

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Council

Date of Committee 20 September 2005

Report Title Warwickshire Youth Offending Service

Summary This report introduces the objectives of the annual Youth Justice Plan, performance during 2004 and priorities/objectives for 2005/06. The Plan was been considered by Cabinet on 8 September and is recommended to Council for approval.

For further information please contact: Diane Johnson
Tel: 01926 736204

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers Youth Justice Plan 2005/06

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN prior to submission of report and Plan to Cabinet on 8 September:

Details to be specified

Other Committees ☒ Cabinet 8 September (see also individual Cabinet Members listed below).....

Local Member(s) ☐

Other Elected Members ☒ Cllrs Richard Grant, Katherine King, Jill Dill-Russell, Helen McCarthy.....

Cabinet Member ☒ Cllrs Richard Hobbs, Izzi Seccombe, John Burton, Peter Fowler

Chief Executive ☒ Ian Caulfield

Legal ☒ Sarah Duxbury/Jane Pollard

Finance ☒ Andrew Lovegrove

Other Chief Officers ☒ David Carter

District Councils ☒ Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.....

Health Authority ☒ Anne Heckles

Police

☒ ACC Andy Parker

Other Bodies/Individuals

☒ Liz Stafford – Chief Probation Officer
Steve Steward - ConneXions
Learning and Skills Council

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by
this Committee

☐

To Council

☐

To Cabinet

☐

To an O & S Committee

☐

To an Area Committee

☐

Further Consultation

☐

Council – 20 September, 2005

Warwickshire Youth Justice Plan**Report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive****Recommendation from Cabinet**

That Council adopts the Warwickshire's Youth Justice Plan 2005/06.

1. Introduction

Warwickshire's Youth Justice Plan covers the period April 2004 to March 2006. It is designed to meet performance indicators published by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, several of which are shared with partner agencies or are complementary to other county strategies. The Plan has been circulated to all Members of the Council under separate cover and is available on the Warwickshire website. The following paragraphs provide background information, a summary of the main performance data and indicates the priorities for 2005/06.

2. Background

- 2.1 In our aim of preventing offending we strive to balance our responsibilities to communities, young people and victims. We do so by assessing and managing risk, reducing the risk factors putting a young person at risk of re-offending, and offering victims an opportunity to participate in a restorative process.

2.2 Youth Justice Plan

The prescribed format of the Youth Justice Plan requires it to be primarily a document outlining funding arrangements, a summary of performance during 2004 and plans to achieve 14 performance measures during 2005/06.

2.3 Youth Justice Board (YJB)

The Youth Justice Board is an inter-Departmental body, which advises the Home Office on youth justice reforms, monitors national performance and contributes £606,548 to Warwickshire's Youth Offending Team.

2.4 The Youth Offending Team (YOT)

- 2.4.1 Warwickshire YOT comprises 52 full-time staff from 8 employing agencies. In addition we employ 34 sessional staff and rely on up to 40 volunteers to undertake the specific role of Panel Member.
- 2.4.2 The Team is currently based in three locations – Leamington Spa, Rugby and the Justice Centre, Nuneaton. In Nuneaton we are co-located with other criminal

justice partners, contributing to the improvement in services delivered to all those involved in the criminal justice system.

- 2.4.3 The Team has an average caseload at any time of about 250 young people all of whom will be subject to either a Police Final Warning, court order or custodial sentence for offences ranging from shoplifting, to serious offences of violence or burglary. Young people might offend only once or much more persistently as in the case of the 43 young people who are known to have committed 23% of the offences dealt with in 2004.
- 2.4.4 Following referral to YOT by the Police or courts an assessment is undertaken to identify risk factors creating a likelihood of further offending. Interventions are then planned to reduce identified risk.
- 2.4.5 Interventions include all dimensions of the Team's multi-agency skills and the contract of work is undertaken within the scope of the court order, which will last anything between 3 months and 2 years or more. Non-compliance results in breach proceedings with young people being taken back to court to be made accountable for their non-compliance.
- 2.4.6 Victims of youth crime are contacted by one of our staff placed in the multi-agency Victim Information Partnership (VIP) and invited to participate in a restorative process. This could be commenting on the type of reparation the young person is directed to undertake in the community, or if the offender is willing and able, to have a meeting with the offender.

3. Performance and data Summary

3.1 Offending Behaviour

- 3.1.1 During 2004, 968 young people aged 10-17 years who live in Warwickshire were notified to the Youth Offending Team (YOT) in relation to 1977 crimes. This represents 1.8% of the 10-17 year old population of 51,325 in Warwickshire.
- 3.1.2 43 young people committed 23% of known youth crime in Warwickshire. More than 29% of offences were criminal damage and theft. Other offence types included violent offences (17%) and road traffic offences (19%); vehicle theft (4.5%) and drugs offences (4%).
- 3.1.3 Local priorities for Warwickshire over the forthcoming year are to prevent offending and to reduce re-offending with the following targets being set:

3.2 Prevention

- 3.2.1 Reduce year on year the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system by identifying children and young people at risk of offending or involvement in anti-social behaviour.
- 3.2.2 Data for 2004 shows that since 2001 there has been a 7% reduction in the numbers of young people involved in the criminal justice system and a 15% reduction in the number of offences committed by them. See Appendix 1.

