

# Bracknell Forest Youth Offending Service

## Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013 - 2017

2016/17 Refresh



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# Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requires Local Authorities to have a Youth Justice Plan which is annually updated to set out how Youth Justice Services will be delivered locally within the available resources. This Plan will cover the 3 year period from 2013 - 2016\*, and will be refreshed annually, reflecting any changes to the national and local Youth Justice landscape which impact on the priorities in this plan and the Youth Offending Service's ability to deliver the range of services designed to reduce youth offending within Bracknell Forest.

\*The Community Safety Partnership has agreed that this plan will be extended until 2017 when a new 3 year plan will be published. This is so that the Youth Justice Plan aligns with the period covered by Bracknell Forest Community Safety Plan.

**This is therefore the final refresh of the original 3 year plan and will cover the period 2016-2017.**

# 1. Resourcing and value for money

# Financial resources

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) is funded through contributions from the statutory partner agencies in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. These are the Local Authority, (covering Education and Social Care), the National Probation Service, the National Health Service and the Police Service. The Police Service contribution to the YOS budget is contained within the Community Safety Fund which comes via the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), and also included is the PCC grant to the YOS. In addition, the YOS receives a Youth Justice Grant from the Ministry of Justice and Department For Education which is pass ported through the Youth Justice Board.

The table below shows the amount of funding from each of the partner agencies for the year 2016 – 2017. These contributions are reviewed each year.

Youth offending service budget sources for the financial year 2016/17			
Agency	Contributions to Staffing Costs	Other Delegated Funds from Partner Agencies	Total
Probation	0	5,000	5,000
Health	17,635	7,520	25,155
Police	23,088	0	23,088
Local Authority	319,260	20,260	339,520
PCC grant to Local Authority Community Safety Fund	21,850	39,360	61,210
YJB	117,130	0	117,130
<b>Total</b>	<b>498,963</b>	<b>72,140</b>	<b>571,103</b>

Funding contributions from the NHS and the police have been maintained at the same level as 2015/16. The contribution from the Local Authority has been reduced from last year by 6% (£21,800) and savings have had to be made. The Youth Justice Grant from the Youth Justice Board was reduced in year by 10.6% (£15,210) and for 2016/17 it has been further reduced by 8.9% (£11,470).

