



CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

18 September, 2014

Subject Heading:

CMT Lead:

Report Author and contact details:

Policy context:

Title Youth Offending Service

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The Crime & Disorder Act, 1998, established a duty on every local authority, acting in cooperation with partner agencies (who are under a duty to co-operate with the local authority), to establish within the local authority are a youth offending team (or teams), otherwise known as Youth Offending Service (YOS). Statutory partners include the police, probation, and local NHS/ Clinical Commissioning Group.

SUMMARY

Following a Cabinet decision in 2012, the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Youth Offending Service (YOS) managed Havering's Youth Offending service on a contract basis. This took effect in October 2012. This arrangement has been very successful for Havering and the LBBDD management team brought considerable expertise to our YOS. This has included advising and supporting a restructure of the team to improve the service offered to young people.

In January 2014, a restructure of Early Help and Troubled Families was launched, bringing together children's centres, the Targeted Youth Service, the Family intervention Project (FIP) to form an integrated Early Help service for children, young people and families. The links between Troubled Families and the YOS were already strong as many of the YOS young people meet the criteria for inclusion in the Troubled Families programme.

In July 2014, a report went to Cabinet recommending that Havering YOS be brought back in house and managed within the Early Help and Troubled Families service. A

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vacant management post in the new Early Help and Troubled Families service was redesigned to take on management of the YOS and targeted early help for teenagers. The service has been successful in recruiting to the post and it is anticipated that the YOS will be managed in LB Havering with effect from 31st October 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the committee:

- Note the progress made in Havering YOS under the management of London Borough of Barking and Dagenham YOS since 2012
- Receive this report of progress made since the cabinet decision of July 2014

REPORT DETAIL

Havering Youth Offending Service (YOS) has been managed by the Barking and Dagenham YOS manager since October 2012 under an agreement between the two boroughs. This arrangement was entered into for a number of reasons. The Havering YOS was underperforming and there was a need to strengthen the management.

Barking and Dagenham YOS was performing well and had a strong management team. Both boroughs were keen to establish a joint service with more resilience to address changing and growing needs. In Havering's case there was the added advantage of partnership with a neighbouring borough that had already had experience of tackling problems such as gang involvement which were relatively new to Havering.

The partnership has been successful in improving Havering YOS services in a relatively short period of time. The Havering YOS was restructured to enable a more flexible approach where previously there were many individual job descriptions. Follow up case auditing confirmed that there had been considerable improvements in the case work since the changes were made.

This was further confirmed in July this year when the YJB reported that Havering was doing well on a number of indicators:

- On First Time Entrants – “Havering are continuing to perform well, performance has improved, the reduction is significant and continued”
- On Reducing Reoffending – “Havering have decreased reoffending from their baseline year of 2010/11, performance has improved”
- And overall - “the data indicates effective practice” and “The YOT is emerging as a high performing YOT in terms of data”

Although indicators do not tell the whole story, it was pleasing to have very positive feedback on YOPS casework and the partnership with other LB Havering services later in July when a Havering case was selected for a thematic inspection of resettlement for young offenders.

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Although the partnership arrangement worked well, changes to the Havering management and operational structure meant that there was an opportunity identified to take the service management back. The partnership between YOS and Early Help and Troubled Families has been particularly strong and has assisted YOS in developing a whole family approach to their statutory work. Troubled Families, with its focus on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and reducing exclusions and improving school attendance has a strong synergy with the work of YOS. Importantly, given the financial constraints in public services, there was an opportunity to make a saving while developing the service.

Therefore a recommendation was made to Cabinet in July to take back the management of the service. The management post for the service which brings together the YOS and Early help service for teenagers was advertised following the Cabinet decision and a very good appointment has been made. Arrangements are now being made to re-establish a multi-agency Havering YOS Chief Officer Group in late September which will be chaired by Joy Hollister and which will oversee the continuing development of the service.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

A saving of £100,000 in a full year will be achieved.

Legal implications and risks:

Human Resources implications and risks:

Equalities implications and risks:

BACKGROUND PAPERS