

Youth Justice Plan 2021 - 24

Date: 13th October 2021

Report of: The 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

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report provides the context to the requirement that the Leeds Youth Justice Plan 2021 - 24 is formally adopted by full Council.
- This Youth Justice Plan will contribute directly to the Best Council Plan (2020 – 25), specifically in relation to the child friendly city and the safe, strong communities element, with its ambition to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe from harm.

Recommendations

- a) That the Scrutiny Board endorses the Leeds Youth Justice Plan 2021 - 24 with a view to it going to the Executive Board in November 2021 and full Council in January 2022 for approval and adoption.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Local authorities have a legal duty under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce a Youth Justice Plan that shows how they will provide and fund youth justice services. The completed Youth Justice Plan must be sent to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State for Justice. This is reinforced within the YJB's terms and conditions of grant. This requirement is set out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 and is included in the council's constitution.
- 2 A draft Youth Justice Plan 2021 – 24 was discussed and confirmed by Leeds Youth Justice Partnership Board on February 10th, 2021 and approved on 19th July 2021. The plan has been submitted to the YJB in order to meet terms and conditions of grant. Whilst requiring submission by a specific deadline, the YJB recognise that planning in the current context is challenging and that youth justice plans are likely to be subject to regular review and amendment and as such are 'live' documents.

- 3 Whilst statute requires the production of an annual plan, the YJB welcomes plans that cover more than one year. Plans covering more than one year require an annual refresh and updating of key information, particularly relating to finance, governance and key achievements from the previous year.
- 4 The Leeds Youth Justice Plan requires approval by full Council under the current constitution. The production of a three-year plan, going to council every three years with annual updates in years two and three, is seen as the best option in ensuring compliance with regulations and minimising the impact on the Youth Justice Service and on full Council.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 5 Leeds Youth Justice Plan 2021 -24 sets out our ambitions and priorities for the next three years, including arrangements to ensure that we continue to deliver our successful Youth Justice Partnership in the city. It provides the detail as to how Leeds Youth Justice Service intends to deliver services to improve outcomes for children, families and communities through delivery of six key priorities:
 - Reducing the number of children and young people entering or re-entering the criminal justice system
 - Identifying and addressing racial inequality in the youth justice system and supporting cultural cohesion
 - Doing the simple things better
 - Reducing serious youth violence
 - Attendance, achievement and attainment
 - Reducing custody and positive resettlement children and young people from custody

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 6 Consultation has taken place primarily through the multi-agency Youth Justice Partnership Board which is the main forum for governance and oversight of the Youth Justice Service in Leeds. The Youth Justice Partnership Board has good representation from all statutory partners and a range of non-statutory partners to the YJS and includes the Lead Member for Children and Families.

What are the resource implications?

- 7 There are no additional resource implications, the plan will be delivered utilising existing resource and multi-agency partnership work.

What are the legal implications?

- 8 The Youth Justice Plan sits in the Budget and Policy Framework and requires adoption by the full Council.

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

- 9 Legislative changes, new youth crime trends, financial challenges and the social, health and educational impact of the pandemic are key risks to the delivery of this plan. The Youth Justice Partnership Board will respond flexibly and creatively to changes or emerging trends and the plan itself will be refreshed annually with key information updated.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

- Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 10 This Youth Justice Plan will contribute directly to the Best Council Plan (2020 – 25), specifically in relation to the child friendly city and the safe, strong communities element, with its ambition to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe from harm.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

- 11 A one-year plan has been considered but rejected as a practical option, given the workload impact.

b) How will success be measured?

- 12 The plan includes six priorities with outcome measures, describing what success will look like.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

- 13 Scrutiny Board in October 2021
Executive Board in November 2021
Formal adoption by full Council in January 2022

Appendices

- 14 Appendix A - Leeds Youth Justice Plan 2021 – 24.

Background papers

- 15 None.