

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**CABINET - 13 OCTOBER 2016****YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2016/17****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S AND ADULT SERVICES****LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR PAUL WATLING****PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT****1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

Youth offending partnerships have a statutory duty to produce an annual youth justice plan which is submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State,

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 in accordance with the guidance “Youth Justice Plans: YJB Practice Note for Youth Offending Partnerships”¹

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.

The plan outlines the partnerships priorities for 2016/17 and provides commentary on the three national performance indicators for youth offending services;

Rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system

- The rate has increased in three of four local authority areas between 2014 and 2015, but the reasons for this are unclear. One of the priorities in 16/17 will be to investigate this and establish the reasons behind the increased rates.

The number and rate of custodial sentences

- In 2015/16 there was one custodial sentence in Telford equating to a rate of 0.06, this compares favourably to the West Mercia rate of 0.14 and the national rate of 0.37.

The proportion of young people re-offending

¹ Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, April 2016.

- In the year ending June 2010 there were 370 offenders in the cohort and 337 re-offences compared to a cohort size of 140 with 168 re-offences in 2014. The number of actual re-offences have therefore decreased by -50% between 2010 and 2014

The hosting arrangement for the service transferred to the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner from 1st April 2016. As part of the governance structures Telford & Wrekin council have delegated responsibility to oversee the implementation of the plan to the Community Safety partnership. This will support the delivery of the Youth Justice Plan by realigning local priorities with the Community Safety plan and the Police and Crime plan to reduce offending and reoffending. This will also work towards understanding behaviours related to offending that will manage demand on high cost services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1	That the Youth Justice Plan 2016/17 be recommended to Full Council for approval and endorsement and that the West Mercia YOS responsibilities are noted.
2.2	That the Council delegates responsibility to the Community Safety Partnership to oversee the Implementation of the Youth Justice Plan.

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 16/17 and the plan will be reviewed in the final quarter of 16/17 in order to prepare the Youth Justice Plan for 17/18.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>Telford & Wrekin is one of the constituent authorities in the West Midlands consortium. The service is hosted by the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.</p> <p>The Council's 2016/17 Youth Offending Service budget is £267k. The individual Council contributions are based on the demand level placed on the service. This is an annual contribution that the Council pays for the delivery of the service by the OPCC.</p> <p>Adopting the strategy is not expected to incur any additional costs over and above the budgeted costs detailed above. However, the constituent authorities have indemnified risks undertaken by the OPCC and may be called upon to contribute further funds in the event of pressures on the budget if those pressures are not mitigated. It is possible that in pursuing the plan and improvements the constituent authorities</p>

		<p>could have to pay larger contributions than currently budgeted for.</p> <p>However, with current known information, there are no financial implications anticipated from adopting the recommendation of this report.</p> <p>RP-12.9.16</p>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>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.</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 2016/17 was prepared in July 2016 in line with the guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), agreed at the West Mercia Youth Offending Service Management Board on 18th August 2016 and will be submitted to the YJB by the end of September 2016.

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 and on the basis of further review undertaken in 15/16 a decision taken for the service to be hosted by the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner from 1st April 2016.

The plan identifies four main priorities² for 2016/17 as follows:

- (i) Improving Performance and Developing Practice
 - Implementation of a new case management system
 - Implementation of the new national assessment framework, AssetPlus
 - Reviewing and revising the quality assurance framework
 - Developing the curriculum of the junior attendance centres
 - Revising the management of risk processes
 - Evaluating a youth bureau approach for out of court disposal decision making
- (ii) Understanding our Young People
 - Analysis to determine the reasons behind the rising rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system
 - Build on the work undertaken in 15/16 to capture the voice of the service user and to ensure service users views are better represented at the service's management board
 - To further build on and develop the needs assessment and evidence base
- (iii) Improved Joint Working and Integration
 - Re-establish the Looked After Children reference group
 - Agree a multi-agency protocol to reduce offending by and the criminalisation of looked after children
 - Developing a new protocol with providers of probation services to ensure that the approach to the transition from youth to adult criminal justice services is informed by best practice and takes account of the recommendations of a thematic inspection by HMI Probation
 - Supporting West Mercia Police in their roll out of decision making forums for looked after children
- (iv) Governance and Communication
 - Transfer the hosting arrangement for the service to the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Agree and implement a revised service structure

² See pages 20 to 22 of the plan

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 37-41 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 641 for 2015, compared to 550 for 2014. The rate has increased in three of four local authority areas between 2014 and 2015, and the reasons for this are so far unclear. One of the priorities in 16/17 will be to analyse this data to establish the reasons behind the increased rates.

- 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 2015/16 there was one custodial sentence in Telford equating to a rate of 0.06, this compares favourably to the West Mercia rate of 0.14 and the national rate of 0.37.

- 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 re-offender in the cohort. The second, binary measure as set by the Youth Justice board 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 period July 2013 to June 2014 the frequency rate for Telford and Wrekin is 3.57. The percentage of young people who have reoffended for both measures in Telford and Wrekin for the same period is 33.6% which is similar to the rate for West Mercia, 33.4% and represents an improvement on the previous year when it was 34.2%.

It should be noted the overall cohort sizes are decreasing year on year. In the year ending June 2010 there were 370 offenders in the cohort and 337 re-offences compared to a cohort size of 140 with 168 re-offences in 2014. The number of actual re-offences have therefore decreased by -50% between 2010 and 2014

Following both the learning from a discretionary MAPPA serious case review published in 2015 and the Short Quality Screening Inspection of the service in 2015, the service have been implementing improvements particularly in relation to assessment and planning. Monthly auditing during 2015/16 has demonstrated continuing improvements in compliance to nine locally set standards in relation assessment, risk planning and the management oversight of these.

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 23rd July 2015

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- West Mercia Youth Offending Service – Youth justice Plan 2016/17

Report prepared by:

Keith Barham, Head of West Mercia Youth Offending Service
Jas Bedesha Service Delivery Manager Cohesion Services