

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Children and Families Advisory Panel
Date:	3 February 2015
Title:	Update on the work of Hampshire Youth Offending Team and the Hampshire Youth Justice Plan 2014-15.
Reference:	6414
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the work and update of recent developments within Hampshire Youth Offending Team. Attached to this paper is the annual Hampshire Youth Justice Plan for information and reference.

2. Contextual information

2.1. The primary aim of the youth justice system is to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people (Crime and Disorder Act. 1988). This legislation requires all local authorities to ensure they have a Youth Offending Team (YOT), and the YOT must be funded (in cash and in kind) by all the statutory partners which consist of the local authority, health, police, probation and the central government Youth Justice Board grant. These agencies are equally responsible through this Act for local youth justice outcomes. The Crime and Disorder Act stipulates that every YOT must contain at least one social worker, probation worker, police officer and education specialist.

2.2. Hampshire YOT aims to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people aged 10-17 years. This aim involves significant criminal justice statutory functions which include the assessment and supervision of children and young people subject to out of court disposals, court orders, custodial sentences and bail and remand. YOTs also have statutory duties to co-operate under the MAPPA framework, and a duty under the 2004 Children Act to promote the welfare and safeguarding of children and young people. Hampshire YOT is well integrated into the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Criminal Justice Board, Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Board, MAPPA

Strategic Management Board, Health and Well-being Board, Children's Trust and Supporting Troubled Families Programme.

- 2.3. In addition to the statutory functions, Hampshire YOT also has a significant investment in the (non statutory) prevention of offending, with the aim of diverting children and young people away from the criminal justice system. Hampshire YOT assess and supervise community resolution/youth restorative disposals dispensed by the police to avoid those children becoming first time entrants into the criminal justice system. In addition, Youth Crime Prevention (YCP) Workers, currently situated within Early Help Hub teams within Children's Services, provide assessment and interventions with children at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social or harmful behaviour.
- 2.4. Hampshire YOT is geographically represented across the county in four teams in addition to the 'prevention arm' of youth crime prevention within all of the eight Early Help Hubs. We staff and service the three Youth Courts in the county in addition to the Crown Court sitting in various locations. We work with children in custody from Hampshire accommodated across England and Wales.
- 2.5. The Youth Justice Plan for Hampshire is an annual statutory requirement which is submitted each September to the Youth Justice Board (a non departmental public body that oversees youth justice and sponsored by the Ministry of Justice). The Hampshire plan is attached and sets the strategic direction and key priorities for 2014-15. In summary these priorities are as follows:
 - (i) Ensure good performance against national and local indicators (see section 4 below)
 - (ii) Ensure strong financial management and planning to meet future demand
 - (iii) Ensure a good inspection outcome
 - (iv) Ensure readiness to change and respond to current key national and local developments in youth justice
 - (v) Develop strong partnership relationships (at strategic governance and operational levels) with the new probation arrangements (National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company)
 - (vi) Embed the partnership with the Isle of Wight YOT within Hampshire YOT's management structure and explore delivery models that benefit and enhance the performance of both YOTs.
- 2.6. The full Youth Justice Plan covers the detail of how the above will be achieved.
- 2.7. At any one time, Hampshire Youth Offending Team is working with 450-500 children and young people across the county. In addition, Hampshire YOT works with both the victims and the parents of those children and young people. All victims of youth crime are contacted by specialist staff within the

YOT and offered the opportunity to participate in a restorative intervention if they wish. Parents may be subject to statutory court orders, or participate in voluntary programmes with our parenting officers. Furthermore, the Youth Crime Prevention Team is working with around 200 children. At the end of November 2014 there were thirteen Hampshire young people in custody.

3. Finance

- 3.1. Hampshire YOT's pooled partnership 2014/15 revenue budget is circa £4.6m with approximately 90 staff. The Youth Crime Prevention budget is circa £600k with 18 staff. Hampshire County Council Children's Services contribute the largest percentage (42%), followed by the Youth Justice Board (31%), probation (9%) and health (5%). Hampshire Constabulary contributes staff and police officers rather than cash and this represents 5% of the budget. The separate Youth Crime Prevention budget is currently funded by a Police and Crime Commissioner grant (40%), Hampshire YOT's contribution from the Youth Justice Board grant (40%) and Hampshire Children's Services (20%).
- 3.2. The fact that the YOT is funded and staffed by four statutory agencies does present some risks and challenges to the YOT in the current economic climate. Partners need to ensure that the delivery of youth justice services is done as effectively and efficiently as possible in order to reduce and prevent offending, and make best use of the financial resources available and guarantee it is flexible and responsive enough to deal with the demand for services required.
- 3.3. The last comprehensive spending review (CSR) in 2010 impacted significantly on the then Wessex YOT. Efficiencies of 20% had to be made from this budget due to the reduction in partner contributions as a result of the CSR. These efficiencies involved a restructure which reduced the management capacity by 33% and the overall staffing by 23%. Hampshire YOT's budget has continued to reduce since it began in April 2012 due to pressures on partner contributions. In 2013/14 a management review and restructure further reduced the senior management by two thirds. A current restructure is underway to further reduce non staffing costs and review teams to ensure the most efficient use of resources to meet the current needs and demands of the children and young people with whom we work

