

# Cabinet Meeting

## 20 July 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Wolverhampton Youth Justice Plan	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
<b>Key decision</b>	No	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Emma Bennett, Children and Young People	
<b>Originating service</b>	Youth Offending Team (YOT)	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Sally Nash	Head Of Service
	Tel	01902 551595
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	YOT Management Board	25 May 2016
	People Leadership Team	20 June 2016
	Strategic Executive Board	28 June 2016

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

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Formally approve the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2016/17

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the Youth Justice Plan Refresh 2016/17. This is the plan relating to the work of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) partnership under the oversight of the YOT Management Board and the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership. The work of this plan is regularly reviewed by the YOT Management Board which comprises membership from City of Wolverhampton Council, West Midlands Police, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust, Recovery Near you (substance misuse service), National Probation Service and the Chair of the Black Country Youth Court Bench.

## **2.0 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 £485,000 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 YJB and has varied over the years. The attached plan is compliant with current guidance and represents a refresh on the previous plan which applied for 2015/16.
- 2.3 This plan has routinely involved significant partnership consultation and planning and a draft was discussed at the YOT Management Board at the end of May 2016. The plan has to be officially submitted by 30 September 2016.
- 2.4 During 2015/16 Wolverhampton YOT worked with 300 young offenders, an increase of 5% over the previous year, who had committed 601 offences, an increase of 10% on the previous year. In addition the YOT is working to address the increasing number of Community Resolutions, a type of Out of Court Disposal, with the intention of preventing young people escalating into the formal Youth Justice system.
- 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 safer 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. The Performance Adviser has seen a draft of this plan and indicated it is compliant and acceptable to the Youth Justice Board.
- 2.6 The biggest endorsement of our local delivery came from the Full Joint Inspection which occurred in November/December 2015 when the outcomes indicated Wolverhampton was one of the highest performing Youth Offending Teams in the country.

### **3.0 Financial implications**

- 3.1 The gross partnership pooled budget for 2016/17 for the Youth Offending Service is £2.2 million. The total of partnership income and other in-kind contributions amounts to £746,000. This figures includes the Youth Justice Board Grant of £485,000, which represents a 12% reduction on the previous year's grant. Therefore, the approved net budget for the Council for the Youth Offending Service is £1.5 million.
- 3.2 A breakdown of the partnership pooled budget for the Youth Offending Service is shown in the attached Youth Justice Plan 2016/2017.  
[AS/24062016/M]

### **4.0 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.  
[RB/16062016/X]

### **5.0 Equalities implications**

- 5.1 The YOT provides services for some of the most vulnerable young people both as offenders, and also for victims of youth crime. There is on-going work to address the potential for disproportionality in the Youth Justice System where 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. This refreshed plan has been supported by a refresh of its supporting equality analysis. The analysis indicates that there are no outstanding equalities issues that would prevent the plan from being approved.

### **6.0 Environmental implications**

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications.

### **7.0 Human resources implications**

- 7.1 YOT staff work to City of Wolverhampton Council Terms and Conditions or 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.

### **8.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 8.1 There are no immediate corporate landlord implications.

### **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 9.1 There are no background papers