

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Portsmouth City Council Cabinet Meeting

Date of meeting: 24th September 2015

Subject: Review of the HMIP Inspection Report and Inspection Improvement Plan

Report From: Stephen Kitchman, Director of Children's Social Care

Report by: Jon Gardner, Portsmouth Youth Offending Team Manager

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To update Cabinet on the outcome of the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) Full Joint Re-Inspection of Youth Offending within the City and proposed Inspection Improvement Plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That Cabinet notes the achievements made by the Youth Offending Team in improving practice and endorses the plan to make further improvements based upon the recommendations of the inspectorate.

3. Background

- 3.1. Following a critical Inspection of Youth Offending in December 2013, HMIP returned to the city in June of this year to review progress. They noted significant and sustained improvements had been made and highlighted these within their report published on 2nd September 2015 (Appendix 1)

- 3.2. Within the report star ratings were given as follows:

Reducing Re-Offending	70%	★ ★ ★
Public Protection	76%	★ ★ ★
Protecting the Child and Young Person	85%	★ ★ ★ ★

Ensuring the sentence is served	86%	★ ★ ★ ★
Interventions	75%	★ ★ ★
Governance and Partnerships	N/A	★ ★ ★

3.3. From their inspection inspectors found:

- Case managers provided relevant information to the courts, assessments demonstrated that they understood the reasons why children and young people offended, and the frequency and seriousness of offending had decreased;
- Work to protect the public and actual or potential victims was satisfactory. Multi-agency arrangements were largely effective in the management of risk of harm work. The sharing of intelligence between the YOT police officer and case managers was progressive;
- Protecting children and young people was good. Assessments and reviews were done well. Relationships with children’s social care services and the YOT were much improved. Management oversight had improved;
- Work to ensure that the sentence was served was good. The YOT and its partners worked effectively to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people. Enforcement was managed well;
- The effectiveness of governance and partnership arrangements was satisfactory. The YOT Management Board had acted decisively to address the findings of the joint inspection in 2013. Performance data was being used to inform service delivery; and
- The management and delivery of interventions to reduce reoffending was satisfactory. The variety of reparation activities was not always meaningful to children and young people. One-to-one delivery of supervision with children and young people was impressive.

3.4. Further to this inspection 5 recommendations were made:

- The YOT should ensure that planning for work to reduce reoffending is effective and children; young people and parents/carers have a greater input into these plans.
- Attention should be given to increase the numbers of children and young people attending and engaging in Employment, Training and Education (ETE).
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) should be covered as a standing item on the YOT Board agenda.

- Health services should be integrated into assessments, planning, reviews and service delivery.
 - Reparation activities should be meaningful to children and young people; the effectiveness of interventions should be measured and suitable alternative settings to the Civic Centre to deliver interventions should be considered.
- 3.5. The attached Inspection Improvement Plan (Appendix 2) has been devised and agreed to address these recommendations. The actions within align directly with the priorities of the 3 Year Youth Justice Strategic Plan.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1. The development of the improvement plan and aligned Youth Justice Strategic Plan are statutory requirements for the local authority and associated member endorsement is requested y

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 5.1. An EIA has not been completed for the 2015 inspection improvement plan but has been previously completed for the 2014/17 Youth Justice Strategic Plan with which this plan is aligned.

6. City Solicitor's Comments

- 6.1. There are no relevant legal comments applicable to this report as clearly the sustained changes and improvements mitigate as against risk to the Authority by way of, potential Inspectorate censure, Judicial Review or offender re-offending impact upon the Portsmouth and wider populations.

7. Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations within the report.

Signed by: Jon Gardner, Portsmouth YOT Manager

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: Name and Title