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# ***Leicester Youth Justice Plan – Annual refresh***

Decision to be taken by: Full Council

Decision to be taken on: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Scrutiny date: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Lead member: Cllr Sarah Russell

Lead director: Damian Elcock

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## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: all
- Report author: Karen Manville Head of Service Prevention and Safer Communities
- Author contact details: karen.manville@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version Two plus Code No from Report Tracking Database:

### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the annual Youth Justice Plan refresh highlighting progress to date and new emerging priorities and for this to then proceed to Full Council .
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to review the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2022-2025 refresh in 2023, directing any comments to the Lead Member for Childrens, Director for Children's and Community Safety and Head of Service for Prevention and Safer Communities.

### 2. Summary

- 2.1 It is the statutory duty of each local authority, after consultation with partners, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out:
  - how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
  - how the Children and Young People's Justice Service will be composed and funded; how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to present the plan for consideration and to seek agreement that it should proceed to Full Council for formal adoption
- 2.3 The statutory youth justice plan is approved by the Leicester Youth Justice Management Board and must then be submitted to the national Youth Justice Board (YJB) by 30 June. It must then be annually once formal approval has been granted from Full Council. As the Youth Justice Board require a draft plan by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June there is agreement that a draft is submitted prior to being formally ratified through political processes. This has always been the case and is due to the YJ grant procedures. The Youth Justice Board will provide feedback by the end of July as part of the process. This year, the YJB have provided some additional guidance, amending the new template that had been issued by the board in 2022. These changes have meant a longer more detailed plan was created that is subsequently refreshed over a three-year period.
  - The document is the youth justice partnership's main statement of purpose and sets out its proposals to prevent offending by children and young people. The plan shows not only what the Children and Young

People's Justice Service (CYPJS) will deliver as a service, but how strategic links with other supporting initiatives will be developed and maintained.

- This plan supports a range of associated partnership strategies including the Leicester Early Help Strategy, Police and Crime Plan, Violence Reduction Strategy and strategic needs assessment, the Community Safety Partnership Plan and delivery plans within the Social Care and Education department. The Youth Justice Plan is supported by a more detailed Partnership Plan and operational Delivery Plan overseen by the Head of Service for Prevention and Safer Communities, who reports progress to the Leicester Youth Justice Management Board
- As a statutory regulated service, youth offending services are normally inspected every three years by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The most recent single inspection took place in August 2019 and a thematic inspection on Education, Training and Employment was undertaken in January 2022. The service continues to strive for outstanding and to be inspection ready, with the view that an inspection may be called in 2023/24.
- The Youth Justice Plan is required to address the areas of performance, structure and governance, resources, value for money, partnership arrangements and risks to future delivery. The plan takes into account local performance issues, lessons from CYPJS thematic inspections, together with learning from any serious incidents.
- Key priorities for the Leicester Youth Justice Management Board for 2023-24 include areas for further development highlighted by the HMIP thematic inspection and self-assessment against the YJB national standards. Some of the priorities from the 2022-2023 plan have also been rolled forward as it was set out as a three year plan in 2022. The following briefly outlines development plans over the next twelve months focusing upon the services key priority areas.

### **3. Key priorities**

#### **a. First time entrants**

- The plan identifies key priorities for this cohort of children and young people including the ongoing development of the Early Intervention Team as well as the adolescent offer. Detailed information and performance can be found in section 8 of the Youth Justice Plan.

#### **b. Re-offending**

- The plan identifies the key performance indicators for this priority and evidence impact to date and work that needs to be undertaken to continue to strive to reduce the frequency and seriousness of reoffending at all tiers within the youth justice system. Detailed information and data can be found in section 8 of the Youth Justice Plan.

**c. Custody**

- The plan identifies the key successes and challenges with this Key performance indicator. Over the years the service has successfully reduced the number of remands and custodial sentences. The plan identifies key actions that are required to continue to ensure custody is only used where appropriate and all other options have been fully explored. To ensure the right packages are provided to children to reduce remand and custodial sentences as appropriate. Section 8 of the plan provides a detailed reflection of work to date on this priority and what is required looking forward over the next 1-2 years.

**d. Other identified priorities – refer to section 8 (8.13 onwards for a detailed analysis and priority setting)**

- To reduce the numbers of NEET young people with a specific focus on those aged 16+ who are not in full time Education, Training & Employment (NEET) and known to CYPJS.
- To ensure the service continues to respond to the needs to children and young people on EHCPs and any identified learning and neuro diversity needs.
- CYPJS is a duty holder of the new Serious Violence duty and as such there is an expectation to fulfil several functions referenced in the Plan.
- Victim and Restorative Justice work including reviewing existing data sets to the victim offer uptake and exploring processes to capture satisfaction rates of victims to inform future delivery:
- Participation as a key priority and developing a service that is rights respecting.
- To continue to promote evidence-based practice to further impact on our reoffending rates.
- Maintain scrutiny in relation to disproportionality and children looked after due to their overrepresentation within our service ensuring that packages of intervention meet specific need, and that there is a preventative offer in place for residential homes. To ensure the Board receives reports on partnerships work on disproportionality as part of the new suite of KPI's.
- Establish a bespoke programme to support young people through all transitions including health, education, accommodation, children who move services and children who reach the end of their order.
- To complete national standards self-audit in October 2023 on the court work and continue to ensure areas for improvements are delivered upon.
- To develop and embed an adolescent offer in 2024.

#### **4. Key successes – (refer to section 12 for detailed information.)**

- The REACH Team has been successfully evaluated and continues to have a significant impact on children and young people on the cusp of exclusions from school or missing education regularly. The delivery was independently evaluated by Sheffield Hallam University with fabulous findings and areas for ongoing development.
- The service has embedded a robust offer to young people who have experienced Acute Trauma (ACE) in their lives and how to support young people with a history of trauma.
- Developed a robust approach to working with children and young people on EHCP's to ensure staff are skilled and able to adapt plans to meet identified needs. The service is working with key partners to strengthen the support for children with neurodiversity needs and staff are being trained to recognise and work with said children. This will remain an ongoing priority.
- Leicester City Violent Crime joint action group (JAG). Working in partnership the JAG is working to redesign the public service response to violence in Leicester City through greater collaboration and integrated working.
- The Early Intervention Team has now been operational since November 2019 and has provided intervention to more than 600 children and young people. Data demonstrates a significant drop in the number of young people who have re-offended as well as the number of offences committed which is supporting our reduction in FTE's.
- The Summer Arts College (SAC), established by the YJB in 2005, has been adopted by Leicester CYPJS for many years. The programme is run over several weeks during the school holidays and provides children with the opportunity to participate in art-based activities, whilst working towards an Arts Award.
- Continual improvements in several performance indicators including the reduction of numbers being remanded and entering custodial establishments and an increase in pre and post 16 ETE engagement.
- Leicester CYPJS has worked closely with the Crown Prosecution Service to avoid unnecessarily criminalising children. This has resulted in an increased number of children being diverted from Court for an Out of Court Disposal, acknowledging the child's needs and circumstances, thereby diverting away from the formal justice system at an early stage.
- A key priority in 2022 was to embed the social care and education participation strategy, ensuring that the views of children and young people, their parents/carers and other stakeholders are fully embedded in key areas within the CYPJ service.
- Victim voice to be more evident within out of court disposals with a stronger focus on restorative justice processes.
- The establishment of a bespoke programme to support young people through transitions smoothly. Probation have embedded a young person's team which has assisted in the transitions work.
- The establishment of a bespoke Health dashboard for CYPJS to track themes and trends but also provide staff with a wealth of health data to inform their planning and delivery.

- The creation of a 'Remand Strategy' to support the effective management and support for young people who are remanded into custody including those who are held overnight in police custody.
- Substance misuse services. There has been a marked increase in referrals, engagement and outcomes for young people receiving support. This will continue to remain a priority area for the service to ensure this continues to be the case throughout 2023/4
- The adolescent offer - The Expansion of the offer within the service, merging a range of programmes to develop a co-ordinated pathway of interventions to both prevent and protect young people who are at risk of offending and child criminal exploitation.
- The service has continued to be a core member of the Violent Reduction Network and helped prepare, alongside partners, for the Serious Violence Legal Duty within the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. As a specified authority, the Head of Service is the nominated lead for this area with the strategic director overseeing the work for the local authority.

**5. Key risks and mitigations** (see section 10 of the Youth Justice plan for further detail)

- A key risk at the time of finalising this plan is the continued impact of the cost-of-living crisis, remaining challenges from the pandemic and impact on our children and families. The impact of COVID for years to come is evident and will impact on all children's services including CYPJS.
- An ongoing challenge for the CYPJS is to maintain continuous improvement in the context of any proposed national changes. Additional risks to future service delivery arise from reduced government and partnership funding. Partners as well as local authorities are in increasingly challenging times financially, whilst demand is increasing, which may impact indirectly, or directly on service delivery in the coming years.
- The service is working with strategic partners through the YJMB to ensure that national changes to the criminal justice system through Police, HM Courts and Probation services are managed appropriately and address risk, public protection and safeguarding priorities for children and young people.
- HMIP were recently clear that the service was working with complex children and young people and the challenges this places on the service and partnership. The increased complexities of cases escalating through the criminal justice system is notable. Reflecting children's experiences of trauma, serious youth violence and exploitation will be paramount.
- Transitions- The growing cohort of young people aged 16 -18 open on orders makes it imperative that we improve all transitional arrangements (health, services, accommodation, education etc), ensuring that there are strengths in the transition to adult probation services particularly around maturation and understanding gaps in support.
- Prevention and Early Intervention - Considering the balance of the prevention open case load compared to the statutory caseload we will continue to strengthen the focus on the prevention and early intervention opportunities.

- Disproportionality within CYPJS processes and practice affecting young people's experience and outcomes will remain a priority and key to partnership working too.
- Key Performance Indicators. We have developed a robust approach to the new KPIs that have been put in place from April 2023. These were presented to the board in 2022 prior to launching and a workshop in June 2023 highlighted an opportunity for board members to "adopt" a KPI to ensure strategic partners had an eye to themes and trends in the KPIs being monitored.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 To consider, and note, the achievements from 2022-23

6.2 To consider, and agree, the priorities for 2023-25 with a refresh to progress in spring 2024.

6.3 To agree that the plan should proceed to Full Council for formal adoption.

## **7. Report/Supporting information including options considered:**

7.1 The full report and appendices are included in the summary report below including the children and young people's plan.

## **5. Financial, legal and other implications**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

The Gross budget is just over £2.1m with increased funding from Youth Justice grant of £833k for 23/24(22/23 £797k)

Paresh Radia - Finance

## 5.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

Pretty Patel – Head of Law

[Pretty.patel@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Pretty.patel@leicester.gov.uk)

## 5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications directly associated with this report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 22284

## 5.4 Equalities Implications

Revised three paragraphs

Mention neurodiversity – focus on disability – mental, adhd, autism, etc

Unconscious bias/disproportionality – page 10 ethnicity

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The report sets out the proposed statutory Leicester City Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24. From the perspective of meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty aims, the Youth Justice Plan sets out priority activities that seek to promote equality of opportunity for young offenders by reducing the adverse impacts they are likely to experience through involvement with the criminal justice system; and by achieving these outcomes and enabling young offenders to take part in city and community life, contribute to improved good relations between different groups of people. In terms of the protected characteristic of race, the



Leicester Youth Justice Management Board will continue to implement the recommendations from the task and finish group findings, exploring disproportionality of ethnicity and children looked after. In terms of the protected characteristic of disability, the board has a priority to improve the quality and effectiveness of CYPJS interventions to reduce re-offending, including an evaluation of the work undertaken in relation to supporting young people known to CYPJS who have identified learning needs and/or disabilities/neuro diversity.

However, the report and the appendix do not explore in any detail the protected characteristics of young people in the service, any potential issues in terms of over representation and how this compares to local demographics and the national picture or any work being done locally to address any specific issues related to this (other than race and disability as cited above). To make further progress in meeting our public-sector equality duties, in particular that we are advancing equality of opportunity and eliminating discrimination, the service should ensure that the monitoring of disproportionality, trends and issues include the protected characteristics of young offenders not least sex, race, disability, religion and belief.

The proposed Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 offers a high-level overview of the planned work for the coming year, however there are a number of strands of work where equalities, and particularly the PSED, will need to be an on-going consideration, such as the implementation of the Remand Strategy and the work of the Case Management and Diversity Panel. It may be the case that an Equality Impact Assessment is required for some strands of work such as reviewing policies and services, where changes will directly impact on young people in the service, and advice can be sought from the Equalities Team on this as required.

Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer, 454 4175

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

**6. Background information and other papers:**

**7. Summary of appendices:**

**Appendix A** The full report which also has a number of appendices attached to the full report.

A1 Terms of reference for the board, induction presentation and membership

A2 participation policy

- A3 Voices of children
- A4 Structure and staff makeup
- A5 Workforce development
- A6 Budget
- A7 Evaluation reports
- A8 Early Intervention Performance report
- A9 Co-produced plan examples
- A10 Performance report
- A11 Partnership plan

## **Appendix B** Childrens plan

### **8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

### **9. Is this a “key decision”?**

Yes/NO

### **10. If a key decision please explain reason**

#### **In determining whether it is a key decision you will need consider if it is likely:**

- to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates.
- to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working *in two or more wards in the City*.

Expenditure or savings will be regarded as significant if:

- (a) In the case of additional recurrent revenue expenditure, it is not included in the approved revenue budget, and would cost in excess of £0.5m p.a.;
- (b) In the case of reductions in recurrent revenue expenditure, the provision is not included in the approved revenue budget, and savings of over £0.5m p.a. would be achieved;
- (c) In the case of one off or capital expenditure, spending of over £1m is to be committed on a scheme that has not been specifically authorised by Council.

In deciding whether a decision is significant you need to take into account:

- Whether the decision may incur a significant social, economic or environmental risk.
- The likely extent of the impact of the decision both within and outside of the City.
- The extent to which the decision is likely to result in substantial public interest
- The existence of significant communities of interest that cannot be defined spatially.