



Core Case Inspection of youth offending work in England and Wales

Report on youth offending
work in:

South Tyneside

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2009

Foreword

This Core Case Inspection of youth offending work in South Tyneside took place as part of the Inspection of Youth Offending programme. We have examined a representative sample of youth offending cases from the area, and have judged how often the Public Protection and the Safeguarding aspects of the work were done to a sufficiently high level of quality. Our findings will also feed into the wider annual Comprehensive Area Assessment process.

We judged that the Safeguarding aspects of the work were done well enough 66% of the time. With the Public Protection aspects, work to keep to a minimum each individual's *Risk of Harm to others* was done well enough 70% of the time, and the work to make each individual less likely to reoffend was done well enough 75% of the time. A more detailed analysis of our findings is provided in the main body of this report, and summarised in a table in Appendix 1.

These figures can be viewed in the context of our findings from the region inspected so far. To date, the average score for *Safeguarding* work has been 63%, with scores ranging from 38-82%, the average score for *Risk of Harm* work has been 57%, with scores ranging from 36-85%, and the average score for *Likelihood of Reoffending* work has been 65%, with scores ranging from 50-82%.

Overall, we consider this an encouraging set of findings. In our 2008 inspection of South Tyneside we were critical of particular areas of their work and it was heartening to find notably improved practice. In July 2009 the YOS introduced new procedures for managing risk and vulnerability which should give both managers and staff a clear steer towards a process of continuous improvement.

Maintaining and extending this approach, and implementing the recommendations of this report, should ensure that South Tyneside YOS continues on its current improvement path. There are positive prospects for the future.

Andrew Bridges
HM Chief Inspector of Probation

December 2009

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Scoring – and Summary Table

This report provides percentage scores for each of the 'practice criteria' essentially indicating how often each aspect of work met the level of quality we were looking for. In these inspections we focus principally on the Public Protection and Safeguarding aspects of the work in each case sample.

Accordingly, we are able to provide a score that represents how often the *Public Protection* and *Safeguarding* aspects of the cases we assessed met the level of quality we were looking for, which we summarise here.

We also provide a headline 'Comment' by each score, to indicate whether we consider that this aspect of work now requires either **MINIMUM, MODERATE, SUBSTANTIAL** or **DRASTIC** improvement in the immediate future.

Safeguarding score:	
This score indicates the percentage of <i>Safeguarding</i> work that we judged to have met a sufficiently high level of quality. This score is significant in helping us to decide whether an early further inspection is needed.	
Score: 66%	Comment: MODERATE improvement required

Public Protection – Risk of Harm score:	
This score indicates the percentage of <i>Risk of Harm</i> work that we judged to have met a sufficiently high level of quality. This score is significant in helping us to decide whether an early further inspection is needed.	
Score: 70%	Comment: MODERATE improvement required

Public Protection - Likelihood of Reoffending score:	
This score indicates the percentage of <i>Likelihood of Reoffending</i> work that we judged to have met a sufficiently high level of quality.	
Score: 75%	Comment: MINIMUM improvement required

We advise readers of reports not to attempt close comparisons of scores between individual areas. Such comparisons are not necessarily valid as the sizes of samples vary slightly, as does the profile of cases included in each area's sample. We believe the scoring is best seen as a headline summary of what we have found in an individual area, and providing a focus for future improvement work within that area.

Recommendations (primary responsibility is indicated in brackets)

Changes are necessary to ensure that, in a higher proportion of cases:

- (1) a timely and good quality assessment and plan, using Asset, is completed when the case starts, taking into account the child or young person's views and specific needs and information from partner agencies as appropriate (YOS Head of Service)
- (2) specifically, a timely and good quality assessment of the individual's vulnerability and *Risk of Harm to others* is completed at the start, as appropriate to the specific case, taking into account relevant previous behaviour, offences and victim issues (YOS Head of Service)
- (3) the intervention plan is specific about what will be done in order to safeguard the child or young person's well-being, to make them less likely to reoffend, and to minimise any identified *Risk of Harm to others* (YOS Head of Service)
- (4) the plan of work with the case is regularly reviewed and correctly recorded with a frequency consistent with national standards for youth offending services (YOS Head of Service)
- (5) there is evidence in the file of regular quality assurance by management, especially of screening decisions and risk and vulnerability management plans (YOS Head of Service)
- (6) there is a system in place to ensure and monitor children and young people's compliance with their orders (YOS Head of Service).

