

SUBJECT: YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

MEETING: Children and young People's Select Committee

DATE: 31st January 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

Key messages

- Torfaen & Monmouthshire Youth Offending Service (YOS) works to prevent offending and re-offending in children by challenging their behaviour and raising awareness of the consequences of offending / anti-social behaviour, helping children take responsibility for their actions and ultimately helping children to break the cycle of re-offending and move forward in positive ways.
- The Youth Offending Service is run jointly with Torfaen County Borough Council.
- There have been successes arising from the work of the Youth Offending Service, however, challenges still remain.
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation undertook an inspection of Youth Offending Services during the pandemic. This inspection was designed to review and understand how youth offending services / teams have responded to the challenges of working during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Inspection took place in May, June and July 2020 and the Inspection report was published in November 2020.

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the actions set out in the YOS inspection action plan to address the recommendations set out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation to contribute to the post pandemic recovery.
- 1.2 In addition, the report will also set out the preventative interventions used by the YOS to reduce the number of young people offending/ re-offending within Torfaen AND Monmouthshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 In answering the key question:

Will the actions set out in the YOS inspection action plan address the recommendations made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation to contribute to the post pandemic recovery, and will the preventative interventions used by the YOS reduce the number of young people in Torfaen offending/ re-offending?

The Children and young People's Select Committee is invited to review the information provided and:

- Determine whether the actions set out will address the recommendations made by Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation on the Youth Offending Service provision during the pandemic;
- Assess whether the preventative interventions and work undertaken by the YOS will be effective in reducing the number of Monmouthshire & Torfaen children offending/ re-offending;
- Provide recommendations to the Executive Member for Children, Families & Communities on areas for improvement or greater focus.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The YOS is a group of multi-agency professionals who work together with one aim, that is, to prevent offending and re-offending in children by challenging their behaviour and raising awareness of the consequences of offending / anti-social behaviour, helping children take responsibility for their actions and ultimately help children to break the cycle of re-offending and move forward in positive ways.
- 3.2 The Monmouthshire and Torfaen Youth Offending Service provide services for children to divert them from offending and reoffending. This is achieved by carrying out effective assessments and interventions and working in partnership with other agencies.
- 3.3 The YOS encourages children to repair the harm to victims and restore relationships with their communities. Children are encouraged, wherever possible, to meet with their victims to hear how their behaviour has affected them and agree actions that can repair the harm caused. **Appendix F** sets out the data for offences each year 2018-2021
- 3.4 The YOS values the diversity of children and helps them to achieve their potential. It works with parents and carers in supporting behaviour change within children and families.
- 3.5 COVID 19 and the subsequent lockdown presented significant and unprecedented challenges to all areas of life but most particularly to the critical services provided by social care. The children and families supported by the Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS deserve the highest quality provision and service delivery and the staff of the YOS have worked tirelessly and selflessly to ensure that these standards have been maintained. This has been achieved in collaboration with all partners. During the Pandemic, Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS experienced a reduction of approximately 20% in overall referrals. There are a number of factors that have impacted upon these figures as follows:
- Closure of youth courts
 - Changing role of the police during the pandemic.
 - Partner agencies not processing referrals
 - Lockdown measures resulting in a decrease in ASB and criminal behaviour in the community
 - Closure of schools and training provisions
- 3.6 However, referrals to the YOS prevention service continued throughout the earlier stages of the pandemic and there has been a significant increase in referrals to the Prevention Service in 2021. **(Appendix F)**

Time Period:	1st January 2018 until 31st December 2018	1st January 2019 until 31st December 2019	1st January 2020 until 31st December 2020	1st January 2021 until 1st September 2021
Total Number of Young People (inclusive of voluntary interventions):	208	244	198	128

