



Committee and Date

Council

13 December 2018

WEST MERCIA YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2018-19

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.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Youth Justice Plan as attached at Appendix A be recommended for approval by Council

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 Justice 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 Justice 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 Justice Service Management Board on 12th July 2018 and was submitted to the YJB on 31st July 2018.

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 28 to 31 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 329 for Shropshire in 2017. The Shropshire rate for the year is significantly lower than for West Mercia, 447 but higher than England, 295.
- 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 2017 was 0.25, and is higher than for West Mercia, 0.16, but significantly lower than England, 0.39.
- 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 re-offending 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 cohort identified between July 2015 and June 2016 is 4.21. The Shropshire performance is similar to that for West Mercia, 4.04 but worse than England, 3.82.

- 6.6 The percentage of young people re-offending in Shropshire for cohort identified in the year ending June 2016 was 35.0%. This similar to the West Mercia performance, 33.9% and better than for England at 41.9%.

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
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Councillor N Bardsley
Local Member All Members
Appendices Appendix A West Mercia Youth Justice Plan 2018/19