

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Full Council

Date: 01/11/2023

Subject: Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

Report of: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Children and Education

Report author: Alison Sabaroche, Head of Youth Justice Service and Hannah Parrott, Commissioning & Transformation Lead

Responsible Director: Jacqui McShannon, Strategic Director Children's Services

SUMMARY

Local authorities have a legal duty to produce an annual youth justice plan that shows how they will provide and fund youth justice services (YJSs) in their area, including outlining key priorities for the partnership over the coming year.

This Youth Justice Plan (YJP) sets out how we will work with our partnership agencies and local communities to keep our children and young people safe and support them to reach their full potential.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Full Council note and approve the contents of the report and the Youth Justice Plan attached at Appendix 1.
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Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	Ensuring the right support is provided led through a child first approach to prevent young people from getting involved in crime, empower them to escape the life crime cycle and enable them to avoid re-offending.
Creating a compassionate council	Listening and responding to what our children and young people tell us they want and need to ensure they are not only safe but thriving.

Doing things with local residents, not to them	The Youth Justice Plan has been developed in partnership and signed off by our Youth Crime Prevention Partnership, demonstrating our excellent partnerships and working relationships across the Council, statutory partners and range of community organisations. Our partnership places young people directly at the core of everything we do and is reflected in our Youth Crime Prevention Strategy and is interwoven throughout the Youth Justice Plan.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	There are no anticipated financial implications as a result of implementation of the strategy. The Youth Justice Plan outlined how we use our grant, partners contributions and available resources to deliver a range of services.
Taking pride in H&F	In Hammersmith & Fulham, our first priority is to keep people safe and secure. We want our young people and communities to thrive. Our aim is to take a unified approach across education, health, the police, local authority and crucially with our voluntary and community sector and residents, to ensure the safety and well-being of our young people.
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	There are no anticipated climate and ecological implications as a result of implementation of the Youth Justice Plan.

Financial Impact

An estimated £1.2m will be invested in the delivery of the Council's Youth Justice Service's Plan for 2023/24. The funding sources are set out in the table below.

Funding Source	£'000
Council's General Fund (Children's and Social Care Departments)	605
Youth Justice Board Grant (estimated based on 2022/23)	413
Ministry of Justice (Turnaround Grant)	104
London Crime Prevention Fund (MOPAC)	45
National Probation Service	30
Total	1,197

In addition, the Council will be supported by ‘resources in kind’ totalling £269,200 from our partner agencies (Police £100,000, Health £110,000, QPR and Turning Point £59,200).

Other services provided by the Council will also contribute to the delivery of the YJSP (most notably the work with communities of the Law Enforcement Team, Gangs Violence and Exploitation Unit).

Implications by Tony Burton, Head of Finance – Children’s Services and Education, 20 June 2023.

Verified by Sukvinder Kalsi, Strategic Director of Finance, 5 July 2023.

Legal Implications

The Council has duties under sections 39 and 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and paragraph 7(b) of Schedule 2 of the 1989 Act to take reasonable steps designed to encourage children and young people not to commit offences.

Contained within the 1998 Act are the statutory duties to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to the Council’s provision of youth justice services and 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 they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.

The proposals set out in this report will enable the Council to perform these duties.

Implications by Jade Monroe, Chief Solicitor Social Care, 20 June 2023.

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. In Hammersmith & Fulham, our first priority is to keep people safe and secure. We want our young people and communities to thrive. Our aim is to take a unified approach across education, health, the police, local authority and crucially with our voluntary and community sector and residents, to ensure the safety and well-being of our young people. Our Youth Justice Plan is based on the belief that if we are to reduce and prevent offending by all young people, we must work together to provide the right services at the right time to avoid young people experiencing harm, reduce youth crime and victimisation of children and young people, and ultimately improve outcomes for the individual and our whole community.

