

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024-2029

Reporting Officer: Head of Democratic Services

Summary

1. To formally adopt the Council's Youth Justice Plan for 2024-2029, as recommended by the Cabinet. This Strategy sets out the vision and priorities for how youth justice services are delivered in the next five years and is part of the Council's policy framework.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Youth Justice Plan 2024-2029, as set out in the appendix to this report, be adopted.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2. At its meeting on 10 October 2024, Cabinet recommended to the Council the adoption of the Hillingdon Youth Justice Services Strategy, also known as the Youth Justice Plan for Constitutional purposes. This proposed Strategy outlines a clear vision and five priorities for youth justice services over the next five years:
 - i. **Prevention and Early Intervention:** Addressing the root causes of offending behaviour early to prevent escalation and ensure community safety.
 - ii. **Over-representation and Disproportionality:** Ensuring fairness and equity in youth justice by reducing barriers and promoting trust in the system.
 - iii. **Child-centred Practice:** Recognising children as active participants in their lives and advocating for their rights and well-being.
 - iv. **Reducing Re-offending:** Providing support and rehabilitation to break the cycle of offending and promote reintegration into society.
 - v. **Victims and Restorative Justice:** Empowering victims by giving them a voice in the justice process and helping them heal and recover.
3. The strategy is a policy framework document as set out in the Council's Constitution and was considered in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, which required a minimum six-week consultation period and consideration by the relevant select committee. The consultation took place from 1 July 2024 to 11 August 2024 and included feedback from the Children, Families & Education Select Committee on 17 July 2024. The consultation involved a structured survey available to all residents and was actively promoted through various communication channels, including the Council website, press releases, social media, and Hillingdon People.
4. The consultation feedback was positive, with strong support for the five priorities outlined. Specific feedback was also considered in shaping the final Plan recommended for adoption. The Strategy aligns with the Council Strategy and the Council's commitment to putting residents first. It will be reviewed annually, with updates provided to the Youth Justice Board, the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education and the Select Committee.

Financial Implications

5. The strategy will be implemented at no additional cost to the Council, using existing youth justice resources. While there are no immediate financial pressures, potential risks include an increase in youth offending, pressure on remand accommodation costs, and reductions in funding, particularly grant funding. These risks will be closely monitored, and the service's budget management provides confidence that the strategy can be

delivered effectively within the current budget. Regular monthly budget reviews and the wider MTFF budget setting process will be used to monitor financial implications.

Legal Implications

6. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to produce a Youth Justice Plan relating to the provision of Youth Justice Services. The plan must be produced in consultation with partner agencies either on an annual basis, or for a longer period with annual updates covering progress against priorities and relevant changes in demographics/legislation. Plans must be produced having regard to guidance issued by the Youth Justice Board.

Background Papers: [Youth Justice Plan 2024-2029 – Cabinet report, Plan and Decision – 10 October 2024](#)