Next steps

An improvement plan addressing the recommendations should be submitted to HM Inspectorate of Probation four weeks after the publication of this inspection report. Once finalised, the plan will be forwarded to the Youth Justice Board to monitor its implementation.

Service users' perspective

Children and young people

Thirty-two children and young people completed a questionnaire for the inspection.

- ◇ All the children and young people knew why they had to come to the YOS and in the majority of cases YOS staff had told them what would happen when they attended.
- ◇ The majority felt that staff listened and were interested in helping them and that action had been taken to deal with the issues they had raised.
- ◇ Most had completed the *What do YOU think?* form or another self-assessment form.
- ◇ Children and young people said the YOS had helped to improve the following areas of their lives: ETE, substance misuse, understanding their offending, making better decisions, lifestyles and relationships. More than half of those needing help with ETE said that things had improved for them and nearly half said the same regarding health issues.
- ◇ Two-thirds thought that they were less likely to offend because of the work of the YOS.
- ◇ Over half were either satisfied or completely satisfied with the service given by the YOS. One young person stated *"I am on a college course so I am taking up free time and this stops me from being bored and going out drinking. I am a much happier person as I feel there are people who are here to help and listen to my problems and they are also trying to get me back involved with my family."*

Victims

One questionnaire was completed by a victim of offending by children and young people.

- ◇ The feedback from the victim was very positive and was completely satisfied with the service received from the YOS.

Sharing good practice

Below are examples of good practice we found in the YOS.

Assessment and Sentence Planning

General Criterion: 1.2f

Sam was a young person with complex needs including a learning disability. He was on a supervision order with ISSP. In view of his learning difficulties, the ISSP timetable included pictures which represented where he should be and with whom. This included pictures of a mobile phone for telephone contacts, a boxer for gym sessions, two people sitting around a table for supervision meetings and pictures of a crane for basic skills sessions.

Outcomes

General Criterion: 3.2a

Daniel received a three month referral order for an offence of criminal damage to the car park barrier of a local community centre. The manager of the community centre had indicated that they would like direct reparation. At the panel meeting Daniel agreed to write a letter of apology and complete eight hours reparation at the centre. The centre manager was pleased with the letter of apology and it was placed on the notice board. Daniel completed his reparation which included washing up, cleaning and helping to get rooms ready for events. Daniel developed good relationships with centre staff and users who were pleased with his contribution. Following the completion of his order and reparation sessions, Daniel had continued to attend the community centre, taking part in various activities.

1. ASSESSMENT AND SENTENCE PLANNING

1.1 Risk of Harm to others:

General Criterion:

The assessment of RoH is comprehensive, accurate and timely, takes victims' issues into account and uses Asset and other relevant assessment tools. Plans are in place to manage RoH.

Score:

72%

Comment:

MODERATE improvement required

Strengths:

- (1) A RoSH screening was carried out in 91% of cases; 70% were completed on time; and 73% were judged to be accurate.
- (2) A full RoSH assessment was completed in all cases where the need was indicated. Inspectors agreed with the *RoH* classification in 91%.
- (3) In 88% of cases the RoSH assessment had used all appropriate information including MAPPAs and other agencies, previous assessments and information from victims.
- (4) A RMP was completed in 78% of cases.
- (5) A timely RoSH assessment was completed in two-thirds of cases and a similar number were considered to be of a sufficient quality.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) A RMP was completed on time in 56% of cases and half were not of sufficient quality because victim issues were not taken into account, the roles and responsibilities of the staff involved in the management of the case were not defined and a planned response to *RoH* had not been identified (For example, who does what, when and what action would be taken if certain behaviours or offences were to occur).
- (2) Only two-thirds of RoSH assessments were forwarded to the custodial establishment within 24 hours of sentence.
- (3) Effective management oversight of *RoH* assessment was evident in just half of the relevant cases and for only one-third of RMPs.
- (4) Of the four cases that met the MAPPAs criteria, only two were referred and

just one was on time. Inspectors found a lack of forward planning for these cases, in particular about alerting and convening a MAPPA meeting in advance of a child or young person’s release from custody.

