



Wokingham Youth Offending Service

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

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INTRODUCTION

Wokingham Youth Offending Service is pleased to present the 2017/2018 Annual report.

The Wokingham Youth Offending Service (YOS) sits within Early Help to deliver holistic whole family approaches for young people involved in or at risk of offending and anti-social behaviour. The YOS specialists work across the whole of Early Help and Children's Services to deliver a range of statutory and Early Help services:

The Youth Offending Service is to deliver against three outcomes which have been set by central government, these are to

- Reduce the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System
- Reduce reoffending by those young people already within the Youth Justice System
- Reduce the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence

In addition to these, the YOS Management Board set a further 3 targets. These are for young people attached to the Service.

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- Young people accessing suitable accommodation
- Young people accessing Education, Training and Employment
- Support for victims of youth crime and delivering restorative justice processes within the community

The core functions of the YOS are:

- Supervision of Out-of-court disposals (Youth Restorative disposals, Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions)
- Supervision of statutory court orders (Referral, Youth Rehabilitation, Reparation and Detention and Training)
- IOM cases
- MAPPA Cases
- Court work and Pre-Sentence Report writing
- Group work
- PACE calls
- Reparation and Victim work
- Early Help whole family work
- EMRAC/CSE and CCE/Return home interviews

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The governance arrangements for the Wokingham YOS are held within the YOS Management Board. The Board is accountable to the Local Safeguarding Childrens Board and the Community Safety Partnership Group. The Chair of the Board is the Assistant Director for Social Work and Early Help, Lisa Humphreys. Key stakeholders represented on the Board are the Police, children's services, Health, Public Health, Probation, DAAT, Youth Court magistrates, Education, Training and Employment, Housing and representatives from the Community Safety Partnership and the voluntary section.

The 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 Wokingham Borough Council and that partner agencies recognises and maintain responsibility for contributing to the reduction of offending by children and young people.

The Board holds the YOS to account for its practice and meets on a 4-monthly basis in order to monitor and review performance against Youth Justice Board requirements and to evaluate and challenge effectiveness of practice using performance management reports and targets set out in the relevant Youth Justice Plan. Data submission, National Standards self-audit and Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents are all standing items on the agenda.

32 The Board continues to influence other strategic Boards and drives Youth Justice across other agendas, particularly around Local Safeguarding, Community Safety, Child sexual and criminal exploitation, the Prevent agenda, County lines and Health support.

The Board has shown significant improvement in representation and attendance of partners, and the current Chairperson has contributed in strengthening the Board's oversight and governance. The YOS acknowledges and appreciates partners' contributions in the face of current challenges with government resourcing. Local procedures and protocols are under regular review and allow for national and local changes that impact on how the service is delivered; specifically transition procedures which need to keep pace with current practice revisions.

REFERRALS

Young people are referred from the children's services front door via the Early Help Hub, the Police Youth Justice unit and from various Youth Courts post sentencing. The current number of young people open to the Service is 36, of which Children's Services referrals are 9 and referrals from the Youth justice unit are 11. We have 16 young people on statutory court orders. Over the last year, we worked with 98 and over the last 2 years with 173.

DATA PERFORMANCE

The Wokingham YOS constantly takes stock of performance data and where there are any increases in any of the National Indicators; the YOS review current practice and formulate an action plan. Central to the action plan is embedding the Integrated Early Help Service approach, which entails holistic practice with families. The YOS has also taken action to review its intervention strategies to ensure they remain “fit for purpose” and effective. The YOS has also taken early steps to see whether the Career Vision case management system’s re-offending predictive toolkit could be of any help in their endeavours.

The most common types of offences are assaults, criminal damage, possession and supply of class A and class B drugs, theft related offences (bicycles and theft from motor vehicles), and burglaries. Less common types of offences are sex offences, hate crimes, fraud and robberies.

