

# Restorative Youth Services Work Programme 2016/17

Children's Health, Social Care and Education

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

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| Author:            | Director of Children Services |
| Wards:             | All                           |
| Locality Affected: | All                           |
| Parishes Affected: | NA                            |

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## 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1. The Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee have specific responsibility for the review of Local Authority services delivered to children and young people in Swindon. This includes the provision of specialist integrated services delivered against local and national performance indicators, including Restorative Youth Services (RYS) which comprise the Youth Offending Team, confidential youth counselling service, On Trak and the (youth) substance misuse service, U Turn.
- 1.2. The Committee's work programme requires a report to be submitted providing an overview of the work of Restorative Youth Services, including progress in relation to targets and challenges to future service delivery.

## 2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note and approve progress in relation to the strategies for meeting Government and local targets for reducing first time offending, re-offending, remand, custodial rates, and substance misuse. This report also reflects on progress with the delivery of confidential youth counselling services.

## 3. Detail

- 3.1 The confidential youth counselling service, On Trak and the youth alcohol & drug misuse service, U-Turn are under the direct management of the YOT's Manager (RYS Service Manager) and, accordingly, have separate plans incorporated into the Restorative Youth Services Plan 2016-17. This plan acknowledges national and local priorities relating to offending, substance misuse and counselling, and describes strategy, performance, partnerships, finance, as well as the challenges and opportunities which now govern future priorities.
- 3.2 The Restorative Youth Services Plan 2016/17 was approved by the Youth Offending Team Management Board on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and also submitted to the Local Authority's Health and Wellbeing Board on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 for approval. The RYS Plan was also signed off by the Youth Justice Board following submission on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Matt Bywater, 01793 463890, mbywater@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 3.3 Developments associated with the Youth Offending Team (YOT), include an ambitious post Inspection Action Plan which has been under scrutiny by the YOT Management Board.
- 3.4 Key areas of work associated with safeguarding and risk management were subject to an independent review carried out in August 2016 by the ex-Head of West Berkshire YOT, Davy Pearson. This report is being presented to the YOT Board on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016, early indications are positive. Against this background the YOT's Management Information system, ChildView underwent a significant upgrade, and incorporated a new assessment tool (AssetPlus) which required several days training and familiarisation by all staff to ensure a successful transition to new ways of working.
- 3.5 A number of separate reviews were also undertaken in compliance with the requirement of the post Inspection Action Plan, including a scrutiny of the work done to encourage a Restorative Justice intervention between victim and offender, and a review of the work of Parenting (including methodology and satisfaction rates). Both reviews were informed by a national questionnaire sent out by Swindon YOT to all 155 YOTs in England and Wales.
- 3.6 Restorative Youth Services key performance indicators for the period to July 2016 show that:
- The rate of First Time Entrants, although slightly above national averages, remains in low figures relative to the population. However, the YOT has had some difficulty in reconciling figures produced by the Police National Computer (PNC) compared with locally held YOT data, prompting an investigation now underway.
  - During 2016, custody peaked to a high of 9 young people. This figure fluctuates rapidly and can be subject to influences both within and outside of the YOTs sphere of influence or control. As the imposition of custody is, thankfully, a relatively rare event and involves less than 5% of the YOT caseload (as per the YOT's local target) any case involving custody is automatically reviewed to ensure that where the YOT has been able to exert some influence or offer up alternatives (viz. Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) as the statutory alternative to custody) this has been done. Currently, Swindon has only one young person currently in custody serving a sentence, and no young person remanded into Youth Detention Accommodation.

