

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION CABINET BOARD

28th April 2016

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

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

WESTERN BAY YOUTH JUSTICE AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide committee with an update on the performance of the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service, with specific attention to the local data available for Neath Port Talbot.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The report provides a brief outline of:-

The last nine months performance as reported to the Youth Justice Board but highlighting Neath Port Talbot specific performance where available .

The findings of the Short Quality Screening Inspection conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation in October 2015

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. In 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.

3.3 The production of a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory duty of the Local Authority under Part 3, Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The plan sets out:

How youth justice services are to be provided and funded, and

How the Youth Offending Service established by the Local Authority is to be composed and funded, how it will operate and what function it is to carry out.

3.4 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 39(1) placed a duty on each Local Authority, acting with its statutory partners (Police, Probation and Health) to establish Youth Offending Teams in their local area to deliver youth justice services. Section 38(3) of the Act placed a duty on the Local Authority and its statutory partners to make payment towards the expenditure incurred in providing youth justice services.

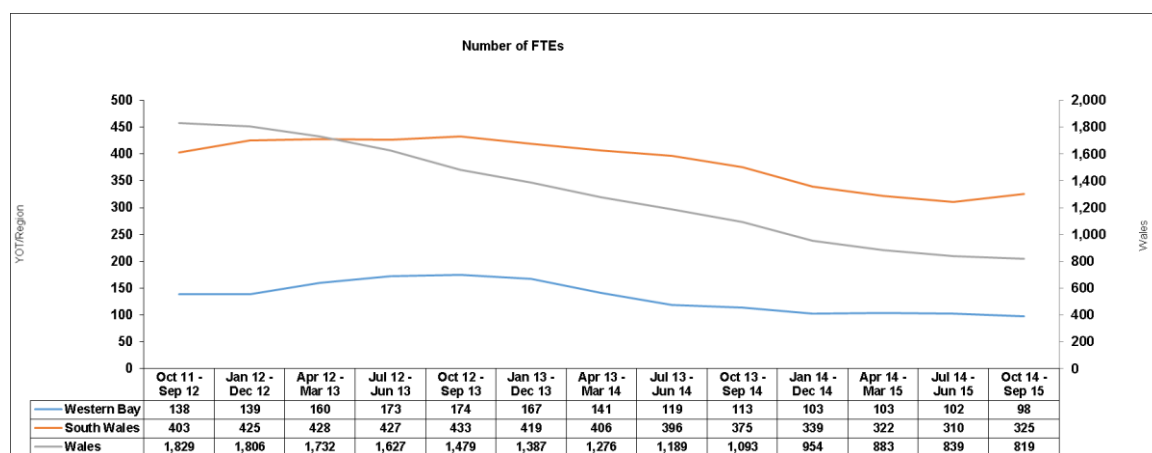
3.5 The Youth Justice Plan for 2014/2015 was one of transition and ensuring that performance did not suffer. The end of year statistics previously presented to committee evidenced that not only had performance not suffered in NPT but the service had efficiently absorbed grant funding reductions and achieved efficiency savings for all three local authorities.

4. Current Situation

4.1 There is an expectation that YOS's reduce the number of children and young people entering the youth justice system year on year. The difficulty being experienced by the Western Bay Service is that the

numbers reduced early on during 2009 and 2011 with the pilot and the roll out of the Bureau approach to diversion.

