

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 23rd JULY 2008

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2008/09

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Youth Justice Plan for 2008/09 and seek the views of the Commission.

Background

2. 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). The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduced a new streamlined approach to the key priorities of central and local government and has resulted in some changes to the Youth Justice Plan 2008/09. The format and content of the plan have been re-designed to support the new local performance and inspection framework for Youth Offending Services and local authorities.
3. The Plan supports key outcomes within the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Local Area Agreement, particularly those in relation to improved life chances for vulnerable people and safer communities.

Timetable

4. The Annual Youth Justice Plan is normally submitted to the Youth Justice Board at the end of April each year. Its submission has been delayed by the YJB this year to 11th August because of the new arrangements. The late availability of the format for the plan from the YJB has resulted in a tight schedule through the County Council and a significantly reduced consultation timetable.

Consultation and Decision Making

5. There is 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 the Youth Offending Services Management Board which considered the matter on 11th July 2008. Feedback is still awaited.

6. The Cabinet will consider the draft Plan on 29th July 2008 and any comments from the Commission. The Plan will then be finalised and submitted to the YJB by the deadline of 11th August.2008.
7. Once approved by the YJB, the Plan will be submitted to the County Council meeting on 24th September 2008 for endorsement.

Resource implications

8. Section B of the Plan (pages 6 - 12) sets out the resourcing and funding arrangements for the Youth Offending Service which has a total partnership budget of £2.96 million. 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 includes the Youth Crime Prevention grant, and the Youth Crime Prevention Plan 2008/09 is an appendix to the Youth Justice Plan. The Prevention Grant is also aligned with the Local Area Agreement and is used to support outcomes particularly in relation to Vulnerable Children and Young People.

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 includes analyses of disproportionality, for example in the numbers of young people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds entering the youth justice system (page 16). A new Equality Action Plan will be produced this year to address the specific areas of disproportionality.

Circulation under Sensitive Issues Procedures

None

Background papers

Draft Youth Justice Plan 2008/09
Medium Term Corporate Strategy 2006 – 2009
Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2006 – 2009
Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011
Community Safety Plan 2006 – 2009

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