



## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2023/24**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report presents the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023/24 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. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan sets out on an annual basis how Youth Justice Services are delivered in Nottinghamshire, including how the Youth Justice Partnership contributes to the delivery of the service and how effective the work of the Partnership is on reducing crime. The plan also sets out priorities for developing and improving the service. Nottinghamshire has just concluded a three-year plan, updates to which were approved at Full Council on 23 September 2021 and 22 November 2022. This year's publication updates on progress made against previous priorities and outlines the refreshed priorities for the new plan for 2023/24.

#### **Delivery of Youth Justice Services in Nottinghamshire**

3. Youth Justice Services in Nottinghamshire are made up of three multi-agency Locality Teams and a countywide Interventions Team. The Services meet all the statutory requirements of a Youth Justice Service as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and includes seconded staff from Police, Probation, Health, and Futures (Education, Training and Employment).
4. The Services work 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 Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Board 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.

5. Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Services has maintained its commitment to working with children and young people in an early intervention and preventative capacity. It delivers a high-quality service in relation to diversion, outreach and detached services, thus keeping a focus on reducing the numbers of First Time Entrants and supporting young people outside of the formal criminal justice system. This year the service has begun delivery of the new Ministry of Justice funded Turnaround Programme, which sees younger children on the cusp of offending who would not previously have met the threshold for a service, receive a whole family assessment and plan to prevent them from entering the criminal justice system.
6. Key contributors to the Youth Justice Board, and to this plan, include the Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Violence Reduction Unit, Health Partners, Probation, District and Borough Councils, Children's Social Care and Education.

### **Performance of the Youth Justice Partnership**

7. The aims of the Youth Justice Services are to:
  - Reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system
  - Reduce the frequency and rate of re-offending 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.
8. These are measured as the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the Youth Justice Partnership. Over the last year, performance against these measures has been good with data showing that Nottinghamshire is performing in line with or better than the national average. When compared with the previous financial year, First Time Entrant rates in 2022/23 remained stable at 144 per 100,000 of the population (compared with 149 in 2021/22). The rates of re-offending reduced from 15.8% to 10.2%, compared with a national average of 34.2%. There has been a decrease in the number of offences each re-offender commits and the 're-offences per re-offender rate' was 3 in 2022/23 compared with a national average of 3.65.
9. Both nationally and locally there are fewer young people experiencing incarceration and a drive to support young people through community orders. In Nottinghamshire the numbers of young people remanded or sentenced to custody has reduced year on year and is well under the national average.
10. For 2023/24 the National Youth Justice Board (YJB) has introduced an extended set of KPIs against which the partnership will need to collect data and measure performance and trends. The 10 new measures represent the YJB's ambition for partnerships to be addressing the holistic needs of children in the Youth Justice System and signal a move away from measuring offending data only. The new KPIs are detailed on page 9 of the Strategic Plan.
11. For the 2020-2023 Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Strategy, the partnership identified seven key areas of development to provide focus:

- To work with partners to promote a more holistic approach to meeting children and young people's needs in the Youth Justice System
- To increase the number of children and young people who are accessing early intervention aimed at reducing the potential of them entering the criminal justice system
- Every child and young person in contact with Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service has appropriate Education, Training and Employment provision in place
- To ensure that children and young people have the best support available to meet their needs when leaving custody
- To ensure that robust consultation processes are in place to enable all children and young people and parents and carers to have an opportunity to shape Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Services.

12. Pages 6 and 7 of the 2023-24 Youth Justice Strategic Plan outline what was achieved in the previous plan. These include:

- The service strengthened its partnership with health, increasing its use of screening of children and young people for speech language and communication needs (SLCN) and ensuring that trauma-informed approaches were adopted across the service.
- The appointment of a specialist substance use worker has improved the service's approach to working with children and young people identified as having a substance use need.
- The numbers of children and young people accessing early intervention, and engaging on voluntary programmes of intervention, has increased and the number of First Time Entrants has fallen.
- The service has increased its offer of support in relation to Education, Training and Employment and all children and young people on a court order or an out of court disposal are now supported by an adviser according to their individual need, promoting educational inclusion.
- The service has developed its joint working approaches with statutory partners, improving how the service supports children and young people whilst they are in custody, improving accessibility to accommodation and improving the support that is available for those transitioning to adult services.
- The developed a participation strategy and the launch of a new online feedback platform seeking out the views and opinions of those who have worked with the service.

13. The Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Partnership, informed by self-assessment activity against inspection frameworks and the external scrutiny of peer reviews, has identified four primary objectives for the 2023/24 Youth Justice Strategic Plan:

- Developing a shared diversionary vision across the partnership
  - Improving arrangements for children and young people on multiple pathways
  - Strengthening the approach to addressing serious youth violence and exploitation
  - Improving access to mental health and speech and language provision.
14. Details of the Partnership's aims and objectives in these four areas, as well as how progress will be measured, can be found in pages 11 to 15 of the Strategic Plan. The service has consulted with children and young people regarding these areas and highlights of their feedback can be found on page 16.
15. The Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Strategy is aligned to the Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-2031 and delivering the strategy is one mechanism by which the Youth Justice Services will contribute to the achievement of the ambitions set out in the plan. Youth Justice Services activity is specifically relevant to Ambition 2: keeping children, vulnerable adults and communities safe. This will be achieved through high quality service delivery to prevent young people coming into the criminal justice system, to reduce reoffending and to protect children and young people from criminal exploitation.

### **Other Options Considered**

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

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

17. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan requires the approval of Full Council.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

18. 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**

19. 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**

20. Statutory Youth Justice plans must be fully costed; this year's plan has no additional costs associated with it.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023/24, attached as **Appendix 1**, be approved.

**Councillor Tracey Taylor**  
**Cabinet Member for Children and Families**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (SF 16/08/23)**

21. The Youth Justice Plan is part of the Council's policy framework and is reserved to Full Council for approval (see Section 3, Part 1, paragraph 5 of the Constitution on page 33).

## **Financial Comments (VC 25/08/23)**

22. There are no additional financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **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 2020-23 - report to Full Council on 15 October 2020](#)

[Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service Strategy Review 2021/22 – report to Full Council on 23 September 2021](#)

[Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Strategy 2022-23 update – report to Full Council on 24 November 2022](#)

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

All.

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