# Staffing Resources

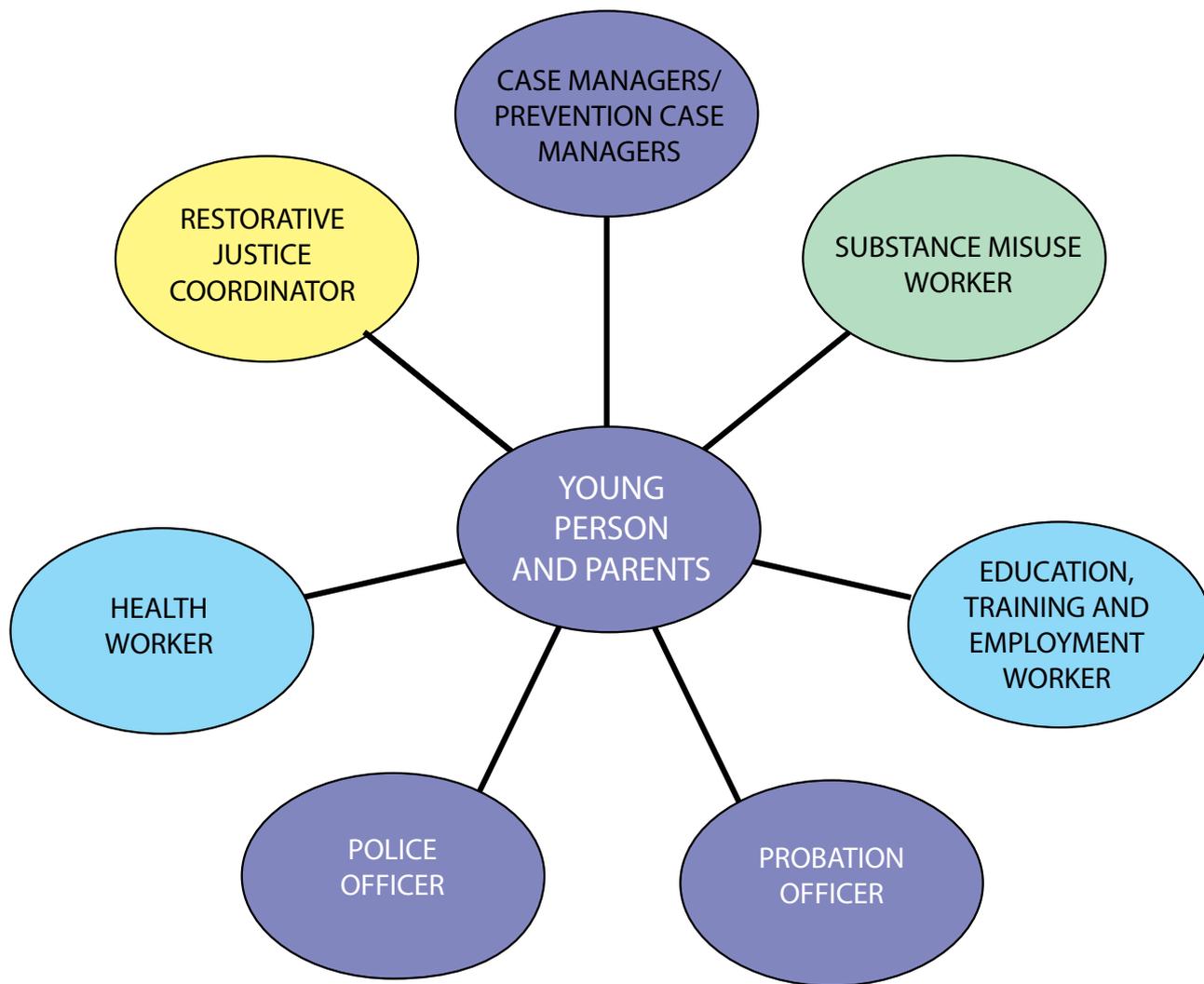
In accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the YOS has a range of skill sets within the workforce which is made up of professionals from a variety of agencies whose skills and experience complement each other. Although the role of Probation Officer is a statutory post under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, for approximately 14 years up until 2016, the Probation Service have supplied funding rather than seconded a member of staff. However the funding remained the same for several years, and did not meet the staff salary increments which occurred. In April 2015 the 'Transforming Rehabilitation' Legislation came into force and the Probation Service re organised into two separate divisions, the National Probation Service (NPS) and area based Community Rehabilitation Companies. The NPS retained the responsibility for the partnership arrangements with YOS as stated in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. A new national protocol was developed to take effect from April 2016, which states that NPS will only second probation staff to YOS according to a national formula, and no funding will be allocated, other than a nominal £5000 per annum to each YOS for management costs. A 0.5 FTE Probation Officer has been allocated to Bracknell Forest YOS and is due to be in post by 20th September 2016. To date £5,000 from the NPS has been received. This year the financial contribution to YOS from the Local Authority has reduced and as a direct result of this, the contract of the YOS Parenting Worker post was not renewed from 31.3.16.

Regular analysis of need and review of Service provision have underpinned staff training and development to ensure that partnership resources are used effectively. However, the budget for training and development has significantly reduced which has a direct impact on the amount of training that can be offered to staff during 2016/17.

The YOS has a diminishing range of specialist services 'in house'. Specialist services located within the YOS team include: a substance misuse worker, (11 hours per week), physical health worker, (15 hours per week) education, employment and training worker, (11 hours per week), restorative justice coordinator (26 hours per week). As a direct result of reduced funding to YOS from 31.3.16, the YOS no longer has a parenting worker, a CAMHS link worker (previously 7.4 hours per week), or a Connexions Personal Advisor, (previously 7.4 hours per week).

The YOS Performance Management Board is regularly updated on the range and quality of service provision delivered to young offenders, through short presentations from specialist workers at Management Board meetings.

# Staffing structure 2016 - 17



# Commissioning

The Bracknell Forest YOS currently has Service Level Agreements and / or Protocols in place with a range of providers of universal and specialist services, e.g. Schools, Health (CCG), and Children's Social Care. In addition, because of the size of the Borough, the YOS benefits from excellent 'informal' communication arrangements with service providers, at all levels, i.e. operational and strategic. The YOS Partnership benefits from its positive relationships with all agencies in Bracknell Forest that work with children and young people.

The Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) has developed a Commissioning Strategy which is linked to the Early Help Strategy. As a member of the CYPP the YOS has been involved in the development of these Strategies, with particular links to the YOS Prevention Service which has been an area of growth for the YOS during the lifetime of this Plan. The YOS continues to be involved in the implementation of the Commissioning Strategy through its partnership working with the Children and Young People's Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership.

## 2. Structures and governance

The YOS sits within the Children’s Social Care branch of the Children, Young People and Learning Department of the Local Authority. The Head of the Youth Offending Service is accountable to the Director of the Department through the Chief Officer, Children’s Social Care who monitors the YOS operationally through the provision of monthly supervision.

