

14 July 2014**Agenda Item: 8**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

THE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2014-15

Purpose of the Report

1. This report invites the Committee to comment on the proposed Youth Justice Plan for Nottinghamshire for 2014-15, attached as **Appendix 1**, and recommend it to Full Council for approval at its meeting on 18 September 2014.

Information and Advice

Background

2. The youth justice system was set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Its aim is to prevent young people offending or re-offending. The Crime and Disorder Act requires local authorities, the police, probation, and health (Clinical Commissioning Groups) to set up youth offending teams (YOTs) to work with children and young people offending or at risk of offending. YOTs must include representatives from the police, probation, health, education and children's services. YOTs continue to have responsibility for children and young people sentenced or remanded to custody.
3. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the responsibilities of the Local Authority in relation to the production of an annual Youth Justice 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 the Youth Offending Team will be composed and funded, how it will operate and what functions it will carry out.
4. The statutory Youth Justice Plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board, a quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisation linked to the Ministry of Justice, and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State. The document is the youth offending partnership's main statement of purpose and sets out its proposals to prevent offending by children and young people. It is important that the plan shows not only what the YOT will deliver as a service, but how strategic links with other supporting initiatives will be developed and maintained. Youth Justice Plans require political scrutiny and approval. In Nottinghamshire the Youth Justice Plan is aligned to our overarching service planning framework for all of our Early Help services.

Other Options Considered

5. The production of the Youth Justice Plan is a statutory duty and therefore other options have not been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. The Youth Justice Plan has been consulted on and approved by the key partners involved in the operation of the Youth Justice System.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

8. Both victims and young people who offend are users of this service. The plan takes full account of the needs of these populations and of the guidance in providing good and effective services to these groups.

Financial Implications

9. There are no immediate financial implications arising from the recommendations.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

10. An Equality Impact screening has been undertaken and there are no negative equality implications from the recommendations.

Crime and Disorder Implications

11. The youth justice system was set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Its aim is to prevent young people offending or re-offending and is an integral part of the Local Authority's approach to community safety.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

12. The Youth Justice Plan has been formulated with the aim of safeguarding young people through early identification of problems and support to help them achieve their potential.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee comments on the proposed Youth Justice Plan for Nottinghamshire for 2014-15 and recommends it to County Council for approval at its meeting on 18 September 2014.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Laurence Jones
Group Manager, Targeted Support and Youth Justice
T: 0115 9773625
E: laurence.jones@nottsccl.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM 30/06/14)

13. The recommendations in the report fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (KLA 17/06/14)

14. There are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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