- 3.7 Monmouthshire and Torfaen Youth Offending Service covers the boundaries of two Local Authorities, Torfaen County Borough Council and Monmouthshire County Council. The Youth Offending Service is hosted by Monmouthshire County Council and sits within the Social Care and Health Directorate. All non-seconded staff are employed by Monmouthshire County Council. This provides consistency in terms of conditions of service and general human resource management. The YOS Manager is line managed by the Head of Monmouthshire Children’s Services.
- 3.8 The YOS is governed locally by The Local Management Board (LMB), which is chaired by the Chief Officer, Social Care and Housing, Torfaen County Borough Council, with the vice chair position being assumed by the Head of Monmouthshire Children’s Services, thus ensuring appropriate representation and level of decision making/influence across both Local Authority areas. There are representatives from each of the statutory partners on the Local Management Board. The composition of the Local Management Board is set out in **Appendix A**.
- 3.9 The Local Management Board (LMB) meets on a quarterly basis and is timed in order to correspond to the availability of ratified and confirmed performance information, which forms a standing agenda item. Financial matters and planning continue to be a standing item on the Local Management Board agenda.
- 3.10 The Local Management Board continues to assume provide governance and assumes responsibility for the strategic direction of the YOS. Some of the LMB business plan includes financial reporting / planning, performance measures, progress against relevant action plans and overall capacity and capability.
- 3.11 The YOS is also governed nationally by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB). The main function of the YJB is to monitor the operation of the youth justice system and the provision of youth justice services, within England and Wales. The YOS is required to submit a YJB Plan and reports annually to the YJB on matters regarding:
- Structure and Governance
 - Review of Performance
 - Resources and Value for Money
 - Partnership Arrangements
 - Risks to Future Delivery Against the Youth Justice Outcome Measures

The YOS also submits a two-year Action Plan, which is monitored and reviewed.

In the most recent report, the YOS was also required to address:

- *Responding to the Pandemic and recovery from Covid-19.*

4. Information and Discussion

4.1 The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the YOS and the Children and Families it Supports and how the Service Responded to the Crisis

4.1.1 On the 23rd of March 2020, the United Kingdom became the subject of a national 'lockdown' as a result of the global Covid-19 pandemic. This had significant implications for the YOS and service provision and delivery. Overnight, all personnel were required to 'work from home' and prevented from accessing LA premises, community venues. 'Face-to-face' contact was limited to the most high-risk cases and normal working practices were suspended indefinitely. As a service that supports some of the most vulnerable children and families, the collective response of the YOS, its partners and regional colleagues to this unprecedented crisis was critical.

4.1.2 There was an immediate, effective transition to remote working; staff communicated by email, telephone and Microsoft Teams. Where partners were not using MS Teams, the service flexibly responded to the alternative platforms, whenever possible. In contact with children and their families, staff were resourceful and creative and used a variety of platforms to continue to communicate with children and their families.

4.1.3 In these unprecedented circumstances, exceptional measures had to be taken; for example, the normal working practices of the Youth Court, were suspended for 8 weeks, except for remands and custody cases held overnight. Youth Court processes resumed fully in June 2020.

4.1.4 The YOS Service Manager worked with the Regional Gwent YOS Managers to actively mitigate the restrictions caused by the pandemic and ensure a continuity of response, across the Gwent YOS Region.

4.1.5 In order to support the protection of service provision and delivery, the YJB directed YOS's to create a 'Continuity and Delivery Plan', as an initial response to the crisis. The Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS created this plan in March 2020 (**Appendix B**). This plan outlines, in detail, the response of the YOS to the pandemic and how all service provision and delivery could be maintained, while striving to ensure the safety of staff, children and their families. This plan was revised and updated, in June 2020, in order to reflect agreed modifications in procedures, with partners, as a result of the on-going crisis.

4.1.6 In order to ensure that the response was 'child-centred', as much as possible in light of the restrictions, the views of children and their families were gathered via a bespoke survey that focused on the YOS service provision and delivery in the pandemic. The results of this survey were overwhelmingly positive and the children and their families communicated they were satisfied with the YOS's change in contact in response to the Covid restrictions. The inspectors highlighted this Survey with children and families as an area of good practice.

