

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	23 March 2015	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Review of the Youth Justice Plan 2014-15	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Annual Work Plan Progress Report 2014-15		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Local Authority is lead partner for the establishment of a multi-agency Youth Offending Service to work with young people at risk of offending and re-offending. This work is set out in an annual Youth Justice Plan. The current Plan was approved by Council on 11 September 2014, when it was agreed that:

- ❖ The Youth Justice Plan fulfils the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and can be submitted to the national Youth Justice Board
- ❖ The Youth Justice Plan is adopted as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework and can be accommodated within the Council budget
- ❖ The relevant Development and Scrutiny Panel oversees progress and performance

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Note the progress made in the partnership's statutory work of preventing youth offending
- 2.2 Support the identification of priority areas for the Youth Justice Plan 2015-16

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 The Local Authority is the lead partner in the multi-agency arrangements to prevent youth offending, working closely with the Police, Probation and Health Services, in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. All partners have a statutory responsibility to participate in resourcing the Youth Offending Service. The Council makes a significant contribution in terms of staff, revenue expenses and additional support including provision of office accommodation and a range of financial and Personnel services. In 2014-15, the direct contribution is £365,136, mostly in the form of staff.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

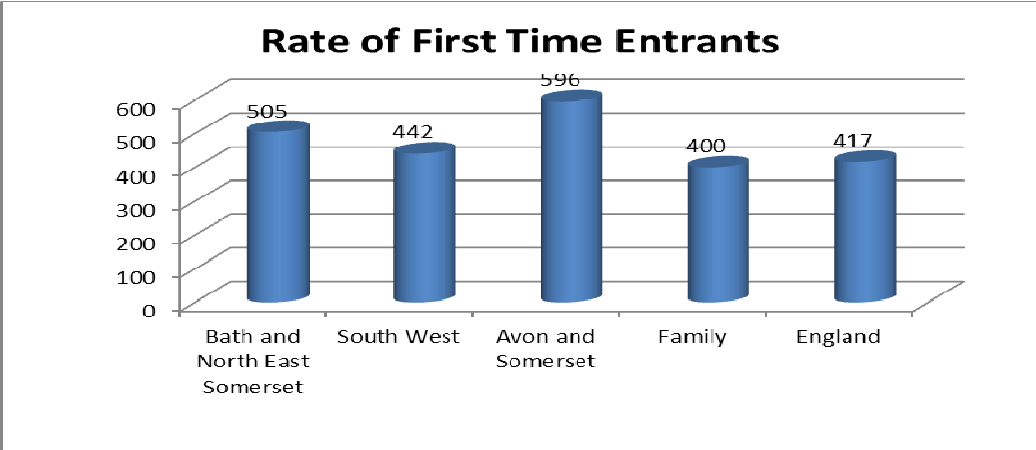
4.1 Preparation of an annual Youth Justice Plan is required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This is submitted to the national Youth Justice Board, monitored by the Youth Offending Service Management Board and overseen by the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

5 THE REPORT

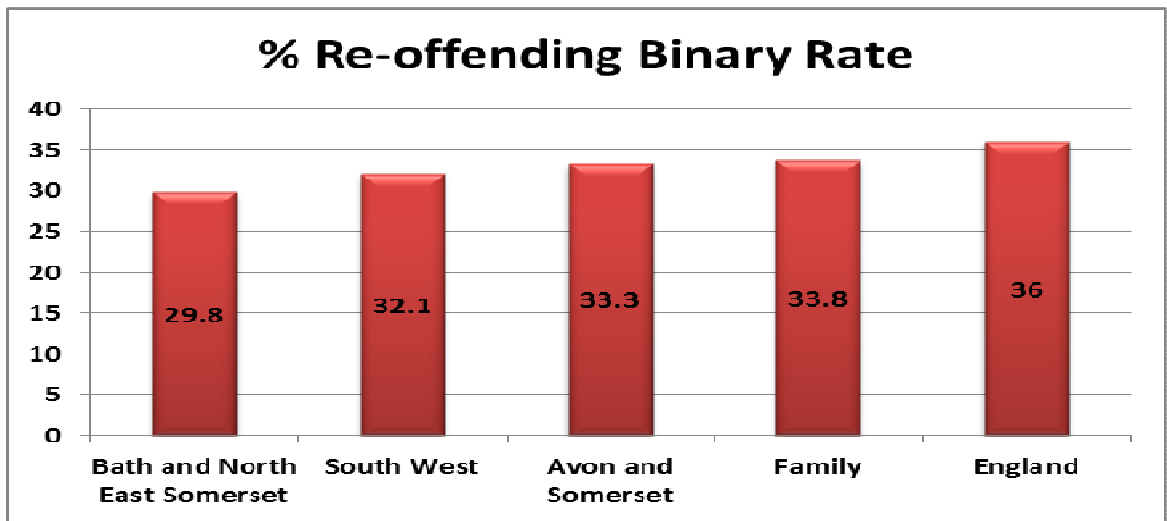
5.1 The Local Authority has three indicators for the effectiveness of local youth justice work, including the work of the Youth Offending Service: reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system, reducing the rate of re-offending and reducing the rate of custody.

