

13th July, 2017

**To the Chair and Members of Council**

**YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2017/18**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Nuala Fennelly Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools	All	Yes

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The purpose of this report is to present a new statutory, strategic Youth Offending Service Plan (YOSP) for 2017/18 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 Board 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.
3. For the second time we have produced a Young People's Youth Justice Plan which compliments the corporate report, and is designed to be accessible and understandable for our young people and families. The Young People's Youth Justice Plan has been identified by the Youth Justice Board as a national example of good practice.
4. I am pleased to report that strong performance by the YOS in 2016/17, including a reduction in the custody rate to its lowest ever for Doncaster, despite being a national outlier for many years in this area, the lowest ever binary re-offending rate and an ongoing reduction in first time entrants. In addition the YOS has been subject to a Peer Review in April 2017, which highlighted that the operational quality of the service is reflected in the strong strategic performance.
5. Doncaster YOS is currently the 4<sup>th</sup> best Youth Offending Service in England and Wales overall in reducing re-offending and is outperforming all national and regional comparators.

**EXEMPT REPORT**

6. This report is not an exempt report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

7. It is recommended that Council approve the Youth Justice Plan.

8. The Plan was fully endorsed by OSMC on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June and the progress against the targets in last year's plan was positively commented upon. The chair of OSMC acknowledged the challenges of working with complex cohorts and endorsed the approaches deployed by the Youth Offending Service to address these issues. A copy of the Chair's response to the Plan is attached at Appendix C. The Plan was subsequently presented at Cabinet on 20 June 2017, whereupon the pace of progress and the outcomes achieved by Doncaster YOS were commended by the Chair and other members. Cabinet endorsed the targets set in the 2017/18 plan

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

9. The citizens of Doncaster will be protected from offending, re-offending and the fear of crime. The successful implementation of the Youth Justice Plan will contribute to an overall reduction in offending and will, through the delivery of a revised prevention offer, reduce the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system.
10. This has significant and far reaching positive consequences in terms of raising aspirations with young people and their families, making communities safer and more inclusive. Crucially, the targeted work of team EPIC will assist those communities experiencing anti-social behaviour, by intervening earlier with young people, deploying whole family approach to support the priorities of DMBC's Stronger Families programme.

## **BACKGROUND**

11. This strategic plan impacts upon the delivery of youth justice in all wards of Doncaster. It involves expenditure of £1,812,625 in 2017/18 (estimated, some contributions to be confirmed) of which £814,025 comes from Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council as part of its contractual arrangements with Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST).
12. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets 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 states that it shall be the principal aim of the youth justice system to prevent offending by children and young persons.
13. 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.

14. 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

15. The Youth Justice Plan is a statutory Plan, the option is to approve in its current format or return the plan to the HOS of Targeted Youth Support for further consideration and review.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

16. The only options are to approve the plan or request amendments.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

17.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i></li> </ul>	<p>Reducing first time entrants into the youth justice system significantly reduces the financial burden on other statutory services, and therefore protects against services being overwhelmed and placed under budgetary pressure when earlier intervention could have been undertaken successfully.</p> <p>Creating an aspirational culture amongst young people involved in anti-social behaviour and offending will lead to greater engagement with education, training and employment opportunities.</p>
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i></li> </ul>	<p>Doncaster YOS is committed to ensuring that all young people receive a full health assessment from the seconded Project 3 practitioner and will ensure any attendant issues addressed.</p> <p>In addition, young people will have access to a speech, language and communication therapist, systemic family psychotherapist and trainee forensic psychologist.</p> <p>In addition, as part of a re-framed prevention offer, Doncaster YOS will engage young people on the cusp of offending and anti-social behaviour, through Team EPIC in a</p>

		range of diversionary activities, which will include positive physical activities.
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i></li> </ul>	<p>A successful implementation of the Youth Justice Plan will divert young people on the cusp of offending, but crucially will also prevent recidivism in those who do offend. A reduction in offending will lead to safe communities, in which its young citizens are more invested and consequently are actively engaged in the development of those communities.</p>
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i></li> </ul>	<p>The Youth Justice Plan will support families who have presenting issues, through the YOS commitment and ongoing contribution to the Stronger Families initiative, the outcome of which will be that more families turned around in phase two of the programme and a culture which enables families to reach their full potential.</p>
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	<p>Doncaster YOS has always strived to deliver value for money by tracking best national practice and amending service provision to meet these needs.</p> <p>All posts are reviewed when they become vacant to assess the need for this post or provision in the future.</p> <p>In 2017 the YOS will continue its campaign of recruiting graduate volunteers to supplement the full time staffing resource, and we have established a strategic relationship with Nottingham University to supply Trainee Forensic Psychologists on a voluntary basis. Consequently we have increased the offer, in an ongoing climate of reduction at no additional cost.</p>
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	<p>Doncaster YOS is monitored and challenged by the Management Board, which is comprised of representatives from all partnership agencies.</p> <p>In addition, Doncaster YOS is subject to monitoring from the</p>

		Youth Justice Board in terms of quarterly data monitoring on key performance indicators.
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## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

18. The risk factors are outlined in the YOS plan itself. The most pertinent risks are in relation to policy change, partnerships and financial contributions to YOS for 2017/18. The plan itself has been written to minimise risk to delivery, and links to other strategic plans for Doncaster help to achieve this.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

19. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with a general power of competence, allowing the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do.
20. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the '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 function of the Youth Offending Service Plan.
21. Section 37(1) of the Act states that it shall be the principal aim of the youth justice system to prevent offending by children and young persons.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

22. In 2017/18 DCST have set out that they will use £814k of the funding they receive via the contract between DMBC and DCST to fund the Youth Offending Service. In addition, DMBC receive income from partner organisations that is then paid over to DCST as part of the contract payments. The confirmed income that DMBC is to receive in 2017/18 is £604k from the Youth Justice Board, £57k from Doncaster CCG via a Section 256 agreement, and £126k Troubled Families Grant. DMBC are still awaiting confirmation of the income to be received in 2017/18 from the Ministry of Justice (was £73k in 2016/17) and South Yorkshire Police (was £152k in 2016/17) that is to be paid over to DCST. Overall the funding is similar to 2016/17. DCST will manage the Youth Justice Plan within the funding allocated.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

23. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

24. There are no technology implications arising from this report.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

25. Decision makers must consider the Council's duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty at s149 of the Equalities Act 2010. The duty requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination,

harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share that protected characteristic.

26. Doncaster Youth Offending Service is a statutory service which administers the delivery of Court Orders to all young people throughout the borough. Doncaster Youth Offending Service is governed by the National Standards for Youth Justice Practice which guarantees the consistency of the service offered to both those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not share a "protected characteristic". Consequently, there are no specific equality implications arising from this report. However, any activities arising from the management of strategic risks will need to be the subject of separate 'due regard' assessments. A copy of the YOS Due Regard Statement is available upon request.

## **CONSULTATION**

27. As a statutory plan consultation occurs with the relevant Boards, notably YOS Management Board.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

28. Youth Justice Plan (attached).

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