

Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 04 March 2025

Report Title

Youth Justice Service (YJS) Update (including an overview and update on the new inspection framework)

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Nicola Curley, Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report is twofold. It will provide an overview of His Majesty Inspectorate Probation (HMIP) new inspection framework standards for Youth Justice Services as well as provide an assurance of proposed work being undertaken in preparation for inspection under the new framework.

Recommendations

That the Improving Lives Select Commission:

- 1) Consider the content of the report and associated presentation, and acknowledge the progress made to date.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – HMIP Inspection Standards for Youth Justice Services, October 2024

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

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1. Background

- 1.1 His Majesty Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) is the independent inspectorate of youth justice and probation services in England and Wales. HMIP set the standards that shine a light on the quality and impact of services.
- 1.2 In October 2024, HMIP released a new programme for inspection, publishing new standards for the Youth Justice Service (YJS), building on previous standards but also some significant changes.
- 1.3 The inspection standards are based on a set of principles for YJS to meet, to deliver high-quality youth justice practice. They are based on established models and frameworks, and are grounded in evidence, learning and experience. The inspection standards are split into two domains.
 - 1.3.1 Domain One covers organisational arrangements, with standards for governance and leadership, staffing, and partnerships and services.
 - 1.3.2 Domain Two covers the quality of the YJS's work with children, with standards for assessing, planning, and the delivery of work with children who are subject to court disposals (including custody and resettlement) or out-of-court disposals, and children who are receiving bail or remand supervision or support.
 - 1.3.3 They are structured separately to allow to judge and rate specific areas of work. However, the domains do not operate in isolation.
- 1.4 They include a new victims' standard. This is distinct and covers the quality of services delivered to victims, and the organisational arrangements that support services to victims.
- 1.5 HMIP have therefore developed two types of inspection:
 - Inspection of Youth Justice Services: inspect the organisational arrangements and activity through our domain one standards alongside domain two standards and the victims' standard (2 weeks).
 - Inspection of Youth Justice Work with Children and Victims: inspect work with children and victims through our domain two standards and the victims' standard (1 week).
- 1.6 A YJS could receive either type of inspection, and the decision will be made based on local information gathering and intelligence received by the inspectorate.

1.7 Inspection of Youth Justice Services (Domains 1 and 2):

This will inspect the organisational arrangements and activity (governance and leadership, staffing, partnerships and services) that support the work with children. It will inspect the quality of work with children & victims to achieve positive change and keep them and communities safe. This will be delivered over 2 weeks and will form a smaller proportional activity for HMIP. This will make up approx. 15% of inspections.

1.8 Inspection of Youth Justice Work with Children and Victims (Domain 2):

This focuses on work delivered with children and victims only. It will inspect the quality of work with children to achieve positive change and keep them and communities safe. It will inspect the quality of work with victims and the organisational arrangements to support victims. It will also look at leadership, governance, staffing and partnerships and services through the lens of the work delivered to children and victims. This will be delivered over one week and will form the majority of the inspection activity. Around 85% of inspections will be Domain 2.

2. Key Issues

2.1 In preparation to become inspection ready, the YJS is undertaking work to ensure compliance with the new framework, both operationally and strategically through the partnership and have undertaken the following work:

- a) A review of the Youth Justice Partnership Board Membership as well as a new board induction process. This is to ensure that the right level of representation, roles and expectations are defined, and work of the Youth Justice service is supported and directed.
- b) Embedded the new Youth Justice Board mandatory prevention and diversion assessment tool. This will be relevant to the majority of the young people we support. Additional training has been rolled out to staff to ensure that assessments are child first, individualised and promote positive outcomes for children and their families.
- c) Victim work is undertaken by Remedi, a restorative justice provider. They support the victim to have an input into the support that is offered to the children. They report quarterly to the YJS Partnership Board, and there is monthly moderation activity of this work.
- d) We have updated our self-assessment to reflect current practice, using the new framework.
- e) We are undertaking work with the performance team to ensure that the service is ready to provide information for Inspection Advance evidence request.

- f) We have started to collate relevant documents such as policies which will be requested at the start of an inspection
- 2.2 The service is committed to ensuring that it not only meets but exceeds the standards outlined in the new framework, whilst promoting positive outcomes for children, young people, and victims. Continuous review and refinement of operational practices will support long-term compliance and improvement.
- 3. Options considered and recommended proposal**
- 3.1 Not applicable. Update only.
- 4. Consultation on proposal**
- 4.1 The presentation provides overview and update.
- 5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**
- 5.1 Not applicable.
- 6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**
- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications in this report.
- 7. Legal Advice and Implications**
- 7.1 There are no direct legal implication in this report.
- 8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**
- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications in this report.
- 9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**
- 9.1 This is highlighted with the presentation
- 10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**
- 10.1 There are no direct implications linked to this report.
- 11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change**
- 11.1 There are no direct implications linked to this report.
- 12. Implications for Partners**
- 12.1 The Youth Justice Service Partnership Board oversees the work undertaken by the service.
- 13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 Not applicable.

Accountable Officer(s)

Zulfiqar Shaffi – Youth Justice Service Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

| | Name | Date |
|--|--|-------------|
| The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report | Nicola Curley – Strategic Director, Children & Young Peoples Service | 05/02/25 |
| Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor Cusworth | 13/02/25 |

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