1.2 Likelihood of Reoffending:	
General Criterion: <i>The assessment of the LoR is comprehensive, accurate and timely and uses Asset and other relevant assessment tools. Plans are in place to reduce LoR.</i>	
Score: 70%	Comment: MODERATE improvement required

Strengths:

- (1) In 96% of cases an initial assessment of LoR had been completed. There was active engagement with the child or young person (71%) and their parents/carers (79%) in carrying out the assessments.
- (2) In 70% of cases, the case manager had assessed the learning style of the child or young person; and a similar number of assessments were reviewed at appropriate intervals.
- (3) In relevant cases three-quarters of initial assessments had been forwarded to the secure establishment within 24 hours.
- (4) An intervention plan was completed in all cases; 81% were completed on time; and 76% addressed the child or young person’s offending related factors. The most commonly addressed issues included; substance misuse (92%); thinking and behaviour (89%); ETE (88%); neighbourhood (81%); attitudes to offending (80%); lifestyle (76%); and physical health 73%.
- (5) In 79% of intervention plans the child or young person’s Safeguarding needs were taken into account; learning style (81%); and positive factors were included in 80% of plans.
- (6) The intervention plan gave a clear shape to the order (78%); focused on achievable change (81%); reflected sentencing purposes (91%); and adherence to national standards (93%). Plans also included appropriate Safeguarding work (78%); and were sensitive to the children and young people’s diversity needs (76%).
- (7) In 85% of cases children and young people were meaningfully involved in their intervention plans and their parents/carers in 72%.
- (8) Although not all relevant external agencies were actively and meaningfully

involved in the planning process we were pleased to find that the secure establishments were in all relevant cases. Substance misuse was involved (86%); education and training providers (80%) and other relevant agencies (92%).

- (9) In 78% of cases intervention plans were reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) Only 62% of initial assessments of LoR were completed on time and 46% were not considered to be of sufficient quality. In ten assessments there was unclear or insufficient evidence about the child or young person’s circumstances; in 13, assessments were not completed on time or had been cloned or duplicated from an earlier version; in six cases the assessment failed to identify issues that impacted on the child or young person’s offending behaviour. The *What do YOU think?* form was used in only 13%.
- (2) Information from partner agencies did not always inform initial assessments. children’s social care services were only contacted in 60% of cases; education and training providers (61%); physical health services (22%); emotional and mental health (48%) and substance misuse in 57% of cases.
- (3) Intervention plans were properly integrated in only 64% of RMPs and objectives within the plans were prioritised according to *RoH* in only 59% of relevant cases. Inspectors also found that 74% of objectives were not sequenced according to offending related needs and 40% did not take account of victims’ issues.
- (4) Less than two-thirds of intervention plans contained relevant goals and realistic timescales.
- (5) Children’s social care services were only involved in 54% of relevant plans, while physical health services were involved in only two out of eight cases and emotional and mental health services in 44% of those relevant. Inspectors found that the YOS was left to hold too much responsibility for cases which should have been shared with their statutory partners.

1.3 Safeguarding:	
<p>General Criterion:</p> <p><i>The assessment of Safeguarding needs is comprehensive, accurate and timely and uses Asset and other relevant assessment tools. Plans are in place to manage Safeguarding and reduce vulnerability.</i></p>	
<p>Score:</p> <p>62%</p>	<p>Comment:</p> <p>MODERATE improvement required</p>

Strengths:

- (1) An Asset vulnerability screening was completed in 91% of cases.
- (2) In seven out of eight cases there was active liaison and information sharing about Safeguarding with the custodial establishment.
- (3) Copies of plans (care, pathway, protection) were on 80% of files; and a contribution had been made through the CAF, and those other assessments and plans designed to safeguard the child or young person, in 71% of cases.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) Almost half of vulnerability screenings were not of a sufficient standard.
- (2) Inspectors judged that in 58% of cases there should have been a VMP but one was completed in only 42%. Of the VMPs 31% were completed on time and 27% were judged to be a sufficient standard. Some VMPs did not adequately address the children and young people's diversity needs. Roles and responsibilities were unclear and there was a lack of proactive planning to minimize vulnerability.
- (3) In one-third of cases, the secure establishment was not made aware of vulnerability issues prior to or immediately on sentence.
- (4) There was effective management oversight of the vulnerability assessment in only 39% of cases.

OVERALL SCORE for quality of Assessment and Sentence Planning work: 68%

COMMENTARY on Assessment and Sentence Planning as a whole:

Three months after HMI Probation's inspection (July 2008), the YOS restructured its service in order to ensure that resources were appropriately targeted. The previous inspection found that *RoH* and vulnerability had not been well assessed and that there had been little evidence of management oversight. During this current inspection we found some improvement but the simple adherence to processes did not always guarantee the production of quality assessments. We found that; the *What do YOU think?* form was not used to inform assessments but was instead used as part of the case review process; assessments were often based on only one interview with the child or young person together with their parents/carers at the PSR stage and were often not reviewed after sentence. In addition, decisions made at the risk and vulnerability planning meetings were not then incorporated into RMPs and VMPs.

