



**YOUTH  
OFFENDING  
TEAM**  
Inspection

# Press Notice

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## Independent inspection of probation and youth offending work

### **EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 08 OCT 2008 PUBLICATION OF INSPECTION REPORT EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM**

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 East Riding of Yorkshire Youth Offending Team inspection.

Andrew Bridges, HM Chief Inspector of Probation, said:

The inspection of East Riding of Yorkshire YOT took place in the fourth phase of our YOT inspection programme and was undertaken in conjunction with the Enhanced Youth Inspection, the Joint Area Review of children's services and the Corporate Assessment. The findings also contributed to the latter two inspections.

The YOT was adequately resourced but faced difficulties in working across a large rural area. The inspection found evidence of good work but there was room for improvement in most areas of practice, including the quality of Pre Sentence Reports, and intervention plans, and the assessment and management of Risk of Harm and vulnerability. The level of first-time entrants was too high.

There had been a history of poor support from some partner agencies and while positive changes had occurred further improvement was needed to raise the overall quality of service. Staff were well supported and committed to their work but required further training in some key areas. The post inspection improvement plan should assist with these developments.

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

##### ***Work in the courts***

*There were positive working relationships with sentencers and other professionals working in the court at both operational and management level. However improvements were needed in the quality of Pre Sentence Reports, and the YOT had not met the Youth Justice Board target for reduction of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system.*

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

*Although the level of first-time entrants was increasing, there was good collaboration with Family Support Teams in prevention work, and an active Youth Inclusion and Support Service. In statutory cases there were satisfactory levels of contact with constructive interventions focused on offending and its consequences. Delivery of substance misuse and mental health services was generally good but general health needs required more attention, and bed and breakfast establishments were still being used for some homeless 16 and 17 year olds. Work with Connexions was effective but links with schools to*

address education and employment needs were insufficient and outcomes for those who continued to offend were poor.

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

Joint work with other agencies to address the needs of children and young people in custody was satisfactory. Levels of contact with cases while in custody did not always meet the national standard, but were sufficient post-release. Work in the community continued to build on work in custody with in provision of education and substance misuse services, but more attention was needed to address other health needs.

### **Victims and restorative justice**

Contact with victims had only taken place in a limited number of cases, but there was some good work with victims where it had done. Feedback from victims was positive. There was little direct reparation being undertaken, and community reparation activities needed to promote the development of the child or young person as well as benefiting the community.

### **Management and leadership**

Chairing of the management board had moved from the police to the Director of Children, Family and Adult Services, to promote stronger and more effective links with children's services. It was appropriately constituted with representation at a senior level from the partner agencies. Increased commitment from the Primary Care Trust had led to an improvement in the delivery of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, but more strategic input was needed to increase the engagement and attainment in education and training for those with complex needs. Greater support and commitment to improving YOT performance was required from the Probation Service.

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

1. The inspection of East Riding of Yorkshire YOT took place during June 2008.
2. East Riding of Yorkshire had a total population of 314,113, measured in the Census 2001. Of this population, 10.2% were aged 0-17 years at the time of the census. This figure was 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.