

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 05 October 2023
Subject:	Bury and Rochdale Youth Justice Annual Plan 2023-2024	
Report of	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	

Summary

1.0 This report provides a summary of the Bury and Rochdale Youth Justice Service (YJS) Annual Plan 2023-2024 which is presented to cabinet for information (see appendix 1).

Recommendation(s)

2.0 The adoption of the Youth Justice Plan is a Council function as set out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000/2853. Cabinet is asked to commend the policy to Council.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

3.0 The YJS annual plan is a statutory requirement to set out the priorities for the year ahead to support young people both to avoid entry into the criminal justice system as well as to work to support young people within the system to achieve improved outcomes and avoid repeat offending

Alternative options considered and rejected

4.0 Not applicable

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5.0 Background

5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires all Local Authorities to have a Youth Justice Plan to set out how youth justice services will be funded and delivered locally, within the parameters created by available resources. The annual plan sets out the plans and priorities of Bury and Rochdale Youth Justice Service (YJS) for the period 2023-2024.

5.2 Bury and Rochdale Youth Justice Service was formed as a combined service in 2014. Bury and Rochdale YJS is a multi-agency partnership that sits within Children's Social Care (CSC) managed by Rochdale Borough Council. The service is led by the Assistant Director of CSC (Rochdale) and the Head of Youth Justice. The Youth Justice Board is chaired by the Executive Director of Children's Service, Bury

6.0 The plan

The YJS plan sets out a number of recommendations for action for the year ahead, namely:-

6.1 Prevention - Ensuring the holistic needs of our children and young people are met at the earliest opportunity

Reason: To ensure that the children across Bury and Rochdale are receiving the right support as soon as need is identified and that the offer including mental health, social and education needs for young people at risk of escalation through the criminal justice system is robust and reduces the risk of offending behaviour.

Action: Review the pathways to early help support, across both Bury and Rochdale to ensure that children and young people quickly identified and are provided with early support to prevent offending behaviour. Ensure a holistic approach to health (including mental health) social and education needs through a placed-based early help delivery model.

Expected Outcome: Improved offer which identifies and responds to young people at the earliest opportunity which leads to a reduction in young people entering the criminal justice system.

6.2 Disproportionality and diversity

Reason: To better understand the local demographic and the disproportionate representation within the YJ System that can impact on children and young people's life chances.

Action: To develop robust local data sets that provide live information and can evidence disproportionate groups. To develop a Policy and Implementation Plan.

Expected Outcome: To be able to target resources and increase understanding of children who are disproportionately represented within the system.

6.3 Adolescent offer

Reason: To be instrumental in the development of the 'Adolescents' pathways across Greater Manchester and locally, which include all services for children at risk aged 13-19.

Action: To review the range of services that are available for adolescents, including Youth Justice & Targeted Youth Provision, that contribute to this agenda.

Expected Outcome: To ensure services are co-ordinated and joined up with a focus on adolescents. To see a reduction in Child Criminal Exploitation and other factors that place young people at risk.

6.4 Voice of the child

Reason: To ensure that we operate a 'Child First' youth justice system that hears the 'Voice of Children' and is prepared to act upon it to improve service delivery.

Action: To listen to what children and young people are telling us and think of new and innovative ways that make this meaningful.

Expected Outcome: To evidence that the 'Voice of the Child' has informed and shaped services and improved our offer for children at risk of, or involved in, the youth justice system.

6.5 Induction and development – board members

Reason: To ensure that all new and existing member of the Youth Justice Partnership Board understand their roles and responsibilities.

Action: Review the induction procedures and schedule a development session. Ensure thematic areas are reviewed at Board meetings.

Expected Outcome: Improved understanding of the role for Board Members, which ensures that they promote and champion the role of youth justice in their own services.

6.6 Quality assurance – implementation and oversight

Reason: To ensure effective Quality Assurance across a range of service areas that continues to improve outcomes.

Action: Through continual audit and monitoring processes, both locally and across GM.

Expected Outcome: Improved outcomes for children and young people as result of effective service delivery.

