

REPORT OF THE CABINET

A. YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2015/16

Introduction

1. This report concerns the proposed Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2015/16.

Background

2. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan is identified in the Constitution as forming part of the Policy Framework and therefore requires the approval of the County Council.
3. Youth Justice Plans have been produced on an annual basis since the Youth Offending Service was established in April 2000. The County Council has a statutory duty under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to prepare and submit an annual Youth Justice Plan to the Youth Justice Board (YJB).
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 was approved for consultation by the Youth Offending Service's Management Board on 15th February 2015. The draft Plan was then submitted to the Scrutiny Commission on 22nd April as part of the consultation process.
5. The draft of the Plan was considered again by the Youth Offending Service Management Board on 22nd May when it was agreed that the Plan would benefit from additional information on how the Service dealt with the voice of the child, resettlement and disproportionality.

The Plan

6. The Plan highlights the continuing high performance of the YOS in 2014/15 and sets out the priorities and objectives for the Service in 2015/16. Performance against national indicators remains good compared to regional and national trends.
7. The work of the YOS over the last 3 years is set against reduced funding from the YJB, partner agencies, and through the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). During 2014/15 the YOS underwent an action plan to meet the £350,000 MTFS savings requirements. Reductions in staff were balanced across a number of functions to preserve the services linked to preventative work with young people on the cusp of offending.

Resource Implications

8. Section 5 and 6 of the draft Plan sets out the resourcing and funding arrangements for the Youth Offending Service. In 2014/15 there was a

£350,000 reduction in the County Council element of funding to the YOS. The 2015/16 budget represents a standstill. The County Council remains the major funding partner.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

9. Inequality is inherent within the criminal justice system. An Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) has been completed in the light of the MTFS changes. The EHRIA on the Plan highlights no adverse impacts.

Consideration by Cabinet and Scrutiny

10. The Plan was considered by the Scrutiny Commission on 22nd April and its comments are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
11. The Cabinet considered this matter at its meeting on 16th June and was advised of changes to the risk register and that work was nearing completion on addressing the concerns raised at the Youth Offending Service Management Board on 22nd May. The Cabinet noted this and agreed as follows:-
 - 'a) That subject to (b) below the draft Youth Justice Plan 2015/16 be submitted to the County Council meeting on 8th July for approval;
 - b) That the Director of Children and Family Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Lead member for Safer Communities and Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Families, be authorised to make amendments to the Plan arising from consideration by the Cabinet prior to its presentation to the Council.'
12. A copy of the revised Plan which now reflects the changes to the risk register and which addresses the issues identified in paragraph 5 above, is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

(Motion to be moved:-

That the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015/16, attached as Appendix 2 to this report, be approved.)

16th June 2015

**Mr N. J. Rushton CC
Chairman**

Background Papers

Reports on the Youth Justice Strategic Plan considered at the meetings of the Scrutiny Commission on 22nd April, the Youth Offending Service Management Board on 22nd May and the Cabinet on 16th June 2015.