

Barnsley Youth Justice Plan 2016/17

Introduction.

Over the last year we have continued to develop our service and the offer we make to those affected by crime, to children, young people and families.

We continue to focus on providing support and help to young people who have been involved in offending, to ensure that they change their behaviour and stop offending.

Growing up is a difficult process. Young people make mistakes. We are working with young people in Barnsley to make sure that they learn from their mistakes and move on.

Over the last 12 months we have played a role in developing the Targeted Youth Support Service.

We have received succession funding for our Troubled Families provision and been able to grow our capacity. Through our partnership with the Barnsley Liaison and Diversion service we have been able to ensure that all young people entering the Criminal Justice System are assessed for learning needs. This places us in the vanguard of practice regionally and nationally.

This is our plan for 2016/17. The plan contains information for our partners and for the public. It describes what we did last year and what we intend to do this year.

Performance in 2015/16

Not all the data for the year is available yet. For instance to assess our re-offending rates takes over 2 years before we can begin to measure how well we have done in stopping someone offending. But other data is available sooner and we've included it in this section.

In November 2014 the YOT introduced a new scheme whereby everyone referred to us from the Police for breaking the law was assessed and we worked with them to identify the right intervention. We have worked with more young people and families as a result and rather than waiting for problems to escalate we have got involved at the first chance. This model is influential across South Yorkshire and beyond.

Some of the young people we see, we are confident will not break the law again. For those young people we now offer a brief intervention. They do not receive a criminal record as a result. Because we assess first and then decide on the intervention to offer we have been able to reduce the number of Barnsley children entering the criminal justice system for the first time to below the target of 500 in our plan for 2015/16.

Our work with young people also involved us supervising young people who may go to prison. We can't always offer the court an alternative to custody as some offences are so serious a community sentence is not an alternative. 2015/16 saw a reduction in the number for young people going to custody.

We have also worked to ensure that children serving court orders make good progress with their education, training or employment. Most young people improved their attendance and attainment. We need to work harder to help those young people do better in school.

Young people in care are over represented in the Criminal Justice System generally. Because of this we monitor closely the levels of young people in the care system who are involved with our Youth Offending Team. Our data indicates that Young People looked after by Barnsley Council are not heavily represented within the Youth Justice System.

Barnsley has 26 children's homes in the area we cover, nearly all privately run and working with children from outside of the borough placed here by other authorities, so we are experienced in working with Looked After Children. We have seen an increase in the numbers of children we work with on behalf of other authorities.

We work closely with those colleagues to address the risk of children already known to the Police or court re-offending. On this measure we were less successful with some young people re-offending. We won't know the full re-offending rate and how it compares for some time.

For every offence committed another person is affected. We work with young people to put right any harm they have done. For some young people this can involve meeting the victim of their offence. Most people affected by crime choose not to meet with the young person who broke the law. Those young people take part in reparation activities and last year completed over 800 hours of reparation.

Structure and Governance.

Barnsley Council is divided into three operational directorates; People, Place and Communities. The Youth Offending Team is based within the Education, Early Start and Prevention Business Unit within the People Directorate. The YOT forms part of the Targeted Youth Support Service based within that Unit.

The YOT Manager is line managed by the Head of Service for Early Start, Prevention and Sufficiency.

The YOT Manager and the Youth Offending Team is held to account principally by the Youth Offending Management Board. The three principal performance indicators (FTE's, Re-offending and use of custody) are standing items on the agenda of the YOT Board. Over the next 12 months we will develop a broader data set.

Performance data for the Youth Offending Team is also submitted to the Community Safety Partnership and the Local Criminal Justice Board, both of whom challenge the YOT over its performance. The levels of FTE's and re-offending are also monitored through the councils overall performance monitoring.

The YOT Management Board will monitor performance against the conditions of grant by exception. There have not been any recent issues with the timely submission of data. Information for the secure estate is generally provided on time and where not the YJB Business Support Team within the region liaise directly with the YOT Manager enabling any systemic issues to be quickly identified and overcome. Community Safety and Public Protection Incidents, where relevant, will be managed through local safeguarding board procedures.

The YOT has an improvement plan which is monitored by the YOT Management Board. Recommendations from CSPP Incidents, National Standards Audits and other areas are managed through the YOT Improvement Plan.

The YOT Management Board regularly reviews information at a case level, principally to do with custodial sentences and use remand. Through consideration of case level information and information at a more systemic level the YOT Board is able to support the YOT in being an effective multi-agency partnership.

Resources and value for money.

The Youth Justice (YOT) grant is used for the delivery of Youth Justice Services as described in the National Standards for Youth Justice.

Appendix 1 indicates the financial, staffing and in-kind contributions made by the YOT Partnership.

Appendix 2 provides a structure chart for the Youth Offending Team.

Appendix 3 indicates the staffing by agency and by gender and ethnicity.

