

CABINET MEETING –3RD FEBRUARY 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Title of Report:

Sunderland Youth Offending Service – Inspection Report

Author:

Executive Director of Children's Services

Purpose of Report:

This report informs Cabinet of the outcome of the Inspection of Sunderland Youth Offending Service which took place in October 2009.

This current programme of Inspections of Youth Offending Teams is being led by HMI Probation and focuses on the quality of youth offending work being delivered to children and young people who have offended, as well as their victims.

The official report on this inspection process was published on 6th January 2010.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is asked to consider the key actions arising from the YOS Inspection Improvement Plan and agree that the Sunderland Youth Offending Service Board, chaired by the Executive Director of Children's Services, has responsibility for ensuring that all actions in the improvement plan are implemented.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/ Policy Framework – Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The published report has been considered by the YOS Partnership Board. Following the publication, an Improvement Action Plan has been developed to address the areas for improvement identified within the report which the YOS Partnership Board approved at a meeting on 18th January 2010.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

Sunderland Youth Offending Service is funded in part through a core Youth Justice Board (YJB) grant, and Youth Justice Board grants for specific initiatives. It is a requirement of the YJB that YOTs participate in the inspection process and implement an Improvement Plan addressing the recommendations arising from the YOS Inspection. No other options are therefore recommended.

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Children, Young People and Learning

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

INSPECTION OF SUNDERLAND YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report informs Cabinet of the outcome of the Inspection of Youth Offending Team in Sunderland which took place in October 2009.
- 1.2 This current programme of Inspections of Youth Offending Teams being led by HMI Probation focuses on the quality of youth offending work being delivered to children and young people who have offended, as well as their victims.
- 1.3 The official report on this inspection process was published on 6th January 2010.

2. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to consider the key actions arising from the YOS Inspection Improvement Plan and agree that the Sunderland Youth Offending Service Board, chaired by the Executive Director of Children's Services, has responsibility for ensuring that all actions in the improvement plan are implemented.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Inspection of Sunderland Youth Offending Service, which took place in October 2009, is a revised Inspection process and assesses the quality of work with children and young people who offend, with a particular focus on risk of harm to others and the safeguarding of children.
- 3.2 The outcome of the inspection was overall very positive and the report concludes that the YOS has good capacity to improve. The published report confirms that Sunderland YOS has achieved an average of 68%. This means that Sunderland have achieved a "MODERATE" result, indicating the service has only moderate improvement to make to improve its practices. In making a comparison with the 11 YOTs within the Region, Sunderland YOS has achieved average or above average scores in each of the 3 sections assessed.
- 3.3 The Inspection Team visit took place in the week beginning 5th October 2009, during which examination of a random sample of cases (62) and interviews with case managers took place.

- 3.4 The overall percentage score achieved for each of the 3 sections assessed by Sunderland YOS of 68% is calculated by taking the average of the scores achieved in each section.

Scoring is:

75 or over	MINIMUM improvement required
60-75	MODERATE improvement required
40-60	SUBSTANTIAL improvement required
Less than 40	DRASTIC improvement required

- 3.5 As a result of the Inspection, the following recommendations were made:

Changes are necessary to ensure that, in a higher proportion of cases:

- a good quality assessment, using Asset, is completed when the case starts.
- a good quality assessment of the individual's *Risk of Harm to others* is completed at the start.
- risk management plans and vulnerability management plans are completed on time and are good quality.
- the plan of work with the case is regularly reviewed and correctly recorded in Asset with a frequency consistent with national standards for youth offending services, and the interventions undertaken with each individual are sequenced appropriately to their needs.
- there is evidence in the file of regular quality assurance by management.

- 3.6 Following the publication of the report on the 6th January 2010, the YOS was required to develop an Improvement Action Plan, agreed by the YOS Partnership Board, to address the areas for improvement within the report. This is to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board Regional Office within 4 weeks of the publication date. The YJB will lead on the monitoring of progress against the Action Plan.

- 3.7 The findings from this Inspection will feed into the wider annual Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process of the council

4. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 4.1 To consider the key actions arising from the YOS Inspection Improvement Plan and advise if a further report on progress against the plan is required.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 5.1 Sunderland Youth Offending Service is funded in part through a core Youth Justice Board (YJB) grant, and Youth Justice Board grants for specific initiatives. It is a requirement of the YJB that YOTs participate in the inspection process and implement an Improvement Plan addressing the recommendations arising from the YOS Inspection. No other options are therefore recommended.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific financial implications for Sunderland Youth Offending Service as a result of the outcome of the inspection process. The improvement plan developed by the service to address the areas for improvement identified within the published report can be delivered within existing resources.

7. RELEVANT CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Youth Offending Service and its Partnership Board was afforded the opportunity of commenting on the draft report in terms of factual accuracy before its publication.
- 7.2 The YOS Partnership Board have been fully consulted on the development of the Improvement Action Plan required by the Youth Justice Board to address the identified areas for improvement within the Inspection report.
- 7.3 Specific objectives and actions identified within the Improvement Action Plan will be integrated into the Youth Justice Plan for 2010/2011 which will be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Sunderland Youth Offending Service Core Case Inspection Report – HMI Probation.

