

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting:	16 th September 2014
Subject:	Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2014-2015
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	Councillor Lynda Seymour, Policy Lead for Children and Families Councillor Janet Mote, Performance Lead for Children and Families
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	This is not ward specific
Enclosures:	Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2014-2015 Equalities Impact assessment

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

It is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan.

This report presents the draft Youth Justice Plan for 2014/15, a statutory plan, setting out how the 3 outcomes (reducing the number of first time entrants, reducing re-offending and reducing the use of custody) will be achieved. The plan also sets out the challenges and priorities for 2014-2015.

Once agreed the plan will be submitted to the Youth Justice Board as part of the conditions attached to the grant received from the Ministry of Justice.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the Committee's comments be forwarded to Cabinet;
- (2) To recommend to the Council approval of the Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2014-2015

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

Multi-agency youth offending teams (YOT) were established in 2000 following the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act with the intention of reducing risk of young people offending and re-offending, and to provide counsel and rehabilitation to those who do offend.

Background

It is the responsibility of Harrow Council , in consultation with partner agencies, to develop and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out how youth justice services in Harrow will be provided and funded, how the Youth Offending Team will be composed and funded, how it will operate , and what functions it will carry out.

Current situation

Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2014-2015 is in draft form and is scheduled to be presented to Cabinet and Full Council. It will be submitted to the Youth Justice Board in draft form in September.

It is a statutory requirement to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan.

Implications of the Recommendation

Resources, costs

Harrow Youth Offending Team has been resourced by contributions from Harrow Council, statutory partners, the Youth Justice Board and some additional grant funding for example the Restorative Justice Development Grant. Statutory partners have also contributed through deployment or secondment of key personnel, including 1-5 Police officers, 1 Probation Officer and 0.4 CAMHS worker.

Staffing/workforce

Additional staffing in the form of 1 senior practitioner and 3 case workers was agreed to improve performance and management oversight.

Community safety

Harrow Council Corporate Plan 2014/15 priority is to “become the safest borough in London by reducing the overall level of crime and incidences of anti-social behaviour” and the Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan contributes to this priority.

Financial Implications

The total revenue budget for the Youth Offending Service is set out as follows:

Budget 2014-15	£'000
Expenditure budget	£1,031

Funded by:	
Youth Justice Board	£270
Drug Action Team (MOPAC)	£38
Council funding	£599
Probation Service	£47
Police Service	£66
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	£11
Total funding	£1,031

The Youth Justice Plan will be contained within the above budgets.

Performance Issues

There has been a significant cultural change in the management and service delivery in the YOT. This has included the development and implementation of a rigorous quality assurance framework aimed at tracking and raising performance against the 3 outcome indicators

- Reduction in the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reduction in re-offending
- Reduction in the use of custody

Environmental Impact

None

Risk Management Implications

The risk to the local authority of a reduction in resources will impact significantly on the pace of change and future successes.

Equalities Implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

Council Priorities

The Youth Justice Plan has the potential to impact on the Council priorities

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 28 th August 2014		

Ward Councillors notified:

NO

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Ann Garratt Service Manager Youth Offending Team Tel 0208 736-6976

Background Papers: None