

Restorative Youth Services Plan 2016/17

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 25 May 2016

Author:	Service Manager, Restorative Youth Services, Swindon Borough Council
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	Not Applicable

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To note and approve the Restorative Youth Services (RYS) Plan for 2016/17, attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 The Youth Offending Team (YOT) in Swindon is required to produce a Plan which reflects on previous performance, and addresses priorities and business risks for the year ahead. This Plan incorporates two other services: the confidential youth counselling service On Trak, and the youth alcohol & drug misuse service U-Turn.
- 1.3 It is an expectation that the Plan is approved by the Youth Offending Team Management Board and the Local Authority, prior to submission (of the Plan) to the Youth Justice Board.
- 1.4 The Plan incorporates strategies for meeting Government and local targets for reducing first time offending, re-offending, remand, custodial rates, and substance misuse. The Plan also includes strategies for the timely and effective delivery of confidential youth counselling services.

2. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note and approve the Restorative Youth Services Plan for 2016/17, attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Local Authority (Chief Executive) with responsibility for Children's Services is required to ensure that the range of Youth Justice Services outlined in section 38 (4) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 are delivered through the Youth Offending Team.
- 3.2 The Restorative Youth Services Plan 2016/17 was approved by the Youth Offending Team Management Board on the 21 April 2016.
- 3.3 The confidential youth counselling service On Trak, and the youth alcohol & drug misuse service U-Turn are also under the direct management of the YOT's Service Manager and have their plans incorporated into the Restorative Youth

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Matt Bywater, 01793 463890, mbywater@swindon.gov.uk.

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Services Plan 2016-17. This plan acknowledges national and local priorities relating to offending, substance misuse and counselling, and describes strategy, performance, partnerships, finance, as well as the challenges and opportunities which now govern future priorities.

- 3.4 Developments in 2015/16 associated with the Youth Offending Team included a low rate of custody, due in part to the success of working closely with the Courts to show that risk and rehabilitation, for even the most troubled young people, are manageable and effective in the local community. Re-offending rates experienced a spike in 2014 as a result of a more complex cohort of offenders which was explored further in the HMIP Inspection of the Youth Offending Team in March 2015. This resulted in the production of a full report and a local post inspection Action Plan which incorporated more effective scrutiny by the YOT Board, as well as subtle but important changes in operational practice. Performance monitoring is now centred on a more sophisticated analysis of re-offending data using a specialised tool kit. Other key factors (influencing progress with the objectives set out in the 2016/17 Plan) include: more focused work on internal auditing of case work and levels of risk and vulnerability ratings by case managers; the implementation of a programme around communication to improve the confidence and self-esteem of young people; intervention by a speech and language specialist; and a national overhaul and update of the ASSET assessment tool which requires the training of multi-agency staff in anticipation of new systems and processes designed to assess the risks and causes of offending behaviour (due for implementation in May 2016).
- 3.5 The Plan for 2016/17 also incorporates strategies to educate young people about the harm caused through the misuse of alcohol and drugs. To support this, U-Turn continues to operate through the traded services initiative to help schools raise awareness about the impact of drugs (including legal highs) on the teenage brain, but is also having impact through the introduction of short educational films (including the successful 'Jack's Story') which is available to young people via new forms of social media.
- 3.6 Incorporated within the Plan are those challenges facing the confidential youth counselling service On Trak. These include managing a high rate of referrals, mostly from GPs, which have resulted in waiting times for some young people in need of counselling. More streamlined and responsive processes are being put into practice (including a closer working relationship with Targeted mental health services) to help address the demand for counselling by young people and ensure that those most in need are prioritised for treatment.
- 3.7 All three RYS services are governed by developments taking place in the national context, of which the most significant is the wide-ranging review of youth justice services announced in October 2015 by the Rt. Hon Michael Gove being conducted by Mr Charlie Taylor, Chief Executive of the National College for Teaching and Leadership. The scope of this review suggests that the outcome
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could have significance for all YOTs in terms of future operating models, as well as funding, and statutory responsibilities under any new legislation. The Association of YOT Managers (which represents two thirds of all YOT Managers) has made several representations, including concerns about current threats to services' budgets from the Ministry of Justice. The Taylor review is due for publication in the summer of 2016. The YOT is also the recipient of a separate review conducted by the National Probation Service (NPS) which has just announced changes associated with funding and, the role of seconded Probation staff, as well as a reconfiguration of the level of management representing the NPS on YOT Boards. As a consequence of this review, funding from the NPS to Swindon YOT has been reduced from £19,067 to £5,000 per annum from 1 April 2016, as well as the withdrawal of the seconded Probation Services Officer, resulting in a reduction in the compliment of seconded officers from two to one. The 16/17 budget has been set taking account of this reduction in funding and has been achieved on the back of two internal staffing reviews which led to the removal from the establishment of one managerial post and one (part-time) support worker post at a total saving of £60,000 p.a. Finally, RYS continues to be influenced by local changes associated with 'Stronger Together', of which the move to Clarence House to co-locate with other teams from Children's Services in late 2014 was a key component.