4.1.7

Staff continued to engage creatively with children, utilising on-line resources and effectively modifying approaches, e.g. reparation tasks continued using technology and access to audio-visual resources.

4.1.8

In August 2020, as a result of the easing of some restrictions, there was a partial reopening of the YOS office space. In order that the office space could be used and accessed safely, a guidance document and comprehensive risk assessment were created outlining all measures that must be adhered to by staff. These were accompanied by an online, electronic booking system, which recorded staff attendance at the office space, ensuring safe numbers of attendance and supporting any 'test and trace' processes. This is the current status quo, for use of the YOS offices and will remain in place until such time that all restrictions are significantly eased or completely lifted

4.2. The Recommendations Made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Probation (HMIP) on the Thematic Review of the Work of Youth Offending Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Action Plan Points to Address the Recommendations from this Review

4.2.1

In May 2020, at the height of the pandemic, the Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS received notification that it was to be one of 7 YOS's, in England and Wales (the only YOS selected in Wales) to participate in a HMIP thematic inspection which focused on YOS's responses to the pandemic and the measures they had taken, in order to protect the continuity of service provision and delivery during the crisis.

4.2.2

In the subsequent report, it is stated:

'This inspection was designed to review and understand how youth offending teams (YOTs) have responded to the challenges of working during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we all come to terms with what has happened and how life has changed, children and staff who are involved with YOTs are also trying to make sense of this unprecedented period. It will take time until the full effects are known. This review aims to report what we know so far.'

'A thematic review of the work of youth offending services during the COVID-19 pandemic' A review by HM Inspectorate of Probation, November 2020

4.2.3

The full 'Thematic Review of the Work of Youth Offending Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic' report can be viewed at <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/11/201110-A-thematic-review-of-the-work-of-youth-offending-services-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic.pdf>.

4.2.4

The Action Plan, in response to the recommendations / learning points from this review, are incorporated in the YJB Action Plan 2021-23. These are outlined

4.2.5

below:

Recommendations/ Learning Points / Action Plan Points*

*one of these action points refer directly to the YOS's responsibilities (point 9); all others demonstrate how the YOS has worked proactively to support the actions which are identified as needing to be undertaken by other stakeholders.

4.2.6

- 1. develop effective communication systems between custodial settings, courts and YOT partner agencies so that children are not***

disadvantaged, have timely court hearings and resettlement needs can be met.

4.2.7 The Gwent YOS Managers created a protocol (**Appendix C**), prior to the full national 'lockdown' and the Thematic Inspection, which pre-empted a possible disruption in these communication systems. This protocol ensured that the needs of the child continued to be met whilst at the custody unit and that communication was maintained with courts and YOS partner agencies during this challenging period. This protocol was reviewed and updated as and when needed; e.g. the easing of restrictions, information and direction received from external sources, such as the YJB. The YOS had no control over the closure of the youth courts. Although a backlog of cases was expected, as a result of this, Youth Offending Services in Wales did not find this was the case. The YOS Manager attended virtual meetings with relevant stakeholders initially on a fortnightly basis. This was an opportunity for all services to obtain information from custodial settings, regarding general issues and establish a network with a named contact in order to resolve child-specific queries.

The Youth Justice Board should:

- 2. support the development of a specific approach to managing child and adolescent to parent violence that protects the victim during periods of lockdown***

The HMPI Thematic Inspection Report highlighted the national increase in recorded incidents of domestic abuse, specifically in relation to child on primary care giver. It is suggested that this could be attributed to the restrictions created, as a result of the pandemic. The HMIP thematic inspection (May / July 2020) findings identified the opportunity to develop provision and service delivery, as a result of issues created from the Covid-19 pandemic. These were:

- The emotional health and well-being of children, following extended 'lockdown' periods
- Increased incidents of domestic violence (perpetrated by children against their parents / carers) during lockdown periods.