During the course of the current inspection, the YOS became aware of the issues above and had started to change its procedures to ensure that both practitioners and managers took more responsibility for RMPs and VMPs.

2. DELIVERY AND REVIEW OF INTERVENTIONS

2.1 Protecting the public by minimising Risk of Harm to others:

General Criterion:

All reasonable actions have been taken to protect the public by keeping to a minimum the child or young person's RoH to others.

Score:

72%

Comment:

MINIMUM improvement required

Strengths:

- (1) In the majority of relevant cases where there were changes in *RoH*/acute risk factors, they were anticipated and identified swiftly and in most the action taken was appropriate.
- (2) In the two cases where MAPPAs were effectively used decisions were clearly recorded, followed through and acted upon and reviewed appropriately.
- (3) Case managers and other relevant staff contributed effectively to MAPPAs processes in all community supervision cases. They had also contributed to other multi-agency meetings in all cases where the child or young person was serving a custodial sentence and in 88% of community supervisions.
- (4) Purposeful home visits had been carried out throughout the course of the sentence in accordance with the level of *RoH* posed (74%) and Safeguarding issues (67%).
- (5) Appropriate resources had been allocated according to the *RoH* posed throughout the sentence in 93% of cases.
- (6) Specific interventions to manage *RoH* in the community were delivered as planned in 83% of cases and in custody in 86%.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) *RoH to others* was not reviewed within 3 months of sentence in 43% of cases and following a significant change in 59% of cases.
- (2) Effective use was made of MAPPAs in 2 out of 3 cases but in one custody case, MAPPAs were not alerted or consulted at the pre-release stage. There was several months delay in convening the multi-agency public protection panel meeting with the result that the RMP was significantly delayed.

- (3) A full assessment of victim safety was carried out in 61% of relevant cases and in only 58% of cases was it judged that a high priority was given to their safety.
- (4) Specific interventions to manage *RoH* in the community were reviewed following a significant change in just over half of the relevant community cases and in two-thirds of custody cases.

2.2 Reducing the Likelihood of Reoffending:	
<p>General Criterion:</p> <p><i>The case manager coordinates and facilitates the structured delivery of all elements of the intervention plan.</i></p>	
<p>Score:</p> <p>85%</p>	<p>Comment:</p> <p>MINIMUM improvement required</p>

Strengths:

- (1) Delivered interventions in the community were designed to reduce the *LoR* (98%); were appropriate to the child or young person’s learning style (92%); incorporated all diversity issues (85%); were of good quality (79%); and all were consistent with the child or young person’s PPO status.
- (2) YOS staff were involved in the review of interventions in all custody cases.
- (3) In 94% of cases appropriate resources had been allocated commensurate with the *LoR* throughout the sentence.
- (4) The case manager actively motivated and supported the child or young person in 90% of custody cases and 92% of community supervision cases. Case managers had also reinforced positive behaviour in all custody and the vast majority of community supervisions.
- (5) Parents/carers were actively engaged in 89% of custody cases and 88% of community cases.

Area for improvement:

- (1) 69% of interventions were reviewed every 3 months and only 52% were sequenced appropriately.

2.3 Safeguarding the child or young person:

General Criterion:

All reasonable actions have been taken to safeguard and reduce the vulnerability of the child or young person.

Score:

74%

Comment:

MODERATE improvement required

Strengths:

- (1) All necessary and immediate action was taken to safeguard children and young people serving custodial sentences in 80% of cases and in 86% of community supervisions. Action to safeguard other affected children and young people was taken in 75% of community sentence cases.
- (2) In the majority of cases the YOS and partner agencies, in particular children's social care services, education and training providers, health and substance misuse services and secure establishments, worked together to promote the Safeguarding and well-being of children and young people in the community and custody.
- (3) The YOS and partner agencies had ensured continuity of services to safeguard children and young people in the transition from custody to the community in the majority of cases; specific interventions were identified and delivered.
- (4) There had been effective management oversight of Safeguarding and vulnerability needs in 86% of custody cases.
- (5) Staff had supported and promoted the well-being of 90% of children and young people who served custodial sentences and 85% of those on community orders throughout their sentences.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) Specific interventions to promote Safeguarding were reviewed every 3 months or following a significant change in 46% of community and 50% of custody cases.
- (2) Effective management oversight of Safeguarding and vulnerability needs was evident in only 38% of community sentence cases.
- (3) In just over half of the cases supervised in the community were physical and emotional services delivered; and children's social care services were involved in just over two-thirds of custodial. Inspectors found that YOS staff were sometimes left to carry too much responsibility for complex 'child in need' cases.

