

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**15 JUNE 2018****LSCSB UPDATE: LEICESTERSHIRE YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE****Background**

1. The YOS is a multi-agency partnership that seeks to achieve the National Youth Justice strategic objectives which are:
 - prevent offending
 - reduce reoffending
 - increase victim and public confidence
 - ensure the safe and effective use of custody.
2. The YOS work to prevent young people from becoming First Time Entrants (FTE) through the delivery of its YISP work and IMPACT work. The YOS also work with young people on pre court outcomes (Youth Conditional Cautions) and post court outcomes i.e Referral Orders, Youth Rehabilitation Orders, Detention Training Orders and Section 90/91 Custodial Sentences.
3. The YOS also provides specialist input to the young people at risk of offending and re-offending. These include accommodation advice and support, substance misuse support (delivered by Turning Point), educational attendance support, training and employment support (via Prospects) and treatment for mental health issues via Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).
4. In order to reduce the numbers of young people being remanded to custody the YOS provides a Bail and Remand Service to the Court. This provides support to young people whilst on bail and for young people who are in custody. This service is provided in conjunction with the YOS support for the Court this is delivered by staff who are experienced in court work.
5. The YOS receives a significant contribution to its work from volunteers who deliver statutory work by providing Appropriate Adults, and Referral Order Community Panel Members. In addition, volunteers provide Parenting Support, Mentoring and Short term interventions.
6. The Community Safety Team also works within the YOS, taking a strategic lead on Community Safety Partnerships, Domestic Abuse (DA), Anti-Social Behavior (ASB), Hate Crime Incidents and Preventing Extremism.

Notable Developments and Challenges

Past year

7. The most notable achievements for the YOS have been in the maintenance of a high level of performance as outlined below.
8. The YOS performance in relation to FTE's is measured by the number of FTE per 100,000 young people. Between October 2016 and September 2017 Leicestershire had 189 young people per 100,000 which is a 9.3% increase on the previous year (173 FTEs). However, the YOS is significantly ahead of the regional position of 341 per 100,000, and the national position of 304 per 100,000.
9. Re-offending performance has two indicators. The binary re-offending rate and the re-offending frequency rate. The binary re-offending rate measures the percentage of young people who offend within 12 months of an outcome and the frequency rate measures the average number of offences in 12 months after an outcome.
10. The percentage of young people in the January 2016 to March 2016 cohort offending after 12 months is 38.6%, a percentage point increase of 3.4% compared to the previous year (35.2%). The Leicestershire re-offending rate is similar to Midlands region (38.2%) and ahead of the National performance (42.1 %). The YOS is continuing to report on the January to March 2017 cohort of young people using more recent local data. The April to December 2017 re-offending rate was 0.60. This is slight reduction in performance of 0.02 points when compared with the same period last year (0.58).
11. The announcement of the Early Help transformation of which YOS is part, has associated savings of £3.8 million. It was considered important to make the savings by re-modelling Early Help rather than cutting each service. The rationale for this is that by re-modelling the service as a whole it will be possible to reduce duplication, stream line the management structure and ensure the new structure is as effective as possible in meeting the needs of families and young people. This process is scheduled to be completed by April 2019.

Coming Year

Kick Start Your Life Project

12. Kick Start Your Life (KSYL) is an innovative programme focussing on young people who pose the greatest risk of offending and/or causing harm to others. It has used sport as a mechanism to engage young people in activities which may provide an alternative to the negative activities they are involved in, together with increasing pro-social influences in their lives. The funding for this

project has come from Leicestershire and Rutland Sport who provided £10,000 in 2016 and this continues to fund the project. The criteria for the funding were that young people were not currently active in sport and that they demonstrated a commitment to engage in the activity for between 6 and 12 weeks.

