

Cabinet  
Council

12 October 2021  
18 October 2021

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor P Seaman

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Children's Services

**Ward(s) affected:**

All wards

**Title:**

**Coventry City Council's Youth Justice Strategy and Plan – 2021-23 (Youth Justice Plan)**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No – While 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 Chair, the Director of Children's Services, and to seek Council endorsement.

Youth Offending Teams were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The functions assigned to the Youth Offending Service 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 Crime and Disorder 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:

- Management and delivery of community sentences
- Assessing and delivering interventions to the out-of-court-disposal cohort
- 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)
- Parenting services and management of Parenting Orders
- Victim services

The Crime and Disorder Act 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 priorities for the next 12-24 months<sup>1</sup>.

### **Recommendations:**

The Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Recommend that Council endorse the Youth Justice Strategy and Plan – 2021/2023.

Council is requested to:

- 1) Endorse the Youth Justice Strategy and Plan – 2021/2023.

### **List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1 - Coventry City Council's Youth Justice Strategy and Plan – 2021-23  
Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

### **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 - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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<sup>1</sup> In previous years the plan has focussed across a 12-month period only but has been extended to 24 months, in recognition that the Youth Justice Board *...welcomes plans that cover more than one year. Where YJ plans are covering more than one year, the YJB recommend an annual refresh and updating of key information, particularly relating to available resources, governance and key achievements from the previous year.* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-plans-practice-note-for-youth-offending-partnerships> .

## 1. Context (or background)

The plan demonstrates, in line with the Youth Justice Board (YJB) grant requirement, the continued delivery of statutory responsibilities as described in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 part 111 (section 38).

CYOS has submitted its plan which demonstrates its delivery of its statutory functions and the methods for achieving this to the YJB, in line with the grant requirement.

The plan outlines the following:

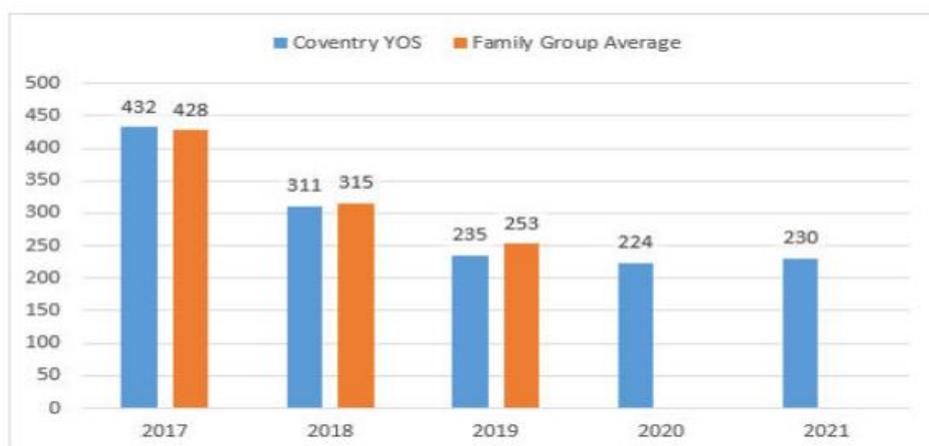
- Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements
- Resources and Services
- Performance and Priorities
- Responding to the Pandemic and Recovery from Covid 19
- Challenges, risks, and opportunities
- And, includes an Improvement and Business Plan.

Through this structure the Plan sets out details of performance over the past year and our priorities for 2021 - 2023.

