

## SERVICE REORGANISATION IN CORNWALL

### Key points:

- **In a geographically challenging area, and with service reduction driving strategic planning, Cornwall have decided to amalgamate service provision**
- **By linking the YOT with Gweres Tus Yowynk (Helping Young People) service, it is anticipated that the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience can be identified, shared and developed, enabling effective specialist service continuity in challenging times**
- **The combined workforce intend to use The Youth Justice SEND Bubble to support the transition and training work**

### Service amalgamation update - Gweres Tus Yowynk, incorporating the Youth Offending Service

#### Introduction

With the continuing pressures brought about by reduced budgets, uncertainty around funding streams and the needs and risks of a smaller cohort of criminalised young people becoming more acute and complex, there is an urgent need to ensure that we provide a value for money, equitable and sustainable service for our children and young people in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. How these needs are balanced against welfare and public protection requirements and then responded to by an ever-changing and resource-restricted social care and justice landscape is a complicated challenge. Therefore, the Cornwall & IoS Youth Justice Board made a decision in October 2015 to restructure the Youth Offending Service (YOS) in order to address the anticipated reductions in partnership funding over the next three years and to ensure sustainability and equity going forward. The restructure has incorporated the YOS with the existing adolescent service within children's social care called Gweres Tus Yowynk (Helping Young People). The amalgamation of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) with the Gweres Tus Yowynk (GTU) adolescent service has now formally been completed with the new service commencing on 01.09.16.

#### Background

It is clearly a turbulent time for the youth justice sector both locally and nationally as the delay in the publication of the Taylor Review (national youth justice review) has left many partnerships without a clear steer on their future direction and has created a vacuum on national decision making. This in turn has fuelled speculation of radical change to the delivery of youth justice as we know it. The recently appointed youth justice minister Dr Phillip Lee has taken over the Taylor Review of youth justice and is said to be supportive of many of the recommendations made. However, he wishes to seek evidence on the impact of YOTs to fully understand any consequences of instigating changes. Thus it is not possible to predict the date of the publication of the final review, possibly November, and it is likely to be accompanied by a Youth Justice White Paper and consultation process. It is anticipated that the

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concept of 'secure schools' replacing the current Youth Offending Institutions will continue to be explored. Whilst the delay in publication is unfortunate for future planning, it is a positive outcome that the sector will have further opportunity for consultation on future changes.

It is against this backdrop that the YOS Management Board made the decision to amalgamate the service with Gweres Tus Yowynk; to ensure the continuation of specialist youth justice services in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly; to ensure its sustainability for a further three years; to maintain performance; create a better integrated adolescent service and to ensure improved outcomes for children and young people on the edge of care and at risk of offending. The Board had the opportunity to meet with Charlie Taylor in December 2015 here in Cornwall as he sought views from youth justice partnerships across the UK.

The outcome of the amalgamation is as follows: The west based YOS staff have moved out of the Basset Centre, Camborne and are now based with their GTY colleagues in the Dolcoath council offices, Camborne. The east based staff are similarly based with their GTY colleagues in Chy Trevail, Bodmin. The service structure chart demonstrates the split of staff over the county and the lines of direct reporting.

The governance of the new service is as follows. Gweres Tus Yowynk (GTY) sits within the Children's Early Help, Psychology and Social Care Service - Head of Service Jack Cordery. The GTY service manager reports directly to Senior Manager (CEHP&SC) David Roose. The team managers report directly to the service manager. The service manager continues to sit on the CloS Youth Justice Board and remains the 'outward facing' contact for youth justice both locally and nationally.

There is a team manager based in the west of the county and a team manager based in the east of the county. Both managers will supervise a mix of GTY/YOS staff. The Principal Social Workers will manage the targeted youth workers and the family functional therapists (FFTs) and the senior YOS officers will manage the YOS assistants. There will be a GTY/YOS management meeting once every two weeks, the management team consisting of the service manager, team managers and the principal social workers. The management meeting will be supplemented by a monthly specialist workers' meeting for GTY and YOS staff and bimonthly whole service meetings. The FFT team will continue to meet weekly and will join the whole service meetings. They will also join the specialist workers' meetings as appropriate. Group supervision and case audit meetings will also be timetabled as a regular commitment.

