

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	WESSEX YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (YOT) ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2010/11		
DATE OF DECISION:	6 SEPTEMBER 2010 15 SEPTEMBER 2010		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

SUMMARY

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) requires Youth Offending Teams to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan, which is approved by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) on behalf of the Government.

The Wessex Youth Offending Team covers the four Local Authority areas of Southampton, Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, as well as the Primary Care Trusts, Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire Probation Trust.

This paper seeks to give an overview of the Wessex Youth Justice Plan for 2010/11 with particular reference to youth offending issues affecting Southampton. Cabinet and Council are asked to approve the 2010/11 plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS**Cabinet**

- (i) To recommend the Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2010/11 to Council for adoption as part of the Policy Framework.

Council

- (i) To approve the Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2010/11 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. 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.

This supports the City priority of 'keeping people safe', by reducing crime and anti social behaviour and improving the protection of residents from crime.

CONSULTATION

2. The Plan (Appendix 1) was approved by the Wessex Youth Offending Team Management Board meeting at its meeting on the 29 June 2010.
Southampton City Council is represented on the Wessex Youth Offending Team Management Board by the Assistant Director, Children's Services and Learning.
3. The substance of this report will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 19 August 2010 and any comments will be reported to Cabinet at their meeting on 6 September 2010.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

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

DETAIL

5. In addition to the submission of an annual Youth Justice Plan, all YOTs were required by the Youth Justice Board to submit a Capacity and Capability Plan which includes details of National Indicator performance. This Plan was approved by the Management Board at their meeting on the 29 March 2010 and duly submitted to the Youth Justice Board prior to the deadline. An abridged version with commentary on Southampton performance only, can be found at Appendix 2. The data in the Capacity and Capability Plan was validated by the Youth Justice Board on the 18 May 2010 and an overall rating of 'adequate performance with good capacity and capability to sustain improvement' was given.
6. The Youth Justice Board assesses performance against a family group of YOT's which include West Sussex, Hertfordshire and Essex. Representations were made by the Wessex YOT Board to the Youth Justice Board regional manager who attended their meeting on the 29 June 2010, that the uniqueness and complexity of Wessex YOT make such comparisons unfair. Comparisons by Local Authority family groups (i.e. compare Southampton with Bristol) are much fairer. The Youth Justice Board have agreed to consider this method for next years Capacity and Capability Plan.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

7. There are no capital implications.

Revenue

8. The Wessex Youth Offending Team is funded by a number of partner organisations including; Southampton City Council, Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Isle of Wight Council, the Police, Probation Service and the four Primary Care Trusts. Hampshire County Council administers the funding on behalf of the partners.

9. In 2008/09 the four Local Authorities agreed to increase their year on year investment in real terms. The City Council's investment to the Wessex Youth Offending Team for 2010/11 is £726,600 which is within the Children's Services and Learning base budget.
10. In addition the City Council gives a further 'in-kind' contribution to the work of Southampton Youth Offending Team through the deployment of a Personal Advisor, specifically to give extra support to young people to re-engage with education, employment and training.
11. A Wessex wide review of YOT arrangements is currently underway, which will consider partnership working including funding for 2011/12 and beyond. Southampton City Council will be looking for a saving in the region of 10% in-line with broader Children's Services and Learning savings and to return investment levels to those of 2008/09.

Property

12. There are no specified property implications for the Southampton services within the Wessex Youth Justice plan.

Other

13. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

14. 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:

15. 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

16. 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

- 1 Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2010/11
- 2. Progress Update 09/10 Southampton

Documents In Members' Rooms

- 1. None

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	
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KEY DECISION

YES

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
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