

Derby City Youth Justice Plan 2023-24

Purpose

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 created the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and multi-agency Youth Offending Teams, requiring representation from Social Care, Health, Probation, Police, and education. The 1998 Act set the principal aim of the youth justice system.

(1) It shall be the principal aim of the youth justice system to prevent offending by children and young persons.

Derby's Youth Offending service is based within the Local Authority People Services Directorate, within Early Help and Children's Social Care. Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice (YJ) plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each Local Authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out. The duty to produce an annual plan is also a requirement of the terms and conditions of the Youth Justice core grant, provided by the YJB to Youth Offending Services, which forms part of the services overall budget each year. Submission of an annual YJ Plan to the YJB satisfies the conditions for release of that grant.

- 1.2 Whilst the statutory requirements state the minimum information required within the YJ Plan, guidance provided by the YJB sets out further considerations for partnerships on both the content and structure of the YJ Plan; and asks for reflection on how the service takes a strength-based approach towards delivering a child first justice system.
- 1.3 Annual YJ plans are an opportunity to review performance and developments over a single year period and plan for the next year, which allows services to respond to changes that have taken place in the previous year, including new legislation, demographic changes, delivery of key performance indicators, and developments in service delivery. The planning and production of a Youth Justice Plan is beneficial to partnership working and service delivery to ensure the best outcomes for children.
- 1.4 This report sets out the key elements of Derby's YJ plan, the process of consultation and planning that took place to produce the plan, the sign off arrangements and how the plan is reviewed.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 For Council Cabinet to approve Derby's draft Youth Justice plan.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 In 2023-24 it is a condition of the Youth Justice grant that Youth Justice plans are signed off by Cabinet. In previous years this has rested with the chair of the Youth Justice Partnership Board and Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, alongside Derbyshire Criminal Justice Board.

Supporting information

- 4.1 The YJB provides clear guidance for Youth Offending Services in regard to YJ plan development, i.e., submitting plans using a standard template, engaging their YJB regional leads in reviewing the content of plans and seeking timely feedback before formal submission, plans to be developed in consultation with children and their families, staff and volunteers, partnership organisations and board members and final oversight for plans must sit with the chair of the local Youth Justice Partnership Board (YJPB) and plans must be signed off by full Council Cabinet.
- 4.2 In Derby, the above processes were followed with specific consultation sessions with the YJPB (which includes the YJB regional lead for Derby), the staff and volunteer group, surveys with children and families and sign off by the chair of the YJPB. The plan was submitted on time and the final version has been shared with the YJB regional lead for Derby, the chair of the YJPB and staff team. The plan was submitted on time but was signed off by the chair of the Youth Justice Partnership Board in lieu of sign off from council cabinet.
- 4.3 The body of the plan follows the structure advised by the YJB as follows:

Youth Justice plan structure
Introduction, vision and strategy
Child First
Voice of the child
Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements
Board Development
Progress on previous plan
Resources and services
Performance
National Key Performance Indicators:
Local Performance
Priorities
Children from groups which are over-represented
Prevention
Diversion
Education
Restorative approaches and victims
Serious violence and exploitation
Detention in police custody

Remands
Use of custody
Constructive resettlement
Standards for children in the justice system
Workforce Development
Evidence-based practice and innovation
Service development plan
Challenges, risks and issues
Sign off, submission and approval
Appendix 1: Staffing Structure
Appendix 2: Budget Costs and Contributions 2023/24

- 4.4 The vision and strategy going forward is informed by the Child First approach which is a YJB strategic vision for Youth Justice, it is about seeing the child as a child first offender second and using strengths on which to build plans to help children live a crime free life or as we call it desistence, it fits with the strengths-based model in wider Childrens Services.
- 4.5 As can be seen from the structure of the plan and the attached copy of the plan, the content is detailed in nature but develops a picture of the context in which Derby Youth Offending Service operates, including local public health data and demographic data, local performance data and key challenges, not just in relation to data but also emerging challenges such as the disproportionality of some children from Global Majority backgrounds in the local youth justice system and the ongoing challenge of child criminal exploitation.
- 4.6 There is a lot of detail on service structure, governance, staffing arrangements and budget, so this very much is part of a self-assessment and planning process as opposed to a simple action plan.
- 4.7 There are several areas that focus on performance and similar to Early Help and Childrens Social Care, the Youth Offending Service has a performance framework that includes: Key Performance Indicators set by the YJB, local measures caught by DORIS, quality assurance and case audit activity (which is reported to the YJPB), these alongside other measures on standards for youth justice focus the plan on key priorities for the service. The YJB ask for the service to report on practice (as it currently stands) against key areas such as disproportionality, serious youth violence and prevention/diversion. The service is also asked alongside the plan to consider workforce need, which we consult our staff group on.
- 4.8 The supporting narrative leads to the service development plan section, which is six sections, focused on: inspection readiness, fewer children re-offending, fewer children in custody, reduce number of First Time Entrants (FTE), address disproportionality, preventing disparity for Global Majority groups and the final section of the plan focuses on assess & manage risks associated with harm to others and safety & wellbeing.
- 4.9 The plan contains a Workforce Development section that reviews the training and development of the staff group in the 2022-23 and outlines the key development priorities for 2023-24. This has been completed in conjunction with the Children's Workforce Development Team.
- 4.10 The YOS has developed a systematic process for review of the plan with strategic and operational managers, along with the Information Analyst meeting 8 weekly to review

the plan, which is maintained on a tracker system, which ensures progress is continuously monitored and all with a stake in driving the plan forward are involved in review of this. Progress is reported to the YJPB on a quarterly basis via a YJPB information bulletin, which captures plan progress and general service progress/information items; ensuring statutory partners are abreast of key developments, or issues that might need to be escalated to their home and host organisations.

