

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Cabinet Board

11 January 2018

Report of the Director for Social Services Health & Housing: Andrew Jarrett

Matter Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

**Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service
(WBYJ and EIS) quarters one and two 2017 – 2018 data report**

Purpose of the Report

To provide an overview of performance during the period April 2017 to September 2017 against the Youth Justice Boards (YJB) key performance indicators.

Executive Summary

- 2.1 Numbers reported to the Youth Justice Board for monitoring purposes continue to fall. However, the early intervention and diversion work which is captured within the Welsh Government monitoring return continues to increase.
- 2.2 The report concentrates on information provided to the Youth Justice Board but makes reference to the Welsh government returns to reassure the Board that the early intervention work not reported to the Youth Justice Board is of a high quality. The report contains Western Bay performance plus Neath Port Talbot specific data where possible.

- 2.3 Overall good performance is sustained but there are areas we need to continue to improve which are highlighted in the report below.

Background

- 3.1 Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) 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, HM Prison and Probation Service in Wales and Health).
- 3.2 Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Youth Offending Teams have been a merged service since 29th May 2014. The management board has been 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 service reports on the following youth justice indicators:
- Reduction in first time entrants
 - Reduction in reoffending
 - Reduction in the use of custody
 - Access to education training and employment
 - Access to substance misuse services
 - Access to suitable accommodation
 - Access to mental health services

The summary of performance:

- 4.1 Reducing First Time Entrants – Year on year the three locality teams have driven down the number of children and young people entering the youth justice system. There are 45,817 children and young people between the ages of 10 and 17 years of age across the Western Bay region. The majority of the diversion work undertaken by the service is funded through the

Welsh Government grant “Promoting Engagement of children and young people at risk of offending”. So far this financial year Western Bay have reported 36 first time entrants into the youth justice system. Of this number six are residents of Neath Port Talbot. 127 children and young people have been to the bureau, 112 have received non-criminal disposals through the bureau diversion scheme run in partnership with the police, 25 of these residents of Neath Port Talbot. For the financial year 2015-2016 there were 100 first time entrants and in 2016-2017 the number had reduced to 72. In order to provide some context to the figures in 2010 there were 540 first time entrants. There has been an issue that has impacted on the figure for this year and that is the number of children and young people going direct to court following driving offences in order to have points on the licence thus missing the opportunity of the bureau intervention. This is now being addressed in partnership with the police and Her Majesty’s Court Services. Of the 112 diverted away from the system three have reoffended.

- 4.2 The work to reduce First Time Entrants does not stand still nor does it sit solely with the bureau diversion scheme. Early identification of those at risk of coming to bureau has been developed and in the first two quarters of this financial year there were 146 referrals to the early intervention delivery of the service. Last year for the same time period there were 69 referrals. 29 of the referrals are from the Neath Port Talbot area. This work along with the wider restorative approaches training and delivery carried out by the service contributes to maintaining a low number entering the system. Of the 146 referrals to date three have repeated negative behaviour to date.
- 4.3 Combining the two figures from early pre-bureau intervention and the bureau diversion scheme 252 children and young people have in the first two quarters this year remained diverted away from the youth justice system.
- 4.4 Reducing reoffending – This remains a challenge as the number within the court cohort reduces year on year. The counting rule in relation to this key performance indicator is also changing which is unlikely to improve the percentage indicator.

The current measure is reporting on children and young people resident in the Western Bay region identified as offenders in 2014-2015. There are 204 in the cohort and 97 have reoffended. Whilst the number is low the percentage is high. This indicator is particularly difficult to disaggregate for local use. The table below gives the comparison figure before the service started to deliver more pre-court prevention services. It is of interest to note that last year the reoffending rate was 45.6% as there were 217 in the cohort and 99 reoffended. If we included the pre-court numbers for the same period in the calculation the reoffending rate would have dropped to 26%.

