



Cabinet Meeting

19 July 2017

Report title	Wolverhampton Youth Justice Plan 2017-18		
Decision designation	RED		
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People		
Key decision	Yes		
In forward plan	Yes		
Wards affected	All		
Accountable director	Emma Bennett		
Originating service	Youth Offending Team (YOT)		
Accountable employee(s)	Sally Nash	Head of Service YOT Democracy 01902 553722 Sally.nash@wolverhampton.gov.uk	
Report to be/has been considered by	YOT Management Board	21.6.2017	
	People Leadership Team	3.7.2017	
	SEB	11.7.2017	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet recommends that Council:

Formally approve the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2017-18.

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 2017-18. 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 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 risks to delivery is prepared to drive the work.
- 2.3 This plan has routinely involved significant partnership consultation and planning, and a draft was discussed at the strategic YOT Management Board on 21 June 2017. The plan is required to be officially submitted to the Youth Justice Board by 31 July 2017.
- 2.4 During 2016-17, Wolverhampton YOT worked with 284 statutory young offenders who committed 599 offences, the number of offences being almost exactly the same as in the previous year, although the number of young people committing those offences has reduced. A further 250 young people subject to pre-court 'Out of Court Disposals' and significant efforts are being made to address their assessed needs and issues to prevent them escalating into the Youth Justice system.
- 2.5 The Youth Justice Board Local Performance Adviser regularly monitors local YOT performance and feedback indicates that this YOT continues to perform well in respect of reoffending rates, and First Time Entrants. Every effort is made to provide constructive alternatives to custody, but it is of course accepted that some secure outcomes are both proportionate to the offences and necessary to protect the community.
- 2.6 The previous 2016-17 Youth Justice Plan was also accompanied by an action plan which was in fact the action planning relating to the suggested improvement outcomes of our very successful Inspection published in February 2016. It is pleasing to report that this action planning has been signed off as completed with some targets continuing to move

forward but progress recognised in all areas. The attached Youth Justice plan sets out the priorities moving forward that progress the drive for continuous improvement.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 The gross partnership pooled budget for 2017-18 for the Youth Offending Service is £2.2 million. Following the deduction of partnership income contributions and other in-kind contributions of £800,000 from partners the approved net budget for the Council for the Youth Offending Service is £1.4 million
- 3.2 A breakdown of the partnership pooled budget for the Youth Offending Service is shown in the attached Youth Justice Plan 2017-18.
[NM/10072017/G]

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/30062017/S]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 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. The YOT equality analysis will be refreshed alongside the action planning accompanying this Youth Justice Plan.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 YOT employees work to City of Wolverhampton Terms and Conditions and policies or those of their seconding agency.

8.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 8.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications..

9.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 There are no background papers.