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## Report to the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee

<b>Title:</b>	The Youth Offending Service
<b>Committee date:</b>	Tuesday 5 July 2016
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### **Purpose of Agenda Item - Update from Youth Offending Service**

#### **Background**

Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a multi-agency partnership and is directly accountable to a Management Board represented by the key partners, and ultimately to the Youth Justice Board. Currently the Board is chaired by Olly Wright, Local Police Area Commander for Aylesbury on behalf of the Chief Executive. The funding for this service also comes from the key partners, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Youth Justice Board.

The main aim of the Service is to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people and the YOS is responsible for co-ordinating all youth justice services in Buckinghamshire.

The YOS provides a range of services required by legislation to deal speedily and effectively with young people aged 10-18 who get in trouble. This includes working with young people who are 'at risk' of offending, have received a pre-court disposal from the Police or with those who have been to court for an offence and the court has ordered them to work with the YOS. .

In addition, the YOS also provides services to parents to help them to respond to any difficulties their children may have. Work is also carried out with victims of youth crime, our main aim is to ensure that their views and feelings are heard and responded to. We find out how they been affected by the offence and what can be done to make things better for them to move forward.

The Youth Justice Board has set three National Indicators for all YOT's

- **To reduce the number of first time entrants into the Youth Justice System**

The number of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System is calculated as a rate per 100,000 of the 10-17 year old population in Buckinghamshire. This figure is currently 255, based on the January to December 2015 period. This reflects significantly stronger performance than seen nationally (369) and in the South East (312).

- **To reduce the number of Young people offending**

The percentage of young people in Buckinghamshire going on to reoffend in a 12 month period is currently 36%, based on the July 2013 to June 2014 cohort. This reflects stronger performance than seen nationally (37.7%) and in the South East (36.3%).

- **To reduce the numbers of young people going into custody**

The rate at which young people receive custodial sentences in Buckinghamshire is calculated as a rate per 1000 of the 10-17 year old population. This figure is currently 0.10 for the April 2015 to March 2016 period, representing 5 custodial sentences. Unfortunately national and regional comparative data is not available for this period.

The YOS has been successful in reducing the First time entrants year on year and therefore the numbers of young people given a pre court or court disposal has reduced, however the complexity of those cases that the YOS works with have increased and risk and vulnerability levels are high.

In the 2015-16 period, there were 195 YOS interventions started. This relates to 161 young people, some with multiple interventions.

Over the past 12 months, the average monthly caseload for the YOS has been 110 young people.

**For more details please see attached the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2016/17.**

### **Positive Outcomes**

Between March 2015 and February 2016, 45 young people responded to a questionnaire send out by Her Majesties Inspector of Probation (HMIP) evaluating the YOS. 100% of these reported that they had been provided a service that was very good / good most of the time and 82% stated that since starting work with the YOS they were a lot less likely to offend.

During 2015, 100% of victims who responded to the YOS feedback questionnaire were either satisfied or very satisfied with the service they received from the YOS. This represents 78 people. In the same period, 16 victims provided feedback on their experience of a face to face restorative meeting. The following are a sample of the comments made:

- “The meeting was well organised and sorted giving us time to get our points across and I found it refreshing that (the young person) admitted blame and didn’t try to hide behind others”.
- “I believe that it was a positive meeting with a positive outcome, which allows (the young person) and I to progress. It also puts the whole situation at ease and glad that it happened”.

**Please see attached two case studies outlining some positive outcomes for young people.**

### **Key Development in 2016**

The YOS has recently rolled out a new national assessment and intervention planning framework called AssetPlus. This is a new approach to reducing and improving outcomes designed to provide a much stronger focus on positive outcomes than previous national tools and ensures a more comprehensive response to the complexity of individual young people. AssetPlus has brought both practice and cultural changes for the YOS and has therefore required a robust six month change management and training programme.

### **Next steps**

There are a number of Government reviews which will affect the Youth Offending Service and the wider Children’s Services Business unit.

Lord Laming review - **In Care, Out of Trouble** - How the life chances of children in care can be transformed by protecting them from unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system

This review was established to examine the reasons for, and how best to tackle, the over representation of children in care, or with experience of care, in the criminal justice system in England and Wales.

The Home Office have also commissioned a major review of Youth Justice Services which is being undertaken by Charlie Taylor, this review is the most far reaching review of the sector in many years and is due to be published in the summer