

The Bradford & District Youth Justice Plan

2008/9 Executive Summary

**BRADFORD & DISTRICT
YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM**



Our aim is to prevent youth offending

Introduction

This has been a demanding but exciting year for the Bradford and District Youth Offending Team. The focus has been on the inspection carried out in December 2007 which had a very positive outcome but we should not forget the plethora of regional and national awards which have recognised the outstanding work by staff, partners and young people (*more details on page 4*). There is no doubt that Bradford YOT's performance and reputation continues to improve. As Chair of the Board my challenge is to maintain and improve the service to young offenders which results in fewer victims and making Bradford safer for all.

I am delighted but not surprised at the excellent outcome of the Inspection (*more details on page 6*). The YOT's systems have been in place for some considerable time and the Inspector's report simply reflects the long-term planning and commitment which has been part of the YOT's culture since its creation. We recognise that there are areas where the YOT can and will improve but I congratulate Paul, his management team, his staff, the many volunteers and other partners who all contribute to the YOT's consistent effectiveness.

The Youth Offending Team has been operational for eight years and it continues to maintain its high performance measured by the basket of performance measures, ranked level four (level five being the highest), and continues to produce good results in reducing offending with year-on-year improvements across all sections of its work and with an overall 13% reduction, comparing the latest cohort results with performance pre-YOT (1999).

There continues to be challenges - some areas of performance need to improve and the increase in workload needs to be managed but I am confident the YOT supported by the Board will continue to make progress.

The Bradford and District Youth Justice Board continues to be supported by Social Services, Education Bradford, Probation, Police, Health, Youth Service and a Voluntary Sector representative. The Board supports the preventative work especially the focus on reducing anti social behaviour, the work to engage victims and the strong partnership the YOT has developed with the voluntary sector. The Board is keen to see the YOT continue to contribute to the 'Every Child Matters' agenda but maintain its links with the Criminal Justice agencies and the Government's Respect agenda.

All the agencies supporting the Youth Offending Team are committed to reducing youth crime. This plan outlines how the Youth Offending Team will develop its range of services and achieve its local and national targets. This activity will reduce offending behaviour by young people, will contribute to the Safer Communities Strategy and the District's 2020 vision and make the Bradford District safer for all.

I would like to express my thanks and pride in the quality of service that our YOT staff deliver.



Kath Tunstall

Strategic Director for Children's Services, Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Chair of the Bradford and District Youth Justice Board

What is the YOT?

Bradford & District Youth Offending Team is a multi-agency organisation working both within the criminal justice system and children's services.

The purpose of the YOT is to reduce youth offending in the Bradford District and make it a safer place for everyone. It employs four main strategies: crime prevention; work with young offenders which has been proved to be effective; support for parents and engagement with the victims of youth crime.

The YOT is required to submit to the Youth Justice Board an annual Youth Justice Plan detailing its performance for the previous year and its major proposals and priorities for the forthcoming year.

This is a summary of the Youth Justice Plan 2008/9, a complete version of which can be obtained from the YOT manager.



The partnership working of the YOT is exemplified by the bi-annual Young People's Awards - from left, Paul O'Hara, YOT Manager, Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Elaine Byrom, Faye McIntosh, Careers Bradford and Robin Martin, YOT Education Worker.

2007-08 Key Achievements Summary

- 63% of young offenders have not offended 12 months after YOT involvement (based on 2006 cohort).
- Inspection rating of excellent in outcomes of work with young people and Management and Leadership.
- Inspection rating of good in work in the courts, work with young people at risk of offending, work with young people who have offended, work with parents and carers and victims and restorative justice.
- Assessed Level 4 in the Youth Justice Board's basket of performance measures (Level 5 highest) including Level 5 in National Standards and Effective Practise and Quality Assurance.
- 9% improvement in young offenders engaged in Education, Training and Employment.
- 100 young people have received certificates to celebrate their achievements and two Award ceremonies organised in partnership with Careers Bradford, Connexions Bradford, Education Bradford and range of YOT partners.
- 30% reduction in First Time Entrants (FTE) into Criminal Justice System compared to 2005/6 base line.
- Significant reduction in Black young people entering the Criminal Justice System for the first time. 13 in 2007, 40 in 2006, 60 in 2005.
- 75% of young offenders reported they had noticed improvements in their education and training and 71% in their health.
- 'The Academy' the Dance United and YOT contemporary Dance project won the National Justice Award sponsored by Children and Young People Now Magazine.

