

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Children and Families Advisory Panel
Date:	13 October 2020
Title:	Hampshire Youth Offending Team (HYOT) Annual update
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Children and Families Advisory Panel (CFAP) with an update on Hampshire Youth Offending Team (HYOT). Previously HYOT has reported on its annual Youth Justice Plan which is submitted to the Youth Justice Board. However, the YJB does not require such a plan this year, instead HYOTs had to submit its COVID 19 Continuity and Recovery Plans.

Recommendation

2. That the panel note the work of Hampshire Youth Offending Team during the last 12 months.

Contextual information

3. YOT is a statutory partnership which provides youth justice services for the Hampshire Local Authority area. The role of YOT, under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, is to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people. Four agencies have statutory responsibility to provide resources either in cash or in kind to the YOT. These are: local authority, police, probation, health (CCGs) and central government (YJB). Locally, Hampshire YOT is accountable to, and governed by, the Hampshire YOT Management Board which meets on a quarterly basis. This is chaired by the Assistant Director of Children's Services. The Board consists of representatives from the four statutory agencies along with representatives from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Rehabilitation Company, HM Courts, Public Health, and the Voluntary sector.

4. Hampshire YOT works with children on a statutory and non-statutory basis. The statutory work includes the management of children who have received a Court Order. These include Referral Orders, Youth Rehabilitation Orders, Custodial Sentences, those on bail and remand and those who are dealt with through an Out of Court process (Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions).
5. Regarding the non-statutory work, this is completed by the Youth Crime Prevention (YCP) service. The aim of this service is to divert children away from the Criminal Justice System through the provision of interventions. Referrals to the service are from a variety of sources including early help, self-referral, education and from the triage panel. The triage panel is administered by the police and YOT with the aim of providing children and their victims with a satisfactory outcome. It considers all police administered community resolutions and decides if an intervention is required. During the last 12 months HYOT has reviewed its YCP service to make it more efficient and effective. A new shorter and more focused assessment and tighter time frames on the duration of contact were introduced. This has released capacity in the team to focus on offering support to other areas in the service for example Residential Services. In addition, HYOT has seconded two YCP staff to the Willow team to work with children who are at risk of exploitation. Funded by Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) these staff work directly with children from the Pupil Referral Units.
6. Hampshire YOT has four operational teams based in Eastleigh, Fareham, Basingstoke and Farnborough. Each of these teams has a seconded police officer and a CAMHS worker. There is also an allocation of 1.0 Probation Officer and a 0.5 Probation Service Officer from the National Probation Service which are shared across the four teams. A Specialist Services team oversees our work with victims, Restorative Justice and the Education, Training and Employment provision. The Specialist Service Manager also has responsibility for the triage process and YCP. Hampshire YOT serves three Hampshire Youth Courts; Basingstoke, Portsmouth and Southampton as well as the Winchester Crown Court.
7. At any one-time Hampshire YOT can be working with approximately 500 children. This figure has remained consistent for the last three years. Prior to the Covid 19 lockdown in February 2020 there were 489 open children of which 233 were subject to statutory interventions and 256 seen by YCP. In June 2020, the figures were significantly reduced with 346 children open to HYOT. This includes 194 children managed under a statutory intervention and 54 under YCP. The number of children in the Youth Custody estate remains constant at 23.
8. In May 2020, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) requires HYOT to submit a self-assessment against the 2019 National Standards for Youth Justice. There are 5 Standards which reflect the journey of the child through the Youth Justice System. These include:

- Out of court
- In court
- In the community
- In the secure settings
- On transition

Each standard has two sections; the first is the strategic requirements for the YOT Management Board and the second for the operational teams. It is important to note here, that regarding the strategic assessment, the standards apply to both the YOT and its partners. Between September 2019 and April 2020, HYOT was required to assess itself against these standards. To achieve this there was extensive consultation with partners and 130 cases were audited.

The results of this self-assessment are as follows:

Standard	Strategic self-assessed results	Operational self-assessed results
Out of Court	Good	Good
In Court	Good	Outstanding
In the Community	Good	Outstanding
In secure settings	Requires improvement	Outstanding
On transition	Requires improvement	Good

Regarding the areas for improvement, this relates to areas of work which agree not directly in the control of HYOT for example the work of the Youth Custody estate. The expectation is however that the management board are sited on these standards and receives assurance, which is something which needs to be developed.

9. The identified areas for development are then translated into HYOT service delivery plan for the coming year. As stated, this is no longer required by the Youth Justice Board. The priority areas identified are as follows:
 - To develop the participation of children, parents/carers, and harmed people in the work of both YOTs and provide assurance to the Management Boards. Including those from disadvantaged groups.
 - To develop Hampshire and the IOW YOT's understanding of the key points of transition in children's lives and support them through these

transitions and provide assurance to the board.

