

YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE PLAN 2001/2002

Report of the Director of Social Services considered by Cabinet on 29 January 2001

Executive Member: - Derrick Ashley

The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 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.

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.

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.

1. The Plan

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 Plan is part of the Policy Framework and requires the approval of the County Council.

The draft Plan for 2001/02 was considered by the Cabinet on 18 December 2000 and referred for consideration by the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee.

The Select Committee on 24 January welcomed the Plan and key role of parents within it, though pointed out that there were some gaps in provision which needed to be addressed.

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, 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.

2. CABINET PROPOSAL FOR COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVAL

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