

TITLE OF REPORT: Progress update on the delivery of Youth Justice Services and Inspection outcomes

REPORT OF: Lisa Wood – Practice Lead - Innovation, Transformation & Vulnerable Adolescents

Purpose of Report

- 1** This report will provide Committee members a summary of progress achieved in the Youth Justice Service from Apr-23 -Mar 24. Service Improvement objectives agreed for 2024/25. Progress on implementing recommendations from the 2023 HMIP Inspection of Youth Justice Services in Gateshead.

Background

- 2** Local authority partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how Youth Justice Services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.
- 3** The plan should address the functions assigned to a YJS, including how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) is the independent inspector of youth offending and probation services in England and Wales. HMIP is the independent source of fair comment for ministers and the public on the effectiveness of the work of probation and youth justice providers.

- 4** On 19th January 2023, HMIP announced the intention to carry out an inspection of Youth Justice Services in Gateshead during the week commencing 27th February 2023.
- 5** The inspection covered key domains:
 - Organisational Delivery
 - Court Disposals

- Out of Court Disposals
 - Resettlement
- 6 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.
- 7 The full inspection report can be found here [An inspection of youth offending services in Gateshead \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/youth-justice/inspections/gateshead-youth-justice-service/)

Strengths of the Youth Justice Service evidenced from the inspection

- 8 The inspection found many strengths at Gateshead Youth Justice Service not least:
- Youth justice staff have established positive relationships with children under their supervision and their parents or carers.
 - The service for children in the care of the local authority, or who are considered particularly vulnerable, is prioritised and they are provided with bespoke support.
 - Board members are invested in and advocate for the YJS and a child-centred and holistic approach is reflected throughout the partnership.
 - The management team and senior leadership are visible. Staff understand lines of accountability and feel strong support is offered to them.
 - The workforce is stable, and staff are confident, experienced, and knowledgeable.
 - Staff are motivated and passionate and there is a genuine commitment from all staff to achieve the best outcomes for children, families, and victims.
 - There is a strong relationship with children's social care, which enables staff to take a coordinated and collaborative approach to addressing children's needs.
 - The voices of children, families and victims are continually heard at the board and used to influence service delivery.

Recommendations and progress from the Inspection

- 9 A total of seven recommendations have been made to Gateshead YJS. The Gateshead Youth Justice Service should:

	Recommendation	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 Youth Justice 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.	<p>There are a number of evaluations undertaken and on-going learning implemented including out of court disposals with Rocket Science independent consultancy.</p> <p>Evaluation of Trusting Hands trauma informed response via Northumbria University</p> <p>Evaluation of interventions around risk outside the home with Durham University</p>
3	Review resettlement policy and provision to ensure that provision and practice consistently meets children's needs.	YJS Resettlement Policy has been reviewed and renewed based on national best practice and implemented in the service.
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.	<p>Ethnicity, diversity and Inclusion is being looked at corporately and a Childrens Services EDI sub-group has been established and is attended by representatives from the YJS management team. The group are identifying training, skills and toolkits to help us understand the needs and respond to the needs of our service users and their families.</p> <p>Ethnicity, diversity and inclusion was a key focus of Q2 Board</p>

		<p>which included deep dive data and analysis, case studies presented by YJS Case Managers and focus on over and under represented groups of young people within the youth justice service.</p>
5	<p>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</p>	<p>Since the inspection a specialist mental health trauma informed team "Trusting Hands" has been launched and integrated into children's services as part of a 2-year pilot, offering a graduated response to young people in YJS experiencing mental health and trauma related issues through consultation and psychological informed formulations. Agreed enhanced pathways for specialist assessments e.g. Neurodiversity</p>
6	<p>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.</p>	<p>YJS have implemented the "do it profiler" to support the identification of a young people's speech, language and communication needs as part of initial assessment.</p> <p>Trusting Hands currently recruiting for a specialist speech and language therapist and an Occupation Therapist who will provide dedicated screening, intervention and pathways into more specialist services depending on assessed needs of YP's within the YJS.</p>
7	<p>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.</p>	<p>YJS has recruited to a dedicated education lead within the team.</p> <p>The education lead is fostering good working relationships with schools, education providers and the learning and skills team to ensure YP's receive an appropriate education package.</p> <p>YJS is working closely with the Gateshead Virtual Head Teacher to challenge and ensure YP's to</p>

		<p>ensure their education needs are met.</p> <p>Education continues to be a priority area of improvement and a dedicated theme YJS Board for Q4.</p>
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Youth Justice Plan 2024/25

- 10** Gateshead Youth justice Plan was presented to the Gateshead Youth Justice Board and to the National Youth Justice board for approval in Jun 2024. The plan received positive feedback for presentation, content and progress and achievements made over the last 12 months. A copy of the plan is attached to this report as appendix 1.

Key Achievements and Developments in 2023/24

- Youth Justice service won the National Social Worker of the Year Award for Digital Transformation for “Listen to me” which is a film made by young people describing their experience of the criminal justice system which can be used to raise awareness with young people and professionals. Link to this resource can be found at <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/799431791> Password to view the video is DV123.
- The development of a dedicated Education role within the YJS, the post is embedded in the team and has links across all schools in Gateshead.
- The YJS moved into the newly created Adolescence Service, in January 2024. This will ensure there is a coordinated approach to working with young people who are at the highest risk and potential harm within our community.
- The YJS has developed a new performance reporting framework, this work has been completed through the performance subgroup to ensure high level, relevant data and analysis is shared at the YJS board.
- The Youth Justice Board introduced a number of KPI's in April 2023, we are working with the YJB to understand the data and improve outcomes for young people.
- The YJS are working in partnership with the VRU, Community Safety and Children's Safeguarding partnership to deliver on the Serious Violence Duty and ensure the local plan is delivered.
- Turnaround has been delivered through the Targeted Family Support Service, we have been given notice that this program will end in March 2025, the service is on track to meet all the agreed performance targets.

- Young people involved in YJS are part of the Trusting Hands Gateshead pilot, which is a multidisciplinary Trauma Informed Care Team integrated into Gateshead Children's services and provide consultation and formulation to understand the child's story, SLC screening and interventions and work with YJS and partners to provide a coordinated trauma response.
- In October 2023 Gateshead YJS conducted an audit of the Standards for Children (Court). There was considerable evidence of young people and families being involved with the assessment, planning, and interventions. There was evidence throughout the standards of good relationships being built with young people, their family and case managers.
- The National Youth Justice Board introduced a number of KPI's in April 2023, and the service is working with the YJB to understand the data to support the analysis for the Board in improving outcomes for young people. The Youth Justice Service (YJS) has developed a new performance reporting framework to reflect this development. The Turnaround program has been delivered through the Targeted Family Support Service and the service is on track to meet the performance targets

YJS Developments for 2024/25

- 11** 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

The Youth Justice Board with partners and stakeholders have developed an improvement plan with smart objectives which include the 5 key priority areas and other objectives identified in the YJS plan and will be monitored by the youth Justice Board. Further details of each priority area is included in the annual Plan attached as an appendix to this report.

Recommendations

- 12 Committee are asked to note the progress made and plans to further improve response to young people involved in the Youth Justice service

Update report on progress on the current plan to be present for scrutiny in 12 months.

Consultees:

The following officers have been consulted on the preparation of this report:

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Appendix 1 – YJS Plan 2024/25	 6318-PS-Gateshead YJS Plan June 2024.p
Link to Digital me video – Password DV123	https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/799431791
Link to YJS Inspection report	An inspection of youth offending services in Gateshead (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)