

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Director of Education and Partnerships
Relevant Executive Member:	Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	11 September 2024
Title:	Youth Justice Plan 2024/25
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Safe and resilient communities
Key decision:	No
Why:	Report is for information only
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Decision made by council

Proposed decision(s)

To note that Council approves the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25.

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 be 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 2024/25, and how those priorities will be achieved.

TO NOTE: 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 2024/25 (attached) requires approval by full council.

Recommendations

2. That Council approves the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3. 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.
4. 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.

Background and relevant information

5. 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.
6. 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 its 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.
7. The priorities identified by STYJS to support the development of the service during 2024-2025 have been designed to reflect issues affecting the service at a local, regional and national level. 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 2024-2025 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.

8. The priorities to support ongoing service development are:
- Priority 1: Prevention and Diversion- To further develop opportunities for prevention and early intervention with young people and their families.
 - Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- To further develop practice to ensure that STYJS can respond appropriately and effectively to the needs of young people involved in or at risk of serious violence and/or exploitation.
 - Priority 3: Preparation for Inspection- To ensure that STYJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2024-25.
 - Priority 4: Education, Training and Employment- To ensure that all young people supervised by STYJS have access to opportunities for Education, Training and Employment.
 - Priority 5: Resettlement- To ensure that young people are effectively supported upon resettlement to the community.
 - Priority 6: Restorative Practice- To establish a Restorative Culture in STYJS which supports effective work with the young people and communities we serve.
9. 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.

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

10. Do nothing – 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. Not having a plan would result in the Youth Justice Board withholding all of the grant and therefore this is not a viable option.
11. Service priorities for 2024/25 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)

Financial (including procurement and Social Value)

12. South Tees Youth Justice Service grant allocation for 2023/24 was £1,035,400. The grant allocation for 2024/25 has not been announced at the time of writing this report. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has notified STYJS there will be a delay in the announcement of a grant allocation for 2024/25 until after the general election. Advice received from the YJB is for services to set their budgets using last year's grant figure as an indicative figure.
13. 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 2024/25 (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. As stated above, the grant allocation will not be announced for 2024/25 until after the general election. However, a reduction is not anticipated. The Service at budget setting expects to spend a similar amount to the previous year with inflation expected to fall, all things remaining equal around other costs to the service.
16. Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, and Hartlepool Local Authority put in income contributions along with Police and Probation 'in-kind' contributions 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. If this remand budget became overspent the STYJS Management Board would need to report and request funds from MBC and Redcar and Cleveland LA for the statutory Looked After provision. However, there has been no overspend in this budget in over 5 years. 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. Budgetary controls include monthly and quarterly budget monitoring and partnership reporting which would identify any overspend and remedial action, and the STYJS Management Board would need to enter discussions with partners to seek a solution within its own resources.
17. The table below shows forecasted income and expenditure for STYJS in 2024/25;

2024/25 STYJS budget	£
Forecast expenditure for the period 1 st April 2024 to 31 st March 2025	1,547,600

Income - YJB Grant (assumed as per 2023/24 level – see para. 6.1)	(1,035,400)
Income - Police & Crime Commissioner	(80,000)
Income - Hartlepool Borough Council	(5,000)
Income - Redcar Borough Council	(200,000)
Income - MBC General Fund	(227,200)
Forecast net position 2024/25 at 31/3/25	0

Legal

18. 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.

Risk

19. 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, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

20. Not applicable

Climate Change / Environmental

21. Not applicable

Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

22. South Tees Youth Justice Service has strong partnership arrangements with children’s services at strategic and operational levels and engage at a managerial level at a number of multi-agency forums designed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of young people. Reducing the number of Children who are Looked After in the criminal justice system is a key priority for STYJS. The service work proactively with those young people who experience significant vulnerabilities including children in local authority care. Work with looked after children is in line with the national protocol on reducing unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers 2018.

Data Protection

23. STYJS works to all Middlesbrough Council policies and procedures including data protection. The service has a Privacy Notice in place explaining how data is collected and how it is used.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Approval of the Plan	Kay Dargue	10.6.24

Appendices

1	South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2024-25
2	Youth justice plans: guidance for youth justice services
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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