

The meeting of the Children and Lifelong Learning Panel held on 10th September 2026, made the following comments.

To: Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

BACKGROUND

The panel considered a report (prior to it going to Cabinet on the 16th September 2026) from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education of the Youth Justice Plan, in line with statutory requirements, which set out the shared ambitions and priorities which supports children and young people to be divested from youth justice services.

SPCLL.19 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

Poverty and Deprivation was raised as a concern by a member in particular that the words poverty and deprivation were underrepresented in the report despite being major drivers of youth vulnerability and would welcome future iterations of the Youth Justice Plan more clearly identifying the links between poverty and deprivation and youth offending, and detail how collaborative strategies were being deployed to combat this issue.

The Chair referred to the violence to the person key performance indicator and suggested that the panel would like to see how well the council was performing against those KPI's rather than a statement.

The Chair highlighted the clear link between SEND and youth offending. Following a visit to SENDIAS, she proposed greater partnership working between SENDIAS and local police teams to improve officers' understanding of SEN, thereby preventing the unnecessary criminalisation of vulnerable young people.

These proposals were put to a vote and, with 6 for and 2 abstentions, they were carried.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET –

1. That Cabinet be recommended to ensure future iterations of the Youth Justice Plan more clearly identify the links between poverty and deprivation and youth offending, and detail how collaborative strategies were being deployed to combat this issue.
2. That Cabinet be recommended to incorporate smarter Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and clear operational thresholds into the plan particularly concerning repeat offending and clarifying the trigger points for the graduated response with performance data regularly brought back to Scrutiny to monitor effectiveness.

Scrutiny Chair: Councillor Downes



Recommends ...

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