- 4.11 The embedded documents highlights tasks that were completed in 2022-23 as part of that years YJ plan to demonstrate progress made by the service.



Completed Tasks YJ
Plan 22-23.docx

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 The following consultation activities took place to inform the content of the YJ Plan: All children currently receiving a YOS intervention were given the opportunity to propose content that they would like to see the YOS work on in 2023-24 through direct consultation with their case managers, completion of questionnaires, and by responding to a text message sent by the Principal Service Manager. All practitioners currently working in the YOS were given the opportunity to propose priorities for the YJ Plan and to identify their personal training needs and other workforce development and training activities that would benefit the Service as a whole. This was completed in a dedicated whole service meeting and/or responding to follow-up emails sent by the Principal Service Manager. All current Youth Justice Partnership Board members were provided opportunity to propose priorities for the YJ plan through consultation with the Head of Specialist Services in the June 2023 Youth Justice Partnership Board.
- 5.2 All feedback that has been provided by staff, children and families and Board members has been considered and where appropriate integrated into the plan, some of the ideas had already been included as they were similar in nature to those considered by YOS managers, whilst others were added post feedback.

Other options

- 6.1 The YJ plan is a statutory requirement under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The conditions of the YJ Grant are linked to completion and timely submission of the YJ plan and the YJB set a clear template and set of expectations as to plan content. Derby YOS has more than met these requirements, adding additional commentary on progress, developments, and structure, resulting in a slimmed down (from 2022-23) plan that remains comprehensive, ambitious but realistic.
- 6.2 There are no other viable options regarding submission of an annual plan in line with YJB expectations.

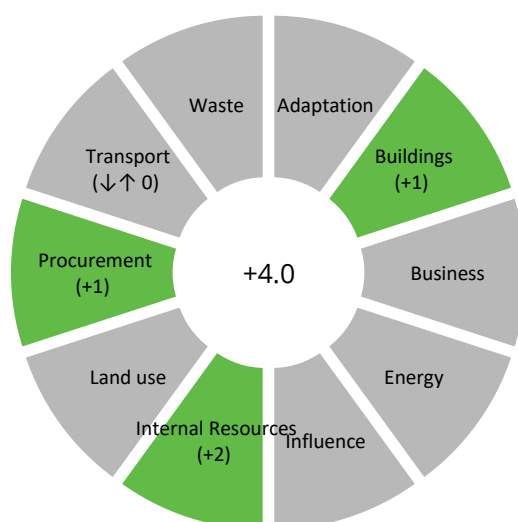
Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 There are no costs or savings arising from the content of this report. As highlighted earlier, non-completion/submission of the YJ would lead to a YOS not receiving their YJ Grant, which would hugely impact on a LA's ability to deliver statutory services to prevent and reduce offending behaviour by children. Derby as a LA has never been in this situation previously.
- 7.2 In 2022-23, the Youth Offending Service received a grant of £471,454 from the Youth Justice Board, at the present time the grant for 2023-24 has not been confirmed but the Youth Justice Board has written to all Youth Offending Services across England and Wales to outline that they should expect no less a grant award in 2023-24 than was awarded in 2022-23.

Legal implications

- 8.1 The legal duties and implications of not producing and submitting an annual YJ plan have been clearly highlighted in prior sections of this report.

Climate implications



- 9.1 Staff within the Youth Offending Service all work from the Council House and complete home visits to service users in the community. The building is shared with other Children's services and prevents the need to travel for some meetings, whilst electronic platforms such as Microsoft Teams can be used for other meetings. Microsoft Teams can also be used to deliver some interventions with service users where this is their preferred learning approach saving staff time and travel. Staff do travel to perform various functions of their role in delivery of the youth justice plan, such as home visits, visits to placements for Looked After Children placed outside of Derby and prison visits. These need to take place now that COVID restrictions are long behind us to ensure relational social work takes place. The service procures interventions and services for delivery of restorative justice and direct interventions,

and these are procured through trusted local delivery partners, which saves on time and travel, where possible meetings regarding contract management are held virtually to save unnecessary travel. Staff use a range of vehicles for travel to home, prison, looked after child visits. Most will be fossil fuelled but there is no difference compared to prior years in this level of activity and it is a stipulated standard/expectation for these visits to take place. Overall, there is very little impact either positively or negatively on climate implications as a result of the Youth Justice plan.

Socio-Economic implications

10.1 There are no specific socio-economic implications brought about by the content of this report.

Other significant implications

11.1 There are no other significant implications brought about by the content of this report.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu	4.7.23
Finance	Janice Hadfield	3.7.23
Service Director(s)	Suanne Lim	3.7.23
Report sponsor	Suanne Lim	
Other(s)		

Background papers:

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Draft copy of 2023-23

YJ Plan

Appendix 2 – Climate Impact

Assessment

Appendix 1.



DCC YOS YJ Plan
2023-24.docx