

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Council	
MEETING DATE:	22 July 2021	
TITLE:	Youth Justice Plan 2021-22	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Youth Justice Plan 2021-22		

1 THE ISSUE

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

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 Management Board is responsible for ensuring delivery and ask the relevant Development and Scrutiny Panel to oversee performance.

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 2021-22.
- 3.2 Actions in the work plan will help to make Bath and North East Somerset a safer place and support children work towards crime-free lives with better prospects for the future.
- 3.3 The Youth Justice Plan 2021-22 is attached as an appendix to this report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

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

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. 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 2021-22, the Council will contribute £426,441 towards a total budget of £797,824 (53%). Council commitment to staffing and contribution to the pooled budget remain at the same level as last year. This 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. For the year ahead, this amount increases by 8% to £199,374. The Ministry of Justice also delegates funding towards the costs, where needed, of remand places for children. The Police and Crime Commissioner's direct contribution continues to be £10,217. All remaining costs are met by the statutory partners who contribute to a pooled budget.

5.3 Submission of a Youth Justice Plan and quarterly data returns are conditions for receipt of the Youth Justice Board grant.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A summary of challenges, risks and issues is included in the Youth Justice Plan itself.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 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 to make indirect amends. In most years, these projects have included working with local organisations which improve the environment and animal welfare. It is expected that as the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions come to an end, the Service will resume a number of these initiatives. At present, work in underway to improve the Service's allotment.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

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

8.2 The Youth Justice Plan includes feedback from children who worked with the Youth Offending Service during 2020 and from their parents/carers.

8.3 Performance and the Business and Improvement Plan have been discussed with the Youth Offending Service Management Board, the Custody Review Panel, the Youth Crime Prevention Board and members of the Youth Offending Service itself.

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