

**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**

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. Nottinghamshire performs at or better than the national average against all of the above measures.
  - first time entrants to the youth justice system remain statistically low, and the Nottinghamshire rate of 322 first time entrants per 100,000 in the 10-17 population places the service in line with the national average levels despite a small rise in 2017/18.
  - 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 nationally. Nottinghamshire YOTs reoffending rate last year (34.4%) increased but remains below the national average which has also increased (37.9%). Re-offending from young people subject to pre-court disposals remains high and closer working with the police in an attempt to provide YOT interventions to young people prior to them

entering the criminal justice system, and to facilitate diversionary interventions to those who receive lower level sanctions, is being progressed.

- 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 is working closely with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the City Youth Offending Team (YOT) and Community Safety Partnerships on developing a Nottinghamshire Knife Crime Strategy which includes improved plans for early intervention to reduce risk of youth violence.
  6. There has been no reduction in grant funding to the YOT from the Youth Justice Board or local partners for the 2018/19 financial year and so staffing levels remain stable. The service is able to continue to offer non-statutory crime prevention intervention with funding from the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.
  7. The YOTs continue to monitor their activities via quality assurance, a process aligned with the broader Youth, Families and Social Work division and managed by the Quality Improvement Group. A new Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation inspection framework for YOTs was published in May 2018 and the service and partnership board are preparing self-assessments in line with the new inspection domains: organisational delivery, post court supervision and out of court disposals.
  8. The YOTs and the YOT Board continue to work with strategic partners to ensure that the health provision offered to young offenders meets their needs. The service benefits from having a YOT nurse specialist providing young people with a health needs assessment and a care plan to meet any unmet issues. YOT staff are also able to make direct referrals to Head 2 Head to access emotional wellbeing and mental health services, which this year has been expanded to include specialist therapeutic support for young people who sexually harm. The service has been successful in making a joint bid to NHS England to fund a Speech and Language Therapist to be embedded in the service until March 2020, recruitment to which is underway.
  9. An update on the progress made against the plan in 2017/18 is included on pages 3 and 4 of the strategy. Key outcomes include closer working with police to ensure appropriate and effective use of out of court disposals, the introduction of a joint working protocol with Social Care, Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and Nottingham City YOT to reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of children in care and the roll out of a training programme to assist staff in working with complex young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour.

### **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, data protection and information governance, 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, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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**

- 1) That the 2018 annual update of the Youth Justice Strategy 2015-18, attached as **Appendix 1**, is approved.

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

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## **Constitutional Comments (LM 29/08/18)**

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

## **Financial Comments (SAS 31/08/18)**

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 2017.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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