



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

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY 2022/23 UPDATE**

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

1. This report presents the Youth Justice Strategy 2022/23 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 Strategy sets out on an annual basis how Youth Justice Services are delivered in Nottinghamshire, including how the 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 is entering the final year of a three year plan, originally approved by Full Council on 15 October 2020. Full Council approved the 2021/22 review of the plan on 23 September 2021 and this year's publication is an update on progress and on priorities for 2022/23, the final year of the plan.

#### **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 Service meets 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 Service works closely with partners and commissioned providers at a strategic and operational level to try and 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 Service 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.
6. Key contributors to the Youth Justice Board, and to this plan, include the Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), 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 Service 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. 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.
9. When compared with the previous financial year, First Time Entrant rates in 2021/22 remained stable at 149 per 100,000 of the population. The rates of re-offending reduced from 26.7% to 15.8%, compared with a national average of 38.5%. There has been an increase in the number of offences each re-offender commits and the 're-offences per re-offender rate' was 4.5 in 2021/22 compared with a national average of 3.95. This is largely due to the persistent re-offending of a small group of young people with very complex needs. These young people continue to be supported by both the Youth Justice Service and Children's Social Care to ensure the best possible outcomes.
10. 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.
11. In 2020 the Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Partnership, informed by a National Standards Audit, identified five key areas of development to provide focus for a three-year (2020-2023) Youth Justice Strategy. The priorities are:
  - 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 (ETE) 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. In 2021/22 two additional areas of focus were added: Serious Youth Violence and Disproportionality, the latter of which refers to the extent to which some groups of young people are over represented in the criminal justice system. The annual update outlines what has been achieved to date for each priority area, and what specific actions are going to be taken in-year to make further progress (pages 7-19 of the strategy). Highlights from this year's achievements include:

- staff working in youth justice have received in-depth training in relation to trauma-informed practice
- this year Change Grow Live (Substance Misuse Service) has appointed a young person substance use specialist worker
- by developing processes with the police, this year the service reviewed 451 children who were named on Public Protection Notices (PPNs), and who otherwise would not have come to the attention of services, with a view to offering early intervention/support
- a youth diversion scheme has been set up providing enhanced support to children who are taken into custody. The team includes the Council's Youth Justice workers, Speech and Language Therapists and Youth Workers. It is funded through the Youth Endowment Fund and will be a fully evaluated pilot
- the service has expanded the Education Training Employment Team and now offers Employability & Skills Coaching to Young People in year 11 who are accessing voluntary intervention and are at risk of becoming not in employment, education or training
- agreed escalation procedures have been established where young people are without accommodation and are due to be leaving youth custody
- detailed disproportionality data is now included within quarterly performance reports which are presented to the Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Board. Data for first time entrants, re-offending, custodial remands/sentencing and Out of Court Disposal is broken down according to gender, legal status, and ethnicity
- the service has reviewed its approach to working with children who have been involved in weapons/knife crime and has compiled some working principles for staff, informed by areas of good practice and resources available locally.

13. Highlights of the planned development activity this year include:
- collaboration with health commissioners to explore options for broadening delivery of emotional and mental health services for children known to the Youth Justice Service
  - to strengthen the Youth Justice Service's links with the School Early Intervention Officer to improve collaboration and progress opportunities for joint working with Police
  - explore opportunities for working with children at risk of exclusion to increase their chances of remaining in education and steering them further away from the youth justice system
  - the service will be accessing training to increase staff knowledge of, and improve the support for, children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
  - to develop processes to ensure that the service routinely consults with children, parents and carers in relation to key operational changes that are being considered.
14. 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 Service will contribute to the achievement of the ambitions set out in the plan. Youth Justice Service 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**

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

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

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

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

17. 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**

18. 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**

19. 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 Strategy 2022/23, 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 (GMG 05/10/22)**

20. The Youth Justice Plan is part of the Council's policy framework and is reserved to Full Council for approval (see Section 4, Part 1, paragraph 2 of the Constitution on page 41).

## **Financial Comments (NC 18/10/22)**

21. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report as the activities should be contained within the funding streams outlined in page 24.

## **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](#)

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

All.

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