

<b>Item No.</b> 7.2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 21st July 2004	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark Youth Justice Plan – Annual Update Report 2004/2005	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor & Secretary)	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Annual Update 2004/05 of the Southwark Youth Justice Plan 2002/2005 be approved.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Executive considered the Southwark Youth Justice Plan Annual Update Report 2004/2005 at its meeting on 4th May 2004 and agreed that it be referred to Council Assembly for approval. The Plan forms part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. The updated Plan is circulated separately to this report.
3. Section 40 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act requires that each local authority area produce an annual Youth Justice Plan in consultation with partner agencies.
4. Guidance produced by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in September 2001 required the production of a 3-year plan for the period 2002 to 2005, which must be updated annually.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The Youth Justice Plan is completed in accordance with statutory requirements and guidance issued by the National Youth Justice Board.
6. The performance reporting requirements (Measures (I) to (XIII) Section D of the Plan) are designed to provide hard data concerning the impact of the youth justice reforms at the local and national level. Youth Offending Teams were required to audit implementation of Effective Practice Guidance in relation to Assessment, Planning, Intervention and Supervision of young offenders, interventions in support of Final Warnings, and Education, Training and Employment provision in June 2003 and devise and implement an improvement plan. The audit was validated by the YJB as strong, and the improvement plan agreed. This will be reviewed in April 2004. Parenting interventions are being audited currently as part of a rolling programme of quality improvement.
7. The purpose of this Report is to identify improvements in the performance of the local Youth Justice System, identify relevant data concerning outcomes, and reflect local strategic developments and the challenges ahead.

## Local performance against national key objectives

8. The decline in high volume crimes has stabilised after steep reductions in 2002, but still compares favourably with the baseline established in 2001. Moreover, the apparent rise in youths achieving substantive outcomes reflects a narrowing of the youth justice gap between offences committed and successful prosecutions by 20% in 2003, as compared to 2002. Police data suggests that youth involvement in crime is, in fact, declining with the target population for reducing crime being the 19 to 30 year age group.

<b>% + or – Compared to 2001 baseline</b>	<b>2002 YOT Data</b>	<b>2002 MPS Data</b>	<b>2003 YOT Data</b>	<b>2003 MPS Data *</b>
Burglary	- 58.7	+ 1%	- 58.7%	
Vehicle Crime	- 43.4	- 1%	- 15.3%	
Robbery	- 41.2	- 26%	- 3%	

\* This information is not yet available

9. It is important to note that the YOT data, compiled from substantive outcomes in the judicial process, and police data, reflecting crime reports, are not comparative. However, an analysis of the combined data is illustrative of trends in offending behaviour, and the impact of patterns of enforcement activity, such as the Safer Streets campaign.
10. Youth involvement in offences against the person rose during 2003 after a steep reduction in 2002, but is nonetheless at 81% of the 2001 baseline. The local strategy to address these issues is outlined in Section B of the Plan. The prevalence of violent offending is a matter of national concern and not confined to Southwark.
11. Performance data in relation to reducing the rate of re-offending remains encouraging, and is indicative of the effectiveness of YOT interventions. The rate of re-offending of the 2001 cohort had reduced by 8% after a 2-year period, as compared to the 2000 cohort. This compares with a national target of a 5% reduction, by 2005, and illustrates that Southwark is on target to achieve the L.P.S.A target of an 8% reduction by 2005.
12. The prevention strategy remains a strategic emphasis for the Youth Justice Plan and is a market leader. As noted in Section B of the Plan, the Gangs Disruption Project, and On track schemes will be enhanced during 2005-06. The Prevention Strategy has been cited as an example of good practice by the Youth Justice Board.
13. The multi-agency Youth Inclusion and Support Panels have been running as a national pilot for 12 months, and the impact of the YOT's Early Intervention Team indicates that 85% of young people receiving an intervention do not come to further police notice.

14. The level of use of the secure estate both in relation to remands and sentencing was noted as problematic in the plan for 2003/04. During 2003, the level of Remands into local authority secure accommodation or custody expressed as a proportion of remand episodes excluding conditional/unconditional bail fell from 69.8% in 2002 to 26% in excess of the national target of 30%, to be achieved by December 2004. The number of custodial sentences as a proportion of all sentencing outcomes fell from 17% in 2002 to 11% in 2003, against a national target of 6% to be achieved by December 2004. The latter target is challenging, given the volume of serious youth crime in Southwark, as compared to the rest of England and Wales, but it is hoped to reduce the rate below 10% during 2004.
15. Improvements have been achieved through increased use of bail supervision and Intensive Supervision and Surveillance programmes, and the increased confidence of the courts in the YOT's delivery of supervision in the community.