Vacancies remain for a part time senior YOS officer in the East and a GTY social worker in the west. Recruitment is ongoing.

Clearly, the impact of the changes means that capacity, in terms of numbers of young people that can be worked with is reduced. However, decisions have been made to mitigate this. It must be noted that there has been a significant drop in the statutory work of YOTs nationally – since 2006 74% drop – with far fewer young people going through the court system and a corresponding reduction in that area of work. Whilst fixed and remand courts still have to be covered the imminent introduction of virtual

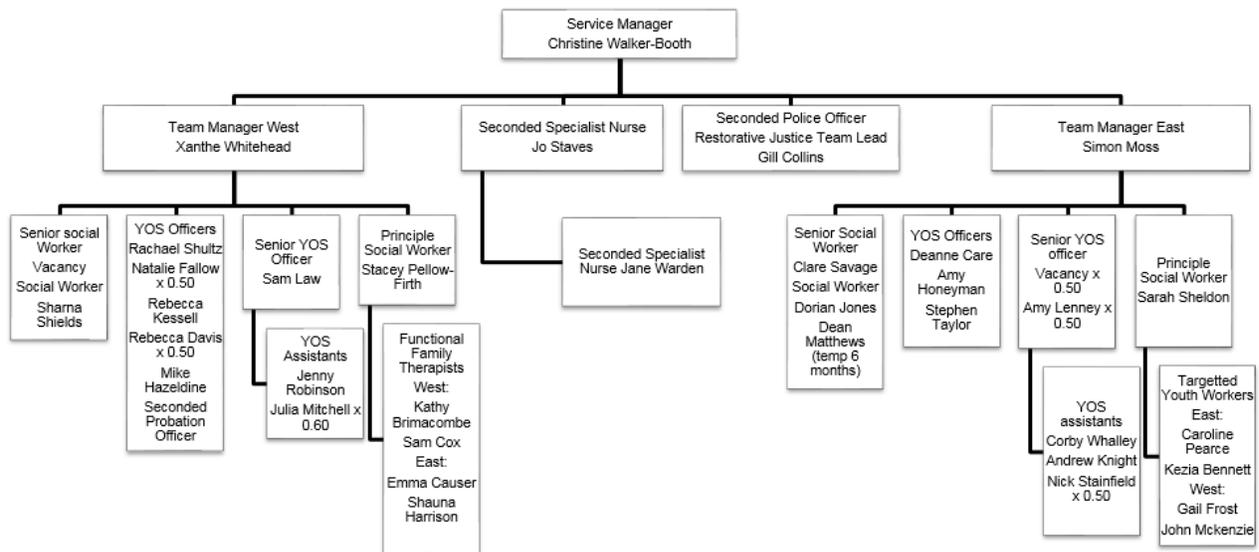
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courts will further change this landscape and as yet it is not known what impact this will have on resources.

There has also been a review of prevention work within the YOS and a decision made to move away from accepting referrals from many sources to ensuring that there is a clear Anti-Social Behaviour or offending link and accepting referrals only from the Early Help Hub, the MARU, anti-social behaviour meetings and the resolution (caution) clinics. Thus all statutory work can be covered at this stage and the young people who will no longer be seen by the YOS can source other pathways to early help.

A further impact is to the role of parenting work. The YOS no longer has dedicated parenting workers but now has access to the family functional therapists. Case managers have received training from the previous parenting workers and have access to resources meaning that if FFT intervention is not appropriate, low level parenting work can still be achieved. The YOS continues to have statutory responsibility to supervise parenting orders from the courts.

The YOS will also continue to deliver restorative interventions with the principles of restorative justice underpinning all work. GTY workers have joined the YOS workers in RJ training and it is hoped that the GTY workers will be able to consider restorative practice within their service delivery.



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