

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

Date: **26 September 2006**

By: **Chairman of the Project Board**

Title of report: **Scrutiny review of the Youth Offending Team**

Purpose of report: **To present the Project Initiation Document (PID) for the scrutiny review of the Youth Offending Team**

RECOMMENDATION – that the Committee endorses the Project Initiation Document.

1. Background

1.1 At the June committee meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee a project board was set up to carry out a review on the Youth Offending Team.

1.2 The project board comprises of Councillor Jay Kramer (Chair), Councillor David Elkin, Councillor Pat Ost, Councillor Rosalyn St Pierre and Mrs Carole Shaves MBE (Police Authority Representative on the Children's Services Scrutiny committee).

1.3 The first meeting of the project board was held on 12 September, at which the Project Initiation Document (see appendix 1) was compiled.

Councillor Jay Kramer
Chair of Review Board

Contact Officer:
Gillian Mauger (01273) 481796

Local Members: All
Background Docs: None



Scrutiny Review of the Youth Offending Team

Project Initiation Document (PID)

September 2006

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1. Background of the review

- 1.1 The Children's Services scrutiny committee decided at its June 2006 meeting to hold a scrutiny review around the services provided by the Youth Offending Team (YOT).
- 1.2 It was recognised that the review board will not have sufficient time to look in depth at all the areas of work within the YOT. It was suggested by members at the June meeting that the review might wish to concentrate on the role of the Youth Offending Team in crime prevention and the value of multi agency working.
- 1.3 Following consultation with officers in the YOT it is clear that crime prevention is an important issue at present and one that is receiving focus at a national and local level. In particular the East Sussex Youth Justice Plan will be prioritising targeted youth crime prevention work during 2006/07. The Council Plan also has as one of the goals for 2006/07 to prevent offending by children and young people.

2. Proposed scope and terms of reference

- 2.1 Aim of the review:

To establish how effective the work of the Youth Offending Team has been with regard to youth crime prevention and in what way has the multi agency nature of the YOT helped with this.

- 2.2 The review will examine the YOT's strategy and work in relation to youth crime prevention, in particular:
 - The role of youth crime prevention workers
 - Funding provided to other agencies to co-ordinate the provision of youth crime prevention work
 - The use of restorative justice to address anti-social behaviour and offending by children and young people
- 2.3 The review will examine the effectiveness of multi agency working in crime prevention, in particular:
 - Seconded members to the YOT from partner agencies
 - YOTs working relationship with the police and judicial system
 - YOTs links to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
 - Inter-departmental working relationships

3. Methods

- 3.1 **Documentation and research:**

- East Sussex Youth Justice Plan 2006-2007
- Council Plan and performance indicators

- Benchmarking information to compare the YOT in East Sussex with other similar authorities
- Audit Commission review of the reformed youth justice system (2004)

3.2 Site visits:

To be determined by the project board after consideration of the initial evidence.

3.3 Potential witnesses for written and/or oral evidence:

- Officers in the Youth Offending Team
- Past and present clients of the Youth Offending Team (where possible) and their parents
- Providers of services commissioned by the Youth Offending Team
- Statistical neighbours regarding the work and outcomes of their Youth Offending Service
- Police
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Magistrates Court (Youth Chairman of the Benches)
- Victim Liaison Officer
- Schools
- Youth Development Service
- Community Safety Co-ordinators

4. Timescale and Project Plan

Activity	timescale
Board receives pre review position statement and draft project initiation document	12 September
Draft project initiation document agreed and presented to scrutiny committee	By 26 September
Visit(s) to meet with Youth Offending Teams	October – November
Evidence gathering/Consultation	October – January 2007
Consultation with Director and Lead Member	January
Drafting of final report	February
Present final report to Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	March

5. Risks

Risk	Action
Review impacts on normal workload for liaison officer	Liaise with officer to ensure requests for information/input to review are manageable. Offer support as necessary
Workload of scrutiny team if a new Scrutiny Lead Officer is not appointed by the end of the year	Revise timescale of the review
Information not available from various sources to fit in with timetable of the review	Revise timescale of the review

6. Review Board and Supporting Officers

6.1 The Review Board consists of Councillors Jay Kramer (Chair), David Elkin, Pat Ost, Roslyn St Pierre and Mrs Carole Shaves MBE (Police Authority Representative on the Children's Services Scrutiny committee)

6.2 Officers:

Role	Contact
Project manager: Co-ordinates and manages the various elements of the review.	Gillian Mauger, Scrutiny Lead Officer
Liaison officer: acquires information as required by the Review Board through out the review and acts as liaison between the project manager and the department	Gill Barwick, Practice Manager, Youth Offending Service
Project support: Provides administrative support to the Project Board	Annie Petch, Democratic Services Officer

7. Estimated costs

7.1 The estimated additional costs for the scrutiny review are:

Costs	
Meetings and associated costs	£500
Consultation exercise – focus groups/questionnaire	£500 - £1,000
Visits	£200 - £500
External consultation/external witnesses	£500 - £1,000
Estimated costs	£1,700 - £3,000

Gillian Mauger
Scrutiny Lead Officer

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