

CITY COUNCIL - 3 DECEMBER 2007

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2007- 8

1 SUMMARY

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 2007-8 has been circulated separately to members.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Youth Justice Plan 2007-8 be approved by Council.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The YJP is a statutory requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40, which requires each local authority area to produce an annual plan to outline the services that will be provided, and the funding for such services to prevent offending and reduce re-offending by children and young people in its area. Timely submission to and approval by the YJB of the Youth Justice Plan is a condition of YJB funding of the Youth Offending Team (YOT), and is scored as part of the YJB Performance Framework for YOTs.
- 3.2 In normal circumstances, it has to be prepared by the Director of Children's Services and approved and signed by the Chief Executive of the City Council, and chief officers of Nottinghamshire Police, Nottingham Primary Care Trust, and the Nottinghamshire Area of the National Probation Service, and the Director of Children's Services before submission to the YJB for approval on 30 April.
- 3.3 For this year only, approval was obtained from the YJB Regional Manager for submission at the end of July 2007 in view of the YOT

inspection in February 2007 and the expectation that the inspection report would not be published until June 2007, to ensure that there was no risk that the YJP, necessarily incorporating inspection findings and reflections, would enter the public domain in advance of the publication of the inspection report. Due to delays in the agreement of the inspection report (published on 22 August 2007), the YJB Regional Manager agreed that the plan could be submitted in first draft form, subject to amendment and approval by partners.

- 3.4 The YJP is required to be prepared in accordance with a template provided by the YJB, and addresses governance, leadership, performance, workforce planning and development, and resources issues in relation to the YOT, together with a delivery plan relating to 14 service areas linked to its key performance indicators. Its appendices include a detailed report on the YOT's performance against its key performance indicators.
- 3.5 The YJP is normally a 12 month plan, but because of the late submission, it is effectively an eight month plan for implementation by the end of March 2008. A significant number of actions which would normally have formed part of the delivery plan are reported as activity in the preceding year, although it actually occurred in April to July 2007. Following publication of the inspection report, the YOT is required to submit an improvement plan to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation within four weeks, and the YJP incorporates a number of issues that are also addressed in the improvement plan.
- 3.6 The YJP includes a report on progress made during the preceding year, and in particular, comment on its performance. Key points in relation to the YOT's performance in 2006/7 are:-
- i) The YOT was ranked 17th in the country in the YJB's overall performance framework (out of 156 YOTs), compared to 88th in 2005/6 and 135th in 2004/5, and second in its family group
 - ii) It is ranked 18th in the country for reducing re-offending and the best in its family group and among Core Cities, and one of only five YOTs to have achieved all four of the YJB's reducing re-offending targets

- iii) There was a 23% reduction in the number of new entrants to the youth justice system in 2006/7 compared to 2005/6, far above the family, regional and national average
- iv) The YOT achieved its Key Performance Indicators performance targets in all respects other than *Use of the Secure Estate* (where there are specific local circumstances in relation to idiosyncratic counting rules that influence this) and *Education, Training and Employment* (which is a specific focus of the YJP and improvement plan)
- v) It is ranked 30th in the country for compliance with National Standards for the Supervision of Young Offenders

4 PROPOSALS

All proposals are contained in the Plan, and will be completed within the timescales indicated in the delivery plan section.

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

Joint Inspection of Youth Offending Teams of England and Wales - Report on Nottingham City Youth Offending Team (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, August 2007)

**COUNCILLOR URQUHART
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**