

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> OPEN *	<b>Date:</b> 25 MARCH 2003	<b>MEETING NAME</b> EXECUTIVE
<b>Report title:</b>		SOUTHWARK YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN – ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT 2003/2004	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		ALL	
<b>From:</b>		DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES	

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. The Annual Update 2003/4 of the Southwark Youth Justice Plan 2002-2005 be agreed.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. S (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.
3. 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 with an annual update.

### **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

4. The Youth Justice Plan is completed in accordance with statutory requirements and guidance issued by the National Youth Justice Board.
5. The performance reporting requirements (Measures (I) to (XIII) Section D of Youth Justice Plan) are designed to provide hard data concerning the impact of the Youth Justice reforms at a local and national level. Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are required to audit implementation of Effective Practice Guidance in relation to Assessment and Intervention planning, Final Warnings, and Education, Training and Employment. The remaining guidance will be assessed in following years.
6. An improvement plan needs to be completed by June, which will be validated by the Youth Justice Board. Effective Practice implementation is a condition of grant funding from the YJB. An unforeseen consequence is that the format is a little inaccessible and does not fully reflect local strategic objectives.
7. The purpose of this Executive Report is to address these issues by identifying improvements in the performance of the local youth justice system, interim outcome data, local strategic developments, and the challenges ahead. An Appendix describes the type of services provided or commissioned by the YOT.

### **Local performance against national key objectives**

8. Progress has been made in reducing high volume crime, although it is important to note that YOT data, compiled from substantive outcomes in the judicial process, and police data, reflecting crime reports, are not comparative. The following data reflects rates of offending in 2002 compared to 2001.

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

9. The data suggests, prima facie, that the proportion of youth involvement in priority offences has reduced substantially but further analysis to validate this is required.
10. A further interesting static is that youth involvement in offences against the person fell by 24%. This reflects the Partnership's combined strategy to reduce street crime during 2002.
11. Performance data in relation to reducing the rate of re-offending (Measure II, p19 of Youth Justice Plan) is indicative of the effectiveness of YOT interventions. The data illustrates an 11.7% reduction overall in 2002, as compared to a national target for 2004 of 5%, and an L.P.S.A target for 2005 of 8%.
12. The take-up of Final Warning programmes, 86.95%, exceeds the targets for December 2003 and December 2004, and the low rate of re-offending, 21%, is illustrative of their effectiveness.
13. The prevention strategy is one of the market leaders and has been commended by the Government Office for London.
14. The Early Intervention Team (EIT) reports a 94% success rate in reducing youngsters aged 8 to 13 years coming to further police notice.
15. The Gangs Disruption Project and the Violence Reduction Project have worked in collaboration with the police, schools and the Youth Service. The Gangs Project is being externally evaluated.
16. The success of the Early Intervention Team has led to Southwark being nominated to pilot Youth Inclusion and Support Panels (YISP), one of eleven nationally. This is a new multi-agency approach to reducing offending behaviour in younger children.

### **Publicity**

17. The Safer Southwark Partnership is delivering a strategy to publicise successes in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour as part of the approach to reassure communities. Mori polls illustrate that fear of crime remains a priority issue for local residents, including young people.
18. The YISP pilots and the ongoing programme of positive activities for young people provide opportunities to build upon the success of the 2002 summer programme, which received positive publicity.
19. Lord Warner, Chair of the YJB, has agreed to give a keynote address to a local conference to publicise the local preventative strategy in April.

20. The YOT is planning an open-day in the summer to publicise the services available.
21. In the autumn, the YOT will host an award ceremony for 29 Referral Panel volunteer members who have completed accredited awards.

### **Outstanding issues/problems**

22. The rate of sentencing and remands to the secure estate. This remains significantly higher than the national average. External consultants appointed by the YJB are researching the context and working with the YOT and the Courts to understand the problem and devise an improvement plan. (Measure IV).
23. Improvements were made during 2002 in relation to victim involvement and this continues to improve. However, a whole systems approach is required to reassure victims that their interests are being considered. A way forward may be for the SSP to form a victim issues sub-group to take a time-limited project management approach to service development and improvement. The YOT has developed a Victim and Restorative Justice Team within the YOT, and SkyVoc, a victim support project for children, delivered by the Thomas Coram Foundation, are providing/developing a range of services but their impact will be limited if they operate in isolation from the Police and Courts.
24. Considerable progress has been made in relation to the provision of Education, Training and Employment (ETE), and satisfactory accommodation and achievement of the December 2003 target(s) is on track. However, in relation to E.T.E provision, further work is required with the Learning and Skills Council, the local Connexions Partnership and the education provider, to consolidate progress and sustain continuous improvement.
25. The provision of CAMHS services remains problematic, and the situation deteriorated during 2002. The availability of additional funds during 2003 to 2006 needs to be utilised effectively, to enhance the resources available for high-risk offenders and early intervention services. The work to jointly commission effective CAMHS services is being carried out by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board.

### **Challenges ahead for 2003/4 and beyond**

26. There is a danger that the maintenance and development of the effective practice agenda will be compromised by issues of staff recruitment and retention, and the inability of partner agencies to sustain their level of investment in the YOT.
27. A number of funding issues will challenge youth justice provision over the next years. Partner agencies, for example the London Probation Services, are adjusting their contribution downwards and this will impact on the YOT's ability to manage the volume of court directed work. The reliance on short term external funding to develop new services creates uncertainty and some new requirements from the YJB, eg modern apprenticeships, require local investment. This will need to be considered as part of next year's budget process.
28. Much progress has been made in developing a range of innovative services across the system. However, to be really effective more needs to be done to co-ordinate them.

The YOT's operations need to be more closely aligned with Schools Beat Officers, and the Community Sector Police, in relation to gangs' disruption, restorative justice services and other means of diversion. In relation to anti-social behaviour, it is critical that SASBU, Police and the YOT develop a more integrated approach to maximise the use of available resources.

29. The joint work across the partnership, in relation to street crime was very successful but needs to be built upon to consolidate gains and have further impact on serious crime within the borough. This will require greater efficiency in targeting resources based on sound intelligence from partner agencies as to where resources should best be deployed. Work being carried out by the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board to implement an Identification, Referral and Tracking Project should assist in this area.

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

30. Southwark has the fifth highest rate of crime within its inner-London Crime and Disorder reduction family.
31. Mori polls of local residents continue to cite the fear of crime, and concerns about the behaviour of young people as of paramount importance.

#### ***Consultation***

32. Partner agencies, including the Metropolitan Police, London Probation Area and strategic Area Health Authority, have been consulted through the Safer Southwark Partnership forum and the Youth Crime Sub-Group of the SSP.

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

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

33. The Executive is being asked to agree the Southwark Youth Justice Plan annual update for 2003/2004.
34. 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.
35. Under Section 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 it is the duty of each Local Authority to establish for their area one or more Youth Offending Teams. Section 39 gives Local Authorities power to make payments towards expenditure incurred by, or for the purposes connected with, Youth Offending Teams. It is the duty of the Youth Offending Team or Teams established by a Local Authority to co-ordinate the provision of Youth Justice Services, for all those in the Authority's areas who need them and to carry out such functions as are assigned to a team or teams in the Youth Justice Plan formulated by the Authority.

##### ***Chief Finance Officer*** (Ref: FI/CO/630)

36. There are no financial implications apparent, with the exception of para 27, impact on

the 2003/04 budget.

**HR Manager**

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

**REASON FOR URGENCY AND LATENESS**

38. The reason for urgency is that the deadline for submission of the Plan to the National Youth Justice Board is March 31st. Failure to comply may result in grant funding from the YJB being abated.

