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Cabinet  
Council

11 October 2022  
18 October 2022

**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's Youth Justice Strategy and Plan – 2021-23 (Update 2022) (Youth Justice Plan)

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**Is this a key decision?**

No - although the proposals affect more than two electoral wards, the impact is not expected to be significant.

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**Executive summary:**

This paper is being submitted as notification that the Coventry Youth Justice Service (CYJS) - 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 (known now as Youth Justice Services) were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The functions assigned to the Youth Justice 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 delivery of out of court disposal interventions
- Assessing and delivery of diversion support to children at risk of entering the Youth Justice System.
- Management and delivery of secure estate sentences and resettlement

- Servicing the Youth Court and Crown Courts (in terms of provision of the 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 update against the 2021-23 strategy. For the first time this year, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) mandated a template for the plan as part of their grant agreements with Youth Justice Services and thus the plan has been presented in this format.

**Recommendations:**

The Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Recommend that Council endorse the Coventry's Youth Justice Strategy and Plan – 2021-23 (Update 2022).

Council is requested to:

- 2) Endorse the Coventry's Youth Justice Strategy and Plan – 2021-23 (Update 2022).

**List of Appendices included:**

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 - Coventry's Youth Justice Strategy and Plan – 2021-23 (Update 2022).  
Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it or will it be considered by scrutiny?**

No

**Has it 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 2022

**Report title: Coventry's Youth Justice Strategy and Plan – 2021-23 (Update 2022).**

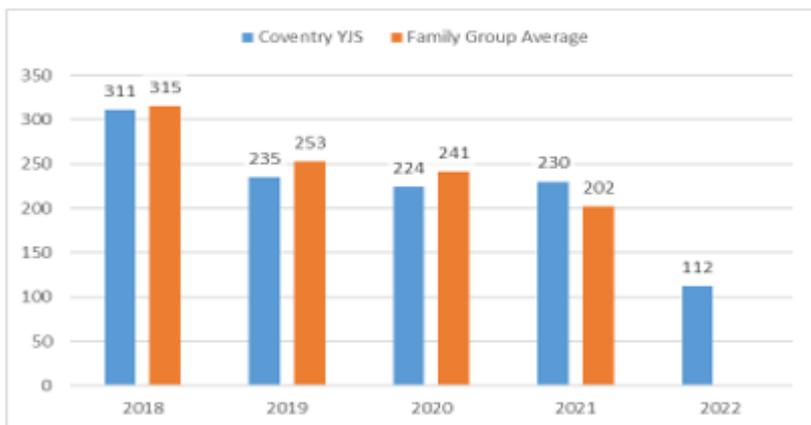
**1. Context (or background)**

1.1. 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). CYJS has submitted the plan in line with the mandated YJB<sup>1</sup> structure. The plan demonstrates the delivery of the Service's statutory functions and the methods for achieving this in line with the grant requirement. This plan provides an updated picture on how the vision is being realized, priorities addressed, and provides a Service analysis and overview. It further outlines: how we engage/work collaboratively with children, families, and victims of crime; governance arrangements; partnership resourcing into the Service; our performance against key priorities; current challenges and risks; our emerging evidence base of best practice; and, how we continue to build on the developmental activities across the city in 2022/23.

**1.2 Headlines 2021/22**

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

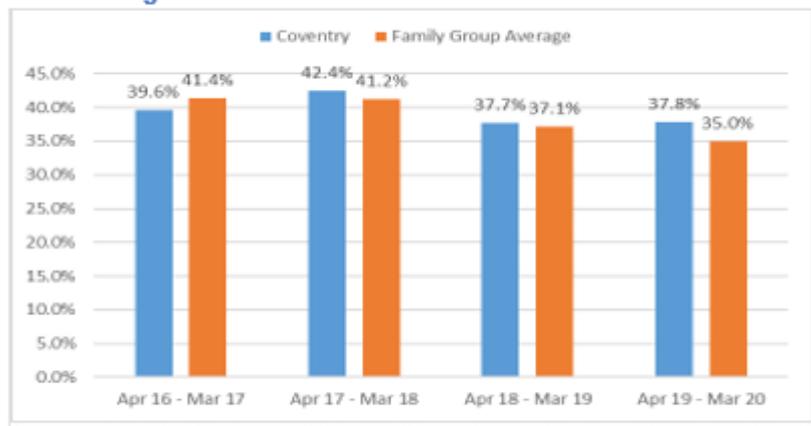
**First Time Entrants**



The number of children entering the youth justice system has been stable over the last three years but seen a marked decline this year; as a result, the Service has started a new Diversion Offer.

