



Walsall Council

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **WEDNESDAY the TWENTY SIXTH day of MAY 2021 at 6.00 p.m.** at The Town Hall, Leicester Street, Walsall, WS1 1PT

Public access via: <https://youtu.be/aQukj2qCF0o>

Dated this 18th day of May, 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:

1. Apologies.
2. Election of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.
3. Appointment of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.
4. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th February, 2021 – enclosed (Pages 3 – 14)
5. Mayor's announcements.
6. Declarations of interest.

7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**
To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
8. **Election results – 6th May 2021** - Report enclosed.(pages 15 – 19)
9. **Formation of Political Groups** - Report *to follow*.
10. **Members appointed to the Executive** - Schedule enclosed (pages 20 – 22)
11. **Constitution and timetable of meetings 2021/2022** - Report enclosed (pages 23 – 35).
12. **To appoint members to serve on Committees** - Schedule enclosed. (pages 36 – 38)
13. **To appoint Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees** - Schedule enclosed. (page 39)
14. **Appointment of representatives on outside bodies and charities.** To appoint representatives to serve on outside bodies and charities.

(Note: Document to be circulated prior to the meeting.)
15. To confirm the following recommendations of **Cabinet** (pages 40 – 87)
Youth Justice Annual Strategic Plan
 1. That Walsall’s Youth Justice Annual Strategic plan be approved.
 2. That the Executive Director Children’s Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder be authorised to make any future minor amendments to the plan if and when required.
(Note: Report of Cabinet reproduced for this meeting)
16. **Extension of Term of Office – Independent Person – Audit and Standards Committee** - Report enclosed (pages 88 – 90)



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Thursday 25th February, 2021 at 6.00 p.m. Digital meeting via Microsoft Teams.**

Held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; and conducted according to the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings and those set out in the Council's Constitution.

Present

Councillor P. Bott (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor R. Burley (Deputy Mayor)

“ G. Ali
“ B. Allen
“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.J. Barker
“ H. Bashir
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ O. Butler
“ B. Chattha
“ A.G. Clarke
“ S.J. Cooper
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ S.K. Ditta
“ B. Douglas-Maul
“ K. Ferguson
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ M. Follows
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ A.J. Hicken
“ K. Hussain
“ L.D. Jeavons
“ S. Johal

Councillor T.J. Jukes

“ P. Kaur
“ M. Longhi
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ F. Mazhar
“ J. Murray
“ S. Nasreen
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ A.S. Nazir
“ G. Perry
“ W. Rasab
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ I.C. Robertson
“ S. Samra
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ S. Sohal
“ I. Shires
“ C.A. Statham
“ M.A. Statham
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ A. Underhill
“ M. Ward
“ S. Wade
“ V.J. Waters
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

118. **Welcome**

At this point, the Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the digital meeting of the Council.

The rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held was explained and members of the public viewing the meeting were directed to the papers which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

All members confirmed that they could see and hear the proceedings.

119. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillors Creaney and Neville.

120. **Minutes**

The Mayor moved approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January, 2021.

This was duly seconded by Councillor Bird. The motion was put to the vote by way of a roll-call, declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January, 2021 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record.

121. **To approve a correction to the Minutes held on 27th February, 2020**

The Mayor moved approval of a correction to the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February, 2020.

This was duly seconded by Councillor Bird. The motion was put to the vote by way of a roll-call, declared carried and it was:

Resolved

- (a) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th February, 2020 and approved on 14th September, 2020 be amended to correct an inaccuracy subsequently discovered, as set out in appendix 'A' to the report as submitted; and
- (b) The Monitoring Officer make a note against the original minutes indicating the subsequent corrections

122. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

123. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items in private session.

124. **Mayor's announcements**

Death of former Councillor Dave Turner

The Mayor referred to the death of former Councillor Dave Turner. Members paid tribute to former Councillor Dave Turner, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That this Council have heard with deep regret of the death of Dave Turner, a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from May 1990 to May 2014 and places on record their appreciation of his services to the borough over a period of many years and expresses its condolences to his family at this sad time.

125. **Petitions**

The following petition was submitted:

Councillor Richard Worrall - Traffic Calming Measures at Barns Lane, Rushall.

126. **Recommendations of Cabinet**

(a) **Corporate Plan 2021-2022 Refresh**

The report to Cabinet on 10th February, 2021 was submitted.

Councillor Bird moved the approval of the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Andrew.

The motion was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of members and subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That the refreshed 2021-22 Corporate Plan be approved.

(b) **Corporate Budget Plan 2021/22 to 2023/24, incorporating the Capital Strategy; and the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2021/22.**

The report to Cabinet on 10th February, 2021 was submitted.

The Mayor reminded members that a recorded vote would be required on the final budget recommendation.

He also said that the final precepts and settlements had now been received and there were no changes to the figures in the budget recommendation.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew:

That the following be approved:

3.3.1 Revenue

- a) The financial envelope of resources for 2021/22 as set out in **Section B - Part 1** "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan".
- b) A Walsall Council net council tax requirement for 2021/22 of £132.55m and a 4.99% increase in council tax (inclusive of 3% precept for Adult Social Care).
- c) That the recommendations of the S151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations and the adequacy of reserves **be approved**, including the levels of central contingency and an opening general reserve of no less than £16.64m, as set out in the S151 Officer Section 25 statement in **Annex 12** of the Budget Plan.
- d) The final levies below for outside bodies:

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Levy	11,182,889
Environment Agency	83,781

- e) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended), and subject to any final changes arising from receipt of final specific grant allocations, and technical/legislative guidance:
 - I. **£660,041,370** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
 - II. **£527,495,589** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - III. **£132,545,781** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (e) (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (e) (II), calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
 - IV. **£1,871.87** being the amount at (e) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of 70,809.41, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (average council tax at band D).
 - V. Valuation bands

Being amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) (IV) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Local Government Act 1992, is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands.

A	B	C	D
1,247.91	1,455.90	1,663.88	1,871.87
E	F	G	H
2,287.84	2,703.81	3,119.78	3,743.73

- f) The final precepts from the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner, issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
	A	B	C	D
Police And Crime Commissioner	118.37	138.09	157.82	177.55
	E	F	G	H
	217.01	256.46	295.92	355.10
Fire & Rescue	42.02	49.03	56.03	63.04
	E	F	G	H
	77.04	91.05	105.06	126.07

- g) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (e) (v) and (f) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D
1,408.30	1,643.02	1,877.73	2,112.46
E	F	G	H
2,581.89	3,051.32	3,520.76	4,224.90

- h) That notice **be given** of the council tax within twenty one days of it being set by publishing details of the same in the "Express and Star" newspaper circulating in the Authority's area.
- i) That the S151 Officer **be instructed** to take all necessary action in relation to council tax, community charge and national non-domestic rates, including, where appropriate, the signing of all documents, billing, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- j) That the S151 Officer **be given delegated authority** to make transfers to and from reserves in order to ensure that reserves are maintained as necessary and in particular, adjusted when reserves are no longer required, or need to be replenished.

- k) That, pursuant to Section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the relevant basic amount of council tax for the Council is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required.

3.3.2 Capital

- a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in **Section B - Part 1** “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan” and that the capital and leasing programme as set out in **Annex 9 be approved** bearing in mind the principle that unless affordable from within current resources, specific projects funded by borrowing will not be commenced until a payback agreement is in place. Schemes funded from grant will commence when final allocations are published. Reserve list items will only commence should funding become available during the financial year.
- b) That the S151 Officer be **given delegated authority** to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall capital programme and to alter the overall mix of financing as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the council.
- c) That the S151 Officer, after consultation with the Leader (portfolio holder for finance), be **given delegated authority** to release capital resources held back for any contingent items that may arise (earmarked capital receipts for essential or emergency spend), and also for any match funding requirements that may be required of the Council in order to secure additional external capital funding (e.g. bids for government or other funding).
- d) The Capital Strategy set out in **Annex 8** of the Budget Plan **be approved**.
- e) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy set out in **Annex 11** of the Budget Plan be approved.

