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Councillor Ossie Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to present County Durham Youth Justice Plan 2014/16 to Council for approval, subject to agreement by Cabinet on 16 July. The Youth Justice Plan 2014/16 was approved by County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) Management Board (19 May 2014) in line with YJB/MoJ requirements. It will be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (end July).

Background

- 2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory responsibility on the local authority to establish a youth offending team – CDYOS in Co. Durham – and ensure that it is adequately resourced to deliver the range of youth justice services outlined in section 38(4) of the Act. Police, National Probation Service (NPS) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are statutorily required to assist in the funding and operation of the YOS. CDYOS is a statutory partnership.
- 3 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (s.40) places a duty on every Local Authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual Youth Justice Plan which sets out:
 - How youth justice services in the area are to be provided and funded, and
 - How the Youth Offending Service will be composed and funded, and what statutory functions the service is to carry out.
- 4 Legal and data requirements placed on the YOS and the Management Board include:
 - Complying with the statutory requirements laid out in s.38 to 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and other relevant sections of the Act
 - Complying with National Standards for Youth Justice and reporting requirements for Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents
 - Adhering to the relevant Youth Justice Board (YJB) data recording guidance

- 5 As well as reviewing the progress made in youth justice over the previous 12 months, the plan sets out the key priorities and next steps for the partnership, in particular for County Durham Youth Offending Service.

Key Achievements 2013/14

- 6 Key achievements include improved performance in two of the three national outcome measures (First Time Entrants and Re-offending); maintained good performance in the third (Use of Custody):
- First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system: 210, our lowest ever; 16.3% reduction compared to 2012/13 (251 FTEs). 81.4% reduction in FTEs since 2007/08 (1129 FTEs).
 - Re-offending: 13.1% reduction in the binary rate; 16.5% reduction in the frequency rate (MoJ data, March 2014)
 - Custodial sentences: 25 custodial sentences (same as 2012/13)
 - 47.7% reduction in the number of offences committed by young people (2010/11 – 2013/14)
 - 50.5% reduction in the number of young people offending (2010/11 – 2013/14)

Youth Justice Plan 2014/16

- 7 The key priorities in the plan are:
- To reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system
 - To reduce re-offending
 - To reduce the use of custody (both remands and sentences)
- 8 To achieve these, a range of actions are being implemented. Examples include:
- Improving how CDYOS communicates with young people and the interventions the service completes with them
 - Putting victims, including young victims, and restorative justice at the heart of everything CDYOS does
 - Targeting resources on those young people committing the most offences
 - Ensuring robust quality assurance and staff management processes are in place and a skilled management team to manage those processes
 - Ensuring CDYOS listens and responds to what young people and their families say
 - Ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work undertaken with young people and victims
 - Ensuring case management systems and admin support provides highest quality support to staff and managers

- 9 The Youth Justice Plan 2014/16 also sets out the resource plan for the service, including staffing and finance. Council will note that the Youth Justice Plan is resourced through partnership activity and finance and that several of these funding streams have transferred to the Police and Crime Commissioner. CDYOS has worked closely with the Safe Durham Partnership and PCC in agreeing priorities for 2014/16.

Recommendations and reasons

- 10 Council are recommended to:

- (a) Approve the Youth Justice Plan 2014/16

Background papers:

County Durham Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2014/16

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - The plan contains information on the resourcing of CDYOS. A costed Good Practice Development Plan must be submitted to the YJB by 30 June 2014 (Terms and Conditions of Youth Justice Good Practice Grant 2014-2015). This (the Service Improvement Plan) can be found in Appendix 3 of the Youth Justice Plan (attached).

Staffing - The plan contains information on staffing in CDYOS

Risk - The resourcing of CDYOS is dependent on a range of funding streams,

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty – Have been considered in the development of the Youth Justice Plan and key priorities for 2014/15

Accommodation – None. CDYOS has reduced office bases as part of strategy to achieve 2014/15 MTFP savings. Staff are working flexibly, supported by ICT and Juniper licences.

Crime and Disorder - The statutory duty of the youth justice system is to prevent crime and disorder by young people (Crime and Disorder Act 1998, S37 (1)).

Human Rights – Have been considered

Consultation – Management Board members have been consulted

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – Have been considered and addressed

Legal Implications – The delivery of statutory youth justice functions.