## YOS Management Board

Governance of the YOS is provided by the YOS Performance Management Board reporting into the Bracknell Forest Community Safety Partnership. The YOS Management Board meets quarterly and is made up of the members of the Community Safety Partnership who have statutory responsibility for YOS funding. The YOS Management Board scrutinises YOS performance and develops actions for improvement where necessary. Its purpose is also to provide clarity for partners about the scope of their role in governing the YOS and to maintain a good understanding of the range and quality of youth justice services delivered in Bracknell Forest. Staffing and resource issues are regularly reviewed and the Board assists in setting the strategic direction of the YOS.

The YOS Management Board takes an active role in ensuring that young offenders and those at risk of entering the youth justice system have access to universal and specialist services within Bracknell Forest and that partner agencies recognise and maintain responsibility for contributing to the reduction of offending by children and young people.

## Composition of Management Board

Name	Agency representing
Clare Dorning	Head of Housing Strategy and Needs, Bracknell Forest Council
Chief Inspector Dave Gilbert (Chair)	Deputy LPA Commander Thames Valley Police
Lorna Hunt	Chief Officer Children’s Social Care, Bracknell Forest Council
Liz Stopp	Interim Children’s Commissioner, Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS
John Ennis	Senior Probation Officer, National Probation Service, Thames Valley
Ian Dixon	Head of Targeted Services, Bracknell Forest Council
Kellie Williams	Community Safety Manager, Bracknell Forest Council

# 3. Performance

There are 3 Impact and Transparency National Indicators for the Youth Justice System which were introduced in April 2011 without targets.

These are:

1. Reoffending of young people in the youth justice system
2. First time entrants to the youth justice system
3. Use of custody for young people

Data for indicator 1 is taken from the Gov.uk website (latest data available), and relates to the cohort of young offenders covered by the time period indicated, and their reoffending during the following 12 months.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/proven-reoffending-statistics-july-2013-to-june-2014>

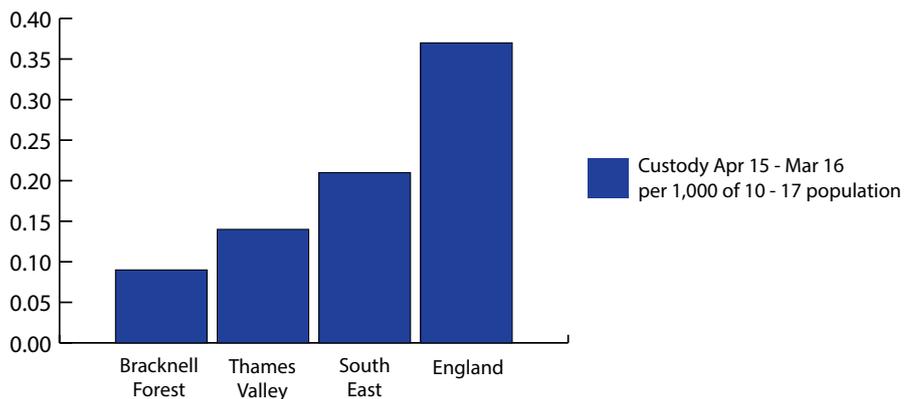
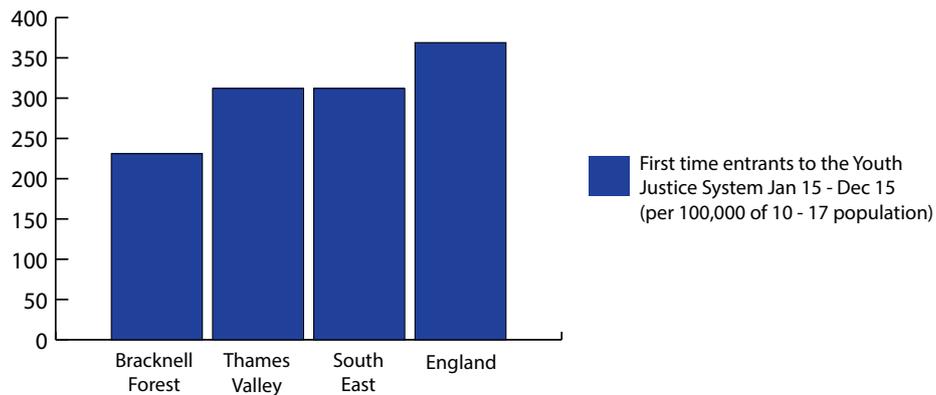
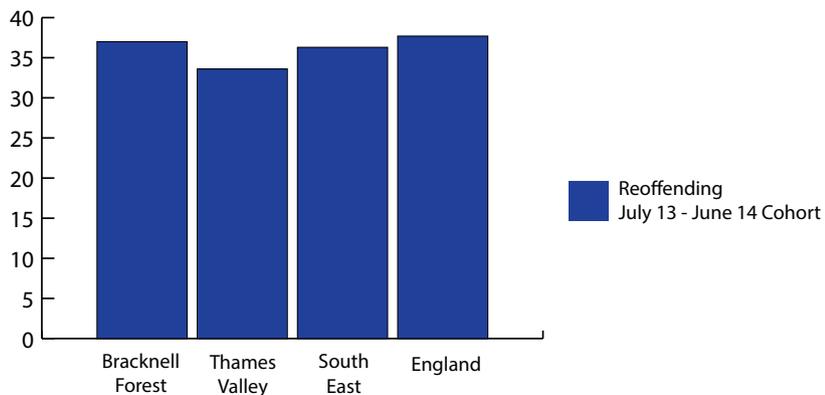
Data for indicators 2 and 3 is taken from the National Youth Justice Information System (YJMIS), hosted by the Youth Justice Board.

