Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting
Cabinet – 23 December 2019

Report Title
Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-2021

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?
No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report
Sally Hodges, Interim Strategic Director of Children and Young People’s Services

Report Author(s)
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Ward(s) Affected
Borough-Wide

Report Summary
Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual Youth Justice Plan relating to their provision of youth justice services

Recommendations

1. That the publication of the Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-21 be noted.

List of Appendices Included
Appendix 1 Initial equalities screening
Appendix 2 Youth Justice Plan 2019

Background Papers
None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Improving Lives Select Commission – 29 October 2019

Council Approval Required
No
Exempt from the Press and Public
No
1. Background

1.1 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the Youth Offending partnership’s responsibilities in producing a 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 youth offending team (YOT) or equivalent service will be composed and funded
- How it will operate
- What functions it will carry out

1.2 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 and reinforced within YJB Terms and Conditions of Grant 2019.

1.3 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 will require an annual refresh and updating of key information, particularly relating to finance, governance and key achievements from the previous year.

1.4 Plans should be developed to best fit specific local needs and references. Therefore, the YJB does not prescribe a specific template but does outline suggestions for considering how youth justice services are delivering against the three key performance indicators to reduce first time entrants, reduce reoffending and appropriately minimise the use of custody. Plans need to demonstrate evidence of how:

- the service demonstrates a ‘Child First’ ethos and practice
- partner agencies work together to improve outcomes for children
- the needs of the cohort have been assessed to inform delivery decisions
- local priorities have been identified, planned and how these are to be met
- how services are measuring and reporting on impact
- risks to delivery are identified, responded to and mitigated against

1.5 The YJB also suggests a set of recommended sections as follows:

- Introduction
- Structure and Governance
- Resources and Value for Money
- Partnership Arrangements
- Risks to future delivery against the youth justice outcome measures
The Rotherham Youth Justice Plan has been developed in line with the above criteria along with other key local and national strategic plans and priorities.

2. **Key Issues**

2.1 The Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-21 has been approved and signed by the Chair of the YOT Management Board and Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The plan was presented at the YOT Management Board on 1 October 2019.

2.2 The YOT Management Board met on 25 June 2019 when the priorities for the plan were discussed and finalised after a period of coproduction with partners.

The final plan was submitted on the 5 August 2019.

2.3 **Priorities for 2019-2021**

2.4 The Youth Justice Plan provides the detail as to how Rotherham Youth Offending Team (YOT) intends to deliver services to improve outcomes for young people, families and communities over the next two years against the Police and Crime Commissioner’s three priorities;

- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Treating People Fairly

The YOT reports to and supports the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Priorities;

- Protecting Vulnerable Children
- Protecting Vulnerable Adults
- Building Confident and Cohesive Communities
- Domestic Abuse and other related offences
- Serious and Organised Crime

More recent work focussing on a systematic intervention to tackle Child Criminal Exploitation and Serious and Organised Crime Gangs operating across County Lines has also been incorporated into the 2019-2021 plan.

The agreed priorities for the 2019-2021 are set out on page 23 of the Youth Justice Plan and are underpinned by a detailed action plan that will be monitored by the YOT Board on a quarterly basis. The 13 priorities are listed below;

- First Time Entrants
- Re-offending
- Custody
- Risk
- Serious Youth Violence
- Health
3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 That Cabinet note the publication of The Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-2021.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Youth Justice Plan was developed after a review of the previous year’s plan and actions and then a number of development sessions were scheduled with the YOT Board members to identify priorities and coproduce the action plan. The coproduction also included taking into consideration the findings from the Young Inspectors reports and feedback from the Children and Young People’s Services Voice & Influence Team.

4.2 A final draft was shared with all YOT Board members, the Children and Young People’s Services Departmental Leadership Team (DLT), RMBC Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Safer Rotherham Partnership Board (SRP). See section 5.1 below.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 5 June YOT Board development day to set priorities for the Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-2021 and review actions from the previous plan.

25 June, follow up session at the YOT Board.

5 August 2019: Rotherham Youth Justice Plan 2019-2021 signed by Chair of the Rotherham YOT Management Board and submitted to the YJB.

3 September 2019: Rotherham Youth Justice Plan approved and authorised by YJB Head of Innovation and Engagement (North East/Yorkshire & Humber).

26 September 2019: Rotherham Youth Justice Plan approved CYPS DLT.

1 October 2019: Rotherham Youth Justice Plan approved by the YOT Management Board.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 No finance implications
6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The statutory requirement for the formulation and implementation of a Youth Justice Plan by local authorities is provided for at s.40 of The Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

“s.40 Youth justice plans.
(1) It shall be the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement for each year a plan (a “youth justice plan”) setting out—
(a) how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded;
and
(b) how the youth offending team or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.”

7.2 The YJB Practice Note for Youth Offending Partners 2019 at section 3 makes provision for the duration of the Youth Justice Plan. Whilst the Crime and Disorder Act requires the production of an annual plan, the YJB welcomes plans that cover more than one year. The Practice note provides that for plans covering more than one year an annual refresh will be required and updating of key information, particularly relating to finance, governance and key achievements from the previous year.

7.3 The report states consultation has been undertaken but legal are unaware of the form this has taken and whether it therefore complies with the legislation and the general duty.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 No HR implications

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 After consultation with partners, staff and young people the key priorities within the plan address the existing and emergent needs of the YOT cohort.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An initial Equalities Impact Analysis has been completed.

11. Implications for Partners

11.1 Partners from the Youth Offending Team Board and Safer Rotherham Partnership were consulted and help to shape the priorities within the Youth Justice Plan.
12. **Risks and Mitigation**

12.1. Risk management of the young people and staff is an intrinsic part of the Rotherham Youth Offending Service.

12.2. Risks and mitigations in relation to delivering the priorities will be scrutinised quarterly by the YOT Board and monthly through Early Help Performance monitoring.

13. **Accountable Officers**
David McWilliams, Assistant Director Early Help
Emma Ellis, Service Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers:-

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Named Officer</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Executive</td>
<td>Sharon Kemp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Director of Finance &amp; Customer Services (S.151 Officer)</td>
<td>Judith Badger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)</td>
<td>Bal Nahal</td>
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