

**To the Chair and Members of the  
SCHOOLS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
PANEL**

**YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2012/13**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
Councillor Eric Tatton-Kelly Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	All	Yes Statutory Plan – decision to be taken by Full Council

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report presents the Youth Justice Plan 2012/13 to the Schools Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel for consultation prior to decision by Full Council on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2012.

**EXEMPT REPORT**

2. Not Exempt.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Scrutiny Panel is asked to comment on the Youth Justice Plan prior to decision by Full Council 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2012.

**BACKGROUND**

4. The Youth Justice Plan is required to be reviewed annually and submitted to the Youth Justice Board. The new Plan for 2012/13 was presented to Cabinet on 26<sup>th</sup> September, where it was agreed that Cabinet support the document and it be recommended for approval at Full Council.
5. The Youth Justice Plan 2012/13, Cabinet report and decision record are attached at appendix A for the Panel's consideration. Following the Cabinet meeting they were forwarded to the Scrutiny Panel on 27<sup>th</sup> September, for Councillors' consideration prior discussion at this meeting. Councillors' questions/comments and responses from officers are detailed below.
  - A. Generally Members of the Panel who provided comments on the document gave their support.

- B. **Question/Comment** - The Panel should pursue, keeping in mind budgetary pressures, the recruitment of volunteers, especially the pathway between schools and social workers. For example, possibly identifying senior learning mentors from both primary assisted resource centres and secondary learning centres, as these people are already working with our most disengaged young people, and are in an ideal situation to carry out early robust risk assessment.

**Response** - The Youth Offending Service is continuing in the drive to find volunteers and we have been particularly fortunate that many young people finishing degree courses have recognised that volunteering for youth offending work is of benefit to their career aspirations. The Service will look at the secondary learning centres, however in general the Youth Offending Service does not provide educational support, it facilitates it. Risk assessment requires specific training and tools and the Youth Offending Service will look at whether this is achievable with the resources available.

- C. **Question/Comment** - Funding has been reduced from all sources and many grants have ended. What changes have been made to the Service following this reduction and what effect has it had?

**Response** - The Youth Offending Service has restructured to accommodate the funding reductions. Three case workers have been lost but the duties have been re-aligned to reduce the impact of this, with support workers taking on a bigger role. Seconded staff from Probation and Police have also taken on a bigger responsibility in case management and offender management.

Staff reductions have also affected the management side of the service and some supervisory skills have been lost, however the Youth Offending Service has managed to maximise capacity for other managers and team leaders to accommodate this.

- D. **Question/Comment** - Page 20 of the Plan.

- i. Concern was expressed that only 65% of children and young people known to the Youth Offending Service are receiving their statutory entitlement to education or training.
- ii. Happy with the target of 75% because do not wish to see an unrealistic target.
- iii. Would like to clarify when the year end forecast concludes?

**Response** - This is a very difficult measure, as it is aligned to the Youth Justice Board measure, which has changed in recent years. To have a 1 for 1 count the young person of statutory school age has to complete 25 hours Employment Training and Education per week. Those over school age must complete 16 hours per week. Unfortunately many of the young people do not have the ability to complete these hours. In previous years Young People assessed as only able to complete less than these hours were still given a positive mark. That does not happen now. The Youth Offending Service works tirelessly with a dedicated team to achieve the best results possible.

The Service also believes that neighbours do not measure as strictly as Doncaster does.

The year end figure will be published in the next Youth Justice Plan, however it can be supplied earlier after the Youth Offending Service receives approval of the count from the Youth Justice Board, usually in April or early May.

**OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6. The Youth Justice Plan is a Statutory Plan and to meet the requirements of the Council’s budget and policy framework, overview and scrutiny is required to give consideration to the document.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

- 7 The Youth Justice Plan will develop the service and ensure the best service for the children and young people of Doncaster.

**IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL’S KEY PRIORITIES**

- 8. The impact of the issues set out in this report for the Council’s priorities is summarised below:

Priority Theme	Mayor’s Priorities for 2011/12	Implications of this initiative
1. Creating a strong, connected and inclusive economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drive forward the Doncaster economy</li> <li>• Get the balance of public and private transport right</li> <li>• Promote Doncaster as a tourist destination</li> <li>• Regenerate Doncaster's town centres</li> </ul>	Effectively tackling offending amongst young people contributes to safer communities including reducing anti social behaviour, and improves quality of life outcomes for children and young people.
2. Developing stronger communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage community harmony and cohesion. Treat people as individuals, not by reference to labels and artificial groupings</li> </ul>	
3. Increasing and improving housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise housing standards and ensure that there are enough homes to suit all requirements</li> </ul>	
4. Protecting and improving all our children’s lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to improve education and skills</li> <li>• Build on a strengthening Children's Service</li> </ul>	
5. Improving health and support for independent lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage attitudes of self-reliance, self-improvement and mutual respect within Doncaster communities</li> </ul>	
6. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce crime and all forms of anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>	
7. Creating a cleaner and better environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to protect the environment from developers, decay and architectural vandalism</li> </ul>	
8. Internal Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure local people get value for money from council services</li> </ul>	

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

9. The risks and assumptions are contained in the report to Cabinet dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, at paragraph 12, see appendix attached.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. The legal implications are contained in the report to Cabinet dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, at paragraphs 13 to 16, see appendix attached.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. The financial implications are contained in the report to Cabinet dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, at paragraph 17, see appendix attached.

## **CONSULTATION**

12. Prior to the report being considered by Cabinet all agencies and services that have a statutory responsibility to work with the Youth Offending Service have, through the Youth Offending Service Management Board, been consulted on this plan.
13. This report has significant implications in terms of the following:

Procurement		Crime & Disorder	<b>X</b>
Human Resources		Human Rights & Equalities	
Buildings, Land and Occupiers		Environment & Sustainability	
ICT		Capital Programme	

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

14. Covering report and Youth Justice Plan presented to Cabinet on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2012. (Attached).

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