

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	11th July 2024	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3549
TITLE:	Youth Justice Plan 2024 to 2026	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Youth Justice Plan 2024 to 2026		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty, in partnership with Health, Police and Probation, to produce a Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out how services are to be organised and funded and what functions will be carried out to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset. The Plan is presented to the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel and to Cabinet and Council for approval. A final version is then submitted to the national Youth Justice Board (YJB).

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to:

2.1 Recommend approval of the Youth Justice Plan to full Council.

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 reoffending and sets out how services will be resourced and delivered in 2024 to 2026.

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. This includes working with the Violence Reduction Partnership to address knife crime and other serious violence.

- 3.3 The Youth Justice Plan 2024 to 2026 is attached as an appendix to this report. The report sets out strategic priorities for the next two years, but the plan will also be reviewed in April 2025 as required by the Youth Justice Board.

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 2024 to 2025, the Council will contribute £460,002 (50%) for staffing and the pooled budget, as part of a total budget of £916,369. The contribution is within the existing Council approved budget. The work of the Service also depends on a core national grant from the Ministry of Justice, via the Youth Justice Board. This year's allocation has not yet been confirmed due to the general election. The figures in the plan are based on last year's allocation of £230,904. The Police and Crime Commissioner's direct contribution remains at £10,217.
- 5.2 Submission of a Youth Justice Plan and quarterly data returns are conditions for receipt of the Youth Justice Board grant. This includes reporting on 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.

6.2 A summary of challenges and risks is contained within the Youth Justice Plan.

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 minority ethnic backgrounds and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 To improve climate change, the service minimises travel where possible, sometime using online meetings with colleagues where appropriate. Staff also have use of the pool cars when completing longer journeys and use public transport where possible.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

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

10.2 The Youth Justice Plan draws on feedback from children, parents and carers who worked with the Youth Justice Service during 2023/24.

10.3 The Plan has been approved by the Youth Justice Partnership Board and members of the Youth Justice Service itself.

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Background papers	None
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