

**Working Group on Youth Justice – Report from the Children’s Services
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Portfolio Holder: Children’s

Service: Children’s Services

Ward(s) All

1. Aim

To present the final report and recommendations of the Working Group on Youth Justice, which was established by the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Summary

At its meeting on 7 November 2019, the Committee established a working group to carry out an examination of the Youth Justice Service, following an inspection by HMIP.

In order to gain further understanding of these issues, the Working Group held six meetings during its investigations, taking into account the views of four witnesses.

The Working Group presented its final report and recommendations to the Committee on 10th November 2020. A copy of the report is attached at Appendix 1 and it provides the Working Group’s findings.

3. Recommendation

That the Cabinet considers implementing the recommendations from the report of the Working Group on Youth Justice.

4. Report detail – Know

Following its establishment, the Working Group identified the following two recommendations from ‘Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons’ (HMIP) for further investigation:

1. Review the budget allocation to the Youth Justice Service to determine the correct level of resource that allows the service to undertake the function well.

2. To make sure that all children and young people working with the youth justice system receive their full entitlement to education and that provision is tailored to their specific needs (post 16)

The Working Group reviewed evidence from interviews with witnesses and formulated the conclusions and recommendations that are featured in the attached report.

On 10 November 2020, the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Working Group's report. The Committee approved the recommendations, and resolved to recommend to the Cabinet:

That the Cabinet receive the report of the Youth Justice Working Group, consider the recommendations contained therein and decide what action, if any, it wishes to undertake.

5. Council Corporate Plan

Children have the best start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.

6. Decide

Overview and Scrutiny Committees can make recommendations to decision-making bodies. In order for their recommendations to be implemented, they need to be considered and agreed by decision-making bodies such as Cabinet.

7. Respond

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also indicated that it would wish to receive further reports to its future meetings on the implementation and monitoring of the recommendations of the Working Group's report.

8. Review

Subject to any of the Working Group's recommendations being agreed, then reports will be presented to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet, as necessary.

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