

Report to COUNCIL

Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2026-27

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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'. The plan provides the strategic framework for the delivery of youth justice services and supports the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to children and young people who offend or are at risk of offending.

Executive Summary

Local authority partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice service. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan.

The Oldham Youth Justice Service Plan 2026-27 sets out how the service will be provided and funded, how it will operate and what functions will be carried out to prevent and reduce offending.

Recommendations

That Council approves the Oldham Youth Justice Service Plan 2026-27 detailed in Appendix 1.

Oldham Youth Justice Service Plan 2026-27**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 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 The 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 Youth Justice Plan in Appendix 1.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The plan has been considered by Julie Daniels, Executive Director Children and Young People and the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board.
- 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 a positive 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 Service Plan 2026-27

5 Consultation

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

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the Oldham Youth Justice Plan 2026-27. (Nicola Harrop – Finance Manager)

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 As the report highlights, S.40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires each local authority to formulate and implement each year a plan and Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and responsibilities) (England) regulations 2000 outlines that it must be approved by Full Council. Our constitution outlines this requirement at Part 2, Article 4 (4.4.1). It is therefore a statutory requirement that this plan is approved by Full Council. (Alex Bougatef – Director of Legal, Monitoring Officer).

8. Procurement Implications

- 8.1 No immediate procurement implications contained in this paper. Procurement will continue to support where required. James England – Procurement Manager

9 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

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

10 Key Decision

- 10.1 No.

11 Key Decision Reference

- 11.1 N/A.

12 **Background Papers**

12.1 None

13 **Appendices**

13.1 Appendix 1 - Oldham Youth Justice Service Plan 2026-27.