

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL - 1st OCTOBER 2015

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 15/16

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR; FAMILY, COHESION
& COMMISIONING.**

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 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 2015/16 be approved by Full Council

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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 15/16 and the plan will be reviewed in the final quarter of 15/16 in order to prepare the Youth Justice Plan for 16/17.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>Telford & Wrekin as one of the constituent authorities in the consortium employs staff and incurs the operational costs to deliver the service in Shropshire. The costs are then reimbursed by Worcestershire as host authority, and a levy is charged back to the constituent Councils..</p> <p>The Council's 2015/16 Youth Offending Service budget is £297k for the levy. This is a single levy on the authority which contributes towards the costs of the current service provision.</p> <p>Adopting the strategy is not expected to incur any additional costs over and above the current costs of operation and therefore the budget provision for 2015/16 remains sufficient. There are therefore no further financial implications anticipated from adopting the recommendation of this report.</p> <p>RP-26.6.15</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 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. KF 26.6.15
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 2015/16 was prepared in May 2015 in line with the guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), agreed at the West Mercia Youth Offending Service Management Board on 1st June 2015 and will be submitted to the YJB by the end of August 2015.

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 four main priorities¹ for 2015/16 as follows:

(i) Improving Performance and Developing Practice

- In response to the findings of internal and external audits work to improve identified areas of practice and quality
- Implementation of the Short Quality Screening (SQS) Inspection action plan
- Re-establishing the Worcester Junior Attendance Centre (JAC) and developing the programme for the Telford JAC
- Developing service guidance and screening tools for child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Implementation of a single ICT system and new case management system
- Review the management of risk processes and implementation of a single integrated intervention plan for young people

(ii) Understanding our Young People

- Implementation of tracker tools for re-offending, first time entrants, education, training and employment and victim work
- Further analysis of first time entrants to gain a greater understanding of journey of the child into the youth justice system
- Work to understand the nature and extent of harmful sexual behaviour by young people
- Reviewing and revising methods of collecting and the use of feedback from service users
- Building and developing the needs assessment and evidence base

(iii) Improved Joint Working and Integration

- Continued focus on joint issues between YOS and social care for looked after children and care leavers through the LAC and Care Leavers sub group of the Management Board
- Developing better joint work, information and integration with relevant children services
- Ensuring linkages with the Troubled Families and early help developments in each local authority
- Strengthening transition work with NPS, particularly through the implementation of the Y2A case transfer arrangements

(iv) Governance and Communication

¹ See pages 20 and 21 of the plan

- Complete the service review and agree future delivery arrangements for youth offending services across West Mercia
- Developing a more integrated approach to leadership and management of the YOS between the management team and management board
- Further development of the communications strategy
- Review of health participation in the YOS governance structure

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 38-42 of the plan.

- 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 490 for the year ending September 2014, compared to 504 for the year September 2013, a reduction of 3%. The YJB will be assisting in an analysis of first time entrants in Telford and Wrekin to inform the evidence base for what works in preventing offending locally.

- 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. In 2014/15 the custody rate for Telford and Wrekin was 0.06, compared to the rate of 0.54 for 2013/14. The performance is better than for West Mercia, 0.20.

- 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 2012/13 the frequency rate for Telford and Wrekin is 0.91 and for 2011/12 the rate was 0.85. Although the rate has slightly increased between the two years, it is in line with the West Mercia rate, 0.89 and significantly better than the national rate, 1.08.

The binary rate for Telford and Wrekin 2012/13 is 32.4% compared to 32.7% for 11/12. The Telford and Wrekin rate is slightly higher than for West Mercia, 31.3% but significantly better than England, 36.0%.

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

- Cabinet Report 24th July 2014

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- West Mercia Youth Offending Service – Youth justice Plan 2015/16

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