

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive Director (People)
to Cabinet

(20th September 2017)

BARNSLEY YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN (2017/18)

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present, for Cabinet's consideration, the Barnsley Youth Justice Plan (2017/18).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to endorse the Barnsley Youth Justice Plan (2017/18) for adoption by Council.**

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) requires Youth Offending Teams in every area of the country to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan.
- 3.2 The Plan, which is attached as Appendix 1, provides an indication of the progress and achievements made by the Barnsley Youth Offending Team (YOT) in improving youth justice provision, in the Borough.

4.0 Current Position

4.1 First Time Offending

- 4.2 Up to 2016, the rate of first time entrants into the Criminal Justice System continued to reduce in Barnsley. Since then, the rate of performance has flattened and, in response, the Barnsley Youth Justice Service is working in partnership with South Yorkshire Police to address key challenges.

- 4.3 Among the issues identified for development are, firstly, a change to the referral pathway from police to the youth justice service, including changes in the role of seconded police staff and, secondly, the introduction of an outcome focused, strengths based cautioning approach, to youth offending.

4.4 Re-offending

- 4.5 Re-offending levels and rates have remained stable and continue to reflect good performance in comparison to other areas in the Yorkshire and Humber Region. The enclosed Youth Justice Plan outlines how the Barnsley Youth Justice Service will work with its partners, including South Yorkshire Police and the Probation Service, to continue to improve these rates, most critically, through changes to the referral process from the Police to the Youth Justice Service.

4.6 Use Of Youth Custody

- 4.7 The use of youth custody in the Borough has started to increase albeit from a very low baseline. One of the potential reasons for this are changes to the court system and, to consider this further, the Youth Justice Service is co-ordinating a multi agency audit of cases of young people entering custody, to be overseen by the Crime and Anti Social Behaviour Delivery Group (incorporating the Youth Offending Management Board). This will lead to appropriate targeting of resources, action and evaluation to ensure the right solution to each case is put in place.

5.0 **Proposal and Justification**

- 5.1 In considering recent performance, together with the priorities and risks outlined in the Youth Justice Plan, Cabinet may recall, following its meeting held on 5th October, last year, that the Barnsley Youth Justice Service was the focus of a very positive inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP), during July 2016.
- 5.2 In particular, the inspection highlighted some aspects of working practice as exemplary and praised the tenacious approach of staff. The Barnsley Youth Justice Plan builds on the significant strengths and areas for further development, identified in the HMIP inspection. These include a trauma informed approach to service delivery; ensuring service provision is sensitive to learning need and the risk of neglect, as well as monitoring and supporting outcomes for children in care and care leavers.
- 5.3 The Youth Justice Service continues to develop practice and, via established partnership working, referral order work will become more outcomes based and young person led. Indeed, as part of sector led improvement, this model has been adopted by several other YOTs.

6.0 **Consideration of Alternative Approaches**

- 6.1 None, applicable. The formulation of a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement arising from the Crime and Disorder Act (1998).

7.0 **Implications for Local People and Service Users**

- 7.1 As part of the Integrated Youth Support Service, a strategic priority for the Youth Justice Service will be to reduce both the number of first time offenders and the rate of re-offending, across the Borough, including through diverting young people from harmful or risky behaviour. Resulting progress will ensure local communities benefit through a reduction in crime, disorder and anti social behaviour.
- 7.2 Of service users who are at risk of custodial sentences, particularly through persistent, non compliance with court orders, the strategic priority will be to improve service engagement with such young people as part of improving their experience of youth justice and motivating them to achieve their potential.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report and attached plan for 2017/18. It is envisaged that the actions and priorities for 2017/18 would be delivered within existing resources by the Service and partner organisations. Current budgeted spend for the Youth Justice Service is approximately £1.3 million of which Barnsley MBC (£0.5 million) and Youth Justice Board grant (£0.4 million) are the main contributors.

9.0 Employee Implications

- 9.1 There are no workforce implications emerging through consideration of this report and enclosed Plan.

10.0 Communications Implications

- 10.1 There are no communications implications for the Council arising through the report. The Youth Justice Plan (2017/18) will be published and signposted via the Council's Web Site.

11.0 Consultations

- 11.1 Whilst no consultations have taken place in the production of the Plan, regular feedback from service users and their families is an important means of informing improvement in the quality of ongoing service provision.

12.0 The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

- 12.1 Improving reductions in the rate of first time offenders, re-offending and youth custody, among young people, through a robust Youth Justice Plan will support the following Corporate Plan priority outcomes:
- Improving people's potential, through making young people more resilient to the risk of offending and re-offending and enabling their energies to be diverted into positive activity.
 - Through helping reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, it will enable communities to become safer and stronger
- 12.2 In addition, the priorities of the Plan will help in developing stronger families and as a result, a stronger Barnsley. This forms part of our 'Vision' for children, young people and families, within the Barnsley Children and Young People's Plan (2016-19)

13.0 Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 13.1 Multi agency audits of practice, together with a consultation that will form part of an impending review of the targeted youth support 'offer' in Barnsley will help in identifying any unmet specific needs emerging among young people with protected characteristics, as defined in the Equality Act (2010) leading to action, on a case by case basis, where required.

14.0 Tackling the Impact of Poverty

- 14.1 There are no direct implications for tackling family poverty arising through the Youth Justice Plan.

15.0 Tackling Health Inequalities

- 15.1 Equally, there are no implications for tackling health inequality or the promotion of public health arising through the Plan. Young people are offered lay visits as part of ensuring any needs are met, whilst in custody.

16.0 Reduction of Crime and Disorder

- 16.1 In particular, please see Paragraphs 7.1 and 12.1.

17.0 Risk Management Issues

- 17.1 The tracking of first time offenders, re-offending rates, no court disposal and entries into custody will form part of the Education, Early Start and Prevention Service (Business Unit 1) operational risk register as part of ensuring mitigating actions are taken, where required, in order to improve performance.

18.0 Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience Issues

- 18.1 There are no health, safety or emergency resilience considerations, emerging for the general public, through this report.

19.0 Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

- 19.1 There are no implications, concerning the application of the EU Convention, in managing the Youth Justice Plan.

20.0 Conservation of Biodiversity

- 20.1 No implications have arisen, concerning the protection of the local environment and the conservation of biodiversity, through this report.

21.0 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

- 21.1 None, applicable.

22.0 List of Appendices

- 22.1 Appendix 1: Barnsley Youth Justice Plan (2017/18)

23.0 Details of Background Papers

- 23.1 Background papers used in the production of this report are available to view by contacting the Barnsley Youth Justice Service Manager, McLintock's Building, Summer Lane, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2NZ or telephone (01226) 774986

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Financial Implications/
Consultation <i>(to be signed by senior Financial Services Officer where no financial implications</i>