



Purpose: For Consideration

Committee report

Committee	POLICY AND SCRUTINY, CHILDREN'S SERVICES EDUCATION AND SKILLS
Date	1 DECEMBER 2022
Title	THE WORK OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (IOW YOT)
Report of	DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to provide, the detail of the work of the Isle of Wight Youth Offending Teams (IOW YOT) For the policy and scrutiny committee to consider. Accordingly, the summary section will detail a brief background to the IOW YOT and its governance and leadership. There is specific reference to the YOT's status as a partnership and links between this plan and the IOW Strategic Plan will then be identified. Finally, service specific items will be covered including staffing, workload, the nature of interventions, the YOT financial arrangements, its performance framework, and priorities for the coming year.
2. In the recommendation the council will be invited to consider the work of the IOW Youth Offending Team.

RECOMMENDATION

3. That the Isle of Wight Council are asked to consider and the report into the work of the IOW Youth Offending Team.

BACKGROUND

4. Youth Offending Teams were established under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. The essence of these teams was one of a statutory partnership between those agencies who touch children's lives when they commit an offence. Specifically, the Local Authority, Police, Probation and Health.
5. The work of all Youth Justice Services is overseen by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. This is a specific department within the Ministry of Justice. Their role is to provide oversight including the administration of the youth justice grant, the achievement of key performance indicators and the provision of practice

standards. Attached is a link to the National standards for youth justice services for information:

[Microsoft Word - Standards for children in youth justice services 2019.doc.docx \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

6. Youth Offending Teams have statutory responsibility for children who are given an outcome by the court and the partnerships Joint Decision-Making Panel. Appendix one provides details of the outcomes which can be imposed. In addition, the IOW YOT delivers a prevention service to children who are at risk of committing an offence. Youth Crime Prevention receives referrals from a range of agencies across the Island.
7. As there is a strategic partnership between Hampshire and Isle of Wight local authorities in the management of the Island's Children's Services (Social Care and Education). Hampshire provides the line management of the IOW YOT. Therefore, there is a close link between Hampshire and IOW YOTs with the Head of Service managing both teams.
8. The IOW YOT is accountable to the IOW YOT Management Board, consisting of representatives of the four statutory partners: The board is chaired by the Deputy Director of Children's Services. Representatives from the local authority includes the Head of County Services, the Service Manager for Children in Care and representation from Island Futures. Health has representatives from both Public Health (local authority) and the Clinical Commissioning Group. The Probation Delivery Unit Head also attends. The Police representative is the Superintendent for the Isle of Wight and the Inspector responsible for the YOTs seconded police officers. Our Southwest and South Central YJB Head of Innovation & Engagement (Southwest & South Central) also attends.
9. In addition to the statutory partners there are representatives from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, HM Courts, and the Community Safety Partnership. Regarding YOT staff, the Head of Service is in attendance, supported by the Operational Team Manager. The board meets on a quarterly basis.
10. Many of those who attend also attend the Hampshire YOT Board, accordingly the recent decision has been made to merge the two Boards.
11. The Head of Service is responsible to Kieran Lyons, Head of County Services, Hampshire County Council.
12. The Head of Service also works closely with the service leads for Portsmouth YOT and Southampton Youth Justice Service. This is necessary when all four YOTs share common partners, for example Hampshire Constabulary and HM courts. Further, this collaboration has been crucial to developing strategies to deal with common objectives, for example, the development of a Pan-Hampshire Youth Diversion scheme and commissioning the provision of The Appropriate Adult Services (TAAS).

SERVICE/DECISION SPECIFIC PARAGRAPH

13. Our work is underpinned by the Youth Justice Board’s vision of a child first Youth Justice system, which is a system where all services:
- *Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their needs, capacities, rights, and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.*
 - *Promote children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.*
 - *Encourage children’s active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.*
 - *Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion, and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.*
14. The staffing structure for the Team is detailed below. Social worker, YOT officers and YCP staff all manage cases with Employment Training Education (ETE), Restorative Justice (RJ), and CAMHS staff delivering interventions.

Role	FTE
Team Manager	1
Assistant Team Manager	1
Social workers	2
YOT workers	1.6
Employment Training Education worker	1
Restorative Justice Workers	1
Business Support	1
Youth Crime Prevention	2.5
CAMHS	1
Police Officer	1
Probation Officer	0.5

15. Currently IOW YOT are working with 81 children on various orders. All these children are allocated a case manager. Their role is to complete an assessment identifying what children need to support them in desisting from offending. From this an intervention plan is developed.
16. One of the main areas of work we deliver is Restorative Justice. This is an approach used for both the benefit of children and those who are harmed by their behaviour. It provides the opportunity for the harmed person and the child to communicate either directly or indirectly and to repair the harm done. This is done through shuttle mediation, a direct meeting, or a letter of apology.
17. The objective is for the child to understand the impact of their behaviour on the harmed person and where appropriate repair the harm. This will reduce the risk of the behaviour being repeated. It is a collaborative approach, which avoids apportioning of blame. Accordingly, it is a voluntary process, which both parties must consent to participate in.
18. All people who have been harmed by a child's behaviour are contacted and offered an RJ intervention. In the last quarter this was 27 victims. Of these 10 chose to be involved and are enabled to communicate with the child directly or indirectly. It should also be noted that even if a harmed person declines to be involved the RJO still works with the child.

FINANCE

19. The IOW YOTs budget is received via income from a variety of sources. Since the plan was submitted notification was received of a helpful increase from £139,534 to £168,275, however for the sake of consistency the figures in this report align directly with the plan.

Income 2022/23

Agency	Amount	Provides
Youth Justice Board	£139,534	
Local Authority Children Services	£318,382	
Office Police Crime Commissioner	£30,600	Youth Crime Prevention
Probation	£5,000	To provide support to the Probation Officer
Total	£493,516	

20. It is a requirement that the four partners provide either financial support or staff.

This equates to the following monetary value:

Agency/Funding	Salary value
Police	£80,850
CAMHs	£42,753
Probation	£23,762
IOW Council - HR legal, ICT, accommodation	£94,291 (include recharge arrangement for 10% of the salary cost for the Head of Service, Performance, and Quality Manager.

PERFORMANCE

21. Regarding Performance there are three National Indicators which the team are measured against:

- The number of First-Time Entrants (FTE) into the criminal Justice service. This is any child who receives a Youth Caution or above. The objective is to keep this as low as possible as it is recognised that there is a negative impact through being labelled as someone who offends. In response to this the IOW, together with the other four Hampshire YOTs and the police, introduced a Youth Diversion Programme where children get the same interventions without being criminalised. This was launched in November The, latest performance figures (Q1 22/23) show that there were 23 children in a 12-month period. This is a reduction of 5 from the previous quarter and 10 from the Q4 200/21.
- The % of children from a 3-month cohort of children who received a statutory outcome who go on to reoffend in the subsequent 12-month period. The latest figure for the island sits at 22.2%. which is a significant reduction from previous years. To expand the figure for Q4 2020/21 stood at 43.1%.
- Its is very rare for an IOW child to receive a custodial sentence. In the last five years there has been three children who received this outcome.

22. In April 2023 there will be a new set of National Indicators which are as follows:

- The Suitability of accommodation at the start and end of a child's order.
- The number of children in suitable Education, Training and Employment.
- The number of children assessed as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities receiving education training or employment.
- The number of children assessed as having Mental Healthcare and Emotional Wellbeing needs receive an intervention.

- The number of children identified with a Substance Misuse need receiving an intervention.
- The number of children who receive and Out of Court Disposals who successfully complete.
- The links between the YOT and wider Childrens Services.
- Management Board attendance.
- The number of children cautioned or convicted for a serious offence.
- The number of victims contacted and of those contacted the numbers who engage in restorative justice.

23. All Youth Justice Services are inspected by Her Majesties Inspectorate of Probation. (HMIP) and we are anticipating an inspection imminently.

IOW YOT priorities for 2022/23

24. Through a review of the work the following priorities were identified for the 2022/23:

- As previously stated, keeping children in education is a priority for the IOW YOT. We have been developing operational practices however there is a need for a more strategic response for this priority
- There is a growing body of evidence that children from other minority backgrounds are disproportionately represented in the Criminal Justice service. The IOW YOT needs to understand what this looks like on the Island. This includes implementing findings of the inspection in relation to the experience of black and mixed heritage boys:

[A thematic inspection of the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

- We need to improve how we incorporate the views of children and their carers into service delivery and design.
- To further develop the way children are assessed in relation to the potential to cause harm to others.
- To develop assessments in relation to health outcomes to ensure children receive the correct intervention.
- To continue to develop, in partnership, its response to serious youth violence. This includes a review of local youth to adult transition arrangements to ensure children are transferred safely.
- To increase our capacity to understand and deliver better service to adults and children experiencing, Adolescent to Parent Violence.

OPTIONS

25. The request is for the panel to not the work of the IOW youth Offending Team

APPENDICES ATTACHED

26. Appendix one details the range of outcomes available to children

BACKGROUND PAPERS

27. Links are provided within the report where relevant.
28. Contact Point: Nikki Shave Head of Service, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight Youth Offending Teams: nikki.shave@hants.gov.uk

*Steve Crocker – Director of
Childrens Services*

*Councillor Debbie Andre Cabinet Member for
Children's Services, Education and Lifelong Skills*

List of disposals managed by the IOW Youth Offending Team:

1) Orders Imposed by the Court

Referral Orders (ROs)

A Referral Order requires the child to attend a panel (made up of two members of the local community and a YOT member of staff). The panel meets and agrees a contract, for a period of between three months and a year.

The aim is for the child or young person to make up for the harm they have caused. An order *must* be imposed for a first offence where the child has pleaded guilty (unless the court decides that another sentence is justified) and may be imposed in other circumstances.

Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs)

A Youth Rehabilitation Order is a community sentence. It can include one or more requirements that the child must comply with and can last for up to three years. Some examples of the requirements that can be imposed are a curfew, supervision, unpaid work, electronic monitoring, drug treatment, mental health treatment and education requirements.

Custodial Sentences (DTO/Sec90/91)

Children can receive custodial sentences. It is a sentence to be avoided as far as possible. When they are given, they aim to provide training and education and rehabilitate the offender, so they do not reoffend. Sentences can be spent in secure children's homes, secure training centres and young offender institutions.

2) Orders imposed by the Joint Decision-Making Panel

Youth Caution (YC)

Where the child admits the offence, but an intervention is not assessed as required. They can however engage voluntarily should they so wish for a period of 12 weeks.

Youth Conditional Caution (YCC)

A YCC is given where a child admits the offence and it is assessed they need an intervention. This intervention is 16 or 20 weeks in length and is delivered by the YOT. If they do not comply, they can be sent back to court and resented for the original offence.

Youth Diversion Programme (YDP)

This is offered to the child by a Joint Decision-Making Panel (JDMP). Unlike all the above,

the child is not considered as a First Time Entrant (FTE). The length of intervention is 16 weeks and if they do not comply, they are referred to JDMP for reconsideration.

3) Youth Crime Prevention

This is a voluntary intervention offered by the Youth Offending Team. In other Local Authorities this can be delivered by other parts of the Local Authority. There are two routes for a child to gain access: The first is a direct referral from other agencies and the second when it is attached to a **Community Resolution**. A Community Resolution is issued by the Police at the point of arrest.