

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 For Council to approve the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 which sets out the shared ambition and priorities of the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that it is the duty for each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out:
- how youth justice partnerships in the area are provided and funded
 - how the Youth Justice Partnership is composed and funded, how it operates, and the functions it carries out
- 2.2 In March 2023 the Youth Justice Board (YJB) provided updated guidance on the required format and contents of youth justice plans. This included a new template that had to be utilised to support and facilitate the YJB oversight and analysis of plans.
- 2.3 Annual youth justice plans are an opportunity to review performance and developments over a single year period and plan for the next year. This allows partnerships to be able to respond to any changes that have taken place in the previous year, including new legislation, demographic changes, delivery of key performance indicators, and developments in delivery.
- 2.4 The planning and production of a youth justice plan is beneficial to partnership working and partnership delivery to ensure the best outcomes for children.
- 2.5 The annual youth justice plan considers local and regional priorities including:
- Reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system
 - Reducing the use of custody
 - Reducing reoffending rates

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 This report is to seek approval from Full Council regarding the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 which sets out the shared ambition and priorities of the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership.
- 3.2 Localised priorities have been reviewed and updated. Individual partner board members have been identified as leads and have responsibility for providing regular updates at each board meeting outlining the progress against their lead priority area, ensuring accountability across the partnership board.
- 3.3 The plan sets out the local key priorities as:
- Diversion and Out of Court
 - Reduction of Child Exploitation and Serious Violence
 - Transition to Adulthood process
 - Engagement in Education, Employment and Training
 - Improve the Emotional and Physical Health of children involved with youth justice.
 - Diversity and Disproportionality

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Endorsement of the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 to support the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board to provide system-wide leadership and advocate the child first principle and diversion away from the criminal justice system. In keeping with North Lincolnshire One Family Approach to support children and young people **thrive in their families, achieve in their schools and flourish in their communities.**
- 4.2 Not to support the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1 Following receipt of delegated budget from the Ministry of Justice, The Youth Justice Board (YJB) was delegated £92.5m for grants in 2023/2024, this is an increase of 4.5% from 2022/23.
- 5.2 It was recognised that youth justice partnerships face significant inflationary pressures, as well as (in many parts of the country) an increase in both the volume and complexity of the children with whom we work with. In determining its budget allocation to the YJB, the Ministry of Justice had to take account of wider financial pressures facing the department and government.

This increase in funding is an uplift on last year's funding which was, in turn, the largest for many years and is an acknowledgment of the

challenging context in which youth justice partnerships are delivering critical youth justice services.

- 5.3 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act outlines our statutory duty to prepare and submit an annual youth justice plan. The plan must be written following the Guidance published by the Youth Justice Board and must be signed off by the chair of the management board.
- 5.4 This duty is also outlined as a requirement of the terms and conditions of grant.
- 5.5 The Youth Justice Partnership are required to publish a youth justice plan in line with relevant legislation.
- 5.6 The Grant is provided by the Authority under its power in section 41 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Funding Period starts on 01/04/2023 and ends on 31/03/2024 unless terminated earlier in accordance with this Grant Funding Agreement.

6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 **Crime and Disorder; Equalities; Council Plan:** The Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 reviews the progress and successes achieved and how the partnership will continue to deliver improved outcomes for some of the most vulnerable young people with a focus on reducing anti-social behaviour and offending.

7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 7.1 N/A

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 8.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 sets out the **shared vision and priorities** for North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Partnership. The plan has been developed alongside partners and board members utilising development session discussions to ensure we are confident of the priorities set and assurance that the **child first** principle is fully embedded.
- 8.2 The plan was submitted to the Youth Justice Board on 07/08/23 which was an extension from the 30/06/23 as a result of the North Lincolnshire HMIP Inspection.
- 8.3 The plan was also considered at the Children's Scrutiny Panel on 13 September 2023 at which it was very well received.

- 8.4 The Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 will be presented to Full Council for final endorsement.
- 8.5 A child and young person friendly version of the plan is in development and will be published alongside the formal plan.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 For Council to approve the North Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 which is a key document in the delivery of youth justice provision in the area.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Youth Justice Plan 2023/24