

## **CITY COUNCIL- 17 JULY 2006**

### **REPORT OF THE LEADER**

#### **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2006-7**

##### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) requires each local authority area to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan (YJP) to outline the service that it (with its partner agencies) intends to provide to prevent offending and reduce re-offending by children and young people in its area. The Youth Justice Plan 2006-7 for Nottingham was approved by Council on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2006 for submission to the YJB subject to any amendments resulting from consultation with partner agencies prior to submission, with any such amendments being reported back to Council.
- 1.2 The Plan was approved as “acceptable” by the YJB on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2006 without any further amendments being requested. The final version of the Plan which has been circulated separately to Members, shows all amendments and additions from the version approved by Council on 27<sup>th</sup> March in bold italic. A brief summary of key points from the Plan is attached as Appendix 1.

##### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

IT IS RECOMMENDED:-

- (1) that the amendments to the Youth Justice Plan are endorsed;
- (2) that the summary of key points from the Youth Justice Plan attached as Appendix 1 is noted.

##### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which requires each local authority area to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan to outline the services that will be provided to prevent offending and reduce re-offending by children and young people in its area. It is part of the Council's

Policy Framework, and also has to be signed by the Chief Officers of all funding partners (City Council, Police, Probation and Health).

3.2 The Plan is prepared in accordance with a template provided by the YJB, and addresses governance, leadership and resources issues in relation to the Youth Offending Team (YOT), together with a delivery plan relating to 17 key areas of service delivery linked to its key performance indicators. Its appendices include a detailed report on the YOT's performance against its key performance indicators, four of which are included in the Council's Annual Performance Assessment (Prevention; Recidivism; Education, Training and Employment; and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services).

3.3 The final version of the Youth Justice Plan which has been approved by the Youth Justice Board has been circulated separately. The most significant changes are:-

- i) completion of full budget information for 2006-7;
- ii) completion of workforce audit (page 15) and resulting amendments in "Workforce Planning" (page 14);
- iii) completion of the "Reduce Re-offending" section on pages 25/6 following the outcome of the recidivism analysis for 2003/4;
- iv) significant changes in "Substance Misuse" (page 41) to reflect urgent action taken to address weaknesses in the performance of the YOT's commissioned service;
- v) completion of the "Ensure equal treatment regardless of race" Delivery Plan (page 49) following the workforce audit;
- vi) addition of a chart as Appendix C showing the strategic location of the YOT in relation to other local partnerships;
- vii) updating of some performance data.

#### **4 PROPOSALS**

All proposals are contained in the Plan, and will be completed within the timescales indicated in the delivery plan section between April 2006 and March 2007.

#### **5 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None

#### **6 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

Minutes of Council 27<sup>th</sup> March 2006  
Youth Justice Plan 2006-7

**COUNCILLOR JON COLLINS  
LEADER**

## **APPENDIX 1: KEY POINTS FROM THE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN**

### **BACKGROUND TO THE YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (YOT)**

The YOT is a statutory partnership of the City Council, Police, Probation and Nottingham Primary Care Trust, governed by a Board comprising senior representatives of the funding partners and stakeholders. The YOT Board is chaired by the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services.

Key performance indicators are set, and performance overseen, by the Youth Justice Board, an executive non-departmental public body appointed by the Home Secretary.

The YOT Board's role is to support and maintain the YOT's strategic location at the cusp of the criminal justice system, children's services, and community safety to ensure that it

- Maintains the confidence of criminal justice agencies and the public in managing risk and
- Supports children and young people to stay safe, be healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.

The YOT's objective is to prevent offending and reduce re-offending by children and young people, by:

- Assessing the risk of offending and of serious harm being caused, and planning and managing interventions to reduce the risk.
- Identifying children and young people at risk of becoming involved in offending, and ensuring that targeted and evidence-based interventions are provided either directly or by commissioning services to address needs.
- Strengthening the protective factors against further offending, and ensuring that children and young people completing YOT interventions have access to the full range of mainstream services to maximise their life chances.
- Ensuring that, wherever possible, the needs of victims and/or communities affected by children and young people's offending inform interventions, and that victims are provided with opportunities and support to participate directly in restorative processes with children and young people who offend.
- Participating in wider partnerships and strategies to reduce youth offending.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN 2005/6

### 1. Improving performance in most areas of YOT performance, including

- Performance on Key Performance Indicators improved from 68% in 2004/5 to 85% in 2005/6 with our national ranking improving from 133<sup>rd</sup> to 72<sup>nd</sup> out of 156 YOTs.
- Compliance with National Standards (measuring national requirements for the rigorous supervision of work with young offenders) improved from 62% in 2004/5 to 86% in 2005/6. We rank 34<sup>th</sup> nationally, 1<sup>st</sup> in our family group (out of 10 YOTs) and 2<sup>nd</sup> among the Core Cities.
- Engagement of young people supervised by the YOT in education, training and employment improved from 53% in 2004/5 to 61% in 2005/6. Comparisons for January – March in the two years showed an improvement from 51% in 2005 to 68% in 2006, providing grounds for optimism that the target of 80% by March 2007 can be achieved.
- Performance on reducing re-offending over two years (from cases dealt with in 2003) places us 59<sup>th</sup> nationally and 4<sup>th</sup> in our family group and among Core Cities. Re-offending is measured over a two year period, and the latest available data is for young people dealt with in 2003. This showed a 2.3% reduction in the proportion of those who re-offended compared with 2001. The frequency of offending was reduced by 34% compared to the 12 months prior to the YOT's intervention, equivalent to 800 offences per year.

