

CABINET

4 SEPTEMBER 2013

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2013/14 to 2015/16

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 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 (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 2013/14 to 2015/16 (attached) and recommend that it is referred to Scrutiny Committee for their advice and consideration.
- 2.2 Cabinet are further requested to give delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Executive Director People 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 requires 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 requires 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 2013/14 to 2015/16 was considered by the multi-agency YOS Management Board on 30 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.
- 3.5 The YJB stated that from 2013 there would be no set criteria or templates and that the content of the plan should be in line with local planning arrangements. Therefore, Sunderland Youth Justice Board agreed to produce a three year plan, which will be reviewed and published annually.

4. Current Position – Youth Justice Plan 2013/14 to 2015/16

- 4.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2013/14 to 2015/16 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 2013/14 to 2015/16 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 and good practice guidance.
 - Analysis Viewpoint data (an interactive game style evaluation tool for use with young people).
 - 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 2012-2013. The service's validated achievements for the whole of 2012-13 are:
- First time entrants have reduced by 65% since 2010 (501 to 176). In 2012/13 in particular early intervention approaches have contributed to a 31% decrease in full time equivalents (256 to 176).
 - The overall number of young people reoffending has reduced by 55% between 2009/10 (442 young people) and 2011/12 (198 young people), as measured against the tracked sample cohort.
 - Use of custody has been maintained at a low rate of 0.67. This represents a 19% reduction in the number of custodial disposals since 2010 (21 in 2010 to 17 in 2012/13).
 - At the end of 2012/13, only 1.6% of the overall 10 to 17 population in Sunderland received a substantive outcome in the year, against a position of 3.9% at the end of 2009/10.

- Successful implementation of a national pathfinder pilot for Liaison and Diversion, established to implement a formal process of undertaking early assessment of children and young people on the edge of the criminal justice system.
- Continuing successes of the Sunderland YOS Family Intervention Programme that plays a direct and key role in the delivery of the Strengthening Families Strategy, a Strategy which has received national praise and particular recognition by Louise Casey, Director General for Troubled Families as best practice. Cost benefit analysis demonstrates that £211,967 has been saved by for the local authority by FIP between April and December 2012 by keeping young people out of care and getting them back into school; reducing families' anti-social behaviour and offending and getting them closer to the job market.
- Implementation of compliance panels in 2012 in response to providing an effective approach to young people who breach their orders, reducing breaches from 70% in 2011 to 38% during 2012. Sunderland's compliance panels are also referenced in the Youth Justice Board's Effective Practice Library.
- Sunderland's overall continued high performance is recognised by the Youth Justice Board with a review in March 2013 concluding that Sunderland continue to demonstrate significant progress in several areas of their partnership work around youth justice and continues to perform well against national indicators.

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.

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 2013/14 to 2015/16.

10. Background Papers

There are no background papers.