Current trends are:

- increase in number of young people from out of area being arrested in Wokingham
- Increase in violence related offences committed within group enterprise and amongst girls
- Increase in drug related offences due to the county lines factor
- Increase in anti-social behaviour in various within the Borough

The Youth offending Service works closely with various Police initiatives in relation to Operations ORCA and OPOSSUM in their effort to clamp down on anti-social behaviour and the impact of county lines and substances

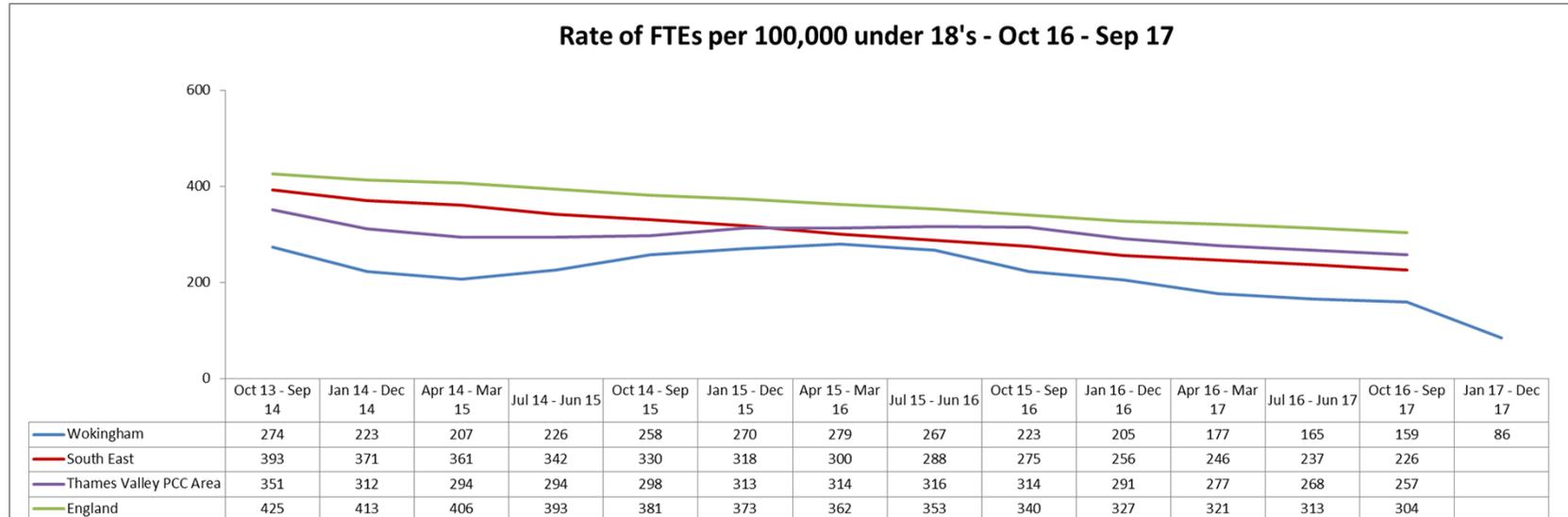
By analysing the data the YOS are able to identify key trends and areas of particular concern.

National Indicator 111 – First Time Entrants

National data reported by the Youth Justice Board

Data is reported a quarter in arrears. January to December 17 is not yet available.

The Wokingham figure shown for this period is based on local calculations and may change when the data is released.



Locally calculated data

| | April 17 | May 17 | June 17 | July 17 | Aug 17 | Sept 17 | Oct 17 | Nov 17 | Dec 17 | Jan 18 | Feb 18 | Mar 18 | Full year |
|---------------------|----------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| FTEs 2016-17 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 21 |
| FTEs 2017-18 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 16 |

Commentary

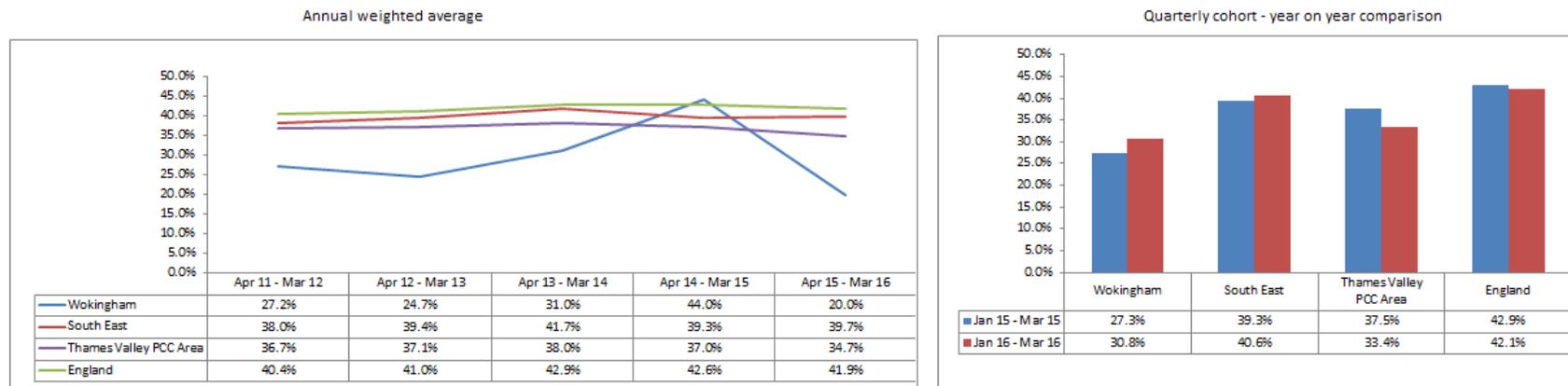
Wokingham has consistently achieved a low rate of children who are first time entrants to the youth justice system per 100,000 populations in comparison to the South East, Thames Valley and all England rates. Our local data, which is more up to date than the data released by the Youth Justice Board, evidences that the numbers has continued to fall in the 2017-18 financial year. There was an increase in January 2018, which was due to a group of children who offender together. The other months in the year have had low numbers.

Wokingham remain well below the national average for first time entrants –The reason for this are that we working more effectively with young people through our early help provision, as well as the early intervention programmes being delivered within schools and amongst anti-social behaviour groups.

National Indicator - Reoffenders and Reoffending

National data reported by the Youth Justice Board – Re-offender rate

The Youth Justice Board tracks offenders for an 18 month period to monitor if they reoffend. A child is a reoffender if they have committed another offence in the following year. Another 6 months is added on as a child may offend in the year period, but it will take longer for the court to sentence the child for that offence. The time periods shown in the chart below are the periods for the offender cohort. The most recent data available from the Youth Justice Board covers children who offended during April 15 to March 16 and if they have reoffended during April 16 to March 17. The sentencing for those offences will then be tracked up to September 17. The reoffender rate is the percentage of the whole cohort of children who reoffended in the period.



The Youth Justice Board have recently changed the way offenders are tracked to a 3 month period. The cohort will still be tracked for 12 months, but it will now be reported if they reoffend in every quarter. Previously they were only counted once in the year if they reoffended; now they will be counted in every quarter if they offend multiple times in the year. This has caused our reoffending rate to now be higher than what was reported using the previous methodology – as shown in the chart on the right. This is something that has affected many areas. The Youth Justice Board are monitoring the impact and may decide to return to the previous methodology.

Locally calculated data

Locally, we monitor reoffenders differently to the national measure. Rather than taking a cohort of offenders and tracking them forwards for a year, we instead take the cohort of offenders in the current month and look back over a year to see if their most recent offence was a re-offence.

This means our local numbers will differ from the national measure, but this method gives us more up to date information about the children we are currently involved with.

| | April 17 | May 17 | June 17 | July 17 | Aug 17 | Sept 17 | Oct 17 | Nov 17 | Dec 17 | Jan 18 | Feb 18 | Mar 18 | Full year |
|----------------------------|----------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Reoffenders 2016-17 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| Reoffenders 2017-18 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 25 |

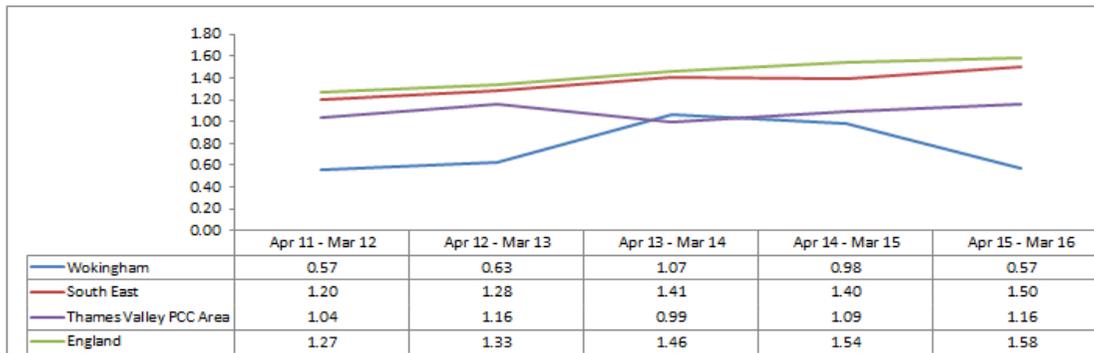
National data reported by the Youth Justice Board