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- Re-offending rates were much higher than the national average in 2015 but have reduced to levels which approximate to both national and South West offending populations.
- 3.7 In a separate initiative, the Service Manager met with the School Improvement Advisor / Commissioner to agree a more joined up response to emergent concerns around the core areas of Substance Misuse, Weapons / Knives in Schools, sexually harmful behaviours and restorative approaches to behaviour management.
- 3.8 In addition, the YOT Police Officer and Service Manager recently met with the Education other than at school (EOTAS) Head of Service and the YOT Police Officer has agreed to work with this part of the service to work up a bespoke group work programme aimed at young people who may be tempted to become involved in organised crime.
- 3.6 The YOT received the outcome of two thematics released by the Youth Justice Board: 'Referral Orders – do they achieve their potential?' (July 2016) and 'Accommodation of Homeless 16 and 17 Year Old Children Working With Youth Offending Teams' (September 2016). A copy of the former was released to all Panel Members in Swindon for their perusal, with plans to follow up the learning and recommendations in a Panel Members / Volunteers training meeting in November. Swindon is liaising with Wiltshire YOT colleagues with a view to scoping refresher training for all new and existing Panel Members in both areas jointly.
- 3.8 The second thematic around accommodation, for 16 and 17 years prompted the YOT to see if this was a particular issue for and in Swindon. This review identified that, of the identified cohort of 31, 16 and 17 years old, only 3 (10%) were accommodated in 'unsuitable' accommodation, and all 3 were actually in Young Offenders Institution (YOI) or Secure Training Centre (STC).
- 3.9 YOTs have been anticipating the publication of the Government review of youth justice services being led by Charlie Taylor, the former Chief Executive of the National College of Teaching and Leadership and a former head teacher.
- 3.10 The original scope of the review suggested that the outcome could have significance for all YOTs in terms of future operating models, as well as funding, and statutory responsibilities under potential new legislation. However changes within central government have now created uncertainty over the validity of the report and its future publication. Current information suggests if the report is to be published, this will be delayed until later in 2016.
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- 3.11 Children's Services recently approved the placing of the co-ordination of assessments and interventions around children and young people displaying Sexually Harmful Behaviours (SHB) [via the AIM – Assessment, Intervention, Moving on - processes] under the Restorative Youth Service umbrella. Specifically this entails transfer of co-ordination responsibilities from the previous Co-ordinator to the current Ops Manager, Youth Offending Team.
  - 3.12 It is hoped this will offer co-ordinated and considered responses to any young person referred, who is believed to be exhibiting Sexual Harmful Behaviours.
  - 3.13 On the 1 July two new workers joined the Team in the capacity of RESPECT workers, based on funding received from the Wiltshire Community Foundation. The funding covers two years, and is aimed at reducing incidences of adolescent to parent abuse across families in Swindon and will be available across Swindon Children's Services. The programme requires delivery of a structured intervention (based on the national RESPECT model) as well as the ability to engage and train other professionals – including social workers and health workers – aimed at the sustainability of the programme over the long term. The programme received positive media coverage in both press and radio.
  - 3.14 Referrals to the On Trak Youth Counselling Service remain high, with continuing pressure on waiting times. The appointment of two new qualified Counsellors and unpaid but skilled volunteers means that there is now more scope for assessments and follow up with greater flexibility in the work.
  - 3.15 Training was recently delivered, in conjunction with the Churchfields school resident Counsellor to educate/ update the volunteers in the appropriate skills of counselling and delivery within guidelines. During September 2016 an observed practice visit was undertaken by the Head of Children, Families and Community Health with positive feedback which included "The team is passionate and dedicated to deliver a timely and responsive service to service users", "The team has a file filled with compliments and feedback from service users – indicating the value they place on service feedback in order to keep improving and meeting young people's needs".
  - 3.16 One of the key challenges is to work more effectively with Targeted and Mental Health Services (TAMHS) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and discussion is planned. On Trak have a pressure to pick up those young people who are not always eligible for other services. The service is also seeking innovative ways of working, including online counselling and a higher profile through the new website The Dock (see below).
  - 3.17 The Substance Misuse Service U-Turn continue to receive a steady flow of referrals from different agencies, and a discernible increase from schools. In July 2016 a new drugs worker was appointed and this has returned U-Turn to its full

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capacity. Cannabis is still the primary substance presenting for males and females, with a small number of alcohol clients. One young person is presenting in clinic for heroin use and is receiving targeted support from the registered doctor.

