

Review of Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

Date: 7th June 2023

Report of: Director of Children & Families

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children & 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 2021 - 24,' and the work that sits underneath the strategy. This report gives an update on each of these workstreams in terms of recent activities, outcomes and next steps. 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 ongoing 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 and young people across the city.
- c) To note the impact of disproportionality on young people from Black and Ethnic minorities within the youth justice cohort to highlight systemic inequalities.

What is this report about?

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the 'Youth Justice Plan 2021 - 24,' and the work that sits underneath the strategy. This report gives an update on each of these workstreams in terms of recent activities, outcomes and next steps.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 This is an ongoing strategy about reducing offending behaviours in children and young people across the city.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

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

- 3 The ongoing work highlighted within the Youth Justice Service Plan 2021-24 remains under the scrutiny of the Youth Justice Partnership Board which comprises of statutory services, including CSWS, education, police, health and probation, third sector organisations, education sector representatives and the youth justice board, and includes the voice of the child.

What are the resource implications?

- 4 There are no new proposals with resource implications presented in this paper.

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

5 None

What are the legal implications?

6 None

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

7 This is an agreed strategic plan for the Youth Justice Service which is ongoing.

How will success be measured?

This is an agreed strategic plan for the Youth Justice Service which is ongoing.

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

8 This is ongoing until 2024 when the plan will be reviewed.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Review of the Youth Justice Plan 2021-24

Background papers

- None