

Cabinet  
Council

30 October 2018  
4 December 2018

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor P Seaman

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (People)

**Ward(s) affected:**

All wards

**Title:**

**Youth Justice Plan 2018/19**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No – Although the Plan covers all wards of the City, it is not anticipated that the impact will be significant

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**Executive Summary:**

This paper is being submitted as notification that The Coventry Youth Offending Service (CYOS) Youth Justice Plan has been agreed and signed off by its Statutory Partners, and to seek Council endorsement.

Youth Offending Teams (YOTS) were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA). The functions assigned to the YOS include the duty upon the local authority under the Children Act 1989 to take all reasonable steps to encourage children not to commit offences. The Act imposed a duty on each Local Authority acting in cooperation with its Statutory Partners, (Police, Health and Probation) to ensure that all youth justice services are available in their area to such an extent as it appropriate for the area.

The key tasks of the service are:

- Assessing and delivering interventions to the out-of-court-disposal cohort
- Management and delivery of community sentences
- Management and delivery of secure estate sentences and resettlement
- Servicing the Youth Court and Crown Courts (in terms of provision of a court team , bail & health assessments, provision of pre-sentence reports and stand down reports)
- Victim services
- Parenting services and management of Parenting Orders

The CDA legislation also imposed a duty to complete and submit a Youth Justice Plan each year.

The Plan provides an overview of CYOS achievements against key indicators, plans and targets, and identifies the key strategic actions for the next 12 months.

Statutory Partners (Police Health, Probation, and Local Authority, represented by The Director of Children Services have agreed and signed off on the Plan.

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to:

- (1) Approve and Endorse the Youth Justice Plan.

Council is requested to:

- (1) Endorse the Youth Justice Plan.

**List of Appendices included:**

The Coventry Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2018-19

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

Yes - 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Report title: **Youth Justice Plan**

**1. Context (or background)**

1.1 The Youth Justice Plan (the Plan) is completed annually, agreed by CYOS Management Board members and submitted to The Youth Justice Board. The current Plan has secured Board sign off and Council's approval is being sought. If the plan is not submitted it breaches legislative requirements and places CYOS in breach of its Youth Justice Board (YJB) conditions of Grant agreement.

**1.2 CYOS is required to report against three national indicators**

- Reducing the number of young people entering the youth justice system as First Time Entrants (FTEs)
- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing the use of custody for young people

**1.3 During 2017/18**

1.3.1. There was a reduction in the number of First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system (CJS) 93 versus 126. This is excellent news and is a better position than both the family group and west midlands comparators, only the national rate was better.

1.3.2. Additional clinician resource was secured to work across the Coventry and Warwickshire local transformation plan area, from NHS England. This will enable the existing youth justice mental health teams (Coventry and Warwickshire) to increase their capacity and service offered. Coventry will primarily target young people in custodial settings and through resettlement.

1.3.3 The number of substantive offences committed by young people fell compared to the previous counting period, down from 583 to 479.

1.3.4 CYOS binary re-offending rate was identical to the family group (0.41) and slightly lower than the national rate. The rate of re-offenses presents an even more positive picture with Coventry's rate sitting at 1.38 versus the family and national rates, which were both over 1.6.

1.3.5. The use of custody has increased slightly with two more young people entering custody against the historic low point of 2016/17. The national counting rule counts episodes not young people and this has increased considerably more than the number of young people. This reflects an unusual pattern of young people receiving multiple custodial sentences, one young person counted three times, two of those episodes were for offences they committed while in custody.

1.3.6. Remand use has increased slightly up from 413 to 443 (a historic low 2016/17). The small increase in the number of young people entering custody and remand bed nights reflects that some young people are committing offences that are more serious. Robbery increased from 18 in 2015/16 to 28 in 2016/17 and to 45 in 2017/18.

1.3.7 Victim feedback has been extremely positive, 46 feedback forms were returned in the last counting period and all of them expressed that they felt safe throughout the process, were given useful information, felt their views and feelings were listened to, concerns were acknowledged and discussed, were able to input into the process and felt they had been given options.

1.3.8. Research was commenced into the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) alongside other West Midlands' YOTs.

1.3.9 CYOS has worked with partners to ensure that key messages about knife crime, the CJS risks and safeguarding risks and skills are communicated to as many young people as possible. One of the key partners was Streetdoctors, a national charity. Their Joint Medical Director commented, "CYOS are a committed and organised YOS team which has enabled their volunteers to really focus on imparting vital skills to young people. The partnership is a shining example of success for our other teams across the country". Last year this partnership with Police School Panels, Police and Streetdoctors reached over 500 young people via workshops delivered across schools.

#### **1.4 Our priorities for 2018/19 include**

1.4.1 **Strengthen the relationship with third sector providers.** Over the last year, CYOS has further developed its relationship with The Positive Youth Foundation (PYF) who has received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) 2018. In addition to the PYF, CYOS also works with The Coventry Youth Partnership, comprising of approximately 35 third sector providers. This broad partnership provides an opportunity to access and support young people's participation in an extensive range of activities and the development of approaches to tackle specific issues.