Indicator 1	Date	YOS Performance
Proven reoffending rate of young offenders (percentage of young people who have reoffended)  *Low is good	<b>July 2013 – June 2014</b> <b>*(latest data available on Ministry of Justice website)</b>	37% = 20 of 54
	July 2012 – June 2013	30% = 15 of 50
	July 2011 – June 2012	25.8% = 25 of 97

<b>Indicator 2</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>YOS Performance</b>
Number of first time entrants to the youth justice system (per 100,000 of 10 – 17 population)  * Low is good	<b>Jan 2015 – Dec 2015</b>	231 (27 young people)
	<b>Jan 2014 – Dec 2014</b>	291 (34 young people)
	<b>Jan 2013 – Dec 2013</b>	345 (40 young people)

<b>Indicator 3</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>YOS Performance</b>
Convicted young people receiving a custodial sentence (per 1,000 of 10 -17 population)  *Low is good	<b>April 2015 – March 2016</b>	0.9 (1 young person)
	<b>April 2014 – March 2015</b>	0.17 (2 young people)
	<b>April 2013 – March 2014</b>	0

The charts below show Bracknell Forest YOS performance compared with Thames Valley, South East and England for the latest period of recorded National Data.



# Looked After Children and offending

The rate of offending of looked after children at 31/03/16 is 5.9%, i.e. 4 LAC offenders out of 68 young people aged 10 - 17 who had been looked after for 12 months+.

This represents an improvement in performance compared to the rate of offending of looked after children at 31/03/15 which was 10.9%, i.e. 6 LAC offenders out of 55 young people aged 10 - 17 who had been looked after for 12 months+.

There is evidence that nationally people who have been looked after as children are over represented in the prison population (see below). During 2015/16 in Bracknell Forest we have had one looked after child remanded and the same young person received a custodial sentence.

*\* National Picture. Children in care continue to be significantly over represented in the youth justice system relative to their non-looked after peers. There are challenges again in relation to available data but we know that they are at least two or three times more likely to offend than their peers. In 2013, 6.2% of children in care aged 10 to 17 were convicted of a criminal offence or were subject to a final warning, compared to the national average of 1.5% for all children. One third of children in custody have been in care, although children in care make up just 1% of the total child population. Over 25% of the prison population have spent time in care during their childhood.*

## YOS Inspection

In April 2016 Bracknell Forest Youth Offending Service were inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. The Short Quality Screening (SQS) Inspection is part of a programme of risk proportionate inspection of Youth Offending Work agreed by Ministers. The findings were overall very positive, and the Inspectors concluded:

“Overall, we found the quality of the work at Bracknell Forest YOS to be excellent. Staff were enthusiastic and committed. They worked hard to analyse the needs, vulnerabilities, risk of harm and reoffending of those sentenced by the courts, in order to plan the required work. There was a real understanding of how different aspects of the child or young person's life interacted with each other. We saw effective support provided alongside enforcement of necessary boundaries”.

An action plan in relation to the recommendations was completed in May 2016.

# Prevention and Early Intervention

In relation to Indicator 2, (fig 2 on page 15) the YOS has continued to make a significant contribution to reducing the number of first time entrants into the Youth Justice System, and has maintained a clear focus on prevention and early intervention. Through effective partnership work, the YOS has a consistently high number of referrals into the YOS Prevention Service, which enables YOS staff to work in a direct way with young people at the earliest opportunity when their anti social behaviour and/ or low level offending is indicating that there is a risk of escalation into more serious criminal activity. The YOS works directly with the 'troubled families' team and contributes to achieving their key 'payment by results' targets. YOS will continue to invest in the Prevention Service, during the remaining year of this Plan, with the aim of achieving positive outcomes for children and young people, whilst also avoiding the high cost of providing intensive statutory supervision of Court Orders and Custodial Sentences

An independent evaluation of the YOS Prevention Service was commissioned in March 2015 and the findings were very positive. The independent evaluator concluded that the Prevention Service provides a service that is child-centred, holistic in its approach, and acutely aware of the needs of whole family units. The child-centred nature of the work carried out by the Prevention Service was striking. There was plenty of evidence where workers looked beyond the presenting needs and explored the possibility of other factors contributing to behaviours that could be associated with offending. An action plan developed from the recommendations has been implemented.

