

REPORT OF THE CABINET

B: YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2020

Introduction

1. This report concerns the proposed Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2019-2020.

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 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). There is a requirement for the Plan to be agreed by the statutory partners that make up the Youth Offending Service (YOS) partnership.
4. The previous Plan, which covered a period of three years between 2016 and 2019, was updated and approved by the County Council on 6 December 2017. The Youth Justice Board guidance has now been altered to reflect expected changes in 2020 which will define a new framework for the areas of focus for Youth Justice Plans, such as the new National Standards. The new plan therefore covers only one year.

The Plan

5. 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 Youth Justice Board (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.
6. The work of the Youth Offending Service over the last three years has been set against reduced funding from the YJB, partner agencies and through the County Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). From 1 April 2019, the YOS transitioned into the new Children and Family Wellbeing Service, along with Supporting Leicestershire Families, Children's Centres and the Early Help Information, Support and Assessment Service. As detailed in the draft Plan, this approach has enabled the preservation of preventative work with young people on the cusp of offending through integrating youth workers with the Youth Offending Team.

7. The draft Plan details the Youth Offending Service's Performance against national indicators which remains good compared to regional and national trends in relation to re-offending, First Time Entrants and remand and custody rates.
8. Delegating authority for the Director of Children and Family Services to make minor amendments to the Plan will allow the performance data (detailed at section two of the Plan) to be updated once provided by the YJB and the final service structure to be added as Appendix C to the Plan.

Consultation

9. There is a requirement that the Plan be agreed by the statutory partners that make up the Youth Offending Service Partnership. As part of the consultation process the draft plan was submitted to the Youth Offending Management Board on 8th March 2019. A workshop was also held with Board members to consider how the involvement of partner agencies could have been enhanced to develop youth justice related work. Feedback from this approach has been incorporated into the Plan
10. The Plan was considered by the Scrutiny Commission on 10th April and the following comments were made:-
 - a) The continued support for the Youth Offending Service and the good outcomes achieved for young people through working in collaboration with partners were to be welcomed.
 - b) There were concerns regarding the input from agencies around young people's mental health input but the Commission was reassured by recent developments achieved through the Adverse Childhood Experiences Project and the improved link with mental health professionals.
 - c) It would be beneficial for future reports on the Plan to contain a case study to enable members to understand practice in relation to the Plan.

Resource Implications

8. Sections 6 of the Plan sets out the resourcing and funding arrangements for the Youth Offending Service. The County Council remains the major funding partner via Children and Family Services.

Consideration by Cabinet

9. The Cabinet considered this matter at its meeting on 15th June 2019 and agreed the Plan.

(Motion to be moved:-

- a) That the draft Leicestershire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019 – 2020, be approved;**
- b) That the Director of Children and Family Services be authorised, following consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Young People, to make minor amendments to the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-2020 as are considered necessary to ensure it remains current and conforms to the requirements of the Youth Justice Board.)**

26th June 2019

N. J. Rushton
Leader of the Council

Background Papers

Report to Council – 17 June 2016 – Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2016/19
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s119813/Final%20-%20Cabinet%20Draft%20Three%20year%20YJPlan%202016-2019.pdf>

Appendix

Appendix - Draft Leicestershire Youth Justice Plan 2019 – 2020

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