



# Full Council Report

## ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

Meeting	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
Date	<b>17 JULY 2024</b>
Title	<b>ISLE OF WIGHT YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE (IOW YJS) ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024/25</b>
Report of	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND CORPORATE FUNCTIONS</b>

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## Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Isle of Wight Youth Justice Service (IOW YJS) Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 to Full Council, which is attached at Appendix 1. The endorsement of the plan by Full Council is required in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000.

## Recommendation

2. That the Isle of Wight Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 be endorsed.

## Background

3. The Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 each year and is necessary to release payment of the annual grant. The 2024/25 plan was submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) on the 28 June 2024 following full engagement with our partners.
4. The YJB is the oversight authority to all Youth Justice Services in England and Wales. It sits within the Ministry of Justice. The plan is written within a set format which is provided by the YJB, and a link is provided here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services>
5. The purpose of the Youth Justice Service is to work with children to support them to avoid offending and reoffending. It achieves this through its statutory partnership

with other agencies: Police, Local authority, Health, and Probation. Under the Crime and Disorder Act, these partnerships are hosted by the Local authority and in most services, within Children's Services.

6. Following the creation of a new Children's Services Directorate within the Isle of Wight Council on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, the Island's Youth Justice Service sits within the children's social care area of the new directorate.
7. The IOW YJS is accountable to a partnership management board. Following the cessation of the partnership with Hampshire County Council on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, the board is chaired by the IOW Council's Strategic Director of Children's Services and relates only to the Island (whereas previously there was a joint board for Hampshire and the Island).

## **Corporate Priorities and Strategic Context**

### **Responding to climate change and enhancing the biosphere**

8. Whilst not directly referred to in the Youth Justice plan, the IOW YJS can impact on this priority through the management of staff and the influence we have over children under our supervision.
9. Staffing activity which can have an impact includes:
  - (a) Youth Justice Staff are required to visit children in their homes and school environment. This does require travel. Staff are encouraged to undertake successive journeys at a time to reduce mileage. Further, to access pool cars which are powered by electricity are available.
  - (b) Staff remain working at home for part of the week which has reduced the amount of travel into County Hall, however, this is offset against the additional heating costs they may have at home.
  - (c) Microsoft Teams will remain a way of facilitating meetings to avoid unnecessary staff travel. Further, printing is discouraged unless necessary.
10. Influence the children we work with by:
  - (a) Providing reparation projects which are linked to the environment, for example using the allotments and litter picking.
  - (b) Encouraging children to maximise the information available by attending school.
  - (c) Encourage apprentices in green companies by working with Island Futures.

### **Economic Recovery and Reducing Poverty**

11. It is the IOW YJS vision for the children it works with to lead happy safe and healthy lives. This involves them achieving their full potential away from the Criminal Justice System.
12. The IOW YJS understands that this vision can in part be achieved through all children accessing education, accordingly it seeks to work with children and their partners to achieve this. There are clear links between our vision and that of the IOW Council's in relation to reducing poverty.

## **Impact on Young People and Future Generations**

13. This places a duty for children to have an active voice in decision making on matters that affect them. This continues to be part of our Service Delivery plan for 2024/25.
14. The plan has an inherently positive impact on young people and future generations.

## **Corporate Aims**

15. The IOW YJS works with various partners who link to the Corporate Plan including Public Health, Children's Services and Community Safety.
16. Regarding Public Health, the YJS assesses the health needs of all children under our supervision and identifying how these needs are addressed. This includes referral to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and substance misuse provider where required.
17. With reference to the wider Children's Services family, they continue to be a key partner for example through:
  - (a) Co-working with children and families where they are open to both services. This includes joint plans to meet their needs.
  - (b) Working together with education partners to ensure children are in school and achieving their full potential.
18. Finally, the IOW YJS works directly with the local Community Safety Partnership to deliver key priorities for community safety. This includes the Serious Violence Duty, the reduction of crime, antisocial behaviour, and disorder, reduce reoffending and prevention of radicalisation (counter terrorism).

## **Consultation**

19. The Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 has been informed by the views and opinions of a wide range of stakeholders. These include those of young people and families as described within the plan including on pages 22 and 23. The Youth Justice Management Board held a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June specifically to ensure that the wide range of organisations involved in supporting young people and families involved in local arrangements had their say. The plan is also informed by other arrangements such as board meetings and ongoing feedback from young people.

## **Financial / Budget Implications**

20. In 2023/24 YJS expenditure was £822k, resulting in a balance at the end of the financial year of £69k.
21. The Youth Justice Board grant for 2024/25 has not yet been confirmed.
22. More detailed financial information, including on the financial contributions of the Police, Probation and Health, is available on pages 24 and 25 of the plan.

## **Legal Implications**

23. It is a legal requirement for the council, after consultation with the relevant person and bodies, to produce and implement an annual Youth Justice Plan. Parliament, through regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended, requires Full Council to endorse the Youth Justice Plan.

## **Equality and Diversity**

24. All children are assessed during their initial assessment. Work continues relating to the overrepresentation of certain groups within the Youth Justice System. Priority 10 of the plan for 2024/25 relates specifically to addressing disproportionality across a range of minority groups including ethnicity, gender (specifically girls), special educational needs and disability, and children in care.

## **Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

25. The Youth Justice Plan details how the IOW YJS works to prevent and address offending on the Isle of Wight. It achieves this by working in partnership with the local council and other relevant agencies. Accordingly, it complies with the duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by Police and Justice Act 2006).

## **Options**

26. There is one option identified in this report which is to endorse the Youth Justice Plan 2024/25. However, any requested amendments can be made to the plan and resubmitted to the Youth Justice Board.

## **Risk Management**

27. Within the Youth Justice Plan the risks, opportunities and challenges for the forthcoming year are detailed on page 19.

## **Evaluation**

28. The 2024/25 plan is translated into a local service delivery plan for the coming year and is evaluated throughout the year. It is then reviewed in the 2025/26 plan.

## **Appendices Attached**

29. Appendix 1 is the Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25.

## **Background Papers**

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