

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

CABINET – 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2014

HARROW YOUTH OFFENDING PARTNERSHIP YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2014-2015

The Committee received the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families which set out the draft Youth Justice Plan for 2014-15.

Following a brief introduction by the Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools & Young People, the following comments were made and the following questions were asked:

- A Member questioned, in view of the increase in the number of volunteers, whether training was provided and whether there was a high rate of turnover. An officer responded that many volunteers did '1 to 1' work with young people, and others were members of the Referral Order Panels. More volunteers were needed for the Panels, with the aim of increasing the diversity of the pool of volunteers to better reflect the ethnicity of young people who attended the Panel. Eight days of training were provided, and these volunteers rarely left the service.
- A Member questioned whether the statistics transferred into adult offending, and whether it was possible to extrapolate a likely increase in adult offending as the age of young offenders approached the cut-off point. An officer responded that the strategy aimed to divert young offenders away from the path of repeat offending, but that a small number who entered the criminal justice system would become regular and repeat offenders.
- In response to a question in relation to the 3 outcomes listed, it was explained that 3 outcomes were directed by the Youth Justice Board for all Youth Offending Teams and that there were 3 further local outcome indicators.
- Members were advised about the impact of problems with IT. Following the migration to Citrix and the new server, the team had experienced significant difficulty in using YOIS (the youth offending information system) which was where all activity with young people was recorded. Being unable to access data for a lengthy period would affect performance figures as data could not be processed. The Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families further explained that Harrow had been identified as the only authority not providing timely data to the YJB and, as a result, had been placed on an Action Plan. Harrow would remain on an Action Plan until the issue was resolved. It would be possible to upgrade the system to be compatible with the basic infrastructure once it was clear that the investment would secure the necessary improvements.
- It was confirmed that referrals were received from the police. Not all cases were referred to Triage, and serious cases would not be referred for triage.

Resolved to RECOMMEND (To Council):

That the Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2014-15 be approved; and

RESOLVED: That the Committee's comments be referred to Cabinet.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background Documents:

Draft minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 16 September 2014

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