



Report

Date: 21st June 2023

To: The Cabinet

Report Title: Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to present the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24, 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 also consulted young people in relation to their experiences of 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 2023/24 before it is submitted to 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 2023/24 (estimated, some contributions to be confirmed) of which £833,541 comes from the City of Doncaster Council.
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 Service Manager for Young People’s Services and





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

15.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change	✓			
<p>Comments: The activity will predominantly take place in familial homes and community settings. There are minor implications in respect of the additional use of pool cars for staff to attend appointments.</p>				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work	✓			
<p>Comments: Young people as a standard part of the Youth Justice offer will receive access to the Pathways to Progression careers service which will support them to make positive choices relating to their personal development and careers. Young people have a bespoke offer of education support pre-16 to enable them to achieve their potential and work towards creating aspirational life choices.</p>				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs	✓			
<p>Comments: Young people are supported by a highly skilled and experienced careers information, advice and guidance offer improving their prospects to enter employment. This offer is extended beyond statutory involvement to ensure successful transitions to appropriate training and employment destinations, in conjunction with local training providers and the Doncaster Chamber.</p>				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all	✓			

<p>Comments: Young people in the Criminal Justice System often experience familial disruption. The Youth Justice offer involves a bespoke package for each young person tailored to their individual needs. The YOS uses a relationship based trauma informed practice approach to ensure young people's emotional wellbeing and to support them to make improvements across a range of needs including speech language and communication, systemic family psychotherapy, substance misuse and counselling support.</p>				
 <p>Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs</p>	✓			
<p>Comments: As part of the YOS's relationship based practice, young people who may have become involved in ASB or violent offending will be supported to understand the potential consequences of these actions and its affect upon them. This will support young people being diverted from such activity. Alongside this, activity delivered by Team EPIC directly tackles ASB by young people in the community and offers them safe spaces where they can access support.</p>				
 <p>Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough</p>	✓			
<p>Comments: The YOS takes a holistic approach to working with young people, involving families and carers and other support networks where appropriate to ensure that our work is planned in a co-ordinated way so that intervention is as effective as possible. Our family therapist works with families to strengthen the system around them so that outcomes for children are improved so that they can achieve and thrive and be diverted from offending and anti-social behaviour.</p>				
 <p>Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future</p>				✓
<p>Comments: There are no building transport or digital implications for this programme.</p>				
 <p>Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities</p>	✓			
<p>Comments: Young people are encouraged to access positive cultural activities which promote a greater understanding of Doncaster as a place, its heritage and their role as citizens.</p>				
Fair & Inclusive	✓			

Comments:

Appropriate adaptations will be made to the delivery of YOS activity relating to any specific needs that children or young people may have in order to promote their participation. Doncaster YOS has a target in relation to the reduction of Children Looked After entering the Criminal Justice System to ensure that the rate of children looked after entering the Criminal Justice System is not greater than the rate of the wider population.

16. Legal Implications [Officer Initials: _SRF_ | Date: _12/04/23_]

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.

As the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework within the Constitution it requires Full Council agreement.

17. Financial Implications [Officer Initials: Eleanor D'Arcy | Date: 29/03/2023]

In 2023/24 DMBC have set out £796k of funding for the Youth Offending Service. In addition, DMBC receive income from other partner organisations. The confirmed income that DMBC is to receive in 2023/24 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 2023/24 that is to be paid over from the Ministry of Justice (was £91k in 2022/23) and from the Youth Justice Board (was £736k in 2022/23). There are also "in kind" contributions from partner organisations, we are awaiting confirmation of the amount for 2023/24. Overall the funding is expected to be similar to 2022/23, and DMBC will manage the Youth Justice Plan within the funding allocated.

18. Human Resources Implications [Officer Initials: KW | Date: 12/04/23]

There are no Human Resources Implications within this report.

19. Technology Implications [Officer Initials: PW | Date: 16/03/23]

There are no specific technology implications. However, early engagement with Digital and ICT will be needed in relation to any arising technology requirements to support the delivery of the Youth Justice Plan.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

20. The risk factors are outlined in the Youth Justice Plan itself. The most significant risks relate to young people at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation and an increase in the First Time Entrant rates. These issues are explored within the plan itself with appropriate mitigations in place where possible.

CONSULTATION

21. As a statutory plan, consultation occurs with the relevant boards, notably YOS Management Board, Safer, Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP), City of Doncaster Council Executive Management Team and young people and families who are in receipt of services from the YOS.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22. Youth Justice Plan 23/24

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDC	City of Doncaster Council
YOS	Youth Offending Service
EPIC	Encouraging Potential Inspiring Change
SSDP	Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation

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