

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Council	
MEETING DATE:	12 November 2020	
TITLE:	Youth Justice Plan 2020-21	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Youth Justice Plan 2020-21		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty, in consultation with named legal partners Health, Police and Probation, to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out agreed actions to help prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset.
- 1.2 Due to the current pandemic, the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has advised there is no requirement to submit the Plan to them this year and therefore no national framework for completion. The Youth Offending Service Management Board has agreed to preparation of a shorter Plan in light of this.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to:

- 2.1 Agree the Youth Justice Plan fulfils the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998;
- 2.2 Adopt the Youth Justice Plan as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework that can be accommodated within the Council budget.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 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 latest performance indicators and the national Standards self-assessment and reflects on learning about delivering services during a pandemic;

3.2 Actions in the work plan will help make Bath and North East Somerset a safer place and support children to work towards crime-free lives with better outcomes for the future;

3.3 The Youth Justice Plan 2020-21 is attached as an appendix to this report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Publication of a Youth Justice Plan is required under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

4.2 The Youth Offending Service and its partners share the statutory obligation to prevent youth offending;

4.3 Reflecting the National Standards published by the Youth Justice Board, work with children at risk of offending or re-offending takes full account of their status as children before their status as potential offenders and prioritises safeguarding them within their communities as well as in their family settings;

4.4 Services to those harmed by youth offending are provided in accordance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime 2015.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 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 and are maintaining their current level of support; £26,689 from the National Probation Service, £59,842 from Avon and Somerset Police and £45,994 from the local Clinical Commissioning Group; this includes staffing costs and a contribution towards running costs. The Council makes the greatest contribution in terms of staff, cash and additional support, including office accommodation and financial and human resources support services. In 2020-21, the Council is contributing £454,515 towards a total budget of £805,446, most of which pays for staff salaries. This contribution is within the existing Council approved budget.

5.2 The work of the Service also depends upon a core Ministry of Justice grant of £183,222 and a second grant of £24,967 towards the costs of funding any secure remand places needed. The Police and Crime Commissioner's direct contribution remains at £10,217 and is used to support the Service's preventative work undertaken by the Compass team.

5.3 Submission of national staffing and quarterly data returns are conditions for receipt of the Youth Justice Board grant. In addition, the Service was asked to submit a Recovery Plan and the Youth Justice Board has acknowledged its receipt and confirmed it fulfils all requirements.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance. This is incorporated into the Youth Justice Plan itself.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. It acknowledges disproportionality within the youth justice system which is currently being examined as part of the Avon and Somerset Local Criminal Justice Board under its Lammy Review. The local Youth Offending Service is actively involved in this review and is committed to implement agreed recommendations

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 A number of children who work with the Youth Offending Service undertake community reparation projects to help develop their understanding of the harm they have caused others and make indirect amends. These projects change over time but currently include managing an allotment, writing letters to adults living in residential homes and a bike scheme. In more normal times, the service works with a range of partners including the Council Parks Department, the National Trust Rainbow Woods, Bath Cats and Dogs Home, Julian House Build a Bike, Genesis Furniture Project, PEOPLE charity shop, Radstock SWALLOW Café, Chew Magna Community Farm and Bath City Farm

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10. CONSULTATION

10.1 This report has been approved by the S. 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer;

10.2 The Youth Justice Plan draws on feedback from young people who have worked with the Youth Offending Service over the last 12 months;

10.3 Governance has been reviewed and continues to rest with the Youth Offending Service Management Board, now operating as a Sub Group of the Bath and North East Somerset Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership. The Plan has been consulted with the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, the Youth Offending Service Management Board, the Custody Review Panel and members of the Youth Offending Service itself.

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Background papers	
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