

**Report for** Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

**Date:** 23 September 2021

**Title:** Annual Youth Justice Plan 2021-2022

**Report authorised by:** Jackie Difolco: Assistant Director – Early Help, Prevention and SEND

**Lead Officer:** Emma Cummergen: Head of Service – Young Adults, Youth Justice and Hasslemere.  
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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/Non-Key Decision:** Not applicable

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel of the priorities within the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2021-22 and progress to date.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel note the contents of the report and directs any comments and observations to the Assistant Director for Early Help, Prevention and SEND.

## **3. Reasons for decision**

3.1 Not applicable

## **4. Report**

4.1 It is the duty of each local authority after consultation with partners to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out:

- a) how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
- b) how the Youth Justice Service will be composed and funded; how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.

4.2 The statutory youth justice plan is approved by the Haringey Youth Justice Partnership Board and must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and published annually by 31 August 2021. Youth Justice Plans also require political scrutiny and approval. Local arrangements vary on how this is achieved, but Youth Justice Plans may be considered at full council meetings or scrutiny committees, underlining the importance of the issues to elected members. The plan was approved by the Youth Justice Partnership Board on the 9 June 2021 and presented to the Community Safety Partnership on the 14 July 2021.

4.3 The document is the youth justice partnership's main statement of purpose and sets out its proposals to prevent offending by children and young people. The plan shows not only what the Youth Justice Service (YJS) will deliver as a service, but how strategic links with other supporting initiatives will be developed and maintained.

4.4 This plan supports a range of associated partnership strategies including the Haringey Early Help Strategy 2021-2023, Young People at Risk Strategy 2019-2023, Community Safety Strategy 2019-2023, Borough Plan 2019-2023 and the Mayor of London's Policing and Crime Strategy. The youth justice plan is supported by a more detailed operational delivery plan overseen by the Head of Service for Young Adults, Youth Justice and Hasslemere, who reports progress to the Haringey Youth Justice Partnership Board.

4.5 As a statutory regulated service, youth offending services are inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The most recent single inspection took place in 2012, however the YJS underwent a thematic inspection in May 2021 regarding the support and supervision that black and mixed heritage boys and young men are receiving from youth offending services. Haringey was selected as one of nine Youth Offending Services across the country and one of three London boroughs. The inspection took place from the 17 – 21 May and involved interviews with staff, young people, partners and a review of cases. Findings from the inspection are expected to be published as part of the full report later in the year. Any areas of improvement will be reflected within the operational and partnership delivery plans.

4.6 The Youth Justice Plan is required to address the areas of performance, structure and governance, resources, value for money, partnership arrangements and risks to future delivery. The plan takes into account local performance issues, lessons from thematic inspections, together with learning from any serious incidents.

4.7 Key priorities for the Haringey Youth Justice Partnership Board for 2021-22 include areas for development highlighted by the self-assessment against the Youth Justice Board national standards as outlined below. Refer to Appendix A: Haringey Annual Youth Justice Plan 2021-2022

- a) Continued focus on reducing disproportionality amongst Black and Asian Minority Ethnic young people within the criminal justice system,
- b) Working with partners across the system to reduce the disparity on permanent school exclusions for children,
- c) Developing and sustaining parental support programs across the partnership (Early Help, Youth Service, Community Safety and Voluntary Organisations)
- d) Working with partners across the system to reduce levels of serious youth violence and knife crime,
- e) A focus across the partnership on early intervention and prevention to reduce offending and reoffending by children using a multi-agency whole family approach
- f) Improving health outcomes for young people within the criminal justice system,
- g) Responding to Covid 19 and implementing a recovery model.

4.8 Key outcomes for 2021-2022 include:

- a) A reduction in the number of children and young people who become first time entrants into the Criminal Justice System by 2% (84 young people).
- b) Re-offending rates for young people to be no more than 40%.
- c) Vast majority of case files audited are graded as 'Good' (80%)
- d) Multi-agency staff to receive training to increase understanding , competence and application of trauma Informed practice and unconscious bias.
- e) A reduction in the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence by 20% (4 young people) and a reduction in the number of young people remanded to custody.
- f) Fewer children and young people involved or at risk of child criminal exploitation.

- g) Prevent children and young people from becoming involved in gang related violence and or radicalisation.
- h) Interventions with children and young people to take place in a whole family context.
- i) Improve access to good quality education, training, employment and housing (including resettlement)
- j) Contribute to broader safeguarding agendas specifically, Child Criminal Exploitation and Children Missing Education.

4.9 For 2021-2022, there is good progress to date against the priorities outlined below, however caution should be given to the impact the covid pandemic has had on improved performance which will be evident within future reporting.

- a) Good progress is being made in relation to the reduction of young people becoming first time entrants to the criminal justice system and reoffending. Using local data, the current projection is a reduction in FTE by 6%. This relates to 81 young people becoming first time entrants between July 20 and Jun 21 compared to 86 young people in Apr 20 to Mar 21.
- b) For the latest available period (Jan to March 2019 cohort tracked for one year) the reoffending rate stands at 24% relating to 9 of 37 young people re-offending which is the lowest ever reoffending rate to date. This is a decrease from 43% (26 from 60 yp) for the previous year (Jan to March 2018 tracked for one year).
- c) A key area of improvement that needed clear focus was how to adjust our quality assurance (QA) tool to be more in line with social care QA processes and also be in line with our HMIP inspection framework. This has been adjusted and will be shared with our partnership board for their perusal. The internal national standards audit is underway where we are benchmarking progress against 10 key areas.
- d) Under the current training plan for the YJS both trauma informed, and unconscious bias training will be offered to all from facing staff by December 2021.
- e) Using national data produced from the Youth Justice Board, Haringey is projected to have a reduction of young people in custody by 30%. This equates to 14 young people, compared with 20 young people for the period Apr 20 to Mar 21.
- f) In relation to exploitation work, senior managers are key members of partnership meetings that have a focus on exploitation and gangs, working closely with community safety, enforcement and children social care. This has led to an improvement in ensuring assessments and plans include a contextual safeguarding lens where appropriate.
- h) The service is undertaking a more systemic approach to youth justice practice, adopting a 'think family/whole family' first approach. The service has a parents "Think Space" and are currently looking at pathways within Family Support and Youth Services to ensure a joined up approach to family work and targeting the needs of siblings of those young people who offend. The YJS is also developing our work with fathers and father figures with the hope of creating a bespoke piece of work to ensure on-going meaningful work with fathers/ father figures of young people who offend.
- h) The YJS specialist Education officer advocates for all our young people who have difficulty accessing education, training and employment. The service is represented on the NEET (not in education, employment and training) Operations Group to ensure there is a targeted focus on supporting young people open to the service who are at risk of becoming NEET.

- i) With regard to resettlement work, the service are represented at the YJB Pan London Resettlement Forum and is also part of the (North East) London Accommodation Pathfinder Project (LAP). Both of these projects lean into the notion of constructive resettlement and support the YJS to shape how it develops its resettlement offer. However, our cohort is not often resettled by the YJS as most of our young people incur long term custodial sentences which result in them being resettled by the National Probation Service due to them becoming of adult age.
- j) The service has been chosen for a pilot focusing on our link with alternative provision and how we can support young people back into education. The service is also represented on a newly formed education focus group looking at reducing exclusions of young people in Haringey.

## 5. Contribution to strategic outcomes

5.1 The objectives of the youth service are aligned with the priorities within the 'Borough Plan – Priority 2 (People) ' specifically:

- a) Happy childhood: all children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family, networks and communities.
- b) Every young person, whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future.
- c) Strong communities where people look out for and care for one another.

5.2 This work contributes to the Mayor of London's Policing and Crime Strategy, Haringey's Borough Plan Priority 3 (Place), the Haringey Community Safety and Early Help Strategy. It will also help to deliver on Haringey's Borough Plan, Young People at Risk strategy, as well as the North Area Violence Reduction Group (NAVRG).

5.3 Officers and partners work strategically across related work areas and boards such as Youth Justice, Safeguarding Children and Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Regeneration, Community Gold, Early Help and the Community Safety Strategy.

## 6. Statutory Officers comments

### Finance and Procurement

6.1 The Youth Justice service activity is funded from a combination of Local authority general fund budgets, grants and contributions from other agencies. The delegated funding available totals £1,665,926, of which £1,102,274 is from the general fund. Grant funding includes the Youth Justice Board Good Practice grant of £0.546m, which has increased by 8.8% in 2021/22 compared to the previous year.

6.2 The 2020/21 service performance as detailed in the Annual report was delivered within the agreed budget. Plans for 2021/22 are expected to be within the allocated funding of £1,665,926.

*Andrew Osei*  
Business Partner

### Legal

6.3 "Under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the local authority is required to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan."

*Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense*  
Assistant Head of Legal Services

## Equalities

6.4 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- a) tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- c) foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

6.5 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

6.6 In order to ensure that the Council satisfies the duty, it will be necessary to assess the equalities implications of individual pieces of work to progress the Council's youth service on a case-by-case basis, including undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment where necessary.

6.7 The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan, as well as individual pieces of work. This should include considering and clearly stating;

- a) how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
- b) whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate;
- c) whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
- d) whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.

6.8 The Panel should ensure equalities comments are based on evidence. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service users' views gathered through consultation.

*Fatimah Basama*  
*Policies and Equalities Officer*

## **7. Use of Appendices**

Appendix A – Haringey Annual Youth Justice Plan 2021-22

## **8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A