

Children's Services Committee

Report title:	Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2017-18
Date of meeting:	12 September 2017
Responsible Chief Officer:	Matt Dunkley Interim Executive Director of Children's Services
Strategic impact Norfolk Council is the lead authority in the statutory multi-agency partnership that comprises Norfolk Youth Offending Team. An annual Youth Justice Plan is required to be produced and submitted to the Youth Justice Board, part of the Ministry of Justice. Since the formation of Youth Offending Teams nationally in January 2000 it has been the practice in Norfolk for the youth justice plan to be presented to Norfolk County Council, through its committee structure (or equivalent) for comment. This process has also served the additional purpose of providing an annual update to Members on the work of Norfolk Youth Offending Team.	

Executive summary

The existing Norfolk Youth Justice Plan (noted by Full Council on 11 April 2016) has been updated to outline the actions, risks and opportunities identified to ensure that the desired outcomes for young people and the victims of their crime are achieved by Norfolk Youth Offending Team in 2017 -18. Additionally the Plan sets out the key external and internal drivers behind this area of the County Council's work which is delivered in partnership with the required statutory agencies on the Norfolk Youth Justice Board (Health, Police and Probation) and others such as the County Community Safety Partnership and the Norfolk and Suffolk Criminal Justice Board. A copy of the full 2017 - 18 Plan is attached as Appendix A.

Recommendation: That Children's Services Committee note the details contained in the Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2017–18 and recommend them to Council.

1. Proposal

- 1.1 Norfolk Youth Offending Team (NYOT) is a statutory multi-agency partnership hosted within Norfolk County Council and is required by section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan.
- 1.2 All NYOT activity directly contributes to Norfolk's strategic ambition around 'Caring for our County' and should assist delivery of the 'Norfolk Futures' transformation programme.
 - 1.2.1 NYOT's purpose is to prevent children and young people from offending whilst safeguarding their welfare, protecting the public and helping restore the damage caused to the victims of their crimes. The aim is to make Norfolk an even safer place to live and work whilst helping young people achieve their full potential in life and make a positive contribution to their communities whilst preventing negative impacts on others.

- 1.3** The Youth Justice Plan also supports Children's Services' ambition to provide comprehensive, multi-agency early help to improve outcomes for children and young people, their families and local communities

2. Evidence

- 2.1** The Plan includes a performance review against the 2016/17 objectives and sets out priorities, actions and milestones for 2017/18.

- 2.2** The Plan focuses on three outcomes prioritised nationally by the Ministry of Justice Business Plan which are:

- Reducing the number of children and young people coming into the youth justice system (first time entrants).
- Reducing re-offending by children and young people
- Reducing the numbers of young people going into custody (prison) either sentenced or on remand.

- 2.3** A restorative approach to work with young people and the victims of their crimes is a key theme running throughout NYOT activity. From November 2015 responsibility for the corporate development of restorative approaches transferred from Children's Services Joint Commissioning (Health & Disability) to Norfolk Youth Offending Team. This involves works with a broad range of teams and services, both internal and external to NCC, to inform on and deliver the NCC Restorative Approaches Strategy, 2017 - 2020. Staff also lead on restorative approaches training and interventions, including with educational settings and children's residential provision. This includes work to improve behaviour in educational settings and reduce exclusions as well as deliver against the joint protocol and implementation plan to reduce offending and the criminalisation of Looked After Children

- 2.4** Added to the range of services delivered this year is a new programme to improve responses to harmful sexual behaviour [HSB] by children and young people. Norfolk YOT and Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust [NSFT] have formed a partnership *The Norfolk Harmful Sexual Behaviour Team* which aims to develop a skilled children and young people's workforce across the county that is confident in identifying, assessing and intervening across all levels of HSB in children and young people. The team comprises a Specialist Clinical Psychologist and HSB Specialists with significant skills and experience in working with sexual violence, trauma, sexually appropriate behaviour, child sexual exploitation and harmful sexual behaviour. The HSB project will be providing a range of training in relation to HSB from improving basic skills in recognising HSB to specialist bespoke training for professionals working with more complex cases. Professionals will also be able to seek case consultations in respect of children under 18 living in Norfolk and Waveney where there are concerns or worries about HSB. Whilst the two areas of work outlined above are the current priorities, in due course the HSB project will undertake some direct intervention work.

- 2.5** Successful delivery of NYOT priorities would mean that:

- Children and young people would be law abiding, engaged in positive behaviour and show respect for others
- Parents take responsibility for their children's behaviour
- Communities believe they get on well together and have confidence in the way that crime and anti-social behaviour is dealt with by local authorities and the police
- Victims of crime would feel some of the damage caused had been restored and the public would have confidence and feel protected.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 NYOT does not have a base budget but each year seeks a contribution from the four statutory funding partners. The financial position for 2017/18 is outlined in the Youth Justice Plan. A number of grants are also received for specific purposes that are all included within the anticipated gross income for 2017/18 of £3,434,231 which includes an 'in-kind' contribution from partners of £1,003,520 in respect of seconded practitioners. Further financial information is set out in section 3 of the Plan.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1 **Impact on Children and Young People in Norfolk:** Norfolk YOT is committed to ensuring that children, young people and their families have a voice and influence in the youth justice system and has developed a service user participation and involvement strategy. This strategy includes a number of tools and mechanisms for routinely seeking the views of children and young people on the services they receive. Additionally, in 2014, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation [HMIP] asked all YOTs in the country to complete an ongoing e-survey so that they may use the reported outcomes from Norfolk young people as part of the inspection process. 83 completed questionnaires were submitted by young people involved with Norfolk YOT against a target of 72 and the feedback is summarised within the report.
- 4.2 **Legal Implications:** NYOT works within a range of legislation connected with both criminal justice and child care.
- 4.3 **Human Rights:** All NYOT activity takes into account human rights legislation and principles.
- 4.4 **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA):** All internal and partnership policies and procedures undergo structured equality impact assessments before being issued. NYOT monitors the ethnicity, age and gender of all young people on a quarterly basis and carries out a full biennial audit to ensure that disproportionate activity in what it or the youth justice system does is noted and minimised.
- 4.5 **Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act:** All NYOT's activity relates to the prevention of crime and disorder and making Norfolk an even safer place to live and work is a major priority
- 4.6 **Risk implications** relating to the work of NYOT are reviewed quarterly with action points included, if required. The Plan contains an account of the risk implications associated with the achievement of actions, key performance indicators and objectives.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2017 – 18 (Appendix A)

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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