At the core of the new National Standards is the requirement that the provision and service delivery of YOS is to be both 'child-centred' and 'innovative'. In light of this YOS Parenting Workers were proactive in identifying the most vulnerable families and offering additional support which included applying for free school meals and any additional benefits entitled to, as well as accessing additional emotional/wellbeing support. This was extended to contacting families that had previously been closed to the service.

4.2.8 In order to assist in addressing the national increase in recorded incidents of child against parent domestic abuse, the YOS Manager worked with relevant stakeholders to secure the creation of 2 new posts. The Community Support Worker posts were created to engage with children and families to prevent children entering the Criminal Justice System. The posts sit within the prevention team of the YOS and provide a direct link to the Multi-Agency Safe-guarding Hubs (MASH) within both Monmouthshire and Torfaen. One worker is assigned to each authority

area. There is an emphasis on those cases that come to the attention of Social Services that are on the periphery of criminal activity. This links with the preventative agenda, within the police safeguarding hubs. The aim of this role is to work with children, families and partner agencies, in order to establish programmes to support children and their families to prevent offending behaviour. There is also a particular focus on working with families where the child may be exhibiting aggressive behaviour within the family home, particularly towards their primary carer.

3. support YOTs to assess and respond to the digital divide for children and families, so that children have safe and reliable access to IT to continue with education and keep in contact with the professionals they are involved with

The YOS created a bespoke survey (**Appendix D**), which was undertaken at the beginning of the first national 'lockdown'. This provided an opportunity for children and their families to engage with the YOS regarding the challenges they were facing, as a result of restrictions and to feedback on the quality of service provision and delivery they were receiving from the YOS.

4.2.9

This presented the YOS with an opportunity to react to a number of areas, including access to digital hardware. Steps were taken to ensure the children supported by YOS were not disadvantaged due to digital poverty. The YOT ETE (Education Training and Employment) worker, case managers and parenting workers were proactive in attempting to address this issue. They made contact with partner agencies and voluntary organisations and education providers to access equipment to enable children to access social platforms and carry out educational/training activities.

4. review caretaking and transfer processes between YOTs in the light of remote and virtual service delivery, putting the child's best interests at the centre of decision-making.

4.2.10

The decision was taken to maintain case responsibility and virtual contact with all care-taking cases during the pandemic. This included face to face contacts if the young person was deemed to be high risk. The YOS liaised with Children's Services and YOSs regarding the children residing within their areas but, for continuity purposes, Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS held the cases and provided the direct interventions to children and young people.

Police and Crime Commissioners should:

5. work with partners to understand the levels of child on parent violence in their areas and ensure that help is available to support and protect parents who are victims.

The YOS liaised closely with Children's Services to establish if there was an increase in referrals relating to domestic violence – child on parent/primary carer. The data in both Monmouthshire and Torfaen did not support this, however this continues to be monitored closely. It was recognised that such cases may not get reported and there was very little in the way of support systems to monitor this, e.g.

4.2.11

no educational/training placements were open who often report such cases. This issue continues to be monitored closely. As mentioned above, the introduction of 2 Community Support Worker posts, with close links to the MASH services has enabled to stream-line the referral process with Children's Services. The development of these (pilot) posts were presented to and sanctioned by, the Local Management Board of Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS. The OPCC have a seat on the board and supported the proposal. Should the roles prove successful, during the pilot period, funding from the OPCC, will be sought to make the post permanent. As a result of these posts, the YOS Prevention Panel has seen an increase in the number of referrals during the last 6 months. **(Appendix F)**

YOT management boards should:

6. identify the backlog of cases that are being processed through courts, and ensure that there is sufficient workforce capacity to deal with increased caseloads.

4.2.12

During the initial period of the pandemic, regular meetings took place with the YJB, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to ensure there was a constant flow of information regarding court closures, the possible timeframe for them to reopen and the impact for children and their families. This exchange of information ensured the YOS was able to develop packages of support that were tailored to the individual needs of the child awaiting court dates and victims of crime. It also enabled case managers to prepare children and young people regarding the changing court environment under COVID lockdown- e.g. specific time slots, one-way systems and other safety measures. It was envisaged that the postponement of cases would have a detrimental effect upon cases new to the system, such as long waiting lists. However, this never came to fruition.

7. work with partners to include children who are defined as high vulnerability by YOTs within the local definition of vulnerable children, for the purpose of priority access to education or other services.

Monmouthshire & Torfaen YOS maintained contact with all open cases and the decision was taken to hold cases open beyond the agreed end date if a need existed.

4.2.13

As a result of the national 'lockdown', the YOS developed a process to identify those children who were the most vulnerable and at risk. This included those that present with a high level of risk with regards to reoffending and risk of serious harm to others and safety and wellbeing. These children were prioritised and plans were established to ensure sufficient contact / support from the service in order to mitigate the challenges created by the COVID-19 restrictions and safeguard the most vulnerable children. Contact was also made with recently closed cases, if there were concerns regarding social isolation factors. Contact was maintained, using a range of virtual platforms. If there were safeguarding concerns, face to face socially distanced visits were undertaken ensuring appropriate health and safety procedures were followed. The YOS liaised closely with all relevant partners (e.g. housing, education, training providers, Safeguarding within Children Services, Police, Probation Services and other voluntary and charitable services) in order to maintain access to these service provisions.

8. consider how this group of children are to be reintroduced to school,

education and employment and how any attainment gap is to be addressed.

All children supported by the YOS were monitored by the YOS ETE Officer in order to work to maximise their engagement in any ETE opportunities available. The YOS ETE Officer worked creatively to mitigate issues caused by the restrictions, ensuring that the most vulnerable children maintained contact and were accessing the most suitable, available ETE provisions. The YOS ETE Officer reports to the LMB, as a standing agenda item. This ensures that relevant partners, represented on the LMB are constantly aware of key priorities in this area and can respond appropriately in collaboration with the YOS.

4.2.14

The ETE Officer has full access to the Education Databases for both Monmouthshire and Torfaen and uses this information to:

- Ensure that children have full access to their educational entitlement
- To address any shortfalls in this entitlement, directly with service providers
- To make children fully aware of their ETE opportunities and work with them to match their needs, interests and aptitudes
- To provide constructive challenge to LEAs and post 16 service providers to ensure children and young people open to the YOS are maximising their educational opportunities to promote their future life chances.

As a result of this information sharing a sub-group has been created which specifically considers individual cases and establishes action to resolve shortfalls. The LMB Education representatives are able to address any identified issues within their respective directorates.

YOTs should:

9. routinely assess children's access to IT and remote communication methods as a standard part of assessments.

Following the publication of HMIP, Thematic Review and its recommendations, Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS implemented workshops with all staff members to ensure that they were aware of the recommendations of the review and procedures that were being put in place to address them. The level of access children have to IT and remote communication methods is now captured as part of the routine, standard AssestPlus process. From this information, the YOS is able to address any gaps in access and provision.

4.2.17

The response of the YOS staff, to the additional challenge of a HMIP Inspection during this unprecedented crisis situation, was exceptional. Even though staff were required to work from home, they engaged fully in the process of the inspection and provided all requested information to the inspection team. They met with members of the inspection team via Microsoft Teams and responded to all requests made to them. This was acknowledged, by the inspection team. In particular the inspectors fed back that the placement of YOS aligned within Children's Services resulted in information being shared efficiently and plans were aligned. There was good feedback from partners on the YOS Continuity Plan. Good practice in Wales during this period was also highlighted that YOS children were included when prioritising vulnerable children during the pandemic. Positive feedback was also provided on

the level of support provided to the staff team by the Management Team during this time.

