

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

**Item number:**

**Title:** Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2024 – 2027 – Year 1 review

**Report authorised by:** Ann Graham, Corporate Director: Children's Services

**Lead Officers:** Jackie Difolco, Director: Early Help, Prevention and SEND

**Ward (s) affected:** All

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

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## 1. Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel of the first annual review of the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2024-2027 which provides insight into the key strategic priorities, progress and activities undertaken over the past year.

## 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 Director for Early Help, Prevention and SEND.

## 3. Report

### Background information

3.1 In England only, statutory youth justice plans must be signed off by full council. In advance of full council approval, the plan can be submitted with the approval of the Chair of the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board with confirmation of full sign off submitted at a later date. This partnership board has strategic responsibility to ensure youth justice services are delivered within its statutory remit. The 'sign off' by the Chair is an indication that the wider management board have approved the submitted plan which must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and published annually by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. This plan was approved by the Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 25 with the annual review submitted to the YJB prior to the deadline.

3.2 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.

3.3 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 what progress had been made on the strategic priorities and how strategic links with other supporting initiatives will be developed and maintained.

3.4 This plan supports a range of associated partnership strategies including:

- a) The Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 - 2026
- b) Haringey Early Help Strategy 2024-2027

- c) Haringey Young People at Risk Strategy 2019 – 2029
- d) Haringey's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2024
- e) Community Safety Strategy 2024-2027
- f) SEND and Alternative Provision Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2026
- g) Mayor of London's Policing and Crime Plan 2022-2025.

3.5 The youth justice plan is supported by a more detailed operational delivery plan overseen by the Head of Service for Youth Justice and Youth at Risk Strategy, who reports progress to the Haringey Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board (YJSPB).

3.6 As a statutory regulated service, youth justice services are inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The most recent single inspection took place in November 2024, the report was published in March 2025 where the YJS and partnership received an overall rating as 'good' with outstanding features. This is a true reflection of where we are as a partnership in supporting some of our most vulnerable children and young people within the youth justice system. Haringey Youth Justice Inspection report can be accessed here: [An Inspection of Haringey Youth Justice Service](#).

3.7 The YJS has an action plan to address the six recommendations within the inspection report which will be monitored at the YJSPB. The Head of Service for YJS has oversight of the plan to ensure that progress is regularly reviewed with objective delivered.

3.8 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 considers local and national performance, lessons from inspections, together with learning from any serious incidents and regular quality assurance. The Youth Justice Plan can be accessed here: [Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 2027](#)

#### Summary of progress against Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 2025

3.7 Between November 2024 – January 2025 the Management Board engaged directly in key focus groups throughout the inspection in which they also represented their agencies.

3.8 There has been a specific focus to merge strategic partners and practitioners within the Youth Justice Service to strengthen the link and ensure meaningful connection for strategic decision making and practice development. Following this, the board members are invited to service initiatives in particular the Dusty Knuckle programme celebration events. There have also been joint focus visits arranged which included Oak Hill Secure Training Centre.

3.9 The partnership board has continued to have a thematic approach, enabling partners to have a targeted deep dive into the different parts of the youth justice system and partnership response. This is already proving to having a better impact, coupled by the board meetings being hybrid as opposed to being held virtually. The key thematic areas have been, Disproportionality, Re-offending cohort, and Out of Court Disposals.

Our Key Achievements in 2024-2025 are:

- a) YJSPB thematic approach within our governance arrangements has enabled a deeper understanding of trends and areas of focus to target on to improve outcomes for children.
- b) YJS Health team CAMHS nurse, Speech and Language Therapist and Schools Nurse has started to have the desired objective to improve the health outcomes for children which more children being screened, assessed with interventions linked to meeting children's needs and improving their health outcomes.

- c) Continued development of a bespoke training programme of the 'Dusty Knuckle' 5-week Bakery programme for children that are not in education, training and or employment.
- d) Wood Green custody suite developments completed resulting in the first child friendly custody suite in London.
- e) The YJS has completed thematic audits on children in custody which has resulted in some changes being made to how children are supported, increased number of in person visits and a more standardised custody planning template embedded.
- f) Stop and Search data is now shared at each YJSPB and used to inform discussion and action.
- g) The YJS led on an audit which focused on children arrested and outcomes which is leading to changes in practices across the system (YJS, Safeguarding, Police and Early Help).
- h) Development of the Safer and Stronger communities project in partnership with Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and Youth Service, extending the the Mobile Youth Hub to the east of the borough with additional prevention support from the Turnaround team within YJS.
- i) Through regular exit questionnaires surveys completed by the children, the findings were generally very positive. It is apparent that the "best part" of working with YJS is "working with their case manager" (69%). 97% said "we helped them to stop offending".
- j) There is a continued focus and commitment on workshops that meet the children and parents/carers needs and preferred topics.
- k) Only one child was sentenced to youth detention accommodation (YDA in 24/25. The custody rate in Haringey is the 5th best in London and joint 1st in our Youth Justice family of statistical neighbours.
- l) National indictors around our re-offending rate are the 4th lowest in London at 2.45. This is significantly lower than the London average (3.31) and the England average (4.3).
- m) None of the children that had a 'youth caution' with and without conditions re-offended in 24/25.
- n) Over 65% of children supported by the YJS were in full-time education training and employment by the end of their intervention (83% for school age and 70% for post 16+).
- o) The Young Haringey Achievement Centre (as named) continues to recognise the commitment and hard work of our children for their contribution to their local community with educational qualifications via the 'assessment qualifications alliance (AQA) Scheme. AQA offer wide range of units which makes achievement accessible to every child and young people regardless of their age, ability or interests. From April 24 to March 25, 34 children and young people received an accreditation, totalling 92 AQA units.

