

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

**Date:** 6 September 2022

**Title:** Haringey Annual Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023

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

**Lead Officers:** Emma Cummergen - Head of Service for Young Adults, Youth Justice and Haslemere  
Sheri Jiwany-Burnett – Service Manager for Youth Justice

**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 2022-23 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 plan, directing any comments and observations to the Assistant Director: 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 June 2022. 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 and subject to further scrutiny from the Community Safety Partnership on the 4 July.

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 were published in October 2021 with good practice from the YJS published, refer to Appendix A: HMIP Thematic Inspection on "The experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system" reported to CYP Scrutiny on the 4 Jan 2022.

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 and regular quality assurance.

4.7 Key priorities for the Haringey Youth Justice Partnership Board for 2022-23 include areas for development highlighted by the self-assessment against the Youth Justice Board national standards as outlined below.

- a) to continue Haringey's commitment to "child first, offender second" culture, which is managed through a trauma-informed, contextual safeguarding and whole family approach to assessment intervention and delivery.
- b) a continued commitment to reduce levels of serious youth violence and knife crime in the borough as a means of increasing community safety and reducing the safety and well-being concerns relating to young people.
- c) to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable cohort of young people (Looked After Children, those with SEND, subject to child protection plans in terms of engagement and attainment within Education, Employment or Training, health and improved health and wellbeing).
- d) to extend the management board's understanding of our cohort of children and young people that are in custody, on remand and serving custodial sentences to a greater depth to inform future commissioning, planning and delivery of services.
- e) underpinned by Haringey's Early Help Strategy and Youth at Risk Strategy, to embed a prevention approach within the YJS. Using a team around the family approach to ensure wider issues within the family network are considered fully and addressed to improve outcomes for children and young people. Embedding a "whole family approach" to empower families to work alongside us and be the drivers for effective change in their children's lives.
- f) to increase our preventative work with our Out of Court offer, specifically with the work we will do with children and young people who are issued with community resolutions, released under investigation and are the siblings and peers or those within the criminal justice system.
- g) continued key focus on disproportionality and racial disparity. The wider partnership will consider the issue from their individual areas, being informed by their own agencies captured data, ensuring the issue is being addressed at all levels both strategically and operationally with shared ownership and accountability.

- h) increase the focus on disproportionality within exclusions, raise aspirations and continue to increase the numbers of children and young people in education, training, and employment.
- i) increase the focus of disproportionality within the context of remands into custody, with a focus on the cohort of isolated families with limited networks who are at risk of youth detention.
- j) to gain a better understanding of the levels of Stop and Search for young people in Haringey and address the impact in terms of disproportionality and racial disparity as well as the impact of the lived experience on our young people.
- k) to embed a robust wellbeing offer within the YJS. This will include CAMHS, Liaison and Diversion, Speech and Language Therapy, Physical Health and Substance misuse support.
- l) to focus on restorative justice throughout the service and the partnership, increasing the number of victims engaged and promote the value to the restorative process.
- m) concentrated emphasis on constructive resettlement, with the support of our partners in the prison service, social care, health, education and housing. To also continue this emphasis beyond the scope of resettling children from custody, but to include intensive YJS work, lengthy community orders and young people transferring to adult services.
- n) increase and strengthen the participation and voices of children, young people and their families.
- o) the YJS will continue to focus on the living with covid 19 recovery model to ensure that children, young people, and their families are receiving the support required YJS are continuing to develop a flexible and responsive service (virtually and in person). Making best use of local hubs to meet children and young people within their communities to avoid unnecessary travel and increase engagement is critical.

4.8 Key outcomes for 2022-2023 include:

- a) A reduction in the number of children and young people who become first time entrants into the Criminal Justice System
- b) Re-offending rates for young people to be reduced
- c) Vast majority of case files audited are graded as 'Good' (85%)
- d) A reduction in the number of young people receiving a custodial sentence
- e) To improve outcomes for our Look After Cohort
- f) To reduce serious youth violence
- g) To have a continued focus on stop and search, increasing awareness of the impact this has on young people and consideration of the impact of this with targeted support provided.

