



Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015-16



Foreword

I have pleasure in presenting Gateshead Youth Offending Team's Strategic Plan for 2015/16. This is part of our continuing commitment to keeping the Youth Justice Board, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, Board Members, partner agencies and employees up to date with the work of the team.

The report provides an update on the Key Priorities set for 2014/15 and progress and successes achieved during the last year. The strategic plan looks forward to how, with partners, the team will continue to deliver improved outcomes for some of our most vulnerable young people and help to steer them from offending behaviour into education and positive activities so that they can achieve their full potential.

The Youth Offending Team (YOT) continues to work within an environment of continuing significant change and, financial constraint and whilst youth crime has fallen nationally the statutory team within YOT has continued to work on reducing re-offending and custody levels within Gateshead. The managers and staff have been proactive in identifying training for staff in Speech, Language and Communication and autism which should help with assessing the needs of young people. The statutory team have developed lead roles within the team for: young people who are 'Looked After', bespoke work with 'young girls' known to the YOT and specialist work in relation to 'sexualised behaviour and domestic violence'. The YOT is using the YJB 'Live Tracking Tool' to identify themes in young people's behaviour to tailor specific targeted interventions for these high risk young people.

During this continuing period of financial constraint the YOT has continued to progress the prevention team by further expanding the Youth Crime Education Programme (YCEP), which has extended the programme of work to more schools in the Gateshead area and has increased referrals to the team from partner agencies. There has been development of key roles to address the 'Child to Parent' violence that was identified through in-depth analysis of the work of the team; and the development of a post to work with young people who are displaying 'worrying sexualised behaviour'. The YCEP team continues to play a key role in delivering on our Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy and continues to reduce the number of young people as first time entrants into the youth justice system.

The team continues to have a pivotal role in the development of Phase 2 of the Families Gateshead Programme ensuring that a whole family approach is taken in their work with young people. I would like to thank everyone for the hard work they do in improving the life chances and outcomes for children, young people and their families in Gateshead.

Councillor Angela Douglas
Cabinet Member
Children & Young People





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National and Local Context

Children Gateshead, the plan for Children, Young People and Families in Gateshead 2014-17 continued to set our priorities for children, young people and their families. The plan addresses the wider issues of families and communities, which may have an impact upon long term life chances. The plan is linked to the Gateshead Vision 2030 and the overall community strategy for Gateshead.

Our Children's Plan priorities for 2014-17 are:

- Safeguarding children and strengthening families – from early help to statutory social care
- Tackling child poverty and raising families income
- Reducing risk and promoting resilience – giving children the best start in life
- Education – opportunity and achievement for all

Vision 2030

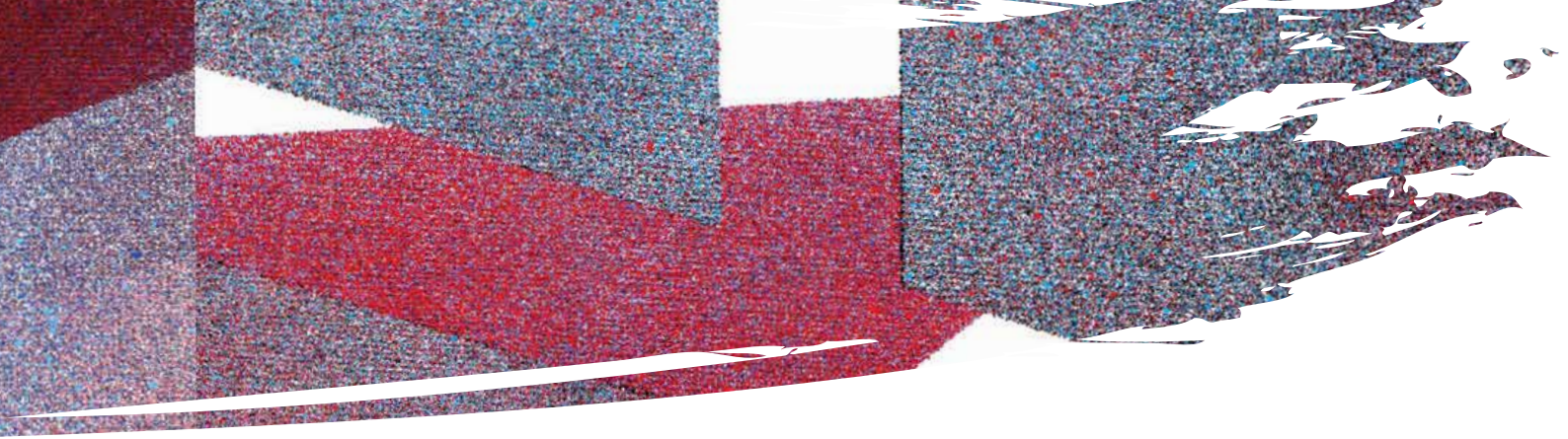
The vision for Gateshead is:

Local people realising their full potential, enjoying the best quality of life in a healthy, equal, safe, prosperous and sustainable Gateshead.

Our plan within this vision will be to focus upon the needs of children, young people and families to ensure they have the opportunity to flourish by addressing the key barriers and complex challenges that face them.

Due to austerity measures, a £60 million pound funding gap and a significant loss of resources across all areas of business within the Local Authority, Vision 2030 is currently being reviewed and refreshed. A transformation programme is underway and it is likely that by September 2015 we will have a clear strategy with renewed priorities for the future.

In the interim Gateshead YOT will strive to further improve upon the delivery of relevant and high quality interventions for the young people and communities to ensure we remain one of the safest places throughout England and Wales to live.



National Picture

National policy continues to focus upon localism with an expectation that local authorities and their partners operate in such a way that collectively they deliver services that meet the specific needs for the area. The targets for Youth Offending Teams remain unchanged and these are to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system, reduce re-offending of young people and reduce the use of custody.

Over the past year there has been a change in Government and it is not yet clear what the future model or targets of Youth Justice Services across England and Wales will look like. The Ministry of Justice commissioned a stock take of the Youth Justice System in England and Wales in 2014 the findings of which are published. The purpose of the stock take was to give the Ministry a better understanding of how local youth justice services are delivered and to ensure the Government can provide the best support to young people and their communities. Alongside the stocktake the Youth Justice Board undertook a review of Youth Justice Services and Gateshead was chosen as one of the Youth Offending Teams to be visited.