7.0 Links with the Corporate Priorities:

7.1 National data demonstrates that young people in the criminal justice system are likely to have experienced significant levels of disruption in their education including poor attendance, exclusions and low engagement. A key priority in Let's Do It is to improve levels of school readiness as well as improve education outcomes for our young people. This will have a positive impact on reducing the numbers of young people who are at risk of entry into the criminal justice system.

Increased opportunities through economic regeneration and specifically through our skills strategy will provide the conditions for our young people to have increased life choices through a range of opportunities and reduce the risk of entry into the youth justice system

8.0 Equality Impact and Considerations:

8.1 The Youth Justice Annual Plan is a requirement of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and has been completed in accordance with the YJB guidance and agreed template. The plan has been co-produced with staff, young people, families and the board

9.0 Environmental Impact and Considerations:

N/A

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

The report lays out the risks and mitigation in respect of the delivery of the plan and achieving the priorities, in summary

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Future budget efficiencies/reductions in partner contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Service Level Agreement between Rochdale and Bury• Review all vacancies as they arise in context of service needs• Maximise community resources• Maximise opportunities for partnership working with other agencies and ensure all secondments are in place• YJS Working Plan 2023/2024• Quality Assurance processes/ quality improvement plans and processes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to continuous quality improvement regardless of budget situation <p>Robust financial planning within Bury and Rochdale Council and with partners.</p>
<p>Increases in remand bed nights places increased strain on both Bury Council's and Rochdale Council's associated budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality budget monitoring and management • Timely, accurate and relevant information to managers • Brief relevant partners on need for efficient, speedy processes • Constantly review and develop Bury and Rochdale practice in each remand case, including actively considering applications for community bail packages • Provide timely updates to Bury and Rochdale Management Board and other relevant partnerships • Robust bail packages to be presented to court as alternatives to custody
<p>Embedding new practice guidance – all policies, procedures and guidance are currently under review to ensure that practice is current and any gaps are identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff have been made aware in the Whole Service Meetings that policies are being updated. • Once the policies are updated (plan for end of Summer 23), they will be shared with staff and the YJS Partnership Board for consultation. • Once agreed, all staff and Managers will be allocated at least one Policy each to summarise and then a development session will be facilitated whereby everyone can provide the key points from each policy in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. This will embed key learning and ensure that all key points can be accessed at ease for day to day use.

<p>1. GMP Focus on arrests: There is a current impetus within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to arrest and hold more people committing offences to account. This increased focus and resource may indeed result in more children being brought to the attention of GM Youth Justice Services through the OOC and Court arena. The number of children currently under investigation (81 Bury/ 116 Rochdale as of 23.05.2023) presents a risk (from a capacity point of view) in the event that a high proportion result in referrals to the YJS or charge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YJS to work closely alongside GMP strategically at the YJS Partnership Board and other relevant forums and operationally to ensure that children are being dealt with proportionately to the seriousness of the offences and the individual circumstances of the child. A balance to be achieved in terms of child first principles and management of risk and public protection. • The weekly Joint Decision Making Panel to scrutinise decisions ensuring that children are diverted from Courts and back to the Police were appropriate. • The quarterly OOC Scrutiny Panel led at GM Head of Service level to further scrutinise decision making. • Ensure timely and improved information sharing between YJS and police to assist with responsive and proactive risk management/ interventions.
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10.0 Legal Implications:

The Youth Justice Plan is drafted in accordance with s 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The adoption of the Youth Justice Plan is a Council function as set out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000/2853. Cabinet is asked to commend the policy to Council.

11.0 Financial Implications:

The youth justice service is funded through a grant received from the Youth Justice Grant. Bury pools a significant proportion of its grant with Rochdale in order to fund the delivery of this plan. The plan is delivered through a multi organisational approach and funding. All monies received via the grant have to be spent on youth offending services.

11.0 Appendices:

Youth Justice Annual Plan 2023-2024

12.0 Background Papers:

None

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
YJS	Youth Justice Service
CSC	Children Social Care
GM	Greater Manchester
QA	Quality Assurance
OOC	Out of Court