5.2 For first time entrants, the indicator is the number of young people aged 10-17 who receive their first substantive outcome (a Caution, Conditional Caution or a conviction), shown as a rate per 100,000 young people in the general population.

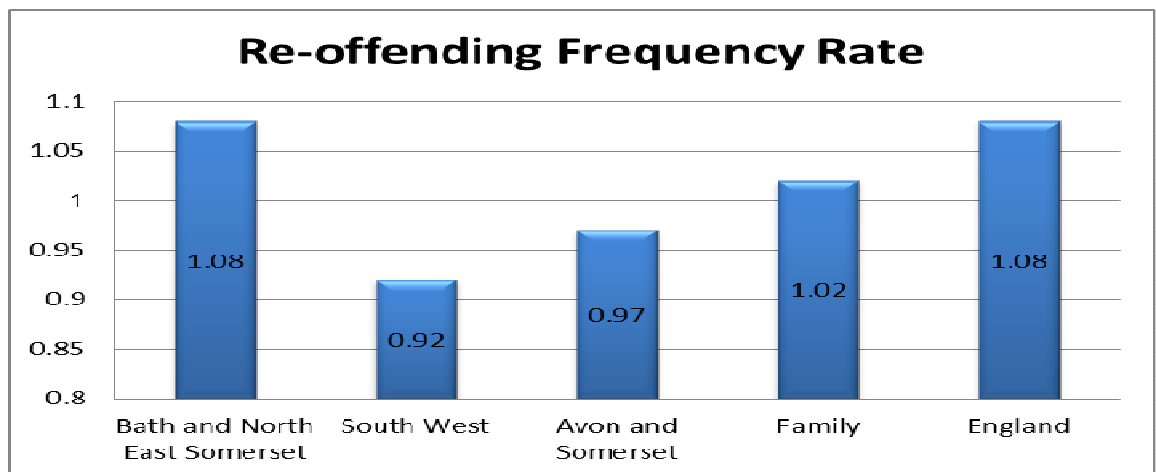
5.3 We set a target for this period to improve by 10% (i.e. reduce to a rate of 511). The latest available data is for the October 2013-September 2014 cohort, compared with October 2012-September 2013. The rate of first time entrants has reduced (i.e. improved) from 556 to 505, a reduction of -15.1%, exceeding our local target. This represents 78 young people entering the youth justice system for the first time. The rate is lower (better) than the Avon and Somerset average but higher than other comparator groups.



- 5.4 For the rate of re-offending, the indicator is the rate of re-offending after 12 months of a cohort of young people who received a substantive outcome. This is shown in two ways – the binary rate is the percentage of young people who re-offended and the frequency rate is the number of young people in the cohort divided by the total number of offences they committed.

