

<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Member for Culture and Education Director of Education and Partnerships
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive
<b>Date:</b>	20 June 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel Service Response: Youth Offending and Partnership Working with Schools
<b>Report for:</b>	Information
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Strategic priority:</b>	Children and young people
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Urgent:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Why:</b>	Not Applicable

**Executive summary**

The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel requested information in relation to South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) and partnership working with schools. The full scrutiny panel report and associated action plan are attached as appendices to this report. This report is for information only.

Evidence has been provided to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel in relation to the issues, challenges and barriers to engagement with education for children in Middlesbrough who are open to STYJS. In order to assist in understanding how the Service currently works with schools, and identify any effective practice in respect of partnership arrangements, the Panel have also been provided with background information including; the role of STYJS, inspection findings, outcome measures, and key performance indicators.

Findings were presented to the Panel and STYJS has provided a response as to how the identified issues are currently tackled.

The Panel subsequently drew up a series of recommendations based on the information presented and the action plan now requires approval from Executive.

## **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Executive approval of the action plan produced in response to the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel relating to 'Youth Offending and Partnership Working with Schools'.

## **Background and relevant information**

2. The significant majority of students attend school each year and go on to achieve great things. In some circumstances a small but crucial minority may become involved in crime and therefore require support and rehabilitation. The purpose of this review was to examine how South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) works in partnership with schools in Middlesbrough to improve school attendance, educational engagement and attainment for those young people involved in the criminal justice system. The Panel requested information on the role of STYJS, barriers to engagement, how the Service works with Schools, and effective partnership arrangements to support the delivery of high-quality and bespoke education to children in the youth justice system.
3. Young people in the youth justice system have often experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences and consequently there can be numerous and complex reasons contributing to a young person not attending school and / or being excluded. There are some stark statistics relating to children in the youth justice system for example 65% have been suspended from school, and 47% have been permanently excluded. The Panel were provided with statistics relating to the STYJS caseload (contained within the main body of the report), current outcome measures, key performance indicators, and inspection findings.
4. The challenges and barriers to children in the youth justice system engaging in education can be varied and complex, however can typically be described as exposure to exploitation, such as substance misuse and/or the inability to regulate behaviour resulting in violence or persistently disruptive behaviour. The panel were provided with in depth information relating to how the service works with schools in response to such issues and the report outlines this in detail.
5. The Panel concluded that children known to youth justice encounter challenges in accessing education, training and employment (ETE), and acknowledged that adverse childhood experiences, coupled with other complexities can contribute to a young person not attending school and / or being excluded. The Panel have seen an increase in partnership working with schools in the last year, and could see the benefit of adopting a system wide 'contextual safeguarding' approach with partners. They concluded STYJS staff were working hard to ensure the delivery of a high-quality, personalised and responsive ETE service for young people involved, or at risk of being involved, in the criminal justice system and have made a series of recommendations to strengthen the work further. These recommendations have been transposed into an action plan with clear timescales for the Service to respond.

## **What decision(s) are being recommended?**

That the Executive:

- Note the content of the report for information.
- Approve the action plan.

**Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

6. Not applicable.

**Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

7. Not applicable

**Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

***Legal***

8. Not applicable

***Strategic priorities and risks***

9. Not applicable

***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

10. Not applicable

***Financial***

11. Not applicable

## Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
<a href="#">Executive to agree action plan</a>	Kay Dargue	30.11.23

## Appendices

1	Final Report of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel 'Youth Offending and Partnership working with Schools'.
2	Action plan dated 4.4.23
3	

## Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

### Contact:

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