

Cabinet - 15 July 2014

Report of the Interim Executive Director for Children and Young People

Electoral Division affected: All

Lancashire Youth Justice Service Continuous Improvement Plan 2014/15 (Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The Lancashire Youth Justice Service Continuous Improvement Plan for 2014/15 has been considered by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, together with the Lancashire's Youth Justice Management Board which includes Chief Officers from all the financial partners and other key stakeholders, and is chaired by the Interim Executive Director for Children and Young People.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to recommend the Lancashire Youth Justice Service Continuous Improvement Plan for 2014/15, as set out at Appendix 'A', to Full Council for approval in accordance with the County Council's Constitution.

Background and Advice

Lancashire's Youth Justice Service Continuous Improvement Plan has been produced in accordance with the Youth Justice Board guidance and is set out at Appendix 'A'. The plan includes commentary on performance, the challenges ahead and service priorities. The service plan for 2014/15 provides detail on how the key strategic priorities for Lancashire's Youth Offending Team will be delivered, which include: Reducing First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System, Reducing Re-offending and Reducing the Use of Custody.

Consultations

The Youth Justice Service Continuous Improvement Plan for 2014/15 has been developed with the workforce with the Youth Offending Team and with partners. The plan was shared and approved by Lancashire's Youth Justice Management Board in March 2014.

Implications:

The plan sets out its priorities and actions to deliver the priorities by the Youth Offending Team (YOT) in 2014/15 and identifies where applicable in the plan the areas of potential risk with the actions required to minimise these risks.

Risk management

The risk management plan will be reviewed on a quarterly basis during 2014/15. Senior Managers and the Youth Justice Management Board are responsible for managing the risks identified. The key risks for 2014/15 are as follows:

Financial

The annual budget continues to be monitored through Lancashire's Youth Justice Management Board. Whilst there are no significant financial reductions from partners this year, it is anticipated that further reductions will be made in 2015/16. The Youth Justice Management Board will continue to monitor and address this throughout the year as part of its core business in order to plan for any future reductions and in readiness for the changes to service delivery within Lancashire County Council by April 2016.

This year also sees the transfer of the full cost from the Probation Service to the Local Authority for Community Punishment for under 18 year olds. Work is currently underway to ensure that the YOT is ready for this change in line with the service specification. The YOT is yet to receive confirmation of the amount of funding it will receive to deliver this provision. This year will also see Lancashire Youth Offending Team prepare for the transition of Junior Attendance Centres from the Ministry of Justice to the Local Authority which is due to take effect from 1 April 2015 and received Parliamentary approval in October 2013. The Youth Offending Team with the Youth Justice Management Board and other stakeholders will review the current usage of Attendance Centres and consider options for future use to maximise the resource for young people and communities from next year.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools – 'Lancashire Youth Justice Service Continuous Improvement Plan 2014/15'	5 June 2014	Joanne Mills, Office of the Chief Executive, (01772) 534284

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A