Government policy continues to place emphasis upon early intervention and in line with this, Gateshead has aligned it's delivery model to the National Troubled Families Agenda to ensure we provide a whole team around the family approach to preventing youth crime.

Locally

Due to austerity measures across all of the partnership, Gateshead YOT recognises that there are some business risks to service delivery for the YOT aligned to the reduction in resources and changes to partnership models of delivery. Notwithstanding this, Gateshead YOT are working hard with partners to try to ensure we have access to expedited, specialist and relevant resources for young people at times of both planned and unplanned need.

Gateshead Youth Offending Team faces new challenges during 2015/16 with the introduction of the new case management system Asset Plus. There will be a whole service change in the way we assess the needs of both young people and the wider family unit. This will require an extensive training programme for staff and volunteers and it is envisaged the new methods will involve a substantial amount of management time to support staff during the transition across all service areas. In addition the YOT will continue to focus upon early intervention and prevention using the Troubled Families model of delivery. In addition there will be a specific emphasis this year in the areas of 'Child to Adult Violence', 'Child Sexual Exploitation' and 'Cyber Enabled Crimes'.

As a result of recent HMIP Inspection Reports and a review of the services we deliver to girls there has been a significant amount of research and networking nationally to ensure we have access to the most up to date and relevant interventions when working with young female adolescents. This work will be a priority for Gateshead YOT going forward. This has resulted in a recent change within the team's structure that has enabled the YOT to develop the role of a dedicated worker to manage all Looked-after Children who enter the Criminal Justice System. This initiative has further improved relationships and communication with wider Children Service Teams.

The Police and Crime Commissioner continue to support the work of Gateshead YOT and we will be working in partnership with the PCC to further develop our capacity to 'live-track' re-offending data and to offer regular reports to the PCC of the Child to Adult Violence work which they part funded during 2014/15. Alongside this we are currently assessing our Community Remedy Offer and we will be providing a proposal to the PCC during 2015/16 to seek funding from the PCC to enable us to extend the nationally recognised work already being offered by Gateshead YOT.

The Youth Justice Board Context

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales strategic objectives for 2015-18 are:

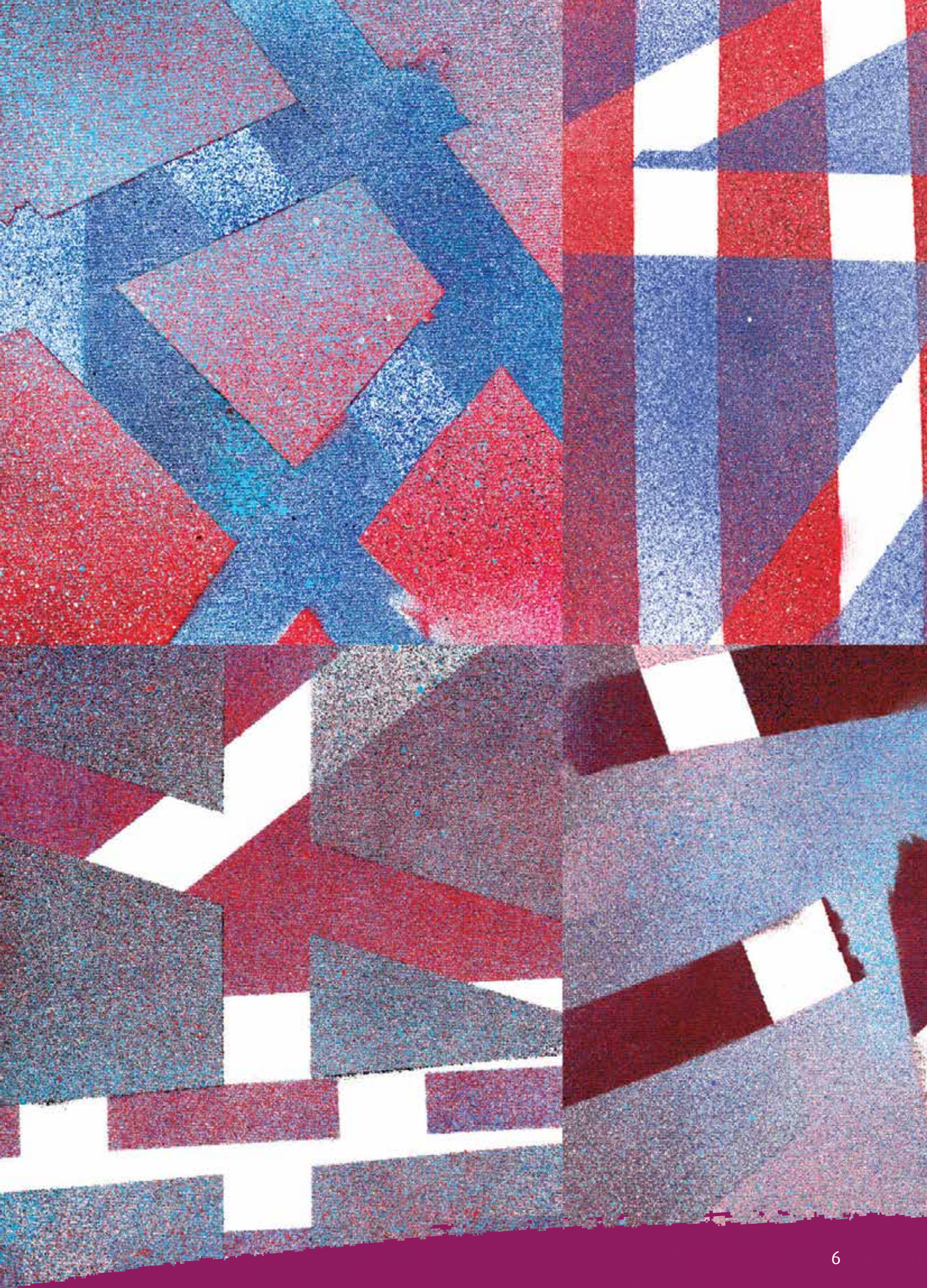
- Oversee the delivery of distinct youth justice services which deliver against the three youth justice outcomes as well as ensuring the safety of children and young people.
- Maximise the influence of the work to key partners nationally and locally to contribute to the effective delivery of distinct youth justice services within the community and custody.
- Work in partnership with the Welsh Government to make appropriate adaptations to the youth justice system in order to reflect the policy context of a devolved Government.
- Develop a more holistic and responsive approach to the way in which statutory functions are commissioned, develop research and good practice and improve capacity to build, translate and disseminate the evidence across the sector.
- Make better use of existing statutory powers to improve performance of youth justice services in the community and custody with a specific focus upon reducing re-offending.
- Improve data collection and analysis to inform the continuous improvement of youth justice services. The Youth Justice Board will press for more effective transfer of data so that those making decisions about a child's welfare has the fullest and most up to date information on which to base those decisions.

Community Safety Board

Gateshead Community Safety Board Partnership Priorities for 2015/16 are:

Following the completion of the eighth statutory strategic assessment in December 2014 Gateshead identified the following priorities to ensure Gateshead remains responsive to local community needs:

- Protecting Vulnerable Groups
- Addressing re-offending
- Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Addressing the drivers of crime



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Resources and Value for Money

Core YOT funding

The table below shows how the funding for the Core YOT functions are changing between 2015/16.

	2014/15 Budget			2015/16 Budget			
	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Difference
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income							
YJB Grant	510		510	483		483	-27
Police	14	48	62	0	49	49	-13
Probation	51	28	79	25	44	69	-10
Health	62	60	122	62	18	80	-42
Gateshead MBC	898		898	810		810	-88
	1,535	136	1,671	1,380	111	1,483	-180
Expenditure							
Salaries	1,367	136	1,503	1,270	111	1,381	-122
Activity	148		175	92		92	-56
Overheads			0	17		17	17
Equipment	20		20	1		1	-19
	1,535	136	1,671	1,380	111	1,491	-180

The YJB Good Practice Grant has been initially reduced by £38k from £521k to £483k. However, we are receiving specific grants of £2k for Restorative Justice and £10k for unpaid work.

We are no longer receiving a YOT Grant notified in advance from the Police and Crime Commissioner, which was usually in the region of £30k. However, in 2014/15 bids were invited and accepted by the PCC for specific pieces of work and £62k was received in total throughout the year. It may be possible to submit further bids in 2015/16. The YOT receives the services of a full-time Police Officer.

The contribution from Probation reverts to the usual amount of £25k, which has been maintained whilst the Probation Service has been through a major national reorganisation. In recent years, we have received a monetary contribution in lieu of a Probation Officer post which has been vacant for some of the year. However, in 2015/16 we have a full time staff member in place for the full year.

The Health cash contribution is expected to remain the same, although the in-kind provision of staff is reducing from 1 full time equivalent health employee who specialises in drug education and rehabilitation to a nominated link worker within the Platform service who will attend the YOT office one day per week, carrying out generic interventions and supported by colleagues from Platform. The dedicated nurse position now works only with allocated Platform clients.

Gateshead Council has been making savings across all directorates and in this instance a reduction of £88k in their contribution has resulted in the loss of 2.2 fte posts, consisting of the deletion of 1.2 posts and the transfer of a senior manager's post to the Troubled Families budget.

Overall there has been a major reduction in the income of the YOT totalling £180,000 (11% of the budget). This is made up of £155k in cash terms and £25k in in-kind contributions. The in-kind contributions of staff reduce the fte contribution from 4.1 to 3.1

Remand

In common with other YOTs in the North East, Gateshead does not make major use of the Remand system. The relatively low remand grant of £12k reflects the few bed nights used in the past three years. The grant would pay for 69 nights in a YOI or 25 nights in a secure training centre. The number of bed nights in 2014/15 was 75, however to date the remand spend for 2015/16 has exceeded the grant allocation.

	2013/14 Budget			2014/15 Budget			
	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Difference
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income							
YJB Grant	13	0	13	12	0	12	-1
Expenditure							
YOI Recharge	13	0	13	12	0	12	-1



Structure and Governance

Gateshead Council continues to face increasing demands for services and reducing resources to meet those needs. The Council's roles and responsibilities, and those of partners are changing rapidly, as are the expectations of local citizens. Technology has a growing significance in all lives and, increasingly, we have to think and work more flexibly across many boundaries.

In this context, Gateshead have taken a step back to reaffirm our long term Vision – Vision 2030, and to consider how we play our role in helping to achieve that shared vision for Gateshead. Our approach is to start from the person, not the institution. We have looked carefully at the evidence to understand the issues that individuals and communities are facing and have considered how we can best contribute to achieving the best possible outcomes for local people.

Currently Gateshead YOT sits within Care Wellbeing and Learning Service alongside the Family Intervention Team (FIT), the Play Service, Early Years, Youth and Community and Connexions.

The YOT is physically co-located with the Referral and Assessment and Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams of Children and Families Social Care, which has strengthened joint working between Teams.

The YOT and the FIT are both aligned to the Troubled Families agenda (known in Gateshead as Families Gateshead). The YOT Service Manager co-ordinates the delivery of this programme on behalf of the Local Authority.

The YOT Board is Chaired by the Service Director for Children and Families Support and has a good representation of partners attending. Due to a potential review of structures within the local authority and with some of the YOT partner agencies, it is envisaged that the Board will need to review membership during this financial year.

The Board continues to concentrate its core business on:

- Budget
- Performance
- Emerging Issues
- Partners





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Partnership Arrangements

Gateshead YOT has a strong and effective partnership which is led by the YOT Board.

2014/15 presented Gateshead YOT with some significant challenges linked to our partnership arrangements and during this time we reviewed service provision whilst trying to ensure young people and families maintained expedited access to services when risk or need is identified. During 2015/16 a review of membership and attendance of the YOT Board will be undertaken.

During 2014/15 Partners reviewed and altered the service provision provided to the YOT. In most areas this has resulted in a reduction of resource to Gateshead YOT and the specific changes to service delivery included:

Substance misuse

The Health commissioned Service has moved from SMART to DISC with the specific Gateshead Young Peoples Service named 'Platform Gateshead'. The new service offer has been agreed in a service level agreement (SLA) brokered by the Health Commissioner, however the new model has seen a reduction to resources allocated directly to the YOT.

The changes have resulted in a review of the referral process which has led to a more generic approach for YOT clients where previously bespoke work was available on an expedited needs basis. Further changes have resulted in a reduction in allocated YOT resources moving from a full time seconded worker who was visible to the team on a regular basis to a designated lead for YOT working one day per week within the YOT.

General health

The general health nurse currently is based within the new PLATFORM service. All young people open to PLATFORM are offered an assessment on their general health. There will be a requirement this year for health partners to adopt the new Assetplus health assessment tools.