# 4. Partnership arrangements

The YOS is represented at strategic level at the Community Safety Partnership and the Children and Young People's Partnership. The YOS contributes to a number of the working groups which have been set up to develop and deliver appropriate plans and direct services to support the priorities of the Bracknell Forest **Children and Young People's Partnership**. The YOS is represented on the following multi agency groups:

- Emotional Health and Wellbeing Group
- Participation Group
- Life Chances Team
- Early Intervention Hub
- Family Focus Reference and Operational Group
- Fair Access Panel
- Sexual Exploitation and missing risk assessment conference (SEMRAC)
- Children Missing Education Group

In relation to the **Community Safety Partnership**, the YOS is represented on the following multi agency groups set up to deliver the priority areas identified in the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2014 – 17:

- Partnership Problem Solving group
- The Drug and Alcohol Strategic and Operational Group
- Prevent Steering Group
- Channel Panel
- Domestic Abuse Executive and Forum
- Domestic Abuse Service Coordination Group

The YOS is also a statutory partner on the **Local Safeguarding Children Board** and is represented by the Head of YOS on the Board and the Learning and Improvement sub group.

The Head of YOS Chairs the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Group.

YOS has protocols in place with Children's Social Care, to reduce the offending of Looked After Children, and a Joint Working Protocol to define roles and responsibilities in regard to the management of cases where both services are involved with the young person / family.

YOS is fully involved with local partnership work to reduce the number of young people in Bracknell Forest who are NEET (not in education, employment or training). YOS has a dedicated Education Training and Employment worker in post (0.3 FTE) who sits on the Participation Group, Fair Access Panel, Children Missing Education groups and works closely with schools to prevent young people being excluded.

In 2016 the Head of Bracknell Forest YOS joined the East Berkshire CAMHS Transformation Group, representing Bracknell Forest, Slough and Windsor and Maidenhead Youth Offending Services.

# Local Strategic Plans

The strategic plans which most closely relate to the strategic priorities of the YOS are the Community Safety Partnership Plan, 2014-2017, Creating Opportunities - A Joint Strategic Plan for Children and Young People in Bracknell Forest 2014 – 2017 and the Bracknell Forest Early Help Strategy 2014 - 2017.

The Children and Young People's Plan, Creating Opportunities, clearly reflects YOS priorities of reducing the harm caused to children and young people and the community through involvement with crime and anti social behaviour. Keeping young people safe from harm, reducing youth crime and anti social behaviour and intervening early to divert young people away from entering the Youth Justice System are priorities reflected in the above Plans. The role of the YOS partnership is to ensure that local partnerships give sufficient priority to the needs of children and young people at all stages of their involvement, (or potential for involvement) in the youth justice system.

# Thames Valley Criminal Justice Board

Bracknell Forest YOS is a member of the Thames Valley Criminal Justice Board (TVCJB), along with the other eight YOS in Thames Valley. Representation on the main Board is undertaken by one of the Heads of Youth Offending Service on a rotation basis. There are a number of working groups set up to develop and deliver the Board's priorities. These are made up of representatives of the criminal justice agencies within Thames Valley and YOS representation on these working groups is shared amongst the Thames Valley Heads of YOS. Currently the Bracknell Forest Head of YOS is a member of the Domestic Abuse Strategy Group.

# 5. Risks to future delivery

# Local issues

Every attempt will be made to continue to deliver the objectives contained within the 2016/17 refresh of this current Plan to a high standard, despite considerable reductions which have been made to the YOS budget this year. YOS aims to use staff resources creatively, by mixing roles and responsibilities of seconded and part time staff in order to meet the needs of the client group and Service priorities. The future budget position affecting the statutory partners is uncertain and further cuts are forecast post 2017.

As a result of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) which came into force in 2012/13, remand costs now fall to the Local Authority. There has been a reduction this year in the financial contribution to this from central government, based on previous low numbers of remanded young people. It remains difficult to predict future instances of Youth Detention remands. The Children Young People and Learning Department of Bracknell Forest Council have continued to reserve a contingency fund to prepare for any overspend on the allocated grant from the Youth Justice Board /MOJ, which clearly places additional pressure on the Department's resources.

