

**Report of: Corporate Director of Children's Services**

Meeting of:	Date	Ward(s)
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	22 September 2016	All

Delete as appropriate	Non-exempt
-----------------------	------------

## **SUBJECT: Update on Youth Offending Service Improvement Plan**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 An updated version of the full Youth Offending Service Improvement Plan is attached as an appendix to this report. The Plan has revised RAG ratings which reflect the progress made to date. A summary of progress against each of the key objectives follows.
- 1.2 Actions to review and improve the effectiveness of the Youth Justice Services Management Board, which oversees the YOS as well as other actions to address youth crime in Islington, have been fully completed, and the Youth Crime Action Plan is being revised following a partnership awayday.
- 1.3 There has been substantial progress in recruiting a stable, qualified and effective staff team for the YOS. Induction, training and development processes are in place and we are in the process of standardising disparities in pay rates. Information management remains a challenge for the service, as the introduction of the new Asset Plus assessment framework has highlighted extensive problems in past recording practice which now need to be resolved.
- 1.4 Audits of case work are showing substantial improvements in the quality of work with young people. The implementation of the Asset Plus framework is posing a number of technical challenges. However there is shared a philosophy in the team that utilising the Good Lives model, restorative practices and an understanding that offending behaviour amongst young people is often highly influenced by past experience of traumatic life events. This is reflected in improving compliance and engagement rates. Work to address serious violence and gang affiliation, and the quality of reports for the courts are key upcoming priorities for the service.
- 1.5 Amendments to the Service Level Agreement between the YOS and Islington police are being made, and the final version will be tabled at the September Youth Justice Services Management Board for agreement. There has been no further progress with installation of equipment for YOS police to access electronic police systems in the office, meaning that full co-location is still not possible. A protocol for new applications for Criminal Behaviour Orders and other types of civil legislation has been agreed between YOS, police and Community Safety, to ensure the laws are correctly targeted at the most

prolific individuals to reduce the risks they pose.

- 1.6 Morale across the service and at all levels is greatly improved, and practitioners and managers report feeling a renewed sense of commitment to progress. Workloads have become more equitable, and unnecessary tasks reallocated or discontinued. Practitioners volunteered to lead a review of the interventions delivered to young people, and a bespoke ISS service is being developed to address the needs of the most serious and prolific offenders.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee note the updates to the Improvement Plan, and ask the Youth Justice Services Management Board to continue to oversee progress.

## **3. Implications**

### **3.1 Legal Implications**

The Council must establish one or more multi-agency youth offending teams, which include representatives from partner organisations (section 39 Crime and Disorder Act 1998). The Council has a duty to take reasonable steps designed to reduce the need to bring criminal proceedings against children, to encourage children in the area not to commit crime, and to avoid the need for children to be placed in secure accommodation (Schedule 2, paragraph 7 to the Children Act 1989).

### **3.2 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications for this report.

### **3.3 Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental implications for this report.

### **3.4 Resident Impact Assessment**

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

An assessment has not been carried out in relation to this report as it is a progress report on service improvements, rather than a new initiative or change in policy. The Improvement Plan is intended to address the issues raised in the [Islington Youth Offending Service HMIP Re-inspection report](#). Young Black people are over represented in the youth justice system in Islington. The use of the re-offending tracker tool will aim to address this over representation and reduce disproportionality. This tool will also help to identify any over representation of young people who are Looked After or have Special Educational Needs, and enable analysis, identification of partner input needed and targeting of interventions.

## **Appendices:**

- Appendix 1: Youth Offending Services Improvement Plan: update from August 2016

**Background papers:** None.

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**



Carmel Littleton  
Corporate Director of Children's Services

Date 8 September 2016

Report Author: Liz Westlund  
Tel: 020 7527 2186  
Email: Liz.Westlund@Islington.gov.uk