Appendix 4 indicates the gender and ethnicity of the volunteer staff who work in the YOT.

All our case managers and volunteers are trained in restorative justice.

ASSET+

The YOT is preparing for the implementation of the Youth Justice Board's ASSET+ assessment tool. We are ready for transition and are awaiting details of the final dates from the Youth Justice Board.

Internal processes will also be disrupted by the introduction of the Youth Justice Board's ASSET+ assessment tool. We are working to understand the implications of these changes and the processes that will require alteration.

Partnership.

Barnsley Youth Offending Team is partnership of agencies that achieve more by working together than could be achieved individually.

The YOT Partnership is an important part of the service provision in Barnsley that helps children, young people and families live happy and successful lives. We work alongside schools, health services, council staff and teams and the wider family of services through the Children's Trust.

Our partnership acknowledges and adopts the following principles:

- A commitment to improving the outcomes for children, young people and families in Barnsley.
- Support and challenge for agencies in the partnership to improve performance and generate better outcomes.
- A recognition of the need for all partners to be active and to play their full role in the partnership.

The YOT manager is a member of the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board. In addition the YOT Manager attends a number of meetings within the authority that focus on particular themes such as CSE, accommodation and early help. Members of the YOT Management Team attend others meetings and partnerships to safeguard and promote the welfare of the people we work with.

In particular we regularly attend;

The South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board

The Barnsley Community safety Partner ship

MARAC

The Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and Operational groups.

Commissioning.

The YOT commissions services from the following agencies;

Who do we commission?	What do we spend?	What do they do?
AdAction	£54,000	Provision of tier 2 and tier 3 drugs services
SOVA	£4,000	Provision of appropriate adults
REMEDI	£160,000	Provision of Diversion, victim liaison, reparation, Unpaid Work, education mentoring and parenting support roles.
The Community and Education Psychology Service	£15,000	Provision of assessments of learning difficulty, advice and guidance to staff, training and practice support.

We recognise that there is a gap in provision of services at tier 2 for children with emotional health and wellbeing issues. We are working to develop provision for this client group.

Troubled families.

The YOT, as part of Targeted Youth Support, was successful in a bid for resources through the Troubled Families programme. We received c£78,000 which is being spent to develop support for families. Our Family Mediation model is showing indications of being successful and we have been able to attract further funding from the Troubled Families agenda to support this work.

The other part of the money is being used to provide some additional capacity for Parenting Orders and to support agencies who will be providing support after the MST Team has concluded its work with families. Through providing direct support to our colleagues in universal services we intend to support their development and be able the benefits of MST interventions to be sustainable for longer. Feedback from colleagues indicates that they find this support really valuable and useful.

Resettlement.

We recognise that young people coming out of custody are a priority group. In the year 2015/16 less than 10 young people were sent to custody from Barnsley. Most of these young people will be released whilst still youths and will go home to live with their family. Much of our parenting and family support provision is focussed on working with these families.

Our partnership with the Liaison and Diversion service has seen a Learning Disability nurse based with us full time. This, in conjunction with our other resources, had led to a strengthened community resource that enables us to understand the needs of children better.

Through having direct access to an Educational Psychologist we have been able to understand the learning needs of the young people who go to prison better and as a result to provide them with more support on release and a better tailored package for them. We have supported a small number of young people in developing an Education, Health and Care Plan.

However, we remain concerned at the success of young people released from custody. They often come from and return to families that have significant need themselves. Our parenting work has indicated the level of need. We have recognised the need to support families throughout the period of time their child is in custody and we have developed our work planning for release.

Prevent.

The YOT manager chairs the Channel Panel for Barnsley. YOT Staff have been trained in line with Home Office expectations. Staff are aware of what to look for and how to respond.

Risks to future delivery against the youth justice outcome measures.

The ongoing financial context has produced a lean Youth Offending Team. Our principal concern for future service delivery is a further reduction in revenue. The demands upon the service caused by children Looked After by other authorities being placed in Barnsley has caused our service to run 'hot' for several months and places a significant strain upon our partnership.

The veracity of the Youth Offending Partnership model needs to continue to be re-stated. For our partners there is a pressure between the delivery of their direct service and the delivery of their direct service to our clients. Whilst we remain confident that the best way to deliver services to young people in the criminal justice system is through the Youth Justice hub, we are not always successful in carrying this agenda. The decision of our Connexions service to withdraw their staff from secondment to our team is a case in point.

As a result of the E3 reforms the National Probation Service has reduced both its financial and staffing contribution. This further weakens the Youth Justice partnership. We are in negotiation about the final transition to the new model.

The ongoing fiscal climate places pressures upon our partnership. As agencies become smaller they have less staff who take on more roles. We run the risk that partners will be unable to support partnership arrangements, such as the YOT Management Board or make sufficient contribution to enable a strategically viable Youth Offending Team. We will continue to find innovative ways to deliver services and provide the help that makes the difference.