The amount allocated to YOS from the Community Safety Fund (CSF), which is provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner has reduced this year and future allocation from this budget is uncertain. The CSF now contains the amount formerly paid to YOS directly from Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, but this is no longer ring fenced and the formula by which the PCC has hitherto allocated the Community Safety Fund to Community Safety Partnerships across the Thames Valley is being reviewed. A consultation exercise is underway in regard to this but it is likely that the overall amount will reduce again in 2017/18. The YOS has been the main beneficiary of the CSF to date, as the CSF contains the funding previously received from the police and a proportion of central government funding in addition to the PCC grant to YOS.

# National issues

A significant risk to future delivery, is the financial uncertainty faced within the public sector. The statutory members of the YOS partnership, including the Local Authority, are all experiencing pressures within their own agencies and this will inevitably affect the degree to which they contribute financially and 'in kind' to the YOS. The YOS has already received the impact of the new national formula for the distribution of the funding to YOS from the National Probation Service.

There is a serious risk that the very positive picture with regards to low numbers of young people entering the Youth Justice System for the first time, will not be sustained if prevention services are reduced as a result of budget reductions and YOS nationally are forced to focus only on cases which require statutory supervision. However, in the long term if there is a rise in the numbers of young people who could have been diverted through prevention programmes becoming first time entrants this will inevitably place a greater financial burden on the Youth Justice budget so the savings made in the short term will not be sustained.

In September 2015, a departmental **review** of the **youth justice** system was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice and an interim report was published in February 2016.

The final report was due to be released in July 2016, but due to a changes within central government resulting from the Brexit vote, a new Secretary of State for Justice was appointed and the report has not yet been published. If the final report is published there will inevitably be implications for YOS to some degree and we await the outcome of that review.



# 6. Local Delivery Action Plan

# 6. Local Delivery Action Plan 2016/17

## Key priorities for Year 4

Preventing  
youth crime

Reducing  
reoffending

Keeping the number  
of children and young  
people in custody to a  
minimum

Safeguarding young  
people from harm

Managing risk  
of harm

# Priority 1:

## Preventing youth crime

### Why is this a priority?

Intervening earlier to address risk factors, challenge anti-social behaviour and improve parenting prevents children, young people and their families from becoming socially excluded within their communities and therefore less likely to offend or re offend in the future.

### What is our aim?

To build on our success in reducing the number of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System.

To prevent those receiving early Out of Court Disposals from progressing further into the Criminal Justice System.

### How will we measure success?

Data will be provided to the YOS Performance Management Board on a quarterly basis and to the Youth Justice Board via Police National Computer (PNC).

### What will we aim to achieve this coming year?

- Maintain a low level of first time entrants into the Youth Justice System
- Work closely with the Family Intervention Team to achieve a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour with the children and young people from families who meet the Family Focus criteria
- Review how the Prevention Service is delivered to maximise available resources and cut waiting times

## How will we do this?

- Continue to raise awareness of the Prevention Service to the Police Neighbourhood Teams, Children's Social Care Teams and Healthcare professionals (school nurses, health visitors)
- Regular Meetings will take place between Children's Social Care Managers and the YOS Operational Manager to discuss current cases in common and identify those at risk of offending
- Work in partnership with Thames Valley Police in relation to joint decision making for those young people receiving Out of Court Disposals
- YOS will attend the Early Intervention Hub regularly to identify appropriate cases for the YOS Prevention Service
- YOS will work closely with the Youth Service to ensure that targeted substance misuse work in schools is identifying early, those pupils who are at risk of offending
- The YOS seconded PC will work with the local Neighbourhood Teams to follow up all young people issued with Community Resolutions with direct visits from the local Neighbourhood Teams
- YOS will develop an Offending Behaviour Programme for year 7 and 8 pupils to raise awareness of anti social behaviour, sexting and online safety
- YOS will assess the risk to vulnerable young people of radicalisation and extremism and will make referrals into the Channel panel as appropriate
- The YOS Operational Manager will lead a review of the YOS Prevention Service

# Priority 2: Reducing reoffending

## Why is this a priority?

Reducing reoffending by children and young people can significantly improve their life chances. Breaking the cycle of re-offending means that our local community will be safer and there will be fewer victims of crime.

Reducing reoffending in Looked After Children (LAC) is particularly important as this group of children and young people are already disadvantaged by their earlier life experiences and their offending can be the result of poor coping skills, rather than criminal intent. Nationally LAC and care leavers are over represented in the Criminal Justice System and all agencies need to work together to ensure that this over representation is not reflected locally.

