

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Improving Lives Select Committee
	DATE:	28 July 2020
	LEAD OFFICER:	Emma Ellis Service Manager Youth Offending Team and Evidence Based Hub CYPS emma.ellis@rotherham.gov.uk 01709 25580/ 07748143340
	TITLE:	Youth Offending Team - Progress Report

1. Background

- 1.1** Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) met on 29 October 2020 and were presented with the Rotherham Youth Justice Plan for 2019/21.
- Members of the ILSC were introduced to a young person who gave a first-hand account of his experience with Rotherham Youth Offending Team (YOT) and Early Help.
- The YOT Management Board meets quarterly and the most recent board report is attached which contains information and data about the YOT demographics and performance for Quarter Four (January – March 2020).
- This briefing paper contains an update in relation to the following recommendations from the ILSC on 29 October 2019:
- That the Deputy Leader explores if further measures can be taken to identify Council apprenticeship opportunities for young people involved in the youth justice system and engage the wider business community in similar initiatives such as job fairs.
 - That the involvement of service users in offering awareness raising in schools and/or peer support to other young offenders or those at risk of offending, be explored.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1** The Youth Offending Team and Evidence Based Hub Service Manager has worked with the Early Help Voice and Influence Officer to create an apprentice Youth Support Worker post to provide an opportunity within the Evidence Based Hub to support the delivery of interventions and increase youth participation.
- 2.2** In order to provide opportunities for our young people in Rotherham we offered a guaranteed interview for our Looked after Children and young people who had previous involvement in the Youth Justice System. Interviews for the Apprentice Youth Support worker took place on Friday 10 July 2020 and a conditional offer of employment was made

2.3	to a Young person who has first-hand experience of the Youth Justice System and being a Looked after Child in Rotherham.
2.4	Rotherham YOT continues to work with Employers such as Timpson's who actively support the rehabilitation of offenders by offering training and employment opportunities. The development of further partnership with local businesses has been disrupted due to the pandemic however we continue to seek opportunities for our post-16 learners and Education, Training and Employment remains a priority.
2.5	Between September 2019 and March 2020 the tri-borough Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) project (EPIC) delivered CCE awareness sessions to 11,801 young people across Rotherham Secondary schools. The EPIC team developed a crime and consequence programme (Think Forward) to be shared and utilised across the three boroughs and 'train the trainer' training was completed in February 2020.
2.6	Rotherham were unique in the approach to the training in that, places were allocated to practitioners from RMBC, Voluntary and Community Sector and we supported a young person from the YOT to attend to further his development and ensure that we are able to listen and incorporate the views of the young person with regard to the delivery plan. The young person is willing and motivated to support the delivery of the programme with targeted groups and in schools.
2.7	Delivery of the programme has been suspended due to Covid-19 but we are exploring alternative methods of virtual delivery and continue to review practice against current government guidance.
2.7	A peer support programme is currently being offered via Liaison and Diversion across South Yorkshire although at present the volunteers are limited to adults but the support is available for young people. The Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Programme has been funded by the Violence Reduction Unit, it is hoped that this will be embraced by Schools and other key partners as it has an evidence base to show a significant reduction in violent incidents and provides opportunities for young people to develop wider key skills as it becomes embedded into organisations.

3. Key Actions and Timelines

3.1	<p>29 October 2019 – Improving Lives Select Commission</p> <p>12 -13 February 2020 - Think Forward training.</p> <p>10 March 2020 – Interviews for Youth Justice Worker (Young person on the panel)</p> <p>28 May 2020 – Mentors in Youth Violence Prevention workshop delivered virtually.</p> <p>July 2020 – Interviews for Apprentice Youth Support Worker</p>
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4. Recommendations

4.1	That Improving Lives Select Commission note the contents of the YOT Board report and progress against the two recommendations from the ILSC on 29 October 2019.
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