

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Interim Director of Education and Partnerships, Caroline Cannon
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Executive Member for Education and Culture, Philippa Storey
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Full Council
<b>Date:</b>	15 October 2025
<b>Title:</b>	South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2025/26
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Safe and resilient communities
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Decision does not reach the threshold to be a key decision
<b>Subject to call in?</b>	Not applicable
<b>Why:</b>	Decision is made by Full Council

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That Full Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>APPROVES</b> the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26.</li> </ul>

Executive summary
<p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Time Entrants</li> <li>• Use of Custody</li> </ul>

- Re-offending

The plan also outlines the priorities for South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) in 2025/26, 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'.

## 1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

1.1 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 2025/26 (attached) requires approval by full council.

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
<b>A successful and ambitious town</b>	Ensuring we have a plan that reduces offending and re-offending will ensure we are able to deliver the ambitions around this theme.
<b>A healthy place</b>	The Youth Justice Plan promotes inclusivity and sets out how the service works with partners to ensure pathways are in place to improve life chances of children.
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	The principal aim of the Youth Justice Service is to prevent offending and re-offending, and ensure children are accountable for their actions. A key priority for the Youth Justice Service this year is work with victims and keeping communities safe. Actions that successfully prevent re-offending will contribute toward the priority of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
<b>Delivering best value</b>	South Tees Youth Justice Service receives grant funding from the Youth Justice Board and additionally from a range of partners including Middlesbrough Council. Robust governance of the pooled budget is provided by the South Tees Youth Justice Management Board which ensures value for money.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That Full Council:

- **APPROVES** the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26.

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 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.

3.2 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.

#### **4. Background and relevant information**

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 The priorities identified by STYJS to support the development of the service during 2025-2026 have been designed to reflect issues affecting the service at a local, regional and national level. Consideration has also been given to factors impacting on the young people, families, victims and communities to ensure the service can affect positive change in these areas. STYJS has sought to focus on four key areas for service development to reflect current key issues. It is also intended that key themes such as prevention and the voice of the child will underpin the approaches taken to meet these priorities.

4.4 The priorities to support ongoing service development are:

- Priority 1: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation
- Priority 2: Work with Victims
- Priority 3: Child First
- Priority 4: Engagement and Participation

4.5 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 5. The Service Development Plan is monitored monthly 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.

## 5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

5.1 Not applicable.

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

6.1 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 the grant and therefore this is not a viable option.

6.2 Service priorities for 2025/26 were carefully considered by key stake holders, staff and partners and have been included in the current document. 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

## 7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact												
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	<p>The YJB grant allowance for 2025-2026 is £1,054,844. 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 2025/26 (Appendix1). 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. Middlesbrough, Redcar &amp; Cleveland, and Hartlepool Local Authority provide income contributions along with Police and Probation 'in-kind' contributions to resources to the STYJS. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner also provide funding. Currently there are also additional grants that are being utilised to enhance the service. The YJB grant covers part of the structure as shown in the table below.</p> <table> <tr> <td>YJB Grant</td><td>£1,054,844</td></tr> <tr> <td>Middlesbrough LA</td><td>£220,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Redcar LA</td><td>£200,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Office of Police and Crime Commissioner</td><td>£80,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Probation Service</td><td>£5,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hartlepool LA</td><td>£4,999</td></tr> </table>	YJB Grant	£1,054,844	Middlesbrough LA	£220,000	Redcar LA	£200,000	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner	£80,000	Probation Service	£5,000	Hartlepool LA	£4,999
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	<p>The financial risk is around remand placements and 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. The partnership surplus brought forward into 2025-26 is £439,000 that covers the risk around remand costs though the partnership are reviewing both this and service delivery requirements in light of new inspection framework.</p>
Legal	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. Having the Youth Justice Plan in place ensures the council is compliant.
Risk	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	STYJS is mindful of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion were also considered in the preparation of the plan to ensure fairness and equality in the functions and services provided.
Reducing Poverty	STYJS complete robust assessments and have strong partnerships arrangements in place to refer children, families and victims to appropriate services where a need is identified.
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable. The Youth Justice Plan has no direct impact upon climate/environmental change.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	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	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
Disseminate the plan to the STYJS Management Board and key stakeholders.	Kay Dargue	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

### Appendices

1	South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2025/26
2	Youth justice plans: guidance for youth justice services <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services</a>
3	

### Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Full Council	Youth Justice Plan 2024/25	11 September 2024

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