

Council Meeting

14 September 2022

Time 5.45 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Full Council

Venue Council Chamber - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership (Quorum for this meeting is 15 Councillors)

Mayor Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE (Lab)

Deputy Mayor Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Qaiser Azeem
Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE
Cllr Olivia Birch
Cllr Dr Paul John Birch J.P.
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Ian Brookfield
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Chris Burden
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Lovinyer Daley
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar

Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Celia Hibbert
Cllr Carol Hyatt
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Jaspreet Jaspal
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Rashpal Kaur
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Asha Mattu
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN
Cllr Louise Miles

Cllr Beverley Momenabadi
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Gillian Wildman

Conservative

Cllr Paul Appleby
Cllr Simon Bennett
Cllr Adam Collinge
Cllr Jonathan Crofts
Cllr Wendy Dalton
Cllr Christopher Haynes
Cllr Stephanie Haynes
Cllr Sohail Khan
Cllr Andrew McNeil
Cllr Andrew Randle
Cllr Mak Singh
Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Ellis Turrell
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

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Tel 01902 550320

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Agenda

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 16)
[To receive minutes of the previous extraordinary and ordinary meeting held on 20 July 2022]
- 4 **Communications**
[To receive the Mayor's announcements]

DECISION ITEMS

- 5 **Report of Leader of the Council**
[To receive a report from the Leader of the Council]
- 6 **Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023** (Pages 17 - 68)
[To approve Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023]
- 7 **Corporate Code of Governance** (Pages 69 - 92)
[To approve the Corporate Code of Governance]
- 8 **Written Questions by Councillors - July Meeting** (Pages 93 - 94)
[That the Executive Members respond to questions received which were deferred from the July meeting]
- 9 **Written Questions by Councillors** (Pages 95 - 96)
[That the Executive Members respond to questions received]
- 10 **Motions on Notice** (Pages 97 - 98)
[That Council consider the motions received by Councillor Linda Leach and Councillor Simon Bennett]

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Extraordinary Meeting of the Council Minutes - 20 July 2022
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Attendance

Mayor Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed	Cllr Val Evans	Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Qaiser Azeem	Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal	Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Mary Bateman	Cllr Celia Hibbert	Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal	Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Greg Brackenridge	Cllr Jaspreet Jaspal	Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Ian Brookfield	Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal	Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Paula Brookfield	Cllr Rashpal Kaur	Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Chris Burden	Cllr Linda Leach	Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Craig Collingswood	Cllr Asha Mattu	Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Lovinyer Daley	Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN	Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Claire Darke	Cllr Louise Miles	Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar	Cllr Beverley Momenabadi	Cllr Gillian Wildman
Cllr Steve Evans	Cllr Lynne Moran	

Conservative

Cllr Simon Bennett	Cllr Mak Singh
Cllr Jonathan Crofts	Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Wendy Dalton	Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Christopher Haynes	Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Stephanie Haynes	Cllr Ellis Turrell
Cllr Sohail Khan	Cllr Jonathan Yardley
Cllr Andrew McNeil	

Employees

Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Richard Lawrence	Director of Regeneration
Claire Nye	Director of Finance
Alison Hinds	Deputy Director of Children's Social Care

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Appleby, Councillor Olivia Birch, Councillor Paul Birch, Councillor Adam Collinge, Councillor Carol Hyatt and Councillor Andy Randle.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the report on Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman. He requested that pursuant to the powers contained in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman to former Councillor Keith Inston.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield added Mr Inston had a total of 24 years' distinguished service. He had served the residents of East Park Ward, but also held many important positions within the Council impacting on the lives of the citizens of our whole City.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendation, Councillor Wendy Thompson seconded the recommendation. They paid tribute to the contribution of former Councillor Keith Inston.

Resolved:

That the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillor Keith Inston.

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed	Cllr Val Evans	Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Qaiser Azeem	Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal	Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Mary Bateman	Cllr Celia Hibbert	Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal	Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Greg Brackenridge	Cllr Jaspreet Jaspal	Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Ian Brookfield	Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal	Cllr Zee Russell
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Mark Taylor	Deputy Chief Executive
David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
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The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Appleby, Councillor Olivia Birch, Councillor Paul Birch, Councillor Adam Collinge, Councillor Carol Hyatt and Councillor Andy Randle.

2 Declarations of interest

Councillor Bhupinder Gakhel declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12, Motions on Notice; West Midlands Police – Data.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

The Mayor proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded, and it was resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 May 2022, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 Communications

1. Death of Honorary Alderman Paddy Bradley

The Mayor was saddened to announce the death of Honorary Alderman Paddy Bradley, who passed away on 23 June 2022, at the age of 86 years. She had served as a councillor for almost 40 years. She had been Deputy Mayor and was appointed an Honorary Alderman in September 2012.

The Mayor passed on condolences to her family and friends.

The Mayor was also saddened to announce the deaths of:

- Dame Deborah James who recently died after a long and very well documented battle with cancer.
- Mary Garner, a stalwart of Blakenhall politics and mentor to the Mayor in the early days.
- Reverend Eddie Brooks, a former teacher in the city who had taught some of the councillors.

The Council stood in silent tribute to the late Honorary Alderman Paddy Bradley, Dame Deborah James, Mary Garner and the Rev Eddie Brooks.

2. Jubilee Portrait Competition Afternoon Tea With the Mayor

The Mayor had the pleasure of hosting an afternoon tea at the Art Gallery celebrating the winners of the Mayoral Platinum Jubilee Portrait Competition. Hundreds of entries had been received from people of all ages across the City, the competition showcased the incredible talent in Wolverhampton. The Mayor thanked all those that entered and made the afternoon such a great celebration.

3. Crich Pilgrimage

The Mayor reported on the first Sunday in July, the Mayor had the honour of attending the annual pilgrimage to the Mercian Regimental memorial in Crich, Derbyshire. It was a moving service where those servicemen and servicewomen who died in battle were remembered. The Consort and Mayor were honoured to represent the City alongside other Mayors, dignitaries, soldiers and veterans from the Mercian Regiment from across the Midlands and Cheshire at this year's event.

4. National Windrush Day and Flag Raising Ceremony

The Mayor reported that on Wednesday 22 June, she was proud as our city's first ever African Caribbean Mayor, to join members of the community to raise the Windrush Day flag and host a reception in the City Suite. The day was close to the Mayors' heart, as a child of the Windrush generation. The day celebrated and thanked the Windrush community in the City for their enormous contribution after the Second World War.

5. 60th Anniversary of Jamaican Independence

The Mayor reported she would be raising the Jamaican flag on 5 August at 11am to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Jamaican Independence and encouraged others to also attend.

6. BITC Work Inclusion

The Mayor reported she attended and spoke at the Business in the Community workplace inclusion event held in the city suite which was organised by the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Team. National business leaders came to share best practice around being inclusive employers.

7. Visit to Wolverhampton- Delegation of African Academics

The Mayor reported she was invited to open and speak at the second Forum for Innovation in African Universities which was hosted by the University of Wolverhampton on Thursday 7 July. Distinguished speakers from across the African continent and the world were in attendance with a focus on Africa's educational resilience post-Covid. The following day, the Mayor hosted many of the delegates in the City Suite for a Civic Lunch.

8. Refugee Week

The Mayor reported that it was Refugee Week at the end of June. A poem written by Hejar Paar from the Refugee and Migrant Centre, which had been described as a "powerful piece of writing" calling for greater freedoms in the world, had recently been shared on the national Refugee Week website and was also posted on the council's Twitter page @WolvesCouncil.

9. Queens Baton Relay and Commonwealth Games

The Mayor was delighted to report she had been granted the honour to attend the opening and closing ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games and the Queen's Baton Relay when it visits our city on Sunday 24 July as well as the cycling time trial event which starts and finishes in West Park on Thursday 4 August. These events would bring the eyes of the world onto our city, there would be plenty of ways for people to get involved in both events, including a festival site in old Market Square on the day of the race, which would be fun for all the family.

The Mayor added that Councillor Simon Bennett would be at the Commonwealth Games as a Technology Team Member working with Longines, the official timing party of the Games. She wished him well in this important role.

5 Report of Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield provided Council with an update on 'UK Shared Prosperity Fund'.

The Leader of the Opposition Group, Councillor Wendy Thompson responded to the update.

6 Capital Budget Outturn 2021-2022 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2022-2023

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, Councillor Obaida Ahmed, presented a report on Capital Budget Outturn 2021-2022 including Quarter One Capital Budget Monitoring 2022-2023.

The report provided an update on the outturn position for 2021-2022 and update on the 2022-2023 financial performance of the General Fund and HRA capital programmes whilst also providing a revised forecast for 2022-2023 to 2026-2027, as at quarter one of 2022-2023.

The report recommended revisions to the current approved capital programmes covering the period 2022-2023 to 2026-2027. The capital programme underpins the Our City, Our Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, Councillor Obaida Ahmed proposed the recommendation and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield seconded the recommendation.

The report was debated by Council. Councillor Obaida Ahmed replied to the debate.

Resolved:

That the revised, medium term General Fund capital programme of £367.8 million, a net increase of £152,000 from the previously approved programme, and the change in associated resources be approved.

7 Treasury Management - Annual Report 2021-2022 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2022-2023

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, Councillor Obaida Ahmed, presented a report on Treasury Management - Annual Report 2021-2022 and Activity Monitoring Quarter One 2022-2023.

The report sets out the results of treasury management activities carried out in 2021-2022, together with performance against the Prudential Indicators previously approved by Council. It also provides a monitoring and progress report on treasury

management activity for the first quarter of 2022-2023, in line with the Prudential Indicators approved by Council in March 2022.

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City, Councillor Obaida Ahmed proposed the recommendations and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield seconded the recommendations.

The report was debated by Council. Councillor Obaida Ahmed replied to the debate.

Resolved:

1. That it be noted, the Council operated within the overall approved Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, and also with the requirements set out in the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement during 2021-2022.
2. That it be noted, revenue underspends of £1.0 million for the General Fund and £738,000 for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) were generated from treasury management activities in 2021-2022.
3. That it be noted, the General Fund and HRA treasury management activities for 2022-2023 were currently forecast to be within budget. This would continue to be monitored, and updates would be provided in future reports.

8 **Select Committee - The Wolverhampton Pound**

The Chair of the Select Committee, Councillor Susan Roberts presented the Select Committee - The Wolverhampton Pound - Procurement, Contract Management and Commissioning report.

A trial Select Committee in relation to The Wolverhampton Pound, was commenced in October 2021. The Council sought input from expert witnesses both internal and external to gather feedback and help shape the recommendations. The Select Committee comprised a cross-party group of councillors working together to gather information and evidence in relation to an agreed line of inquiry.

Councillor Susan Roberts was honoured to chair this Select Committee and thanked all of the organisations and groups who gave up their time to provide us with the information contained within this report. The Select Committee heard evidence from CLES, partner organisations, Voluntary and Community sector representatives, local businesses, service providers and internal Council departments.

The report provides a summary of the evidence sessions and a set of recommendations which the Committee consider important for the implementation and success of the Wolverhampton Pound. The action plan would be monitored by the Scrutiny Board.

The Chair of the Select Committee, Councillor Susan Roberts proposed the recommendation and Councillor Zee Russell seconded the recommendation.

The report was debated by Council. Councillor Susan Roberts replied to the debate.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the Wolverhampton Pound Select Committee Action Plan be endorsed.

9 **Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services, City of Wolverhampton Council**

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Beverley Momenabadi, presented a report on Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services, City of Wolverhampton Council. The report provided an update on the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of Children's Services and details actions required for improvement.

The report detailed the outcome of the inspection of Children's Service, with overall effectiveness being graded as good with outstanding and innovative areas of practice. It provided strong external assurance that children and young people in the city were being safeguarded and cared for.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Beverley Momenabadi placed on record thanks to all the employees who worked in Children's Services.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Beverley Momenabadi proposed the recommendation and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Councillor Chris Burden seconded the recommendation.

The report was debated by Council. Councillor Beverley Momenabadi replied to the debate.

Resolved:

That the 'Good' overall judgement from the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services be celebrated and our continued excellent position in the West Midlands and the country be noted.

10 **Changes to the Constitution**

The Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee, Councillor John Reynolds, presented a report on Constitution Review for approval.

The report recommended that the Full Council Procedure Rules be amended, the purpose of this was to include questions by members of the public and time limits for certain items on the agenda and the report detailed the rationale for making these changes.

The Chair of Governance and Ethics Committee, Councillor John Reynolds, proposed the recommendations and the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities Councillor Paula Brookfield seconded the recommendations.

The report was debated by Council. Councillor John Reynolds replied to the debate.

Resolved:

1. That the amendments to the Constitution be approved.
2. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to implement the changes.

11 **In Year Appointments for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented the report In Year Appointments for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendations and Deputy Leader, Inclusive City Economy, Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the removal of Councillor Paul Appleby from the Statutory Licensing Committee and Regulatory Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2022/2023 be approved.
2. That the appointment of Councillor Jonathan Crofts to the Statutory Licensing Committee and Regulatory Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2022/2023 be approved.

12 **Motions on Notice**

Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the motion on West Midlands Police – Data, Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal left the Council Chamber and took no part in the consideration of this item.

Councillor Phillip Bateman moved the following motion on West Midlands Police – Data:

“This City Council is concerned and dismayed over the poor public information arrangements that West Midlands Police are currently operating. Police UK, which informs the public upon the actions and performances and local crime and the detection, is still deficient and does not carry West Midlands performance rates.

West Midlands Police also do not update their electronic information on the changes in ward cover and the teams performing crime fighting duties in the city’s wards.

Added to that, there are no up to date crime level statistics for wards across the city which the public can read, digest and then support. There are concerns across our city that crime is rising and that is compounded by the fact that there are no detection rates or other important statistics on show to benchmark, prove or measure criminal effects on our communities.

There is no current up to date public information on police strength by city wards that the public can rely upon. Wulfrunians will be growing away from the police if their requirements to know what is happening in their communities are not heeded, or their need for information on crime and its solutions continue to be ignored.

The ‘Thin Blue Line’ still has less police in service in Wolverhampton than it had in 2010, yet our population has soared in that same period. It could

appear to some that West Midlands Police are appearing to ignore the public in our city.

This City Council therefore calls on West Midlands Police to greatly improve its communications and create better links between elected members and community leaders in the wards they serve.”

Councillor Phillip Bateman outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Greg Brackenridge seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

Councillor Philip Bateman outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Greg Brackenridge seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

The motion was debated by Council.

Resolved: That the motion on West Midlands Police- Data be agreed.

Councillor Simon Bennet moved the motion on Ukraine:

“In support of Ukraine, Council agrees to explore twinning opportunities with a Ukrainian town or city.”

Councillor Simon Bennett outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Andrew McNeil seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

Councillor Ian Brookfield moved an amendment to the motion as follows:

‘In support of Ukraine, Council agrees to utilise its partners in the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), as a way to contact people with feet on the ground in Ukraine, especially Dnipro, as well as our local Ukrainian community and bodies like the Refugee and Migrant Council (RMC) and University. This would enable us to provide a package of co-ordinated support that will offer more than traditional municipal twinning.’

Councillor Ian Brookfield outlined the rationale for the amended motion. Councillor Stephen Simkins seconded the amended motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

The motion was debated by Council.

The amended motion was carried.

Resolved: That the amended motion on Ukraine be agreed.

Councillor Ellis Turrell moved the motion Draft Black Country Plan:

“The long-awaited Brownfield Land Study, commissioned by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, has been published. Contrary to the claims from the Leader of the Council that “every inch” of brownfield land in the city has been included in the draft Black Country Plan, the Study outlines that there is a

significant amount of additional brownfield capacity in Wolverhampton for 4,458 homes. The Study also includes a number of recommendations for local authorities to further evaluate and prioritise existing brownfield sites.

Specifically, the Study proposes releasing employment land in the city for the creation of nearly 500 new homes and identifies almost 2,500 new homes from windfall sites. This includes 812 new dwellings in the city centre from converted upper storey floorspace.

This Council therefore agrees to:

- i) Accept and begin implementing the recommendations of the Brownfield Land Study.*
- ii) Immediately include new brownfield and windfall sites in the Black Country Plan through Regulation 18 consultations, where the necessary evidence exists to do so.*
- iii) Retract the Council's original statement that "every inch" of brownfield land in the city has been included in the Black Country Plan."*

Councillor Ellis Turrell outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Sohail Khan seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

The motion was debated by Council.

Resolved:

That the motion on Draft Black Country Plan be lost.

Councillor Wendy Thompson moved the motion on Fallow Year:

"Council agrees that following the all-out local elections on 4 May 2023 its preference is for the planned fallow year of 2025 to be brought forward to 2024 and that the Chief Executive, on Council's behalf, writes to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request this."

Councillor Wendy Thompson outlined the rationale for the motion. Councillor Paula Brookfield seconded the motion and outlined the rationale for supporting the motion.

The motion was debated by Council.

Resolved:

That the motion on Fallow Year be agreed.

13 **Written Questions by Councillors**

Resolved:

That written questions by Councillors be deferred to the next meeting.

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the City Council 14 September 2022
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Report title	Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023	
Referring body	Cabinet – 6 July 2022	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
Originating service	Youth Offending Team	
Accountable employee	Rachel King	Head of Service
	Tel	07854943254
	Email	rachel.king@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Cabinet	6 July 2022

Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To approve the adoption of Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

2.0 Background

2.1 On 6 July 2022 Cabinet considered a report on Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

2.2 Copies of the report have been supplied to Councillors and can also be accessed online on the Council's website [here](#).

2.3 Cabinet recommended to Council that it approves:

1. The adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

3.0 Financial implications

3.1 The financial implications are detailed in the Cabinet report of 6 July 2022.

4.0 Legal implications

4.1 The legal implications are detailed in the Cabinet report of 6 July 2022.

5.0 Equalities implications

5.1 The equalities implications are detailed in the Cabinet report of 6 July 2022.

6.0 All other implications

6.1 All other implications are detailed in the Cabinet report of 6 July 2022.

7.0 Schedule of background papers

7.1 Cabinet report of 6 July 2022 – [Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023](#).

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 6 July 2022
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Report title	Wolverhampton's Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023	
Decision designation	RED	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett – Executive Director for Families	
Originating service	Youth Offending Team	
Accountable employee	Rachel King	Head of Service
	Tel	07854943254
	Email	Rachel.king@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Directorate Leadership Team	16 June 2022
	Strategic Executive Board	21 June 2022

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet recommends that Council:

1. Approves the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.

Recommendation for noting:

The Cabinet is asked to note:

1. The specific achievement of the Youth Offending Team during 2021-2022 including a reduction in first time entrants, a reduction in re-offending rates and a reduction in the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request that Cabinet recommend to Council the approval of the Youth Justice Plan for 2022-2023. This is the plan relating to the work of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) that is overseen by the partnership YOT Management Board (YMB). The work of this plan is regularly reviewed by the YOT Management Board, which comprises of membership from the City of Wolverhampton Council, West Midlands Police, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust, Recovery Near You (substance misuse service), National Probation Service, Housing, Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Group, Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, the Chair of the Black Country Youth Court Bench and the voluntary sector.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, each Local Authority is required to have in place arrangements for the delivery of Youth Justice services usually via a YOT. Central government provides a grant to support local Youth Justice work via the Youth Justice Board (YJB) which sits within The Ministry of Justice. A condition of the grant is the provision of satisfactory services that are outlined in the required production of an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Youth Justice Plan requires Full Council approval, as detailed in the constitution under the budget and policy framework.
- 2.2 The format for Youth Justice planning is prescribed by the Youth Justice Board and has varied over the years. The attached plan is compliant with current guidance and an action plan based on future priorities and risks to delivery is prepared to drive the work.
- 2.3 This plan has involved significant consultation and planning, with contributions from staff within the YOT, the YOT Management Board and young people. A draft of the plan was submitted to YJB on 30 June 2022, with an option to send an updated version following local sign off by the YOT Management Board and approval from Full Council.
- 2.4 In October 2021, Wolverhampton YOT were inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP). This judged the YOT to be good with several areas noting outstanding practice. The plan for 2022-2023 seeks to identify priorities that respond to the HMIP inspection recommendations and the national YJB key performance indicators. There is a clear focus on continuing to reduce the number of first-time entrants (FTE), reducing reoffending and reducing the number of young people who received a custodial sentence.
- 2.5 Specific focus is given to addressing gangs, youth violence and exploitation activity within the city to ensure we are identifying young people at risk and tailoring interventions to take into account the impact of adverse childhood experiences on young people. This priority area of work for the YOT is supported by the citywide Partnership Exploitation Hub, for which the YOT is a key partner. The work of the YOT will assist in developing a better understanding across the region of issues surrounding all forms of exploitation including youth violence.

