

<b>Section 151 Finance cleared on:</b>	<b>06/11/13</b>
<b>Strategic Director cleared on:</b>	<b>05/10/13</b>
<b>Cabinet Member cleared on:</b>	<b>06/11/13</b>

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****DATE: 26 NOVEMBER 2013****REPORT OF: MRS MARY ANGELL, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES****LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES****SUBJECT: YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan is produced annually to meet the Council's obligations under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and is submitted to Cabinet for recommending to Council.

Youth Justice relates to that area of the Council's responsibilities for the management of young people who have committed criminal offences. These responsibilities are discharged in partnership with the Surrey Police, Surrey & Sussex Probation and NHS Surrey.

The Council has a duty under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 to formulate a Youth Justice Plan setting out:

- how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
- how the youth offending team or teams established are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate and what functions they are to carry out.

In Surrey, the delivery of youth justice services is now embedded within the integrated Youth Support Service, following the transformation of Services for Young People that commenced 1 January 2012.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Following finalisation of the Plan by all our partners, Cabinet is pleased to recommend to Council the approval of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The council has a duty under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 to formulate a Youth Justice Plan setting out:

- how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
- how the youth offending team or teams established are to be composed and funded,
- how they are to operate and what functions they are to carry out.

<b><u>DETAILS:</u></b>
------------------------

### **The Youth Justice Strategic Plan**

1. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan (attached at Annex 1) for 2013-14 follows a structure recommended by the Youth Justice Board for England & Wales and includes the following sections:
  - a. Introduction - sets out the context in which youth justice services are provided (page 4)
  - b. Strategy – outlines the service’s high level strategy for the three years ahead (page 5)
  - c. Outcomes from 2012/13 – a review of service performance over previous 12 months (page 6)
  - d. Resourcing & value for money – details how resources are deployed to deliver effective youth justice services to prevent offending and re-offending (pages 8 to 12)
  - e. Structure & Governance – defines the governance arrangements which support integrated strategic planning and performance oversight (page 13)
  - f. Partnership Arrangements – sets out the wider partnership arrangements showing the connectivity of youth justice services with the childcare and criminal justice system in the county (page 15)
  - g. Risks to Future Delivery - this section considers the risks that may undermine capacity to deliver effective youth justice services for the year ahead. (page 17)
  
2. The review of service performance detailed in the Youth Justice Strategic Plan demonstrates why Surrey is considered to have one of England and Wales’ foremost youth justice partnerships. Notable achievements include:
  - Young people in Surrey are significantly less likely to enter the criminal justice system than in any other authority in the country.
  - Surrey is leading a regional programme to reform responses to looked after children’s offending, building on our success in keeping looked after children out of the criminal justice system in Surrey.
  - Surrey’s restorative justice programme is nationally recognised as at the forefront of best practice putting victims at the heart of the justice process and records high levels of victim satisfaction.
  - Surrey incarcerates fewer of its children and young people than ever before and fewer than any comparable authority in the country.
  - Offending by young people in Surrey is reducing as is re-offending. Reductions in re-offending are most marked for those who have been subject to a youth restorative intervention.
  
3. Following the transformation of Services for Young People in January 2012, youth justice services are now delivered within the integrated Youth Support Service. Surrey’s strategy has been to embed restorative youth justice within an integrated approach to young people’s needs which ensures their successful transition to a productive, law-abiding adulthood. Surrey has

strategically sited its youth offending services within a youth support service which has the mission of full participation for all Surrey's young people.

4. We know that those at greatest risk of offending are the least likely to be positively participating in the life of their communities; they are more likely to be out of education or employment, they are often marginalised from services and opportunities. By placing our youth offending services at the heart of a holistic, integrated approach to meeting the needs of a range of vulnerable young people, we give ourselves the best opportunity of bringing them back into the heart of their communities and equipping them with the skills to become contributing adults.
5. The Youth Support Service provides a single source of support for vulnerable young people aged 13 – 18 years, offering a wrap around service to tackle a range of barriers to participation that also feature as risk factors linked to offending. This includes access to: support for reducing substance misuse; support for children in need aged 15+, improving mental health; and prevention of youth homelessness. By overcoming these barriers to participation and giving young people who are at risk of offending the skills and confidence to get work we providing a long-term benefit for them and to all Surrey residents.
6. Thus far Surrey's integrated and restorative approach to meeting young people's needs has delivered outstanding results in youth justice arena. The Strategic Plan outlines our strategy and supporting activity to ensure we continue to improve delivery of youth justice services in Surrey.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

7. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan was considered by the Communities Select Committee on 21 March 2013 and by the Youth Justice Partnership Board on 5 April 2013. It has subsequently been endorsed by all of the partners within the youth justice system including the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

8. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan identifies six areas of risk affecting the services capacity and capability to deliver effective youth justice services. These are detailed at page 17 of the plan together with corresponding mitigating action.

### **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

9. The cost of delivering the Youth Justice Plan is set out at page 12 of Annex 1 in a table that lists the contributions from partner agencies. The £2.6m contribution from SCC is indicative, based on the proportion of the Youth Support Service budget attributable to this area of work.
10. Costs are funded by contributions from partner agencies, a grant from the Youth Justice Board and the agreed revenue budget for the Youth Support Service.

### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

11. The s151 Officer confirms that the financial implications of the youth justice plan have been considered in this report and funding to deliver is available.

### **Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

12. The production of a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement (Crime and Disorder Act 1998) and forms part of the County Council's policy framework. The plan outlines how duties in respect of the youth justice system will be discharged by the council and its partners. There are no new commitments within the plan which impact upon the council's legal responsibilities.

### **Equalities and Diversity**

13. Youth Justice Services support vulnerable young people to prevent further offending and to enable young people to make a successful transition to adulthood.
14. The service is acutely aware of the over representation of some minority groups within the criminal justice system and works actively to mitigate the impact on young people.

### **Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

15. The plan provides for a continuing focus on reducing the over-representation of looked after children in the youth justice system. This builds upon the significant success in recent years in reducing looked after children's involvement in the youth justice system.

### **Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications**

16. The plan commits the partnership to delivering outstanding services to safeguard young people and ensure protection of the public.

### **Public Health implications**

17. The plan's priorities include tackling risk factors associated with drugs and alcohol, and emotional and mental health problems.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

18. This is a rolling three year strategic plan setting out the ambition of the Council and its partners, to prevent offending, address offending more effectively, improve victim satisfaction, raise public confidence and where appropriate to divert young people from the criminal justice system

---

**Contact Officer:**

Ben Byrne, Head of Youth Support Service, tel: 01483 517014

**Consulted:**

Communities Select Committee  
Youth Justice Partnership Board  
Surrey Youth Justice Advisory Committee  
CSF Directorate Leadership Team

**Annexes:**

Annex 1: The Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14

**Sources/background papers:** None

---

This page is intentionally left blank