

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 24th October 2018

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PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

SLOUGH YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM UPDATE REPORT

1. **Purpose of Report**

This report is to provide an update on developments within the YOT and the Youth Justice arena since the last submission in October 2016 and covering June 2017 – June 2018.

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

The Panel 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**

Slough YOT's Youth Justice Plan dovetails into the Slough Wellbeing Strategy, 2016-2020, the priority to protect vulnerable children (Priority 1). This can be seen in the section of the Youth Justice Plan (Appendix A) around managing the risk of harm (particularly around the risk management panel which is multi-agency and focuses on young people at risk of harm, and safety and wellbeing where Children Looked After are concerned), and the voice of the child. Improving mental health and wellbeing (Priority 3) is also highlighted within the Youth Justice Plan and is evidenced by Slough YOT working with various partners within Slough to ensure that work with children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) was recognised – via attaining the SEND Quality Mark.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The work of the YOT and its priorities highlighted in the Youth Justice Plan, summarised under the heading Update on Slough YOT's achievements and priorities during 2017/18, helped to deliver the following from Slough Borough Council's Five Year Plan:

- Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful.
- Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs.
- Slough will be an attractive place where people will choose to live, work and stay.

In respect of the first 2 areas work undertaken by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) secondee supported this along with all staff participating in relevant training (particularly around trauma) and increased utilising of organisations such as KOOH (on-line counselling) and Daisy's Dream (bereavement/wellbeing). The final bullet point is supported not just by encouraging engagement in community activities, facilitating young people to give back to the community via indirect reparation by working with community groups for example, but also encouraging not just service users but also students, (particularly those on social work placements), volunteers, interns, individuals who have sought work experience etc to undertake work within Slough.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications in respect of the priorities since the 2016 restructuring ensured that the YOT worked within the financial envelope given. In addition, the YOT obtains grants to support non statutory. Joint bidding is also looked at, not just within Slough but across the Thames Valley, an example of the latter being in respect of Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) provision which is shared with 2 other YOTs within East Berkshire.

Having delivered services over most of 2017 with several vacancies (as a result of the restructuring), Slough YOT had an underspend of £33,000 which contributed to the Trust savings.

(b) Risk Management

Part of the role of the YOT Management Board is to identify, consider, and as a collective reduce risks (outlined in the following Table) in respect of ensuring effective crime prevention services within Slough. This takes place at meetings and is on going. In respect of vacant / 'new' staff (12 plus over the year) posts, which put a strain on 'old' staff, who had to pick up additional tasks, members of the Board have individually, and collectively sought to resolve issues in a manner that would not result in an overspend. This was demonstrated with the Probation Service covering agency costs in respect of a vacancy related to their secondee. The current outstanding vacancy/financial risk is around a Heath secondee vacancy and this is being addressed by the Chair of the YOT Management Board.

In respect of seeing young people to address their offending and keeping them safe, there is a potential risk if limited / no accommodation is identified when SBC and the Trust relocate to central Slough. This is being addressed at YOT Management Board level.

| Recommendation from section 2 above | Risks/Threats/ Opportunities | Current Controls | Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk | Future Controls |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Health Vacancy in respect of secondment | Children and young people unable to access service speedily, hence additional workload strain on staff and external commissioning | Sending referrals to generic CAMHS and utilising other services | 8 (Health & Safety and Economical/ Financial – Marginal impact) | Chair of YOT Management Board will be making an approach to Health with a view of re-establishing secondee |
| Accommodation to see young people | No where to work with young people when relocated | Utilising St Martins Place, Landmark Place | 6 (Health & Safety and Economical/ Financial – Marginal impact) | Involvement with accommodation focus group to be established to highlight needs. |

(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 there have not been any new or substantially revised policies, procedures or functions.

5. **Supporting Information**

Youth Offending Team progress

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The YOT priorities are outlined in the Youth Justice Plan 2018 - 2019 (Appendix A). 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 B. The priorities are reported to the YOT Management Board on a quarterly basis.
- 5.3 The Youth Justice Plan highlights the progress of the YOT over 2017/18 and also the fact that since the last report to this Panel the top 3 offences committed by young people within Slough has more or less remained the same (as will be highlighted later in the report). It is important to note that there has been a decrease in young people offending and that the national occurrence of young people being involved in moving drugs across the country (county lines) have not escaped Slough. However as highlighted in the Youth Justice Plan there is a lot of partnership work occurring around this.

