

CS/24/20
Cabinet
14 August 2024

Devon Youth Justice Service Annual YJ Plan Submission

Report of the Director of Children and Young People's Futures

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Cabinet be asked to:

(a) To endorse the content of the report submitted to the Youth Justice Board in accordance with the 30th of June 2024 deadline, including the positive transformation within the service which is being achieved.

2. Background / Introduction

2.1 Devon County Council has a statutory duty under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to prepare and submit an annual Youth Justice Plan (YJP) to the Youth Justice Board (YJB). The Plan has now been agreed by Becky Hopkins Deputy Director CSC Chair of the Devon Youth Justice Partnership Board, and the partnership, as well as the YJB, as the statutory Plan for the DCC partnership and endorsed by the Local Authority Senior Leadership Team.

3. Main Body / Proposal

3.1 The full plan, as submitted to the YJB, can be found in Appendix 1.

4. Options / Alternatives

4.1 The annual YJ Plan is a statutory requirement under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and as such no alternatives are available. It is both a forward plan and a review of the past year's performance.

5. Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

5.1 The annual YJP is completed by YJ Service management, on behalf of the Devon Youth Justice Partnership Board (DYJPB), and as such is signed off formally by the Chair of that Board. DYJPB is a full multi agency Board, with statutory and additional members, and act as a consultation forum and contributors for this plan.

5.2 All data contained within the annual YJ Plan is provided through the national Youth Justice Application Framework data framework and through the Management information provision within Children's Social Care.

6. Strategic Plan

6.1 DYJPB is responsible for the strategic oversight, direction and oversight of delivery of youth justice services in Devon. DYJPB currently meets quarterly, increasing to bi-monthly from Sep 24 and is made up of statutory core members including the Local Authority, Probation, Police, Health and Education. Additional members include partners from the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC), the Youth Magistrates Bench, Elected Councillors, voluntary sector (including Devon's commissioned youth services), the DYJS Service Manager and Head of Service and representatives from the Local Authority's finance department.

6.2 DYJS also contributes to other partnerships and strategic plans including:

- Devon Safeguarding Childrens Partnership
- Devon Youth Panel meeting (Youth Court)
- Devon Alternative Provision Panel
- Devon and Cornwall Local Criminal Justice Board and Annual Plan 2023 – 2024
- LCJB Swifter Justice working group
- LCJB Victims and Out of Court Scrutiny Panel
- Devon and Torbay Prevent Partnership
- Safer Devon Partnership
- Safer Devon Child Exploitation subgroup
- Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024 – 2029
- Corporate Parenting Board

6.3 Devon YJS are well engaged with Safer Devon, with strategic links provided through the DYJSPB chair also sitting on the Safer Devon Executive Board. DYJS has been particularly involved with the development of the Preventing Serious Violence Strategy as part of the Serious Violence duty, providing a core member of the group which is now overseeing resulting plans and actions from the published strategy.

6.4 Devon Safeguarding Children's Partnership (DSCP) oversees partnership arrangements for services responsible for safeguarding children in Devon. DYJS has good links through the DYJSPB Chair, as well as the service being positioned with Early Help and Partnerships and part of Children's Services enabling a robust response to pre-court interventions to reduce first time entrance into the youth justice system.

7. Financial Considerations

7.1 There are no specific financial considerations to be considered by Cabinet.

8. Legal Considerations

8.1 There are no specific legal considerations to be considered by Cabinet.

9. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

9.1 All decision made within the DYJPB consider environmental impact consideration – this year this will be largely a move out of a large and unsuitable building into more appropriate office accommodation, with the need to secure delivery space in the community. Travel and climate impact must be reduced wherever possible, through strict allocation process and a move to a locality model, mirroring that of wider Childrens Social Care.

10. Equality Considerations

10.1 Devon YJPB is required to consider the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty in its decision making to give due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding

10.2 In relation to the [protected characteristics](#) (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership (for employment), pregnancy and maternity, race/ethnicity, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation). This Council also treats care experience as if it were a protected characteristic.

10.3 DYJPB members now receive a monthly 'snapshot' report which includes protected characteristics of the YJ cohort, to ensure appropriate service development and delivery. Additionally, the Board receives regular reports highlighting any over representation issues within the YJ Service, to allow the Board to 'course correct' as necessary.

11. Risk Management Considerations

11.1 DYJPB has developed a risk log, and this is available within the MS Teams site for the partnership board members, to maintain confidentiality in a multi-agency arrangement. This annual plan has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken / included to safeguard the Council's position.

12. Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

12.1 Adoption of the annual YJ Plan (section 40 Crime and Disorder Act 1998) ensures compliance with statutory obligations.

Stuart Collins
Director of Children and Young People's Futures

Electoral Divisions: All

Councillor Andrew Leadbetter, Cabinet Member for Childrens Services and Schools

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers
Youth Justice Annual Plan
June 2024

Contact for enquiries:

Name: Lise Bird

Telephone: 01392 380165

Address: Room 228 County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter