
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	11 th July 2019
Subject:	Youth Justice Plan 2019-20
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Peter Tolley, Divisional Director, Children and Young People Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Young People and Schools
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No, as the decision is reserved to Council
Wards affected:	All wards
Enclosures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Youth Justice Plan 2019/202. Youth Justice Plan 2019-20 (Consultation [shorter] version)

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report reviews the performance of and sets out the plan for the Youth Offending Team including strategic priorities which fit within the Safer Harrow Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Community Safety Strategy.

Recommendation:

Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Recommend endorsement and adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2019-2020 to Council; and
- 2) Authorise the Portfolio Holder for Young People and Schools to make minor amendments to the draft reports, in conjunction with advice from the Youth Offending Partnership Board, for presentation to Harrow Full Council meeting in July 2019.

Reason: **To endorse the Harrow Youth Justice Plan 2019-2020 and adopt it as Harrow Council's Youth Justice Plan.**

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

The Harrow Youth Justice Plan (also known as the Youth Offending Team plan or YOT Plan)

Local authorities continue to have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services.

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth offending partnership's responsibilities in producing this plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:

- how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded
- how the youth offending team (YOT) or equivalent service will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.

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

'Modern Youth Offending Partnerships' and 'YOT Management Board Guidance for Wales' provide additional guidance about drafting a youth justice plan and its relationship to other strategic plans.

The Harrow Youth Justice Plan references and directly aligns to the Community Safety Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy.

Additional specific data relates to key national and local indicators these are as outlined in the main plan:

Nationally prescribed objectives

- a) Reduce First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System
- b) Reduce the use of custody
- c) Reduce the number of people reoffending and the number of re-offenses per person

Youth violence, weapon based crime, vulnerability and exploitation.

- d) To reduce the number of young people involved in youth violence and gang crime and to decrease the number of young people carrying offensive weapons (guns and knives)
- e) To embed an awareness of actions which can shift attitudes within young people at schools and in other education settings towards the issues of sexual assault, child sexual, digital and criminal exploitation

Drug and alcohol misuse

- f) Reduce the incidence of young people possessing and using illegal and harmful drugs
- g) Reduce the incidence of young people being involved in the supply, dealing, distribution or the production of drugs and to build resilience in young people so that they are able to spot the signs of dealer grooming.
- h) To reduce alcohol and drug-related reoffending.

Wellbeing and welfare

- i) To promote the emotional and psychological resilience of young people at risk of offending behaviour so that they can make more civic and pro-social choices about their lifestyle.
- j) To provide a robust offer to youth at risk of offending to support them as they are diverted away from offending behaviour
- k) To provide a robust service which takes strategic action towards protecting the public and other vulnerable young people from the most prolific and high harming behaviours displayed by young offenders.
- l) To reduce the disproportionality of over-represented groups within the local criminal justice context

These key objectives are worked on by the Youth Offending Partnership which consists of statutory and voluntary sector stakeholders all working together to achieve these common goals.

The YOT plan is integrally aligned with the reducing High Harm and drug and alcohol priorities of the Safer Harrow Community Safety Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation strategy [SHCSVVE].

All of the consultation about that strategy listed below is relevant for the Youth Justice Plan although there will be additional consultation sessions with youth groups and has already been consultation with the YOT team and management board.

Consultation and Engagement

In refreshing the VVE strategy priorities and attached YOT plan, consultation and engagement was undertaken with partners, stakeholders and relevant services within the council.

- April – Strategic Assessment debated at Overview and Scrutiny
- April – Emailed CSVVE Strategy to partners represented on Safer Harrow (Police, Probation, Fire, CRC, CCG, LCSB, Harrow Youth Parliament, Young Harrow Foundation) and services (Youth Offending Team, Housing, Regeneration, Policy Team) requesting updates to inform the refresh
- 26th April 2019 – hosted an engagement workshop inviting all partners, stakeholders and services to review the priorities and delivery plan
- 1st May 2019 – Attended the Youth parliament meeting to consult with members of the Parliament to understand the impact of crime on young people and how this can be reflected in the priorities and delivery plan, as well as how the Council and the Youth parliament will work together going forward.
- Liaised with colleagues from the Regeneration team to understand how crime was being designed out through regeneration and included this in the CSVVE strategy
- 13th May 2019 – a workshop attended by officers and partners to discuss the issue of drugs, the impact on crime and possible interventions to address this.
- 13th May 2019 – Shared the draft CSVVE strategy with Safer Harrow for consultation and to be discussed at the meeting on 17th June 2019
- 15th May 2019 - Draft CSVVE strategy shared with wider voluntary sector partners who we collaborate with to deliver key projects within the strategy
- 29th May 2019 – Draft CSVVE strategy taken to CSB for feedback and comments
- 4th June 2019 – Draft CSVVE strategy to O&S for feedback and comments

Responding to Scrutiny's feedback on the Strategic Assessment 2019

The Strategic Assessment is an annual review of the patterns of crime and anti-social behaviour, fulfilling partnership responsibility under sections 5, 6, and 7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to conduct an annual review of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in Harrow & Greater London.

