

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy, Development and Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	12 th May 2025	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Youth Justice Plan 2024 to 2026 – Progress Report	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Youth Justice Plan 2024 to 2026 PowerPoint Presentation Youth Justice Plan Progress Report Equalities Impact Assessment Youth Justice Board Knife Crime Insights Presentation		

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 two year Plan was presented to CAHW Scrutiny Panel, Cabinet and Council in July 2024 for approval.
- 1.2 There is now a progress report on the two-year plan at Scrutiny Panel on 12th May, and a refreshed version of the Plan will be presented to Cabinet and Council on 10th and 17th July respectively.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to note and comment on progress against the two-year plan and for delivery of youth justice services in the year ahead.
- 2.2 The presentation also includes responses to the PDS Knife Crime Prevention Task Finish Group recommendations.

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, along with a presentation outlining progress made in the last 12 months. A refreshed plan will be submitted for 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, Children's Social Care, 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. The refreshed Youth Justice Plan will outline the from all partners.
- 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 key performance indicators and participation in the oversight framework.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

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

6.2 The Youth Justice Partnership Board, which is a sub group of the BCSSP, has oversight of the Risk Register for the service.

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 refreshed Youth Justice Plan will be 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 2024/25.

10.3 The Plan will be 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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