

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Corporate Parenting Board

YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE - YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD INSPECTION & UPDATE ON CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

Executive Member for Children, Families & Learning: Cllr Mike Carr

Director of Children, Families & Learning: Gill Rollings

4th March 2010

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Corporate Parenting Board with a summary of findings from the 2010 Youth Justice Board Inspection and to give an update on YOS work with children looked after in Middlesbrough.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advises the Executive to note the information relating to the Youth Justice Board Inspection and issues for children looked after. A full copy of South Tees YOS Inspection Report is available through HM Inspectorate of Probation web site.

IF THIS IS A KEY DECISION, WHICH KEY DECISION TEST APPLIES?

3. It is over the financial threshold (£75,000)
It has a significant impact on 2 or more wards
Non Key

DECISION IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

4. For the purposes of the scrutiny call in procedure this report is

Non-urgent
Urgent report

BACKGROUND

5. South Tees Youth Offending Service is a multi-agency service established as a result of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. Our aim is to prevent and reduce offending by children and young people aged 10 to 17 years across the boroughs of Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. We work closely with partners from Police, Probation, Children, Families & Learning, Health, Safe in Tees Valley and the Youth Service as well as a number of voluntary organisations.
6. In October 2009 South Tees YOS was subject to a Core Case Inspection which included examination of 78 case files, 40 of which were from Middlesbrough.
7. The report was published in January 2010 and provides percentage scores for each of the “practice criteria”, essentially indicating how often each aspect of work met the level of quality the inspectors were looking for. The focus was principally on Public Protection and Safeguarding aspects of the work in each case sample.

SOUTH TEES

8. There is a headline comment by each score to indicate whether the inspectorate considers that this aspect of work now requires **MINIMUM, MODERATE, SUBSTANTIAL or DRASTIC** improvement in the immediate future.
9. The three main areas of judgement for **South Tees** were:

Safeguarding	62%	MODERATE improvement required
Public Protection Risk of Harm	61%	MODERATE improvement required
Public Protection Likelihood of Re-Offending	65%	MODERATE improvement required

MIDDLESBROUGH AND REDCAR AND CLEVELAND

10. The overall results for Middlesbrough were significantly higher than those for Redcar due to a variety of issues which have been addressed within the Improvement Plan.
11. The Middlesbrough specific scores were:

Safeguarding:	74%
Risk of Harm:	66%
Likelihood of Re-offending:	67%

A Post Inspection Improvement Action Plan has been developed to address each of the identified areas, and this has been approved by the Youth Justice Board.

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER TARGET

12. There were no specific concerns or recommendations in relation to children looked after and we continue to monitor issues around this group of vulnerable children and young people.
13. In relation to the joint target around children who are looked after entering the Criminal Justice system, this currently stands at 2.1%, which is well within target. However, we do have concerns about the use of Reprimands and Final Warnings following incidents in the school setting and we are monitoring this closely.
14. We are proposing the use of Restorative processes as an alternative to criminalising young people whose behaviour in a residential or educational setting is particularly challenging. This mirrors the work we undertook some time ago working with local children's homes, which was welcomed and has proved to be successful in reducing the numbers entering the Criminal Justice system from that route.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no specific financial or legal implications arising from this report. As a town-wide service, this report will be of interest to all Members.

RECOMMENDATION

16. It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board advises the Executive to note the information relating to the Youth Justice Board Inspection and issues for children looked after. A full copy of South Tees YOS Inspection Report is available through HM Inspectorate of Probation web site.

REASONS

17. It is important that elected members are aware and approve of this aspect of Youth Offending Service work in order that they can effectively fulfil their responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Children Act 1989.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
 - Joint Inspection of South Tees Youth Offending Service Report published January 2010.

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