OVERALL SCORE for quality of Delivery and Review of Interventions work: 77%

COMMENTARY on Delivery and Review of Interventions as a whole:

The YOS had recently introduced (July 2009) new procedures for managing *RoH* and vulnerability; this had not yet been embedded into practice, and practitioners and managers were not yet applying these procedures in a consistent way.

The group work programme was not always appropriately targeted; there were instances where seventeen and eighteen year olds whose offending behaviour was more entrenched were included in the same programme as thirteen year olds who had recently entered the youth justice system. Nevertheless in most cases, good quality interventions to address LoR were delivered and case managers engaged well with the children and young people.

3. OUTCOMES

3.1 Achievement of outcomes:

General Criterion:

Outcomes are achieved in relation to RoH, LoR and Safeguarding.

Score:

55%

Comment:

SUBSTANTIAL improvement required

Strengths:

- (1) Enforcement action had been taken sufficiently well in 79% of cases where children and young people had failed to comply.
- (2) All reasonable action was taken to keep children and young people safe in 80% of relevant cases.
- (3) In cases where factors linked to offending behaviour had reduced, the principal factors were: thinking and behaviour (68%); living arrangements and neighbourhood (54%); emotional and mental health (53%); and motivation to change (53%).
- (4) There had been a reduction in frequency of offending in 44% of cases and in seriousness in 38%.

Areas for improvement:

- (1) *RoH* had been effectively managed in only 61% of cases.
- (2) Less than half (41%) of the children and young people had complied with the requirements of their orders.
- (3) There was a reduction in risk factors linked to Safeguarding in 42% of relevant cases.

3.2 Sustaining outcomes:

General Criterion:

Outcomes are sustained in relation to RoH, LoR and Safeguarding.

Score:

91%

Comment:

MINIMUM improvement required

Strengths:

