

Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	24 September 2015
Subject:	Response to Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel
Report by:	Stephen Kitchman Director of Children's Social Care
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

A recent review of progress of the Youth Offending Team's Improvement Plan in response to the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation report of 2013 was undertaken by the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel, Appendix 1. This report seeks to respond to the recommendations made.

2. Recommendations

That the panel is thanked for its work in undertaking a thorough review.

That Cabinet:

- I. notes and supports the recommendations in that report.
- II. notes the further inspection report of HMIP published 2nd September 2015, with corresponding endorsement of service improvement and development made within the Youth Offending Team.

3. Background

The Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel undertook a review into progress against the Youth Offending Team Improvement Plan. This was drawn up following a HMIP inspection of November 2013 which had identified particular weaknesses in Portsmouth, together with higher than average rates of reoffending.

The aim of the review was to investigate how the council and partners are responding to the findings of the YOT inspection of 2013 and the progress against the subsequent Improvement Plan. During the review which was carried out between February 2015 and June 2015, the Panel received evidence from a

number of sources, which it used to draw up a series of recommendations to submit to the Cabinet.

At its meeting on 24 February 2015, the Panel agreed the following objectives for a scrutiny review of progress against the PYOT Improvement Plan:

- 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 Portsmouth Youth Offending 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 PYOT

The Panel was chaired by Cllr Will Purvis and met formally to discuss the review on three occasions between 2 February 2015 and 16 June 2015.

The Panel noted that the actions on the improvement plan are fully on track and that good progress is being made with reducing re-offending rates and custody rates. The Panel also found the governance of the YOT Board to be strong and felt that the YOT team had adapted to recent changes in a professional manner. Full recommendations of the panel are contained within Appendix 1.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

The Portsmouth Youth Offending Board and wider partnership are committed to service improvement and associated outcomes to prevent young people offending and address the causes and impact of this. The recommendations of the scrutiny panel are therefore supported and will be incorporated into the annual refresh of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015 - 17.

5. Equality impact assessment

An equality impact assessment is not required as an EIA was completed on the YOT earlier this year and the recommendations do not have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010.

6. Legal implications

Legal comments are incorporated in the body of the scrutiny report.

7. Director of Finance's comments

The financial implications are contained within the scrutiny report.

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Signed by:

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
YOT Scrutiny Report	Appendix 1

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

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Signed by: