

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

#### Report of the Strategic Director for People

Strategic Aims:	Reaching our Full Potential. Safeguarding the most vulnerable.	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and Education  Mr A Walters, Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding – Adults, Public Health, Health Commissioning & Community Safety	
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Ward Councillors	N/A	

#### DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. Notes the arrangements for the delivery of Youth Offending Services in Rutland.

#### 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on the Youth Offending Service contract and the statutory functions commissioned through Leicestershire County Council.
- 1.2 To provide the Committee with information on the current service specification and delivery arrangements, including the preventative work provided through the contract.

## **2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2.1 Section 39 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on the Local Authority to establish a Youth Offending Team for the purposes of youth justice provisions and the prevention of offending by children and young people.
- 2.2 Youth Offending Services are required to include statutory co-operative partner agencies which includes the Local Authority, Police, Clinical Commissioning Groups and National Probation Services.
- 2.3 The Local Authority has a duty to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan on an annual basis which is submitted to the national Youth Justice Board. The Youth Justice Plan must set out how youth justice services in the local authority area are provided, how they are funded and composed and the operational functions they are to carry out.
- 2.4 The Youth Offending Service is subject to inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation, an independent inspectorate funded by the Ministry of Justice which assesses the quality and effectiveness of work to support young offenders and prevent offending.

## **3 CURRENT CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act enables Local Authority areas to work together to deliver joint youth offending teams. As such Rutland County Council currently commissions Leicestershire County Council for the delivery of Youth Offending Services and all statutory requirements, including the Youth Justice Plan.

### 3.2 Contract Specification

- 3.2.1 The contract includes provision for all youth justice services including statutory and prevention interventions.
- 3.2.2 Statutory services include, for example, support at court, pre court supervisions, support for young people on remand or bail, statutory orders and case supervision etc.
- 3.2.3 Non statutory preventative services include the delivery of voluntary support to children and young people at risk or involved in low level anti-social behaviour which includes;

One to one interventions: Direct one to one support through the Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) where vulnerable young people receive up to 12 dedicated sessions exploring offending behaviour, risk taking behaviour and consequences etc. Where children are identified as requiring enhanced support, interventions can last up to 6 months and will involve working across services to secure whole family interventions.

Group work, education and awareness raising programmes, which includes,

- Personal Safety: Groups promoting self-esteem, personal safety and risk awareness including safety online, grooming, sexual health and positive

relationships. The service is currently delivering a dedicated girls group in Rutland, this is unique to Rutland and responsive to an identified need.

- Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness: Group sessions targeted at those known to be involved in ASB, focussed on understanding what is ASB, self-awareness, impact and consequences.
- Bounce Back and Knowing the Risks: Groups supporting children aged 8-12 and 13 years plus focussing on self-esteem, personal resilience and risk taking behaviours.
- Parent Groups: The service is currently developing a parent support session which will focus on awareness raising around broader child criminal exploitation and risk factors.
- School assemblies: Thematic sessions focussing on issues such as anti-social behaviour, knife crime etc.

3.2.4 The specification also requires a dedicated worker for Rutland who is based within Children's Services to ensure robust multi-agency working takes place. The post holder currently works from Jules House alongside the Youth Service and at Catmose alongside the Early Help, Social Care and Community Safety teams.

### 3.3 Contract Management

3.3.1 The contract for the Youth Offending Service is managed within the Early Intervention Service. Quarterly contract management meetings are in place which provide an opportunity to assess performance against the service specification and deliverables and provide an opportunity to discuss project initiatives and developments. This meeting is underpinned by monthly at risk case discussion meeting with Rutland County Council teams, which aims to identify and support referrals.

3.3.2 Performance pertaining to the contract is reported to the Safer Rutland Partnership and the Children and Young People Partnership.

## 4 **CURRENT SERVICE DELIVERY**

### 4.1 Youth Justice Plan

4.1.1 A youth justice plan is in place for 2019-2020 which has been designed by Leicestershire County Council in partnership with Rutland County Council. The plan includes five key areas of focus: reduction of first time entrants, reducing the proven rate of re-offending, reducing custody, reducing the use of remand and increasing the number of children and young people in suitable education, employment and training.

### 4.2 Demand

4.2.1 The number of cases open which require statutory intervention by the youth offending services is very low in Rutland, with a small number of children and young people within the criminal justice system. During the course of 2018-2019 there were a total of 9 referrals accepted into the service as follows;

<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>Q1</b>		<b>Q2</b>		<b>Q3</b>		<b>Q4</b>		<b>Total</b>	
<b>Service Referrals</b>	<b>YOS</b>	<b>YISP</b>	<b>YOS</b>	<b>YISP</b>	<b>YOS</b>	<b>YISP</b>	<b>YOS</b>	<b>YISP</b>	<b>YOS</b>	<b>YISP</b>
Number of accepted referrals	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	6
Number of Prevention programmes	-	<5	-	<5	-	<5	-	<5	-	6
Number of Post Court programmes	<5	-	<5	-	0	-	<5	-	<5	-

Since April 2019 there has been a further 4 referrals accepted which is in line with previous demands. However, an additional 6 referrals have been made to the service which were not accepted as referrals as these were either not appropriate and or were signposted to an alternative service:

<b>2019 – 2020 YTD</b>	<b>Q1</b>		<b>Total</b>	
<b>Service Referrals</b>	<b>YOS</b>	<b>YISP</b>	<b>YOS</b>	<b>YISP</b>
Number of accepted referrals	<5	<5	<5	<5
Number of Prevention programmes	-	<5	-	<5
Number of Post Court programmes	<5	-	<5	-

\*Specific figures have not been included due to the risk of identification.

