

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting:	18 September 2014
Subject:	Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2014-15
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No, as the decision is reserved to Council
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2014-2015 Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents the draft Youth Justice Plan 2014-2015, 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.

The Youth Justice Board requires the annual plan to be submitted by the 30th September 2014. It may be in future that the annual plan is presented to Cabinet earlier in the year to give members the opportunity to scrutinise the plan at an earlier stage.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to recommend to the full Council approval of the Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2014-2015

Reason: (For recommendation)

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

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.

Options considered

None.

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 full Council. It will be submitted to the Youth Justice Board in draft form in September.

Why a change is needed

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

Implications of the Recommendation

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.

Equalities impact

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed. This indicates that the plan will have a positive impact on groups who access the services of the youth offending team as the purpose of the plan is to reduce first time entrants to the justice system, reduce reoffending and reduce use of custody. One of the priorities of the service is to make effective use of data in order to analyse patterns and trends in year and to target service delivery more effectively.

Community Safety

Safer Harrow 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. Safer Harrow oversees the delivery of the Plan.

Legal Implications

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 makes it a duty of the local authority, after consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement for each year a youth justice plan setting out:

1. How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded;
2. How the YOTs are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.

Such functions may include the local authority’s duty to take reasonable steps to encourage children and young persons not to commit offences.

Partner agencies are the chief officer of police, local probation board and strategic health authority.

Following approval, the youth justice plan has to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board and published.

As a statutory plan, the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council’s policy framework and as such requires approval of full Council.

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

The priority for the Safer Harrow Partnership (2014-2015) is “to become the safest borough in London by reducing the overall level of crime and incidences of anti-social behaviour through

- Work to reduce the fear of crime; and
- Strengthen the links between the anti-social behaviour teams and their links with the Youth Offending Team.

The Youth Justice Board has identified 3 outcome indicators that local partnerships should deliver against:

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

Current performance demonstrates:

- a reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system from 127 young people in 2011 to 79 young people in 2013.
- a reduction in re-offending rates from 41.6% (99 out of 238 young people) to 35% (70 out of 200 young people)
- a reduction in the numbers of young people in custody. In 2011-12 17 young people were in custody compared to 10 young people in 2013-14.

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 will impact on the following Council priorities by supporting young people who enter into the justice system:

- 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 August 2014		

Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 9 September 2014		

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Alex Dewsnap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Divisional Director Strategic Commissioning
Date: 9 September 2014		

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name: Hanif Islam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Corporate Director (Environment & Enterprise)
Date: 21 August 2014		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Ann Garratt, Service Manager – Children Looked After
Tel: 0208 736 6976

Background Papers: None

**Call-In Waived by the
Chairman of Overview
and Scrutiny
Committee**

NOT APPLICABLE

*[Call-in does not apply, as the
decision is reserved to Council]*