### **Challenges ahead for 2004/05**

16. There is a national shortage of skilled personnel qualified and experienced to work in the youth justice sector, which has become increasingly specialised and complex. This problem is even more pronounced in the London region and it is, therefore, imperative that strategies for workforce development are implemented. During the academic year 2003/04 two unqualified staff have undertaken the newly-developed Youth Justice Progression Award, four have undertaken the Professional Certificate in Effective Practice, and one worker has been seconded onto the Diploma in Social Work. These arrangements will be replicated in 2004/05.
17. In addition, Neighbourhood Renewal funding has enabled the establishment of an Advanced Modern Apprenticeship scheme, which will provide an opportunity for four local people aged 18 to 25 years to achieve a qualification in youth justice practice. Similar opportunities for accredited work experience, and qualification have been created for local volunteers. However, in the short-term, the recruitment and retention of high calibre staff remains challenging.
18. Southwark is at the vanguard of crime and disorder reduction partnerships in terms of joined-up partnership working. The challenge ahead is to sustain the progress achieved as new legislative requirements emerge.
19. Work has been undertaken in relation to the local Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy as it applies to young people to achieve a balance between rigorous and appropriate enforcement activity and measures of prevention and diversion aimed at changing young perpetrators behaviour. This is best achieved by effective multi-agency information sharing to facilitate early intervention enabling the implementation of a graduated approach to enforcement, combined with interventions to change behaviour.
20. Further work is required to build upon the impact of the On track scheme(s) and the Behaviour Support Teams in schools in partnership with the YOT and Schools Beat Officers to enable schools to work effectively with pupils involved or at risk of involvement in crime and/or anti-social behaviour. This work has already commenced.

21. In addition, greater information sharing and partnership working between police officers working in schools and the preventative arm of the YOT will facilitate improved targeting of at risk youngsters for early intervention. This will be augmented by local multi-agency systems for the Identification, Referral and Tracking of vulnerable children and young people currently being piloted in a number of service areas, including On track, and the Youth Inclusion and Support Panels.
22. Despite improvements to the Youth Justice System both locally and nationally, public confidence remains low and the fear of crime high. The Audit Commission reports that in 2001, 25% of the general public thought that young offenders were dealt with effectively but by 2003 the proportion had fallen to 20%. Mori polls of Southwark residents are similarly reflective of low public confidence.
23. The Safer Southwark Partnership has developed a communications strategy to inform the public of the services available and their impact upon offending and anti-social behaviour. The impetus needs to be sustained and further enhanced to improve confidence in the Criminal Justice System.

#### **Effects of proposed changes on those affected**

24. Southwark has the fifth highest rate of crime within its inner-London crime and disorder reduction partnership family.
25. Mori polls of local residents continue to cite fear of crime and concerns about the behaviour of young people as of paramount importance.

#### **Consultation**

26. Partner agencies, including the Metropolitan Police, London Probation Area, and Primary Care Trust, have been consulted through the Safer Southwark Partnership and the Youth Crime Sub-Group of the SSP.

#### **Financial Implications (Ref: FI/NA/680)**

27. It is proposed to deliver the updated Youth Justice Plan within the Council's 2004/05 budget.

#### **Human Resources**

28. There are no human resource implications contained within this report.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

##### ***Borough Solicitor & Secretary***

29. Council Assembly is being asked to agree the Southwark Youth Justice Plan annual update for 2004/05.
30. Section 40(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on each local authority to formulate and implement for each year a Youth Justice Plan in consultation with its statutory partners noted in paragraph 26.

31. Section 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on each local authority area to establish one or more Youth Offending Teams, in collaboration with their statutory partners. Section 39 gives local authorities power to make payments towards expenditure incurred by, or for purposes of connection with Youth Offending Teams. It is the duty of YOTs to co-ordinate the provision of youth justice services for all those in the local authority area that need them and carry out such functions as are assigned to a team or teams in the Youth Justice Plan, formulated by the local authority and its partners.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Youth Justice Plan 2002-2005	Southwark Youth Offending Team – 1 Bradenham Close London SE17 2QA	Chris Domeney Youth Offending Service Manager Tel: 020 7525 0940
Executive Agenda and Minutes 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2004	Constitutional Team, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Everton Roberts Tel: 020 7525 7221

## APPENDIX A

### Audit Trail

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Romi Bowen, Deputy Director of Social Services/Head of Children's Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chris Domeney, Head of Youth Offending Services (Original Report Author) Everton Roberts, Constitutional Team	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	7.7.04	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
<i>List other Officers here</i>		
<b>Executive Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services</b>	7.7.04	