

13 July 2015**Agenda Item: 07****REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES
AND CULTURE****TRANSFER OF JUNIOR ATTENDANCE CENTRES FROM THE MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide the Committee with details about the transfer of Junior Attendance Centres from the National Offender Management Service within the Ministry of Justice to the Local Authority.
2. To seek approval for the establishment of one 0.4 fte (15 hour) Senior Case Manager (Officer in Charge) post at Hay Band B.

Information and Advice

3. Attendance centres were originally established by statute in 1948. Section 60 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 enabled courts to sentence a person to attend an attendance centre for a maximum of 36 hours. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 makes provision for attendance centres available to the courts as one of the requirements of a Youth Rehabilitation Order for those aged under 18 years.
4. The aim of the Junior Attendance Centre is to reduce the re-offending of children and young people between the ages of 10-17 years. As such, the attendance centre can work with any child or young person who has received a criminal justice outcome, although priority must be given to those who have been sentenced to a requirement of an attendance centre by the court.
5. All attendance centres must be operated by an officer in charge, who has various statutory responsibilities in relation to the running of the centre. The officer in charge is responsible under statute for all stand-alone attendance centre requirements along with the enforcement of these in the case of non-compliance. They must also submit monthly reports and data to the Youth Justice Board and National Offender Management Service detailing the activity of the centre.
6. Currently Junior Attendance Centres are operated by the National Offender Management Service within the Ministry of Justice. From 1st July 2015 responsibility for Junior Attendance Centres will transfer to local authorities. Those areas with existing provision will transfer the staff and undertakings into the local authority. Areas that do not have Junior Attendance Centres will be allowed to establish the provision and recruit staff to

enable them to perform this function. All areas will receive a ring fenced sum of money to allow the effective discharge of the Junior Attendance Centre.

7. Nottinghamshire currently does not have a Junior Attendance Centre. The Youth Justice Board has confirmed that it will provide a ring fenced grant of £28,376 along with one-off start-up costs of £1,740 this year to set up and establish a Junior Attendance Centre. The sum of £28,376 is pro-rated and covers 9 months of the anticipated costs. A higher amount would be paid in future years and will be ring fenced for spend against the provision.
8. In order to operate an effective Junior Attendance Centre, which is compliant with statute and the conditions of grant, an officer in charge post would need to be established. It is proposed that a 0.4 fte (15 hour) Senior Case Manager post at Hay Band B is established to act as the Officer in Charge. At top of scale this would amount to £17,367 inclusive of on-costs. The other staffing to deliver the Junior Attendance Centre's programme will be drawn from within the Youth Justice Service's existing establishment.

Other Options Considered

9. Nottinghamshire has no current Junior Attendance Centre in place and is therefore unable to transfer over existing staff or provision. The most cost effective and efficient way to execute duties under statute has been considered. Consideration was given to appointing an existing Band B case manager to the role of Officer in Charge. However the duties required by statute differ to that required by the current job description and the hours of operation would take them outside of their terms and conditions of contract. It would also impact upon core service provision as they would be required to reduce their hours with the Youth Justice Service to cover the hours required by the Junior Attendance Centre.
10. Equally, consideration has been given to recruiting sessional workers on 3 hour contracts. However, there is sufficient capacity within the current youth justice structure to support the operation of the Centre.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. Nottinghamshire does not have a Junior Attendance Centre currently and is unable to offer this to the courts in their sentencing of young people. It would be a valuable option to offer the court should the young person be appearing for breach of their order or appearing for an imprisonable offence and is another robust alternative to custody that the courts can consider.
12. Additional funding has been made available from the Youth Justice Board which will adequately cover the operating costs of the Centre. This funding has been guaranteed on a yearly basis as long as the Centre operates as per requirements and will be ring fenced to this provision. The Centre can also be used for young people in contact with the Youth Justice Service who do not have a court ordered attendance centre requirement and is therefore an additional diversionary resource that the Youth Justice Service can use to divert children and young people away from offending.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

14. The principle aim of the Junior Attendance Centre is to reduce the risk of further offending by children and young people who are already within the youth justice system. The Centre will provide an additional resource to address the underlying causes of a young person's offending and provide a constructive activity.

Financial Implications

15. The Youth Justice Board has confirmed an annual ring fenced grant which will cover the costs of the Officer in Charge post, supporting sessional workers and any additional expenses, such as resources for the Centre, rental of premises etc. The Junior Attendance Centre will therefore not place an additional burden on existing resources but would serve to secure an additional income that can be used to reduce reoffending at a time of financial pressures.

Human Resources Implications

16. Given the specific statutory nature of the Officer in Charge post, it would be necessary to recruit to the post. Human Resource processes would be followed. It is anticipated that the sessional work posts could be covered out of existing resources such as sessional worker time from the Outreach and Open Access team within the Youth Justice Service or through the payment of overtime as currently happens with the Service's weekend provision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) notes the transfer of Junior Attendance Centres from the National Offender Management Service within the Ministry of Justice to the Local Authority
- 2) approves the establishment a 0.40 fte (15 hour) Senior Case Manager (Officer in Charge) post at Hay Band B.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 17/06/15)

17. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (SS 19/06/15)

18. The financial implications of this report are contained within paragraph 15 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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