4.3 The Preventative Work Being Undertaken to Reduce the Number of Children Presenting to the YOS

4.3.1 Much of the YOS resources are directed at prevention with the reduction of smaller cohorts within the statutory setting. The YOS prevention team is well established and has continued to adapt to meet the changing climate; this includes improving data provided to the Local Management Board, particularly in relation to YOS prevention services, which enables them to scrutinise the service and provide appropriate strategic direction. Preventative support has been discussed further within this report, which includes the implementation of the 2 new posts within the service. Further changes have been made to the process to ensure that referrals from the MASH via the support workers are placed on the next available prevention agenda. A management team overview has also been included to streamline referrals for the panel.

4.4 The Key Service Partnerships and External Organisations That Operate in Collaboration with the YOS and the Role They Play in Preventative Work

4.4.1 Gwent Police, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and Her Majesty's Court Services cover the historical Gwent area and three Youth Offending Service areas cover the area of 'Gwent'. The three YOS Managers meet regularly in order to examine and plan options for collaborative working. There exists a range of local projects, sub regional and regional projects across the three Gwent YOS areas. These are in relation to the project for Looked After Children (PCLA), Road to Learning, Cars and Consequences and the Gwent Monitoring and Review Panel.

4.4.2 YOS Grant funding from the Police Crime Commissioner is provided with a focus on substance misuse and victim work.

4.4.3 There are several other initiatives and practices that promote partnership and collaborative arrangements within the Monmouthshire and Torfaen areas, within the broader Gwent footprint and across Wales both at strategic and operational levels.

- The YOS manager is a member of YOT Managers Cymru, which meets in order to share good practice, discuss policy implications and devise joint responses considering wider strategic and political issues that impact upon the functioning of Youth Justice. The YMC terms of reference were recently reviewed in 2021.
- The YOS Local Management Board consists of a broad range of agencies/partners and is appropriately represented. Due to the line management and hosting arrangements of Monmouthshire CC it is deemed appropriate for the chair to originate from Torfaen CBC and vice chair from within Monmouthshire CC.
- The YOS manager continues to be line managed by the Head of Children Services within Monmouthshire. In addition to the line management that takes place, the YOS manager also meets on a regular basis with the Chief Officer, Social Care and Housing within Torfaen.

- There is a Gwent wide regional Safeguarding Children's Board which one Gwent YOS Manager attends on behalf of the three Gwent YOS areas. Sub-groups and regional groups are attended by Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS management team.
- An Operational Manager/Service Manager attends relevant Children Services management team meetings for both Local Authorities.
- A Senior Practitioner attends the Early Intervention Panel (SPACE) in both the Monmouthshire & Torfaen areas.
- The YOS Manager attends the Safer Monmouthshire Group and inputs into the Monmouthshire strategic needs analysis and Single Plan via this forum.
- The three Youth Offending Services in Gwent are represented at Safer Gwent by the YOS Manager for Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly YOS.
- The YOS Manager attends the Gwent wide Criminal Justice Strategy Board.
- The YOS Managers across Gwent meet regularly with senior representatives of Gwent Police.
- There is a Gwent wide process document for the administration of Out of Court disposals via the developed Gwent wide Bureau and Out of Court Disposals framework incorporating the Bureau Process for Children across Gwent. This process is subject to regular monitoring and review.
- A Gwent wide scrutiny panel for Out of Court Disposals (youth and adult) continues to monitor the use of Out of Court Disposals and report to the Criminal Justice Strategy Board.
- A YOS Operational Team Manager will represent the three Gwent YOS' at the Gwent Regional Collaborative Committee.
- The YOS manager is a member of the Gwent MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) Strategic Management Board and represents the three Gwent YOS areas.
- The YOS Manager is a member of the Regional Integrated Offender Management Board and represents the three Gwent YOS areas.
- A YOS Operational Team Manager attends the Regional Integrated Offender Management Steering Group.
- A YOS Operational Team Manager attends the monthly Integrated Offender Management Migration meetings.
- The YOS Police Officer attends regular Neighbourhood Policing meetings to share and gather intelligence.
- A YOS Operational Team Manager attends monthly Serious and Organised Crime meetings.