- 2.6 Draft national guidance around serious violence for responsible authorities was released in May 2021. Whilst this guidance is not yet passed as legislation, Wolverhampton has been proactive in its response. A Violence Prevention group has been established, which includes YOT as a key member, with a focus on mapping current provision, understanding best practice, and undertaking a strategic needs assessment to inform future strategy and delivery.
- 2.7 Partners represented at YMB have also committed to developing a deeper understanding regarding the disproportionality of Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups in the youth justice system and to drive forward work and initiatives aimed at addressing this systemically. This will include continued learning and practice development for the team, focusing on trauma informed practice, including neurodiversity; and learning from the HMIP thematic report (October 2021) on the experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage boys in the criminal justice system.
- 2.8 The plan for Wolverhampton YOT will also be aligned to the City of Wolverhampton Council plan priorities. Through a focus on reducing offending behaviour this contributes to ensuring stronger families where children grow up well and achieve, and also creates safer, more cohesive communities.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The primary focus of a YOT is to prevent and reduce the offending behaviour of young people aged up to 18. There are three overarching national indicators on which performance is measured; the number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system, the number of young people who reoffend after their first offence and the number of young people who receive a custodial sentence as opposed to a community sentence.
- 3.2 During the last 12 months, Wolverhampton Youth Offending Team (YOT) has continued to be a forward thinking and ambitious organisation, committed to improving outcomes for young people, their victims and creating a safer community.
- 3.3 The recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection published in February 2022 found: ... *"an effective service, with strengths apparent across assessment and service delivery for both court and out-of-court disposals. Reviewing was also robust in post-court cases. The YOT has an excellent understanding of what is required to deliver services and interventions to children and families, and work to promote this was evident"*.
- 3.4 These findings and the commitment, creativity and passion of the team have been fundamental to the continuing drive for excellence.
- 3.5 The YMB has played an instrumental role in guiding and scrutinising the YOT's work and priorities in the last 12 months. The continued partnership contribution to the YOT is evident of the genuine local commitment to supporting a multi-agency response to young people at risk or involved in the criminal justice system in Wolverhampton.

- 3.6 During 2021-2022, the YOT has continued to make progress and this is evidenced in performance data.
- 3.7 During 2021-2022, local data shows that the first-time entrant rate for Wolverhampton recorded a 38.6% reduction in young people and a 21.6% reduction in the number of offences committed amongst FTE when compared to the previous year. 2020-2021 recorded 44 young people, reducing to 27 during 2021-2022. YJB available data (October 2020 – September 2021) reflects a reduction of 8.5%, higher than the -5.9% recorded by Wolverhampton's YOT family Group (made up of comparative YOTs). The data available from the YJB precedes the introduction of the DIVERT scheme within Wolverhampton YOT.
- 3.8 The DIVERT scheme and the use of Outcome 22 (deferred prosecution) on the YOT's FTE Data has for quarter 3 in 2021-2022 shown a significant impact. The data shows that FTE comparative rates for Quarter 3 2020-2021 (18 young people) and 2021-2022 (4 young people) reported a reduction of 78%, primarily as a result of the use of Outcome 22. This trend is expected to continue and will have a significant impact on the formal decriminalisation of young people in Wolverhampton.
- 3.9 The nationally reported reoffending data has a two-year time delay. Therefore, in April 2018, Wolverhampton YOT introduced the use of the reoffending live tracker toolkit to provide real time data. The use of the live tracker has provided an opportunity to track the most up to date cohort of young people over a 12-month period, and has ensured that 18 year olds leaving the service continue to be tracked using Police National Computer data (PNC). This has provided encouraging data on the levels of reoffending, with quarter four (January – March 2021) recording an 18.2% overall binary rate, compared to a national rate of 34.2%. Overall reoffence per reoffender was 4.50 and the overall reoffences rate across the cohort was at a rate of 0.82. With the exception of the overall re-offences per reoffender rate, all rates were below both the regional and national performance for reoffending.
- 3.10 Use of the reoffending live tracker is recommended by the YJB for all young people who go through the court system and receive a court disposal. However, in Wolverhampton, there is specific focus on trying to avoid the need for young people to enter the court system. Wherever possible, young people will be dealt with out of court. As a result of this, the YOT has taken a local decision to also use the re-offending live tracker for young people who receive an out of court disposal.
- 3.11 The live tracker data for out of court disposals shows that for quarter four in 2020-2021, the overall binary rate for OOCd was 9.1%, with significantly lower reoffending occurring compared to national rate of 37.90%. Overall re-offences per re-offender for Wolverhampton was 3.00 compared to national 3.30, and the overall reoffences rate across the cohort was 0.27 compared to 1.25 national rate.

- 3.12 It is recognised that some children and young people need to be detained in custody for the protection of themselves and the wider community. The YOT Management Board receives regular reports on custody rates and also seeks assurance that those who are detained in the secure estate are those for whom all other options have been exhausted or their sentence is proportionate to the crime committed.
- 3.13 Based on local data, only two custodial sentences were recorded during the 2021-2022 year; a reduction of four when compared to the previous year, a reduction of 67%. Only four young people were subject to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA) on remand throughout 2021-2022, this was consistent with the 2020-2021 figures although the collective number of nights on remand was over double in 2021-2022.
- 3.14 Ensuring all young people are engaged in education, employment or training (EET) is a key factor when seeking to reduce the likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system. In the YOT, education performance is based on the educational engagement of young people at the end of a YOT statutory order. Between 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 there has been a 10% increase in overall EET performance, increasing from 54% to 64%. There has also been a notable increase to 63% from 44% within the over school age cohort. However, there has been a reduction in the engagement rates for school aged children from 70% to 61%
- 3.15 Across the full cohort in 2021-2022, 27 (30.3%) were recorded as young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND); 20 (22.5%) had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and 7 (7.87%) recorded SEN Support in school. 15 (75%) of the young people with an EHCP recorded a court disposal. The over-representation of young people with either SEND and EHCP within the YOT cohort was recognised within the YOT HMIP inspection. The inspection team made a recommendation in which it required the YMB to make sure these young people have access to high-quality education and training services that are matched to their needs.
- 3.16 It has been acknowledged that the YOT does not have the commissioning role nor the governance over the provision of services for young people with SEND/EHCPs, however the YMB will be working with the Head of Service for Inclusion and Empowerment and the Head of Skills to advocate and oversee the future provision of services.
- 3.17 The clear focus on education, employment and training aligns with the City's priority around reducing youth unemployment.
- 3.18 Young people were consulted about areas they felt the youth justice plan should be focusing on. The challenge and issue that was strongly emphasised by young people was knife crime. There was a strong view that there is a lack of community-based activities and this results in young people getting into trouble as they are just wandering the streets. Social media was also considered problematic by many young people as they felt it can lead to harassment, exploitation and bullying.

- 3.19 This feedback identifies a continued need to promote Wolverhampton Young Opportunities (Yo!) across the city and the importance of targeted work with more vulnerable groups.
- 3.20 The risk and challenge regarding exploitation, youth violence and gangs is one that is recognised by all partners across the city. In February 2021, CWC launched the Partnership Exploitation Hub. This has enabled a new, innovative approach to co-ordinating the partnership response to these issues. The hub facilitates more timely, effective sharing of information and intelligence, as well as joined-up disruption work. The YOT is represented within the hub.
- 3.21 Alongside the work of the Exploitation Hub, the YOT also co-ordinate a partnership gang's forum on a 6-weekly basis. This is to enable the sharing of information in order to build up a profile across the city of gang activity, to identify any tensions and to ensure individual young people have appropriate support in place.
- 3.22 Importantly, improving the response to all forms of exploitation remains a priority for Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together partnership (WST). Similarly, a Violence Prevention group was established in December 2021 with representation from across the wider partnership, to focus on better understanding local issues, identifying gaps in provision and to explore opportunities for improving partnership working.
- 3.23 The YOT will make a significant contribution to the Violence Prevention group and will continue to implement its response to serious youth violence and exploitation through initiatives like DIVERT and Creating Safety Project. There will continue to be strong risk management and disruption responses to protect young people and communities; and the YOT will ensure interventions around weapons, exploitation and gangs are fit for purpose.
- 3.24 In 2017 David Lammy undertook a review focusing on the discrimination within policing and criminal justice systems in the UK. The review found significant racial bias in the UK justice system. The issue of disproportionality is a key priority for Wolverhampton YOT and the "Black Lives Matter" movement during 2020 brought into sharp focus the continued disproportionality experienced by many Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups in the criminal justice system.
- 3.25 This national focus triggered a thematic inspection by HMIP in October 2021 that investigated the experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage boys in the criminal justice system. The key findings and recommendations from this thematic report will assist in shaping the YOT's response to these issues.
- 3.26 During 2021-2022, Wolverhampton YOT has continued to produce a detailed analysis of the experience of Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups in Wolverhampton. The findings have continued to identify areas of disproportionality for Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups.

- 3.27 The 2011 Census data reported that the split of ethnic groups between 10-17 year olds was split by 39% ethnic minorities and 61% white. Data for 2021-2022 shows that within the YOT cohort, 50% of the cohort were from ethnic minority backgrounds; this represented 1% Asian, 21% Black, 25% mixed heritage and 3% other young people, highlighting the larger disproportionality for black and mixed heritage young people.
- 3.28 The two custody disposals in 2021-2022 both related to young males of black and mixed ethnicity, although it should be noted that custody disposal numbers were low overall.
- 3.29 Police stop and search records for 10-17 year olds in 2021-2022 also shows that there remains an over-representation of young people of black and mixed ethnic groups being subject to stop and search procedures by West Midlands Police when compared to the general population.
- 3.30 The YOT continues to be committed to tackling disproportionality and on promoting a better understanding across the wider youth justice partnership. The DIVERT scheme (deferred prosecution), is one initiative aimed at breaking the cycle of mistrust with the Police and removing the barriers for Black and Mixed Heritage boys accessing pre-court pathways for support.
- 3.31 There will continue to be a focus on disproportionality, with staff receiving cultural competence training to improve the understanding that young people who have experienced racism have had a trauma journey, and through the provision of specialist whole family work for parents of Black and Mixed Heritage boys

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth offending services. The youth justice plan 2022-2023 has been developed following consultation with partner agencies, staff and young people.

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 The local priorities that have been identified for Wolverhampton not only respond to the local areas of need but also represent an alignment with the strategic priorities identified by the YJB and the recommendations from the YOT inspection (October 2021).
- 5.2 The core vision of the YJB as set out in the YJB Strategic Plan 2019-2022 is:
“A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.”
- 5.3 The youth justice plan 2022-2023 seeks to achieve this vision and some of the key areas that will be given significant priority include:
- Building upon the work with Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) to further reduce their risks of criminalisation.

- Improving the educational engagement and outcomes for all young people at the YOT, ensuring young people with SEND/ EHCP have access to high quality provision
- Extending the whole family / carer offer within the service
- Addressing areas of disproportionality and promoting wider partnership engagement to reduce areas of significant disproportionality
- Ensuring YOT staff are appropriately trained and confident in having conversations to understand Black, Asian and other minority ethnic children's experiences
- Improving the quality of contingency planning in all cases, when managing and mitigating a child's risk of harm to others
- Continuing the delivery of the DIVERT scheme to further promote the decriminalisation of young people and divert them from the criminal justice system
- Ensuring the integrated health offer is fully embedded in DIVERT scheme in order to promote the commitment that a child will not enter the criminal justice system as a result of an unmet health need
- Expanding the YOT prevention offer
- Promoting the voice of the victim in both preventative and statutory intervention
- Contributing to the co-ordination and proactive response to youth violence, both strategically and operationally
- Empowering young people to share their views and genuinely have an influence on service design and delivery

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The gross partnership provisional pooled budget for 2022-2023 for the Youth Offending Service is £2.3 million. Following the deduction of partnership income contributions, grants and other in-kind contributions of £887,000 from partners the approved net budget for the Council for the Youth Offending Service is £1.4 million.
- 6.2 A breakdown of the partnership pooled budget for the Youth Offending Service is shown in the attached Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.
[JG/16062022/B]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, each Local Authority is required to have in place arrangements for the delivery of Youth Justice services usually via a YOT.
- 7.2 YOT services are mandated in legislation and oversee Statutory Court Orders. It is a requirement for every area in England and Wales to provide YOT services.
- 7.3 A condition of the grant provided by central government is the provision of satisfactory services outlined in the production of an annual Youth Justice Plan.
[TC/16062022/A]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 The YOT provides services for some of the most vulnerable young people both as offenders, but also as victims of youth crime. There is on-going work to address the potential for disproportionality in the Youth Justice System.
- 8.2 YOT performance data indicates a disproportionate representation of males from Black Asian and mixed heritage ethnic groups. The YOT cannot solely influence and address this disproportionality as the police and the courts are also key in the decisions made when a Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic young person commits an offence.
- 8.3 The introduction of the DIVERT scheme in YOT is innovative practice in seeking to address the decriminalisation of Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups through an improved partnership response between the police and the YOT.
- 8.4 There is also a key role for universal services, e.g. health and education, to deliver early intervention support to prevent Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic young people entering the youth justice system.
- 8.5 Current data suggests that black and mixed heritage males are the key groups to focus on, and the YOT is committed to developing practice and interventions that positively engage young people from Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic communities. Work will continue to identify ways in which the YOT can have influence and impact upon the disproportionality and this will be underpinned by a disproportionality action plan that is overseen by the YMB. The disproportionality action plan will include ongoing equality analysis.
- 8.6 In addition to the issue of race disproportionality, YOT data also identifies an over-representation of young people in the criminal justice system who have special educational needs and disabilities. The YOT will be integral in the citywide work to develop and improve the SEND system in order to ensure early identification of need and access high quality, suitable education provision.

9.0 All other implications

- 9.1 In relation to human resources implications, the YOT is a multi-agency team made up of City of Wolverhampton employees as well as staff who are seconded from other services. YOT employees work to City of Wolverhampton terms and conditions and policies, or those of their seconding agency.
- 9.2 During 2021 - 2022 the YOT moved from its office space at Beckminster house to a newly refurbished office space in Retreat Street. From July 2021 onwards, in line with covid guidance, the YOT has been gradually increasing its use of the building and increasing face to face contact with young people and families. This has enhanced the YOT's interactions with young people and improved the quality of service delivery.

- 9.3 It is known that young people in the youth justice system experience poorer health outcomes. From a health and well being perspective there is therefore a need to ensure all health issues are identified as early as possible There needs to be a focus on ensuring health issues, for example mental health and substance misuse, do not pre-dispose a young person to becoming involved in the criminal justice system.
- 9.4 More broadly, it is important to consider the wider determinants of health and wellbeing. Almost all of the causes of childhood offending lie outside of the direct influence of the youth justice system. For example, within the YOT cohort it is evident that a number of young people have Special Education Needs and experience barriers to engaging in education. Therefore, it is crucial that health, education, social care and other services form a collaborative approach alongside law enforcement agencies, to prevent the offending and reoffending behaviour in children.
- 9.5 The strong strategic representation at YMB provides an opportunity to develop cross-sector partnerships aimed at reducing health and social inequalities.
- 9.6 It is recognised that during 2021-2022, the impact of the covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis has presented a number of challenges including:
- The reengagement of young people back into education/training
 - Loss of family income and increase in financial hardship for many families, creating additional strain within households and parental relationships
 - The long-term impact on young people’s emotional health and wellbeing. Alongside this, the impact on social development, including speech and language, emotional intelligence and resilience.
 - The increase and changing risks associated with exploitation and gang involvement. This includes online methods of grooming and targeting local young people, rather than recruitment of them to go “out of town” for county drug lines.
 - Increased risk of gang and public place violence, due to “pent up” aggression.
- 9.7 The YJB plan for 2022-2023 seeks to address these challenges.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 Youth Justice Plan 2021-2022

11.0 Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 – Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023.



Appendix 1



Youth Justice Plan 2022 – 2023

Service	Wolverhampton
Service Manager/ Lead	Celia Payne
Chair of YJS Board	Bal kaur

1. [Introduction, vision and strategy](#)
2. [Local context](#)
3. [Child First](#)
4. [Voice of the child](#)
5. [Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements](#)
6. [Resources and services](#)
7. [Progress on previous plan](#)
8. [Performance and priorities](#)
9. [National standards](#)
10. [Challenges, risks and issues](#)
11. [Service improvement plan](#)
12. [Evidence-based practice and innovation](#)
13. [Looking forward](#)
14. [Sign off, submission and approval](#)
15. [Appendix 1](#) - Full board membership; linked to Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements
16. [Appendix 2](#) – Service Structure Chart

1. Introduction, vision and strategy

Wolverhampton Youth Offending Team (YOT) continues to be a forward thinking and ambitious organisation, committed to improving outcomes for young people, their victims and

creating a safer community. This reflects the core vision of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) as set out in the YJB Strategic Plan 2021 2024:

“A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.”

Our recent Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection published in February 2022 found

... “an effective service, with strengths apparent across assessment and service delivery for both court and out-of-court disposals. Reviewing was also robust in post-court cases. The YOT has an excellent understanding of what is required to deliver services and interventions to children and families, and work to promote this was evident”. (Pg4)

It also commented that:

“Staff know the children very well and go ‘over and above’ what is expected of them to ensure children are engaged and receiving the appropriate provision”.

These findings and the commitment, creativity and passion of our team has been fundamental to the continuing drive for excellence. At the heart of our future strategy will remain Positive Youth Justice, Child First, Offender Second principles. It’s our pledge to ensure that a child never enters the CJS as a result of an unmet health need. Our approach will continue to seek to prioritise the best interest of the child, ensure our services are child-focussed and developmentally informed. In addition, our work will promote children’s strengths and capabilities as a means of developing their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance. This will continue to be implemented within a blended approach to public protection, in which the needs and the voice of victims will be at the heart of promoting individual and community safety.

