
Somerset Youth Justice Plan 2023 - 2024

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Executive Lead Member:

Division / Local Member:

1. Summary

- 1.1.** Submission Of Somerset Youth Justice Plan (23/24) to scrutiny to seek full council sign off in September 2023.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services in line with Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – which sets out the youth justice partnership’s responsibilities in producing a plan. The Act 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.** [Youth justice plans: guidance for youth justice services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services)

The annual Somerset youth justice plan aims to meet these requirements – The Plan is an opportunity for the Local Authority and its Youth Justice Partnership Board to review performance and developments over a single year period and plan for the forthcoming year.

- 1.2.** Somerset Childrens Plan

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1.** Note the contents of the Youth Justice Plan submission, including review of previous year’s performance and plans for the forthcoming year.
- 2.2.** Note and accept both the annual Youth Justice Plan and the Somerset Youth Justice Board 2-year strategic plan for 2023 – 2025.

3. Background

3.1.

As required, the annual Youth Justice Plan for 2023-24, was submitted to the national Youth Justice Board (YJB) on June 30th, 2023, and further retrospective full council sign off in September is requested.

The Chair of the Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board, Superintendent Richard Turner of Avon & Somerset Police, has signed the Plan on behalf of the Board for its submission to the YJB, in his capacity as Board Chair. Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board have been consulted on both the annual plan and the strategy.

The Plan outlines our achievements, challenges, and progress over the previous year including our performance against the national key performance indicators for Youth Justice, National standards for children in the youth justice system (2018) and our Partnerships strategic priorities for 2021 – 2023.

The Plan also provides an operational route map, our approach, ethos, principles, functions, service demand, delivery structures and most importantly the quality and impact of our work to achieve justice for children in Somerset.

Service Improvements have featured highly for us as a service and partnership, particularly over the last few years – and the Youth Justice team will be subject to an Inspection most likely before the end of this financial year.

- 3.2.** With this in mind, we have been mindful to include our inspection readiness work as part of this year's Youth Justice Plan, which we determine as our ongoing commitment to improvement of services to children, so they receive the best possible if not outstanding support as 'children first'.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board's statutory and non-statutory partners, membership & Somerset Youth Justice Team.

5. Background papers

- 5.1.** Somerset Youth Justice Plan 2023 - 2024 and Somerset Youth Justice Partnership Board Strategy 2023 – 2025 (Contact Liz Reina – Business Support)

Helen MacDonald – Operations Manager Somerset Youth Justice Team/Prevention Services.