

# HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment of Young Offenders (September 2014 – May 2015)

### THE BRIEF

Young offenders are known to present with a range of physical and mental health needs that are often greater than their peers. Halton, Warrington, Cheshire West and Chester Youth Offending Service (YOS) wanted to determine the health and wellbeing needs of young offenders in the area and to investigate the extent to which current service provision was meeting these needs. CPI was commissioned to:

- Review the existing literature on health & wellbeing needs of young offenders
- Analyse quantitative data and findings from fieldwork with young offenders and stakeholders, to understand the needs of young people and barriers to accessing services/support
- Recommend actions for improvement within the commissioning landscape

### WHAT THEY SAID

“Halton Borough Council and its partners were delighted with the work of The Centre for Public Innovation in the development of a health needs assessment for the young people engaged with the joint Youth Offending Service for Warrington, Cheshire West and Chester and Halton. The Service covers a large geographic area with a number of different stakeholders involved in supporting this vulnerable cohort of young people, and we were very pleased at the Centre’s professional and efficient approach to providing us with great insight in to how we can better meet the needs of local young people.”

**Simon Bell**, Commissioning Manager,  
Halton Borough Council

### WHAT WE DELIVERED

CPI built a robust evidence-base to enable commissioners to develop and commission services to address the health and wellbeing of the local young offender population.

Drawing on considerable research experience within public sector services, CPI used a variety of consultation styles. This included:

- Conducting extensive consultation with a wide range of public sector bodies and with young offenders engaged by the YOS
- Analysing data for a statistically significant sample of young offenders to demonstrate differences in health prevalence and outcomes
- Providing the YOS with the necessary information to enable better focus on certain activities and with particular groups

Recommendations were made about adopting an holistic approach to the issues surrounding vulnerable young people in the community to improve their mental and physical health as well as helping tackle their offending behaviour. The project was successfully delivered on time and within budget.



CPI exists to help public and third sector organisations improve the lives of their clients.