

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

**CABINET – 24 JULY 2014
COUNCIL – 11 SEPTEMBER 2014**

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 14/15

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR; FAMILY, COHESION &
COMMISSIONING**

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 funded 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 the 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 the Youth Justice Plan 2014/15 is recommended to Full Council for approval and endorsement and that the West Mercia YOS responsibilities are noted.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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| COMMUNITY IMPACT | Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)? | |
| | Yes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put our children and young people first • Protect and support our vulnerable children and adults • Ensure neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained |
| | Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people? | |
| | Yes | Young people already involved with offending or at risk of Offending |
| TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE | The Youth justice plan is for 14/15 and the plan will be reviewed in the final quarter of 14/15 in order to prepare the Youth Justice Plan for 15/16. | |
| FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT | Yes | <p>The Youth Justice Plan confirms Telford and Wrekin budgeted 2014/15 contribution to the West Mercia Youth Offending Service at £0.356m. In addition a further non-budgeted saving of £0.041m is expected in 2014/15, due to the late notification of the Youth Justice Board Grant being retained at the same level as 2013/14. Further reductions in partners contributions have therefore been agreed and the T&W expected final contribution in 2014/15 is now £0.315m</p> <p>2013/14 contribution was £0.376m, so in 2014/15 a 16% saving will be achieved.</p> <p>The overall savings delivered over the period 2013/14 to 2014/15 is 36%.</p> <p>GS 27/05/2014</p> |
| LEGAL ISSUES | 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 |

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| | | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES | Yes | The Youth Justice Plan outlines actions to reduce offending and reoffending by young people |
| IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS | 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 2014/15 was prepared in April 2014 in line with the guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), agreed at the West Mercia Youth Offending Service Management Board on 23rd May 2014 and will be submitted to the YJB by the end of September 2014.

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 priorities¹ for 2014/15 as follows:

¹ See page 14 of the Youth Justice Plan

- Reduce Youth Offending and Protecting Communities from Harm – key areas of focus for 2014/15 will be reducing re-offending, LAC and care leavers, diversion, restorative approaches and safeguarding
- 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
- Finishing the Job – Although the West Mercia YOS was established in October 2012 a second phase of restructuring is being implemented from April 2014. Key areas of focus include the development of unpaid work, ensuring consistency in practice, implementation of a single ICT system and a case management system upgrade.
- 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.
- Know the Right Thing – ensuring that the YOS has the information required to develop services and improve outcomes.

Performance

The Youth Offending Service is subject to three national indicators:

- First time entrants to the youth justice system
- Use of custody
- Re-offending

Performance against the indicators is outlined in the plan and actions identified to address risks to performance improvement. The Telford and Wrekin specific information is set out on pages 34-38 of the plan. Since the plan was prepared there has been a further quarterly update on the performance.

- First time entrants to the youth justice system

The first time entrant rate is expressed as first time entrants per 100,000 youth population, a lower figure indicates good performance. The Telford and Wrekin performance was 498 for the year ending December 2013, compared to 504 for the year September 2013, a reduction of -1.2%. This performance is slightly worse than for West Mercia, which is 442 but significantly better than for England where the rate is 556.

- Use of Custody

The use of custody measure is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population, a lower rate indicates good performance. The published rates (below) are currently draft and may be subject to change. In the year ending March 2014, the custody rate for Telford and Wrekin was 0.47, compared to the rate of 0.48 for the year ending December 2013. The performance is worse than for West Mercia, 0.29 and for England, 0.44. Historically all areas across West Mercia have had a low

usage of custody, and the recent performance in Telford and Wrekin of 0.47 is due to 6 custodial sentences. Of these six sentences three were co-defendants for the same offence, and these periods are, therefore, not representative of the usual low rates in the use of custody in Telford and Wrekin.

- Re-Offending

There are two re-offending measures both measuring re-offending in the same cohort of offenders over a 12 month period following the youth justice sanction that placed the young person in the cohort. The first, the frequency rate, is the average number of re-offences per young person in the cohort. The second, the binary measure, is the percentage of the young people in the cohort who have re-offended. In both measures a lower figure indicates good performance.

For the year ending June 2012 the frequency rate for Telford and Wrekin is 0.92 and for the year ending March 2012 the rate was 0.85. Although the rate has slightly increased between the two years, it is better than the West Mercia rate, 0.96 and significantly better than the national rate, 1.02.

The binary rate for Telford and Wrekin for the year ending June 2012 is 31.0% compared to 32.7% for the year ending March 2012. The binary rate has improved between the year ending March 2012 and the year ending June 2012. The Telford and Wrekin rate is better than for West Mercia, 34.4% and for England, 35.3%.

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

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 19th September, 2013

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- West Mercia Youth Offending Service – Youth justice Plan 2014/15

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