

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Economic and Community Development PDS Panel
MEETING DATE:	23 May 2013
TITLE:	Youth Offending Service
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
None	

1 THE ISSUE

This report is for information, to accompany a short presentation.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Economic and Community Development PDS Panel is asked to note the information contained within the report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The work of the Youth Offending Service is jointly funded by the Council, its statutory partners (Police, Probation and Health), the Youth Justice Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The budget for 2013-14 is £878,307, of which £422,457 (48%) is met by the Local Authority.

4 THE REPORT

4.1 Multi-agency Youth Offending Teams/Services were established in April 2000 under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to work with young people aged 10-17 years who had committed offences. They include staff from a wide range of backgrounds including Police, Health, Social Care, Education and Probation services. Youth Offending Services work in an integrated way alongside other specialists and have key statutory functions, including supervision of young people subject to Youth Conditional Cautions and Court Orders, giving victims a voice, enabling young people who have offended to re-pay the harm they have caused and strengthening parenting skills. In this area, the work of the two statutory teams is supplemented by a prevention team which works on a voluntary basis with children aged 8-17 years who are at high risk of offending and with their parents/carers.

Together, the three teams form a Youth Offending Service, which is also responsible for safeguarding young people and supporting them to make more positive lifestyle choices.

4.2 Bath and North East Somerset Council is the lead partner in the governance arrangements for the Youth Offending Service and has primary responsibility to the Secretary of State for ensuring that legislative requirements are met and services provided. The statutory partners (Social Services, Education, Police, Probation and Health – now the Clinical Commissioning Group) also have a duty to ensure sufficient resources to enable the partnership to fulfil its statutory duties. Strategic oversight is provided by the Youth Offending Service Management Board made up of the statutory partners and other relevant agencies. The Board is chaired by the local Police District Commander.

4.3 The Youth Offending Service is managed alongside preventative services within the Children’s Service section of the People and Communities Department. Its Service Manager has wider responsibilities for preventative services for vulnerable young people.

4.4 The Youth Offending Service has a statutory responsibility to prevent youth offending and, in addition to reviewing outcomes with individuals, it measures success using three key national outcomes; reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system, reduction in the rate of custody and a reduction in the rate of re-offending. Reported crime and the number of young people coming into the youth justice system continue to fall in Bath and North East Somerset, as nationally. Much of this is attributable to the good performance of the Youth Offending Service and the wider partnership of services for young people and criminal justice services.

4.5 The latest data available for the three national outcomes is as follows:

Prevention: The latest data available shows a year-on-year reduction (improvement) in the rate, which is lower than the Avon and Somerset average rate, but higher than regional, national and unique family comparators

Date range	Rate of first time entrants per 100,000 10-17 year olds
October 2011 – September 2012	719 (113 young people)
October 2010 – September 2011	874 (142 young people)
October 2009 – September 2010	974 (158 young people)

Custody: the latest data available shows a year-on-year reduction (improvement) in the rate, which is better than all comparators

Date range	Rate of custody per 1000 10-17 year olds
January – December 2012	0.13 (2 custodial sentences)
January – December 2011	0.26 (4 custodial sentences)
January – December 2010	0.49 (8 custodial sentences)

Re-offending: the latest data available shows a reduction (improvement) in the proven rate of re-offending after 12 months, which is better than all comparators

Date range	Rate of re-offending per 1000 10-17 year olds
April 2010 – March 2011	0.65 (29.3% young people re-offended)
April 2010 – March 2011	0.94 (34% young people re-offended)
April 2010 – March 2011	0.92 (34.5% young people re-offended)

5 ADVICE SOUGHT

The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had an opportunity to comment on this report.

Contact person	Sally Churchyard, 11-19 Outcomes Manager (01225 396966)
Background papers	Youth Justice Plan 2012-13
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	