

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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**Date of Meeting:** 19 September 2017

**Subject:** Harrow Youth Offending Team - Youth Justice Partnership Plan 2017-2018

**Responsible Officer:** Chris Spencer, Corporate Director, Peoples Services.

**Scrutiny Lead  
Member area:** Councillor Jerry Miles  
Councillor Janet Mote  
Councillor Richard Almond

**Exempt:** No

**Wards affected:** This is not ward specific.

**Enclosures:** **Appendix** – Youth Justice Partnership Plan 2017–2018

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report presents an annual Harrow Youth Justice Plan 2017 - 2018 which sets out how the following 3 outcome indicators would be achieved in Harrow:

- Reducing first time entrants
- Reducing reoffending
- Reducing the use of custody

The Youth Justice Plan provides details of the progress made against agreed outcomes and outlines potential future challenges and priorities.

### **Recommendation:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider and comment on the draft Youth Justice Plan 2017-18 (Cabinet will then be requested to consider the Plan in the light of the Committee's comments, and recommend it for approval by full Council).

### **Reason: (for recommendation)**

There is a requirement to ensure a statutory youth justice plan is produced annually by the Council.

## **Section 2 – Report**

This Youth Justice Plan is produced in compliance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40 which stipulates the following:

It shall be the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement for each year a plan (a "youth justice plan") setting out—

- (a) How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
- (b) How the Youth Offending Team (YOT) or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.

The plan also incorporates guidance from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.

The Youth Justice Plan highlights the key challenges and priorities for 2017-18 and a detailed Annual Report outlining progress made in 16-17. All statutory partners who make up the YOT board have been consulted including Police, Probation, Health and voluntary sector partners.

## **Background**

The Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021) has identified a key priority in keeping children safe and aims to reduce the number of crimes that harm children and young people such as Knife crime, crimes caused by gangs, Sexual Abuse alongside a commitment to tackling serious youth violence whilst enhancing the role of YOT's in doing this.

The Youth Justice Plan is closely aligned with the Violence, Vulnerability & Exploitation (VVE) Strategy; which emphasises the need to reduce serious youth crime; address issues of gangs and exploitation and focus on knife crime. The YOT is central to delivery of the VVE action plan.

The YOT engages in a wide variety of work with young people who offend (those aged between 10-17 years) in order to achieve the three outcome indicators. The YOT supervises young people who have been ordered by the court to serve sentences in the community or in the secure estate, and provides a range of interventions to help young people make effective and sustainable changes to prevent them from further offending.

The governance of the YOT is through line management accountability to the Corporate Director of People Services and the Harrow Youth Offending Partnership Board, which is accountable to the Safer Harrow Partnership.

## **Current situation**

Harrow restructured the service in 2015/16 and now comprises of a fully permanent workforce with closer alignment with the newly redesigned prevention services known as Early Support.

Harrow has seen a reduction in first time entrants as well as a reduction in youth reoffending; however, the use of custody has increased. This demonstrates the significance of a national increase in knife related offences and serious youth violence impacting on the complexity of cases held within the YOT.

The Government's response to the review into the Youth Justice System has now been received and there has remained a commitment to improve services across the criminal justice system. Harrow YOT has considered its services in light of the recommendations which focuses on the need for robust early intervention and preventative services.

There have been no significant changes in the budget allocation to Harrow YOT.

## **Implications of the Recommendation**

The Youth Offending Partnership Youth Justice Plan sets out the resource implications and the staffing establishment, needed to deliver the key outcomes.

The budget for Harrow YOT 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 Services has taken into account how Criminal Justice Agencies respond in particular to deterring and providing early intervention to prevent further criminalisation of groups such as Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) and Children Looked After. This has led to the alignment of the newly redesigned Early Support Youth Offer with Harrow YOT.

The Youth Offer aims to provide all young people including those identified at risk of crime or social exclusion an opportunity to engage in positive activities influencing lifestyle choices to improve life chances. In addition to this, bespoke services are being considered and developed to try and address disproportionality of those entering the system and repeat offending.

### 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

**First Time Entrants** - From Oct 2015 - Sep 16, Harrow has seen a reduction of 8% in first time entrants which accounts for 82 individuals as opposed to 89 in the previous year.

**Reoffending** – The latest figure available of 39.4% (Apr 14 - Mar 15) represents a 5% reduction on the previous year's figure of 44.4% (Apr 13 - Mar 14).

**Use of Custody** – Data from Jan 16 - Dec 16 shows a figure of 8 which is an increase on the previous year's figure of 7 (Jan 15 - Dec 15), and the highest it has been for 2 years (0.34% increase).

### Financial Implications

The 2017-18 budget for the Youth Offending Service is shown as follows:

AGENCY	STAFFING COSTS (£)	PAYMENTS IN KIND – REVENUE (£)	OTHER DELEGATED FUNDS (£)	TOTAL (£)
<b>Local Authority</b>	£677,994			£677,994
<b>Police service</b>		£66,231 (x2 FTE Police Officers)		£66,231
<b>National Probation Service</b>		£49,173 (x1 FTE Probation Officer)		£49,173

<b>Health Service</b>		£16,833 (jointly funded CAMHS p/t post)  YJLD worker £60,650 (x1 FTE)		£16,833   £60,650
<b>Police and Crime Commissioner</b>				
<b>YJB Youth Justice Grant (YRO Unpaid work order is included in this grant)</b>	£211,435 (Provisional)			£211,435
<b>Other</b>				
<b>Total</b>	£889,429	£192,887		<b>£1,082,316</b>

Partner contributions have remained the same and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to Harrow YOT.

There are currently no other significant financial implications to note.

## **Environmental Impact**

None

## **Risk Management Implications**

None

## **Equalities implications**

The attached plan contains data on the ethnicity, gender and age profile of youth offenders. It is important to record this data and to analyse the impact of proposals on specific protected groups. An equality impact assessment will be completed in relation to the new plan to identify potential impact on specific groups and if there is any potential negative impact, any mitigating measures.

The results of this assessment will be presented to Cabinet in order to inform a decision on whether to refer the plan to full council for approval.

## **Council Priorities**

The Council's vision:

## **Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow**

- 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: 10/09/2017		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 10/09/2017		

<b>Ward Councillors notified:</b>	<b>NO – relevant to all wards</b>
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### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Errol Albert, Head of Service, 0208 4241321  
[errol.albert@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:errol.albert@harrow.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:**  
**Appendix – Youth Justice Plan 2017–2018**