

CABINET

5 SEPTEMBER 2012

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2012-2013

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 plan which requires full Council approval.
- 1.2 The report informs Cabinet of the background, purpose and intentions of the plan and seeks to consult with and gain approval from Cabinet and to refer to Scrutiny Committee for comment.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 Following consultation with various partners, including the Youth Offending Service Board, the Children's Trust, the Safer Sunderland Partnership, managers and practitioners from the Youth Offending Service and officers from the Council's Strategy, Policy and Performance Management, Cabinet is recommended to provide comment on the Youth Justice Plan 2012-13 (attached) and recommend that it is referred to Scrutiny Committee for their consideration and comment.

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 required the Chief Executive of each local authority area to set up a multi-agency Youth Offending Team / Service (YOT / YOS) governed by a multi-agency Management Board. The act required that each Team / Service produce an annual Youth Justice Plan.
- 3.2 The Sunderland YOS Management Board comprises the four statutory agencies of the Local Authority, Police, Probation and Health as well as the area courts as a local partner. The attached Youth Justice Plan 2012-2013 was considered by the multi-agency YOS Management Board on 24th May 2012.
- 3.3 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) oversees the youth justice system in England and Wales. The YJB is required to monitor performance of the youth justice system and report to the Secretary of State for Justice. The YJB does this through the collection of performance data and annual Youth Justice Plans.

3.4 Each year the YJB issues guidance on the required content for the annual Youth Justice Plan and sets out the required submission date. The Youth Offending Service partnership is therefore given a defined period for the development of the Youth Justice Plan and for the relevant consultations to be undertaken. For 2012-2013 the guidance received from the YJB was that there were no set criteria or templates and that the content of the plan should be in line with local planning arrangements. The plan was submitted to the Youth Justice Board by their required submission date of 30th June 2012.

4. Current Position – Youth Justice Plan 2012 - 2013

4.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2012 – 2013 sets out the principal aim of the Sunderland Youth offending Service to *‘prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people’*. It also sets out the key related outcomes of reducing the numbers of first time entrants to the criminal justice system, reducing the proven rate of re-offending for children and young people and maintaining a low use of custody.

4.2 The Youth Justice Plan 2012-2013 sets out a number of service development priorities that have been developed on the basis of a comprehensive needs analysis drawing on evidence from a range of sources including:-

- The national and local policy context for youth justice.
- Performance against key national and local outcome targets.
- Analysis of prevention and youth offending service assessment data.
- Outcomes of practice quality assurance audits
- Analysis Viewpoint data (an interactive game style evaluation tool for use with young people).
- Outcomes of consultation with children and young people using Sunderland Youth Offending Services.
- Outcomes of consultations with parents and carers.
- Outcomes of consultations and satisfaction surveys with victims of crime (this takes into consideration young victims and the views of the wider population of children and young people through the young people’s fear of crime survey)
- Consultation with members of the general public on restorative justice services.

4.3 The plan sets out the outstanding performance of Sunderland Youth Offending service and it’s achievements during 2011-2012. The service’s validated achievements for the whole of 2011-12 are:

- First time entrants reduced by 48% at the end of 2010/11 against a national target of 1.9% (257 FTEs in 2010/11 compared with 501 in 2009/10).
- Youth re-offending reduced by 17% at the end of 2010/11 against a three year (2008-2011) target of 10% reduction (rate of re-offences 0.98 compared with 1.18 in 2005).

- 90.8% in education, training or employment at the end of their YOS intervention (354 of 390 young people).
- 99.1% in suitable accommodation at the end of their YOS intervention (423 of 427).
- A low use of custody at just 1.9% (13 of 677).
- Pioneering work by the Sunderland Restorative Justice Team was recognised for its outstanding contribution and excellence in the Criminal Justice System by winning at the Northumbria Justice Awards.
- Sunderland's continued high performance against all 3 national indicators resulted in the rating 'Dark Green' which is a Youth Justice Board internal rating to reflect very good performance in re-offending.

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 plan under the Constitution of the Council and is the primary document for YOT partnerships to set out how they will deliver against Youth Justice Board (YJB) performance management framework for Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and is a key source for local youth justice planning.
- 5.2 The Youth Justice Plan was submitted to the Youth Justice Board by their required submission date of 30 June 2012 but may be revised following receipt of comments from Cabinet and Scrutiny.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 The alternative option is not to submit the Youth Justice Plan to full Council. This would have a negative impact on local youth justice planning, and the service's ability to deliver against its action plans.

7. Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- 7.1 The relevant statutory partners, including the Sunderland Children's Trust and Safer Sunderland Partnership, as well as local partners have been consulted on the plan through the YOS Management Board.
- 7.2 Consultations and service user feedback have informed the development of the plan through the needs analysis underpinning the plan.
- 7.3 The report and plan will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and full Council.
- 7.4 **Impacts Analysis: Crime and Disorder**
- 7.4.1 The principal aim of the Youth Offending Service is to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people in Sunderland.

7.4.2 The role and responsibilities of the local YOT/YOS are set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Youth Offending Service continues to work with four statutory agencies of Police, Probation, Health and the Local Authority to ensure that the service continues to be a high performing which delivers outcomes which contribute to the Council's priorities.

8. Glossary

MOJ Ministry of Justice
YJB Youth Justice Board
YOS Youth Offending Service

9. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2012 – 2013.