



Report

To the Chair and Members of Cabinet

Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Lani-Mae Ball Lead Member for Education, Skills and Young People	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to present the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2022/23, 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 will produce a Young People's Youth Justice Plan which is designed to be accessible and understandable for our young people and families. Historically 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 consulted young people in relation to their experiences of the ongoing pandemic and the service they have received from the YOS. Their comments are populated throughout the plan and available in full in Appendix 3.
4. The plan shows some good performance against the targets set in last year's plan particularly in relation to re-offending.

EXEMPT REPORT

5. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Cabinet approves the Youth Justice Plan 2022/23 prior to it being presented at Full Council.

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.
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 at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).

BACKGROUND

9. This strategic plan impacts upon the delivery of Youth Justice in all wards of Doncaster. It involves expenditure of £1.9 million in 2022/23 (estimated, some contributions to be confirmed) of which £833,541 comes from Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) 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.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

13. The Youth Justice Plan is a statutory Plan, the option is to approve in its current format or return the plan to the Assistant Director for Practice Improvement for further consideration and review.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

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

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

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 have access to a Speech and Language Therapist, Systemic Family Psychotherapist and Forensic Psychologist. In addition, as part of the prevention offer, Doncaster YOS will continue to engage young people on the cusp of offending and anti-social behaviour. Through the work of Team EPIC we will engage young people in a range of diversionary activities which includes sports and fitness.</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</p>

	communities.
<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 2022/23 the YOS will continue its campaign of recruiting volunteer mentors to supplement the full time staffing resource.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

15. The risk factors are outlined in the Youth Justice Plan itself. The most significant risks relate to young people at risk of CCE and an increase in the custody rates. These issues are explored within the plan itself with appropriate mitigations in place where possible.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NC Date 13/06/2022]

16. 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 coordinate the provision of youth justice services for those in the Authority’s area that need them and carry out the functions of the Youth Justice Plan.

17. 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.

18. The YOS has Information Sharing Agreements (ISA) in place with all relevant partner agencies, but occasionally information is required to be shared with organisations outside of the youth justice partnership, including schools. There are legislative pathways to undertake such information sharing, such as for the purposes of safeguarding. As the YOS becomes more involved at a locality level with Local Solutions Groups it is important that where necessary new ISA’s are developed to ensure that information is shared in line with the Data Protection legislation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: AB Date: 13/06/2022]

19. In 2022/23 DCST have set out they will use £762k of the funding they receive via the contract payments 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 2022/23 is £60k from Doncaster CCG via a Section 256 agreement, and £152k from South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner. DMBC are still awaiting confirmation of the income to be received in 2022/23 that is to be paid over to DCST from the Ministry of Justice (was £119k in 2021/22) and from the Youth Justice Board (was £665k in 2021/22). There are also “in kind” contributions from partner organisations totalling £211k. Overall the funding is expected to be similar to 2021/22, and DCST will manage the Youth Justice Plan within the funding allocated.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials LE Date 25/04/2022]

20. There are no Human Resources implications associated with this report

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RM Date 25/04/2022]

21. There are no technological implications associated with this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials LE Date 25/04/2022]

22. There are no health implications associated with this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials LE Date 25/04/2022]

23. There are no equality implications associated with this report. The YOS undertakes an annual analysis to ensure that there is no over representation of specific groups within the criminal justice system in Doncaster. This continues to demonstrate that no group is over represented within the borough.

CONSULTATION

24. As a statutory plan, consultation occurs with the relevant boards, notably YOS Management Board, Safer, Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP), Doncaster Children’s Services Trust Executive management Team, DMBC Executive Management Team and young people and families who are in receipt of services from the YOS.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

25. Youth Justice Plan 2022/23 (attached).

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DMBC	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
YOS	Youth Offending Service
DCST	Doncaster Children's Services Trust
EPIC	Encouraging Potential Inspiring Change
SSDP	Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation

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