3.3.3 Treasury Management

- a) **Section B – Part 2A** – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2021/22 onwards, including the council’s borrowing requirement, borrowing limits, and the adoption of the prudential indicators, **be approved**.
- b) That decisions to effect movements between conventional borrowing and other long term liabilities, such as leases, **be delegated** to the S151 Officer.
- c) That decisions to use capital receipts or borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators **be delegated** to the S151 Officer.
- d) **Section B – Part 2B** – Treasury Management Policies, **be approved**.

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried – the voting being recorded as follows:

**For the motion –
30 members**

Cllr: Bird
Ali
Allen
Andrew
Butler
Chattha
Clarke
Cooper
Craddock
Douglas-Maul
Ferguson
Follows
Harris
Harrison
Hicken
Johal
Kaur
Martin
Murray
Perry
Rasab
Rattigan
Samra
Sears
Sohal
C. Statham
M. Statham
Towe
Waters
Wilson

**Against the motion –
26 members**

Cllr: Nawaz
Shires
Barker
Bashir
C. Bott
P. Bott
Burley
D. Coughlan
S. Coughlan
Ditta
Fitzpatrick
Gultasib
Hussain
Jeavons
Jukes
Mazhar
Nasreen
A. Nazir
M. Nazir
Robertson
Sarohi
Underhill
Ward
Wade
Worrall
Young

and it was:

Resolved

That the following be approved:

3.3.1 Revenue

- a) The financial envelope of resources for 2021/22 as set out in **Section B - Part 1** “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- b) A Walsall Council net council tax requirement for 2021/22 of £132.55m and a 4.99% increase in council tax (inclusive of 3% precept for Adult Social Care).
- c) That the recommendations of the S151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations and the adequacy of reserves **be approved**, including the levels of central contingency

and an opening general reserve of no less than £16.64m, as set out in the S151 Officer Section 25 statement in **Annex 12** of the Budget Plan.

d) The final levies below for outside bodies:

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Levy	11,182,889
Environment Agency	83,781

e) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended), and subject to any final changes arising from receipt of final specific grant allocations, and technical/legislative guidance:

VI. **£660,041,370** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act.

VII. **£527,495,589** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.

VIII. **£132,545,781** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (e) (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (e) (II), calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.

IX. **£1,871.87** being the amount at (e) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of 70,809.41, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (average council tax at band D).

X. Valuation bands

Being amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) (IV) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Local Government Act 1992, is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands.

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1,247.91	1,455.90	1,663.88	1,871.87
E	F	G	H
2,287.84	2,703.81	3,119.78	3,743.73

h) The final precepts from the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner, issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
	A	B	C	D
Police And	118.37	138.09	157.82	177.55
	E	F	G	H

Crime	217.01	256.46	295.92	355.10
Fire & Rescue	A	B	C	D
	42.02	49.03	56.03	63.04
	E	F	G	H
	77.04	91.05	105.06	126.07

- i) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (e) (v) and (f) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

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E	F	G	H
2,581.89	3,051.32	3,520.76	4,224.90

- h) That notice **be given** of the council tax within twenty one days of it being set by publishing details of the same in the “Express and Star” newspaper circulating in the Authority’s area.
- i) That the S151 Officer **be instructed** to take all necessary action in relation to council tax, community charge and national non-domestic rates, including, where appropriate, the signing of all documents, billing, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- j) That the S151 Officer **be given delegated authority** to make transfers to and from reserves in order to ensure that reserves are maintained as necessary and in particular, adjusted when reserves are no longer required, or need to be replenished.
- k) That, pursuant to Section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the relevant basic amount of council tax for the Council is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required.

3.3.2 Capital

- a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in **Section B - Part 1** “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan” and that the capital and leasing programme as set out in **Annex 9 be approved** bearing in mind the principle that unless affordable from within current resources, specific projects funded by borrowing will not be commenced until a payback agreement is in place. Schemes funded from grant will commence when final allocations are published. Reserve list items will only commence should funding become available during the financial year.
- b) That the S151 Officer **be given delegated authority** to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall capital programme and to alter the overall mix of financing as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the council.

- c) That the S151 Officer, after consultation with the Leader (portfolio holder for finance), be **given delegated authority** to release capital resources held back for any contingent items that may arise (earmarked capital receipts for essential or emergency spend), and also for any match funding requirements that may be required of the Council in order to secure additional external capital funding (e.g. bids for government or other funding).
- d) The Capital Strategy set out in **Annex 8** of the Budget Plan **be approved**.
- f) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy set out in **Annex 11** of the Budget Plan be approved.

3.3.3 Treasury Management

- e) **Section B – Part 2A** – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2021/22 onwards, including the council’s borrowing requirement, borrowing limits, and the adoption of the prudential indicators, **be approved**.
- f) That decisions to effect movements between conventional borrowing and other long term liabilities, such as leases, **be delegated** to the S151 Officer.
- g) That decisions to use capital receipts or borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators **be delegated** to the S151 Officer.
- h) **Section B – Part 2B** – Treasury Management Policies, **be approved**.

127. **Recommendation of Personnel Committee - Pay policy statement and living wage 2021/22**

The report to Personnel Committee on 8th February, 2021 was submitted.

Councillor Bird moved the approval of the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Andrew.

The motion was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of members and subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved

- 1) That the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/2022 be approved; and
- 2) That the continuation of the living wage be approved.

128. **Appointment of Independent Persons**

A report was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Rasab, seconded by Councillor Andrew and:

Resolved

That:-

- (1) Sureya Ajaz be appointed as an independent person on the Council's Audit and Standards Committee for a period of 4 years;
- (2) Deborah Mardner be appointed as an independent person on the Council's Standards Committee for a period of 4 years;
- (3) Carl Magness be appointed as an independent person on the Council's Standards Committee for a period of 4 years; and
- (4) Council notes that Independent Persons (Standards) shall be paid an allowance of £750.00 per annum

129. Independent Remuneration Panel

A report was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird, seconded by Councillor Andrew and:

Resolved

That:

1. The Basic Allowance be increased from £11,146 to £11,938;
2. The Special Responsibility Allowances be increased as per option 3 as set out within the Independent Remuneration Report as follows:-

	Option 3
Council Leader	£33,325
Deputy Leader	£20,614
Cabinet Member	£16,787
Opposition Leader	£11,158
Chair of Scrutiny	£10,821
Chair of Planning	£11,006
Chair of Licensing	£10,478
Chair of Audit	£8,551
Chair of Standards	£5,348
Chair other Cttes	£5,348

3. Where an Special Responsibility Allowance is allocated to the second deputy leader, then his or her Special Responsibility Allowance should be the same as that of the first deputy leader, as set out in the table in recommendation 2 above;
4. In the same circumstances, the Special Responsibility Allowance allocated to the opposition leader should be Option 3 - £12,581;

5. It be noted that some of the expenditure in the above table may not be claimed, in cases where members hold two positions eligible for SRAs; and
6. That it be noted that the figures for expenditure on members' allowances in the above table may need to be adjusted to allow for national insurance payments.

130. **Membership of Committees.**

It was duly noted that that Councillor Nawaz had replaced Councillor Jeavons for the remainder of the municipal year on Corporate Parenting Board and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.

Annual Council – 26th May 2021

Election results – 6th May 2021

1. Summary of report

This report sets out the results of the local elections held on 6th May 2021 and the percentage turnout.

2. Recommendations

That the contents of the report be noted.

