
YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE – UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. In October 2020, when agreeing the Work Programme for 2020/21, the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed that it would prioritise the Youth Justice Service as a topic for scrutiny. This followed the publication of the HMIP Inspection report in 2020.
2. **Appendix A** attached to this report provides Members with an update on progress in relation to the Youth Justice Service and a range of performance results for the Youth Justice Service for Quarter 1 of 2021/22. Attached at **Appendix B** is a case study to aid Members in their consideration of this Item.

Background

3. The Cardiff Youth Justice Service (YJS) 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. YJS 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.
4. 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).

5. 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. The inspection found improvement was required across all areas. The report made 14 recommendations. A subsequent Strategy and Action Plan "All Our Futures" was agreed and implemented.

Issues

6. Since the Inspection, this Scrutiny Committee has monitored progress and improvements to the YJS, via bi-monthly updates.
7. Following consideration of YJS in July 2021, the Chair wrote to the Cabinet Member stating that Members would wish to receive an update at this meeting on the following issues. **Appendix A** attached addresses most of these issues, and a further update will be considered in December 2021:
 - Demand v Capacity
 - Partnership Working
 - Quantitative Evidence/Data
 - Substance Misuse
 - Young people vulnerable to criminal exploitation
8. A range of performance results for the Youth Justice Service are also attached at **Appendix A**. These are set out under the following headings:
 - Organisational Health (June - August 2021)
 - Youth Justice Service and Children's Services Scorecard – June 2021
 - Feedback – Victim Engagement
9. Attached at **Appendix B** is a case study of "MW" who was referred to the YJS via the Prevention service.

Previous Scrutiny

10. At its meeting on the 30 July 2020, CYPSC considered the YJS Inspection Report and the Council's response to it¹. It was agreed that the Committee would monitor developments in relation to
 - Youth Justice Board Governance and Progress
 - Performance Measures
 - Engagement and consultation with Young People and their Families/Carers
 - Improved/Joined working internally
 - Improved/Joined up working across the Partnership

11. As stated in Paragraph 1 of this report, CYPSC Members agreed that YJS be a priority topic for the Committee's work for the foreseeable future. Members have received updates across Children's Services (including YJS) at the following CYPSC meetings:
 - 30 July 2020 – full briefing to Committee
 - 15 September 2020 – during the consideration of the Local Authority Social Services Annual report 2019/2020
 - 12 October 2020 – during the Children's Services Update
 - 15th March 2021 – full briefing to Committee
 - 11 May 2021 – full briefing to Committee; meeting with young people in the YJS
 - 13 July 2021 - full briefing to Committee

12. In addition to the issues highlighted in Paragraph 8, during these briefings, Members have made comments and requested evidence in relation to the following:
 - Post 16 opportunities/NEETs/Young Homeless (September and October 2020)
 - Recruitment and retention of staff (September 2020)
 - Demand on Services (October 2020)

¹ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 30th July, 2020, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

- Staff Health & Wellbeing (October 2020)
- Role of the Judiciary (October 2020)
- Quality Assurance (March 2021)
- HMIP Inspection (March 2021)
- Early Help (March 2021)
- Impact of Strategic Partners (March 2021)
- The Voice of young people (March 2021)

Way Forward

13. Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children & Families), Deborah Driffield (Director of Children's Services), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities), Graham Robb (Independent Chair, Youth Justice Board) and Angharad Thomas (OM, YJS) will be available to answer any questions Members may have.
14. Members will be able to agree any comments, concerns or recommendations that they wish to pass on to the Cabinet Member for Children & Families, Corporate Director, People and Communities, Director of Children's Services and Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Board.

Legal Implications

15. 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

16. 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 this report, its Appendices and information provided at the meeting and agrees any recommendations, comments or advice it wishes to offer to the Cabinet Member, Corporate Director, Director of Children's Services and Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Board.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

06 October 2021