



Press Notice

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Independent inspection of probation and youth offending work

EMBARGOED UNTIL 7 OCTOBER 2009 PUBLICATION OF INSPECTION REPORT ISLE OF MAN YOUTH JUSTICE TEAM

The report of the first inspection of the Isle of Man Youth Justice Team (YJT) was published today. A team from HM Inspectorate of Probation carried out the inspection.

Andrew Bridges, HM Chief Inspector of Probation, said:

“The decision to set up the Youth Justice Team is to be commended. The team has become a valuable resource in work to reduce offending. However there was much still to do, in particular to ensure that it is placed on a strong and sustainable footing.

Much of the work undertaken with children and young people who had offended was good; it was characterised by commitment and excellent engagement between team members and children and young people. Work in the courts was effective and well regarded. However further work was required to improve intervention planning and to ensure that assessment and management of Risk of Harm to others was of consistently high quality.

The Youth Justice Management Board was not effective. This was particularly important whilst legislation to place the Youth Justice Team onto a statutory basis was awaited. Not all partner agencies had adequately recognised their critical role in monitoring and improving outcomes for children and young people who had offended or had the greatest likelihood of offending.

We trust that this report will be useful to the Isle of Man Government in further improving and reinforcing the work of the Youth Justice Team.”

POST-INSPECTION IMPROVEMENT

The inspection identified eight aspects of YJT performance where it recommended that the YJT and partners should focus their attention. The Youth Justice Management Board has been asked to develop an improvement plan, addressing these recommendations, within four weeks of the publication of this report.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The inspection report is available at www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-probation
2. HM Inspectorate of Probation was asked to undertake this inspection by the Isle of Man Department of Home Affairs, in response to a recommendation of the Commission of Inquiry into the Care of Young People, published in May 2006.
3. HM Inspectorate of Probation is an independent Inspectorate, funded by the Ministry of Justice. Its primary purpose is to report to the Secretary of State on the effectiveness of work with individual offenders, children and young people aimed at reducing reoffending and protecting the public.
4. Fieldwork for the inspection was undertaken in April and June 2009.
5. The Isle of Man is a Crown Dependency of the United Kingdom. Its parliament, Tynwald, has full responsibility for its own domestic legislation.
6. The YJT was formed in 2004 as a voluntary partnership between a range of Isle of Man Government departments. It aimed to provide a centralised resource to partner agencies for work with children and young people who had offended or were at risk of offending. Located in Douglas, the YJT served the whole of the island.
7. By agreement with the Department of Home Affairs the inspection focused primarily on:
 - management and leadership
 - work in the courts
 - work with children and young people who have offended.It also examined
 - arrangements for children and young people sentenced to the Adolescent Secure Care Unit
 - the delivery of final warnings
 - initial outcome decisions for children and young people who had become known to the criminal justice system.
7. Enquiries about the Isle of Man YJT should be directed to the YJT Manager (Tel: 01624 687573).
8. Enquiries about the inspection should be directed to the Personal Secretary to the Chief Executive, Department of Home Affairs (Tel: 01624 694313) or Alan MacDonald, Assistant Chief Inspector of Probation (Tel: 07766 161554).