Parenting

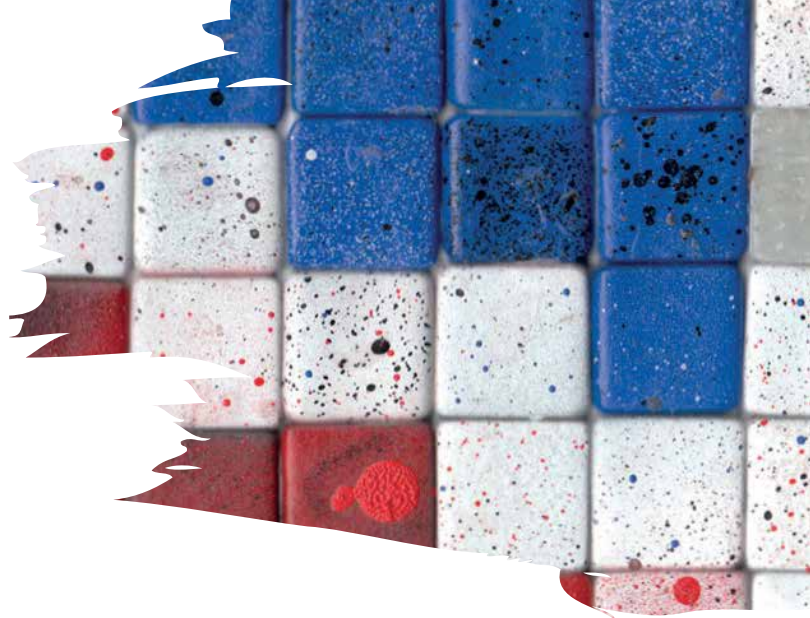
The YOT continues to commission Barnardos for the delivery of a wide range of parenting support across Gateshead. The YOT Team Manager attends the Local Authority Corporate Parenting Group and has regularly 1/4ly meetings with a senior manager from Barardos to addresses any staff or other service delivery issues.

Housing

The YOT Team Manager attends the Vulnerable Person's Housing Group and the Young Persons Housing Working Group. Emergency accommodation has been established for urgent cases through the Service Director Children and Families who via the Referral and Assessment Team manages access to Gateshead's own recently opened hostel. Accommodation continues to provide substantial challenges for the 17-18 year olds who find themselves in need of alternative placements.

Mental Health

South of Tyne Children and Young Peoples Service has now changed to the Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS) and is now structured on a Newcastle / Gateshead area basis in line with National Health reform. When this restructure took place a senior nurse was appointed to cover Gateshead YOT. This nurse has not only responsibility for Gateshead but also for the Newcastle CAMHS worker and a separate complex caseload. These commitments have resulted in a significant reduction of around 50% visible presence and access to the mental health nurse within the YOT.



National Probation Service

The Seconded Probation Officer has a pivotal role in managing 16 to 17 year old young people who present as medium or high risk. This established role is integrated into YOT and NPS, and has links into CRC's. This involves the probation Officer managing all potential and agreed transfers to NPS/CRC using the Y2A (Youth to Adult) portal system, working directly with 16 and 17 years olds under youth Justice national standards and preparing young people for transfer and management under NPS/CRC national standards. This involves the coordination of current and potential allocated workers from both arenas, along with parents and young people, who are introduced to each other in person as the 'core' working team around the young person.

Through the use of the Y2A, up to date assessment, planning and intervention information is transferred securely and timely to the receiving NPS/CRC Officer following an assessment of risk by the YOT seconded Probation Officer. This process defines the most appropriate referral route into either NPS or CRC.

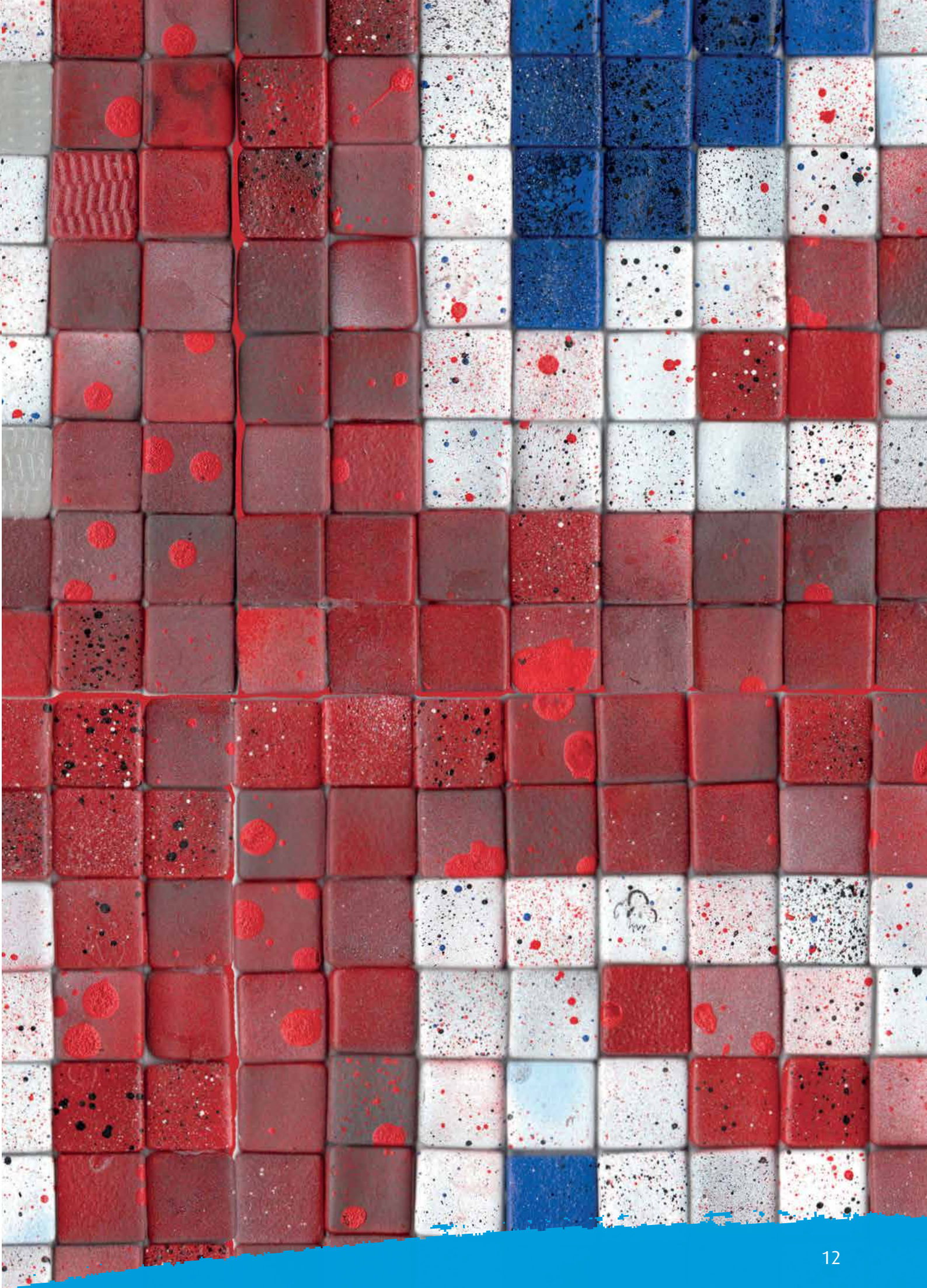
The positive relationship between NSP/CRC and YOT has supported seamless transfers with open and ongoing communication and joint working arrangements, all of which supports motivation and compliance within this difficult to engage group of young people.

