

INSPECTION OF SUNDERLAND YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee of the outcome of the Inspection of Sunderland Youth Offending Service which took place in October 2009.

2. Background

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The official report on this inspection process was published on 6th January 2010.

3. Current Position

- 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.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The findings from this Inspection will feed into the wider annual Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process of the council.

5 Recommendation

Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the content of the report and advise on any further information that it wants to receive.

6 Background Papers

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

Glossary

Asset	A structured assessment tool based on research and developed by the Youth Justice Board looking at the young person's offence, personal circumstances, attitudes and beliefs which have contributed to their offending behaviour
YOS/T	Youth Offending Service/Team
YJB	Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

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