

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Children and Families Advisory Panel
<b>Date:</b>	17 October 2017
<b>Title:</b>	Update on the work of Hampshire Youth Offending Team and the Hampshire Youth Justice Plan 2016-17
<b>Report From:</b>	Steve Crocker, Director of Children's Services

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### 1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the work and update of recent developments within Hampshire Youth Offending Team. Attached to this paper as Appendix 1 is the annual Hampshire Youth Justice Plan for information and reference.

### 2. Contextual information

2.1. The primary aim of the youth justice system is to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people (Crime and Disorder Act 1998). This legislation requires all local authorities to ensure they have a Youth Offending Team (YOT), and the YOT must be funded (in cash and in kind) by all the statutory partners who are the local authority, health, police, probation and the central government Youth Justice Board grant. These agencies are equally responsible through this Act for local youth justice outcomes. The Crime and Disorder Act stipulates that every multi-agency Youth Offending Team must contain at least one social worker, probation worker, police officer and education specialist. Hampshire Youth Offending Team is governed by and accountable to the Youth Offending Team Management Board which comprises of senior leaders of the statutory partnership who are jointly responsible for youth justice outcomes in Hampshire. This Board is currently chaired by the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Children and Families).

2.2. Hampshire Youth Offending Team aims to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people aged 10-17 years. This aim involves significant criminal justice statutory functions which include the assessment and supervision of children and young people subject to out of court disposals, court orders, custodial sentences and bail and remand. Youth Offending Teams also have statutory duties to co-operate under the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement framework (MAPPA), and a duty under the 2004 Children Act to

promote the welfare and safeguarding of children and young people. Hampshire Youth Offending Team is well integrated into the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Criminal Justice Board, Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Board, the MAPPA Strategic Management Board, Children's Trust and Supporting Troubled Families Programme.

2.3. In addition to the statutory functions, Hampshire YOT also has a significant investment in the (non statutory) prevention of offending, with the aim of diverting children and young people away from the criminal justice system at an earlier stage. Hampshire Youth Offending Team assess and supervise community resolution disposals, which are dispensed by the police, to avoid those children becoming first time entrants into the criminal justice system. The decision making panels that were set up in 2016 continue to develop, the aim being to provide both children and their victims with a satisfactory outcome, using restorative justice processes and diverting away from formal criminal justice sanctions. In addition, Youth Crime Prevention (YCP) Workers provide the 'prevention arm' of the Youth Offending Team, providing assessment and interventions with children who are at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social or harmful behaviour. Youth Crime Prevention Workers came back under line management of the YOT in December 2016 but remained closely aligned to the early help hubs and wider early help offer in Hampshire.

2.4. Hampshire YOT is geographically represented across the county in four teams. We staff and service the three Youth Courts in the county in addition to the Crown Court sitting in various locations. We work with children in custody from Hampshire accommodated across England and Wales. At the beginning of September 2017 there were eight Hampshire young people in custody.

2.5. The Youth Justice Plan for Hampshire is an annual statutory requirement which is submitted each year to the Youth Justice Board (a non departmental public body that oversees youth justice and sponsored by the Ministry of Justice). The Hampshire plan is attached and sets the strategic direction and key priorities for 2017-18. In summary these priorities are as follows:

- Ensure readiness for and plan, respond and deliver within the available reducing resources, youth justice services that maximise opportunities through partnerships
- Continue to improve performance in line with performance framework
- Implementation of AssetPlus and closely monitor impact on timeliness
- Improve and develop relationships with Health (including Public Health) and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner/new PCC (regarding prevention and Restorative Justice practice notably)
- Continue to improve the quality assurance framework within Hampshire Youth Offending Team and ensure the views of children, parents and victims are involved in improving the quality of services.
- Maintain the 'business as usual' partnership with the Isle of Wight YOT; explore further models of delivery both strategically and operationally, that will benefit and enhance performance and outcomes of both YOTs.

