

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 13 DECEMBER 2018

FULL COUNCIL – 17 JANUARY 2019

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2018/19

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 2018/19 to 2019/20 and provides commentary on the three national performance indicators for youth offending services;

- Rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system
- The number and rate of custodial sentences
- The proportion of young people re-offending

¹ Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, May 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Youth Justice Plan 2018/19 recommended to Full Council for approval and endorsement and that the West Mercia YJS responsibilities are noted.

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 18/19 and the plan will be reviewed in the final quarter of 18/19 in order to prepare the Youth Justice Plan for 19/20.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>Adopting the strategy is not expected to incur any additional costs over and above the annual budgeted levy. 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.</p> <p>Therefore, based on current known information, there are no financial implications anticipated from adopting the recommendation of this report.</p> <p>RP-13.11.18</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

		<p>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 2018/19 was prepared in May/June 2018 in line with the guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), agreed at the West Mercia Youth Justice Service Management Board on 12th July and was submitted to the YJB at the end of July 2018.

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 Justice 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 priorities for 2018/19 to 2019/20 as follows:

Priority 1: Our People

1.1 Promote in-service progression and ensure that appraisals are used effectively

- 1.2 Strengthen staff development programmes
- 1.3 Improve staff morale, motivation and encourage engagement

Priority 2: Our Partnerships

- 2.1 Improve multi-agency engagement at high risk and decision making meetings
- 2.2 Ensuring young people's mental health needs are met
- 2.3 Review and improve policy and practice in relation to out of court disposal decision making thereby contributing to a reduction in the number of first time entrants

Priority 3: Our Performance, Quality and Practice

- 3.1 Develop our quality assurance and performance framework in collaboration with our partners
- 3.2 Ensure adequate interface with Children Services information systems
- 3.3 Develop our practice and encourage innovation

Priority 4: Our Governance

- 4.1 Communicate our vision and priorities to our staff, partners and stakeholders
- 4.2 Develop Board Member links to WMYJS to support service development and improve engagement with staff and service users
- 4.3 Anticipate and mitigate future risks to the long term delivery of our vision

To help address very real challenges facing the system, including the centralisation of remand cases to Kidderminster Magistrates Court which has led to young people being held for longer, more often than previously without their parents, having to return for adjourned cases, delays in remand to local authority care and the associated transport difficulties. There are other challenges including delays in the system that can lead to youths being treated as adults by the time that their case comes to court, issues over the equitable treatment of local authority looked after children in the court process and out of court decision making arrangements.

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 32-35 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 2017 was 304, representing a significant improvement on the previous year when it was 478.

- 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 2017 there were five custodial sentences in Telford and Wrekin equating to a rate of 0.30, this compares favourably to the national rate of 0.39.

- 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 the period July 2015 to June 2016 the frequency rate for Telford and Wrekin is 6.22 and the binary rate 29.7%, which compares to 4.04 and 33.9% for West Mercia, therefore there are proportionally less young people re-offending in Telford and Wrekin than for West Mercia, but when they do re-offend, on average, they are committing more offences.

It should be noted the overall cohort sizes are decreasing year on year. In the year ending June 2010 there were 451 offenders in the cohort and 531 re-offences compared to a cohort size of 182 with 336 re-offences in reporting period to June 2016. The number of actual re-offences has therefore decreased by 36% between the two reporting periods.

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 14th September 2017

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- West Mercia Youth Offending Service – Youth justice Plan 2018/19

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