

## **Lancashire County Council**

### **Education Scrutiny Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 17 November, 2015 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

#### **Present:**

County Councillor Cynthia Dereli (Chair)

#### **County Councillors**

Mrs S Charles	A Kay
A Cheetham	D Lord
C Crompton	B Murray
B Dawson	A Schofield
G Dowding	D T Smith
C Henig	

#### **Co-opted members**

Mr Ian Beck, Representing RC Schools  
Mrs Janet Hamid, Representing Parent Governors  
(Secondary)  
Mr Fred Kershaw, Representing CE Schools  
Mr Kenvyn Wales, Representing Free Church Schools  
Mr John Withington, Representing Parent Governors  
(Primary)

County Councillors Carl Crompton, Gina Dowding, Alan Schofield and David Smith attended in place of County Councillors Gareth Molineux, Sandra Perkins, Peter Buckley and Keith Iddon respectively.

#### **1. Apologies**

None

#### **Guests**

The Chair welcomed:

- Bob Stott, Director of Children's Services
- Jonathan Hewitt, Head of Quality and Continuous Improvement
- Barbara Bath, Head of Service for Fostering, Adoption, Residential and Youth Offending Team
- Audrey Swan, Headteacher for Children Looked After

## **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of interest in relation to matters appearing on the agenda.

## **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2015**

The minutes from the meeting held on 21 July 2015 were presented and agreed.

**Resolved:** That the minutes from the meeting held on 21 July 2015 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

## **4. Youth Offending Team**

The report was introduced by Bob Stott, Director of Children's Services, and presented by Barbara Bath, Head of Service for Fostering, Adoption, Residential and Youth Offending Team. It provided information on the support for young people's education provided by the Youth Offending Team (YOT) to those young people in the criminal justice system.

It set out information about: the makeup of the YOT; the delivery model; how young people are referred to the service; and how they are assessed and monitored. It also explained how performance of the service is measured, and some performance data was included at Appendix A to the report presented.

Members raised a number of comments and questions and a brief summary of the main points is set out below:

- It was considered most important to keep young people engaged in education.
- It was confirmed that performance information against three key targets is regularly reported to the multi-agency Partnership Board. Officers undertook to provide this more detailed performance information, which was later received and is now appended to these minutes.
- It was confirmed that there was a low rate of re-offending generally, although there was a small cohort of young people who were well known to the YOT. The number of young people in custody was very low.
- The role of volunteers and the training provided to them was explained.
- It was accepted that as the two targets set by the Lancashire YOT were comfortably being met it would be appropriate to consider revising them when the Continuous Improvement Plan was next reviewed.
- In terms of challenges facing the service, it was explained that the young people accessing the service tended to have a range of complex issues which could require specialist interventions such as speech and language therapy or emotional support. The behaviour of young people could also be ingrained and very difficult to manage. A more robust, holistic assessment tool was currently being implemented.

- Funding pressures for the service and its partners also presented challenges going forward.
- It was important to be mindful that, depending on the nature of the offence, some young people might have very limited contact with the YOT or would be difficult to engage. The service would always strive to engage them in some meaningful activity or refer on to the youth service for continued support.
- It was suggested that, as the 'Raising of the Participation Age' to 18 had resulted in a wider cohort of young people being NEET, a report about this be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

**Resolved:** That,

- i. Officers be thanked for the report and that all members of the Youth Offending Team be thanked for their work.
- ii. A report about young people who are NEET be brought to a future meeting of this Committee

## **5. Lancashire Alternative Provision Offer**

Jonathan Hewitt, Head of Quality and Continuous Improvement and Audrey Swan, Headteacher for Children Looked After presented the report which described the current offer for Lancashire Children and Young People placed in alternative provision and a number of developments being implemented. It set out the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) offer for both primary and secondary pupils and the main functions of the Alternative Provision Team. It also summarised the outcomes, key areas for development and actions.

It explained that the local authority is also working to improve the assessment process to help identify pupils' needs consistently in a timely way and review the intervention offer in the primary phase to include early response and assessment. During the course of the discussion members asked that data be provided to help them understand the trends and the pressures facing the service. Officers undertook to provide data for the last 3-5 years set against national figures, broken down by gender, and indicating whether the pupil was subject to a short-term or permanent exclusion, or whether they were attending the PRU for some other reason.

