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Cabinet  
Council

31 October 2017  
5 December 2017

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor E Ruane

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (People)

**Ward(s) affected:**

All Wards

**Title:**

**Youth Justice Plan**

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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 report 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) agreed and signed off on the Plan at CYOS statutory Board meeting on the 31 of July 2017.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Recommend that the Council endorse the Youth Justice Plan.

The Council is requested to:

- 1) Endorse the Youth Justice Plan.

**List of Appendices included:**

The Coventry Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2017-18

**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 – 5th December 2017

## 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 endorsement 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. This year 2017/18 the YJB grant is £494,173 .

1.2. CYOS is required to report against 3 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 2016/2017**

1.3.1. The Service has experienced an increase in First Time Entrants (FTEs). These are young people who receive their first substantive criminal justice disposal, Youth Caution, Youth Conditional Caution or Court conviction. There has been an increase in non-diversion eligible cases. Locally, for example, there has been an increase in motoring offences 4.8% of total offences in 2015/16 Vs 10.9% in 2016/17. The FTE rate of increase has slowed in spite of an increasing number of high gravity offences for example Robbery which increased from 18 in 2015/16 to 28 in 2016/17.

1.3.2. Against the reoffending National Indicator counting rule, there has been an increase. It is very important to note that in real terms, the absolute number of offenders, re-offenders and re-offences continues to reduce. When compared to the previous counting period CYOS had 10 less young people go on to reoffend and 30 less offences committed. CYOS binary rate (the number of young people who re-offend) is lower than its family group members and higher against the re-offences rate (the average number of re-offences).

1.3.3. The use of custody fell to record low rates at 0.55 as a rate per 1000 of the 10-17 year old population. When compared to the previous counting period there were 2 less custodial episodes and 3 less young people entering custody. The services 16/17 custody rate is below that of the family group average 0.55 vs 0.68.

1.3.4. Remand use declined sharply, with the number of bed nights used falling from 650 last year to 413. A significant fall of 36%.

1.3.5. An independent service user survey undertaken by her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation identified that 98% of respondents said that CYOS took their views seriously all of the time or most of the time, 100% said that the YOT worker did enough to help them take part in their order and 77% said they were a lot less likely to reoffend.

1.3.6. CYOS received the Restorative Justice Councils, Restorative Services Quality Mark, at the time of writing the Youth Justice Plan, approximately 30 YOTS had secured the quality mark.

- 1.3.7. CYOS was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation for England and Wales (HMIP) during June 2016. They stated in their summary that "overall CYOS was performing well in most areas of practice" There were areas of practice that required further scrutiny and additional workshops and audit followed. CYOS have recently entered in to another peer audit arrangement with two other YOTS to secure external oversight and quality assurance.
- 1.3.8. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) congratulated Coventry YOS "for a good short quality screening report; engaging young people and assessment of offending behaviour a real strength".
- 1.3.9. The service has extended the range of CYOS partners who benefit from reparative activities outcomes and unpaid work services from CYOS young people. One of the new partners is Sowe Valley where young people pick up litter and undertake conservation work such as clearing ivy off trees.

#### 1.4. **Our Priorities for 2017/2018 Include**

- 1.4.1. **Work at a city wide level to raise awareness of the dangers and implications of knife crime and other weapons.** The service is working with Streetdoctors a national award-winning charity, which uses volunteer doctors to deliver face-to-face sessions with young people. It is anticipated that the intervention will equip young people with practical skills to save lives, change attitudes and reduce the likelihood of violence.
- 1.4.2. **Sustain the range of out of court disposals.** There is a risk that the funding from Coventry's Police and Crime Board, which primarily supports Enhanced Community Resolutions, will not be available going forward. The West Midlands Police Crime Commissioner has expressed an intent to deliver responses at a regional level, and it is not yet clear which types of activities he will choose to support. CYOS will work with other youth offending teams within the West Midlands footprint to provide evidence-based arguments to seek to ensure continued funding of local priority practice areas.
- 1.4.3. **The service will continue to focus on the number of Looked After Children (LAC) entering the criminal justice system.** Current developments include scrutiny of decisions made at placements in the context of whether the correct restorative approach has been applied and ongoing support and training to partners in restorative approaches This will seek to ensure that restorative capacity, particularly as new local placements come into effect, is consistent and that young people within those placements are not disadvantaged as a consequence.
- 1.4.4. **CYOS will increase the number of accredited interventions available within the service,** in particular increasing the number of accredited options for Attendance Centre participants. It is anticipated that 12 of the 25 available interventions will be accredited this year.
- 1.4.5. **Maintain a focus on engaging young people who are at risk of entering custody for breach alone.** Current engagement activities have succeeded in reducing this cohort but further multi agency activities need to contribute to facilitating engagement with a hard to reach group of vulnerable young people. This links closely to other priorities to improve outcomes for LAC and those who go missing.
- 1.4.6. **Maintain a strong focus on Prevent responsibilities.** This will include additional training for staff, supporting the 2017/18 Prevent delivery action plan. Any additional responsibilities that may emerge from that plan will be included in CYOS Action plan.

1.4.7. **Strengthen the capacity and skill set of professionals to undertake the role of Appropriate Adult.** CYOS will continue to deliver training in-house and across children services and has committed to a training programme for this current year. This activity should support other priorities such as adherence to the provision of PACE accommodation.

## **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 endorse 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 co-operation is required.

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

- Director Of Children's Services
- Strategic lead Childrens Services
- Chief Superintendent, Police Commander for 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 Members above agreed the Plan.

3.4. Whilst service users are not consulted on the content and format of the Plan, service user feedback is sought and considered across areas of CYOS practice.

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

4.1. YJB grant conditions state that receipt of the 2nd payment 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 earlier this year, by the 31 July.

## **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 YJB grant for this year (2017/18) to CYOS is £494,173.

## 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 which 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 2018/19.

### 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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