

**To the Chair and Members of the
FULL COUNCIL**

The Youth Offending Service Plan 2014-15

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Tony Corden	All	Yes (P348)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present a new statutory, strategic Youth Offending Service Plan (YOSP) for 2014-2015 for the Youth Offending Service (YOS) in Doncaster where responsibility for the discharge of the Plan lies. The YOSP is due for review and submission to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) annually.
- 2 The Plan sets out the resourcing and value for money, challenges to future provision, structure and governance, partnership arrangements and risks to future delivery for the service. In relation to these, actions and timescales are set to develop the service and ensure the best service for the children and young people of Doncaster. The Plan attached was considered and supported by Cabinet at its meeting held on 30 April 2014.

EXEMPT REPORT

- 3 This report is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4 That the Youth Offending Service Plan as presented for 2014-15 is accepted.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

- 5 The implementation of this plan will reduce the amount and effects of youth offending in Doncaster. This will hopefully improve individual perceptions of safety and improve life opportunities for young people.

BACKGROUND

- 6 This strategic plan impacts upon the delivery of youth justice in all wards of Doncaster. It involves expenditure of £2,200,000 in 2014-15 of which approx. £800,000 comes from Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council.
- 7 Doncaster YOS has performed well during the previous year, having managed a very difficult remand overspend with no additional funding,

achieved a 100% accommodation target for the full year for young people leaving custody as well as increasing its percentage of young people engaged in employment, training and education (ETE) to over 80%.

- 8 At the same time the number of young people going to court has reduced yet again, below national achievements. The use of remand and custody has proved a more difficult challenge with figures remaining constant throughout the year, however the YOS is still delivering within national standards as a whole service. A YJB performance check in March 2014 shows Doncaster as a 'green' service not requiring any form of support or intervention.
- 9 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 set the statutory functions for Youth Offending Teams. The relevant provisions dealing with the youth justice system are set out in Part III of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ("the 1998 Act"). Section 37(1) of the 1998 Act provides that it shall be the principal aim of the youth justice system to prevent offending by children and young persons.
- 10 Section 38 places a duty on local authorities, acting in co-operation with the agencies listed below to secure that, to such extent as is appropriate for their area, all "youth justice services" are available there. Those agencies are:
 - chief officer of police or police authority any part of whose police area lies within the local authority's area
 - the Secretary of State in relation to his functions under sections 2 and 3 of the Offender Management Act 2007
 - every provider of probation services that is required by arrangements under section 3(2) of the Offender Management Act 2007 to carry out the duty under this subsection in relation to the local authority
 - every local probation board, Strategic Health Authority, Local Health Board or Primary Care Trust any part of whose area lies within that area.
- 11 Section 40 of the 1998 Act sets out the duty of each local authority to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded and their functions and composition. Youth offending teams must co-ordinate the provision of youth justice services for all those in the authority's area that need them and carry out the functions of the youth offending service plan.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 12 This is a statutory order and as such there are no other options.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

- 13 The 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

14

	Priority	Implications
	<p>We will support a strong economy where businesses can locate, grow and employ local people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>To improve attendance and achievements of young people in education thereby contributing to the economic opportunities of Doncaster</p>
	<p>We will help people to live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>To remove young people from a criminal environment which helps to maintain their safety and well-being and increase perceptions of personal safety for the members of our community</p>
	<p>We will make Doncaster a better place to live, with cleaner, more sustainable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>This plan will work towards improving safeguarding for young people and members of their families and communities</p>
	<p>We will support all families to thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>Reductions in youth offending increase life opportunities for young people and help them to become good citizens.</p>
	<p>We will deliver modern value for money services.</p>	<p>Doncaster YOS continues to offer a value for money service based on a joint funding initiative</p>
	<p>We will provide strong leadership and governance, working in partnership.</p>	<p>Doncaster YOS is a true multi agency service with a strong partner governance regime, offering effective support and leadership.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

- 15 The risk factors are outlined in the YOS service plan itself. The most pertinent risks are in relation to policy change, partnerships and financial contributions to YOS for 2014/15. The plan itself has been written to minimize risk to delivery and links to other strategic plans for Doncaster help to achieve this.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 16 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council, after consultation with relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement each year a Youth Offending Service Plan setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded.
- 17 The Youth Rehabilitation Order was created by the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 and came into effect by virtue of regulation on 30 November 2009. As indicated in the body of the report new National Standards are emerging from this statutory framework. These set out the minimum standards requirements for relevant organisations providing youth justice services. The Standards focus upon youth justice in the community, effective governance and planning and performance management.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 18 The Youth Offending Service has an agreed expenditure of £2,200,000 for 2014/15 of which approx. £800,000 comes from Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. The rest of the budget is made up of Youth Justice Board and Partner contributions (Police, Probation, PCC and Health). Potential reductions in future finances impact upon effective future service delivery.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 19 There are no implications within this plan with regard to staff changes

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 20 Doncaster YOS adheres to the DMBC policies on equality and equal opportunities. There are no known implications within this plan.

CONSULTATION

- 21 Consultation has taken place with
Police
Probation
Health
Youth Justice Board
Court Magistrates
Third Sector

This report has significant implications in terms of the following:

Procurement		Crime & Disorder	x
Human Resources		Human Rights & Equalities	
Buildings, Land and Occupiers		Environment & Sustainability	
ICT		Capital Programme	

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22 a) Report to Cabinet 30 April 2014

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Graham Hobson, Head of Service
Telephone: 01302 736162
Email: graham.hobson@doncaster.gov.uk

Eleanor Brazil
Director, Children and Young People's Service