Background papers

Nil

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Paterson', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chief Executive

Date: 18 May 2021

Local elections – 6th May 2021

Names of candidates	No. of votes Polled	Candidate(s) elected
Aldridge Central and South		
Akhtar, Shaz	648	
Bates, Jonathan	199	
Chan, Guan Khai	241	
Wilson, Tim	3498	Tim Wilson
Turnout: 41.81%		
Aldridge North and Walsall Wood		
Bruce, Michael Anthony	609	
Crosby, Isaac Ben	154	
Petrovic, Tanya	161	
Sears, Keith	2321	Keith Sears
Turnout: 32.42%		
Bentley and Darlaston North		
Nijjar, Sukhy	1089	
Underhill, Angela	1399	Angela Underhill
Turnout: 25.88%		
Birchills-Leamore		
Hussain, Amo	1586	
Jukes, Tina Joan	1060	
Pitt, Kevin Martin	102	
Wild, Paul Andrew	66	
Williams, Elaine Ruth	99	Amo Hussain
Turnout: 27.10%		
Blakenall		
Mohammed, Saghir	533	
Smith, Pete	805	Pete Smith
Ward, Matt	792	
Turnout: 21.81%		

Names of candidates	No. of votes Polled	Candidate(s) elected
Bloxwich East		
Flint, Gary James	1385	Gary James Flint
Phillips, Kath	903	
Turnout: 25.68%		
Bloxwich West		
Allen, Bradley Craig	1892	Bradley Craig Allen
Hodges, Stuart Ronald	113	
Matthews, Robert William	88	
Morgan, David Huw	728	
Turnout: 28.95%		
Brownhills		
Chapman, Lee Michael James	162	Kerry Murphy
Karim, Hamza	46	
Murphy, Kerry	1526	
Parker, Phil	88	
Wade, Steve	953	
Turnout: 28.32%		
Darlaston South		
Bennett, Derek	873	Chris Bott
Bott, Chris	1533	
Turnout: 22.44%		
Paddock		
Ali, Nasar	1759	Nick Gandham
Gandham, Nick	2194	
Watts, Roger	222	
Turnout: 42.62%		
Palfrey		
Ditta, Sabina Kausar	2519	Sabina Kausar Ditta
Khan, Moz	1307	
Turnout: 35.12%		

Names of candidates	No. of votes polled	Candidate(s) elected
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Pelsall (3 seats available)

Ahmed, Shamim	319	
Eardley, Graham	242	
Lane, Patti	381	
Lee, Deborah Elizabeth	275	
Lee, Ed	1430	
Maltman, Jon	495	Ed Lee
Martin, Rose Ann	1436	Rose Ann Martin
Perry, Garry	2208	Garry Perry

Turnout: 33.47%

Pheasey Park Farm

Andrew, Adrian John Austin	2156	
Barker, Matthew George	99	
Maynard, Andrea Monica	128	
White, Trish	650	Adrian John Austin Andrew

Turnout: 34.22%

Pleck

Gultasib, Naheed Zohra	2310	
Miah, Jitu	778	Naheed Zohra Gultasib

Turnout: 30.81%

Rushall-Shelfield

Davies, Jade Elizabeth	184	
Shmim, Sawra	1239	
Worrall, Richard Vernon	1426	Richard Vernon Worrall

Turnout: 30.16%

Short Heath

Barker, Daniel	608	
Pfebve, Elliot	539	
Whitehouse, Josh	1353	Josh Whitehouse

Turnout: 28.40%

Names of candidates	No. of votes polled	Candidate(s) elected
St. Matthews		
Nazir, Abdus Samad	2162	Abdus Samad Nazir
Walters, Michael John	525	
Yaqoob, Mohammed	1565	
Turnout: 38.84%		

Streetly

Coulson, Michael John	678	Keir Edward Pedley
Gray, Jennifer Eileen	493	
Pedley, Keir Edward	2904	
Walters, Alison Mary	205	
Turnout: 40.22%		

Willenhall North

Elson, Stacie Ann	1276	Stacie Ann Elson
Harrison, Carl Stephen	63	
Moreton, Stephen Ronald	608	
Shires, Ian	825	
Turnout: 29.71%		

Willenhall South

Coughlan, Sean Patrick	1577	Sean Patrick Coughlan
Hodges, Ben	142	
Kaur Garcha, Amandeep	1229	
Turnout: 25.41%		

Percentage poll over the whole of the Borough – 31.25%

Council - 26 May 2021

Members appointed to Executive – Portfolio Responsibilities including Outcomes Lead (10.5.21)

The Council has 5 Corporate Priorities – Economic Growth, People, Internal Focus, Children and Communities. These are underpinned by 10 Outcomes.

Each Portfolio Holder has been designated with at least one Outcome Lead. It is recognised however, that each of the outcomes are cross-cutting in nature and therefore linkages will be made with all portfolios to deliver these outcomes.

Description of portfolio	Names of portfolio holder
<p>Leader of the Council</p> <p><i>Services are efficient and deliver value for money</i></p> <p>Overall responsibility for Council strategy, the Corporate Plan, Proud Programme, communications and public relations, emergency planning, government relations and liaison with local MPs and West Midlands leaders. West Midlands Combined Authority, Association of Black Country Authorities and Black Country Joint Committee. Transformation and digital (inc Information Governance) . Finance including payroll and pensions, insurance, risk management, financial reporting, policy led budgeting and MTFO. Financial Regulations, Audit, Counter Fraud and Corruption, Treasury Management, financial systems, external funding Legal and Democratic Services, Performance. Member Development. Governance Business Insights (intelligence) Policy and Strategy Unit</p>	<p>Cllr Mike Bird</p>
<p>Deputy Leader and Regeneration</p> <p><i>Creating an environment where business invests and everyone who wants a job can access one;</i></p> <p><i>Housing meets all people’s needs, is affordable safe and warm.</i></p> <p>Statutory Deputy Leader as required by Schedule A1 of Local Government Act 2000</p> <p>Economic development, physical development, markets, property and strategic asset management, Black Country Consortium, sub regional regeneration issues. Town and district centres, planning policy and local development framework. Strategic housing role. Traffic and transportation, car parks, strategic transport and highways. Business liaison. Customer</p>	<p>Cllr Adrian Andrew</p>

<p>Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities</p> <p><i>Children grow up in connected communities and feel safe everywhere</i></p> <p>Oversight role for all Cabinet portfolios;</p> <p>Resilient Communities including Locality co-ordination, community development, engagement and consultation, community associations, voluntary and community sectors, Community Safety, community cohesion, Safer Walsall Partnership, public protection. Leisure and culture services including the New Art Gallery, libraries, sports and museums. Cemeteries and crematoria.</p>	<p>Cllr Garry Perry</p>
<p>Education and Skills</p> <p><i>Education, training and skills enable people to fulfil their personal development</i></p> <p>Schools and education services, interagency cooperation, involvement of children and young people, special educational needs, disabilities and inclusion. Adult learning.</p>	<p>Cllr Chris Towe</p>
<p>Adult Social Care</p> <p><i>People know what makes them healthy and they are encouraged to get support when they need it</i></p> <p>Care services for older people and people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities and people with mental health needs, health partnership, commissioning and CCG/health interface lead supporting people, protection for vulnerable adults, transition arrangements between Children's and Adult Social Care.</p>	<p>Cllr Rose Martin</p>
<p>Clean and Green</p> <p><i>People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities</i></p> <p>Gateways and corridors, pollution control, waste strategy, refuse collection, recycling, street cleaning, parks (maintenance) and the Council's vehicle fleet. Healthy spaces.</p>	<p>Cllr Oliver Butler</p>

<p>Children's</p> <p><i>Children thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential</i></p> <p>Statutory role as Lead Member for Children's Services</p> <p>Services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, early help, involvement of children and young people, transition arrangements between Children's and Adult Social Care and Walsall children's Safeguarding board, Chair of Corporate Parenting Board</p>	<p>Cllr Tim Wilson</p>
<p>Internal Services</p> <p><i>Internal services deliver quality and adapt to meet the needs of customer facing services</i></p> <p>HR, Organisation Development. Learning and development, equalities, procurement, Corporate Landlord including facilities and general asset management, , catering, cleaning, caretaking. Admin and Business Support. Workforce.</p>	<p>Cllr Mark Statham</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p><i>People live a good quality of life and feel they belong</i></p> <p>Public Health commissioned services including: Healthy Lifestyles – tobacco control /smoking cessation, physical activity, healthy weight and healthy eating; Healthy Child programme for 0-19 year olds including school nursing, health visiting, teenage pregnancy, breastfeeding, infant mortality and smoking in pregnancy; Sexual Health services; Integrated Drug & Alcohol Services .</p> <p>Public Health functions and activities including the prevention of long term conditions through NHS Health Checks; oral health interventions; health and housing; suicide prevention and mental /emotional wellbeing; health at work.</p> <p>In-house Health Protection team providing local outbreak management, screening and immunisation, infection prevention and control, disease and injury prevention.</p>	<p>Cllr Stephen Craddock</p>

Annual Council – 26th May 2021

Constitution and timetable of meetings 2021/2022

1. Summary of report

- 1.1 This report sets out proposed amendments to the Constitution and is produced in accordance with the requirements of Article 13 of the Constitution and the Council's duty to monitor and review the Constitution.
- 1.2 The report also sets out the timetable of meetings to be adopted for the municipal year 2021/2022.
- 1.3 A further report setting out changes to Officer Delegations will be submitted to a future meeting of Council.

