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# NOTICE OF MEETING

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**EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL**

**TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 6.00 PM**

**CONFERENCE ROOM K - 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, CIVIC OFFICES**

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## **Membership**

Councillor Will Purvis (Chair)  
Councillor Ben Dowling  
Councillor Ken Ferrett

Councillor Paul Godier  
Councillor Lynne Stagg  
Councillor Alistair Thompson

## **Standing Deputies**

Councillor Margaret Adair  
Councillor Colin Galloway

Councillor Terry Hall  
Councillor Matthew Winnington

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(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

## **AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Declarations of Members' Interests**
- 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting - 2 February 2015 (Pages 1 - 4)**

**RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the previous meeting of 2 February 2015 be confirmed and signed by the chair as a correct record.**

**4 New review Topic - A review into progress against the Youth Offending Team Improvement Plan (Pages 5 - 10)**

The draft scoping document for a review progress against the Youth Offending Team Improvement Plan is attached for discussion and approval.

Hayden Ginns, Commissioning and Partnerships Manager, Jon Gardner, Youth Offending Manager, Superintendent Stuart Murray, YOT Board Chair and Will Schofield will be attending to provide the panel with evidence to commence their review.

Members of the public are now permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting or records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

# Agenda Item 3

## EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel held on Monday, 2 February 2015 at 7.00 pm in Conference Room L, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

### Present

Councillors Will Purvis (in the Chair)  
Ben Dowling  
Ken Ferrett  
Lynne Stagg

**1. Apologies for absence (AI 1)**

No apologies for absence had been received.

**2. Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 2)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 24 November 2014 (AI 3)**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel held on 24 November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.**

**4. Review into Pupil Premium in Portsmouth Schools (AI 4)**

Members of the panel had received a draft copy of the report for discussion before the final sign-off. Councillor Purvis as chair introduced the report and summarised the panels' recommendations and the budget and policy implications of these. The panel had no further amendments or comments to make to the report and were happy for this to be signed off by the chair.

Councillor Purvis advised that the panel's report and the Head of Education's response report would be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 5 March 2015. Councillor Purvis confirmed he was available to present the report.

**RESOLVED that the panel officially sign-off their report for submission to Cabinet on 5 March 2015.**

**5. New topic for review - Youth Offending Team Improvement Plan (AI 5)**

Jon Gardner (Youth Offending Manager) and Hayden Ginns (Commissioning and Partnerships Manager, Children) were in attendance. A background paper on the Youth Offending Team Inspection Improvement Plan and a copy of the post inspection improvement plan had been circulated to the panel electronically before the meeting. Officers had also drawn up a draft scoping document for the panel to discuss at the meeting.

Mr Ginns explained that the Youth Offending Team (YOT) was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) in November 2013. The Portsmouth YOT is relatively new and was established on 1 April 2012 following disaggregation from the Wessex YOT. Wessex YOT was not the highest performing and as a result HMIP had decided to inspect the Portsmouth YOT sooner than the team anticipated. The HMIP found there were a number of areas to improve and published their results under 5 key headings with a star rating out of four, with four being the highest. The team had performed best against the 'ensuring that the sentence is served'. There were 12 recommendations made. The HMIP did however identify that there were some positive developments and in developing YOT management and staff groups. Following the inspection an improvement plan was produced and the YOT board meets monthly to closely monitor progress and to drive the level of improvement. Beginning to see results and the team were advised that there would be another inspection 22 months after the November 2013 meeting, so this was anticipated around May/June. The team feel positive about progress made but there is scope for further improvements.

Councillor Stagg said that the team had done a wonderful job following taking over from Wessex. Mr Ginns said that the consistency of the Chair of the YOT board had been an issue at first however the current Chair, Superintendent Stuart Murray was excellent. He was due to stand down and Will Schofield who already attends meetings is likely to become the new chair so this should be a smooth transition. Mr Gardner added that there had been a large turnover of staff in the team but this had been a positive change.

The following additional information was given in response to members' questions:

- A peer review was completed in the interim by Brighton and Durham LA's which provided external scrutiny and challenge. This had been positive and none of the challenges from this review came as a surprise to the team. Councillor Purvis said it would be useful to see a copy of the peer review results and Mr Ginns said he would check with Superintendent Murray and get back as these had not yet been released.
- Of the 6 YOT's who were inspected, three out of six achieved similar results to PCC and it was interesting to compare. The other three LA's were Newport, Islington and Croydon and were not within the same comparator YOT group as Portsmouth.
- The three national performance indicators were:
  1. Reoffending of young people in the youth justice system
  2. First time entrants to the youth justice system
  3. Use of custody for young people
- The work of the YOT is having an effect but need to ensure that this level is sustained to continue to reduce the reoffending rate.
- James Hill and the Troubled Families Team is one of the closet partners to the YOT. Phase 2 of the troubled families agenda loosens criteria so can focus attention on the right children. The new troubled

families' agenda is more helpful and comes in approximately June. 144 and only 12 eligible for troubled families.

