

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2017/18

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE 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.

- 2.1 Following consultation with the Youth Offending Service (YOS) Board partners, Cabinet is recommended to provide comment on the Youth Justice Plan 2017-2018 (attached) and recommend that it is referred to Scrutiny Committee for their advice and consideration.
- 2.2 Cabinet are further requested to authorise the Executive Director of People Services in consultation with the portfolio holder for Childrens Services to accept any amendments to the plan being referred to Council for final approval.

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 2017/18 was considered by the multi-agency YOS Management Board on 13 September 2017.
- 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 YOS partnership is therefore given a defined period for the development of the Youth Justice Plan and for the relevant consultations to be undertaken. The

attached Youth Justice Plan for Sunderland follows the YJB's guidance for the construction of the plan for the purposes of national YJB submission.

4. Current Position – Youth Justice Plan 2017/18

- 4.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2017/18 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 2017/18 sets out a number of service development priorities that have been developed on the basis of an analysis of performance and need 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 and good practice guidance.
- 4.3 The plan sets out the excellent performance of Sunderland YOS and its achievements during the course of its last strategic plan which spanned 2013/14 to 2016/17. The service achievements include:
- Maintenance of performance in relation to the service's three annual key performance indicators. In particular the service achieved the lowest rate of custody in the region, a position which stands Sunderland far better than the national average rate.
 - First Time Entrants have continued to fall in Sunderland as a result of continued review of practice.
 - Continued good performance in relation to the frequency of reoffending when compared to both regional and national averages.
 - Mainstreaming of the YOS liaison and diversion scheme across the service which is enabling the service to offer early assessment of all young people from the point of arrest.
 - The Looked After Children (LAC) Protocol with children's services and Northumbria Police which was introduced in 2015/16, continues to be embedded in practice and supports improved decision making for LAC children who offend within Children's Homes, employing restorative justice principles and supporting diversion of such children out of the criminal justice system. The LAC offending rate performance has stabilised and was much improved in 2016/17 with Sunderland narrowing the gap with our neighbouring authorities in the North East.
 - Sunderland YOS was awarded the Restorative Justice Quality Mark (RSQM) one of only 50 organisations to have received the award at the time. Feedback included that leaders demonstrated clear commitment to Restorative Justice, positive relationships with staff and volunteers appropriately trained in Restorative Justice.

- Sunderland's overall performance continues to be recognised positively by the YOS Board with a review following the service's inspection concluding that Sunderland continues to perform at a high standard in all aspects of YOS work.

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 YOS partnerships to set out how they will deliver against YJB performance management framework for YOS and is a key source for local youth justice planning.

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. Impacts Analysis: Crime and Disorder

- 7.1 The principal aim of the Youth Offending Service is to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people in Sunderland.
- 7.2 The role and responsibilities of the local YOT/YOS are set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the YOS continues to work with four statutory agencies - Police, Probation, Health and the Local Authority - to ensure that the service continues to be a high performing one which delivers outcomes which contribute to the Council's priorities.

8. Relevant Considerations / Consultations

8.1 Co-operative Values

The development of the Youth Justice Plan adheres and supports the council to act, comply with and actively promote its co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

8.2 Legal Implications

Consultation with legal services was undertaken and there are no implications for this Plan.

8.3 Financial Implications

Consultation has been undertaken with finance and there are no implications for this Plan

9. Glossary

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

10. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2017/18