

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**CABINET - 19 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN**

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR; FAMILY & COHESION SERVICES**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR PAUL WATLING**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

The Youth Justice Plan is prepared on an annual basis on behalf of Herefordshire Council, Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council and Worcestershire County Council.

The Youth justice Plan sets out how youth justice services across West Mercia are structured and identifies key actions to address identified risks to service delivery and improvement.;

- To focus collaborative multi-agency effort on work to improve outcomes for Young Offenders by offering an exemplary service, with timely interventions and strong links and partnership across all local services including Children's Services, criminal justice and community safety sectors.
- To set strategic direction for the Youth Offending Service (YOS) across West Mercia and agree and review local youth justice planning
- To provide support and challenge to the West Mercia YOS on operational performance;
  - First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System
  - Use of Custody
  - Re-Offending

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 That Cabinet approves the Youth Justice Plan attached and notes performance for the first quarter**

### 3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put our children and young people first</li> <li>Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults</li> <li>Ensure neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained</li> </ul>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Young people already involved with offending or at risk of Offending
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>	The Youth justice plan is for 13/14 and the plan will be reviewed in the final quarter of 13/14 in order to prepare the Youth Justice Plan for 14/15.	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	<p>The Youth Justice Plan confirms Telford and Wrekin budgeted 2013/14 contribution to the West Mercia Youth Offending Service at £0.376m. Prior year contribution was £0.490m, achieving a 23% saving.</p> <p>The plan also refers to further “non-core” savings to be achieved by the West Mercia YOS, for services currently provided which do not have to be delivered directly by a Youth Offending service.</p> <p>Further work needs to be done on these savings by the West Mercia YOS during the remainder of 2013/14, with implementation to be completed by the end of the Financial year. It is anticipated this will result in a lower Telford and Wrekin contribution to the West Mercia YOS in 2014/15.</p> <p>Detailed anticipated savings will be agreed at remaining 2013/14 West Mercia YOS Management board meetings and then published in the Youth Justice plan for 2014/15. GS 18/07/13</p>

<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	Under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement a youth justice plan for each year setting out how youth justice services are to be provided and funded in their area; and how the youth offending team or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out. The youth justice plan is required to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board and be published in such manner and by such date as the Secretary of State may direct.
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Yes	The Youth Justice Plan outlines actions to reduce offending and reoffending by young people
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	No	Borough-wide impact

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

Under section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 each Local Authority has a duty to produce a Youth Justice Plan setting out how Youth Justice Services in their area are provided and funded and composed. The plan is submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

The Youth Justice Plan for 2013/14 was prepared in April 2013 in line with the guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), agreed at the West Mercia Youth Offending Service Management Board on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 and submitted to the YJB at the end of June 2013.

The Youth Offending Service is subject to three national indicators. Performance against the indicators is outlined in the plan and actions identified to address the risks to performance improvement.

Each Local Authority, in cooperation with Police, Probation and Clinical Commissioning Groups must put in place a Youth Offending service for their area, and in doing so the Local Authority may act together with one or more

Local Authorities to establish a joint service for their area. Following a review of the delivery of youth justice services across West Mercia, undertaken in 2012, a decision was taken by the four Local Authorities in West Mercia to establish a joint Youth Offending Service.

The plan identifies five main priorities<sup>1</sup> for 2013/14 as follows:

- Reduce Youth Offending and Protecting Communities from Harm – key areas of focus for 2013/14 will be looked after children and care leavers, diversion and restorative approaches
- Finishing the Job – Although the West Mercia YOS was established in October 2012, the service is still in transition. Key areas of focus include, facilities and enabling services and transitions
- Get Connected, Stay Connected – ensuring greater integrated working between the YOS and other children and family services with the shared aim of improving outcomes for young people in the youth justice system.
- Enabling staff to deliver now and into the future – ensuring staff receive the right training, knowledge and support to deliver quality services for children and young people
- Know the Right Thing – ensuring that the YOS has the information required to develop services and improve outcomes.

The following progress has been made towards these priorities during the first quarter of the year:

In order to address offending by looked after children (LAC) and care leavers the YOS has set up a reference group to analyse the joint issues and joint working in relation to LAC and care leavers. In September 2012 an analysis of LAC on the YOS caseload was undertaken which showed that 28% of the total YOS cases were looked after children.

The Commissioning group has undertaken an evaluation of specifications and have already invited tenders for operating an appropriate adult service. The contract has been awarded to YSS. The new contract will provide an extended service for young people, supporting work undertaken by the Councils' Emergency Duty Team.

The YOS has successfully moved onto the fifth floor of Darby House facilitating improved outcomes in line with plan priorities through integrated working.

## **Performance**

- First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System

For year ending March 2013 (latest figures) the rate per 100,000 of 10-17year olds is 487. This compares favourably to 2012 figures of 515. With

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<sup>1</sup> See page 14 of the Youth Justice Plan

a change in pre court disposals it is not possible at this point to be clear about whether this reduction is significant and will continue to reduce.

- Use of Custody

The use of custody rate for year ending June 2013 is 0.40 custodial sentences per 1000 of the youth population. During 2012 the figure was also 0.40 and historically the YOS has performed well against this measure compared with a National figure of 0.6.

- Re-Offending

The reoffending frequency rate concerns the average number of re offences by an agreed cohort of young people. The last figures available are from 2011 where the figure was 0.90 compared with a National figure of 1.03.

The West Mercia Youth Offending service became operational on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 and consists of core service teams aligned to each Local Authority area supported by commissioned services delivering key youth justice interventions and activities which support key outcomes. The Management of the Youth Offending Service is currently hosted by West Mercia Probation trust on behalf of the four Local Authorities.

## **5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Principal aim of the Youth justice System is the prevention of offending and re offending by children and young people. The Youth justice plan sets out an action plan to address the significant risks identified to future service delivery and improvement.;

## **6. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Thursday, 28th June, 2012 at 5.00 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- West Mercia YOS Board minutes 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013
- West Mercia Youth Offending Service – Youth justice Plan 2013/14

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