Police

The Service Manager meets with the Police at the YOT Board and through regular meetings to address any issues and practice. In the last year the Team Manager failed to meet with the new area supervisor for the YOT PC due to several restructures of roles and responsibilities within the police. While a formal meeting has not taken place roles and responsibilities have been updated and agreed with the police following the appointment of a new police officer. These remain subject to continuous monitoring undertaken by the YOT Team Manager to ensure that local demands do not detract from the legal requirements of the YOT.

The emerging Police Commissioner agenda has resulted in the six Tyne and Wear YOTs meeting on a monthly basis with the Northumbria Police Commissioner and / or her representative being invited to all meetings.

The YOT part time Police Intelligence Officer post has been deleted. The primary role of this officer was, to monitor young people who are identified as DYOs, conduct doorstep curfew checks for non electronically monitored curfews and provide general community intelligence for young people actively involved with Gateshead YOT. This role has now fallen to the YOT Police Officer which is a further reduction in resources to the YOT. As the young people in the statutory service are a more complex challenging group this could be a gap in service delivery in being able to manage these young people within the community.



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Key Priorities for 2015/16

Gateshead Youth Offending Team Priorities for 2015/16

Gateshead YOT partnership has set out its plans to address gaps and risks identified within the 2015/16 Capacity and Capability Self-Assessment process. The proposed priorities for 2015/16 are:

- 1 Implement Asset Plus which will require a cultural case management change across both Prevention and Statutory areas of business.
- 2 Further develop unpaid work and develop trading opportunities within and external to Gateshead for delivery of community reparative activity.
- 3 Maintain a low level of first time entrants by reviewing our relationship and data collection structures with Northumbria Police to ensure children are referred to Gateshead Youth Crime Prevention Services at the earliest opportunity.
- 4 Ensure all service delivery is aligned to the requirements of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 5 Further develop consistent health provision for young people within YOT with a specific focus upon improving assessment of speech, language and communication needs.
- 6 Increase the number of Families Gateshead cases where crime is a contributing factor to eligibility.
- 7 Further development of the re-offending live tracker in order that Gateshead can track more up-to-date performance than is yet available from the Police National Computer. Allowing for more swift action to be taken to monitor and manage re-offending trends in line with the findings of the HMIP Joint Thematic Inspection of Resettlement Services to children by Youth Offending Teams and Partner Agencies.
- 8 To be at the forefront of safeguarding those adolescents whose offending behaviour is heavily influenced by exploitation and abuse by others, for example those experiencing child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, child to adult abuse and those affected by cyber-enabled crimes.
- 9 As a result of the findings of the HMIP Thematic Inspection of Girls in the Criminal Justice System Gateshead YOT is committed to further developing more specialist skills and resources when working with girls in order to improve outcomes, increase resilience, protect the public and reduce the risk of re-offending.
- 10 Review the membership and attendance levels of the YOT Management Board.





Performance Data 2014/15

Reporting of performance data to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) is set against the three youth justice outcome indicators set by the UK Government, as follows:

- reducing first-time entrants (FTE) to the criminal justice system
- reducing reoffending
- reducing the use of custody

These are reported to and monitored by the YJB, and locally reported to the YOT Board. The national and local statistic show ongoing reduction in the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system, those receiving court and pre-court outcomes, rates of custody and reoffending. The performance of Gateshead YOT in the three National outcome Indicators is an encouraging picture with some improvements, as well as favourably comparing with YOT's regionally and nationally.

First-Time Entrants (FTE) – This indicator has shown a consistent reduction since 2008, and has generally achieved target. The large reduction in numbers of first-time entrants over recent years has been as a result of evidence-based early intervention and diversion, delivered through multi-agency partnerships.

We reported 67 FTE's during 2014/15, 13.0% reduction from the previous year's FTE of 77, continuing the downward trend experienced locally and nationally since 2010. The YJB data for this target is gathered from the Police National Computer, as well as reported by YOT's to the YJB, and stated per 100,000 of 10-17 year old population.

The latest YJB published data for January 2014-December 2014 shows the rate of FTE's for Gateshead at 464, below the regional average (472), demonstrating the effectiveness of the local initiatives in reducing the number of young people becoming FTE's (FTE Data taken from PNC).

Gateshead's FTE's	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Number	371	267	120	115	103	82
Rate/100,000	2,027	1,501	691	641	576	464
North East	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Number	5,172	3,487	2,215	2,085	1603	3,426
Rate/100,000	2,063	1,427	930	875	689	478
National	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Number	75,111	58,457	43,111	34,931	26,127	21,118
Rate/100,000	1,493	1,180	884	696	528	431

We have delivered a significant number of Triage and Prevention interventions since the re-organisation of the team which was to promote joined-up youth crime prevention and work with partners. The introduction of the LASPO Act, which will have a significant and on-going impact on the number of FTE's in Gateshead. During April 2014 and March 2015 there were 59 Prevention interventions, and 109 Triage Interventions delivered in the period. The reoffending rate for Triage to date is 8.25%, and the current rate for Prevention interventions is 8.47%, demonstrating the effectiveness of both these referral processes.

