

**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**. The report also seeks approval for a further report to be brought back to the Committee for monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy.

Information and Advice

2. Youth justice services in Nottinghamshire are made up of three multi-agency locality Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and a county wide Interventions team all of which are located in the 'Family Service' provision. The service meets all of the statutory requirements of a YOT 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 YOTs 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
 - 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 has reduced dramatically since 2008/09 and remains statistically 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 but have started to increase again. Nevertheless it remains lower than national re-offending rates. The YOTs are looking at this cohort of young people to explore if anything could be done differently to address this rising statistic
 - numbers of young people remanded and sentenced to custody has reduced significantly since 2009 (by over 70% 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 who have concerns that a Young Person may be at risk of radicalisation under the government's PREVENT agenda.
6. The YOTs have experienced further staffing reductions and a new service delivery model was implemented in April 2017.
7. The YOTs continue to monitor their activities via quality assurance; in order to align the Youth Justice quality assurance process more closely with that operating in other areas of Children's Services, its quality management framework is now managed by the Quality Improvement Group; ensuring assessments, plans and work with children and young people remains of a high quality. It continues to seek feedback from children and young people, parents and carers regarding the service they have received and suggestions for improvement.
8. The YOTs continue to 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 the 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.
9. An update on the progress made against the plan in 2016/17 is included on page 3 of the strategy. Key outcomes include closer working between Locality and Intervention Teams to tackle those considered most at risk of anti-social behaviour and/or offending, the alignment of quality assurance activity with the wider Children Service's department and the introduction of improved assessment and intervention for young people with Speech Language and Communication Needs.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. 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

13. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the 2017 annual update of the Youth Justice Strategy 2015-18 is approved.
- 2) a further report be brought back to the Committee for monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy.

Councillor Philip Owen
Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee

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Constitutional Comments (SLM 24/08/17)

15. Full Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SAS 22/08/17)

16. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 14 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Strategy annual update – report to Full Council on 15 September 2016.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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