

REPORT OF THE CABINET

D: LEICESTERSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 –2019

Introduction

1. This report concerns the proposed Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2016 - 2019.

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. 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 has advised that the 3 year Youth Justice Plans need to be updated each year prior to re-submission to them.
4. The County Council at its meeting in June 2016 approved a three year plan covering the period 2016 -19. Following approval by the Council, 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. It is therefore necessary for the revised Plan to be approved by the County Council.

Amendments to the 2016 – 2019 Youth Justice Strategic Plan

5. 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 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 (EET). 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. EET has been added due to a further down turn in performance.

- Appendix B to the Plan now contains an updated performance table to include 2016/17 performance set against the National Indicators.
- 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.

Consideration by the Cabinet

6. At its meeting on 24th November the Cabinet was requested to recommend to the Council that, as the YJB may request the YOS to undertake further reviews of the Plan before it is refreshed in 2019, the Director of Children and Family Services 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. The decision of the Cabinet is set out in the motion below.

(Motion to be moved:-

- a) That the revised Leicestershire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019 as set out in the Appendix to this report be approved;**
- b) That the Director of Children and Family Services be authorised 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.)**

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