

Name of meeting: Cabinet and Council

Date: 16th November 2021 (Cabinet) 17th November 2021 (Council)

Title of report: Kirklees Youth Justice Plan update 2021 - 2025

Purpose of report: Members are asked to consider and comment on the attached draft of the Kirklees Youth Justice Plan 2021-25. As the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the policy framework of the Council it needs to be submitted for the approval of full Council.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes, the plan is applicable across all Wards
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u> ?	Key Decision – Yes Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes If no give the reason why not
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Mel Meggs – Director for Children’s Services. 6 th April 2021.
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston -
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft. -
Cabinet member portfolio	Councillor Viv Kendrick

Electoral wards affected: All Wards.

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable.

Public or private: Public.

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, no personal or sensitive data is included in this report.

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Youth Offending Partnership has a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the Youth Offending Partnership's responsibilities in producing this plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how youth justice services in their area will be composed and funded, how it will operate and what functions it will carry out.
- 1.2. This plan gives an overview of the work of the Youth Justice Service (YJS) in Kirklees and sets out details of performance over the past year and our priorities for the coming four years.
- 1.3. Although we are required to produce an annual plan, at Kirklees, we are ambitious about improving and sustaining outcomes for children at risk of offending. Therefore, we have set a longer-term vision for our YJS in line with the Kirklees Financial Plan and strategic priorities for 2021-25. This plan covers the same period.
- 1.4. The Youth Justice Plan is subject to the approval of Kirklees Council. Members are asked to consider and comment on the attached draft of the Kirklees Youth Justice Plan 2021 - 2025 prior to its submission for the approval of full Council.

2. Information required to take a decision.

Background.

- 2.1. The principal aim of the youth justice system is to prevent offending by children (Crime and Disorder Act 1998). Kirklees Youth Engagement Service, of which the YJS is a part, coordinates the provision of youth justice services.
- 2.2. The YJS is a multi-agency partnership between the council, the police, probation, and health services, each of which holds a statutory responsibility for resourcing and supporting the partnership.
- 2.3. The YJS plays a vital role in both improving community safety and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, protecting them from significant harm. Many of the children involved with the YJS are among the most vulnerable in society and are at greatest risk of social exclusion. Our multi-agency approach ensures that we play a significant role in contributing to addressing the safeguarding needs of these children.
- 2.4. We have used a broad range of performance data and intelligence to inform the updated Youth Justice Plan. The 2019/20 performance data combined with local and national drivers for systems change in youth justice has informed the following service priorities until 2025.
 - Sustaining the low numbers of first-time entrants (and maximising use of diversion and pre-court outcomes).
 - Reducing offending and reoffending.
 - Reducing the use of youth detention.
 - Participation of children and families.
 - Tackling disproportionality.
 - Reducing serious youth violence and child criminal exploitation
- 2.5. Success is measured through the key outcome targets of the number of children entering the youth justice system and the number of children reoffending. The three impact indicators that the youth offending teams are measured against are:
 - first time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17.
 - rate of proven reoffending by children in the youth justice system.
 - the use of custody.

- 2.6. In addition to these key indicators, the YJS Management Board agreed the following strategic priorities following of our end of year performance, data report and Partnership Board away day in December 2020:
- participation of children and families – focusing on identity development approaches to desistance.
 - tackling disproportionality
 - reducing serious youth violence and child criminal exploitation

3. Performance Summary.

- 3.1. Over the year 2019-20, the key achievements of the YJS are summarised below.
- Continued low numbers of first-time entrants.
 - Low further offending rates for children supported by the YJS and Youth Engagement Service (YES).
 - Receipt of the Restorative Services Quality Mark (RSQM) to recognise our continued excellence in this area of practice.
 - Continued strong partnership working with the police to manage risk of serious harm via the Deter Young Offender (DYO) Scheme.
 - Development of contextual safeguarding approaches to proactively identify and support children at risk of criminal exploitation.
 - Development of YES to provide early intervention to children at risk of child criminal exploitation and serious youth violence.
- 3.2. The performance data below provides further insight into how the service has performed and explains the rationale for the proposed plan priorities.
- 3.3. In January 2019 to December 2019 (latest available full year) Youth Justice Board data shows that 101 children became first time entrants. This was a small rise (2 children) on the previous year's figures and continues to be a priority area for us to sustain at low levels.
- 3.4. The most recent Police National Computer (PNC) data for January 2018 to March 2018, published by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), on our reoffending shows a rate of 36.8%, which is lower than the West Yorkshire, national and statistical neighbour rates.
- 3.5. There was also a decrease in the number of re-offences per re-offender to 4.39 in the year January 2018 to December 2018, compared to 5.01 for the previous year (aggregated annual figures). The individual quarterly figures also show a decrease from 4.09 (January 2017 to March 2017) to 3.57 (January 2018 to March 2018).
Although these rates have decreased over time, and they compare favourably to our West Yorkshire neighbours, they compare less favourably to national rates and this is therefore an area that we intend to proactively address during the duration of this plan.
- 3.6. Local YJS data shows an increase in the number of custodial sentences during 2019/20 when compared with 2018/19. In 2019/20 17 young people received custodial outcomes (from a total of 280 disposals) whereas in 2018/19, 15 custodial disposals were given (from a total of 251).
- 3.7. In 2019/20, eleven children were remanded to youth detention accommodation (YDA), compared to ten in the previous year. The number of nights spent on remand has almost doubled, with a total of 1590 nights in accommodation in 2019/20, compared to 855 in 2018/19. Therefore, reducing the use of custody, including remand, is another area of focus to be addressed over the duration of our plan.
- 3.8. In 2019/20, 52 substantive outcomes were received where a weapon was used involving 50 young people. We have made reducing serious youth violence and child criminal exploitation a strategic priority for the partnership across the duration of this plan.

- 3.9. Our local data shows that Black, and mixed ethnicity children are disproportionately overrepresented in Kirklees in both pre- and post-court outcomes. More detailed analysis indicates that the most overrepresented group for the last year are children with mixed ethnicity, who represent 11% of all YJS outcomes in 2019/20 (27 of 229 children), compared to Kirklees populations of 5%. This group is noticeably overrepresented in custodial sentences in 2019/20, accounting for 25% (four of sixteen children sentenced to custody). As such, tackling disproportionality is a key strategic priority for us over the next four years.
- 3.10. Finally, we know that within our YJS, we have a significant number of children with complex and multiple needs due to having experienced abuse, trauma, and neglect. Over the duration of this plan, we intend to focus our approach on proactively addressing trauma and supporting children with identity development. As a result, we have prioritised participation as a cross-cutting theme across all YJS practice.
- 3.11. Over the duration of this plan, the YJS Management Board will develop a sharper focus on understanding and scrutinising local data to ensure that the partnership is appropriately challenged and supported to address the strategic priorities set out.

4. Implications for the Council

Working with People

The aims of the YJS is to reduce the number of victims and youth crime in Kirklees, safeguard and protect children and the public, and increase public confidence in youth justice services by delivering high quality, fair and transparent services that embrace the diversity of children, the people of Kirklees and their communities.

For several years, the YJS has worked restoratively with children, families, victims, and the wider community to help repair harm caused and promote family and community cohesion.:

We know that restorative practices can be the most effective way of resolving conflict and repairing harm, allowing us to hear, respect and act upon the views of victims.

This restorative approach is at the heart of the proposed Youth Justice Plan.

Working with Partners

The YJS is a multi-agency partnership, between the council, the police, probation, and health services, each of which holds a statutory responsibility for resourcing and supporting the partnership.

The Youth Justice Plan has been created in collaboration with all key partners including the police, children's services, health services, probation, community safety and both voluntary and private sector providers.

The YJS will lead and support partnerships to meet the needs of children and families:

Place Based Working

There are close links and dependencies between the Youth Justice Plan, the work of the Youth Engagement Service (YES) delivered through the Youth Practice Model and Place Based Working. The Youth Practice Model has considered and evaluated the youth provision across Kirklees. The aim is to ensure that young people have access to safe locations, activities, support and ensure that they are socially accepted and have a voice within their community. Therefore, a key priority is youth engagement, active citizenship, and community cohesion. Through delivering activities and diversionary interventions in the areas where intelligence and young people tell us they are needed, it is envisaged there will be a positive impact on both place based working and the priorities of the Youth Justice Plan.

Climate Change and Air Quality

There will be no impact.

Improving outcomes for children.

Successful delivery of the plan will realise the following outcomes:

- The number of children in the youth justice system is reduced.
- The number of children in the youth justice system reoffending is reduced.

- The safety and wellbeing of children in the youth justice system is improved.
- Children and young people are supported to live safe, happy, healthy and successful lives.

Other (e.g., Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

There are no legal, financial or human resource implications associated with the proposed Youth Justice Plan.

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

The diversity profile of the children supported in 2019/20, indicates that Kirklees has a disproportionate number of Black, and mixed ethnic origin children within the youth justice system. As such, tackling disproportionality will be a key strategic priority over the next four years. On the basis this plan will have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics, an IIA has been completed.

5. Consultees and their opinions

- 5.1. The Youth Justice Plan has been prepared with consultation of the Youth Management Board members. A draft plan was shared with the board for the purpose of consultation (24th February 2021). The Board is represented by Police, Health Partners, Children Services and Probation). Further consultation has been undertaken at Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership – Executive Group (12th May 2021). KSCP – Executive Group supported the plan.
- 5.2. The plan has been shared for information and feedback with the Communities Partnership Board meeting (27th May 2021).

6. Next steps and timelines

- 6.1. Subject to approval from Cabinet Members, this plan will proceed to Full Council for sign off on the 17th November 2021.
- 6.2. Following Council approval, the youth justice plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) for England and Wales and published in accordance with the direction of the Secretary of State.
- 6.3. The plan and strategic priorities will be reviewed on a quarterly basis at operational level and every six months at board level. It will be updated accordingly to reflect any changes to the national and local youth justice landscape that may impact on our priorities and ability to deliver a range of services designed to reduce youth offending within Kirklees.
- 6.4. Regular updates on progress against the plan will be scheduled in the forward plan and provided to Corporate Parenting Board.

7. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 7.1. Members are asked to consider and comment on the attached draft of the Kirklees Youth Justice Plan 2021 - 2025 prior to its submission for the approval of full Council.
- 7.2. It is recommended for future annual updates that approval to be given for a Delegated Officer Decision to be made by the Service Director for Family Support and Child Protection

8. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

The Portfolio Holder is supportive of the plan and vision.

9. Contact officer.

Ian Mottershaw. Head of Service- Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Engagement Service (including YJS

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10. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Executive Team – 8th June 2021

Key Decision Notice – 14th June 2021

Youth Justice Management Board – 30th June 2021

11. Service Director responsible

Elaine McShane – Service Director for Family Support and Child Protection.