



Inspection of
Youth
Offending

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Independent inspection of youth offending work



EMBARGOED UNTIL 15/07/09
PUBLICATION OF INSPECTION REPORT
Inspection of youth offending work in ST HELENS

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 St Helens 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 74% 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 66% of the time, and the work to make each individual less likely to reoffend was done well enough 72% of the time.

This visibly improving practice was supported and promoted by effective management, with staff training and management oversight of relevant cases – regular quality assurance - as being key elements in their approach.

Maintaining and extending this approach and implementing our recommendations will ensure that St Helens Youth Offending Service has positive prospects for the future. Overall, we consider this an encouraging set of findings.”

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The report is available at www.inspectors.justice.gov.uk/hmiprobation/

2. The Inspection of Youth Offending programme started in April 2009. Youth offending work in all 157 areas of England & Wales is being 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 email at alan.macdonald@hmiprobation.gsi.gov.uk