



meeting **Community Services Select Committee**

date **31 January 2005**

agenda item number

Report of the Assistant Director, Regeneration

The Performance of Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Service

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the performance systems that have been established by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in terms of monitoring the work of Youth Offending Services. This report will also examine the current level of performance of Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Service (YOS) highlighting areas of strengths and weaknesses. Unfortunately this report cannot contain information from the last quarter as scoring from the YJB is not available until the beginning of February 2005.

Information and Advice

2. Youth Offending Services are monitored in a number of different ways by the YJB. The most comprehensive monitoring of services occurs by measuring thirteen Key Performance Indicators (KPI). These are measured on a quarterly basis using information gleaned from the Youth Offending Service Database. Services are scored and ranked by the YJB (Currently ranked 93 out of 155) and such information forms the basis of the annual assessment which is returned to the YJB at the end of June 2005. Certain performance Indicators can be grouped together in terms of:

- Core YOS Activities
- Partner Activities
- Overall Reduction in Re-Offending

Core YOS Activities

3. While these are listed as YOS activities it should be noted that the success of these measures is also dependent upon the work of our strategic partners – Social Services Department, Education Department, Police Authority, Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), Probation Service. All current data supplied is cumulative and is based on the last two quarters unless stated otherwise.

4. Final Warnings: (These have replaced the old police caution system). This measure requires the number of Final Warnings supported by a full intervention programme to be no less than 80%. The current score is 88.6%.
5. Use of the Secure Estate (Custodial remands and sentences): The first part of this measure requires the number of remands to the secure estate to be no more than 30% of all remand episodes. The current score is 71.4%. This high figure reflects the number of serious offences which are alleged to have been committed where firearms have been a feature. This also reflects the number of those offenders who have breached bail conditions on a previous occasion. The YOS is currently strengthening its bail and non custodial remand programmes. The second part of this measure requires the number of those receiving custodial sentences to be no higher than 6% of all court disposals. The current score is 5.9%.
6. Restorative Processes: The first part of this measure is to ensure that 75% of all identifiable victims are given an opportunity to participate in a Restorative Justice Process. The current score is 82.1%. The second part is to ensure that 75% of victims are satisfied with the process, rather than the outcome of the case. The YOS scored 100% with regard to the satisfaction element.
7. Parenting: Firstly to ensure that 10% of parents whose children have received either a Final Warning or a community penalty receive a parenting intervention. An Intervention can involve individual or group work sessions. The current score is 15.7%. Again the measure requires 75% of those parents receiving an intervention to be satisfied; the current score is 100%.
8. Use of ASSET (Electronic risk assessment tool): This measure relates to the completion of this tool within five working days following the start and end of community programmes and the start, transfer and end of all custodial sentences. The target is 100 % in all cases and respectively the scores are 98.4%, 98.5% for community programmes and 100% for all three custodial elements.
9. Pre Sentence Reports: 90% of all Pre Sentence Reports should be completed within 10 working days. The YOS current score is 100%.
10. Detention and Training Order Plans: This target is to ensure that detailed plans are drawn up at a multi agency meeting at the secure establishment within 10 working days of sentence. The measure is set at 100%. The current performance of the YOS is 92.9%. We are hindered in this measure due to the absence of a nearby Young Offender Institution and the amount of resources required to travel to such institutions.
11. Prevention: This target which was new for 2004/05 required the total number of children worked with within Youth Inclusion and Support programmes (YISPs) to be 200. This measure has not yet been reported on but we are likely to achieve this target. YISPs are currently funded by the Children's Fund.

Partner Activities

12. While most of the following activities are outside the direct control of the YOS, it is incumbent on the YOS with its partners to ensure the following targets are met.
13. Education, Training and Employment: (ETE): The target is to ensure that 90% of those supervised by the YOS are in full time education, training or employment. (Full time is at least 25 hours per week). The current YOS score is 71.1%. There are concerns regarding this level of performance not least because the performance has remained constant for the last twelve months. For their part colleagues in Education have commissioned a review in relation to the level and amount of staff provided to YOS by the department. We are also working with Connexions in relation to performance improvements.
14. Accommodation: The target is to help ensure that 100% of all those supervised by YOS have suitable accommodation including those leaving custody. While the YOS score is 96.1% much more work needs to be completed with our partners: Social Services, District Councils and the Voluntary Sector, to ensure that the accommodation continues to be of a high standard and there needs to be a stronger agreement on the meaning of the term 'suitable'.
15. Mental Health: This two part target relates to the number of working days it takes the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) to complete a formal assessment for acute and non acute cases. The target is 100 % for both groups relating to 5 and 15 working days respectively. The current score is 80% and 74.3%. While it is recognised that the service provided is of a very high quality, the numerical target is not currently met. CAMHS is currently attempting to rectify the current situation.
16. Substance Misuse: This first part of this three part target is to ensure that 100% of offenders are screened for substance misuse. This target has been met as basic screening and assessments are completed within the YOS. The two other parts of the target relate to specialist assessments and interventions within fixed periods of time. While the target is 100% the current scores are 92.3% and 47.7%. The YOS Operational Board has recently written to the DAAT (Drug and Alcohol Action Team) who are the commissioners of this service with a view to ensuring the level of performance is improved. I understand there are current staff difficulties within the providing organisation.

Overall Reduction in Re-Offending

17. This single target performance score is not yet available for this year. The nature of the target measures re-offending of specific cohorts after 24 months have elapsed following a YOS intervention. The scores from last year indicated that we had significant successes with the earlier interventions and

were less successful following release from custody. It is not possible at the time of writing to speculate about this year's data.

18. From April 2005, a new KPI is to be introduced with regard to the number of young people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Groups involved in the criminal justice system. Clearly much of this target is out of the YOS direct control but we do have an important role to play not least to ensure that our programmes and interventions are meaningful towards BME communities. The actual target is to ensure that the percentage of those involved in the system from BME groups is not greater than their representation as a whole within the general population. The YOS is responsible for the delivery of an Action Plan which is aimed at redressing any discrepancies. The YOS is currently undertaking an Audit in relation to the current situation.
19. In addition to the monitoring of the YOS by the performance of KPIs, the YJB are monitoring the practice of YOS in certain key areas namely ETE, Final Warnings, Assessment, Planning and Interventions and Parenting. The YOS is currently working on Action Plans looking at improving practice in these key areas.
20. The YOS is currently undertaking a National Standards Audit which is due to be published in March. All interventions are subject to National Standards which is a detailed prescription of how services must be offered to our many different customers. For example, service users, courts and secure estate. It is not possible at the time of writing to provide any more information relating to the result of this audit.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

Recommendation

22. That the report is noted.

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Legal Services Comments

The County Council has powers under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to formulate and implement strategies for the reduction of crime and disorder and to secure Youth Justice Services to establish youth offending teams and formulate and implement

youth justice plans. The matters reported fall with powers and duties given under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (JA 14.01.05)

Director of Resources' Financial Comments (C.C)(P.B)

The performance of the Youth Offending Service, together with its partners, will affect future grant offers from the Youth Justice Board. This will also affect the amount of money paid over through the current public service agreement. As part of the medium term financial strategy the County Council are proposing to put an additional £400,000 into the Youth Offending Service during 2005/2006 and to help meet the required targets.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

None

Electoral Division(s) Affected

All