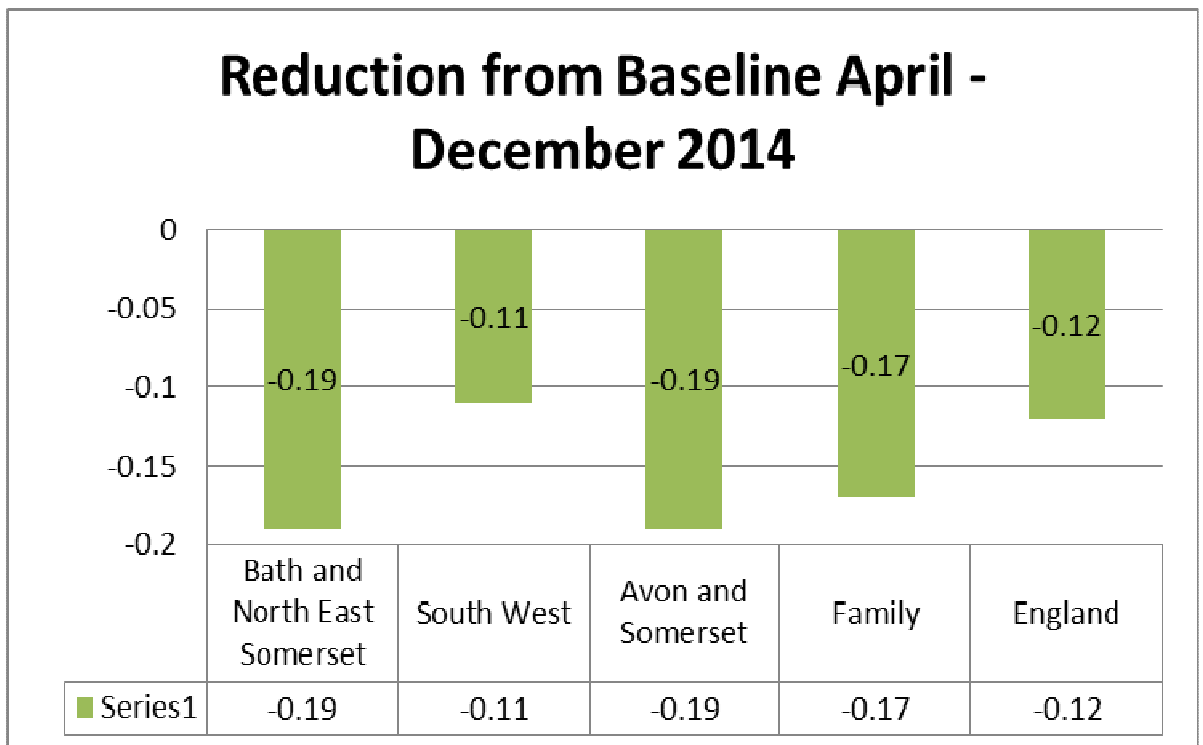
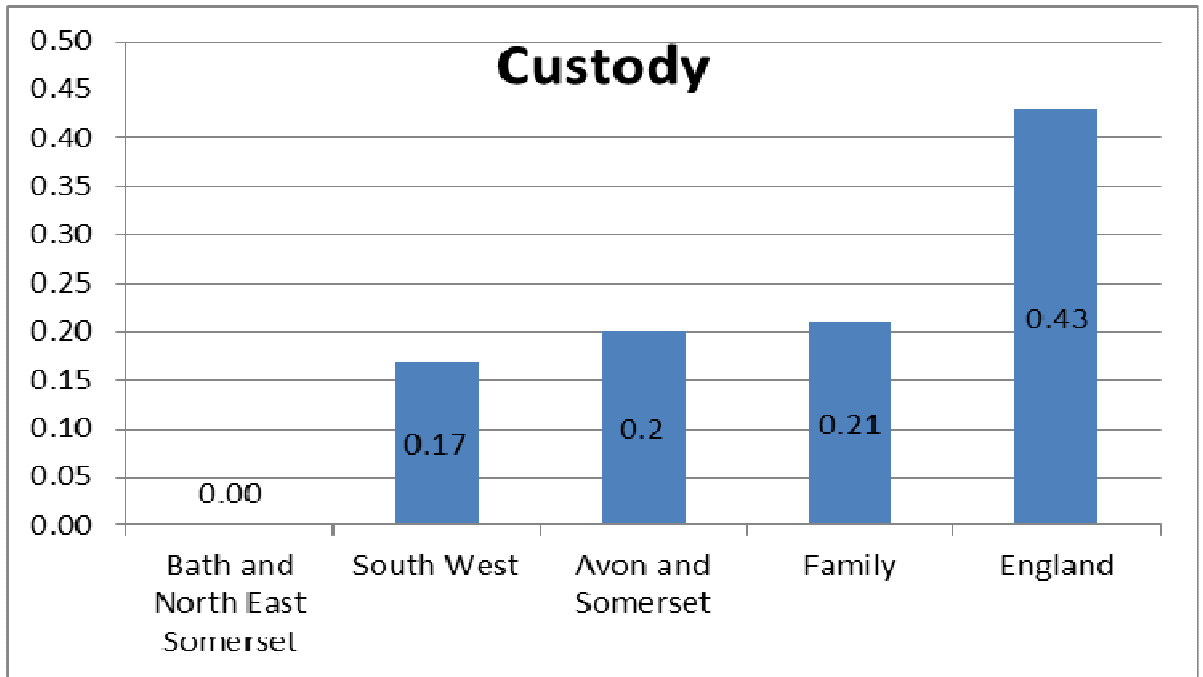