The Committee was assured that schools were reluctant to permanently exclude pupils and Alternative Provision was intended to support them in this.

One member raised concern about the transition from primary to secondary school and suggested that there should be improved continuity.

It was felt that the term 'Pupil Referral Unit' was unhelpful. It was explained that as PRUs are schools in their own right, many of them in Lancashire had changed their name, referring to themselves as schools rather than PRUs.

It was confirmed that there was much emphasis on providing Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) to young people in Alternative Provision; there was recognition that this cohort of young people were at risk of developing other issues and/or becoming NEET. There was much intensive work ongoing around IAG and officers undertook to provide further information to the Committee about this work also.

The Committee was assured that many systems and safeguards had been put in place to ensure that young people, not on a school roll, were carefully tracked to ensure that they were receiving 25 hours education or the equivalent on a one-to-one basis, unless this was not possible for medical/emotional reasons. Providers were asked to explain reasons and say what plans were in place to increase time for those young people not in receipt of 25 hours education per week.

The Committee was assured that factors outside school were relevant and it was important that background factors, such as family situation, were known. There was a partnership approach and PRUs work closely with the family and external services.

It was noted that one PRU in Lancashire had recently received an Ofsted rating of 'inadequate' and this had been highlighted through a Motion at the July Full Council meeting. Details of the support provided to all schools in the event of such a rating were provided to the Committee and officers undertook to provide to the Chair and Deputy Chair the specific arrangements in place for the particular PRU in question.

**Resolved:** That,

- i. Officers be thanked for the report and their attendance at the meeting;
- ii. That the further information requested, as referred to above, be circulated to the Committee; and
- iii. A further report be brought back to the Committee when considered appropriate.

## **6. Attainment of Children Looked After 2014 -2015**

This report was also presented by Jonathan Hewitt and Audrey Swan. It provided information on the attainment, progress and achievements of Lancashire Children Looked After (CLA) in 2015. The findings for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 were based on unvalidated assessment information released by the Department for Education (DfE) and local authority information on CLA.

The Key Stage 4 data was school reported data and therefore provisional. The data showed that there were improvements in achievement at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2, but achievement for CLA remained well below that of other pupils in Lancashire. The information indicated that levels of attainment at the

end of Key Stage 4 rose in 2015, but remained very low when compared with other pupils.

The report also highlighted pupil progress in key areas of development and the steps taken to implement the Recovery Plan, which were set out at Appendix A to the report now presented.

Whilst it was acknowledged that there were ongoing concerns regarding the achievements of CLA particularly at KS4, it was emphasised that the most important factor to consider was progress rather than attainment in isolation, and not simply attainment in an academic sense but on a broad range of measures.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the five indicators, set out in the report, against which progress was monitored on a termly basis, which helped identify issues in good time for appropriate and effective interventions. They gave a holistic view of how each CLA was progressing and provided an effective tracking system.

It was emphasised that the majority of CLA were making satisfactory or good progress and attendance was good. Schools were responding well to the new system.

The Committee was informed that a guide for meeting the needs of CLA in school was currently being produced, which was intended for all involved. It was confirmed that 'Designated Teachers' received regular training and it was important that CLA knew who the Designated Teacher in their school was.

There was a brief explanation of how the Pupil Premium Grant, which was used for raising the attainment of disadvantaged children, was allocated.

**Resolved:** That,

- i. Officers be thanked for the report and for their attendance at this Committee.
- ii. A further report be provided to the Education Scrutiny Committee when appropriate, to include the recovery plan for 2015/16.

## **7. Work Plan**

Appendix A to the report now presented set out a draft work plan for the Education Scrutiny Committee, including current task group reviews.

The Chair noted that items scheduled for April 2016 were:

- **School Attendance** and
- **School Admission Process and Transport to School**

Items that had previously been suggested were:

**Update Report on the Implications of the Education and Adoption Act 2015**  
– a bite size briefing was now to be delivered to members about this.

