

Cabinet Date	11 November 2020
<i>Insert the Cabinet Member's Portfolio here (e.g. Highways and Flood)</i>	Councillor Richard Boyles Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Families E-mail: richard.boyles@gloucestershire.gov.uk Telephone: (01452) 324213
Key Decision	No
Background Documents	Youth Justice Board Recovery Template
Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents	
Main Consultees	Partner agencies working as part of the local Youth Justice Partnership Board.
Planned Dates	The Recovery Plan will be also be considered by Gloucestershire Youth Justice Partnership Board on 21 October.
Divisional Councillor	All
Officer	Andy Dempsey Director of Partnerships and Strategy E-mail: andy.dempsey@gloucestershire.gov.uk Telephone: (01452) 425019
Purpose of Report	To seek Cabinet's recommendation that County Council approve Gloucestershire's Youth Offending Service Recovery Plan, attached at Appendix 1.
Recommendations	That Cabinet recommends to County Council to approve Gloucestershire Youth Offending Service's Recovery Plan attached at Appendix 1.
Reasons for recommendations	At a national level, the Youth Justice Board (YJB) has relaxed the requirement for an annual Youth Justice Plan as part of its Covid response arrangements. In its stead, the JYB has asked localities to complete a recovery plan using a template they have produced, which will provide the basis for local youth justice provision. 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. Although Covid 19 has impacted on operational arrangements and required the implementation of contingency measures, these have been managed within the existing budget. An overview of the

	budget is set out in Section 9.0 of the Youth Offending Service's Recovery Plan.
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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 a wider Youth Support Contract.
- 1.3 In October 2019, HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) undertook an inspection of Gloucestershire's Youth Offending Service as part of its four year programme. The inspection, which was undertaken under HMIP's revised framework, considered three broad areas:
- the arrangements for organisational delivery of the service;
 - the quality of work done with children and young people sentenced by the courts; and,
 - the quality of out-of-court disposal work.
- 1.4 HMIP's final report, which was published in January 2020, judged Gloucestershire's Youth Offending Service to be 'Requires Improvement'. The HMIP report set out grades against the 12 standards, shared between the 3 domains of practice – out of court, court and custodial work. The overall score of 18/36 was one point short of the score necessary to achieve an overall judgement of 'Good'.
- 1.5 The HMIP Report highlighted many positive aspects of Gloucestershire's Youth Justice arrangements, including the strong partnership framework, good and outstanding court service and the ambitious strategies to support the desistance of young people and divert them from the Criminal Justice System, particularly through out of court work (Children First). Many of the young people served through Children First would not previously have received an assessment or intervention until further offending had occurred. As HMIP acknowledged, there is considerable evidence that Children First has got the balance of proportionality and timeliness just about right, delivering good outcomes for young people and the wider community. The resulting Improvement Plan struck a careful balance between addressing HMIP requirements, in order to build upon existing strengths but without risking a return to an approach towards out of court work, which did not serve Gloucestershire well in the past.
- 1.6 As the scale of the impact of Covid-19 became clearer, the Youth Justice Board, at a national level, relaxed the statutory requirement for youth offending services to produce

an Annual Youth Justice Plan. Shortly, thereafter, the YJB issued a recovery planning template, which localities are required to complete and return for their approval. The recovery template will form the basis of Gloucestershire's Annual Youth Justice Plan and, in addition to sustaining service provision for young people, it will also address the learning from our HMIP inspection so far as is practicable.

1.7 The recovery plan, attached at Appendix 1, follows the child's journey across the various stages of YOS provision through the police custody suite, out of court disposals, court work and secure settings. It also considers the needs of staff at each stage and provides an over view of the local response and how the service has sought to mitigate the impact of Covid on the administration of youth justice on the county. The response to Covid has highlighted the positive and enduring impact of our Children First diversionary programme which has avoided the backlog of court cases experienced in other localities and the risks this poses for re-offending,

1.8 The recovery template was approved by the Youth Justice Partnership Board at its meeting on 21 October, prior to submission to YJB. Progress against the plan will be subject ongoing scrutiny and monitoring via the YJP Board.

2.0 Options

2.1 Although the statutory requirement for Gloucestershire County Council, working with local partner agencies, to develop a youth justice plan has been relaxed, YJB are requiring a recovery plan as a condition of grant funding. The Recovery Plan is required to be submitted for their approval.

3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 There are a number of risks identified:

1. **Risk:** The Recovery Plan is ineffective in mitigating the impact of Covid.

Mitigation: The Youth Offending Service has been able to sustain services using a range of contingency measures set out in the Recovery Plan, with support from local partners and the YJB at national/regional levels.

2. **Risk:** Partners are insufficiently engaged in the Recovery Plan in Gloucestershire.

Mitigation: The Youth Partnership Board provides oversight of partner agency support for the Recovery Plan.

4.0 Officer Advice

4.1 Gloucestershire County Council, working with local partner agencies, have taken the lead in developing the Recovery Plan, which is proportionate and provides a sound basis for sustaining service through the pandemic. The format for the plan is provided by YJB.

5.0 Equalities Consideration

5.1 A key aspect of the Recovery Plan and the wider work of Gloucestershire's Youth Offending Service are to ensure that the administration of Youth Justice is fair and non-discriminatory. Data for the year 2019/20 evidences that children and young people from Mixed and BAME ethnic groups were over represented In Gloucestershire's YOS/T population. The Recovery Plan sets out a range of actions to address the various aspects of disproportionality, including piloting a 'reverse mentoring' system for senior leadership.

6.0 Consultation Feedback

6.1 In developing the Recovery Plan, GCC has undertaken extensive consultation with local partners and stakeholders working through Gloucestershire's Youth Justice Partnership Board. The plan was approved by Youth Justice Partnership Board members prior to submission to the Youth Justice Board.

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 Recovery Plan. These include the rate of first time entrants, re-offending and the use of custody.

7.2 At a local level progress in delivering against the Recovery Plan will be overseen 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.

Report Title	Gloucestershire Youth Offending Service: Response to Covid 19: Recovery Plan 2020/21
Statutory Authority	Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Relevant County Council policy	Looking to the Future 2019-2020
Sustainability checklist:	
Partnerships	The Recovery Plan outlines how local partners will work together to ensure the Youth Justice System in Gloucestershire will respond to the challenges of Covid.
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 priority towards care for vulnerable people.
Social Value	Children and Young People who come into contact with the Youth Justice System and are often amongst 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? Yes Yes - considerations included in main body of report A copy of the full Due Regard Statement can be accessed on GLOSTEXT via http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1 Alternatively a hard copy is available for inspection from Jo

	Moore, Democratic Services Unit, and e-mail: jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk .
Human rights Implications	
Consultation Arrangements	The Recovery Plan has been subject to consultation with local partners via Gloucestershire's Youth Justice Partnership Board