

**Report to COUNCIL**

## **Oldham Youth Justice Plan 2023 - 2024**

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

**Officer Contact:** Gerard Jones, Managing Director of Children & Young People (DCS)

**Report Author:** Clare Griffiths

**Council 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

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### **Reason for Decision**

The Oldham Youth Justice Plan requires sign off by Cabinet. This plan has previously been approved by Gerard Jones, Managing Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Youth Justice Management Board.

### **Executive Summary**

The Oldham Youth Justice Plan sets out the strategic direction for youth justice in Oldham, taking a partnership approach to reducing re-offending, reducing the number of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system and reducing the use of custody.

There is acknowledgment that the plan is significant in length. However, this is dictated by the template provided by the national Youth Justice Board. The Service Development Plan can be found in Appendix 4.

### **Recommendations**

That Council approve the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24.

## Oldham Youth Justice Plan 2023 – 2024

### 1 Background

- 1.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.
- 1.2 The plan should equally address the functions assigned to a youth justice service, including how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending

### 2 Current Position

- 2.1 This plan has previously been approved by Gerard Jones, Managing Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Youth Justice Management Board.

### 3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 As this is a statutory duty for the local authority, it is not possible to provide an alternative option to this plan.

### 4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 The preferred option would be for this to be signed off by Cabinet.

### 5 Consultation

- 5.1 Staff from Oldham Youth Justice Service have been consulted in the formulation of this plan, as well as members of the Youth Justice Management Board.

### 6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 Each youth justice service must have an annual plan in place, in this format, as part of the requirements of the youth justice core grant.
- 6.2 Section 7 of the plan outlines Resources and Services and Appendix 3 presents Budget and Contributions for 2023/24 at a total of £1.359m. The budget is based on an assumed Youth Justice Board Practice Grant of £0.604m although this has yet to be confirmed. Therefore, the budget may vary in accordance with a confirmed notification. The other major funder is the Council with £0.383m of planned contributions in 2023/24. The activities set out in the Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24 will be contained within the funding available (Anne Ryans – Director of Finance).

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- 7      **Legal Services Comments**
- 7.1    None.
8.      **Co-operative Agenda**
- 8.1    N / A
- 9      **Human Resources Comments**
- 9.1    None.
- 10     **Risk Assessments**
- 10.1   Challenges, risks and issues are documented within the body of the plan.
- 11     **IT Implications**
- 11.1   None.
- 12     **Property Implications**
- 12.1   None.
- 13     **Procurement Implications**
- 13.1   None.
- 14     **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 14.1   Positive Steps, who are commissioned by the local authority to deliver the youth justice service in Oldham, have the relevant health and safety policies and procedures in place.
- 15     **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1   Oldham Youth Justice service provides a fair and equitable service for the children and families we work with. We recognise the groups which are over-represented in the criminal justice system and this plan sets out what we have in place to reduce this and further strategies that need to be implemented.
- 16     **Oldham Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1   No
- 17     **Key Decision**
- 17.1   No
- 18     **Key Decision Reference**
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18.1 N / A

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 N / A

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendix A. Oldham Youth Justice Plan 23/24.