

Report of:	Director of Education and Partnerships Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	25 October 2023
Title:	Youth Justice Plan 2023/24
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	Crime and anti-social behaviour
Key decision:	Yes
Why:	Not applicable
Urgent:	No
Why:	

Executive summary

The Youth Justice Plan is a legally required strategic document as set down by Section 40 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and by National Standards for Youth Justice. Section 40 states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partners, to formulate a youth justice plan which outlines how youth justice services in the area are to provided and funded.

The plan provides an overview of the work of the Youth Justice Service over the previous year, including an overview of performance against the 3 main Youth Justice National Indicators:

- First Time Entrants
- Use of Custody
- Re-offending

The plan also outlines the priorities for South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) in 2023/24, and how those priorities will be achieved.

Youth justice plans, in England only, must be signed off by the full council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'.

Purpose

1. To seek approval of Full Council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'. The STYJS Youth Justice plan 2023/24 (attached) requires approval by full council.

Background and relevant information

2. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) have issued a framework which Youth Justice Services must use when designing their plans and this is detailed in the YJB document *Youth Justice Plans: guidance for youth justice services*. This will assist the YJB to gather the information and data contained within the plan to support their oversight of services, offering more consistency of structure and content. This document allows for the YJS to present the plan covering all key areas of the work of the service, affording the YJS the opportunity to highlight achievements over the past year, challenges faced by the service in the delivery of services and to offer the scope for new priorities for the coming year.
3. YJS Management Boards should govern and own the process of producing the local youth justice plan; it is their opportunity to collectively shape the direction of the delivery of youth justice so that it best meets the needs of the locality, children, families, victims and communities. Opportunities for wider participation, significantly where children and their families can themselves shape and influence the delivery of your service, are also strongly encouraged. STYJS Management Board has overseen the production of this plan and approved it's content. The plan will be governed by the STYJS Management Board which meets on a quarterly basis. The YJB Regional Advisor is a member of the STYJS Management Board and therefore has oversight of the progress against priority areas.
4. The priorities identified by STYJS to support the development of the service during 2023-2024 were designed to reflect issues affecting the service at a local, regional and national level. Consideration was also given to factors impacting on the young people, families and the communities they serve. Exploitation and Serious Violence are key issues and a significant challenge not only for STYJS but across the partnership. Within the last year STYJS has built links with the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV), ensured staff have undertaken Trauma Informed Practice training to effectively support the needs of young people who commit serious violence offences and secured funding to introduce Custody Navigators to engage with young people in Police custody. The challenge for STYJS during 2023-2024 is to ensure that services do not work in isolation to address such issues but engage with co-ordinated strategies to engage and support those young people at risk.

5. The priorities to support ongoing service development are:
 - Priority 1: Prevention- to further embed the Turnaround Programme and develop alternative Prevention opportunities to support partners who cannot benefit from Turnaround.
 - Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- to ensure a co-ordinated approach with partners to support the needs of young people at risk of or subject to serious violence and/or exploitation and identify appropriate interventions to support work with young people at risk of serious violence and exploitation.
 - Priority 3: Preparation for Inspection- to ensure that the YJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2023-24.
 - Priority 4: Education- to continue to engage with partners and ETE service providers to ensure the best outcomes for young people engaged with the YJS.
 - Priority 5: Restorative Practice- to establish a restorative culture and ethos across all areas of YJS practice.
 - Priority 6: Performance- to ensure that the YJS is fully prepared for the challenge presented by the new YJB performance framework.
6. The Youth Justice Plan is underpinned by a Service Development Plan which sets out how each priority will be delivered. The Service Development plan is attached to the YJ Plan as Appendix 4. The Service Development Plan is monitored on a monthly basis by the YJS management team who are responsible for the operational delivery of the YJ Plan. Progress against the Service Development Plan is also presented at the STYJS Management Board on a quarterly basis to provide assurance to Board members. The YJB Regional Advisor is a member of the STYJS Management Board and therefore has oversight of the plan.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

That the Council:

- Approve the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

7. In preparing this Youth Justice Plan a comprehensive consultation process was entered into and this included consultation with staff, partners, and young people. The purpose of the consultation was to share the plans and service priorities, as proposed by the STYJS management team and to secure the views of staff and partners on these proposals. This consultation ensured that all key stakeholders had a voice in the plan, and the actions detailed in this plan are owned by all.
8. The Youth Justice Board requires approval of the document as part of the grant terms and conditions. Failure to approve this plan would result in the council not fulfilling its statutory obligations and the service not receiving funds from the YJB to provide a statutory service.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

9. Service priorities for 2023/24 were carefully considered by key stake holders, staff and partners and have been included in the current document. There were no other

priorities put forward for consideration. The council can be assured that progress against priorities are monitored by the STYJS Management Board on a quarterly basis as is progress of the delivery plan.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

10. Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services as per Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Strategic priorities and risks

11. The proposed plan will positively impact on the strategic risk that the Council could fail to work effectively with partners. It will do this by putting in place a plan which sets out how the Council and its partners will work effectively together to reduce youth crime and anti-social behaviour in the town.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

12. Not applicable

Financial

13. South Tees Youth Justice Service grant allocation for 2023/24 is £1,024,566. As a statutory duty, local authorities are required to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. This duty is also outlined as a requirement of the terms and conditions of grant. The provision of youth justice services in Middlesbrough are set out in the South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2023-24 (Appendix1).

14. There is a statutory and legal obligation for South Tees Youth Justice Service to provide full council sign off. Failure to do so could impact on receipt of the core grant (not being distributed or delayed) due to full council sign off being part of the grant terms and conditions.

15. South Tees YJS grant from YJB for 2023-24 increased by £44,120 (4.5%) from 2022-23, up to £1,024,566 for 2023-24 and covers the plans for STYJS along with partner contributions.

16. Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Hartlepool put in income contributions and Police contribute to resources to the STYJS. Currently there are also additional grants that are being utilised to enhance the service. The YJB grant covers part of the structure. The financial risk, in particular, is around remand placements, is managed within the service finances. There is a financial risk within the terms and conditions of the grant, that Middlesbrough as lead partner, requires to submit this annual plan and is signed off along with commitments from partner agencies, please see table for STYJS

Expenditure	£ 1,656,166
Income YJB Grant	£ 1,024,566
Income Police & Crime Commissioner	£ 80,000
Income Hartlepool Borough Council	£ 5,000
Income Redcar Borough Council	£ 273,300
MBC General Fund	£273,300

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Approval of the plan	Kay Dargue	25.10.23

Appendices

1	South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2023 - 2024
2	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services#youth-justice-plan-structure
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact:

Email: Kay_dargue@middlesbrough.gov.uk