

# Youth Justice Service Plan

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Report of: Director of Children & Families

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## Brief summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the 'Youth Justice Plan 2024-25,' which includes the refreshed multi-year strategy for the YJS covering 2024-27, and the work that sits underneath the strategy.

This report gives an update on each of the workstreams under the previous multi-year strategy 2021-24 in terms of recent activities, outcomes and next steps, and provides rationale for the refreshed strategy. It also considers the impacts that the national cost of living crisis is having on children and their families, and how that impacts on offending behaviours, paired with links with child exploitation and serious youth violence on offending behaviours.

This report provides information on the youth justice service, both at a preventative and statutory level, and supports and strengthens existing strategies within Leeds, including the Children and Young People's Plan, the Safer, Stronger Communities Plan and contributes to the Best City Ambition.

This report is developed to meet the core grant terms and conditions as set out by the Youth Justice Board.

## Recommendations

- a) That the Scrutiny Board acknowledges the strategic framework in place in order to prevent children from entering the youth justice system, and to support and divert those who have entered into the youth justice system in order to have a positive impact on the lives of children, their families and communities, and the work being undertaken by the council and other partners in key areas of activity.
- b) That the Scrutiny Board acknowledges the need to promote the work of the Youth Justice Service Plan across the city, across council directorates and wider city partnerships in order to reduce offending behaviours in children across the city.
- c) To note the impact of disproportionality on children from Black and Ethnic minorities within the youth justice cohort to highlight systemic inequalities. The Youth Justice Service seeks to address disproportionality within the youth justice system, however it is acknowledged

that this is a systemic issue. The service will work with partner agencies to actively challenge racial inequalities, through the service's understanding of the experiences and outcomes of children in the service and data.

- d) To note the Youth Justice Plan will be taken to Executive Board in July 2024 to recommend it is taken to Full Council in September 2024 for adoption.

### **What is this report about?**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Youth Justice Plan, and the work that sits underneath the strategy. This report gives an update on workstreams under the previous strategy in terms of recent activities, outcomes and next steps, and demonstrates the evidence base for the refreshed strategy.
- 2 The Youth Justice Plan is part of the council's Budget and Policy Framework and therefore in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, Full Council is responsible for its adoption. These arrangements are set out in Article 4 of the council's constitution.
- 3 As required by the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, it was agreed that the Youth Justice Plan would be referred to Children and Families Scrutiny Board for consideration.
- 4 The outcome of the Board's deliberations will be reported to Executive Board to inform its consideration of the final proposals. The Executive Board is also required to report to Council how it has taken into account any Scrutiny Board recommendations.
- 5 In addition to consideration of the Youth Justice Plan under the authority's Budget and Policy Framework, and given the clear links between the Youth Justice Plan and serious youth violence, Appendix 2 to this report provides the Board with the outcome of the recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to serious youth violence in Leeds for consideration and comment.

### **What impact will this proposal have?**

- 6 The aim of this strategy is to reduce offending behaviours in children across the city.

### **How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?**

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 7 **Health & wellbeing:** In 2030 Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, people are living healthy lives for longer, and are supported to thrive from early years to later life.
  - ensuring children in all areas of the city have the best start in life and enjoy a healthy, happy and friendly childhood
  - delivering a safe and welcoming city for people of all ages and from all communities in which residents feel more secure and have good friends

**Inclusive Growth:** In 2030 Leeds will have an economy that works for everyone, where we work to tackle poverty and ensure that the benefits of economic growth are distributed fairly across the city, creating opportunities for all.

- ensuring young people and those changing career in later life have the skills and job opportunities which enable them to realise their potential and thrive

- our businesses and social enterprises being innovative, creative, ambitious and connected to the local community they are in, with access to the skills they need to boost productivity and succeed
- understanding that place matters, and positive identity, culture, heritage and pride in our communities are vital assets in a sustainable future for the city and its local centres

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes                       No

8 The ongoing work highlighted within the Youth Justice Service Plan remains under the scrutiny of the Youth Justice Partnership Board which comprises of statutory services, including CSWS, the YJS, education, police, health and probation, third sector organisations, education sector representatives, elected members and the Youth Justice Board, and includes the voice of the children, their families and victims.

### What are the resource implications?

9 The YJ Partnership Board, representing the partners with support from the YJB, will work to ensure that the recommendations of the Youth Justice Plan are implemented within the financial framework available to the service.

### What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

10 There are no inherent risks within the Youth Justice Plan. Regular reporting is the key to ensuring that outcomes are improving and that challenges are swiftly identified, and remedial action is taken to mitigate the negative impact of those challenges. The Youth Justice Partnership Board has strategic oversight of the delivery of this plan.

### What are the legal implications?

11 None

## Options, timescales and measuring success

### What other options were considered?

12 This is an agreed strategic plan for the Youth Justice Service, endorsed by the Youth Justice Partnership Board.

### How will success be measured?

13 The Youth Justice Plan and refreshed strategy contains 15 performance measures for 2024-25 to measure success against the plan's outcomes and priorities. These measures will be reviewed regularly under the oversight of the strategic Youth Justice Partnership Board, and annually reviewed against within the Youth Justice Plan, as required by the Youth Justice Board as part of the core grant terms and conditions.

### What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

14 The Youth Justice Partnership Board and Director of Children & Families (Chair of the Board) will have strategic responsibility for the implementation of the Plan. This plan will be reviewed in 12 months' time.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Youth Justice Service Plan
- Appendix 2 - Joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to serious youth violence in Leeds.

## **Background papers**

- None