

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 SEPTEMBER 25

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

STOCKTON-ON-TEES YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

SUMMARY

Local authority partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a Youth Justice Plan relating to their provision of youth justice services (YJSs). Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnerships responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how YJSs in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth Justice Plans, in England only, must be signed off by the full Council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities England Regulations 2000).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council sign off Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26.

DETAIL

1. The Youth Justice Plan reports on our vision, strategy, governance, leadership and partnership arrangements. It reflects and builds upon our good performance against key national performance measures. It also documents key themes around child first principles, evidence-based practice, prevention and diversion and our work with victims.

BACKGROUND

2. The Youth Justice Plan was produced after consultation with the partnership which includes the Police, Probation, Health and Education.
3. The Plan builds upon the work we have done throughout 24/25. The document outlines six key strategic objective for the forthcoming year. These are:
 - 1) Help children stay out of the criminal justice system.
 - 2) To reduce reoffending.
 - 3) Reduce the use of custody and prioritise effective resettlement.
 - 4) Continue to strengthen our response to Serious Youth Violence and Child Exploitation.

- 5) Focus on reducing exclusions, improving school attendance and provide post 16 opportunities.
- 6) To continue to develop our interventions and our child friendly space.
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4. Cabinet will consider this matter on 18 September 2025.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

5. The primary aim of a youth justice plan is to prevent offending and re-offending by children by working with them, their parents and carers. Youth Justice Teams support victims of crime and work to contribute to keeping communities safe.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no direct corporate parenting implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no direct legal implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. The Youth Justice Plan is overseen by the Youth Justice Board and Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Management Board. Strong partnership arrangements are in place to monitor progress against our strategic objectives.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. Stockton-On-Tees Youth Justice Plan 2025/26

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