1.4.2 **Work with Partners** to ensure that protective measures training, including awareness of rights, offence specific targeted prevention programmes (including Robbery and Violence) are delivered as appropriate across education provision

1.4.3 **Improve outcomes for Looked after Children (LAC).** A multi-agency re-offending review process has been implemented, seeking to ensure there is a timely and co-ordinated response when LAC re-offend. The impact of this activity will be monitored and any lessons learned disseminated to partners. A process is agreed and embedded in Children's Services Tri.X procedures.

1.4.4 **Identify best practice model with Partners** to ensure that criminal exploitation is challenged and the domains of risk reduced. Practice supporting certain types of criminal exploitation to be embedded. The emerging challenge of gang/complex groups and county line issues requires a specific focus to ensure that young people are safeguarded and to manage the risk some of them pose to others. There will be a review of current practice this year, which is happening at a West Midlands' YOT Head of Service level and at a local level supported by the new Criminal Exploitation post within Children's Services.

1.4.5 **Enhance/develop a new trauma based approach and pathway.** The ALTAR Programme (which focuses on abuse, loss trauma, attachment and resistance) is already beginning to show early evidence of the extent and impact of early adversity. Once the report is completed the Children's Partnership Board in Coventry, CYOS Board, West Midlands Combined Authority and Office Police Crime Commissioner, West Midlands will consider the findings. Whilst discussions are at an early stage, it seems likely that the ALTAR Programme and funding will have a significant impact on many key areas of YOT work. This is likely to include early help and diversion, the use of assessment tools and the nature of interventions with young people and their families.

1.4.6 **Maintain focus on Prevent.** CYOS remains active in terms of engagement at Channel, refreshing staff knowledge via workshops and web-based learning and managers' undertaking additional training. This will enhance their ability to work quickly with partners and to respond to situations, which require complex analysis and approaches to managing risk and vulnerability.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

2.1 Completion and submission of this plan is compulsory under CDA legislation. Therefore, it is recommended that the Council approve the Youth Justice Plan.

## **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

3.1 All statutory Partners are consulted under a statutory duty imposed by CDA. All Management Board members are consulted and contribute, although only statutory partner's cooperation is required. The Childrens Shadow Board also contributed to the identification of young people's priorities.

### **3.2 Statutory Members are represented by:**

- Director Of Children's Services
- Strategic Lead Childrens Services
- Chief Inspector, Coventry, West Midlands Police
- Head of Probation, Staffordshire & West Midlands Probation Trust
- Joint Commissioning Manager Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group & Coventry City Council
- Head of Specialist Health Services for Children and Young People

### **3.3 Other members include:**

- Head of Environment Services Street Scene and Regulatory Services
- Manager - Prospects
- Chair of The Magistrates Youth Panel
- Advisory Teacher Coventry Virtual School

All the above agreed the Plan.

## **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

4.1 YJB grant conditions state that receipt of grant is conditional on submission of a strategic plan. The YJB recognise that local political processes do not necessarily tie in with submission dates and therefore they accept a draft plan, which had to be submitted by the 31 July 2018. The plan was submitted in line with the deadline.

## **5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

Grant funding from YJB may be withheld/withdrawn if the plan is not submitted in line with CDA legislation requirements.

The table below shows the Annual Budget contributions from the Partner Agencies for 2017/18 and 2018/19. The increases in contributions from Police, Probation, Health and LA are linked to staffing cost increases driven by vacancy and maternity savings in the previous counting period.

<b>Annual Budget</b>		
<b>Agency</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
<b>Local Authority</b>	759,318	743,084
<b>Police</b>	71,835	73,014
<b>Police and Crime Commissioner</b>	85,000	85,000
<b>Probation</b>	54,775	55,177
<b>Health</b>	77,315	93,267
<b>YJB</b>	526,139	526,139
	<b>1,574,382</b>	<b>1,575,681</b>

## 5.2 Legal implications

Section 40 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the local authority, after consultation with the relevant bodies, to formulate and implement for each year a Youth Justice Plan setting out how Youth Justice Services in the area are to be provided and funded and how the YOS teams established are to be composed and funded, how they will operate and what functions they are to carry out.

## 6. Other implications

### 6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))?

#### Primarily activities support;

- Protecting our most vulnerable people
- Improve health and well being
- Make communities safer
- Improving educational outcomes
- Reducing the impact of poverty

#### Activity within The Youth Justice Plan is aligned locally to plans that include;

- Local Police and Crime Board
- Local Policing Plan
- Coventry Sustainable Communities Strategy

### 6.2 How is risk being managed?

Risk to YJB grant, has been managed by consulting with partners in a timely manner to facilitate sign off and submission of the draft plan (grant requirement). The report is also submitted now for endorsement in line with statutory duties and good practice requirements.

### 6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The plan presents a balanced budget and no immediate implications for other groups. The Plan details the risks going forward in to 2019/20.

#### 6.4 Equalities/Equality Impact Assessments (EIA)

Legislative changes, such as pre court disposal options have been subject to substantial EIA activity under Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board. No adverse impact has been identified

This is not a new activity.

#### 6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

#### 6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Partners have all participated in agreement and sign off the Plan and there are no implication arising post sign off.

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