Reoffending rate

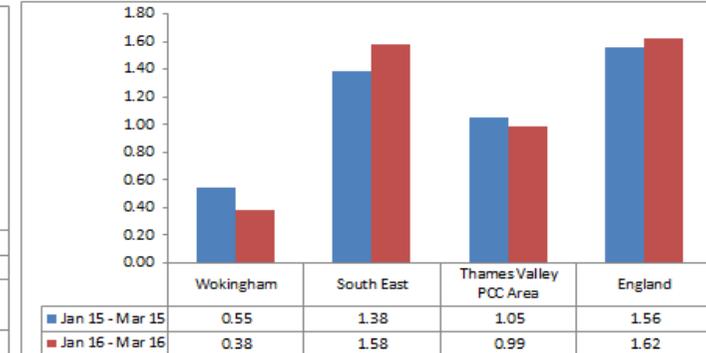
Reoffending is monitored in two ways – the number of re-offences committed by the whole cohort that is being tracked and then the number of re-offences committed by only the children who reoffended.

Reoffences / Offenders

Annual weighted average

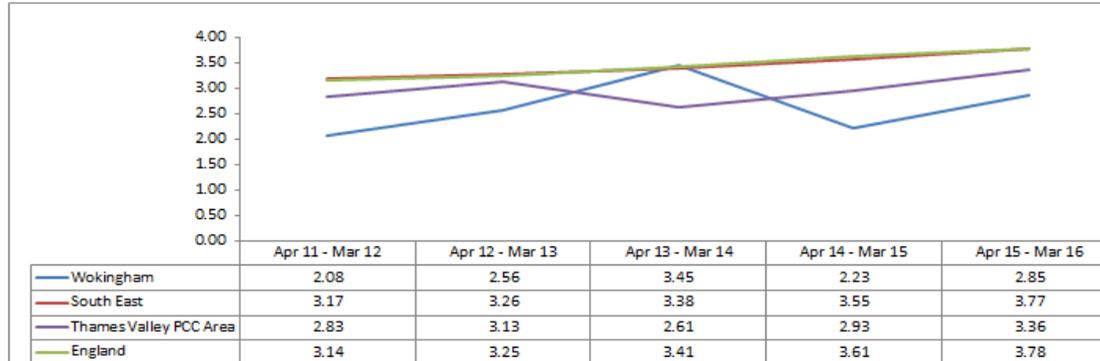


Quarterly cohort - year on year comparison

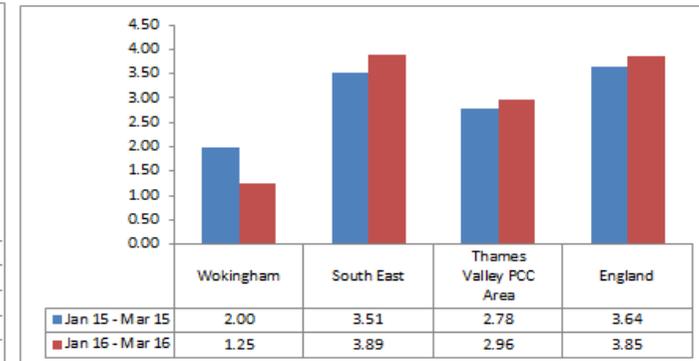


Reoffences / Reoffenders

Annual weighted average



Quarterly cohort - year on year comparison



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Locally calculated data

| | April 17 | May 17 | June 17 | July 17 | Aug 17 | Sept 17 | Oct 17 | Nov 17 | Dec 17 | Jan 18 | Feb 18 | Mar 18 | Full year |
|---------------------|----------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Re-offences 2016/17 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 17 |
| Re-offences 2017/18 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 33 |

Commentary

The Youth Justice Board data shows there were more children who re-offended in the most recent cohort (2015-16), but they committed fewer re-offences than the cohort in the previous year (2014-15). Both reoffenders and re-offences committed were high in the previous year (2014-15). The percentage of reoffenders was higher than South East, Thames Valley and England for that period. It is positive that these figures have since reduced.

