

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18th December 2023

Annual Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

The Purpose:

To receive the annual Youth Justice Plan 2023/24

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the information contained in Report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Reason(s)

Youth Offending Teams (known in Carmarthenshire as the 'Youth Justice Team') were established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with the stated intention of reducing the risk of young people offending and re-offending. The Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Team is a statutory, multidisciplinary partnership which is coordinated by the Local Authority.

Governance is carried out locally, by a Management Board which includes key partners, and nationally, by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, which is part of the Ministry of Justice.

The production of a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory duty on a Local Authority (Part 3; s40) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Therefore, this Plan is approved by the Local Management Board, presented at the Children's Education and Scrutiny Committee Local Authority and at Hywel Dda University Health Board.

It is formally submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales as a statutory requirement. It will be presented to Fair and Safe Communities and presented to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Jane Tremlett - Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services.

Directorate:
Education and Children's Services

Name of Head of Service:
Aeron Rees

Report Author:
Gill Adams

Designations:

Head of Strategy and Learner Support

Principal Manager – Youth Support Service

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18/12/23

Annual Youth Justice Plan 2023/2024

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Plan has been developed and agreed with youth justice partners and designed in line with the recently published *Youth Justice Plans: YJB Practice Guidance (March 2023)* and the *Youth Justice Blueprint*. It provides a review our performance and developments over the last year, as well creating an opportunity to plan for the forthcoming year. It sits alongside other key local partnership plans, such as: the Carmarthenshire Public Service Board Wellbeing Plan – *The Carmarthenshire We Want 2023-2028*; the *Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Plan 2021-25*; the Local Criminal Justice Board Plan; and the Carmarthenshire Education and Children’s Services’ *10-year Departmental Strategy*.

The delivery of youth justice services in Carmarthenshire is based upon the guiding principles of a Child First youth justice system as set out below:

- Prioritise the best interests of children, by recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, is developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.
- Promote children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and to make positive contributions to society.
- Encourage children’s active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.
- Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, by using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

The Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24 was signed off by the Local Management Board before submission to the Youth Justice Board on 30/6/23.

Having received the report, the Youth Justice Board has provided its feedback indicating that the report is judged to be ‘excellent’.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

ALL IMPLICATIONS REQUIRE SIGN OFF BY THE DIRECTOR OR HEAD OF SERVICE

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: *J. Aeron Rees* Head of Strategy and Learner Support

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	
YES	

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE