
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 12th July 2018

Subject: Youth Justice Plan (July 2018-19)

Key Decision: Yes
The success of the youth justice plan in addressing serious youth violence, drug misuse, and the vulnerability and exploitation of young people will have a significant effect on the community.

Responsible Officer: Peter Tolley, Divisional Director (Interim), Children and Young People Services

Portfolio Holders: Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Young People & Schools
Councillor Krishna Suresh, Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion and Crime

Exempt: No

Decision subject to Call-in: No, as the decision is reserved to Council

Wards affected: All wards

Enclosures:

1. Youth Justice Plan July 2018-19
2. Strategic Assessment 2018
3. Youth Justice Plan 2018 EqIA
4. YJB Strategic Plan 2018-21

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

<p>This report sets out the strategic assessment and plan for Harrow's Youth Justice Partnership for the period July 2018-19.</p>

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Recommend endorsement and adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2018-19 to Council; and
- 2) Authorise the Portfolio Holder for Young People & Schools to make minor amendments to the draft report, in conjunction with the Youth Offending Partnership, for presentation to the full Council meeting on 19 July 2018.

Reason: To comply with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and put in place a Youth Justice Plan to address the needs of young people and the wider community.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraphs

All Youth Offending Teams are required to produce an annual review for the Youth Justice Board. Harrow's Youth Justice plan is closely aligned to Harrow's Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy which is produced by Harrow's community safety partnership known as 'Safer Harrow'

This Youth Justice plan assesses the performance of the Youth Justice Partnership and Youth Offending Team against national (Youth Justice Board) and local priority strategic objectives and reviews the ongoing strategic objectives.

The residents and young people of Harrow need to feel and be safe

- The numbers of First Time Entrants to the youth justice system (young offenders coming into contact with the youth justice system for the first time) are decreasing and lower than the London and England averages.
- The numbers of young people receiving custodial sentences are decreasing and lower than the London and England averages
- The number of young people reoffending are all decreasing and performance is better than the London and UK averages.

Nevertheless, the crimes and issues being committed and displayed are increasingly complex, serious and undertaken by young people with higher levels of vulnerability as well as risk.

The three strategic objectives outlined within this strategy focus on

- Reducing Youth violence (particularly knife crime)
- Reducing Drug and alcohol misuse (including the use, supply and distribution as well as exploitation of younger age groups into such use)
- Striking a balance between protection of the public and safeguarding the welfare and wellbeing of those at risk of offending.

As with the Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy, this Youth Justice Plan also firmly **echoes the current Mayor's priorities**, and includes a renewed focus on tackling Youth Violence, Drug and alcohol misuse and targeted support

The aligned plan considers the impact of youth offending and diversion from offending. The aligned plans consider an annual assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reoffending within the borough as is reported in Harrow's Strategic Assessment. The Strategic Assessment previously came to Overview and Scrutiny along with the draft Community Safety Strategy. However, following feedback from scrutiny that this does not allow scrutiny sufficient opportunity for its comments and reflections on the strategic assessment to inform the refresh of the Community Safety Strategy, this year the strategic assessment came to Overview and Scrutiny separately, in March 2018. The Strategic Assessment is then used to inform the partnership's Community Safety Strategy. The last

Community Safety Strategy was published in 2017 and is refreshed on an annual basis.

Consultation and Engagement

In refreshing the strategy and priorities, consultation and engagement has been undertaken with some partners, stakeholders and relevant services within the council.

- 7th June 2018 – Draft strategy and strategic objectives discussed at Youth Offending Team Meeting for feedback and comments.
- 8th June 2018 – Draft strategy taken to Youth Offending Partnership Board for feedback and comments.
- 27th June 2018 – Draft Executive Summary and Strategic Objectives taken to Harrow Youth Parliament for feedback and comments
- 28th June 2018 - Draft Executive Summary and Strategic Objectives taken to Early Support Hub (Youth groups) for feedback and comments

The Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy with which this plan aligns has also been consulted on extensively and this benefits from such accord.

Robustness of data and ownership by police:

The sources used in the Strategic Assessment have been checked and verified as providing up-to-date official data released by the Metropolitan Police Service.

Disaggregation of data:

At present, the data is available to the local partnership at the level shown in the Strategic Assessment – usually at Ward level. To be able to ‘drill down’ to a lower level needs a skilled analyst with access to Police systems. Access to this resource, which will be important to support at operational level, and make sure that interventions are appropriately targeted, is being discussed under the new Borough Command Unit (BCU) arrangements, and the local authority is looking at all possibilities, including sharing resource with other boroughs, or secondment from the Metropolitan Police Service.

Options considered:

No other option has been considered as it is a requirement for each Youth Partnership Board to produce an annual plan in accordance with the conditions of the Youth Justice Board grant to the local authority.

Risk Management Implications

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

Issues of youth offending, diversion and desistance are a concern in the local community. The Council, and partners approach to resolving serious youth violence and the misuse of drugs including supply and distribution as well as balancing protection of the public with safeguarding the welfare of those young people vulnerable to offending is important. The Youth Justice Plan

2018-19 sets out objectives to be delivered within existing resources, but there are still risks given community and partnership engagement will be an important part of addressing the issues set out in this strategy and based on further growth in incidents resources could become further stretched.

Procurement Implications

All decisions to commission and support activities supporting the implementation of the Youth Justice Plan and the Youth Offending Team in particular are balanced between having a positive social impact, being well researched/evaluated/proven and responding to local need as evidenced within the local performance data and children's own reported needs as outlined in the Young Harrow Foundations Children's needs database,

The delivery plan will include cost and benefits/impact.

Legal Implications

S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Council to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent -

- (a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- (c) re-offending in its area.

S40(1) of the Act obliges the Council to consult with relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement for each year 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 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.

S40(3) provides that the functions assigned to a youth offending team under subsection (1)(b) above may include, in particular—

- (a) functions under paragraph 7(b) of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 (local authority's duty to take reasonable steps designed to encourage children and young persons not to commit offences).

The Youth Justice Board's unique functions are set out in section 41, part III of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and are summarised in the appendix attached to the Youth Justice Plan.

Financial Implications

The total budget for the Youth Offending Team is £752k of which £211k is funded by the Youth Justice Board Grant.

All activities as set out in the delivery plan will be met within existing budgets.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

The attached EqIA for the Youth Justice Plan along with the EqiA for the Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy which covers the same issues outlined within this Youth Justice plan have not identified any adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics. The priorities identified within the strategy should in fact have a positive impact.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

Please identify how the report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Protect the most vulnerable and support families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 21.06.2018		
Name: Helen Ottino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 2.7.2018		

Section 3 - Procurement Officer Clearance

Name: Nimesh Mehta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head of Procurement
Date: 28.06.2018		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO, as it affects all wards
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EqIA carried out:

YES

EqIA cleared by:

Divisional Director (Interim),
Children and Young People Services

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mark Scanlon

Head of Service, Early Support and Youth Offending Service,
Switchboard number: 020 8863 5611, Extension 6610

mark.scanlon@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

1. Youth Justice Plan July 2018-19
2. Strategic Assessment 2018
3. Youth Justice Plan 2018 EqIA
4. YJB Strategic Plan 2018-21

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

NOT APPLICABLE

as the decision is reserved to
full Council

(Call-in does not apply)