

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

REPORT

Title: Youth Justice Service Board Subgroup Update

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1. Brief Update

- 1.1 The Board has met once during the last quarter, on July 4th 2022 and is due to meet again on Sep 20th.
- 1.2 The July meeting focused on the following items:-
- **Performance** - The three key national indicators are all continuing to improve (slight quarter rise in re-offending) with custody figures remaining at an all-time low, however LBBD ratings in comparison with other London boroughs remains high but steadily improving.
 - 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 when placed in rank order by volume or by rate per 100,000 10 – 17-year-olds Barking and Dagenham has the **fifth** highest number of First Time Entrants in London for the latest rate (Jan 21 – Dec 21). Performance has been RAG rated **AMBER** in line with the Corporate Performance Framework targets. The FTE subgroup will continue to focus on this area in order to try to reduce this number further with an emphasis on early intervention for young people identified early as potentially at risk of becoming involved in offending behaviour.
 - Use of Custody- The published figures only cover the period up to March 2022. In the 12 months to March 2022 there were 9 custodial sentences for YP in Barking and Dagenham. This level has come down from 14 in the 12 months to June 2021 and from 24 in the 12 month period April 2019 to March 2020. Although this is still a reduction and the lowest custody rate seen. Barking and Dagenham still has among the highest levels in comparison with other areas – 4th highest rate in London and 11th highest nationally. Performance had been RAG rated **GREEN** for this indicator in line with the Corporate Performance Framework targets. The service resettlement panel

and cusp of custody panel continues to influence this decrease in the use of custody.

- Re-offending - Barking and Dagenham has a reoffending rate of 42.7% for the latest cohort (July 2019 to June 2020) and this level has risen slightly since the previous yearly cohort which had finished with a reoffending rate of 40% although it is a significant improvement on the July 2015 to June 2016 cohort which had a reoffending rate of 50.6%. The Reoffending rate in Barking and Dagenham (42.7%) for the July 2019 to June 2020 cohort is higher than the London average of 38.3% and is currently 9th out of all London boroughs when ranked in order. The Barking & Dagenham reoffending rate is also higher than the national reoffending rate of 33.6%. Performance has been RAG rated **AMBER** for this indicator in line with the Corporate Performance Framework targets. The service continues to focus on and monitor its re-offending through regular use of the re-offending tracker and meetings with managers to look back retrospectively as well as look forward to potential issues to address.

- **Focus on prolific offenders** – presentation to the board regarding the children within the service that are considered to be the most prolific with regards to ongoing offending. This was a deep dive that focused on the top 5 children identified in this category. The findings highlighted the need for close partnership working to address mental health and substance misuse needs which were prevalent for this cohort. It was also identified that children educated outside of the borough may not have access to the YARM early intervention which can impact the ability to intervene early. This will be considered in the YARM model going forward.

- **Focus on children in custody** – presentation to the board to fully understand the children that are currently in a custodial setting both remanded awaiting trial at court and those sentenced to a custodial sentence. This focused on a group of eight children. The main theme identified appeared to be that most of these children had moved schools on more than one occasion, which could have been an early indicator for a targeted intervention. Research shows that the younger the child starts offending, the more they become prolific offenders so it is important to try and support from the 1st offence. This will be discussed and analysed in more detail at the first-time entrant (FTE) sub group.

- **Focus on HMIP report on education training and employment** – The board received a summary analysis of the recent report from HMIP on the education of children open to youth justice services. This has helped to identify areas of strengths and areas for improvement. This will also direct improvement work supported by a consultant to develop clear education processes within the service.

[A joint inspection of education, training and employment services in youth offending teams in England and Wales \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

1.3 The next meeting in September will focus on the following agenda items:-

- Focus on children looked after who are also open to the youth justice service
- Performance report
- Refresh of the terms of reference for the board
- Engage project in custody
- Child Q – police and education response to this review

[Child-Q-PUBLISHED-14-March-22.pdf \(chscp.org.uk\)](#)

2. Key Challenge(s)

- 2.1 The service is currently preparing for the likelihood of an inspection due to the fact that the last inspection was in Sep 2018. There have been some changes to staffing within the service recently which will have an impact for a period of time whilst new staff are recruited, inducted, and trained. This will also include recruitment into the performance officer post which is crucial to understanding performance within the service.
- 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.