

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 5 December 2023	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Southwark Youth Justice Service Inspection Outcome	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND REFUGEES

The following Cabinet report speaks to the recent HMIP inspected Southwark Youth Justice Service (YJS) in July 2023. The full report accompanies this report as Appendix 1.

Southwark Council's Youth Justice work with young people who come into the youth justice system. Youth offenders are aged between 10 and 17, and in law, and in reality – they are children. Children who Southwark's Youth Justice Service has long believed, need nurture, support, direction and guidance as they grow into adults, to keep them safe from exploitation and criminality committed by adults.

The results of the inspection are positive and reflect the great work of the team. The service achieved an overall good rating. In the categories underlying this there were six outstanding ratings, six good ratings and one requires improvement rating.

Report highlights: what has worked and what the report commends

- Staff are skilled and knowledgeable. There is a clear drive to encourage people from the local community and those with lived experience to be involved with the service and this is reflected with a richly diverse workforce.
- The quality of the partnership arrangements was a strength and includes a range of voluntary and community organisations alongside statutory agencies.
- Health provision for the YJS is of a high-quality. A clinical team which provides psychological and systemic consultations collaborates with YJS specialist workers.

- There are several projects and programmes which demonstrate the commitment to innovation and the YJS' strong desire to deliver the most effective services. These include a range of reparation projects which are available to all children, and exceptional mentors are utilised to support children and help them to engage.

The Interim Chief Inspector of Probation Sue McAllister said:

“There’s a genuine community spirit about Southwark Youth Justice Service. From the staff to local volunteers to the children themselves, there is support for the service’s work and an ambition to succeed. Each child has access to programmes to help them develop and deter them from offending, and there is comprehensive support for them, their families, and victims of crime.”

It is with great pride in our youth justice service that I ask Cabinet members to read the report to gain some understanding of the challenging work that our YJS does. It addresses with children the crimes they have committed, but rightly regards them as children with their whole lives in front of them and a chance to make good, if they get the right support and opportunity. The report gives an insight and understanding of this work so that it can be appreciated just how our skilled and knowledgeable staff have been recognised, alongside the leadership and support of partners, and the irreplaceable contribution of volunteers from the community.

This report shows that all the ongoing passion and commitment to supporting children who have become caught up in criminality has come to fruition. We know that it takes a village to raise a child, and those who are nurtured and cared for by specialist services and the whole community have the chance of a safer path in life which could lead to good jobs, security and happiness for them. I am so proud of the youth justice team and all their excellent work. This glowing report spells it out – because of this service, children’s lives have changed for the better.

In addition to noting the report I ask Cabinet to join me in thanking Alasdair Smith, Jenny Brennan, Andrew Hillas, Miftah Choudhury and the rest of this awesome team.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet note the good outcome of His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation’s inspection of Southwark Youth Justice Service.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Youth Justice Services work with young people that get into trouble with the law, or are on the cusp of doing so. They look into the background of a young person and try to help them stay away from crime. They also:
 - run local [crime prevention programmes](#)
 - help young people at the police station if they’re arrested

- help young people and their families at court
 - supervise young people serving a [community sentence](#)
 - stay in touch with a young person if they're sentenced to [custody](#)
3. Youth Justice Services get involved if a young person
 - gets into trouble with the police or is arrested
 - is charged with a crime and has to go to court
 - is convicted of a crime and given a sentence
 4. Youth Justice Services are part of local councils and are separate from the police and the courts. They work closely with:
 - the police
 - probation officers
 - health, housing and children's social care services
 - schools and education authorities
 - charities and the local community
 5. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) is the independent inspector of youth offending and probation services in England and Wales. HMIP report on the effectiveness of probation and youth offending service work with adults and children and publish their inspection reports. These highlight good and poor practice and use data and information to encourage high-quality services. HMIP are independent of government and speak independently.
 6. Southwark Youth Offending Service (now renamed Southwark Youth Justice Service), was last inspected in October 2016. HMIP at that time did not grade their inspections however commented and said:















“we found excellent work being undertaken to understand and address the particularly complex situations of children and young people, some of whom used serious violence against their peers and the public”.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE ACTION

Inspection outcome

7. HMIP inspected Southwark Youth Justice Service (YJS) in July 2023. The full report accompanies this report as Appendix 1. The report should be read in full however it is helpful to note the foreword for the report on page 2 serves as an executive summary.
8. The inspection report rated Southwark YJS across three broad areas:
 - the arrangements for organisational delivery of the service,
 - the quality of work done with children sentenced by the courts, and
 - the quality of out-of-court disposal work.