**Pupil Premium Task Group Final Response** – This was to be added to the work plan for the next meeting on 5 April 2016.

**Update by LEP Skills Board** – The Chair reported that she and the Deputy Chair had recently met with Michele Lawty-Jones, Director of the Lancashire Skills Hub, to receive an update on the work of the Skills and Employment Board, and information had subsequently been circulated to members. Dr Lawty-Jones had agreed to attend Committee in April 2016 to provide an update on the work of the Skills and Employment Board when the position regarding priorities and funding was clearer.

**Information, Advice and Guidance** – At the July meeting it was agreed that the Youth Council would carry out a further piece of work and it was now expected that their report would come to the April 2016 meeting together with an update on the models of provision of IAG currently in use across the county.

**Fire Suppression Measures Task Group** - The recommendations of the Task Group had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 13 November and had been fully supported, subject to a slight amendment in the wording for clarification, which would be recorded in the Scrutiny Committee minutes. A link to the report had been circulated to Members of this Committee via email.

It had also been agreed earlier in this meeting that a further update on the **Attainment of CLA** be brought back in 12 months and that an update report on **Alternative Provision** be provided to the Committee when this was considered appropriate.

The Chair also invited members to suggest topics if they felt there was an issue requiring scrutiny, which was not scheduled on the work plan.

Resolved: That the work plan, as now amended, be noted.

