



Inspection of
Youth
Offending

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Independent inspection of youth offending work



EMBARGOED UNTIL 26 AUGUST 2009 PUBLICATION OF INSPECTION REPORT Inspection of youth offending work in Wirral

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 Wirral 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 58% 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 53% of the time, and the work to make each individual less likely to reoffend was done well enough 55% of the time.

We also found the Wirral Youth Offending Service had recently moved to new, much improved accommodation, which had given it the scope to expand on the range of provision for children and young people. There was also a stable and committed management team that was aware of the deficiencies in service delivery and were taking steps to address them.

Overall, we consider this a slightly disappointing set of findings. However, we believe that if an improvement plan is drawn up to address the recommendations in the report, and then actioned, there are reasonable prospects for improvement.”

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The report is available at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectionates/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 on 07766 161554 or by e-mail at alan.macdonald@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk