
**YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE – RESPONSE TO INSPECTORATE
REPORT**

Purpose of the Report

1. In July 2020, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation issued a report following an inspection of Cardiff Youth Offending Service. A copy of the Inspection report is attached at **Appendix A**. A copy of Cardiff Council's response is attached at **Appendix B**, with a copy of the two-year plan to transform youth offending services, called 'All Our Futures', attached at **Appendix C**. An initial response to these from HMI Probation is attached at **Appendix D**.
2. This report provides background information and highlights the main issues in order to assist Members' consideration of the Inspectorate report and the Council's response.

Scope of Scrutiny

3. During this scrutiny, Members have the opportunity to consider both the Inspectorate report and the Council's response to it, including 'All Our Futures'. In particular, Members may wish to explore:
 - The performance issues identified by the Inspection;
 - The Council's response to the Inspectorate report;
 - The resources available to address recommendations and implement improvement actions;
 - The processes for monitoring the implementation of improvement actions;
 - Whether there are further challenges or obstacles that require addressing;
 - How service users will be involved in improving the service;
 - Whether further scrutiny is required.

Background

4. The Cardiff Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a statutory partnership set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work with 10 to 18 year olds and their families, to prevent anti-social behaviour, offending and re-offending. YOS workers provide intervention and support to young people sentenced to a community penalty or custody or those dealt with by an out-of-court disposal, as well as prevention and diversion work to try to steer young people away from entering the youth criminal justice system. They also offer support to victims of youth crime and anti-social behaviour.
5. Youth Offending Service teams are required to have staff from local authority social services, education services, the Police, the National Probation Service and local health services.

Inspectorate Report

6. The inspection, in January 2020, was led by HMI Probation and supported by inspectors from Care Inspectorate Wales, Estyn, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, and HMI Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
7. Overall, Cardiff Youth Offending Service was rated as 'Inadequate' across all areas of work: leadership and staffing; working with partners such as health, education and police; and providing services to children and young people who have offended and to their victims.
8. The inspection found improvement is required across all areas. The report makes 14 recommendations that inspectors believe, if implemented, will improve the lives of the children in contact with youth offending services and better protect the public. The recommendations are listed on **pages 11-12, Appendix A.**

Response to the Report

9. The Council's official response to the Inspectorate report is attached at **Appendix B.** Since the Inspection, a new, experienced independent chairperson, Graham Robb, has been brought in to lead the YOS Management Board, now called the Cardiff Youth Justice Board. Workshops have been held

with those involved in the services, including young people, to develop a two-year plan to transform youth offending services in the city, titled 'All Our Futures', which is attached at **Appendix C**. The Cardiff Youth Justice Board, who will make sure work is kept on track, will oversee the work set out in the plan.

10. The Cardiff Public Services Board¹ has endorsed the strategy and issued the following statement:

"The Cardiff Public Services Board endorses and supports this strategy which sets out our key goals and how we will measure success by 2022. By signing this development strategy, we are making a public declaration of our commitment to transform the services, and to bring about sustained and lasting improvement in youth justice in Cardiff. This will mean better outcomes for the children in the youth justice system. That increased effectiveness is also about reducing offending and is in the interests of victims. As partners, we are using the strategy to state what it is we are going to do together in the next two years, and how we know we're making a difference, to get better outcomes for the young people of Cardiff.... We knew that we had to work hard and quickly to make change happen. This strategy is the outcome of that work."

11. The strategy covers:

- reshaping of governance and leadership to focus on making changes happen;
- improved use of shared data and analysis to improve what is delivered and to assess if it is working
- a workforce development plan including a quality assurance framework
- working with partners to put in place an improved offer to children and families who receive youth justice services.

¹ Cardiff Public Services Board consists of representatives from: Cardiff Council, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, South Wales Police, South Wales Fire & Rescue Services, National Probation Service, Natural Resources Wales, C3SC, Police and Crime Commissioner and Welsh Government. It seeks to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Cardiff by strengthening joint working across the public services.

12. The key priorities set out in the plan are:
- We will make sure we have all the right data and tools to analyse the needs of the child now, and any future trends
 - We will make sure our shared assessment of needs is accurate and enables better outcomes for the children and the risks to be reduced ... including for victims
 - We will make sure all staff are trained to work in the most effective way to secure the best pathways to good outcomes for children and young people and for the community.
 - We will ensure clear and effective leadership of shared development – reported to the right people.
13. An initial response from HMI Probation to the Council’s response is attached at **Appendix D**.

Previous Scrutiny

14. As part of their work programme for 2019-20, this Committee reviewed the Social Services Directorate Delivery Plan 2019/20. As a result, the Committee requested a briefing report on the proposed service review of the Youth Offending service. A briefing report was provided to Committee at their meeting on 17 December 2019, following which the Chair, Councillor Bridgeman, wrote to Councillor Hinchey, Cabinet Member – Children and Families, stating the committee:
- suggest that in future it may be more useful to compare against Core City across the UK and not just Welsh Local Authorities
 - note that an Adolescent Strategy is being developed and request that a draft of the Strategy be presented to this Committee prior to its consideration by Cabinet.²

Way Forward

15. Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children & Families), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director- People & Communities), Claire Marchant (Director

² Letter from Cllr Bridgeman, Chair CYP, to Cllr Hinchey, Cabinet Member Children & Families, dated 7 January 2020

of Social Service), Deborah Driffield, Interim Assistant Director Children's Services and Graham Robb, Chair, Youth Justice Board, will be available to answer any questions Members may have.

16. Members will be able to agree any comments, concerns or recommendations that they wish to pass on to the Cabinet Member for Children & Families and Director of Social Services around the proposed way forward.

Legal Implications

17. 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

18. 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 considers the Inspectorate's Report, the Council's response to this, the 'All Our Futures' Strategy and information provided at the meeting and agrees any recommendations, comments or advice it wishes to offer to the Cabinet Member and / or Director of Social Services.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

24 July 2020