

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	11 July 2013
TITLE:	Youth Justice Plan 2013-14
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Youth Justice Plan 2013-14	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out work to be undertaken to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to agree that:

- 2.1 The Youth Justice Plan can be accommodated within the Council budget approved in February 2013 and can be approved as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework
- 2.2 The Youth Justice Plan can be approved as fulfilling the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and can be submitted to the Youth Justice Board.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council is the lead partner in the multi-agency arrangements to prevent youth offending, working closely with Police, Probation and Health Services, in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. All partners have a statutory responsibility to participate in the resourcing of the Youth Offending Service. The Council makes a significant contribution in terms of staff, cash and additional support, including provision of office accommodation and a range of financial and human resources services. In 2013-2014, the Council is contributing £422,457, or 48% of an overall budget of £878,307.
- 3.2 The budget has accommodated a further reduction of £44,000 in funding from the Youth Justice Board but now includes £27,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner; this is Home Office funding that has come directly to the Youth Offending Service as part of the Youth Justice Board's grant in previous years. Whilst the Council contribution has changed from last year, the funding of £105,000 previously received for the Family Intervention Project has now moved with that service into the Connecting Families Service. The change also reflects loss of the Service Manager post but an increase of 1% for salaries.
- 3.3 The Service Manager has delegated responsibility from the Youth Offending Service Management Board for delivery of services set out within the Youth Justice Plan, within the agreed budget.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
- Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live
- Building a stronger economy

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The principal, statutory aim of the youth justice system is to prevent youth offending. The Local Authority is the lead partner in the multi-agency arrangements for work undertaken with young people who have committed offences. The Youth Justice Plan reviews the positive progress made last year and sets out how services are to be resourced and delivered in 2013-2014.
- 5.1 Actions in the work plan included will contribute to making Bath and North East Somerset a safer place and to helping young people work towards more positive outcomes in their lives

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and no adverse or other significant issues were found.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Cabinet member, Trades Union, Staff, Other B&NES Services, Stakeholders/Partners, Other Public Sector Bodies, Section 151 Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer

8.2 The work of the Youth Offending Service is informed by feedback from service users. It has been consulted with staff within the service, including through completion of a self assessment, and with the Management Board through its regular meetings. A briefing meeting has been held with the Lead Member and a copy has been sent to the Trade Union.

9 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

Social Inclusion, Customer Focus, Young People, Human Rights and Other Legal Considerations

10 ADVICE SOUGHT

The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Sally Churchyard, 01225 396966
Background papers	Youth Justice Plan 2012-13
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	