

Scrutiny Committee report 13th July 2021

This report responds to the letter from Cllr Bridgeman arising from Scrutiny meeting 11 May 2021.

Introduction

Councillors will be aware of a recent incident leading to two young people being held in custody on a charge of murder.

We will not be able to discuss this case at the meeting but as a Board and service we are undertaking the immediate safeguarding and public protection actions and review processes and will draw on this to report on any changes.

1) How do we use young people and family views to inform development?

The Commitment in “All Our Futures” is clear – we will use the views of children and families, including those who are victims, to inform reviews of practice, shaping of strategic decisions. But an obvious principle is that if the children do not feel they are being heard then any attempt to build a trusting relationship in case level practice is seriously limited. That is also clearly a focus on QA processes and management oversight to ensure children and families are clearly fully involved in the plans.

The Board is committed to supporting the Child Friendly Cardiff principles specifically through the engagement of young people and has made some progress through:

- Small group engagement at Board and Chief Executive level
- Scrutiny Committee engagement in May 2021
- The first surveys of victim’s views of the value of services has taken place
- ‘Have your Say’ survey sent out monthly to all young people who have been closed to the service the month prior
- Ongoing development around case planning using ‘child friendly’ planning documentation
- Prevention referrals only being accepted once ‘informed consent’ has been received
- Focus on all YJS assessments incorporating ‘self assessment’ for young person and parent/carer to capture their views/wishes/feelings

What else?

2) What is the evidence base to judge service impact?

The Youth Justice Board quarterly data usually enables us to compare progress against our ten statistically similar YOTS (based on the demographics, and caseload patterns) on the key performance indicators. For the last six months the national data has not been available.

The UHB Health needs assessment used one of these as a service benchmarking comparator.

As a Board we draw on the YJB national Resources Hub as a source of effective practice which enable us to challenge and support development.

During 2021-22 the Board with staff are reviewing practice against each of the five national Standards to secure improved evidence of impact.

Angharad Thomas is part of the network of YOT Managers Cymru which is also a source of benchmarking

The publication of HMIP Inspection reports and particularly the HMIP annual report on YOT inspections is a very good source of effective practice which informs our annual Youth Justice Plan , the Board members Handbook and briefings for Board and staff.

[hmiprobation/inspections/year2020/](https://www.hmiprobation/inspections/year2020/)

Finally our close work with YJB Cymru means we can draw on Wales wide expertise and insights for practice improvement.

3) Partnership engagement

Since the arrival of Angharad Thomas as OM a series of partnerships practice developments have quickly become established:

- The Bureau for managing out of court work
- The Anti Social Behaviour Pathway with police
- Decriminalisation of Children Looked After (protocol being finalised between SWP, YJS and Childrens Services)
- Refining the YJS Prevention offer – referral pathways and intervention
- YJS Resettlement panel (as part of YJS sub-committee)
- SAFE pilot (Safeguarding Adolescents From Exploitation) – a much wider piece of work across the Local Authority

The Cardiff Youth Justice Board, during the course of the “All Our Futures” Strategy Stocktake process in January 2021 identified that the Board sub-committee should take on a focus around partnership problem solving on issues of practice – as well as keeping an overview of progress on the relevant elements of the Development Plan. This means that the right level of colleagues can be engaged in analysing and developing practice. The Sub-committee is chaired by Hannah Williams (Manager of the Probation services for Cardiff and the Vale) who is also Vice Chair of the main Cardiff YJB. This ensures clear strategic engagement and escalation routes.

The first task for the new committee was to define priorities for their work. Initially these arose from the development plan (such as work they have done on Welsh language provision) and service and partner discussions to develop the Out of court work. This work list has now been informed by the Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment undertaken by the UHB and presented to the Cardiff YJB on 8 June and the first cut of the

Joint Strategic Needs assessment commissioned by Cardiff Council but drawing on partnership data also presented on 8 June.

The workplan over the coming year by the committee will include:

- Education – support for health and wellbeing development of children in the youth justice system
- Police – developed wellbeing work in the custody suite
- High risk of harm processes across the partnership
- Disproportionality
- Resettlement from secure estate
- Managing Transitions

Board tracks engagement in Board and committee by strategic partners and their operational colleagues on the sub-committee and the role of Chair includes to challenge non engagement. The challenge will continue to be enabling strategic buy in as well as getting the right practice colleagues in the joint decision making. We have without doubt made significant progress on this.

4) Budget

This was presented to Board on June 8th. The amount represents an increase in resourcing in 21-22 (£2,238,000) compared to 20-21 (£2,151,000)

The following depicts the predicted spending of all grants coming into the Youth Justice Service including the YJB grant, Police and Crime Commissioner grant and PPE (Wales Government) grant, alongside contributions from partner agencies.

