

**Item 13 (Annex 1)
Recommendation to Council**

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2019/20

Cabinet Report	9 October 2019
Children’s Safeguarding and Early Years	Councillor Richard Boyles
Key Decision	No
Background Documents	Youth Justice Board ‘Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System’ (April 2019)
Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/780504/Standards for children in youth justice services 2019.doc.pdf
Main Consultees	In developing the local Youth Justice Plan, the YOS is required to consult with the statutory partners defined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – local authority (children’s social care and education) police, probation and health. Consultation with the statutory partners was undertaken via the Youth Justice Partnership Board which approved the plan at its meeting on 10 July 2019. The plan was also considered by the Children and Families overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18 July 2019.
Divisional Councillor	All
Officer	Andy Dempsey, Director of Partnerships and Strategy andy.dempsey@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	To seek Cabinet’s recommendation that Council approve Gloucestershire’s Youth Justice Plan 2019/20.
Recommendations	To recommend the Youth Justice Plan 2019/20, attached at Annex 2 (Appendix 1 of the Cabinet Report), to Council for approval. <i>At the Cabinet meeting on 9 October 2019, Cabinet resolved to recommend that Council approve the Youth Justice Plan 2019/20 (Annex 2) for the reasons referred to in this report (Annex 1).</i>
Reasons for recommendations	The Council, working with partner agencies, has a duty to publish a Youth Justice Plan outlining the funding and activities of its Youth Offending Service/Team. The Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council’s Policy Framework and shall be approved by full Council following consideration by Cabinet.
Resource Implications	None at this stage.

MAIN REPORT CONTENTS

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Section 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced the statutory requirement for local authorities to establish one or more Youth Offending teams (YOTs) in their area, with each requiring the involvement of the local authority, police, NHS and probation services. In Gloucestershire this responsibility rests with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC).
- 1.2 The responsible local authority is also required, after consultation with partner agencies, to publish a Youth Justice Plan each year outlining the composition of, and funding for, their YOT and the functions it is to carry out. This includes the steps taken to encourage children not to commit criminal offences. In Gloucestershire the Youth Offending Service (YOS/T) is delivered by Prospects on a commissioned basis as part of the Youth Support Team.
- 1.3 Local governance for the YOS/T is provided by the Gloucestershire Youth Justice Partnership Board (YJPB) comprising of representatives from the statutory partners (above) and relevant local agencies. The Youth Justice Plan 2019/20 will be approved by Youth Justice Partnership Board prior to its submission to the National Youth Justice Board (YJB) as part of its conditions for the YOS/T/T Grant.
- 1.4 Following its consideration by the Statutory Partners, the Youth Justice Plan will be considered by Cabinet prior to approval by Council, as required by the constitution. A copy of the Youth Justice Plan is attached at Appendix 1. It should be noted that the completion of this year's plan has been delayed by the late notification of the YOS/T grant which was only confirmed in June.
- 1.5 In April 2019, the Youth Justice Board published its revised 'Standards for children in the youth justice system (2019)'. The revised standards provide the operational framework for YOS/T/s, with standards for:
- Out of court disposals
 - Court work
 - Community work (court disposals)
 - Work in secure settings
 - Transition and resettlement work
- A key element within Gloucestershire Youth Justice Plan (2019- 20) will be to ensure Gloucestershire YOS/T can deliver the revised standards.
- 1.6 The performance of YOS/T is determined by reference to a range of national and local performance metrics. At a national level, there are three key determinants: -
- The number and rate of first time entrants (FTE) to the criminal justice system – those young people receiving a substantial, sanction based outcome.

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- The re offending rate of a tracked cohort – this includes the number of young people committing further offences and the number of offences on average each has committed.
- The use of custody as a rate per 10,000 young people aged 10 – 17 years old.

1.7 Gloucestershire YOS/T is generally performing well against these metrics when compared to South West and National comparators. As set out in the Youth Justice Plan, it is rated 2/152 YOS/T nationally for FTE and 11/152 based on combined FTE and reoffending data. The YOS/T also utilises local data such as the percentage of young people in education, employment or training, the number of young people open to social care or with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to provide a broader sense of service effectiveness.

1.8 Although Gloucestershire YOS/T is generally performing well, considerable challenges remain in seeking to improve outcomes for children and young people and the wider community. These are reflected in the YOS/T priorities for 2019/20:

- Undertake a Baseline assessment against the National Standards for children in the Youth Justice system (April 2019).
- Reduce disproportionality in order to ensure that outcomes and the experience of BAME children who come into contact with youth justice system in Gloucestershire are proportionate and fair.
- Ensure children and young people in Gloucestershire who come in to contact with the youth justice system are supported to achieve their full potential and given the opportunity to engage in good quality education, training and employment.
- Ensure the prevention and safeguarding of children at risk of criminal exploitation in Gloucestershire.
- Develop a trauma informed approach to the complex cohort of young people who are responsible for high number of re-offences and who have experienced trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's).
- Develop greater insight into violent offending by children and young people and the underlying causes in order to inform prevention activity.
- Develop and implement a countywide strategy towards Harmful Sexual Behaviour displayed by children and young people in Gloucestershire.
- Ensure families are supported at the earliest opportunity to remain together and provide appropriate care and supervision.
- Gather feedback from children and young people, parents/carers, victims and partners and use it to further develop services and improve outcomes for these groups.

1.9 Following its consideration by Gloucestershire's Youth Justice Partnership Board in July, the Youth Justice Plan 2019/2020 was required to be submitted to the Youth

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Justice Board by 5 August 2019 for their approval. Submitted plans are subject to a quality assurance process with plans graded as follows:

- Does NOT meet minimum YJB expectations
- Meets minimum YJB expectations
- Good – Above minimum expectations
- Comprehensive

The Youth Justice Board have assessed Gloucestershire's Youth Justice Plan 2019/20 as **Comprehensive**, describing it as 'a well written and balanced approach to dealing with children in the Youth Justice System in Gloucestershire'.

2.0 Options

2.1 There is a statutory requirement for Gloucestershire County Council, working with local partner agencies, to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan. The local Youth Justice Plan is also required to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for their approval as a condition of their grant funding.

3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 There are a number of risks identified:

1. **Risk:** The Youth Justice Plan is not effective in tackling key issues including new entrants to the justice system and re-offending. **Mitigation:** The Youth Offending Service is currently performing well against key performance metrics and the current plan set out further measures to improve effectiveness
2. **Risk:** There is a risk that the outcomes and experience of BAME children is disproportionate and unfair. **Mitigation:** A programme of training on disproportionality is a key element within the Youth Justice Plan.
3. **Risk:** Partners are insufficiently engaged in the administration and effectiveness of Youth Justice in Gloucestershire. **Mitigation:** The Youth Partnership Board provides oversight of partner agency support for the YOS/T and delivery of the Youth Justice Board.

4.0 Officer Advice

4.1 Gloucestershire County Council, working with local partner agencies, have taken the lead in developing the local Youth Justice Plan. The plan proposes an early intervention approach and the progressive replacement of criminalising sanctions with restorative approaches that address offending behaviour and meet the needs of victims.

4.2 The Youth Justice Plan 2019/20 has been subject to quality assurance procedures by the YJB and graded as 'comprehensive'. It is considered that the Youth Justice Plan 2019/20 provides an effective mechanism through which GCC and its partners can meet their statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998).

5.0 Equalities Consideration

- 5.1 A key aspect of the Youth Justice Plan and work of Gloucestershire's Youth Offending Service is to ensure that the administration of Youth Justice is fair and non-discriminatory. Data for the year 2018/19 evidences that children and young people from Mixed and BAME ethnic groups were over represented In Gloucestershire's YOS/T population. The Youth Justice Plan sets out a range of actions to address this with performance reported on a regular basis to the Youth Justice Board.
- 5.2 A further focus within the Youth Justice Plan will be the extent to which other vulnerable groups, such as looked after children and children with behavioural, emotional or mental health needs become involved in the Youth Justice System. The Children First programme which takes a restorative, trauma informed approach is key to ensuring that young people, who are vulnerable, and/or disadvantaged, do not become labelled by the system with all that implies for their longer term prospects.

6.0 Consultation Feedback

- 6.1 In developing the Youth Justice Plan, GCC has undertaken extensive consultation with local partners and stakeholders working through Gloucestershire's Youth Justice Partnership Board. Feedback has been positive and the plan was approved by the Youth Justice Partnership Board at its meeting on 10 July prior to submission to the Youth Justice Board.
- 6.2 The Youth Justice Board approved the plan in August have judged it to be 'comprehensive' which is the highest grading available and requiring no significant changes as part of their quality assurance process.

7.0 Performance Management/Follow Up

- 7.1 There is a comprehensive range of performance indicators in place to evidence the impact, or otherwise, of the YOS/T and Youth Justice Plan. These include the rate of first time entrants, re-offending and the use of custody.
- 7.2 At a local level performance is scrutinised by the Youth Justice Partnership Board and, at a national level, by the Youth Justice Board. Gloucestershire YOS/T is generally performing well against key performance metrics when compared to South West and National comparators.

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Report Title	Youth Justice Plan 2019/20
Statutory Authority	Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Relevant County Council policy	Looking to the Future 2019-2020
Resource Implications	None at this stage.
Sustainability checklist:	
Partnerships	The Youth Justice Plan outlines how local partners will work together to ensure the Youth Justice System in Gloucestershire is effective.
Decision Making and Involvement	Key partners and stakeholders are represented on the Youth Justice Partnership Board, which will oversee delivery.
Economy and Employment	The engagement of young people in employment, education and training is a key part of the plan.
Caring for people	The proposals accord with the Council's strategic priorities relating to caring for people.
Social Value	Children and Young People who are who come into contact with the Youth Justice System and often are the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.
Built Environment	No impact.
Natural Environment' including Ecology (Biodiversity)	No impact.
Education and Information	Ensuring that the educational needs of young people who come into contact with the Youth Justice System are appropriately met is a key part of the plan.
Tackling Climate Change	Carbon Emissions Implications? Neutral Vulnerable to climate change? Maybe
Due Regard Statement	Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? No

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	Alternatively a hard copy is available for inspection from Jo Moore, Democratic Services Unit, e-mail: jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk .
Human rights Implications	None.
Consultation Arrangements	As detailed in report.