## What is our aim?

We aim to reduce the level of reoffending and prevent a rise in the reoffending rate of children and young people in the Bracknell Forest Cohort.

## How will we measure success?

Data is provided quarterly to the YOS Performance Management Board on the reoffending rate of the 2015 local cohort of young offenders throughout 2016.

## What will we aim to achieve this coming year?

- Prevent those receiving early out of court disposals from reoffending and progressing through the Youth Justice System
- Reduce the rate of reoffending of the local cohort of young offenders
- Maintain the low rate of reoffending amongst Bracknell LAC
- Increase the use of Restorative Justice amongst partner agencies and placement providers working with LAC to enable alternatives to prosecution to be considered
- Ensure continuation of support from partner agencies following completion of Court Ordered intervention by YOS so that the risk of reoffending is reduced

## How will we do this?

- We will offer voluntary intervention to young people and families when a child or young person has received an Out of Court Disposal
- We will ensure that assessments and integrated intervention plans identify and strengthen factors for desistance from offending whilst reducing the risk of harm to others and promoting the young persons safety and wellbeing
- Ensure that on case closure the exit strategy provides appropriate support for the child or young person and their family to prevent them reoffending
- Monitor and review integrated intervention plans for LAC who offend through the multi agency Life Chances Team
- Ensure that LAC who offend and are placed out of area are allocated a Bracknell Forest YOS case manager who will maintain oversight of the case and liaise with the 'host' YOS to ensure effective management of the Court Order
- Identify the proportion of the reoffending cohort who have Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Learning Disabilities and provide appropriately adapted interventions for these young offenders and support for parents/carers
- Offer Restorative Justice at all stages of the Youth Justice process and work with local community groups to provide Reparation and Unpaid Work for young offenders to repair the harm caused by their offending behaviour
- Work in partnership with local agencies to provide targeted services for young offenders, as addressing mental health problems and accessing training and employment are known factors which promote desistance from offending
- YOS PC will ensure that court orders containing prohibitive requirements are communicated to police local neighbourhood teams and proactively enforced

# Priority 3: Keeping the number of children and young people in custody to a minimum

## Why is this a priority?

We know that custody has a detrimental impact on the lives of children and young people and their families and resettlement into the community is difficult.

Reoffending statistics show that short custodial sentences that are received for persistent reoffending or non-compliance are not effective in reducing reoffending in many cases so it is a priority for YOS to encourage the Courts to use Community Sentences in place of Custody for all but the most serious cases.

Legislative changes have increased the cost of remand to Youth Detention Accommodation to the Local Authority in terms of financial and staff resources.

## What is our aim?

Ensure that only those who commit the most serious offences or present an unacceptable level of risk to the local community are remanded or receive a custodial sentence.

Maintain the confidence of partner agencies, the Courts and the general public by providing robust interventions in the community as an alternative to Custody.

Ensure that children and young people leaving custody receive effective support and supervision as they transfer from the secure estate and resettle into the community to prevent them returning to custody for failure to comply with Licence conditions.

## How will we measure success?

Data will be supplied to the Youth Justice Board and the YOS Performance Management Board on the numbers of young people remanded or sentenced to Custody on a quarterly basis.

## What will we aim to achieve this coming year?

- No children and young people sentenced or remanded to custody
- Provide robust community sentences as an alternative to custody
- Increase the use of Intensive Referral Orders where appropriate

## How will we do this?

- Ensure that Pre Sentence Reports contain credible proposals for community sentences in all but the most serious cases where custody is necessary to protect the public
- Ensure that Sentencers are encouraged to provide feedback on the quality of Pre Sentence Reports and their comments are used to improve practice
- Set up compliance meetings in all cases where young people are failing to comply with their Court Orders to prevent non compliance escalating into breach proceedings at Court
- Use our enforcement powers and take breach action swiftly, where appropriate, to maintain the confidence of the Court
- Provide the Courts with robust bail supervision packages, including prohibitive requirements, to reduce the risk of remand into Youth Detention Accommodation
- For those young people who are in Custody, YOS will work with partners to begin planning for a young persons release from Custody (remand or sentence) at the earliest opportunity
- Engage Volunteer Mentors to provide additional support for young people leaving Custody

# Priority 4:

## Safeguarding young people from harm

### Why is this a priority?

Research suggests that children and young people who are involved in offending or at risk of offending are often victims of abuse or neglect. They may also be affected by poverty, inconsistent parenting, reduced educational opportunities and mental health problems. This group of children and young people may present as a risk to others but account should also be taken of their safety and well being. Children and young people who offend may be coerced into taking part in 'risky' behaviours such as drug taking, alcohol misuse or inappropriate sexual activity. This can make them vulnerable to child sexual exploitation (CSE), violence and abuse. Young people who offend are also a group who are known to be at risk of radicalisation and being recruited into violent extremism.