- 5.5 The latest data is for the April 2012-March 2013 cohort, compared with the April 2011-March 2012 cohort. 45 of the 151 young people in this cohort re-offended (29.8%, a slight reduction on our previous cohort). This rate remains much better than all comparator groups. However, these 45 young people committed a further 163 offences between them, giving a frequency rate of 1.08. This is equivalent to the national average but higher (worse) than other comparators. It represents a small number of young people within this cohort re-offending very prolifically



- 5.6 For the rate of custody, the indicator is the number of custodial sentences passed by the Courts, presented as a rate per 1000 young people in the general population aged 10-17. We set a local target of reducing our already low rate of custody to 0.10.

5.7 The latest data available is for the period January – December 2014, compared with the baseline January to December 2013. There were no custodial sentences passed between April to December 2014 and so the local rate is now 0, a reduction of -0.19, exceeding the local target. Our rate of reduction is better than most comparators and Bath and North East Somerset is currently one of only four Local Authorities within England and Wales to have a zero custody rate.



5.8 The Youth Offending Service has also been following up with young people currently receiving a service and what their experience has been to date.

A) How is your work with the Youth Offending Service going? Is it what you expected?

Pretty good – I thought I would hate it and it would be boring but it is going really well.

Fine - I get on with both * and ***. *** is down to earth and gets straight to the point which is good - no pussy footing around. I like the direct approach and *** is good at his job - you can tell him that.**

I get good support and it helps me with a good routine. I get on well with everyone and they listen to me.

It's alright

It is what I expected and more. They are doing a wonderful job

B) What is going well with your work with the Youth Offending Service?

The work I did with *** about what could happen if I re-offend helped me. The staff are there if you want to talk about anything – they're all good really. *** is helping me to practice my CSCS card so I can work on a building site and that is extra help. They're good at communication

I get on ok with the workers - they're all cool

*** visits me at home which is good. *** always brings round a massive bit of paper and we do work on anger management and assertiveness. It helps me stay in control and makes me think twice which is helpful.

I am really enjoying the reparation – as I am into painting and decorating I am helping to decorate the meeting rooms. The staff have been really good.

It is helping to keep me out of trouble because I've always got something to do

Chatting about victim awareness, drugs, consequences and weapons

I could never get through to professionals in the past but the YOT pushed things along and were really helpful. *** sat down and talked to my son and it has been really supportive. I feel that we are turning a corner.

C) What else could we be doing to help?

It can be patronising

Not listening enough

Dunno, nothing. I'm getting enough help from YOT and others

No more YOT!

Shorter sessions

D) Do you know what your plan is? What do you think is in the plan?

I have got 21 hours of reparation and a letter of apology left to do. I don't really want to do it, but I know I have to complete it.

I have nearly done everything. I had to write a letter of explanation and apology and learn to understand what crime is. I also had to work on anger and mental health and do some reparation.

Yes, I've got to do victim awareness and anger management

Don't know. Can't remember

Not sure

E) How is the YOS helping you to look at your offending?

It is a punishment from the court. They don't really help me stay out of trouble as they're not with me all the time. I decide to stay out of trouble.

Doing work to help me think about other people's point of view as I only saw it from my point to view. Now I know it is wrong.


