

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 22 APRIL 2015

DRAFT YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2015/16

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the Scrutiny Commission on the Draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015/16, attached as Appendix 1. The draft Plan will be presented to the Cabinet on 11 May 2015 alongside any comments of the Commission.

Policy Framework and Previous Decision(s)

2. There is a statutory requirement in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce an Annual Youth Justice Plan.

Background

3. In past years, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) provided the framework for the Plan, along with considerable scrutiny and oversight. Four years ago, in line with the Government's agenda to reduce the burden, Youth Offending Services were given the freedom and flexibility to produce a Youth Justice Strategic Plan to their own timetable and format. The Plan should be submitted to the YJB by the end of July 2015.

Consultations

4. There is a requirement for the Plan to be approved by the statutory partners that make up the Youth Offending Service (YOS) partnership. The draft Plan has therefore been submitted to the Youth Offending Service Management Board's meeting on 13 February.

Resource implications

5. Section 5 of the Plan (page 8) sets out the resourcing and funding arrangements for the Youth Offending Service. The County Council remains the major funding partner via the Chief Executive's and the Children and Young People's Service.
6. In 2014/15 there was a £350K reduction in the County Council's element of funding to the YOS. The 2015/16 budget represents a standstill.

Timetable for Decisions

7. The draft Plan will be considered by the Cabinet on the 11 May, prior to submission to the YJB.
8. The final Plan will be considered by the County Council on 8 July 2015.

Conclusions

9. The draft Plan highlights the continuing high performance of the YOS in 2014/15 and sets out the targets and key priorities for the work of the Youth Offending Service during 2015/16.

Background Papers

Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2014/15

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officers to Contact

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015/16

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Right Implications

Inequality is inherent within the criminal justice system and an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed on the Plan.

Environmental Implications

There are no particular environmental implications arising out of the Plan.