

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2011-2012

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 approval of Cabinet to forward the plan for full Council approval.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to consider the contents of the report and the Youth Justice Plan 2010 – 2011 (attached) and agree that the plan be sent for full Council approval.
- 2.2 It is recommended that Cabinet consider receiving a half yearly update on youth justice planning and delivery prior to the development of the next Youth Justice Plan for 2012-2013. This will enable council to be informed of the future likely direction of youth justice planning and delivery and to be consulted on potential priorities to be included in the plan for 2012-2013.

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 2011-2012 was considered by the multi-agency YOS Management Board on 26th May 2011.
- 3.3 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) currently oversees the youth justice system in England and Wales (though this will transfer to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) in the near future). The YJB is required to monitor performance of the youth justice system and report to the Home Secretary. 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 2011-2012 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 is to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board by their required submission date of 30th June 2011.

4. Current Position – Youth Justice Plan 2011 - 2012

- 4.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2011 – 2012 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 2011-2012 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 in the previous year of 2010-2011. These included:
- First time entrants reduced by 34% at the end of 2010 against a national target of 1.9% for 2010-2011.
 - Youth re-offending reduced by 27% at the end of 2010 against a three year (2008-2011) target of 10% reduction.
 - 88% in education, training or employment at the end of their YOS intervention.
 - 99.8% in suitable accommodation at the end of their YOS intervention.
 - A low use of custody at just 1.7%.
 - No differences in sentencing on the basis of ethnic origin.
 - National recognition in the YJB Communicating Youth Justice Awards 2010 for work in communicating, through the local media, action taken to reduce youth offending.
 - Highly commended in prestigious Local Government Chronicle Awards 2011 for the effective management of services.
 - Winner of a Sun FM Business Award for our *Contribution to Children's Services* in Sunderland.
 - Awarded a National Training Award for the Phoenix project which has supported children and young people in relation to education, training and employment.

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 the Youth Justice Board (YJB) performance management framework for Youth Offending Teams (YOT's) and is a key source for local planning.
- 5.2 It is recommended that Cabinet consider receiving a half yearly update on youth justice planning and delivery prior to the development of the next Youth Justice Plan for 2012-2013. This will enable council to be informed of the future likely direction of youth justice planning and delivery and to be consulted on potential priorities to be included in the plan for 2012-2013.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 The alternative option is not to submit the Youth Justice Plan to full council and for the plan not to be approved. This would result in an approved copy of the Youth Justice Plan 2011 – 2012 not being submitted to the Youth Justice Board thereby contravening YJB requirements for the submission of the annual Youth Justice Plan.

7. Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- 7.1 The relevant statutory partners 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 A session has been arranged with the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee Article 4 Working Group to discuss the plan and consider its implications and delivery.

8. Glossary

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

9. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2011 – 2012.

10. Background Papers

None.