

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Full Council: 6 September 2023

The Youth Justice Plan 2023 – 2024 Oversight and Implementation

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that it is the duty of each Local Authority, after consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and deliver an annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how the Youth Justice Service in their area is to be implemented, how they will operate, and setting out their key focuses for the coming year.

Youth Justice Plans, in England, must be sighted and agreed by full council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000.

The Youth Justice plans are submitted on a yearly basis to the Governing Youth Justice Board following an agreed template. This was submitted in January and March 23 for any comments and no comments were received from any of the Board Members to change the content of the Plan.

The following documents make up the Youth Justice Plan 2023-2024 and have been included for Councils reference.

- Youth Justice Plan 2023 – 2024
- Appendix 1 – Havering Youth Justice Management Board Structure and timetable
- Appendix 2 – The Youth Justice Service Staff Structure (anonymised)
- Appendix 3 – Youth Justice Service Business and Improvement Plan
- Appendix 4 – Risk Register

We ask for Councils oversight of the Youth Justice Plan 2023-2024 and, upon conformation of agreement, the Plan can be made available within the public domain, to ensure transparency, accountability and ongoing delivery of statutory Youth Justice Services within Havering.

*Tara Geere – Director of Starting Well, Statutory Director of Childrens Services
17th August 2023*

It is RECOMMENDED:

That Council adopt the Youth Justice Plan as appended to this report.

Financial Implications and Risks:

The Youth Justice Service is funded in 2023/24 to the sum of £1.218m, as exemplified in the body of the youth justice plan report attached. The local authority has committed £575,800 of resources in 2023/24, funded from core council budgets. In addition £348,025 the Youth Justice Board funding has been committed for 2023/24, and this contribution is notified on a yearly basis.

The fixed term posts for 'Turnaround' practitioners are resourced from an additional funding stream provided by the Ministry of Justice.

Legal Implications and Risks:

As stated above section 40 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires as follows:

40 Youth justice plans.

(1) It shall be the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement for each year a plan (a "youth justice plan") setting out—

- (a) how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
- (b) how the youth offending team or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.

Also as set out above Regulation 4 (1) (a), (3) (d) and Schedule 3 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000' the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan may not be the responsibility of the Executive.

Whilst the legislation does not set out who should be consulted, the Youth Justice Board guidance states:

"We recognise that local areas will have their own governance arrangements in place. We encourage the practice for plans to be developed in consultation with children and their families, staff and volunteers, statutory and non-statutory partnership organisations and board members."

In the past year the approach adopted has been to table the draft Youth Justice Plan at the January and March meetings of the Youth Justice Board for any comments. None of the members of the Board responded with any comments to change the content.

Whenever there is a duty to consult the Local Authority must give the consultees sufficient time and information to be able to comment meaningfully, and then the decision maker, in this case full Council, must conscientiously take all comments into consideration before finalising its decision. As above no comments were made.

Human Resources Implications and Risks:

The proposal in the Youth Justice Plan 2023/2024 to embed an Advisory Teacher role into the YJS Team will be managed in accordance with the Council's HR policies and procedures. The Youth Justice Plan considers the number of posts

within the service and will remain compliant with the minimum staffing requirements as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Working arrangements and conditions for all staff are considered through the management structure of the Youth Justice Service and appropriate support implemented as required.

Equalities Implications and Risks:

There are no Equality implications. The Youth Justice Plan 2023/2024 is inclusive of equalities implications and has taken into consideration disproportionalities seen across the Youth Justice system.

Health and Wellbeing Implications and Risks:

There are no Health and Wellbeing implications. The Youth Justice plan 2023/2024 is inclusive of Health and Wellbeing needs and has taken into consideration the needs seen across the Youth Justice System.

Environment and Climate Change Implications and Risks:

There are no environmental or climate change implications.