

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 5TH MAY 2006

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2006/07

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the draft Youth Justice Plan for 2006/07 and seek the views of the Commission.

Background

2. Youth Justice Plans have been produced on an annual basis since the Youth Offending Service was established in April 2000. The Plan also supports key safer communities outcomes and objectives within the Medium Term Corporate Strategy and the Local Area Agreement as well as the Community Safety Plan.
3. Whilst 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), one of the freedoms and flexibilities as a 4 star authority is that the requirement to produce a Youth Justice Plan is relaxed. However, in the interests of good service planning it has been agreed by the Youth Offending Services Management Board that a Plan will be produced and submitted as normal.
4. There is also a requirement for the Plan to be approved by the statutory partners that make up the Youth Offending Service partnership. The draft Plan has therefore been submitted to partner agencies (Police, Probation, Health Trusts) as well as to community safety partnerships for comment. The Plan has also been submitted to the Youth Offending Services Management Board which considered the matter on the 21st April 2006 and endorsed the Plan for submission to the Youth Justice Board.

Decision of the Cabinet

5. The Cabinet has considered the Plan and agreed to its submission to the County Council meeting on 24th May 2006 for endorsement .

Resource Implications

6. Section B3 of the Plan (pages 12 -16) sets out the resourcing and funding arrangements for the Youth Offending Service which has a total partnership budget of £2.46 million. Whilst the County Council remains the major funding partner via Chief Executive's, Social Services and Education, the YJB's grant allocation has been substantially increased in 2006/07 as a result of a new youth crime prevention grant of £200k. This grant will be aligned with the Local Area Agreement and will be used to support the Vulnerable Children and Young People's outcomes shared by both the Children and Young People and Safer Communities Blocks.

Recommendation

7. The Commission is asked to consider the Plan and indicate what comments, if any it wishes to submit to the Cabinet and Council.

Equal Opportunities Implications

8. Inequality is inherent within the criminal justice system and the Plan is therefore required to address a new performance target set by the YJB to "ensure equal treatment regardless of race" and to "deliver targeted activity that substantially reduces local differences by ethnicity in recorded conviction rates by March 2008" (see page 43).

Circulation under Sensitive Issues Procedures

None

Background papers

Draft Youth Justice Plan 2006/07
Medium Term Corporate Strategy 2006 – 2009
Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2006 - 2009
Community Safety Plan 2006 – 2009

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