4. Performance

- 4.1. The significant financial challenges detailed above were set against a backdrop of an increasing downward trend in the caseload of YOTs. Nationally there has been a significant downward trend in children and young people entering the criminal justice system (54% reduction in first time entrants since 2008/09) and the number in custody (32% reduction since 2008/09). Hampshire YOT has followed this trend and currently performs well on these indicators. Overall, across Hampshire YOT there has been a 47% reduction in caseload between April 2010-April 2013. However, over the past year there has been a slowing and stabilising of this rate; we may have

reached the lowest point. It is also important to note that caseload numbers do not necessarily equate to workload. We have significant evidence that the children and young people with whom we are working are presenting with complex needs, risks and behaviours. Around 16% are looked after children, and a recent Hampshire YOT health needs analysis indicated a plethora of emotional, physical and mental health related issues experienced by children known to YOT. Furthermore, trends and fluctuations in the criminal justice system are not simple to control and link to a huge number of variables. This can range from changes in policing practice and targets, legislation, demographics, to media and political events and incidents.

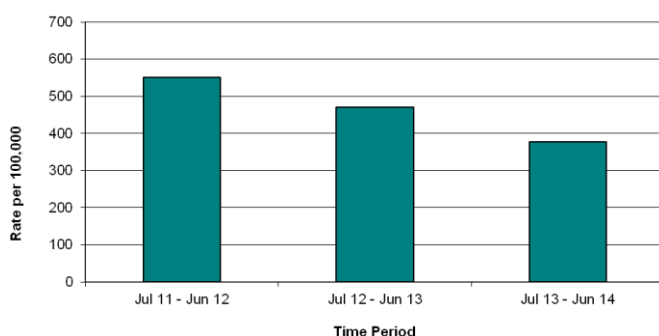
4.2. All YOTs are required to nationally report to the Ministry of Justice via the Youth Justice Board on three national performance indicators. The Hampshire YOT management board sets internal targets annually for these indicators. The performance indicators are:

- (i) **Reducing the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system** (measured as the rate per 100,000 10-17 year old population)
- (ii) **Reducing reoffending** (measured as number and percentage of young people who reoffend and number of re-offences)
- (iii) **Reducing the number of children in custody** (measured as rate per 1000 per 10-17 population).

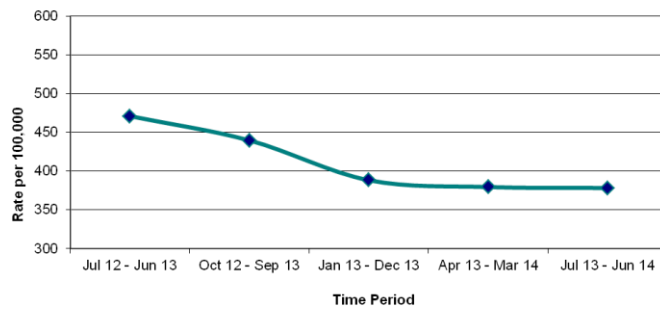
4.3. Hampshire YOT has maintained relatively strong performance in recent years on all three indicators in relation to comparator YOTs. The latest performance data is shown below for information:

First time entrants

FTE Rate per 100,000 10 to 17 Population Past 3 Years

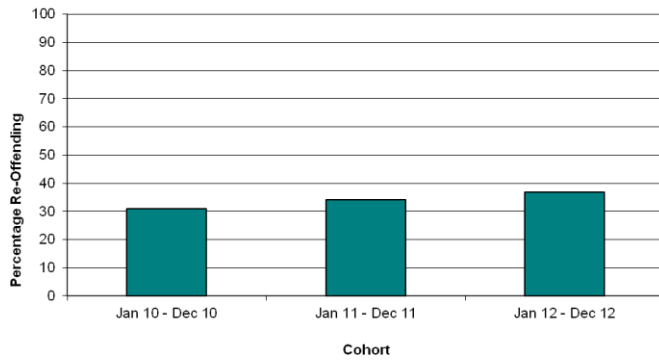


**FTE Rate per 100,000 10 - 17 Population
Last Five 12 month Rolling Cohorts**

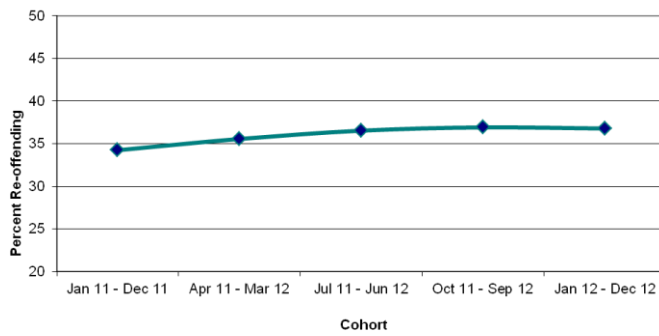


Reducing reoffending

Percent Re-offending Last 3 Years

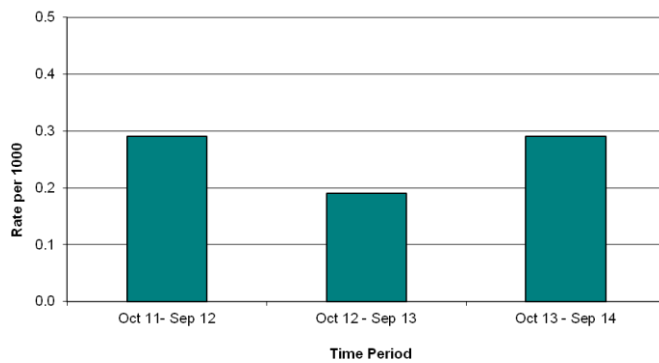


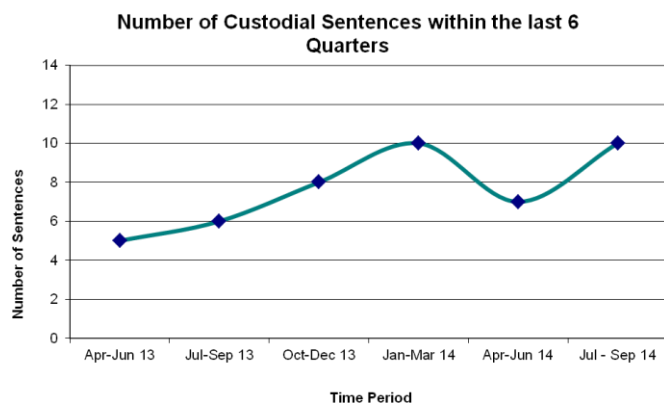
**Percent Re-offending
Last Five 12 Month Rolling Cohorts**



Reducing custody

Custody Rate per 1000, 10 - 17 Population Last 3 Years





4.4 Inspection and regulatory framework. Youth Offending Teams are inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). Hampshire YOT management board is accountable to HMIP to ensure performance against the following inspection criteria:

- Reducing the likelihood of reoffending
- Protecting the public
- Protecting the child or young person
- Ensuring the sentence is served

Percentage scores are given for each of the four inspection criteria and graded according to an average against national performance as very good, good, unsatisfactory and poor. HMIP Inspection performance will reflect upon all partners and may, if unsatisfactory, trigger other inspections within individual agencies.

5. Other key issues

5.1. Wessex Dance Academy. Hampshire Youth Offending Team is committed to providing quality interventions for young people that helps them build upon the positive factors in their lives and aims to reduce those factors leading them to offend. One of the ways we do this is in partnership with Hampshire Children's Services Department and Hampshire Cultural Trust in the form of the Wessex Dance Academy. Established in 2009, the Academy provides a contemporary dance programme to young people in Hampshire. It is primarily aimed at young people aged between 15 and 25 who are: NEET (not in education, employment or training); in care or care leavers; offending or at risk of offending; excluded from school or school refusers. The Academy delivers a 12 week dance course which consists of practical, professional dance training culminating in a dance performance in front of an audience (usually at the Theatre Royal, Winchester). The course equips the young people with an OCN level 1 or 2 qualification and aims to re-engage participants with education or work, reduce reoffending, increase the health of participants and generally reduce the use of support services needed by the participants.

5.2. A recent independent evaluation of the Academy showed positive outcomes against a range of measures including reoffending, education, self esteem and health. Further information will be presented to the Panel by Clare Hobbs, Wessex Dance Academy manager.

6. Recommendation

6.1 That the panel note the work of the Youth Offending Team and the Youth Justice Plan for Hampshire

Glossary of terms

CSR	Comprehensive Spending Review
HMCTS	Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service
HMIP	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation
HYOT	Hampshire Youth Offending Team
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Incidents (management of offenders posing the most serious risk of harm lead by police, probation or prison service)
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
YCP	Youth Crime Prevention
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOT	Youth Offending Team

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
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.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See Hampshire Youth Justice Plan Impact statement section C pages 22-23