



Inspection of  
Youth  
Offending

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# Press Notice

## Independent inspection of youth offending work



12 March 2012

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 – WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2012**

### **PUBLICATION OF INSPECTION REPORT Inspection of Youth Offending work in Lewisham**

The latest inspection report of Youth Offending work in England and Wales was published today.

Andy Smith, Assistant Chief Inspector, said:

“This Core Case Inspection of youth offending work in Lewisham 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 we have judged how often the Public Protection and the Safeguarding aspects of the work were done to a sufficiently high level of quality.

“We judged that the Safeguarding aspects of the work were done well enough 75% 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 68% the time, and the work to make each individual less likely to reoffend was done well enough 80% 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 Wales and the regions of England inspected so far – see the Table below.

“We also found that against a difficult backdrop that included gang rivalry, drugs and knife crime, the staff in Lewisham worked constructively with children and young people. Improvements were needed, however, to improve the quality of work related to the *Risk of Harm to others* and to some aspects of how the

vulnerability of those children and young people known to the service could be reduced.

“Overall, we consider this a creditable set of findings.”

	Scores from Wales and the English regions that have been inspected to date			<b>Scores for <i>Lewisham</i></b>
	Lowest	Highest	Average	
<b>‘Safeguarding’ work</b> <i>(action to protect the young person)</i>	37%	91%	68%	<b>75%</b>
<b>‘Risk of Harm to others’ work</b> <i>(action to protect the public)</i>	36%	85%	63%	<b>68%</b>
<b>‘Likelihood of Reoffending’ work</b> <i>(individual less likely to reoffend)</i>	43%	87%	71%	<b>80%</b>

## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The report is available at [www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmi-probation/index.htm](http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmi-probation/index.htm).
2. This Inspection of Youth Offending (IYO) programme started in April 2009. Youth Offending work in all 158 areas of England & Wales will be inspected over the course of a three-year cycle.
3. Andy Smith can be contacted on [andy.smith@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andy.smith@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk) and 07771 527327.