

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

REPORT

Title: Youth Justice Service Board Subgroup Update

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Author: Angie Fuller, Head of Service, Adolescent and Youth Justice Service

Contact: Angie.fuller@lbbd.gov.uk

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1. Brief Update

- 1.1 The Board has met twice during the last quarter, April 4th and May16th 2022. The meeting in May was a full day in person event.
- 1.2 The April meeting focused on the following items:-
- **Performance** - The three key national indicators are all continuing to improve with custody figures at an all time low, however LBBD ratings in comparison with other London boroughs remains high
 - First time entrants (FTE's) has reduced in volume and rate in the last quarter which is positive but despite the long downward trend LBBD still has the third highest rate of FTE's in London. Work such as YARM and joint working with police and the youth justice service in the out of court arena is assisting in continuing to reduce this number.
 - Use of custody – LBBD has the fourth highest rate of custody within London despite the current numbers of children in custody being the lowest they have ever been. The service has implemented the resettlement panel to improve plans for children upon release from custody in order to reduce the number of young people who are at risk of returning to custody. Also robust bail packages and sentence recommendations to court as an alternative to custody continue to be offered to reduce the number of potential remands or children receiving a custodial sentence.
 - Re-offending - Barking and Dagenham has a reoffending rate of 40.7% and, is slightly higher than the London average of 39.1% and is currently mid-range out of all London boroughs when ranked in order. The service is now able to monitor its re-offending and start to predict potential re-offending through monthly re-offending tracker meetings to look back retrospectively as well as look forward to potential issues to address.

- **London accommodation pathway (LAP)** – presentation to the board regarding the LAP and the potential impact that this can have to reduce remands to custody. Also raised some potential issues with regard to the continuation of the delivery of some specific services such as health as well as questions regarding risk management of our children being placed in a neighbouring authority.

- **Focus on the educational needs** of children open to the youth justice service and an update of the work of the education worker in the service. The education worker and manager presented the education work piece which details what has been achieved in the past 6 months, and the steps of medium to long term goals. The team are currently working on the following:-
 - Good practice event / training
 - Individual case managers and team managers reports
 - Referral proforma
 - ETE Ms teams site
 - Use of existing ETE forums
 - Monthly ETE improvement panels
 - Case closures

They are also hoping to work on collaborative approach work with new town culture, creative writing service and network college for London. The service is also managing a rag rating live cases tracker and will be updating on a monthly basis to have oversight of the 16+ as well as the pre 16 children.

1.3 The May meeting was a full day, in person event with board members, team managers from the YOS and young people in attendance, and focused on the following items:-

- The board response to the HMIP report on black and mixed heritage children experience in the youth justice system and developments and commitments needed to take this work forward.

- The annual youth justice plan, focusing on the priorities for the board and the service for the next 12 months. This involved a series of workshops focusing on the four tenants of a child first approach and the national standards set for youth justice services with specific areas of focus for LBBB given the local issues faced by the service.

- Creation of a new mission statement/vision for the service based on all of the reports, research and presentations the board have received as well as the views of children and young people given at the event.

[The experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](http://justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

2. Key Challenge(s)

- 2.1 The service is still working hard to fully understand the performance data and build dashboards to assist with this, which is improving but a recent loss of performance officer will impact this.
- 2.2 Ensuring that there is QA support to assist with audits and QA as well as ensuring that the service is fully prepared for any future inspection under the current framework.

3. Emerging Trends

- 3.1 No new trends to report at this time.

4. Support required from CSP Board

- 4.1 Ongoing attendance and input from all partners is needed to ensure that the board is able to drive forward its priorities and actions. Some support in inspection preparation may be needed from partners