#### Performance against national indicators

- 3.10 There is a new requirement for all YJS's to report on ten additional key performance indicators (KPIs). The table in Appendix A provides 13 different indicators which are divided into three different sub areas comprising of the current and new indicators. (Refer to Appendix A: Haringey Youth National and Local Indicators 2024-2025).

#### First time entrants (FTE)

3.11 Between April 2024 and March 2025, Haringey recorded 67 first-time entrants into the youth justice system, equating to a rate of 277 per 100,000 children in the borough. This represents a 14% increase compared to the same period in 2023/24, corresponding to an additional 8 children. Notably, this also reflects a 52% rise over the past three years. In comparative terms, Haringey ranks 8th out of 11 within our family group, and 27th out of 31 across London. The borough's FTE rate is worse than both the family group and London-wide averages. While fluctuations in these figures are not uncommon, a comprehensive analysis is being undertaken to gain deeper insight into the characteristics and circumstances of this cohort.

### Reoffending

3.12 The annual Haringey re-offending rate has reduced to 26%. It now stands at the joint lowest rate since we started tracking re-offending. The family rate is 29.9% and the London rate is 30.4%. This trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future according to our live re-offending toolkit projections.

3.13 The re-offences rate is the 4th lowest in London at 2.45. This is significantly lower than the London average (3.31) and the England average (4.3).

### Use of custody

3.14 Only one child was sentenced to custody in 24/25, which is the lowest Haringey has had. The number of children sentenced to custody has decreased by 83% or by 5 custodial sentences since last year. This represents a decrease of 80% compared to three years ago. The current figure is the 5th best in London and joint 1st in our youth justice family.

### Priorities within Haringey Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 2027

3.15 Haringey's Young People at Risk Strategy reviewed and refreshed its partnership action plan 2023-26 which aligns with the work of the Youth Justice Service and our long-term approach to reducing youth violence in the borough. The action plan can be accessed here: [Haringey Young People at Risk Action Plan 2024 - 2027](#)

3.16 The Youth Justice Strategic Priorities over the next two years are set out in the graphic below:

Table Two: Youth Justice Partnership Strategic Priorities

**Priority 1: Child First:** For the YJSPB and YJS to continue our commitment to child first approach which should be incorporated in all aspects of service delivery, governance and quality assurance.

**Priority 2: Restorative Justice:** Increase the number of victims that engage in Restorative Justice processes and improve their outcomes.

**Priority 3: YJS Health Offer:** To increase the uptake of the health offer and improve health outcomes, particularly in relation to EMH, SLT and substance misuse using trauma informed approaches.

**Priority 4: Disproportionality:** Increase the focus of disproportionality within the context of remands/sentenced into custody, education, health and stop and search.

**Priority 5: Children in Care:** To improve entry to ETE, Health and Wellbeing outcomes for those children in care, CP, CIN and SEND cohort.

**Priority 6: Serious Youth Violence:** Strengthen and expand our evidence-based approaches to reduce levels of Serious Youth Violence in particular Robbery and Knife crime.

**Priority 7: Prevention and Diversion:** Increase the number of children and families supported by our prevention offer.

3.17 The Youth Justice Service Strategic Partnership have agreed and committed to a three-year strategic plan with seven key priorities and will be reviewed on an annual basis with the plan refreshed.

#### 4. Contribution to Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 – 2026 and strategic outcomes

4.1 The objectives of the youth justice service are aligned with the priorities within Haringey's Corporate Delivery Plan' specifically:

##### Theme 3: Children and young people

- Outcome 2 Happy Childhoods - All children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family networks and communities.
- Outcome 3 Successful Futures - Every young person, whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future

##### Theme 7: A Safer Borough

- Outcome 1: A borough where all residents and visitors feel safe and are safe.

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

4.3 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.

