

From: Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services
Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: County Council – 21 September 2023

Subject: Kent partnership County Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report:

Children's and Young People's Cabinet Committee - 12th September 2023

The 2023/24 Kent Youth Justice plan was submitted to the national Youth Justice Board as required by 30th June 2023.

Future Pathway of report:

The plan will be shared at the next multi-agency statutory County Youth Justice partnership Board (CYJB) meeting 4th September 2023.

The actions within the plan are monitored and supported by the Youth Justice Service and by the CYJB partnership. The plan will be published on KCC's public facing website and will be shared with KCC's divisional management team.

Electoral Division: ALL

Summary:

The Kent Youth Justice multi-agency statutory partnership are required to create and submit an annual Youth Justice Plan to the national Youth Justice Board (YJB). The 2023/24 plan was co-produced with the Youth Justice partnership and KCC's Youth Justice workforce. It describes how the partnership will meet our ambitions to deliver a high-quality service for children, families, and victims of youth crime.

The plan includes ambitions for the next 12months, which are shared with the Youth Justice partnership and workforce. Progress is scrutinised and monitored at quarterly CYJB meetings.

Recommendation(s): County Council is asked to APPROVE the Youth Justice Plan.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Kent Youth Justice multi-agency statutory partnership are required to create and submit a Youth Justice Plan annually to the national Youth Justice Board (YJB).
- 1.2 The substance of the 2023/24 plan has been directed by the YJB which is reflected in the length and depth of the document, including reflections on the previous 12 months and ambitions for the next.

2. Background

- 2.1 See Kent's co-produced County Youth Justice Plan inserted at the end of this report. The plan:
- 2.2 Articulates the Youth Justice Partnership vision and principles. It explains our approaches to Child First, Restorative Justice and our commitment to hear the voice of the child and victims.
- 2.3 Contains analysis of characteristics of children in the youth justice system, their offending and re-offending, including service demand and disproportionality.
- 2.4 Reflects on the progress of our previous plan; key performance indicators (KPIs); outlines the new national KPIs for 2023 and our priorities.
- 2.5 Explains our governance, leadership and partnership arrangements, including our shared strategies for prevention; tackling serious youth violence and managing contextual risks.
- 2.6 Outlines our resources and services, including those for Education, Training and Employment; Transition into, within and out of the secure estate.
- 2.7 Illustrates our commitment to workforce development and the well-being and support of our workforce.
- 2.8 Commits the partnership to evidence-based practice and adhering to standards for children in the youth justice system.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 At the time of creating the plan, the partnership did not know the government financial settlement to Kent County Council for Youth Justice services for the financial year 2023/24, for either the core grant or the secure estate funding.
- 3.2 The national YJB confirmed on 20th July that they had agreed with central government to uplift core Youth Justice grants to Local Authorities by 4.5% in 2023/24. This realised for Kent a settlement of £1,362,082 which is an increase of £58,654 from 2022/23.
- 3.3 Kent County Council were also informed on 24th July that Kent's allocation of the secure remand grant has decreased by £35,251 this year, from £367,526 in 2022/23 to £332,275 for 2023/24. This reflects Kent Youth Justice's success in reducing secure remands in 2022/23 since the previous year.
- 3.4 These grants contribute to an overall Kent Youth Justice budget of £4,449.3k for 2023/24. Financial contributions from Police; the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; Public Health and Probation remain the same as the previous year.
- 3.5 The delivery of the plan and the budget is overseen by the quarterly County Youth Justice Board, and performance is forecast within the financial envelope.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement for the county to produce and submit a multi-agency Youth Justice plan to the national YJB. As required as a condition of the grant allocation, an

agreement with the national YJB has been signed by the Local Authority Chief Financial Officer (S151 certified) and the Youth Justice Head of Service.

5. Governance

- 7.1 The strategic and operational ambitions within the plan are shared with the partnership and workforce, and progress against them scrutinised and monitored at quarterly CYJB meetings. These are also provided to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) as part of the 'evidence in advance' in the week preceding a full inspection.
- 7.2 The Youth Justice Plan is one of the documents which make up the 'Policy Framework' as set out in section 8.7 and 8.8 of the Constitution. All Policy Framework documents require debate and approval by Full Council.

6. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s):

County Council is asked to APPROVE the Youth Justice Plan.

10. Appendices

- **County Youth Justice Plan 2023-24 – Appendix 1**

11. Contact details

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