



Date of Meeting	20 th November 2019
Portfolio	Cllr. Kieran Heakin Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Report Author	Jim Hopkinson
Public/Private Document	Public

Bury and Rochdale Youth Justice Plan 2019 - 2021

Executive Summary

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- 1.1 This report presents the Youth Justice Plan 2019/21 and highlights some of the key achievements in reducing re-offending during 2018/19. The report also provides the areas for improvement that the service will focus upon during the next period, as set out in the Service Improvement Plan (Appendix 4 of the Youth Justice Plan).
- 1.2 Production of a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement of the local authority under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and is one of the requirements of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) for England and Wales grant for Youth Offending Teams (YOTs). The report was submitted to the YJB by the deadline of 5 August 2019 and has been approved with some positive feedback. It is then shared with a number of relevant bodies.
- 1.3 The YJB provide YOTs with detailed guidance on the headings within the plan and the areas to be covered within each heading. Essentially, the plan is in two parts; a review of performance and activity for 2018-2019, and improvement plans, staffing and budgets for 2019-2020. The YJB welcomes plans that cover more than one year with the proviso that an annual refresh will be submitted which provides an update of key information, particularly in relation to finance and governance.
- 1.4 A copy of the Youth Justice Plan is attached at Appendix 1 for the approval of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.5 A copy of the Youth Justice Board Approval is attached as Appendix 2.

Recommendation

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- 2.1 It is recommended that Overview & Scrutiny Committee:
- (a) Note the contents of this report; and
 - (b) Receive the Youth Justice Plan 2019/21 and performance summary of the period 2019/19.

Reason for Recommendation

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- 3.1 Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are statutory partnerships, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with the principal aim of preventing offending by children and young people. Local Authorities are responsible for establishing a Youth Offending Team. Police, National Probation Service (NPS) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are statutorily required to assist in their funding and operation.
- 3.2 Local authorities continue to have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth offending partnership's responsibilities in producing this plan. It states that "it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:
- (a) How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
 - (b) How the YOT will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out".
- 3.3 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) for England and Wales welcomes plans that cover more than one year with the proviso that an annual refresh will be submitted which provides an update of key information, particularly in relation to finance and governance.
- 3.4 This current plan covers performance for the period 2018/19 and provides service budgets, operational and strategic developments within the service and partnership, service structure and the Service Improvement Plan for 2019 – 2021.
- 3.5 In accordance with statutory requirements the plan was approved by the Bury and Rochdale YOS Management Board on 26 July 2019.

- 3.6 The Youth Justice Plan must be submitted to the YJB and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State. The deadline for submission this year was 5 August 2019. After submission to the YJB, Youth Justice Plans are sent to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP - lead for YOS inspections) and are placed in the House of Commons library.

Key Points for Consideration

4 **Bury and Rochdale YOS Youth Justice Plan 2019 – 21**

4.1 The plan outlines how the Bury and Rochdale YOS will:

- (a) Reduce First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System;
- (b) Reduce re-offending by young people; and
- (c) Reduce the use of custody for both sentenced and remanded young people.

We are seeking to do this through:

- (i) Improving how we communicate with young people and the interventions we complete with them;
- (ii) Putting victims, including young victims, and restorative justice at the heart of everything we do;
- (iii) Reducing re-offending by targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences and improving their engagement in opportunities for education, employment and training;
- (iv) Ensuring we have robust quality assurance and staff management processes in place and a skilled management team to manage those processes;
- (v) Ensuring we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us;
- (vi) Ensuring that case management systems and administration support provide the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities and young people.

4.2 HMI Probation are currently one year into a four-year inspection cycle; Bury and Rochdale YOS and partnership are yet to be inspected under the current cycle. An Inspection Framework for Youth Offending Services was published in March 2018, which sets clear standards expected of Youth Offending Teams (YOTs), to ensure the provision of a high quality, personalised and responsive service for all children and young people. Whilst there are many aspects of good performance contained within the current plan, the service is not complacent and is fully aware of the areas where practice needs to be strengthened and performance improve.

- 4.3 A self-assessment against the published inspection standards has been completed. This work has informed our ongoing quality improvement plans and the Service Improvement Plan for 2019/20.
- 4.4 As part of this commitment to children first and foremost during 2019/20 the Bury and Rochdale Management Board has consulted on changing our name to Bury and Rochdale Youth Justice Service. This would better represent the work of the service and re-focus on prevention and justice, in line with guidance

4.5 Key Achievement 2018/19

- 4.5.1 Key achievements that have been identified for the period 2018/19 and are outlined in the executive summary of the plan.