2. There is an annual duty on the youth justice partnership to submit a Youth Justice Plan (Appendix 1) which sets out how we will work with our partnership agencies and local communities to keep our children and young people safe and support them to reach their full potential. This includes how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.
3. The Plan reflects our wider vision for the Youth Justice Service (YJS) which is established in our Youth Crime Prevention Strategy 2022-27, which brings key partners together in Hammersmith & Fulham to deliver our ambition that, working together and at the earliest opportunity, we will enable young people to escape the cycle of criminal activity and prevent young people from becoming involved in criminality at all.
4. Our **key strategic objectives** as a local area partnership are to:
 - Increase **resilience** & reduce **vulnerability** to prevent children from getting involved in crime and to empower them to escape the life crime cycle.
 - Improve pathways out of criminality through effective **rehabilitation and resettlement** to enable young people to stay away from crime and avoid re-offending.
 - **Early Intervention is key** – we believe it takes a whole borough to raise a child. Therefore, to support children and young people to achieve, we must take a holistic approach by working together as a whole system to tackle barriers to their success, particularly where there are multiple and complex needs, to stop problems escalating and to improve life chances.
 - **Tackling disproportionality** - we commit to being ruthlessly inclusive we will lean into our communities to ensure all children, regardless of their background, have the same pathway of opportunities available to them.
 - **Inclusive participation** - we continue to actively listen and respond to what our children tell us they want and need to ensure they are not only safe but thriving.
5. The Youth Justice Plan has been developed in partnership through the Youth Crime Prevention Partnership and has been submitted to the Youth Justice Board with approval of the Board Chair, pending confirmation of sign off by full Council at a later date due to the required deadlines for the return.

Option 1 – Do nothing (not recommended)

6. This option would prevent submission of confirmation of full Council approval of the Youth Justice Plan to the Youth Justice Board, resulting in a failure to satisfy the statutory duty incumbent on the Local Authority.

Option 2 – Confirm sign off of the Youth Justice Plan (recommended)

7. This option would give confirmation of sign off of the annual Plan by full Council, following initial approval by the Youth Crime Prevention Partnership

Board Chair and submission to the Youth Justice Board in June 2023.
Confirmation of the Youth Justice Plan would satisfy our statutory duties.

Reasons for Decision

8. Youth Justice Plans, in England only, must be signed off by the full council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'. There is a requirement on Youth Justice Services to publish their Youth Justice Plan in accordance with Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Equality Implications

9. There are no identified equalities issues. A key objective of the Youth Justice Service, outlined in the Youth Justice Plan and Youth Crime Prevention Strategy, is tackling disproportionality across our Youth Crime Prevention Partnership. We commit to being ruthlessly inclusive we will lean into our communities to ensure all children, regardless of their background, have the same pathway of opportunities available to them.

Risk Management Implications

10. The report recommends approval of the Youth Justice Plan, which is intended to reduce and prevent offending by all young people. This involves working in partnership to provide the right services at the right time to avoid young people experiencing harm, reduce youth crime and victimisation of children and young people, and ultimately improve outcomes for the individual and our whole community. This is in line with the Council's objectives and supports and protects vulnerable young people in the borough.

David Hughes, Director of Audit, Fraud, Risk and Insurance, 14 June 2023.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications

11. There are no identified climate implications.

Hinesh Mehta, Head of Climate Change, 16 June 2023.

Consultation

12. The Youth Justice Plan has been developed in consultation with partners engaged with the Youth Crime Prevention Partnership. Through this partnership approach, the Plan has been developed to reflect a shared understanding of data relating to this cohort of young people, delivery against the identified KPIs, identified challenges, concerns and mitigations, and development of an agreed action plan with defined leads, timescales and criteria for success.
13. The wider partnership are committed to a child first approach, which should steer intervention with all children to recognise the potential they each bring. Working in collaboration with the children and young people know to the YJS is

central to the work of the partnership, ensuring we listen and respond to what our children and young people tell us they want and need to ensure they are not only safe but thriving. This approach to youth voice is at the core of everything we do and is reflected in our Youth Crime Prevention Strategy. Evidencing this approach, the YCPP has nominated one of the board members to take on a Youth Voice Champion role, with the purpose of championing youth voice and engagement to ensure that the voice of young people is heard in relation to decisions being made that affect them. This commitment to youth voice is interwoven throughout the Youth Justice Plan, evidencing how youth voice has and continues to shape delivery.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Youth Justice Plan 2023/24