2. Recommendations

That:-

1. the amendments to the Constitution as set out in the appendix 1 to this report be approved:
2. That the timetable of meetings for the municipal year 2021/2022 as set out in **Appendix 2** of the report be approved.

3. Background information

- 3.1 A review of the Constitution is undertaken annually to ensure that it is up to date and fit for purpose. Appendix 1 provides a summary of the changes requested.
- 3.2 In addition to the summary of changes, Appendix 3 contains the 'Members Access to Information' section.
- 3.2 Due to the significant restructuring of senior tiers, the amendments to the Scheme of Delegations will be considered at a future meeting of Council.

4. Timetable 2021/2022

- 4.1 The High Court ruled that it was not permissible for virtual meetings to continue post 6 May 2021.
- 4.2 The Government's [COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of council buildings](#), includes [working safely guidance](#) which should be followed when local authority meetings take place in person.

- 4.3 To adhere to the guidance and to enable through cleaning of the areas before and after each meeting, it is proposed that the meeting timetable operates at a reduced capacity from May 2021 to 31st August, 2021.
- 4.4 In order for business to be administered in the most effective way possible, it is important that once the timetable is agreed by the Council, only in the most exceptional circumstances should meeting dates be re-arranged.

Background papers

None

Author

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony A.", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Director of Governance
14th May 2021

Part/Article	Revision(s)	Reason
Part 2 Article 4 – The Council 4.01 (a) (i)	Remove Community Strategy	Section 100 of the Deregulation Act 2015 repeals the Duty to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy
	Crime and Disorder Strategy to include in brackets:- (Safer Walsall Partnership/Community Safety Strategy)	Local name for the document so it's clear.
Part 2 Article 4 – The Council 4.01 (a) (ii)	Licensing Authority Policy Statement to be reworded to:- Statement of Licensing Policy	Reflects wording of document.
	Remove:- Quality Protects Management Action Plan	No longer required.
	Community Cohesion Strategy to be reworded:- Cohesion and Integration Strategy	Reflects wording of document.
	Remove:- Children and Young People's Plan	No longer required by Statute
Part 2 – Article 10 Officers	Updated 10.01 (b) and (c) Management Structure updated to reflect the new structure.	New Structure in place
	Updated 10.04 (f) to read:- In the event of the prolonged absence of the Section 151 Officer the role reverts in the first instance to the Director of Finance, Corporate Performance and Corporate Landlord and then to the Head of Finance.	Updated to reflect new structure

<p>Part 2 – Article 11 Decision Making</p>	<p>Change ‘Key Decision’ threshold for significant expenditure/savings - increased to £500,000.</p> <p>11.03 (ii) replace £250,000 with £500,000.</p>	<p>Agreed by Group Leaders</p>
<p>Part 3.2 Responsibility for Council Functions</p>	<p>Corporate Parenting Board</p>	
	<p>Remove following wording:-</p> <p><i>....subject to them having undertaken the relevant training as detailed below</i></p>	<p>Formal training is not a pre requisite to serving on the Board either as a member or substitute.</p>
	<p>Health and Wellbeing Board</p>	
	<p>Revised Remit, frequency and start time.</p>	<p>Resolution of the Health & Well Being Board</p>
	<p>Adoption Panel</p>	
<p>The following to be inserted under bullet 1:-</p> <p>Every Local Authority has a Statutory Responsibility to be part of a Regional Adoption Agency. Walsall are part of Adoption@Heart alongside Dudley Council, Wolverhampton Council and Sandwell Council. Adoption Panels are coordinated via the Regional Adoption Agency.</p>	<p>Statutory Responsibility</p>	
<p>Schools Forum</p>		
<p>List of Observers updated to show correct title of Portfolio Holder as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills <p>Under Role - The words ‘(Every Child Matters) to be deleted from the Combined Budgets bullet point</p>	<p>To ensure information is correct.</p>	
<p>Part 4.2 Access to Information Procedure Rules</p>	<p>A new section entitled ‘Members Access to Information’ has been inserted.</p> <p>This was previously contained within the ‘Member/Officer Protocol’ and has been updated to reflect legislation and make the position</p>	<p>To ensure that access to information rules are clear and easily located within the Constitution.</p>

	clear.	
Part 4.8 Contract Rules	That all references to Assistant Directors be removed and replaced with 'Directors' from the Financial Rules, definitions table and Appendix.	Reflect change in Senior Management Structure
	That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be replaced with 'Director of Governance' throughout the Contract Rules.	Reflect change in Senior Management Structure
	That the words Executive Director Regeneration be removed and replaced with Executive Director (Resources and Transformation) at paragraphs 22.1, 22.6 & 22.7	Reflect change in Senior Management Structure
Part 5 – Codes and Protocols		
3. Member/Officer Protocol	Paragraphs 9.1 – 9.10 of member officer protocol (access to information) deleted.	Updated and moved to new section under Part 4.2 (paragraph 25) 'Access to Information' as more relevant and clear.
	Paragraph 5.7 and Section 15 updated to remove 'Assistant Director' and replace with 'Director'	Reflect change in Senior Management Structure
18. Chief Finance Officer Protocol	Wording in 2 nd paragraph to be amended to remove reference to 'The Assistant Director of Finance and replace with 'Executive Director – Resources and Transformation'.	Reflect change in Senior Management Structure
19. Flag Flying Protocol	To be updated to follow Government Guidance which:- Encourages the Union flag to be flown everyday; Advises that where UK Government buildings have more than one flagpole, and two flags are being flown, the Union Flag must always be flown in the superior position which is either:	To adhere to Government Guidance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the highest flagpole • the centre flagpole where there is an odd number of poles of the same height or; • the left centre flagpole viewed from the front of the building, where there is an even number of poles of the same height. 	
	Remove Europe Day from the Flag Flying Protocol	<p>The College of Arms is the Crown Body with responsibility for flags and other heraldic matters and Europe doesn't include Europe Day.</p> <p>Europe Day is no longer a designated Flag Flying day.</p>
23. Cabinet - Scrutiny Protocol	New Cabinet - Scrutiny Protocol inserted	Recommendation of the Scrutiny Overview Committee – 10.03.2020
Part 6 – Members Allowances Scheme	Updated following resolution of Council on 25 th February, 2021.	Council decision February, 2021
Part 7 – Management Structure	New Management Structure	Senior Management Restructuring
Part 10 – List of members of the Council	Updated following Elections in May	To ensure the list is up to date.
Part 11 – Member Interests	Updated to confirm that the register is held in Legal Services.	To provide clarity.

