

Cabinet – 13 November 2018 – Agenda Item No: 12 – Addendum to Appendix 1

Please note that the highlighted text has been amended since the original version was published. This page replaces page 12 of the original Northamptonshire Youth Justice Plan 2019/20

Young offenders in suitable accommodation at the end of orders to be maintained above 95%

Performance in this area for 2017/18 was 98.9% of young people in suitable accommodation, which maintains the very high levels achieved consistently over a number of years (see appendix for further details).

Work is currently underway to review homelessness 16/17 year olds protocol with the Local Authority and Borough and District Councils.

Reduce violent crime by young people, including involvement in gang activity

The evidence from analysis of assessments is that a growing proportion of children and young people referred to YOS have some link to gang related activity. Work has also been undertaken with the Institute of Public Safety, Crime and Justice to analyse the profile of young people known to Children's Social Care with a gangs factor of concern within their Single Assessment, to understand the other key risk factors and needs that are most associated with those that are involved in gangs or at risk of becoming involved, to help shape local responses to the issue. The findings of this report were presented and discussed at the YOS Management Board. The YOS has strong links into both the Police and Children's Social Care as part of the county-wide work to address this growing phenomenon. Children as young as seven or eight are known to have been groomed to take part in the activities of these gangs, not least because they are below the age of criminal activity. Nearly a quarter of the young people identified with a gangs factor of concern in their Social Care Single Assessments were aged 8 or younger (although the context of this needs to be understood, in that this does not necessarily mean these young people are directly involved in gangs themselves, but maybe in a household for example where an elder sibling is directly involved). Whilst the change in the social landscape is shocking – for example the rise in the use of firearms by young people – the YOS is working with the issue in line with national guidance, both in terms of intervention and information sharing. The YOS was directly involved in the production of the recently launched NSCB guidance on the subject.

There is a growing awareness that viewing children as becoming members of gangs as a lifestyle choice is as unhelpful as it was when the same approach was taken to what we now recognise as Child Sexual Exploitation. The concept of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is now gaining currency and the YOS will be working with that approach over the next 12 months to ensure that the grooming and exploitation of children and young people is recognised for what it is.