

**TO: EXECUTIVE**  
**DATE: 18 JULY 2016**

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**YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE INSPECTION**  
**Director of Children Young People and Learning**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Executive of the outcome of the recent Inspection (short quality screening) carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP).

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **To NOTE that the HMIP report of Short Quality Screening of youth offending found the quality of work in Bracknell Forest to be excellent.**
- 2.2 **To ENDORSE the action plan (now completed).**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 None.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 The Short Quality Screening (SQS) is part of a programme of risk proportionate Inspection of Youth Offending Work agreed by Ministers. SQS inspections are normally undertaken in 20 to 30 local authority areas per year across England and Wales. Youth Offending Services to be inspected in this programme are selected from across the full range of published performance data (first time entrants, reoffending and custody). The SQS programme runs in parallel with other inspection programmes including the Full Joint Inspection (FJI), thematic inspections and HMI Probation involvement in multi-agency child protection inspections in England.
- 5.2 The Head of Bracknell Forest Youth Offending Service was informed by telephone on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 that a SQS Inspection of the Service would take place between Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April. This was the first Bracknell Forest Youth Offending Service Inspection to take place since 2011. The following documents were requested and sent in advance to HMIP:
- YOS policy/procedures for the management of risk of harm to others.
  - YOS policy/procedures with regard to child protection and managing vulnerability.
  - YOS policy/procedures on engagement, compliance and enforcement.
  - YOS policy/procedures for the management oversight of practice.
  - YOS Quality Assurance (QA) procedure for casework and court reports.

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- YOS structure chart, and a structure chart showing where the YOS sits in relation to Local Authority/partnership structures.

5.3 The report containing the findings from the Inspection is attached at Appendix 1. The Lead Inspector summarised the findings as follows:

“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”.

5.4 Key Strengths identified were:

- Good quality reports provided the court with relevant information to assist sentencing.
- The risk of harm to victims was effectively managed.
- Comprehensive and accurate assessments that inform effective plans.
- Good attention was paid to engagement with children and young people and their parents/carers, resulting in more effective interactions.
- Healthy relationships with children and young people supported case managers’ ability to achieve the delicate balance between supporting compliance and enforcement.

5.5 The areas identified as requiring improvement are documented in the attached action plan (appendix 2) and all have been completed.

5.6 The YOS is a multi professional co located team providing services for young people aged 10-17 who have offended and are sentenced by the Youth or Crown Court, to be supervised under a range of Youth Justice Court Orders. The service is provided with due regard for the victims of these offences. In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the partners who provide governance, funding and staff are the Local Authority, NHS, National Probation Service and the Police.

5.6 The YOS also supervises young people subject to statutory out of court disposals, i.e Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions, and has a Prevention Service for those young people aged 8+ who are at risk of offending and entering the Criminal Justice System. The YOS works in partnership with parents/carers in managing the young person's behaviour away from crime and anti-social behaviour.

5.7 The caseload of the YOS is approximately 60 young people/families.

### Reoffending

5.8 Due to the success of prevention and early intervention provided by the YOS Prevention Service and other partner agencies, fewer young people than ever are now entering the Youth Justice System. Providing support for young people at risk of offending at a much earlier stage is successful in deterring them away from crime and anti social behaviour.

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5.9 The table below shows the number of those young people entering the Youth Justice System for the first time between April 2015 and March 2016:

	Baseline 2009 (Outturn)	Actual 12/13	Actual 13/14	Actual 14/15	Q1 (Apr- Jun)	Q2 (Jul- Sept)	Q3 (Oct- Dec)	Q4 (Jan- Mar)	YTD (15/16)
Number first time entrants	66	34	26	32	4	5	8	10	27
Number per 100,000 population	512.0	291.6	225.0	273.5	34.2	42.7	68.4	85.5	230.8

5.10 However, the result of this is that those young people who do offend and are sentenced by the Courts are a smaller but more entrenched cohort. These young people tend to be known to a variety of services, have complex needs, and are more difficult to engage. The national indicator which calculates the rate of reoffending relates to this cohort of young people who are subject to statutory youth justice court orders, youth cautions and youth conditional cautions, and nationally this has been increasing over the past few years, at the same time that the rate of those entering the youth justice system for the first time has been decreasing.

5.11 In Bracknell Forest the rate of reoffending has risen in line with the national trend.

5.12 The tables below show the cohort of young people on statutory supervision to YOS in 2014 (Jan – Dec) and the reoffending of those in the cohort throughout 2015 (Jan – Dec). The data is cumulative so the 12 month column is the total for the year:

	Total cohort (01/01/14- 31/12/14)	3 mths (Mar 15)	6 mths (Jun 15)	9 mths (Sept 15)	12 mths (Dec 15)
Total number of cohort offenders (01/01/14-31/12/14)	62				
Number who re-offended		9	13	17	17
% of re-offenders (binary)		14.5%	21.0%	27.4%	27.4%
Number of offences		44	50	64	67
Rate of re-offending (frequency)		0.71	0.81	1.03	1.08
Avg number of re-offences per 100 young people (population 10-17)		0.34	0.39	0.50	0.52
Number of young people who were LAC	8	1	1	3	3
Number of offences for LAC cohort (frequency)		20	20	28	29

NB: It must be noted that one young person was responsible committing 20 of the total number of offences

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The Borough Solicitor notes the content of this report and it raises no legal issues that need to be addressed.

### Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Not required

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 None identified

### Other Officers

- 6.5 N/A

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The report, Appendix 1 was sent by HMIP to the following recipients immediately prior to publication on the HMIP website:

- YOT/YOS Manager/Head of Service Karen Roberts.
- Local Authority Chief Executive Timothy Wheadon.
- Director of Children's Services Dr Janette Karklins.
- Lead Elected Member for Children's Services Gareth Barnard.
- Lead Elected Member for Crime Iain McCracken.
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Bracknell Forest Antony Stansfield.
- Chair of Local Safeguarding Children Board Alex Walters.
- Chair of Youth Court Bench Shabana Glynn.
- YJB Business Area Manager Shelley Green.
- Ofsted – Further Education and Skills Paul Joyce.
- Ofsted – Social Care Mary Candlin, Carolyn Adcock.
- Ofsted – Links Lynn Radley, Caroline Prandas.
- Care Quality Commission Jan Fooks-Bale.
- YJB link staff Lisa Harvey-Messina, Paula Williams, Linda Paris,
- Rowena Finnegan.

YJB Communications: Ali Lewis, Rachel Brown, Summer Nisar, Adrian Stretch.

This report has been considered by CSCMT, DMT and Bracknell Forest CMT.

### Method of Consultation

- 7.2 See above

Representations Received

7.3 None

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Report of Short Quality Screening (SQS) of youth offending work in Bracknell Forest

Appendix 2: Action plan

Appendix 3: HMIP Inspection Criteria for SQS of Youth Offending Work in England and Wales

Contact for further information

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