

Meeting: Joint Commissioning Team Policy and Development Decision Group

Date: 27 October 2016

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Annual Youth Justice

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented?

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 There is a statutory requirement for each local authority to set out an annual plan for the delivery of the Youth Justice Service within their area. Torbay Youth Offending Service co-ordinates the provision of youth justice services across Torbay.
- 1.2 Torbay Youth Justice Service is multi agency comprising the Police, National Probation Service, health and Local Authority. It's work is overseen by a Partnership Board chaired by the Director of Children's Services. The service works in partnership to achieve the national youth justice strategic priorities:-
 - Preventing new entrants to the criminal justice system;
 - Reducing re-offending;
 - Increase victim and public confidence;
 - Ensure the safe and effective use of custody.
- 1.3 A copy of Torbay's Annual Youth Justice Plan for 2016/17 is attached as Appendix 2.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 Torbay Youth Offending Service is performing well with low levels of re-offending and use of custody. Re-offending rates are the third lowest nationally and the fourteenth lowest for the rate of offences per offender . First time entrants have reduced further from 66 (2014/15) to 52 (2015/16) but remains close above the rate for the south west region and statistical comparators. One of the priorities for the 2016/17 plan is to sustain the downward trend.
- 2.2 The number of young offenders in Torbay reduced from 107 (2014/15) to 80 (2015/16) although the level of complexity and vulnerability increased. Essentially the service is working with a smaller cohort of young people who are more entrenched in their offending behaviour, which is often of a more serious nature. The area for action for 2016/17 acknowledges this change.
- 2.3 Funding for the service is provided by partner agencies, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and a central grant from the Youth Justice Board (YJB). There have been reductions in both local contributions and YJB grant for 2016/17 which has been offset to an extent by the use of slippage and an increase in the OPCC contribution. Work is underway with local partners to find a sustainable solution for 2017/18 onwards taking account of the outcome of a Ministry of Justice review of youth justice which will be known before the end of the year.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 The Mayor is asked to approve the Youth Justice Plan 2016/17, attached at Appendix 2, giving delegated authority to the Director of Children's Services to make any final changes in consultation with key stakeholders.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 Youth Justice Plan 2016/17