

CABINET

17 DECEMBER 2013

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder Councillor Mike O'Brien, Children's Services (Lead Member)

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults

Author: Nicola Smith, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This addendum report provides information on the discussion and decision taken at the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10 December 2013.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Youth Justice Plan on 10 December 2013.
- 1.2 The Youth Offending Team (YOT) Manager presented the report outlining the Youth Justice Plan Refresh 2012-14 and advised of new requirements by the Youth Justice Board for costed plans in respect of their grant to the Youth Offending Team. An addendum report had been circulated to the Committee advising them of the key areas within the plan that had been amended.
- 1.3 Performance targets and data sets had been updated and, despite the authority missing the internally set and stretching target for National Indicator (NI) 19 reoffending target, Medway was now fourth best performing out of eighteen regional youth offending teams. He also advised that although there have been improvements made to custodial convictions, the internal target relating to NI 43 had also been missed. Other targets had, however, been achieved, including the percentage of young offenders engaged in suitable education, training or employment and the accommodation status after release from custody.
- 1.4 The YOT Manager explained that within the report there were details of the grant expenditure and described that changes had been made to the programmes for young people. He also advised that some new training had been put in place and 20 team members had undergone mindfulness training, which had positively impacted upon their work.

1.5 Members then made a number of comments and asked officers questions which included:

- Seeking clarification on the partnership between YOT and Intensive Youth Supervision and Surveillance (IYSS) agencies focused on developing strategies for Looked after Children (LAC). Officers advised that the numbers of LAC remained stubbornly high and that the team were developing local protocols to minimise the extent to which Looked After Children are cautioned or prosecuted particularly where this is purely to secure a successful insurance claim for damage caused as a result of trauma suffered by the looked after child. A request was made for an update to be provided on this to the Corporate Parenting Group at its meeting in January.
- Intensive Supervision Surveillance (an alternative to custody) was proving very successful.
- Positive comments were made about the annual conference held recently at the St George's Centre in Chatham.
- Questioning whether the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) grant had remained stable. Officers advised that despite the PCC grant being cut by 11% in year 1, this had not been passed on. In years 2 and 3 there would be reductions, amounting to 5% in the coming year. Funding is confirmed in relation to agreed targets and objectives with a focus on preventative work.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Committee noted the report and forwarded it for consideration by Cabinet on 17 December 2013.

2.2 The Committee asked for an update on issues relating to inappropriate cautions being given to Looked After Children, be provided in January 2014 to the Corporate Parenting Group.

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