

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
SOCIAL CARE HEALTH & WELL-BEING CABINET BOARD**

17th October 2019

**Report of the Director of Social Services, Health & Housing –
Andrew Jarrett**

SECTION A – FOR DECISION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

**NEATH PORT TALBOT YOUTH JUSTICE AND EARLY INTERVENTION
ANNUAL PLAN 2019-2020**

Purpose of the Report

The report presents the background and summary of the content of the Neath Port Talbot Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service (WBYJ and EIS) draft Annual Youth Justice Plan 2019-2020 (Appendix 1).

The report is seeking Member approval for the Neath Port Talbot Youth Justice and Early Intervention draft annual Youth Justice Plan 2019-2020 to be commended to Council. After approval the Neath Port Talbot Youth Justice & Early Intervention Service Management Board will submit the final version to the Youth Justice Board.

Background

Youth offending services/teams (YOS/Ts) are statutory multi-agency partnerships that have a legal duty to co-operate in order to secure youth justice services appropriate to their area funded from a variety of sources including UK Government, Welsh Government (WG) and the statutory partners. (i.e. the local authority, police, probation and health).

The production of a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory duty of the Local Authority under Part 3, Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The plan sets out:

- a) how youth justice services are to be provided and funded, and
- b) How the youth offending service established by the local authority is to be composed and funded, how it will operate and what function it is to carry out.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 39(1) placed a duty on each local authority, acting with its statutory partners (police, probation and health) to establish youth offending teams in their local area to deliver youth justice services. Section 38(3) of the Act placed a duty on the local authority and its statutory partners to make payment towards the expenditure incurred in providing youth justice services. The purpose of the NPTYJ and EIS is to ensure that youth justice services are available across the Neath Port Talbot area.

The Youth Justice Plan contains information relating to: a summary of achievements; structure and governance; resources and value for money; partnership arrangements and; risks to future delivery against the youth justice outcome measures.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact on the local authority resulting from this year's plan. However, there may be some efficiencies that can be realised through the year. It was recognised that the remand costs to NPT were high last financial year and as a result of this peak the remand strategy is being reviewed to guard against any possibility of unnecessary remands to the secure estate from the courts.

The levels of grant funding available to YOT's, like many other grant funded services are uncertain for the coming years.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The youth justice plan should have a positive impact on wider services provided by the Council by bringing down the number of children and young people in trouble with the police. This will in turn reduce the need for other services involvement as a result of their behaviors escalating. Whilst the plan contains areas of service development it can be viewed as business as usual. The equality impact screening has been completed with the conclusion that a full assessment is not required.

Acknowledging children and young people as a priority group in their own right, the service focuses on diverting children and young people away from the youth justice system as much as possible. In line with the YJB and WG Youth Offending Strategy and the national priorities contained in the attached plan, the children and young people we engage with are seen as children and young people first and young people involved in offending behaviour second. Service delivery prioritises helping children and young people avoid criminal records that can hinder them reaching their potential in future years.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

The recommendation has no spatial impact on our valleys communities and does not link to the impacts identified in the Cabinet's response to the Council's Task and Finish Group's recommendations on the Valleys.

Workforce Impacts:

No implications on the Council's workforce.

Legal Impacts

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

The production of a youth justice plan is a statutory duty of the local authority under Part 3, Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Risk Management

The response to the HMIP inspection of the Youth Justice and early Intervention service and the resulting action plan deals with all risk management issues and are addressed in the report and in the report presented at scrutiny in September 2019.

The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with "due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area". The planned actions contained in the Youth Justice Plan aim to have a positive impact on preventing and reducing crime.

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities in the exercise of their functions to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". The

multi-agency youth justice team through the intensive work undertaken with highly vulnerable young people within the youth justice system and at risk of offending aims to have a positive impact to prevent them being drawn into terrorism.

Crime and Disorder Impacts:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have “due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area”

Furthermore, the YJEIS will develop links with the local elected members in order to ensure there is joined up working and good lines of communications with our local counsellors.

There is no impact under the Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Counter Terrorism Impacts:

The proposals are likely to have no impact on the duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

Section 2(1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which:

- (a) Increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or
- (b) Exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

The proposals contained in this report are likely to have no impact on the above duty.

Consultation

There is no requirement for public consultation on the youth justice plan; however the plan has been circulated to partners through the management board and the community safety partnership for comment. In September 2019 we identified a young person champion who represented young people on the management board and will represent them on the junior local children safeguarding board. We hope to increase this representation of young people on both boards. Engagement and participation is a key priority for the YJEIS.

Feedback is routinely sought from young people victims and parents and this feedback has also been used to influence planned service delivery.

Recommendations

Members are asked to support the NPT Justice and Early Intervention Youth Justice Plan 2019-2020 for commending to Council for approval.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To enable the NPT Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service to undertake its duties to deliver youth justice services in line with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Services include preventing children and young people from entering the youth justice system, supervising young people in the community, the secure estate, supporting families and victims in partnership with other agencies.

Implementation of Decision

It is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Draft NPT Youth Justice and Early Intervention Plan 2019-2020;

Appendix 2 - First Stage Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

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List of abbreviations used in this report:

YJEIS: Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service.

NPT: Neath Port Talbot.

YOT: Youth Offending Team

WBYJ: Western Bay Youth Justice

HMIP: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation

CPS: Crown Prosecution Service.

ETE: Education Training and Employment.

NEET: not in education Employment or Training.

ASB: Anti-Social Behaviour.

CSE: Child Sexual Exploitation.

ISS: Intensive Support and Surveillance.

HSB: Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

CE: Criminal Exploitation.

HOS: Head of Service.

PSCO: Police Community Support Officer.

YJB: Youth Justice Board.

PNC: Police National Computer.

IT: Information Technology.

QA: Quality Assurance.

STI: Sexually Transmitted Infections

PPE: Promoting Positive Engagement

CAMHS: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

SLCN: Speech Language and Communication Needs

NVR: Non Violent Resistance

PSR: Pre-Sentence Report

OCN – Open College Network

PIAP – Post inspection action plan