Key Objectives for 2008/09

- 1 To improve performance across the range of new YJB performance measures in 2008/9.
- 2 Support Bradford's Children's Services and ensure the YOT contribution to the five outcomes of Every Child Matters.
- 3 Support the work of the council to achieve Bradford's Local Area Agreement in respect of relevant Public Service Agreement indicators.
- 4 Support the targets of the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board in relation to the Ministry of Justice Strategic Objectives.
- 5 To contribute to the work of the Safer Communities Partnership particularly in relation to Tackling Youth Crime and Anti Social Behaviour and the Prolific and Other Priority Offenders scheme.
- 6 To contribute to the development of the Integrated Offender Management service in Bradford.
- 7 To implement the Bradford YOT Inspection Action Plan and in particular to strengthen the work delivered to young people in custody.
- 8 To assist in the development and delivery of Targeted Youth Support Services and the new Children's Services Locality prevention services.
- 9 To ensure compliance with the YOT Risk Management Policy in regard to high risk offenders.
- 10 To implement the findings of Bradford YOTs Race Action Plan 2007 and continue to monitor for discrimination.
- 11 To support Social Inclusion work with Looked After Children and reduce their level of offending.
- 12 Support appropriately identified staff through the Youth Justice National Qualifications Framework.
- 13 To ensure YOT staff receive Child Care Training by identifying and developing links with the local Children's Workforce Development Unit.
- 14 Prepare for transition to ebased learning as outlined in the YJB Workforce Development Strategy 2008-11.

Awards 2007



'My Bradford', a Kala Sangam and YOT project, won a Yorkshire Arts Team award for most outstanding project in the Community and Educational setting. Tony Reeves, Chief Executive of Bradford Council presented the award to Ajit Singh, Programme Manager, and Emma Melling, Youth Arts Officer, of Kala Sangam.

