
YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE – UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. Following the publication of the HMIP Inspection report of the Youth Justice Service in 2020, the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed that it would prioritise the Youth Justice Service as a topic for scrutiny and has continued to monitor improvements since this time.
2. **Appendix A** attached to this report provides Members with a quarterly update on progress in relation to the Youth Justice Service.

Background

3. Since the Inspection in 2020, this Scrutiny Committee has monitored progress and improvements to the YJS, via bi-monthly updates. At its work programming forum on the 19th July 2022, this Committee agreed that, given the progress and improvements made within the YJS and the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales's decision to 'de-escalate' the Service from Stage 3 to Stage 1, the Committee would now receive YJS Updates on a quarterly basis. In June 2023, the Committee agreed to a further commitment of quarterly updates.
4. Attached at **Appendix A** is an update on the Youth Justice Service provided by the Service Area. Also enclosed at **Appendix B** is a document outlining Positive Intervention.
5. A link to the YJS Strategy document can be found here, for Members reference:

[Youth justice services strategy 2022 to 2024 \(cardiff.gov.uk\)](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/youth-justice-services-strategy-2022-to-2024)

Previous Scrutiny

6. At its meeting on the 30 July 2020, CYPSC considered the YJS Inspection Report and the Council's response to it¹.

7. As stated in Paragraph 1 of this report, CYPSC Members agreed that YJS be a priority topic for the Committee's work for the foreseeable future. Members have received updates across Children's Services (including YJS) at the following CYPSC meetings:
 - 30 July 2020 – full briefing to Committee
 - 15 September 2020 – during the consideration of the Local Authority Social Services Annual report 2019/2020
 - 12 October 2020 – during the Children's Services Update
 - 15th March 2021 – full briefing to Committee
 - 11 May 2021 – full briefing to Committee; meeting with young people in the YJS
 - 13 July 2021 - full briefing to Committee
 - 13 October 2021 – full briefing to Committee
 - 9 December 2021 – full briefing to Committee
 - 1 March 2022 – full briefing to Committee
 - 19 October 2022 – full briefing to Committee
 - 20 March 2023 – full briefing to Committee
 - 13 June 2023 - full briefing to Committee
 - 14 November 2023 - full briefing to Committee

Way Forward

8. Members will be able to agree any comments, concerns or recommendations that they wish to pass on to the Cabinet Member, Chair of YJS Board, Director of Children's Services and Operational Manager, YJS arising from the update in **Appendix A** and Positive Intervention Update at **Appendix B**.

¹ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 30th July, 2020, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

Legal Implications

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

10. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee considers this report and its Appendices and agrees any recommendations, comments or advice it wishes to offer to the Cabinet Member; Chair of the Youth Justice Board; Director of Children's Services and Operational Manager, Youth Justice Service.

Leanne Weston

Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

10 April 2024