- With regard to the demographics of young offenders, officers advised they are predominately white (two are from black or ethnic minority backgrounds), 70% male, 30% female.
- In terms of reoffending rates, 14 is the most common age to reoffend. Of the priority young persons (PYP's), the majority are at the Harbour School. SEN's are significant at 80%.
- The rationale of repeat offenders is very different. For females the trigger is often vulnerability such as abuse in the home whereas for males it is often a result of peer pressure.
- The results of the viewpoint questionnaire are reviewed every 6 months. Young people are keen to chat and give their views on the team and officers might be able to arrange for some to come to a future meeting.
- Multisystemic therapy was an incredibly intensive model and it would be interesting for the panel to perhaps receive evidence from one of the therapists.

#### Next meeting

- Witnesses Hayden and Jon. Also invite the YOT Board Chair, Superintendent Stuart Murray
- Aim of this meeting to cover the first 3 objectives in the draft scoping document.
- Officers to prepare for the panel in advance a brief analysis on performance against the 3 indicators and key observations on these
- Officers to provide peer review results
- Updated look at the improvement plan
- Also at this meeting the scoping document will be formally approved.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 24 February at 6pm.

The subsequent meeting would look at how well the partnership is integrating interventions with young people. The meeting after that would consider how effectively service users including victims are engaging with the YOT.

The meeting concluded at 7.45 pm.

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Councillor Will Purvis  
Chair

# Agenda Item 4

## EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

### SCOPING DOCUMENT

#### PROPOSED TITLE:

#### A REVIEW INTO PROGRESS AGAINST THE YOT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

#### 1. Background

The aim of this review is to investigate how the council and partners are responding to the finding of the YOT Inspection in 2013, and the progress against the subsequent Improvement Plan

#### 2. Objectives of the Inquiry

- To consider performance against the three National Indicators
- To consider progress against the Improvement Plan
- To consider the effectiveness of management and Governance arrangements through the YOT Management Board
- To assess how well the partnership is integrating interventions with young people
- To consider how effectively service users including victims are engaging with the YOT

#### 3. Written or verbal evidence to be heard from witnesses from the following:

- YOT Manager
- Partnerships and Commissioning Manager for Children
- YOT Board Chair (Police)
- YOT Board members
- A representative of the Youth Justice Board
- Head of Service for Safeguarding (relevant Head of Service)
- A young person supported by the YOT
- A victim (and parent carer where relevant) of youth offending

#### 4. Methodology and work plan

- Initial meeting to approve scoping document
- Submission of most recent Performance Report
- Submission of most recent Improvement Plan Monitoring
- 2 - 3 meetings with witnesses

## 5. Background documents

- Final HMIP Inspection Report
- Background and Context Report from YOT Manager

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Agenda item:

**Title of meeting:** Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

**Date of meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**Subject:** Analysis of Portsmouth YOT Performance against the 3 National Key Performance Indicators

**Report From:** Jon Gardner, PYOT Manager

**Report by:** Jon Gardner, PYOT Manager

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Portsmouth YOT is measured nationally against three Key Performance Indicators; Preventing First Time Entrants Into the Youth Justice System, Reducing the Rate of Re-Offending and Reducing the Rate of Custody. As well as measuring the trends of the last three years' worth of data, locally, the Portsmouth YOT Management Board has set a target of being in the top three of our comparator YOTs by 2016.

#### Reducing First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System

The graphs below paint a mixed picture. The trend of First Time Entrants since 2009 is clearly downwards. In many respects this is a success story. It is one that is also replicated across the country.

However, it is a concern that this decline has plateaued and in Quarter 2 of 2014/14- the last quarter for which we have data- there is even an increase. Furthermore, the rates in Portsmouth are above regional and national averages. In many respects the figures are beyond the control of the YOT as the YOT does not undertake any Early Intervention and preventative work. The figures in this respect may be seen as a reflection on the support provided to young people (including those beneath the age of criminal responsibility) to address the complex criminogenic needs which some of them may exhibit prior to involvement with the Youth Justice System.

Work is already underway to address these concerns and the rise in First Time Entrants. The Children's Trust is developing Multi Agency Teams to ensure joined up early intervention is focussed at those who need it. In relation to offending Multi Agency Triage Panels are planned for roll out in April- again to ensure bespoke interventions are offered; to ensure only those who need progress through into the Youth Justice System do so.