Use of Custody - Reducing the use of custodial sentences has been a focus for the YOT, we introduced Compliance Panels in 2013 alongside robust community interventions to manage offenders in the community, which have provided good results overall. The latest YJB published data for **Apr 14-Mar 15** shows the rate of Custody for Gateshead at 0.28 (per 1,000 of 10-17 population) this represents 5 Custodial Sentences during the period. This is a decrease of -0.34 year on year. This is lower than the Regional average (0.46) and the National average (0.42) for the period.

Gateshead's Custody Rates	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Custodial Sentences	30	13	14	7	11	5
Rate of Custody / 1000	1.62	0.71	0.78	0.39	0.62	0.28
North East	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Custodial Sentences	245	177	153	128	139	332
Rate of Custody / 1000	0.98	0.73	0.66	0.55	0.60	0.46
National	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Custodial Sentences	5059	4349	4099	3101	2211	2064
Rate of Custody / 1000	0.99	0.86	0.83	0.63	0.45	0.42

Rate of Reoffending - Reducing reoffending has been highlighted as a priority by the YJB and the Secretary of State for Justice. We committed last year to undertake targeted work to reduce reoffending, improve outcomes in the team, and develop local reporting to highlight prolific offenders for targeted work. The frequency of reoffending by some young people in the service is not reducing, and this reflects the national picture and the complexity of the young people we are currently working with.

The latest YJB published data from PNC for the Rate of Re-offending is for the period, July 2012 – June 2013. The percentage rate of reoffending is 37.4% - this is the number of young people who go on to reoffend in the year, which is a 0.1% increase year on year. The frequency rate of reoffending is 0.99 – this is the number of offences committed by those who reoffend, this is a -0.09 decrease year on year.

Gateshead's Proven Rate of Reoffending	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Offences/Offender	0.86	0.96	0.87	1.05	0.99
% Reoffending (# reoffender)	32.4	36.3	34.4	33.5	37.4
North East	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Offences/Offender	0.97	0.92	1.18	1.13	1.19
% Reoffending (# reoffender)	33.6	36.7	39.5	37.6	38.2
National	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Offences/Offender	0.90	0.92	1.03	1.02	1.10
% Reoffending (# reoffender)	32.8	33.3	35.8	35.4	36.5

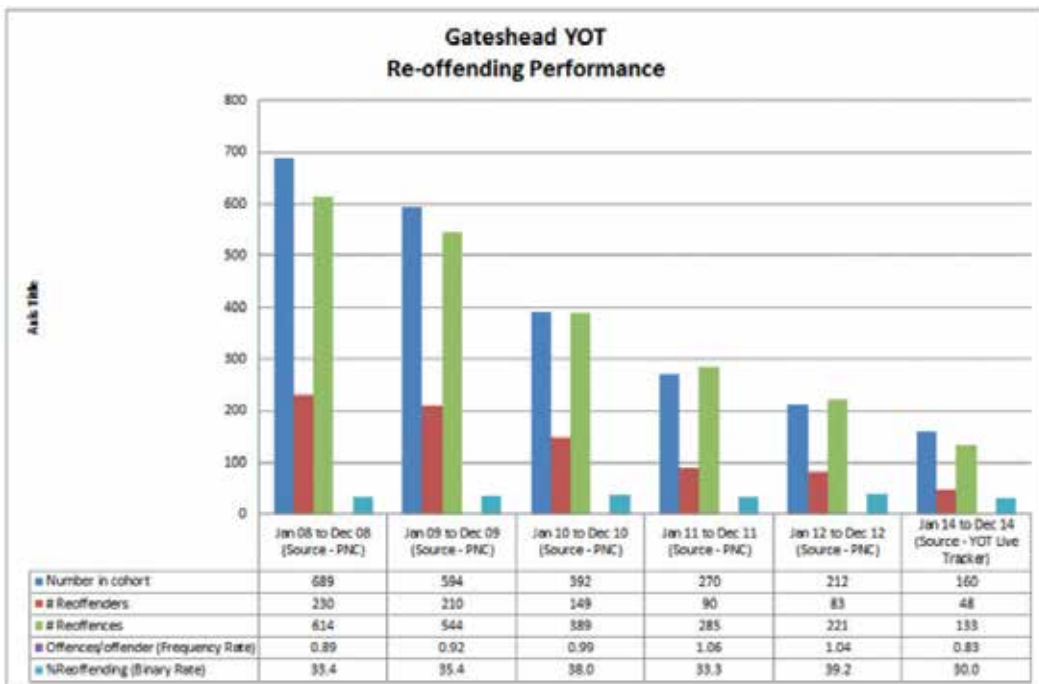
Re-offending Rates through use of Re-offending Live Tracker for period Jan 14 to Dec 14

