


Cabinet 29 November 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Lisa Fraser, Acting Corporate Director of Children's Service	Classification: Unrestricted
Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2025	

Lead Member	Councillor Maium Talukdar, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
Originating Officer(s)	Kelly Duggan, Head of Service of Youth Justice and Young Peoples Service
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	Yes
Reason for Key Decision	Significant impact on wards
Forward Plan Notice Published	19/07/2023
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priority 3. Accelerate Education Priority 6. Empower Communities and Fight Crime

Special Circumstances Justifying Urgent Consideration (Reason for Urgency)

Following further comments made on the YJS Strategy, it has been agreed that these do not need to be incorporated into this year's YJS Strategy. The YJS Strategy has already been approved by the YJS Executive Governance Board and all comments will be taken into consideration in the review of the Strategy in May 2024.

This report cannot wait for a future Cabinet date as there is an urgency to have the YJS Strategy published on the Council's website as per our Grant agreement with the Youth Justice Board and Ministry of Justice.

Executive Summary

It is a constitutional requirement for Cabinet to review the Youth Justice Board annual plan. The plan sets out the priorities and strategic goals of the Youth Justice Executive Board and operational frontline service delivery.

This report highlights the significant progress made since the HMIP inspection in May 2022. It also sets out our plan that supports the Youth Justice Partnership in delivering a consistently high-quality service for our children and their families, providing clear strategic goals and an ambitious plan for where we will be by 2025 and beyond.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the Youth Justice Annual Plan

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 It's a statutory process to support the grant funding for frontline service delivery.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 N/A

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2025 builds on the outcomes of our improvement plan following the HMIP Inspection in April 2022 and an external diagnostic review which took place in March 2023.

- 3.2 Our key achievements in 2022-2023 are:

- A redesigned and embedded governance model, ensuring that our committed partners take full ownership of their responsibilities to our children.
- A better understanding of the experiences of our children, supported by a new robust quality assurance framework and the creation of our Youth Participation Forum.
- Regular and reliable data reported on by our dedicated Senior Data Analyst that supports decision making.
- A continuation of the commitment made to our staff, recognising that they are our most valued resource, supported by staff away days to develop our Staff Charter and Vision.

- 3.3 In 2023-2025, our plan is focused on the following four cross-cutting themes:

- **Priority 1: Child First:** Embedding a Child First approach in every aspect of the Youth Justice Partnership.
- **Priority 2: Consistently Good Practice:** Continuous raising of practice standards which achieves improved outcomes for children.
- **Priority 3: YJS Health Offer:** Coordinated access and intervention to universal and specialist health provision to meet children's holistic health and wellbeing needs.
- **Priority 4: Post 16 Education Offer:** Increasing children's participation in post 16 education, training and employment which support children's aspirations, desistance and safety.

- 3.4 This plan sets out the approach on how the service and partnership will achieve meeting our 4 priority areas of focus to provide good outcomes for children.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Youth Justice Service disproportionality action plan sets out the activities to address inequalities within the Youth Justice setting.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

- 5.2 No other statutory implications have been identified.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 Details of budget and spend are included in the report Appendix, there are no other direct financial implications of this report.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires every local authority to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan every year, and to submit the Plan to the Youth Justice Board annually.

- 7.2 Non-statutory guidance dated 17 March 2023 sets out the required contents of the Plan.

- 7.3 This report and its appendix demonstrate the Council's compliance with the above requirements.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2025

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A