Fig 1

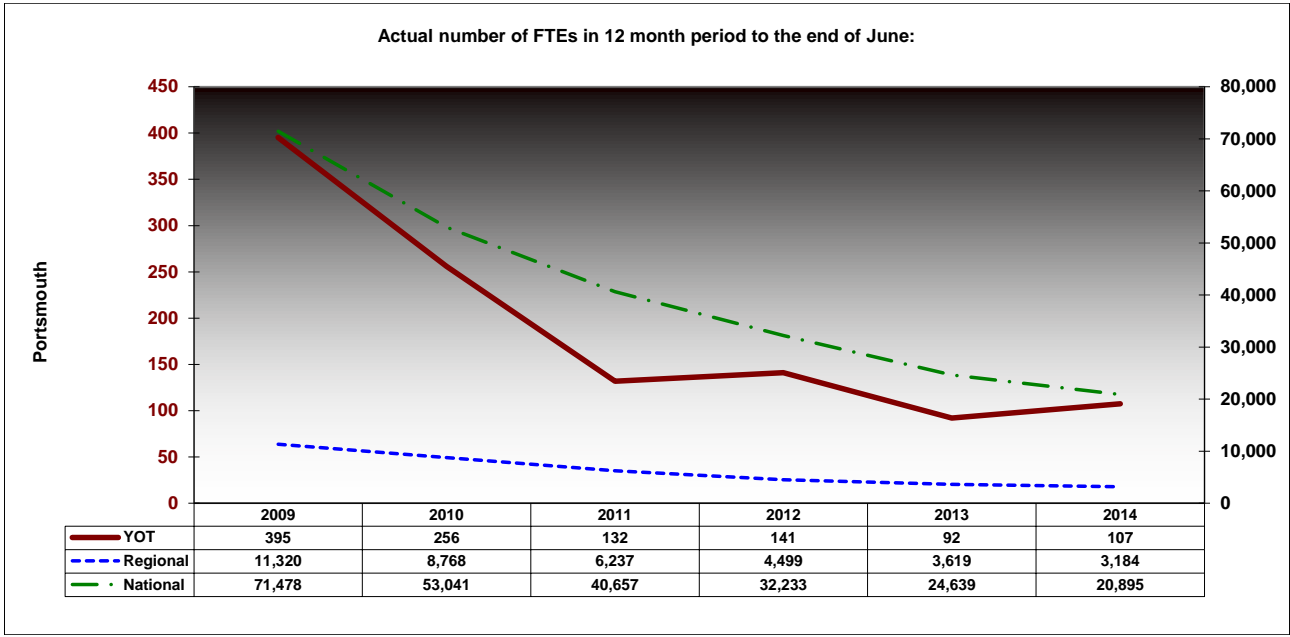
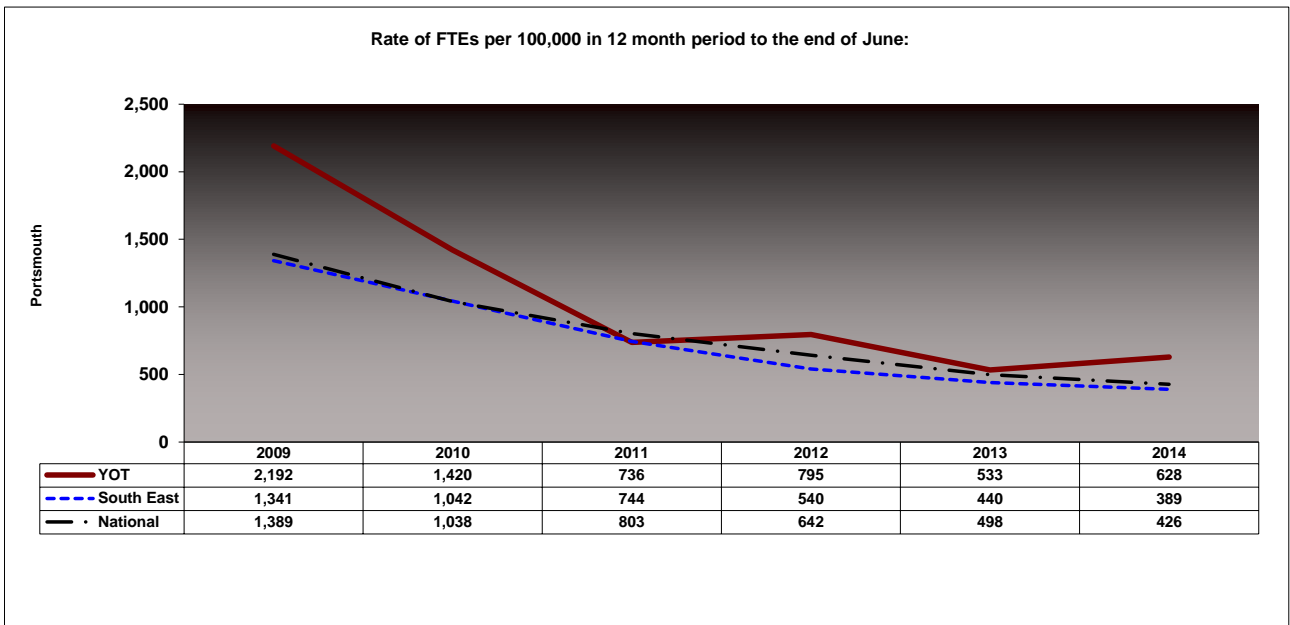


