

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

**CABINET - 14 SEPTEMBER 2017
FULL COUNCIL- 23 NOVEMBER 2017**

WEST MERCIA YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2017/18

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

The Youth Justice Service is a youth offending partnership between the Local Authorities and NHS organisations across West Mercia, National Probation Service, West Mercia Police and the Office for the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

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 and partners 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 2017/18 and provides commentary on the three national performance indicators for youth offending services (YOS);

- Rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system

Telford and Wrekin’s performance has improved by 16% from 613 in 2014/15 to 515 in 2015/16. YOS will work to increase the performance in this area by analysing the first time entrant’s data in more detail.

- The number and rate of custodial sentences

Telford and Wrekin’s rate equates to a rate of 0.12 and this compares favourably to the West Mercia rate of 0.22 and the national rate of 0.37.

¹ Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, May 2017.

- The proportion of young people re-offending

In 2014/15 the frequency rate for Telford and Wrekin is 3.19 and the binary rate is 40.1%, which compares to 3.49 and 34.8% for West Mercia, therefore there are proportionally more young people re-offending in Telford and Wrekin than for West Mercia, but when they do re-offend, on average, they are committing less offences.

A detailed analysis of the characteristics of re-offenders will be undertaken during 2017/18 and used to determine what prevention measures need to be in place.

The plan provides additional data across all 4 Local Authorities in West Mercia. In 2016/17 Telford and Wrekin recorded 86 young people entering the criminal justice system which equates to 0.52% of our youth population. The peak age of offending was 16 years of age.

The hosting arrangement for the service transferred to the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner from 1st April 2016. West Mercia Youth Justice Service Management Board oversees the implementation of the plan across West Mercia. The Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership (the local community safety partnership) will scrutinise the local delivery of the plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Youth Justice Plan 2017/18 recommended to Full Council for approval and endorsement and that the West Mercia Youth Offending Service responsibilities are noted.
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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 17/18 and the plan will be reviewed in the final quarter of 17/18 in order to prepare the Youth Justice Plan for 18/19.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	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>The Council's 2017/18 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 plan 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 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, MLB 9.8.17</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> <p>KF 11.08.17</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	<p>The Youth Justice Plan outlines actions to reduce offending and reoffending by young people</p>

IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact
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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 2017/18 was prepared in May 2017 in line with the guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), agreed at the West Mercia Youth Justice Service Management Board on 26th May 2017 and will be submitted to the YJB by the end of July 2017.

Each Local Authority, in cooperation with Police, Probation and Clinical Commissioning Groups must put in place a youth justice 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 seven main priorities² for 2017/18 as follows:

- (i) Reducing First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System
 - Undertaking a comprehensive analysis of first time entrants
 - Reviewing and revising the out of court disposal joint decision making arrangements
 - Reviewing the assessment arrangements for out of court disposals
- (ii) Reduce custody and young people entering the adult criminal justice system
 - Review and revise the service's management of risk arrangements
 - Developing a remand management strategy
 - Reviewing the transition to adult services protocol
- (iii) WMYJS Interventions are of a consistently good quality
 - Developing a revised performance reporting framework
 - Review the reparation, mentoring and attendance centre offers
 - Working with the University to develop learning mentoring

² See pages 10 to 14 of the plan

- (iv) We have systems in place to understand young people's journey through our services
 - Re-establish Looked After Children reference group
 - Developing an approach to case auditing which involves the management board
 - Re-establish arrangements to contribute to NDTMS (national drug service database)
- (v) The voice of service users directly impacts on service delivery
 - Further develop current processes of feedback to ensure it informs service development
 - Develop process of receiving feedback from victims
 - Develop strategy for the use of ViewPoint
- (vi) Team morale is good, staff feel enabled and have the tools required to do their job effectively
 - The review and revision of identified working practices, policies and protocols
 - Development of a staff learning and development framework
 - Reviewing and clarifying the role of identified staffing groups in the service
- (vii) The Management Board and operational staff are working together with clear collective responsibility for improving outcomes for young people
 - Arranging management board members visits to teams

Performance

The Youth Justice 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 33-36 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 for the year October 2015 to September 2016 was 515, representing an improvement on the previous year when it was 613. Reducing first time entrants is a service priority for 2017/18. A tracker has been implemented and this will collate information to understand the characteristics of why young people are first time entrants and this will be analysed to inform any service changes where necessary.

- 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 2016 there were two custodial sentences in Telford and Wrekin equating to a rate of 0.12, this compares favourably to the West Mercia rate of 0.22 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, 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 cohort identified in 2014/15 the frequency rate for Telford and Wrekin is 3.19 and the binary rate 40.1%, which compares to 3.49 and 34.8% for West Mercia, therefore there are proportionally more young people re-offending in Telford and Wrekin than for West Mercia, but when they do re-offend, on average, they are committing less offences.

It should be noted the overall cohort sizes are decreasing year on year. In the year 2010/11 there were 266 offenders in the cohort and 239 re-offences compared to a cohort size of 142 with 182 re-offences in 2014/15. The number of actual re-offences has therefore decreased by 24% between 10/11 and 14/15.

The plan contains actions to review interventions, to better understand the characteristics of reoffenders and staff training. Analysis of the outcomes of these actions will be used to further develop prevention measures.

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 19th September 2016

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- West Mercia Youth Offending Service – Youth justice Plan 2017/18

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