### What is our aim?

Our aim is to identify all children and young people working with the YOS who are vulnerable to harm and take actions to reduce their vulnerability and keep them safe.

### How will we measure success?

Safeguarding Audits will identify strengths and develop areas for improvement.

Monitor referrals made to the Child Sexual Exploitation/Missing Children Operational Group and the Channel Panel (under the Prevent strategy).

Review the impact of interventions carried out with young people who are victims or at risk of CSE.

## What will we aim achieve this coming year?

- The early identification of children and young people who are vulnerable to CSE
- Implement joint protocols with Children's Social Care, i.e Joint Working, Preventing the Offending of Looked After Children and the Management of Children on Remand
- Work with partners to raise awareness of CSE with children and young people, parents and non statutory agencies that work with vulnerable children and families
- Provide a range of interventions for young people who are victims or at risk of CSE and/or domestic abuse
- The early identification of children and young people at risk of radicalisation

## How will we do this?

- YOS Head of Service will Chair the Bracknell Forest LSCB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic sub group and the YOS Operational Manager will represent YOS at the Child Sexual Exploitation/ Missing Children Operational Group
- YOS Head of Service will continue to be a member of the Prevent Steering Group and the Channel Panel
- YOS case management staff will identify and assess young people vulnerable to radicalisation and will refer all cases of concern in to the Channel Panel
- YOS Case management staff will complete a CSE risk assessment on all young people and will refer young people assessed as being at risk of CSE to the Bracknell Forest M.A.S.H.
- YOS case management staff will complete a DASH risk assessment on all young people who disclose abuse within their intimate relationships and refer to MARAC where appropriate
- All YOS staff will complete Safeguarding Training appropriate to their role and length of service
- Case management staff will put a robust exit plan in place for all children and young people who are assessed as vulnerable at the end of their YOS/Prevention Service intervention
- YOS Operational Manager will meet regularly with Children's Social Care Team Managers to monitor joint working in cases where young people are known to both Services
- The YOS Senior Practitioner will continue to be a member of the Life Chances Team
- YOS will lead a group work programme for young people experiencing or at risk of child sexual exploitation and maintain up to date resources for casework with this group of young people
- YOS will provide a groupwork programme for young men providing education and awareness about abusive behaviour and promoting healthy relationships
- YOS case managers will retain case management responsibility for Looked After Children placed out of area who are subject to statutory court orders, and work collaboratively with the 'host' YOS to reduce the level of risk and vulnerability experienced by these young people
- Use the Early Intervention Hub to 'step down' all cases that do not meet social care thresholds but are still identified as vulnerable at the point of YOS and the Prevention Service case closure

# Priority 5: Managing risk of harm

## **Why is this a priority?**

Effective Risk Management protects the public from harm and reduces the impact of offending on the local community.

## **What is our aim?**

Our aim is to robustly supervise children and young people who pose a risk of harm to others towards the successful completion of their Court Order or Individual Support Plan and achieve a reduction in the risk they pose.

## **How will we measure success?**

We will closely monitor relevant cases through the YOS Risk Focus Group and put in place actions to reduce risk of harm.

Public Protection Incidents reported to the Youth Justice Board.

## What will we aim to achieve this coming year?

- Attend all MAPPAs meetings involving case discussion of YOS young people
- We will aim to have no Public Protection incidents meeting the criteria for reporting to the Youth Justice Board
- YOS case management staff are trained to assess and deliver interventions to children and young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour

## How will we do this?

- Case managers will assess risk robustly in relevant cases and ensure that integrated plans identify interventions and desistance factors that will reduce the risk of harm to others. These will be shared with other agencies where appropriate
- Assessments and integrated intervention plans will be quality assured in line with the YOS Quality Assurance policy and discussed in 4 weekly Supervision with Case Managers
- Relevant cases will be referred to MAPPAs
- Intelligence will be shared with Police and at MAPPAs meetings
- Representatives from partner agencies, including the Police and Childrens Social Care will be invited and encouraged to attend YOS Team Meetings, to share information and contribute to action planning in relation to young people who present as a high likelihood of reoffending and/ or high risk of serious harm to others.
- The YOS Police Officer will proactively raise awareness about young people who present a risk of serious harm to others to the local Police neighbourhood teams through her attendance and participation in Police operational and tasking meetings

Bracknell Forest Youth Justice Plan

Sign off by Chair of YOS Management Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Gilbert', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Chief Inspector Dave Gilbert  
Chair of YOS Management Board  
Thames Valley Police



