

**CABINET**

**21 JULY 2010**

**YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2010-2011**

**REPORT OF ACTING 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 prior to final submission to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB), publication and distribution.

**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 send for full Council 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 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 Home Secretary. The YJB does this through the collection of performance data and annual Youth Justice Plans.
- 3.3 Each year the YJB issues guidance on the required content for the annual Youth Justice Plan.
- 3.4 The guidance for the Youth Justice Plan 2010 – 2011 stated *“Unlike previous youth justice planning arrangements, YOT partnerships may now produce their strategic plan in line with their own local business planning processes. There are no YJB prescribed templates or time scales. This responds to YOT partnership requests for greater flexibility in this area and directly contributes to the local government ‘reducing the burden’ agenda. The Youth Justice Plan should, however, address the following four key areas: resourcing and value for money, structure and governance, partnership arrangements and risks to future delivery.”* There was also a requirement for the Youth Justice Plan to be underpinned by a comprehensive *Capacity and Capability Assessment*, validated by the YJB.

- 3.5. The Sunderland YOS Capacity and Capability Assessment was validated by the YJB on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

#### **4. Current Position – Youth Justice Plan 2010 - 2011**

- 4.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2010 – 2011 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 priorities for the multi-agency YOS Management Board and the operational Youth Offending Service for 2010 – 2011.
- 4.2 Both the YOS Management Board priorities and service development priorities reflect the focus for 2010 – 2011 on effective case management to deliver against the service Inspection Improvement Plan following the Core Case Inspection of Youth Offending Work in Sunderland published in January 2010. With scores for all three inspection outcome areas (Safeguarding, Public Protection and Reducing Re-offending) above average for the region the multi-agency YOS Management Board believes it has the right foundations upon which to achieve it's plans for 2010 – 2011.
- 4.3. As required by the YJB the Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2010 – 2011 addresses the following key areas of strategic planning:
- *Resourcing and Value for Money* – this section of the plan sets out how the partnership has ensured sufficient resources to deliver youth justice services in Sunderland and how it has developed an understanding of the costs of delivery to deliver outcomes more efficiently.
  - *Structure and Governance* – this section of the plan outlines the governance arrangements, identifies the YOS Board as a 'significant partnership and sets down the priorities of the YOS Management Board.
  - *Partnership arrangements* – this section of the plan sets out the links with other key partnerships, specifically the Children's Trust and the Safer Sunderland Partnership.
  - *Risks to future delivery* – the partnership assessment of risk to future delivery has been developed based on information from a range of assessments including the YOS Board significant partnership risk assessment, the capacity and capability assessment, the independent inspection of youth offending work in Sunderland and statutory performance submissions to the YJB.
- 4.4 Sunderland YOS has sustained the outstanding performance reported in previous Youth Justice Plans. The Youth Justice Plan 2010-2011 reports:
- Achievement of the highest possible performance rating from the YJB of "*performing excellently*".
  - Achievement of the highest possible YJB judgement for the Capacity and Capability Assessment of "*excellent capacity and capability to sustain and improve performance*".

- Exceeding by far the national target set for the national indicator of reducing re-offending (sustaining the achievements of Sunderland as a former Beacon authority for reducing re-offending).
- Exceeding by far the national target set for Sunderland as a Youth Crime Action Plan area against the national indicator 111 for first time entrants to the youth justice system.
- Achieving a high performance (when compared to family averages) for the supporting national indicators of Use of Custody (NI 43) and ETE (NI 45) and the former national indicator 46 for Accommodation.

## **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 A draft copy of the Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2010-2011 has been submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) with a final version to be submitted following ratification by full Council.

## **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 2010 – 2011 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 Employees from across the Youth Offending Service have been involved in the development of the plan through the underpinning capacity and capability assessment.
- 7.3 The capacity and capability assessment also includes consideration of the use of service user feedback to inform service planning and delivery. The Youth Justice Plan 2010 – 2011 has set a priority to further improve on this.

## **8. Glossary**

NI	National Indicator
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YOT	Youth Offending Team

**9. List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Draft Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2010 – 2011.

**10. Background Papers**

Youth Justice Board Performance Improvement Framework (England): YOT partnership Youth Justice Strategic Plan guidance, and Capacity and Capability Self-Assessment guidance and template. YJB 2010.