

# Cabinet Meeting

## 21 October 2015

|  |   |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Report title</b>                            | Wolverhampton Youth Justice Plan                                    |                                 |
| <b>Decision designation</b>                    | AMBER   |                                 |
| <b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b> | Councillor Val Gibson,<br>Children and Young People                 |                                 |
| <b>Key decision</b>                            | No  |                                 |
| <b>In forward plan</b>                         | Yes   |                                 |
| <b>Wards affected</b>                          | All   |                                 |
| <b>Accountable director</b>                    | Linda Sanders, Strategic Director<br>Emma Bennett, Service Director |                                 |
| <b>Originating service</b>                     | Youth Offending Team (YOT)  |                                 |
| <b>Accountable employee(s)</b>                 | Sally Nash  | Head of Service - YOT           |
|  | Tel   | 01902 553722                    |
|  | Email   | sally.nash@wolverhampton.gov.uk |
| <b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>     | Strategic Executive Board   | 6 October 2015                  |
|  | Safer Working Partnership   | 7 August 2015                   |
|  | Scrutiny Panel  | 21 September 2015               |
|  | YOT Management Board  | June, September 2015            |

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### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Formally approve the adoption of the local Youth Justice Plan previously approved by the Youth Offending Team (YOT) Management Board.

### Recommendation(s) for noting:

2. Recognise the progress and ongoing challenges in delivering Youth Justice interventions in the current economic climate.

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the local Youth Justice Plan that is the product of partnership working under the oversight of the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership. Underpinning this Plan is an action plan which is regularly reviewed and monitored by the YOT Management Board which meets quarterly with membership from Wolverhampton City Council, West Midlands Police, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust, Recover Near You (*substance misuse service*), National Probation Service and the Chair of the Black Country Youth Court Bench.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, each Local Authority Area is required to have in place YOT arrangements. Central government provides a grant to support local Youth Justice Services via the Youth Justice Board (YJB) which sits within The Ministry of Justice. A condition of this £581,000 grant is the provision of satisfactory services that are outlined in an annual Youth Justice Plan.
- 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 has utilised the opportunity to provide a plan for the forthcoming two years.
- 2.3 This plan has routinely involved significant partnership consultation and planning. The plan is formally approved by the YOT Management Board and signed by the local Chair of this Board, which locally is Superintendent Keith Fraser from West Midlands Police.
- 2.4 During 2014/15 Wolverhampton YOT worked with 286 young offenders who had committed 543 offences. In addition the YOT is working to address the increasing number of less formal Community Resolutions intended to prevent the escalation of offending.
- 2.5 The Youth Justice Board local Performance Adviser regularly monitors local YOT performance and feedback indicates that we continue to perform well in respect of reoffending rates and also in keeping the number of our young people detained in custodial establishments at the lowest rate that is possible and safe for the community. There has been a recent slight increase in the number of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice system but this is in part a reflection of police policy and procedures.
- 2.6 Youth Justice services in Wolverhampton have long been considered as a success with exemplary work. Wolverhampton YOT anticipates a formal inspection within the next six months when our progress will be measured in a climate where resources have significantly decreased in line with the challenges within the Public Sector.

## 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The YOT budget is outlined in the attached Youth Justice Plan. Many partner contributions are 'in kind' staffing and the YOT has secured some other grants from partnership streams.  
[NM/06102015/Q]

#### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 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. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.  
[TC/09102015/C]

#### **5. Equalities implications**

- 5.1 The YOT provides services for some of the most vulnerable young people in society both as offenders, and also for victims of youth crime. There is significant disproportionality in the Youth Justice system and African Caribbean young men are far more likely to be represented in our custodial population than their white peers. This YOT is currently working with the Youth Justice Board to investigate how this can be further addressed.

#### **6. Environmental implications**

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications

#### **7. Human Resources implications**

- 7.1 YOT staff work to WCC Terms and Conditions or to those of their seconding agency. The experience of managing a multidisciplinary team is useful in the development of other initiatives such as the Multiagency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

#### **8. Corporate landlord implications**

- 8.1 There are no immediate corporate landlord implications although the YOT is subject to Future Space considerations.

#### **9. Schedule of Background Papers**

Safer Wolverhampton Partnership 7 August 2015  
Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel 21 September 2015