## **8. Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business for discussion at the meeting.

## **9. Date of the Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 5 April 2016 at 10.00am, County Hall, Preston.

I Young  
Director of Governance, Finance  
and Public Services


County Hall  
Preston

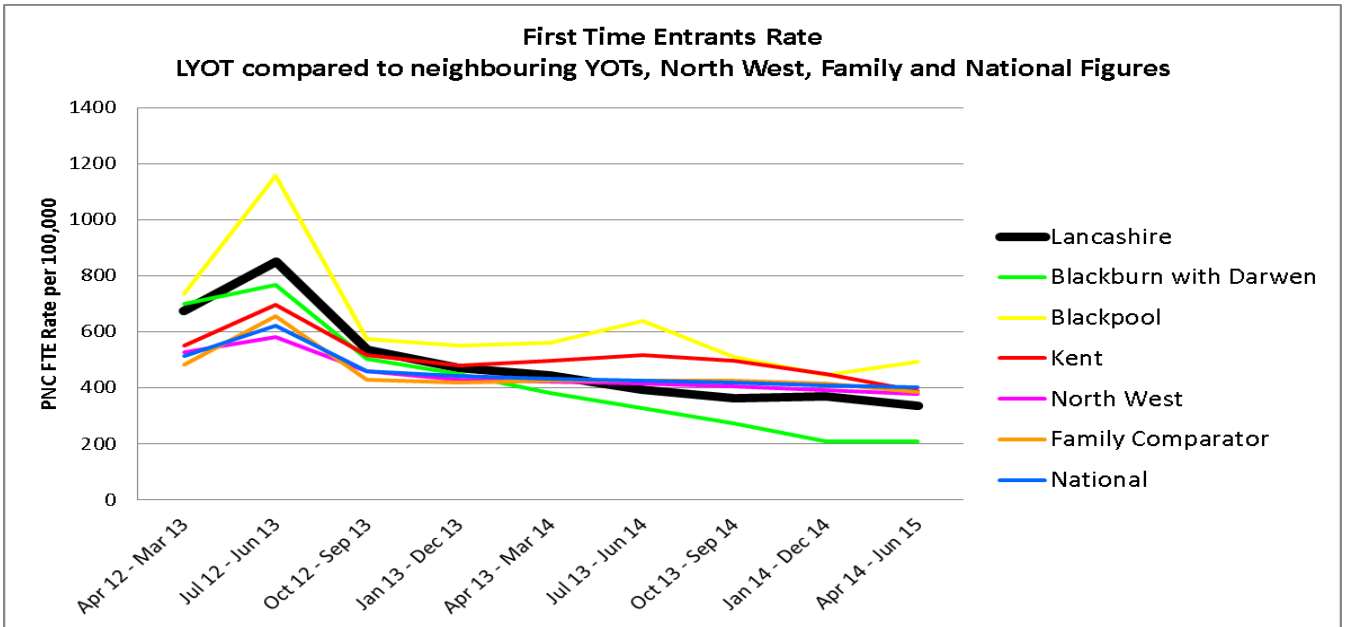




### Lancashire YOT Performance Report

#### 1. National Indicator: First Time Entrants

Indicator	Previous Quarter Jan 14 – Dec 14	Current Quarter Apr 14 – Mar 15	Trend	Percentile Position	Summary
First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (Rate per 100,000)	369	335	Decreasing 	37 of 140 26% (2 <sup>nd</sup> quartile)	LYOT's FTE rate has decreased this quarter from 369 to 335. LYOT's ranking has also improved from 50 <sup>th</sup> to 37 <sup>th</sup> , but currently remains in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quartile.



TEAM FIRST TIME ENTRANTS (RATE)	13 14 Q1	13 14 Q2	13 14 Q3	13 14 Q4	14 15 Q1	14 15 Q2	14 15 Q3	14 15 Q4	15 16 Q1
EAST	111	74	59	69	61	59	67	45	56
NORTH	93	99	99	83	122	61	72	47	32
SOUTH CENTRAL	197	152	94	112	97	51	63	53	46
LYOT	139	110	83	89	91	56	66	49	46

#### Data Analysis


The underlying trend for FTEs has been reducing since 2007. This is a trend which has been mirrored by all the comparators in the same period. The last quarter has seen a slight decrease in the FTE rate from 369 to 335 for the period April 2014 to June 2015. This now places LYOT within the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile – ranked 37<sup>th</sup> out of 140 YOTs.

