

Report to:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Relevant Officer:

Sara McCartan, Head of Service, Adolescent Service

Date of meeting:

9 November 2023

BLACKPOOL YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide scrutiny committee with an update regarding Blackpool's Youth Justice Service.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 For the Scrutiny Committee to have oversight of the Youth Justice Partnership plan to provide scrutiny, challenge and support to aid development and ensure positive outcomes for children are achieved.

3.0 Reason for recommendation

3.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan and deliver against the priorities set out in their plan.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered

4.1 No other alternative options to be considered.

5.0 Council priority

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'

6.0 Background and key information

6.1 The Youth Justice Partnership plan outlines the strategic vision and unwavering dedication to providing exceptional support to children and families involved in the youth justice system. Building upon the progress we have already made; our goal is to ensure that the children and families we serve thrive away from the Youth Justice system.

6.2 Blackpool's Youth Justice Partnership acknowledges and supports the research-backed notion that children should be treated in a manner that considers their age, level of comprehension, and overall circumstances. This approach considers their needs and holistic well-being. Blackpool Youth Justice multiagency Executive Board believe the children who display harmful behaviour, and the communities in which they live, are best served by identifying and addressing the underlying welfare and support needs that drive much of this behaviour. We understand that children are inherently vulnerable by virtue of age, levels of maturity and other factors and as such their rights should be protected.

6.3 The Youth Justice Partnership plan along with performance and resource data is monitored quarterly via the Blackpool's Youth Justice Executive Board providing a multidisciplinary strategic focus on the impact of service delivery on children's outcomes. The Executive Board ensures our Youth Justice Partnership is provided with clear and coordinated strategic governance to support with the delivery of high-quality youth justice services with a focus on:

- Ensuring a Child First approach to Youth Justice provision in Blackpool
- Ensuring sure children and young people are safe
- Reducing the likelihood of reoffending
- Reducing the risk of harm that children and young people can cause to other people and themselves.

The annual Executive Board Development Day was held in April 2023 and the outcomes from this have contributed to the development of the plan.

6.4 The priorities outlined in the plan include:

Priority One: Our Youth Justice Partnership will continue to strive to ensure that the Executive Board is efficient and effective, securing positive outcomes for children and families.

Priority Two: Our Youth Justice Partnership will increase prevention and diversion ensuring children receive support at the earliest opportunity to reduce the number of First Time Entrants in Blackpool.

Priority Three: Our Youth Justice Partnership will ensure our Youth Justice workforce have access to appropriate development opportunities and resources to reduce the risk of re-offending.

Priority Four: Our Youth Justice Partnership will ensure the educational needs of children open to the service are understood and appropriate action taken to ensure that they have access to high quality education and training services that met their individual needs.

Priority Five: Our Youth Justice Partnership will seek to reduce the number of children in custody.

6.5 In addition to Blackpool Youth Justice multiagency Executive Board the national Youth Justice Board (YJB) monitor the operation of the youth justice system. The YJB also monitor the provision of youth justice services and the extent to which the system aims are being achieved and any such standards met. In April 2023 the YJB introduced a new Oversight Framework to increase understanding of performance across the system and assure value for money from the Youth Justice Core Grant. As part of the new framework performance quadrant assessments are undertaken quarter. The assessments review service delivery, service leadership, local strategic priorities and continuous improvement. Blackpool Youth Justice partnership is currently in performance quadrant 2 deemed satisfactory performance.

6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of appendices

7.1 Appendix 7(a): Front sheet of Youth Justice Plan

7.2 Appendix 7(b): Youth Justice Board oversight framework service classification and support.

7.3 Appendix 7(c): Case Study

8.0 Financial considerations

8.1 Costs and contributions 2022-23

Agency	Staffing Costs	Other delegated funds	Total
Police	58,336	0	58,336
Probation	24,608	5,000	29,608
Health	39,974	15,442	55,416
Local Authority	345,016	103,807	448,823
YJB	435,178	54,251	489,429
Other			0
Total	903,112	178,500	1,081,612

9.0 Legal considerations

9.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan, relating to their provision of youth justice services, to the Youth Justice Board. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a 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 how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.

10.0 Risk management considerations

10.1 There are no issues of concern as appropriate governance arrangements are in place.

11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people

11.1 The young people supported by the Blackpool youth justice service in 22/23 were mainly White ethnic background (89%), 8% of young people were mixed ethnicity/heritage which is similar to Blackpool population. The large majority were boys (84%) vastly disproportionate to overall population however similar to national Youth Justice Service pattern (86%). 20% of children assessed by the youth justice service in 22/23 had been in care at some point in their lives (a

reduction on 21/22 which stood at 25%).

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations

12.1 There are no sustainability, climate change or environmental factors to consider.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken

13.1 Blackpool's Youth Justice Service recognise that children and families are more likely to feel motivated to engage with support when they feel understood, valued, and heard. Capturing the voice of the child and using this to inform individual plans and the continued development of our service is a fundamental part of the services function. Please see Appendix 7.3 for an example case study.

