

North Yorkshire Children's Trust Board
18th January 2010
Preventing Youth Crime

1.0 Key points.

- 1.1 The Youth Crime Prevention Strategy was first established in 2007 and was refreshed in August 2009. An action plan accompanies the strategy which sets out how the main priorities in the strategy will be addressed.
- 1.2 The responsibility for Youth Crime Prevention in North Yorkshire sits within Integrated Youth Support. This has been beneficial in gaining greater ownership for youth crime prevention with partners.
- 1.3 In November there was an inspection of Youth Crime Prevention led by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC). The informal feedback from the inspection was mainly positive. The areas for improvement which were identified will be considered by the inspection steering group and an improvement action plan will be produced.

2.0 Recommendations.

- 2.1 That the Board acknowledge the feedback provided by HMIC and support the recommendation for the inspection steering group to produce an improvement action plan.
- 2.2 That the Board receive the improvement action plan when produced to identify any actions which they need to endorse.

3.0 North Yorkshire Youth Crime Prevention Strategy

- 3.1 The Youth Crime Prevention Strategy was first established in 2007 and was refreshed in August 2009 (See appendix A). An action plan accompanies the strategy which sets out how the main priorities in the strategy will be addressed. (See appendix B) The main objective of the strategy is to prevent first time offending and re-offending by children and young people.
- 3.2 To achieve this objective it is acknowledged that there needs to be ownership of the strategy by a number of key partners. The strategy steering group consists of colleagues from the Police, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, Youth Justice Service, Integrated Services, Children's Social Care, Quality and Improvement and the Youth Service.
- 3.3 The responsibility for Youth Crime Prevention sits within Integrated Youth Support. This is different to some other areas where it remains with the Youth Offending Team. This has been beneficial in gaining greater ownership for youth crime prevention with partners and for widening the understanding about the factors that contribute to offending.

4.0 Implementation of the strategy.

- 4.1 The strategy attempts to weave together priorities from other related strategies, in particular those relating to preventing young people's substance misuse, to ensure that there is consistency in the planning of local interventions.
- 4.2 One of the challenges for implementing the strategy has been the potential for duplication between the Children and Young People and the Safer Communities strands of the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership. This has been overcome by representatives who attend both Boards sharing relevant plans and targets.

5.0 Current performance.

- 5.1 Performance is based on Police data. The most recent data indicates that there has been a decline in FTE from 1730 (2007/0) to 1280 (2008/09). The commitment of the Police to develop shared approaches to prevent crime has been a major factor in reducing FTEs.
- 5.2 Activity related to preventing FTE and re-offending also impacts on other priorities, for example the public confidence indicator for the Police. Restorative justice is part of the preventative approach being implemented to reduce anti-social behaviour and FTEs and this has been found to impact positively on victims' satisfaction with the outcomes of the police intervention.

6.0 Thematic Inspection of Youth Crime Prevention.

- 6.1 North Yorkshire was selected along with six other areas for a thematic inspection on Youth Crime Prevention led by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabularies (HMIS). The purpose of the inspection was to take an independent look at how issues are addressed locally and nationally, and learn and share good practice. The final report due in May 2010 will amalgamate the findings from the other areas and only good practice examples will be identified to individual areas.
- 6.2 The inspection took place during the week commencing the 23rd November 2009. The preparatory information that was sent suggested that the inspection team were expecting to base their visit on an approach to crime prevention called Youth Inclusion Programmes (YIPs) managed by the local Youth Offending Team. These programmes work specifically with 8 -13 year olds. In North Yorkshire this model does not exist as the prevention element of the Youth Justice Service's work is managed by Integrated Youth Support.
- 6.3 A major challenge was in raising the awareness about the North Yorkshire model. Colleagues from across the Children and Young People's Service, the Police and Health provided the inspectors with a varied timetable of meetings, case files, visits and feedback from families and young people which helped to increase their understanding about how youth crime prevention is addressed.
- 6.4 Informal feedback was provided in the form of a feedback letter (See Appendix C). It highlighted many examples of good practice including:
- The holistic approach to prevention work with attention being given to promoting protective factors in children through good quality personal and social development work.
 - A shared understanding about levels of vulnerability and how these relate to prevention and early intervention activity.
 - Good collaboration between partners evidenced by a shared ownership of targets set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.
 - The effectiveness of the IYS structure and Targeted Youth Support provision in identifying and supporting vulnerable young people.
 - Good quality case files with a recognition of the safeguarding needs of young people.
 - Ability to provide evidence to demonstrate progress and positive outcomes for children/young people and their families.
- 6.5 Areas for improvement included:
- The absence of some partners in the planning and delivery of services.
 - Addressing the difficulties created for practitioners having to work within two assessment and recording systems (Onset and CAF).
 - Police involvement in the CAF process.
 - Absence of frontline health practitioners working as part of IYS/TYS.

- Further work on the performance management framework for TYS to ensure that the impact and effectiveness of interventions is evaluated.

7.0 Next steps.

7.1 Members of the inspection steering group will meet to consider in more detail the feedback and in particular the specific areas for improvement included in the inspectors report. From this meeting an action plan will be produced outlining the changes which are required to current practice or processes. The action plan will be shared with senior management teams from key organisations including the Police, CYPS and Health to identify how best to implement the actions within their organisation.

Louise Dunn
Principal Officer (IYS)