

Report to CABINET

Youth Justice Service Extension to contract from 1 April 2024

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Reason for Decision

The current Youth Justice Service (YJS) Contract ends on 31 March 2024. The contract is currently held by Positive Steps. Approval is sought to extend the current arrangements for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. This will enable Oldham Council and its partners to continue to fulfil their statutory duties and meet the requirements of the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

Recommendations

The current contract arrangements with Positive Steps are extended for a period of 12 months up to 31 March 2025 within the funding envelope awarded by YJB.

Youth Justice Services Extension to Contract from 1 April 2024

1 Background

- 1.1 The Youth Justice Service in Oldham is currently delivered by Positive Steps, the contract is due to end on 31 March 2024. The current contract is performing well and meeting outcomes which are annually agreed with the YJB and the overall management board. At its last inspection, the service was rated Good by Ofsted.
- 1.2 Options regarding the future delivery of the YJS have been discussed and considered.
- 1.3 The service is regarded as high performing and is a statutory duty. The extension being sought would provide a period of stability for service delivery. If approval is given to the extension, this would avoid possible gaps in statutory service delivery affecting some of our most vulnerable and at-risk young people.
- 1.4 As part of this process, the Youth Justice Board, Management Board and other key stakeholders would be consulted on future delivery models.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Youth Justice Service in Oldham is currently delivered by Positive Steps; the contract is due to end on 31 March 2024. The current contract is performing well and meeting outcomes which are annually agreed with the YJB and the overall management board. At its last inspection, the service was rated Good by Ofsted.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option 1 – approve the extension to the current contract for a period of 12 months, from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 allowing the Council and key partners to discharge their statutory duties.
- 3.2 Option 2 – to bring the service in house. This option is not recommended at this time.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option 1 – approve the extension to the current contract for a period of 12 months, from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 allowing the Council and key partners to discharge their statutory duties.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation will take place during the extension period if approved, governed through the YJS Management Board. This will include the wider partnership, young people and YJB.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

7 **Legal Implications**

7.1 Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

8. **Co-operative Implications**

8.1 The preferred option would support the Council's Cooperative agenda and will provide a resident focused service.

9 **Human Resource Implications**

9.1 Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 None

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 None

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None

15 **Community cohesion, cohesion, including crime and disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

15.1 The preferred option would ensure that we are providing fair and equitable services to all our customers and would ensure that the cohesion or crime implications are fully considered including crime and the fear of crime.

16 **Oldham Equality Impact Assessment including impact on Children and Young People**

16.1 No

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 CHS-04-23

19 **Background Papers**

None

20 **Appendices**

20.1 None