Our more recent locally monitored data shows that we have had an increase in the number of re-offenders and the number of re-offences they have committed in the 2017-18 period. This means that more offenders in 2017-18 had previously committed an offence in 2016-17. What we know about these reoffenders is that there has been a recent increase in group offending, and that there is a group of children who reoffend repeatedly, which increases our count of re-offences. This is further evidenced by the fact that First Time Entrants have reduced, so we have fewer children offending for the first time, but then those children are going on to reoffend.

What is not clear in these figures is that the sentencing for an offence may take a long time. An offence may have been committed months before and the child may now be engaging well with the Youth Offending Service and not offended since, but then they are sentenced for the previous offence. This is the point in time that they are counted as a reoffender, when they are sentenced for the offence, not when the offence was committed.

The crimes the children who re-offend are committing are mainly violent crimes and theft.

³ There has been an increase in 2017-18 in the number of children open to the Youth Offending Service. There has also been an increase in children open to social care overall (particularly those subject to a Child Protection Plan and numbers of Children in Care).

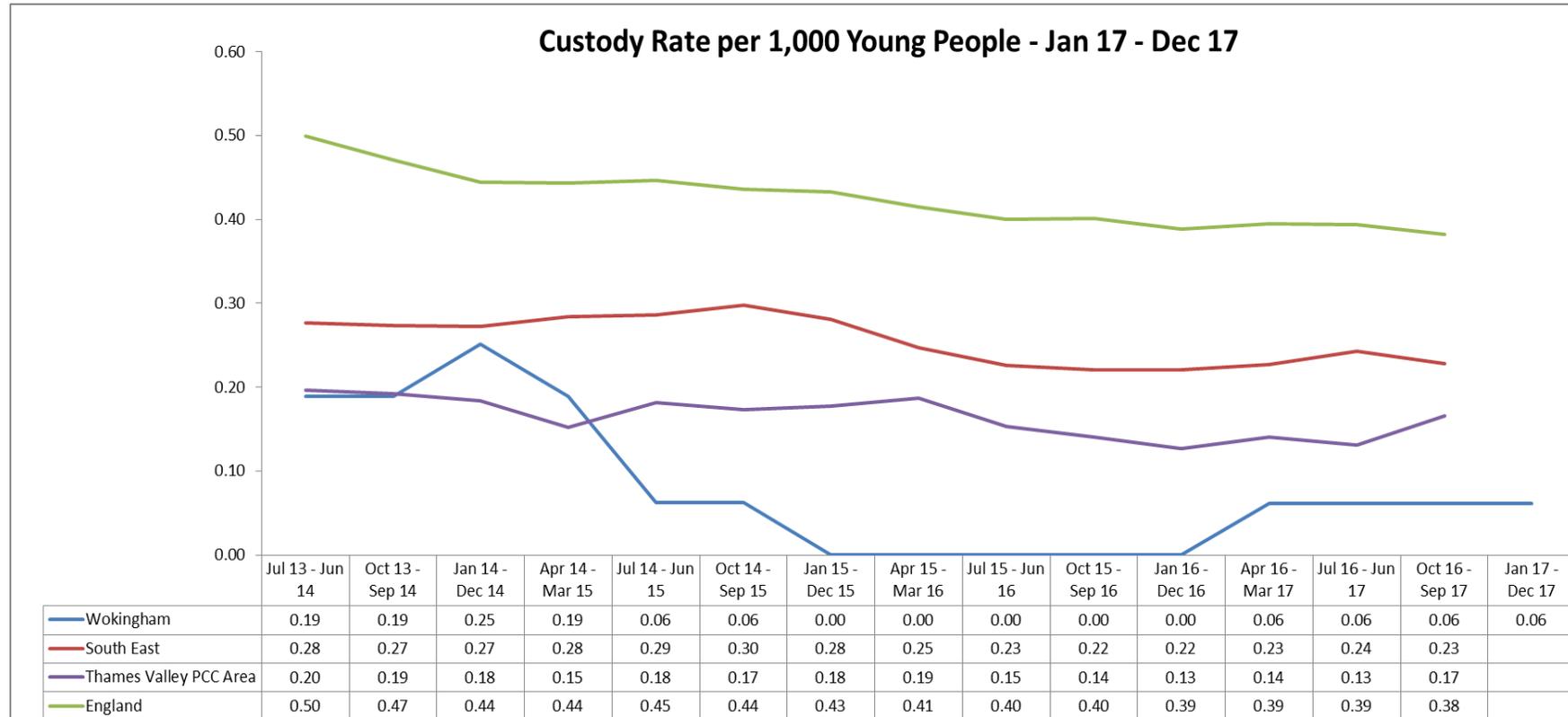
This has caused an increase in the number of children open to social care who are also open to the Youth Offending Service. The children open to social care are also the children who are repeatedly offending. Of the six children who were reoffenders in March 18, only three of them were currently open to social care, however, out of all the children who re-offended in the year, 36% were recently subject to child and family assessment (social care assessment), 36% are currently subject to child and family assessment, 7% (1 child) was previously subject to a CIN plan leaving 21% (3 children) not currently or previously involved with social care.