## **5. Progress made to date on this year's plan**

5.1 For 2022-2023, there is good progress to date against the priorities outlined within section 4.7 as follows:

- a) We continue to receive positive feedback from Highbury Corner Youth court in relation to our pre-sentence report template, evidencing our child first, offender second approach which has resulted in improved packages of support as an alternative to custody.
- b) The YJS is working in partnership with Haringey Violence Reduction Unit to submit an application for funding for bespoke projects to reduce serious youth violence (SYV). Projects include detached youth work in hotspot areas, community football and knife bins.
- c) The YJS continues to embed evidenced based systemic practice within their work to support whole family working in particular.

- d) Development of the YJS preventative arm is underway with the plan to implement delivery by October 2022. We have a prevention project underway with Woodside High School which will begin in September 2022.
- e) The YJS has submitted a joint funding application with Islington to the MOPAC Disproportionality Challenge Fund. Funding has been requested to commission a mentoring programme and an academic study by University of East London.
- g) Stop and Search work continues with the YJS supporting young people affected to address the impact of stop and search in terms of disproportionality and racial disparity as well as the impact of the lived experience and safeguarding of our young people.
- h) We have progressed with our wellbeing offer by having our Liaison and Diversion Officer now in post and interviews for the full time CAMHS post to be filled by the end of August 2022. Physical Health and Substance misuse support are already well established within the service with work underway to embed the social prescribing model. Although we have access to speech and language therapy via referrals via schools, there continues to be a gap in the bespoke work that is needed amongst our cohort – this is a priority for our 2022/23 plan.
- j) A new resettlement policy has been written with a focus on both resettlement into the community after periods in custody as well as intensive community work. The aim is that this policy will work in partnership with the transitional safeguarding work by our colleagues in social care and across the partnership.
- k) The YJS held its first round table participation event with young people in April 2022 where the feedback was shared at our June Management Board. Since then, we have held a health focussed round table and plan to continue a minimum of one event per quarter. All feedback, with a plan on how to implement change and use young people voices to shape service delivery will be presented to management board. This will be a regular feature at board going forward
- l) The YJS will continue to focus on the living with covid 19 recovery model to ensure that children, young people, and their families are receiving the support required YJS are continuing to develop a flexible and responsive service (virtually and in person). The opening of rising Green provides yet another community space for our cohort to use universally and for our statutory work.

## **6. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 6.1 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.
- 5.1 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).
- 5.2 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.

## **7. Statutory Officers comments**

### **Finance and Procurement**

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 £1,651,340, of which £1,1003608 is from the general fund. Grant funding includes the Youth Justice Board Good Practice grant of £0.605m, which has increased by 9.8% in 2022/23 compared to the previous year.

The 2021/22 service performance as detailed in the Annual report was delivered within the agreed budget. Plans for 2022/23 are expected to be within the allocated funding of £1,651,340.

*Brian Smith  
Interim Schools Finance Manager  
Corporate Finance Department*

### **Legal – comments requested from Nunes De Souza Haydee**

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on local authorities, after consultation with relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan setting out the provision for Youth Justice Services. The plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board by the 30th June 2022. The Youth Justice Plan: Guidance for youth justice services published on 10th March 2022 requires local authorities to adopt a Child First approach when formulating Youth Justice Plans.

*Haydee Nunes de Souza  
Head of Legal – Social Care, Contracts, Education & Employment and Deputy Monitoring Officer*

### **Equalities - Comments requested from Fatima Basama**

The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

The three parts of the duty applies 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. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

This report is to inform members of the Community Safety Partnership of the objectives for the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2022-23. This plan takes into account learning from partnership working, as well as serious incidents and safeguarding to ensure our young people are given specialist support to cater to their needs. Cross-cutting and partnership work with CAHMS, Social Care and other teams/organisations supports us

in catering to the needs of vulnerable groups, specifically with regard to mental health, sex and sexual orientation, disability and gender reassignment. As well as this, a focus on disproportionate exclusion rates, custody and other negative outcomes will be focused on as part of the new plan to further protect those with the previously mentioned protected characteristics.

*Rufus Pops  
Policy and Equalities Officer*

## **7. Use of Appendices**

Appendix A:

[HMIP Thematic Inspection on “The experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system](#)

Appendix B:

Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023

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

N/A