

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/	Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING	22 March 2016	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE
TITLE:	Review of the Youth Justice Plan 2015-16	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Interim review of work plan 2015-2016		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

1.1 The Local Authority is lead partner for the multi-agency Youth Offending Service which works 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 adopted as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework on 16 July 2015 and has subsequently been approved by the national Youth Justice Board.

1.2 This report contains an update on the work of the Youth Offending Service.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

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 2016-2017.

## **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

3.1 The Local Authority is the lead partner in 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 2015-2016, the direct contribution is £384,877. This is 47% of the total budget of £823,964.

## 4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

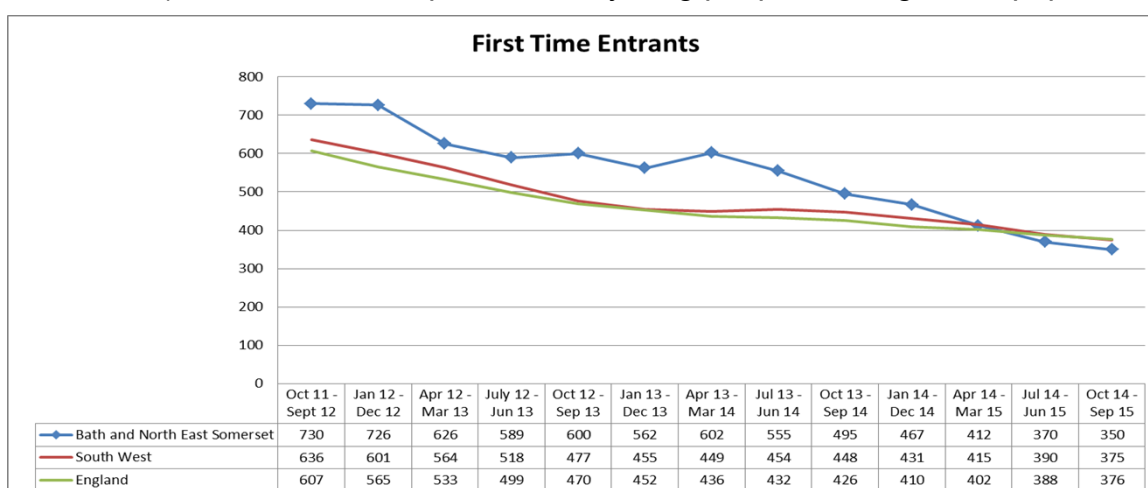
- 4.1 Preparation of an annual Youth Justice Plan is required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This is submitted to the national Youth Justice Board, monitored by the Youth Offending Service Management Board and overseen by the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.

## 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 Rate of first time entrants

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.

