

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

25 April 2023



Subject: HM INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION INSPECTION OF YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICES IN BIRMINGHAM – DECEMBER 2022

Report of: Sue Harrison, Director Children and Families,

Relevant Cabinet Members: Cllr Karen McCarthy, Children, Young People and Families
Cllr John Cotton, Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities

Relevant O & S Chair(s): Cllr Kerry Jenkins, Education and Children's Social Care
Cllr Sir Albert Bore, Co-ordinating

Report author: Seamus Gaynor, Head of Executive, Birmingham Children's Trust
Email: Seamus.Gaynor@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk

Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference:		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 To share the findings of the December 2022 HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection of youth offending services in Birmingham, which rated the service as 'Requires Improvement'.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to note the inspection report which was published in March 2023 and is appended to this report.

3 Background

- 3.1 In December 2022 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation inspected Birmingham Youth Offending Service across three broad areas: the arrangements for organisational delivery of the service, the quality of work with children sentenced by the courts, and the quality of out-of-court disposal work.
- 3.2 The inspection team recognised that positive developments had been made by the service in the past three years. HM Chief Inspector of Probation Justin Russell stated in his foreword *'Although the service continues to be rated as 'Requires improvement', we have seen enhanced and improved service delivery'*. They also acknowledged the additional, and often unique, challenges associated with Birmingham Youth Offending Service being the largest youth justice service in England and Wales.
- 3.3 The service continues to be rated as 'Requires Improvement' and the inspection report made 11 recommendations to make a positive impact on the quality of youth offending services in Birmingham. These include work to understand the capabilities of all staff and work with partners to review and develop further the partnership response to managing the risks to and from each child, and stronger shared responsibility to promoting safety for all.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 Not directly applicable as this report shares the findings of the HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Not directly applicable as this report shares the findings of the HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 It will be important to demonstrate effective responses to the recommendations of the report, to maintain and build on improvements identified by HMIP and to respond to the needs of young people in need of support from the service.
- 6.2 In mitigation the service is required to submit a development plan in response to the 11 recommendations to HMIP by 5 May 2023. This will feed into the wider service

development plan and activity in response to the latest inspection findings will feature in the Strategic Youth Justice Plan 23-28. This plan is currently under development and due for submission to the Youth Justice Board by 30 June 2023. The Service's Senior Leadership Team will keep the Plan under review with regular reports into the YOS Partnership Board and Trust Executive.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

7.1.1 The Youth Offending Service supports the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Birmingham City Council Plan 2022-2026:

- Support and enable all children and young people to thrive - We will support all children and young people to have the best start in life and achieve their full potential.
- Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens - We will ensure vulnerable citizens are protected, supported, and safeguarded, and where necessary looked after.
- Make the city safer - We will work with citizens and partners, including West Midlands Police, to reduce crime, tackle anti-social behaviour and improve community and road safety so people feel safe in their daily lives, and feel it is easier and safer to walk and cycle in Birmingham.

7.2 Legal Implications

7.2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 identifies Children's Social Care and the Youth Offending Service (YOS) amongst the agencies that are required to work together to reduce youth crime. The YOS aims to reduce and prevent offending by children and young people.

7.3 Financial Implications

7.3.1 Not directly applicable as this report shares the findings of the HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

7.4.1 Not directly applicable as this report shares the findings of the HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection.

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

7.5.1 Not directly applicable as this report shares the findings of the HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.6.1 Not directly applicable as this report shares the findings of the HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection.

7.7 Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 7.7.1 Not directly applicable as this report shares the findings of the HM Inspectorate of Probation inspection.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 HM Inspectorate of Probation: An inspection of youth offending services in Birmingham March 2023.

9 Background Documents

- 9.1 HM Inspectorate of Probation notification letter of inspection 3 November 2022.