



Report of the Director of Children's Services

Executive Board

11th February 2011

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation Inspection of the Leeds Youth Offending Service 2010

Electoral Wards Affected:

All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs the Executive Board of the outcomes of the HMIP inspection of the Leeds Youth Offending Service.
- 1.2 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) is tasked by the Ministry of Justice to undertake inspections of Youth Offending Services. The Core Case Inspection of Leeds Youth Offending Service took place over a 5 day period week commencing 27 September 2010. The report was published by HMIP on 12 January 2011. The full published report is attached at appendix 1.
- 1.3 The inspection focused on the quality of youth offending work being delivered to children and young people who have offended, as well as Victims. The main elements of the inspection were; an analysis of evidence provided in advance, examination of 85 randomly selected cases and interviews with case managers, questionnaires for children and young people and where appropriate, victims.
- 1.4 The body of this cover report contains details of the grading criteria for the inspection, but in summary the outcomes for Leeds were as follows:
 - The aggregated Leeds YOS Safeguarding score was 84% (national average 67%, range 38-91%) with minimum improvement required.
 - Public Protection-Risk of Harm scored 76% (national average 62%, range 36-85%), with minimum improvement required.

- Public Protection – Likelihood of re-offending score was 83% (national average 69%, range 50-87%), with minimum improvement required.

1.5 The Report made 5 recommendations. An overview of the action plan produced in response is attached at appendix 2. This has been sent to HMIP for approval. The action plan will be overseen by the YOS partnership Board and the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Executive Board are recommended to note the contents of this report in the context of the significant role that Youth Offending work plays in creating a safer, more prosperous city.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides Executive Board with details of the outcomes of the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection of Youth Offending Services (YOS) in Leeds.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) is tasked by the Ministry of Justice to undertake inspections of Youth Offending Services. The Core Case Inspection of Leeds Youth Offending Service took place over a 5 day period week commencing 27 September 2010. The report was published by HMIP on 12 January 2011.
- 2.2 The inspection focused on the quality of youth offending work being delivered to children and young people who have offended, as well as Victims. The main elements of the inspection were; an analysis of evidence provided in advance, examination of 85 randomly selected cases and interviews with case managers, questionnaires for children and young people and where appropriate, victims.
- 2.3 Over the week of the inspection 7 inspectors operated out of two YOS premises in Leeds. In examining the 85 cases they interviewed a total of 47 YOS case managers (some on more than one occasion) with each case manager interview lasting up to 2 hours.
- 2.4 In addition information was provided to the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This was based on the publication 'Actions Speak Louder' and was compiled by the YOS Head of Service (HOS) and signed off by the YOS Partnership Board Health representative.
- 2.5 The focus of the inspection is to look in depth at the Youth Offending Service work in regards to young offenders in relation to:
- Risk to the public of young people causing serious of harm to others (ROH),
 - Likelihood of reoffending (LoR)
 - Safeguarding.
- 2.6 Judgments are made in the above three categories across three areas of YOS service delivery. These relate to the:
- Assessment of young people who have offended
 - Sentence Planning, Delivery and Review of Interventions
 - Outcomes.
- 2.7 The methodology applied to the scoring of Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) by HMIP is complicated. For each of the 85 cases assessed, the inspectors provide a numerical score against 150 questions. This generates an overall percentage score for each case inspected of "how often the cases were of a sufficiently high level of quality". From this score HMIP grade YOTs in terms of level of improvement needed.

In the case of Leeds the sample of cases inspected overlapped with a

2.8 restructure to meet the implementation of the Youth Rehabilitation Order and the Scaled Approach. Over this time Leeds YOS had some issues with the timeliness of completing assessments and reviews. Completing some assessments and reviews outside National Standard timescales was the main reason for some of our cases being judged as insufficient quality.

MAIN ISSUES

3.0

The aggregated percentage from the inspectors are translated into the following potential judgments in each of the three areas examined are as follows:-

3.1

<i>HMIP Judgments</i>	<i>[Previous descriptor]</i>
Minimal improvement required	[Excellent]
Moderate improvement required	[Good]
Substantial improvement required	[Adequate]
Drastic improvement required	[Inadequate]

The Leeds Scorecard for cases of sufficient quality was as follows:

3.2

1.1: Risk of Harm to others – assessment and planning	77%
1.2: Likelihood of Reoffending – assessment and planning	81%
1.3: Safeguarding – assessment and planning	81%
Section 1: Assessment and Planning	81%
2.1: Protecting the Public by minimising Risk of Harm to others	78%
2.2: Reducing the Likelihood of Reoffending	90%
2.3: Safeguarding the child or young person	90%
Section 2: Delivery of Interventions	87%
3.1: Achievement of outcomes	69%
3.2: Sustaining Outcomes	90%
Section 3: Outcomes	76%

- The aggregated Leeds YOS Safeguarding score was 84% (national average 67%, range 38-91%) with minimum improvement required.
- Public Protection-Risk of Harm scored 76% (national average 62%, range 36-85%), with minimum improvement required.
- Public Protection – Likelihood of re-offending score was 83% (national average 69%, range 50-87%), with minimum improvement required.

Comparisons to other core cities are as follows:

3.3

	Safeguarding	Risk of Harm	Likelihood of Re-Offending	Total
Leeds	84%	76%	83%	243
Newcastle	71%	71%	64%	206
Sheffield	66%	60%	71%	197
Manchester	64%	51%	62%	177
Bristol	55%	49%	64%	168
Liverpool	48%	49%	56%	153

	Safeguarding	Risk of Harm	Likelihood of Re-Offending
Leeds	Minimum	Minimum	Minimum
Newcastle	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Sheffield	Moderate	Substantial	Moderate
Manchester	Moderate	Substantial	Moderate
Bristol	Substantial	Substantial	Moderate
Liverpool	Substantial	Substantial	Substantial

- 3.4 The Leeds YOS report evidenced numerous examples of good practice. In particular relating to safeguarding vulnerable young people, our work with looked after children, our use of speech and language therapists and our use of restorative justice in reparation and engagement of victims.
- 3.5 HMIP reported evidence that the work of Leeds YOS led to reductions in the frequency and seriousness of offending by young people and that these reductions in offending were significantly better than the average performance of YOTs inspected to date”
- 3.6 Questionnaires were returned to HMIP from 154 YOS service users (young people). HMIP reported that the majority of children and young people who are involved with Leeds youth offending service (YOS) said that the YOS staff took action to deal with the things they needed help with, including drug and alcohol use, emotional or mental health issues, lifestyle, family relationships and housing. The majority also agreed that the YOS staff made it easy to understand the work that was being done with them and that things were explained clearly to them. Young people said that YOS staff had helped them get back into school and helped them improve their reading and writing.
- 3.7 Inspectors also discovered that the great majority of children and young people said that they were less likely to reoffend as a result of their work with the YOS

and a significant proportion said that it was because they now understood the impact of their offending on themselves and others.

3.8 The HMIP press release accompanying the publication quoted Alan MacDonald the Assistant Chief Inspector at HM Inspectorate of Probation who said: *“Overall we consider this a very creditable set of findings. We were impressed with the range of interventions provided by the youth offending services and by the way that it worked with partners to develop and provide a broad range of services to respond to the complex and varied needs of children and young people living in a large city.”*

3.9 The Report made 5 recommendations. An overview of the action plan produced in response is attached at appendix 2. This has been sent to HMIP for approval. The action plan will be overseen by the YOS partnership Board and the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

Wider Impact:

3.10 It is important to recognise that investment and success in the Youth Offending Service helps to bring considerable wider savings and social benefits. Overall the number of young people entering the Youth Justice System in Leeds reduced from 2,997 in 2005/06 to 1540 in 2009/10. This means that more young people are following alternative paths, such as education, employment and training and are also in stable accommodation. Each offence has a notable cost to the public purse as well as the social cost, so the positive progress in this area should be seen as major benefit to creating a safer, more prosperous city.

IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

4.0

4.1 The report has no specific policy and governance implications for the Council.

LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.0

There are no specific legal or resource implications for this report.

5.1

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 This report has outlined the key outcomes from the HMIP inspection of Youth Offending Services. Overall, the report provides a very positive reflection on this work in Leeds and a strong basis on which services can continue to build in the context of the wider transformation of children and young people's services in Leeds.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members of the Executive Board are recommended to note the contents of this report in the context of the significant role that Youth Offending work plays in creating a safer, more prosperous city.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers to this report.