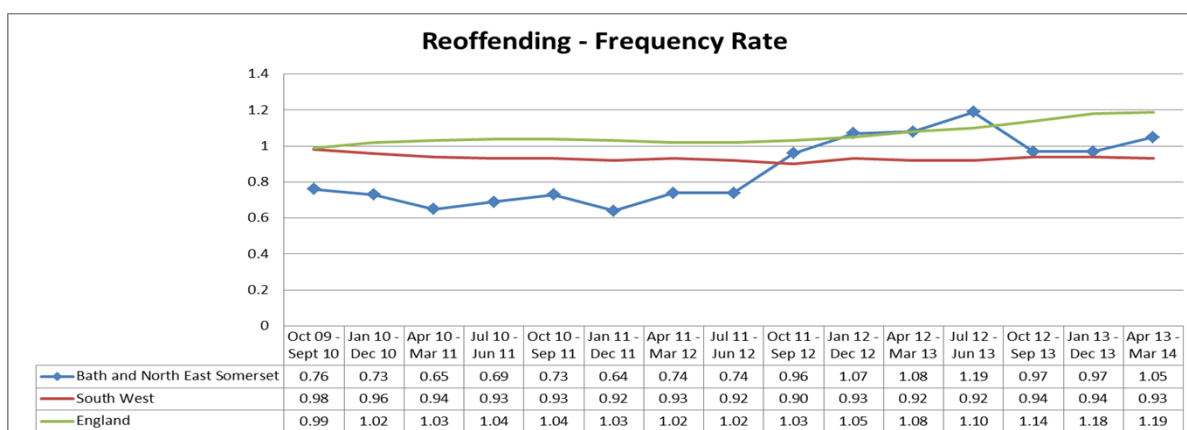
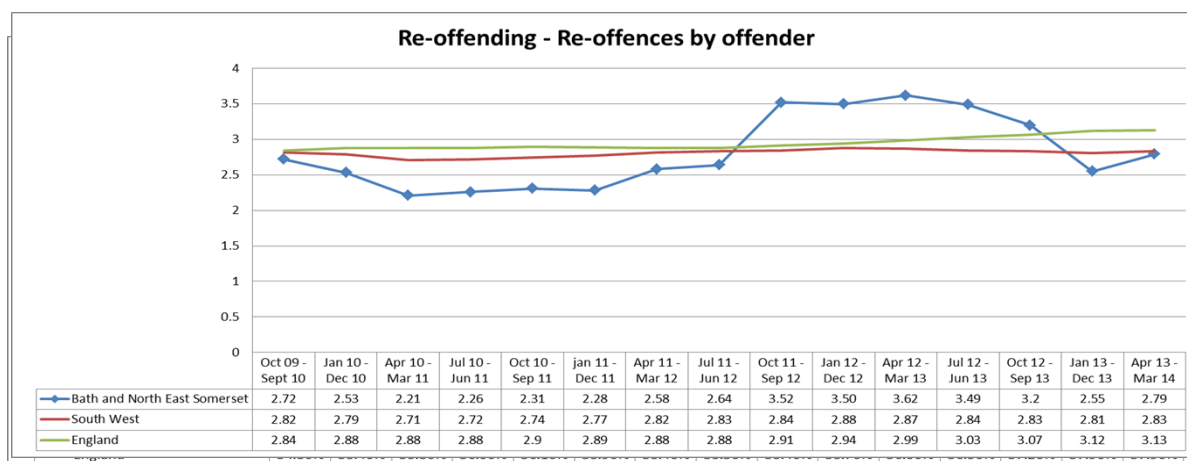


Data is taken from the Police National Computer and is published in rolling 12-month periods for the quarters ending March, July, September and December each year. This can be regarded as an indicator of the effectiveness of early help and specifically, crime prevention work undertaken by Mentoring Plus and Compass. The latest data available shows that the rate of first time entrants locally has now reduced to its lowest rate since this data started to be collected and is now below the regional and national averages.

- 5.3 It is worth highlighting an initiative which has contributed to this reduction. In its analysis of data about first time entrants, the Youth Crime Prevention Board noted that the single most common offence bringing young people into the youth justice system for the first time was Possession of Cannabis. Typically, they would admit an offence to the Police and receive an immediate Caution, with no further follow-up. In a partnership between the Youth Offending Service, Police and Project 28, young people who admit an offence of Possession of Cannabis are now offered attendance at a workshop where they learn about the impact of the use of Cannabis. If they attend, Police are able to record this as a community resolution without the need to issue a Caution. Some are then advised of further support that can be offered. A local evaluation of this initiative is underway.

## 5.4 Rate of Re-offending

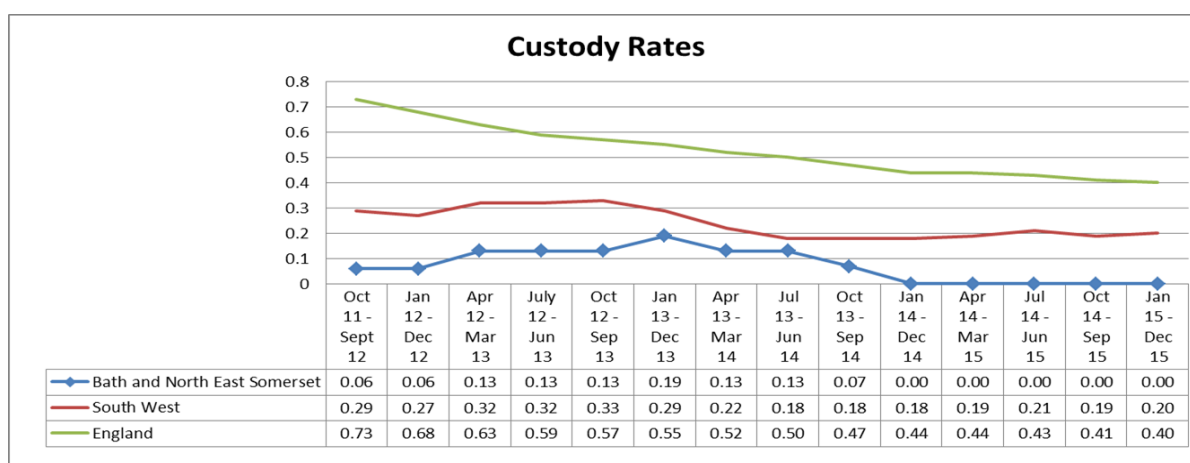
For re-offending, the indicator is the rate of re-offending after 12 months by a cohort of young people who received a substantive outcome. This is now shown in three ways – re-offending by individual young people, the binary rate (the percentage of young people who re-offended) and the frequency rate (the number of young people in the cohort divided by the total number of offences they committed). The latest data available shows that after a considerable period of having lower rates of re-offending than all comparator groups, the local rate is increasing, although it is below the national average. The Youth Offending Service is working with a small cohort of concerning young people whose behaviour is reflected in this data.



5.5 The Youth Offending Service Management Board has agreed to participate in the national re-offending tracking initiative to develop understanding of local rates of re-offending. This work will begin in April, with support from the Youth Justice Board and will include reviewing the interventions available for young people. The Service will also be strengthening its assessment and planning for preventing re-offending and managing risk of serious harm through the imminent roll-out of AssetPlus, a new assessment framework.

## 5.6 Rate of custody

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. There are currently no young people from Bath and North East Somerset serving custodial sentences and no such sentences have been passed for 2 ½ years.



5.7 The Service is not complacent about its performance in this area, nor of its public protection responsibilities. The multi-agency Custody Review Panel regularly reviews all incidences of young people who are held overnight in Police custody, securely remanded and/or at high risk of custody, in order to ensure that all options are being actively pursued to keep the young person and the public safe. The Service also enjoys good liaison with the local Court.

## 5.8 Work Plan

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. Work is currently underway to produce a Youth Justice Plan for 2015-2016, to be taken to Council for approval in May 2016. Emerging priorities include work to address re-offending and strengthen planning for management of serious harm to others. There is also a national review of youth justice underway (the Taylor Review), due to report in June, and next year's work plan will reflect the need to respond to this locally.

## 5.9 Feedback from young people

HMI Probation now facilitates an annual survey of young people known to Youth Offending Services. The first survey yielded the following comments from young people:

### (a) Things that have made you less likely to offend:

"being able to talk about my problems"

"mixing with the right people"

"coming to YOS"

"Moving back in with my Mum and Dad and being back in education"

"Realising if I reoffend I will not be able to get the job I want"

“Thinking about the consequences of actions”

(b) What things have got better for you or how has the YOS helped you?

“More positive thoughts”

“By listening to me”

“Helped me to think in a positive way”

“I have got a job and talk to people at the YOS”

“I haven’t been arrested in over a year now”

“It made me think about what people I should hang around with”

“Its made me think more about my mistakes and my relationships with Mum and Dad have got better”

“Stopped drinking”

“Tag makes you not want to do it cuz (sic) its just a waste of time”

“They have made me realise right from wrong”

“Thinking about my actions and consequences of my actions and keeping my temper”

(c) What has got better with your health?

“That I don’t drink”

“I’m using contraception and I’m eating properly”

(d) Ideas for how the YOS could be improved (and YOS response):

“Less meetings, better reparation” (our new Community Involvement worker has been tailoring reparation to the wishes of victims and young people, wherever possible. More bespoke projects now take place)

“Make the offices look better” (We involved young people in re-painting and furnishing our two interview rooms. One young woman who was involved in this went on to obtain an apprenticeship in painting and decorating, drawing on this experience)

“More computer-based stuff” (We have installed two new computers to facilitate this)

“Reparation was difficult to organise as I work full-time and no workers available the hours I am free” (We now have 3 sessional workers who are available at weekends)

## **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 and some of which is also shared with the custody Review Panel and the Youth Crime Prevention

Board. This report also includes comments from young people who have been consulted about the nature of their work with the Youth Offending Service.

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<b>Background papers</b>	Youth Justice Plan 2015-16
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	