

TITLE OF REPORT: Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2024

REPORT OF: Helen Fergusson, Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2023-2024.

Background

2. Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out. The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales requires the following information to be included in the plan:

- Introduction, Vision & Strategy
- Child First and Voice of the Child
- Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements
- Board Development
- Progress on Previous Plan
- Resources and Services
- Performance
- National Key Performance Indicators
- Children from Groups Which are Over-represented
- Prevention and Diversion
- Education
- Restorative Approaches
- Serious Violence and Exploitation
- Detention, Remands, Custody and Constructive Resettlement
- Standards for Children in the Justice System
- Workforce Development
- Evidence Based Practice, Innovation and Evaluation
- Service Development
- Challenges, Risks and Issues
- Priorities

3. The Plan must be signed off by the full Council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'.

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.

Priorities

5. The key priorities for 2023 - 2024 are:
 - Improve the education, training and employment offer to young people
 - Improve the health offer for young people
 - Understand and provide an effective response to youth violence
 - Further develop our diversity, inclusion and equality strategy
 - Strengthen our resettlement policy

Recommendations

6. Cabinet is asked to recommend the Council to approve the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2024 as attached at appendix 2.

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, Resources and Digital 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. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed as is attached at appendix 3.
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. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – There are no climate emergency or sustainability implications.
13. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from this report.
14. **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 2023/24.