
**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting:	16 th September 2015
Subject:	Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2015-2018
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer Interim Corporate Director of Children and Families
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	Councillor Simon Brown, Portfolio Holder for Children Schools and Young People.
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	Not Ward specific.
Enclosures:	Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2015-2018

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents the draft Youth Justice Plan 2015-2018, a statutory plan, setting out how the 3 outcomes

- reducing the number of first time entrants
- reducing re-offending
- reducing the use of custody

will be achieved.

The Plan also sets out the challenges and priorities for 2015-2018.

Recommendations:

To recommend approval of the Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2015-2018 to Cabinet.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

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 a 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 and identifying the key priorities for 2015-2018.

Current situation

The Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2015-18 is in draft form and is scheduled to be presented to full Council in December 2015.

It will be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in August 2015.

Why a change is needed

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

Implications of the Recommendation

The Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan sets out the resource implications and the workforce details.

Financial Implications

The budget for Harrow Youth Offending Team is resourced by contributions from the Youth Justice Board, Harrow Council and statutory partners. Statutory partners have also contributed through the deployment or secondment of key personnel .

Performance Issues

Impact on Council priorities

- Making a difference to the most vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for businesses; and
- Making a difference for families

The three key performance indicators for the Youth Offending Team are

- Reducing First Time Entrants
- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing the use of custody

Performance against these targets is good.

Reducing First Time Entrants

There was a 23.4% decrease in the number of young people being found guilty of a crime in 2014-15.

In Oct 13 – Sept 14 there were 73 First time entrants FTE's compared to 79 Oct 12-Sept 13, a rate of 311 per 100,000 compared to 327 per 100,000.

Re-offending

Harrow's most recent re-offending rate (April 12-March 13) of 43.7% accounts for 60 re-offenders from a cohort of 139, this compares to 84 re-offenders in the same period the previous year. The size of the cohort and the number of re-offenders have decreased consistently since 2009, however with a smaller cohort and lower numbers of FTE's the proportion of re-offenders has increased. The alternative measure for re-offending is the frequency rate which represents the average number of re-offences per offender. In the latest reporting period (April 12- March 13) the average number of offences committed by re-offenders was 1.08, this is an increase on the previous year which was 1.04.

Custody

The general trend in Harrow is a decrease in the number of young people in custody. Over the past three years Harrow has seen considerable decreases from 28 in 2012-13; to 23 in 2013-14 and 15 in 2014-15.

The performance targets are set by the Youth Justice Board for all Youth Offending Teams.

The plan is a statutory requirement from the Youth Justice Board.

Environmental Impact

None

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? No

The Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice plan is overseen by the multi- agency strategic partnership board, chaired by the Director of Children and Families.

Equalities implications

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? Yes

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

The plan details how the Youth Offending Team will meet the key performance indicators detailed above which incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for local businesses
- 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: 11 th August 2015		
Name: Helen Ottino, Senior Lawyer & Team Leader – Social Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date: 16 th August 2015		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Ann Garratt
Head of Service Youth Offending
Tel 0208 736 6976

Background Papers:
Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2015-2018