Outcomes currently for Looked After Children are positive and we see relatively few children Looked After by Barnsley Council in our system.

Barnsley currently has 24 private children's homes in the Borough providing over 140 placements, the significant majority of which go to out of area authorities. To support work in this area we have introduced a robust transfer policy for young people moving into our area.

Use of remand to Youth Detention Accommodation.

The allocation of remand budget and expenditure is detailed below;

2013/14 allocation	2013/14 expenditure	2014/15 allocation	2014/15 expenditure	2015/16 allocation	2015/16 expenditure
£28,541	£20,321	£19,426	£27,492	£10,419	£98,142

The low level of grant allocation reflects the fact that for two years no child from Barnsley was remanded to Secure Children's Home and very few to Young Offenders Institute.

The increase in the number for young people being remanded to Youth Detention Accommodation has been significant and marked, particularly since November 2014. The majority of this expenditure relates to a relatively small number of young people remanded by the Crown Court accused of grave crimes. Under current legislation it is unlikely that a bail package was an option.

We ensure that all young people at risk of remand are assessed and that the court is offered a robust and coherent bail support package. We have a good relationship with our court and the local youth Court has confidence in our work and is willing to use bail.

Our Priorities.

Our priority remains to make sure that we provide the help that makes the difference.

A good assessment is the basis of any effective offer of help. The introduction of the Youth Justice Boards ASSET+ assessment process is major business change and one we need to make go smoothly.

Where appropriate we want to keep young people from entering the criminal justice system. Where appropriate we will provide interventions at a level that matches the level of risk. This often involves support for the family and so in our case work we want to ensure that we are assessing accurately and responding to the needs of the family.

We work to give victims a voice in our work with young people and we recognise that their lives can be affected significantly as a result of the offence they were affected by. We want to make sure that we understand how the needs of people affected by crime are responded to and to advocate for service provision to meet their needs.

Although we think performance for Looked After Children entering the criminal justice system and going to custody has been good, we are not happy with their rate of re-offending. This year we will continue to focus on addressing their needs.

Overall there is a strong association between improved outcomes in education, training and employment and receiving a court order. However, our data set on this is relatively small. We need to continue to develop this work. Good attendance at school can often be an indication that other parts of a child's life are going well.

Finally, we recognise that the work we do rests on a strong and healthy partnership. We need to attend to our partnership and maintain it.

Our Plan.

Priority area	Objective	Owner
First time entrants	Reduce first time entrants to less than 400 per 100,000 of the eligible population by 31 st March 201	EIP Team Manager/ YJ Service Manager
Effective assessments and planning.	Ensure that young people receive the level of intervention that matches their level of need and show this through review of assessments and casework.	Case management team managers/ YJ Service Manager
	Ensure that plans include the voice and views of the young person and their family	Case management team managers
	Oversee the smooth introduction of Youth Justice Board's ASSET+ assessment tool.	YJ Service Manager
Re-offending rates	Bring re-offending rates to 30%	Court sentences team manager
Use of custody	Ensure that custody use, where a community sentence is a viable alternative, does not increase.	Court sentences team manager
Support for victims	Scope services offered to victim of offending, in particular, youth victims and ensure that we are able to broker the appropriate offer where needed.	Remedi/ YJ Service Manager
Looked After Young People	For young people who are looked after to enter the criminal justice system for the first less often than non-Looked After Children.	EIP Team Manager
	For looked after children to have a lower rate of re-offending than non-Looked After Children.	Court Orders Team Manager
	For Looked After Children, who do not become looked after as a result of remand, to have lower use of custody than non-Looked After Children.	Court Orders Team Manager
Educational attainment and attendance for young people subject to court orders	For young people subject to Court orders to improve the attendance at school	SEWO/ Resources Team Manager/ Court Orders Team Manager
	For young people subject to Court orders to maintain or improve their attainment.	SEWO/ Resources Team Manager/ Court Orders Team Manager
Developing the YOT Partnership	Ensure a full YOT Management Board as envisaged in 'Modern Youth Offending Partnerships'.	Chair, YOMB/ YOT Manager

	Monitor partnership attendance at YOT Management Boards	Chair, YOMB/ YOT Manager
	Overall performance of the YOT is supported through the partnership and we can evidence how we work well in the next plan.	Chair, YOMB/ YOT Manager

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Chair, YOT Management Board and Service Director for Education, Early Start and Prevention, Barnsley Council

Max Lanfranci,
Head of Sheffield and Barnsley LDU, National Probation Service.