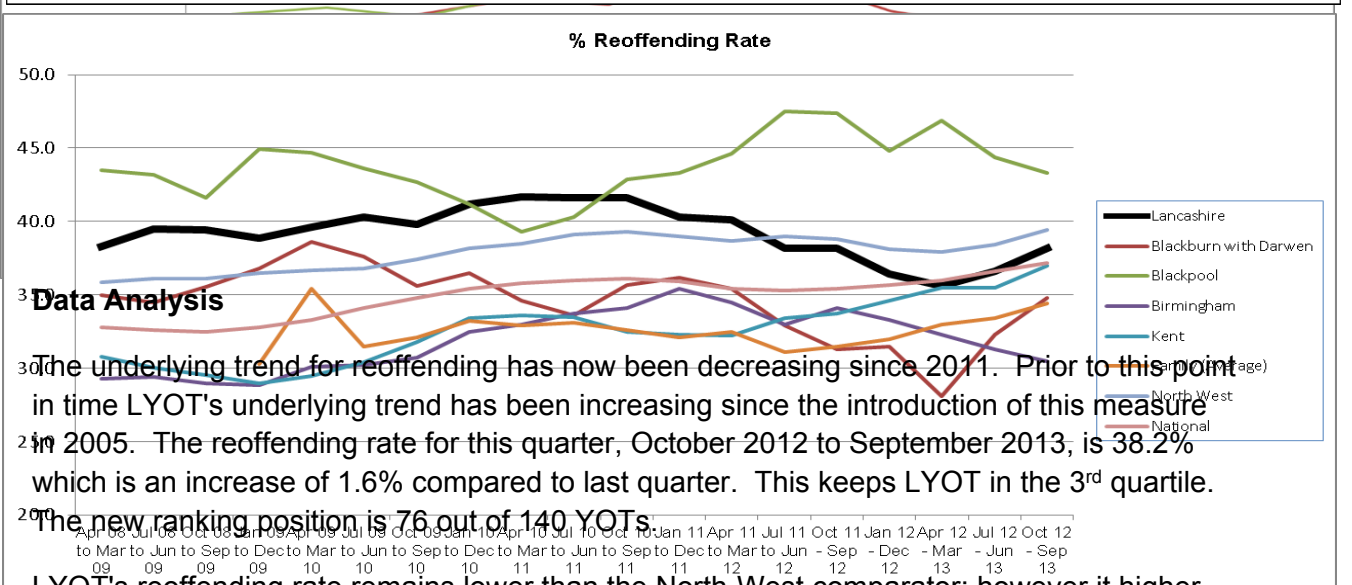
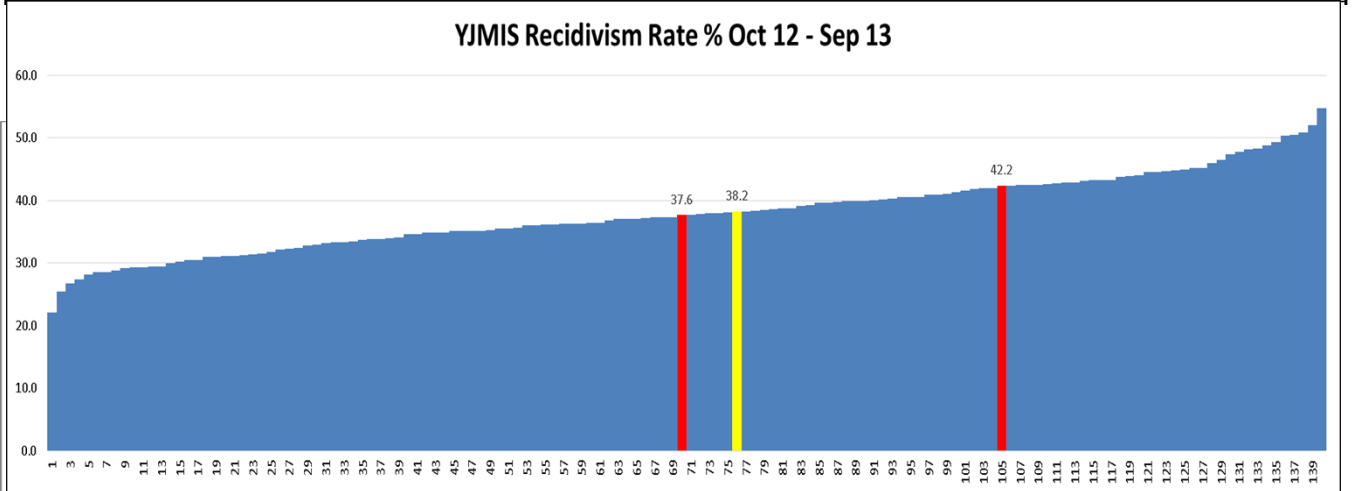
LYOT's performance is better than all 3 comparators – North West, Family and National.

All LYOT teams have seen a decrease in the FTE rate for the current quarter with the exception of the East Team.



## 2. National Indicator: Recidivism


Indicator	Previous Quarter Jul 12 – Jun 13	Current Quarter Oct 12 – Sep 13	Trend	Percentile Position	Summary
Reoffending of young people in the Youth Justice System	36.6%	38.2%	Decreasing 	76 of 140 54% (3 <sup>rd</sup> quartile)	The reoffending rate figures have increased slightly from 36.6% to 38.2%, but the overall trend still indicates a decrease. The YOT ranking has also increased from 73 <sup>rd</sup> to 76 <sup>th</sup> . This means LYOT remains in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quartile for reoffending.



LYOT's reoffending rate remains lower than the North West comparator; however it higher than the Family comparator and National comparators

The local 'real-time' reoffending tally measure has seen 'reoffending' levels remain relatively stable since Nov 2013.

### 3. National Indicator: Reducing the Use of Custody

Indicator	Previous Quarter Apr 14 – Mar 15	Current Quarter Jul 14 – Jun 15	Trend	Percentile Position	Summary
Use of Custody for young people. (Rate per 1000)	0.56	0.50	Stable 	86 of 140 80% (3 <sup>rd</sup> quartile)	The custody rate has decreased this quarter from 0.56 to 0.50. Despite this decrease, LYOT remains in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quartile being 86 <sup>th</sup> out of 140 YOTs, but the trend remains stable.

TEAM USE OF CUSTODY (NUMBERS)														
	12 13 Q1	12 13 Q2	12 13 Q3	12 13 Q4	13 14 Q1	13 14 Q2	13 14 Q3	13 14 Q4	14 15 Q1	14 15 Q2	14 15 Q3	14 15 Q4	15 16 Q1	
East	7	3	5	7	5	3	4	6	6	0	1	2	5	
South Central	5	6	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	8	8	10	7	
North	6	2	2	1	0	4	1	1	4	4	3	3	3	
Lancashire	18	11	10	12	10	13	12	12	16	12	12	15	15	

#### Data Analysis

The underlying trend for LYOT's Custody has been stable since 2012. The last quarter has seen another slight decrease in custody from 0.56 to 0.50. Custody rates have been very good in Lancashire and this trend continues with LYOTs ranking being 86<sup>th</sup> out of 140 YOTs – placing LYOT in the third quartile.

LYOT's custody rate is marginally higher than all the comparator figures.

Custody figures remain low in all our teams with only a slight increase in the East from 2 to 5 young people.

## **Current LYOT Operational Analysis – key points**

To further support the data analysis of the three national indicators, each of the three YOT teams carry out a local team analysis meeting each quarter. At these meetings, the relevant team operational managers, practitioners and performance officers discuss and identify key operational issues which are impacting either directly or indirectly on performance. The meetings primarily focus on the 3 national indicators, local measures and national standards.

Below are the key themes and issues emerging from these meetings based on exception reporting:

### **LYOT North Team**

The first time entrants' rate continues to decrease in the North together with increases in triage figures. This indicates effective use of triage as an alternative to court action.

The Lancashire MOJ rate which is 18 months behind, has seen an increase in reoffending. This correlates with the five young people who had received ASBOs and then subsequently went on to commit a high number of offences.

Custody rates have remained static for a long time now and of the 3 young people who received custody: one was 19 years old at sentence and the other two were as a result of the serious nature of their offending and breach of their ISS requirements.

National standards compliance was very good at 81%.

### **South Central Team**

There has been a number of personnel changes within the South Central team in recent months. A new Team Manager started in April and a Practice Manager left in May, to be replaced in July.

The last quarter has seen an increase in the number of new orders starting. The team also continues to manage a high caseload of young people who are assessed as a high or very high risk of serious harm to themselves (25 young people), those assessed as high risk of harm to others (18 young people) and five MAPPA cases.

The first time entrants' rate is still decreasing in the team. This is testament to the work done by the Police Officers delivering training sessions to other Police colleagues in the division as alternatives to out of court disposals, such as community resolution, triage and restorative justice options.

Reoffending is the highest in the county for the South Central Team. The team are planning some 'deep dive' analysis to determine some of the underlying causes of this.

Custody levels have reduced in the last quarter, however remain the highest for the county. Unfortunately despite robust alternatives to custody being recommended, most of the cases inevitably received custody due to the serious nature of the offending. Only one custody panel meeting took place last quarter and the team are to ensure that these are completed in all instances.

National standards compliance was very good at 81%.

## **East Team**

The first time entrants' rate has seen a slight increase for the quarter to 56 young people per 100,000 of the 10-17 population. This is the highest rate in the county however significantly lower than previous historical rates. This is not a consistent trend across all district in the area. There is a view that inconsistent outcomes from the two Out of Court Disposal Panels (Burnley & Hyndburn) may be having an impact. This is being addressed by the attendance of a practice manager which is helping to achieve greater equity in process between the two panels.

The local reoffending rate has reduced for the East in the last quarter. The use of constructive and creative activities in the area has seen an increase in engagement with young people, in contrast to the usual office-based intervention. Activities have included:

- Work sessions with the Canal & Rivers Trust to make bird boxes and clearing ground near the canal;
- Cookery events – enabling young people to learn valuable life skills;
- Sports sessions such as football, rugby (non-contact) and arts activities.

Custody has slightly increased in the current quarter, however still remains low and stable. Robust community packages were proposed to the courts, however the seriousness of the offending resulted in an inevitable custodial sentence.

National standards compliance was very good at 83%.

Mukhtar Master,  
Performance & Information Manager,  
September 2015.