**Table 1: FTEs per 100,000 of the 10–17-year-old population, Coventry YJS 2018-22**

**Reoffending**



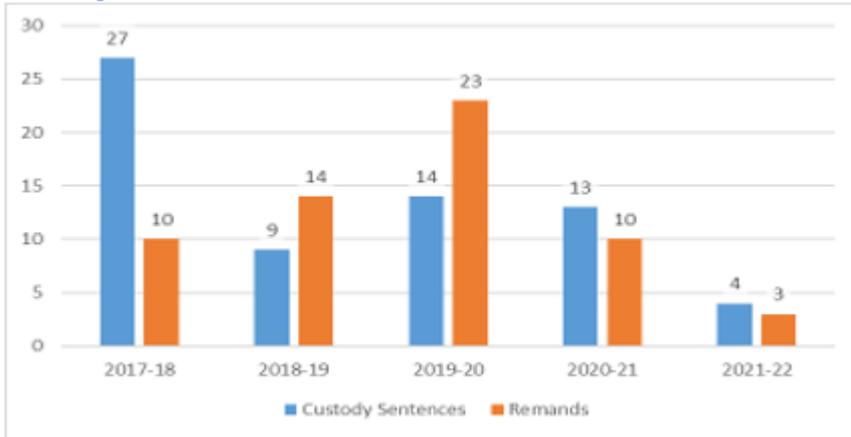
The reoffending rate has remained stable from last year, though it is higher than the Family Group. The number of children reoffending has reduced, but the stable percentage reflects the reduction in the overall cohort size.

**Table 2: Children/Young People reoffending within a year, Coventry YJS 2016-2020**

<sup>1</sup> Youth Justice Board explanation

<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.

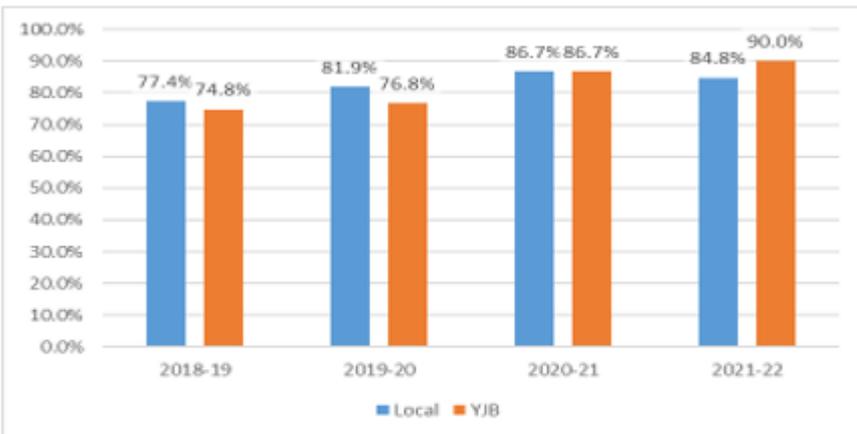
## Custody and Remand



There was a significant decline in the use of custody and remand across 2021/22.

Table 3: New episodes of custody and remand, Coventry YJS 2017-22 (10-17 Year old's)

## Education, Training and Employment



There is a continued improving trend for children being engaged in education, training, and employment (ETE); however, children in the youth justice system continue to achieve poor academically, compared to the city average.

Table 4: Engagement in suitable ETE by local assessment and by the YJB national standard, 2018-22

### 1.2.2 Key Achievements

A new name - Coventry Youth Justice Service - and new Diversion Project



Improved mechanisms for child led Service change



Continued disproportionality work leading to operational and cultural changes



A newer workforce bringing exciting ideas, but requiring greater investments in training and development