Deborah Mahmood,
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Katherine Allot,
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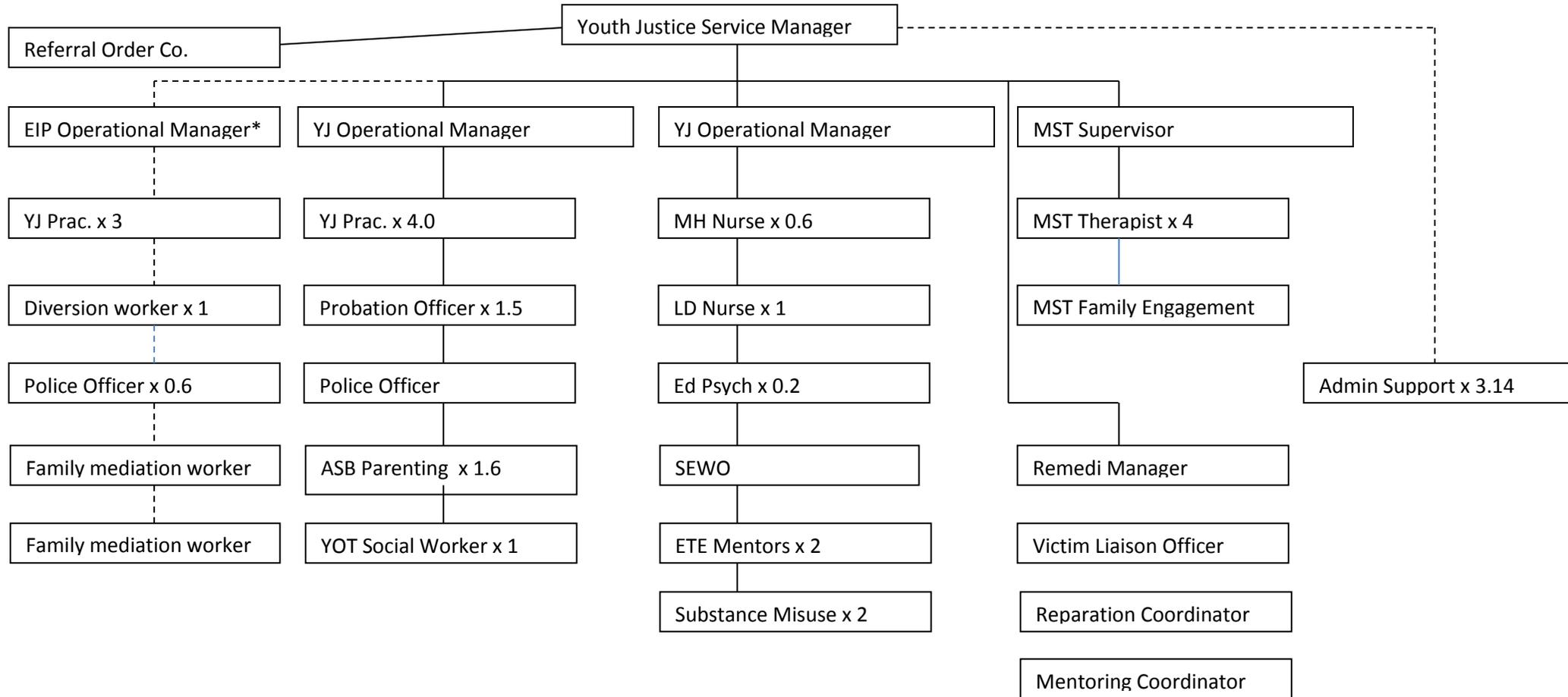
Michelle Tudor,
Community Services Manager, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Appendix 1: Partner contributions to the Youth Offending partnership pooled budget 2016/17

(* denotes costs for premises, excludes in kind support for payroll, HR costs, etc)

Agency	Staffing costs (£)	Payments in kind – revenue (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	85,208	178,047	(121,526)*	384,781*
South Yorkshire Police	75,200	0	0	75,200
National Probation Service	61,500	13,975	0	75,475
National Health Service	53,212	35,000	0	88,212
Police and Crime Commissioner	0	150,000	0	150,000
YJB Good Practice Grant	0	434,298	0	434,298
Other				
Total	275,120	811,320	121,526*	1,207,966*

Appendix 2: Youth Offending Team Structure Chart



*these staff come under the direct line management of the Early Intervention and Prevention Service Manager, but are YOT funded.

Appendix 3:

Staff by agency (FTE equivalents).

Agency	Number of staff
BMBC seconded	2
BMBC employed through YOT money	20
South Yorkshire Police	1.6
National Probation Service	1.6
National Health Service	1.0
AdAction	2
Remedi	9

Staff by ethnicity*

Ethnicity	Number
White	37
Mixed	0
Asian/ Asian British	0
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	1
Other	0

Staff by gender

Male	Female
7	31

Appendix 4:

Volunteers by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Number
White	10
Mixed	0
Asian/ Asian British	0
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	0
Other	0

Volunteers by gender

Male	Female
3	7