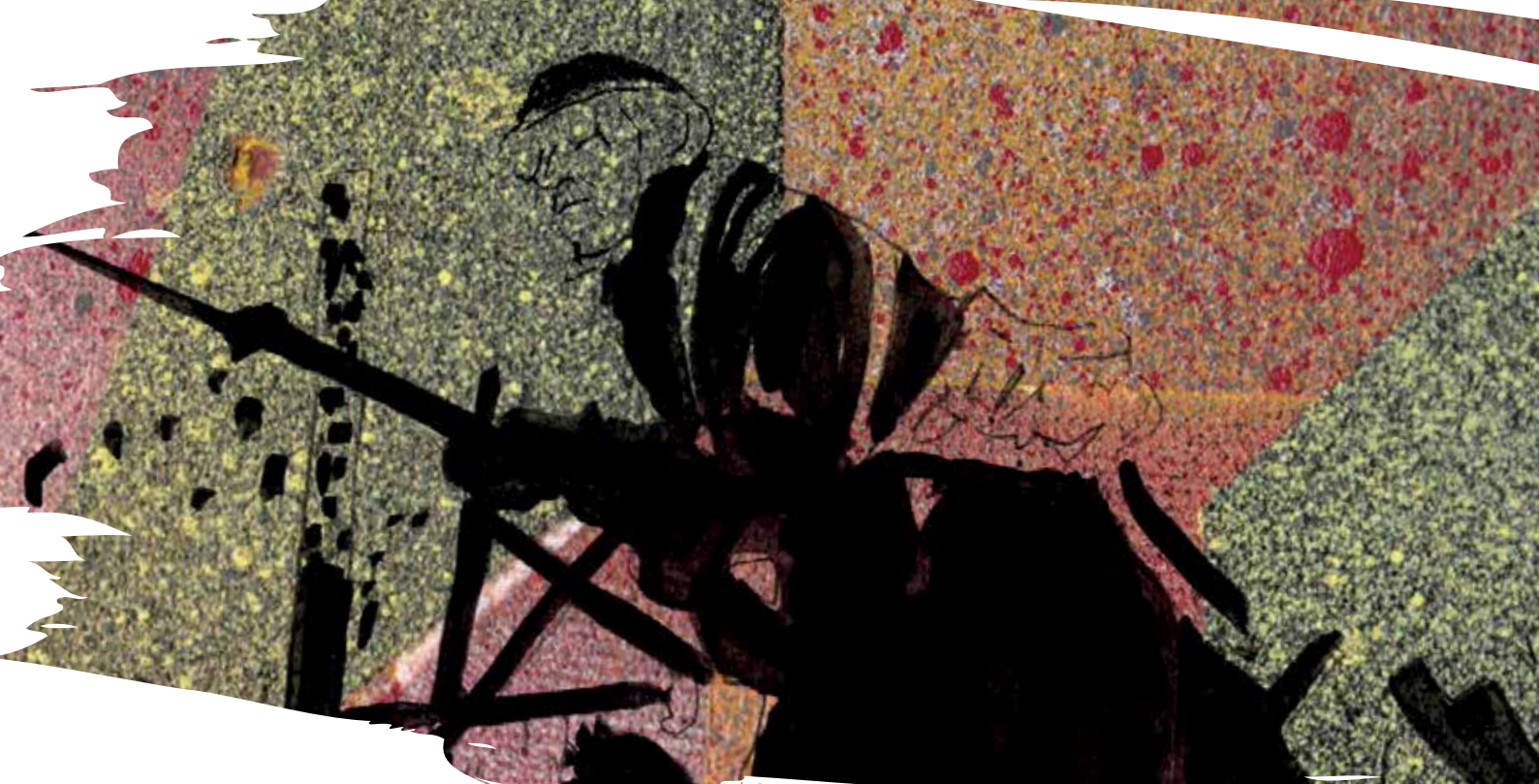
We have developed a local reoffending report which looks at live data through the use of the re-offending Live Tracker Toolkit, which was provided by the Youth Justice Board. We measure current reoffending rates, and analyse the re-offending data on current cohorts as they go through the year, which helps to develop bespoke plans for young people. This tracking tool can help to inform any required remedial action to be taken by the YOT during the 12 month tracking period.

The current Live Tracker re-offending cohort takes the 160 young people who were in the service during Jan-Dec 2014 and measures their reoffending rates for 12 months. To date we know that of the 160 offenders within the cohort only 48 offenders have so far gone on to re-offend, committing 133 offences. This gives a percentage rate of reoffending for the group at 30%, and the frequency rate of reoffending currently as 0.83.

The graph below compares Gateshead's current re-offending performance taken from the Re-offending Live Tracker, against PNC data and it is encouraging to note that since 2008 there has been a 77% reduction in cohort size, which equates to a reduction from 689 young people in the service to 160 young people. There is also a 78% reduction of re-offenders, which equates from 230 re-offenders to 48 re-offenders.

This demonstrates the prolific nature of the young people within our current cohort, and the challenges faced by the service to reduce their re-offending.





Local Targets

The local landscape has changed significantly over recent years and continues to change, with greater local accountability and responsibility, including the transfer of key funding from the UK Government to local authorities, and the opportunities created by local integrated offender management.

Families Gateshead

The Troubled Families programme has been embedded in the YOT as a local strategy to support families, prevent first-time entrants, and reoffending within families by offering additional support to all family members.

Phase 1 – Of 109 families allocated between April 14 – March 2015, 40 families were allocated to YOT, this is represented as 36.69%.

During the early adopter stage of Phase 2 – Of 582 families which were allocated between September 2014 – March 2015 69 families were allocated to YOT, this is represented as 11.85%. The Service Manager for the YOT also co-ordinates the Troubled Families Programme for Gateshead.

Looked After Children

There were 17 cases of Looked after Children in the service, 8 were LAC for 12 months, and 9 cases were LAC for a period during the year. Males make up 76% of the cases which reflects the general population of service users.

Restraints in Secure Accommodation

We felt there was a potential for gaps in reporting of this crucial data from secure accommodation, and Gateshead have developed a questionnaire to ascertain safeguarding and restraint information during our monthly visits to young people. This questionnaire was shared with the Youth Justice Board Regional Re-settlement Group and was considered an innovative proactive strategy for reporting safeguarding issues in custody.



What Do People Say About Us?

"The member of staff who worked with my son is in my opinion a legend and the fabulous support and advice he has given to me and my family has been first class."

Parent, 2014

"We have just finished a fabulous four week course working with Gateshead Youth Offending Team. A range of excellent activities helped us to explore ways to make good choices as well as understand the Law in England. Everyone, including the adults loved the sessions. Thank you."

Blaydon West Primary School

"The YOT victim worker was "brilliant and kept us well informed". We are very satisfied with how the YOT have kept us informed and given us an opportunity to be heard. We feel we were well prepared, supported and safe."

Victim 2014

"Thank you for attending our group and training our young people in positive relationships and sexual exploitation. The group was particularly challenging but the YOT staff were able to engage and empower them to enable them to contribute to the sessions. The training itself was brought to life by the YOT staff and delivery style was highly effective."

Princes Trust 2015

"The YOT reparation staff who worked with my child has proved to be a good mentor to him, resulting in my child wanting to continue with the work he was doing which he was able to do on a voluntary basis, after his court order finished. Thank you for giving him this chance."

Parent 2014

"Thank you Gateshead YOT for cleaning up the graveyard at St Oswalds. The parishioners and I are very pleased with the YOT Teams work. I wish the young person who made this (wreath) well because he has shown a lot of remorse for his actions."

Fr Kevin Cummins, Parish Priest, St Oswalds Catholic Church

"The lessons learned were really important and I think hit home to some key children. YOT staff were great with the children and made them feel that their contributions were really valued and shared some really important messages in a way they could relate to."

Teacher, Wardley Primary

"On behalf of the friends of Winlaton Village I write to thank you for the excellent job which has been done on the garage walls facing onto the Windy Fields in Winlaton to remove the graffiti. The area already looks so much better thanks to the efforts of your team."

Chair 'Friends of Winlaton Village

"We would like to express our appreciation for the work you have carried out at St Chads, this proved to be an excellent opportunity to develop a better understanding across generations of both young and old."

Meg Gilley, St Chads Church 2014

"I am very pleased with the work the YOT did at the Wardley Underpass. The YOT staff member deserves an MBE."

