

Note of Meeting

Reducing Reoffending Board

05th September 2023, 10:30-12:30

MS Teams

Chair: Director of Commissioning & Partnerships (MOPAC)

1. Welcome, apologies

Attendees:

MOPAC
Barrow Cadbury Trust
LP
CPS
HMP ISIS
HMCCS
LB Haringey
Public Health
NHS
LB Camden

Apologies:

LPG
MPS
DWP
Clinks
OHID

2. Young Adults Overview

Barrow Cadbury Trust – An introduction into Barrow Cadbury Trust was provided, emphasising the four main programs: criminal justice, migration, economic justice and social and investments. Please see slides attached.

T2A'S three stages of development:

1. Evidence building – Started in 2010. Thinking about Neurological, Criminological, Psychological
2. Making the case – Who needs to know about this information. Started thinking about the key intervention points in the CJ journey and through to resettlement. All findings were put into a publication called 'pathways from crime'. Which included key asks of the justice system along each one of those pathways. Looking at specific interventions, these were put out for tender, and organisations put forward proposals. A case was made to the Justice select committee and they produced

reports in 2016 and 2018 about young adults in the CJS, they called on statutory sector to think about young adults as a distinct group with distinct needs and to develop a distinct service.

3. Embedding good practice – How can this knowledge be widely accessible to practitioners.

<https://t2a.org.uk/the-evidence/research-and-reports/> - link to research was shared.

3. Y2A Transitions Hub Update

The overarching objective with the Y2A hub is long term impact, desired impact is reducing reoffending. But the theory of change also includes other outcomes that are directly linked to each of the services commissioned. For example, emotional wellbeing, improved mental health, improved relationships, improve thinking skills, improved access to stable accommodation etc. They found they are achieving wider outcomes than those that are set out in the logic model.

Success story shared:

A young adult, 18 years old at the time of the alleged offense, identified as a Black individual, had no prior convictions and aspired to a promising future. With the guidance and support of a mentor, he successfully had his conviction overturned. This young man, who was engaged in his education and cooperating with the YJS, was in the process of transitioning to probation with the assistance of the hub. Thanks to the mentor's dedication, his conviction was overturned, effectively erasing his criminal record. Now, he can confidently move forward in life without the burden of a wrongful conviction impeding his progress.

Discussion:

MOPAC– Posed a question regardless of what happens next with the hub a lot of learning has been generated about what works. Thinking about the reducing reoffending board, what conversation should be occurring to sustain funding.

MOPAC – Speech and language therapy should also be in prisons.

HMP ISIS - Currently in the process of recruiting a speech and language therapist as part of their commissioned services with the health provider. Additionally, they have recently initiated universal hearing tests for all young men upon admission. This decision is rooted in the recognition that, drawing from their experience in the U.S. justice

system, undiagnosed hearing difficulties often contribute to speech and language challenges, making it challenging for young men to comprehend verbal communication. HMP ISIS is delivering trauma informed training to all staff alongside the health partners.

LP– Probation is delivering trauma informed training for all practitioners in London already. The IOM practitioners have already been trained for some time.

4. OOC and young adults

MOPAC provided Information on the two-tier framework for OOCs and the approach for 18-25s.

The following discussion questions were posed to the board:

1. *Changing attitudes: How can we work together to challenge the perception that diversion is 'soft on crime?'*

Barrow Cadbury Trust – This challenge encourages young people to reflect on the consequences of their actions, including their impact on their families, friends, themselves, and society at large. When they genuinely engage in this process of self-reflection and the need to change their behavior, it becomes a challenging and demanding endeavor, rather than something easy.

MOPAC - It's key to highlight the importance of focusing on this age group, especially considering that they are still developing maturity. However, it's also crucial to recognise that there's a genuine sense of accountability within this demographic. As mentioned, accepting the conditions imposed can be quite challenging. It needs to be highlighted that this isn't a soft option; it's effective and can truly make a difference.

Moreover, it's essential to address how the concept of 'diversion' is communicated. Even among professionals, the term 'diversion' can carry different interpretations and meanings.

LP– There's something around changing the narrative around the word 'diversion' because from a public perspective, it implies that the individual is no longer in the CJS and has been let off, but that isn't the case.

2. *Understanding needs: What are the priority needs of young people aged 18-25 that need to be addressed for effective diversion?*

LP –The housing regulations applicable to individuals under 35 pose a significant obstacle, given the distinct housing benefit rules that apply to this group. It becomes difficult to envision what a community resolution would entail for individuals within this age group who

either experiencing homelessness or grappling with housing-related issues. This area is complex and demanding.

MOPAC - The expectation involves connecting individuals with housing services to address their needs, with a primary focus on facilitating these connections. Challenges, including capacity issues due to lack of dedicated funding, have been raised based on partner feedback.

With the new legislation, approximately 24,000 offenders per year may become eligible, raising concerns about capacity. Currently, services are delivered through collaborative engagement and partnership efforts, emphasising the importance of comprehending specific needs. Gathering insights from local authorities is crucial to understand available services, identify gaps, and explore ways to address them.

3. Engaging partners: Who do we need represented on the 18-25 advisory group and how should we engage them?

LP raised a question if there were reps from victims, young adults and lived experience as part of that advisory group.

Barrow Cadbury Trust – T2A are interested in joining the advisory group as a 3rd sector organisation.

5. Young Adults in probation

LP focused their presentation on three areas: Operations context, commissioned services and future focus.

LP have 35,000 statutory people that are supervise either coming out of prison or on Community orders in London. The offer that *LP* have for young adults (18-25) is the same allocated resources to someone that is 35, the national position.

Staffing levels define what *LP* can offer.

In 22 of London's 32 boroughs, YOS secondees are actively involved. However, it's important to note that not all boroughs have a secondee in place. In cases where a secondee is unavailable, they opt for temporary staff. If this option is not feasible, offered money in kind.