
REVIEW OF YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE – BRIEFING PAPER

Purpose of the Report

1. As part of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee 2018-19 Work Programme, the members reviewed the Headline Actions set out in the Directorate Delivery Plan 2019/20, as a result the Committee requested a briefing report (copy attached at **Appendix A**) on the service review of the Youth Offending service.

Background

2. .The Cardiff Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a statutory partnership set up under The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work with 10 to 17 year olds with the remit of preventing offending/re-offending. YOS workers manage young people who have been sentenced to a community penalty or custody, but an increasing amount of the work of the YOS is in the area of prevention and diversion, to try and steer young people away from entering the youth criminal justice system at all. The service sits under the Operational Manager for Restorative, Edge of care and Leaving Care. There are a plans to work towards an adolescent strategy to form a cohesive approach and response to this specific cohort.

Issues

3. The Social Service Directorate Delivery Plan summarises its strategic Directorate Priorities, which includes - **Early Intervention, Prevention and Well-being** - Children, young people and adults are supported to live safely and independently within their families and communities with the lowest appropriate level of intervention. Within this priority is a specific action to complete a service review of the Youth Offending Service and review the effectiveness of interventions by the service to offending / re-offending rates.

4. The Directorate Delivery Plan sets out over four quarters the key milestones to complete the review:
 - Q1 - Existing interventions offered across both statutory and non-statutory work reviewed
Plan to deliver a range of preventative interventions to schools developed
Draft Youth Offending Service (YOS) annual work plan shared with the YOS Management Board
Policies and procedures reviewed and updated
YOS benchmarked against Youth Offending Services recently inspected
 - Q2 - Existing resources reviewed in line with demand on the services
Research undertaken regarding national best practice for a range of interventions
Prevention Service promoted across the city
Information sharing protocols reviewed with YOS Board members
 - Q3 - Arrangements for Junior Attendance Centre reviewed
Commissioned services review completed
 - Q4 - Recommendations from reviews implemented if applicable

5. A copy of a briefing paper on the progress across Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 actions attached at **Appendix A**.

Scope of Scrutiny

6. This report enables the Committee to review, assess and comment of the progress being made in undertaking the review of the Youth Offending Service. In particular Members may wish to inquiry whether, the key milestones highlighted in the Directorate Delivery Plan have been met, as well as whether there have been any challenges or obstacles in undertaking the review. .

Way Forward

7. Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children & Families) and Claire Marchant (Director of Social Service), Deborah Driffield, Interim Assistant Director Children's Services and Finn Madell, Operational Manager

Restorative, Leaving Care and Edge of Care will present the briefing report to the Committee, and will be available to answer any questions Members may have.

8. This report and briefing will also enable Members to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children & Families and Director of Social Services around the implementation of the approach.

Legal Implications

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

10. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee reviews the information provided at the meeting and offer any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director of Social Services.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

11 December 2019