TIMETABLE 2021/2022

	May 2021	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May 2022
Mon.	3 Bank Holiday			2									
Tue.	4	1		3 Taxi Sub B									
Wed.	5	2		4	1			1					
Thur.	6 Elections	3	1 Employ B C Parent B	5 Planning	2 Children OS			2 Employ B Planning					
Fri.	7	4	2	6	3	1		3				1	

Mon.	10	7	5 SACRE	9	6 C Parent B	4 SACRE	1	6 Personnel	3 Bank Holiday			4 C Parent B	2 Bank Holiday
Tue.	11	8	6 LOEB	10	7 Employ A LOEB	5 Employ B	2 Employ A	7 Employ A Social Care OS	4	1 Employ A Standards	1 Employ A Social Care OS	5 Employ A Standards	3
Wed.	12	9 Licensing	7	11	8 Cabinet Taxi Sub A	6 Taxi Sub A	3	8 Taxi Sub A	5	2	2	6 Licensing	4
Thur	13	10	8	12	9 Employ B Planning	7 Employ B Planning	4 Employ B Planning	9 Employ A	6 Planning	3 Employ B Taxi Sub B	3 Employ B Economy OS	7 Employ B Planning	5 Elections
Fri	14	11	9	13	10	8	5	10	7	4	4	8	6

Mon	17	14 Personnel	12 Standards	16	13 Personnel	11 Standards	8 Council	13 SOC	10 Council	7 SOC	7 SACRE	11 Audit	9
Tue	18	15	13 Taxi Sub B	17	14 Employ A Education OS	12 Employ A Children OS	9 Employ A SOC	14 Employ A LOEB	11 Employ A C Parent B	8 Employ A	8 Employ A Children OS	12 Employ A LOEB	10
Wed	19	16 Cabinet	14	18	15	13 Health WB	10 Taxi Sub A	15 Cabinet	12 Licensing	9 Cabinet £	9	13 Children OS	11
Thur	20	17	15 Planning	19	16 Employ B Economy OS	14 Employ B Education OS	11 Employ B	16 Employ A	13 Employ B Education OS	10 Employ B Planning	10 Employ B Planning	14 Employ B Economy OS	12
Fri	21	18	16	20	17	15	12	17	14	11	11	15 Bank Holiday	13

Mon	24	21 Planning	19 Council	23	20 Council	18 Taxi Sub B	15 C Parent B	20	17	14	14	18 Bank Holiday	16
Tue	25	22	20 Health WB	24	21 Employ A Taxi Sub B	19 Employ B Health WB	16 Employ A Taxi Sub B	21 Employ A Taxi Sub B	18 Employ A Economy OS	15 Employ A LOEB	15 Employ A SOC	19 Employ A Personnel	17
Wed	26 Annual Council	23	21 Taxi Sub A Cabinet	25 Licensing	22	20 Cabinet	17	22	19 Taxi Sub A	16 Taxi Sub A	16 Cabinet Taxi Sub A	20 Cabinet	18
Thur	27	24 SOC	22	26	23 Employ A Social Care OS	21 Employ A Economy OS	18 Employ B Economy OS	23 Employ A	20 Employ A Social Care OS	17 Employ B Education OS	17 Employ A	21 Employ B Social Care OS	19
Fri	28	25	23	27	24	22	19	24	21	18	18	22	20

Mon	31 Bank Holiday	28 Audit	26 Personnel	30 Bank Holiday	27 Audit	25 Personnel	22 Audit	27 Bank Holiday	24 Personnel	21 C Parent B	21 Personnel	25 Council	23 Annual Council
Tues		29	27	31	28 Employ A SOC	26 Employ A LOEB	23 Employ A Children's	28 Bank Holiday	25 Employ A Health WB	22 Employ A Audit	22 Employ A	26 Employ A Health WB	24
Wed		30	28		29	27	24 Licensing	29	26	23 Licensing	23	27 Taxi Sub A	25 Adjourned Council
Thur			29		30 Employ B	28 Employ B Social Care OS	25 Employ B Education	30	27Employ B	24 Employ B Council £	24 Employ B	28 Employ B SOC	26
Fri			30			29	26	31	28	25	25	29	27

Mon							29		31 Children OS	28 Taxi Sub B	28		30
Tues							30 Employ A				29 Employ B Taxi Sub B		31
Wed											30		
Thurs											31 Employ A Education OS		

25. Members' access to information and to Council documents

Introduction

- 25.1 Members all have the ability to ask for information pursuant to their legal rights to information. This right extends to such information, explanation and advice as they may reasonably need in order to assist them in discharging their role as a Member of the Council. This can range from a request for general information about some aspect of the Council's activities to a request for specific information on behalf of a constituent. Such approaches should normally be directed to the Head of Service or another officer of the division concerned. In cases of doubt, Members should approach the Head of Democratic Services for assistance.
- 25.2 As regards the legal rights of Members to inspect Council documents, these are covered partly by statute and partly by common law.

Statutory Right of Access

- 25.3 Members have a statutory right to inspect any Council document which contains material relating to the business which is to be transacted by a meeting of Full Council or Committee thereof. This right applies irrespective of whether the Member is a Member of the Committee or Sub-Committee concerned and extends not only to reports which are to be submitted to the meeting, but also to any relevant background papers. This right does not, however, apply to documents relating to certain items which may appear as confidential/exempt (pink) item on the agenda for a meeting, see appendix 1: Exempt Information – Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972. Examples of the items in question are those which contain exempt information relating to employees, occupiers of Council property, applicants for grants and other services, the care of children, contract and industrial relations negotiations, legal advice and criminal investigations.
- 25.4 In relation to business of the Executive, by virtue of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations, 2012 (the regulations) any document:
- (a) which is in the possession/under the control of the Executive; and
 - (b) contains material relating to the business to be conducted at that meeting, that document shall be available for inspection;
- must be available for inspection by members of the Council.
- 25.5 The Regulations do not require a document to be available for inspection by member if it discloses exempt information of a description falling within exempt information (see appendix 1) subject to a document is to be available

for inspection if the information is information of a description for the time being falling within:

(a) paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). Except to the extent that the information relates to any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract); or

(b) paragraph 6 of Schedule 12A - Information which reveals that the authority proposes:

i) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or

ii) to make an order or direction under any enactment.

25.6 In addition a member has the same rights of access to information held by the Council under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as a member of the public. The Act contains a number of exemptions, for example, where information is confidential, contains personal data or is commercially sensitive, it is likely to be exempt from disclosure under the Act.

Individual Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25.7 In addition to the above rights, and per paragraph 23 of these Procedure Rules, the regulations provide that members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can obtain exempt information as set out in Appendix 1 or confidential information (see paragraph 9 below) but only if it is relevant to an action or decision that the Committee is reviewing or scrutinising; or which is relevant to any review contained in any work programme of the committee.

25.8 These members will also be entitled to copies of any document which is in the possession or control of the Executive, Executive (Cabinet) Committee, a Portfolio Holder, Advisory Panel or Consultative Forum and which contains material relating to:

a) any business transacted at a meeting of the Executive, Executive (Cabinet) Committee, Advisory Panel or Consultative Forum; or

b) any decision taken by an individual member of the Executive. Confidential information is defined as:

i). Information provided to the local authority by a government department which has forbidden the disclosure of the information to the public; or

ii). Information which cannot be disclosed to the public by a law or court order.

Common Law (Case law determined by the Courts)

- 25.9 The common law rights of Members remains intact, are much broader and are based on the principle that any Member(s) has a prima facie right to inspect Council documents so far as his/her access to the document is reasonably necessary to enable the Member(s) properly to perform his/her duties as a Member of the Council. This principle is commonly referred to as the “need to know” principle.
- 25.10 The exercise of this common law right depends therefore, upon an individual Member being able to demonstrate that he/she has the necessary “need to know”. In this respect a Member has no right to “a roving commission” to go and examine documents of the Council. Mere curiosity is not sufficient. The crucial question is the determination of the “need to know”. This question must initially be determined by the particular Head of Service Manager whose Division holds the document in question (with advice from the Monitoring Officer).
- 25.11 In some circumstances (e.g. a Committee Member wishing to inspect documents relating to the business of that Committee) a Member’s “need to know” will normally be presumed. In other circumstances (e.g. a Member wishing to inspect documents which contained personal information about third parties), the Member will normally be expected to justify the request in specific terms. Furthermore, there will be a range of documents which, because of their nature are either not accessible to Members or are accessible only by the political group forming the administration and not by other political groups. An example of this latter category would be draft documents compiled in the context of emerging Council policies and draft Committee reports, the disclosure of which prematurely might be against the Council’s and the public interest.
- 25.12 Whilst the term “Council document” is very broad and includes for example, any document produced with Council resources, it is accepted by convention that a Member of one party group will not have a “need to know” and therefore, a right to inspect, a document which forms part of the internal workings of another party group.
- 25.13 Further and more detailed advice regarding Members rights to inspect Council documents may be obtained from the Monitoring Officer.
- 25.14 Finally, any Council information provided to a Member must only be used by the Member for the purpose for which it was provided, i.e. in connection with the proper performance of the Member’s duties as a Member of the Council. Therefore, for example, early drafts of Committee reports/briefing papers are not suitable for public disclosure and should not be used other than for the purpose for which they were supplied. This point is emphasised in paragraph 3 of the Code of Local Government Conduct:-

“A Member must not:

- (a) disclose information given to him in confidence by anyone, or

information acquired which he believes is of a confidential nature, without the consent of a person authorised to give it, or unless he is required by law to do so; nor

- (b) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.”