### 1.2 Headlines 2020/21

#### 1.2.1 Performance and outcomes for children, young people, families, and communities<sup>2</sup>

#### First Time Entrants

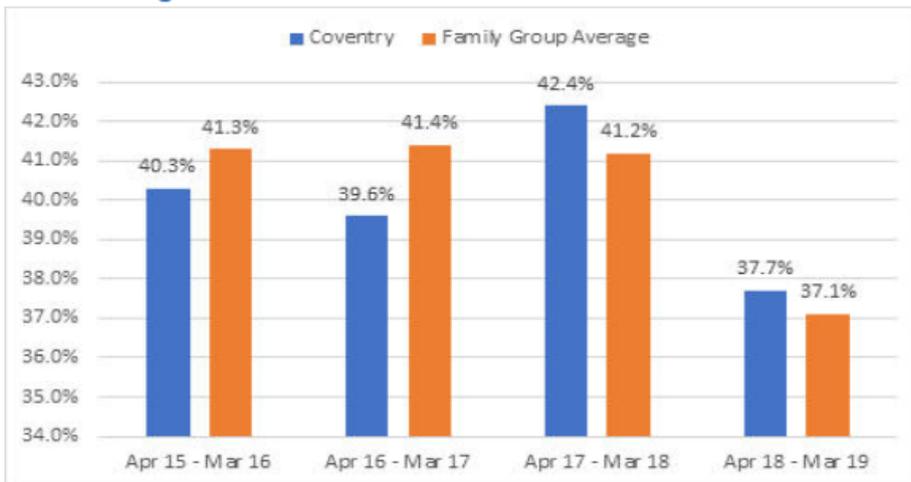


The number of children entering the youth justice system has been stable over the last three years and there has been a 47% reduction since 2017.

Table 1: FTEs per 100,000 of the 10-17 year old population, Coventry YOS 2017-21

<sup>2</sup> Family Group - a statistically similar comparator group as defined by the Youth Justice Board: Coventry, Derby, Bolton, Newport, Sheffield, Peterborough, Walsall, Leeds, Portsmouth, Southampton, Tameside. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, not all comparator data has been available this year; this is currently being progressed by the Youth Justice Board and Ministry of Justice.

## Reoffending

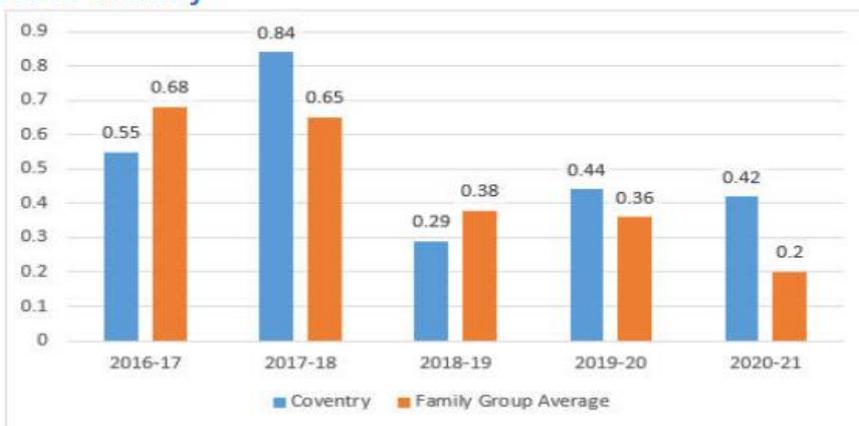


**CYOS has seen the lowest reoffending rate in 3 years.**

**Table 2: Children/Young People reoffending within a year, Coventry YOS 2015-2019**

While there is a positive downward trend in reoffending rates and a reduced number of children entering the Youth Justice System, the city has not seen the same trajectories in the use of custody.

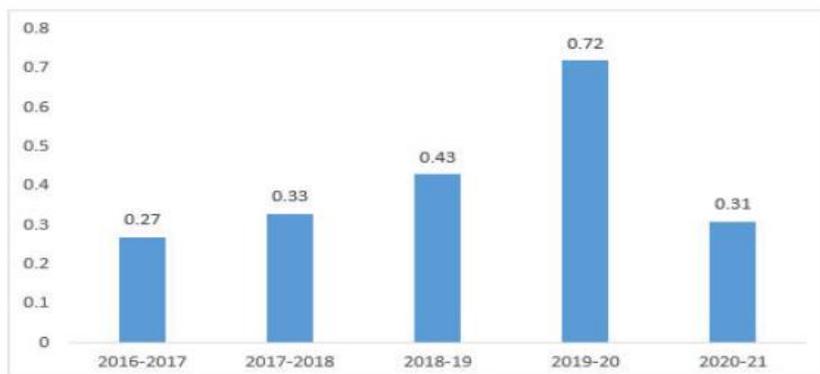
## Use of Custody



**There was a similar use of custody to 2019/20, but this compares to a clear downward trend for the Family Group.**

**Table 3: Custodial sentences as a rate per 1,000 of the 10-17 year old population, Coventry YOS**

## Use of Remand

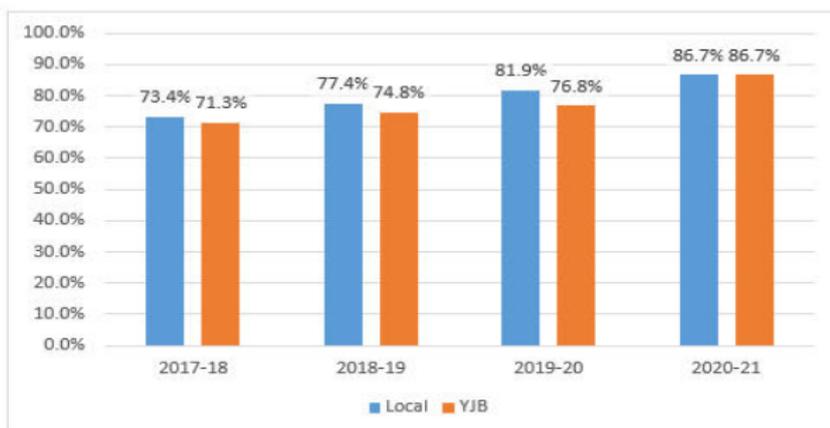


**57% reduction in new remand episodes compared to 2019/2020 and the lowest rate in 4 years.**

**Table 4: New remand episodes per 1,000 of the 10-17 year old population, Coventry YOS 2016-2021**

CYOS has not seen as stark a reduction in custody use compared to the family group, partially as a result of 5 young people receiving life sentences for 3 separate murders, one from 2018/19 and two from 2019/20. Of these children, 3 were first-time entrants evidencing the importance of identifying children at risk and having appropriate diversion and prevention, and the wide permeating impact of knife crime<sup>3</sup>.

### Education, Training and Employment



There is a continued improving trend around children being engaged in Education, Training and Employment, but children in the youth justice system continue to achieve grades far below the city average.

Table 5: Engagement in suitable ETE by local assessment and by former YJB national standard, 2017-21

#### 1.2.2 Responding to Covid 19 and Other Key Achievement – 2020/21

Last year’s CYOS 2020/21 Contingency and Recovery Youth Justice Plan outlined how the service was responding to Covid 19; that plan has been updated to respond to restriction changes and easing being made available to CYOS’ s Management Board on a quarterly basis.

Last year, CYOS initially moved to a tiered based model of delivery, which saw most of the delivery being via video telephone calls and in person where assessed as necessary. This developed over the course of the year and CYOS has had a largely in person service delivery since September 2020; an exception to this is victim-based work, which has remained virtually delivered. Professional meetings have continued via Microsoft Teams and additional spaces have been created for team support, counselling, and reflective workshops.

CYOS has continued developmental activity throughout the past year and have progressed an improvement plan following the Service completing a self-assessment against the new Youth Justice Board National Standards in April 2020<sup>4</sup>; however, the progression of these improvements has been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic.

#### Other Key Achievements from the past year include:

We were awarded the ‘Achievement for All’ Quality Lead Award<sup>5</sup>.



<sup>3</sup> Only one of the children was known to CYOS on a substantive disposal at the time of the offence; a multi-agency learning review, facilitated by the Safeguarding Children Partnership, was undertaken with learning being actioned and progression tracked through Management Board. A wider learning review is being progressed around the 3 of the other children to explore learning for the city.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-for-youth-justice-services>

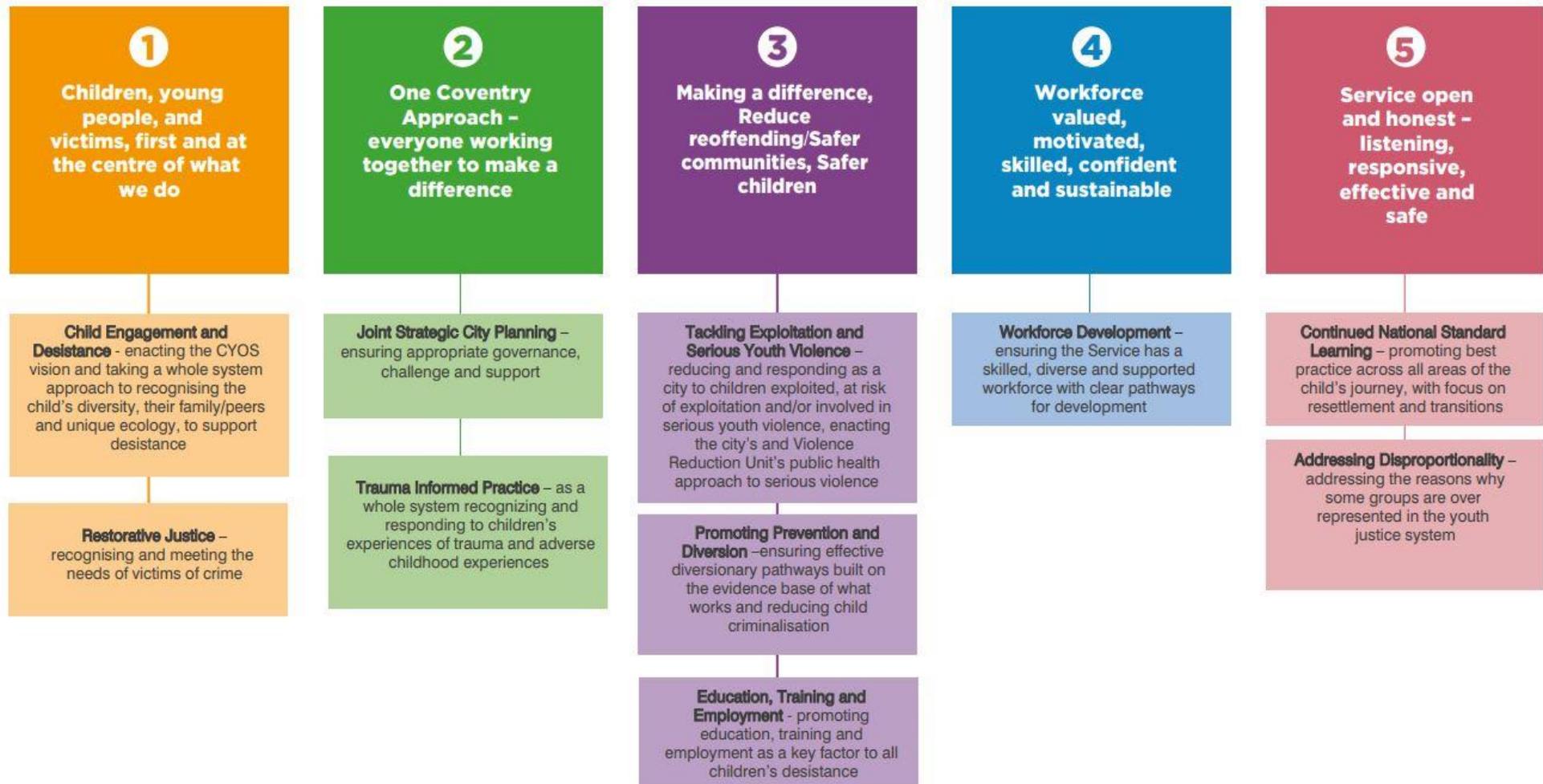
<sup>5</sup> Awarded in recognition of the efforts to secure better outcomes for children with special educational needs in the Youth Justice System- <https://afaeducation.org/>



- We were the first Youth Offending Team to achieve the newly launched Registered Restorative Organisation status.

