
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	15 September 2016
Subject:	Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2015-2018 - Annual Update
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of People
Portfolio Holder:	Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No, as the decision is reserved to the Council
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix A – Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2015-2018, update July 2016, this includes the Annual Report 15-16. Appendix B – Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan – Update August 2016

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents an annual update to the Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2015 - 2018 which set out how the following 3 outcome indicators would be achieved in Harrow:

- Reducing First Time Entrants

- Reducing Reoffending
- Reducing the use of custody

The attached Youth Justice Plan Update –August 2016 provides details of the progress made against the Youth Justice Plan and outlines potential future challenges and priorities.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to recommend approval of the Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2015-2018 to full Council.

Reason: (For recommendations)

- It is a statutory requirement to produce a Youth Justice Plan. For any 3 year plan there is a requirement to ensure there is an annual update.
- In order to consider the implications on future Youth Offending service provision in light of central Government review of the Youth Justice System nationally.

Section 2 – Report

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 reoffending and to support and offer rehabilitation to those who do offend.

The Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan 2015-2018 was agreed by the Council as a 3 year plan in 2015 (See Appendix A). Appendix B provides an update to the 3 year plan and a detailed Annual Report outlining progress made in 15-16 and key challenges and priorities for 2016-17.

Options considered

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

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 delivered and funded. It is also a requirement to outline how the Youth Offending Team will be structured and highlight key priorities for forthcoming years.

Current situation

In December 2015 a strategic decision was taken for the new Head of Service for Early Intervention to also take responsibility for the Harrow Youth Offending Team (HYOT). This is the first appointment of a permanent Head of Service for HYOT in 4 years. In addition, all existing posts within the YOT structure have now been appointed to on a permanent basis with the exception of the part-time Restorative Justice Worker. The Out of Court Disposal function (Triage) which was set up to support the reduction of first time entrants was also transferred from the Early Intervention Service into the YOT in January 2016.

HYOT have experienced a 10% in year budget reduction in 2015-16 followed by a further 12% reduction in grant funding from YJB in 2016-17. This is against a backdrop of HYOT experiencing an increase in First Time Entrants and Reoffending rates.

Youth Offending Teams nationally await the publication of the Governments Review into the Youth Justice System which is due to be released in September 2016.

The implications of the recommendations are likely to be far reaching and the "Interim Report of Findings" published in February 2016 queries whether the current YOT model is the most effective way to deliver Youth Offending Services in the community. Recommendations are likely to include:

- Strength in multi-agency working especially given the complexity of the cohort and the need for stronger links to children's services, health and education;
- A significant shift to focussing on education needs within the secure estate
- Innovation in how YOTs are composed and delivered
- A more devolved Youth Justice System where local areas should have more responsibility and funding with streamlined accountability and monitoring – allowing for greater innovation and collaboration
- Changes to the funding model and formulas and the removal of Youth Justice Board (YJB) providing the grant to YOT's.

In anticipation, HYOT will commence exploring alternative models of delivery that are cost effective, achieve desired outcomes in reducing youth crime and are in line with recommendations as outlined by Government.

Following the publication of the Youth Justice Review which will provide a clear direction of travel for Youth Justice delivery nationally and which will impact on decisions that will need to be made locally a further update will be provided to Cabinet.

Why a change is needed

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

On publication of the Youth Justice Review, it may be necessary to return the Youth Justice Plan to cabinet. This is to ensure it accounts for any changes identified within the review that may impact on arrangements outlined in the current plan.

Implications of the Recommendation

The Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan sets out resource implications and the staffing establishment.

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

The review of Youth Justice System has taken into account the over representation of groups such as Black and minority ethnic groups (BME) and Children Looked After across Youth Justice. It is hoped the report will identify how Criminal Justice Agencies collectively respond to these groups in particular with regard to deterring and early intervention to prevent any further criminalisation of these groups. This will support local coordination of criminal justice services.

Nonetheless there will remain a commitment to ensure any groups that are over represented within Harrow's youth offending population are protected and interventions targeting these groups, such as Children Looked After, are prioritised through continued multi agency delivery of services.

