

ITEM NO: 12

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| DECISION-MAKER: | CABINET COUNCIL |
| SUBJECT: | WESSEX YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (YOT) ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2009 |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 7 SEPTEMBER 2009 16 SEPTEMBER 2009 |

REPORT OF: CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND
SKILLS

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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

SUMMARY

The Wessex Youth Offending Team is a partnership between Police, Health, the Probation Service and the four local authority areas of: Isle of Wight; Hampshire; Portsmouth and Southampton.

The Youth Justice Boards requires all Youth Offending Teams to have an annual plan which details needs analysis; performance data; priorities and targets. The Plan is a statutory framework plan which each local authority is required to approve. The Wessex Youth Offending Team annual plan whilst covering the four local authorities, as detailed above, does contain specific information on the individual local authority's current performance and priorities.

The Youth Justice Plan does support the targets and outcomes being sought in the Southampton's Children and Young People's Plan 2009/12 and the Police Command Unit plan. The work of the Youth Offending Team contributes to the annual Comprehensives Area Assessment

The Youth Justice Board have decided that for the annual planning cycle 2009/10 Youth Offending Teams do not need to provide a new annual plan, instead their 2008/9 plan will be carried forward.

Cabinet and Council are being asked to approve Wessex Youth Offending Team annual plan 2008/9 being carried forward for a second planning cycle of 2009/10.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

CABINET

- (i) To approve the Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2009/10 (document in members' room) and recommend approval to Council as part of the Policy Framework.

COUNCIL

- (i) To approve the Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2009/10 (document in members' room) as part of the Council's Policy Framework.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is a requirement for every local authority to approve an annual youth justice plan to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. This plan fulfils the requirement. The strategic aims of the plan are to; reduce offending, reduce re-offending, ensure the safe and effective use of custody and increase victim and public confidence.

CONSULTATION

2. The Children and Young People Trust steering Group – Make a Positive Contribution steering group has considered and approved the Plan.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

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

DETAIL

4. The Plan sets out how Wessex Youth Offending Teams intends to meet the Youth Justice Board's key performance Indicators. The Youth Justice Board national indicators include the Local Area Agreement targets and other national indicators, such as:
 - NI111: reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system.
 - NI19 re-offending rates of young people.
 - NI45 Percentage of young offenders who are engaged in suitable education, training and employment.

Further detail is provided in Appendix 1.

5. In line with the annual plan Wessex Youth Offending Team submits performance data to the Youth Justice Board on an area basis. Overall, performance levels for Wessex Youth Offending Team 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 plan. A supplementary Progress Update for 09/10 is set out below in Appendix 1.
6. Southampton City Council has increased their level of funding to the Wessex Youth Offending Team for three years in line with other partners with the exception of the Probation Service who are bound by a national agreement.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

7. There are no capital implications.

Revenue

8. 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, Police, Probation Service and the four Primate care Trust.

9. The City Council's contribution to the Wessex Youth Offending Team in 2009/10 is £673,600. This will rise to £733,000 in 2010/11 which is within the Children's Services and Learning base budget.

Property

10. 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

11. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

12. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council and its partners to determine an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan is a Policy Framework Document by virtue of the Local Government Act 2000 and supporting Regulations.

Other Legal Implications:

13. The 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

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

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

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| 1. | Progress Update 09/10 Southampton |
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Documents In Members' Rooms

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| 1. | Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2008/9 |
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Background Documents

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| Title of Background Paper(s) | Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable) |
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| 1. | None |
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| FORWARD PLAN No: | YP03544 | KEY DECISION | YES |
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| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | ALL |
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