

## CABINET

<b>DATE</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2025
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Councillor Margaret Cracknell Portfolio Holder for Children and Education
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Ann-Marie Matson, Director of Children Services
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Youth Justice Plan
<b>STATUS</b>	Open
<b>FORWARD PLAN REF NO.</b>	CB 09/25/01

### CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The Youth Justice Plan will contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Aims set out in the Council Plan ensuring children and young people:

- Grow up happy, healthy, safe in their homes with people who love them. Children and families can have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their communities.
- Reach their full potential through skills and learning
- Enjoy good health and wellbeing

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that it is the statutory duty for each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan setting out:

- how youth justice services in the area are provided and funded.
- how the youth justice service is composed and funded, how it operates, and the functions it carries out.

The Youth Justice Plan outlines progress achieved against last year and the priorities for the upcoming 12 months with the partnership leads for each area.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Endorses the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 which sets out the shared ambition and priorities of the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Service.
2. Recommends and refers the North East Lincolnshire Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 to Council for approval and formal adoption.

## REASONS FOR DECISION

Endorsement of the Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 to support the Youth Partnership Board to provide system-wide leadership and advocate the Child First principle and diversion away from the criminal justice system. This is in keeping with North East Lincolnshire's vision 'Our Children, Our Future' which aims to support children and young people to grow up happy and healthy, safe in their homes and communities, with people that love them.

### 1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

Annual Youth Justice Plans are an opportunity to review performance and developments over a single year period and plan for the next year. This allows partnerships to be able to respond to any changes that have taken place in the previous year, including new legislation, demographic changes, delivery of key performance indicators, and developments in delivery.

The planning and production of a Youth Justice Plan is beneficial to partnership working and partnership delivery to ensure the best outcomes for children.

The annual Youth Justice Plan considers local and regional priorities.

Over the last year there has been significant developments within the Youth Justice Service ensuring the progress and improved outcomes for children, this was recognised by North East Lincolnshire being moved to Quadrant one by the Youth Justice Board due to its performance and outcomes.

The new updated areas of focus are:

- Development of our Youth Justice Prevention Offer
- Children in Custody and Concordat
- Enhancement of our Victim Offer and Restorative Principles
- Improved awareness of Child First Principles across the partnership
- Education Training and Employment
- Reducing knife/weapons crime by children.
- Reducing re-offending by children and greater use of Outcome 22's
- Disproportionality and child's voice are a priority however this will be a golden thread throughout all of our interventions.

### 2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

Failure to support the Youth Justice Plan would result in financial loss to the local authority as the submission is a condition of the YJB grant. The YJB grant is used to fund service delivery which prevents children and young people from offending in the community. Failure to support would lead to a significant impact on service delivery and could increase the risk of anti-social and criminal behaviour by children and young people in the community.

The Youth Justice Plan provides an opportunity for the partnership to shape the direction of the delivery of youth justice so that it best meets the needs of the locality, children, families, victims and communities.

The plan allows the Authority to showcase progress made, the outcomes achieved and the areas we continue to develop. The publication of the plan allows us to showcase our continued commitment to children's positive outcomes and evidence our robust partnership working to achieve this.

### **3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Not to support the Youth Justice Plan 2025/26

### **4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

Regular communications activity takes place and is supported by our lead member for Children's Services and Education.

The Youth Justice Service are required to publish Youth Justice Plans in line with relevant legislation.

The Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 will be presented to Cabinet and then to Full Council for final endorsement and prior to publication.

An accessible version of the plan is in development and will be published alongside the formal plan.

The Youth Justice Plan when approved will become a public facing document, therefore this allows for progress to be celebrated and will have a positive impact upon the reputation of the council. Areas of focus for the next year are evidenced openly which will allow for external scrutiny as any other public facing council document.

### **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act outlines our statutory duty to prepare and submit an annual Youth Justice Plan. The plan must be written following the guidance published by the YJB and must be signed off by the chair of the management board. This duty is also outlined as a requirement of the terms and conditions of the YJB Grant.

As an accountable and publicly funded body, the Youth Justice Service is committed to ensuring value for money via robust budget management and effective delivery. The partnership ensures that resources are deployed appropriately to meet the changing demands of a smaller convicted cohort, with increased preventative and out of court disposal interventions.

The grant is provided by the Authority under its power in section 41 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Funding Period starts on 01/04/2025 and ends on 31/03/2026 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the Grant Funding Agreement.

## **6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS**

The Youth Justice Plan sets out the shared ambitions and priorities, which supports children and young people to be diverted from the youth justice system. Through partnership working and partnership delivery, it aims to meet the needs of the locality, children, families, victims and communities and ensure the best outcomes for children.

The Corporate Parenting Promise in North East Lincolnshire commits us to 'consider the impact of any decisions on looked after children and care leavers that we make as a Council'. One of the golden threads within the plan relates to disproportionality which highlights our commitment to ensure children in care and care leavers are not overly represented within the criminal justice system.

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

## **8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY**

The plan to be taken to the joint Communities Scrutiny Panel on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications of the report, however endorsement of the 2025/26 Youth Justice Plan is required in order to meet the terms and conditions of the YJB Grant which is used to support service delivery.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The statutory obligations around the formulation of a Youth Justice Plan are set out in the above report.

10.2 By virtue of Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, it is the province of full council to formally adopt a youth justice plan.

## **11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

Staff resources are required to implement the Youth Justice Plan, but this is accommodated within the existing workforce.

## **12. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

All Wards

## **13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Youth Justice Plan 25/26

#### **14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

Charlene Sykes, Service Director- Safeguarding Children, Youth Justice and Family help, Municipal Offices, Town hall Square, Grimsby.

Harriet Malkin, Deputy Service Director, Safeguarding, Disability and Interim Youth Justice, New Oxford House, George Street, Grimsby.

**COUNCILLOR MARGARET CRACKNELL**  
**PORTFOLIO FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION**