

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Full Council

Date: 17/10/2024

Subject: Youth Justice Plan 2024-25

Report of: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader (with responsibility for Children and Education)

Report authors: Alison Sabaroche, Head of Youth Justice Service, Roisin Conroy, Commissioning & Transformation Lead

Responsible Director: Jacqui McShannon, Executive Director of People

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 attached Youth Justice Plan.
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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 helps improve life chances and build shared prosperity for some of our most vulnerable residents.
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. This allows us to ensure our action and Youth Justice offers are compassionate.

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	<p>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 wellbeing of our young people.</p> <p>We are proud of our record of support and achievement, for example our outstanding service recognition. We are committed to continuous improvement within the Youth Justice Service.</p>

Financial Impact

A budget of £1.294m will be invested in the delivery of the Council's Youth Justice Service's Plan for 2024/25. The funding sources are set out in the table below.

Funding Source	£'000
Council's General Fund (Children's and Social Care Department)	219
Grants including Youth Justice Board Grant	934
Other Partner Contributions	141
Total Planned Expenditure	1,294

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).

Barbara Ncube, Finance Manager (Children's Services): 27/08/2024

Tony Burton, Head of Finance Children's Services and Education: 28 August 2024

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.

Angela Hogan, Chief Solicitor (Contracts and Procurement): 27th August 2024

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.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

6. See below some highlights, picked out by the Youth Justice Head of Service, Alison Sabaroche. It should also be noted that Alison was awarded a Commendation at the prestigious Butler Trust Awards this year, for her commitment to improving the lives of our young people and their families.
7. The Youth Justice Plan goes into detail of the following highlights and numerous others, the following highlights are to demonstrate a sample of the Youth Justice Service's achievements this year.
8. **Highlight One:** Embedding the Turnaround Panel. Between the launch of Turnaround in February 2023 and January 2024, we have received 201 referrals for Turnaround support. Out of the 201 received, 52 young people have been accepted onto Turnaround. Of those who were accepted by the panel 31 young people consented to support, 10 declined and 11 were withdrawn. The panel was observed during October 2023 Practice Week and the observer noted the following:

The panel evidenced the strong multi-agency approach to early intervention in Hammersmith and Fulham. This included strong collaboration with the police and the promotion of child-centred policing to impact young people's initial experience of Police and authorities. The Panel demonstrated flexible and

bespoke programmes of support to the children and their families. Young people were discussed at the panel using compassionate language, and care and attention were given to the circumstances of each young person as many of the young people are jointly allocated with YJS and social work teams. There was evidence of the application of the strengths-based model and the way in which the panel members sought to unpick and explore vulnerability factors, including alliances with other young people. The observers were impressed with the level of experience and expertise of the panel members and the way in which they shared information with one another to inform interventions and engagement of the young people.

9. **Highlight Two:** Embedding the delivery of the Assessment and Qualification Alliance (AQA) vocational qualification awards. The YJS is a registered AQA Centre with 2 AQA trained co-ordinators. 37 AQA Unit award schemes have been completed with YJS cohort including Turnaround young people from the period of April 2023 – March 2024. 26 Young people have completed AQAs with support from practitioners 3 co-ordinators. The most common AQA unit award scheme topics that have been completed are as follows; bike maintenance, responsible dog ownership, mathematics measures, self-promotion, emotional wellbeing, and awareness of anger.
10. **Highlight Three:** The Unheard Gender workshop has been developed to explore the institutionalised marginalisation of fathers and support services in defining the ways of better engaging fathers. Systemic practice is utilised in the training to explore the family/service scripts and how we position fathers and was delivered in November 2023. The Gangs, violence and exploitation manager, YJS HoS alongside, frontline practitioners, social workers, DSMs and team managers across YJS and wider CYPS participated.

Option 1 – Do nothing (not recommended)

11. 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)

12. 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 2024. Confirmation of the Youth Justice Plan would satisfy our statutory duties.

Reasons for Decision

13. 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

14. 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

15. There is a compliance risk (adherence to sections 39 and 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and paragraph 7(b) of Schedule 2 of the 1989 Act) and resulting reputational risk that the deliverables and benefits of the plan are not delivered. It is therefore recommended that the Youth Justice Service (YJS) programme is tightly managed, with a focus on liaison with other participation authorities, defined deliverables, early warning and benefits tracking.

Jules Binney, Risk and Assurance Manager: 20th August 2024

Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications

16. There are no identified climate implications.

Hinesh Mehta, Assistant Director Climate Change, 20th August 2024

Consultation

17. 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, challenges, concerns and mitigations, and supported by the development of an agreed action plan with defined leads, timescales and criteria for success.
18. 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 2024/25