

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	INTEGRATION OF WESSEX YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (YOT) OPERATIONS FOR SOUTHAMPTON WITHIN SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL FROM 1 APRIL 2012, INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN
DATE OF DECISION:	24 OCTOBER 2011 16 NOVEMBER 2011
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN S SERVICES AND LEARNING
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	

BRIEF SUMMARY

Wessex Youth Offending Team (YOT) was formed in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with the aim of preventing offending behaviour by children and young people aged 10 to 17 years. It is a multi-disciplinary organisation that works across Children's Services and the Criminal Justice System.

Up until April 2011, Wessex YOT served the four Local Authorities of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. The Isle of Wight withdrew from this arrangement in April 2011, and the remaining partners intend to disaggregate from April 2012.

This report provides:

- an overview of the arrangements for disaggregation of Wessex YOT and integration of all YOT operational activity into Children's Services and Learning, moving into the Families and Communities Directorate from April 2012;
- performance information for 2010/11; and
- the 2011/12 Wessex YOT Youth Justice Plan (available in full in the Members Room or on request) which is part of the Council's Policy Framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

CABINET:

- (i) To recommend the Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2011/12 to Council for approval as part of the Policy Framework.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning to do anything necessary to support, plan and implement the discontinuance of the Wessex YOT partnership and the integration of YOT operations into the City Council from 2012/13 within approved budgets.

COUNCIL:

- (i) To approve the Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2011/12 to Council for approval as part of the Policy Framework (document in Members rooms).

- (ii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning to make any consequential amendments necessary to the Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2011/12 to reflect shadow or operational arrangements for the Southampton YOT prior to the approval of a Southampton Youth Justice Plan in 2012/13.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Wessex YOT is the largest in England, originally serving four Local Authority areas. The Isle of Wight decided to leave the arrangement in April 2011 and to integrate provision within its broader council services. Southampton, Portsmouth and Hampshire Councils have now mutually agreed that youth offending services would be best delivered as part of their own Children's Service arrangements and that Wessex YOT should be fully disaggregated.
2. It is a requirement for every local authority to approve an annual youth justice plan, with the strategic aim of reducing offending and re-offending, ensuring the effective use of custody and increasing victim and public confidence. The Wessex YOT Annual Youth Justice Plan will be its last because of disaggregation. Future annual plans will focus on Southampton.
3. The 2011/12 Wessex YOT Annual Youth Justice Plan and the disaggregation of Wessex YOT from 2012/13, has been agreed by the current Wessex YOT Board, which includes Southampton officer representation. The Wessex YOT Plan has been placed in the Members rooms

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. To continue the existing partnership of three Local Authorities. This approach is considered to accrue less overall financial and operational benefit than integrating the service into Children's Services and Learning.
5. The 2011/12 plan is a statutory policy framework plan and therefore it is not an option to not report it to Cabinet and Council.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

6. In late 2010, officers undertook a review of current arrangements for the YOT and took a decision to disaggregate from the existing Wessex YOT partnership. The integration of the YOT operational management into Children's Services and Learning would ensure:
 - improved local co-ordination to address performance against key indicators, including re-offending rates and access to education, employment and training;
 - greater identification and accountability to Southampton elected members;
 - reduced central overheads;
 - shared management functions within the existing Children's Services and Learning (Families and Communities) functions;
 - greater integration within Southampton Children's Services and Learning; and
 - more coherent, complimentary supervision and care plans for Children Looked After.

7. In May 2011 Wessex YOT was subject to a Core Case inspection. The Inspection report was published on the 24 August 11 and is available via the following link: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmi-probation/inspection-reports---youth/core-case The Inspection looked at 115 cases and the ratings are set out in Table 1 below. Southampton performance is not available separately but it broadly followed the Wessex profile. Overall, the results for Wessex YOT were lower than the national average.

Table 1, Wessex YOT Inspection, May 2011

	National average score	Wessex score
'Safeguarding' work (action to protect the young person)	68%	55%
'Risk of Harm to others' work (action to protect the public)	63%	56%
'Likelihood of Reoffending' work	71%	64%

8. The new YOT operations service design will incorporate the results and action plan from this inspection. A copy of the Southampton YOT Improvement Plan following the inspection has been placed in the Members room.
9. Nationally, YOTs are measured against four key indicators:
- The rate of young people re-offending.
 - The proportion of offences receiving a custodial sentence.
 - The percentage of young offenders accessing education, training and employment.
 - The number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System.
- Southampton performance in relation to these indicators is given at Appendix A. Further performance information is given within the Wessex YOT Annual Youth Justice Plan, which is available in the Members' room
10. A sub-group of the existing Wessex YOT Board is operating to oversee operational matters relating to disaggregation including: information technology, Human Resources, TUPE, legal and contractual arrangements, procurement, premises and finance. An internal Southampton task and finish group is overseeing integration. Arrangements for a local YOT Board are in place as statutorily required.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

11. There are no capital implications.

12. Wessex Youth Offending Team operations for Southampton 2011/12 are funded by a number of partner organisations including: the City Council, Police, Probation and the Primary Care Trust. The Youth Justice Board also makes an additional grant contribution. 2011/12 income is summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Wessex YOT Funding 2011/12.

Allocation by Partner	Local Authority	Health	Police	Probation	Youth Justice Board	Total
	£617,036	£19,697	£93,514	£103,882	£415,089	£1,249,218

13. YOT operations in 2012/13 would continue to benefit from similar partner funding. The savings made from disaggregation of the service form part of the city council's budget proposals for 2012-13.
14. One-off costs associated with disaggregation will be funded by Wessex YOT. Any residual funds will be shared amongst the three remaining Local Authorities in a proportional way.

Property/Other

16. Plans are being developed to move the YOT operational team from its current location, Selborne Avenue, Harefield, to the ITeC building in St Mary Street Southampton. They will share the site with the city's Pathways team for Care Leavers. The Selborne Avenue premises will be released by the Local Authority as a capital asset. It should be noted that the latest condition survey identified maintenance and repair issues totalling £180,000.
17. The cost of the current lease of Wheatsheaf House on behalf of Wessex YOT will be met by Wessex disaggregation budget until the lease expires in September 2012.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

18. 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:

19. The Annual Youth Justice Plan is produced having regard to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998 and equalities legislation.
20. There are currently 22 posts attached to Southampton YOT operations, 14 of which are already Southampton City Council employees. The remaining eight are under secondment from Police, Probation and Health and these secondments, where continuing, will transfer from Hampshire to Southampton. Therefore, TUPE will not apply for YOT employees. However, a current contract commissioned by Wessex YOT will be coming to an end from April 2012 and may have a TUPE implication to Southampton for up to two posts.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

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

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KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	all
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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

Appendices

1.	Southampton Performance 2010/11
2.	Wessex Youth Justice Plan 2011/12
3.	Post-Inspection, Southampton YOT Improvement Plan

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	Yes
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Other Background Documents

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

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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