In addition, Wolverhampton YOT and the youth justice partnership’s future strategy will continue to promote the decriminalisation of young people where appropriate, by diverting them from the criminal justice system (CJS) and mobilising a partnership response to identified need and risk. Connected with this, Wolverhampton YOT are strategically committed to ensuring custody and the use of the secure estate is reserved for the critical few. Alongside this, future strategy will collaborate work with a range of partnership organisations to develop and support genuine early prevention projects, specifically focussing on school exclusions, exploitation and serious youth violence. This will be strategically aligned with Wolverhampton’s legal duty to support a multi-agency response to preventing and tackling serious violence; Safer Wolverhampton partnership (SWP) and the regional Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). Overarching all of this, Wolverhampton and its youth justice partnership will work tirelessly at both a strategic and operational level to address the disproportionality which continues to exist within our CJS, with a specific lens on the lived experience of people of colour, young women and young people with special education needs.

This plan for Wolverhampton YOT will also contribute to the City of Wolverhampton Council’s “Our City, Our Plan working together to be a city of opportunity, a city for everyone” contributing towards many of its priorities including “strong families where children grow up well and achieve their full potential; and healthy, inclusive communities”.

The YMB has played an instrumental role in guiding and scrutinising the team's work and priorities in the last 12 months. The continued partnership contribution to the YOT shows the genuine local commitment from the youth justice partnership to support a multi-agency response to young people at risk or involved in the CJS in Wolverhampton.

This plan has been developed following a number of consultation events with the strategic members of the YMB. This provided an opportunity to review what had been learnt in the last 12 months, achievements, performance, priorities, and risks going forward. In addition, team members within the YOT; community panel volunteers and young people were asked to reflect on what had gone well, issues facing young people in Wolverhampton and priorities going forward. This feedback has been incorporated within the plan and the priorities for Wolverhampton going forward.

Executive summary:

Achievements: 2021-2022

- HMIP overall rating "good" with Staff, Partnership and Services, information and facilities, court and out of court implementation and delivery and resettlement rated as "outstanding".
- Launch of the DIVERT scheme (November 2021) in which young people who commit offences which are not indictable only and where they accept responsibility, are referred to a partnership Joint Decision-making Panel (JDP) to agree a pathway for support. Initial evaluation between November 2021 – January 2022 showed 27 young people had been through JDP, 89% received Outcome 22 and 11% Youth Conditional Cautions, resulting in a 78% reduction in first time entrants (FTE) in the CJS for quarter 3 2021-2022. Outcome 22 pathway is part of the Deferred Prosecution Scheme and once a young person completes their intervention it is recorded by the Police as No Further Action (NFA) therefore they are not formally criminalised.
- (Based on local data) Only **2** custodial sentences were recorded during the 2021-2022 year; a reduction of 4 when compared to the previous year, a reduction of 67%
- The Wolverhampton Reoffending live tracker toolkit, rolling 12-months cohort in quarter 4 data in 2020-2021, reported a **18.20%** overall binary rate, compared to national rate of 37.9%.
- The Reoffending live tracker toolkit, rolling 12-months cohort in quarter 4 data in 2020-2021 for Out of Court disposals, reported an overall binary rate of **9.10%** compared to national rate of 37.9%.
- Our continued development of our trauma informed practice and developmentally sensitive approaches to interventions. HMIP commented that:

"Staff were creative when delivering interventions and used language and techniques that support the trauma-informed approach promoted by the YOT". (pg 9)

- Excellent work in our Restorative Justice unit recognised within our HMIP report:

"The YOT has an impressive restorative justice unit, which takes a holistic approach to working with children and victims". (pg8)

- Our strategic and operational involvement in the city's response to the legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence. YOT is a strategic member on the Violence Prevention Group, co-chair of the Partnership Gang Forum and is an active member of the Exploitation Hub. Alongside this, the YOT has developed a Creating safety Project targeted at early intervention for young people at risk of exploitation.

Challenges/Risks 2022-2023

- Disproportionality within our cohort for young people from an ethnicity perspective and the continued lived experience challenges facing young people of colour.
- Escalation and overrepresentation of young people with special educational needs and Educational and Health Care Plans (EHCP) into the CJS
- Increase in youth violence and exploitation within Wolverhampton and the continued need for a public health response to the systemic issues facing young people and families within the city, especially during a "cost of living crisis" and the ongoing impact of COVID on the mental wellbeing of children and families.
- Continued commitment to appropriately funding the YOT and the broader youth justice partnership and ensuring local youth justice services are, from a governance perspective, still able to be delivered in the best possible way for the local population.

Opportunities 2022-2023

- Continued learning and practice development for the team, focusing on trauma informed practice, including neurodiversity, learning from the HMIP thematic report on the experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage boys in the CJS and the continued development of bespoke packages of interventions and resources.
- Continued improvement in the team's quality of assessment, management of risk, contingency planning for all interventions.
- YJB proposed uplift in funding for the "Turnaround Programme" to support YOT's to develop an early intervention offer with child and families, offering voluntary, needs-driven, family-focussed support to de-escalate of behaviour and to get their lives back on track.

Regional collaboration on cross boundary issues, such as exploitation, county lines and gang, including a blueprint for positive youth justice in the west Midlands.

2. Local context

Wolverhampton, a city in the West Midlands has a population of 262,000 based on 2018 mid-term estimates: an increase of almost 5% from the 2011 census. As of 2019 9.5% of the population comprises of young people aged 10 to 17 years. Based on the 2011 census data 61% of the 10 – 17 population are White and 39% Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic young

people. Wolverhampton was ranked 28 out of 354 Local Authority Districts (with 1 being the most deprived) in 2007, having slipped from 35 in 2004. It has two Super Output Areas (SOA) within most deprived 1% in the country, and 15 in the top 5%. This demonstrates the need for significant intervention, strengthening the argument for intelligent investment to support economic growth and reduce deprivation in the City.

The City of Wolverhampton – One Council has a senior leadership team responsible for key themes including Families, Organisations and Community and Place. YOT is aligned and its corporate governance structure sits within the Families theme.

Demographic and offending Profile:

This plan and the analysis used to inform judgements around performance and priorities are underpinned by an explicit understanding of the YOT's cohort of young people for 2021-2022. To this end, 89% of all disposals and 100% of custodial outcomes relate to young men. 50% of all disposals relate to Black Asian and other Minority Ethnic young people. Offences of violence against the person accounts for 49% of all offences and 14.6% of the cohort relate to Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC). (9% Wolverhampton and 5.6% Out of Borough CYPIC)

Offence Profile 2021-22	No/%	Disposals 2021-22	No/%	Interventions Started	No/%
Violence against the Person	88 (49%)	Outcome 22	53 (36%)	Substantive Outcomes:	
Drugs Offences	15 (8%)	Community Resolutions (CR)	9 (6%)	Youth Caution	16 (7%)
Theft and Handling Stolen Goods	14 (8%)	Youth Cautions (YC)	14 (9%)	YCC	20 (9%)
Criminal Damage	13 (7%)	Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC)	19 (13%)	Referral Order	18 (8%)
Motoring Offences	10 (6%)	Referral Orders	35 (23%)	YRO	13 (6%)
Robbery	9 (5%)	Community: YRO	17 (11%)	YRO Intensive Supervision and Surveillance	4 (2%)
Arson	5 (3%)	Custody	2 (1%)	Detention Training Order/Custody	1 (0.5%)
Domestic Burglary	5 (3%)	Total Disposals	149	Through Care Programme	1 (0.5%)
Public Order	5 (3%)	No of offences	180	Other Outcomes:	
Vehicle theft/Unauthorised Taking	4 (29%)	No of Young People	75	Outcome 22	56 (25%)
Breach of Statutory Order	3 (2%)			Community Resolution	9 (4%)
Other	3 (2%)			Prevention Programme	77 (34%)
Non-Domestic Burglary	2 (1%)			Voluntary Support Programme	1 (0.5%)
Racially Aggravated	2 (1%)			Bail Support Programme	5 (2%)
Breach of Bail	1 (.5%)			Remand in Custody (YDA) SCH	1 (0.5%)
Fraud and Forgery	1 (.5%)			Remand in Custody (YDA) YOI	2 (1%)
Total	180			Total Interventions Started:	224

		Out of Court Disposals						Court Disposals						Combined	
		Community Resolution		Youth Caution		Youth Conditional Caution		First Tier Disposals		Youth Rehabilitation Orders		Custody Disposals		Overall Disposals	
		2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22
Gender	Male	83%	67%	81%	79%	92%	89%	94%	94%	100%	94%	100%	100%	90%	89%
	Female	17%	33%	19%	21%	8%	11%	6%	6%		6%			10%	11%
Ethnicity	White	38%	56%	62%	79%	19%	37%	54%	49%	54%	47%	17%		44%	50%
	Mixed	10%	22%	5%	21%	50%	37%	22%	23%	23%	18%	50%	50%	22%	25%
	Asian	12%				8%	5%							4%	1%
	Black	24%	22%	29%		12%	21%	22%	20%	23%	35%	33%	50%	22%	21%
	Other Ethnic Group	2%				12%		2%	9%					3%	3%
	Unknown	14%		5%										4%	
Age	10														
	11	7%		5%										2%	
	12	5%	33%	19%	7%	8%	16%							5%	7%
	13	7%		14%		12%		2%	9%					6%	3%
	14	19%	33%	10%	7%	8%	16%	19%	3%		6%			14%	9%
	15	21%		5%	50%	19%	16%	35%	34%	23%	35%	17%		23%	29%
	16	21%	11%	19%	21%	19%	21%	17%	26%	62%	18%	50%	100%	23%	23%
	17	14%	22%	29%	14%	31%	26%	28%	29%	15%	41%			23%	27%
	18	5%				4%	5%					33%		3%	1%
Offence Type	Arson				7%	8%	11%		2%		1%			1%	3%
	Breach of Bail										1%				1%
	Breach of Conditional Discharge														
	Breach of Statutory Order										3%				2%
	Criminal Damage	7%		24%				5%	2%	12%	14%			8%	7%
	Death or Injury by Reckless Driving														
	Domestic Burglary							1%	5%		3%				3%
	Drugs Offences	12%	11%	10%	7%	8%		9%	12%	4%	7%		29%	8%	8%
	Fraud and Forgery												14%		1%
	Motoring Offences							5%	5%	6%	9%			3%	6%
	Non-Domestic Burglary	5%			7%	4%		3%			1%			2%	1%
	Other	26%	11%		7%	4%	5%	2%			16%		13%	10%	2%
	Public Order	10%	11%	5%	7%	4%	5%				3%	1%	13%	3%	3%
	Racially Aggravated		11%									1%			1%
	Robbery	2%					5%	3%	9%	6%	5%			3%	5%
	Sexual Offences	5%						3%			4%			3%	
	Theft and Handling Stolen Goods	10%	11%	5%	7%	4%	5%	3%	7%	1%	9%			4%	8%
Vehicle theft/Unauthorised Taking			14%		8%		8%	2%	3%	3%	13%		6%	2%	
Violence against the Person	24%	44%	43%	57%	62%	68%	57%	56%	45%	41%	63%	43%	48%	49%	
CYPIC	CYPIC - Wolverhampton	0%	0%	0%	7%	4%	5%	6%	6%	8%	12%	17%	50%	4%	7%
	CYPIC - Caretaking	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	4%	6%	57%	12%	0%	0%	6%	5%

3. Child First

Wolverhampton YOT has embraced the concept of Child First Offender Second and has built its vision, strategy and practice on “Positive youth justice” (K.Haines & S Case 2015). The YOT Management Board (YMB) terms of reference enshrine these principles. Throughout this plan it will be evident how the 4 tenets below are embedded in current practice and a focus for future development:

1. Prioritise the best interests of children and recognise their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work will be child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledge structural barriers and meet responsibilities towards children
2. Promote children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work will be constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society
3. Encourage children’s active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work will be a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers
4. Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work will minimise criminogenic stigma from contact with the system

Some examples of how the 4 tenets are being delivered include:

1. Development of trauma informed practice and developmentally sensitive interventions, emphasising the uniqueness of each child informing assessment and delivery of bespoke packages of support.
2. Strength based models of practice, building on the factors for desistance and promoting the Good Lives Model in which the intervention trauma informed framework of Attachment, Regulation and Competencies (ARC) promotes support that builds resilience. HMIP recognised this approach, including a quote from one child who said:

“The best thing about my YOT worker was that they didn’t make me feel like a bad person and listened to me.” (pg25)
3. The YOT’s participation forum, opportunities for co-creation, and the feedback and evaluation framework used to improve and make practice responsive to the needs of the young people.
4. Strategic and operational commitment to the discrimination of all children and the launching of the DIVERT scheme in Wolverhampton.

4. Voice of the child

Our Participation Strategy sets out key aims for the next year, including the intention to dovetail with the City of Wolverhampton Participation Strategy and the Youth Justice Board Strategy.

Principles:

Voice of our Children and Young People

- We operate the 'Child First, Offender Second' principles. At its heart it encourages young people to actively participate, engage and feel supported to co-create their programmes.
- We use the ladder of participation as a way of benchmarking participation progress

Evaluation and Feedback

- We routinely gather feedback for all our activities and interventions at the YOT including work in the secure estate.
- Analysis of this feedback is summarised in our 6-monthly participation and evaluation reports allowing us to prioritise, monitor and review progress, informing our participation action plan for 2022-2023. One recent example has been a young person's involvement with the re-design of the HUB within viewpoint with the external designer programmer - "You asked, we did" This will be complete by July 2022.

"You asked, we did" (From our 'Have your say' events)

- ❖ Re-naming the forum 'Have your Say' group replacing the previous name of Voices from Youth justice and helping to design leaflets and other resources for young people.
- ❖ Public health responding to a concern raised by a young person in a forum about knife crime and the number of knife bins in the city centre. The positioning and number of knife bins is now currently being reviewed.
- ❖ Creating an additional boxing activity after school hours to allow young people in school to attend and development of more art-based projects.
- ❖ Developing an online presence at the YOT, including an Instagram account, as well as all evaluations to be accessed via an online app.
- ❖ A notice board in reception to show the staff structure of the YOT with photos and avatars to help young people to understand who is who, within the team.

YOT Management Board (YMB)

Regular opportunities are created to ensure the voice of our children are heard at the most strategic level in the YOT. At YMB in April 2022 members heard the voices of two young people who presented their journeys through the YOT by the medium of short films. On a previous occasion a child in custody joined the YMB virtually and shared their experiences and outlined what would have helped when he was younger to avoid the path he had taken into custody. Most recently, the chair and vice chair of the YMB spent a day at Werrington YOI meeting and talking to young people about their experiences of custody and resettlement.

Future focus, includes:

- Girl's consultation to hear their voices and views on how we should shape a bespoke girls programme and other identified support for girls work.
- Black and mixed heritage boys lived experience in Wolverhampton YOT and the broader CJS.
- Developing the voice of the child within the court arena
- Community & strategic partners attending 'Have Your Say' participation events

22 young people participated in a YJB Plan consultation exercise asking the questions below. The responses are a sample that illustrate the themes:

What do you think the YOT has done well in the last 12 months (if anything?)

- The young people reported they had built meaningful relationships with staff at the YOT and liked the regularity of the sessions.
- One young person mentioned that their worker helped them to access CAMHS and 360
- One young person mentioned how workers helped them within the school environment
- YOT practitioners helped access activities such as boxing and music

Direct quotes

- "Helped me see what I do affects others"
- "Listened to me and helped me think differently about the situation"
- "Settled me down in my weekly session.
- " Liked the ' Have your say' group-It was small and chilled"
- "Explained things to me so I understood"
- "YOT were 'on my side' and made me a better person"

What are the key issues facing young people, like you living in Wolverhampton?

- Knife crime was a feature for most YP alongside their concerns in relation to the use of social media (Bullying, grooming, getting messaged late at night)
- There was a strong view that there is a lack of activities and that youth clubs/skate parks are lacking and means YP get into trouble as they are just wandering the streets
- Social media was considered problematic by many YP's- harassment, exploitation, bullying etc
- Some environmental concerns in relation to rubbish and pollution

Direct quotes

- "There are gangs in every area'-Postcodes and 'Repping'
- "Carrying weapons to protect ourselves
- "Feeling safe on the streets"
- "It's a normal city, not enough for YP to do"
- "Need to feel protected so walk around in groups"
- "Social media is the problem-it never stops"

What should be the YOT's focus on/priority in the next 12 months?

- More community based and YOT based activities. -Comments included that it keeps young people busy and occupied and safe.
- YOT to work on having safe spaces in the city
- Continued work on gang crime.
- Work on social media and its influences.
- Some young people enjoyed group work.
- Continue to help families.

Direct Quotes

- "Would like to have worked longer with YOT" (Back on Track young person)
- " Getting older people who have been in trouble to speak to us younger young people about their lives"
- "I think we should get to visit a prison"
- "Help us find jobs so we are not wandering the streets"

5. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

The work of the YOT is overseen by a well-attended strategic quarterly YOT Management Board (YMB), chaired by a Consultant in Public Health, with the local Police Superintendent as vice chair (see appendix 1). It has developed a robust set of Terms of Reference (TOR) which were reviewed in 2022 using the YJB guidance on “Youth justice service governance and leadership”. The TOR explicitly incorporate the requirements to set the strategic direction of Youth Justice services in Wolverhampton, promotes the principles of ‘child first offender second’; oversees, supports and holds to account the work of the team; ensuring services are being delivered in line with the 2019 Standards in Youth Justice. The YMB is a learning meeting where partners can share collective wisdom and experience in order to shape the future of Youth Justice in Wolverhampton.

In order for the Board to effectively undertake these functions it continues to receive regular reports on:

- Resourcing: both finance and staffing including holding partners to account for any proposed changes
- Compliance with YJB grant conditions for example the timely submission of this plan and data returns
- A performance data report which is detailed in respect of key factors such as age, gender, race, offence type, Focus is on the three key national drivers and other local priorities – reducing reoffending; first time entrants to youth justice; custody rates and engagement of young offenders in education training and employment. The re-offending live tracker data is also presented to board along with a specific report on knife crime.
- Report and scrutiny over the action plan addressing issues of disproportionality
- National standards Self-Assessments, action plans and reviews
- Safeguarding briefing paper to allow any other Strategic or Operational safeguarding issues to be raised within this forum. Focus on Exploitation; custodial safeguarding practice and responses to serious incidents in order to ensure appropriate opportunities for operational and strategic learning.
- Focus on Practice - Operational practice presentations which bring alive the work of the YOT, including attendance of young people at YMB to share experiences of custody and working with the team.
- Progress against the key priority areas identified within the YJB plan and outcomes of case audits and quality assurance processes

A key part of the function of Board remains the holding to account its strategic partners in order to drive system improvement for children to achieve better outcomes (YJB Strategic Plan 2021-2024); and providing an escalation forum for any resourcing or operational issues. In addition, the YMB ensures that its members strategically embed the work and priorities of the YOT within their partnership agency, with a specific focus on promoting desistance, keeping young people and others safe and disproportionality.

The YOT is managed by the City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) within Children’s Services and is well placed to contribute to the wider agenda of CWC and the broader Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP). Reports about the work of the YOT are regularly presented to the CWC Children’s Senior Leadership Team (CSLT), the Strategic Executive

Board (SEB), the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together partnership (WST) and through Scrutiny and Cabinet. This Youth Justice Plan is approved and endorsed by CWC Cabinet and the SWP.

The Youth Offending Team has strong links with key partnerships within the Children's Services and Community Safety areas of work. The YOT Head of Service has a broad portfolio within Children's Services including edge of care support services, residential children's homes, Partnership Exploitation and Missing Hub. This broad remit fits well with the work of the YOT and has also assisted in strengthening the working relationship with Social Care. The YOT's key priorities will be identified and included in the Children's and Young People Service Plan 2022 - 2023.

Within the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership, the YOT participates in the Partnership Board and attends the Delivery Board. In addition, the YOT is also represented at a number of other key operational and strategic meetings and boards including the Violence Prevention Group, Child Exploitation and Missing Operational Group (CEMOG), the Exploitation Priority Group (a sub-group of WST), the Children and Young People Emotional, Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, Children and Families Together Board and the Clinical Commissioning Group Risk Register meetings.

HMIP rated the arrangements for governance and leadership as "good" and partnership and services as "outstanding"

6. Resources and services

Wolverhampton YOT partnership receives a variety of resources both financial and in kind from its partners all of which are overseen and understood within the strategic YOT Management Board. The YJB Practice Grant is a key source of financial income that is used to finance staffing to support the wide range of Youth Justice functions undertaken across the partnership. Unfortunately, the YJB grant has not been confirmed, other than an indication that it will not be less than 2021-22. This Practice Grant is supported by the Local Authority contribution which has allowed the continued investment in Social Workers to undertake assessments, reporting and intervention planning and delivery within the Criminal Justice setting, enhancing safeguarding and risk management practice.

Partner contributions to the youth offending partnership pooled budget 2022-2023 is outlined below. This indicates the finance and in-kind contributions made by local partners. This funding and the in-kind contributions enable the YOT and the youth justice partnership to concentrate on its strategic aims to divert young people from the CJS safely, reduce reoffending, promote the best outcomes for young people and protect victims and communities from future harm. In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Wolverhampton YOT receives contributions from all statutory partners – Police, Education, Health, Probation and Social Care. Any proposal to change the levels of resourcing are presented at YMB for discussion and ratification.

For 2022-2023 the YOT will receive direct funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) of £66k and this funding is specifically used to support the DIVERT scheme. The use of this budget and its aligned performance indicators are reported back to the PCC on a quarterly basis. The DIVERT delivery continues to be supported by the police contribution,

alongside its work with high-risk young people, Partnership Gang Forum, Deter Young Offender (DYO) scheme and the Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Additional funding is being sought by the Police Offender Management Unit to provide a second Youth Crime officer for the YOT to support the delivery of DIVERT. The National Probation Service (NPS) contributions to Wolverhampton YOT for 2022- 2023 will be a full-time Probation Officer (PO). The PO role will focus on the transition to adulthood work for 17-year-olds and working with our high-risk young people.

The combined health budget has allowed the YOT to develop a sophisticated health offer within the service, which triages all young people for health issues. The aim of the YOT health offer is to ensure that no young person enters the Criminal Justice System with unmet health needs. The integrated health team consists of a school nurse from Royal Wolverhampton Trust (RWT), a Psychologist from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), a Substance Misuse from Wolverhampton W360) and a Speech and Language therapist from RWT. The School Nurse and Substance Misuse posts are commissioned by Public Health. In our recent HMIP inspection the report indicated that further funding was required to increase the Speech and Language offer within the team. The YMB are exploring potential pathways for this funding. A performance framework has been established with the health providers and via a quarterly health summit, performance and outcomes are reviewed. In addition, alternative resourcing is being finalised to fund the Back on Track (BoT) project for 2022-23 following the funding from Headstart ending in 2022.

Partner contributions to the youth offending partnership pooled budget 2022-2023

Agency	Staffing costs (£)	Payments in kind – revenue (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Local authority*	1,06,180	18,660	375,880	1,454,720
Police Service	27,360	74,100	0	101,460
National Probation Service	5,000	50,496	0	55,496
Health Service School Nurse/ CAMHS/Substance Misuse /Speech and Language		144,207	0	144,207
Police and crime commissioner**	66,000	0	0	66,000
YJB Practice Grant	520,900 (TBC)	0	0	520,900
Total	1,679,440	268,047	375,880	2,323,367

7. Progress on previous plan

The progress against the YOT Business plan for 2021-22 has been monitored and reported at the YMB. It's been supported by a number of operational actions plans in which key operations managers have held responsibility for delivery with the team. The final review of the plan was completed and agreed at the last YMB in April 2022.

Actions completed include:

- Reshaping and incorporating lessons learnt from the pandemic into the delivery model of the YOT going forward
- Reviewing the ToR for the YMB
- Ensure all partnership Service Level Working Together Arrangements are fit for purpose.
- Embedding diversion at the point of arrest – launching a new criteria for police referral to the OOCJ Joint Decision Panel (JDP)
- Embedding the work of the Speech & Language therapist in all areas of YOT practice
- Review YOT intervention offers to fully align with the ARC trauma informed framework and continue to embed trauma informed practice, with a specific focus on offences of violence, weapon related offending and gang/exploitation support
- Development of YOT Peer mentoring Programme
- Embed the work of the Partnership Exploitation and Missing Hub and the Partnership Gang Forum in order to develop an effective response to contextualised safeguarding
- Promote the voice of the child and encourage meaningful participation.
- Continuing to promote Resettlement Support Panels and the proactive engagement of young people within the secure estate.

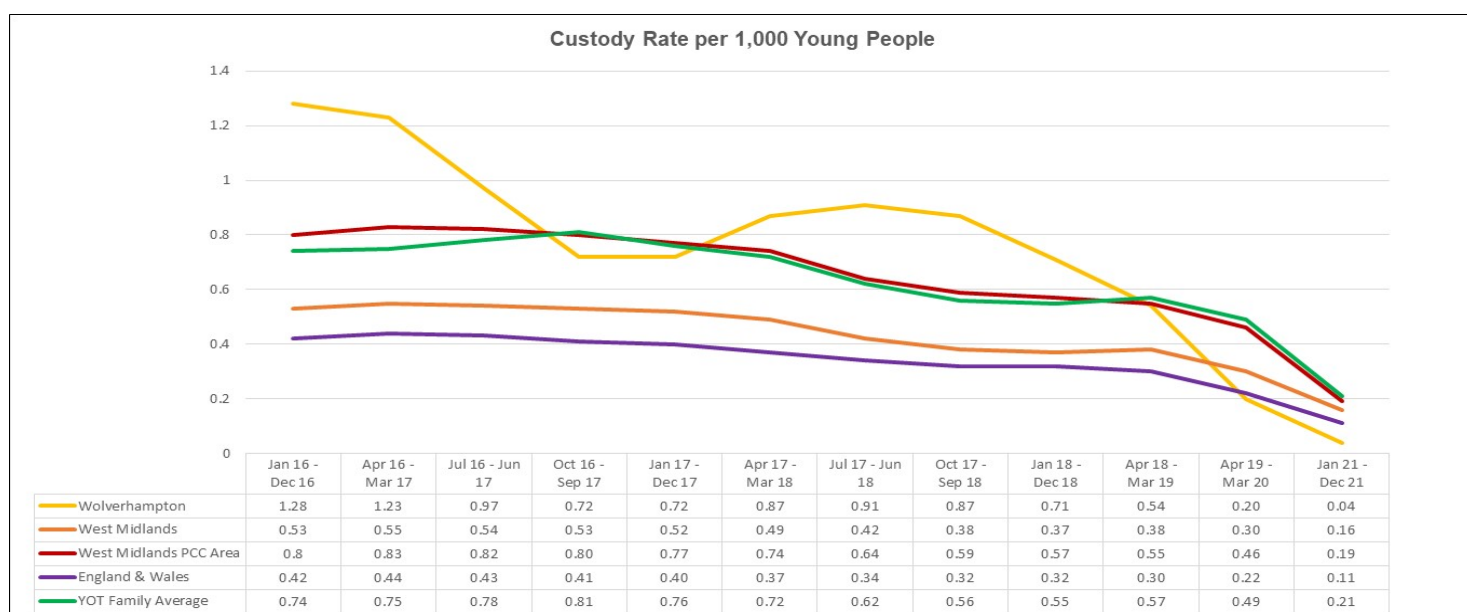
Actions to carry forward into the YOT Business Plan 2022-2023, include:

- Building upon the work with Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) to further reduce their risks of criminalisation.
- Improving the educational engagement and outcomes for all young people at the YOT
- Extension of the whole family / carer offer within the service
- Addressing areas of disproportionality and promoting wider partnership engagement to reduce areas of significant disproportionality.

8. Performance and priorities

Use of Custody and constructive resettlement:

(Based on local data) two custodial sentences were recorded during 2021-2022; a reduction of four when compared to the previous year, equating to a reduction of 67%. Both sentences were received by males aged between 16 and 17 years. Both sentences were received by males from an ethnic minority group. One male was black and one male mixed ethnicity.



The custody rate for Wolverhampton has recorded year on year reduction since October 2017, and has fallen below the national average, West Midlands average and YOT family average since 2020.

Youth Detention Accommodation

Four young people were subject to youth detention accommodation throughout 2021-2022, consistent with the previous year, however, the collective days on remand were more than double the number from the previous year, with an increase of 130% when compared to 2020-2021.

2020/21			2021/22		
Number of young people on remand	Collective days spent on remand	Annual Remand Costs (£)	Number of young people on remand	Collective days spent on remand	Annual Remand Costs (£)
4	347	£97,905	4	798	£381,018

Throughout 2021-2022 three of the four young people were remanded in a YOI and the other in a SCH. During 2021-2022 there has been an increase of 289% (£283,113) in remand costs

predominantly linked to the YP remanded to a SCH which attracts a higher daily fee of £438 more than a YOI remand. The young person remanded to a SCH was aged 14 years with the three young people remanded to YOI aged 16 years (one YP) and 17 years (two YP). Two of the young people were black and two were white. At the end of 2021-2022 two of the YP remain on remand with one YP receiving a six-month custodial sentence and the 14-year-old found not guilty during his trial after a period of 296 days on remand. All of the young people were on remand for offences of violence against the person as their most serious offence. Other offences included drugs offences, driving motoring offences and robbery.

The use of custody within Wolverhampton continues to be extremely low, lower than all its comparators. This aligns with the YOT's ambition to ensure that the secure estate is only used for the critical few, in which the risks cannot be adequately managed in the community and the impact on the victim has been significant.

However, the YOT will endeavour to keep working to ensure that use of custody remains low by:

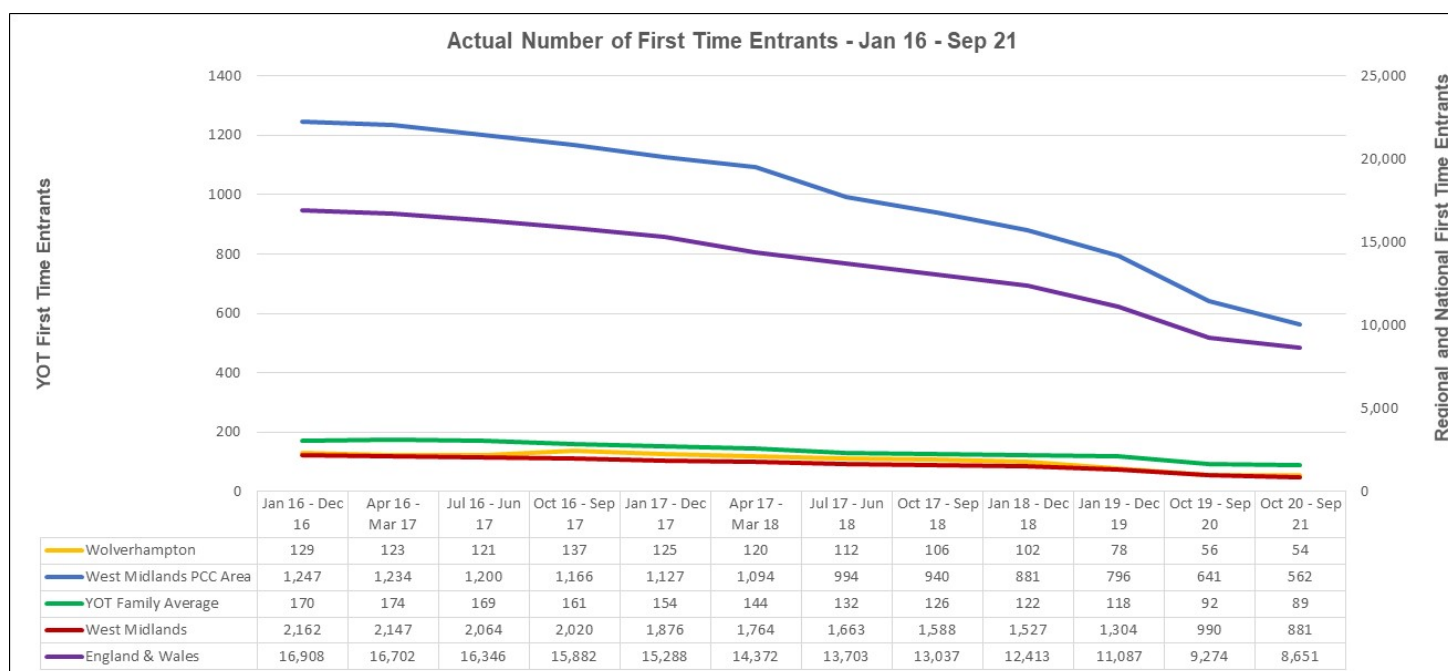
- Producing quality gatekept reports to the court, supported by proportionate and credible community sentence recommendations
- The maintenance of a robust Intensive Supervision and Surveillance scheme (ISS) offering oversight and creative interventions to address risky offending and offer real alternatives to custody and secure remands
- Provision of high-quality court officers that are responsive and proactive in tailoring bail alternatives for court, including weekends
- Maintaining the confidence of the court in all tiers of interventions and bail options e.g., Referral Order panels by offering shadow visits, presentations to Youth Court Panel meetings etc
- Clear and credible compliance and, where necessary, enforcement procedures
- A clear risk management policy that reviews and maintains management oversight
- Working closely with voluntary and community sector partners to ensure our service is relevant and responsive to all of Wolverhampton's diverse communities
- Working closely with Children's Services in the response and management of remand bail requests to avoid, where appropriate, secure remands

With regard to constructive resettlement, Wolverhampton has an established system of Resettlement Support Panels based on the YJB's '7 pathways of resettlement'. This has resulted in the development of Education Training and Employment (ETE) and mentoring support via YOT resettlement support and partnership organisations. Werrington YOI operational lead for resettlement is also an active YMB member and the YOT are represented on Werrington's Safeguarding board. HMIP rated resettlement as "outstanding" and commented:

"The YOT has had a resettlement policy in place for a number of years, which includes guidance on the operation of resettlement panels. The policy has been reviewed and updated. There is a local agreement with children's social care that all children will be released into appropriate accommodation. There is a representative from the secure estate on the management board, and evidence that the YOT appropriately escalates concerns about children in custody". (pg10)

First Time Entrants

(Based on local data) The First Time Entrant rate for Wolverhampton throughout 2021-2022 has recorded a 38.6% reduction in young people during 2021-2022 and a 21.6% reduction in the number of offences committed amongst FTE when compared to the previous year. 2020-2021 recorded 44 young people, reducing to 27 during 2021-2022. YJB available data (October 2020 – September 2021) reflects a reduction of 8.5%, higher than the -5.9% recorded by Wolverhampton’s YOT family Group (made up of comparative YOTs). The data available from the YJB precedes the introduction of Outcome 22 within Wolverhampton YOT, which has further impacted on FTE numbers throughout 2021-2022.



The actual number of FTE as displayed in the YJB charts reflects the downward trend within Wolverhampton since 2016 also mirroring the overall downward trend across all regions since this period.

The YOT performance report year to date identified that offences of violence against the person (55%), drugs offences (15%) and theft and handling stolen goods (13%) are the most common for FTEs. The rate of violence against the person has remained consistent with the 2020-2021 rate of 58%, but this was a notable increase after recording 32% amongst FTE during 2019-2020.

It must be noted that the impact of DIVERT and the use of Outcome 22 on the YOT’s First Time Entrants Data has for Quarter 3 in 2021-2022 shown a significant impact already. The data produced for the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) showed that FTE comparative rates for Quarter 3 2020-2021 (18 young people) and 2021-2022 (4 young people) reported a reduction of 78%, primarily as a result of the use of Outcome 22. We would expect this trend to continue, and as long as young people successfully complete their Outcome 22 interventions, this will have a significant impact on the formal decriminalisation of young people in Wolverhampton.

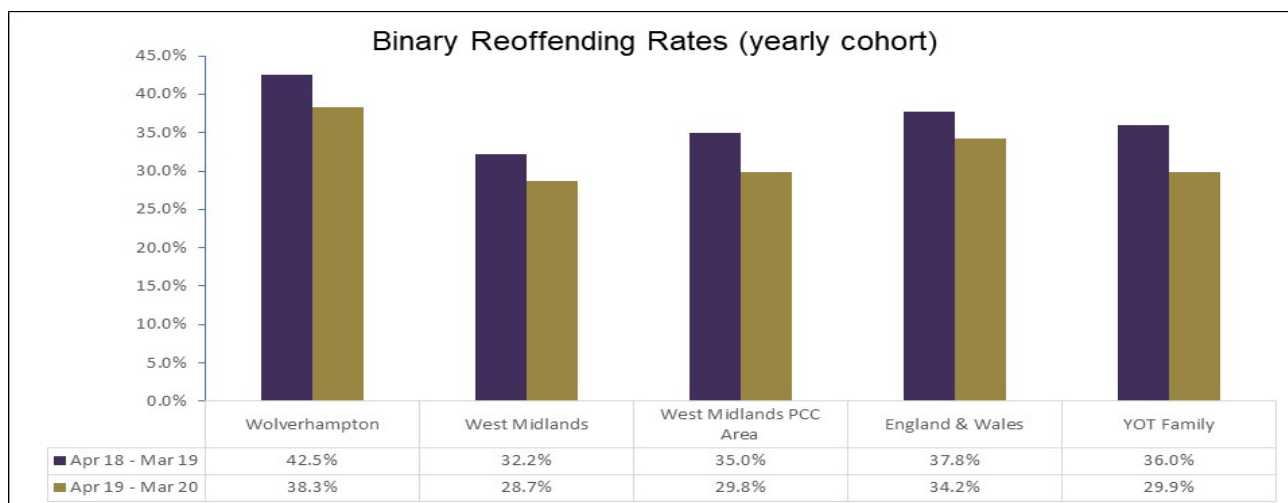
Further initiatives to continue to reduce FTE include:

- Exploitation and Missing Hub and the Partnership gang's forum providing a vehicle for earlier identification of young people at risk of exploitation and offering early intervention packages of support to prevent young people entering the CJS
- Development and delivery of the new YOT Creating Safety Project targeted at young people at risk of exploitation prior to involvement in the CJS
- Explore the proposed YJB funding for the "Turnaround" programme to support YOTs to develop an early help offer.
- Continued funding to support the Back on Track Project aimed at providing early intervention for years 7, 8 and 9 pupils at risk of school exclusion due to criminogenic related behaviours i.e., knife and/or drug possession at school
- Work with the Schools and Police Panel to reduce the criminalisation of young people involved in offence related behaviours within the school setting.
- Embedding of Restorative Practice within identified Residential Units to promote the "making it right" programme to mediate and prevent criminalisation in residential settings. In addition, working with youth justice partners in the delivery of the National Protocol for the discrimination of young people in care.

