

Report to COUNCIL

Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2025-26

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

Officer Contact: Julie Daniels, Executive Director Children and Young People

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Reason for Decision

Youth justice plans, in England only, must be signed off by the full council in accordance with 'Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2025-26 detailed in appendix 1 be approved.

Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2025-26**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 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.
- 1.3 This plan has been developed based on local management information and performance data and is in line with the needs of children, young people and families in Oldham.
- 1.4 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 Delivery Plan can be found in Appendix 4 of the embedded document.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 This plan has been considered by Julie Daniels, Executive Director Children and Young People, the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board and Leadership.
- 2.2 Progress of the plan will be monitored through the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board on a quarterly basis.
- 2.3 Oldham Youth Justice Service is a high performing service who lead the way in re-offending rates and use of custody among comparative groups. We pride ourselves on a child-first approach to provide positive outcomes for children, young people and families through innovative practice. This plan seeks to continue to build on current performance and achieve an outstanding inspection outcome for the service.

3 Options/Alternatives

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

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 To approve the Oldham Youth Justice Partnership Plan 2025-26.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 The Youth Justice Partnership Management Board and children and young people working with Oldham Youth Justice Service were consulted in the formulation of this plan.

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.
(Jenny Howarth Senior Accountant/Andy Cooper Senior Finance Manager)

7 **Legal Implications**

- 7.1 It is a statutory requirement for this to be progressed, we would therefore be in breach of our obligations if it is not progressed. As the report alludes to there are no alternative options and the option is supported.
(Alex Bougatef Director of Legal Services)

8 **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**

- 8.1 Not required as the recommended option is for services to continue.

9 **Key Decision**

- 9.1 No

10 **Key Decision Reference**

- 11.1 N/A

12 **Background Papers**

- 12.1 None

13 **Appendices**

- 13.1 Appendix 1 - Oldham Youth Justice Plan 2025-26



Oldham YJ Plan
2025-26.pdf