



Inspection of
Youth
Offending

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Press Notice

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Independent inspection of youth offending work



EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 05/08/09
PUBLICATION OF INSPECTION REPORT
Inspection of youth offending work in Lancashire

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 Lancashire 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 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.

We judged that the Safeguarding aspects of the work were done well enough 52% 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 51% of the time, and the work to make each individual less likely to reoffend was done well enough 60% of the time. A more detailed analysis of our findings is provided in the main body of this report, and summarised in a table in Appendix 1.

These findings are somewhat disappointing; however, the YOT has undergone a significant change programme in 2008/2009 following the arrival in March 2008 of a new Head of Service. Training to improve the assessment and management of both vulnerability and *Risk of Harm to others* had been undertaken but this had not had time to feed into the cases seen in the sample. The recent organisational changes, service developments and additional training which had already taken place should therefore ensure that the YOT is well placed to take forward the recommendations in this report for improving the quality of its practice."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The report is available at www.inspectorates.justice.gov.uk/hmiprobation/
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 alan.macdonald@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk or on 07766 161554.