9. Overall, Southwark YJS was rated as 'good'. HMIP also inspected the quality of resettlement policy and provision, which was separately rated as 'good'.
10. There is an overall ratings summary which shows breaks down the different areas as follows:

Overall rating	Good	
1. Organisational delivery		
1.1 Governance and leadership	Good	
1.2 Staff	Outstanding	
1.3 Partnerships and services	Outstanding	
1.4 Information and facilities	Good	
2. Court disposals		
2.1 Assessment	Good	
2.2 Planning	Good	
2.3 Implementation and delivery	Outstanding	
2.4 Reviewing	Outstanding	
3. Out-of-court disposals		
3.1 Assessment	Requires improvement	
3.2 Planning	Outstanding	
3.3 Implementation and delivery	Outstanding	
3.4 Out-of-court disposal policy and provision	Good	
4. Resettlement²		
4.1 Resettlement policy and provision	Good	

Inspection recommendations

11. Recommendations for improvement are as follows:

- The Southwark Youth Justice Management Board should: receive regular performance reports on the effectiveness of out-of-court disposals and make sure there is a system in place to look at the consistency of the out-of-court panel's decision-making processes.
- The Metropolitan Police should: review the use of Outcome 22 in Southwark and work with the YJS to monitor whether its implementation impacts on the level of disproportionality by ensuring that all children are offered interventions at the earliest opportunity.
- The YJS head of service should: put a framework in place so that all feedback from children and families is systematically collated and analysed to help determine future service provision; review the policy on knife crime to ensure that the level of risk is determined by the evidence in the child's assessment.

12. The YJS is particularly proud of the scores from the 34 cases that were selected for inspection, where staff were interviewed one to one about the work they did. The casework percentages given by inspectors reflect the tremendous work staff undertake with children and families. 18 of the 21 casework scores reached the outstanding grade (80%+) 2 were good (65 - 79%) and only one required improvement at 56%. HMIP concluded:

“Overall, the interventions delivered in the inspected cases were found to be personalised and creative, showing the high standard of partnership working”.

Overall

13. The inspection report was published on 17 October 2023. The Interim Chief Inspector of Probation Sue McAllister commented on the inspection report:

“There's a genuine community spirit about Southwark Youth Justice Service. From the staff to local volunteers to the children themselves, there is support for the service's work and an ambition to succeed. Each child has access to programmes to help them develop and deter them from offending, and there is comprehensive support for them, their families, and victims of crime.”

“The inspection found an impressive staffing arrangement at Southwark YJS, particularly around the recruitment of volunteers and those with lived experience of criminal justice. This provided the service with a diverse workforce which is supporting children through their supervision and helping them to achieve their goals, such as accessing education, training, and employment programmes – a key element in deterring children away from offending.”

Policy implications and Borough Plan commitments

14. The Council Delivery Plan has a commitment to “keeping you safe”. A key component of that is to “make Southwark safe for young people: working to end youth violence, putting young people, victims and their families at the heart of our community safety work.”
15. The work of Southwark YJS is integral to this strategic ambition and has maintained its commitment to these aspirations by continuing to deliver high quality services that maximise children’s opportunities to keep safe, learn new skills and undertake new rewarding experiences. These achievements have been made in conjunction with ongoing excellent collaborative partnership working with key stakeholders and it is affirming that this has been well recognised by HMIP.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

16. HMIP’s positive assessment of Southwark’s Youth Justice Service, as evidenced in the inspection report, should help give confidence to the community that the council and its partners are committed to minimising the impact of youth crime on the community and increasing safety in the community. Additional to this the Youth Justice Service has a high commitment to working in an integral way with the community as recognised in the foreword to the report as follows:

“There is a clear drive to encourage people from the local community and those with lived experience to be involved with the service and this is reflected with a richly diverse workforce. Volunteers report feeling fully supported and well-integrated into the service. Staff and volunteers indicate they feel valued by managers and by their peers, and there is a strong sense that the YJS is a caring organisation.”

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

17. The Public Sector Equality Duty, at Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires public bodies to consider the protected characteristics of individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.
18. Public bodies should have due regard when carrying out their activities to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people with protected characteristics and those with none. The Council's "Equality Framework" explains how the council is putting equality at the heart of everything we do.
19. "Protected characteristics" are the grounds upon which discrimination is unlawful. The characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation.
20. Page 16 -25 of the inspection report considers this in detail particularly in relation to ethnicity highlighting some of the work undertaken by the Youth Justice Service into disproportionality. The service has been at the forefront of striving for the best services to be delivered to local black young people and to identify, and where appropriate challenge and address, areas of disproportionality based on ethnicity differences. This has been particularly visible in the crime and education agendas.

Health Impact Statement

21. There are no specific identified health impacts resulting from any of this report however it is important to acknowledge on page three of the inspection report HMIP note that health provision within the YJS is of high quality.

Climate change statement

22. Following the Council Assembly meeting on the 14 July 2021, the Council has now committed to considering the climate change implications of any decisions made. There are no implications for climate change within this report.

Resource and risk implications

23. There are no major resource implications in relation to this report. It is important however to emphasise that good services that intervene early and well are critical to reduce the need to later intervention resource intensive services.

24. There are no major risk implications in relation to this report. It is important to emphasise that risk to young people and the public is central to the effective work of the YJS and a positive inspection outcome demonstrates this is being managed effectively.

