

**JOINT MEETING OF CARE SERVICES, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
AND SAFETY PDS COMMITTEES
22nd July 2015**

ORAL QUESTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Oral Questions to the Education Portfolio Holder received from Sue Polydorou

With regard to Item 5: Findings of the Full Joint Inspection of Youth Offending Services Work in Bromley 2015 and Post-Inspection Improvement Plan:

- 1) How many young offenders in Bromley are currently serving the following sentences:
- Reparation orders
 - Referral orders
 - Youth Rehabilitation Orders
 - Youth Rehabilitation Orders with Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS)
 - Detention and Training Orders (including those currently on licence)

Reply:

- Reparation orders – 0
- Referral orders – 49
- Youth Rehabilitation Orders – 32
- Youth Rehabilitation Orders with Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) – 4
- Detention and Training Orders (including those currently on licence) – 14 (4+10)

Supplementary question:

No question was asked.

- 2) How many young offenders currently being supervised by Bromley YOS have been identified in ASSETS as having mental health/behavioural issues?

Reply:

- Triage/Youth Caution/Youth Conditional Caution -16/63
- Community Orders and Custody – 40/99

Supplementary question:

The Inspection identified that the CAMHS nurse is based at the Youth Offending Service for three days a week and two days at the wider CAMHS service dealing with mainly emergency cases. These emergency cases often need follow-up appointments in the week, impacting on the time at the Youth Offending Service. What has been done to address this and is a three day provision sufficient to meet the needs of young people accessing the Youth Offending Service?

Reply:

Under the proposed new structure of the Youth Offending Service, negotiations are being undertaken to increase the capacity of the CAMHS provision. The performance in this area is being monitored by the new Youth Offending Service Management Board, which has representation from the Bromley Health Authority.

3) The Improvement Plan Bromley YOS 2015 recommendation 5a states:

'restructure the YOS staff structure to ensure it is fit for purpose. By ensuring all YOS core business is adequately staffed and resourced to meet the needs of children and young people'

Please quantify what is meant by 'adequate staff and resources'.

Reply:

The YOT is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary service funded by the Council, Youth Justice Board grant, and contributions from Health, Probation and the Police. The HMIP inspection judged the Bromley YOT to be appropriately resourced however it made recommendations about staffing which necessitated a review of the YOT service staffing leading to a restructure. This is to ensure that the roles and functions of individual staff are fit for purpose, can improve performance, deliver national and local priorities, and improve outcomes for children.

Supplementary question:

Currently the Youth Offending Service employs a high number of agency staff. Bearing in mind the need for consistency and to focus on the needs of young people accessing the Youth Offending Service, what steps are being taken to employ permanent staff and not agency staff in the Youth Offending Service.

Reply:

Following the inspection, a review was undertaken of staffing in the Youth Offending Service, after which a number of staff chose to leave the Local Authority. A process to recruit permanent staff to the Youth Offending Service was then undertaken. All posts, with the exception of one, have now been appointed to, and the newly recruited staff members will start in post in July to September 2015. A robust training package has been put in place to support both new and existing members of staff and to ensure consistency of provision across the Youth Offending Service.