

Report title	Wolverhampton Youth Justice Plan 2018-2019	
Decision designation	RED	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Children and Young People	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Youth Offending Team	
Accountable employee	Rachel King Tel Email	Head of Service 01902 555955 rachel.king@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board YOT Management Board	19 June 2018 27 June 2018

Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to recommend that Council:

Approve the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2018-2019.

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 2018-2019. 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 the plan was discussed at the strategic YOT Management Board on 27 June 2018. The plan is required to be officially submitted to the Youth Justice Board by 31 July 2018.
- 2.4 The plan for 2018-2019 seeks to identify priorities that respond to the national YJB key performance indicators whilst also taking the local context of Wolverhampton into consideration. There is a clear focus on continuing to reduce the number of first time entrants, reducing reoffending and reducing the number of young people who received a custodial sentence
- 2.5 The recent increase in gang and youth violence within the city is specifically identified as a priority area 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 work will also link to developing a better understanding across the region of the emerging issue surrounding County Lines.

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 2017-2018, Wolverhampton YOT worked with 282 young people on a total of 324 substantive outcomes, including Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions. This was in relation to 571 offences which was a small decrease when compared to 2016-2017 (599 offences). Alongside this, 133 young people worked with the YOT on Community Resolutions, committing 142 offences, a reduction of 26% when compared to 2016-2017 offences (193). First Time Entrants reduced by 7% in 2017-2018 when compared with the previous year and the use of custodial sentences has fallen by 27% for the same periods. The YOT has continued to focus its energy on preventing young people entering the Criminal Justice System by extending its offer with Community Resolutions and Out of Court disposals. In addition, practice continues to develop in engaging and working with young people at high risk of reoffending with an extension in the interventions on offer and the implementation of trauma informed practice.
- 3.3 The implementation of the Wolverhampton Reoffending Live Tracker toolkit in April 2018 has provided encouraging data on the levels of reoffending within the first 12 months of monitoring. Local data has indicated an overall binary reoffending rate of 23.3%, compared to a regional performance of 35.3% and National performance of 37.9%.
- 3.4 The new YOT inspection framework was published in March 2018 and inspection preparation is underway. The last inspection of the YOT was in December 2015. The outcome of the last inspection was that Wolverhampton YOT and its partners were found to have children and young people at the heart of their work. Planning for work to reduce reoffending was impressive and interventions were judged as being delivered to a high standard. However, education, training and employment outcomes for children and young people known to the YOT required improvement. Positively in 2017-2018 there was a 16% improvement in the engagement of YOT young people in education.

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 services. The youth justice plan 2018-2019 has been developed following consultation with partner agencies.

5.0 Reasons for decision

- 5.1 The Youth Justice Board announced its strategic priorities for 2018-2021 in May 2018. The key areas of focus are: the disproportionate representation of children from some Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds in the youth justice system, local services' practice to include the importance of understanding and evaluating out of court disposals, national standards for youth justice, resettlement and transitions between services and safety in custody and secure schools.

5.2 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.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 The gross partnership pooled budget for 2018-2019 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.

6.2 A breakdown of the partnership pooled budget for the Youth Offending Service is shown in the attached Youth Justice Plan 2018-2019.
[NM/05062018/A]

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 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]

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

9.0 Environmental implications

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human Resources implications

10.1 YOT employees work to City of Wolverhampton terms and conditions and policies or those of their seconding agency.

[HR/JF/EB/068]

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Youth Justice Plan