

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION  
CABINET BOARD**

**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING –  
N. JARMAN**

**Matters for Information**

**Wards Affected: All**

**Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service Quarter 1  
Data Report.**

1. Purpose of the Report:
  - 1.1 To report to committee the progress that has been made to bring the three previously existing Youth Offending Teams of Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea together but concentrating on Neath Port Talbot locality performance.
2. Executive Summary
  - 2.1 The report provides a brief outline of :-
    - the last financial years performance as reported by the Youth Justice Board highlighting Neath Port Talbot specific performance .
    - The first quarter's performance of this financial year
    - Positive steps being taken to improve performance through the regional approach to delivery.
3. Background:
  - 3.1 Youth Offending Services/Teams (YOS/Ts) are statutory multi-agency partnerships who have a legal duty to co-operate in order to secure youth justice services appropriate to their area funded from a variety of sources including UK Government, Welsh

Government and the statutory partners. (i.e. the Local Authority, Police, the National Probation Service and Health).

- 3.2 In December 2012 the three Local Authority Cabinets agreed that regional collaboration should be taken forward for mutual benefit an interim combined Western Bay Regional YOS Management Board was established to take this work forward.
- 3.3 On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 the interim board arrangement ended and the first Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service (WBYJ&EIS) Management Board was held and all local management boards ceased. The management board is chaired by the Neath Port Talbot Director of Social Services, Health and Housing and has a membership in line with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act including Cabinet Members from all three local authorities.
- 3.4 The Annual Youth Justice Plan for 2014/15 was agreed by the WBYJ&EIS management board and submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) as a transition plan for the Service, providing the medium to long-term business plan, setting out the aims of the new service maintaining a focus on quality service delivery and continuous improvements. Progress against the plan was reported to the management board in July 2015 and it evidenced how effectively the service was functioning together in it's first year. A highlight summary of the annual progress across service delivery areas relating to the YJB Key Performance Indicators is provided for the committee's information below.

#### 4. Summary

##### 4.1 Reduction in First Time Entrants.

- 4.1.1 There is an expectation that YOS's reduce the number of children and young people entering the youth justice system year on year. The Western Bay Service achieved this – reducing the number across the region by 36.6%. The Neath Port Talbot (NPT) team achieved a 26% locally and whilst the lowest percentage reduction of the locality teams, this remains improved performance for Neath Port Talbot against the previous year. The WB figure compared well against a S. Wales average reduction of 19% and a Wales average of 31%.

## 4.2 Reducing Reoffending

4.2.1 Of those young people who do enter the youth justice system, there is an expectation that YOS's will stop them committing any additional offences through effective intervention. As the court numbers decline because of the effective early intervention YOS's are being left with a small number of more complex children and young people in the system who are more likely to be those who do reoffend.

4.2.2 The data relating to reoffending is always two years old due to the time taken to track young people. The binary rate for reoffending for the WB region was an average of 38.1% and the frequency rate 1.1. This compared favourably against the S.Wales average binary rate of 44.7% and the Wales average of 39.2%. Good performance being indicated by a lower percentage figure.

## 4.3 Reducing the use of custody

4.3.1 Custodial figures are so low that it is hard to bring numbers down. WB had a total of 14 custodial sentences imposed last year compared to 14 the year before. This rate is not high compared to National figures but it did not reach the aspirational target the service set for itself last year of 10. However there was improved performance in Neath Port Talbot locality team reducing the custodial sentences from 4 in 2013/14 to 2 last year. The challenge is sustaining this.

## 4.4 Access to services

4.4.1 The performance indicators relating to accessing services are Wales only indicators and relate to substance misuse services, education training and employment and accommodation. This year (2015/16) an additional emotional and mental health service performance indicator has been introduced. The region performs well across the existing indicators however there are two areas that need to be focused on for improvement. These are accessing education training and employment (ETE) and the new emotional and mental health measure.

4.4.2 The WB figure for accessing ETE for those in the youth justice system was an increase in hours accessed from the start of the intervention of 8.36 hours to 21.6 hours for those statutory school

age children and an increase from 10.7 hours to 15.43 hours for those aged post 16 years. The Neath Port Talbot figures were 13 hours to 24 hours and 13 hours to 16.8 respectively. This area is high on the Management Board agenda. The S.Wales figure relating to ETE was an average increase in hours from 14 to 18.1 hours for those who should be receiving statutory education and the Wales figure was 16.6 to 18.4. For the post 16 age range the S.Wales figure was an average increase from 9.2 hours to 15.1 and the Wales figure was 11.3 to 14.6.

