

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2007****YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2007/08****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****Introduction**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Youth Justice Plan for 2007/08 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.

**Consultation and Decision Making**

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.
5. The Youth Offending Services Management Board considered the draft Plan on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007 and provided initial feedback which has been incorporated into this latest draft. However, at this stage of consultation, there is still some information that is not yet finalised such as the level of uplift of the annual YJB grant, financial contributions from partner agencies, as well as staffing data and recidivism data.
6. The Cabinet will consider the draft Plan on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007 and any comments from the Commission. The Plan will then be finalised by the Youth Offending Service Management Board on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007, taking into

account any comments provided by the Commission and by Cabinet, thus enabling it to be submitted to the YJB by the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

7. Once approved by the YJB, the Plan will be submitted to the County Council meeting on 23rd May 2007 for endorsement.

### **Resource implications**

8. Section C3 of the Plan (pages 17-22) sets out the resourcing and funding arrangements for the Youth Offending Service which has a total partnership budget of £2.62 million. Whilst the County Council remains the major funding partner via Chief Executive's and the Children and Young People's Service (Social Care and Education), the YJB's grant allocation has increased in 2007/08 as a result of the Youth Crime Prevention Grant increasing from £200k to £270k. The Prevention Grant is also aligned with the Local Area Agreement and is used to support the Vulnerable Children and Young People's outcomes shared by both the Children and Young People and Safer Communities Blocks.

### **Recommendation**

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

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

10. Inequality is inherent within the criminal justice system and the Plan is therefore required to address a performance target set by the YJB to "ensure equal treatment regardless of race" and to "implement their action plan to ensure that any difference between the ethnic composition of offenders on all pre-court and post-court disposals and the ethnic composition of the local community is reduced year on year". The Equality Plan is on page 56 of the Youth Justice Plan.

### **Circulation under Sensitive Issues Procedures**

None

### **Background papers**

Draft Youth Justice Plan 2007/08  
Medium Term Corporate Strategy 2006 – 2009  
Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2006 - 2009  
Community Safety Plan 2006 – 2009

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