



Inspection of
Youth
Offending

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Press Notice

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Independent inspection of youth offending work



Arolygiad ar y Cyd Cyfiawnder Troseddol

EMBARGOED – 00:01 14 OCTOBER 2009 PUBLICATION OF INSPECTION REPORT Inspection of Youth Offending work in Cheshire

The latest inspection report of Youth Offending work in England and Wales was published today. Alan MacDonald, Assistant Chief Inspector, said:

“This Core Case Inspection of youth offending work in Cheshire 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. Our findings will also feed into the wider annual Comprehensive Area Assessment process.

Over the area as a whole, we judged that the Safeguarding aspects of the work were done well enough 69% 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 69% of the time, and the work to make each individual less likely to reoffend was done well enough 77% of the time.

Overall, we consider this an encouraging set of findings. Although work to address the Likelihood of Reoffending was often done well, using a good range of resources, there was room for improvement in assessment and planning to safeguard potentially vulnerable children and young people. The arrangements for management oversight of work were clear but needed a sharper focus on the quality of work to protect children and young people and to safeguard the public from the *Risk of Harm*.

Nevertheless, a recent change of senior management in the YOS had already resulted in greater stability and the prospect for the authority to make improvements. The commitment of staff to make a difference to the lives of the children and young people under their supervision will ensure a continuing commitment to develop the service.”

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The report is available at www.justice.gov.uk/inspection/hmi-probation/
2. This Inspection of Youth Offending (IYO) programme started in April 2009. Youth Offending work in all 157 areas of England & Wales will be inspected over the course of a three-year cycle.
3. In England, the results of these inspections provide a source of evidence for the Comprehensive Area Assessment in the relevant local area(s). Comparable arrangements for Wales are being planned.
4. Alan MacDonald can be contacted by e-mail at alan.macdonald@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk or on 07766 161554.