

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
COMMITTEE****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY ANNUAL UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report presents the annual review of the Youth Justice Strategy 2015-18 for approval by Full Council. An annual Youth Justice plan is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998). A copy of the full plan is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service is made up of three multi- agency locality Youth Offending Teams, a county wide Operational Support Team and a county wide Interventions Team. The service meets all of the statutory requirements of a Youth Offending Team as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and includes seconded staff from Police, Probation, Health, and Futures.
3. The aims of the Youth Justice Service are to:
 - Reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system;
 - Reduce the frequency and rate of reoffending by children and young people who are already within the youth justice system; and
 - Keep the numbers of young people experiencing custody – either on remand or as a sentence of the court - to a minimum.
4. Performance against these measures is strong and remains below the national average:
 - First time entrants to the youth justice system have reduced dramatically since 2008/09 and remains statically low. It is also below national average levels.
 - Rates of re-offending and numbers of re-offences committed by re-offenders have reduced steadily since 2008/09 and remain lower than national re-offending rates. As up to 50% of young people re-offending are not known to the Youth Justice Service at the point of re-offending, the Service is working with partners to ensure appropriate referrals are made for crime preventative support and intervention.
 - Numbers of young people remanded and sentenced to custody have reduced significantly since 2009 (by over 60% in both areas), meaning that fewer young people are experiencing a period of incarceration than was previously the case.

5. In addition to the multi-agency make-up of the teams, the Service works closely with partners and commissioned providers at a strategic and operational level to achieve its outcomes and aims. The Service links closely with the Troubled Families agenda and acts as the lead professional where the young person committing crime or anti-social behaviour has triggered the criteria. The Service is also a designated referral point for other agencies which have concerns that a young person may be at risk of radicalisation under the PREVENT agenda.
6. The Service's overall funding in 2015 was reduced. At present, the Service is undergoing a period of consultation staffing reductions and a new service delivery model for implementation in 2017/18. In recognition of the fact that it will be difficult to reduce offending rates further than current levels, and in acknowledgement of the increasingly difficult financial operating environment for the Youth Justice Service and its funding partners, the Service has set its performance targets so that they continue to outperform the national average for each measure. This will maintain good performance whilst setting realistic measures for success.
7. As well as achieving these outcome measures the Service will continue to monitor its activities via its quality assurance framework to ensure assessments, plans and work with children and young people remain high quality. It will also continue to seek feedback from children and young people as to their views of the service they have received and suggestions for improvement.
8. The Service will also try to ensure that the needs of children and young people are met within an ever challenging budgetary environment. It will therefore continue to work with partners (such as Children's Social care and Police) to ensure that children are not criminalised or remanded unnecessarily, whilst the Board works with strategic partners to ensure that the health provision offered to young offenders provides them with equality of access that the general population experiences.

Other Options Considered

9. An annual Youth Justice plan is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998).

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The Youth Justice Strategy requires the approval of Full Council.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. 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 services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, 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

12. An annual Youth Justice plan is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) which requires the local authority with its partners to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people and to deliver an effective local youth justice system.

Financial Implications

13. Statutory Youth Justice plans must be fully costed and these details are included in the full plan attached as **Appendix 1**.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the annual update of the Youth Justice Strategy 2015-18 is approved.

Councillor John Peck
Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee

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Constitutional Comments (LM 02/08/16)

14. The recommendations in the report may be approved by the County Council.

Financial Comments (TMR 08/08/16)

15. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 13 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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