

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET COUNCIL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	WESSEX YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (YOT) ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	1 SEPTEMBER 2008 17 SEPTEMBER 2008

**REPORT OF:** CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND SKILLS

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**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

None

**SUMMARY**

The Wessex Youth Offending Team (YOT) Annual Youth Justice plan is a statutory plan which each local authority is required to have. This report contains key information about the Wessex Youth Offending Team and in particular, the performance of the Southampton Team within the YOT. The timing, content and format of the Youth Justice Plan is determined by a non-departmental Government body; the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, which has the power to monitor the performance of the Youth Justice System. The Youth Justice Board is appointed by, and is accountable to, the Secretary of State for Justice and the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. Youth Offending Teams were established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Each local authority chief executive has a duty to ensure that there is a Youth Offending Team (YOT) for the area. In some areas such as Wessex, authorities have joined together to provide services. The YOT is a partnership between Police, Health, the Probation Service and Children's Services. The Youth Justice Plan seeks to place emphasis on each local authority area rather than Wessex as a whole. Thus, in the introductory section there is detailed information relating to Southampton. The Plan contains a full review of performance and priorities which were set in 2007.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**CABINET**

- (i) That Cabinet recommends approval of the Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2008/9 to Council as part of the Policy Framework.

**COUNCIL**

- (ii) That Council approves the Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2008/09 as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

## **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. It is a requirement for every local authority to submit a youth justice plan to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. This plan fulfils the requirement using the template set out by the Youth Justice Board.

## **CONSULTATION**

2. The multi-agency Youth Offending Team Management Steering Group has considered the Plan and did not raise any issues or objections.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

3. The plan is a statutory requirement and it is not appropriate to consider alternatives.

## **DETAIL**

4. Southampton City Council has increased their level of funding to the Wessex YOT as have all other partners with the exception of the Probation Service who are bound by a national agreement.
5. Wessex YOT submits disaggregated data to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) for Southampton in line with its agreement with the YJB to deliver this data separately for all four authorities. Three elements for the YOT's performance framework count towards the Council's Children's Services Annual Performance Assessment (APA). These are the key performance indicators relating to:
  - a. Prevention
  - b. Education Training and Employment
  - c. Recidivism (repeat offenders or those at risk of re-offending)Performance for Southampton is contained with the Youth Justice Plan.
6. Overall, performance levels for Wessex YOT and the Southampton team have improved significantly over the last three years, although there are still significant challenges in Southampton which are identified in the report.
7. The Youth Justice Plan sets out how the YOT intends to meet the Youth Justice Board's key Performance Indicators which are now part of the national indicator set and two of which, reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system and recidivism, are Local Area Agreement priorities for Southampton.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

8. There are no capital implications.

### **Revenue**

9. The Wessex Youth Offending Team budget is held by Hampshire County Council and funded from a number of partner organisations including Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Isle of Wight Council, the Police, Probation Service and the PCT.

10. The City Council's budgeted contribution to the Wessex Youth Offending Team over the next three years is shown in the table below:

2008/09	£590,800
2009/10	£650,800
2010/11	£710,800

11. This budget was increased in 2008/9 for all Local Authorities following a re-appraisal of Youth Offending Team funding as a result of the inspection report and APA findings where it was reported that the Youth Offending Team was significantly under funded. A further £60,000 contribution in both 2009/10 and 2010/11 has been included in the City Council's financial forecasts.

### **Property**

12. The adoption of the Wessex Youth Justice plan may have property implications for the future but as yet these are unspecified. There is no reference to the Plan in the corporate Asset Management Plan 2008, but sites specific issues will be addressed in the forthcoming 2009 Plan if appropriate.

### **Other**

13. None.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

14. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the requirements for an annual Youth Justice Plan.

#### **Other Legal Implications:**

15. This plan is produced having regard to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998 and equalities legislation.

### **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

16. The Youth Justice Plan is part of the Council's Policy Framework.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

### Appendices

1.	Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2008/9
<b>Appendix 1 was deposited in Members Rooms on 9<sup>th</sup> September 08, as part of the Council agenda for meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and is also available online.</b>	

### Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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### Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)      Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	Not applicable
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**FORWARD PLAN No:**            YP 03087                            **KEY DECISION**                            YES

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	ALL
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