

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
20 JANUARY 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Lou Williams, Service Director of Children's Services and Safeguarding	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University	
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YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Lou Williams, Director of Children's Services	Deadline date: <i>n/a</i>
<p>It is recommended that the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the work of the Youth Offending Service (YOS), the wider Targeted Youth Support Service (TYSS) and Safer Relationships (SAFE) Team 2. Comment on the positive November 2020 HMIP Youth Offending Team Inspection Report (attached at appendix 1) findings and progress made against improvements 3. Note the ways in which vulnerable young people have continued to be supported by the TYSS throughout the pandemic 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee at the request of the Committee group representatives, as part of the 2021/22 committees work programme.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 To provide the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee with an annual overview of the activity and achievements of the YOS and the wider TYSS during 2020/21.

2.2 This report is for the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

D) Targeted Youth Support (including youth offending)

2.3 The YOS and wider TYSS priorities and objectives closely aligns with Peterborough's Strategic Objectives in respect of the following priorities:

- Improve educational attainment and skills
- Safeguard vulnerable children and adults
- Keep all our communities safe, cohesive and healthy
- Achieve the best health and wellbeing for the city

2.4 This report links to the Children in care Pledge in respect of:

- support young people into **college and education**
- help encourage young people to be **healthy**
- support young people to have a **good education**

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 This report covers the activity and performance of the wider Targeted Youth Support Service. Targeted Youth Support Service is a multi-agency service that has responsibility for delivering services to vulnerable and at-risk young people at an early help level through to complex adolescent safeguarding. The work of the service is overseen by the Youth Justice Management Board and wider Children’s Safeguarding performance monitoring systems. A summary of the findings of the published November 2020 HMIP Youth Offending Team Inspection Report and progress against the improvement plan is also provided.

4.2 As a result of COVID-19 and the wider Council’s response to the Pandemic a decision was made to move the Targeted Youth Support Service from the Communities and Safety Directorate to Children’s and Safeguarding. This initially took place on an interim basis in April 2020 and was confirmed a permanent arrangement in January 2021, as significant benefits were identified from aligning the service with wider Children’s Services.

4.3 **Youth Offending Team Inspection**

4.3.1 Peterborough HMIP Small Youth Offending Team Inspection Report was published in November 2020 following a virtual inspection that took place in August 2020. The framework included detailed casefile assessments on 13 cases, interviews with YOT Officers and focus groups with youth justice partners. The outcome was very positive with ‘Good’ rating outcomes across all 3 inspection area domains.

4.3.2 The service was assessed with gradings in the following domains:

Domain 1 – Organisational Delivery – (Good)

- Peterborough YOS is well-governed and has the support of a highly committed, resourceful and resilient management team.
- The commitment to partnership working and collaboration is illustrated by the sharing of management staff in key strategic positions across Cambridgeshire County Council and the Peterborough Unitary Authority.
- The YOS board has a clear role in facilitating partnership arrangements which support the quality of services provided.
- There is a skilled and experienced group of operational staff, who are committed to delivering high-quality services. This is complemented by good access to services provided by partner agencies.
- The high-quality management oversight of the work is an outstanding feature of the YOS.

Domain 2 – Court Disposals – (Good)

- The management of cases in the Peterborough YOS was outstanding in terms of assessment, planning and the implementation and delivery of the sentence of the court.
- We found some inconsistency in the quality of case reviews, although they were generally completed to a good standard.
- YOS case managers demonstrated great skill in establishing useful working relationships with children and their parents or carers and were able to harness the involvement of other services speedily and effectively.

Domain 3 – Out of Court Disposals – (Good)

- Work with children to deliver out-of-court disposals was sufficient in all cases, as was partnership working and decision-making leading to such a disposal.
- We found that the nature and intensity of work matched the children’s needs and risks.

- We found some inconsistent practice in the assessment of cases to support decision making and in delivering youth cautions and other community resolutions, and too few of these cases had a good written plan.

4.3.3 An Inspection Improvement plan was agreed and implemented by the Youth Justice Management Board in January 2021 and was endorsed by HMIP. Areas of improvement identified were:

- The YOS and its partners need to focus more on supporting 16 and 17-year olds into education, employment or training, as up to 65 per cent of the relevant cases are currently NEET.
- The YOS needs to re-engage fully with the voluntary sector in Peterborough following reduced financial support for Volunteer Programmes within the service.
- Ensuring children and their parent are directly involved in the oversight of organisational delivery of the service and the Management Board
- Timely completion of Assessments
- Where significant change and new factors are identified that escalate risk of harm these must be fully incorporated into reviews and inform the arrangements for working with the child – OCCD and Court.
- Evidencing that desistance and risk of harm to others is fully considered within all OCCD Plans

The service has progressed well against all areas of the plan and it is anticipated that it will be signed off by the Management Board and closed in January 2022.

4.4 Youth Offending National Indicator Performance

4.4.1 The Youth Offending Service is overseen by both National Indicators set by the Youth Justice Board and local indicators set by the Youth Justice Management Board.

National Indicators include:

- Young people receiving Custody Sentences
- Young people who become First Time Entrants
- Young people who Re-offend

Local Indicators include:

- Young people of school age who are Not in Appropriate Education Provision
- Young people above school age who are Not in Education, Training and Employment (NEET)

Performance for the annual 2020/21 period and quarter 2 of 2021/22 is detailed below:

Measure	Annual 2020/21 period	Target	Current Q2 2021/22
Custody	6.6%	6%	5.6%
FTE	12	16	13
Re-offending	30%	30%	28.6%
NIAP	24.2%	25%	65%
NEET	60.9%	30%	28.6%

4.4.2 The Youth Offending Service is a statutory service that delivers interventions to young people from prevention through to community interventions and custodial supervision. The aim of the service is to prevent offending, harm to the public and to safeguard young people. The service supervises approximately 135 young people's disposals per year and the team consists of 24 multi-agency professionals and additional volunteers.

4.4.3 The service is performing well in respect of all national Indicators and improvement have been seen in respect of custody, re-offending and first-time entrants in the last two years. The improvement in custody numbers should particularly be noted, given the complex and challenging cohort of young people, and has been impacted by the successful and robust alternatives to custody programmes we have developed in Peterborough.

Education and NEET performance continues to be a challenge, although it should be noted that percentage weighting is high because the overall cohort is small. Think communities, wider early help and youth support services continue to focus on a partnership response to improve education, training, and employment for vulnerable school age young people and those above school age. This includes a partnership countywide NEET Strategy, and monthly NIAP/NEET meetings that scrutinises plans for all young people not in appropriate provision which is chaired by the County Alternative Education Manager.

- 4.4.4 A new YOS Performance Report Dashboard has been tasked by the Youth Justice Management Board and is currently under development with Business Intelligence. This will include increased oversight of timeliness and performance monitoring of key service activity. It is anticipated this will be launched by April 2022 alongside the implementation of a new effective Youth Justice database, Child View Youth Justice.

4.5 **Targeted Youth Support Service (TYSS) Youth and Family Team Activity**

- 4.5.1 The TYSS Youth and Family Team manages young people who are at risk and require support through a child in need plan. The team works to prevent further escalation of risk and increase in threshold to Child Protection and Child in Care status. Since inception of the service in 2018 the team has demonstrated impact in reducing numbers of assessments and cases open to wider Children's Social Care, reducing young people subject to Child Protection Plans and those becoming Children in Care.

The team have also demonstrated that they are achieving well in line with other Children's Social Care Teams performance in respect of timescales for assessment, planning and quality outcomes for children and young people.

- 4.5.2 Safeguarding and Quality Assurance (SQA) conducted an audit of the Youth and Family Team in October 2020 following 2 years of initial implementation of the service. This audit identified several areas of improvement from the previous audit conducted in 2019 and that good practice remained strong. A service action plan was implemented for areas of improvement identified and actions were completed successfully.

