



**JOINT INSPECTION OF YOUTH OFFENDING TEAMS**  
**HM INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION**  
6th Floor, South Wing, Trafford House, Chester Road,  
Stretford, Manchester M32 0RS  
Tel: Media enquiries: 0207 035 3535  
Other enquiries: 0161 869 1301



**EMBARGOED UNTIL {DATE}**

**EALING YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE –  
PUBLICATION OF INSPECTION REPORT**

The latest report from the fourth phase of inspections of Youth Offending Teams (YOT) in England and Wales was published today. A multi-agency inspection team carried out the inspection of Ealing Youth Offending Service.

Andrew Bridges, HM Chief Inspector of Probation, said:

The governance and leadership of the Ealing Youth Offending Service (YOS) were of a high standard and they demonstrated a clear sense of strategic vision. The YOS was working in an area with pockets of significant social deprivation, and was seeking to engage with a wide and disparate range of minority ethnic communities, and to address differential patterns of offending. The YOS was well resourced and well connected with key partners at both strategic and operational levels. It was seeking to build on existing good practice by improving the quality of staff and their supervision and management.

The YOS had good relationships with the courts, although Pre Sentence Report (PSR) quality needed to be improved. An extensive range of services was provided. Preventative work with children and young people was being expanded and improved, but work with parents/carers and victims required **development**, and there were some gaps in health provision. The management oversight of some cases needed more consistent recording, and the quality and timeliness of assessment, supervision planning and enforcement also needed improvement.

Deleted: expansion

The YOS was led by an enthusiastic manager, supported by a dedicated management team who were working to maintain headline performance while raising the quality of service delivery. Plans were already in place to address a number of areas, and the YOS was keen to take forward the learning and findings from this inspection

**The report's main findings are:**

***Work in the courts***

- Working relationships and communication with the court were good.
- Internal panels to review Risk of Harm cases and those at risk of custody ensured that the necessary cases were identified and appropriately managed, and the potential use of custody was anticipated and minimised.
- The quality of court reports and the arrangements for their quality control needed improvement.

***Work with children and young people in the community***

- Strong links with the local crime prevention networks ensured that all youth diversionary activities were linked across the local authority. The Youth Inclusion Support Panel programme had expanded, with better management and greater visibility of the cases being managed.
- The YOS had received increased resources and now had the capacity to deliver an extensive range of good quality services to support the full range of community sentencing options.
- The quality of assessment, sentence planning, and case management and enforcement needed to be improved.
- The needs of children and young people received a high priority; there was a good range of services addressing education but some gaps in health provision.
- The YOS was developing work with parents/carers, where engagement needed to be improved for community orders but was good in preventative and Final Warning cases.
- The YOS had recently undertaken two consultation exercises with stakeholders and young people.

***Work with children and young people subject to custodial sentences***

- The YOS had developed a lead Detention and Training Order Officer role to strengthen joint working with custodial establishments.

- There was a good range of interventions and involvement, but more input from young people and their parents/carers was needed in sentence planning.
- The quality of training plans and the fit between the interventions planned and the assessed risk of harm required improvement.
- There was a need to ensure regular managerial review of risk concern/risk aware cases.

#### ***Victims and restorative justice***

- The level of contact and engagement with victims and the amount of reparation and mediation work needed to be increased.
- Work with victims and with young people on victim awareness was improving.
- The YOS was currently developing a Youth Community Payback Scheme as part of its range of reparation work.

#### ***Management and partnership arrangements***

- The management arrangements for Ealing YOS were well developed and had increased the profile of the YOS, and improved strategic and operational links with key partners, and wider multi-agency strategies. The YOS had attracted considerable additional resources and was developing a wide range of services.
- The YOS was located in the Children's Services Department but the YOS was also focused on the Council's emphasis on community safety and reducing crime.
- The YOS was well led by an enthusiastic and positive management team who were working hard to develop a positive staff culture and to build on previous good practice.
- The YOS was endeavouring to recruit staff of a high calibre and to improve quality by raising the skills base and the quality of staff supervision. However the temporary nature of a number of staff employment contracts was a cause for concern.

#### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

1. The inspection of Ealing YOS took place between November 2006 and January 2007.
2. Ealing had a total population of 300,948, measured in the Census 2001. Of this population, 9.7% were aged 10-17 years at the time of the census. This figure was slightly lower than the average for England, which was 10.4%.
3. Eight Inspectorates conduct the Youth Offending Team Inspections. They are Estyn (HM Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales), Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, Healthcare Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, HM Inspectorate of Prisons, HM Inspectorate of Probation, Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales.
4. The YOT inspection programme started in June 2003. All 157 YOTs within England and Wales are being inspected over a five year cycle.
5. The inspection will be carried out in line with the Government's commitment to proportionate and coordinated inspection in local government, informed by the Comprehensive Performance Assessment results and the Wales Programme for Improvement. A programme has therefore been developed that:
  - is proportionate to risk and only inspects those areas of work where a team is performing well in order to disseminate good practice
  - complements, and is coordinated with, other inspection programmes, principally the Joint Area Reviews of children's services (led by Ofsted) and the Corporate Assessment (led by the Audit Commission)
  - takes account of YOTs' recent development as organisations.
6. Comprehensive standards and criteria have been developed to cover the fourth phase of the inspection, focusing on:
  - Work in the courts
  - children and young people in the community (both those at risk of offending and those who have offended)
  - children and young people subject to custodial sentences
  - victims and restorative justice
  - management of the YOT and partnership arrangements.

Deleted: 6