



*Independent inspection of adult
and youth offending work*

HM Inspectorate of Probation

6th Floor, South Wing
Trafford House
Chester Road
Stretford
Manchester
M32 0RS

Tel: 0161 869 1300

Fax: 0161 869 1350

Mobile: 07973 264412

Email: julie.fox@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk

Dear YOT Manager/YOT Board Chair/Local Authority CE/CEOs Probation Trusts,

RE: Inspection of Youth Offending: Thematic Inspections 2010-11

I am writing to inform you of the topics for the four thematic inspections during this financial year. These are:

- Interventions (*HMI Probation lead*)
- Appropriate Adults and Local Authority beds (*HMI Constabulary lead*)
- Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales (*Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales lead*)
- Transitions from youth to adult (*HMI Probation lead*)

This letter builds on the communication from the Chief Inspector, Andrew Bridges, in December 2008 relating to future arrangements and outlining that from April 2009 there will be two elements of the Inspection of Youth Offending work programme for the next three years – Core Case Inspection and Thematic Inspections.

Benefits of Thematic Inspections

The purpose of these inspections is to take an independent look at how you are responding to the issues locally, and how this area of work is being tackled nationally. We want to share and learn from the good practice that we find. Participating areas will get specific informal feedback but on publication this will be amalgamated and only good practice examples identified to any individual area. These inspections are small scale, will involve no more than one week of fieldwork in each area and in most cases will visit up to seven areas on each occasion. Hence **many areas will not be involved**. But, if you consider you provide good quality practice in an area of work above we would like to hear from you.

Action needed

I would be grateful if you would pass this letter on to all your partners, both statutory and voluntary and particularly those who may be directly involved in the relevant topics. Please include the chair of the Children's Trust and the Community Safety Partnership (or its equivalent) and the chair of the Local

Safeguarding Children Board and relevant staff at the local courts and probation services.

Interventions

This inspection will be led by HMI Probation with a small input from HMI Prisons. We will seek information from all Youth Offending Teams through a questionnaire prior to making final decisions about methodology. Following a pilot in July/August, fieldwork will take place in the autumn. Inspecting cases will feature in the methodology, along with other documentation requested in advance, and interviews with service users, staff, managers and strategic leaders/partners.

Appropriate Adults and Local Authority beds

Led by HMI Constabulary, this inspection will pilot its methodology in the autumn and undertake fieldwork during January-March 2011. A short questionnaire is being circulated to YOT managers with this letter. The final methodology will be determined after the questionnaires have been collated.

LSCBs in Wales

Led by CSSIW, this inspection will examine the Self Assessment and Improvement Tools (SAIT) returns that local boards completed earlier this year. A pilot will take place in the autumn and fieldwork will start from January 2011.

Transitions

This inspection will explore the transitions between youth offending teams and probation areas, seeking good practice. It will be led by HMI Probation, with planning during the early months of 2011 and fieldwork in the subsequent financial year.

Next steps

We will notify the relevant areas, including the pilot areas in due course when the methodology for each inspection has been finalised.

Should you wish to have further contact on any of the above, please email liz.calderbank@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk if before the end of July (as I am currently on sick leave) or, if after that date email me on julie.fox@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk or ring me: 07973 264412. If you would prefer to talk to the HMI Probation inspectors for each inspection, their details are outlined below:

Interventions

Joseph Simpson HMI Probation
joe.simpson@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk
07917 084764

Appropriate Adults

HMI Probation link:
jane.attwood@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk
07973 614573

LSCB Wales

HMI Probation link:
helen.davies@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk
07919 490420

Transitions

Nigel Scarff HMI Probation

nigel.scarff@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk

07766 422290

I look forward to contacting the chosen areas in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Julie Fox

Assistant Chief Inspector, HMI Probation

Cfi David Hassan (YJB), Michael Clarkson (YJB), Susannah Hancock (YJB), Heads of English Regions and Wales (YJB), Fergus Currie (CQC), Jen Walters (Ofsted), Ann Bateman (HIW). Maggie Turford (Estyn), Jeanette York (AC), Joseph Simpson (HMI Probation), Jane Attwood (HMI Probation), Helen Davies (HMI Probation), Nigel Scarff (HI Probation), Sharron Dixon (HMI Probation)