Performance Issues:

The three performance indicators for Youth Offending Teams, set by the Youth Justice Board nationally are:

- Reducing First Time Entrants
- Reducing Reoffending
- Reducing the Use of Custody

Reducing First Time Entrants

From October 2014 – September 2015, compared to the same reporting period of October 2013 – September 2014; HYOT had an increase of 20.5% first time entrants, which accounts for 16 more young people entering the system.

However the latest reporting period January 2015 – December 2015 whilst demonstrating an increase, does account for less young people than the previous year. The reporting period from January 2014-December 2014 showed 82 young people identified as FTE's, and in January 2015- December 2015 accounted for 86 young people as FTEs. The latest reporting period shows there was an increase, but at a lesser rate of 4 young people instead of 16 young people.

Reducing Reoffending

There has been a national increase in reoffending rates, and HYOT figures also demonstrate an increase (although at a lesser rate than national averages). The cohort from July 2013 – June 2014, demonstrates that 66

young people (who reoffended) are responsible for 185 offences, which is an average of 2.8 offences each. This is an increase of 0.6% from the year before. Further analysis of this cohort will continue to take place to assist in understanding trends and informing future resource allocation.

Reducing the Use of Custody

HYOT has consistently demonstrated a reduction in the use of custody despite working with young people committing more serious offences. This evidences an increased confidence from courts, in HYOT's ability to safely manage complex cases within the community. HYOT's latest position of 0.21% in terms of use of custody rates is significantly lower than the national average of 0.40%.

Performance in two of the three outcome measures need to be prioritised and resources to deliver effective interventions should continue to be identified and accessed. Given the uncertainty of direction for Youth Justice System, this will need to be considered in any future delivery model that is proposed.

Environmental Implications

None

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No
Separate risk register in place? No

Legal Implications

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 makes it a duty of the Local Authority to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan for each year setting out:

- How youth justice services are to be provided and funded
- How Youth Offending Teams are to be comprised 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 people not to commit offences.

Partner agencies are the Chief Officer of Police, local Probation Board and strategic Health Authority.

Following approval by the Council the Youth Justice Plan has to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board and be 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 2016-17 budget for the Youth Offending Service is shown as follows:

Agency	Actual Costs £	Payments in Kind £	Total £
Local Authority	597,659		597,659
Police Service		70,000 (2 full time equivalent (fte) police officers)	70,000
National Probation Service		50,000 (1fte probation officer)	50,000
Health Service		16,833 (joint funded CAMHS post)	16,833
Youth Justice Board	210,593		210,593
Total	808,252	136,833	945,085

A mid-year cut of grant funding by the YJB of 10% (£27,381.80) in 2015-16, followed by a 12% (£20,993) reduction in grant funding for 2016-17 has caused considerable pressure in supporting the current arrangements in achieving outcomes. Despite partner contributions remaining relatively stable, there is concern that the future of services within the public sector is volatile and any small changes to resource could significantly impact delivery of Youth Offending services. Intense and varied resources are needed to reduce reoffending of the most complex cohorts that continue to present themselves within the Criminal Justice System.

The interim Review of the Youth Justice System indicates the devolvement of budgets to Local Authorities.

Once published, there will be a greater understanding on any future budget implications and this will need to be incorporated into any update presented to Council.

There are currently no significant financial implications to note.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

An EQIA will be completed once the impact of Governments Review of the Youth Justice System is published and is understood, as this will determine any impact on staffing or service users.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

Please identify how the report 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: 1 September 2016		
Name: Sharon Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 5 September 2016		

Ward Councillors notified:	No , as it impacts on all wards.
EqIA carried out:	No . EQIA completed in 2015. A further EqIA will be completed once Government publishes its review of Youth Justice System.
EqIA cleared by: n/a	

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Errol Albert, Head of Service, 0208 424 1321,
errol.albert@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Appendix A – Youth Justice Partnership Plan 2015 – 2018 (see enclosure)

Appendix B – Youth Justice Partnership Plan 2015- 2018, update August 2016 (see enclosure)

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

NOT APPLICABLE

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