Legal Implications (17.11.2023 – JH)

25. There are no legal implications in relation to this report.

Finance Implications

26. There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Head of Procurement

27. No services are being procured as a result of this report. There is no requirement for comments from the Head of Procurement.

Assistant Chief Executive - Governance and Assurance (17.11.2023 – JH)

28. The purpose of this report is to provide the outcome of the inspection of Southwark's Youth Justice Service in July 2023.
29. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities (among other organisations, agencies and individuals) to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
30. Section 38 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on all local authorities to act in co-operation with certain persons (including every Chief Police Officer or local policing body whose area lies within that of the local authority, clinical commissioning groups and providers of probation services), to such extent as is appropriate for their area, to secure that youth justice services are available in their area. Such services should include the provision of persons to act as appropriate adults to safeguard the interests of children and young persons detained or questioned by police officers. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/part/III/crossheading/youth-justice#:~:text=Crime%20and%20Disorder%20Act%201998>
31. By providing youth justice services as outlined at section 38 (4) of the Act, local authorities, together with its partners, are also addressing its duty under paragraph 7(b) of Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989, to take reasonable steps to encourage children within the area, not to commit offences.
32. Section 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 further places a duty on local

authorities in cooperation with the chief officer of the police and every probation committee or health authority within their area to establish for their area, one or more youth offending teams. Evolving language and guidance now uses the terminology “youth justice service” as opposed to youth offending teams in an attempt to move away from the stigma associated with the language of “offending”.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-service-governance-and-leadership/youth-justice-service-governance-and-leadership#fnref:1>

33. Section 39 (7) places a duty on those youth justice services established by a particular local authority to (a) to co-ordinate the provision of youth justice services for all those in the authority’s area who need them; and (b) to carry out such functions as are assigned to the team or teams in the youth justice plan formulated by the authority under section 40(1) of the Act. This section requires a local authority to formulate and implement a youth justice plan each year which sets out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.
34. In discharging it’s duties above under the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and Crime and Disorder Act 1998, local authorities will co - operate with Youth Justice Services Inspections. The attached Inspection report of Southwark’s Youth Offending Services evidences this co-operation.

Strategic Director of Finance REF: [43EN2023-24]

35. The Strategic Director of Finance notes the good outcome of His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation’s inspection of Southwark Youth Justice Service.
36. There are no direct financial implications of this report. However early intervention would lead not just to better outcomes for the service users but also provides better value for money for the council and likely mitigate risk of later intervention of more costly services.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
An inspection of youth offending services in Southwark	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2023/05/An-inspection-of-youth-offending-services-in-Southwark-v1.0.pdf		
Inspection of Youth Offending Work – HMIP Published 2 November 2016 Short Quality Screening	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2016/10/Southwark-SQS.pdf		
Crime prevention programmes	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link: https://www.gov.uk/youth-crime-prevention-programmes		
Community sentence	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link: https://www.gov.uk/community-sentences		
Custody	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link: https://www.gov.uk/young-people-in-custody		

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Home Office – Crime outcomes in England and Wales: Technical Annex – Outcome 22 – published 20 July 2023	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link (please copy and paste into browser):		
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-technical-annex		
Crime and Disorder Act 1998	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link (please copy and paste into browser):		
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/part/III/crossheading/youth-justice#:~:text=Crime%20and%20Disorder%20Act%201998		
Youth Justice Board – Guidance Youth Justice Service Governance and Leadership – published 10 December 2021	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link (please copy and paste into browser):		
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-service-governance-and-leadership/youth-justice-service-governance-and-leadership#fnref:1		
Southwark Council's Delivery Plan, Appendix 1, Item 8 – Cabinet 17 October 2023	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link (please copy and paste into browser):		
https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s116779/Appendix%201%20Southwark%20Council%20Delivery%20Plan%20Annual%20Performance%20Report.pdf		
Equalities Act 2010	Children and Adult Services	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
	Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents		
Public Sector Equality Duty	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-equality-duty		
Council Assembly, 14 July 2021, Item 6.1 constitutional changes: Climate Emergency and Equality, Council assembly role and functions – Appendix 3 PART 3B Cabinet Role	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s99855/Appendix%203%20-%20Part%203B%20Cabinet%20role.pdf		
Council Assembly, 25 November 2020, Item 6.1 Refresh of the Council Plan 2018 - 2022 – Appendix A	Children and Adult Services Children and Families Directorate, 4 th Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Alasdair Smith 020 77525 0654
Link (please copy and paste into browser): https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s92006/Appendix%20A%20Southwarks%20Borough%20Plan%202020.pdf		

APPENDICES

Number	Title
Appendix 1	HMIP an inspection of youth offending services in Southwark

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Jasmine Ali Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees	
Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services	
Report Author	Alasdair Smith Director of Children and Families	
Version	Final	
Dated	27 November 2023	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
List other officers here	N/A	N/A
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		27 November 2023