Reducing Reoffending

Binary rates of reoffending (YJB Data April 2019 – March 2020)

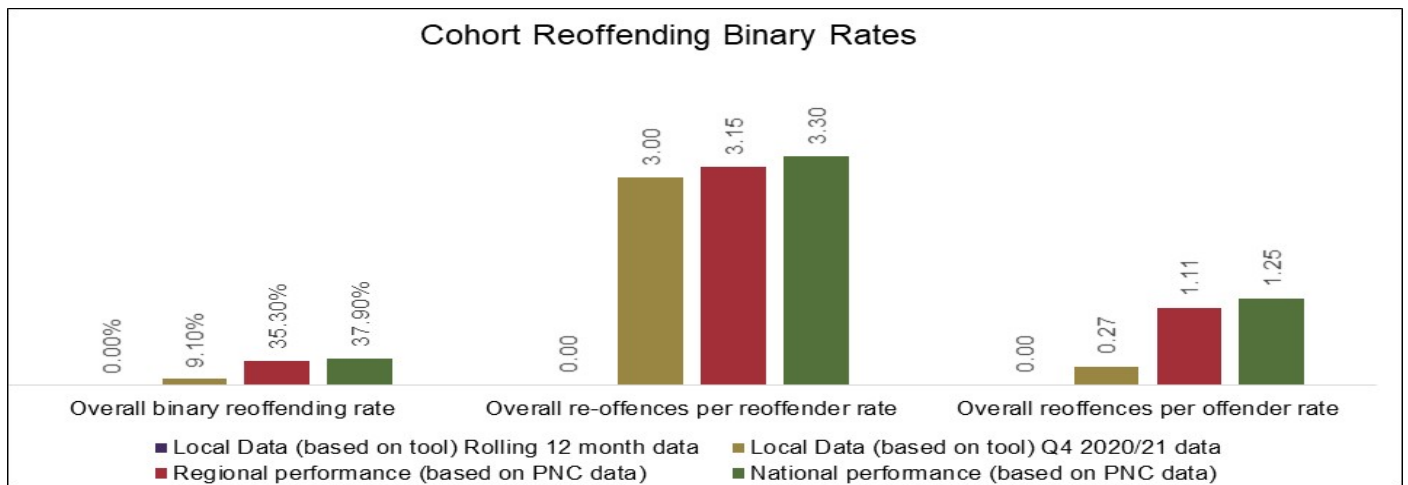
During 2019-2020 Wolverhampton recorded a decrease in the reoffending rate from 42.5% to 38.3%. All other areas regionally and nationally recorded slight reductions in the yearly cohort rates.



Reoffending Live Tracker Tool (local data)

Tracking in quarter 4 during 2020-2021 recorded a 18.2% overall binary rate, with 4.50 reoffences per reoffender rate. The overall reoffences rate across the cohort was at a rate of 0.82. With the exception of the overall re-offences per reoffender rate, all rates fall below both the regional and national performance for reoffending.

Within Wolverhampton YOT the 'Reoffending Tracker tool' is also used to track young people who receive an OOC. This tracks the reoffending rates of young people who receive Community Resolutions, Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions and all young people are tracked for a 12-month period.



The data shows that for quarter 4 in 2020-2021, the overall binary rate for OOC was 9.1%, with significantly lower reoffending occurring compared to national rate of 37.90%. Overall re-offences per re-offender for Wolverhampton was 3.00 compared to national 3.30, and the overall reoffences rate across the cohort was 0.27 compared to 1.25 national rate.

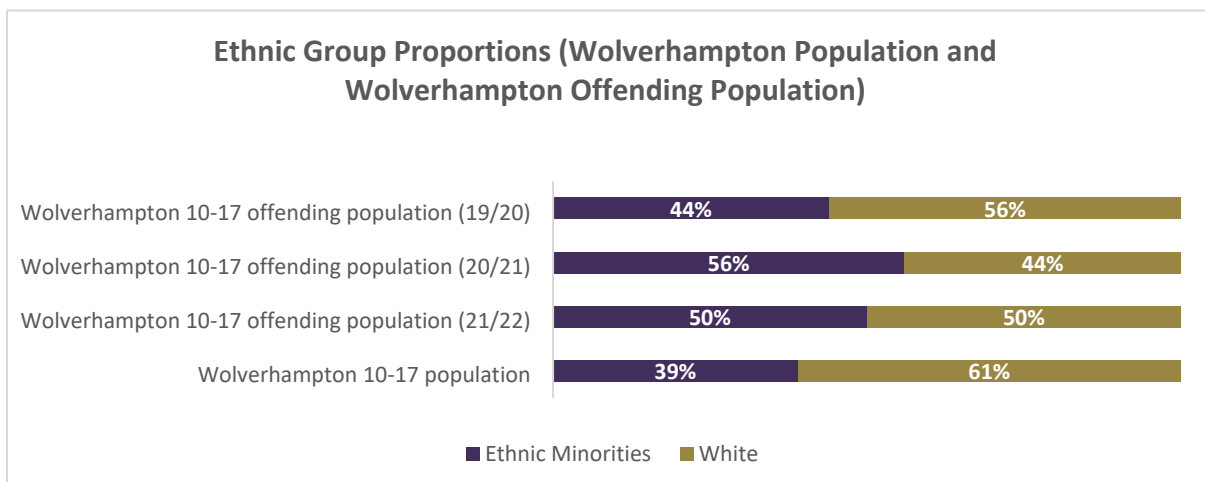
Key initiatives to further reduce reoffending in the YOT:

- Continued use of the Reoffending Live Tracker information to target our resources on the areas of most significant reoffending
- Continued training and investment in improving the quality of assessments, planning, delivery and reviewing with regard to desistance, keeping young people and others safe. In line with our HMIP recommendation improve the quality of contingency planning and managing and mitigating a child's risk of harm to others.
- Further embedding trauma informed practice and the development of the ARC framework to target and develop interventions designed to adapt a more Public Health and systemic approach to reducing reoffending
- Development of bespoke projects and programmes designed to engage young people into activities to build attachments, learn to self-regulate and develop their own social competencies
- Specific focus and resources to improve Education, Training and Employment opportunities and support
- Maintaining scaled approach contact levels to ensure intensity of interventions match assessed risks and needs, to allow greater scope for non-statutory engagement.
- Seven day per week services for our most challenging and risky service users
- Compliance meetings with young people and their carers to ensure that any deterioration in their response to YOT programmes of intervention is quickly understood, addressed, and improved
- Resettlement Support Panels to co-ordinate and deliver effective provision to reduce risks of reoffending on release from custody
- YOT led partnership 6 -weekly gang forum to identify and map young people most at risk of exploitation and gang involvement to promote a multi-agency response to managing risks.

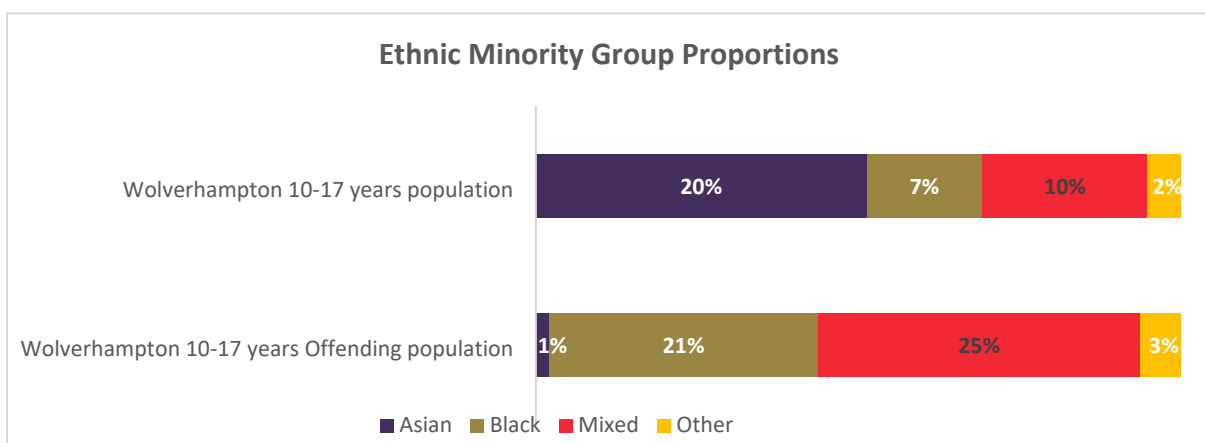
- Proactive Police/YOT offender management for you people identified as part of the Deter Young Offenders (DYO) scheme
- Work with families and parents to ensure the ‘whole family’ approach is embedded with a focus on an understanding of therapeutic approaches to parenting to support developmentally informed intervention for sustainable desistance

Overrepresentation within our cohort:

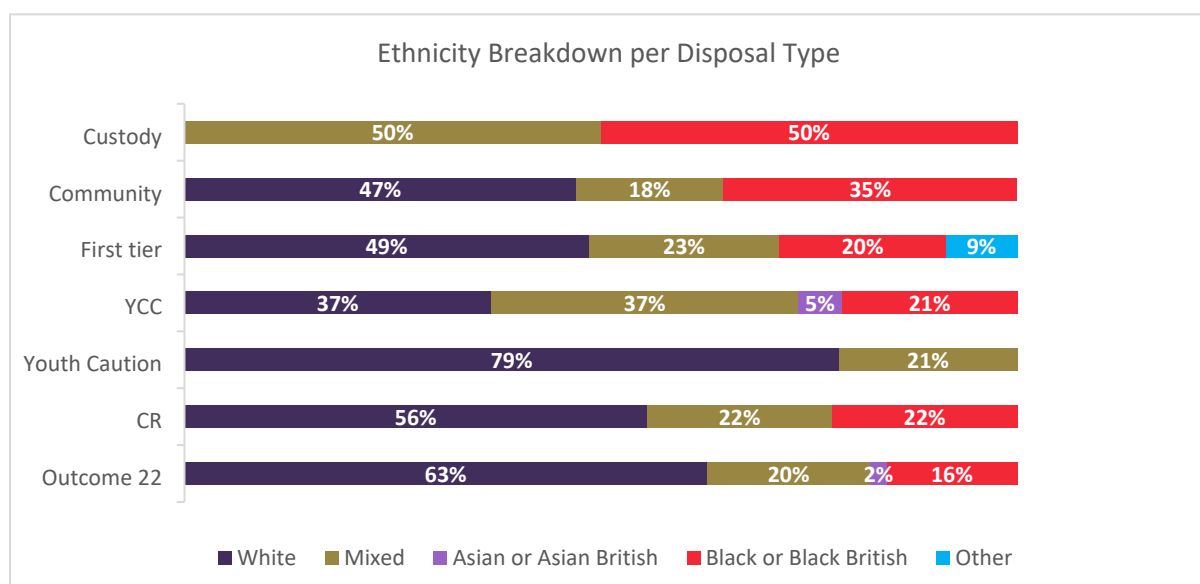
The 2011 Census data reported that the split of ethnic groups between 10 – 17-year-olds was split by 39% ethnic minorities and 61% white. The mid-year estimates (April 2019) predict the ratio is now approximately 46% for Black, Asian and other minority Ethnic groups and 54% white British amongst 10-17 years olds in Wolverhampton. For the purposes of direct and accurate comparison this report uses the 2011 census data in relation to ethnicity.



The data continues to reveal a level of disproportionality within the Wolverhampton cohort when compared to the general population. 2021-2022 data is showing a modest reduction of 6% when compared to 2020-2021. The breakdown by ethnicity for 2021-2022 reveals that the 50% cohort represents 1% Asian, 21% Black, 25% mixed heritage and 3% other young people, highlighting the larger disproportionality for black and mixed heritage young people.



The analysis by ethnicity for disposals reflects the over-representation of Black and Mixed Heritage within the overall cohort, apart from the pre-court disposals. The custody data only represents 2 young people.



Wolverhampton YOT has developed a detailed and comprehensive action plan to address its issues of disproportionality, focussed primarily on Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic young people. This work will also ensure that young people with other protective characteristics or overrepresented in the CJS are also within scope, including embedding a regional standard of practice for working with girls; decriminalisation of children young people in care; closing the education gap for young people with Special Education Needs; ensuring our services are responsive to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered young people.

With regard to the experiences of Black and Mixed Heritage boys in the CJS, the YOT will be responding to the key findings and recommendations from the HMIP thematic report, which included areas of practice that enhanced the quality of work with Black and mixed heritage boys, including:

- A clear anti-racist stance taken by leaders raises staff’s confidence to advocate for black and mixed heritage boys in their work.
- Well-coordinated work with third sector and community organisations enhances the quality of service delivery.
- Providing effective support to parents and carers of black and mixed heritage boys promotes their engagement.
- The effective use of data is reflected in better quality service delivery

In addition, our action plan will address the recommendation within our HMIP report which stated that the YMB should “ensure that staff are appropriately trained and confident in having conversations to understand black, Asian and minority ethnic children’s experiences in order to improve the quality and suitability of service provision” (pg 10)

Other initiatives and headlines from the Disproportionality Action plan 2022-2023 include:

- DIVERT scheme, embracing the Lammy findings on breaking the cycle of mistrust with the Police and removing the barriers for Black and Mixed Heritage boys accessing pre-court pathways for support.
- Cultural competence training scheduled for the whole team.
- The established YOT Equality forum to continue to provide the opportunity for team reflection, discussion and practice change.
- Embedding the understanding that young people who have experienced racism have had a trauma journey, which has been intergenerational and reflect it within our assessments, reports and interventions.
- YMB to have greater opportunity to understand the needs of our over-represented groups.
- YMB to be the focal platform for the youth justice partnership to understand the system areas of disproportionality and collaborate on a collective response to issues of disproportionality “down-stream” in the system i.e., education engagement, access to preventative support, including mental wellbeing services.
- Consultation forum for Black, Asian and other ethnic minorities to understand the lived experiences and shape what future delivery should look like.
- “Levelling the Playing Field” YJB project to promote and develop our work collaboratively with local third sector and community organisations
- Provision of specialist whole family working for parents of Black and Mixed Heritage boys
- Regional project for girls in CJS to establish a standard of practice
- Specific additional resourcing and Education, Employment and Training (EET) specialist within the team to support young people. Alongside this, the identification of a dedicated SEN officer within the education inclusion team.

Local Performance targets

Education Training and Employment (ETE)

	2020/21					2021/22				
	Q1 2020/21	Q2 2020/21	Q3 2020/21	Q4 2020/21	FY 2020/21	Q1 2021/22	Q2 2021/22	Q3 2021/22	Q4 2021/22	FY 2021/22
% Overall Performance	60%	63%	40%	40%	54%	89%	38%	77%	50%	64%
% School Age met 25 hours target	80%	50%	50%	100%	70%	75%	67%	100%	0%	61%
% Over School Age met 16 hours target	40%	67%	33%	25%	44%	100%	20%	73%	57%	63%

Between 2020-2021 and 2021/2022 that has been a 10% increase in overall ETE performance, increasing from 54% to 64%. There has also been a notable increase to 63% from 44% within the over school age cohort. However, there has been a reduction in the engagement rates for school aged children from 70% to 61%

Across the full cohort 27 (30.3%) were recorded as young people with SEND. 20 (22.5%) YP had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and seven (7.87%) recording SEN Support. 15 (75%) of the YP with an EHCP recorded a court disposal. The over-representation of young people with either SEND and EHCP within our cohort was recognised within our HMIP inspection recommendation in which it required the YMB to make sure these young people had access to high-quality education and training services that are matched to their needs. It has been acknowledged that the YOT does not have the commissioning role nor the governance over the provision of services for young people with SEND/EHCPs, however the

YMB will be working with the Head of Service for Inclusion and Empowerment, including SENSTART and the Head of Skills to advocate and oversee the future provision of services.

Future improvement will be driven by:

- Broadening the data analysis to all young people open on an intervention, as well as those closing their statutory order, to provide a richer source of analysis to identify trends and patterns in ETE engagement and inform practice priorities
- Devise a role in SENSTART for a specific SEND officer to have an operational link to YOT for a single point of contact for all EHCP reviews
- Review Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and Alternative Provision (AP) to consider Early Intervention options and therapeutic educational placements to reduce the number of young people requiring longer term placements in AP and PRU placements
- YOT to be included within the SEND provision quality assurance framework. This will be co-produced with young person, parent carers, health, education and social care colleagues. This will include requirements for audit and moderation panels and include a themed audit test cycle
- YMB to monitor development and implementation of the vulnerability Matrix to be developed across the council by Head of Inclusion & Empowerment
- Identification of continued funding for the Back on Track Project to provide support to Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils at risk of exclusion
- Revision of the practice of reviewing EHCP only after release from custody to ensure they are completed in preparation of release, and SEND officer to attend Resettlement Support panels.
- YOT representation on the CWC Secondary School Inclusion Support and Alternative Provision Panel (ISAPP) to provide bespoke support to young people at risk of exclusion
- YOT attendance at the CWC Culture of Inclusion Steering group and project groups to influence and set the direction of future education practice
- Attendance at the Police and Schools Panel to establish closer working relationships with schools
- Monthly YOT multi-agency pre-16 and post-16 panels to plan and identify resources to support young people to maintain ETE and/or identify a placement
- Educational Psychologist (EP) support to provide support, advice & guidance on SEND and EHCP processes
- Speech and Language therapist to assess and support young people into ETE
- Partnership secondment of post 16 Connexions Advisor within the YOT to provide bespoke support to young people. Dedicated YOT officer providing further post-16 support
- Dedicated ETE YOT Officer to provide additional resource and support.
- Roll out of ASDAN to support pathways back into mainstream learning

Prevention:

Wolverhampton YOT have developed 2 bespoke prevention programmes in collaboration with 4 schools (Back on Track) and with the Children Services and the Exploitation Hub (Creating Safety Project). Future opportunities will be explored in expanding our early prevention offer, in line with the YJB proposals for the "Turnaround programme"

Back on Track (BOT): This project was initiated following small-scale funding (£50k) being made available to the Youth Offending Team from the Early Intervention Youth Fund (part of the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership) in July 2019. It focuses on the prevention of young people becoming permanently excluded from mainstream education. Evidence based research has highlighted the correlation between young people who have been permanently excluded from education and the increased risk of becoming involved in anti-social/offending behaviour.

The project focuses on early intervention and providing support for young people in year 7,8 & 9, parents/carers, and schools. We are currently working within 4 schools, across Wolverhampton. Back on Track provides holistic intervention by assessing the individual's needs, in school, at home and within the wider community. Once established, support is provided to address areas of need through a trauma informed lens. Young people can access support from a wide range of services to address a variety of areas including SEND, social and emotional mental health, substance misuse as well as positive activities.

The project promotes joint working with schools, collaborating with the young person and their family to identify interventions together that will improve engagement at school and avoid exclusion and offending.

Creating Safety Project (CSP): This project was launched in 2022 as a response to the increasing levels of young people at risk of exploitation and therefore at risk of entering the criminal justice system. The project has been designed to use the frameworks of contextualised safeguarding and through a case formulation process work with the young person to identify their safety issues, understand what safety means to them in regard to physical, emotional, financial and location/place. It's a project designed to work with young people and their families to support them to create and maintain their own and others safety.

Diversion:

Our HMIP Inspection identified National Standards 1 "Out of Court" as being good for the Assessment, Planning, disposal policy and Provision. They also identified the implementation and delivery of this area of work as Outstanding. HMIP were informed of the plan to address some of the improvements identified from the National standards self-assessment audit (2020) completed by YOT Managers and YOT Management Boards Members. This identified the need for improvements in relation to our Diversion offer to systemically address areas of disproportionality, through a public health and partnership approach. It also identified the need to incorporate work with community/third sector partners, and to create a diversion at the point of arrest pathway, alongside the formal out of court route.