Because the work is boring I won't get into trouble again

Just by doing the sessions it helps me to stay out of trouble as it makes me think about what I'm doing, the work comes back to me and I think about the

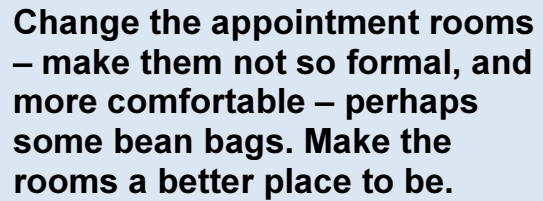
I now realise what crimes are and there is no point going back. I realise I don't want to re-offend as it affects everyone around me, the community and I don't want to ruin it for everyone.

Usually by asking questions and making me think about how victims are affected

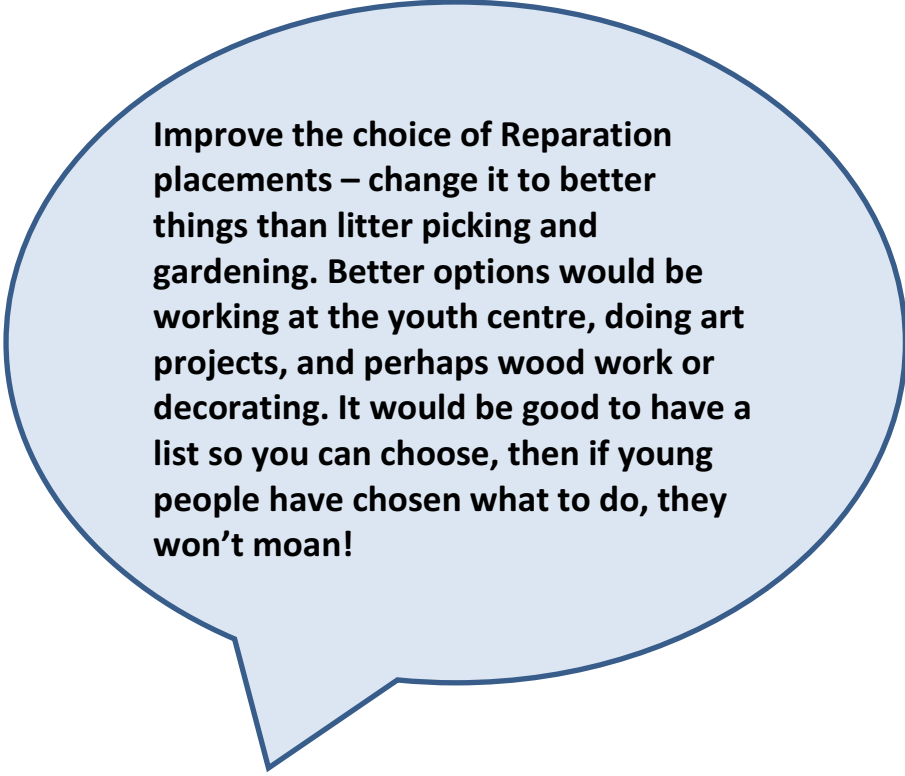
F) How could we make your sessions better?



Better reparation - perhaps in a group



Change the appointment rooms – make them not so formal, and more comfortable – perhaps some bean bags. Make the rooms a better place to be.



Improve the choice of Reparation placements – change it to better things than litter picking and gardening. Better options would be working at the youth centre, doing art projects, and perhaps wood work or decorating. It would be good to have a list so you can choose, then if young people have chosen what to do, they won't moan!

5.9 The annual Youth Justice Plan includes a work plan for the Youth Offending Service and its Management Board. This is included as an appendix and shows positive progress being made in most areas of work undertaken.

5.10 Work is currently underway to produce a Youth Justice Plan for 2015-16, to be taken to Council for approval in July 2015. Emerging priorities include:

- ❖ Reducing first time entrants – continuation and evaluation of a project to divert young people arrested for Possession of Cannabis away from the youth justice system and into support from Project 28
- ❖ Reducing re-offending – employment of a tracking tool produced by the Youth Justice Board to improve understanding of the re-offending cohort, together with focused work with the small group of young people who are re-offending most prolifically

6. CONSULTATION

The Work Plan Progress report has been consulted with managers within the Youth Offending Service. The report includes performance data which is presented to the Youth Offending Service Management Board on a quarterly basis. The report also includes feedback from young people who have been consulted about the nature of their work with the Youth Offending Service.

Contact person	Sally Churchyard
Background papers	Youth Justice Plan 2014-15
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	