

Report to COUNCIL

Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2018/19

Portfolio Holders: Councillor Amanda Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Councillor Ateeque Ur-Rehman, Cabinet Member for Policing & Community Safety

Officer Contact: Merlin Joseph, Director Children's Services

12th December 2018

Reason for Decision

It is a statutory duty of the Local Authority to produce an annual plan. The Youth Justice Strategic plan (Appendix A) sets out the strategy for Oldham Youth Justice Service (YJS) in 2018/19 with an outline action plan setting out how it will achieve its primary functions and key objectives.

Recommendations

Approval of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2018/19

Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2018/19

1 Background

- 1.1 Oldham is one of nine YOTs in Greater Manchester within the North West region and is the only statutory Youth Justice Service (YJS) in England & Wales which is sub-contracted by the Local Authority and directly delivered by an independent charitable trust - Positive Steps (PS). PS also provides an integrated range of targeted services, including: Information, Advice & Guidance services; an 'Early Help' offer aimed at preventing young people from entering the youth justice system; the Borough's teenage pregnancy strategy; a young people's substance misuse service; sexual health services, missing from home return interviews and the young carers' support service. The Centre, through which all these services are delivered, also hosts a range of partner services including: Healthy Young Minds; a generalist nurse and assistant practitioner team; counselling services; housing advocacy and mediation services and the after-care duty team from the Council's Children's Social Care. Oldham is a medium-sized YJS, employing 29 staff and currently has 15 volunteers. The YJS is managed in an integrated way alongside other services to support children, young people and families within a Targeted Services Directorate at PS.
- 1.2 In addition the YJS benefits from a seconded police officer and a team of three health staff who assess all YJS clients and provides direct medical support or referral where needed. The Probation service seconds one full time officer. A Volunteer Coordinator is employed within Positive Steps with a strong volunteer workforce in the YJS which contributes, in the main, to the work the service undertakes with young people subject to Reparation and Referral Orders.
- 1.3 The Service is overseen by the Youth Justice Management Board which includes representatives from the Local Authority and other statutory partners. The Board holds the service to account for achieving the performance targets, provides challenge where required and endorses the strategic direction and operational delivery of the service.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 This purpose of this plan seeks to inform the strategic direction of Oldham Youth Justice Service (YJS) in 2018/19 and outline how it will achieve its primary functions and the identified key objectives and developments. The primary functions of the services are:
- The reduction in First Time Entrants (FTE) to the criminal justice system
 - The reduction in Re-Offending following both pre and post court disposals
 - The reduction in the use of Custody for offenders
 - To effectively protect the public
 - To effectively safeguard children and young people
- 2.2 2018/19 has seen continued developments in wider policy and governance. Greater Manchester has seen emerging change through the GM Children's Service Review. This work is a reflection of the devolution of power to Greater Manchester in key policy areas, including criminal justice. Oldham continues to work with all key GM decision makers and stakeholders to ensure the quality of local provision is maintained and improved. In response Oldham has taken a key role in the development and continuation of Greater Manchester priorities. Oldham holds a lead role in the development of the following areas:
- Resettlement
 - Evidence based practice
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- Out of court Disposal (pilot area)
- Problem Solving courts (pilot area)

2.3 The action plan is separated into two sections, one focussing on 2018/19 priorities and service delivery to achieve the outcomes and the second focussing on development which is costed. The costed plan is a requirement of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to reflect the decision made by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) that core funding for Youth Offending Teams must be provided by the local authority partnership. The grant provided by the MoJ via the YJB must only be used for development work. Costed Plans have to show detail of how the grant will be used to develop the provision for clients, staff and the service as a whole and has to be agreed by the YJB. All aspects have to be accounted for and an audit trail produced if requested.

3 **Option**

3.1 To approve the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2018/19

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 As outlined at 3.1

5 **Consultation**

5.1 Consultation has taken place with key partners, the Youth Justice Management Board and the Youth Justice Board. The Youth Justice Board has endorsed the priorities and spend outlined within the plan.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 The Youth Service Budget for 2018/19 which sits within the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2018/19 (section 16) is summarised in the table below;

Agency	Total (£k)
Local authority	636
National Probation Service	5
Police and crime commissioner	90
YJB Youth Justice Grant	467
Other	29
Total	1,227

The line items Youth Justice Grant and 'Other' total £496k and are funded directly by the Youth Justice Grant.

The Local Authority budget within the plan is £636k and from an Authority perspective forms part of a larger contract with Positive Steps for a range of services, with a total anticipated value of £2,123k in 2018/19 compared to a budget of £1,997k; a potential shortfall of £126k. Funding of £60k has been identified from the Tackling Troubled Families reserve to partially fund the gap, the remaining gap of £66k that will be delivered by way of an in year reduction to the contract sum negotiated across the full range of provision.

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- 7 **Legal Services Comments**
- 7.1 It is necessary for the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2018/19 to be considered and approved by the Authority in order to comply with its statutory obligations in this regard. (Colin Brittain)
8. **Co-operative Agenda**
- 8.1 The plan aims to reduce the number of young people with offending behaviours and has put in place restorative justice approaches within the community to manage young people using an asset based model.
- 9 **Human Resources Comments**
- 9.1 Not applicable
- 10 **Risk Assessments**
- 10.1 Not applicable
- 11 **IT Implications**
- 11.1 Not applicable
- 12 **Property Implications**
- 12.1 None
- 13 **Procurement Implications**
- 13.1 None
- 14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 14.1 None
- 15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1 The whole focus of the Youth Justice plan is to reduce reoffending and put appropriate support measures and services in place to prevent young people coming into the criminal justice system.
- This is being carried out by working with all key partners including the business and voluntary sectors to put into place restorative measures that will reduce the need for custody.
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 Yes
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1
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19 **Background Papers**

19.1 None

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendix A - Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2018/19