

SCRUTINY COMMISSION: 10TH APRIL 2019**DRAFT YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN****REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES****Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of the report is to update the Scrutiny Commission with details of the draft Youth Justice Plan for 2019/20. The Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement and is linked to the funding provided to Youth Offending Services (YOS) nationally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The previous plan was introduced for three years between 2016 and 2019. Formulation of the plan was overseen by the Youth Offending Services Management Board (YOSMB). It was approved by the County Council on 29 June 2016.
3. Following approval by the Council, 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. The revised plan was approved by the County Council on 6 December 2017.

Background

4. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) requires the Youth Offending Service Management Board (YOSMB) to provide it with a Youth Justice Plan outlining how youth justice issues will be structured and co-ordinated. This is a statutory duty under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. There is the option for YOSMBs to choose between a one or three year plan. Following the recent transformation of Early Help Services, the decision has been made to provide a one year plan to enable appropriate time for the youth and justice delivery to take effect.
5. The format of the plan is based on previous years. The YJB has indicated that there is a review of the Youth Justice Plan format being undertaken but has not yet provided detail as to how changes may look or the timeline for change. Due to the need to undertake consultation with partners and for the Plan to be considered through relevant governance arrangements, the plan has been drafted on the current plan format. The Plan will be adapted once any changes introduced by the YJB are known. In these circumstances approval will be sought from the County Council for the Director of Children and Family Services to make amendments if only minor changes are needed to the current draft plan.

The Plan

6. The Youth Justice Plan provides an overview of how the Leicestershire Youth Offending Service will link into partnership arrangements and deliver services in line with national requirements set out by the National YJB. The plan provides a review of last year's plan, an overview of the YOS governance arrangements, the YOS structure and resources, local performance, identified risks, and highlights areas of development.

Consultation

7. The plan has been shared with a number of partner agencies through the YOSMB. To support the consultation a workshop was also held with Board members to consider how the involvement of partner agencies could be enhanced to develop youth justice related work. Feedback from this approach has been incorporated into the plan.

Resource Implications

8. During 2018/19 a review of the County Council's Early Help Services was undertaken, which has led to the integration of a number of services into an integrated locality based Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS). The YOS and Youth Teams will form part of locality based teams within this Service. The CFWS is focused on provided early support and intervention to children and families encountering difficulties.
9. The financial arrangements in relation to YOS staff are outlined in Part 6 of the plan.

Timetable for Decisions

10. The Youth Justice plan is due to be presented at the Cabinet meeting on 25 June 2019. The Cabinet will be asked to recommend to the full Council to approve the Youth Justice Plan at its meeting on 10 July 2019.

Background papers

Report to the County Council on 29 June 2016 -

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s120246/Youth%20Justice%20Plan%20Report.pdf>

Report to the County Council on 6 December 2017 -

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s133859/Youth%20Justice%20Plan%202016-2019.pdf>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

11. None

Equality and Human Rights Implications

12. The Youth Justice Plan outlines governance arrangements, performance, and priorities related to youth justice, for the YOS and partner agencies. There are no specific EHRIA implications.

Appendices

Draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019 -20

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