The Youth Justice Plan 2021 – 2022 and the NS1 "Out of Court" Action Plan 2021-2022 identified key actions regarding improving the YOTs diversion offer which was developed through support from the Centre for Justice Innovation and the YJB Pathfinder. DIVERT, which is Wolverhampton YOTs diversion at the point of arrest scheme, has a working agreement between the YOT and West Midlands Police, in using a deferred prosecution Outcome 22 (DIVERT Pathway) to promote diversion into a child focused system that promotes constructive behaviour through multi-agency intervention.

An audit and evaluation report were presented to the Children Services Senior Leadership Team and YMB in February 2022, the highlights within this report include:

- A disproportionately high number of referrals are known to SENSTART, with 18% having an Educational and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and 50% with SEN support needs.
- Assaults accounted for 54% of the offences heard at the JDP and the majority (87%) of those had a ACPO Gravity Matrix score of 1 and 2 after adjustments
- Of the cohort, 89% of the young people received a DIVERT Pathway (Outcome 22)
- Of the cohort, over half of the victims (64%) gave their consent and provided their details, but only 54% were willing to engage in restorative justice work, with 43% having an ongoing piece of restorative work between the YP and the victim

The YOT 6 monthly participation report October 2021- March 2022, used data from 62 JDP evaluations completed by young people and their parent/carers who received outcomes through DIVERT. Some of highlights include:

- 93% of young people were able to give their view about the help and support they needed
- 95% reported that the decision-making panel was explained to them
- 76% of the young people 'definitely' agreed with the outcome of the panel and 18% 'sort of' agreed.
- 90% of young people were either definitely (84%) or sort of (6%) happy with the plan of support offered.

Overall, the feedback provided in relation to the delivery of the DIVERT Scheme was positive, there were some areas of development identified around police information.

Priorities moving forwards

- Ongoing review of the collaboration of Health partners within the DIVERT Scheme, to ensure young people with unmet health needs are identified at the earliest opportunity.
- Continue to quality assure Police Referrals to DIVERT to ensure all information such as victim consent, offence detail, and interview summary has been completed
- Continue to develop a mechanism with the Police and Courts that enables the YOT to identify and divert young people from court to the JDP at the earliest opportunity if eligible.
- Build links with third sector organisations to support the diversion intervention offer, this includes embedding the local YJB Levelling the playing field providers within the YOTs core intervention offer.
- Continue to gather data to analyse cost savings and avoidance of the scheme. Also, to evidence the impact of the scheme on the rate of First Time Entrants entering the CJS.

Serious Violence and Exploitation

Using the YJB definitions of serious youth violence the below 5-year comparison shows there has been a huge reduction. Overall serious violence offences reduced by -76% in the five years between 2020-2021 and 2016-2017. Levels increased slightly in 2021-2022 but remain much lower than the pre-pandemic levels recorded. In 2020-2021 robbery levels had reduced by 73% when compared to 2016-2017, this reduced level has continued into 2021-2022.

Violence against the person offences saw a reduction of -81% over the comparative five years (2016-2017 – 2020-2021), with just 4 offences recorded in 2020-2021, this has increased slightly in 2021-2022 recording 6 offences.

This data and the YJB definitions of serious youth violence does not reflect the fact that for 2021-2022, 49% of all offences coming through the YOT were for violence against the person, primarily Section 39 and Section 47 assaults. This reflects the increase in interpersonal violence, public place violence, reported incidences in schools and a noticeable increase in young women committing offences of violence.

Alongside this, the concerns of exploitation, specifically Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), County Lines (CL) and gang association continue to be managed through the city-wide Exploitation Hub and the Partnership Gang Forum. This has enabled the continued mapping and identification of young people at risk, ensuring appropriate pathways of support are in place. In addition, using the Contextualised Safeguarding framework, locations, potential perpetrators, disruption actions and city trends are also identified. The recent Wolverhampton Partnership Youth Gang report April 2022 indicated:

- There were currently 12 young people identified with being affiliated with gangs in Wolverhampton, however a total of 67 have been discussed since the gang forum started in December 2020
- Of the current cohort, 6 (50%) are currently open to Multi-agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) meetings; 1 at Serious risk, 5 are Significant Risk and 1 is awaiting their initial MACE meeting. A further 3 were previously open to MACE but their risks have reduced and are now closed. The remaining 3 have been deemed 'At Risk' after receiving an Exploitation toolkit but did not meet MACE threshold.

The Violence Prevention Subgroup:

There are already strong partnership responses to violence prevention in Wolverhampton driven by the Tackling Violence and Exploitation Strategy, delivery of which is overseen jointly by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP) and Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together (WST). This strategy sets out Wolverhampton's ambition to take a public health approach to addressing the causes of violence in their entirety to deliver change at population level. Delivery against this strategy has included activity such as a contextual safeguarding review and development of Wolverhampton's Partnership Exploitation Hub.

In order to build on existing successes, ensure that there is a robust violence prevention offer within Wolverhampton and ensure that Wolverhampton is compliant against the new serious violence duty, a new violence prevention subgroup has been established to progress the below activity:

- Mapping of current violence prevention/support provision.

- Mechanism for monitoring, reviewing, and implementing (where appropriate) best practice around violence prevention and reduction.
- Review of area specific data and services with a focus on prevention and early intervention.
- Oversee production of a violence needs assessment and annually refreshed problem profile.
- Ensure that the Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategy is reflective of the needs assessment.
- Action plans and performance frameworks to be developed to monitor delivery of the strategy.

The subgroup will report into SWP and provide regular updates to WST and YOT Management Board. YOT will make a significant contribution to this group and will continue to implement its response to serious youth violence and exploitation will include:

- Delivery of early prevention via DIVERT and Creating Safety Project
- Strong risk management and disruption responses to protect young people and communities
- YOT and Police DYO (Deter Youth Offenders) scheme to be expanded to include all young people committing offences of violence
- Ensuring interventions around weapons, exploitation and gangs are fit for purpose
- Recognise the impact of trauma and latent vulnerability for both victims and perpetrators in our intervention responses
- Develop our CAMHS forensic response to young people involved in the cycle of violence
- Embedding the use of Structured Assessment of Violent Youth (SAVRY) to inform assessments and interventions.
- Promote participation and young people's involvement in the responses, including lived experienced mentors.
- Develop a collaboration with key community organisations and third sector

Serious Violence (five-year trend):		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	% Change	% Change
								2016/17-2020/21	2016/17-2021/22
Offence									
Robbery	Attempt Robbery (6)	7	3	5	3	3	2		
	Assault with intent to rob (6)	2	0		3	0			
	Robbery (6)	31	39	19	6	8	8		
	Robbery Total	40	42	24	12	11	10	-73%	-75%
Violence Against the Person	Air weapon - possession with intent to cause fear of violence	2	1	1					
	Damage / destroy property with intent to endanger life	1							
	Attempt Murder (8)	0		1					
	Murder (8)	0		2					
	Possess an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (5)	2	2						
	Possess a firearm with intent to endanger life (7)	1			1		1		
	Section 18 - grievous bodily harm with intent (7)	2	1	1	1	3	1		
	Section 18 - wounding with intent (7)	7	2	6		1			
	Public Order – Other (5)	0	2	1			1		
	Rape of a female (8)			1					
	Violent Disorder (5)	4	1	1					
	Wound / inflict grievous bodily harm without intent (6)	2	1	1	1		3		
Violence Against the Person Total	21	10	15	3	4	6	-81%	-71%	
Drugs Offences	Concerned in supply of heroin (6)		1				1		
	Possess with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A - Cocaine (6)		3	1	1	1	1		
	Possess with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A - Crack Cocaine (6)	2	4	4	3		2		
	Possess with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A - Heroin (6)	1	6	5	4		2		
	Possess with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A - Other (6)	4			1				
	Drugs Total	7	14	10	9	1	6	-86%	-14%
Overall Total		68	66	49	24	16	22	-76%	-68%

Restorative Justice & Victims

In July 2021 an audit tool was created to look at the work of the YOT in respect to victims and restorative justice. In August of the same year an internal audit was undertaken, and a number of areas identified for action. There was a significant overhaul in the administrative aspects of the Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) in particular with some of the actions arising including;

- All victim related paperwork/documents to be saved on individual IP ChildView records on notes and attachments.
- Review RJU involvement in updating the RJ Module on ASSETPLUS i.e Priorities for Repairing Harm section
- Referral Reports / PSR reports / ASSETPLUS & corresponding Victim Reports gatekept by the same manager to ensure RJU & victim represented within reports and assessments.
- RJU direct involvement in DIVERT – Joint Decision-Making Panel to ensure victim identification/contact/recording and co-ordination with case managers will improve communication and involvement in contract/intervention plans.

The benefits of the above and other measures ensured that there was recorded evidence of the work within RJU and, most importantly, that the victims voice could be heard throughout the process and the wider YOT became more consistently adherent to the victims' code.

HMIP inspection of Wolverhampton YOT (published Feb 2022) saw the fruit of the work of the RJU, the improvements as a consequence of auditing, and the feedback provided by volunteer Community Panel Members (CPM). Inspectors commented that the YOT has an *'impressive restorative justice unit, which takes a holistic approach to working with children and victims.*

HMIP also fed back on an area requiring improvement pertaining to the assessment of young people in relation to any risk they may pose to specific victims, how and who would address that risk and any considerations appropriate in terms of contingency planning. Prior to the inspection, and within the NS3 2021-2022 action plan, some of these areas were identified for input and this will continue in this year's action plan. External and in-house training, resources, supervision and team meetings have already been utilised to this end and will continue going forward.

Volunteer Community Panel members (CPM) also provided their views and there was a consensus amongst them regarding the positive improvements and delivery of services throughout the pandemic and thereafter. This included the pre-panel discussions with case managers, facilitation of virtual panels with home support, the increase in work with victims that made the difference to conversations CPMs had with young people at panel, and the increased diversity of volunteers which better represented the community in which they serve. In recent months volunteers, most young people and their families have also appreciated the work undertaken in transitioning from virtual to face to face panels.

The challenges going forward include;

- Further embedding of face-to-face panels and the provision of consistent CPMs at review/final panels.
- Development and training to achieve 'co-created' contracts. Moving in a collaborative way to a more co-creational way of reaching mutually agreeable 'contracts' between panel and YPs and Case Managers which are reflective of that YPs journey through their Referral Order, whilst still remaining cognisant of the 'victim voice'

- Identify routes to encourage male volunteers.
- Work on plans to offer community-based panels.
- Management oversight to support case managers effective risk assessment to actual and potential victims, utilisation of the Assetplus matrix and appropriate contingency planning .

9. National standards (NS)



The Initial self-assessment was completed in July 2020 and each NS has had an action plan “owned” by a specific YOT Operational Manager and YMB member. Our HMIP inspection recognised that our *“Board members were fully involved with the Youth Justice Board (YJB) National Standards self-assessment and were allocated roles in specific areas of practice”*. (Pg8). All NS action plans have been reviewed on a quarterly basis with the YMB leads and have been presented to YMB for monitoring and oversight.

Standard 1 – Out of Court Disposals (OCD)

Initial self-assessment judged both the strategic and operational practice as good. Our recent HMIP inspection has rated OCD assessment “good”, planning “good”, implementation and delivery as “outstanding” and reviewing as “good”.

Key areas identified in Initial NS1 Action Plan:

- To assist in the de-criminalisation of CYPIC
- Trauma informed practice is embedded within assessment process and interventions using ARC framework.
- Revise/review Police/YOT protocol to incorporate Covid-19 restrictions for OCD
- Improve victim involvement in OCD work

Progress against key areas:

- ✓ Development of DIVERT scheme has radically changed the provision of OCD with over 80% of young people receiving Outcome 22.
- ✓ Reduced number of CYPIC entering formal CJS, currently 8% of YOT cohort.
- ✓ Protocol and working agreements with Police finalised
- ✓ RJU representation at all JDP and significant increase in victim contact
- ✓ Assetplus and bespoke packages of support incorporating trauma informed practice and ARC.

NS1 action plan priorities going forward:

- Assessments of children's risk of harm to others need to identify more clearly who is at risk and the nature of the risk.
- Contingency planning needs to be evident so that the arrangements for managing a child's risk of harm to others is clear.
- Embed and evaluate the impact of DIVERT

Standard 2 – at court

Initial self-assessment judged both the strategic and operational practice as good.

Key areas identified in Initial NS2 Action Plan:

- Review and agree regional Black Country Youth Court protocol.
- Monitor the quality of court reports and the use of developmentally sensitive language.
- Establish court process/mechanism to re-divert YP eligible for OOCB back into the DIVERT scheme.
- Promote support available for parents and carers during pre-sentence and court stages.
- Implement 'Common Platform' within the admin team – lead by HMCTS

Progress against key areas:

- ✓ Black Country Youth Court protocol agreed
- ✓ Quality Assurance of reports benched marked and outcome evidence the use of developmental sensitive language, particularly around young person's experience and impact of trauma and exploitation.
- ✓ Mechanism in place to divert young people back into the OOCB (DIVERT) scheme.
- ✓ Court information leaflet completed.
- ✓ Wolverhampton YOT ready for the roll out of the new Common Platform, which will assist in obtaining court updates.

NS2 action plan priorities going forward :

- Analysis of pre-sentencing report (PSR)/Outcome strike rates
- Understanding disproportionality in court and supporting young people from Black, Asian and other ethnic minority groups through the process.
- Improvement in parental engagement in assessment and at court
- Improve the screening and process for referrals back to JDP.

Standard 3 – in the community:

Initial self-assessment judged both the strategic and operational practice as good. Our recent HMIP inspection has rated court disposals assessment "good", planning "requires improvement", implementation and delivery as "outstanding" and reviewing as "good".

Key areas identified in Initial NS3 Action Plan:

- Management oversight and decision making is clearly evidenced

- Improve the quality of ASSETPLUS reviews
- Victim work is appropriately evidenced and effectively utilised throughout the YOT
- Health Team staff utilise health consultations to identify health needs from the onset, ensure a co-ordinated response across health provision
- YOT intervention offers to fully align with the ARC trauma informed framework, with a specific focus on offences of violence, weapon related offending and gang/exploitation support
- Promote the young person's voice within practice
- Refresh of written information/leaflets for YP and families on core YOT services.

Progress against key areas:

- ✓ HMIP outcome reported "*the quality of management oversight in both post-court and out-of-court cases was a significant strength*". pg6
- ✓ Quality of reviewing judged as good by HMIP and extensive team training developed covering ASSETPLUS quality improvement.
- ✓ HMIP reported "*Health provision to the YOT is good and staff consider the health needs of all of the children and decide who is best to work with them*" (pg6)
Requirement to ensure health provision is fully embedded in JDP.
- ✓ YOT intervention reviewed and Intervention Index being developed with a range of activities matched to ARC framework.
- ✓ Evidence of a strong participation offer within the YOT
- ✓ All leaflets refreshed.

NS3 action plan priorities going forward :

- When assessing a child's risk of harm to others, staff need to identify and analyse more clearly the risks that the child poses, including who is at risk and the nature of that risk.
- Staff do not regularly take account of a child's diversity needs when completing assessments.
- The concerns and risks related to actual and potential victims are not consistently considered when planning to address the risk of harm to others.
- Staff do not consistently set out the contingency arrangements to manage the child's safety and wellbeing and their risk of harm to others in the cases inspected.
- Continued development of interventions.

Standard 4 – in secure accommodation

Initial self-assessment judged all sections in the strategic and operational practice as good, apart from the section below that were rated as required improvement:

- The environment that children live in is rehabilitative and safe and one where there is a culture that enables children to develop, grow and learn
- Communication between professionals is in line with Youth Custody Service requirements
- Services, plans and interventions take account of diverse needs and promote equality

Key areas identified in Initial NS4 Action Plan:

- Ensure ASSETPLUS assessments are completed in line with YCS recommendations.
- To ensure that children are protected and feel safe.
- Improve resettlement outcomes for young people in the secure estate.
- Review members of the YOT Resettlement Panels.
- Review the EHCP review process for young people entering and leaving custody.
- Review YOT/Social Care processes and practices for young people remanded into secure accommodation.
- Provide additional case management support for all YP within the Secure Estate.
- Promotion of the YOT and secure estate Equality and Diversity Policies.

Progress against key areas:

- ✓ Comprehensive custody and resettlement policy guidance launched, which includes the social care process and commitments to accommodation
- ✓ Agreement reached with SENSTART for EHCP's to be reviewed prior to release
- ✓ Resettlement Support panels now have representation from the secure estate, SENSTART, CAMHS and Social Care
- ✓ Resettlement Support Panels ensuring secure estate are making available appropriate interventions and preparation for release. Additional YOT resources identified to work with young people in custody.
- ✓ Safeguarding Performance – Key indicators (Werrington) monitored by YMB, Resettlement and Safeguarding managers from Werrington attend YMB. YOT operational manager on Werrington Safeguarding board. Children Services Safeguarding lead on YMB works closely with YOT to escalate concerns. Individual safeguarding concerns escalated to Werrington Safeguarding Manager, YOT social workers actively involved in custody review meetings and oversight maintained via Resettlement Support Panels

NS4 action plan priorities going forward :

- Continued improvement in ASSETPLUS and the use of YJAF
- Promotion of Secure Estate Equality & Diversity Policies
- Use of appropriate escalation measures to address concerns within the secure estate
- Ensuring Resettlement Support Plans are effective multi-agency forums to co-ordinate the support for young people
- Education provision and EHCP reviews and SEN support in custody.

Standard 5 – On transition and resettlement:

Initial self-assessment judged all sections in the strategic and operational practice as good, apart from the section below that were rated as required improvement:

- Is the plan subject to regular or joint review?

HMIP inspection has rated Resettlement policy and provision as “outstanding”

Key areas identified in Initial NS5 Action Plan:

- Transition to adulthood (T2A) probation process to have a clear transition / recording process that can be replicated within a plan
- Establish an operational relationship with CYPIC services to ensure transition relationships are in place
- Understand the experience of our young people when their placement changes, and in turn the YOT supervising them does

Progress against key areas:

- ✓ Internal processes for T2A reviewed and revised. Regional T2A meeting convened between YOT and NPS.
- ✓ Joint action plan in place with CYPIC service. Practice champions identified in YOT and CYPIC teams and a 6-weekly review of all CYPIC involved with the YOT.
- ✓ Transition within the secure estate to the adult estate supported by both YOT and NPS

NS4 action plan priorities going forward :

- T2A to have a clear transition/recording process
- 18-25 mental health transitions, establishment of 18-25 community hubs to support transitions.

10. Challenges, risks and issues

- Disproportionality within our cohort of young people from an ethnicity perspective and the continued lived experience challenges facing young people of colour.
- Escalation and overrepresentation of young people with special educational needs and Educational and Health Care Plans (EHCP) into the CJS
- Increase in youth violence and exploitation within Wolverhampton and the continued need for a public health response to the systemic issues facing young people and families within the city, especially during a “cost of living crisis” and the ongoing impact of COVID on the mental wellbeing of children and families.
- Continued commitment to appropriately funding the YOT and the broader youth justice partnership and ensuring local youth justice services are, from a governance perspective, still able to be delivered in the best possible way for the local population.

11. Service improvement plan

The YOT service improvement plan for 2022-2023 will include specific actions to address the HMIP recommendations, as well as specific practice areas carried forward from the 2021-2022 plan and new priority practice actions:

HMIP recommendations:

- YMB to make sure that all YOT children with SEND, and especially those with an EHCP, have access to high quality education and training services that are matched to needs.
- YMB to ensure that staff are appropriately trained and confident in having conversations to understand black, Asian and other minority ethnic children's experiences in order to improve the quality and suitability of service provision.
- Service manager to improve the quality of contingency planning in all cases, when managing and mitigating a child's risk of harm to others.

