

County Council

19 July 2017



**County Durham Youth Offending Service
Youth Justice Plan 2017/19**

Report of Corporate Management Team

Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services

Councillor Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report presents the Youth Justice Plan 2017/19 for information of Council and highlights some of the key achievements in reducing re-offending during 2016/17.

Background and Legal Framework

- 2 Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are statutory partnerships, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with the principal aim of preventing offending by children and young people. Local Authorities are responsible for establishing a Youth Offending Team – County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) in Co. Durham – within their area. Police, National Probation Service (NPS) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are statutorily required to assist in their funding and operation.
- 3 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 YOS will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
- 4 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. The deadline for submission is the end of July 2017.
- 5 Statute requires the production of an annual plan, but the YJB welcomes plans that cover more than one year. Plans covering more than one year

require an annual refresh and updating of key information, particularly in relation to finance and governance.

- 6 CDYOS is a statutory partnership, accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, chaired by the Head of Early Help, Assessment and Safeguarding (formerly Head of Children's Services), Durham County Council. Membership of the Board and governance are reviewed annually in line with '*Modern Youth Offending Partnerships – Guidance on Effective Youth Offending Team Governance in England*' (MoJ/YJB, November 2013), to ensure they remain robust in a complex, changing operating environment.
- 7 Statutory 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 (NS) for Youth Justice (including returning the annual National Standards audit);
 - Reporting Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents (CSPPI) to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in accordance with published guidance;
 - Submitting required data to the YJB in adherence with the relevant YJB data recording guidance;
 - Approving the annual Youth Justice Plan.

Key Achievements 2016/17

- 8 Key achievements are outlined in the Executive Summary. We are particularly proud of:
 - Continuing to maintain low numbers of first time entrants (164 in 2016/17);
 - Achieving 85.5% reduction in first time entrants (FTEs) since 2007/08;
 - Continuing to reduce the number of young people re-offending and the number of re-offences committed;
 - Achieving a 56.3% reduction in the number of all offences committed and a 60.4% reduction in the number of young people offending since 2010/11;
 - Having only 21 custodial sentences;
 - Our Health Needs Assessment (HNA) which has resulted in a new model of co-commissioned health provision in CDYOS for 2017/19;
 - Further development of our ClearCut Communication resources to support young people's engagement in the youth justice system;
 - Influencing the youth justice system nationally – over 40 YOTs have purchased and are using our ClearCut Communication resources;

- Our specialist restorative justice work to support victims of youth crime;
- Our strong partnership work;
- Implementing new ways of working to ensure value for money while improving outcomes and quality;
- Delivering 3966 hours of court ordered reparation/unpaid work.
- Our staff and volunteers' hard work and continued commitment to reduce first time entrants, re-offending and use of custody; their work to improve outcomes for young people, families, victims and communities; and their willingness to adapt to new challenges, and to change and improve.

Youth Justice Plan 2017/19

- 9 A copy of the Youth Justice Plan 2017/19 is attached for information. The plan highlights key achievements for 2016/17, key priorities, the service improvement plan for 2017/18, and the partnership pooled budget. A refresh will be produced for 2018/19.
- 10 As stated in paragraph 3, the Youth Justice Plan is statutory. Key requirements of the plan (namely: structure and governance; resourcing and value for money; partnership arrangements; risks to future delivery) are prescribed by the Youth Justice Board (*'Youth Justice Plans: YJB Practice Note for Youth Offending Partnerships'*, YJB, May 2017).
- 11 The plan was approved by CDYOS Management Board (1 June 2017) and presented to Cabinet and Council (July 2017) for approval before submission to the YJB. After submission to the YJB, Youth Justice Plans are sent to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP - lead for YOS inspections) and are placed in the House of Commons library for Ministers.
12. The Plan outlines how CDYOS will:
- reduce First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System;
 - reduce re-offending by young people;
 - reduce the use of custody for both sentenced and remanded young people.
- by:
- improving how we communicate with young people and the interventions we complete with them;
 - putting victims, including young victims, and restorative justice at the heart of everything we do;
 - targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences;
 - ensuring we have robust quality assurance and staff management processes in place and a skilled management team to manage those processes;

- ensuring we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us;
- ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we undertake with young people and victims;
- ensuring that case management systems and administration support provide the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities and young people.

Recommendations and reasons

13. Council are requested to:

- (i) note the contents of this report;
- (ii) receive and approve the Youth Justice Plan 2017/19.

Background papers

Youth Justice Plan 2017/19

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The Youth Justice Plan contains CDYOS partnership pooled budget 2017/18.

Staffing – Staff establishment is included in the plan, in line with YJB requirements.

Risk – Risks to future delivery have been considered and are included in the plan.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Have been considered.

Accommodation – Not Applicable.

Crime and Disorder – The statutory function of CDYOS partnership is the prevention of offending by children and young people (Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

Human Rights – Not Applicable

Consultation – CDYOS Management Board and partners have been consulted.

Procurement – Not Applicable.

Disability Issues – Have been considered.

Legal Implications – The Youth Justice Plan ensures Durham County Council and statutory partners meet their legal implications to the partnership.