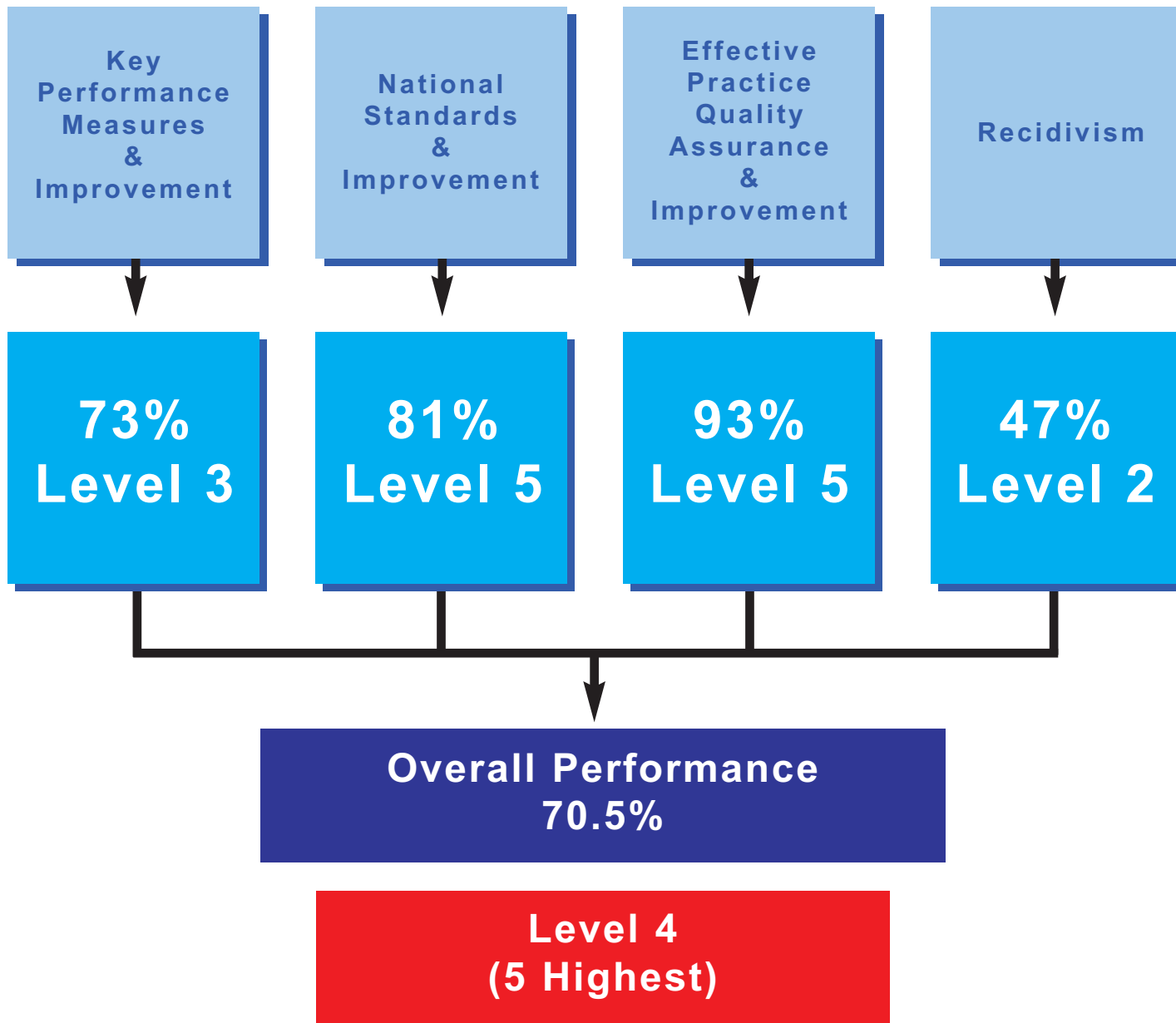


'The Academy' the Dance United and YOT contemporary dance project won a National Justice Award sponsored by Children and Young People Now, as well as five Yorkshire and Humberside Arts and Criminal Justice Awards. Andrew Coggins, Dance United's Director received the award from Tony Reeves.



Odelle Bates (*left*) won Volunteer of the Year Award 2007 and Debs Leyland won outstanding contribution to engaging local communities in the West Yorkshire Local Justice Awards 2007.

Basket of Measures of YOT Performance April 2007 - March 2008



Definitions

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)
14 targets covering a wide range of YOT activity including Final Warnings, Drugs Assessment and Treatment and Education, Training and Employment (ETE).

Key Performance Indicator Improvement

Performance is judged on improvements across the key performance indicators.

National Standards

These standards impose minimum requirements upon the YOT in respect of such things as how often young offenders are seen, frequency of reviews, timeliness of meetings and enforcement processes. These standards are audited annually.

Effective Practice Quality Assurance (EPQA) and Improvement

The YOT is measured on how its services are judged to be delivered on a range of quality measures established by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB). These are assessed by the YOT and validated by the YJB Regional Manager.

Recidivism

The YOT tracks a cohort of young offenders who are dealt with by the Criminal Justice System between October-December each year and measures whether they re-offend.

YOT Inspection

Bradford and District YOT was inspected between 3-7 December 2007 as part of a 5-year national inspection programme. The multi-agency inspection was led by Ray Wegrzyn, Lead Inspector for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and Inspectors from Ofsted, Police and Health Inspection teams. The judgement summary below consistently shows areas of excellent and good performance across the service.

Criteria	Judgement
Work in the courts	3
Work with children and young people in the community	
Work with children and young people at risk of offending	3
Work with children and young people who have offended	3
Work with parents and carers	3
Outcomes of work with children and young people in the community	4
Work with children and young people subject to custodial sentences	2
Victims and restorative justice	3
Management and leadership	4

Inspection Overview

"We found an energetic and forward-looking organisation, with some innovative ideas which had been translated into practice. The Board was well managed and businesslike and appropriately supported by partner organisations.

There was evidence of strong leadership, but we found inconsistency in managerial control, and as a consequence also in practice, and this required improvement.

The YOT performed well in most areas of work. Attention was needed regarding planning and reviews, particularly for those children and young people in custody. That said, we were confident of the organisation's structure and ability as being perfectly capable of taking the whole organisation forward."

Andrew Bridges
HM Chief Inspector of Probation

Key	
4	Excellent
3	Good
2	Adequate
1	Inadequate

"I am delighted but not surprised at the excellent outcome of this inspection. What is perhaps most pleasing is that I know the systems have been in place for some considerable time. The Inspector's report reflects the long-term planning and commitment which has been part of the YOT's culture since its creation. There are areas where the YOT can and will improve - there is no complacency on the part of Services to Children and Young People in Bradford - but I congratulate Paul, his management team, his staff, the many volunteers and other partners who all contribute to the YOT's ongoing effectiveness."

