

**Briefing to:** Sefton Safer Communities Partnership  
**Briefing from:** Ros Stanley  
**Date:** June 2021  
**Subject:** Integrated Youth Services  
**Prepared by:** Ros Stanley

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## 1. Purpose / Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the SSCP regarding progress and achievements of Integrated Youth Services since March 2021.

2. **Recommendation(s):** The SSCP notes the report.

## 3. Youth Offending Team (YOT)

### 3.1 YOT Performance

3.1.2 This report is to provide a summary of the Youth Offending Team's performance in relation to nationally and locally set key performance indicators. National data is sourced via Police National Computer (PNC) and is the latest available. Local data is sourced via Child View, a live database. Data extracted from Child View is a snapshot of a point in time and therefore is an approximation rather than an absolute. Local statistics for 2020/21 may have been affected due to courts being closed as a result of COVID-19, these will continue to be monitored.

3.1.3 First Time Entrants (FTE) relates to those young people who receive a criminal record for the first time. During January to December 2018 the rate of FTE's in Sefton was 215 compared with 171 during January to December 2019 a reduction of 44 per 100,000. In actual numbers this translates in a decrease from 51 to 41 in the same period. Sefton's continues to be proactive through prevention strategies, particularly with out of court disposals and the use of community resolution plus. Local tracking for past three years evidences continued reduction in the number of FTE. During Q4 2020/21 there were zero first time entrants recorded.

3.1.4 Re-offending is defined as the percentage of those young people who have re-offended from an identified cohort of first offenders. Previously to June 2019, anti-social behaviour incidents were recorded as offences on Child View suggesting an increasing rate in re-offending. Since June 2019 recording of incidents and offences were recorded separately and tracked locally which has shown a decrease in the number of re-offenders for 2019. The report factors in a reduced number of offences and incidents recorded during 2020/21, a likely impact of Covid-19.

- 3.1.5 National re-offending data for Sefton for 2016/17 was at 47.7%, during 2017/18 there was an increase to 49.6%. Local tracking suggests historical data will show a further increase for 2018/19 before showing a decrease for 2019/20 reflecting locally tracked data. In Sefton during January 2017 to December 2017 the rate of re-offending was 49.6% compared with 49.6% during January 2018 to December 2018. The YOT family average was 39.5%.
- 3.1.6 Our reoffending rate is higher than previously, however the number of children in the cohort has reduced although they present a greater level of complexity, impacting on their offending behaviour. The reduction in numbers is a national trend and influenced by the slower processing of matters at court, however early indications reveal that court throughput will increase as restrictions lift and Sefton expects an increase in numbers by the summer.
- 3.1.7 Custody Rate is the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence. Local tracking shows for the past 3 years there have been three custodial sentences recorded, two during Q2 2018/19 and one during Q3 2019/20 with zero young people receiving a custodial sentence during January to December 2020. Sefton has the lowest rate of custody amongst the Merseyside YOTs and the YOT family. Performance continues to be extremely good
- 3.1.8 During 2019/20 there were 243 offences committed compared with 182 post lockdown, a reduction of 61. During 2019/20 the largest number of offences committed were for Violence Against the Person with 29%, compared with 2020/21 where the largest number of offences committed were for Drugs with 45%, highlighting a reduction in the number of offences recorded post lockdown and a reduction of serious offences.
- 3.1.9 Currently both national and local tracking show Sefton YOT to have strong performance regarding first time entrants and custody rates. Sefton YOT continues to be proactive through prevention strategies reducing the number of young people who receive a criminal record for the first time and continues to perform extremely well having the lowest rate of custody amongst Merseyside YOT's and the YOT family.

## **3.2 Contact with young people**

- 3.2.1 It is still considered necessary to complete a Covid assessment for every child in response to the pandemic. This assessment includes factors pertinent to YOT regarding mental health, education and training, supporting services and risk levels. These will enable a clear and tailored plan for each child to identify the most appropriate method of engagement.
- 3.2.2 Managers regularly review the method and type of intervention for each case. This could include direct contact through home visits, door step visits or in a safe place including council building. Engagement contact continues via the use of telephone, virtually and face to face, adhering to social distancing.

## **3.3 Interventions**

- 3.3.1 Planning ahead, Sefton YOT are currently working in partnership with Early Help and Digital Advantage (professionals working in the creative technological sector) to develop a programme aimed at ten young people who have creative and technological interests and are interested in short film making. The programme outcomes are to build confidence, increase both technical and communication skills and increase individual employability.
- 3.3.2 In May YOT are delivering a new programme called Help for Young People is a healthy relationships programme designed for males who have been identified as experiencing relationship difficulties with parents or guardians and who would acknowledge that their own behaviours within the relationship have been problematic.
- 3.3.3 YOT are targeting males age 13 – 16 years who have exhibited violence or aggression towards parents or guardian. The Programme outlines key elements of a positive male role model that can develop and sustain healthy relationships and explores the values attitudes and skills that reflect this.

#### **4 Youth Service**

- 4.1 Staff from both the youth service and commissioned providers have completed ICAN training, the training is focused on techniques to inspire and support young people to identify skills and develop potential.
- 4.2 As restrictions lift, youth service staff will start to deliver more face to face sessions and increase outreach provision towards the summer, they will link in with partners to identify areas that may be experiencing anti-social behaviour.
- 4.3 Continued use of Social Media Platforms to highlight services and opportunities open to both young people and parents is ongoing. To support mental health the youth service have highlighted Kooth to support re-engage and heighten awareness of the online counselling service available. The Kooth Engagement worker will offer training to schools/providers on to both the benefits and how to access the service.