

Progress update on Youth Justice Services and inspection outcome

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Progress on Inspection outcomes

HMIP announced the intention to carry out an inspection of youth justice services in Gateshead during the week commencing 27th February 2023.

The inspection covered key domains:

- Organisational Delivery
- Court Disposals
- Out of Court Disposals
- Resettlement

The inspection found that Gateshead Youth Justice Service was rated '**Good**' overall while rating its 'implementation and delivery' as '**Outstanding**', due to the way high-quality, well-focused, personalised and coordinated services are delivered, engaging and assisting the child.

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Inspection feedback : Strengths of the Youth Justice services

- Positive relationships with young people their families and across children's social care
- Prioritised vulnerable young people provided bespoke interventions
- Board members are invested, child centred and this is reflected through the partnership
- Visible senior leadership team, strong support offer
- Stable, knowledgeable and skilled workforce who are motivated and passionate to achieve best outcomes
- Voices of children, families and victims are heard and used to influence service delivery



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Inspection feedback : Recommendations and progress to date



(1) “further develop data analysis processes to proactively explore and scrutinise trends in data. Findings should be used to shape service delivery”

- Role and remit of the performance sub group was reviewed to ensure partnership scrutiny of the data and analysis is presented a standard agenda item at each YJS Board meeting.

(2) “Develop processes to enable systematic evaluation of service delivery to provide an evidence base and clear understanding of the impact of provision”

- Evaluation of Trusting Hands trauma informed response via Northumbria University
- evaluation of interventions around risk outside the home with Durham University
- Evaluation of out of court disposals – Rocket Science

(3) “Review resettlement policy and provision to ensure that provision and practice consistently meets children’s needs”

- Reviewed and renewed based on national best policy

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Inspection feedback : Recommendations and progress to date

(4) “The management board should work with the YJS to further develop its diversity strategy and capture this in guidance and processes. The management board should also support the YJS in embedding its strategy and ensure that managers and practitioners are trained and supported to deliver it”

- Corporate strategy & approach
- Childrens social care Ethnicity, Diversity & Inclusion Group
- Quarter 2 - themed Board - Ethnicity, Diversity and Inclusion

(5) “The management board should work with the YJS to continue to work with the partnership to ensure that children have quick access to specialist mental health provision”

- Integration of Trusting Hands – Psychology led trauma informed care Team - CNTW
- Agreed enhanced pathways into specialist provision eg Neurodevelopment pathway



Inspection feedback : Recommendations and progress to date

(6) “The management board should work with the YJS to ensure that the pathway to speech, language and communication provision is fully embedded, allowing quick access for YJS children.

- *Implementation of the “Do-it profiler” to support the identification of a YP’s speech, language and communication needs*
- *Trusting Hands currently recruiting for a specialist speech and language therapist and an Occupation Therapist*

(7) “The management board should work with the YJS to continue to work with the YJS and its partners to further develop their response to ensuring all children have access to appropriate education, training, and employment (ETE) provision. This should include improving data analysis and escalation routes to assist effective challenge when there are concerns about ETE provision.

- *YJS has recruited to a dedicated education lead within the team.*
- *Education lead is fostering good working relationships in education to ensure YP’s receive an appropriate education package.*
- *Working closely with the Virtual Head Teacher to challenge and ensure YP’s to ensure their education needs are met.*
- *Education continues to be a priority area of improvement and a dedicated theme YJS Board for Q4.*



Youth Justice service – Achievements 2023/24

National Award for Digital transformation

Dedicated Education Officer role

Vulnerable Adolescent Service

Improved performance reporting framework

New Youth Justice Board KPI's

Partnership working with the violence Reduction Unit

Turnaround

Psychology led Enhanced case Management model



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Feedback

“Things have improved for Tommy and the family relationships. Tommy had the opportunity to talk to someone outside of the family and take away the stress of dealing with his anxiety alone”

“I really like Gary cos he is helping me”

“Gerry is sound, he has helped me when I needed it. Gerry helped me to get my life back on track, I am now working two jobs. Even though I have finished working with Gerry I know I could ring him if I ever needed help with anything”

“Jane has helped me with my time keeping and she helped me to communicate better with my dad”

You don't need me to tell you how excellent Rachel is, by the way, do you?! Clear, focused totally unambiguous with the child whilst maintaining a totally child centred approach and clear positive regard and support to him. Fantastic

Sam said working with us was ok and is no longer associating with his old peers. He is learning more in his current education. Mum was very positive around the work with us

Alex feels that friendships have improved and was happy to engage with Jordan. Mum felt this intervention had been helpful and was glad to have someone to talk to and that Alex is no longer using cannabis

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Youth Justice service - Developments 24/25

The Youth Justice Board and a range of partners, stakeholders and YJS team members and volunteers attended a YJS Board development session to look back and celebrate progress and achievements made in 2023/24 and to look forward and agree what the priorities for the youth justice board in 2024/25.

5 key priority areas for improvement and focus in 2024/25 was agreed at the development session based on performance, reviews, emerging themes and trends and Inspection recommendations.

A decision was also made by members and stakeholders to dedicate a focus at each Youth Justice Board meeting which meets quarterly to a priority area and to have a focus on victims at every board and running through each priority. The priority areas for this reporting year agreed are:-

Quarter 1 – Serious Youth Violence

Quarter 2 – Ethnicity, diversity and Inclusion

Quarter 3 – Health

Quarter 4 – Education

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Questions?

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