

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP BOARD

19 January 2009

**YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM: PROGRESS REPORT**

**1.0 Key Points**

- 1.1 Performance continues to improve steadily
- 1.2 North Yorkshire YOT was assessed as 'performing well' following the YJB validation inspection in November 2008
- 1.3 The Police are to implement an Early Crime Diversion pilot in Scarborough, Whitby, and Ryedale by early February, with a view to county-wide roll-out over a 9 to 12 month period.
- 1.4 The YOT is to be re-titled as the Youth Justice Service and will be launching its new website in January.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Board notes the report.

**3.0 Performance Framework 08/09**

- 3.1 Overall performance has risen from level 2 to level 4 in the past twelve months (this is within a scale 1 to 5).
- 3.2 This year, the YJB introduced fundamental changes to its performance reporting requirements in order to align with the National Indicator set and Local Area Agreement (LAA) planning processes. There are 6 National Indicators specifically related to youth justice which the YOT is measured against. Improved performance was achieved in the first six months (April to Sept) against all indicators.

**4.0 Local Area Agreement Targets**

- 4.1 Two youth justice National Indicators are included as key improvement targets:
  - To reduce the rate of re-offending by young people: a stretch target to reduce by 12.5% over 3 years, from a baseline year 2005/6. This will be a difficult target to achieve in the current climate and whilst working with a cohort size which has

increased by 19% from the baseline year. A multi-agency task group has been established to oversee delivery of this target.

- Increase the percentage of young people who offend who are in full-time Education, Training and Employment : Whilst significant progress has been achieved, at the time of writing this report, notification has been received that the 'counting rules' by which this target is measured have been amended part way through the year. Negotiations are currently underway to clarify the implications of this and to amend the target accordingly. The ETE Strategy document is currently subject to a re-refresh, the implementation of which is overseen by a multi-agency group. Approval has been secured to convert the ETE Practice Manager post to a permanent one from April 2009. This post has been instrumental in progressing achievements in respect of this target.

## **5.0 Youth Justice (Capacity & Capability) Plan 2008**

- 5.1 The Plan tells the local story about youth justice performance, identifies success factors, any barriers or risk to future delivery improvement plans, and outlines strategic planning to
- Prevent offending
  - Reduce re-offending
  - Ensure safe and effective use of custody
  - Increase victim and public confidence
- 5.2 Following submission of the plan, North Yorkshire YOT was visited by Regional YJB staff who, having applied a risk-led approach to validation, assessed the YOT Partnership as 'performing well', with a score rating of 3 out of a possible 4. This rating will be retained for a two year period and will contribute to the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

## **6.0 Allocation of Court Orders**

- 6.1 Board members will recall from previous papers the issues arising from the significant increase in workloads, particularly in the East. Since September, all cases have been allocated through the recruitment of additional temporary staff. However, the funding to achieve this (from Area Based Grant under spend) ends on 31.3.09.
- 6.2 Agreement was reached with Police in December to implement an Early Crime Diversion pilot in Scarborough, Whitby, and Ryedale by early February, with a view to county-wide roll-out over a 9 to 12 month period. It is anticipated that in addition to improving outcomes for children and young people who do not need to enter the criminal justice system, this will gradually result in a return to more manageable workloads for the YOT.

## **7.0 Website Launch and Re-branding**

- 7.1 In January, the YOT is planning to launch its new website [www.ny-yjs.org.uk](http://www.ny-yjs.org.uk)  
Partners are encouraged to view the website and offer feedback and suggestions to enable further development.
- 7.2 The YOT has, in consultation with the YJB and YOT Management Board also used the opportunity for a make-over, and will be re-titled as the 'Youth Justice Service', with a new logo. Partners are invited to attend a lunch-time launch event to be held prior to the next YOT Management Board meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March, in the Grand meeting room at 1 pm.

## **8.0 Recommendation**

- 8.1 That the Board notes the report and progress achieved.



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