


Cabinet 8 January 2025	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Steve Reddy, Corporate Director Children's Services	Classification: Unrestricted
Youth Service Progress Update	

Lead Member	Councillor Maium Talukdar, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
Originating Officer(s)	Susannah Beasley-Murray, Director of Children's Social Care (Supporting Families)
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	Yes
Reason for Key Decision	Significant impact on wards
Forward Plan Notice Published	12/12/2024
Exempt information	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priority 3. Accelerate Education Priority 6. Empower Communities and Fight Crime

Executive Summary

It is a constitutional requirement to review the Youth Justice Strategic Plan as well as progress made against the plan. This report sets out the priorities, strategic goals and progress that the Youth Justice Executive Board and operational frontline service delivery have made over the last 12 months.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the progress and achievements made in respect of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2024-2025 and to endorse the plan going forward.

1. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

It is important that the Mayor and Cabinet are kept informed of the progress made around the delivery of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2024-2025, to note the achievements to date and endorse the plan going forward.

It is a statutory process to support the grant funding for the Youth Justice Service frontline service delivery.

2. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

N/A

3. **DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1. This report provides a comprehensive update against the Tower Hamlets and City of London [Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2025](#).
- 3.2. As set out in the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2025 we have four strategic priorities that we are delivering against:
 - **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.
- 3.3. The service has made significant progress over the last 12 months in delivering against the agreed priorities with some of the following highlights:

Leadership and Governance:

- Embedded governance with Youth Justice Executive Board and Youth Justice Operational Group providing clear direction and decision making.
- Strong and effective partnerships links at both strategic and operational levels.
- Changes to the Head of Service role following the creation of Young Tower Hamlets providing more emphasis and focus on youth justice, partnerships and youth safety.

Priority 1: Child First:

- 89% of YJS of the Youth Justice Service staff have completed the Child First UNITAS Award. Delivered Child First workshops to Facilities Management, Security Staff and to Community Safety Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers.
- Launched Practice Guidance around the use of language as part of our Better Together Practice Framework.
- Wipers delivering the Ether Mentoring Programme for our Black and Global Majority boys.

Priority 2: Consistently Good Practice:

- Quality Assurance governance and processes in place and embedded.
- External peer review taken place to strengthen our practice.
- Comprehensive training programme in place for our staff.
- Staff survey undertaken to support with our continuous learning and support.

Priority 3: YJS Health Offer

- Recruited a Youth Justice Nurse into the service that provides holistic health screening when children are referred to the service.
- Set up a multi-disciplinary health teams to ensure children's health needs are considered in the round.
- Purchased a number of discounted gym members for our children.
- Increased Speech and Language provision within the service inline with need as well as a CAMHS clinician and wellbeing offer to provide mental health support for children within the service.

Priority 4: Post 16 Education Offer

- Full time Education Officer to support with the post 16 ETE offer.
- NEET oversight panel

- 3.4. The report contains more detailed information relating to the service performance information, resources and services as well as evidence-based practice and innovation. All of the information within the strategy contributes to service delivery and inspection preparation and planning.

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 This is a progress report implications were raised by previous reports.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1. This report outlines actions aligned with the current Youth Justice Strategic Plan, ensuring that the service operates effectively within its available budget. The Youth Justice Service is funded through a combination of the general fund, which is approximately £1.8 million, and grant income from the Ministry of Justice and other sources, totalling £757,000.
- 6.2. The service is on track to deliver its objectives without exceeding its budget or underspending. This reflects sound financial management and supports the statutory requirements underpinning frontline service delivery and future funding allocations. The financial position is being closely monitored to maintain compliance with funding conditions and ensure sustainability.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires each local authority every year to formulate, consult on and publish a youth justice plan which sets out how the youth justice service in their area is to be provided and funded, and how the functions of the youth offending team service are to be funded and carried out.
- 7.2. Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 requires full council to sign off the annual Youth Justice Report.
- 7.3. The Council's Constitution requires full council approval of the Youth Justice Plan.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan Update 2024-2025

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

NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A