

**19 June 2015**



**Youth Justice Plan 2014/16:  
Progress Update 2014/15**

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**Report of Gill Eshelby, Strategic Manager County Durham Youth  
Offending Service**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report presents Members with an overview of performance, progress and achievements (2014/15) in the context of the Youth Justice Plan 2014/16.

**Background**

2. County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) is a statutory multi-agency partnership, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with the principal aim of preventing offending by children and young people. Local Authorities are responsible for establishing a Youth Offending Team in their area. Police, National Probation Service and Clinical Commissioning Groups are statutorily required to assist in their funding and operation.
3. It is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement a statutory Youth Justice Plan setting out:
  - How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded;
  - How the Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
4. The Youth Justice Plan outlines the work of the partnership to achieve its strategic purpose:
  - To prevent re-offending by children and young people
  - To reduce First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system
  - By delivering specialist interventions
  - Underpinned by safeguarding and public protection.
5. CDYOS is accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, chaired by the Head of Children's Services, DCC. Membership and governance are reviewed annually in line with 'Modern Youth Offending Partnerships – Guidance on Effective Youth Offending Team Governance in England' (MoJ/YJB, November 2013) to ensure they remain robust in a complex, changing operating environment.
6. The Youth Justice Plan, after approval by the Management Board, is presented to Cabinet and full Council for approval before submission to the YJB. After submission to the YJB, Youth Justice Plans are sent to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (lead for YOS inspections) and are sent to the House of Commons library for Ministers.

7. The Youth Justice Plan 2014/16 was approved by full Council in July 2014. It outlines key priorities, budget, staffing, and the service improvement plan.
8. The Youth Justice Plan 2015/17 will be presented to full Council in July 2015.

### Key Achievements 2014/15

9. Progress against the national outcome measures: reducing First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System; Reducing Re-offending; Reducing the Use of Custody is outlined in the following paragraphs. Progress against all is positive.
10. **First time Entrants (FTEs): 193**, our lowest ever, and a 8.1% reduction compared to 2013/14 (210 FTEs). Well below the locally agreed target (less than 310). **82.9% reduction in FTEs 2007/08 – 2014/15.** (Source: CDYOS case management system, April 2015)
11. **Re-offending:** Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data for re-offending (April 12 - March 13 cohort) shows a binary rate (proportion of young people re-offending) of **38.7%** and a frequency rate (number of offences per re-offender) of **1.25**. The slight increase is in line with other YOTs in the NE and reflects the significant decrease in the cohort size (see paragraph 14 below). It is the first increase since the April 10 – March 11 cohort.
12. **Use of Custody: 20** custodial sentences, a 20% reduction compared to 2013/14 (25 sentences). Only **15** young people were sentenced to custody in 2014/15 compared to 22 in 2013/14 (31.8% reduction). (Source: CDYOS case management system, April 2015).
13. **Remand bed nights: 354** bed nights in 2014/15 compared to 641 in 2013/14, a 44.8% reduction. Remands are used only when necessary

### Impact of Diversion on Reducing Re-offending 2007/08 – 2012/13

14. The evidenced success of CDYOS pre-court/out of court systems in diverting young people from the criminal and justice system has resulted in:
  - 77.2% reduction in the number of young people in the MoJ cohort between 2007/8 and 2012/13 (from 2145 to 489)
  - 74% reduction in the number of young people re-offending (from 728 to 189)
  - 68.6% reduction in the number of re-offences (from 1950 to 612)
 (See table below)

Year	Number in the cohort	Number re-offending	Binary Rate	Number of re-offences committed	Frequency Rate
2007/08	2145	728	33.9%	1950	0.91
2008/09	1384	489	35.3%	1425	1.03
2009/10	944	393	41.6%	1150	1.22
2010/11	773	337	43.6%	1052	1.36
2011/12	631	239	37.9%	725	1.15
2012/13	489	189	38.7%	612	1.25

## **Key Achievements 2014/15**

### 13. CDYOS:

- achieved a 53.1% reduction in the number of alcohol related offences committed (from 655 offences in 2010/11 to 307 in 2014/15) and a 41.1% reduction in the number of young people committing them (from 302 in 2010/11 to 178 in 2014/15)
- improved the quality and consistency of our work with victims, including increasing victim involvement in our work with young people
- implemented our service restructure, introducing new ways of working, and building resilience in the context of reducing resources - while improving performance

## **Reducing Re-offending**

### 14. CDYOS:

- reduced offending by Looked After Children in Co. Durham
- identified a 'reducing re-offending cohort' and ensured they receive a comprehensive targeted package of interventions.
- allocated 3,420 hours of court ordered reparation
- expanded the use of restorative justice across all orders
- ensured feedback from young people, parents and carers improves service design and delivery
- embedded the Think Family approach across all our work
- further developed our range of intervention programmes

## **Reducing Use of Custody**

### 15. CDYOS:

- improved the quality of work with Detention and Training Orders (DTOs), including resettlement after custody
- reviewed and improved our Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) programme (alternative to custody)
- implemented our Reducing Remand Bed Nights Strategy
- developed and implemented a protocol with Children's Services (former children's social care) regarding Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation.

### 16. CDYOS is particularly proud of:

- improving performance in two of the three national outcome measures (First Time Entrants and Use of Custody); reducing remands to youth detention accommodation (both number of young people and bed nights); and reducing the number of young people reoffending and offences committed
- our work on resettlement: 100% of young people leaving custody in 2014/15 had appropriate accommodation available prior to release
- our work to support victims of youth crime
- embedding new roles for volunteers in service delivery and having 70 trained active volunteers
- our partnership work with North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust to enable the secondment of a Speech and Language Therapist to CDYOS to improve how we work with young people with speech, language and communication needs

- our work to become communication friendly, including the development of a range of innovative resources to address young people's speech, language and communication needs
- the development of ClearCut Communication resources – the income from which will be used to improve outcomes for young people who offend and young victims in Co. Durham
- exceeding our targets for Stronger (Troubled) Families
- implementing new ways of working to ensure value for money – while still improving performance
- leading the Safe Durham Partnership (Community Safety Partnership) work on Integrated Restorative Practice – which was runner up in the Howard League Community Programmes Awards (RJ Category) 2014
- being awarded County Durham Young Carers Charter for how we support young people who offend who are also young carers
- our staff and volunteers' hard work and continued commitment to reduce first time entrants, re-offending and the use of custody; their work to improve outcomes for young people, families, victims and communities; and their willingness to adapt to new challenges.

### **Conclusions and Next Steps**

17. The Youth Justice Plan 2015/17 outlines our strategy and partnership work to reduce first time entrants, re-offending and the use of custody. It was approved by CDYOS Management Board on 1 June and will be presented to Council for approval in July.

### **Recommendation**

18. Members are recommended to:
  - (i) Note the contents of this report.
  - (ii) Request an update in 12 months.
  - (iii) Receive the Youth Justice Plan 2015/17 in due course.

### **Background Papers**

None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** – This work continues to evidence significant savings to the Criminal Justice System

**Staffing** – None

**Risk** - None

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – None

**Accommodation** - None

**Crime and Disorder** – This work is a crucial part of the Reducing Re-Offending Strategy and has implications for all partners (CDYOS Management Board, the Safe Durham Partnership, Children and Families Partnership and the County Durham Partnership).

**Human Rights** – None

**Consultation** – Statutory partners have been consulted

**Procurement** – None

**Disability Issues** – None

**Legal Implications** – None