	Cohort	Number of Reoffenders	%
2007/08	1213	364	30%
2014/15	204	97	47.5%

- 4.5 Reducing the use of custody – Western Bay has a total of 3 custodial disposals during the first two quarters of the year. The use of custody has steadily reduced year on year. In 2014-2015 there were 15 custodial sentences. In 2015-2016 this reduced to 13 custodial sentences and last year there were 12. It seems probable that this number will reduce again this year based on the half year figure. There is a need to continue to work with the courts to ensure that the use of custody is absolutely the last resort.
- 4.6 Access to services are Wales only KPI's. Engagement in education training and employment for both statutory and above statutory school age children and young people is currently a key area of interest to the WBYJ and EIS management board. Children being subject to reduced timetables is being reported to the management board on a six monthly basis. The YJB KPI for school age children is that all children receive 25 hours education. Only closed statutory orders are reported. The Western Bay figure is that an average of 21 hours were offered (12.5 being attended) at the beginning of the youth justice

intervention and 18 hours offered (15 attended) at the end of the youth justice intervention. For those resident in Neath Port Talbot the figures were 23 (10 attended) and 14 (12.5 attended). For those young people above school age the YJB KPI is that young people should be engaged in a minimum of 16 hours education, training or employment. The Western Bay figure is currently an average 10.5 hours being offered to the young person at the start of their intervention (attended 12.5 hours) and 18 hours offered by the end of the intervention (15 hours attended). Locally for NPT residents the figures are 0.5 hours offered at the beginning and 5 at the end for those over school leaving age. Those young people subject to statutory orders are often the most complex young people and most disengaged with education and employment.

- 4.7 Reported data shows 95% of young people as being in suitable accommodation at the beginning of their intervention and 95% at the end. This measure is limited and we are aware that it does not reflect the full story of where the young person may have been staying in between the start and end dates of orders. The 5% not in suitable accommodation is only taken from the statutory orders ended in the period and the suitability of the accommodation is assessed by the case responsible officer in the WBYJ and EIS. Accommodation may be assessed as unsuitable if eg there are negative influences in the home or a lack of appropriate supervision.
- 4.8 Substance misuse services have been available in a timely fashion for all young people assessed as in need. This is due to having a substance misuse worker within each of the locality teams who can respond immediately to referrals ie within five days of referral. Of 49 closed interventions, 33 were identified as having substance misuse problems. Of the 33 six were already receiving a service and seven refused to engage. The remaining children and young people have all accepted the help needed appropriate to the level of need. In Neath Port Talbot of 13 interventions ending 12 were identified as having substance misuse problems, one was already receiving and the remaining eleven all engaged, no-one refused.
- 4.9 The mental health KPI is one that provides the service with a challenge. The service performs well against the indicator but

we are not confident that this is an accurate picture. 49 interventions closed across the region. Of the 49, 32 were identified as having a mental health need, only eight were referred for further mental health assessment. 16 were already receiving a mental health service. Of the eight, seven refused a service and the other one was assessed in timescales. For Neath Port Talbot the figure were, 13 interventions closed and 10 were identified as having a mental health need, six were already receiving a service and 2 refused to engage.

- 4.10 The information contained in this report is limited as it is only half way through the year. Education and Reoffending are the challenges for Neath Port Talbot locally and the regional service. Education is being addressed in partnership with providers with clear escalation processes being used to raise the profile of children and young people known our service. There are plans in place to try to reduce the reoffending rate through the pilot enhanced case management project supported by the YJB and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The project is a trauma recovery model working alongside the wider approaches being taken to respond to adverse childhood experiences.
- 4.11 The WBYJ and EIS maintained or improved performance whilst absorbing reduced resources. The service is well placed to continue the progress it has made since the amalgamation in May 2014 concentrating on avoiding duplication of delivery and improving outcomes for children, young people, families and victims.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

None.

Workforce Impacts

None.

Legal Impacts

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

Cabinet members note the contents of the report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

Not applicable.

Implementation of Decision

Not applicable.

Appendices

None.

List of Background Papers

None.

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