- 3.18 Most young people are presenting as low risk regarding drug use but with multiple vulnerabilities. U-Turn are engaged more fully in prevention work and promotion has been a focus, so young people and professionals are aware of harm existing or what new drugs can cause and what to do or how to refer. U-Turn is also working alongside The Dock, a new support website for young people where the service can be promoted.
- 3.19 The award winning programme 'Young Volunteers' was recommended, by HM Inspectorate of Probation for expansion across more of Swindon's primary schools. Training has been delivered to seven schools since April 2016, of which four (Orchid Vale, Robert Le Kyng, Wroughton, and Eldene) are engaged in the delivery of the anti-crime programme to other classes and neighbouring schools.
- 3.20 Restorative Youth Services was subject to an assessment held on the 11 August 2016, by Investors in Volunteers (IIV) in order to secure renewal of its prestigious kite mark. An audit carried out in June 2016 showed that RYS had 44 adult volunteers. Of these, 14 acted as Appropriate Adults; 15 as panel members, 12 as On Trak counsellors; and 3 support reparation activities including half term projects. The YOT also had 32 young volunteers (ages 9 and 10) from Orchid Vale, Robert Le Kyng, Wroughton, and Eldene schools. IIV was granted following this review for a further period 2016 to 2019.
- 3.21 RYS was delighted to be cited by the Mayor for a team award (Volunteers) at the 2016 Pride of Swindon Awards event. Six of our volunteers (each with well over 10 years of service) attended an event at Steam to receive the award, and were also present at a ceremony to unveil a plaque at the Central Library.
- 3.22 In a ground breaking initiative for Swindon designed to improve outcomes for young people using digital tools, The Council commissioned a new website called <http://thedockswindon.co.uk/>. The official launch of this site (with media in attendance) took place at the Local Safeguarding Children's Board on the 12th October at the Wyvern Theatre. Every school and college in Swindon is due to receive publicity material encouraging young people to use The Dock which will help keep them informed, safe and healthier. Young people also have an opportunity to contact key services using a 'I want advice' tab.

#### 4. Alternative Options

None

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## 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 The YOT is financed through a combination of funding from the Youth Justice Board, Local Authority (Children's Services), Wiltshire Police Crime Commissioner, and partner organisations. The total Youth Justice grant for 2016/17 amounts to £224,950 including funding set aside specifically for helping to meet devolved demands associated with Unpaid Work and Attendance Centre orders from Court. Partnership cash funding amounts to £437,933 of which £267,500 comes from Children's Services.
- 5.2 The following agencies also provide cash contributions: £78,533 from the Police and Crime Commissioner; £5,000 from the National Probation Service; £19,700 from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG); and £67,200 from the Wiltshire Community Fund, in addition to staffing resources (based on secondments) such as the Police Officer, Health worker, Probation staff and Education worker.
- 5.3 The substance misuse service U-Turn is funded from three sources; Local Authority based Public Health (£75,000); Youth Justice grant funding transferred from YOT income to U Turn (£13,000); and Children's Services core funding (£33,600), in addition to £3,600 from Health, making a total budget of £125,200.
- 5.4 The youth counselling service On Trak is funded by the Local Authority £61,300, and the CCG (£64,000) making a total budget of £125,300.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.5 The Plan conforms to all the Borough's protocols and policies concerning the Legal and Human Rights of Swindon residents.
- 5.5 The Plan also builds in interventions on behalf of young people designed to promote opportunities for constructive use of their leisure time and as a result, a reduction in anti – social behaviour or crime.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.6 Restorative Youth Services are uniquely placed to straddle the criminal justice and care environments, resulting in strong links with the overarching strategic themes encompassed within key partner agencies including the Police and Crime Commissioner (Wiltshire and Swindon).

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## Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.7 The Plan takes account of developments incorporated into Local Authority plans (including Community Safety) around crime prevention and reducing reoffending, as well as links to 'One Swindon' Priorities and specific targets around improving life for families in Swindon.

## Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.8 The work of the YOT, substance misuse service U-Turn, and the youth counselling service On Trak, are embedded in the Restorative Youth Services Plan 2016-17 which includes the Diversity Impact Assessment.

## Risk Management

- 5.9 Plans include activities or protocols and procedures designed to address known or anticipated risks, including those associated with the potential for public sector funding reductions, as well as safeguarding of staff and young people.

## **6. Consultees**

- 6.1. The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 None.

## **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 None.