

Agenda Item – Annual Youth Justice Plan 2021-22

15th December 2021

Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Meeting held on 13th Dec 2021

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) reviewed the report on the Annual Youth Justice Plan 2021-22 and welcomed the service's partnership approach to developing the plan that involved:

- Consulting and early engagement with statutory partners including voluntary sector and (service users) young people through a series of workshops with the purpose of developing the vision and strategy for this plan;
- Funding support was made available to address the pandemic period and ensure that engagement continued;
- First Time Entrants (key performance indicator) continues to decrease, and recent data suggests this has been the lowest in the last three years;
- That the service continues to track and monitor their young people in custody and whilst holding a critical eye, maintain a healthy relationship with the custodial establishments; and
- Preparations have been undertaken for the Youth Justice Service Inspections (expected in early 2022) including setting outcomes to measure the effectiveness of the Youth Justice Board.

The Committee supported the priority around restorative justice and has asked for further details on number of children and young people benefiting from this approach as part of their rehabilitation process.

The Committee were concerned on the reports conclusion about the ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in youth justice system thus highlighting a number of inequalities for particular groups. The Committee recommended that addressing disproportionality should be reflected in the vision of the plan given the significant inequalities that exist.