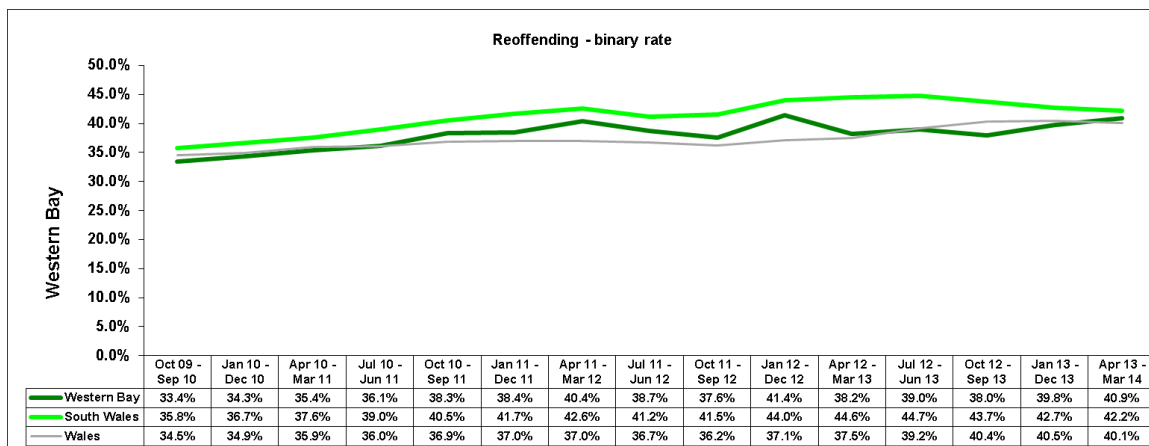
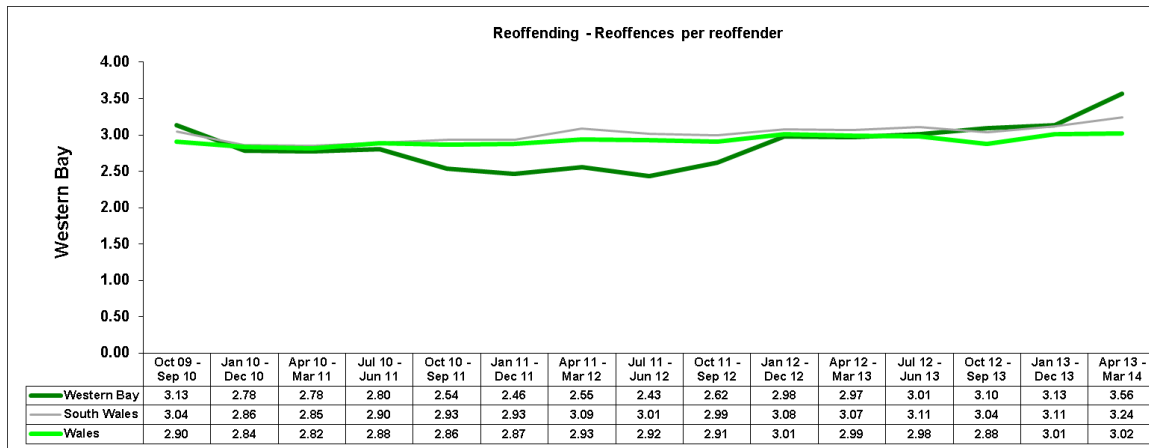
4.2 The table below from the YJB quarter three data return illustrates that whilst the Western Bay has a slower rate of reduction in the number of young people entering the Youth Justice system we continue to have some of the lowest numbers per head of population. There has been a 13.4% decrease in FTEs when comparing October to September 2014 / 2015 against October to September 2013/14. This is in comparison with a 13.3% decrease in South Wales and a 25.1% decrease across Wales.