- 5.4 The performance section of the plan shows that as hoped for in 2016/2017 the outturn in respect of the national and local indicators was solid with 4 out of 6 indicators (re-offending, custody, first time entrants and ethnicity) being achieved. However 2017/2018 saw a deterioration with only 2 out of the 6 indicators (custody and first time entrants) being achieved. Although there was a slight increase in the outturn of the local indicator around education, employment and training this still remained a 'weak' area, similar to 2016.
- 5.5 During 2017/2018, violence against the person and theft have been the most common offences with a noticeable drop in motoring offences - which had been one of the top three frequently committed offences the previous year. The third top offence now is drug offences followed by sexual offences. While noting that violence and theft were also within the top 3 during the report to Panel in 2016 it should be highlighted that the nature of the violence has changed to violence connected more to the movement of drugs. Hence there is a lot of partnership work being undertaken across Slough, regionally and nationally to protect, prevent and support young people and families caught up in the 'serious youth violence' agenda. The strength of this work is the sharing of information with relevant agencies and partners within and outside of Slough and a way of working where duplication is avoided where young people are working with a range of agencies.
- 5.6 In line with the Crime and Disorder Act the Police, National Health Service and Probation Services have a duty to work with the Council as part of the YOT. The composition and funding for the YOT is outlined in the Youth Justice Plan, highlighting how this occurs. Primarily under the partnership section the plan also highlights the relationships with housing, education, children services (particularly in regards to working with), police and crime commissioner etc. Where children looked after in children's homes are concerned there is a concordat that Slough has signed up to, and which partners follow, which means that these particular young people are not criminalised, but worked with. Notification and joint work with social care also takes part in respect of young people who are placed in custody, whilst in custody and leaving custody.
- 5.7 Following strong performance around CAMHS / health, the relocation of the secondee, and subsequent gap has left this area weaker particularly around the access and timeliness of assessments and treatment. As previously mentioned this is being addressed and hopefully there will be a positive outcome which supports children and young people within Slough.
- 5.8 When asked to produce the Scrutiny Report it was communicated that there were 3 specific queries. Answers to these are covered in both the Youth Justice Plan, this report. However to assist there is a succinct response in Appendix C under Questions and Answers. In respect of success of the work of the YOT Appendix D has Cases illustrating impact/outcomes.

6. **Comments of other committees**

- 6.1 Approval of the Youth Justice Plan was received from the Youth Justice Board 1st August 2018 indicating that the requirement as laid out in their guidance had been met and commending the YOT on the pilot with the Front Door, SEND Quality Mark and partnership work with county lines exploitation and vulnerable young people (Appendix E).
- 6.2 Quality Mark approval in respect of SEND where it was noted that there was a *“very solid base from which to push for Quality Lead status”* (Appendix F). The Quality Mark runs for 3 years.

7 **Conclusion**

- 7.1 Since the last appearance at Scrutiny Slough YOT has sustained progressed as highlighted in the Youth Justice Plan and comments from the Youth Justice Board. In addition the YOT has sought to develop areas which would support not just youth justice but also Slough overall e.g. around SEND, growing our own (students, volunteers etc). This is all during a period of recruiting to and embedding a new staffing group and ensuring that partnership working is maintained to ensure effective tackling of changing agendas.
- 7.2 The biggest risks remain around the lack of a health secondee and the local target of young people who are in the youth justice process not being in education, employment or training hence more at risk of offending, remain a concern. Both areas are being focused on. In conclusion while noting particular challenges it can be said that the strong partnership work, which includes sharing of information, has meant that Slough continues to not just work in ensuring that youth justice services are delivered in line with legislation but also that those at risk of offending are worked with, those who offend are supported to avoid future offending (and protected), and Slough YOT continues to be an effective service where the Youth Justice Board is concerned.

8 **Appendices Attached**

- A - Youth Justice Plan 2018/2019
- B - Priorities Plan Progress
- C - Questions & Answers
- D - Cases
- E - Youth Justice Plan Approval comments
- F - SEND Quality Mark comments