

# LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

<b>REPORT:</b>	<b>Children &amp; Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b>	
<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	<b>16 July 2024</b>	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Youth Justice Plan 2024/25</b>	
<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR Debbie Jones</b>	
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR – Róisín Madden</b>  <b>HEAD OF SERVICE: Leana Ebanks</b>  <b>SERVICE MANAGER: Emma Carter</b>	
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Maria Gatland, Cabinet Member for Children &amp; Young People</b>	
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>	This is not a key decision as does not meet Financial or Community Impact Criteria.
<b>CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?</b>	<b>NO</b>	
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>	

## 1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1** The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory obligation upon each Local Authority to create a local Youth Justice Team, whose primary aim is to prevent and reduce the offending behaviour of children (aged 10–18-year-olds) alongside key partners. A further obligation is placed upon each local Team to create a yearly Youth Justice Plan setting out strategic and operational objectives for the forthcoming 12 months.
- 1.2** The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires each plan to have Council approval and endorsement. Historically this endorsement has been sighted and governed through the local Youth Justice Crime Board. However, the Ministry of Justice has reverted to the Act and has requested that given the public nature of this document such plans are approved at Full Council. Youth justice plans must be signed off by Full Council in

accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1** For the reasons set out in the report [and its appendices], the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Sub-Committee is asked to:

**2.1.1** Note the report and endorse the outcomes achieved by the Youth Justice Service and its partners for the year 23/24

**2.1.2** Note the plan of action for 24/25

## **3 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS**

**3.1** The Youth Justice Grant, a funding stream issued to each Local Authority to help with the delivery of Services requires the creation of a Youth Justice Plan to be submitted to Council as part of the grant conditions. It is therefore appropriate that the plan is scrutinised by the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Sub-Committee before submission to Cabinet and Full Council.

**3.2** The Youth Justice Plan is set out in a prescribed template issued by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to ensure all aspects of the Youth Justice Service's functions are fully considered and critiqued. The Plan is aimed at the previous year marking achievements and challenges whilst looking forward and setting a plan for the forthcoming year.

**3.3** The plan begins by noting the Youth Justice Service's vision – to ensure all children known to the Service are provided with the best possible opportunities through the offer of holistic services to desist from future contact with the Criminal Justice System. This principle is in line with a Child First Approach which is core to Youth Justice delivery and included within Section 3 of the plan. Subsequently, section 4 of the plan details 'voice participation' and ensures the plan considers the voice of those who access the Service(s).

**3.4** The plan provides local context detailing the overall Youth Population within the borough and the number of children who access the Service. Gender, ethnicity, religion, social care status, locality and education are all reported on providing local context of the children known and providing data on protective characteristics.

**3.5** The plan sets out the Governance arrangements for the Youth Justice Service including frequency of these arrangements and details additional scrutiny arrangements to ensure the Service is meeting with both national and local expectations and Key Performance Indicators.

**3.6** The plan looks at Standards for the Youth Justice System and provides data and comparative data with other local areas, in addition to providing an analysis of workforce development and how practice is underpinned by evidence-based practice.

- 3.7** The Youth Justice Plan has been created with the Council's Youth Safety Plan, which details how the partnership is currently and intends to address serious youth violence. The Youth Justice Plan contributes to and is informed by the Youth Safety Plan to ensure a joined-up, co-ordinated approach to tackling serious youth violence across partner agencies in Croydon.

## **4 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1** The Youth Justice Plan has had the input of all primary partners as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – Police, Social Care, Health, Probation and Education. The plan has also had input from Youth Justice Practitioners, Children known to the Service, Voluntary Community Sector, Community Safety.

## **5 APPENDICES**

- 5.1** Appendix A - Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 & Appendices 1 - 8

## **6 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 6.1** None