

Report

To the Chair and Members of Full Council

Youth Justice Plan 2019/20

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 the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2019/20, covering the work of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) in Doncaster, where responsibility for the discharge of the Plan lies. The Plan is a requirement of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and is to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales annually.
2. The Plan sets out the resourcing and value for money, performance against last year's plan, structure, governance and partnership arrangements and risks to future delivery for the service. Actions and timescales are set to develop the service and ensure the best provision for the children and young people of Doncaster.
3. In addition to the statutory plan, we have produced a Young People's Youth Justice Plan which 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. We have also included comments from the staff within the Youth Offending Service explaining how they are seeking to work most effectively with young people to prevent and reduce youth offending in Doncaster.
4. The plan shows some exceptional performance against the targets set in last year's plan, particularly for reducing the number of young people entering the Youth Justice System for the first time and for the use of custody.
5. The success in reducing the number of young people entering the formal Youth Justice System has enabled the service to shift some of its resource further "upstream" into Team EPIC to work preventatively with those at risk of entering the system. This means that more young people can be helped to avoid further offending without them being given a criminal record which could severely restrict their future prospects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The Cabinet approve the Youth Justice Plan 2019/20.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

7. The citizens of Doncaster will be protected from youth offending, re-offending and the fear of youth crime. The successful implementation of the Youth Justice Plan will contribute to an overall reduction in youth offending and will, through the work of Team EPIC, continue to reduce the number of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System.
8. 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 a whole family approach to support the priorities of DMBC's Stronger Families programme.

BACKGROUND

9. This strategic plan impacts upon the delivery of Youth Justice in all wards of Doncaster. It involves expenditure of £1.85 million in 2019/20 (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).
10. 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 principle aim of the Youth Justice System to prevent offending by children and young persons.
11. 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.
12. 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 described in the Youth Justice Plan.

13. At its meeting on 27th June 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee considered the Youth Justice Plan 2019/20. Detailed below are the key outcomes from the Committee's consideration together with any relevant comments (*shown in italics*).
14. **Recommendation 1: That the Committee support the report and the excellent progress made in a number of areas, including reducing the number of First Time Entrants (FTE's) into the Youth Justice system.**
15. As well as acknowledging the improvements detailed in the report, Members were particularly supportive of the important assessment work undertaken by the Triage Panel and the creative intervention activities offered by the EPIC (Encouraging Potential Inspiring Change) Team in supporting an effective Youth Offending Service.
16. *The Youth Offending Service and EPIC will continue its efforts to divert young people from the criminal justice system by ensuring that young people receive the help they need at the earliest opportunity to avoid further offending*
17. **Recommendation 2: That further work be undertaken to improve early identification of speech, and language issues across the Borough.**
18. In reviewing information on the issues and vulnerabilities of those young people who had been assessed by the Youth Offending Service over the past year, concern was raised over the number of children in the Criminal Justice System who had speech and language issues.
19. The Committee recognised the importance of early identification of these issues to positively assist and support young people in attending school and avoiding negative activities such as disruptive behaviour, non-attendance, exclusions and potentially becoming involved in the Criminal Justice System.
20. *In reviewing the 2018-19 Quarter 4 Finance and Performance Improvement Report and 'Delivering for Doncaster' Booklet, which was also on the agenda for this meeting, the Committee considered the measures in place to improve attendance within Doncaster Schools. The Committee has requested further information on how schools are screening children to identify those with speech and language issues such as dyslexia and other learning difficulties.*
21. **Recommendation 3 That the Youth Offending Team continue to identify and review best practice across other Local authorities.**
22. The Committee noted comparisons made with statistical neighbours in terms of reporting issues such as Binary re-offending rates and sought assurances that the YOS would continue to make comparisons with other authorities and in particular continue to identify areas of best practice that may be relevant for Doncaster.
23. *The Youth Offending Service will therefore continue to develop service provision to ensure that young people in Doncaster receive interventions which are responsive to their presenting needs and informed by evidence based interventions and best practice examples from other authorities.*

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

24. 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

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

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

26.

Outcomes	Implications
<p>Doncaster Working: 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"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<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.</p>
<p>Doncaster Living: 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"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>Doncaster YOS is committed to ensuring that all young people receive a full health assessment and will ensure any attendant issues are addressed. In addition, young people will 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>Doncaster Learning: 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"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<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>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a Borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>The Youth Justice Plan will support families who have presenting issues, through ongoing contribution to the Stronger Families initiative, the outcome of which will be that more families are helped to reach their full potential.</p>
<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>Doncaster YOS has always strived to deliver value for money by tracking best national practice and amending service provision to meet identified needs. All posts are reviewed when they become vacant to assess the need for the post or provision in the future. In 2019/20 the YOS will continue its campaign of recruiting volunteer mentors 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>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

27. The risk factors are outlined in the Youth Justice Plan itself. The most pertinent risks are in relation to policy change, partnerships and financial contributions to YOS for 2019/20. 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 [Officer Initials SF Date 16.07.19]

28. 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 functions of the Youth Justice Plan.
29. 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 [Officer Initials RM Date 03.05.19]

30. In 2019/20 DCST have set out that they will use £833,541 of the funding they receive via the contract between DMBC and DCST to fund the Youth Offending Service.
31. In addition, DMBC receive income from partner organisations which are then paid over to DCST as part of the contract payments. The confirmed income that DMBC is to receive in 2019/20 is £604,000 from the Youth Justice Board, £57,348 from Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group via a Section 256 agreement, and £152,000 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Overall, the funding is similar to 2018/19. DCST will implement the Youth Justice Plan within the funding allocated.
32. The total budget of the YOS including all 'in kind' contributions from partner agencies for 2019/20 is £1,858,260.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials LE Date 07.05.19]

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

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials JT Date 03.05.19]

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

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials LE Date 07.05.19]

35. There are no health implications arising from this report

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials LE Date 07.05.19]

36. 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. The Youth Justice Plan includes a section looking at whether any particular ethnic group is over-represented within the local Youth Justice System. Having examined the data the plan shows that there is no significant over-representation of any ethnic group.

37. 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

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

39. Youth Justice Plan 2019/20 (attached).

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