

## COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

**Item under consideration: Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14**

**Date Considered: 21 March 2013**

At its meeting of 21 March 2013 the Communities Select Committee considered a report from the Youth Support Service enclosing the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2013/14, prior to submission to Cabinet for approval.

The Communities Select Committee considered benefits and concerns around the restorative justice approach, including: increased understanding of crime and effects of crime, re-offending rates, victim participation, costs of the approach, and links with the priorities of the new Police and Crime Commissioner. The levels of offending by Looked After Children were also considered. The Committee generally welcomed the restorative justice approach due to its focus on prevention and positive results in reducing the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system.

The Committee queried whether the new streamlined Youth Support Service had sufficient resource, if there was a substantial increase in youth offending in the future. The Committee were reassured that cross-service initiatives such as the Supporting Families Programme could potentially provide expertise and help ease such additional pressures.

### **Recommendation**

Communities Select Committee recommends that Cabinet approves the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2013/14.

**STEVE COSSER**

**Chairman of the Communities Select Committee**

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