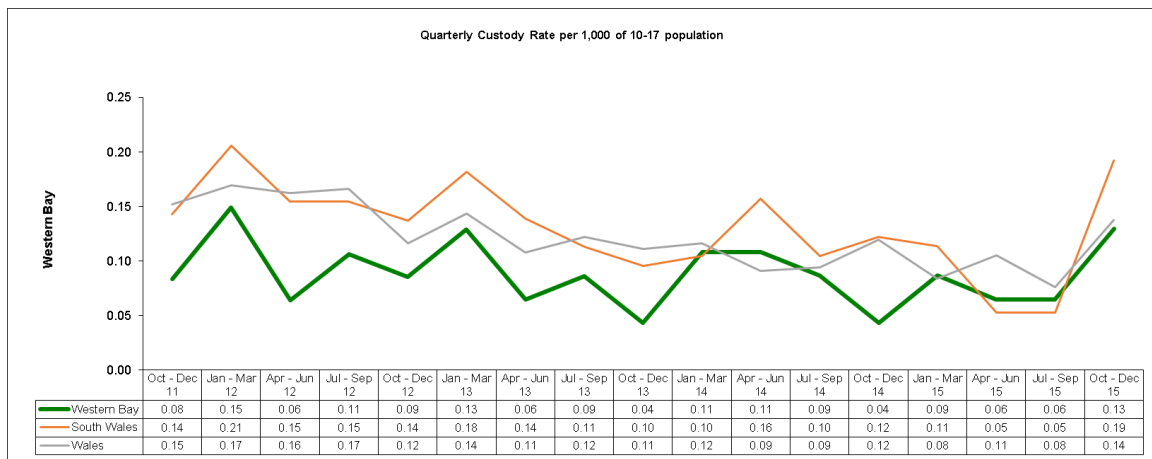
4.3 Reducing reoffending presents a challenge to most YOS's at this time. As the numbers entering the system reduce, through effective early intervention and diversion, so those within the system present as far more complex with more entrenched behaviours.

4.4 A new reporting methodology has been introduced in quarter three calculating the number of re offences by the reoffender. An increase from 2.97 to 3.56 has been reported by Western Bay for the comparison period April-March 2012/13 against April-March 2013/14. South Wales are reporting an increase from 3.07 to 3.24 and Wales is reporting an increase from 2.99 to 3.02. The binary rate has increased from 38.2% to 40.9% when comparing April to March 2014/13 against April to March 2013/12. The binary rate for South Wales has decreased from 44.6% to 42.2% and for Wales the rate has increased from 37.5% to 40.1%. The diagrams below show the trend that Western Bay has to now find a way to address. This is difficult to break down on a local level at the moment as this is reported directly from PNC data. Work is ongoing to analyse the data further by using the YJB reoffending toolkit which may be of interest to the committee at later date.

4.5 The percentage increase has to be understood against a backdrop of the ever reducing number in the cohort. The number of "offenders" has decreased from 309 in 2012/13 to 269 in 2013/14 but there has been a rise in the number of offences committed.



4.6 Reducing the use of custody has also provided the Western Bay Service with a challenge. The annual number of custodial sentences can be reported as this is information that we do not need validated by the YJB. There were 15 custodial sentences in 2014/15 and in 2015/16 there were a total of 16. Whilst this is a rise in number, analysis of the sentencing shows the serious nature of the offences before the court. Offences included rape, robbery and grievous bodily harm. There were four young people who are normally resident in NPT who received custodial sentences. Three of them were sentenced to custodial sentences for robbery; two of these young people were in court for the first time. The use of custodial sentences across Western Bay, whilst not reducing, remains below the level for S. Wales and Wales where a similar pattern of increase can be seen.



4.7 Further analysis of the number of young people committing a serious offence with no previous involvement with the service was undertaken and in NPT there were six young people identified. These were aged between 14 years and 17 years of age. The offences were one of arson, two of robbery and three of a sexual nature. All committed by males. Four were known to Childrens Services (two being Looked After), two had additional learning needs, substance misuse was a factor for two of the offences and two of the young people were high achievers in education with good support networks. One young man had done well in education but became socially isolated on leaving school. As stated earlier none of these young people were previously known to the service.

4.8 The Key performance measures above are the National YJB KPI's for England and Wales. There are additional Welsh KPI's for which NPT data can be provided due to the way it is reported. These performance measures all relate to access to devolved services. The Wales only measures relate to those subject to statutory interventions and do not include statistical data relating to the prevention and diversion cases.