In the same vein as last year the Youth Justice Grant will be used to fund a number of posts within the service – the Intensive Supervision and Support Team managing the interventions of children deemed to be at the ‘highest risk; the Reparation Co-ordinator working across the service promoting and facilitating restorative interventions; two Careers Wales seconded staff engaging post 16 young people in prospective employment and training opportunities; and this year will also be funding the newly created Junior Attendance Centre (JAC) Officer in Charge post as part of our re-launch of the JAC providing intervention to children outside of the ‘usual’ working week. We will also be using the grant to fund some sessional staff as part of the JAC and to support our volunteers in their contribution to the service.

2021/2022 Projection

Narrative	Estimate 2021/22
	£
Partnership Funding:	
Children's Services	727,180
Health (Staffing Contribution)	95,576 * Estimate (Awaiting Confirmation)
Education (Staffing Contribution)	37,270
National Probation Service (Staffing Contribution)	44,678
South Wales Police (Staffing Contribution)	182,454 * Estimate (Awaiting Confirmation)
	<u>1,087,158</u> * Estimate
Grants	
YJB Funded Projects:	
YOS Effective Practice Funding	333,152
ISSP	120,000
Careers Wales	92,300
Junior Attendance Centre	40,000
Reparation	3,000
Sub Total:	<u>588,452</u>
South Wales Police Cash Contribution:	20,100 * Estimate (Awaiting Confirmation)
Police Crime Commissioner:	
StaySafe - Prevention	38,700
Substance Misuse	40,000
Sub Total:	<u>78,700</u>
National Probation Service Cash Contribution:	5,000
Promoting Positive Engagement Funding (WG):	
Volunteer Co-Ordinator	33,059
Prevention	178,203
Victim Worker	33,059
Harmful Sexual Behaviour	30,450
Prevention Co-ordinator	54,695
Divert	130,000
Sub Total:	<u>459,466</u>
Grand Total	<u>2,238,876</u> * Estimate

As always the aim of the Youth Justice Grant will be to work towards continually improving our efforts regarding both national and local Key Performance indicators.

Total Youth Justice Grant 2021-22:

YJB Funded Projects:		% of Grant
YOS Effective Practice Funding	333,152	57
ISSP	120,000	20
Careers Wales	92,300	16
Junior Attendance Centre	40,000	7
Reparation	3,000	1
Total:	588,452	100

The money from the PCC grant will be used to fund our StaySafe project work, involved in ongoing detached engagement with young people aiming to keep them safe and informed when out in Cardiff. The PCC grant will also fund one of the Substance Misuse workers seconded to the YJS from the Emotional and Wellbeing Service - 'Change Grow Live'. As we move out of the restrictions enforced upon us by the pandemic of 2020/21, we foresee a risk in the increase in young people coming to the attention of our service and our intent is to maximise the use of the StaySafe project to inform, educate and divert as much as possible. We also anticipate an increase in the number of substance misuse referrals within the service as young people begin to engage more with the YJS on a face to face basis and return to 'normality'. There was a decrease in referrals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and staff have taken the time to refresh and update all staff on referral criteria for substance misuse services, referral pathways and interventions in readiness for an upsurge in referrals.

The Promoting Positive Engagement fund (PPE) money will continue to be primarily used within the Prevention and Restorative remit of the Youth Justice Service funding the Prevention case management team; one of the Victim Workers (OOC); the Harmful Sexual Behaviour worker; the contract with MAC to provide the DIVERT programme of intervention to young people committing low level first offences and also contributing to a member of the management structure with over-arching responsibility for Prevention.

Both PPE and PCC allocations are a repeat of last year where there is increased demand for front-loading resource and reflects the ever-increasing caseload and capacity of the Prevention and Out of Court remit with the ultimate aim of reducing the number of young people open to the Youth Justice Service via the statutory court route, reinforcing the 'child first' approach.

Remand spend was much higher last year than in previous years and higher than it is anticipated to be this year. This was due to a young person's trial being delayed twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic – he was remanded for 18 months prior to the conclusion of his trial.

5) Staffing

Regarding service re-structure – an initial proposal has been to restructure the management level of the service with a clear focus on three main areas on work:

- Assessment and case management
- Planning and Intervention
- Prevention and Partnerships

The staff who are directly affected by this proposal have been consulted with and the consultation period has now ended, however there are further discussions with Trade Unions, HR and the Local Authority legal department regarding next steps. The wider staff group have not yet been consulted on these proposed changes taking into account the sensitivity of discussion and potential impact upon the individuals involved.

GMR 22 June 21