Performance against national Outcome Measures 2018/19

(a) First time entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs):

Between January 2018 and December 2018 the rate of FTEs per 100,000 10-17 years population across Bury and Rochdale is 222, which is slightly lower than the national average rate of 236. The Bury and Rochdale rate is also marginally lower than the North West average at 243.

(b) Re-Offending

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (July 2016 – June 2017 cohort) shows a re-offending rate of 40.3% which is a 4.7% reduction compared to the previous year. This is very slightly higher than the national average rate of 40.1% but significantly lower than the North West average rate of 41.4%. Given the consistently reducing size of the cohort of young people entering the youth justice system, the reoffending figure can vary considerably when compared to previous years. This reduction is therefore seen as good performance and representative of the partnership working.

(c) Use of Custody

The Bury and Rochdale YOS performance in this area has worsened compared to previous years with a rate per 1,000 10-17 years of 0.40 during April – March 2019. This is higher than both the National and North West averages with rates of 0.31 and 0.37 respectively. On each occasion that a young person is sentenced to custody, the work of Bury and Rochdale YOS is reviewed to ensure all appropriate work was undertaken to offer robust community alternatives and to develop learning. We expect this approach to reduce custodial sentences over the coming year.

(d) Remand Bed Nights: 1048

There has been a 24.2% increase on the previous year with a total of 1048 remand bed nights in 2018/2019, with this representing an increase in both the

number of young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation and the number of episodes when compared to the previous year. The data has limited statistical significance with the number of individuals being remanded increasing to 13 (from 12 last year) but the number of episodes was more marked increasing to 16 from 13 last year. Bury & Rochdale YOS will proactively offer suitable bail packages, including Intensive Support and Surveillance (ISS) bail, wherever appropriate.

4.6 Work with Victims, including Young Victims:

4.6.1 Our work with the victims of youth crime has engaged over 123 victims of young people who have offended. Victims are offered a range of services including face to face meetings with young people, shuttle mediation, letters of explanation and update letters. Victims are consulted in relation to Release on Temporary Licence and licence conditions. All young people on statutory orders undertake a minimum of two sessions in relation to victim awareness. Last year young people undertook 1027 hours of reparation and raised more than £300 for local homelessness projects.

4.7 Targeting those young people committing the most offences

4.7.1 The Service has continued to prioritise our work with young people who are persistently offending. The Service operates an enhanced, intensive, case management model for this cohort of young people. All young people considered high risk in any domain (risk of serious harm, risk of offending, safeguarding risks) are automatically referred to the Case Planning Forum. This is chaired by a manager, and including partners where relevant, each case is reviewed to ensure that all partners understand the risks assessed at this time and are clear about the plans to mitigate the risk. Last year the YOS held 88 case Planning Forums involving 50 young people. In addition the YOS works closely with the Complex Safeguarding Teams in both Bury and Rochdale to ensure that young people at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation, Child Sexual Exploitation and other forms of exploitation are worked with intensively. The YOS has seconded a Youth Justice Worker to Rochdale Complex Safeguarding Team which includes trauma informed recovery as part of its case management model. Bury has recently set up a Complex Safeguarding Team and the YOS is in process of agreeing a contribution to this. The YOS continues to contribute to Operation Bohemia, targeting persistent anti-social behaviour and also contributes to the Integrated Offender Management arrangements across Bury and Rochdale.

Risk and Policy Implications

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5.1 A full assessment of budget is contained on page 11 of the attached report. The Youth Justice Plan is required to be a fully costed plan under the terms of the Grant. Bury and Rochdale YOS pooled budget is £1,875,988 for 2019/20. Since

2011 the Bury and Rochdale YOS combined YOT budget has reduced by 52% which has been achieved through a combination of approaches. The budget remains challenging, but the YOT anticipates coming in on budget this year and seeks every opportunity to secure external funding.

Risk and Policy Implications

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- 6.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the responsibilities of the Youth Offending Partnership in producing this plan.
- 6.2 The Youth Justice Plan ensures Rochdale Council and statutory partners meet their legal responsibilities. Statutory requirements placed on the YOS and the Management Board include :
- Complying with the statutory requirements laid out in s.38 to 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and other relevant sections of the Act;
 - Complying with National Standards (NS) for Youth Justice (including returning the annual National Standards audit);
 - Submitting required data to the YJB in adherence with the relevant YJB data recording guidance;
 - Approving the annual Youth Justice Plan.
- 6.3 A full assessment of risks to the future delivery against youth justice outcome measures is contained on page 16 of the attached report.

Consultation

- 7 7.1 Overview & Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider the Youth Justice Plan 2019/21 and key performance data in reducing re-offending during 2018/19 alongside the areas for improvement identified in the Service Improvement Plan. The Youth Justice Plan is produced in consultation with statutory partners and staff, and will become a public document open to members of the public to inspect.

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
None	

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