

Children and Young People's Partnership Board

Item
4.1

DATE:
December 2008

TITLE: Youth Offending Service – Funding opportunities and performance.

WARDS
All

SUMMARY: 1. The borough will submit proposals in January 2009 to access £350,000 a year over the next two years from the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP). A consultation event is to be held with partner agency managers to ensure the proposals made are consistent with current strategies on the YCAP themes – Intensive Family Support, Think Family, Triage, school patrols, street based services and constructive ways for young people to contribute visibly to the community. The proposed services will be delivered by a range of partners.

2. YOS performance. The Youth Justice Board validation exercise of the Partnership's "Capability and Capacity Assessment" of the Youth Offending Service assesses the YOS as "Good" in four areas and adequate in one.

3. YOS funding – Partner's funding for the YOS is outlined in view of budgeting for 2009/10.

4. Last quarter performance shows continued improvement.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Wright
Head of Youth
Offending Service

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That the final proposals for YCAP funding are authorised and signed off by the Chairmen of CYPPB and CDRP, councillors Lillis and Smith.
2. The Youth Offending Issues Group will consider this report and recommend steps to further improve partnership performance.
3. That partner contributions to YOS statutory services are maintained at current levels and the strategy to seek additional youth crime reduction funds from external sources is maintained.
4. Performance data is noted.

1. Youth Crime Action Plan – Additional Funding for Hammersmith and Fulham.
- 1.1. Background

The Government published the Youth Crime Action Plan in July proposing a range of measures to prevent and tackle youth crime. A “Triple-Track” approach is proposed of tough enforcement, non-negotiable support and prevention.
- 1.1.2. The Action Plan recognises that the factors which contribute to offending behaviour also contribute to many other poor outcomes for young people. If these are tackled, youth crime can be prevented and re-offending can be reduced. This strategy will also deliver improvements in wider outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.1.3 The Action Plan promotes change in the way all local agencies and services work together. The Action Plan is promoting better communication across agencies to ensure that responsibility is shared for both problems and solutions.
- 1.1.4 Hammersmith and Fulham has been identified on the basis of a ranking of deprivation, youth crime and perceptions of youth anti-social behaviour. As a result extra resources have been allocated to support delivery of the Youth Crime Action Plan interventions locally. There is up to £700,000 available over the next two years (2009-11).
- 1.1.5 A menu of provision has been defined and central government expect them to be “a strong strand” in local delivery plans. These are;
 - a) **Using child protection legislation to remove young people from the streets at night** and take them to a safe place, building on lessons from initiatives such as Operation Staysafe;
 - b) **Using street-based teams of workers to tackle groups of young people involved in crime and disorder**
 - c) Tackling anti-social behaviour and disorder at school closing time by **increasing after-school police patrols where needed.**
 - d) **Placing Youth Offending Team workers in police custody suites** so that young offenders can be assessed and directed to appropriate services at the earliest opportunity;
 - e) Making young offenders feel the consequences of their actions by **expanding YOT reparation schemes during their leisure time,** including on Friday and Saturday nights;
 - f) **Developing Family Intervention Projects** to work with the most vulnerable and problematic families with children at risk of offending, with non-negotiable elements and sanctions for a failure to engage;
 - g) **Implementation of the 'think family' reforms** to provide an integrated and appropriate service response to all families at risk by the end of the funding period.

1.2 Activity in 2008/9.

- 1.2.1 Pump-priming funding was also announced under the YCAP grant. Grants of £65,000 for after-school patrols and street based work” and £25,000 for additional activities on Friday and Saturday nights have been applied for and confirmed during the week of 10th November. These activities are now being put in place.
- 1.2.2 The grant application made for the 4 months YCAP activity in 2008/9 has been designed to prepare the ground for the ongoing and larger funding, without necessarily committing the future funding. E.g. The street-based initiative will include assessing the extent of children potentially needing removal to a place of safety. It is not anticipated that this is an issue in the borough.
- 1.2.3 2008/9 funding will provide funds for additional payments to be made to Police and local authority staff with good communication skills with young people. They will work in pairs in specific areas to identify young people out at night involved in crime or anti-social behaviour. They will engage them and aim to divert them to positive activities or plan short-term projects with the young people.
- 1.2.4 School patrols will be established by providing funds to the Police Service “Schools Involvement Team” for an additional Police Officer. The Officer’s time will be organised to work in school and provide schools patrols with a council youth specialist worker. This service is proposed to operate on a rota at Phoenix, Burlington Danes, Henry Compton, Fulham Cross, Hurlingham and Chelsea and the Bridge Academy. The two staff will be mobile and able to attend another school if necessary.
- 1.2.5 Friday and Saturday night provision (£25,000 grant) is divided between funds for the Police Kickz Football Project and new activities promoting citizenship. Kickz is run with the three professional football clubs on three weekdays currently and will be extended to Saturday evenings. Additionally, new funds will support voluntary sector partners to run positive activities for young people that promote good citizenship and for staff to accompany children who need help to make use of these services.

1.3 Process for planning the £700,000 two year funding.

- 1.3.1 Given the aims of this funding stream to find different ways of solving problems and promoting collaboration between partners to contribute, it is proposed to hold a workshop for partners on 8th January. The workshop will consider local characteristics, opportunities to build on, potential projects and will include partner agencies, statutory and “Third Sector.”
- 1.3.2 Following the workshop prospective projects will be reviewed by YOS, Police and Children’s Services managers and drafted into the application format, for review by councillor Lillis and councillor Smith. Dependant on time available comments will be sought from those involved in the planning workshops.