Resident 2014

Recognition

Restorative Justice Quality Mark

Gateshead Youth Offending Team attained the Restorative Justice Quality Mark in July 2015 and were the first organisation in the North East of England to receive the prestigious award.



The Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM) backed by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) demonstrates that Gateshead Youth Offending Team, are delivering good quality, safe and sustainable restorative services that meet the six Restorative Service Standards. Only twenty organisations nationally from sectors that include criminal justice, education and care have achieved the RSQM.



Gateshead Youth Offending Team Centenary of First World War project

Young people known to Gateshead Youth Offending Team took part in a year-long art project where they have learned about the local, national and international impact of the First World War.

The young people involved in the project were also involved in reparation to clean up St Oswald's Catholic Church, where they uncovered 2 World War 1 gravestones of young men who had died in action.

The art exhibition is the final part of the project, it will be displayed (in part) at the annual Youth Justice Board Conference and has been put forward for the Koestler Awards and the Children and Young People Now 2015 awards.



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Risks to Future Delivery

The current review of Council Services within Gateshead to ensure we can meet the £60 million pound funding gap will provide Gateshead YOT with significant challenges in 2016/17 and the preparation for these cuts in 2015 will impact upon the current delivery model. There will be reductions to funding and this will impact upon services to young people, partners and communities. In order to mitigate this risk, during 2015, Gateshead YOT management team will be exploring any new opportunities and new ways of working to determine which model of delivery will be the most cost effective to ensure we can deliver more with less.

Remands to the Local Authority provide a significant risk to the council budget. Actions to mitigate the risks will include robust monitoring and management oversight, dedicated weekend and bank holiday management cover whilst maintaining regular communication with the Youth Court Bench to ensure confidence in bail supervision and support programmes remains strong.

Maintaining and improving our performance alongside delivering consistent and high quality interventions whilst facing challenging reductions in budgets will require Gateshead YOT to further develop performance monitoring systems that will give more detailed local data. This is especially difficult in the context of reducing our re-offending rates as the relevant cohort of young people has reduced but the levels of complexity within their lives has not. With the development of Asset Plus alongside the re-offending toolkit we will continue to robustly audit ourselves using the HMIP Inspection Framework and investigate all possible new and innovative ways of working.

Implementing new measures such as the Anti Social Behaviour Tools and Powers and the new requirements of Anti Terrorism for YOT Boards against a backdrop of efficiencies and loss of resources will require Gateshead YOT to maintain strong links with the Community Safety Partnership. Active inclusion within the joint agency Anti Social Behaviour Panels and working within the Gateshead Community Tensions framework will give wider partnership opportunities to ensure we deliver against statutory requirements within a robust governance structure.

There is a risk to the service linked to loss of expertise and skills due to potential redundancies. Recent resignations, including those within the management team, have resulted in staff vacancies being left unfilled. As well as losing skilled staff, Gateshead YOT is aware of the impact these gaps in service can have upon the staff who remain. There is a statutory requirement for YOTs to have a skilled volunteer workforce. Due to diminishing resources there is no longer the capacity to offer the volunteers a volunteer co-ordinator and this role has been absorbed into the YOT Management Team. Gateshead YOT will continue to monitor the impact of this change.

Gateshead Local Authority is currently in discussions with staff across all areas of business to make informed decisions during September to December 2015 on how the authority will deliver services in the future. Depending upon the decisions made, it is envisaged that some of the specialist services the YOT currently delivers would no longer be viable beyond April 2016.

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Contact Us

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Youth Offending Team
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Regent Street
Gateshead NE8 1HH

Our opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 5.30pm
Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm
Saturday Reparation/Constructive Activity and on call Court 8.30am - 4.30pm
Sunday ISS/Constructive Activity – as required

Tel: 0191 433 3000 • Fax: 0191 433 4548

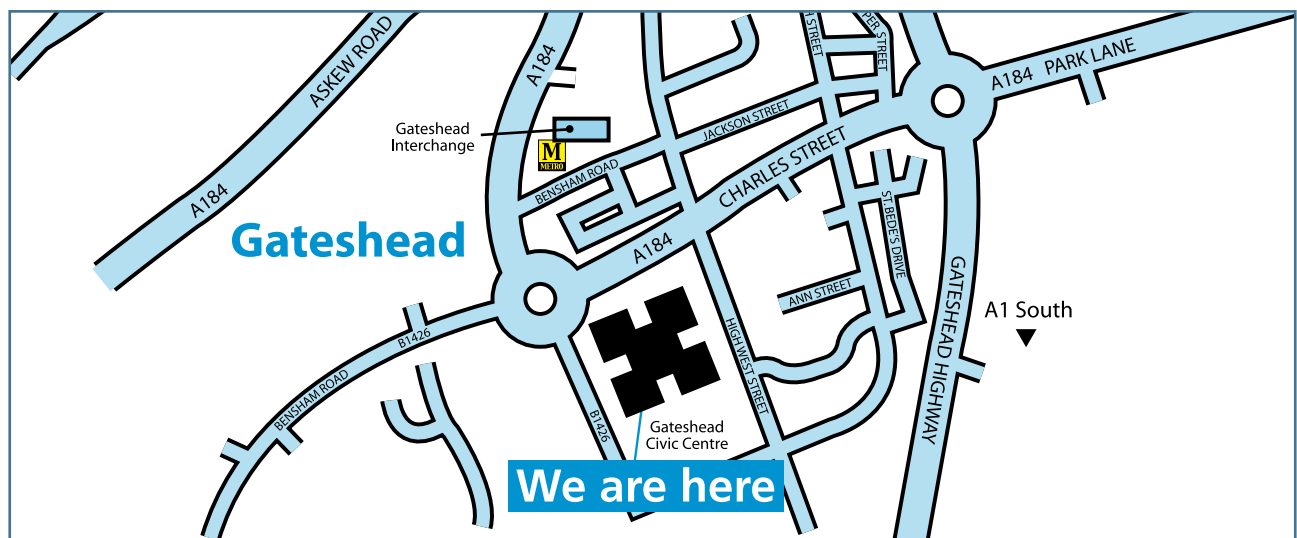
Service Manager

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Co-ordinator of the Families Gateshead Programme

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How to find Gateshead Youth Offending Team





Gateshead
youth
offending
team



©Produced by Youth Offending Team, June 2015

All images in this publication are taken from artwork created by young people known to Gateshead Youth Offending Team.