The findings of the Strategic Assessment have informed the annual refresh of Harrow's Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability & Exploitation Strategy.

The draft Strategic Assessment was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 9th April 2019.

The final Strategic Assessment is available as an enclosure to the VVE report. In addressing the issues raised at Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the key revisions are:

- Updates to tables and maps
- Addition of data on aggravated burglary
- Clarification of priorities to ensure they are consistent throughout the strategic assessment and with the Strategy
- Correction of dates and typographical errors in the draft document
- Consistency in terminology throughout the documents

Responding to the Recommendations arising from the Youth Violence Scrutiny Review

The Council has recently completed a scrutiny review on Youth Violence in Harrow and the recommendations coming out of the review include:

Recommendation 1: Each time a strategy or policy is reviewed a specific perspective on reducing youth violence should be included.

Recommendation 2: The Council to work in collaboration with the Police and Schools to address the priorities agreed within the CS, VVE Strategy

Recommendation 3: The council to explore interventions that prevent young people from using and dealing drugs.

Recommendation 4: Harrow Council explores the use of early intervention programmes in year 6 of primary schools

The review is also being considered by O&S on the same agenda as the CSVVE Strategy and the YOT Plan, so the recommendations need to be formally agreed. However, once these have been agreed, the intention is to formally incorporate these into the CSVVE Strategy accordingly.

At this stage, recommendations 2-4 have already been considered through the refresh of the CSVVE Strategy. As with all scrutiny reviews, the relevant service managers within the Council will be responding to these recommendations to Cabinet in July this year. We will also work in collaboration with partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to take these recommendations forward. A conversation around possible interventions to prevent young people from using and dealing drugs has already started in the form of workshops with partners and the VCS. Discussions are also being led by a head teacher at Harrow High School looking at establishing a referral process for schools, building on the work already carried out in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Knife Crime Action Plan

The London Knife Crime Strategy was launched in June 2017 and within it was a commitment for every London borough to have a bespoke knife crime action plan created in partnership with the Met Police. The Met Police worked with each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to develop a local plan, with the understanding that these should be based on a locally developed, partnership analysis of the knife crime problem.

Harrow's Knife crime Action Plan has been developed in consultation with officers across the Council and partners on the Safer Harrow Partnership. This will be reviewed on a regular basis and updates provided to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). The Action Plan is to be submitted to MOPAC at the end of May 2019, and is refreshed for O&S consideration on the basis that the actions within it clearly set out some of the activity the partnership are taking around the priorities associated with Youth Violence and are integral to the CSVVE Strategy and YOT Plan.

Options considered

No other option has been considered as it is a statutory requirement for Council to produce an Annual Youth Justice Plan.

Risk Management Implications

Issues of Community Safety are a growing concern, the Council, and partners approach to resolving the current rise in violent crime in the borough are important. The strategy sets out activity that can be delivered within existing resources, but there are still risks given community engagement will be an important part of addressing the issues set out in this strategy and based on further growth in incidents resources will become further stretched..

Procurement Implications

The strategy did not include the procurement of new services. Related projects being delivered in relation to the YOT and VVE strategy objectives are funded through the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) which runs for four years. We are currently in the third year of the four year programme.

As a result there are no procurement implications so is cleared by the Head of Procurement.

Legal Implications

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Financial Implications

The Youth Justice Service budget in 2019-20 is £964k of which £211k is funded a grant from the Youth Justice Board. In addition a further £294k of staffing is provided in-kind by the Police Service, National Probation Service and health services.

A table outlining the cost of funding the team including in-kind contribution of staff hours from partner agencies is included as the second Appendix to the Youth Justice 2019-20 plan.

All other activities as set out in the integrated VVE and YOT delivery plan will be met within existing budgets.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

The EqIA hasn't identified any adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics. The priorities identified within the strategy will in fact have a positive impact.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

This Strategy relates to the corporate priorities of:

Supporting Those Most in Need

- Reduce levels of homelessness in the borough
- Empower residents to maintain their well-being and independence
- **Children and young people are given the opportunities to have the best start in life and families can thrive**
- Reduce the gap in life expectancy in the borough

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost

on behalf of the *
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 2/7/2019

Name:		on behalf of the *
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring Officer
Date:		

Section 3 - Procurement Officer Clearance

Name: Nimesh Mehta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head of Procurement
Date: 2/7/2019		

Ward Councillors notified:	No
EqIA carried out:	YES
EqIA cleared by: Alex Dewsnap, Director of Strategy	

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Contact:

Mark Scanlon, Head of Youth Offending Service and Early Support
Ext 6610, mark.scanlon@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

1. Youth Justice Plan 2019/20
2. Youth Justice Plan 2019-20 (Consultation [shorter] version)

Call-In Waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NO
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