

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Council, 22 July 2026

HAVERING YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2026–27

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires each local authority, in partnership with key statutory agencies, to produce and publish an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out how youth justice services will be structured and delivered, how partners will work together to prevent offending and reoffending, and how outcomes for children and young people will be improved.

The Havering Youth Justice Plan 2026–27 outlines the Council's strategic approach to youth justice in line with national guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board. It provides an overview of local need, performance, governance arrangements, and the key priorities for the year ahead. The Plan also reflects Havering's wider commitment to early help, prevention, and improving outcomes for vulnerable children and families, aligned with the Council's corporate priorities and inspection framework expectations (including Ofsted and HMIP).

The Youth Justice Plan includes:

- An assessment of local need and key risks within the youth justice system
- Governance and partnership arrangements
- Performance and outcomes, including reoffending, custody, and use of out-of-court disposals
- Workforce and resourcing arrangements
- Key priorities and actions for 2026–27, aligned to national standards and local strategic aims

The Plan has been reviewed by the Youth Justice Management Board and is submitted for approval in accordance with statutory requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

That Full Council approve the attached Havering Youth Justice Plan 2026–27 for publication, in order to meet the Council's statutory duty to produce and submit an annual Youth Justice Plan to the Youth Justice Board, setting out how youth justice services will be delivered and governed locally.

Legal Implications

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act provides:

“(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.*

There is no definition within the Act as to who the relevant persons are who should be consulted. The Plan itself refers to consultation with various stakeholders.

Also Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000/2853 provides that approval of the Youth Justice Plan shall not be the responsibility of the Authority’s executive. The Plan forms part of Havering’s policy framework .

Once the Plan is approved it must be submitted to the national body, the Youth Justice Board, by 30 June in each year although exceptions can be made by the Youth Justice Board.

The format of the Plan complies with the Guidance provided by the Youth Justice Board.

There are no other apparent legal implications in approving the Plan.

HR Implications

N/A

Finance Implications

The resources available to support the Youth Justice plan come to £1.082m as set out on page 18 of the document. The largest contribution comes from Havering council at £0.492m and a grant from the Ministry of Justice of £0.358m with smaller contributions in cash and in kind from partners (the Metropolitan Police, Probation Service, Health.) Most of this funding (c90%) is used for staffing costs. The objective and priorities set out in the plan should all be delivered from these budgets.

Health and Wellbeing Implications

Young people in contact with the Youth Justice Service experience poorer health and increased complex health needs in comparison to the wider population, reflecting a significant source of inequality in immediate and longer-term health and wellbeing outcomes. The plan’s strong focus on prevention and diversion outlines the importance of multi-agency action to reduce the number of young people reaching the point of youth justice involvement, while also recognising the importance of ensuring key health needs such as substance misuse and emotional

wellbeing amongst the youth justice cohort are effectively addressed as early as possible. Adoption and implementation of the youth justice plan will deliver positive health and wellbeing impacts for the youth justice cohort, and more widely for peers, families and communities that may be directly affected by the impacts of youth crime.