3.3 Targets for Reduction in Re-offending

- 3.3.1 Achieve a reduction in re-offending rates by 5% by 2006 based on baseline data from the 2000 re-offending cohort.

	Baseline	2005/2006 target
	2000 cohort % re-offending after 24 months	
Pre-Court	25.9	24.7
First Tier penalties	53.6	51.6
Community Penalties	78.0	74.1
Custody	77.7	74.0
Average	58.8	56.1

- 3.3.2 This is an ambitious and stretching target, based on a cohort made up of small numbers, which together with similar data from 155 other YOTs, makes up a national picture. Because of this some of the performance data is skewed and does not necessarily reflect local performance. We aim therefore at the end of 2005/06 to report both the YJB data and a local picture of re-offending in different parts of the system.

3.4 Other performance

- 3.4.1 A summary of performance in 2004 against the remaining 11 key performance indicators (KPIs) can be found in Appendix 1a or page 7 of the Youth Justice Plan.
- 3.4.1 During the past year, more than 82% of Final Warnings were supported by an intervention, exceeding the target of 80%. The level of custodial sentences was 4.75% of all court sentences keeping well below the target of 6%.
- 3.4.2 Another area of progress in the past year relates to the use of Restorative Justice Processes. 95% of identified victims of youth crime were offered the opportunity to participate in restorative processes. 38% of those offered did take part and were highly satisfied with the process. In addition we arranged and supervised 1800 hours of community reparation undertaken by young people as required by the courts.
- 3.4.3 Intensive Supervision and Surveillance programmes were further developed during 2004 with the Youth Offending Team achieving 95% of target for young people starting on a programme during the period. A recent Quality Assurance Review undertaken by the YJB over 3 days in May 2005 has resulted in our programme being **commended**.
- 3.4.4 Working with other criminal justice agencies the Youth Offending Team has continued to meet the national target of reducing delays in the time from arrest to sentence of 71 days or less.

- 3.4.5 The Team has improved its joint business processes with other criminal justice agencies, having moved into the purpose built Justice Centre in Nuneaton with a similar development planned for the South of the county.

3.5 Priorities

- 3.5.1 Key objectives for the forthcoming year are the continued development of the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme; continuation of our work with the Local Education Authority, Learning & Skills Council and ConneXions to improve education, training and employment opportunities for young people who are supervised by YOT; the more systemic application of support to parents; a reduction in the use of custodial remands, and a further increase in restorative justice processes.
- 3.5.2 An additional responsibility given nationally to YOTs is the lead role in the Prevent and Deter strand of the Prolific and Other Priority Offenders strategy. This is a national strategy requiring criminal justice agencies and CDRPs to work together at a local level to target resources on the most problematic offenders. This significant commitment has not attracted additional long-term resources and put together with a number of other national initiatives represents a challenge in meeting national expectations.
- 3.5.3 We are keen to contribute to work undertaken to prevent the need for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, and where such an order has been necessary, YOT will allocate all such cases. Again, this is a new responsibility to be undertaken without new resources.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Youth Offending Team has demonstrated its effectiveness in meeting or improving all of its national targets and contributing to making our communities safer.
- 4.2 Where there is a need for improvement in operational performance, action has been identified. We strive for continued improvement in all our targets in 2005/06.
- 4.3 Local developments such as our integration into the Warwickshire Justice Centres and the Warwickshire Criminal Justice Board will continue to be significant commitments to the criminal justice sphere of our service.
- 4.4 We are also now playing a full part in the development of services for children and young people within the framework of the Children Act, contributing our knowledge of delivering multi-agency services to vulnerable and disaffected young people to achieve improved outcomes for all children and young people in Warwickshire.

David Carter
County Solicitor and Assistant Chief
Executive
Shire Hall
Warwick 21 July 2005

Diane Johnson
Youth Offending Service

Age profile - offences committed by age 2001 and 2004

Since 2001 there has been a remarkable reduction of 55% in the offences committed by 10-13 year olds, a 25% reduction in offences committed by 13-14 year olds and a 12% reduction in the 15-17 year age range. An overall reduction of 15% has been achieved.

	2001	2001	2001		2004	2004	2004		%
	girls	boys	total		girls	boys	total		reduction
Age									
10	1	19	20		1	8	9		
11	3	64	67		1	20	21		
12	14	82	96		14	46	60		
Sub-total	18	165	183		16	74	90		55%
13	29	128	157		32	119	151		
14	61	275	336		43	178	221		
Sub-total	90	403	493		75	297	372		25%
15	52	289	341		66	295	361		
16	69	434	503		72	382	454		
17	70	587	657		42	523	565		
Sub-total	281	1713	1994		255	1497	1752		12%
Total	299	1878	2177		271	1571	1842		15%

Appendix 1a

Performance Measure Jan-Dec 2004	Target	Warwickshire	Regional average April-Dec 2004	National average April-Dec 2004
Final Warnings	80%	83%	86%	85%
Secure remands	30%	56%	46%	43%
Use of custody	6%	4.7%	6.5%	6%
Use of restorative justice	75%	90%	84%	82%
Victim satisfaction	90%	100%	94%	91%
Parental satisfaction	75%	100%	96%	79%
ASSET – use of	100%	95%	95%	95%
PSRs	90%	90%		
Education, training & employment	90%	62%	72%	73%
Mental Health	100%	100%	97%	71%
Accommodation	90%	93%	94%	92%