

EXTERNAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: YOUTH OFFENDING / SAFER HILLINGDON PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Contact Officer: Nikki O'Halloran
Telephone: 01895 250472

REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to comment on the impact of the work being undertaken locally by the Safer Hillingdon Partnership partners and the Youth Offending Service.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and ask questions in order to clarify matters of concern in the Borough particularly in relation to:

- the implications of the imminent changes to the Metropolitan Police operating systems;
- the effectiveness of the transition to the new probation companies for low acuity offenders (for example, referrals to addiction services which, unless made, may potentially increase the risk of reoffending); and
- the challenges faced by the Youth Offending Service.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

INFORMATION

Probation Service

Ownership of the London Community Rehabilitation Company (LCRC), which was formerly known as the London Probation Trust, was transferred to MTCnovo on 1 February 2015. LCRC is the largest of the 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies across England and Wales, employing approximately 1,200 staff across London.

LCRC's role is to manage the majority of offenders under probation supervision and staff work alongside the National Probation Service, which manages offenders who have been assessed as presenting high risk of harm to others. These staff supervise around 25,000 offenders at any one time, across 620 square miles of the capital's 33 boroughs covering a population of 8.6 million people.

The role of the LCRC is to reduce reoffending and make London safer. Together with other criminal justice agencies, such as the Police, Prisons and Courts, the LCRC protects the public. Its skilled and experienced staff work directly with offenders to:

- tackle the causes of their offending behaviour;
- enable them to turn their lives around; and
- rehabilitate them back into the community.

The LCRC works with offenders aged 18 and over who have been either sentenced by the courts to a Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order, or released on licence from prison to serve the rest of their sentence in the community. Under the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014, we continue to supervise ex-offenders for a 12 month period after their release from prison.

From 1 February 2015, LCRC introduced "Through the Gate" services for those sentenced to less than 12 months in prison – those who are at greatest risk of reoffending. These services include housing, employment, finance and debt advice.

It should be noted that LCRC is a key partner in Integrated Offender Management, which brings together local agencies to target offenders causing most concern to communities. LCRC staff work with offenders to turn their lives around and protect the public and believe that the organisation has a particular expertise in working with gang members and women offenders. The organisation also works closely with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

LCRC delivers Restorative Justice which gives victims the chance to tell offenders the real impact of their crime, to get answers to their questions, and an apology. The organisation aims to:

- Reduce reoffending and protect the public;
- Enforce community sentences which punish and rehabilitate offenders;
- Provide innovative services; and
- Manage risk and influence positive change in offenders' behaviour.

Metropolitan Police Service

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) is in the process of developing London's next Police and Crime Plan, at a time of serious challenges for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the partner agencies.

London's population is growing and changing; criminal threats are evolving and becoming more complex. The Plan proposes to restore real neighbourhood policing to every part of London to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour and provide extra protection and support to the most vulnerable people and places, whether that be at home, at work, on the street or online. Rather than setting arbitrary crime reduction targets for London as a whole, MOPAC proposes to work with local authorities and the Metropolitan Police Service to set priorities that are relevant to local communities whilst ensuring that the highest harm crimes are prevented and the most vulnerable people are protected. MOPAC has also committed to introduce an additional dedicated police officer in every ward in the city and trial new ways of managing the core local policing functions of neighbourhoods, investigation, response and protecting vulnerable people to increase the number of officers that can be dedicated to the front line.

It is proposed that MOPAC's analytical expertise is used to monitor all crime and antisocial behaviour in London on a continuous basis, enabling it to work with the MPS to identify and tackle new and emerging issues. MOPAC would also maintain a focus on reducing inequality and safeguarding the most vulnerable people in society.

In order to tackle complex and sensitive challenges, MOPAC proposes to publish and implement a new knife crime strategy, overhaul the police's approach to safeguarding children,

and promote a citywide culture of zero tolerance for both hate crime and violence against women and girls.

MOPAC states that a stronger relationship between victims of crime and the criminal justice service in London is at the heart of its approach. To this end, MOPAC wants to ensure that victims receive all the help and support to which they are entitled under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime and will seek to transform the existing patchwork of provision into a single accessible, responsive, quality service offer. MOPAC will appoint a Victims Commissioner to champion better services for victims of crime and introduce a programme of victim-led restorative justice.

Consultation on the draft plan ("A Safer City for All Londoners: Draft Police and Crime Plan for London 2017-2021 - Consultation Document") has been undertaken. This consultation exercise, which ended on 23 February 2017, posed the following questions:

1. To what extent do you agree that the plan will make London a safer city for all?
2. Do you think the priorities stated by the Mayor are the right ones? Thinking about the priorities - please provide any comments you have about the plan itself including anything you would add or change.
3. Are the delivery plans and commitments clear and easy to understand? Please provide any comments you have about the delivery plans and commitments. Is there anything you would like to contribute regarding the approach MOPAC intend to take?
4. Do you agree with the approach laid out in terms of how success of the plan will be measured? Please provide any comment you have about performance measurement of the police or criminal justice service.
5. What do you think the Police and Crime Plan will achieve?
6. What would you like to see more emphasis on?
7. Is there anything else you think the Mayor should take into account when creating his plan?

Youth Offending Service

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) is part of the Youth Justice System and comprises a team of workers from education, health, police, probation, social services and youth services and trained volunteers, working together to reduce and prevent offending by young people and help create safer communities.

YOS provides a range of services to young people who offend or who are at risk of offending and also works with families, the police, the courts, victims of crime and the local community. Young offenders are young people with needs who have the potential to lead non-offending lifestyles. YOS identifies individual needs, challenges offending behaviour and attitudes and promotes positive life opportunities.

The Service is responsible for:

- Delivering programmes to young people as an alternative to prosecution in court;
- Preparing reports for courts to assist them in sentencing young people who have admitted or been found guilty of committing an offence;
- Delivering interventions as part of court orders, which will assist the young person to stop offending;
- Working with parents whose children are involved in offending;
- Returning young people to court if they have failed to comply with their court order; and

- Supporting young people whilst in custody and following their release.

In 2011, an external inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Probation (HMIP) of Hillingdon YOS, recommended that YOS assessments needed to be more cognisant of diversity issues and its intervention plans needed to acknowledge and address any barriers that diversity issues may have on achieving successful outcomes for young people.

How was this addressed and what was the outcome?

- Diversity issues are now discussed as a specific item within the case management meetings (planning and review) held for each case
- A new integrated intervention plan was developed which combined the elements of risk management, safeguarding, re-offending and diversity within the one plan.
- There is a diversity statement section in the plan which asks the caseworker to identify any specific features of the young person or their circumstances, which may impact on or be a barrier to the successful delivery of the intervention plan.
- The plan framework guides staff to include in the diversity statement any additional measures that will be put in place, or adjustments made, to reduce the impact of those diversity factors likely to have a detrimental effect.
- An audit tool was developed for the new intervention plan which includes a specific measure on the diversity section of the plan. To date, 88% of the audited cases were assessed as satisfactory or above on the diversity section, with a 50% as good or outstanding.
- The audit tool is being used to identify individual and group training needs with the aim of improving the proportion of plans assessed as good.
- The process is also starting to identify gaps in provision some of which may need to be taken forward on an organisational level with partners.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

A Safer City for All Londoners: Draft Police and Crime Plan for London 2017-2021 - Consultation Document (https://beta.met.police.uk/globalassets/downloads/about-the-met/draft_police_and_crime_plan_for_london_2017-2021_-_consultation_document.pdf)