

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member - Children's Services  
Overview & Scrutiny - Children's Services

**DATE:** 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**SUBJECT:** Re-inspection of Youth Offending Work in Sefton (YOS)

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Peter Morgan, Strategic Director - Children, Schools & Families

**CONTACT  
OFFICER:** Mark McCausland, Head of Youth Offending.  
Tel: 0151 285 5120

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To advise the Cabinet Member and Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Children's Services of the significant improvements made by the Youth Offending Service in relation to the Core Case Re-inspection in September 2010.

The original Core Case Inspection in June 2009 was conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and overall they considered their findings as extremely disappointing. Seven of the eight inspection criteria required substantial or drastic improvement and HMIP found very little evidence of effective management oversight. Sefton YOS was judged as the worst performing YOS in the country in relation to this inspection regime and on this basis a re-inspection was conducted.

**Alan MacDonald, Assistant Chief Inspector, said:**

*'We found that Sefton YOS had made significant efforts to implement the improvement plan submitted to us in July 2009, and as result, the overall performance was much stronger. The quality assurance systems now in place had ensured that in most cases, relevant assessments and reviews were undertaken. Overall, we consider this a very encouraging set of findings, and believe that the foundations for sustained improvement are in place.'*

The YOS, following the outcome of the re-inspection, is now placed in the top quartile of performing youth offending service's in the country.

The improvements required are minimal in relation to the practice areas identified below. The YOS is required to submit an improvement plan by the end of December 2010 which will provide a context for continuous improvement and a consistent application of the improved practice identified within re-inspection.

The Sefton YOS re-inspection improvement plan will be monitored by the Ministry of Justice over the calendar year 2011.

	Score from Wales and the English regions that have been inspected to date			Scores for Sefton
	Lowest	Highest	Average	
<b>'Safeguarding' work</b> (action to protect the young person)	38%	91%	67%	75%
<b>'Risk of Harm to others' work</b> (action to protect the public)	36%	85%	62%	70%
<b>'Likelihood of Re-offending' Work</b> (individual less likely to re-offend)	50%	87%	69%	81%

The lowest score identified were for Sefton's original inspection in 2009.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

Not applicable

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

Cabinet Members acknowledge the significant improvements made by the YOS particularly the hard work and endeavours of the staff and support further improvements over the following 12 months.

**KEY DECISION:**

No

**FORWARD PLAN:**

YOS to report on progress against the delivery of the re-inspection improvement plan in September 2011.

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

Not applicable

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:** Not appropriate

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** Not Considered

**Financial:**

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2006/ 2007 £</b>	<b>2007/ 2008 £</b>	<b>2008/ 2009 £</b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

**Legal:**

YOS re-inspection is a statutory requirement undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation

**Risk Assessment:**

Reductions in local and national grant settlements could negatively impact on YOS ability to continue to improve allied to expectations within the re-inspection improvement plan.

**Asset Management:**

Not applicable

## CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	x		
2	Creating Safe Communities	x		
3	Jobs and Prosperity		x	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	x		
5	Environmental Sustainability		x	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	x		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	x		
8	Children and Young People	x		

## LINKS TO ENSURING INTEGRATION:

YOS re-inspection is a proxy indicator for improved partnership work with the most vulnerable and challenging young people in the borough

## IMPACT UPON CHILDREN'S SERVICES TARGETS AND PRIORITIES:

The YOS positive re-inspection outcome has contributed to Sefton's annual assessment of children's services.

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

1. Re-inspection Report of work in Sefton YOS  
[www.hmip.gov.uk](http://www.hmip.gov.uk)

## BACKGROUND:

Core Case Inspection of youth offending work is part of the national Inspection of Youth Offending Programme.

Her Majesty's Inspection of Probation (HMIP) examined a representative sample of Sefton youth offending cases, and judged how often the Public Protection and Safeguarding aspects of the work were done to a sufficiently high level of quality.