



## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

**SUBJECT:           BLAENAU GWENT AND CAERPHILLY YOUTH OFFENDING  
SERVICE - YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2022-2024 AND YOUTH  
OFFENDING SERVICE INSPECTION**

**REPORT BY:       CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES AND  
HOUSING**

### **1.     PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1    To provide updates to Scrutiny Committee on the joint Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service (YOS) in relation to:
- The 2022-2024 Youth Justice Plan and
  - An overview of the Inspection of the YOS by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP)

### **2.     SUMMARY**

- 2.1    The Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly YOS is hosted and managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council and the YOS Manager is jointly supervised by the Heads of Children's Services in both Local Authorities.
- 2.2    Production of a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement under Section 40(4) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 2.3    Youth Justice Plans are produced and submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) for England and Wales. The YJB monitors the operation of Youth Justice Services, a responsibility that is not devolved to the Welsh Government. The Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Justice Plan, attached at Appendix 1, has been produced in full consultation with all statutory partners.
- 2.4    HMIP undertook a full Inspection of the YOS in May 2022 and their final report, attached at Appendix 2, was published in October. The Inspection concluded that the overall rating for the Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly YOS was 'Good'.
- 2.5    Both the Youth Justice Plan and the HMIP Inspection Report are being presented to Scrutiny Committee for information purposes only in both Local Authorities.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the content of the 2022-2024 Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Justice Plan and the HMIP Inspection Report.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 For Scrutiny Committee to be aware of the work of the YOS and be assured that the Service is fully compliant with statutory requirements.

### **5. THE REPORT**

#### **Youth Justice Plan 2022-2024**

- 5.1 The attached Youth Justice Plan provides a review of the previous Plan for the 2018-2021 period including an overview of performance of the YOS against national performance indicators. The Plan focuses on the following key areas of youth justice work:
- First Time Entrants (FTE's) – the aim of the YOS is to divert children away from court sanctions and the numbers continue to reduce year on year
  - Reoffending rates – the YOS continually monitor and report on reoffending
  - Custody rates – during the reporting period, no child has been in custody
  - Education provision – ensuring children are receiving appropriate support to access education and training
  - Disproportionality ie over or under representation of any group of children in the cohort
  - Resettlement – planning for children to return to their communities following custody – as stated there have been no cases.
- 5.2 The Youth Justice Plan is a very detailed document and although it is presented for information only, if Scrutiny Committee Members have any particular issues, these can be raised directly with the Head of Children's Services.

#### **HMIP Inspection Report**

- 5.3 HMIP commenced their Inspection fieldwork in May 2022 and the final Inspection Report was published in October. The report contains the following key findings:
- The YOS has a clear focus on prevention, diversion and early intervention at the core of the service's values.
  - The service has an impressive learning culture in place and are continuously seeking to improve the services they provide.
  - Case management was a particular area of strength for the service, with Inspectors noting the work with children subject to cautions or community resolutions (out-of-court disposals) as a particular highlight – with three out of four elements inspected being rated as 'Outstanding'.
  - Inspectors were impressed with the excellent facilities available at the YOS, particularly the safe and calming office base for both children and staff. The health provisions available to the children were also of a high standard, with access to mental health specialists, substance misuse workers and speech and language therapists.
  - The Inspection identified five recommendations which have formed the basis for the YOS Action Plan endorsed by the YOS Local Management Board.

- 5.4 The Inspection recommendations are as follows:
- 5.5 The Chair of the YOS Management Board should:
- make sure that board members are actively engaged in setting the direction and vision for the YOS
  - review the format and purpose of the Bureau and ensure that it has the relevant information and input from the necessary agencies, so that out-of-court disposals meet the needs of the child.
- 5.6 The Management Board should:
- challenge the Probation Service to ensure that it provides the appropriate provision to the YOS.
- 5.7 The YOS Service Manager should:
- review the service offered to victims and make certain that all who want to engage are enabled to do so
  - improve the quality of services to promote children's desistance and manage their risk of harm to others

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions made or presumed in this report.

## **7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the Council's full Integrated Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no direct funding implications for the Council arising from this report. However, Scrutiny Committee is asked to note that Youth Justice Board funding is reliant on the submission of a robust Youth Justice Plan.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no personnel or HR implications arising from this report.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 The report is for information purposes and reflects the views of consultees.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014

Author: Gareth Jenkins, Head of Children's Services

jenkig2@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Dave Street, Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing  
street@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Cllr Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care,  
forehe@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Cllr Donna Cushing, Chair – Social Services Scrutiny Committee  
cushid@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Cllr Marina Chacon-Dawson, Vice Chair – Social Services Scrutiny  
Committee  
chacom@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
trantrj@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer  
harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Social Services Senior Management Team  
YOS Local Management Board  
Michaela Rogers, Youth Offending Service Manager  
rogerm@caerphilly.gov.uk

Attachments:

Appendix 1: Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service – Youth Justice Plan for 2022 - 2024

Appendix 2: HM Inspectorate of Probation – Inspection of Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service – September 2022 (published October 2022)

NB: Please note that these reports may not be fully accessible, if you experience any issues or would like to receive this in an alternative format please contact the report author.