2.6. The full Youth Justice Plan covers the detail of how the above will be achieved, written in a format required by the Youth Justice Board. Following the submission of the plan a letter was received back specifically commending Hampshire on:

- Its exceptional first time entrant rate
- The significant reduction in the number of young people sent to custody
- Positive national Standards audit result

2.7. At any one time, Hampshire Youth Offending Team is working with 230-300 children and young people across the county; during 2016/17 we worked with just over 885 in total. Furthermore, the Youth Crime Prevention Team is working with around 150 children at any one time. In addition, Hampshire YOT works with both the victims and the parents of those children and young people. All victims of youth crime are contacted by specialist trained Restorative Justice staff within the YOT and offered the opportunity to participate in a restorative intervention if they wish. Hampshire Youth Offending Team was awarded the Restorative Services Quality Mark by the Restorative Justice Council April 2016. Parents may be subject to statutory court orders, or participate in voluntary programmes with our staff and partners.

### **3. Finance**

3.1. Hampshire Youth Offending Team's pooled partnership 2017/18 revenue budget is circa £3.7m (in both cash and/or staffing resource from partners) with approximately 80 staff (including those employed by partners). The Youth Crime Prevention budget is circa £565k with 16 staff. Hampshire County Council Children's Services department contributes the largest percentage (50%), followed by the Youth Justice Board (30%), probation (6%), police (6%) and health (2%) and other (6%). Hampshire Constabulary and the five Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Groups contribute their resource through staffing (police officers and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Nurses respectively); whilst Hampshire Children's Services and the Youth Justice Board contribute in cash. The National Probation Service has revised its national contribution to youth offending teams this year and from 2017 is providing four probation staff and a contribution to non-staffing costs. The YOT Management Board oversees the partnership budget. The separate Youth Crime Prevention budget is currently funded by a Police and Crime Commissioner grant (42%). The fact that the YOT is funded and staffed by four statutory agencies does present some risks and challenges in the current economic climate. Partners need to ensure that the delivery of youth justice services is done as effectively and efficiently as possible in order to reduce and prevent offending, and make best use of the financial resources available and guarantee it is flexible and responsive enough to deal with the demand for services required.

3.2. There was a full service review and restructure with an estimated £235k saving from the 2016/17 budget.

## 4. Performance

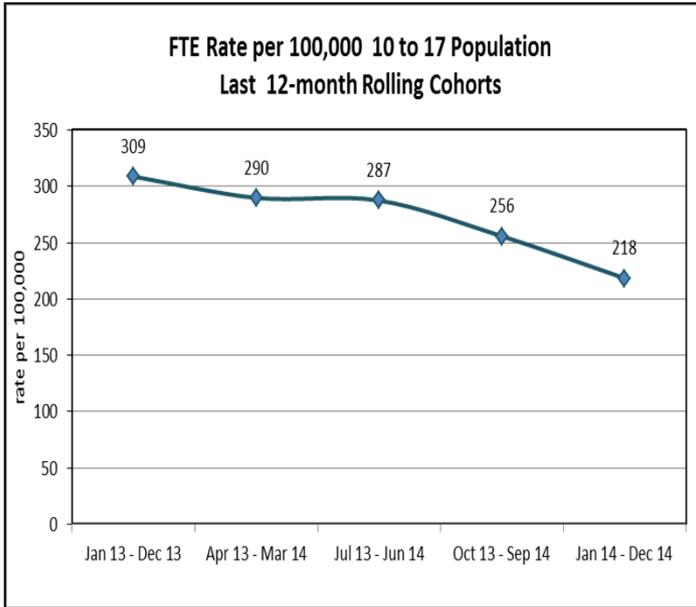
4.1. All YOTs are required to nationally report to the Ministry of Justice via the Youth Justice Board on three national performance indicators. The Hampshire YOT Management Board sets internal targets annually for these indicators and monitors them. The performance indicators are:

- **Reducing the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system** (measured as the rate per 100.000 10-17 year old population)
- **Reducing reoffending** (measured as number and percentage of young people who reoffend and number of re-offences)
- **Reducing the number of children in custody** (measured as rate per 1000 per 10-17 population).