Kath Tunstall
Strategic Director, Services to Children and Young People

"This is a very positive assessment of Bradford YOT. I have seen at close quarters the work they do with young offenders and young people at risk of offending and I am pleased the inspection has recognised the quality of this work. I note the aspects of delivery which can be improved but congratulate the entire team on what they have achieved. It is of vital importance that every young person in Bradford is supported and guided to help them fulfil their potential, irrespective of their background. The YOT play a key role in this objective and I am grateful for their contribution. Reducing youth offending helps young people and improves the quality of life for the whole community."

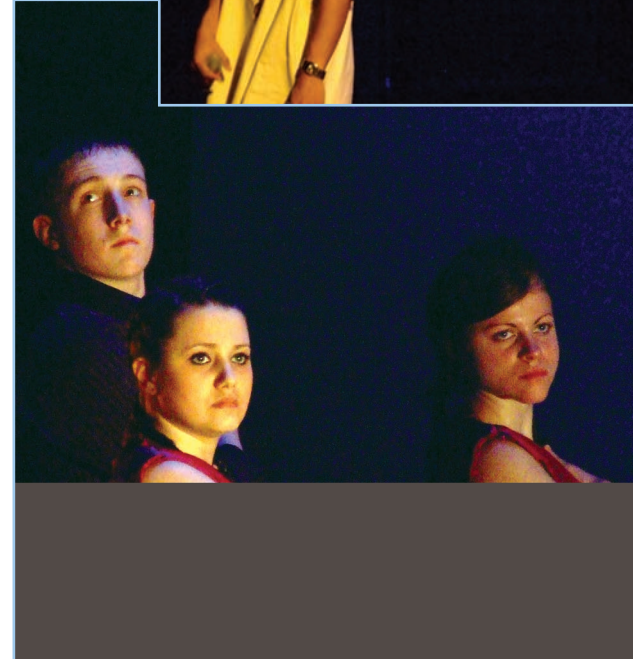
Cllr. Colin Gill
Bradford Council's Executive Member for Children's Services

Key Events

The Youth Offending Team works with a wide range of people from all section of the community - young offenders, parents, victims of youth crime, young people at risk of offending and volunteers from the general public. The YOT has held several events throughout the year to acknowledge their contributions, achievements and successes - not forgetting the staff team who have helped to achieve outstanding results for the YOT.



Bradford YOT held two awards evenings to recognise the achievements of many young people across Bradford, supported by the YOT's key partners (see back page). The young people, supported by staff, parents and friends, received certificates presented by Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Elaine Byrom.



Showcase 4, held at The Alhambra Studio, featured young people from a range of arts and sport based projects across the Bradford District performing music, dance, drama and poetry in front of a full house including the Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford. Many of the young people taking part were not offenders but enjoyed the experience of the opportunity to show off their talents.



The YOT held a successful awards evening to recognise the outstanding contributions made by the staff during the year. The YOT was honoured to have Salima Hafejee, Director of Bradford Youth Development Partnership and Board member on the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and the Bradford Bench, present the certificates. She is seen here with Donna Hassan and Stewart Jessop, the YOT's police officers.



The bi-annual awards evenings continue to be a highlight of the year for many young people being worked with by Bradford YOT's many partners. The young people consistently show tremendous effort and determination to succeed and several have attended the ceremonies more than once having built on previous achievements.

For further information please contact:

Bradford & District Youth Offending Team
Bank House, 41 Bank Street
Bradford
BD1 1RD

Telephone: 01274 436060

Fax: 01274 436061

E-mail yot-info@bradford.gov.uk

Partners

The Bradford YOT works with its main partners, police, social services, probation, education and health but continues to build strong links with local communities with its wider network of partners.

- Bradford Motor Education Project
- Youth Service
- Joint Activity Services
- YMCA
- Connexions Bradford
- Foundation Housing
- Nacro
- Children's Fund
- Dance United
- Kirkgate Community Centre
- West Yorkshire Fire Service
- Bridge Project
- Project 6
- Ummid
- Learning Skills Council
- Arts Council West Yorkshire
- Bradford Bulls
- Kala Sangam
- West Bowling Community Partnership
- Bradford Youth Development Partnership
- National Media Museum
- Trident
- PRISM
- Prince's Trust
- Bradford Council Sports & Recreation Service
- Careers Bradford
- Bradford Council ASBO Team
- Bradford City Football Club
- In Communities (Social Housing)
- Cleanbreak
- Freedom Studios
- Waxworks