

ASSEMBLY

27 September 2023

Title: Annual Youth Justice Plan 2023/24	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care and Disabilities	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: Yes
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Summary	
<p>The Youth Justice Service is a multi-agency statutory service set up in line with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to deliver services to children involved in the criminal justice system. The Youth Justice Plan is an annual plan that reports on the work of the youth justice service within LBBD and the strategic management board that oversees this service. It highlights the performance of the team in meeting the three national performance targets and standards as well as local indicators and expectations.</p> <p>It is an annual report that is submitted to the Youth Justice Board in line with our conditions of grant to show how we are delivering youth justice services and meeting expected standards. It outlines the achievements of the service over the last 12 months and how this has impacted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First time entrants into the criminal justice service• Re-offending of children and young people• Reducing the numbers of children in custody <p>Overall, the service is positively impacting all three areas with all three performance indicators decreasing over the last five years but are still higher than London and National averages with regard to use of custody and first-time entrants.</p> <p>The plan sets out the priorities for the coming year and how they align with local and national priorities. Focus areas for the coming year are:</p>	
Priorities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued work focusing on reducing first time entrants and children in custody.• Continued focus on Education training and employment with a new education worker in post, ensuring good education, employment, and enrichment	

opportunities for young people with a focus on the expansion of the AQA accreditation.

- Develop targeted and effective interventions in collaboration with young people, particularly focusing on children with differing needs and young women and girls.
- Focused work on robbery, serious youth violence that also understand and young people as victims as well as perpetrators and links to substance misuse.
- Focus on achieving consistently good quality practice against all the practice standards. Meeting new KPIs and improved performance reporting through partnership engagement and delivery

Governance and partnership

- Involvement of young people at a strategic level on the board
- Embed anti -racist practice standards striving to achieve equity for our black and global majority children known to the Youth Justice Service.
- Improved partnership recording and sharing of information and impact of service delivery to inform wider issues affecting young people and to influence future work and commissioning.
- Strengthened quality assurance processes ensuring clear line of sight and understanding of quality of practice.
- Ongoing scrutiny of research and reports to inform the work of the board and the Youth Justice Service to ensure practice improvement is in line with most recent thinking and learning.

The Cabinet considered and endorsed the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 at its meeting on 19 September 2023.

Recommendation(s)

The Assembly is recommended to adopt the Barking and Dagenham Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Reason(s)

To assist the Council to achieve its priorities with regard to residents being safe, protected and supported at their most vulnerable, as well as helping children prosper from good education and skills development as well as living healthier and happier lives.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The annual Youth Justice Plan until this year has been a document agreed by the local multi agency youth justice management board and submitted to the Youth Justice Board in line with the conditions of grant and in line with the national expectations.
- 1.2 One of the expectations of the Youth Justice Board this year is that the annual plan is presented to and agreed by the Council. This is a new expectation by the Youth Justice Board who have also agreed that plans can be submitted once agreed by the Youth Justice management board with the expectation that it will also be ratified

by the Council. This is the first year that this plan has been submitted to the Cabinet and Assembly.

2. Proposal and Issues

2.1 The proposal is that the Annual Youth Justice Plan is ratified and signed off by the Council with agreement that the priorities set out within the plan adequately address the needs of children and young people involved with the service. The service is meeting outcomes and delivering positively against national indicators with regard to:

- Reducing First time entrants into the criminal justice system
- Reducing re-offending by children and young people
- Reducing the use of custody for children

2.2 The plan is in line with national and local priorities and has been agreed at a partnership level. The plan outlines how it will continue to improve services where audit and quality assurance has highlighted areas for improvement and areas of future development to continue to improve the service. The plan clearly outlines the structure and financial envelope within which it works and delivers in accordance with these.

3. Options Appraisal

3.1 An options appraisal is not required due to the fact that this plan is an expectation of the Youth Justice Board who govern youth justice and set out the expectations for the delivery of youth justice services.

4. Consultation

4.1 Consultation on this report was completed with the Youth Justice Service management board and young people on 5 June 2023 and their ideas and comments have been included in the plan.

