

# Children's Services Committee

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2018-21</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>10 July 2018</b>
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	<b>Sara Tough Executive Director Children's Services</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> 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 Norfolk Youth Justice Plan has been redesigned and outlines the actions, risks and opportunities to ensure that the desired outcomes for young people and the victims of their crime are achieved by Norfolk Youth Offending Team in 2018-21. Additionally the Plan sets out the key priorities for the 2018-21 period which are 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, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Norfolk and Suffolk Criminal Justice Board. A copy of the full 2018-21 Plan is attached as Appendix A.

**Recommendation: That Children's Services Committee note the details contained in the Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2018-21 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 2017-18 objectives and sets out our priorities for 2018-21.
- 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 The Harmful Sexual Behaviour Project aimed at improving responses to harmful sexual behaviour [HSB] by children and young people moves into its second year of operation. Norfolk YOT and Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust [NSFT] formed a partnership 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 are 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 are also able to seek case consultations in respect of children under 18 living in Norfolk and Waveney where there are concerns or worries about HSB. The HSB project also undertakes 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 2018-19 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 2018-19 of £3,508,769 which includes an 'in-kind' contribution from partners of £969,872 in respect of seconded practitioners. Further financial information is set out in page 9 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. A snapshot of feedback is contained in page 10 of the Plan.
- 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.

### 5. Background Papers

#### 5.1 Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2018-21

#### 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:

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

**Officer Name: Val Crewdson    Tel No: 01603 223585**

**Email address: [val.crewdson@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:val.crewdson@norfolk.gov.uk)**

If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.