### 4.3 Performance

4.3.1 Performance is monitored through a range of indicators including re-offending rates, number of first time entrants, take-up levels of voluntary interventions and the numbers of children and young people being in education, employment or training. For 2018/2019 outcomes include:

- 100% of the referrals were opened and supported during the year and within the quarter in which cases were referred into the service.
- The volume of first time entrants of young people into the criminal justice system remained very low during the year.
- There were no young people who have re-offended.
- 12% of cases was convicted of an offence during the support provided.
- 92% accepted the voluntary support and interventions offered.
- 88% children and young people were in education, employment or training at the end of intervention.

4.3.2 We are working with the provider to improve the breadth of performance information provided by the service. This includes work to enhance the capture of soft outcomes and at capturing qualitative feedback, personal impact using longitudinal case studies etc.

4.4 Whilst numbers are low the expectation of the contract is to focus on prevention of offending behaviour as outlined in the contract specification and therefore the service is expected to work closely with early intervention, children's social care and community safety teams in developing joint initiatives and providing early support and education to young people.

- 4.5 The contract manager in the Early Intervention service is working with the service provider to further develop how the service integrates with children's services and our existing processes and service referrals, including the potential for integration with our single front door and weekly case discussion and allocation process.

## **5 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 In the design of Youth Justice Plans the Local Authority must consult with statutory partners. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Standards for Youth Justice (2019) outlines the expectations on statutory partners responsible for the delivery of youth justice provision and the requirement to ensure that local policy and practice accounts for feedback from key stakeholders including courts, victims, children, parents and carers.

## **6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 The requirements of a Youth Offending Team are extensive and diverse, therefore contracting the service remains the most viable and cost effective means of delivery for Rutland County Council as it provides the necessary infrastructure to deliver on all of the statutory and legal functions required of the local authority. In addition the close proximity to wider service delivery alongside Leicestershire ensures a seamless and joined up provision.

## **7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The current cost of the contract with Leicestershire County Council is £70,000 per annum and this price has been unchanged since 2013. The contract price includes a dedicated worker based in Rutland (0.8 full time equivalent), which was not in place under the previous contract, and the necessary infrastructure required to meet all of the statutory responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act and includes support for pre and post court interventions.
- 7.2 The full cost of the Youth Offending Service delivery for Leicestershire and Rutland is £2,259,000 per annum.

## **8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 As outlined the Council has specific legal duties to provide youth justice services through a Youth Offending Team. Delivery through this contract ensures the Council continues to meet this requirement.
- 8.2 Reporting on service function, developments, performance and trends etc. is undertaken at the multi-agency Youth Offending Service Management Board co-ordinated by Leicestershire County Council of which Rutland County Council are a member. Local performance is monitored and reported to the Safer Rutland Partnership and the Children and Young People Partnership.

## **9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The youth offending service contract operates within a clear contractual agreement including the requirement to operate within data protection law and regulation.
- 9.2 The operation of the contract is underpinned by community safety information sharing agreements which operate across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
- 9.3 We are currently researching the potential for the contracted provider to have access to local case management systems including Liquid Logic and Sentinel to support case management and information sharing.

## **10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 There are currently no proposed changes to provision. Any future proposed changes to provision may necessitate an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

## **11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Youth Offending Teams are a statutory requirement of the Local Authority and have been established to prevent youth offending and secure youth justice. The service contributes to the priorities of the Safer Rutland Partnership and plays a critical role in preventing offending by young people and to support young people who have been involved in anti-social behaviour and crime to reduce their reoffending and further involvement within the criminal justice system.

## **12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 The Youth Offending Service has received additional funding from NHS England to support trauma informed practice. As such the service employs dedicated staff including Clinical Psychologists and a Psychiatric Nurse to enable staff to sign post and support young people appropriately.

## **13 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 Procurement Implications  
The current contract runs until March 2020 with an option to extend for a further year until March 2021, subject to performance. Following extension a procurement exercise will be required to secure a new contract.

## **14 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 The Youth Offending Service contract is providing the statutory functions required of Rutland County Council under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998), providing statutory and prevention services.
- 14.2 The contract value has remained unchanged since 2013 and the cost of the contract funds the breadth of responsibilities covered in the event of their being required.

- 14.3 The new contract supports closer working with the Council including the requirement for co-location, adequate staff resilience in the event of sickness or annual leave and the development of preventative and responsive work to support those young people at risk, reflecting the type of needs in Rutland.
- 14.4 Contract management will focus on reviewing local performance measures to reflect the extent of preventative work anticipated and ensuring a consistent and responsive service is delivered locally in line with local need.

## **15 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 15.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

## **16 APPENDICES**

- 16.1 There are no appendices.

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