

3 July 2012**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, TARGETED SUPPORT AND YOUTH
JUSTICE SERVICES****OUTCOME OF THE YOUTH JUSTICE CORE CASE INSPECTION****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides the sub-committee with the outcomes of the Core Case Inspection of youth justice work in Nottinghamshire undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation in March 2012.

Information and Advice

2. The Core Case Inspection (CCI) programme entails visits by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) to all Youth Offending Services in England & Wales. It is a three year programme which commenced in April 2009. The inspection of Nottinghamshire took place during the week commencing 26 March 2012. Its primary purpose was to assess the quality of practice against published criteria in relation to assessment, interventions and outcomes. HMIP assess this by selecting a sample of cases which are read by a team of inspectors and assessors (including staff from the region itself) who then conduct interviews with the practitioners in charge of those cases. This is the primary source of evidence for the CCI. They also survey the views of children and young people supervised by the Youth Justice Service and victims of crime. In Nottinghamshire, HMIP looked at a representative sample of 62 youth offending cases. Services receive a rating against three core areas – Safeguarding, Public Protection and Reducing Offending. Ratings are based on a deficit model with the best result available being 'Minimal Improvement Required' and the worst 'Drastic Improvement Required' with 'moderate' and 'substantial' improvements being the gradings inbetween. Percentages are also presented as to the amount of time that work is completed to the 'required standard', meaning that all reasonable action has been taken.
3. Nottinghamshire was last inspected by HMIP in 2008 under a slightly different regime. At that time two of the eight areas were assessed as inadequate, six adequate and only those relating to youth crime prevention and parenting viewed as good. These 'good' areas have not been re-inspected as part of the Core Case Inspection programme.
4. The results of the 2012 Core Case Inspection are:

- Safeguarding: all reasonable action taken in 78% of cases, minimum improvement required
 - Public Protection – Risk of Harm: all reasonable action taken in 73% of cases, moderate improvement required
 - Public Protection – Likelihood of Re offending: all reasonable action taken in 80% of cases, minimum improvement required
5. Comparisons with similar county areas and other services in the East Midlands are shown in **Appendix 1**. The inspectorate describes these results as “credible” and they demonstrate a clear improvement on the 2008 figures.
 6. The inspectorate has made four recommendations for improvement. The first three centre on increasing the proportion of cases where “a timely and good quality assessment of the individual’s Likelihood of Re-offending is completed when the case starts and is regularly reviewed” and where “initial assessment includes a good quality plan to manage *Risk of Harm to others* and vulnerability”. They also suggest improvements to the effectiveness of management oversight to make sure these actions are completed by case workers to the required standard. In addition the inspectorate has recommended that “children’s social care services should be encouraged, in appropriate cases, to engage with the child or young person throughout the course of the sentence”. A group of senior managers from the Children, Families and Cultural Services Department are meeting to devise an improvement plan during June for agreement by the Targeted Support and Youth Justice Partnership Board. A copy of this plan must be submitted to HMIP for approval by August 2012.

Youth Justice System Performance

7. The sub-committee may wish to consider the results of the inspection in the context of the performance of the local youth justice system. The Youth Justice Board (YJB), the central government vehicle for overseeing performance, currently rates Nottinghamshire as an area of excellent performance. This judgement is arrived at by benchmarking with other areas and assessing improvement capacity. There are three measures used by the YJB in making these judgements - first time entrants to the youth justice system, re-offending and the use of custody.
8. ‘First time entrants to the youth justice system’ is a measure of first time offenders aged below eighteen and it is presented as a figure per 100,000 of the 10-17 population. In 2011-12 that figure was 572 compared to 802 in the previous year, a decrease of 29%. Looking at quarter 4 of that year the figure had dropped from 257 to 78, a drop of nearly 70%.
9. Re-offending is measured using a 12 month rolling period and looks at how many young people receiving a conviction or other outcome have re-offended a year later. The figure for quarter 4 of 2011-12 was 29.3% of young people re-offending. Whilst marginally higher than a measurement in the same period the year before, this compares well with national and regional comparators.

10. Custodial sentence numbers reduced in 2011-12 from 35 to 31. Whilst not a YJB performance measure, it is of note that custodial remands also dropped from 36 to 16.

Other Options Considered

11. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the results of the inspection and the arrangements for devising and submitting the improvement plan be noted.

Laurence Jones
Group Manager, Targeted Support and Youth Justice

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Laurence Jones
Group Manager, Targeted Support and Youth Justice
T: 0115 9773625
E: laurence.jones@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

13. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (NDR 11/06/12)

14. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0016