

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Council
MEETING DATE:	May 2016
TITLE:	Youth Justice Plan 2016-17
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Youth Justice Plan 2016-17	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty, in consultation with key partner agencies Health, Police and Probation, to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out how youth justice services are to be composed and funded, how they will operate and what functions they will carry out to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Youth Justice Plan fulfils the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and can be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.
- 2.2 The Youth Justice Plan is adopted as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework and can be accommodated within the Council budget.
- 2.3 The relevant Development and Scrutiny Panel oversees progress and performance.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 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. All partners have statutory responsibilities to participate in the resourcing of the Youth Offending Service. Following consultation, the National Probation Service staffing contribution is reducing but they are contributing £5,000 into the pooled budget, after a number of years of making no contribution. There are no changes to the contributions of other statutory partners. The Council makes a significant contribution in terms of staff, cash and additional support, including provision of office accommodation and financial and human resources support services. In 2016-17, the Council is contributing £440,700, most of which pays for staff salaries.

3.2 The work of the Service also depends on a national grant from the Ministry of Justice, via the Youth Justice Board. It has recently received notification of 11.2% reduction for 2016-17 (a reduction of nearly £21,000) but there is confidence that the Youth Offending Service can still deliver services as planned. Submission of a Youth Justice Plan is a condition for receipt of this grant.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 Preparation of a Youth Justice Plan is required under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The national Youth Justice board for England and Wales has published guidelines for its completion and requires it to be submitted by September 2016.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 The principal, statutory aim of the youth justice system is to prevent youth offending by 10-17 year olds. The Youth Justice Plan reviews the positive progress made last year in work with young people at risk of offending and re-offending and with their parents/carers and victims and sets out how services are to be resourced and delivered in 2016-17.

5.2 Actions in the work plan will contribute to making Bath and North East Somerset a safer place and to helping young people work towards more positive, crime-free outcomes.

6 RATIONAL

6.1 The Council has a statutory obligation to publish a Youth Justice Plan

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 This Plan draws on learning from a recent HMIP Inspection, feedback from service users and consultation with the Youth Offending Service, its Management Board and two sub-groups, the Youth Crime Prevention Board and the Custody Review Panel.

8.2 A copy of this Plan has been sent to the Trade Unions.

8.3 This Plan has been approved for publication by the Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and the Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director – Finance).

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

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

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Background papers	Youth Justice Plan 2015-16
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	