: **The Committee is invited to:**

- a) Note the positive outcome of the inspection into services with young offenders in Cambridgeshire;**
- b) Be aware that a draft improvement plan is in place and being monitored within the Youth Offending Service (YOS), by the YOS Executive Board, by the Children & Families Performance Board and by the Youth Justice Board.**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection report into the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and partnership work with young offenders in Cambridgeshire.
<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/cambridgeshirefji/>
- 1.2 There was a full joint inspection which took place in November 16. This lasted two weeks and involved a range of inspectors including HMIP, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), OFSTED health and social care. There is an inspection report and the draft improvement plan is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 The Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a multi-agency service based in the local authority funded by the Ministry of Justice, the local authority and partner agencies. The focus of the work is to reduce re-offending by young people through prevention, pre-court and post court work.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The report was very positive overall with Cambridgeshire regarded as effectively working with young offenders, resulting in low rates of custody, re-offending and first time entrants to the criminal justice system
- 2.2 The Chief Inspector of Probation, Dame Glenys Stacey stated in the report: "It was pleasing to see that Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service continued to perform well. Reoffending rates for young people were among the lowest in England and Wales over two years. Its staff understood the importance of forming positive relationships with children so that they could help them to change their lives."
- 2.3 The overall scoring was:

Reducing reoffending



Protecting the public



Protecting children and young people



Making sure the sentence is served



Governance and partnerships



2.4 Some of the positives from the inspection included:

- Staff and managers committed to make a positive difference
- Strong work in courts, pre-sentence reports, respected YOS
- Good understanding and ability to ensure engagement
- Appropriate enforcement
- Strong restorative justice team & intensive supervision and surveillance
- Knowledgeable and motivated health and substance misuse team
- Sexual Behaviour Service well integrated
- Multi-systemic therapy well used
- Good example of Think Family supervision
- Good attention to health and well-being factors
- Outcomes against national criminal justice indicators consistently amongst the best in England and Wales
- Effective school age educational work, liaison with providers and localities and post custodial educational engagement
- Wide ranging and valued activities programme
- Effective operational partnerships addressing accommodation

2.5 There are a range of recommendations which include:

- Further focus on education, training and employment for over 16 year olds

- Greater agency representation on the YOS management board
- More reliable IT systems
- More consistent understanding of multi-agency public protection arrangements
- Closer information sharing with Children's Services
- Final implementation of the new AssetPlus assessment system, particularly in relation to planning
- Review of interventions delivered with young people to reduce offending

2.6 An improvement plan has been developed that focuses on all of the recommendations and is overseen by the management team and YOS Executive Board. Many of the areas have been fully addressed and the remainder are in progress.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are some impacts on the local economy in terms of supporting young people to become active and contributing members of the community rather than attaining long term offending careers.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The focus of the service is to support people to live independently and offence free. With this in mind we have a nurse, psychologists, substance misuse workers, education / training / employment workers and other professionals to provide input and direction.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

Young people who offend are very over-represented in their own right as victims of offences. They are also very over-represented as having experienced a range of adverse childhood experiences and have a far higher level of learning needs than the wider population. As a result they need to be supported and protected as well as being seen and dealt with as offenders.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

4.1.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

4.2.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

4.3.1 The role of the YOS is a statutory one, with much of the work being mandatory. This takes the form of delivering work in courts, managing court orders and pre-court disposals. It also

involves managing risks of serious offending and the vulnerability of young people themselves

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 4.4.1 There is some over-representation by young people from minority ethnic groups in terms of offending, but this is recognised to be appropriately addressed at this time.

4.5 Engagement and Consultation Implications

- 4.5.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

- 4.6.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

- 4.7.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
<i>Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection report into the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and partnership work with young offenders in Cambridgeshire</i>	https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/cambridgeshirefji/