



SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 26 MARCH 2014

DRAFT YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2014/15

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the Scrutiny Commission on the Draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2014/15, attached as Appendix 1. The draft Plan will be presented to the Cabinet on 1st April 2014 along with any comments from the Commission.

Policy Framework and Previous Decision(s)

2. There is a statutory requirement in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan.

Background

3. In past years, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) provided the framework for the Plan, along with considerable scrutiny and oversight. Three years ago, in line with the Government's agenda to reduce the burden, Youth Offending Services were given the freedom and flexibility to produce a Youth Justice Strategic Plan to their own timetable and format. The Plan still has to be submitted to the YJB, but there is no deadline or additional YJB scrutiny.

Consultations

4. 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 YOSMB in March.

Resource implications

5. Section 5 of the Plan (page 8) sets out the resourcing and funding arrangements for the Youth Offending Service. The County Council remains the major funding partner via the Chief Executive's and the Children and Young People's Service.
6. Effective from 6 January 2014, the Youth Offending Service transferred from the Chief Executive's Department to the Children and Young People's Service, now sitting within the Supporting Leicestershire Families service.

7. In 2013/14 there was a 6.1% reduction in funding. The 2014/15 budget represents a standstill.

Timetable for decisions

8. The draft Plan will be considered by the Cabinet on 1 April 2014, prior to submission to the YJB.
9. The final Plan will be considered by the County Council on 1 July 2014.

Conclusions

10. The draft Plan highlights the continuing high performance of the YOS in 2013/14 and sets out the targets and key priorities for the work of the Youth Offending Service during 2014/15.

Background papers

Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officers to Contact

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Appendices

Appendix: Draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2014/15

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equal Opportunities Implications

Inequality is inherent within the criminal justice system and an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed on the Plan.

Environmental Implications

There are no particular environmental implications arising out of the Plan.