4.4.3 CAMHS has been mentioned above and this is going to be a challenge for the service over the next year. The introduction of the performance measure may highlight gaps in provision as opposed to evidencing speedy access to services but this may be what is necessary to ensure provision for future service delivery by evidencing the need in the first instance. Neath Port Talbot have a CAMHS nurse based in the locality team which will assist in meeting this new measure

## 5 Current situation

- 5.1 The first quarter's performance data has been published by the YJB but not without some queries being raised by a number of Youth Offending Services across Wales regarding the accuracy and interpretation of the Wales only measures. The data therefore carries with it a note of caution until these possible inaccuracies are responded to by the YJB.
- 5.2 The performance for reducing the number of first time entrants into the system is currently at a 26.9% reduction against the 2013/14 baseline. This is reported as Western Bay but locally held data tells us that only 2 young people from Neath Port Talbot entered the system for the first time. This is improved performance for the locality team.
- 5.3 Reducing reoffending is based on data two years old but Western Bay showed 38% of young people reoffended and they committed an average of 1.18 additional offences. The data is reported as WB and collated through the PNC so locally we are unable to drill down to the Neath Port Talbot figure however the attached diagrams (appendix 1) are taken from the YJB reoffending toolkit and helps to show what each area looks like. Whilst the figures may seem high the WB performance is not out of line with the

performance across Wales. The percentage reoffending across S Wales is 43.7% and committing and average of 1.33 further offences. Wales has a 40.4% reoffending rate amongst young people with an average of 1.16 further offences. The reoffending toolkit used across the region highlights violent offending as the highest re – offence for all three locality teams.

- 5.4 Reducing the use of custody is the last England and Wales measure and the three locality teams each had one custodial sentence in the first quarter.
- 5.5 In relation to the Wales only KPI's the substance misuse measure has been resubmitted due to discrepancies across Wales. However as it stands NPT achieved 100% performance in relation to accessing substance misuse screening and services in the specified time period of 5 days for screening and 10 days to access services. There were 24 closed interventions in the quarter reporting substance misuse, 10 of these cases were Neath Port Talbot residents. The Welsh measures only count statutory orders and do not reflect any of the prevention and early intervention work in this area. .
- 5.6 Across Western Bay, 33 cases were closed reporting on accommodation. 32 had suitable accommodation before the start. This reduced to 31 before the end of their interventions. Of the 10 resident in Neath Port Talbot, 1 started the intervention in bed and breakfast accommodation and remained in Bed and Breakfast until the end of the Order.
- 5.7 Access to Education Training and Employment as already stated is of key interest to the Management Board taking into account that across Western Bay the average number of hours offered to school age children do not meet the required 25 hours set by the YJB. It is concerning to note that of 13 school age children the hours offered reduced from the beginning of the order to an average of 18.5 hours per week to 16.1. 3 of these children who have experienced a reduction in hours are residents of Neath Port Talbot, 2 males, 1 female with an age range of 13 to 16. The reduction in the hours they have received during their intervention has been a combination of reduced timetables, school refusal which has been compounded by parental ill health and change of school necessitating a gradual increase in school hours in the new environment. One young person also suffered with

depression. The timing of the orders closure is significant as one of these young people ended on 15 hours but a matter of weeks later increased to 25 but was no longer open to the service.

- 5.8 Of 20 young people across Western Bay above school age, an increase of hours offered went from 13.5 at the beginning to 19.7 at the end exceeding the Youth Justice Board target of 16 hours for above school age provision. However, whilst 19.7 hours of provision was available the average hours actually attended was 14.5. 7 of these young people were resident in Neath Port Talbot and whilst there was 23 hours offered locally only 11 were accessed. This is an area being focused on by the team locally and is being addressed by the rollout of the Building Skills Programme, the brochure for which is attached. This programme offers a growing range of skills development opportunities, reparation projects and paid work experience placements.
- 5.9 The mental health measure also has to be resubmitted but as it stands Neath Port Talbot has met the measure for assessment within 10 days of Asset screening in 100% of cases. This is the result of having a CAMHS nurse within the Locality team.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The content of this report is not an exhaustive list of the interventions delivered by the Western Bay Youth Justice & Early Intervention Service but hopefully provides the Committee with sufficient information to reassure them that the Service is maintaining performance and where there are local performance issues, these are not being neglected but being addressed through the sharing of practice and resources. This is only the first quarter of the current financial year and performance will be measured cumulatively to inform the annual data for 2015/16.

## Appendices

Building Skills Brochure – Appendix 1  
Re-offending Graphs – Appendix 2

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