Almost all of those in the year have been assessed by or are being assessed by social care or had some involvement with social care recently. This evidences strong working across the Early Help, Social Care and statutory Youth Offending Service.

National Indicator 43 – Use of custody

National data reported by the Youth Justice Board

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Commentary

There was one child who was detained in custody in January 2017 for a sexual offence.

The Youth Justice Board releases custody rates each quarter for a rolling 12 month period. This child is therefore counted in each of the last four periods shown as they each cover January 2017. This one child is reported as 0.06 of the child population in Wokingham Borough, when calculated per 10,000 children.

The last time a child was detained in custody was in 2014. We had no children in custody during 2015 and 2016.

Wokingham has had a lower custody rate than South East, Thames Valley and all England since 2014.

RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

In the main, resources have been secured for the YOS within this financial year at a level akin to the last financial year. This enabled the YOS to remain stable in delivering services to young offenders, but also to focus on developing the triage and diversion offer to reduce First Time Entrants and reoffending.

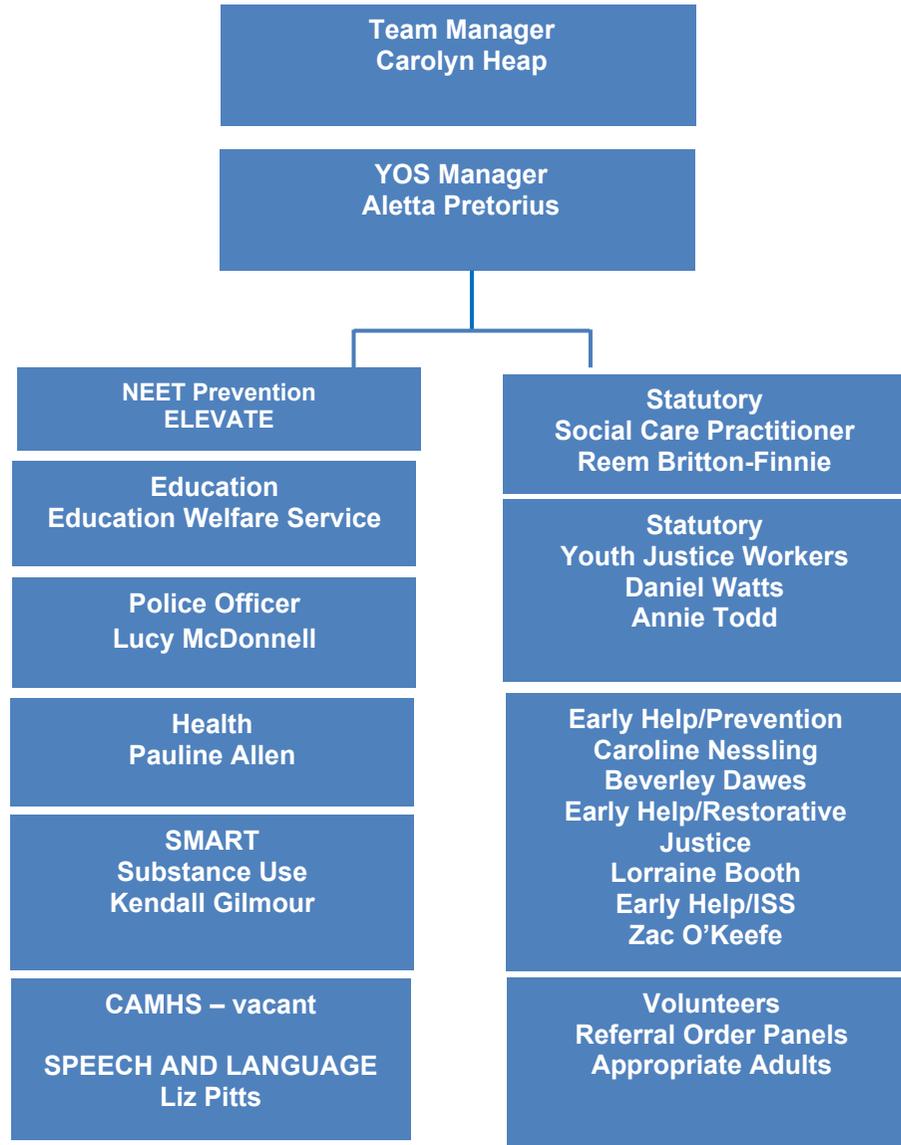
The Service is funded by the Local Authority, and grants from the Youth Justice Board and Police and Crime Commissioner. The Business and Finance Manager, the Chair of the YOS Management Board and the YOS Budget Holder provide effective overview to ensure that conditions set out in any grant made by the Youth Justice Board are met.

