

DELIVERING EFFECTIVE SERVICES

- The court provided a good interpreters' service for both children and young people and their parents/carers which was also available to the YOS, complementing the local authority service generally used. *Hillingdon*
- The bail team worked effectively with travellers and asylum seekers. *Northamptonshire*
- Different bail packages were devised depending on the needs of the children and young people. *Haringey*
- The youth support worker in the youth court engaged children and young people in relation to educational needs. *Gateshead*
- Particular care was taken with children and young people known to have difficulties with literacy to ensure that they understood their initial reporting instructions. *Doncaster*
- As there was disproportionate sentencing of children and young people from black and minority ethnic communities to the Intensive Supervision & Surveillance Programme, the court had been invited to join the YOT in their race action planning. *Kingston Upon Thames*
- There was a strategy in place to address the disproportionate number of girls and young women placed in secure remands. *Kingston Upon Thames*

WORK IN COURTS

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- The YOS was actively examining its Asset and pre-sentence report practices to ensure that these were not contributory factors to differential sentencing patterns for girls and young women. *Doncaster*
- All pre-sentence reports were quality assured before presentation to the courts and a particular focus of this process was to assess and address diversity issues. *Hounslow*
- All cases which involved enforcement proceedings were being reviewed by a manager to ensure that there was not disproportionate action against children and young people from black and minority ethnic communities. *Barnet*

**HMI Probation
YOT INSPECTIONS – GOOD PRACTICE in DIVERSITY**

In relation to: WORK IN COURTS

Example	YOT	Date	Page No
The court provided a good interpreters' service for both children and young people and their parents/carers which was also available to the YOS, complementing the local authority service generally used. Given the range of children and young people from backgrounds where English was not their first language, this service was highly relevant and helped deliver to the diversity agenda in Hillingdon.	Hillingdon	February 2006	21
Information presented to a recent panel meeting had identified that girls and young women were being sentenced to custody after significantly fewer offences than youths and typically at a lower seriousness level. Also the proportion of disposals resulting in custody had risen recently. The YOS was actively examining its Asset and pre-sentence report practices to ensure that these were not contributory factors in these sentencing patterns and was meeting with the court legal clerk to understand better the causes.	Doncaster	November 2005	18
As there was disproportionate sentencing of children and young people from black and minority ethnic communities to Intensive Supervision & Surveillance Programme, the court had been invited to join the YOT in their race action planning.	Kingston Upon Thames	July 2006	24
All pre-sentence reports were quality assured before presentation to the courts and a particular focus of this process was to assess and address diversity issues.	Hounslow	April 2006	21
The bail team evidenced a practical and effective approach to working with diversity, work having been done in the county with travellers and asylum seekers.	Northamptonshire	March 2006	20
Specialist bail support officers supervised all children and young people remanded or subject to bail support and supervision packages. Differing packages were devised depending on their needs.	Haringey	June 2006	19
There was a strategy in place to address the disproportionate number of girls and young women placed in secure remands.	Kingston Upon Thames	July 2006	8

Dominic was a young person referred to bail support workers. He had recently arrived in the United Kingdom and knew little about the culture. He was given additional help and support in getting to appointments and taught how to use the transport system. His support included a volunteer, an interpreter, and a guardian from the local authority.	Newham	2006	20
Where a child or young person was sentenced or remanded to custody, they would be interviewed and assessed for vulnerability. A YOS summary form, including vulnerability and risk indicators, would be completed and sent to the institution with the escort, using the yellow envelope system. A Bail or full Asset and copy of the pre-sentence report would also be included as appropriate. A copy of the summary form would also be faxed to the institution to await arrival.	Doncaster	November 2005	20
An audit of enforcement had shown a differential level of enforcement for cases of children and young people from black and minority ethnic communities. As a result, all cases were being reviewed by a manager to ensure that there was not disproportionate action against children and young people from black and minority ethnic communities.	Barnet	February 2006	89
One of the priorities of the youth support worker in the youth court was to engage children and young people in relation to educational needs, a positive consequence of which had been a number of referrals, via the YOT, to Basic Skills for Life courses provided at local colleges.	Gateshead	2006	22
Particular care was taken with those children and young people known to have difficulties with literacy to ensure that they understood their initial reporting instructions.	Doncaster	November 2005	19