

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

REPORT

Subject: Feedback from HMIP Short Quality Screening Inspection of the Youth Offending Service

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1. Purpose of Presenting the Report and Decisions Required

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP)'s Short Quality Screening (SQS) Inspection of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Offending Service. The inspection was conducted from 25-27 April 2016 as part of HMIP's programme of inspection of youth offending work. This report was published on the HMIP website on 18 May and is available for download [here](#).
 - 1.2 The Community Safety Partnership Board is recommended to:
 - note the content of the report
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2. Details of the Inspection

- 2.1 On 8 April 2016, the Youth Offending Service were informed by letter that an Short Quality Screening Inspection would be carried out over a three-day period from 25 to 27 April. Two inspectors carried out this inspection by assessing 14 cases in detail and interviewing case managers regarding those cases. There were no interviews conducted with managers or members of the Youth Offending Service Chief Officers Group.

3. Key Findings

- 3.1 HMIP identified the following key strengths of the Youth Offending Service:
 - YOS workers were interested in the children and young people with whom they worked, wanted the best outcomes for them and were keen to develop their skills to achieve this;

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- Case managers had good links with other workers and used these to stay up to date with changes in the child or young person's life; and
- The YOS submitted to custodial establishments the required Youth Justice Board pre and post court placement forms, providing succinct but helpful information about safeguarding and vulnerability, and risk of harm.

3.2 HMIP also identified the following areas which require improvement:

- Assessment and planning relating to the risk of harm a child or young person poses to others, safeguarding and vulnerability need to be thorough, accurate and meet the needs of the case;
- Case managers should make sure they review progress in their cases, change plans where necessary and document this work;
- YOS workers should have the skills and knowledge to understand and fulfil their roles effectively and be provided with good quality policies to support their practice; and
- Oversight processes should make sure that learning is translated into practice, and that assessment and planning relating to risk of harm, and safeguarding and vulnerability are effective and recorded appropriately.

4. Next Steps

4.1 As a result of the inspection the Youth Offending Service have implemented the following:

- The majority of the direct line management of case managers has moved to the operational managers within the service to ensure that there is good oversight of the daily work;
- Operational managers have instigated the use of monitoring spreadsheets in order to have a closer grip on the completion of assessments, ROSH and in particular Integrated Action Plans (IAPs) to ensure that they are clearly managing risk and vulnerability;
- Quality issues with regard to risk and vulnerability are now being addressed through the direct supervision given by operational managers and ongoing QA of the documents;
- The YOS manager will lead two good practice events that focus specifically on how the information and guidance that has been given in previous events regarding risk and vulnerability will translate into the documents, utilising examples of good plans that clearly manage risk and vulnerability;
- ASSETplus is due to go live in June 2016 and the issues raised within the SQS report will be addressed as part of this training with the staff to ensure that the new assessments completed within this framework clearly address risk and vulnerability in its widest context;
- Training for staff and ongoing good practice events will continue to focus on risk and vulnerability as well as understanding and analysing information in its widest context with input from a range of professionals; and
- The YOS will receive a further audit from the YJB as agreed as part of its improvement journey to assess that the changes have been made and easily identifiable within the case records.

5. Appendix

- 5.1 Appendix A – ‘Short Quality Screening (SQS) of youth offending work in Barking & Dagenham’, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation, (18 May 2016).