

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

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY 2020-23

Purpose of the Report

1. This report presents the Youth Justice Strategy 2020 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 (YJS) in Nottinghamshire are made up of three multi-agency Locality Teams and a county wide Interventions Team. The Service meets all the statutory requirements of a YJS as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and includes seconded staff from Police, Probation, Health, and Futures (Education, Training and Employment).
3. The aims of the YJS 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.
4. Over the last year, performance against these measures has been good with data showing that Nottinghamshire is performing better than the national average. First time entrants have again fallen, and Nottinghamshire has seen a 32% reduction on last year figures which is below the national average.
5. Rates of re-offending and numbers of re-offences committed by re-offenders has reduced steadily over the last few years and, whilst there have been some local fluctuations, figures show that Nottinghamshire is performing better than the national average.

6. Numbers of young people remanded and sentenced to custody means that, both nationally and locally, fewer young people are experiencing a period of incarceration. Locally, the total numbers of young people remanded/sentenced to custody is reduced from last year and is currently lower than the national average. 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 Partnership 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.
7. Nottinghamshire YJS has maintained its commitment to working with children and young people in need of help, on a non-statutory basis. 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 (FTEs). The Service links closely with the Troubled Families agenda and acts as the lead professional where the young person committing crime or antisocial behaviour meets the triggers to ensure 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. In its new three year plan, the Nottinghamshire YJS have identified five key areas to provide focus over the next three years:
 - 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 YJS 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 YJS.
10. The plan provides an overview of the work that has been completed so far in relation to these areas and outlines the work that the YJS intends to deliver over the following year (2020/21).

11. This year's plan demonstrates the Service's continuing commitment to better involving young people and their families in the development of the Service. The strategy features artwork, photography, and poems which have been created by young people working with the Service. Quotes from young people and parent/carers can be found throughout the document.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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 2020-23, attached as **Appendix 1**, is approved.

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

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Constitutional Comments (EP 17/09/20)

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

Financial Comments (SAS 28/09/20)

18. Statutory Youth Justice plans must be fully costed and the total funding available from Nottinghamshire and partners is £2.049m for 2020-21.

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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