

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL COUNCIL

3rd November 2022

Cabinet Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills: Cllr Fiona Baker

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| Report Title | Youth Justice Plan 2022-23 |
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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Youth Justice Plan 22/23

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 there is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services. The Youth Justice Board provides guidance about what must be included in the plan and provides a structure for the plan.

2. Executive Summary

- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to present the Northamptonshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022-2023. The Youth Justice Plan provides details of progress made against agreed outcomes for Children and Young People. It outlines priorities, alongside potential future challenges for the partnership over the coming year. The Youth Justice Plan highlights the partnership arrangements and budget position for the Youth Offending Service.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended Council approve the Youth Justice Plan 2022-23.

4. Reason for Recommendations (NOTE: this section is mandatory and must be completed)

- 4.1 As well as being a requirement of statute, the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and approval by the Council is therefore required.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a statutory multi agency service, which has a responsibility to prevent offending and reoffending by those aged under 18 years who are resident in Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire YOS is well respected nationally as an innovative service achieving good outcomes for children and young people. There is a statutory requirement to produce and submit to the Youth Justice Board a Youth Justice Plan as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 section 40. The plan should set out how youth justice services are to be provided and funded, how the Youth Offending Service will be composed and funded, how it will operate and what functions it will carry out. The Plan must be submitted for approval to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State. The submission of the plan is also a condition for receipt by the service of the instalment of the Youth Justice Board Good Practice Grant.
- 5.2 The areas of work for the YOS are laid out in legislation, government policy and national guidance. The detail of local operational priorities and delivery are developed in agreement and with reference to key local strategic boards including Community Safety Executive; Children Trust Board; Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 Statute requires the production of an annual plan, the Youth Justice Board also welcomes plans that cover more than one year. Plans must cover both strategic and operational elements. The wider strategic picture should be captured, whilst also outlining the key business activities that will be undertaken by services to achieve wider strategic aims.
- 6.2 The Youth Justice Plan should set out the direction and strategy of youth justice services, describing how in particular, quality services will be provided to ensure positive outcomes for children and improvements in performance indicators, in particular:
- reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system

- reducing the use of custody
- reducing reoffending rates
- locally agreed performance indicators that evidence positive outcomes for children

6.3 The Youth Justice Plan must describe how leadership and governance is set up to monitor the quality and effectiveness of youth justice services across our area.

6.4 Due the restrictions of the Youth Justice Board prescriptive approach, the YOS is prevented from innovating and ensuring the document is child friendly and accessible to all. however, Northamptonshire Youth Justice Service will create a child friendly version of this document.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 The Youth Justice Board have confirmed the youth justice grant for the year 2022/23, will be uplifted by 9.8%. This uplift, which is applied across all local authorities, is the result of strong commitment to frontline youth justice services. This significant increase in funding is designed to support your delivery, performance improvements and your service's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Northamptonshire's youth justice grant allocation for 2022/23 is £705,433. This is on top of our statutory partnership contributions. See below

Finances for YOS for 2022/2023

| INCOME | Youth Justice Board ¹ | Local Authority | Police and Crime Commissioner | Probation | Health | Public Health | Total |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|
| Contributions | £705,433 | £1,563,205 | £200,900 | £31,974 | | £80,000 | £2,581,512 |
| Total income | £705,433 | £1,563,205 | £200,900 | £31,974 | £0 | £80,000 | £2,581,512 |

7.1.2 For 2022/23, the YJB require submission of the Youth Justice Plans which must be agreed by the Management Board and signed-off by the Chair prior to receiving any form of grant.

7.1.3 In respect of the Local Authority contribution the disaggregation principles applied as part of the overall contract sum re:

7.1.4

| Overall authority contribution | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| % West 53.75 | N North 46.43% |

7.1.5 100 % of grants are paid to North Northamptonshire Council.

¹ This includes all grants received from YJB

7.2 Legal

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 it will operate, and what functions it will carry out. For 2022/23, the Youth Justice Board require submission of the Youth Justice Plans which must be agreed by the Management Board and signed-off by the Chair prior to receiving any form of grant.

The Youth Justice Board and Management Board will ensure compliance with legislation and good governance.

7.3 Risk

There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.4 Consultation and communications

- 7.4.1 In accordance with statutory requirements, the plan was placed before Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service (NYOS) Management Board on which statutory partners sit. These include Police, Probation, Education, Housing and Health was approved in June 2022. The YOS intends to redraft the plan into a child friendly version once the plan has been agreed to ensure effective communication of its objectives, priorities and intended outcomes.. NYOS are committed to ensuring that the young people have a full understanding of the NYOS plans for 2022. We have identified our Youth Engagement Team to contribute to this.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.5.1 *Include any comments received by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to this report and its recommendations, and any prior consideration of the issues raised, including date/s of meetings where considered.*

7.6 Climate Impact

- 7.6.1 The Council, having declared a climate change emergency in June 2021, is committed to reducing its climate impact both within its own Council buildings and in working with businesses and the wider community to achieve net zero energy emissions. Both YOS buildings are Victorian and as a result not environmentally friendly. As a result the Trust are seeking to relocate the service to a more environmentally and child friendly building whilst encouraging agile working for staff who work directly with young people. Consequently the Covid Pandemic we have noticed a decline in staff mileage and use of cars and public transport. This is due to the creative ways the YOS have used to ensure young people remained seen throughout the pandemic. The use of virtual technology and community-based facilities have resulted in less travel.

7.7 Community Impact

- 7.7.1 Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service vision compliments the wider Northamptonshire Children's Trust vision and YJB 'Child First, Offender Second' approach in aspiring to create a local justice system, which supports children to be the best version of themselves, working collaboratively and seeing children as part of the solution, through evidenced based practice. It aims to recognise the need to create an individualised approach and appropriately respond to a child's diversity, by working holistically through a whole system approach to support the wider family and illuminate barriers to desistance, including structural inequality, alongside recognising the need to protect the public and previous/future victims of crime.
- 7.7.2 Ultimately The NYOS plan will make a positive impact to community safety and the reductions of young people involvement in offending behaviours.

8. Background Papers

Northamptonshire Youth Justice Plan 2022/2023.