

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

**DATE:** 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **SLOUGH YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM UPDATE REPORT**

1. **Purpose of Report**

Following the report to the Panel which addressed the Slough Youth Offending Team's (YOT) work in October 2016, this report is to provide an update on developments within the YOT and the Youth Justice arena.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Committee is requested to note the report.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Priority 1 – Protecting vulnerable children

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The work of the YOT and its priorities help to deliver the following from Slough Borough Council's Five Year Plan:

- Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley
- More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs
- Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances

#### 4. **Other Implications**

##### (a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications in respect of the priorities as the restructuring ensures that the YOT works within the financial envelope given. The YOT is currently in discussions with health in respect of services related to speech and language.

##### (b) **Risk Management**

Part of the role of the YOT Management Board is to identify, consider, and as a collective reduce risks in respect of ensuring effective crime prevention services within Slough. This takes place at meetings. At present there are no risks that need to be brought to the attention of Scrutiny.

##### (c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act Implications in respect of the priorities and youth justice services.

##### (d) **Equalities Impact Assessment**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been required as the actions have not caused any new or substantially revised policies, procedures or functions. With regards to restructuring, it does not affect any staff who are registered disabled and is being processed with support and guidance of Human Resources.

#### 5. **Supporting Information**

##### **Youth Offending Team Progress since October 2016**

- 5.1 Over the period 2015 – 2016 Slough YOT met 2 out of 3 of the National Performance Indicators and 2 out of 3 of the Local Indicators. In respect of 2016 – 2017 the reporting data from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) for quarter 3 is not yet available. However the last published data from the YJB (Appendix A) shows that Slough YOT improved in respect of all 3 National Indicators (First Time Entrants, Reoffending Rate and Use of Custody rate).
- 5.2 This is reinforced by the in-house reporting (Appendix B). In regards to the Local Indicators (suitable accommodation, education, training and employment and black and minority ethnic groups), there are improvements in respect of 2 out of the 3.
- 5.3 The 3 most common offences are violence against the person, theft and handling and robbery. It should be noted that over the last 5 years there has been a decrease in violence against the person, robbery and domestic burglary. The focus continues to be on youth violence as there is recognition of younger children being involved in violent activities. Individual work with young people tends to be based on the offence, needs of the individuals and actions with proven results in terms of deliver. These will also involve families and partners as appropriate.
- 5.4 The YOT priorities are outlined in the Youth Justice Plan 2016 – 2019 (Appendix C). As highlighted in the last report to scrutiny these were submitted to and

accepted by the YJB in line with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Section 40). Progress on processing the priorities, which in the main are partnership priorities (linked to partner plans and priorities), are outlined in Appendix D. The priorities are reported to the YOT Management Board on a quarterly basis.

- 5.5 When the YOT last reported to the Panel in October 2016 (as part of the Trust update) the Charlie Taylor Review was pending. This was released in December 2016, along with the response from the Government. While noting the recommendations from the Charlie Taylor Review, the Government recognised the good work that YOTs did. They did however recognise the need for some change and intend to look at these taking place incrementally over time, with engagement with YOTs and the YJB.
- 5.6 There is currently no change planned in primary legislation. As a result, the role and function of YOTs (as defined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) remain in force. The youth justice grant remains ring fenced and administered from the YJB. An action plan in respect of implementing parts of Charlie Taylor Review accepted by the Government is anticipated in March 2017.
- 5.7 This should include a variety of aspects, such as:
- The establishment of pilot secure schools
  - Working with local authorities to explore how local areas can be given greater flexibility to improve youth justice services, strengthen scrutiny and inspection arrangements for custody
  - The clarification of commissioning functions
  - The creation of a single director of youth custody operations
  - A review of the governance of the youth justice system working with the YJB.

## 6. **Comments of Other Committees**

Since the last update to the Panel (which highlighted feedback from the Youth Justice Board and the YOT Management Board), the only presentations have been to the December 2016 YOT Management Board. The YOT Management Board looked at progress in respect of priorities completed and priorities still to be processed 12 December 2016. A further update on priorities is due to be given to the YOT Management Board at the scheduled March 2017 meeting.

## 7. **Conclusion**

Slough YOT, in conjunction with relevant partners, is progressing work to prevent offending behaviour by children and young people within Slough in line with legislation. As a result, it directly contributes to the continued objective of Slough being seen as a safe town to live and work in. Slough YOT will also work with partners in respect of youth violence and the Government in respect of any changes to YOTs nationally over the year. Other than to note developments and progress highlighted in this report there is no recommendation to be made to Scrutiny.

8. **Appendices Attached**

- 'A' - YJB Slough Data Summary April – September 2016  
National Performance Indicators
- 'B' - In house Local and National Performance Indicators.
- 'C' - Youth Justice Plan 2016 – 2019.
- 'D' - Slough Youth Justice Plan Priorities for 2016-2017.

9. **Background Papers**

Agenda papers and minutes,  
Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016