Fig 2



## Reducing Re-Offending rates

Fig 3: Re-offending Data

Portsmouth Trend Data					
Quarter	Cohort Size	Re-offenders within 12 months	Re-offences within 12 months	Offences per offender	Proportion of YPs who re-offend
Q1 (13/14)	350	164	636	1.82	46.9%
Q2 (13/14)	343	168	653	1.90	49.0%
Q3 (13/14)	333	161	608	1.83	48.3%
Q4 (13/14)	323	158	614	1.90	48.9%
Q1 (14/15)	304	138	550	1.81	45.4%
Q2 (14/15)	277	123	506	1.83	44.4%

Data is so far only available up to Quarter 2 (July to Sept) of 2014/15. As is evident from the chart above (fig 3), there is a downward trend in re-offending rates although offences per offender has plateaued. It should be noted that data for this particular measure is historic and the re-offending rates relates to a cohort of young people who first offended three years ago. So, the data for Quarter 2 14/15 relates to a group of young offenders coming into contact with the YOT from **Jan to Dec 2012**. The YOT is currently using a live tracker to measure real time re-offending rates. This indicates that currently the projected National Binary rate of re-offending is 23.5%. In Portsmouth the projected rate is 13.1%. In addition the projected National Frequency Rate is 0.78%. In Portsmouth it is 0.46%. Re-offending rates therefore sit encouragingly below projected national averages for both measures. Unfortunately, it is the historical figure which is measured by the YJB

There are a number of reasons for this reduction but both historically and more recently but it is my contention that greater joined up working between agencies in the city and improved YOT practices since disaggregation from Wessex YOT have played a part.

YJB measured re-offending rates are still high when compared to other YOTs though and there is still considerable work to undertake. However, the YJB advised in their quarterly report for Q2 14/15 that **"Performance has improved against both the binary and the frequency measures of reoffending during the period between Jan-Dec 11 and Jan-Dec 12 in line with the national trend although set against the trend towards a deterioration across the South East. (A mixed picture can be seen across Hampshire). It is noted that the improvements seen in Portsmouth are of a greater magnitude than those seen either nationally or across the South East or Hampshire."**

## Reducing Custody Rates

Again, at the time of writing, data is only available for Quarter 2 (July to Sep) of 2014/15. As is evident from the chart below (fig 4), there has been a significant reduction in custody rates in the last year.

Fig 4 Custody Rate Data

Portsmouth Trend Data		
Quarter	Number of Custodial Sentences	Rate per 1,000
Q1 13/14	26	1.50
Q2 13/14	22	1.27
Q3 13/14	16	0.92
Q4 13/14	12	0.69
Q1 14/15	6	0.35
Q2 14/15	9	0.53

Rates for Quarter 2 of 2014/15 did increase- though the figure is skewed slightly as one young person had his custodial sentence overturned on appeal in Quarter 3. The rate for Quarter 2 was therefore more likely to be similar to that of Quarter 1. Nonetheless, the rate is still lower than the start of the financial year. The speed of this decline over the last 18 months has been commented upon by the Youth Justice Board who are impressed by this rate of decrease. Indeed, in their most recent quarterly report they commented that **"Performance has improved substantially. Whilst this is in line with the trend seen nationally and across both the South East and Hampshire improvements seen in Portsmouth are to a much greater magnitude. In turn whilst actual performance remains weaker than the national average and also the South East and Hampshire averages, it is now much closer aligned which is a development that is welcomed."**

Again, one of the reasons for this reduction has been the improved practices and integrated working across the city by the YOT in recent months with agencies to ensure that the highest risk young people are effectively targeted.