



| <u>Committee and Date</u>                    | <u>Item</u>   |
|--|---------------|
| Young People's Scrutiny<br>16 September 2015 | <u>Public</u> |

## WEST MERCIA YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2015-16

### Responsible Officer

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Youth Justice Plan sets out how youth justice services across West Mercia are structured and identifies key actions to address risks to service delivery and improvement
- 1.2 The Youth Justice Plan is endorsed by Council annually and was last endorsed on 23 July 2015.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Youth Justice Plan as attached at Appendix A be noted.

## REPORT

### 3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 The principal aim of the Youth Justice System is the prevention of offending and re-offending by children and young people. The Youth Justice Plan sets out an action plan to address the significant risks identified to future service delivery and improvement.

### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 These are covered by the existing budgetary contribution.

## **5. Background**

- 5.1 Under section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 each Local Authority has a duty to produce a Youth Justice Plan setting out how Youth Justice Services in their area are provided and funded and how the Youth Offending Service for the area is funded and composed, the plan is submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB).
- 5.2 The Youth justice Plan is prepared on an annual basis on behalf of Herefordshire Council, Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council and Worcestershire County Council. The basic plan preparation is undertaken by West Mercia Youth Offending Service according to the deadlines and guidance from the YJB.
- 5.3 The West Mercia Youth Justice Plan was agreed at the West Mercia Youth Offending Service Management Board on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 and is due to be submitted to the YJB by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. A provisional copy was sent to the YJB in June 2015.

## **6. Additional Information**

- 6.1 The Youth Offending Service is subject to three national indicators. Performance against the indicators is outlined in the plan and actions identified to address risks to performance improvement. The Shropshire specific information is set out on pages 29 to 33 of the plan.
- 6.2 The first time entrant (FTE) indicator which is expressed as the number of first time entrants to the youth justice per 100,000 youth population was 364 for Shropshire in the year ending September 2014. The Shropshire rate for the year is lower than for West Mercia, 408 and for England, 417.
- 6.3 The second indicator is the use of custody indicator, which is measured as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population. The use of custody performance for 2014/15 was 0.21, this is in line with the West Mercia performance of 0.20.
- 6.4 The third indicator is re-offending. There are two measures both measuring re-offending in the same cohort of offenders over a 12 month period following the youth justice sanction that placed the young person in the cohort. The first, the frequency rate, is the average number of re-offences per young person in the cohort. The second is the percentage of the young people in the cohort who have re-offended.
- 6.5 The frequency measure for Shropshire for 2012/13 is 1.07 and this represents a slight decrease in performance from 2011/12 when the frequency rate was 0.92.

- 6.6 The percentage of young people re-offending in Shropshire for 2012/13 was 33.5%. Although this rate is slightly worse than for West Mercia it is better than for England at 36%.
- 6.7 During 2015/16 the YOS will be implementing the Youth Justice Board re-offending tracking tool in order to better understand the characteristics of the re-offending group and inform the services approach to reducing re-offending.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 40

West Mercia Youth Justice Plan, Council 23 July 2015

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Cllr Ann Hartley

**Local Member**

All Members

**Appendices**

Appendix A West Mercia Youth Justice Plan 2015/16