

County Council

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County Durham Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2018/19



Report of Corporate Management Team

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Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report presents the annual refresh of the Youth Justice Plan 2017/19 for information and highlights some of the key achievements in reducing re-offending during 2017/18 and provides the areas for improvement which the service will be focussed upon during the next period, as set out in the Service Improvement Plan (Appendix 4 of the Youth Justice Plan).

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. 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 YJB welcomes plans that cover more than one year with the proviso that an annual refresh will be submitted which provides an update of key information, particularly in relation to finance and governance.
- 5 Last year, 2017, the Council approved and submitted its YJ Plan covering the two year period 2017/18 and 2018/19. This current plan is a 'refresh'

and provides an update covering the period 2017/18 of performance data, service budgets, operational and strategic developments within the service and partnership, service structure and the Service Improvement Plan.

- 6 In accordance with statutory requirements the plan was approved by CDYOS Management Board on 14 May 2018.
- 7 The refreshed 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 was the end of July 2018 and, in-line with YJB guidance, the report was submitted in draft form, with a note informing the YJB the report is pending approval by full Council and will be resubmitted should it require amendments. 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.

Key Achievements 2017/18

- 8 Despite increasing crime across the County, we are not seeing this reflected in the youth crime figures. This performance has been arrived at through strong partnership working.
- 9 **Four** key achievements have been identified and are outlined in the Executive Summary. These are:-

1. **Performance against National Outcome Measures 2017/18**

- **First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs):**

Between October 2016 and September 2017 the rate of FTE per 100,000 10-17 population in County Durham at 324 is higher than the national rate of 304 but is lower than the North East Regional rate which is 394.

The latest available locally sourced data shows 119 young people entering the Youth Justice System between April 2017 and March 2018 at a rate of 277. This is the lowest rate ever achieved.

- **Re-offending**

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (April 2015 – March 2016 cohort) shows a re-offending rate of 46.4% which is a 7.6% reduction compared to the previous year. This is higher than the England rate which is 42.2% but below the North East rate which is 50%.

- **Use of Custody**

- **Custodial Sentences:**

The CDYOS performance is on par with the England and North East Region at a rate per 1,000 10-17 population of 0.4. The most up to

date locally sourced information (April 2017-March 2018) shows 15 custodial sentences which is a reduction in the rate to 0.35.

Remand Bed Nights: 419

This is a 33.4% reduction on the previous year.

2. Co-Commissioned Health Model:

The work carried out with Public Health to understand the health needs of young people who offend has led to the implementation of a co-commissioned multi-skilled Health Team based in CDYOS comprising School Nurse, Clinical Psychologist, Speech Language Therapists, Substance Misuse Specialists, Liaison & Diversion Specialists and Mental Health Specialists. This team ensures the often complex health needs of young people who offend are effectively assessed and responded to so that they are supported to achieve good health outcomes.

3. Work With Victims, including Young Victims:

Our work with the victims of youth crime has engaged 192 victims in restorative approaches. In particular, our work with young people who are the victims of youth crime has provided dedicated support and an opportunity to re-build and restore confidence. Young people who offend have also engaged in 4,000 hours of unpaid work in and across communities in County Durham as a means of reparation.

4. Supporting Young People's Education and Progression:

The Service has continued to prioritise the development of resources and interventions to meet young people's speech, language and communication needs. This has supported young people in engaging actively with their learning and their active participation in CDYOS programmes of intervention. The service has implemented the Skill Mill, a Community Interest Company which provides employment and training for young people under the supervision of CDYOS. The first cohort of 4 young people completed their 6 months contract with Skill Mill. None of the young people committed further offences and 3 progressed into further, long term, employment.

Youth Justice Plan 2017/19

- 9 A copy of the refreshed Youth Justice Plan is attached for approval of Council.

10. 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;
- Reducing re-offending by targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences and improving their engagement in opportunities for education, employment and training;
- 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.

11 A new Inspection Framework for Youth Offending Services has recently been published (March 2018) which sets clear standards expected of YOTs which ensures the provision of a high quality, personalised and responsive service for all children and young people. Whilst there are many aspects of good performance contained within the current plan, the service is not complacent and needs to reassess the quality of its provision against the new inspection standards.

12 Work is underway to conduct a robust self-assessment against the published standards. The outcome of this work will inform the production of a new Youth Justice Plan for the period 2019 – 2021.

Recommendations:

13. Council are requested to:

- (a) Note the contents of this report
- (b) Receive the refreshed Youth Justice Plan 2017/19, updated to cover the period 2018/19.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The Youth Justice Plan contains CDYOS partnership pooled budget and staff secondment arrangements for 2018/19. CDYOS budget comprises partnership funding, YJB funding and specific grant funding. The budget allocation is reviewed annually by CDYOS Management Board and all partners (Police, Probation, Health (CCGs) and Local Authority) agree funding contributions for the following year. Under the terms of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998; DCC, Durham Constabulary, National Probation Service and CCGs are required to both contribute staff and provide funding for a pooled budget for operating costs. The total budget for CDYOS for 2018/19 is £3,007,784 (including the cost of staff seconded to CDYOS from partners).

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 – An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken in February 2018 as part of the preparations for the restructure of CDYOS. This ensured that development of the new structure and the development of that structure for CDYOS met all requirements and was conducted in a way that ensured equality and considered diversity. In addition, CDYOS is committed to meeting the needs of the young people, families and victims with whom we work. All staff have undertaken specialist diversity training for youth offending, SLCN training and, in addition, case managers have undertaken specialist diversity training for assessments. Diversity issues are a specific category on the checklist used by managers to countersign assessments and intervention plans.

Accommodation – All managers and staff in CDYOS have been based from DCC, Crook from 26.4.18. The service will also use a satellite base, for meetings, interviews, for example, at Belmont until that lease expires in March 2019.

Crime and Disorder – The statutory function of CDYOS partnership is the prevention of offending by children and young people (Crime and Disorder Act 1998). The Youth Justice Plan provides detail on how the partnership will undertake those functions. See paragraph 12, above, for details of how this will be achieved.

Human Rights – Not Applicable

Consultation – CDYOS Management Board and partners have been consulted. There is no requirement for public consultation.

Procurement – Not Applicable.

Disability Issues – County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) recognises the particular health needs of young people who offend and CDYOS Management Board has a clear commitment to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for

this cohort of young people. The Management Board commissioned a Health Needs Assessment (HNA) in early 2016; work was jointly led by CDYOS and Public Health. One of the aims of CDYOS HNA was to identify the needs of young people supervised by CDYOS to inform future commissioning intentions. The following organisations are now commissioning the health input into CDYOS:

- Public Health, DCC
- CDYOS
- NHS England (Health and Justice)
- CCGs (DDES and NDCCG)
- Office of the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner

Legal Implications – The Youth Justice Plan ensures Durham County Council and statutory partners meet their legal implications to the partnership. 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); Submitting required data to the YJB in adherence with the relevant YJB data recording guidance; Approving the annual Youth Justice Plan.