- 3.8 The Plan for 2016/17 has also had to anticipate significant reductions in funding from the Youth Justice Board and key funding partners. The staff savings referred to above were a necessary response to the total reduction in central government funding (via the Youth Justice Board) which since 2012/13 has now reached over 36.7%, representing a cash reduction of £119,633. Further action has also been taken to produce a balanced budget in 2016/17, including further reductions in non-staffing costs, and the use of the YOT's remaining reserves.
- 3.9 In spite of the financial pressures and other uncertainties the YOT continues to have the full confidence of the YOT Management Board. The Youth Offending Team also has a close working relationship with other YOTs in the South West and is encouraged by the Youth Justice Board's local partnership adviser to compare outcomes in order to promote best practice and ensure that resources are deployed where they can be most effective. The Team also has a reputation for innovation in practice, acknowledged by Her Majesty's Inspectors, which includes the development of a new web site aimed at young people due for launch in late Summer 2016, as well as the continuing take up - by Primary schools - of the award winning Young Volunteers scheme, now operating across seven schools in Swindon. The Plans for 2016/17 also take account of the continuing influence and positive impact on service delivery and reputation which comes from a community of volunteers (of which there are over 40). In March 2016 six volunteers, each with over 10 years continuous service were cited for the 2016 Pride of Swindon Award, with names included on a plaque unveiled on the 5th April in the central library. RYS is also aiming to secure renewal of the

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prestigious Investors in Volunteers award, designed to ensure that RYS processes and policies are at the highest possible standard to recruit, manage and develop volunteers for 2016 and beyond, helping ensure that young people in Swindon receive the best start in life.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 None.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1. The YOT is financed through a mix of funding from the Youth Justice Board, Local Authority (Children's Services), Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner, and partner organisations. The total Youth Justice grant for 2016/17 amounts to £224,950 which includes funding set aside to help meet demands associated with Unpaid Work and Attendance Centre orders from Court. Partnership cash funding amounts to £369,194 of which £267,500 comes from Children's Services. The following agencies also provide cash contributions: £76,994 from the Police and Crime Commissioner; £5,000 from the National Probation Service; and £19,700 from the Clinical Commissioning Group, in addition to staffing resources (based on secondments) as listed at section 6 of the Plan (staffing).
- 5.2 In March 2016 RYS made a successful bid to the Wiltshire Community foundation for funding of £129,400 to deliver a programme of specialist interventions for families where adolescent to parent/ carer violence is prevalent. The programme will run for two years and will include the training of staff across Children's Services.
- 5.3 The substance misuse service U-Turn is funded from four sources; Local Authority based Public Health (£75,000); Youth Justice grant funding transferred from YOT income to U Turn (£13,000); and Children's Services core funding (£33,600), in addition to £3,600 from Health, and £300 (net) from traded services with Schools, making a total budget of £125,500.
- 5.4 The youth counselling service On Trak is funded by the Local Authority (£61,300, and the CCG (£64,000) making a total budget of £125,300.
- 5.5 The Budget for 2016/17 is to be presented in April 2016 for the approval of the YOT Management Board, and includes proposals to meet the challenges previously mentioned.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.6 The Plan conforms to all SBC protocols and policies concerning the Legal and Human Rights of Swindon residents.

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- 5.7 The Plan also builds in interventions on behalf of young people designed to promote opportunities for constructive use of their leisure time and as a result, a reduction in anti – social behaviour or crime.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.8 Restorative Youth Services are uniquely placed to straddle the criminal justice and care environments, resulting in strong links with the overarching strategic themes encompassed within key partner agencies including the Police and Crime Commissioner (Wiltshire and Swindon).

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.9 The work of the YOT, substance misuse service U-Turn, and the youth counselling service On Trak, are embedded in the Restorative Youth Services Plan 2016-17 which includes the Diversity Impact Assessment.

Risk Management

- 5.10 Plans include activities or protocols and procedures designed to address known or anticipated risks, including those associated with the potential for public sector funding reductions, as well as safeguarding of staff and young people.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - The Restorative Youth Services Plan 2016/17