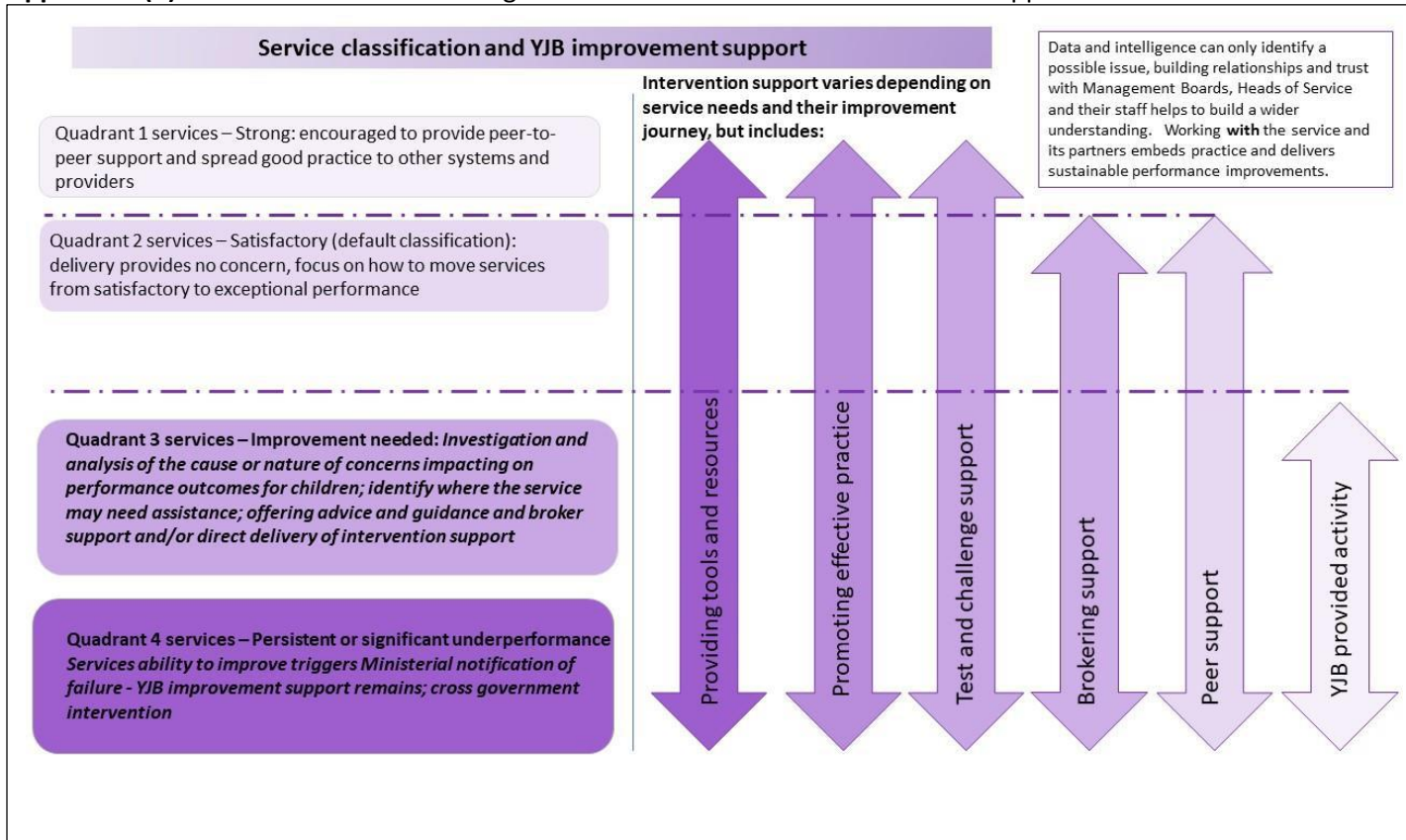
14.0 Background papers

14.1 None.

Appendix 7(a): Cover sheet of Blackpool Youth Justice Plan 2023-24



Appendix 7(b): Youth Justice Board oversight framework service classification and support.



Restorative Justice – Making things right

X's Story

The initial Incident

X aged 15 was involved in an assault against another pupil at his school; which caused significant physical harm to the victim.

What happened

X was charged and attended Blackpool Youth Court where he was made subject to a 12 month Referral Order which included:

- Relationship building with X Youth Justice Officer.
- X to continue with his positive interests/activities.
- Referral to Divert Youth for mentoring support and football coaching opportunities.
- X to complete a Parachute Project to develop skills to handle problems and conflict without resorting to violence.
- Explore with X his knowledge and understanding of victims and reparation.
- X to develop a plan for making amends.
- All professionals to promote a sense of optimism about the future and encourage X future aspirations.

How is it going

X has worked alongside his Youth Justice Office for 10 months now and has not received and further convictions. X has successfully completed all of the goals on his intervention plan, with excellent attendance and engagement.

X participated in weekly Parachute Sessions to:

- *Develop self-awareness and self-control*
- *Promote positive social skills*
- *Teach pro-social problem-solving skills*
- *Increase confidence and self-esteem*
- *Improve decision making*

X contributed to victim awareness raising sessions.

Following intervention X shared 'I feel like I've matured'.

Last month X supported by his family took part in the Colour Run 2023.

Mum: 'X has tried so hard to be a nicer better person, he has changed and grown in the last few months. He is caring and loving. I'm very proud of him and so is his dad. At times, X has felt his whole world has ended because of this incident and not wanted to move forward but he has made changes and tries every day to better himself. He puts all his energy into football and training and he is looking forward to the future. He has been keeping his head down at school and hopes to get five GCSE's, he would have been able to achieve more had he gone back to mainstream. He has applied to college. He knows what he did was wrong and wouldn't ever do anything like that again'.

The Colour Run

In order to make amends for his offending behaviour X agreed to take part in community reparation.

We agreed that a charity run would be perfect for X as it would be meaningful to him and allow him to make a positive contribution.

X and his family worked hard with getting sponsorship and donations. X raised £175 for Trinity Hospice.

'I'm proud of my medal',

'I would do something like that again',

'It was good to give something back and to help others'.