The TYSS is now embedded into wider Other Children's Social Care Audit activity and monitoring continues to evidence continuous improvement.

4.6 **Safer (SAFE) Relationships Team**

- 4.6.1 The SAFE Team was implemented in October 2019 working with young people at moderate and significant risk of Child Criminal Exploitation across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A robust monitoring framework implemented has enabled us to collect evidence relating to:
- Qualitative feedback from young people, parents, and professionals both during and post intervention.
 - Quantitative data in respect of reduction of safeguarding and criminal CCE related incidents and offending
 - Quantitative data in respect of de-escalation of Children's Social Care threshold
 - Quantitative data in respect of education engagement
 - Qualitative data in respect of impact on mental health and engagement in services

- 4.6.2 The evidence base indicates that the team is performing well in respect of outcomes for young people receiving interventions. To date there is indication that:
- Young people's risks and involvement in criminal incidents is reduced both during intervention and for 4 months after
 - Reducing safeguarding risks in respect of missing episodes and CP/101 alerts during intervention and for 4 months after
 - There is evidence of positive impact on engagement with services. Professional confidence and knowledge also appear to be increased
 - Early indication of reducing social care thresholds and preventing escalation
 - Early indication of improving young people's engagement in and sustaining ETE
 - Improved mental health and engagement in services where needed
 - Promotion of the young person's voice in a complex situation.

- Trauma informed approach and trusted relationships with young people. This then provides the basis upon which to build further relationships
- Developing multi-agency professionals' knowledge in management of risk of CCE and Contextual safeguarding approach to management of associations within the exploited population, using multi-agency mapping and partnership work

4.6.3 Given the early indicators of success the Chair of the YJ Management Board and Lou Williams, Director of Children's Services, led discussions with partners in respect of permanent funding. Peterborough's contribution to the continued funding of the SAFE Team has now been secured when interim funding ends in March 2022. The service will continue to be monitored to evidence outcomes and impact going forward.

4.7 **Service Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

4.7.1 Though out the pandemic TYSS has ensured that robust business continuity plans are in place to enable continued face to face support for all young people to ensure their risk and needs continue to be addressed and managed. The 2020 YOS HMIP Inspection commented that the service's response to COVID-19 ensured that young people continued to be supported with their needs being met.

4.7.2 The service put in place a process to regularly review all young people's circumstances to ensure that face to face education and training placements were being offered and that where young people chose to learn at home, IT and laptops were provided to support learning. The review of education was essential for all vulnerable and at-risk young people and transition support back to learning following home learning was in place.

National standards contacts and face to face contact was only amended during strict lock downs for lower risk young people and whilst some virtual contact was in place this was only used to supplement essential face to face sessions. Sessions with young people and families continued to take place in office buildings, the community and in family homes. High risk support was sustained for our most risky young people at all times, and activities were adapted from group to one to activities during periods to respond to national restrictions.

4.7.3 A service was offered to the Courts both virtually and face to face with adaptations made on a national and local level. We have supported the Courts to make progress with youth case backlogs and cases are currently being dealt with in a timely way for most young people.

The service continued to deliver all areas of statutory duties and are now working with partners to respond to increased vulnerability for both young people and their families as a result of the pandemic.

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 The successes of the TYSS are being built on within the forthcoming Early help and Adolescent Strategy which will be subject to formal Council Consultation processes. Details of this will provided outside of the remit of this report.

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 This report provides the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to understand the work and impact of the Targeted Youth Support Service.

7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 To provide Children and Education Committee with the opportunity to oversee, comment on and endorse the work of the service.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 NA

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 NA

Legal Implications

9.2 None as the report is for information and to invite comment.

Equalities Implications

9.3 NA

Rural Implications

9.4 NA

Carbon Impact Assessment

9.5 The Carbon Impact Assessment is neutral. There are no recommendations in this report that propose any change.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 NA

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1. [An inspection of youth offending services in Peterborough \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](http://justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)