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**YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE – UPDATE**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. In October 2020, when agreeing the Work Programme for 2020/21, the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed that it would prioritise the Youth Justice Service as a topic for scrutiny. This followed the publication of the HMIP Inspection report in 2020.
2. This report provides Members with an update on progress in relation to the Youth Justice Service.

**Scope of Scrutiny**

3. During this scrutiny, Members have the opportunity to consider the following:
  - Update Briefing – attached at **Appendix A**
  - Q2 Performance – attached at **Appendix B**
  - Q3 Performance - attached at **Appendix C**
  - Ask questions around the progress against the “All Our Futures” Strategy document – attached at **Appendix D**
  - Enquire about issues previously raised by this Scrutiny Committee – attached at **Appendix E**

**Background**

4. The Cardiff Youth Justice Service (YJS) is a statutory partnership set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work with 10 to 18 year olds and their families, to prevent anti-social behaviour, offending and re-offending. YJS workers provide intervention and support to young people sentenced to a

community penalty or custody or those dealt with by an out-of-court disposal, as well as prevention and diversion work to try to steer young people away from entering the youth criminal justice system. They also offer support to victims of youth crime and anti-social behaviour.

5. Youth Justice Service teams are required to have staff from local authority social services, education services, the Police, the National Probation Service and local health services.
6. The inspection, in January 2020, was led by HMI Probation and supported by inspectors from Care Inspectorate Wales, Estyn, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, and HMI Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
7. Overall, Cardiff Youth Offending Service was rated as 'Inadequate' across all areas of work: leadership and staffing; working with partners such as health, education and police; and providing services to children and young people who have offended and to their victims. The inspection found improvement was required across all areas. The report made 14 recommendations.
8. Since the Inspection, an Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Board (Graham Robb), was appointed, and a two-year plan to transform youth justice services in the city was developed, titled 'All Our Futures', which is attached at **Appendix D**. The Cardiff Youth Justice Board oversees the work set out in the plan.
9. The strategy covers:
  - reshaping of governance and leadership to focus on making changes happen;
  - improved use of shared data and analysis to improve what is delivered and to assess if it is working;
  - a workforce development plan including a quality assurance framework;
  - working with partners to put in place an improved offer to children and families who receive youth justice services.

10. The key priorities set out in the plan are:
- We will make sure we have all the right data and tools to analyse the needs of the child now, and any future trends;
  - We will make sure our shared assessment of needs is accurate and enables better outcomes for the children and the risks to be reduced ... including for victims;
  - We will make sure all staff are trained to work in the most effective way to secure the best pathways to good outcomes for children and young people and for the community;
  - We will ensure clear and effective leadership of shared development – reported to the right people.

### **Previous Scrutiny**

11. At its meeting on the 30 July 2020, CYPSC considered the YJS Inspection Report and the Council's response to it<sup>1</sup>. Following this meeting, the Chairperson raised the following issues to the Cabinet Member – further details of which can be found at **Appendix E**:

- Review and Challenge/Role of Scrutiny
- Youth Justice Board Governance and Progress
- Performance Measures
- Young People and their Families/Carers
- Improved/Joined working internally
- Improved/Joined up working across the Partnership

12. 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:

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

- 15 September 2020 – during the consideration of the Local Authority Social Services Annual report
- 12 October 2020 – during the Children’s Services Update

## **Way Forward**

13. Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children & Families), Deborah Driffield (Director of Children’s Services) and Graham Robb (Independent Chair, Youth Justice Board) will be available to answer any questions Members may have.
14. Members will be able to agree any comments, concerns or recommendations that they wish to pass on to the Cabinet Member for Children & Families, Director of Children’s Services and Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Board.
15. At the next meeting of CYPSC in May, Members will hold a closed session with young people from the Youth Justice Service to gauge their views and opinions of the YJS.

## **Legal Implications**

16. 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**

17. 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, its appendices and information provided at the meeting and agrees any recommendations, comments or advice it wishes to offer to the Cabinet Member, Director of Children's Services and Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Board.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**9 March 2021**