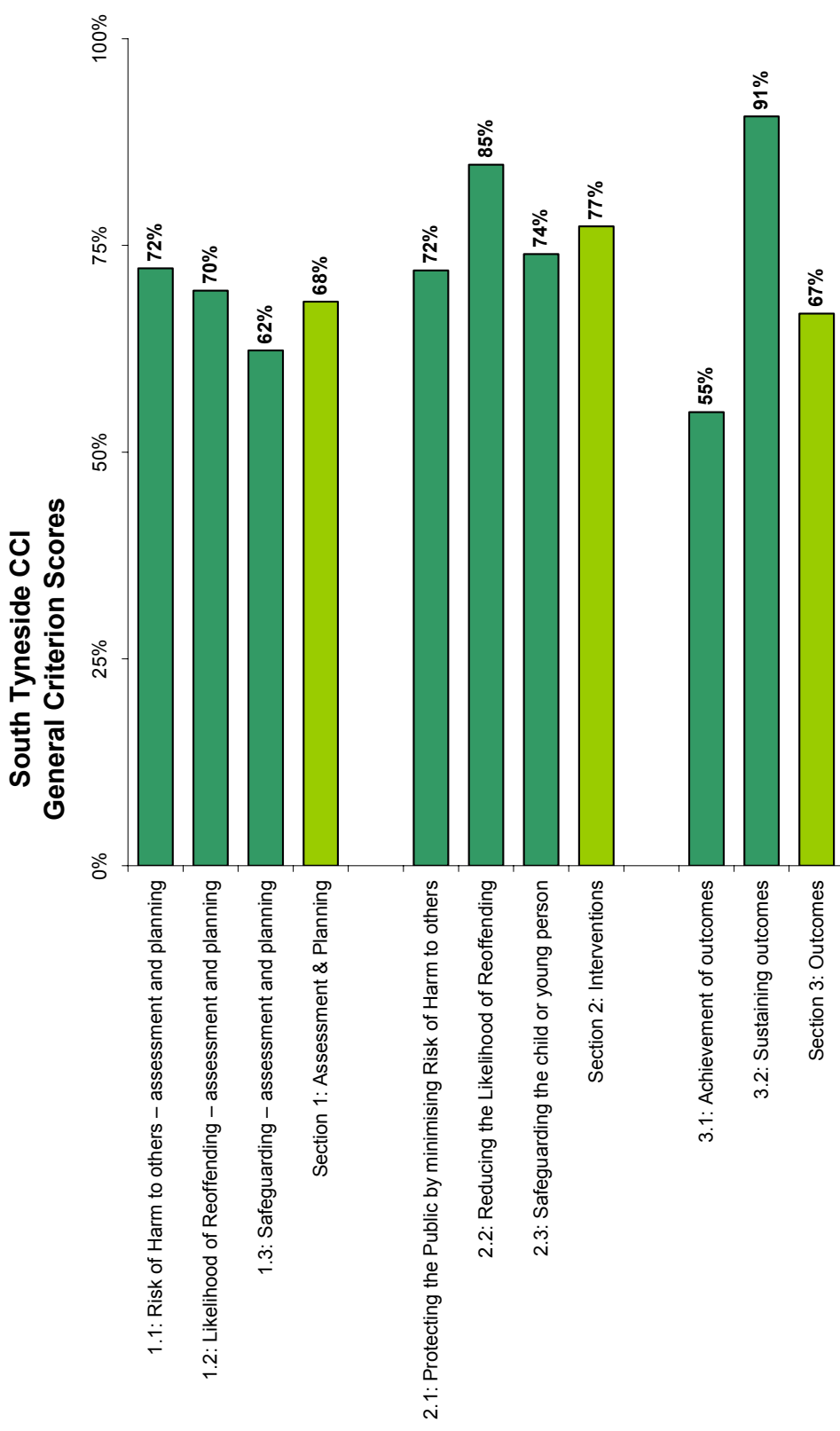
- (1) Full attention had been given to community reintegration issues in all custody and in 89% of community cases.
- (2) Action had been taken or plans were in place to ensure that positive outcomes were sustained in all custody and 89% of community cases.

OVERALL SCORE for quality of Outcomes work: 67%

COMMENTARY on Outcomes as a whole:

Although these were encouraging scores, staff shortages and a lack of continuity caused by case managers' sick leave had impacted on the delivery of seamless services to some children and young people and had adversely affected their commitment and compliance.

Appendix 1: Summary



Appendix 2: Contextual information

Area

South Tyneside YOS was located in the North-East region of England.

The area had a population of 152,785 as measured in the Census 2001, 11% of which were aged ten to 17 years old. This was slightly higher than the average for England/Wales, which was 10.4%.

The population of South Tyneside was predominantly white British (97.3%). The population with a black and minority ethnic heritage (2.7%) was below the average for England/Wales of 8.7%.

Reported offences for which children and young people aged ten to 17 years old received a pre-court disposal or a court disposal in 2008/2009, at 82 per 1,000, were above the average for England/Wales of 46.

YOS

The YOS boundaries were within those of the Northumbria police and probation areas. The South Tyneside PCT covered the area.

The YOS was located within the Children and Young People Directorate. It was managed by the Head of Service.

The YOS Management Board was chaired by the Executive Director for Children and Young People. All statutory partners attended regularly.

The work of the YOS was based in two main offices located in South Shields. ISSP was provided as part of the South of the Tyne Consortium and was based locally in the intensive supervision unit of the YOS.

