

**To the Chair and Members of the**

**Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

**Youth Justice Plan 2018-19**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
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 2018/19 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. Firstly the plan will highlight the performance against last year's targets. This will demonstrate that the strategy to reduce first time entrants into the criminal justice continues to be effective. Likewise the YOS continues to demonstrate very good performance in relation to preventing re-offending and the usage of custodial sentences.
3. 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.
4. For the third 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 and has been adopted by other areas throughout the country.
5. In 18/19 a new cohort measure for re-offending will impact on the overall performance of the YOS, and this will be reflected in the national trend. The cohort is now taken across a three month period as opposed to a twelve month period. This means that one prolific offender can dramatically alter a cohort's performance. For the first time the YOS is therefore setting an increased target in relation to its binary re-offending rate. Although the new target will almost certainly place the YOS below the England national average
6. Finally, the YOS has experienced some budgetary reductions for partners this year.

The National Probation Service has issued new guidelines on resource allocation for YOT's which may mean that the current compliment of seconded Probation Officers reduces from 1.5 to 0.5. Although this is currently under review by the Youth Justice Board. South Yorkshire Police have reduced their seconded officers from three to two to meet internal capacity challenges. Whilst this provides some challenges in terms of operational delivery, the recent restructuring of Young People's Services, means that this capacity issue will be managed through other resources in the wider structure.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7. It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Management committee give consideration to review the Youth Justice Plan further to consideration by Cabinet and Full Council.

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

8. 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 work of Team EPIC, continue to reduce the number of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System.
9. 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 continue to 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**

10. This strategic plan impacts upon the delivery of Youth Justice in all wards of Doncaster. It involves expenditure of £1,858,260 in 2018/19 (estimated, some contributions to be confirmed) of which £833,541 comes from Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council as part of its contractual arrangements with Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST).
11. 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.
12. 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 Authorities 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.

13. 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

14. The Youth Justice Plan is a statutory Plan, the option is to approve in its current format or return the plan to the Senior Head of Service of Young People's Services for further consideration and review.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

15. As a statutory plan the Council is required to produce annually to inform the strategic and operational activity of Youth Justice Services. The options in this case are to recommend that the Plan proceeds to Cabinet and subsequently Full Council for approval.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

16.

Outcomes	Implications
<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and more prosperous future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</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. 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. Andy Hood, 01/04/18</p>
<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</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. In addition, young people will</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	<p>have access to a Speech and Language Therapist, Systemic Family Psychotherapist and Trainee Forensic Psychologist. In addition, as part of a re-framed prevention offer, Doncaster YOS will continue to engage young people on the cusp of offending and anti-social behaviour, through Team EPIC in a range of diversionary activities, which will include positive physical activities.</p> <p>Andy Hood, 01/04/18</p>
<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</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>Andy Hood, 01/04/18</p>
<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a Borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</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>Andy Hood, 01/04/18</p>
<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> </ul>	<p>Doncaster YOS has always strived to deliver value for money by tracking best national practice and amending service provision to meet these needs. All posts are reviewed when they become vacant to assess the need for this post or provision in the future. In 2018 the YOS will continue its campaign of recruiting graduate volunteers to</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	<p>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. Andy Hood, 01/04/18</p>
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## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

17. 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 2018/19. 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 HP 19/6/18 AH 01/04/18

18. 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.

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 AB 19/06/18

19. In 2018/19 DCST have set out that they will use £708k of the funding they receive via the contract between DMBC and DCST to fund the Youth Offending Service.

20. 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 2018/19 is £57k from Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group via a Section 256 agreement, £152k from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and £126k Troubled Families Grant. DMBC are still awaiting confirmation of the income to be received from the Youth Justice Board (was £604k in 2017/18). There is an expectation that the Grant from the Youth Justice Board will reduce by up to £50k in 2018/19 and DCST have included this assumption in their Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), therefore DCST will manage the Youth Justice Plan within the funding allocated.

The total budget of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) including all 'in kind' contributions from partner agencies for 2018/19 is £1,858,260.

## HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS MLV 018/06/18

21. There may be human resources implications arising from this report with regard to the deployment of resources, particularly as partner organisations are indicating their

intention to reallocate and/or reduce resources. The ability to deliver the outcomes of the plan should be taken into consideration within the context of the available resources.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS PW 19/06/18**

22. There are no direct technology implications arising from this report. Any requirement for new, enhanced or replacement technology to support the delivery of the Youth Justice Plan would need to be considered by the ICT Governance Board (IGB).

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS RS 19/06/2018**

23. Youth offending has a direct impact on health. Reducing youth offending through building individual and community resilience and good wellbeing habits, supported by wider system approaches including increasing skills, employment and secure tenancies and housing aligned with reducing poverty should improve health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. Specific links and assertive outreach with public health services such as project 3 should be made to ensure specific clinical needs are addressed.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS AH 01/04/18**

24. 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.
25. 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**

26. As a statutory plan, consultation occurs with the relevant boards, notably YOS Management Board.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Youth Justice Plan (attached).

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