

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE YOUTH (YOS) ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2012/13
DATE OF DECISION:	16 OCTOBER 2012 14 NOVEMBER 2012
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY:	
Not applicable.	

BRIEF SUMMARY:

This is the first Southampton Youth Offending Service (YOS) Youth Justice Strategic Plan following disaggregation of Wessex Youth Offending Team (YOT), from 1 April 2012. The full report is attached to this paper.

The YOS is a multi professional service hosted by the City Council but consisting of staff and resources from Children Services, Police, Probation, and Health, and supported by volunteers.

The YOS Manager reports to a Management Board with representatives from all the partners and supported by the Youth Justice Board.

The Plan is required by the Ministry of Justice to be produced on an annual basis, and to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board.

The YOS Youth Justice Strategic Plan is on the Forward Plan to go through Cabinet on 16 October 2012 and then full Council in 14 November 2012. Prior to this it will be widely consulted upon with partners within the Management Board.

The Plan contains:

- A resume of the work to date, undertaken as part of Wessex Youth Offending Team.
- Performance data, including comparisons with our statistical neighbours.
- Priorities, agreed by partner agencies, for 2012/13,
- Future challenges for the coming year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

CABINET:

- (i) To endorse the Southampton Youth Offending Service Annual Youth Justice Plan 2012/13 and to recommend its approval to Council on 14th November, 2012, as set out in Appendix 1.

COUNCIL:

- (i) To approve the Southampton Youth Offending Service Annual Youth Justice Plan 2012/13, as set out in Appendix 1.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

1. The Youth Offending Service is required to publish a Youth Justice Strategic Plan in line with the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, Part iii, Section. 40.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out):

2. The Southampton Youth Offending Service Plan is the first of its kind following on from last year's Wessex YOT plan. The Plan sets out the local and national context and also an agreed set of priorities based on previous performance, partners' priorities, and a series of recommendations from the outcome of the 2011 inspection of Wessex YOT.
3. The Plan has been subject to extensive preliminary consultation including:
 - Partner agencies – priorities agreed.
 - Lead Member for Communities.
 - Youth Justice Board Local Partnership Delivery Lead.
4. Youth Justice Board Guidance prescribes that Youth Justice Strategic Plans include and consider:
 - Structure and governance.
 - Resources.
 - Partnership arrangements.
 - Risks to future delivery.
5. This Plan meets those requirements identified by the Youth Justice Board. For 2012 to 2013, six strategic priorities have been identified.
6. **Priority one**

Strive to improve outcomes for young people against the three national indicators for Youth Offending Teams, which are; reducing reoffending rates, reducing custodial sentencing and reducing the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system.

Southampton YOS will:

 - Provide services that continue the downward re-offending trend for Southampton young people through the delivery of effective offending behaviour interventions.
 - Work with the Courts and others to improve sentencing outcomes for young people by promoting the effective use of our offending behaviour programme as an alternative to custody.
 - Work in partnership with Hampshire Constabulary and other stakeholders to prepare for the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (November 2012) to ensure that YOS crime prevention work with young people is properly resourced and maintained and funding streams identified.
7. **Priority two**

Implement the changes necessary to ensure an effective service response to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act.

Southampton YOS will:

- Increase its focus on restorative justice through staff and volunteer recruitment, training and development.
- Prepare for the delegation, from the Youth Justice Board to Southampton, of the cost of placing young people in the secure estate through the implementation of the youth remand order.
- Continue to work with partners to promote, deliver and monitor effective community resolutions.

8. **Priority three**

Support consistent effective practice with a strong focus on the views of young people and their families.

Southampton YOS will:

- Continue work to embed a focus upon the perspectives of young people and their parents or carers into offending behavior assessments and interventions.
- Build upon local quality assurance and 'best practice' frame works and participate in the YJB Effective Practice forum to ensure professional development across the service.

9. **Priority four**

Protect future service delivery by working with local and national partners in respect of youth justice funding provision; ensuring that the service is effective in delivering its core objectives and represents 'value for money'.

Southampton YOS will:

- Work with statutory local partners and the Youth Justice Board to identify the service budget for 2013/14.
- Develop systems to analyse the cost effectiveness of YOS interventions and to monitor patterns of offending to ensure the most effective distribution of resources.
- Explore avenues of income generation by identifying alternative sources of funding provision.

10. **Priority five**

Work with partners to contribute to the implementation of the 'Families Matter' programme in Southampton. Within Southampton, the national government Troubled Families Programme is known as Families Matter

Southampton YOS will:

- Ensure that Southampton YOS priorities in respect of reducing in re-offending; increasing education access and engagement and providing effective parenting interventions align with the Southampton 'Families Matter' implementation strategy.

11. **Priority six**

Continue to work to improve outcomes for young people receiving custodial sentences.

Southampton YOS will:

- Continue to contribute to the Wessex Resettlement Consortium, working with regional and national partners as part of that forum.
- Continue to strengthen links with the secure estate to ensure a seamless transition from custody to community for Southampton young people.
- Work with the local service provider to ensure that Southampton young people get maximum benefit from the 'Next Steps' resettlement project.
- Work with Southampton Children's Services Safeguarding Division to ensure that local authority responsibilities in respect of the Visits to Former Looked After Children in Detention (England) Regulations 2010 are met.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Capital/Revenue:

12. The YOS core budget has been agreed for 2012/13 and is summarised in the Plan. There are no further financial implications regarding the endorsement of the Plan.

Property/Other:

13. In April 2012, the YOS co-located with Pathways Care Leavers Service. Property costs are addressed within the YOS budget. There are no further financial/asset implications regarding the endorsement of the Plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Statutory power to undertake

14. All Youth Offending Services are required to submit a Youth Justice Strategic Plan to the Youth Justice Board and Ministry of Justice, and the Plan needs to be endorsed by full Council (Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, Part iii, Section 40).

Other Legal Implications:

15. In September 2011 the Government passed the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act. This Act included legislation that replaces Police Authorities with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). On 15 November 2012, the people of Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight will go to the polls to vote for one person to oversee policing, a Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire. The PCC will take office on 22 November 2012. Preparation for this change is a YOS priority detailed in the Plan (Strategic Priority One).

16. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill is due to be enacted in winter 2012. A function of this Act will be to devolve budgetary responsibility for secure juvenile remands from the Youth Justice Board to local authorities. Preparation for this change is a YOS priority detailed in the Plan. The YOS Manager is liaising with the YJB regarding a briefing for Southampton Children's Services management (Strategic Priority Two).

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS:

17. The SYOS Plan links with a range of other partner plans including:
- Health and wellbeing strategy, including teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, substance misuse.
 - Integrated Offender Management involves Probation, Police, other Hampshire LAs, Community Safety Partnerships, Prison Service, Local Criminal Justice Boards.
 - Safe City Partnership Plan.
 - Southampton Prevention Strategy.

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KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1.	Southampton Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2012/13
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Documents In Members' Rooms:

1.	None
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Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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