

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	21 September 2023	
TITLE:	Youth Justice Plan	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Youth Justice Plan 2023-24		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty, in partnership with Health, Police and Probation, to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out how services will be organised and funded and what functions they will carry out to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset. The Plan will be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to:

- 2.1 Agree 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 Adopt the Youth Justice Plan as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework that can be accommodated within the Council budget.
- 2.3 Note that the Youth Offending Service Partnership Board is responsible for ensuring delivery of the Plan.

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 includes the latest performance indicators for work with children at risk of offending and re-offending and sets out how services will be resourced and delivered in 2023-24.

3.2 Actions in the work plan will help to make Bath and North East Somerset a safer place and support children to lead crime-free lives with better prospects for their futures.

3.3 The Youth Justice Plan 2023-24 is attached as an appendix to this report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Preparation of a Youth Justice Plan is required under S.40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The national Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has published guidelines for its completion and submission.

4.2 The Council is the lead partner in meeting the statutory requirement under S.39 of the same legislation, to establish a multi-agency team made up of members from Police, Social Services, Education, Probation and Health, to prevent youth offending. Work with children at risk of offending or re-offending takes full account of their status as children and prioritises safeguarding them within their local communities as well as in their family settings.

4.3 By virtue of the Local Authorities (functions and responsibilities) (England) regulations 2000 (as amended) certain plans and strategies, which together make up the Council's budgetary and policy framework, must be approved by full Council, as reflected in the Council's constitution. These include the Youth Justice Plan.

4.4 The constitution requires that the Executive's proposals in relation to any such policy, plan or strategy be submitted to full Council and that, in reaching a decision, the Council may adopt the Executive's proposals, amend them, refer them back to the Executive for consideration or, in principle, submit its own proposals in their place.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The above statutory partners share responsibility for resourcing the Youth Justice Service with staff and financial contributions. The Council continues to make the greatest contribution, together with significant in-kind support including access to buildings and finance, IT and human resources support. In 2023-24, the Council will contribute £427,662 (48%) for staffing and the pooled budget, as part of a total budget of £885,277. Whilst the amount remains the same, this is now a smaller proportion of the overall budget compared with last year, due to a new grant funding stream for the Turnaround initiative. The contribution is within the existing Council approved budget.

5.2 The work of the Service also depends on a core national grant from the Ministry of Justice, via the Youth Justice Board. This year, there is a small uplift to £230,904. The Police and Crime Commissioner's direct contribution remains at £10,217.

5.3 Submission of a Youth Justice Plan and quarterly data returns are conditions for receipt of the Youth Justice Board grant. In 2023-24, this will include reporting on an additional ten new key performance indicators and the introduction of a new oversight framework.

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.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and has confirmed workstreams already identified within the Youth Justice Plan including addressing disproportionality amongst children from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

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 to make indirect amends. These projects include working with local organisations which improve the environment and animal welfare, and working on the Service's own allotment. This work helps improve the environment and may make a small contribution to the achievement of carbon neutrality by 2030.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

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

10.2 The Youth Justice Plan draws on feedback from children and parents who worked with the Youth Justice Service during 2022-23.

10.3 The Plan has been approved by the Youth Justice Partnership Board and members of the Youth Justice Service itself. It was also listed for the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel on 18 September.

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Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	