The YOS used the Youth Justice and Police and Crime Commissioner grants exclusively for the delivery of youth justice services and particularly to meet the objectives of reducing re-offending, First Time Entrants, custody, safeguarding and public protection through targeted work and performance evaluation and auditing. Key areas within targeted work are resources to improve Effective Practice, Remand, Resettlement, alcohol and substances, Victim Liaison, Restorative Justice, Early Intervention and Post-Court services, and support for Children in Care placed in WBC and out of area.

Specific projects that the Youth Offending Service initiated within the community:

- Early Intervention in the form of targeted work in schools to prevent offending and reduce risks of re-offending. Group work sessions were completed in 4 schools over a 6 week period and a total number of 24 young people were in attendance.
- ASB group work with young people identified by the Police was completed with 6 young people.
- The Youth Offending Service staff has also supported care leavers during this report year by providing various services to them, e.g. statutory contacts and support with access to other professional services such as social benefits and Job Centre related matters.
- Mediation services and restorative justice processes within care homes and foster care placements as initiatives to divert young people from entering the Youth Justice system were successfully completed in 2 instances.
- Indirect reparation and community services include projects and activities at Harman Court (residential home for the elderly), maintenance of Community Houses within the Borough, skill development work at Dinton Pastures, and raising funds at the annual British Legion Poppy appeal.

Staff structure - Integrated Early Help Service (YOS)



The YOS remains committed to the training and development of all Youth Justice and Early Help staff attached to the Service, and during the past reporting period all staff had undergone some form of training to allow them to develop and apply their skills in their work with young people and families. Various training and development areas have been identified for staff within YOS following the JTAI and training events have been sought in conjunction with neighbouring Youth Offending Services, e.g. impact of trauma and neglect on anti-social and offending behaviour, and the analysis of these factors within holistic assessments. Three staff members have been funded to register for the Youth Justice Certificate in Effective Practice. This course is based on the Desistance Theory and Good Lives model and also very much relevant to Early Help casework. Some of the Integrated Early Help Service workers received in-house training as to the early identification of risk factors for potential offending behaviour within Early Help cases.

PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Effective partnership arrangements are in place between YOS statutory partners and other local partners that have a stake in delivering local youth justice services, and these arrangements generate effective outcomes for children and young people who offend or are at risk of offending. Partnership arrangements continue to be strong and aim to support collaborative working to address all aspects of offending behaviour and prevent re-offending.

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Representation on a wide range of key Partnership Boards significantly contribute towards the aim of improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people through information sharing and joint working practices. Partnership Boards attended by the YOS include:

- Local Children's Safeguarding Board
- MAPPA
- MASH
- Community Safety Partnership Group
- DAAT Board
- Integrated Offender Management Board
- Social Care Early Help Hub
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Person Forum
- Domestic Violence Forum
- Children Missing Education panel
- Child Criminal Exploitation Forum

Other collaborative work with statutory and third sector partners include joint Saturday remand court duty system with other Berkshire Youth Offending teams, ensuring support for young people at risk of remand into custody or Local Authority Care, and the consideration of safeguarding issues.

