

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-2020

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

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2019-2020

### **Background**

2. There is a requirement for the Youth Justice Service to produce an Annual Youth Justice Plan, which is one of the grant conditions for local authorities. The Youth Justice Board has produced guidelines on what should be incorporated, however this is not restrictive. The plan should include:
  - 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 Children and Young People Portfolio, Cabinet, Council and Gateshead Youth Justice Board and requires a signature from the Strategic Director for Care, Wellbeing and Learning.

### **Proposal**

4. The Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan has been prepared by the Youth Justice Service in collaboration with the Youth Justice Board. The annual plan reports on performance, financial management and the work of the Youth Justice Service and partners during the previous year and identifies recommendations, priorities and risks for the service in the coming year. It is also aligned to the Council's Thrive agenda.
5. Key priorities for 2019-20 are:
  - To further strengthen the Youth Justice Board through development sessions which will include reviewing terms of reference in line with Youth Justice Board guidance.
  - To set up a scrutiny panel for Out of Court Disposals which will report into the Board to improve accountability. The scrutiny panel will include Board members and volunteers to provide more objectivity and independence.

- To develop a digital forum where young people can access information and support through mobile technology.
- To further develop case audits to include trauma informed working and enhanced case management approaches to ensure this new learning is incorporated into assessment and planning of cases.
- To increase the identification of speech and language difficulties of young people and develop effective methods of addressing these.

### **Risks to Future Delivery**

6. As more young people are successfully diverted away from the Criminal Justice System via early intervention work, those who remain are increasingly complex with greater and challenging needs.
7. If the low-level use of remand and custody is not maintained, pressure is placed upon the secure accommodation budget. Remand costs remain an area of risk as this is dependent on several factors mainly outside of our control, including the nature and seriousness of the offences committed where alternatives to custody may not be appropriate. Future remand costs cannot be reliably forecast.
8. Statutory partners continue to have significant budget reductions to absorb and this may in turn reduce their capability to maintain Youth Just Service funding contributions and/or lead to removal of seconded staff in the future.

### **Recommendations**

10. Cabinet is asked to recommend the Council to endorse the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-2020.

For the following reason:

To allow the Youth Justice Service to fulfil its strategic and operational responsibilities.

## APPENDIX 1

### Policy Context

1. It is a requirement of grant funding that an annual strategic plan is produced for all Youth Offending Teams/Services. The annual plan supports Thrive.

### Background

2. The Plan has been submitted to the Youth Justice Board who will forward the Plan to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and Ministers.
3. The Plan will be used by HMIP to help monitor the Youth Justice Service to ensure that it continues to improve and have evidenced based outcomes. The plan will also be scrutinised and used within any Youth Justice Board inspection as part of the inspection framework.

### Consultation

4. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and the Youth Justice Board have been consulted.

### Alternative Options

5. There are no alternative options. The Strategic Plan requires updating on an annual basis and is a statutory requirement for the Youth Justice Service.

### Implications of Recommended Option

6. **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.
7. **Risk Management Implication** - 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.
8. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The work of the service contributes to Families Gateshead and improves emotional health and well-being for children, young people and their families.
10. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The service includes professionals who specialise in parenting, drug and alcohol use, emotional mental health, education and offending behaviour work. The service 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. The service has developed areas of business which include: Child to Parent Violence work; sexualised behaviour work in partnership with the NSPCC; and staff have benefitted from Extremism and Anti Radicalisation Training which

does not feature highly in our work but remains an area which we regularly review.

11. **Health Implications** - The service 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.
12. **Sustainability Implications** - The service 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** - The service covers all areas and wards within Gateshead. Reparation projects cover all areas and wards.

### **Background Information**

15. See attached copy of Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2019/20.