

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
COMMITTEE**

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY 2019**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report presents the Youth Justice Strategy 2019 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, these sit alongside the Family Service underneath the Group Manager for Early Help. 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. Over the last year, performance against these measures has varied with any under performance against national figures continuing to be scrutinised.
  - first time entrants to the youth justice system has reduced dramatically since 2008/9 and is currently falling below national average levels
  - rates of re-offending and numbers of re-offences committed by re-offenders has reduced steadily since 2008/9; whilst there have been some local fluctuations, numbers are now comparable to similar local authorities
  - numbers of young people remanded and sentenced to custody means that, both nationally and locally, fewer young people are experiencing a period of incarceration than was previously the case. Locally, the numbers of young people remanded/sentenced to custody has again fallen.

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 try to ensure that the needs of children and young people are met and to achieve its outcomes and aims. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) works with strategic partners to ensure that the health provision offered to young offenders provides them with equality of access which the general population experiences and it will continue to work in a multi-disciplinary way to ensure that children are not criminalised or remanded unnecessarily.
6. There has been no reduction in grant funding to the YOT from the YJB or local partners for the 2019/20 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. Nottinghamshire YJS has maintained its commitment to delivering crime prevention services and deliver a high-quality service in relation to crime prevention, outreach and detached services, thus keeping a focus on reducing the numbers of First Time Entrants (FTEs). 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 meets the triggers to ensure that a holistic whole family approach.
8. The YJS continue to monitor activities via quality assurance and quality assurance processes are closely linked with those which are operating in other areas of Children's Services. Its quality management framework is reviewed to closely align with standards which have been adopted by HMI Probation to ensure that assessments, plans and work with children and young people remains of a high quality regardless of what stage they are at within the YJS.
9. An update on the progress made against the plan in 2018/19 is included on **pages 4-7** of the strategy. Key outcomes include closer working with police to ensure appropriate and effective use of out of court disposals, development of a Speech Language and Communication Need (SLCN) strategy and the implementation of a training and consultation model of clinical psychology within the service.
10. The action plan, which details areas of development that the service plans to focus on during 2019/20, can be found on **pages 20-24**. Key areas of focus will be reducing First Time Entrants through targeting of crime prevention resources and diversionary activities, and the development of the multi-agency response to reducing Youth Violence and Child Criminal Exploitation.

### **Other Options Considered**

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

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

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

## 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 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

14. 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

15. 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 Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Strategy 2019, attached as **Appendix 1**, is approved.

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

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### Constitutional Comments (LW 19/09/19)

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

### Financial Comments (SAS 25/09/19)

17. Statutory Youth Justice plans must be fully costed and these details are included in the full plan attached as **Appendix 1**. The total funding from Nottinghamshire and partners is £2.3m.

## **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.

None.

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

All.

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