The YOS holds a monthly Risk Management Forum where the assessment of risk classification is shared, agreed and reviewed with members from a wide range of partner agencies for young people whose vulnerability or risk of serious harm is assessed as of a high level.

Work with the Thames Valley Police Youth Justice unit on the reduction in the number of First Time Entrants has grown into a very effective partnership and there is close liaison and collaboration from the YOS team manager with decision makers within Thames Valley Police. Debate can be had on the best way to tackle a young person's offending behaviour and careful considerations is given to cases of young people in the care system who may offend and other young people with high vulnerability or are a high risk to the public due to their offending behaviour.

Wokingham are now in Phase 2 of the *Troubled Families* Programme. As part of the phase 2 outcomes plan we are identifying families where offending is a specific element. Throughout phase 2 Wokingham will embed troubled families into their early help system ensuring that all staff are trained in Signs of Safety, restorative practice, attachment theory and family star. This will ensure that all staff work with families in a positive and consistent way. Families will also have access to a health nurse, TFEA worker and other sign posted services. YOS are working with the Troubled Families programme to identify those families and to ensure that the other criteria for meeting the programme is understood to develop a supporting intervention plan.

Prevent/County Lines: The YOS has developed as part of a wider strategy across county lines good working practices and relationships in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing Persons and Children Missing Education in recognition that young people known to the service or on the cusp are more likely to be from the disadvantaged cohort in society. The YOS has recently strengthened the county lines co-operation by being a part of the Child Criminal Exploitation, a new initiative targeting and supporting young people being exploited by older and more sophisticated gang drug dealers.

The YOS have been working proactively with other Local Authorities, neighbouring Youth Offending Services and other partners to ensure that the appropriate response and action plan is in place to support our vulnerable young people, who might succumb to various forms of pressures to engage with drug trafficking behaviour. The YOS has been an active member of SEMRAC and have taken the lead in Child Criminal Exploitation alongside the Police in tracking and offering preventative support to those young people identified under the radar of the county line operation.

Disproportionality: The YOS undertakes a full Asset+ assessment of all young people known to the service for a number of reasons;

- To Understand offending and personal circumstances
- Ensure welfare issues are highlighted and addressed
- Assess risk and future risk
- Ensure that rehabilitation is targeted to needs
- To reduce the likelihood of disproportionality

Key example areas in which the YOS demonstrates its awareness of disproportionality is custodial sentence for young people. The Wokingham Borough Council has traditionally had low custodial sentences based on the service undertaking a detailed Pre-Sentence Report and Asset+ assessment in order to ensure that the Courts administer swift but fair justice based in the proposals made in the YOS Pre-Sentence report.

The YOS's robust quality assurance process ensure that we routinely examine our practices and work towards eradicating a particular 'type', culture or race being more prominent in the Criminal Justice System based on a negative connotation or stereotype. Our quality assurance processes are supported by peer challenge, management oversight and the YOS Management Board's scrutiny around trends or developing cohorts. This approach has been successful and continues to ensure that we have low custodial sentences year on year. During the last year we only had one young person serving a custodial sentence.

RISKS TO FUTURE DELIVERY

The Local Authority outlook for 2018/19 and beyond is resulting in resources being targeted towards statutory objectives and making the most difference with the resources at hand. Similarly, partners will be considering how contributions best deliver outcomes for young people. There is continuation of a year on year reduction in contributions to service resources. However the YOS has been able, to date, to absorb this through the Integrated Early Help Service staff structure, and finding better ways across partnership arrangements to deliver outcomes for young people. This year needs to see the service shape resources for a longer period – being able to sustain reductions over time and still maintain a high quality service to young people, victims and communities.

The main areas of concern the YOS will have over the coming year are:

- The need for all partners to show savings in service delivery, and how this collective reduction could impact on the YOS.
- Reduction of Youth Justice Grant and the impact on resources and maintaining a high quality service to young people, victims and the community.
- Increase in trends around County lines, CSE and CCE.
- The significant increase in number of new houses being built in the local area, and the potential impact on the Service.
- Known increase in anti-social behaviour and youth crime in the Borough.
- The high percentage of young people presenting with the highest complexity and risk levels, and their impact on the Youth Offending Service performance and the targeting of resources.

Approved and Signed off

Lisa Humphreys

Chairperson, Wokingham YOS Management Board

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