

WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL

Cabinet

Report Title	Youth Justice Plan 2023 - 2024
Date of Meeting	12 September 2023
Report Author	Stefania Tracey – Youth Offending Team Manager
Director	Milorad Vasic – Director of Childrens’ Services
Lead Cabinet Member	Sue Sanderson, Cabinet Member Children’s Services, Education and Skills
Why is this a key decision?	1. Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates. For these purposes, savings and expenditure are “significant” if they are equal to or greater than £500,000 and/or YES/NO 2. Is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the area of the Council – YES/NO
Wards Affected	All
Identify exempt information and exemption category	Not applicable
Reasons for urgency (only where applicable)	Not applicable
Appendices (if any)	Appendix 1 - Youth Justice Plan 2023 - 2024

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this item is for Cabinet Members to note and seek approval of the first Westmorland and Furness Youth Justice Plan. This has been submitted to the Westmorland and Furness Youth Justice Service Management Board for the approval of key partners, subject to approval by Cabinet and agreement at Full Council. Appendix 1 provides Members with the current draft of the Plan.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Endorse the first Westmorland and Furness Youth Justice Plan and recommend it to Full Council.

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

- 3.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice (YJ) plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:
- how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded
 - how the youth offending team or equivalent service will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out
- 3.2 As a result of this, the Youth Justice Service is required to submit a single plan - the Youth Justice Plan. To further support alignment with local planning, there is a pre-set template¹ required by the Youth Justice Board. In relation to the format of the plan, the Youth Justice Board has produced YJB Practice guidance that sets out what must be included in the plan. This guidance is very prescriptive, more so than in previous years and includes specified sections which must be included in addition to setting out which information should be contained in each section. Grant funding is dependent on the submission of this plan, using the set guidance.
- 3.3 Westmorland and Furness Youth Justice Plan is required to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board by 30th June 2023. A draft copy of the plan will be accepted by the Youth Justice Board, with a final formal submission made after the plan is presented to full council in September 2023. The outline of the plan has been presented to the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee on 19 July 2023. It is recognised that each local area will have its own governance and oversight arrangements for the completion of statutory plans, and that some aspects of this 'sign off' may need to be completed after the required date of submission to the YJB. Therefore, it is acceptable to gain an "in principle agreement" from youth justice partners (Management Board) and sign off via the Chair of the Management Board as a minimum requirement for submission to the YJB.
- 3.4 The Youth Justice Service must continue to focus on its key strategic aim of preventing offending by children and young people and the Youth Justice Plan sets out how we will do this for the year ahead. There are three identified priority areas in this year's plan; **Effective interventions at every level, Reducing Reoffending** and **Improving outcomes for children, young people and their families**. Under these three key aims, there are a number of actions that inform our service delivery plan for 2023-2024.
- **Effective Interventions at every level:** This will enable Westmorland and Furness Youth Justice Service to reach children and young people before

¹ There is a template for the plan and detailed guidance on key sections and information that must be included i.e Governance, leadership and partnerships; Resources and services; Performance and priorities; Challenges and risks.

they enter the formal criminal justice system and to provide positive intervention for those in the criminal justice system.

- Reducing reoffending: We will target the hard-to-reach group of children and young people in the middle, those families entrenched in criminal behaviour, breaking the cycle of offending and adverse childhood experiences
- Improving outcomes for Children, young people and their families We will ensure that children and young people are helped, that they are given every opportunity to lead healthy and safe lives away from the criminal justice system.

4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (People, Climate, Communities, Economy and Culture, Customers, Workforce)

- 4.1 This supports the Council Plan priority relating to People: supporting active, healthy happy lives for young and old, and supporting people in need and reducing inequality.

5. Consultation Outcomes

- 5.1 Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Committee considered the Youth Justice report at their meeting on 19 July 2023 and were content with it.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 There are no alternatives a Plan is required to be produced and approved by the Council meeting.

7. Financial Implications and risk

- 7.1 The overall budget for the Youth Justice Service in 2023/2024 is comprised of a specific grant from the Youth Justice Board and contributions from the statutory partners through a combination of cash, in-kind and staffing contributions.

- 7.2 The total funding receivable from the Youth Justice Board has yet to be confirmed but indicative figures enable us to proceed with service planning on the basis that funding will remain the same as last year, in the region of £0.409m. On that basis the table below forecasts the same funding as was received for 2023-2024. It is important to note that the funding has been split this year following LGR which is reflected overleaf.

The table below sets out the funding in more detail:

Funding Source:	2022/2023 Whole County funding (£000)	2022/2023 Funding split for Westmorland and Furness (£000)
Youth Justice Board Grant	908	409
Cumbria County Council	632	368
National Probation Service (NPS) cash contribution	5	0
YOS Budget	1,545	777
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS	59	20
Cumbria Constabulary	157	52
National Probation Service	45	20
Total Contributions to the YOS	1,756	869

8 Legal and Governance Implications

- 8.1 Under section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Local Authority is required to formulate and implement for each year a plan setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; how the youth offending team or teams established by them are to be composed and funded; how they are to operate; and what functions they are to carry out.
- 8.2 Under Part 2.1 of the Council's Constitution one of Cabinet's responsibilities is to make recommendations to Full Council in respect of policy and strategies on the Council's Policy Framework of which the Youth Justice Plan is part.
- 8.3 Under s40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988, the local authority must submit their youth justice plan to the Board established under section 41, and shall publish it in such manner and by such date as the Secretary of State may direct, as set out in para 3.3 above.
- 8.4 S41 of the Crime and Disorder Act sets out in detail the requirements of the Youth Justice Board and the functions of the board.

9 Human Resources Implications

9.1 There are no HR implications.

10 Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty, Armed Forces Families, Care Leavers and Health inequalities implications)

10.1 Westmorland and Furness Youth Justice Service has a “Child first, offender second” approach firmly embedded at its core. The key equality issues in respect of the work of the service are around supporting young people with a criminal history to access mainstream services and to live a pro social life and making sure that no groups of young people are overly represented in the criminal justice system. To address these issues, the service works closely with statutory and third sector partners to develop supportive, responsive services to enable young people to address their criminal activity and develop their skills to ensure they can take advantage of services that are in place to support them. This support is also a focus upon transition from youth supervision when the young person turns 18 years old. This is completed via the “Youth to Adult” transition process with adult criminal justice services (National Probation Service).

11 Background Documents

11.1 None