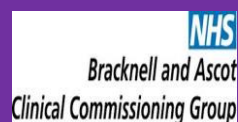


BRACKNELL FOREST YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE
PARTNERSHIP
STRATEGIC PLAN
2017 - 2019



VISION

A resilient, safe and law abiding youth population, thriving through adolescence and making a positive contribution to the community



Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| A Introduction and performance..... | 4 |
| B Structures and Governance..... | 6 |
| C Resources and Value for Money..... | 7 |
| D Partnership arrangements..... | 9 |
| E Risks to future delivery..... | 11 |

Appendix 1: Costed Plan

A Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to prepare a Youth Justice Plan which is annually updated to set out how Youth Justice services will be delivered locally within available resources. This Plan covers the period 2017 – 2019 and will be refreshed in 2018, reflecting changes to the local and national Youth Justice landscape which impact upon the priorities in this plan and delivery of the range of services designed to reduce youth offending.

The most recent Government inspection of the Bracknell Forest Youth Offending Service took place in April 2016, by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. The results of the inspection were very positive and all actions arising from the recommendations have been completed. The Taylor Review of Youth Justice which was published in June 2016 recommended that the responsibility for inspecting Youth Offending Services should move to OFSTED, but this recommendation was not accepted by the Government, and currently HMIP are conducting thematic inspections this year, whilst also developing their new methodology and inspection programme that will begin in 2018.

All Youth Offending Services will be inspected by 2022 under the new methodology and will include Out of Court Disposals as well as Statutory Court Orders. HMIP will continue to carry out thematic inspections involving randomly selected YOS, and will also continue to be involved in Joint Targeted Area Inspections.

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-2014-to-june-2015>

Data for indicators 2 and 3 is taken from the National Youth Justice Board Data information set

| Indicator 1(Fig 1) | Date | YOS Performance |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| Proven reoffending rate of young offenders (percentage of young people who have reoffended) | July 2014 – June 2015 | 29.6% = 16 of 54 |
| | July 2013 – June 2014 | 37% = 20 of 54 |
| | July 2012 – June 2013 | 30% = 15 of 50 |
| *Low is good | | |

| Indicator 2 (Fig 2) | Date | YOS Performance |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Number of first time entrants to the youth justice system (per 100,000 of 10 – 17 population) | Jan 2016 – Dec 2016 | 227 (27 young people) |
| | Jan 2015 – Dec 2015 | 231 (27 young people) |
| | Jan 2014 – Dec 2014 | 291 (34 young people) |
| * Low is good | | |

| Indicator 3 (Fig 3) | Date | YOS Performance |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Convicted young people receiving a custodial sentence (per 1,000 of 10 -17 population) | April 2016 – March 2017 | 0.09 (1 young person) |
| | April 2015 – March 2016 | 0.09 (1 young person) |
| | April 2014 – March 201 | 0.17 (2 young people) |
| *Low is good | | |

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

Fig 1. Reoffending: July 2014-June 2015 cohort

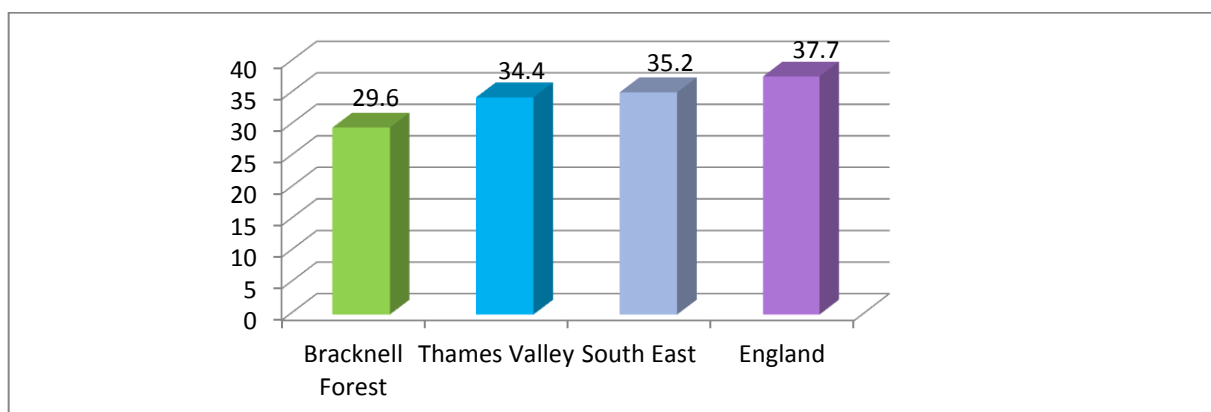


Fig 2. First time entrants to the Youth Justice System: January 2016 – December 2016 per 100,000 of 10-17 population

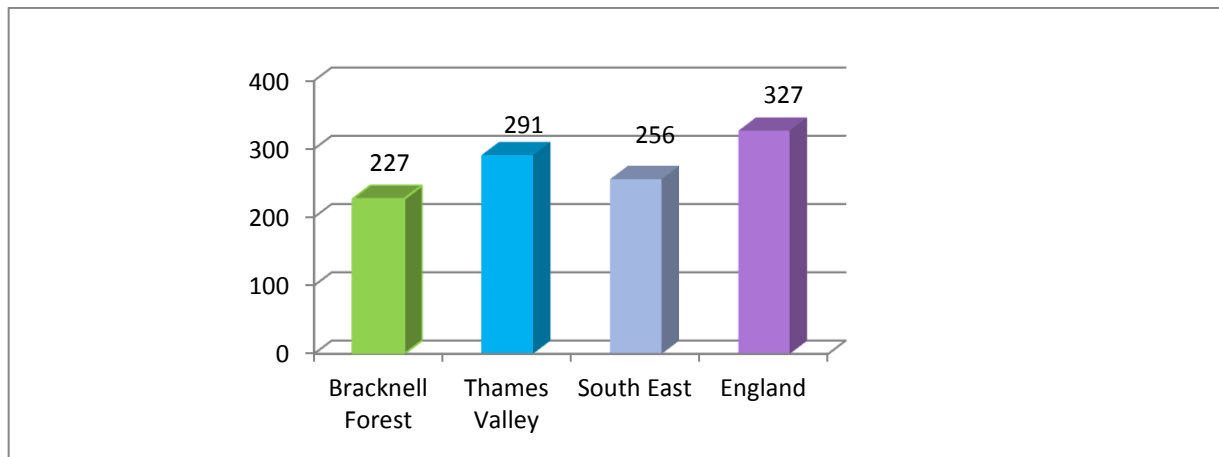
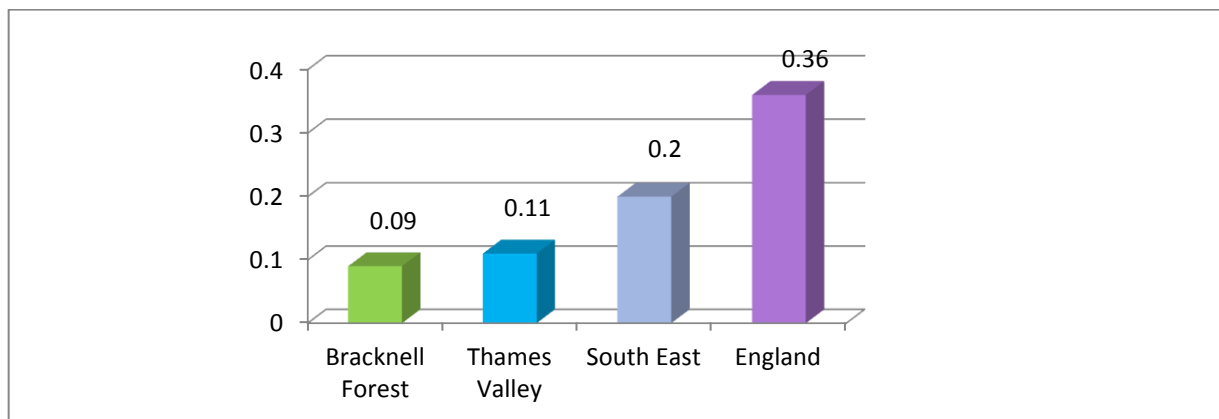


Fig 3. Custody: April 2016–March 2017 per 1,000 of 10–17 population



B 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. The Department is currently going through a process of ‘Transformation’. The Council Plan 2015 – 2019 commits to review the focus and delivery of all services over the next 3 years. This is being done in the context of the Council needing to find £25m of savings by 2021. It is, as yet unknown how the Transformation Project will affect the current structure and governance of the YOS. A review of the YOS is likely to be included in the Transformation of the Department in line with all other Services. However, this will be mindful of the Local Authority’s legal duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

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 scrutinise 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 |
| Ian Boswell (Interim Chair) | Community Safety Consultant |
| Lorna Hunt | Chief Officer Children's Social Care, Bracknell Forest Council |
| Susannah Jordan | Interim Children's Commissioner, Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS |
| Julia Powers | Senior Probation Officer, National Probation Service, Thames Valley |
| Ian Dixon | Head of Targeted Services, Bracknell Forest Council |
| Alison O'Meara | Community Safety Manager, Bracknell Forest Council |
| A/DCI Christina Berenger | Thames Valley Police |

C Resources and value for money

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 passported through the Youth Justice Board.

The table below shows the amount of funding from each of the partner agencies for the year 2017 – 2018. These contributions are reviewed each year.

| Youth offending service budget sources for the financial year 2017/18 | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Agency | Contributions to Staffing Costs | Other Delegated Funds from Partner Agencies | Total |
| Probation | 23,278 | 0 | 23,278 |
| Health | 17,635 | 7,520 | 25,155 |
| Police | 23,088 | 0 | 23,088 |
| Local Authority | 317,390 | 16,470 | 333,860 |
| Local Authority Community Safety Fund | 22,640 | 39,360 | 62,000 |
| YJB | 117,598 | 0 | 117,598 |
| Total | 521,629 | 63,350 | 584,979 |

A costed plan detailing how the Youth Justice Grant will be spent in 2017/18 is attached at Appendix A.

Staffing Resources 2017/18



In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the YOS provides a multi agency co-located range of services carried out by skilled and experienced practitioners. All YOS practitioners employed by Bracknell Forest Council and some specialist secondees i.e. YOS health worker, have completed the Effective Practice in Youth Justice module of the Youth Justice Professional Framework.

In recent years, staff hours have been reduced in line with budget reductions but the structure of the multi agency co-located team providing a holistic service based upon comprehensive assessment of young people's risks and protective factors has been maintained. From 2017 going forward the Bracknell Forest DAAT will no longer provide the YOS with a dedicated number of hours of a substance misuse worker due to restructure of the DAAT. Instead YOS young people will have access to the 1 FTE Criminal Justice Recovery Facilitator post which will provide services for adults, children and young people. Also the YOS no longer has a dedicated parenting worker or a personal advisor from the Connexions service which were posts that were decommissioned at the end of the last financial year. Up until 31st March 2018, a commissioning arrangement is in place with the East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group to provide a Speech, Language and Communication Therapist (0.2 FTE) and a CAMHS specialist mental health practitioner (0.2 FTE), funded by NHS England, Health and Justice fund, and CAMHS Transformation fund respectively. YOS have also commissioned 4 hours per week youth counselling service in house, from a local provider, with funding from a charity organisation. This is a pilot project and funding is in the process of being re applied for.

D Partnership arrangements

The YOS is represented at strategic level at the Community Safety Partnership, Children and Young People's Partnership and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. 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

Life Chances Team

Early Intervention Hub

Family Focus Operational Group

Fair Access Panel

Children Missing Education Group

Sexual Exploitation and Missing Risk Assessment Conference (SEMRAC)

As a member of the **Community Safety Partnership**, the YOS is represented on the following multi agency groups which are set up to deliver the priorities identified in the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017 – 2019:

Partnership Problem Solving Group

The Drug and Alcohol Strategic and Operational Group

Prevent Steering Group

Channel Panel

Domestic Abuse Executive Group and Forum

Domestic Abuse Service Coordination Group

As a statutory partner of the **Local Safeguarding Children Board**, the YOS is represented at management level at the Board, the Forum and the Learning and Improvement sub group. The Head of YOS is the Chair of the Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing strategic sub group.

The YOS is involved with partners in many 'task and finish groups' (focussed on specific pieces of work), child protection conferences and core groups, MAPPA, local police LPA operations, the latter particularly in relation to children vulnerable to CSE and going missing. More recently developing work around County Lines involving vulnerable Bracknell Forest young people within who are at risk of or involved in modern slavery and criminal exploitation.

YOS is 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 (0.2 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.

The Head of Bracknell Forest YOS represents the 3 East Berkshire YOS's on the East Berkshire CAMHS Transformation Group.

Protocols

In addition to Statutory Guidance which governs the work of the YOS, e.g. Working Together to Safeguard Children, the following local protocols are in place with Children's Social Care:

Protocol for the exercise of joint responsibilities between the YOS and Children's Social Care

Exercise of joint responsibilities for young people remanded into Local Authority Accommodation or Youth Detention Accommodation

Policy and Protocol for the prevention of offending of looked after children

The YOS has protocols in place for joint working with all secondary schools in Bracknell Forest and with the local Youth and Crown Courts

Local Strategic Plans

The Community Safety Partnership Plan, 2017-2019, closely relates to the strategic priorities of the YOS. The Youth Justice Plan has previously been aligned with two other Council Plans, i.e. 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. These Plans are not currently being refreshed due to the current transformation programme which is taking place within the Children, Young People and Learning department of the Council. Following completion of the transformation process, strategic plans for the department will be developed.

As previously stated the YOS will be considered in the transformation process within the children, young people and learning department of the Council and subsequent development of new strategic plans. The role of the YOS partnership is to ensure that in developing strategic plans, local partnerships give sufficient priority to the needs of children and young people at all stages of their involvement, (or risk of involvement) in the youth justice system.

E Risks to future delivery

The YOS partnership is beginning this Plan in a position of strength, with good performance against the 3 youth justice outcome measures. In 2016 the number of referrals to the YOS Prevention Service increased by 92% and whilst numbers in the Statutory service were stable during that period, the YOS was able to respond to the increase in demand by case managers being able to hold a mixed caseload of Prevention and Statutory cases. However, to meet demand, more resources have had to be allocated to the Prevention Service which leaves the statutory service vulnerable to pressure.

There are various housing developments in progress locally which will increase the population of Bracknell Forest which may put greater demand on the YOS. The 'transformation' of Children's Services taking place this year, may have an impact on how the YOS delivers services and it will be important that any changes to working practices do not have a detrimental affect upon YOS performance.

In September 2017, a new regenerated town centre will open in Bracknell Town Centre, bringing with it a substantial increase in the local retail and night time economies, the latter due to bars and restaurants which are part of the new developments. Whilst these will provide good employment opportunities for young people, there is also a risk that crime will increase and YOS resources will have to be reviewed if this should occur. Currently the Community Safety Partnership, which includes police and YOS are planning strategies to assess the likely impact of the new Town Centre on local crime response resources.

There is a current emerging issue regarding safeguarding of Bracknell Forest young people involved in drug running county lines, which is based upon criminal exploitation and modern slavery. Keeping these young people out of the criminal justice system is a challenge and we are looking with partners at ways to deal with exploited young people which do not unnecessarily criminalise them. There is common agreement with this approach to the problem amongst the agencies who are leading on this, Police, Social Care and YOS. Interventions are taking place and specialist training for practitioners is being sought. Increased awareness will enable intervention at an earlier stage with those young people at risk of being groomed into this type of activity. This includes looked after children and those subject to social care intervention.

2017-2019 Strategic Priorities

Each year the Bracknell Forest YOS partnership undertakes a strategic assessment which considers the priority areas of practice which represent the aims, purpose and impact of work with young offenders, which will benefit young people and families, victims of youth crime and the local community. A broad range of information is used to determine what these should be, e.g. National priorities for the Youth Justice System, current trends in local youth crime and anti social behaviour, risk and vulnerability factors affecting young people.

National Standards Audits will take place at the required frequency through the duration of this Youth Justice Plan. In 2017/18, there will be themed audits focussing on safeguarding, looked after children and managing risk of harm and vulnerability. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) will carry out thematic inspections as part of their ongoing inspection programme of youth offending work, and local practice will be audited against the findings and recommendations.

The following priorities and outcomes have been identified and agreed by the YOS partnership to form the core of the 2017-2019 Youth Justice Plan. All services and interventions will be delivered in accordance with National Standards for Youth Justice, and the principles of Effective and Evidence Based Practice.

1. Preventing youth crime

What is our aim?

- To continue 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?

- Maintain a low level of first time entrants into the Youth Justice System
- Achieve a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour perpetrated by children and young people by working collaboratively with our partners
- Increase the throughput and responsivity of the YOS Prevention service by implementing changes to working practices and making interventions time bound and more focussed
- Work with our partners to ensure that young people who are being exploited are not criminalised unnecessarily

2. Reducing reoffending

What is our aim?

- To maintain our success in reducing 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 local cohort of young offenders
- Data is provided to the Youth Justice Board Performance Team and published quarterly each year

What will we aim to achieve?

- Prevent and deter those young people receiving early out of court disposals from reoffending and progressing through the Youth Justice System
- Maintain the low the rate of reoffending of the local cohort of young offenders
- Reduce the low rate of re offending amongst Bracknell LAC
- Reduce the likelihood of young people reoffending following the completion of Court ordered interventions by ensuring that exit strategies offer continued support from relevant partner agencies

3. Safeguarding young people from harm

What is our aim?

- To identify all young people working with YOS whose behaviours are increasing their vulnerability to abuse, exploitation and radicalisation and work with local partners and national organisations to mitigate the risk and keep them safe from harm

How will we measure success?

- Safeguarding audits will identify strengths, and action plans are implemented to respond to areas for improvement
- Relevant cases are referred to SEMRAC, criminal exploitation strategy meetings and the Channel Panel, (under the Prevent Strategy). These arrangements will result in action plans to keep the children and young people safe
- Review the impact of interventions carried out with young people who are at risk or are victims of criminal /sexual exploitation
- The number of community safeguarding incidents reported to Youth Justice Board are kept to a minimum

What will we aim to achieve?

- The early identification of children and young people who are vulnerable to sexual and/or criminal exploitation and radicalisation
- Continued implementation of our Joint protocols with Children's Social Care (Preventing the Offending of Looked After Children and the Management of Children on Remand)
- YOS cases that do not meet social care thresholds but are still identified as vulnerable at the point of case closure, will be stepped down to the Early Intervention Hub.
- Through partnership working awareness of CSE and criminal exploitation is raised with children and young people, parents and agencies that work with vulnerable children and families
- A range of interventions for young people who are victims of or at risk of exploitation are provided and have the impact of harm reduction

4. Keep the number of children and young people in custody to a minimum

What is our aim?

- To ensure that only those that commit the most serious offences or present an unacceptable level of risk to the local community are remanded or receive a custodial sentence
- To maintain the confidence of partner agencies, the Courts and the general public by providing robust interventions in the community as an alternative to custody
- To 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 License conditions

How will we measure success?

- Data will be supplied to the Youth Justice Board and the YOS Management Board on the numbers of young people remanded or sentenced to custody on a quarterly basis which will be published on a quarterly basis during the year
- Young people leaving custody successfully reintegrate into the community and do not reoffend

What will we aim to achieve?

- Young people receive effective and robust community sentences in all but the most serious cases where custody is necessary to protect the public
- Pre sentence reports make positive recommendations for robust community sentences in all appropriate cases, which inspire the confidence of Courts resulting in high congruence rates
- Young people are made subject to Bail Support packages that include prohibitive requirements where appropriate, to prevent them being remanded into Youth Detention Accommodation
- Planning for a young persons release from custody with our partners (remand or sentence) will begin at the at the earliest opportunity

5. Managing risk of harm

What is our aim?

- To ensure that children and young people who pose a risk of harm to others successfully complete their Youth or Crown Court Orders or Prevention intervention plan having achieved a reduction in the risk they pose
- To prevent young people from offending in a way that is harmful to themselves or others

How will we measure success?

- The number of public protection incidents which meet the criteria for reporting to the Youth Justice Board are low
- Regular review of cases brought to the YOS risk management panel, demonstrates that risk is reducing and being effectively managed

What will we aim to achieve?

- All cases which meet the criteria for MAPPA will be referred and YOS will attend all MAPPA Meetings as required
- We will aim to have no Public Protection Incidents meeting the YJB criteria for reporting for the duration of this plan
- Partner agencies are fully informed and updated about young people who present a risk of serious harm to others through the YOS Management Board meetings, YOS high risk offender multi agency meetings and Community Safety Partnership problem solving meetings. Integrated plans for managing risk and vulnerability are shared with all professionals involved in each case

Bracknell Forest Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2017 – 2019

Signatures of YOS Head of Service and Chair of YOS Management Board

Karen Roberts

Head of Youth Offending Service



Date...06.09.2017.....

Ian Boswell

Interim Chair of YOS Management Board



Date...06.09.17.....

Appendix 1

Costed Plan 2017/18

Bracknell Forest Youth Offending Service

Costed Plan – Youth Justice Grant 2017/18

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--|
| Total YJ Grant | £ 117,598 | |
| Staffing | £ 117,018 | Covers 3.43 FTE posts to focus on the following development activity: Data analysis Implementation of improvement plans from Audits Prevention groupwork initiatives, i.e. CSE, County Lines and Healthy Relationships Staff supervision and appraisal Quality assurance of casework Restorative Justice |
| Travel and subsistence | £ 580 | For staff and volunteers |

Contact us

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