Actions to carry forward into the YOT Service improvement Plan:

- Building upon the work with Children and Young People in Care (CYPIC) to further reduce their risks of criminalisation.
- Improving the educational engagement and outcomes for all young people at the YOT
- Extension of the whole family / carer offer within the service, with a specific focus on supporting families with black and mixed heritage boys.
- Addressing areas of disproportionality and promoting wider youth justice partnership engagement to reduce areas of significant disproportionality.

New priority practice actions 2022-2023

- Continued delivery of the DIVERT scheme to further promote the decriminalisation of young people and divert them from the CJS. Evaluate impact and outcomes from the scheme with regards outcomes for young people, reoffending and First time Entrants rates including a cost avoidance analysis.
- Expansion of prevention offer and the continued delivery and development of BoT and CSP.
- Ensure the integrated health offer is fully embedded in the JDP process to promote the commitment that a child will not enter the CJS as a result of an unmet health need.
- Restorative practice and the voice of the victim being central to JDP and statutory intervention promoting opportunities for mediation.
- Co-ordinated and proactive response to youth violence, both strategically and operationally, promoting a public health response by all youth justice partnerships.
- Continue our work within the Exploitation Hub, CEMOG and the Partnership Gang Forum to promote the early identification of exploitation and gangs' risks and develop and deliver appropriate responses, co-ordinated with communities and the youth justice partnership.

- Ensuring all our work, embodies the child first offender second principles, with a specific focus on our continued development of trauma informed practice, case formulation and the delivery of interventions within the Attachment, Regulations and Competency framework (ARC)
- Development of a comprehensive Interventions Index and delivery of creative activities to support our Child First Offender Second and ARC approaches.
- Empower young people to share their views and genuinely have an influence on service design and delivery in the future through our participation offer, with a specific focus on Black and Mixed Heritage boys and young women.
- Continue to improve the experience of young people in transition to National Probation Service, including those in custody and other youth justice partnerships, specifically Leaving Care and adult mental health.
- Workforce Development – continue to invest in appropriate training, encourage staff creativity and input of future practice developments. HMIP commented that:

“Training is prioritised and staff are encouraged to find new ways of working with children. The YOT has considered the views of staff regarding their working conditions, practice skills, and appropriately adapted their learning and development to ensure wherever possible the impact of Covid-19 has been minimised” (pg8)
- YMB development, as reflect in the HMIP report, to ensure members have appropriate levels of knowledge of the profile, needs and experiences of the children to ensure that services are delivered which effectively support their needs.

12. Evidence-based practice and innovation

Our recent HMIP inspection reported that:

“There is evidence that the service is continually learning and uses research to develop the services it provides.” “The service manager is committed to delivering services that are research-led and evidence-based”. (pg8)

At the heart of all our practice developments and innovations remains current research, academic insights and policy guidance’s. Two examples include:



Trauma Informed Practice Project 2018 – On-going

In 2018 Wolverhampton YOT participated in the Alex Chard research leading to the publication of “Punishing Abuse” identifying the level of trauma experienced by our young people. We worked with Betsey De Thierry from the Trauma Recovery Centre (TRC) and with a Social Worker Consultant, Steve Bore, and developed a framework for trauma informed practice in Wolverhampton. Children Services funded a whole team training schedule in 2019-2020, including an introduction to attachment, developmental and rational trauma; ARC model,

specialist trauma-based screening tools, case formulation, intervention planning and delivery. A practice working group reviewed all practice processes and adapted them to work within this new framework, including the development of all interventions to map against the ARC model. Refresher training, staff consultations and continued practice development has been ongoing. The recent HMIP commented:

“The trauma-informed approach is reflected in the range of interventions available. These were personalised to best meet the needs of the child”. (pg8)



Following working with the Centre for Justice Innovation in 2019 (6 YOS identified in the country) and with Cheshire YOS as part of the YJB pathfinder programme, we have developed our Divert Scheme, which is based on Child First principles of diversion and proportionate intervention. These are grounded in labelling theory (O’Brien, 2019); the idea that the more contact a young person has with criminal justice services the more likely they are to reoffend. Tyrell et al (2017) found that diversion programmes were effective in reducing recidivism compared to when no further action was taken. Haines and Case (2018) found that a focus on the child’s unmet needs is seen to provide the best chance of reducing recidivism. This is in line with the Youth Justice Boards child first, offender second focus.

13. Looking forward

The future is bright for Wolverhampton YOT, it has a clear vision and a strategy to achieve its strategic and practice ambitions. It is well supported by the City of Wolverhampton Council and its Children Services. The wider youth justice partnership is engaged and committed to the same vision, most admirably evidenced in the joint work with the Police to develop and launch DIVERT.

The opportunities and support will be available for our children, but it must be acknowledged that there will be challenges. The impact of COVID; the rise of youth violence and the risks of exploitation; combined with the city’s levels of deprivation. In addition, the education and learning needs identified for our young people will require a team committed, dedicated, and motivated to not only support our young people to improve their outcomes but also agitate and advocate for system change, where system change is needed.

14. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board	Bal Kaur
Signature	
Date	13.6.22

Appendix 1 Outline of full board membership, including attendance, job title of the board member and dates of board meetings

NAME	STATUTORY AGENCY	ROLE	20/10/21	26.1.22	27.4.22	29.06.22
Bal Kaur	PUBLIC HEALTH (Chair)	Consultant in Public Health		y	y	
Simon Inglis	POLICE (Chair)	Si West Midlands Police	y	y	y	
Clare Reardon	PUBLIC HEALTH	Senior Public Health Specialist	y	y	y	
Hazel Hawkins-Dady	HEALTH	0 - 19 Manager	y		y	
Donna Hamilton	HEALTH (CAHMS)	Regional Manager				
Mags Court	HEALTH (CAHMS)	Commissioning Group	y	y	y	
James Reeley	HEALTH (CAHMS)	CAHMS Service Manager	y			
Hannah Pawley	LOCAL AUTHORITY (SWP)	Community Safety Manager	y			
Celia Payne	LOCAL AUTHORITY	YOT Service Manager	y	y	y	
Niginder Kaur	LOCAL AUTHORITY (Connexions)	Lead Practioner NEET		y	y	
Rachel King	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Head of Specialist Support	y	y	y	
Sonia Mahey	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Service Manager Safeguarding/Exploitation	y	y		
Lynsey Kelly	LOCAL AUTHORITY SWP	Community Safety Manager		y		
Darren Martindale	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Virtual School Head	y	y	y	
Kate Luchessi	PROBATION	Head of Probation	y	y		
	OTHER AGENCY					
Steve Dodds	VOLUNTARY SECTOR	Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council	y	y	y	
Sarah Mellor	WERRINGTON YOI	Head of Case Management	y			
Helen Kilgallon	SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE	Operations Manager	y			
Parmajit Bains Singh	YOUTH BENCH CHAIR			y		
Deb Thompson	WOLVERHAMPTON HOMES	Head of Homeless Services	Y	y		
Catherine Draycott	The Royal Wolverhampton Trust		Y	y		
	GUESTS					
Winston Carnegie	WERRINGTON YOI	Head of Safeguarding	y	y		
Amanda Chamber	Werrington YOI	Werrington Resettlement Manager		Y		
Amanda Sherrard	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Senior Analyst	Y	y	Y	
Lucy Wedge	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Analyst			Y	
Balraj Juss	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Service Development Officer	Y			
Julie Hancox	LOCAL AUTHORITY	Business Support Administrator	y		Y	
John Denley	PUBLIC HEATH	Director of Public Heath	Y			
Emily Hacket	PUBLIC HEATH	Senior Public Health Specialist	y			
Gill Mamps	YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD	Head of Innovation & Engagement	y			

Appendix 2 – Service Structure Chart should include details of the staff roles in the YJS and the reporting arrangements for the Head of Service. Information on the links to the data analyst should also be included. There should be a separate table in the appendix recording the ethnicity, sex and known disability of staff.

Staffing analysis 2021-22

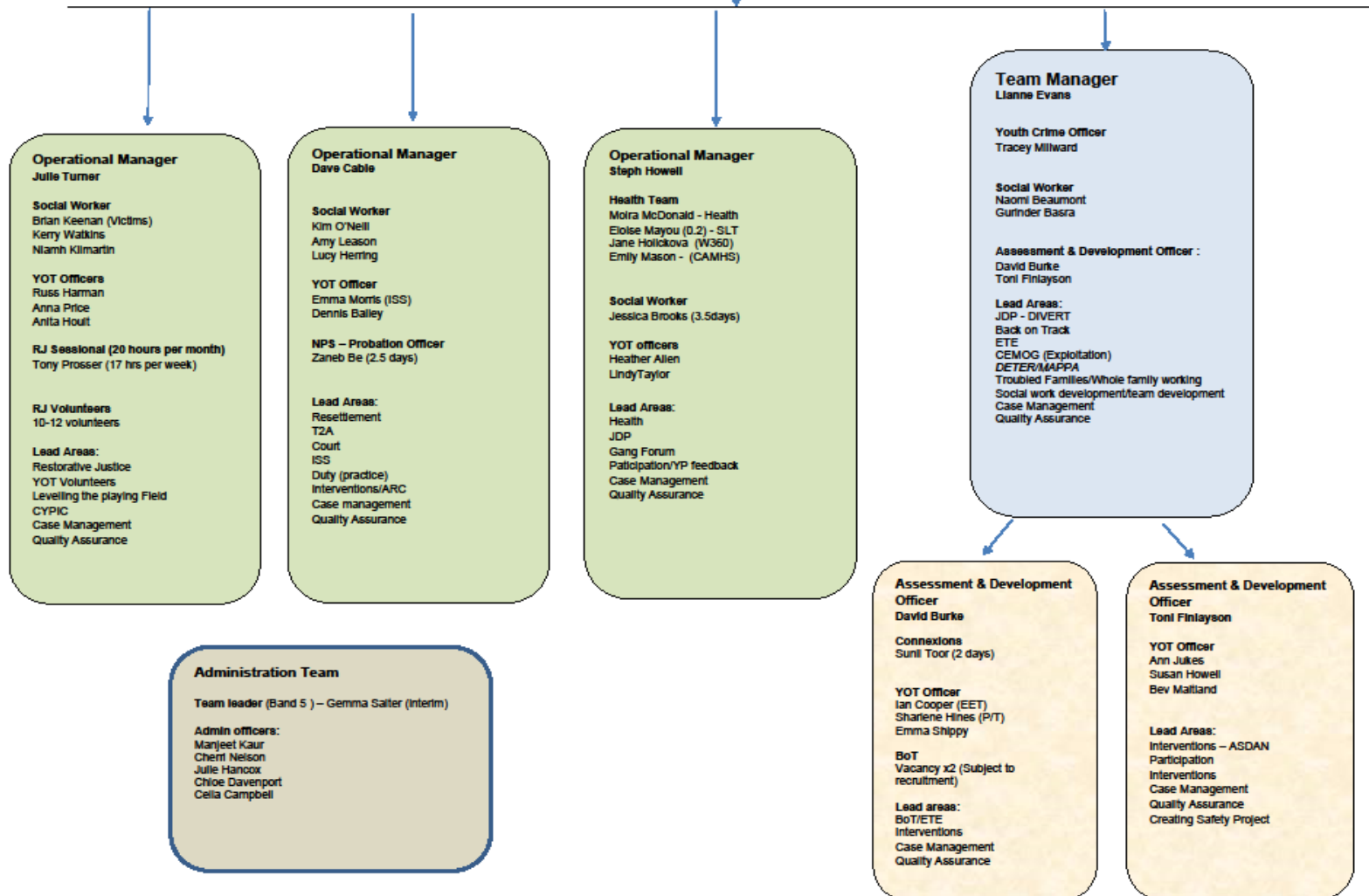
B8: Staffing of the YOT by gender and ethnicity; No. of individual people

Ethnicity	Managers Strategic		Managers Operational		Practitioners		Administrative		Sessional		Student		Referral Order Panel Volunteer		Other Volunteer		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Asian								1						2			0	3
Black				1	2	3		2	1					5			3	11
Mixed														1			0	1
White		1	2	3	3	17		3					2	10			7	34
Any other ethnic group					1												1	0
Not known					4												4	0
Total	0	1	2	4	10	20	0	6	1	0	0	0	2	18	0	0	15	49

3 members of staff have a recorded disability.

Head of Specialist Support
Rachel King

Service Manager
Celia Payne



CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the City Council 14 September 2022
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Report title	Code of Corporate Governance	
Referring body	Governance and Ethics Committee – 7 July 2022 Audit and Risk Committee – 25 July 2022	
Councillor to present report	Councillor John Reynolds	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paula Brookfield Governance and Equalities	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 553840
	Email	David.Pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Audit and Risk Committee	25 July 2022
	Governance and Ethics Committee	7 July 2022

Recommendations for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the revised Code of Corporate Governance.
2. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to publicise the document and add it to the Constitution.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To approve the Code of Governance.

2.0 Background

2.1 On 7 July 2022 the Governance and Ethics Committee considered a report on Corporate Code of Corporate Governance.

2.2 Copies of the report have been supplied to Councillors and can also be accessed online on the Council's website [here](#).

2.3 Governance and Ethics Committee recommended to Council that it:

1. Considers and approves the revised Code of Corporate Governance.
2. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to publicise the document and add it to the Constitution.

2.4 Governance and Ethics Committee noted:

1. The Audit and Risk Committee will consider the revised Code of Corporate Governance.

3.0 Financial implications

3.1 The financial implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 7 July 2022.

4.0 Legal implications

4.1 The legal implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 7 July 2022.

5.0 Equalities implications

5.1 The equalities implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 7 July 2022.

6.0 All other Implications

6.1 All other implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 7 July 2022.

7.0 Schedule of background papers

7.1 [Agenda for Governance and Ethics Committee on Thursday, 7th July, 2022, 2.00 pm :: Wolverhampton City Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

- 7.2 [Agenda for Audit and Risk Committee on Monday, 25th July, 2022, 2.00 pm :: Wolverhampton City Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#).

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<p>CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL</p>	<h1>Governance and Ethics Committee</h1> <p>7 July 2022</p>
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Report title	Code of Corporate Governance	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 553840
	Email	David.Pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Not applicable	

Recommendation for noting:

The Governance and Ethics Committee notes that:

1. The Audit and Risk Committee will consider the revised Code of Corporate Governance.

Recommendation for decision:

The Governance and Ethics Committee recommends that Council:

1. Considers and approves the revised Code of Corporate Governance.
2. Authorises the Chief Operating Officer to publicise the document and add it to the Constitution.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report outlines the improvements made to the Code of Corporate Governance. The updating of the Code of Corporate Governance is a recommendation from the Council's Annual Governance Statement in 2021. This Code has been updated to reflect changes in the guidance issued supporting the Code. It is recommended that the Council agrees to the addition of this document to the Constitution to ensure continuing lawfulness and effectiveness.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Code of Corporate Governance (the Code) aims to set out the principles of good governance and to describe the arrangements in place that ensure the Council conducts its business in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 2.2 The document was developed in 2016 following the introduction of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executive (SOLACE) framework and guidance, which recommends best practice for local authorities to follow. There are seven core principles, each of which is supported by sub-principles, to provide a governance framework.
- 2.3 Compliance with the Council's Code underpins the effectiveness of its systems of internal controls, and this in turn informs the Annual Governance Statement which accompanies its Annual Statement of Account.
- 2.4 The Code forms part of the Council's Constitution although it is not currently included within the published version.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

- 3.1 The Council is committed to maintaining robust arrangements for good governance and a periodic review of the Code was undertaken to ensure that:
- A. The Council was still complying with the core principles.
 - B. It reflected the most up to date ways in which the Council operates, including its expectations and standards.
- 3.2 At the same time the document was revised to ensure that it was more inclusive without losing any important detail. The revised version of the document has reduced in length, and includes a diagram showing the relationship between each of the seven core principles.
- 3.3 To ensure the document is used and can be easily understood it relies on signposting readers to other documents, so that they can easily find what they need without being distracted by unnecessary information.

3.4 The views of the Council's Head of Strategy, Head of Communications, Head of Audit and Director of Finance were taken into account and incorporated into the revised version of the Code.

3.5 Critically the Code can and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

[AS/29062022/V]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 Compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance supports the Council's review of the effectiveness of its system of internal controls as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. [SZ/29062022/P]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7.0 All other Implications

7.1 There are no other implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

8.1 None.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1: Code of Corporate Governance.

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Code of Corporate Governance

INTRODUCTION

City of Wolverhampton Council is committed to demonstrating the highest standards of Corporate Governance. Good governance leads to good management, good performance, effective use of resources, good public involvement, and ultimately good outcomes.

The Council's Code of Corporate Governance ("the Code") comprises a range of documents, policies, procedures, cultures, and values and is the system through which the business of the Council is directed and controlled. The Code underpins the aim of achieving good governance.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The corporate governance framework of City of Wolverhampton Council is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE best practice framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government 2016* (the most up-to-date version). The following **seven core governance principles** ensure that we have high standards of good governance.

- A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
- B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- E. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
- F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.

The table below shows the relationship between each of the seven Principles in achieving the intended outcomes while acting in the public interest at all times.

Underpinning principles	Implementation principles
<i>Principles A and B permeate implementation of all other principles</i>	
<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> Behaving with integrity , demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values , and respecting the rule of law	<p style="text-align: center;">G</p> Implementing good practice in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability
	<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits
<p style="text-align: center;">B</p> Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement	<p style="text-align: center;">D</p> Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended categories
	<p style="text-align: center;">E</p> Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
	<p style="text-align: center;">F</p> Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
	<i>Improving governance requires a continuing, cyclical, process of evaluation and review. When reaching this point, continue from the top at principle G</i>

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Council's commitment to good corporate governance includes the application, development, and maintenance of this Code. Each year the Code is reviewed, and an Annual Governance Statement made to accompany the Annual Accounts. The Statement includes an appraisal of the key measures in place to manage the Council's decision making and financial control, and it also provides details of where improvements need to be made. The Statement will be reported to the Governance & Ethics Committee and Audit and Risk Committee (whose respective Terms of Reference can be found [here](#) and [here](#)) who will also monitor progress towards any improvements which need to be made.

The following tables detail how the Council demonstrates its commitment to the seven core principles and indicates where more information can be obtained.

CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE A

Behaving with Integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law

This core principle is supported by three supporting principles:

- Behaving with integrity
- Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values
- Respecting the rule of law

What the Council does	How it demonstrates this
Ensures that the Council's leadership set and reinforces the tone of the organisation by creating a climate of openness, support, and respect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol for Councillor/Officer relations • Code of Conduct for Councillors • Code of Conduct for Officers • Leadership Forum, Operational Manager Network, Officer Briefings, City People articles, News from the Chief Executive (by email and video) • Weekly Councillor update emails • City Plan • Our People Strategy • HR policy framework including all HR policies • Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy
Defines the personal behaviours expected of Councillors and Officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol for Councillor/Officer relations • Code of Conduct for Councillors • Detailed training on Code of Conduct • Planning Committee Code of Conduct for Councillors and Employees • Councillors Guide – Equalities • Councillor induction and regular training
Puts in place arrangements to ensure that conflicts of interest are declared and if necessary, the Member/Officer does not participate in decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Code of Conduct for Councillors and detailed training • Code of Conduct for Officers • Councillors and Officers Register of Interests • Whistle-blowing Policy & Procedure • Councillor induction and regular training
Develops and maintains shared values including values for both the organization and Officers and communicate these with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our City: Our Plan • Council's website • Our People Strategy

Councillors, Officers, the community, and partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with residents and businesses including social media channels
Uses the Council's shared values to act as a guide for decision making and as a basis for developing positive and trusting relationships within the authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our City: Our Plan Our People Strategy Code of Conduct for Councillors Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Code of Conduct for Officers Professional Conversations
Maintain effective Governance & Ethics Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance & Ethics Committee Terms of Reference
Has in place effective systems to enable staff and others to identify any potential wrongdoing and to protect staff should they raise areas of concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whistleblowing policy Details of Monitoring Officer on website Monitoring officer accessible to officers Safe Space confidential reporting telephone and website for officers
Ensures that professional advice on matters that have legal or financial implications is available in advance of decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior lawyers and senior finance officers review reports going to member decision making meetings and all decisions must have legal and finance team approval before proceeding Lead Officers for projects have responsibility to engage with legal services and finance to ensure that legal and finance advice is secured for their projects
<p>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE B</p> <p>Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement</p> <p>This core principle is supported by three supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Openness Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively 	
What the Council does	How it demonstrates this
Encourages all sections of the community and other stakeholders to participate in our work through public consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notices in local newspapers Press releases for all local media Promotion and links to consultation via social media channels Stakeholder engagement channels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's website • Consultation Guidance for Employees • Citizen Space consultation and engagement portal
<p>Holds meetings in public unless there is to be discussion of matters of a confidential nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council, Cabinet, Board, Committee and Scrutiny meetings are all held in public unless considering exempt or confidential information • Protocol for Webcasting of meetings (including arrangements made as per Covid-19 special requirements) • Protocol for Recording and Filming of Meetings and the Use of social media • Clear guidance that meetings must be open unless considering exempt or confidential information
<p>Makes all information publicly available unless it is exempt by law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • The Council's website • Forward Plan of Key Decisions • Webcast of various Meetings (including those made as per Covid-19 special requirements) in accordance with relevant Protocols • Information Governance policies and procedures including relating to Freedom of Information • Environmental Information Regulations procedures • WV Insight data and analytics)
<p>Ensures that clear channels of communication are in place with all sections of the community and other stakeholders and put in place monitoring arrangements to ensure these operate effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward Plan of Key Decisions • Consultation on significant policy changes including via the Council's consultation and engagement portal Citizen Space • Petitions Scheme • Public questions at Health & Wellbeing Together meetings • Information Governance policies and procedures including relating to Freedom of Information • Environmental Information Regulations procedures • Whistleblowing policy • Regular surveys of residents to inform Council documents such as Our City: Our Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer feedback including complaints and compliments
Ensures that Officers are regularly consulted and invite comments from Officers on a wide range of issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with Recognised Trade Unions • Regular Staff engagement including senior officers attending each Staff Equality Forum and a representative from each Staff Equality Forum attending Strategic Executive Board meetings
<p>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE C</p> <p>Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits</p> <p>This core principle is supported by two supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining outcomes • Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits 	
What the Council does	How it demonstrates this
Defines and promotes its purpose and vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our City: Our Plan • Black Country Core Strategy 2011-2026
Maintains up-to-date Purpose and Vision to reflect its financial position and other major policy changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review of Our City: Our Plan
Works with its partners on an agreed common vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of strategies and policies with partners (including but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) • Wolverhampton Health & Well Board (Health & Wellbeing Together) • One Wolverhampton • Wolverhampton Clinical Commissioning Group • Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust • Health Watch • West Midlands Combined Authority • University of Wolverhampton • Wolverhampton College • Wolverhampton Homes

<p>Communicates on a regular basis the Council's key performance data, achievements and financial position.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report • Finance, performance and risk reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny at least quarterly • A clear performance framework set out in Our City: Our Plan and agreed by Full Council • Annual Audit Letter • Council Tax Information Sheet for residents
<p>Ensures that each service area reviews on a regular basis its objectives and priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Delivery Plans to ensure Our City: Our Plan outcomes are delivered • Performance deep dives at Strategic Executive Board monthly, underpinned by service performance framework • Review of contributions towards the Council's Net Zero Targets
<p>Puts in place effective arrangements to identify and deal with failure in service delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints routes and procedures (various) including reports to Scrutiny Board • Scrutiny Board and Panels • Internal Audit • Liaison with External Audit • Whistle blowing policy • Monitoring Officer reporting route • Regular performance and budget monitoring reports to Cabinet and Cabinet Resources Panel
<p>Uses national benchmarking of value for money and needs based evidence to regularly review and shape corporate priorities and supporting financial plans effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIPFA Financial Management Code • External auditors Annual Report
<p>Addresses the environmental impact of its policies, plans and decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental implications in all reports
<p>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE D</p> <p>Determining the interventions necessary to optimize the achievement of the intended outcomes</p> <p>This core principle is supported by three supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining interventions • Planning interventions 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimising achievements of intended outcomes 	
What the Council does	How it demonstrates this
Defines and promote its purpose and vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our City: Our Plan
Reviews annually its purpose and vision to reflect its financial position and other major policy changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review of Our City: Our Plan Medium Term Financial Strategy Regular finance, performance and risk reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny to inform annual review
Communicates on a regular basis the Council's key performance data, achievements and financial position.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Reports of Scrutiny Board, Head of Internal Audit, Audit & Risk Committee, Councillor Champions Regular finance, performance and risk reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny Updating reports to Cabinet External Auditors Annual Report Council Tax leaflets and letters to residents and online information
Ensures risk management process is applied at all levels of the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Management Framework Strategic Risk Register reviewed on a regular basis by the Audit & Risk Committee Update on Strategic Risk Register to each Audit & Risk Committee Corporate and Departmental risk registers Risks considered as part of finance and performance reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny at least quarterly
Ensures that each service area reviews on a regular basis its objectives and priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departmental Service Plans/Business plans Service performance frameworks, with deep dives on performance at Strategic Executive Board on a monthly basis
Puts in place effective arrangements to identify and deal with failure in service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints routes and procedures (various) Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules Whistleblowing Policy Monitoring Officer reporting route

Ensures resilience with regard to continuity of service in the event of unforeseen events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate and departmental business continuity and disaster recovery plans and arrangements
<p>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE E</p> <p>Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.</p> <p>This core principle is supported by two supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the Council's capacity • Developing the capability of the Council's leadership and other individuals 	
What the Council does	How it demonstrates this
Sets out in clear terms how the respective roles and responsibilities of the Cabinet and of the Cabinet members are allocated between the Leader, Cabinet and Council Officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • Protocol for Councillor/Officer relations
Sets out in clear terms the general responsibilities of Councillors and senior Officers and how they perform non-executive functions such as development control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility for Functions (Part 3) and delegation information within or arising from the Constitution • Forward Plan of key Decisions
Sets out how decisions are made, and which decisions are reserved to the Full Council. Determine a scheme of delegation to Chief Officers, including those decisions which are not included in their delegated powers and are reserved to Council or Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Part 3) within the Constitution • Articles of the Constitution (Part 2) within the Constitution • Forward Plan of Key Decisions
Makes the Chief Executive responsible and accountable for all aspects of operational management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Executive is designated Head of Paid Service for the Authority
Makes the Director of Finance (as section 151 officer) responsible for ensuring that appropriate advice is given on all financial matters, for keeping proper financial records and accounts, and for maintaining an effective system of internal financial control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 151 Officer responsibilities (Part 3) within the Constitution

<p>Adopts a protocol for relationships between Councillors and Officers which ensures proper and effective relationships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol for Councillor/Officer relations • Staff induction • Code of Conduct for Councillors • Councillor induction and other training • Code of Conduct for Officers • Officer induction documents and sharing of information
<p>Makes the Chief Legal Officer (as Monitoring Officer) responsible for the Council Constitution and for ensuring that agreed procedures are followed and that all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Officer responsibilities specified in the Constitution
<p>Sets out the terms and conditions for the remuneration of Councillors and Officers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • Council's Pay Policy Statement • Councillors Allowances Scheme • HR Policies and compliance with Local Government Terms and Conditions
<p>Ensures that service delivery is effectively monitored.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance framework aligned to Our City: Our Plan, with regular reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny • Service level performance frameworks, with monthly performance deep dives at Strategic Executive Board • Regular reports to Cabinet, Governance & Ethics Committee, Scrutiny board and its six panels
<p>Consults widely on its vision, strategic plans and priorities and take into account the views of the local community and key stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Our City: Our Plan, Medium Term Financial Strategy • Consultation on major policy developments via the Council's consultation and engagement portal Citizen Space • Statutory consultations
<p>Ensures that when working in partnership that Councillors are clear about their legal responsibilities and liabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice given to Councillors by Senior Officers
<p>Ensures that where the Council enters into a partnership there is a written agreement between the parties clearly setting out the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Law to arrange contract preparations

roles and responsibilities, including responsibilities for staffing and funding.	
Provides induction programme for Councillors and Officers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Handbook • Councillors Development Programme • Councillors Online Learning • Officer induction documents and sharing of information • Councillor Induction training
Ensures statutory officers have the resources and support to effectively perform their roles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer have a statutory right to be provided with sufficient support and so are able to raise the issue formally if they consider that they do not have adequate resources to enable them to undertake their roles
Assesses the learning and development needs of Officers and Councillors and make a commitment to meet those needs and develop required skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management and Development arrangements • Professional Conversations • Our People Strategy • Councillors Development arrangements
Identifies leaders of the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and Management Development including talent management and aspiring managers • Equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives • Deputies for officer roles • Our People Strategy
Provides support for Councillors and Officers who are Directors of Council companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice given as required/necessary • Training for Councillors
<p>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE F</p> <p>Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</p> <p>This core principle is supported by five supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing risk • Managing performance • Robust internal control • Managing data • Strong public financial management 	

What the Council does	How it demonstrates this
Maintains an effective scrutiny function which is aimed at improvement and service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements as outlined in Article 7 of the Constitution
Maintains effective arrangements for recording decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward Plan of Key Decisions • Record of Key Decisions • Minutes of all Council meetings • Protocol for Recording and Filming of Meetings and the Use of social media • Protocol for webcasting
Puts in place arrangements to ensure that decisions are not affected by conflict of interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member and Officer Codes of Conduct • Member and Officers Register of Interests • Support to officers and Councillors who are directors of companies
Maintains an effective Audit Committee that is independent of executive and scrutiny functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference (Part 8) within the Constitution • Two Independent Councillors appointed to the Audit & Risk Committee
Ensures that an effective and accessible complaints procedure is in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints routes and procedures (various) and guidance on website • Policy on Management of Unreasonable Complainant Behaviour • Whistleblowing Policy • Safe Space confidential reporting telephone line and website
Ensures that those involved in making decisions are provided with all relevant advice and implications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 151 Officer advice • Monitoring Officer advice • Finance Procedure Rules • Contract Procedures Rules • Senior officers in Legal Services and Finance review all reports going to Councillors for decision • Cabinet Member Briefings • Executive Meetings
Ensures risk management process is applied at all levels of the organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management Framework • Strategic Risk Register reviewed regularly by Audit & Risk Committee • Corporate and Departmental risk registers • Information Governance Risk Register

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance, finance and risk report to Cabinet and Scrutiny quarterly
Ensures that whistle blowing arrangements are in place for all officers and those contracting with the authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whistleblowing Policy • Contract Procedure Rules • Standard contracts and involvement of legal team in drafting
Maintains an effective process for reviewing the requirements of the law, the legality of transaction, decisions and the impact of new laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • Monitoring Officer's responsibilities as per Constitution
<p>CODE OF GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE G</p> <p>Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability</p> <p>This core principle is supported by three supporting principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing good practice in transparency • Implementing good practices in reporting • Assurance and effective accountability 	
What the Council does	How it demonstrates this
Maintains an effective scrutiny function which is aimed at improvement and service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements as per Article 7 of the Constitution
Maintains an effective Audit Committee that is independent of executive and scrutiny functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference as per Article 8 of the Constitution • Audit and Risk Committee includes two independent Councillors
Has a robust approach to the provision of Internal and External Audit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit function with an Internal Audit Charter • Compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards • Internal Audit Annual Report providing an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control, risk management and governance framework • Opt-in to the Public Sector Audit Appointments arrangements for the selection of the External Auditor

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Auditor's Annual Report • Internal and external Audit reports considered regularly by Audit and Risk Committee • Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report to Council
Makes all information publicly available unless it is exempt by law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution • The Council's website • Forward Plan of Key Decisions • Webcast of various Meetings (including those made as per Covid-19 special requirements) in accordance with relevant Protocols • Information Governance policies and procedures including relating to Freedom of Information • Environmental Information Regulations procedures • WV Insight data and analytics
Ensures that Officers are regularly consulted and invite comments from Officers on a wide range of issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with Recognised Trade Unions • Professional Conversations
Holds meetings in public unless there is to be discussion of matters of a confidential nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council, Cabinet, Board, Committee and Scrutiny meetings are all held in public unless considering exempt or confidential information • Protocol for Webcasting of meetings (including arrangements made as per Covid-19 special requirements) • Protocol for Recording and Filming of Meetings and the Use of social media
Ensures that clear channels of communication are in place with all sections of the community and other stakeholders and put in place monitoring arrangements to ensure these operate effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward Plan of Key Decisions • Consultation on significant policy changes including via the Council's consultation and engagement portal Citizen Space • Annual Report • Petitions Scheme • Public questions at Council meetings • Information Governance policies and procedures including relating to Freedom of Information • Environmental Information Regulations procedures • Whistleblowing policy

<p>Communicates on a regular basis the Council's key performance data, achievements and financial position.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report • Regular finance, performance and risk reports • Annual Audit Letter • Council Tax Information for residents
<p>Sets out how decisions are made, and which decisions are reserved to the Full Council. Determine a scheme of delegation to Chief Officers, including those decisions which are not included in their delegated powers and are reserved to Council or Cabinet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Part 3) within the Constitution • Articles of the Constitution (Part 2) within the Constitution • Forward Plan of Key Decisions
<p>Makes the Director of Finance (as Section 151 officer) responsible for ensuring that appropriate advice is given on all financial matters, for keeping proper financial records and accounts, and for maintaining an effective system of internal financial control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 151 Officer responsibilities as set out in the Constitution

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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the City Council 20 July 2022
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Report title	Written Questions by Councillors – July Meeting	
Referring person	Councillor Jas Dehar, Councillor Jonathan Crofts, Councillor Stephanie Haynes, Councillor Wendy Dalton, Councillor Wendy Thompson and Councillor Andy Randle	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Councillor Paula Brookfield, Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities Councillor Stephen Simkins, Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 550320
	Email	David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation for action:

The Council is recommended to:

That Councillors respond to the questions received in accordance with Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 30 minutes.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Councillors to respond to the questions received which were deferred from the July meeting:

a. Covid-19 Response

Councillor Jas Dehar to ask the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing:

As the city seeks to recover from the pandemic how is Public Health working to address the wider impacts of Covid-19 on the health and wellbeing of city residents?

b. Motions

Councillor Jonathan Crofts to ask the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities:

Please can the Cabinet Member set out the decision-making process of whether or not a motion is in order, legally sound and does not risk leaving the council open to legal action?

c. Police and Crime Panel

Councillor Stephanie Haynes to ask the Lead Member on the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel:

Please can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the work of the police and crime panel since its last meeting?

d. City Centre Hotel

Councillor Wendy Dalton to ask the Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy:

Please can the Deputy Leader provide an update on the Council's plans for a City Centre Hotel and what work has been carried out to deliver this?

e. Lichfield Street Post Office

Councillor Wendy Thompson to ask the Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy:

Please can the Deputy Leader advise what the Council is doing to support the regeneration of the old post office on lower Lichfield Street?

f. Heath Town Baths

Councillor Andy Randle to ask the Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy:

After the recent fire at the Council owned and long derelict Heath Town Baths, please can the Deputy Leader provide an update on this much neglected site?

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the City Council 14 September 2022
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Report title	Written Questions by Councillors	
Referring person	Councillor Wendy Thompson, Councillor Ellis Turrell and Councillor Adam Collinge	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Chris Burden, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work Councillor Ian Brookfield, Leader of the Council Councillor Obaida Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 550320
	Email	David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation for action:

The Council is recommended to:

That Councillors respond to the questions received in accordance with Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 30 minutes.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Councillors to respond to the questions received.

a. Second Hand Uniform Shop

Councillor Wendy Thompson to ask the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work:

What is the Council doing to encourage every school in Wolverhampton to have a second hand uniform shop to aid parents and carers when having to afford school clothing for their children?

b. Household Support Fund

Councillor Ellis Turrell to ask the Leader of the Council:

In March it was announced that Wolverhampton would receive an additional £2.6 million from the Government's Household Support Fund, to be spent by the end of September, to help vulnerable families with the increasing cost of living. This funding is as part of a wider package of Government support.

As we approach the deadline for spending this additional funding, can the Cabinet Member provide a summary of how Wolverhampton Council has used the funding, and confirm approximately how many households in our city the Council understands have benefited from the Household Support Fund.

c. Council Tax (Energy) Rebate

Councillor Adam Collinge to ask the Cabinet Member for Resources and Digital City:

Can the Cabinet Member confirm if and how many eligible households have still not received the Government's £150 non-repayable Council Tax (Energy) Rebate, distributed by the council, and confirm the percentage of eligible households receiving and not receiving the rebate for both direct debit and non-direct debit households.

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the City Council 14 September 2022
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Report title	Motion on Notice
Referring body/person	Councillor Linda Leach Councillor Simon Bennett
Wards affected	All Wards
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	N/A
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer
Originating service	Governance
Accountable employee	David Pattison Chief Operating Officer Tel 01902 550320 Email David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation for action:

The Council is recommended to:

Consider the motions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 50 minutes.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Council to consider the motions received:

a. St John Ambulance

Councillor Linda Leach will move the following motion:

“Wolverhampton is a city proud of all our volunteers and communities – throughout the recent pandemic this council has been humbled by the dedication and support of our residents who have given their time freely to support other people in this city.

City of Wolverhampton Council wishes to formally recognise and congratulate St John Ambulance as 2022 marks the centenary of the first St John Cadet Unit in England. Throughout the pandemic the Cadets have supported the NHS Vaccination Programme, continued to deliver training through online sessions and provided invaluable support to our communities. This has supported some of the most vulnerable people in Wolverhampton.

This council also notes the achievement of the Badgers programme this year celebrating its 35-year anniversary, recognising the value young people bring to our communities and encouraging children to understand the importance of learning new skills, staying safe and supporting the communities in which they live.

In celebrating St John Ambulance’s success, this Council will continue to encourage and support the expansion of the voluntary sector in Wolverhampton for everyone including young people.”

b. Tribute to Alderman Paddy Bradley

Councillor Simon Bennett will move the following motion:

“This Council agrees to a permanent tribute in the Penn ward to former councillor and Alderman Paddy Bradley, who gave over 40 years of dedicated service to the residents of Wolverhampton and sadly passed away in June; and requests that the Director of Governance presents a proposal on such a tribute to the Governance and Ethics Committee before the end of the current Municipal Year.”