- To improve HYOTs case recording the way it develops plans with children and parents.
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of both YOTs by implementing the Hampshire's Service review and developing the relationship between the two YOTs.
- To develop a trauma informed approach to the way it works with children and families.
- To further develop its Out of Court delivery service to divert more children from becoming first time entrants. This includes avoiding the potential for disproportionality of BAME children.

Finance

10. Hampshire YOT partnership has a current revenue budget of circa £3.8m (both cash and staffing resource from partners) £1,786m of this money is from the Local Authority Children's Service and £1.09M is from the Youth Justice Board. The National Probation Service, CCG and Police contribute through staffing. The resource allocated from partners is: four Police Officers, 0.5 Police Sergeant, 2.5 CAMHS workers and 1.0 Probation Officer. The Probation Service Officer posts is currently vacant.
11. Hampshire YOT has an establishment figure of 78.5 staff directly who are employed across case management, specialist services and YCP. The Youth Crime Prevention budget is £569,000 with 17.5 FTE currently in post. YCP is part funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (40%), Hampshire YOT's contribution from the Youth Justice Board grant (38%) and Hampshire Children's Services (22%).
12. In previous years HYOT also receives money from the Clinical Commissioning Group to provide two Therapeutic Wellbeing Officers (TWOs) This project was due to end in March 2020, but an underspend in the first two years has enabled us to continue for a third year. Alternative funding to extend the service is currently being sought.
13. The financial situation remains a challenge. Funding from the YJB and the OPCC is decided on a yearly basis and we are required to save £200,000 next year. However, due to the healthy 2019/20 year end position HYOT has been able to identify 50k savings and is on course to find the additional savings through not recruiting to all vacancies. The other potential pressure is from the Office of Police Crime Prevention review of its funding formula which could reduce the money received for Youth Crime Prevention.

Performance

14. Hampshire YOT has three national performance indicators: the numbers of first-time entrants (FTE), the reduction of offending on those subject to out of court and court orders and the numbers of children in custody. During the last year there have been some data issues. The first two indicators rely on the Police National Computer, which for part of the year was being upgraded and then inaccessible during Covid. However, whilst there have been some improvements in the reduction of first-time entrants (FTE) the figure is unstable and HYOT has been challenged by the YJM to improve its performance. The last validate number was current rate is 180 young people per 100,000 population as compared to the National average of 220. It remains higher than its comparator group average of 138. Work is therefore continuing with our Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight YOT colleagues and the Police to reduce this further.
15. HYOT has been able to make some inroads into the reoffending rates. 34.5% this is a reduction from last years reported figure of 41.6 this is lower than the England and Wales average of 38.4%. The use of custody remains low with 23 young people sentenced in the last 12 months.
16. In addition to these centrally managed indicators Hampshire YOT has a series of local indicators. These indicators are largely process based, for example the time it takes to complete a key activity. During the last year HYOT has been concentrating on developing a performance culture across the service.

Consultation and Equalities

17. Regarding HYOT ability to achieve the £150k savings in 2021/22. This should be achieved largely by making current vacancies permanent. However, HYOT currently has a few short-term contracts, mainly within YCP. Decisions will need to be made in the next six months as to the continuation of these arrangements.
18. Any impact on the service offered to children will be managed by ensuring that standard statutory services remain as they are now, with staff working in a more efficient way.

Other Key Issues

19. In May 2018 Hampshire Youth Offending Team was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The action Plan has been completed. HYOT operates on the basis of continuous improvement and is preparing for the next inspection in 2022.

20. Of note is that the IOW Youth Offending Team was part of a thematic inspection in to how YOTs responded to Covid 19. The approach taken on the IOW was the same as in Hampshire accordingly the endorsement received is a testament of both services, Feedback included the following point:

The approach taken by the IOW YOT to dealing with COVID 19 which took the HCC Children's and Families approach of business as usual done differently and adapted to meet the needs of the YOT cohort worked well. This was embraced by the team and new ways of working was mobilised quickly. This was supported by good information sharing and communication.

Conclusions

21. This completes the summary of Hampshire Youth Offending Teams activity in the last 12 months.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes/no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes/no
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes/no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes/no
OR	
<p>This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</p> <p><i>NB: Only complete this section if you have not completed any of the Strategic Plan tick boxes above. Whichever section is not applicable, please delete.</i></p>	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/equality/equality-assessments.htm>

Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- (a) why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or
- (b) will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions