

Report to: **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **15 June 2006**

Title of report: **Future Scrutiny Review of Youth Offending Services**

By: **Director of Law & Performance Management**

Purpose of report: **To suggest that the committee establishes a review board to carry out a review of an aspect of work undertaken by the Youth Offending Team**

RECOMMENDATION – the scrutiny committee is recommended to:

- 1) agree to carry out a review of an aspect of work undertaken by the Youth Offending Team; and**
 - 2) agree the membership of the review board**
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1. Future scrutiny review topic

1.1 Following consultation with Children's Services, the Youth Offending Team (YOT) has been identified as a suitable area in which a scrutiny review could be carried out.

1.2 A Joint Area Review of Children's Services is anticipated to take place in the near future and it is likely that the Youth Offending Team will be an area inspected as part of this. A scrutiny review by members into an aspect of the team's work at this time would therefore be beneficial to the service in identifying areas where improvements are needed.

1.3 The Youth Offending team was established as a result of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, which made it the duty of each local authority to establish one or more youth offending teams. The aim of the team is to prevent children and young people aged 10–17 from offending and the team has a multi agency approach, bringing together workers from children's services, Sussex Police, the probation service, the NHS and the voluntary sector.

1.4 Key Service Target 4.1 in the 2006/07 Local Plan concentrates on preventing offending by children and young people. Within this are targets relating to:

- increasing the proportion of young offenders in suitable education, employment and training;
- creating additional programmes to divert children and young people from offending;
- improving the proportion of young offenders with identified mental health needs who access specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; and
- sustaining the high performance achieved by the Youth Offending Team in the level of victim satisfaction

1.5 Once a review board has been established some initial work, including consultation with officers and members, will take place over the summer to firm up the scope of the review. The review would then to commence in the autumn and would be scheduled to end by March 2007.

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Local Members: All

Background documents: None