

TITLE OF REPORT: Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2018/19

REPORT OF: Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2018 – 2019.

Background

2. There is a requirement for Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) to produce an Annual Youth Justice Plan, which is one of the grant conditions for Local Authorities. The YJB has produced guidelines on what should be incorporated, however this is not restrictive – contents as follows:
 - Introduction
 - Performance Data (including Restraints in Custody)
 - Structure and Governance
 - Innovation and Promising Practice
 - Partnership Arrangements
 - Resources and Value for Money (including staffing structure)
 - Key Priorities
 - Risks to Future Delivery
 - What do People Say About Us?
 - Our Work with Victims
 - Contact Us
3. The Plan should be endorsed by Cabinet, full Council and the YOT Board and requires signatories from Northumbria Police, Northumbria Probation Service, Public Health and the Strategic Director for Care, Wellbeing and Learning.

Proposal

4. The Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan has been prepared by the YOT Management Team. The Plan considers the two recent HMIP Thematic Inspections on, 'The Work of Youth Offending Teams to Protect the Public' (2017) and 'Out of Court Disposal work in Youth Offending Teams' (2018) and the YOT is confident that the standard of work delivered within Gateshead YOT, is in line with the recommendations outlined in both reports. The annual plan reports on performance, financial management and the work of the YOT during the previous year and identifies recommendations, priorities and risks for the service in the coming year.

5. Key priorities for 2018/19 are:

- Improve the access to general health assessments for young people who enter the Criminal Justice System – carried forward from 17/19 plan.

New Priorities:

- Explore with the Newcastle/Gateshead CCG to identify potential funding to introduce the Liaison and Diversion scheme within Gateshead.
- Review Restorative Justice approaches within Gateshead and apply for renewal of the Restorative Justice Quality Mark (RJQM).
- Explore alternative methods of funding with regional colleagues to deliver on Attachment Based Parenting Interventions for young people known to Youth Justice Services.
- To embed the Enhanced Case Management (ECM) model and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research into every day practice which will aim to acknowledge and consider young people's diverse needs in relation to trauma.
- Ensure that relevant staff attend the 3 days – Trauma Recovery Training arranged for March 2019.
- To develop preventative approaches to work with young people in local authority care, children in need, complex children in need, and child protection arenas and those at risk of Civil Injunctions.

Risks to Future Delivery

6. The restructure of the Early Help team in Gateshead has included the Youth Offending Team. This has meant a significant change in management roles and responsibilities which could, if not managed effectively, result in less experienced managers taking a lead on the Youth Justice agenda. This if not managed effectively could impact on staff morale, staff development and the destabilising of the team.
7. First time entrants (FTE) have reduced in the quarter from January 2018 to March 2018 and whilst this is a positive ongoing trend, given the recent restructure and the dissolution of the Prevention Team into new roles within Early Help Services from September 2018, this could have an impact on FTEs.
8. Potential budget efficiencies, and changes within the Youth Justice Board could impact on overall performance.
9. Maintaining and improving performance in a changing political landscape could dilute the Youth Justice services provided to young people and their families.

Recommendations

10. Cabinet is asked to recommend the Council to endorse the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2018/19.

For the following reason:

To allow the Youth Offending Team to fulfil its strategic and operational responsibilities.

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APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. It is a requirement of Grant Funding from the Youth Justice Board that an annual strategic plan is produced for all Youth Offending Teams/Services. The annual plan contributes to the Council's strategic approach 'Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives' and to the 'Reducing risk and promoting resilience' priority in Children Gateshead, the plan for children young people and families in Gateshead.

Background

2. The Annual Strategic Plan was tabled for discussion with Board members and agreed with minor amendments at the YOT Board on 24 July 2018. The Strategic Plan was submitted by the 31 July deadline and covers the following sections:
 - (i) Introduction
 - (ii) Performance Data (including Restraints in Custody)
 - (iii) Structure and Governance
 - (iv) Innovation and Promising Practice
 - (v) Partnership Arrangements
 - (vi) Resources and Value for Money including staffing structures
 - (vii) Key Priorities
 - (viii) Risks to Future Delivery
 - (ix) What do People Say About Us?
 - (x) Our Work with Victims
 - (xi) Contact Us.
3. The Plan has been submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) who will forward the Plan to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and Ministers.
4. The Plan will be used by HMIP through an intelligence led and focus of resources in a way that drives improvement, selecting YOTs through a risk based approach guided by published criteria. HMIP expect to conduct up to 30 YOT inspections over the course of a year. In each inspection, the case assessment sample size will be linked to the number of children and young/people subject to YOT supervision. This will enable HMIP to inspect in a proportionate way whilst producing statistically valid findings.

Consultation

5. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and the YOT Board have been consulted.

Alternative Options

6. There are no alternative options. An Annual Report and Business Plan requires updating on an annual basis and is a statutory requirement for YOT's.

Implications of Recommended Option

7. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms there are no financial implications arising from this report.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no specific implications arising from this report.
- c) **Property Implications** - There are no property Implications.

8. **Risk Management Implication** - The risks to changes in management roles within the YOT has been identified within the Plan, as well as the reduction in staff undertaking a preventative role which could impact on the First Time Entrants (FTE) target. Potential budget efficiencies and changes within the Youth Justice Board could impact on overall performance and maintaining and improving performance in a changing political landscape could dilute the Youth Justice services provided to young people and families.

9. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The work of the YOT contributes to the Families Gateshead Programme and the improved emotional health and well-being for children, young people and their families.

10. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The YOT includes professionals who specialise in parenting, drug and alcohol use, emotional mental health, education and offending behaviour work. The YOT supports multi agency interventions and will work with families where issues around anti-social behaviour and those young people on the cusp of offending have been identified, or where there is a potential risk that there may be in the future. Over the last few years the YOT has developed areas of business which include: Child to Parent Violence work; worrying sexualised behaviour worker linked to NSPCC; and staff have benefitted from Extremism and Anti Radicalisation Training which does not feature highly in our work but remains an area of work which we regularly review.

11. **Health Implications** - The YOT works to improve and minimise the potential for substance misuse and emotional mental health of all the young people where this is identified as an issue. The YOT is working with the Children's Health Commissioner to try and identify resources that will enable young people known to YOT to access a general health nurse – which is identified as a gap in service provision.

12. **Sustainability Implications** - The YOT model delivers a responsive and flexible support to young people and their families to ensure that we provide effective interventions and intervene as early as possible.

13. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

14. **Area and Ward Implications** - Gateshead YOT covers all areas and wards within Gateshead and YOT staff regularly see young people and their families within their homes or local community settings. Reparation projects cover all areas and wards.

Background Information

15. See attached copy of Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2018/19.