Protocol for requesting information

- 25.15 If a member requests information and the officer concerned has no doubts that it can be disclosed, the information should be provided. However, where the officer has doubts that the information should be disclosed, the steps below should be followed.
- 25.16 Members should be asked to make a written request to the appropriate Director for the information to be provided. The request must state the purposes for which the information is required, having regard to the above guidance.
- 25.17 Where personal information is requested, the Member should complete the form attached at Appendix 2.
- 25.18 The Director should consider whether the information should be provided in accordance with the guidance above.

The Director should reply to the member within 5 working days and should either:

- a) Provide the information,
 - b) Refuse to grant the request, stating reasons in writing, or
 - c) Give a timescale for providing the information which should be as soon as possible but not longer than 20 working days after the date of the request.
- 25.18 Where the request is not granted and the member is not satisfied with the reasons provided, the member may seek advice from the Director of Legal and Governance Services on whether the refusal is justified. If the Director of Legal and Democratic Services decides that the information should be provided, then the Director who has refused the information must provide it to the member within a further 5 working days of that decision.
 - 25.19 Where the Director of Legal and Democratic Services decides that the information should not be provided, the request may be referred to the Chair of the Standards Committee for consideration in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services..
 - 25.20 Where the request is granted, the member may be allowed to inspect the relevant information, or to take away copies, depending on the information. Where copies are taken off site, the Director may specify steps which the

member must take to keep the information secure, for example, keeping documents in a lockable cabinet.

- 25.21 The member must not use information for any other reason than that specified in the request and, where it is confidential or exempt, must keep it confidential in accordance with the code of conduct.

Appendix 1 Exempt information

Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972

- 1) Information relating to any individual.
- 2) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
- 3) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- 4) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
- 5) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- 6) Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
 - a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
- 7) Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

The following categories apply to meetings of the standards committee or sub-committee in connection with the investigation and consideration of an allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct for Councillors:

- 7A) Information which is subject to any obligation of confidentiality.
- 7B) Information which relates in any way to matters concerning national security.
- 7C) The deliberations of a standards committee or of a sub-committee of a standards committee in reaching any finding on a matter relating to the conduct of a Councillor or Co-opted member.

Nominations to Committees 2021/22

REGULATORY COMMITTEES	Seats	Composition (21/22)	Nominations for 2021/22
1. Audit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 independent members 	7	Con (4)	Chattha Flint Johal Pedley
		Lab (*3)	Robertson James *seat allocated to Independent
		Independent (1)	Smith
2. Corporate Parenting Board <i>(To include the portfolio holder for children's services and chair of Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and still to be politically balanced)</i>	7	Con (4)	Ferguson Hicken Murphy Wilson
		Lab (3)	Worrall M Nazir Mazhar
3. Health and Wellbeing Board <i>(This Committee is not subject to the requirements for political balance)</i>		Chairman from controlling group	Craddock
		Portfolio holders: Adult Social Care	Martin
		Children's Services	Wilson
		1 member not from controlling group	Robertson
4. Licensing and Safety <i>* One seat to be allocated to Independent</i>	14	Con (8)* *Conservative seat allocated to Independent	Cooper Ferguson Gandham Hicken Kaur Samra Sears Waters
		Lab (5)	Nawaz K. Hussain Sarohi Ditta C. Bott
		Independent (1)	Smith
5. Personnel Committee <i>(All appointees must have completed relevant training prior to sitting on the Committee)</i>	9	Con (6)	Andrew Bird Elson Harris Samra Waters
		Lab (3)	Nawaz K. Hussain Gultasib

<p>6. Planning (This Committee is not subject to the requirements for political balance)</p> <p>Note: All groups to bid for a seat on this Committee based on ward members</p>	20	<p>Ward: Ald. Central & S. Ald. Nrth & W.W. Bentley & Darl N. Birchills-Leamore Blakenall Bloxwich East Bloxwich West Brownhills Darlaston South Paddock Palfrey Pelsall Pheasey P. Farm Pleck Rushall-Shelfield Short Heath St. Matthews Streetly Willenhall North Willenhall South</p>	<p>Murray Harris Underhill Ali Robertson M Statham Allen Craddock P. Bott Rasab M. Nazir Perry Bird Sarohi Waters Cooper Nawaz Samra Hicken Creaney</p>
<p>7. Standards (Leader of Council to nominate 1 member of Executive*)</p>	10	Con (6)	<p>Andrew Allen Follows Lee Rasab Samra</p>
		Lab (4)	<p>Underhill Sarohi Burley Young</p>

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES	Seats	Composition 21/22	Nominations
<p>8. Scrutiny Overview Committee</p>	11	Con (7)	<p>Ali Harrison Hicken Murray Rasab Samra Sohal</p>
		Lab (4)	<p>Nawaz K. Hussain Jeavons P. Bott</p>
<p>9. Children's Services</p>	11	Con (7)	<p>Hicken Hussain Flint Kaur Murphy Rattigan C Statham</p>
		Lab (4)	<p>Nawaz Bashir A Nazir Mazhar</p>

10. Education	11	Con	(7)	Elson Ferguson Johal Kaur Lee Rattigan Sears
		Lab	(4)	Jeavons Nasreen Ditta Burley
12. Economy and Environment	11	Con	(7)	Allen Follows Harrison Kaur Lee Sohal Whitehouse
		Lab	(4)	Worrall S Coughlan P Bott Jeavons
13. Social Care and Health	11	Con	(7)	Allen Cooper Johal Gandham Murphy Pedley Waters
		Lab	(4)	K. Hussain Sarohi D Coughlan Ditta

Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees

	2021/22	
Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Audit	Mr. A. Green (independent member)	Johal
Corporate Parenting Board	Wilson *The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services is Chair	Worrall
Health and Wellbeing Board	Craddock Nominee of controlling group	*To be appointed by Health and Wellbeing Board
Licensing and Safety	Waters	Kaur
Personnel	Bird	Andrew
Planning	Bird	Perry
Standards	Rasab	Underhill
Scrutiny Overview	Murray	Nawaz
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny	Hicken	Mazhar
Education Overview and Scrutiny	Jeavons	Murphy
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny	Harrison	Follows
Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny	K. Hussain	Cooper

Cabinet – 21 April 2021

Walsall Youth Justice Annual Strategic Plan.

Portfolio: Councillor T. Wilson, Children's

Related portfolios: Councillor G. Perry, Deputy Leader Resilient Communities, Community Leisure and Culture

Councillor C. Towe, Education and Skills

Service: Walsall Youth Justice Service – Children's Services

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: Yes

1. Aim

1.1 Youth Justice partnerships have a statutory duty to produce an annual youth justice plan for submission to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales showing how youth justice services will be provided and funded.

2. Summary

2.1 The Youth Justice Plan is prepared on an annual basis in accordance with the guidance "Youth Justice Plans: YJB Practice Note for Youth Offending Partnerships" and specific conditions as set within the Youth Justice Board Effective Practice Grant. The youth justice plan sets out key achievements over the past 12 months, how Walsall Youth Justice Service is structured and funded and also identifies risks to service delivery and improvement.

2.2 The plan outlines the partnerships priorities for 2021/22 and provides commentary on the three national performance indicators for youth offending services;

- Rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system
- The number and rate of custodial sentences
- The proportion of young people re-offending

3. Recommendations

3.1 To recommend to Council:

1. That Walsall's Youth Justice Annual Strategic plan be approved.
2. That the Executive Director Children's Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder be authorised to make any future minor amendments to the plan if and when required.