- The YOS has an identified Prevent lead (Operational Team Manager). YOS staff received training/awareness and refresher sessions are planned for later this year.
- A YOS Operational Team Manager attends the Supporting People Group.
- The YOS Manager is represented on the Positive Pathways Group in Torfaen and an Operational Manager sits on the Management Board for the local Pupil Referral Units and the Keeping in Touch group.
- A YOS Operational Team Manager attends the ASD Stakeholder Group.

4.4.4

- The YOS Information Officer attends the South Wales Information Officer Group (SWIOG).
- The Newport YOS Manager represents the Gwent YOS' at the Gwent Area Planning Board

In line with Welsh Government guidance, the three Gwent YOS' have established a monthly monitoring and review panel to review all cases where children and young people are held overnight in Police Custody (post charge).

- The three Gwent YOS areas commission joint training where required.
- Service Level Agreements / joint working protocols / MOUs exist between the YOS and:
 - Children's Services (Monmouthshire and Torfaen)
 - Local Education Authorities (Monmouthshire and Torfaen)
 - Careers Wales – reviewed in 2020 and reviewed in June 2021
 - Barod (formerly Drug Aid Cymru) – Joint SLA (Monmouthshire/Torfaen and Newport YOS areas) – agreed 2020 (to be reviewed)
 - HMCTS (HM Courts & Tribunals Service) (Gwent wide) – reviewed in 2020 (2 yearly)
 - CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) (Gwent wide) – currently being reviewed
 - ABUHB for the provision of a Speech and Language Therapist (Gwent wide) – reviewed 2021.

- The YOS host a multi-agency Prevention Panel where all referrals are discussed, and intervention plans agreed

4.5

- The YOS host a multi-agency Resettlement and Reintegration Panel

4.5.1

- The YOS host monthly Risk Panel Meetings for all high risk (re-offending and serious harm) cases

Plans That Are in Place to Recover From the Impact of the Pandemic

- 4.5.2 In August 2020, the Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS completed the 'Transition to Recovery Plan' (**Appendix E**), as directed by the YJB. This continues to be reviewed and updated in line with the changing landscape as a result of the pandemic. The period of transition to recovery presents an opportunity to reflect

on the responses to the crisis and plan to ensure the continuance and development of effective and innovative practices used, in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children supported by Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS.

4.5.3 The Covid-19 pandemic crisis has undoubtedly created many challenges but has also presented further opportunity for creativity and innovation. Examples of good practice during this period has been the development of virtual reparation processes which has enabled children to continue to meet the requirement of their interventions. This has proved successful for many children and the YOS will consider ways to utilise these moving forward. Further examples have been the development of virtual provision in order to deliver Construction Skill Certification Scheme card training which has resulted in some children retaining this qualification during the pandemic, which would otherwise not have been possible. Parenting workers made contact with parents to enable them to apply for the free school meals for children who were no longer able to receive these due to school closures. The YOS Education Training and Employment (ETE) Officer has liaised with ETE providers to ensure that children were able to access IT facilities in order to undertake home-learning. Case-managers have been very creative in engaging children during time using a wide range of methods and approaches.

However, it has been the unfailing resilience, professionalism and dedication of the YOS staff from all areas of the service, which must be acknowledged most of all. In particular the inspectors acknowledged the additional pressure to the operational management team and the inspectors indicated they had found this a common theme across England and Wales.

5. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

I have not undertaken an Integrated Impact Assessment as this is not a decision report, it's a performance review.

6. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

I have not undertaken an options appraisal as there is no decision.

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

7.1 Within the body of the report, I have outlined the step taken, by Monmouthshire & Torfaen YOS, to meet the recommendations Made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Probation (HMIP). See paragraph 4.2.5.

7.2 In August 2020, the Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS completed the 'Transition to Recovery Plan' (**Appendix E**), as directed by the YJB. This continues to be reviewed and updated in line with the changing landscape as a result of the pandemic. The period of transition to recovery presents an opportunity to reflect on the responses to the crisis and plan to ensure the continuance and development of effective and innovative practices used, in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children supported by Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS.

7.3 The Covid-19 pandemic crisis has undoubtedly created many challenges but has also presented further opportunity for creativity and innovation. The YOS will continue to build on the successful development of virtual reparation processes and

other virtual support packages as outlined earlier within the report The YOS would welcome scrutiny's thoughts on these and other potential future developments.

.8. REASONS:

N/A.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

9.1 The Key Challenges Facing the YOS in the Short and Longer Term and The Financial Challenges Facing the YOS

9.2 There are numerous risks and potential challenges ahead in terms of service delivery:

- The continued uncertainty regarding ongoing funding for the Youth Offending Service is a constant risk as it relates to continuation of service delivery. Year on year notification of funding makes medium to longer term financial planning difficult with uncertainty of external grants having a significant impact upon this. Coupled with this, the often late notification of external grant funding means that there is inevitable disruption via uncertainty at the end (and sometimes beginning) of the subsequent financial year.

**B5: YOT budget
Costs and Contributions**

Agency	Staffing Costs	Payments in kind	Other delegated funds	Total
Youth Justice Board			224,082	224,082
Local Authority			888,875	888,875
Police	57,842		84,055	141,897
Police and Crime Commissioner			51,780	51,780
Probation	28,653		5,000	33,653
Health	42,794		39,402	82,196
Welsh Government			242,422	242,422
Other				0
Total	129,289	0	1,535,616	1,664,905

* The Local Authority split is:

Torfaen	£452,754
Monmouthshire	£436,121
Total	£888,875

- The continuation of financial pressures placed on statutory partners has, thus far, had a minimal impact upon Monmouthshire and Torfaen YOS. As continued pressures are placed on partners, particularly Local Authorities there are anticipated financial implications for the YOS core funding. This has been improved due to the three year financial agreement. As our grant funding remains uncertain, it is continually important that our statutory partners maintain their commitment to the service.

- The complexity of YOS funding, with grants that include a range of differing and similar terms and conditions has and continues to present its own challenges. Whilst some funding is linked solely to specific projects, they generally impact upon overall service provision within the YOS area. This presents a continued challenge as it relates to overall financial management.
- Developing and embedding practice in light of the new National Standards.
- There remains an unknown impact of lockdown restriction on children and their parents/carers and how provision will meet this potential demand.
- Staff changes - long serving members of the service are retiring which may destabilize some aspects of service delivery.
- Criteria to funding streams within Torfaen has been altered, which may impact on future service delivery. There was a reduction of 5% Children & Communities Grant funding, from TCBC in 2020/21; this is being managed from underspends. However, should there be a further decrease in CCG contributions from TCBC or MCC, this will have an impact on provision and service delivery.

10. **CONSULTEES:**

- 10.1 In order to ensure that the response was 'child-centred', as much as possible in light of the restrictions, the views of children and their families were gathered via a bespoke survey that focused on the YOS service provision and delivery in the pandemic. The results of this survey were overwhelmingly positive and the children and their families communicated they were satisfied with the YOS's change in contact in response to the Covid restrictions. The inspectors highlighted this Survey with children, young people and families as an area of good practice.
- 10.2 The Service Manager consults and works collaboratively with the Gwent YOS Managers, Gwent Police partner agencies and children/ families, in order to ensure the provision of an effective YOS.
- 10.3 The YOS consults on a regular basis with partner agencies within the functions of the Local Management Board.

11. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Appendices	<p>Please insert a list of appendices here. Please note, appendices should always be lettered or numbered consecutively - and ideally be headed up with the committee name, date and report title</p> <p>Appendix A – LMB Members Appendix B – Continuity & Delivery Plan Appendix C – Gwent YOS & Custody Appendix D – Survey results Lockdown Appendix E – Transition to Recovery Plan Appendix F – Data on Number of Young People under the YOS (inclusive of voluntary interventions)</p>
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