4.9 Education training and employment is key to a young person succeeding in life. The minimum number of hour's access recommended by the YJB for school age children is 25. From data relating to April 2015 to December 2015 25 statutory community interventions closed. Of these closed cases the average number of hours offered to children of school age is reported as 23.8 hours per week offered at the beginning of the order with only 18.3 hours being attended. At the half way stage of the order the attendance had increased to 22 hours. This however was not maintained and reduced again to the original number of hours accessed. The figures relate to small numbers so one child or young

person disengaging at the end of an order can have a huge impact on the statistic as was the case on this occasion.

4.10 For those young people post 16 the YJB recommend a minimum number of 16 hours education training or employment per week should be accessed. From the NPT local data an average offer of 11.9 hours per week is recorded with 8.4 hours being attended. This then shows a steady increase in the hours offered from 11.9 to 15.8 hours at the mid-point and 20.1 hours offered at the end of the order. However of the 20.1 hours offered, only 12.5 were being attended, an area that needs further attention from the service. There is also a need to ensure that those NPT young people leaving custody access provision at the earliest opportunity and are supported to maintain attendance.

4.11 Access to suitable accommodation is also a Wales only measure and whilst the majority of the closed cases were in suitable accommodation, three young people were recorded as spending time in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for a period of time, something the local authority is working hard to stop happening. All those NPT young people leaving custody were in suitable accommodation on release as part of their resettlement plan.

4.12 Of the 25 closed cases 20 identified substance misuse as a risk factor. All of the 20 cases received assessments within the set five days and appropriate treatment within 10 days of the assessment.

4.13. There remains a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service nurse within the NPT locality team. 11 young people were referred on for further assessment and of the 11, three refused a service and six went on to access the appropriate level of intervention within 10 days of assessment.

5. Inspection Update

5.1 The service has been subject to a Short Quality Screening Inspection conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). It was explained by the lead inspector that the fact that the service was not subject to a Full Joint Inspection is an indication that from the information available to the Inspectorate which includes the plan and performance data that the service is not causing concern. The inspection was conducted from 26-28 October 2015 as part of the wider HMIP programme of inspection of youth offending work. The report was published on the HMI Probation website on 2 December 2015. To put the inspection in context; the aim of the youth justice system is to

prevent offending by children and young people. Good quality assessment and planning at the start of a sentence is critical to increasing the likelihood of positive outcomes. 20 cases of children and young people who had recently offended and were supervised by the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service were examined. Wherever possible, this was undertaken in conjunction with the allocated case manager, thereby offering a learning opportunity for staff. The inspection confirmed that the service is not causing concern and concluded with three areas of strength and two areas of improvement listed below:

Key strengths;

- Assessing factors linked to the offending of children and young people.
- Assessing the vulnerability issues of children and young people.
- Efforts to secure the engagement with children and young people and their parents/carers.

Areas requiring improvement;

- Reviews of risk management plans reflect significant changes in the circumstances of children and young people when relevant.
- Evidence of the impact of management oversight on the quality of work needs to be clear.

5. Financial Impact

5.1 There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

7. Workforce Impacts

7.1 Where there are no impacts linked to the report then the heading must remain it must be highlighted that there are no implications e.g. "there are no workforce impacts associated with this report".

8. Legal Impacts

8.1 There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

9. Risk Management

9.1 There are no risk management issues associated with this report".

10. Consultation

10.1 There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

11. Recommendations

11.1 The report is provided for information. There are no recommendations requiring a decision.

12. Reasons for Proposed Decision

Not appropriate

13. Implementation of Decision

Not appropriate

14. Crime and Disorder Impact

14.1 The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with "due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area". The content of the report evidences the work being undertaken by the NPT locality team to positively impact in crime and disorder through early intervention and continued effort to reduce offending and reoffending.

15. Appendices

No appendices

16. List of Background Papers

No additional papers.

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