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**REPORT FOR: CABINET**

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**Date of Meeting:** 12 October 2017

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

**Key Decision:** Yes

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

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Christine Robson

**Exempt:** No

**Decision subject to Call-in:** No, as the decision is reserved to the council.

**Wards affected:** All Wards

**Enclosures:** **Appendix A** – Youth Justice Partnership Plan 2017 – 2018  
**Appendix B** – Equalities Impact Assessment  
**Appendix C** – Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## **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.

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to:

- Consider the statutory Youth Justice Plan and recommend it for approval by Full Council.

**Reason: (For recommendations)**

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

## **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.

### **Options considered**

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

### **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 Youth Offending Team is central to delivery of the VVE action plan.

The Youth Offending Team 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 Youth Offending Team 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 focusses 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 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 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).

### **Environmental Impact**

None

### **Risk Management Implications**

None

### **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. Partners have been consulted and their feedback has been incorporated into the finalised plan.

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

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>STAFFING COSTS (£)</b>	<b>PAYMENTS IN KIND – REVENUE (£)</b>	<b>OTHER DELEGATED FUNDS (£)</b>	<b>TOTAL (£)</b>
<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>	<b>£889,429</b>	<b>£192,887</b>		<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.

## Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

An equality impact assessment was carried out and is appended at **Appendix B**. This identifies the groups that are currently over-represented in the youth offending numbers and the actions that are being taken to address this. By taking these actions the impact should be positive on these protected groups.

The team will continue to collect data and analyse the impact of the youth justice plan over the lifetime of the plan.

## Council Priorities

The report contributes to 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 September 2017.....		
Name: ..Sarah Wilson.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the * Monitoring Officer
Date: ...2 October 2017.....		

<b>Ward Councillors notified:</b>	<b>NO</b> as it impacts on all Wards
<b>EqIA carried out:</b> YES	
<b>EqIA cleared by:</b> Sarah Wilson, Legal Services	

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

Contact: Contact: Errol Albert, Head of Service, 0208 424 1321, [errol.albert@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:errol.albert@harrow.gov.uk)

### **Background Papers:**

**Appendix A** – Youth Justice Partnership Plan 2017 – 2018

**Appendix B** – Equalities Impact Assessment

**Appendix C** – Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

**NOT APPLICABLE** – Decision  
Reserved to Council