

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET
MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2001 AT 10.00 AM**

**COUNTY COUNCIL
THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2001 AT 10.30 AM**

Agenda item no:

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DRAFT YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE PLAN 2001/2002

Report of the Director of Social Services

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1. Purpose of the Report

To seek approval to the Draft Youth Justice Plan 2001/2002.

2. Summary

The Draft Youth Justice Plan for 2001/02 was considered by the Cabinet on 18 December 2000. The Cabinet agreed the following proposals for consideration by the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee on 24 January 2001:

“That the draft Youth Justice Plan 2001/2002 be approved.”

The views of the CSF Select Committee will be reported to the Cabinet meeting.

The 1998 Crime & Disorder Act established that every local authority has a duty to act in co-operation with the Police Authority, Probation Committee and Health Authorities to work towards the prevention of offending by children and young people.

In order to achieve this, each local authority has a duty to establish one or more Youth Offending Teams (4 across Hertfordshire), funded by the agencies listed above and staffed by at least one Probation Officer, Police Officer, Social Worker, person nominated by Education and person nominated by Health.

This is the second Youth Justice Plan, and reviews the work undertaken in the past year to establish the teams, develop a formula for funding them and their

management and report on the achievements against the six National Objectives for the service which are:

- i. The swift administration of justice, so that every young person accused of breaking the law has the matter resolved without delay.
- ii. Confronting young offenders with the consequences of their offending.
- iii. Intervention to tackle particular factors that put a young person at risk of offending and strengthen positive factors.
- iv. Punishment should be proportionate to the seriousness/persistence of offending.
- v. Encouraging reparation to victims.
- vi. Reinforcing the responsibilities of parents.

The Youth Justice Service is a true multi-agency approach with a “Steering Group” overseen by the Chief Executive and the Chief Officer Group on Criminal Justice and four teams, drawn from the contributing agencies. The report is currently out to all the agencies for consultation, as well as with other significant groups such as Courts.

In order to meet the demands of both a consultation process and the democratic process within the local authority, while still submitting the report by the end of January to the Youth Justice Board, it has been necessary to consult prior to all the statistical evidence being available. However, this should not significantly alter the targets for 2001/2002 or the projected service costs.

3. **Conclusion**

The Cabinet is asked to consider the views of the CSF Select Committee and make appropriate proposals to the County Council.

Note: The Youth Justice Plan is part of the Policy Framework and requires the approval of the County Council.

4. **Background**

The Youth Justice Service, although the duty of the Chief Executive, is managed by an Assistant Director, Social Services, working to a Steering Group chaired by the County Secretary and supervised by the Director of Social Services in her executive capacity.

The Social Services Committee accepted the first Youth Justice Plan in February 2000 and it was signed off by the Chief Executive and directors/chief

officers of the contributing agencies and received by the Youth Justice Board and approved.

With the arrangements for the Children, Schools and Families department coming into place from April 2001, it is planned that the Youth Justice Service will be managed by the Director of the new service in his executive capacity, with the current multi-agency Steering Group remaining in place and reporting to the Chief Executive of the County Council.

The Youth Justice Board requires the 2001/2002 Annual Plan to be with them by end of January 2001, and for it to have been approved by the local authority and partner agencies in advance of submission. The attached plan will require some review during its progress through Cabinet, as responses to consultation are received from the partner agencies.

5. Financial Implications

The Youth Justice Service comprises the Youth Offending Teams and the Young Citizens Project.

The Youth Offending Teams are financed according to a formula used in most local authority areas nationally and adopted locally in June 2000. This will be the first pooled budget to follow this approach and, after further negotiation between the Chief Executive and partner agencies, is as follows:

Social Services	30 staff +	£305,723
Education	2 staff +	£ 20,403
Police	9 staff +	£ 91,722
Probation	4 staff +	£ 14,389
Health	2 staff +	£ 20,403

Young Citizens' Project

Social Services	£298,000
Youth Justice Board	£253,000

These figures are slightly amended from those in the text of the Plan which will be adjusted in the final version.

The North Herts Youth Offending Team is due to move from the current premises, shared with the Valley School. The financial implications of this are not yet known as, at the time of writing, feasibility studies are still underway on The Old Court House, Hitchin, the proposed venue.