

Submission to Cabinet
22nd May 2020



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From Max Hunt CC, on behalf of the Labour Group

Item 7: Leicestershire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023

We value the dedicated work relating to youth offending of the police, children’s services and our partners, and we know that the general public places a very high importance on this work too. So, it is with that in mind that we would like the Strategic Plan to include a more strategic approach and forward plan.

We concur with Dr Eynon’s expressed view at the Commission that the report was difficult to access and scrutinise. We would like to enlarge upon our concerns as follows:

1. Fundamentally, we don’t think this report represents a clear Strategic Plan.
2. The covering report confirms in para 5 that the Strategic Plan provides an overview of the service and this tends to take the place of strategy.
3. The priorities listed for the Plan period are inexhaustible and as such do not allow us to understand of how the service will prioritise its scarce resources over the Plan period.
4. Without a strategic and planned approach, or with sufficient detail of measures applied, it then becomes difficult to review in the following periods.
5. Whilst the two case examples are welcome, there is little to inform the major issues by way of example of measures taken.
6. For example, the covering report suggests “*A key area of concern related to the exploitation of children, particularly vulnerable children...*” but this is not informed within the Plan by any breakdown of the impact (eg by place, environment, mental health, SEND etc).
7. We feel that the Plan would benefit from more direct input from partners, particularly those school leaders who are particularly engaged with your team.
8. It’s not clear why the Plan is now extended from one to three years, and in this respect what monitoring is expected in 2021. We hope that the publication of an updated Strategic Plan will continue to be a statutory annual requirement.

We do recognise the dedicated work behind the report but with these comments in mind we trust that this important statutory Strategic Plan will be more easily understood and open to scrutiny at each year end in future.

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