

Committee: **Cabinet**  
Date: **1 May 2007**  
Title of Report: **Scrutiny Review of the Youth Offending Team**  
By: **Director of Children's Services**  
Purpose of Report: **To provide the Cabinet with the opportunity to comment on the report of the Scrutiny Committee Review of the Youth Offending Team.**

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**Recommendations:**

**The Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 1. note and welcome the report of the Scrutiny Committee; and**
  - 2. advise the County Council that, in considering the report of the Scrutiny Committee, the Council be recommended to welcome the recommendations as set out in the report and to agree the response of the Director of Children's Services to the recommendations and their implementation as set out in the Appendix to this report.**
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**1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 There are no financial issues arising from the report.

**2. Supporting information**

2.1 The Scrutiny Review of the Youth Offending Team is welcomed by the Department.

2.2 The action plan attached as Appendix 1 responds to the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.

**3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations**

3.1 The Scrutiny Review has provided a useful review of the work of the Youth Offending Team, and, specifically, its role in youth crime prevention. It has confirmed general satisfaction with the current arrangements and made a number of recommendations to strengthen the role that the County Council and its partners play in preventing youth crime through effective early intervention with children, young people and their families.

MATT DUNKLEY  
Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

Background Documents: Report of Scrutiny Committee on the Youth Offending Team

## Scrutiny Review of the Youth Offending Team

## ACTION PLAN

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Director's response and action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
R1	All Prevent and Deter Groups to ensure that when a young person is being discussed at a meeting all key partners currently dealing with that person are identified and attend the meeting. The responsibility for identifying those key partners should lie with the agency referring the young person.	Agreed. This recommendation will be incorporated into the review of the current protocol between the Youth Offending Team and Integrated Children's Services due in November 2007, and will be added to relevant protocols with other key partners as these are reviewed over the next twelve months.	November 2007
R2	The Children's Services Department to clarify the effectiveness of using the Children's Index as a tool for the Prevent and Deter Groups to identify those key partners working with a young person.	The Children's Index is the most effective tool for agencies to ascertain which key partners are involved in working with a young person. Each agency referring a young person to a Prevent and Deter Group is, therefore, expected to carry out a check of the index as part of the referral process.	November 2007
R3	All Prevent and Deter Groups to have in place the same defined criteria to identify which young people should receive intervention, and to risk assess when this intervention should end.	Common criteria will be agreed, although there will need to be some scope for flexibility within such criteria to take account of specific local circumstances.	November 2007
R4	All Prevent and Deter Groups to use standard forms to record the young person's data, identify the lead agency, and record all intervention action taken.	Agreed. This is already work in progress.	November 2007
R5	To reduce confusion and improve uniformity across the county, all Prevent and Deter	Agreed. This will be linked to actions under R3 and R4.	November 2007

	Groups should be known by the same name.		
R6	Chairs of all Prevent and Deter Groups to meet on a quarterly basis to share information and good practice.	This is already in hand.	September 2007
R7	The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to receive an update on the overall effectiveness of the Youth Offending Team's current youth crime prevention work prior to the Youth Justice Board prevention grant ending in 2008.	Agreed.	March 2008
R8	The Review Board supports the drive by the Chief Officers' Group to clarify the data required by the Youth Justice Board. It recommends that this continues and an update report on progress be presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee in due course.	Agreed.	March 2008
R9	The Youth Offending Team to ensure that the same system is used by all staff to record and collate responses from young people, and their parents/carers, on the service that they have received from the Youth Offending Team.	This is now work in progress.	November 2007
R10	The Terms of Reference for the Chief Officers' Group of the Youth Offending Team to be updated to include:  - guidance to ensure that statutory members place a representative on the Group who has accountability for their service	A report will be taken to the next meeting of the Chief Officers' Group on 7 June 2007 with a proposed update of the Terms of Reference.	September 2007

	- a process to ensure all members feedback from meetings to their respective services		
R11	The Youth Offending Team and Sussex Police to hold discussions prior to court in relation to any case where a custodial sentence is being considered. The aim being to enable a consensus to be reached which can then be presented to magistrates.	It would be unrealistic to expect that the Youth Offending Team and the Police would always have the same view on the appropriate sentence in such cases. However, it is proposed to hold regular liaison meetings between the Head of Youth Offending Services and Chief Superintendent Nick Wilkinson, to include all five District Commanders in East Sussex and the three YOT Practice Managers, to discuss issues of common concern.	September 2007
R12	The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to receive a report from the Children's Services Department regarding the effectiveness of the new guidance on limiting the use of part-time timetables by schools, particularly with regard to young people known to the Youth Offending Team. This report will be used by the Committee to decide if a further scrutiny review is required.	Agreed.	September 2008
R13	The Children's Services Department to investigate whether providing a retainer to recruit a pool of remand foster parents would be more cost effective than using agency placements or a secure unit.	After careful consideration, it is felt to be more cost effective to spot purchase remand foster placements when required from a preferred provider independent fostering agency. However, when the re-tendering process for preferred providers commences later in the current financial year, there is an opportunity to build into the specification a provision to make available a remand foster placement at a preferential rate when this is required.	November 2007