### 2. Building restorative justice services

Over a hundred victims of youth crime have been involved in deciding how young people who committed offences against them are dealt with. Where no victim can be identified, or a victim does not wish to be involved, indirect reparation is provided by *Putting it Right*. From a small pilot scheme in Bulwell, it has spread to more than 60 sites across the City, and provided over 350 placements to young people. It is an innovative scheme for reparation work by young people on court orders on projects identified by local communities. It provides meaningful activity for young people, meets the needs of communities affected by youth crime, and makes the criminal justice process visible to them. It also provides young people with the opportunity to learn skills that will prepare them for employment, and links have been built with *Local Jobs for Local People*

### 3. Promoting parenting services

More than 10% of the parents of children and young people who were dealt with by the YOT received a parenting intervention. We created a post to respond to families at risk of formal anti-social behaviour action because of their children's behaviour, working closely with the Community and Neighbourhood Protection Service and the two Neighbourhood Policing pilot areas.

### 4. Improving enforcement of court orders

Working closely with criminal justice partners, we have met new government targets to complete breach cases within an average of 35 days, with cases being completed in an average of 26 days. At the same time, we have made major developments in the quality

and range of resources available to YOT staff for use with young people, to improve their engagement and reduce non-compliance.

## **5. Reviewing current services**

A rapidly changing environment demands a dynamic response to ensure that the services we provide meet current needs. Two major reviews of areas of the YOT's services were undertaken in 2005/6 in relation to the role of seconded police officers, and the delivery of targeted youth crime prevention services:

- Since the YOT's inception, seconded police officers have been responsible for Final Warning assessments. It was agreed with the Police that this no longer makes the best use of their unique skills, and the review concluded that their most effective contribution will be in an intelligence role.
- Nottingham has a much wider range of targeted prevention resources than most local authorities, but these have developed since 2001 in a piecemeal way. The result is a patchwork that lacks strategic direction, does not have strong links to mainstream services, and has a variety of performance measures. An evaluation of current services has been carried out with a view to developing a systematic, evidence-based approach to this work in 2006.

## **DEVELOPMENTS PLANNED FOR 2006/7**

### **1. Preparing for inspection in February 2007**

The YOT will be inspected in February 2007, and this forms part of the Joint Area Review of Children's Services. Since 2004, the YOT has carried out annual self-assessments against the inspection standards, and implemented improvement plans as a result. The YOT Board has also carried out a self-assessment, and will implement an improvement plan over the next few months.

### **2. Changing the role of seconded police officers**

Following the review of the police role during 2005, the YOT's seconded police officers will take on a new intelligence - based role. This will ensure greater joint working and allows the potential of developments such as City tasking and neighbourhood policing are fully realised.

### **3. Developing a coherent structure for Targeted Youth Crime Prevention**

Based on the review and evaluation in 2005 and 2006, and consultation with stakeholders, a new Prevention Plan will be developed to strengthen youth crime prevention across the City. It is expected that this will provide clearer strategic direction and performance management; link services more effectively with other crime and disorder and children's initiatives; and improve effectiveness, capacity and value for money. A particular focus will be on ensuring that the younger siblings of those who are subject to YOT orders are assessed for the need for preventative services.

### **4. Improving customer and neighbourhood focus**

The YOT was designed as a single-location city centre service to which children and young people aged from 10 to 17 years old travel. Whilst this is cost-effective, it weakens the YOT's contact with families, mixes disparate groups of children and young people in a single location, and creates barriers in linking young people to local services and resources. The YOT will:

- Establish at least four locality bases where young people can be seen within their communities, linking to the Children's Service development of Multi-Agency Locality Teams and Probation resources.
- Identify managers from the YOT to link to Community Safety Working Groups in each area.
- Develop a service user evaluation process across the YOT to ensure that the children and young people's experience informs service planning.

### **5. Implementing fully the Education, Training and Employment Strategy**

Encouraging improvements in performance were achieved in 2005/6 in advance of full implementation of the strategy. Key elements of this include:

- Developing a single referral point for hard to place young people in conjunction with Children's Services.
- Developing employment and training opportunities for young people dealt with by the YOT within the City Council, building on *Putting it Right*, Corporate Parenting and the *Local Jobs for Local People* initiative.
- Supporting Children's Services and other providers in developing effective alternative responses to aggressive behaviour to reduce exclusions.
- Building links with secure establishments to ensure young people in custody have appropriate educational placements on release.

## **6. Strengthening partnership working**

- Reviewing the YOT's role, governance and partnership arrangements in the context of evolving partnerships, and agree its long-term strategic location.
- Establishing theme steering groups within the YOT based around the *Every Child Matters* outcomes to lead service development and ensure that the YOT's work is aligned with Children's Services. The YOT Board will identify members to link with each of the theme steering groups, to ensure that Board members have a stronger understanding of the YOT's work, and act more effectively as "champions" within their own agencies.
- Reviewing partnership investment in the YOT in the light of a 17 per cent increase in workload in 2005/6 and evidence of effectiveness in reducing the frequency of re-offending. Current investment in the YOT is significantly below the national average for funding per youth court disposal and funding per offence (101<sup>st</sup> and 114<sup>th</sup> respectively), and it appears that the City Council carries a higher than average proportion of the total funding.

## **7. Contributing to Floor Target Action Plans and Local Area Agreements**

Three areas of YOT activity (Prevention, Recidivism and Education, Training and Employment) are included in Floor Target Action Plans and Local Area Agreements, and one of the LAA "stretch targets" is reducing the frequency of re-offending by young people supervised by the YOT. These provide a focus that requires contributions from all areas of the YOT if challenging targets are to be met.