



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

1st October 2008

Youth Justice Planning Framework 2008/9

Report of the Head of Youth Offending Service

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a summary and overview of the new Youth Justice Planning Framework (YJPF) to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) as a requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998).

The YJPF serves a number of functions:

- Provides a capacity and capability self assessment of the YOS
- Demonstrates alignment with Local Area Agreement priorities
- Identifies local success factors and barriers to improvement
- Emphasises a clear focus on YOS outcomes & accountability

2. Summary

- 2.1 The YJPF is primarily designed for local management purposes with a clear focus on outcomes, the YOS 'story of place' and plans for sustaining continuous improvements. The YJPF incorporates the YJB 2008/11 strategic objectives:

- Preventing offending by young people
- Reducing re-offending by young people
- Ensuring safe and effective use of custody
- Increasing victim and public confidence

- 2.2 The YJPF is divided into five sections as follows:

- Section A: The national and local context of Youth Justice
- Section B: Use of resources and value for money
- Section C: Performance Progress
- Section D: Business Change and Innovation
- Section E: Workforce Development & Approval

3. Recommendations (or OPTIONS)

- 3.1 The Cabinet are asked to note and approve the Youth Justice Planning Framework 2008/09.
- 3.2 The YJPF was presented to the Young Offender Management Board (YOMB) for approval on 7 August.

4. Report

4.1 Section A: The national and Local Context of Youth Justice

The Youth Justice Planning Framework reflects the strategic aims of the Youth Justice Board for 2008/11 to prevent offending, reduce re-offending, and ensure safe and effective use of custody and increase victim and public confidence.

- 4.2 The local YJPF reflects the priorities outlined in the One Leicester 25 Year Vision specifically in regard to the priorities of investing in our children, creating thriving safe communities and investing in skills and enterprise.
- 4.3 The local 'story of place' is Leicester YOS has recently completed an external inspection led by HMIP and received 6 good judgments for its performance and two adequate judgments. This places the YOS in the top quartile of Inspection findings nationally in the current phase.
- 4.4 The overall YOS performance is rated 4 on a scale of five (highest) by the YJB, placing Leicester YOS performance in the top quartile nationally. Significant achievements in 2007/08 have included a 37% reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system, a 17% increase in young people's engagement into full time education, training and employment and an 18% reduction in secure and custodial remands. The YOS recorded an 8% reduction in violent crime in 2007/08 compared to the previous year and a 19% reduction in burglary rates.
- 4.5 The YOS will need to deliver continuous improvements across six key national indicators in 2008/09 relating to reducing offending and re-offending by young people, further reducing first time entrants, increasing engagement in education training and employment, reducing the use of custody, ensuring the provision of suitable accommodation and reducing over-representation of black young people in the criminal justice system.

4.6 **Section B Use of Resources and Value for Money**

The YOS is funded through a combination of direct grant funding from the Youth Justice Board, statutory partnership funding from Health, Children and Young People's Services, Probation and Police and other one off grants from central government.

4.7 The total YOS budget is approximately £4.2 m of which proportionately 20% is spent on prevention services, 21% on custody and the remainder on working with young people in the community to prevent re-offending. The YOS will work with its statutory partners through the Young Offender Management Board (YOMB) to review allocation of existing resources in 2008/09 to ensure the YOS is well positioned for the introduction of legal requirements arising from the new Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

4.8 The YOS currently employs 91 staff of whom 38% are male and 37% are from Black or Minority Ethnic backgrounds. The YOS also works with in excess of 100 volunteers working with young people in the local community.

4.9 The YOS has a good record of supporting staff to complete the Professional Certificate of Effective Practice in Youth Justice (PCEP) and has traditionally had the highest number of successful completions in the East midlands region.

4.10 **Section C Performance Progress**

The YOS has achieved a 37% reduction in the number of young people entering the criminal justice system in 2007/08 compared to a 2005 baseline. This follows the introduction of an innovative police led reparative justice scheme for young people committing minor theft, nuisance, criminal damage or assault for the first time. This scheme involving an element of victim apology and voluntary reparation has received national recognition from HMIP and the Youth Justice Board. The YOS will be working with partners through the Local Criminal Justice Board to sustain this achievement as part of a shared Assessment of Police and Community Safety (APACS) target and Local Area Agreement priority (NI 111).

4.11 The YOS contributed to a successful partnership beacon bid by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland for reducing re-offending. Reducing offending and re-offending by young people (NI 19) will be a priority in the Local Area Agreement recognising Leicester YOS has above national average figures for re-offending, including by looked after young people. Progress will be monitored through the Young Offender Management Board and Safer Leicester Partnership.

- 4.12 The YOS has sustained a long term reduction in the use of custody for children and young people through the provision of robust community based alternatives to custody such as the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP). Most recent figures show a rate of custody of 5.7% placing the YOS slightly above the national average. The YOS will continue to work with its partners through the courts to ensure the use of custody and secure remands are minimised whilst ensuring public protection and safeguarding concerns are met.
- 4.13 The YOS has a comprehensive process for management of high risk cases and a premium service agreement for Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) resulting in reductions in both frequency and seriousness of re-offending by this group of young people. The YOS are fully engaged in Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), assessed as good in the recent YOS Inspection. The YOS will need to work with staff to embed risk of serious harm (ROSH) training in 2008/09 in accordance with HMIP recommendations.
- 4.14 The YOS continue to prioritise safeguarding issues through the LSCB and a joint County-City YOS Senior Officer group. The recent HMIP Inspection noted assessment of young people's needs including risk and vulnerability factors were undertaken as soon as possible with support packages being readily available at the first opportunity to the courts. The YOS will continue to work closely with colleagues in CYPS Social Care and Safeguarding division to ensure safeguarding issues are embedded across the YOS.
- 4.15 The YOS are active in working with its partners through the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) to promote public confidence in the criminal justice system. This includes involvement in activities such as Inside Justice Week, and the engagement of local communities in identifying opportunities for unpaid work for young people as part of their supervision. The YOS will need to continue to work with partners in the coming year to reduce public perceptions of crime and the fear of crime and anti social behaviour.
- 4.16 The YOS has made significant progress in engaging the victims of youth crime with 103 victim impact statements completed between July 2007 and March 2008 to use when working with young people. Despite these improvements the YOS will need to work to increase the numbers of victims supported and directly involved in restorative justice and reparation placements by young offenders.
- 4.17 **Section D Business Change & Innovation**

The YOS will be involved in the roll out of improved services to the courts through the delivery of the 'simple, speedy and summary justice' (CJSSS) agenda led by the LCJB. This process will lead to improved service provision through better preparation for first court hearings, and more efficient court managed processes. The YOS

Manager will work with the HM Courts Senior Legal Advisor, Chair of the Leicester Youth Court Magistrates and Crown Court Youth Liaison Judge to ensure that services continue to improve and are provided in a timely and efficient manner.

4.18 The YOS has invested in upgrades of data systems to ensure the most efficient use of existing resources at courts and the secure estate. The HMIP Inspection found that services to courts were good and ongoing quality assurance work has indicated that the reports provided to courts by the YOS are of a high quality. The YOS will need to work with its partners in 2008/09 to prepare for the implementation of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. This will include preparation for the implementation of a new combined Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) in 2009 to replace existing youth court sentences.

4.19 **Section E Workforce Development**

The YOS is composed of staff working for Local Authority and staff seconded from statutory partners including Health, Probation, Children and Young Peoples Services and the Police. Training is supported through formal secondment agreements and a YOS Training Plan that links strategic priorities to individual professional development needs through supervision and appraisal.

4.20 Staff recruitment and retention issues together with training needs are being addressed through a regional Youth Justice Workforce Development Group. The YOS are also involved in the local Children's Workforce Development as part of an integrated solution to recruitment and retention.

4.21 The YOS training priorities for 2008/09 will concentrate on the new YRO implementation, the introduction of a scaled approach to risk management, and core skills training around diversity, risk and safeguarding issues.

5. **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.0 The YOS budget for 2008/09 has been agreed with the Local Authority and statutory partners. The Youth Justice Board Grants for 2008/09 have been confirmed, with confirmation of three year funding for the successful Resettlement and After Care (RAP) and Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programmes (ISSP).

5.1 Additional activity for the YOS planned for 2008/09 will include work with young people involved in gang related behaviour, violent crime, prevention of extremism and nuisance and anti social behaviour. This work will be funded through two new grants awarded through the Youth Justice Board and Department for Children Schools and

Families. The YOS will need to make financial provision from existing resources for the transfer of Appropriate Adult Services from the Emergency Duty Service by December 2008.

- 5.2 The YJPF replaces the Youth Justice Plan as a legal requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. the YJB has designated 2008/09 a transitional year for the planning framework although YJPF submissions will be assessed and where necessary additional support offered to YOS deemed to be at high risk.

6. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	Yes	All of report	
Policy	Yes	4.11, 4.17, 4.20	
Sustainable and Environmental	N/A		
Crime and Disorder	Yes	All of report	
Human Rights Act	Yes	4.1, 4.10, 4.13, 4.14, 4.15, 4.16	
Elderly/People on Low Income	N/A		

7. Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/appropriate)
Performance	M	L	The YJPF contains delivery plans for key areas of performance including an assessment of risk to delivering continuous improvements. The identified risks will be managed at a strategic level through the Young Offender Management Board, SLP and LCJB. Primary risks are related to improving performance around reducing offending and reoffending by all young people, reducing the use of secure remands and custody, increasing ETE engagement and reductions in first time entrants and improving victim and public confidence in the criminal justice system.

8. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

- 8.1 Safer Leicester Partnership Strategic Assessment (2007/08)
Children and Young Peoples Plan (2008 refresh)
Local Criminal Justice Board Delivery Plan (2008/09)
Leicester Local Area Agreement (2008)
One Leicester 25 Year Vision
Youth Crime Action Plan (2008)
Youth Justice Board Strategic Plan (2008/11)
Youth Matters (2008)
Youth Taskforce Action Plan (2008)

9. Consultations

Young Offender Management Board
Safer Leicester Partnership
Children and Young Peoples Service SCS and AIP Division
Safer and Stronger Communities CMT
Council Portfolio Holder Crime and Disorder

10. Report Author

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Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Significant in its effects on communities in one or more wards
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)