

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Committee/Panel:	Children & Families Advisory Panel
Date:	4 October 2011
Title:	YOT Inspection Report
Reference:	3318
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Wessex YOT was subject to a Core Case inspection of 115 cases in May 2011 and at the last meeting of the Management Board on 10/6/11 the Lead Inspector attended to present initial feedback. The Inspection Report was published on the 24th of August.
- 1.2 A copy of the report can be found at appendix two and a copy of the Improvement Plan at appendix three.

2. Inspection Outcome

- 2.1 The scores for Wessex are detailed against the national context in the table below;

	Lowest national score	Highest national score	Average national scores	Wessex Score
'Safeguarding' work <i>(action to protect the young person)</i>	37%	91%	68%	55%
'Risk of Harm to others' work <i>(action to protect the public)</i>	36%	85%	63%	56%
'Likelihood of Reoffending' work <i>(individual less likely to reoffend)</i>	43%	87%	71%	64%

- 2.2 Clearly it is disappointing to be below the national average in the three rated areas. However, the inspectorate recognised that there was very good practice in some areas of Wessex and in some areas of work, the most important of these being the management of high risk cases being as good as anywhere nationally.
- 2.3 The principle areas of concern which the Improvement Plan seeks to address, were assessments of Risk of Harm to others, vulnerability and Likelihood of Reoffending, were too often completed to an insufficient standard. Plans of work with children and young people who had offended were also felt to be often inadequate.

3. Inspection Improvement Plan

- 3.1 An Inspection improvement plan is required to be submitted for approval to the Lead Inspector by the end of September 2011. Once approved the responsibility for the monitoring the implementation of the plan will be passed to the Youth Justice Board and from 1/4/12 to the new Youth Justice division within the Ministry of Justice that will replace the YJB.
- 3.2 Following discussion with the Lead Inspector, taking into account the likely disaggregation of Wessex YOT from 1/4/12 it has been agreed that there should be an overall Wessex YOT Improvement Plan with separate plans for the new Hampshire/Portsmouth/Southampton YOTs emerging from this. The Lead Inspector has said he is not required to approve those plans and so there is no deadline for them but he would be happy to receive them and comment where appropriate.
- 3.3 The Wessex Inspection Improvement Plan is attached for comment and approval by the Wessex YOT Management Board. It has been discussed and agreed by the Wessex YOT Management Team. The plan is based upon the following eight recommendations contained in the Inspection Report.
 - (1) Asset assessments and plans should be timely and of good quality, providing a robust analysis of the current needs of the case that is not obscured by previous information except where it is relevant.
 - (2) Specifically, 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.
 - (3) Children and young people, and their parents/carers, are actively and meaningfully involved in assessment and planning, including through the timely use of self-assessments and the assessment of learning styles.

- (4) As a consequence of the assessment, 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*. In particular, the plan of work should set appropriate goals and be clearly sequenced.
 - (5) Vulnerability management plans are completed on time and are of good quality. They clarify the roles and responsibilities of staff and include planned responses to changes in the child or young person's own vulnerability.
 - (6) For both custodial and community cases, the plan of work is regularly reviewed and correctly recorded in Asset with a frequency consistent with national standards for youth offending services.
 - (7) There is regular and effective oversight by management, especially of screening decisions and ensuring planned actions are delivered. Management comments should be recorded within the case record as appropriate to the case.
 - (8) The case record should at all times contain accurate, sufficient and up to date information, in order to support the continuity of services to children and young people. This should include sufficient information on interventions delivered by others.
- 3.4 Work is also underway on the improvement plans for the three new YOT areas. It is suggested that these plans should be scrutinised and approved by the three local YOT sub groups/Shadow Board as soon as possible and then submitted to the Lead Inspector for comment.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note the report

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?