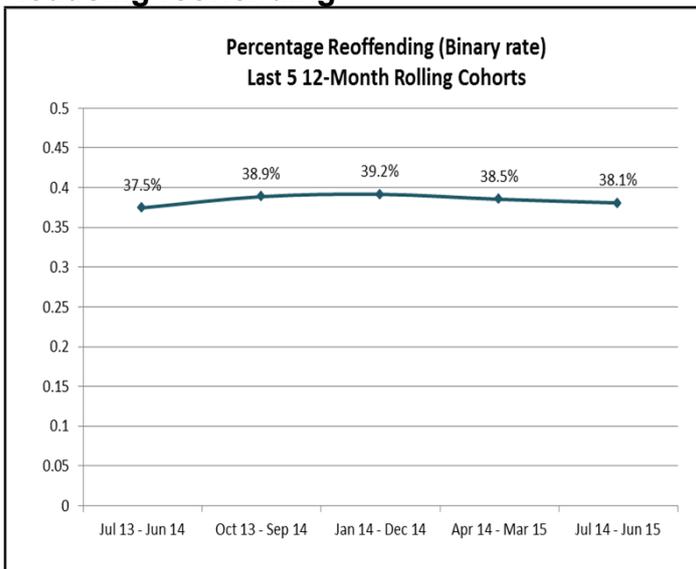
4.2. Nationally there continues to be a downward trend in children and young people entering the criminal justice system (40.5% reduction in first time entrants since 2012/13) and the number of children in custody (5% reduction since 2012/13). Hampshire YOT has followed this trend and currently performs well on these indicators, (59.9% drop in FTE and 1% reduction in custody since 2012/13). Nationally, reoffending rates have dropped slightly and the cohort of children in the system is much reduced. In Hampshire, the cohort size has fallen by 60% since 2012/13. It is also important to note that reducing numbers do not necessarily equate to reducing workload. We have significant evidence that the children and young people with whom we are working are presenting with complex needs, risks and behaviours. Around 17% are looked after children, and our health needs analysis indicated a plethora of emotional, physical and mental health related issues experienced by children known to YOT. We are therefore working with a smaller number of children, but a larger percentage of those have complex and significant risks and needs. Furthermore, trends and fluctuations in the criminal justice system are not simple to control and link to a huge number of variables. This can range from changes in policing practice and targets, legislation, demographics, to media and political events and incidents.

4.3. Hampshire YOT has maintained relatively strong performance in recent years on all three indicators in relation to both national, regional and comparator YOTs. Latest figures show Hampshire performs better than the national rates for all three indicators. The latest performance data is shown below for information:

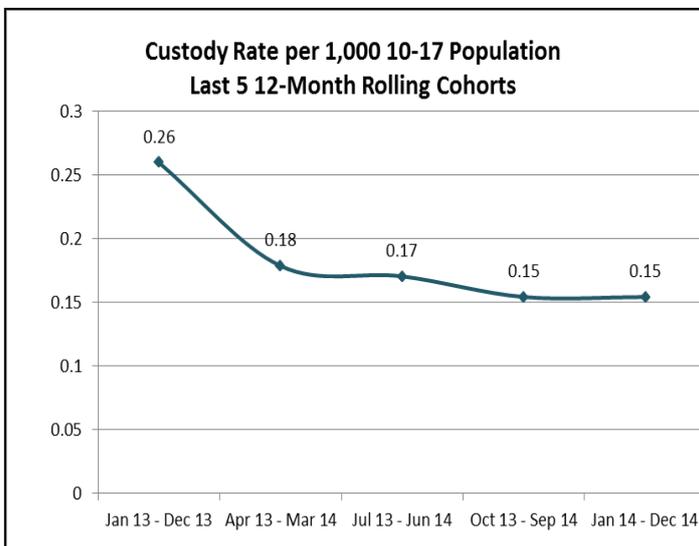
## First time entrants



## Reducing reoffending



## Reducing Custody



## **5. Other Key Issues**

- 5.1. The final report of the Charlie Taylor Review of the Youth Justice System and the Government's response were published in December 2016. To date there has been limited further publication in relation to the proposals set out in the report.
- 5.2. Following the general election a new Secretary of State for Justice was appointed. To date there has been limited information on the direction for Youth Justice so the Hampshire plan may need to change to reflect any announcements made.

## **6. Recommendation(s)**

- 6.1. That the Children and Families Advisory Panel note the work of the Youth Offending Team and the Youth Justice Plan for Hampshire.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

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.)

Document

Location

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

- 1.1. 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 under the Act;
  - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
  - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

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

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

### **1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

See Hampshire Youth Justice Plan Impact statement section C.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

See Hampshire Youth Justice Plan Sections A and B.