



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Council
17 th July 2014
10:00am

<u>Item</u>
24
<u>Public</u>

WEST MERCIA YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2014-15

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 approved 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 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 23rd May 2014 and is due to be submitted to the YJB by 30th September 2014. A provisional copy was sent to the YJB in June 2014.

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. Since the plan was prepared there has been a further quarterly update on the performance. The updated performance for Shropshire is outlined below.
- 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 312 for Shropshire in the year ending December 2013, representing a reduction of 5% from the year ending September 2013 where the FTE rate was 329. The Shropshire rate for the year ending December 2013 is lower than for West Mercia, 442 and significantly lower than for England, 556. The actual number of first time entrants in Shropshire during 2013 was 90.
- 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 the year ending March 2014 was 0.10, which is the same as for the year ending December 2013, and is better than the West Mercia performance of 0.29. The Shropshire rate is significantly better than the national rate of 0.44. The actual number of custodial sentences in Shropshire in 2013/14 was 3.
- 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 the year ending June 2012 is 0.90 and this represents an improvement in performance from the year ending March 2012 when the frequency rate was 0.92. The Shropshire rate of 0.90 is better than the West Mercia rate, 0.96 and the national rate 1.02.
- 6.6 The percentage of young people re-offending in Shropshire for the year ending June 2012 was 33.1% and shows an improved performance from the year ending March 2012 when the percentage re-offending was 34.2%. The rate in Shropshire is better than for West Mercia, 34.4% and for England, 35.3%.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) None
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Cllr Ann Hartley
Local Member All Members
Appendices Appendix A: West Mercia Youth Justice Plan 2014/15