

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 21 APRIL 2010**

**YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2010/11**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2010/11 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). In past years, the YJB has provided a prescribed template for the plan. This year, YJB guidance is that strategic Plans should be submitted in line with the local authority planning processes and timescales. The 2010/11 Plan has therefore been produced in line with the County Council's Departmental plans and the Medium Term Delivery Plan. Although there is no prescribed template, the YJB does require that the plan covers the following five areas:
  - Resourcing and Value for Money;
  - Governance and Leadership;
  - Partnership Arrangements;
  - Interface with Key Strategic Partnership Plans;
  - Risks to Future Delivery.
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. There is no specific deadline for submission of the Plan to the YJB. However, the Plan is supported by a Partnership Capacity and Capability self-assessment, whereby the YOS provides evidence of effective delivery of services in key outcome areas, for validation by the YJB. The deadline for submission of the Capacity and Capability assessment is 9 April 2010. It has been agreed that the Draft Strategic Plan would be submitted to the YJB on the same date to enable the YJB to assess both elements together. The YJB will then undertake a validation visit to the YOS on 27 April 2010.

## **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 26 February 2010. Feedback from the Board has been positive and included the need to highlight more explicitly the work of the YOS in relation to substance misuse and community engagement. These changes have been incorporated into the draft Plan.
6. The Cabinet will consider the draft Plan at its meeting on 4 May 2010 along with any comments from the Commission. Following approval by the YJB, the Plan will be submitted to the County Council on 19 May 2010 for endorsement.

## **Resource implications**

7. 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 £3.048 million. The County Council remains the major funding partner via the Chief Executive's Department and the Children and Young People's Service. The YJB's grant allocation of £766,142 includes the Youth Crime Prevention Grant which as well supporting work to prevent young people committing crime and anti-social behaviour, also supports broader Every Child Matters outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

## **Recommendation**

8. It is recommended that the Scrutiny Commission considers the comments and observations it wishes to make to the Cabinet on the draft of the Leicestershire Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2010-11.

## **Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None.

## **Background papers**

Draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2010/11  
Medium Term Delivery Plan to 2013  
Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011  
Safer Communities Plan 2009 - 2012

## **Officers to Contact**

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## **List Appendices**

Appendix – Youth Justice Plan 2010-11

## **Equal Opportunities Implications**

9. 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). An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed on the Plan, together with a new Equality Action Plan to address the specific areas of disproportionality.

## **Environmental Impact**

None.