4.2 The Cabinet considered and endorsed the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 at its meeting on 19 September 2023.

5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Paul Durrant, Finance Manager

5.1 The original 2023/24 annual budget plan for the Youth Justice Plan is £2.827m. The LBBG General Fund contribution is £1.663m, with further contributions from other parties listed below.

Agency	Total
Youth Justice Board	£505,789
Local Authority	£1,663,388
Police	£230,540
Police and Crime Commissioner	£200,000
Probation	£29,750
Health	£158,000
Other	£40,000
Total	£2,827,467

5.2 Recent correspondence from the Youth Justice Board states that they are increasing their contribution by a further £0.002m. LBBD is the custodian of the fund, with either direct funding provided from other parties or commitments to seconding their staff to the programme at level of funding stated.

5.3 The delivery of the programme is statutory under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Nicola Monerville, Principal Solicitor

6.1 The local Youth Justice Plan is for review and consideration by the Council, setting out the work of the youth justice service in addressing youth crime in the borough and the priorities for the forthcoming year.

6.2 Part I, Chapter I, s.5 of the Crime and Disorder Act sets out the authorities responsible for strategies. This includes, amongst other statutory partners, the council for each area (s.5(1)(a)).

6.3 Part III, Youth Justice, s.37 (1) states that it shall be the principal aim of the youth justice system to prevent offending by children and young persons. Sub section (2) states that In addition to any other duty to which they are subject, it shall be the duty of all persons and bodies carrying out functions in relation to the youth justice system to have regard to that aim.

6.4 Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to the provision of youth justice services. Section 40 sets out the youth justice partnership responsibilities in producing a plan which should be in consultation with partner agencies. This plan should set out how use justice services in their area ought to be provided and funded and how they will operate and what functions will be carried out.

7. Other Implications

7.1 **Risk Management** – Potential risks associated with the recommendations could be that if the priorities of the plan are not agreed that services would not be delivered in accordance with expected standards and does not address the needs of the borough. This may negatively impact any future HMIP inspection of the service alongside any potential impact on current positive performance which could impact crime and disorder in the borough. These risks have been taken into account when

developing the plan and consulting with partners in the hope that they are mitigated against in the priorities and actions set within the plan.

- 7.2 **Corporate Policy and Equality Impact** – The Youth Justice Plan at its very core has the expectation of ‘children first, offender second’. The youth justice service and plan outlines the inequality that can exist for young people within the criminal justice system and the measures taken to mitigate against this wherever possible. It outlines our work specifically with more marginalised young people in our communities and the efforts made to ensure that all children involved in the youth justice system are treated fairly and equitably. The Youth Justice Plan will ensure that services are being developed and delivered to take into account the views of children and their families and improve outcomes for those children involved in the criminal justice system. One of the priorities this year is to increase our feedback processes to ensure that children are heard in our strategic boards as well as our operational practices.
- 7.3 **Safeguarding Adults and Children** – The Youth Justice Plan outlines the commitment of the Youth justice Service to improve outcomes for children involved in the youth justice system. It focuses specifically on the adverse childhood experiences of these children and identifies how the trauma that they have experienced has impacted their current behaviours. The service continues to advocate for children who have been marginalised and is committed to having high aspirations for those children who are more likely to experience poor outcomes due to their involvement in crime. The Service sits within Children’s care and support directorate and is always focused on the safeguarding and wellbeing of children that access the service.
- 7.4 **Health Issues** – The priorities within this plan also include expectations of health colleagues seconded into the service to provide health services for children involved in the criminal justice system in line with National key performance indicators which will impact children and young people in a positive way.
- 7.5 **Crime and Disorder Issues** – The Youth Justice Plan has been written to align with the National priorities outlined by MOPAC and YJB and local priorities set out by partners in the Community Safety Partnership. The work of the Youth Justice Service and its performance is monitored and governed by the Youth Justice Management Board with representation from across the partnership. The YJS Board also reports into the Community Safety Partnership Board and provides regular updates on pertinent issues related to crime and disorder.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of appendices:

- **Appendix 1** – Annual Youth Justice Plan 2023/24