Development around trauma informed practice and approaches



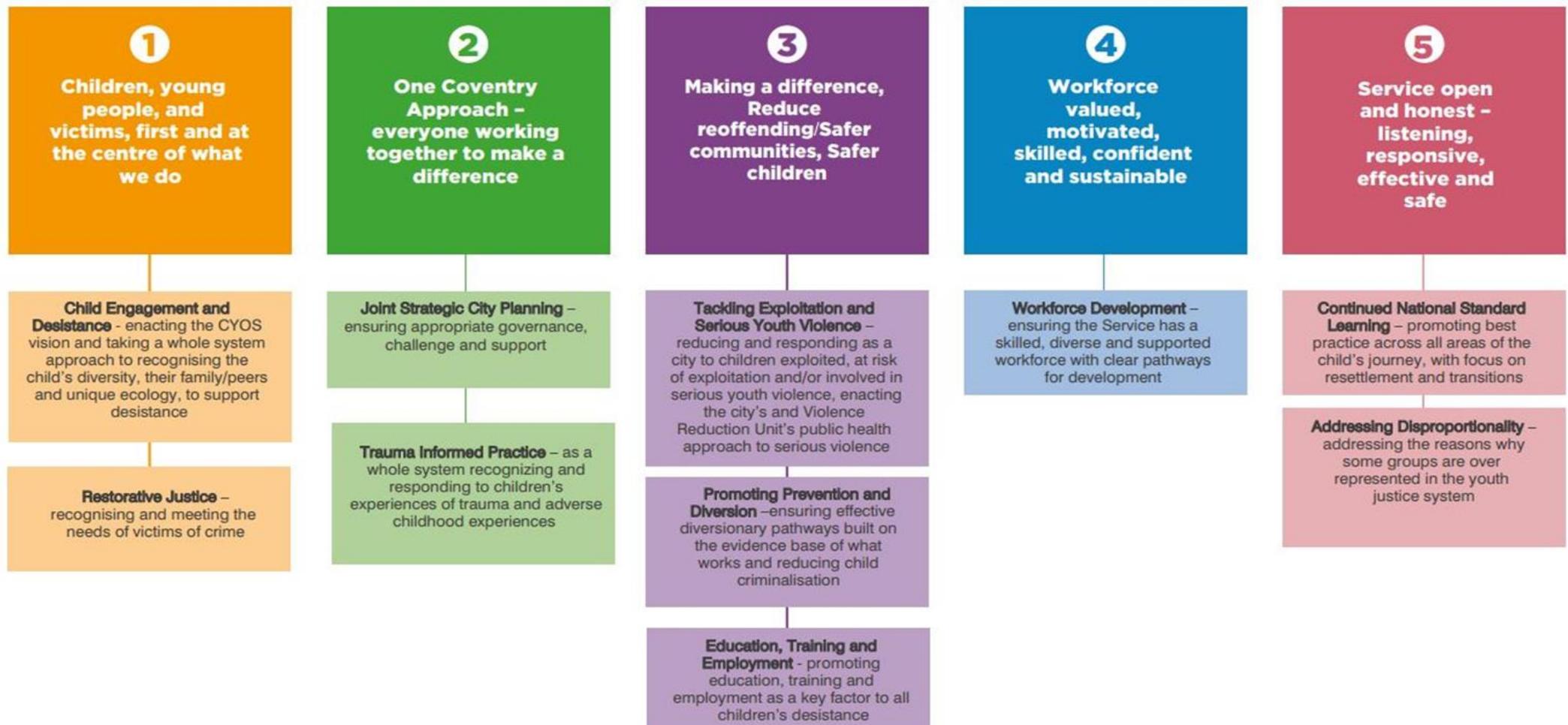
NHS and Youth Endowment Fund investments over the next 3 years



<sup>3</sup>As per comments last year, the ethnic breakdown in the Plan is aggregated in line with the Youth Justice Board national reporting criteria; a more detailed analysis is used operationally.

### 1.3 Our priorities and areas for improvement for 2021/23

The Plan outlines that the Service is working with a smaller, more vulnerable, and traumatised group of children whose needs are very high and who present a significant challenge. Children in the YJS are most likely to be accessing (or have accessed) alternative schooling provision following permanent exclusion, likely to have been a victim of criminal exploitation, residing in a deprived/high risk area and more likely to be from an ethnic minority background. To appropriately tackle these issues, we need: children leading steps for change, a skilled workforce, and a city approach to delivering trauma informed prevention and diversion activity. The plan re-outlines our vision and priorities for the Coventry's Youth Justice System, and how we seek to address these trends and findings.



## **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. Additionally, the following methodology has been undertaken to formulate the plan: child/parent consultation on their experience and improvement areas; team consultation on how we achieve desistance for children; data analysis review of the Service and children in the youth justice system; a review of the best practice evidence base; a wider strategic partnership review; and, sharing with partners for feedback and amendments.

### **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 Coventry Delivery Unit, Probation
- Head of Transformation, Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board
- Associate Director of Operations, Mental 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 Improvement and Standards
- 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 the 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; due to the Coventry Children's Services Ofsted Inspection a 3-week extension was agreed by the YJB, and the plan was submitted in line with this deadline.

## **5. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) 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 Justice Service Pooled Budget Changes

Agency	Annual Budget	
	2021-22	2022-23
Local Authority	738,663	745,051
Youth Justice Board	578,470	641,103
Police and Crime Commissioner	105,064	105,064
Health	112,164	129,835
Police	58,235	59,507
Probation	48,400	55,496
<b>Budget</b>	<b>1,640,996</b>	<b>1,736,056</b>

The change to the local authority contribution, Health and Police are because 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>3</sup>.

The plan was written prior to the YJB grant announcement and written based on funding being matched to the core grant allocation in 2021-22, as per the advice of the YJB. The grant has now been announced, with an additional one-year uplift for 2022-23 and the table above reflects this. The additional grant awarded will be used to support diversion activity to prevent children entering the youth justice system.

### 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, composed and funded, how they will operate, and what functions they are to carry out. Such Plans are submitted to the YJB 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/))?

The plan's vision is underpinned by the One Coventry Plan. The improvement and business plan (Appendix 1: Section 13-Looking Forward) details the steps over the next 12 months to realise the plan's vision, and in turn the Council's. The activity within the plan is aligned locally to plans that include: Early Help Strategy, Local Police and Crime Board Plan, Safeguarding Partnership Strategy, Coventry Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Children and Young People's Plan, Local Policing Plan, Coventry Sustainable Communities Strategy, and the 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?

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<sup>3</sup> Further finance tables are available on pages 63/64 of the Plan providing a breakdown of partner contributions to the pooled budget.

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 / EIA?

While this is not a new activity, 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 implications arising post sign off.

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Director: John Gregg	Director of Children's Services	-	08.09.22	14.09.22
Members: Councillor Seaman	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	-	08.09.22	14.09.22

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