

Divisions Affected - All

**Full Council
5 November 2024**

Oxfordshire's Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024-2025 Report by Director of Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Council is RECOMMENDED to**
 - a) Adopt Oxfordshire's Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024-2025

Executive Summary

2. Working to prevent young people away from entering the youth justice system, and to support those going through it towards change for more positive outcomes is critical, complex, and detailed work. The local authority leads the provision and delivery of its youth justice service alongside key stakeholder partner organisations in supporting young people who are at risk of entering the youth justice system as well as those who are already in it.
3. Youth offending is a statutory and regulated service, and the local authority is required to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan. This report requests the Council to consider for its approval and adoption of Oxfordshire's Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024- 025.
4. The Annual Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement, and therefore must be agreed by Full Council with comments from scrutiny and endorsement by Informal Cabinet that have occurred.
5. The Plan was discussed at a meeting of the Education & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 20 September 2024.

Oxfordshire's Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024-2025

6. Oxfordshire's Youth Justice Plan 2024-25 was agreed following consultation by Oxfordshire's Youth Justice Management Partnership Management Board. It covers both strategic and operational delivery arrangements, and the agreed key strategic priorities for 2024/5.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

7. Oxfordshire's Youth Justice plan aligns with delivery of the council's corporate strategy priorities to: Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire and create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.

Financial Implications

8. The production of Oxfordshire's Annual Youth Justice Plan is a requirement of the Youth Justice Board's (YJB) grant terms and conditions. The grant is provided by the Youth Justice Board under its power in section 41 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Comments checked by:

Lorna Baxter, Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer
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Legal Implications

9. Section 40(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ("the Act") provides that: (1) It shall be the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement for each year a plan (a "youth justice plan") setting out: (a) how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and (b) how the youth offending team or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.
10. In accordance with Regulation 4(1) and Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 the Plan is to be referred to Full Council for ultimate consideration and adoption.
11. There are no direct potential legal implications contained within this report.

Comments checked by:

Naomi Bentley-Walls, Head of Law – Childcare,
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Staff Implications

12. There are no direct HR implications contained within this report.

Comments checked by:

Nazia Turley- HR Business Partner (Children's Social Care and Business Admin support- seconded)
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Equality & Inclusion Implications

13. Oxfordshire's youth justice services for children remains committed to addressing discrimination of minoritised children and being sensitive in its response to the protected characteristics of all children receiving Youth Justice Services in Oxfordshire.

Sustainability Implications

14. There is no current sustainability implications associated with either the contents or recommendations of this report

Risk Management

15. Oxfordshire's Youth Justice Management Board's Risk Register is monitored at quarterly as set out in its Annual Youth Justice plan on page 19.

Lisa Lyons
Director of Children Education and Families]

Annex: Oxfordshire's Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024-2025

Other Documents: Education and Young People's Scrutiny Committee minutes of meeting 20th September 2024

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