1.3.3 The decision on YCAP applications will be made during February 2009, and commissioning or delivery plans will then be put in place.

2. **YOS Planning Process validation.** The Youth Justice Board validation exercise of the Partnership's "Capability and Capacity Assessment" of the Youth Offending Service assesses the YOS as "Good" in four areas and adequate in one. The validation report is attached as appendix one.

2.1 The YOS planning process was changed this year to a "Capability and Capacity Assessment." It was an assessment of the partnership and was completed in August, after facilitated workshops with partner senior managers. The validation process was a visit by YJB officials meeting with YOS Managers and Staff and a representative of the Youth Offending Issues Group. The validation assessment has now been received and has assessed the partnership as performing well in 5 areas and adequately in one. The range of possible partnership performance has four classifications; Excellent, Well, Adequate and Inadequate.

2.2 The Youth Offending Service planning process will be part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment in 2009/10.

2.3 The overall assessment of the YOS partnership was that we perform well.

2.4 **Governance** Performs Well

The validation noted action on the YOS Inspector's criticisms of the high level governance provided by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board through the establishment of the Youth Offending Issues Group. Also noted was the parallel reporting of YOS performance to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

2.5 **Use of Resources and Value for Money** Performs Well

The stable budget, with 70% devoted to statutory provision is noted, with YOS running a range of activities contributing to prevention of crime. The reorganisation of YOS to strengthen the availability and use of management information is noted.

2.6 **Workforce and Organisational Development** Performs Well

The validation notes the increase in Police and Connexions resources for the YOS this year. All procedures were acknowledged as in place for staff supervision, training and progression.

2.7 **Performance and Quality systems** Performs Well

Performance evidence was noted, including LAA targets. The quality control processes for the Assessments YOS carries out on young people are well evidenced. Improvements in practice were

recommended in security of manual files and reporting performance to the Children's Fund, though this is routinely undertaken.

2.8 Citizens and Service Users Performs adequately

The validation states, "The YOS would benefit from having in place a consolidated approach through which to seek and evaluate the views of young people specifically in relation to service development." The same comment was made in relation to consulting parents. The YOS uses all processes for the essential consultation regarding young offenders' casework.

2.8 Issues arising from the validation will be discussed at the next Youth Offending Issues Group, in January, where a revised action plan will be agreed, to implement improvements from the capability and capacity assessment.

3. Youth Offending Service funding

3.1. The Youth Offending is a statutory partnership, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Partners are required to provide staff and a contribution to the pooled budget for the YOS to satisfy joint responsibilities to reduce youth crime.

3.2 As partners enter financial planning for the next period the following information is set out to provide the opportunity to note levels of essential partners contribution and discuss future commitments.

3.3 The 2008/9 budget from the partners for the YOS is set out below.

Agency	Staffing Costs	Payments in Kind	Other Delegated Funds	Total
Police		£97,000	£14,304	£111,304
Probation	£22,290	£22,290	£10,000	£54,580
Health		£46,211	£3,000	£49,211
Local Authority	£540,950		£69,450	£610,400
YJB	£776,810		£91,169	£867,979
Other	£335,627		£10,820	£346,447
Total	£1,675,677	£165,501	£198,743	£2,039,921

3.4 The "other" figure relates to external grants successfully applied for to support YOS activity. Comparative data is being sought at present from neighbouring boroughs. Wandsworth has a total budget of £2,113,286, with half the "other" figure than Hammersmith and Fulham.

3.5 Additional commitments have been made for the next two financial years that will develop some specialist areas of YOS provision for young people: The Primary Care Trust has committed funds for a primary health nurse and a specialist worker for inappropriate sexual behaviour. The area based grant has committed funding for Police

Officers for the Street Outreach Service, combating gangs and violence and the Diversion project to contribute to reducing First Time Entrants.

3.6 The borough has been offered £350,000 from the Youth Crime Action Plan each year for the next two years as noted above.

3.7 A graph depicting finance distribution is attached as appendix two.

4. **Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Offending Service key performance indicators.**

4.1 Background The YOS performance is measured against 6 National Indicators. Re-offending, use of custody, BME over-representation, numbers in full-time education, appropriate accommodation, and numbers of "First Time Entrants", the LAA target.

4.2 Last quarter performance

4.2.1 Re-offending is calculated at the end of the financial year.

4.2.2 Use of custody was 17% and 10% in the first two quarters this year against a 10% out-turn last year and a 5% target. 17 and 7 young people were sent to custody in the last two quarters.

4.2.3 BME Over-representation was down on the last year's figure, 25% rather than 31% over-representation.

4.2.4 YOS education, training and employment performance is up to 83% against a 90% target and 79% out-turn last year.

4.2.5 100% of young offenders were assessed as having appropriate accommodation in the last quarter.

4.2.6 Numbers of First-Time Entrants have reduced, but a new system of counting this has been announced by the DCSF. This system is based on Police National Computer data and included attributing to the borough cases where no address is recorded.

4.3 The latest National Indicator performance data is attached as appendix three.

5. Comments from Head of Finance:

5.1 The Head of the Youth Offending Service is working with partners and the 3rd sector to develop a delivery plan and will submit proposals in January 09. CHs Accountancy will be fully involved in costing the options and will participate in the workshops taking place on the 8th Jan 09 to ensure that all costs are captured.

6. Comments from Head of Legal Services:

6.1 There are no direct legal implications for the purposes of this report.