YJB Performance Data

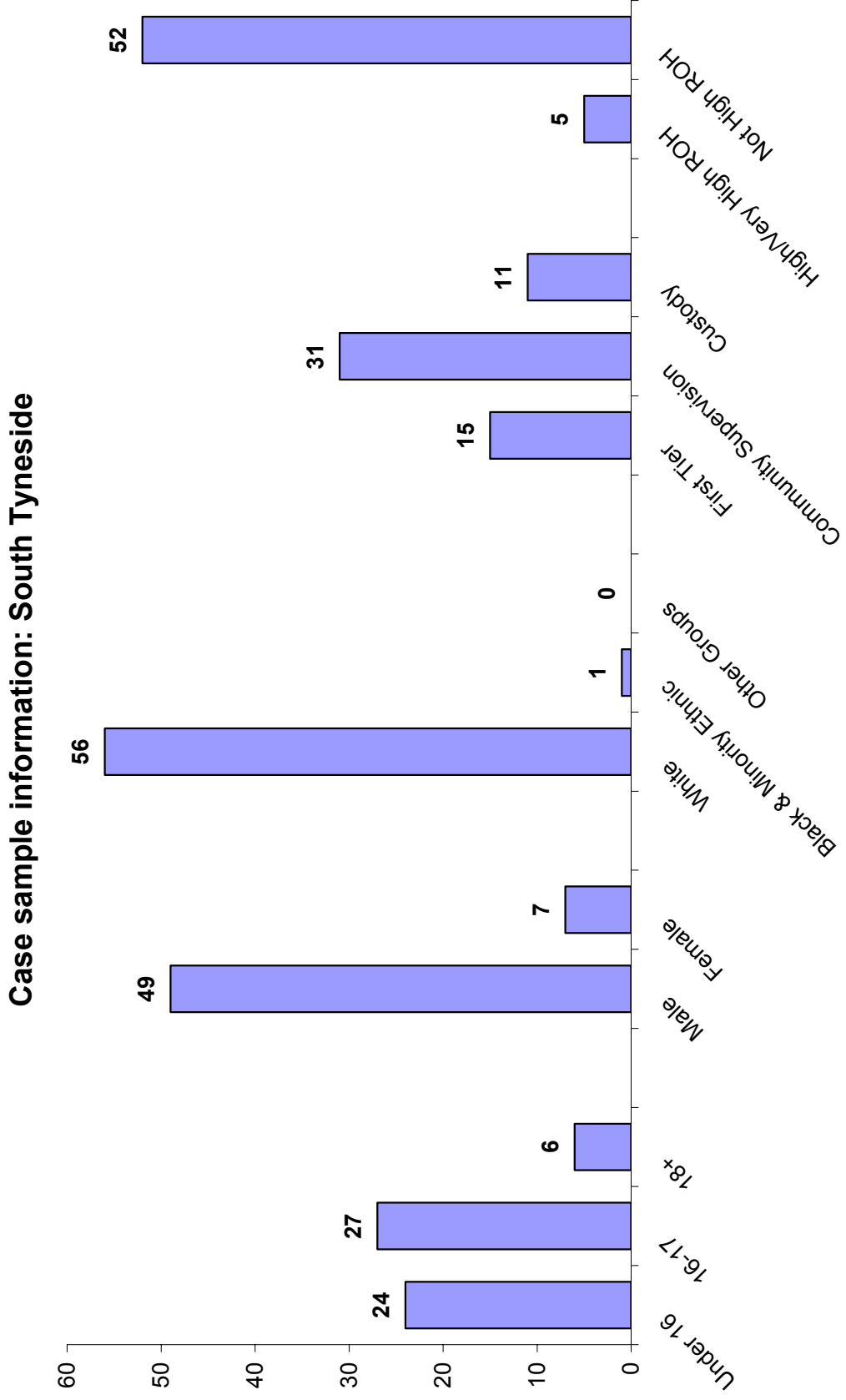
The YJB summary of national indicators available at the time of the inspection was for the period April 2008 to March 2009.

South Tyneside's performance on ensuring children and young people known to the YOS were in suitable education, training or employment was 69%. This was worse than the previous year, and below the England average of 72%.

Performance on ensuring suitable accommodation by the end of the sentence was 95%. This was equal to the previous year, and equal to the England average of 95%.

The "Reoffending rate after 9 months" was 77%, better than the England average of 85% (See Glossary).

Appendix 3a: Inspection data chart



Appendix 3b: Inspection data

Fieldwork for this inspection was undertaken in September 2009.

The inspection consisted of:

- ◇ examination of practice in a sample of cases, normally in conjunction with the case manager or other representative
- ◇ evidence in advance
- ◇ questionnaire responses from children and young people, and victims

We have also seen YJB performance data and assessments relating to this YOS.