13. KSYL does not try to deliver a standard programme of sport related activities for young people to fit into, instead it develops a bespoke programme for the young people based around the sporting activity that they want to do. Typically, a young person is asked what sport they would want to undertake if they had the choice. The YOS then identifies a club or trainer to work with the young person to undertake that sport. Once the young person has shown some commitment, the YOS will ensure that the young person has the equipment to undertake the sporting activity and will seek to ensure that they can make this part of their lives. The Project has had 18 young people engage in 2016/17 and 36 young people in 2017/18.
14. The YOS has agreed funding with the YOS Management Board to expand KSYL so that young people can have the opportunity to access arts provision as well as sporting activities. The hope is that this will broaden the appeal of the project so that more young people can access it.

Accumulated Child Hood Experiences (ACE) Additional Funding

15. The County and the City YOS have been able to attract £197,000 of additional funding over 2 years from NHS England Youth Justice funding stream for a Child Psychiatric Nurse and a Psychologist. The focus will be on enabling the YOS staff to be trained and deliver more effective work with young people who have experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences. This funding is important because it has been recognised that the challenging young people that YOS are working with are those that fall into this category, and they do not meet the threshold for current CAHMS support. It is hoped that the new service will enable the health provision to be delivered closer to the young person's home without the need to visit services in Leicester.

Knife related crime

16. Nationally there has been increasing concern about the use of knives and the association with gangs and the dealing of drugs. The YOS has, over the last 12 months, been working with the Police and other partners to develop a response to knife crime. A knife crime awareness programme has been developed and is being delivered in schools - this was launched locally by the Police with the backing of Anthony Joshua (World Heavy Weight Boxing Champion). The Police had also identified the top ten young people who carry knives in Leicester and Leicestershire and Rutland. A multi-agency group reviews the work that is being undertaken with the young people and considers if there is further activity that could be done to assist further.
17. The multi-agency strategy group led by the Police has also recognised the connection between knives, drugs and gangs and the Police has identified groups of young people within Leicester City, Hinckley and Loughborough. The

YOS has for some time, been aware of groups of young people who are involved with adults in the distribution of drugs; and that they are increasingly likely to also be knife carriers. The adults involved frequently have links to, or are part of organised crime groups. It is becoming more evident that in some situations there is a grooming process to draw vulnerable young people into the activities, and once involved some young people find it very difficult to disengage.

18. The Police and YOS have also seen some evidence of “County Lines” activity - this is used to describe activity where organised crime groups move young people from their home area to another part of the county in order to undertake activities relating to drug dealing. Multi-agency work has begun to look at what approaches are effective in dealing with this type of crime. A protocol is currently being developed to look at safeguarding children who are affected by serious youth violence, exploitation by serious and organised crime groups and gang activity.

Key Partnership Issues

19. The most significant issue for the partnership is the rise of knife crime and its links to drugs and serious organised crime. The strands of activity which will be important to prevent the development of this issue are:
- Engagement with Schools and young people, using the police education materials aimed at discouraging knife carrying;
 - The Impact teams and community safety staff identifying key young people who are involved in knife crime and drug dealing activity, so that the YOS are prepared to engage with preventative work;
 - Identification of young people who are knife carriers and intervening with them by providing them with awareness sessions;
 - Disruption of organised crime involved in exploitation of young people.
20. The areas that the partnership have the most influence over is the partnership working which focuses on prevention, by moving young people away from knife carrying and exploitation. All these areas of activity are in place and are currently being scaled up. The effectiveness will be dependent on the support of the partnership in enabling this work.
21. The changes being proposed for Early Help are going to mean that there will be important changes to the way in which YOS prevention activity is delivered. The changes to Early Help will mean that prevention activity will be delivered in a different way and with less resource than previously. The risk with these changes is that they may lead to an increased number of FTEs, thus increasing the pressure on the statutory elements of YOS work. This may also lead to increased concern about Community safety.

Recommendations for the Board

22. The Board are asked to note the content of the report in relation to the achievements and challenges of the YOS and the development work it is undertaking with partners.

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