



CABINET – 24th NOVEMBER 2017

**REVISED LEICESTERSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC
PLAN 2016 –2019**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES**

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Cabinet the updated Leicestershire Youth Justice Strategic Plan covering the period 2016 – 2019.

Recommendation

2. That the County Council be recommended to:
 - (a) Agree the updated Leicestershire youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019 as set out in the Appendix to this report;
 - (b) Authorise the Director of Children and Family Services to make minor amendments to the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016-2019 as are considered necessary to ensure it remains current and conforms to the requirements of the Youth Justice Board.

Reason for Recommendations

3. The County Council has a statutory duty under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan. Following guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in 2015, subsequent plans will cover a three year period. Since that time the YJB have advised that the 3 year Youth Justice Plans need to be updated each year prior to re-submission to them.
4. Following its approval, the YJB requested that the Youth Offending Service (YOS) review the Plan after its first year of implementation and if necessary, update it to reflect changes in priorities and budget position.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. The updated 3 year Plan has been considered by the Youth Offending Service Management Board. Whilst there are no significant changes to the Plan, a copy of the report has been circulated to the Scrutiny Commissioners for their information.
6. Subject to approval by the Cabinet, the Plan will be submitted to the County Council for approval at its meeting on 6 December 2017.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

7. The three year Youth Justice Plan 2016-2019 was originally approved by the County Council at its meeting in June 2016, following a period of consultation with stakeholders and its consideration by this Youth Offending Service Management Board, the Scrutiny Commission and the Cabinet.
8. The now updated Plan was approved by the Youth Offending Management Board at its meeting on 22 September 2017.

Resource Implications

9. Sections 4 and 6 of the draft Plan set out the resourcing and funding arrangements for the Youth Offending Service (YOS). The County Council remains the major funding partner via the Children and Families Service.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

10. None.

Officers to Contact

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PART B

Background

11. The Youth Offending Service (YOS) moved from its existing one year plan to one which covered a three year period on the recommendation of the YJB. It was hoped the move would reduce the burden on YOSs nationally requiring them to produce a new plan only every three years. The new Plan therefore details the Services priorities for 2016 to 2019.
12. Following its approval by the Council in June 2016, the YJB requested that the YOS review the Plan after its first year of implementation and if necessary update it to reflect changes in priorities and budget position. It is therefore necessary for the updated Plan to be approved by the County Council.

Amendments to the 2016 – 2019 Youth Justice Strategic Plan

13. The Plan largely remains the same other than a small number of amendments in order for it to reflect the change in the Service's budget position and the its additional priorities. A revised version of the 2016 – 2019 Youth Justice Plan is attached as an Appendix to this report. The main changes are:
 - The Resources section contains an updated financial position (see page 7). The amended YOS budget of £2.2 million is a reduction from £2.7 million shown in the 2016 – 2019 Youth Justice Plan. The reduction of £500,000 was as a result of the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), and reductions from the YJB, the Police, and the National Probation Service. The Services' transformation plan was implemented during 2016/17.
 - The Service Development section has additional information concerning the work being undertaken on Desistance and on Education and Employment and Training (ETE). The new Desistance approach focuses on a more holistic approach to working with young people rather than the current deficit model, and as a result of the recent HMIP (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation) thematic on the subject, it is going to become the corner stone of future inspections. ETE has been added due to a further down turn in performance (see page12).
 - Appendix B to the Plan now contains an updated performance table to include 2016/17 performance set against the National Indicators (see page 17).
 - The work of the Youth Offending Service has been set against reduced funding from the YJB, partner agencies, and through the Council's MTFS, as outlined. Reductions in staff have been

balanced across a number of functions, to preserve the Services' work linked to preventative work with young people on the cusp of offending. Performance against national indicators remains good compared to regional and national trends.

Potential for Further Amendments

14. As the YJB may request the YOS to undertake further reviews of the Plan before it is refreshed in 2019, it is considered sensible for the Director of Children and Family Services to be authorised to make such minor changes to the Plan in future as are necessary to ensure this remains current and conforms to any future YJB requirements.

Background Papers

Report to Council – 29 June 2016 - Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016 - 2019
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=4552&Ver=4>

Appendix

Updated Leicestershire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019

Equality and Human Rights Implications

15. An equality and human rights impact assessment has been completed and there are no discernible equality and human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Risk Assessment

16. A risk management plan has been incorporated into the Plan which can be found on page 17.