



CABINET – 10th MAY 2010

YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2010/11

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet the draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2010/11 (attached as an appendix to this report).

Recommendation

2. That the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2010/11 be submitted for approval by the County Council on 19th May 2010.

Reason for recommendation

3. 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).

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. The Strategic Plan was considered by the Scrutiny Commission on 21 April. The Commission's comments are set out in paragraph 7 below.
5. If agreed by the Cabinet, the Plan will be submitted to the County Council for approval on 19th May 2010.

Consultation

6. 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 26th February 2010. The final draft is being submitted to the Youth Offending Services Management Board on 30th April 2010 for agreement. The decision of the Board will be reported at the Cabinet meeting.
7. The Plan was presented to the Scrutiny Commission for comment on 21st April 2010. The Plan was welcomed and reassurance was provided to the Commission that the partnership funding was at present sufficient, although the risks to future funding were acknowledged. It was also suggested that the volunteering arrangements could be more strongly

highlighted in the Plan, given the excellent contribution that volunteers make to youth justice in Leicestershire.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

8. Youth Justice Plans have been produced on an annual basis since the Youth Offending Service was established in April 2000. 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.

Resource implications

9. Section 5 of the Plan (pages 12 - 14) 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 Chief Executive's 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 as 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.
10. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on the funding arrangements set out in the Plan.

Equal Opportunities Implications

11. 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 has been completed on the Plan, together with a new Equality Action Plan to address the specific areas of disproportionality.

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

Background papers

Medium Term Delivery Plan to 2013
Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008 - 2011
Safer Communities Plan 2009 – 12
Children and Young People's Plan 2008 - 11

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