

HMIP Annual Report on the Inspection of Youth Offending Services (2020)

Following is a summary of the findings of the HMIP's Annual Report on the Inspection of Youth Offending Services in England & Wales for the period 2019-20. All quotations are derived from the original report which is available at:

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/yar2020/>

- 1) FTE continues to fall with offending cohort now being well under 1% FTE
- 2) Custody cases also fell dramatically (31% reduction on last year and 1/5 of the custody figure for 2003)
- 3) OOC cases comprising increasing % of caseloads across the board.

HMIP report that, in the cases of points 1 & 2, the impact of Covid-19 has been a highly significant factor.

- 4) Support for children leaving custody is "so poor" which is "inexcusable" with such low numbers of secured offenders with very little improvement in the past 5 years according to inspection findings.
- 5) From the spring of 2021, HMIP will be introducing a specific new standard for the quality of resettlement work from custody. This will apply to every YOT that has had a child in custody over the year before inspection.

The areas of practice addressed by the HMIP in points 4 & 5 were identified as strengths of Derby YOS in the last HMIP Inspection of Youth Justice Services undertaken in June 2018. Derby YOS has also provided support to other Youth Offending Services in the delivery of 'Resettlement' services.

- 6) Teenage knife crime continues to increase year on year (CRE including County Lines and CSE as main vectors identified)
- 7) YOS Caseloads shrinking nationally but increasing violent offences (50% of cases across all inspected YOTs) and violent offences also make up 47% of OOC. Mostly child on child violence but significant proportion are child on parent/carer violence which is rising.
- 8) 85% of all Court Cases inspected assessed as presenting some form of risk (not necessarily RoSH)
 - 29% of Post-Court cases High/Very High RoSH
 - 88% of Post-Court cases Medium or High RoSH
 - 62% of OOC cases Medium or High RoSH
- 9) Assessment and management of risk the weakest area of the 768 cases inspected

Regarding points 6 to 9, the Effective assessment and management of risk of harm is emphasized by the HMIP as an inspection priority going forward including the importance of YOTs retaining their Youth Justice identity and

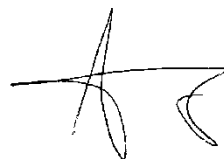
being committed to a 'Child First, Offender Second' philosophy, without compromising risk management and public safety.

- 10) Praise and recognition for YOTs that adapted to Covid-19 by developing alternative (increasingly electronic) ways of keeping in touch with their service-users and for prioritising cases for face-to-face contact.
- 11) Many YOTS contributed food packages, toys etc which was praised by HMIP.
- 12) Significant variation across the 16 inspected YOTs – from Cardiff ('inadequate') to Camden (first 'outstanding' under new standards).
- 13) 7/16 completed HMIP Inspections were given an overall rating of 'Outstanding' or 'Good' and 9/16 were given an overall rating of 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'.
- 14) Only half of YOTs assessed managed risk and safety in Out of Court Disposal (OOC) cases to a satisfactory level.
- 15) The HMIP report shared no published data on how widely OOC disposals are used at local authority level.
- 16) Quality of OOC case management significantly poorer than for post-court.
- 17) "It remains a concern that we continue to find no correlation between our judgements of the quality of individual YOTs and key metrics like the rates of first-time entry to the youth justice system."

Through points 10 to 17, the HMIP is advising that Youth Offending Services that have performed well against the 3 Youth Justice Board (YJB) Key Performance Indicators (KPI); Custody rates, Reoffending Rates, First Time Entrant into the Youth Justice System rates, did not necessarily perform well during HMIP Inspection.

- 18) Children in care are receiving a poorer service

With regards to point 18, Derby YOS have a Children in Care (CIC) Concordat between a number of partner agencies in Derby (including YOS, Police, Courts, CPS and Children's Social Services) to safeguard against the kind of poor performance in this area that the HMIP have reported on nationally in this report.



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