<p>Increased Board Membership</p> 	<p>Continued work around addressing disproportionality<sup>6</sup></p> 	<p>Development around trauma informed practice and approaches</p> 	<p>Improved responses to serious youth violence and exploitation</p> 
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### 1.3 Our priorities and areas for improvement for 2021/23



<sup>6</sup> As per comments last year, the ethnic breakdown in the Plan is aggregated in line with the Youth Justice Board national reporting criteria, but a more detailed analysis is used operationally.

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

2.1 Completion and submission of this plan is a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is requested that Cabinet recommend that the Council endorse the Plan.

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

3.1 All statutory partners are consulted under a statutory duty imposed by the Act. All Management Board members are consulted and contribute, although only statutory partner's cooperation is required.

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

- Director of Children's Services
- Strategic Lead for Help Protection, Children's Services
- Chief Inspector, Coventry, West Midlands Police
- Head of National Probation Service, Coventry
- Director of Commissioning. Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Head of Specialist Health Services for Children and Young People

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

- Head of Environmental Services Street Scene and Regulatory Services
- Operations Manager, Coventry and Warwickshire, Prospects Services
- Chair of The Magistrates Youth Panel
- Head of Service, Education Entitlement
- Head Teacher, Coventry Virtual School
- Violence Prevention - Programme Manager, Public Health Team
- Early Help Manager, Children's Services
- Service Manager, Positive Choices
- Head of Innovation and Engagement, Midlands, Youth Justice Board

## **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 end of June 2021; the plan was submitted in line with the deadline.

## **5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Director of Law and Governance**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

Grant funding from YJB may be withheld/withdrawn if the plan is not submitted in line with the Crime and Disorder Act and grant requirements.

## **Youth Offending Service Pooled Budgets**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	
	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Local Authority	717,127	738,663
YJB	531,607	578,470
Police and Crime Commissioner	105,064	105,064
Health	103,959	112,164
Police	57,593	58,235
Probation	48,400	48,400
<b>Budget</b>	<b>1,563,750</b>	<b>1,640,996</b>

The change to the local authority contribution, Health and Police are as a result of increased costs (for example, staff spinal points and increments, and budget realignments); the Health, Police and Probation figures reflect ‘**payments in kind**’ through seconded roles and other delegated funds<sup>6</sup>. The change to the YJB budget is as a result of a one-year grant uplift for 2021-22 to support the recovery from Covid 19.

### **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 a yearly ‘Youth Justice Plan’. The Plan must set out how Youth Justice Services in the area are to be provided and funded, how the Youth Offending Service established are to be composed and funded, and how they will operate and what functions they are to carry out. Such Plans are submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and published in accordance with any directions issued by the Secretary of State.

### **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
- Reducing health inequalities

**Activity within the Youth Justice Plan is aligned locally to plans that include:**

- Early Help Strategy
- Local Police and Crime Board Plan

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<sup>6</sup> Further finance tables are available on pages 54/55 of the Plan providing a breakdown of partner contributions to the pooled budget.

- Safeguarding Children Partnership Plan
- Coventry Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Local Policing Plan
- Coventry Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Coventry Youth Violence Prevention Strategy

## 6.2 **How is risk being managed?**

Risk to the 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 2021/23.

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

This is not a new activity. Legislative changes, such as pre court disposal options, have been subject to substantial Equalities/Equality Impact Assessments activity under Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board.

An EIA has been completed and this identified a positive impact for one or more protected groups, given the detailed progressive actions within improvement/business plan.

## 6.5 **Implications for (or impact on) climate change and 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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**Name and job title:**

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**Service:**

Children's Services

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