The reasons for lateness are essentially the time required to receive concurrent reports from Finance and Legal services. Timescales are necessarily tight as the performance data from which the Plan is drawn is only available in February.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<i>Southwark Youth Justice Plan 2002-2005</i>	<i>Southwark Youth Offending Team – 1 Bradenham Close London SE17 2QA</i>	<i>Chris Domeney Youth Offending Service Manager Tel: 0207 525 0940</i>

## APPENDIX I

### SERVICES PROVIDED BY / THROUGH THE YOT

Service	Target group and method	Desired outcomes	Provider
S.T.A.R Programme	Persistent young offenders, offenders at high risk of offending. Uses cognitive behaviour skills approach to teach problem solving, victim empathy and moral reasoning. Delivered in individual sessions	Reduced rate of re-offending	YOT
Motivation and Enhanced Cognitive Skills Groupwork	Teach problem solving and social skills and enhances motivation for change, for offenders subject to Court-ordered interventions	Reduced re-offending	YOT
Big Fish Theatre Group	Uses forum theatre to improve problem solving and understanding of consequences. Also, improves skills in communication and emotional literacy	Reduced re-offending	Big Fish Theatre Company and YOT
Community Reparation Scheme	All young offenders – provides opportunities to make amends to the community through a variety of tasks – working with older people, cleaning up the local environment etc, supported by volunteer mentors	Achieve victim empathy, positive reintegration	HAZ funded project and a number of voluntary sector projects
Victim-Offender Conferencing	All offenders – where there is an identified victim requesting involvement. Creates victim empathy and positive reintegration	Promote reintegration of the offender. Achieve resolution for the victim	YOT
Restorative Justice Diversion Project	First time/minor offenders – divert from prosecution and crime through use of RJ services	Victim involvement Reduce court population and reduce offending	YOT/Police/Connexions
Offensive Weapons Programme	Young offenders carrying knives – discussion with victims, sight of knife – injuries at Guys hospital. Teaches positive self-assertion techniques	Reduce use of offensive weapons	YOT police officers
Pre-Court Services	Final Warnings/Reprimands – receive a 12-week programme to address offending behaviour and risk factors	Reduce re-offending	YOT

<b>Service</b>	<b>Target group and method</b>	<b>Desired outcomes</b>	<b>Provider</b>
Early Intervention Team	8 to 13 year olds at risk of involvement in crime – provides individual and group work also work with parents	Prevent offending and improve life chances	YOT
Parenting Skills	Groupwork and individual programmes – teaching boundary setting, communication skills etc. For parents of offenders or those at risk	Improve parenting capacity	YOT
Anti-Social Behaviour Worker	Use of ABC's and Individual Support Programmes to divert from anti-social behaviour	Reduce anti-social behaviour	YOT/SASBU
If Only I'd Known Project	Use of forum theatre with school pupils and those attend magnet activities to educate about consequences of violent behaviour and promote alternative forms of resolution	Reduce violent crime and youth victimisation	YOT
Magnet Activities Programme	At risk youngsters – use of sports and creative arts to draw young people where workshops are provided vis personal development, drugs education, citizenship, etc.	Reduce offending	YOT and voluntary sector partners
Gangs Project	Group and individual work with young people involved in or on the periphery of gang-related offending	Reduce street crime, reduce gun crime, promote social inclusion	YOT
Children Looked After	Work with CLA in groups and individual work to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors	Reduce proportion of offending by CLA population	YOT/Social Services
Mentoring Project	Mentors for young offenders requiring support and an adult role model	Reduce offending Promote school attendance	From Boyhood to Manhood
Drugs Assessment and Intervention	Offenders whose offending is drug related	Reduce substance misuse and offending	YOT/RAPT
Careers Advice	All offenders aged 13 plus – facilitate Education, Training and Employment	All offenders in full-time E.T.E	Prospects Careers Company
Diversion from offending	Use of creative arts and personal development to promote citizenship	Pre-court and first-time offenders	Heartbeat International

Service	Target group and method	Desired outcomes	Provider
Genesis Group	Black self-development group to reduce involvement of BME youngsters in street crime	Reduce over-representation of black young people in criminal justice system	YOT



**APPENDIX A**

**Audit Trail**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	<i>Romi Bowen, Deputy Director of Social Services/Head of Children's Services</i>	
<b>Report Author</b>	<i>Chris Domeney, YOT Service Manager</i>	
<b>Version</b>	<i>Final</i>	
<b>Dated</b>	<i>21.3.03</i>	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	<i>Yes</i>	
<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	Yes	Yes
<i>HR Manager</i>	Yes	Yes
<b>Executive Member for Health &amp; Social Care</b>	Yes	No
<b>Executive Member for Community Safety &amp; Support</b>	Yes	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services</b>	21.3.03	