

Report to Council

Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2017/18

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Reason for Decision

It is a statutory duty of the Local Authority to produce an annual plan. The Youth Justice Strategic plan 2017/18(Appendix A) sets out the strategy for Oldham's Youth Justice Service (YJS) demonstrating how it will achieve its primary functions and key objectives.

Recommendations

That Council note the Strategic plan for 2017/18

Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2017/18

1 Background

The plan sets out how the YJS will achieve and deliver the primary functions and the key objectives over the next twelve month period.

The primary functions of the service are:

- Reduction in First Time Entrants (FTE) to the criminal justice system
- Reduction in Re-Offending following both pre and post court disposals
- Reduction in the use of Custody for offenders
- Effectively safeguard children and young people
- Effectively protect the public

2 Current Position

Oldham is one of ten YOTs in Greater Manchester within the North West region and is currently the only statutory 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; and the young carers' support service.

The Centre, through which all these services are delivered, also hosts a range of partner services including: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS); 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.

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, the other services include:

- Oasis – Oldham's young people's substance misuse
- Family Focus Team, part of the Troubled Families strategy in Oldham
- IAG services for young people and adults
- Kickstart alternative curriculum support services
- Oldham Young carers
- NLP Consultant providing therapeutic support to clients across the services

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.

The YJS has a strong tradition of working effectively with partners across a range of forums accountable to both the Best Start in Life Partnership and CSCP. Quarterly Performance is reported directly into the Council Corvu system and monitored via the client relationship manager and commissioner.

The action plan is separated into two sections, one focussing on 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

To note and approve the strategic delivery plan for 2017/18

4 Consultation

Consultation has taken place with key partners, the Youth Justice Management Board and the Youth Justice Board.

5 Financial Implications

N/A

6 Legal Services Comments

7 Co-operative Agenda

The plan aims to reduce the number of offending young people and has put significant preventative support and interventions in place within our local communities

8 Human Resources Comments

N/A

9 Risk Assessments

N/A

10 IT Implications

N/A

11 **Property Implications**

N/A

12 **Procurement Implications**

N/A

13 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

N/A

14 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

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.

15 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

N/A

16 **Key Decision**

Yes

17 **Key Decision Reference**

18 **Background Papers**

None

19 **Appendices**

Appendix A – Youth Justice Strategic plan 2017/18