## 5. Statutory Officers comments

### Finance

5.1 The cost of the Youth Justice service is met from a combination of Local Authority funding, specific grants and contributions from other agencies. In 2025/26 the total expenditure is expected to be £1.859m, of which £1.129m is from the general fund, grant funding from the Youth Justice Board Good Practice of £0.650m, and £0.080m from other sources.

### Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

5.2 The Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

5.3 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 how Youth Justice Services in their area are will be provided, funded and operate. The plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board by the 30th June 2025.

5.4 Youth Justice Plans: Guidance for youth justice services updated in March 2023 states that in England, the plans must be signed off by Full Council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. Where local authorities are unable to obtain sign off by Full Council, the plan can be submitted to the Youth Justice Board with the approval of the Haringey Youth Justice Strategic Partnership Board Chair, with confirmation of Full Council sign off at a later date. The Board Chair sign off is taken as an indication that the wider management board approves the plan.

5.5 The council's constitution, at Part 3 Section B, sets out the terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which includes scrutinising decisions made or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible partner authorities of their crime and disorder functions. Scrutiny Panels are appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to examine designated council services. Areas covered by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny panel includes Youth Services and Youth Offending.

### Equalities

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

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act,
- 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.

5.7 The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/fait, 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.

5.8 This report is to inform members of the CYP and Schools Scrutiny of the objectives for the statutory Youth Justice Plan for 2024-2027. This plan takes into account learning from partnership working, as well as serious incidents and safeguarding to ensure our children and 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.

5.9 Equalities impact has been monitored as part of annual refresh of the plan and used to inform the priorities for action over the next year.

## 6. Use of Appendices

Appendix A: Haringey Youth National and Local Indicators 2024-2027

Appendix B: [Youth justice plans: guidance for youth justice services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/youth-justice-plans)

## 7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A



## Appendix A: Haringey Youth National and Local Indicators 2024-2025

No	Key Indicators	YJB National Indicators	23/24 Output	24/25 Target	24/25 Output	25/26 Target
1	National Indicators	1.1 Reduce the Use of Custody 1.2 Reduce the rate of Re-offending. 1.3 Reduce the number of first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System	9 sentences 32.3% 51 children	6 sentences 30% 45 children	1 sentence 26% 67 children	1 sentence 25% 50 children
YJB New Key Performance Indicators			23/24 Output	24/25 Target	24/25 Output	25/26 Target
2	Suitable Accommodation	Increase the % of children in suitable accommodation by the end of their intervention	91%	96%	92%	95%
3	Education Training and Employment Suitability	Increase the % of children in suitable Education, training and employment by the end of their intervention	72%	80%	73%	80%
4	Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (number of children with an order ending in the period)	Increase the % of children attending intervention from those that have an identified Emotional/Mental Health need.	42%	80%	65%	80%
5	Substance Misuse (number of children with an order ending in the period)	Increase the % of children attending intervention from those that have an identified Substance Misuse need	41%	80%	46%	80%
6	SEN/EHCP	% with an identified SND/EHCP need that have a formal plan in place	100%	100%	100%	100%
7	Out of court disposals	% of Out of Court Disposals (OOCs) completed successfully	43%	60%	56%	65%
8	Links to Wider Services	During the intervention:-  % of children that are a Child in Care  % of children that are on a Child Protection Plan  % of children that are Children in Need  % of children on an Early Intervention Plan	  19%  5%  14%  8%	  N/A  N/A  N/A  N/A	  16%  8%  15%  22%	  N/a  N/a  N/a  N/a
9	Management Board Attendance	% of the statutory senior board members (Children's Services, Education, Probation, Police, Health) that attended the partnership board (can be delegated)	90%	100%	80%	100%
10	Serious Youth Violence	Reduce the number of serious youth violence offences (Drugs, Violence and Robbery with a gravity of 5 and above)	34	30	15	15
11	Victims	Increase the % of victims engaging with RJ opportunities (of those consented)	79%	90%	100%	100%
YJS Performance Indicators			23/24 Output	24/25 Target	24/25 Output	25/26 Target
12	Case Management (Personal Performance Reports PPR)	Increase the % of children with an ASSET+ completed within timescale (within 20 working days of start of intervention and every 3 months thereon)	72%	80%	72%	80%
	There is now an expectation that records are obtained where those CiC children that are placed in another authority	Increase the % of children with Home Visit undertaken within timescales (within 15 working days of start and every 2 months thereon)	76%	80%	78%	80%
		Increase the % of children with an Intervention Plan completed within timescale (20 working days from start and every 3 months)	77%	80%	77%	80%
13	Links to Wider Services	To support our CiC with robust risk plans to reduce the number of CiC who get assessed as High Risk across at the end of YJS Intervention:-  *Serious Harm  *Safety and Wellbeing	  25%  64%	  20%  50%	  26%  61%	  20%  50%