Appendix 4: Role of HMI Probation and Code of Practice

Information on the Role of HMI Probation and Code of Practice can be found on our website:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-probation>

The Inspectorate is a public body. Anyone wishing to comment on an inspection, a report or any other matter falling within its remit should write to:

*HM Chief Inspector of Probation
2nd Floor, Ashley House
2 Monck Street
London, SW1P 2BQ*

Appendix 5: Glossary

ASB/ASBO	Antisocial behaviour/Antisocial Behaviour Order
Asset	A structured assessment tool based on research and developed by the Youth Justice Board looking at the young person's offence, personal circumstances, attitudes and beliefs which have contributed to their offending behaviour
CAF	Common Assessment Framework: a standardised assessment of a child or young person's needs and of how those needs can be met. It is undertaken by the lead professional in a case, with contributions from all others involved with that individual
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services: part of the National Health Service, providing specialist mental health and behavioural services to children and young people up to at least 16 years of age
Careworks	One of the two electronic case management systems for youth offending work currently in use in England and Wales. See also YOIS+
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau
DTO	Detention and Training Order, a custodial sentence for the young
Estyn	HM Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales
ETE	Employment, training and education: work to improve an individual's learning, and to increase their employment prospects
FTE	Full-time equivalent
HM	Her Majesty's
HMIC	HM Inspectorate of Constabulary
HMI Prisons	HM Inspectorate of Prisons
HMI Probation	HM Inspectorate of Probation
Interventions; <i>constructive</i> and <i>restrictive</i> interventions	<p>Work with an individual that is designed to change their offending behaviour and/or to support public protection.</p> <p>A <i>constructive</i> intervention is where the primary purpose is to reduce Likelihood of Reoffending.</p> <p>A <i>restrictive</i> intervention is where the primary purpose is to keep to a minimum the individual's <i>Risk of Harm to others</i>. Example: with a sex offender, a <i>constructive intervention</i> might be to put them through an accredited sex offender programme; a <i>restrictive intervention</i> (to minimise their <i>Risk of Harm</i>) might be to monitor regularly and meticulously their accommodation, their employment and the places they frequent, imposing and enforcing clear restrictions as appropriate to each case. NB. Both types of intervention are important</p>
ISSP	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme: this intervention is attached to the start of some orders and licences and provides initially at least 25 hours programme contact including a substantial proportion of employment, training and education
LoR	Likelihood of Reoffending. See also <i>constructive</i> Interventions
LSC	Learning and Skills Council
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board: set up in each local authority (as a result of the Children Act 2004) to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of the multi-agency work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in that locality

MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements: where probation, police, prison and other agencies work together locally to manage offenders who pose a higher <i>Risk of Harm to others</i>
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills: the Inspectorate for those services in England (not Wales, for which see Estyn)
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PPO	Prolific and other Priority Offender: designated offenders, adult or young, who receive extra attention from the Criminal Justice System agencies
Pre-CAF	This is a simple 'Request for Service' in those instances when a Common Assessment Framework may not be required. It can be used for requesting one or two additional services, e.g. health, social care or educational
PSR	Pre-sentence report: for a court
"Reoffending rate after 9 months"	A measure used by the Youth Justice Board. It indicates how many further offences are recorded as having been committed in a 9-month period by individuals under current supervision of the relevant YOT, and it can be either more or less than 100%. '110%' would therefore mean that exactly 110 further offences have been counted as having been committed 'per 100 individuals under supervision' in that period. The quoted national average rate for England in early 2009 was 85%
RMP	Risk management plan: a plan to minimise the individual's <i>Risk of Harm</i>
RoH	<i>Risk of Harm to others</i> . See also <i>restrictive Interventions</i>
'RoH work', or 'Risk of Harm work'	This is the term generally used by HMI Probation to describe work to protect the public, primarily using <i>restrictive interventions</i> , to keep to a minimum the individual's opportunity to behave in a way that is a <i>Risk of Harm to others</i>
RoSH	Risk of Serious Harm: a term used in Asset. HMI Probation prefers not to use this term as it does not help to clarify the distinction between the <i>probability</i> of an event occurring and the <i>impact/severity</i> of the event. The term <i>Risk of Serious Harm</i> only incorporates 'serious' impact, whereas using ' <i>Risk of Harm</i> ' enables the necessary attention to be given to those offenders for whom lower <i>impact/severity</i> harmful behaviour is <i>probable</i>
SIFA	Screening Interview for Adolescents: Youth Justice Board approved mental health screening tool for specialist workers
SQIFA	Screening Questionnaire Interview for Adolescents: Youth Justice Board approved mental health screening tool for YOT workers
VMP	Vulnerability management plan: a plan to safeguard the well-being of the individual under supervision
YJB	Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
YOI	Young Offenders Institution: a Prison Service institution for young people remanded in custody or sentenced to custody
YOIS+	Youth Offending Information System: one of the two electronic case management systems for youth offending work currently in use in England and Wales. See also Careworks.
YOS/T	Youth Offending Service/Team