

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 22 APRIL 2015**

**Draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015/16**

**DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT**

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Children and Family Services concerning the Draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015/16. The comments of the Commission were being sought ahead of its consideration at the Cabinet meeting on 11 May and prior to full approval at the County Council meeting on 8 July. Arising from a discussion, the following points were noted:

- The table set out at the bottom of page 6 of the Plan showed a large increase from -45.7% to 3.21 in first time entrants into the criminal justice system. This was largely as a result of a change in legislation and the way in which had been expected. Despite this increase, the County Council sat well when compared with the performance of other local authorities in this area of work;
- The re-offending rate was set at a national level by using a cohort of young people, which in Leicestershire this was around 60 to 70 per quarter. Two indexes were used to measure the progress of the cohort: the amount who commits an offence and the average re-offending rate. As the Plan was required to be approved in July, it was noted that the final time period on the table did not represent a full year. It was therefore expected that the reduction of re-offending rate was likely to be at around 1.06, slightly higher than the previous year's 1.04;
- The percentage of young people who receiving a conviction in court who were sentenced to custody stood at 3.9%, ahead of the 5% target that had been set. This was felt to be as a result of the Council's multi-agency approach which hoped to provide the courts with a greater amount of confidence in some of the alternative measures they could use as a means of rehabilitating offenders;
- The use of the key set out on page 29 was in line with the Children and Family Service's risk measuring system. Members asked that an explanatory note be circulated giving further detail as to why "Residual Likelihood" was set at 1 (high risk) and why "Residual Impact" was set at 2 (slightly lower
- Given the complex nature of the Plan, it was felt that it would be helpful in future years to make a greater use of the covering report to provide greater context, an explanation of the key performance indicators and a national perspective on where Leicestershire's performance sat when compared with that of other authorities.

RESOLVED:

That the comments of the Commission be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 11 May.