

MINUTE EXTRACT

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

12 October 2022

29 WIRRAL YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Head of Contextual Safeguarding introduced the report of the Director of Children's, Families and Education which set out an introduction to Wirral Youth Justice Service (YTS) Strategic Plan 2022-23.

By way of background, Members were advised how Wirral Youth Justice Service was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) in July 2021, received an overall rating of 'Good'. It was explained how the Youth Justice Board sets out 3 national areas of key performance for all YOT's by using national indicators as follows:

- The amount and rate of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs);
- the rate of Re-offending; and
- the use of custody (Use of youth custody as opposed to managing young people in the community).

Salient data of note to Members was identified to such as the increase of 5 more young people entering the system than in 2020, equating to a 15% rise. Members were then advised how the use of custody was 0.16 per 100 children, compared to 0.10 per 1000 YOT family average, equating to 3 more young people entering custody in the financial year 2021-22 compared to the previous year.

Furthermore, Members heard how there had been a rise in the reoffending rate of 3.2 percentage points relating to less offenders overall but impacted by a small cohort who committed several offences.

Members were then informed that positive feedback had been received by the YOT following the July 2021 inspection and the team have been nominated for a Howard League award for Penal Reform for recognition of 'Operation Inclusion', an initiative with the overall aim to divert some offending by young people away from Courts.

In response to a question Members heard data displayed within the report was with reference to statistical neighbours with reference to families rather than areas and that Wirral is slightly below average with reference to first time entrants into the criminal justice system.

In response to a further question Members were informed that early help and intervention support is provided by the local authority by reference to drug and alcohol services. Furthermore, preventative work is undertaken regularly on issues that could cause youths to offend for example poor mental health and the YOT make visits to secondary schools to deliver talks on a regular basis.

Resolved - That

- (1) The Wirral Youth Justice Service's Strategic Plan 2022-23 be endorsed and recommended to Council for approval; and**
- (2) The approach and ongoing development work within the Youth Justice Service and across the Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB) be noted.**