4. Report detail - know

Context

4.1 Under section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 each Local Authority has a duty to produce a Youth Justice Plan setting out how Youth Justice Services in their area are provided, funded and composed. The plan is submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

4.2 The plan identifies 5 main priorities as stated below:

- Reducing exploitation and youth violence.
- Ensuring that education, training and employment outcomes improve for 16+ young people in the Youth Justice System.
- Reducing disproportionality in the youth justice system.
- Effective COVID-19 recovery.
- Improving quality of practice and demonstrating outcomes.

Council Corporate Plan priorities

4.3 Reducing the number of young people entering the youth justice system is a corporate measure and a key performance indicator for the Youth Justice Board.

4.4 The YJS plan will contribute to the Council's priorities as follows:

- People- the YJS Plan supports our families to integrate and make a positive contribution to their community whilst improving health and wellbeing
- Children- improving outcomes for the children in the justice system is at the heart of the work undertaken by the Youth Justice Service and intrinsic to each of the priorities within the plan.
- Communities- working closely with the Safer Walsall Partnership, the YJS shares a priority to manage and reduce violence and to make our communities safer.

The strategic plan focusses on how partners in Walsall will ensure that Youth Justice Services are effectively delivered to reduce youth crime and re-offending, protect the public from harm and promote safeguarding.

Risk management

4.4 The strategic plan recognises a number of risk to future delivery, including the impact of COVID-19, the increase in first time entrants and reduction in funding streams. The Youth Justice Performance and Partnership Board maintains oversight of risks to delivery and mitigating action on a quarterly basis through detailed performance and quality assurance reports. Partners, including West Midlands Police, National Probation Service, Community Safety, Public Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS), Education, Employment and Skills, are required at each quarterly board meeting to confirm their resource allocation and are held accountable for the performance of their own organisation.

Financial implications

4.5 The strategic plan outlines the resource and funding arrangements for YJS including those from statutory partners, the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4.6 Adopting the strategy is not expected to incur any additional costs over and above the above budgeted costs detailed within the plan.

Legal implications

4.7 Under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement a youth justice plan for each year setting out how youth justice services are to be provided and funded in their area; and how the youth offending team (Youth Justice Service) established by them are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out. The youth justice plan is required to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board and be published in such manner and by such date as the Secretary of State may direct.

Procurement Implications/Social Value

4.8 None

Property implications

4.9 None

Health and wellbeing implications

4.10 The health and wellbeing of Walsall young people is a key within the content of the strategic plan. Improving outcomes for young people in the justice system increases the health and wellbeing of those who commit offences and associated victims. The plan details the YJS' response to the COVID-19 pandemic and identifies our recovery from the pandemic as a priority for 2021-22.

Staffing implications

4.11 There are no staffing implications in the creation of the Strategic Plan 2021-22. The current establishment is fully funded and financial contributions have been confirmed.

Reducing Inequalities

4.12 Inequality is inherent within the Criminal Justice System. The plan does not represent an adverse impact to young people at risk of offending and re-offending. Indeed, it identifies that addressing disproportionality (the overrepresentation of young people from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups) is a priority leading into 2021-22. Significant work has been undertaken during 2020-21 and the youth justice partnership is in a stronger place to better understand this inequality through data and consultation with families and partners.

Consultation

4.13 Consultation has been carried out with young people involved in the criminal justice system and with Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board members have been consulted.

5. Decide

5.1 A 'do nothing' option is not seen as viable as it is a statutory requirement for the council to have a Youth Justice Plan

5.2 To recommend to Council:

3. That Walsall's Youth Justice Annual Strategic plan be approved.
4. That the Executive Director Children's Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder be authorised to make any future minor amendments to the plan if and when required.

6. Respond

6.1 The Youth Justice Service will continue to fulfil its statutory functions and deliver services to young people in Walsall to work towards those key performance indicators. The plan details some of the actions that the YJS will take to reduce offending behaviour, manage risk of harm to the public and safeguard. The strategic plan set the vision and strategic direction of the service over the coming 12 months.

7. Review

7.1 There is an annual requirement to complete a YJS Strategic Plan and as such progress against priorities and a review of achievements will be completed in the planning schedule for 2022-23.

7.2 The YJS Performance and Partnership Board meets on a quarterly basis and will monitor and review progress made against the priorities and the delivery plan.

Background papers

None

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Sally Rowe
Executive Director
April 2021



Councillor Wilson
Portfolio holder
April 2021

Walsall Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2021-2022



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1. Foreword by Chair of Walsall Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board

As Chair of the Walsall Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board, I am pleased to share the Walsall Youth Justice Service Strategic Annual Plan for 2021-22 looking back on the partnership's achievements and setting out the commitment to reducing youth crime, safeguarding children and young people at risk of, or involved in offending, and protecting the public from harm.

The partnership priorities are consistent with the Youth Justice Board's 'Child First' principle and will contribute to the delivery of our Walsall Right 4 Children vision, aimed at ensuring the right children are in the right place with the right support for as long as it is needed so they are safe from harm, happy and learning well. Reducing the number of young people entering the Youth Justice System remains a key Council objective and a key youth justice performance measure.

The last 12 months have been unprecedented in the face of a national pandemic. I have been truly impressed by the response of staff across the partnership who adapted quickly to the crisis, responded effectively to the challenges of keeping vulnerable children safe and continued to progress critical aspects of business improvement, most notably the establishment of the out of court disposal model and the training of our workforce in restorative practice and motivational training. As we know, children today face many challenges – including poverty, childhood trauma and special educational needs. Covid-19 has undoubtedly amplified these challenges for many, the extent of which will become clearer as restrictions ease and the impact and legacy of Covid is better understood.

This next year provides the partnership with an opportunity to use our collective learning from Covid to 'build back better' youth justice services, shaped by the voices of our children and young people and to secure greater levels of intra / inter agency co-operation and collaboration towards the identification and protection of vulnerable young people so we can together protect them from harm, meet their complex range of needs and improve outcomes and in doing so create safe communities.

This next year also provides an opportunity to further strengthen the delivery of seamless services for young people involved in youth crime, as the YJ service becomes more closely aligned to locality working arrangements, affording greater cross-system connection of the workforce- social workers, early help workers, education workers, youth justice workers, and of course the broader partnership workforce, coming together for the benefit of our children, young people, families and communities. I look forward to working with children, young people and their families, partners and communities to reduce youth crime, safeguard children and young people at risk and improve outcomes for children

Sally Rowe-Executive Director of Children's Service

2. Introduction.

On behalf of the Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board we are proud to introduce Walsall Youth Justice Service's (YJS) Strategic Plan for 2021/22. This plan has been approved by the YJS Performance and Partnership Board and by Walsall Council Cabinet and Full Council Meeting.

Walsall Youth Justice Service (YJS) remains a statutory multi-agency service under Section 37 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act in partnership with the Local Authority, Walsall Children's Services, West Midlands Police, National Probation Service and Health. The YJS is also supported by numerous other partners who contribute to the YJS' agenda. The principle aim of the YJS partnership is to prevent and reduce offending and re-offending behaviour in children and young people and we have three national key performance indicators:

- a) Reducing the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time
- b) Reducing re-offending
- c) Reducing the use of custodial disposals.

Despite the challenges of the past 12 months, we have achieved positive outcomes for the young people we are working with. In summary, when compared to the measured previous 12 months, the current published data demonstrates a binary rate of re-offending of 31.8% when compared to 32.2% from the previous 12 month period. The use of custodial sentences has remained low although due to increasing seriousness and complexity, the number has increased from 5 to 10 for the latest reporting period 2019/20. Our local performance tracking tells us that we are moving in a positive trajectory and this number has reduced to 8 over the most recent 12 month period. When reviewing the published data, the number of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time also increased from 67 to 81 over a 12 month period. Local analysis identified a spike in offence seriousness at the end of the summer in 2019 led to more young people entering the formal youth justice system rather than via a community resolution or diversion intervention. Positively, at the time of writing this plan our first time entrant rate had dropped significantly to 52, a 35% reduction.

Although the numbers of young people entering the system and also ultimately receiving a custodial sentence have increased, the practitioners within the YJS continue to undertake excellent work with young people to help them avoid re-offending. On a daily basis YJS practitioners are working with young people with increasing risks and a multitude of complex needs including the possession of weapons, criminal exploitation and county lines, mental ill-health, significant gaps in education and special educational needs. We need to recognise the growing and concerning issue of serious youth violence within this and as such the Youth Justice Service will be a key player in the Safer Walsall Partnership's review and implementation of a serious youth violence strategy in 2021.

Listening to our young people and their parents is at the core of the delivery of the YJS. We believe that the answers to the offending problem can be found from within the young people themselves. As such the YJS staff are trained in restorative practice and focus upon doing 'with' and not 'to'. This plan is based upon the views of our young people and our plan for delivery in 2021/22 has been shaped by consultation with them.

The partnership continues to progress following the HMIP inspection of youth offending in April 2019 and the 'requires improvement to be good' rating. We have worked with the national Youth Justice Board to transition from 'improvement plan activity' to continue on our journey towards offering the best possible services for young people in 2021/22. Our previous priorities were based upon HMIP inspection recommendations and this plan recognises the progress the partnership has made against these recommendations.

The YJS has made significant progress against our previous priorities (* denotes a link to an HMIP recommendation).

1. Improving the governance and performance reporting arrangements for the youth justice partnership

The Youth Justice Partnership has reviewed and improved its governance arrangements following the HMIP inspection in April 2019, strengthened its membership and has secured analyst support from Walsall Children's Services performance team. The partnership now have greater oversight of delivery models and are able to understand the impact of practice on Walsall children. Additionally, strategic leaders from across the partnership now own their performance contributions for young people within the justice system and are committed to making a positive difference for these children.

*2. Ensuring the partnership resources and budget allocation to ensure the YJS is able to undertake its key function well**

The partnership has reviewed its current resources and financial contributions and have worked hard to develop new partnerships and pathways to bring in additional resources to support the team and improve outcomes for young people. A good example is the new pathway the partnership has in place with Victim Support, improving services for victims and increasing the capacity of Youth Justice Officers.

*3. Reducing youth violence and managing risk of harm to victims**

There are fewer recorded offences committed by Walsall young people and therefore less victims. Violent offences remain the most prominent type of offending in Walsall and the possession and use of weapons remains a priority for the partnership. The service has completed risk of harm assessment training and the new partnership with Victim Support has brought greater focus on the identification and support of potential victims and risk. The YJS offers bespoke packages of intervention for violence and knife crime to mirror the varying reasons behind this type of offending. Successes have been evident in the delivery of the Street Doctors programme and our partnership with the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit.

4. Preventing young people committing crime.

The YJS partnership has reviewed its out of court disposal model and crime prevention offer to ensure greater focus on assessment and joint decision making, however the commitment to providing tailored responses to young people on the edge of the formal justice system has remained resolute. Walsall YJS has dedicated crime prevention workers working with young people subject to a range of police disposals, delivering diversion interventions for those families where partners have identified increased risk of offending.

5. Ensuring that young people in the youth justice system receive the correct education entitlement.*

The Director for Access and Achievement (education) is now a YJS performance and partnership board member and has committed resources to the partnership through the virtual school for vulnerable children. The support available for school age children is complimented with a 16+ partnership advisor from Black Country Impact, which in turn, is enhanced by a new relationship with Walsall Works, an initiative that supports local people to find employment. A member group of Children's Services Oversight and Scrutiny committee was established to examine the issues raised by HMIP and recommendations were made. Improving outcomes for Walsall young people after they have left school remains a challenge and although we can demonstrate positive outcomes for some young people, improving the education needs for our 16+ young people remains a key priority for 2021/22.

6. Addressing disproportionality within the youth justice system.*

Disproportionality within the youth justice system is a national and local issue. We have developed our ability to monitor and analyse the ethnicity of young people subject to disposals and we can see that, when compared to local demographics, young people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds are overrepresented. Through funding from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the partnership has worked with an organisation to consult with our families, staff and partners. The YJS completed training as a team and is developing systems and processes to enable the monitoring and checking of disproportionality in work with our young people. Work has commenced with Walsall's cohesion team 'Walsall for All' to engage with local communities to better understand local issues and also with West Midlands Police to consider how to ensure young people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds have the same opportunities to receive out of court disposals as other young people. Continuing to develop understanding and address disproportionality is a priority for the YJS in 2021/22.

3. The impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 lockdown restrictions imposed by the Government on March 23rd 2020, significantly impacted the ability of the service to see young people and to undertake assessments and interventions in person in a safe way.

The YJS partnership produced a COVID recovery plan based upon statutory National Standards for Youth Justice, aligned to our Business Continuity Plan. The plan detailed, within a rapidly changing context, the actions needed to ensure the YJS remained compliant with Standards whilst modifying changes to the ways of working and practice to keep our young people and staff safe.

As our delivery for young people is intrinsically linked with our partners in the Criminal Justice System, the YJS has worked closely with the Police, the Courts and the secure custodial estate to ensure an effective whole system response to COVID. The YJS actively sought to contribute to risk assessments to ensure the safety of young people and staff within Court and the Police custody block.

The closure of the Courts in early 2020 quickly led to a backlog of young people that were pending Court appearances, which in turn reduced the total number of young people supervised by the YJS. Court backlogs have held up justice within the adult Criminal Justice System, and have severely affected outcomes for both victim and offenders of youth crime across the country. Walsall YJS worked closely with the Black Country Youth Court to ensure that hearings were prioritised due to risk and the backlog was worked through as quickly as possible.

Delivery of youth justice services within the community were quickly risk assessed and risk management and safeguarding of young people was prioritised. Face to face contact with young people has reduced during the lockdown. Prior to restrictions being imposed, the YJS management undertook a risk assessment exercise to clearly highlight our risky young people, and those young people in crisis, who would benefit from face to face contact. To keep people safe, COVID-19 risk assessments are completed on all young people and regularly reviewed as per identified need.

To improve contact with young people, all YJS practitioners have smart phones and tablets to use video calling. Practitioners have had to find creative ways to undertake interventions using the technology at their disposal. Some have created intervention packs, delivered them to their young people and then completed offence-focused work via video calls. Although face to face contact has reduced during lockdown, overall contact has increased and there has been a shift in accessibility between families and their Youth Justice Officer.

COVID-19- Moving Forward

The YJS Performance and Partnership Board has maintained oversight of delivery during COVID-19 and approved the recovery plan submitted to the YJB in 2020. The YJS Board has also reviewed the HMIP report 'A Thematic Review of the work of youth offending services during the COVID-19 pandemic' which was published in November 2020. The recommendations and learning points from the thematic inspection were considered by the Board and assurances were given regarding the progress that had been made and changes to practice that had been established as a result, such as focus on assessing the technological capabilities of our young people and the levels of accessibility via IT and remote communication methods.

2019-20 has been very much focussed on responding to the immediate crisis and putting arrangements in place to ensure business continuity and the safety of our staff and young people. The focus and a key priority for 2021-22 will be the recovery and resetting of youth justice services as restrictions are lifted. Setting the future direction of travel for YJS will be informed by our learning from the past year about what's worked, our Walsall Right 4 Children vision and strategic plan and the YJS alignment to locality working

4. Summary of achievements including progress against key performance indicators

Crime prevention offer and out of court disposal panel.

Walsall YJS has a dedicated crime prevention service for young people who are at risk of entering into the youth justice system or who have received a police disposal. We have crime prevention workers, part funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, through the Safer Walsall Partnership, who undertake excellent work with young people to help them avoid getting into trouble. Since HMIP's inspection in 2019, we have reviewed our model in partnership with Walsall Police to ensure that our joint decision making process around the suitability of disposals is informed by an approved assessment. The YJS Performance and Partnership Board has regularly reviewed the model and received completed audits to demonstrate outcomes for young people. Our measured first time entrant (FTE) rate remains low with only 81 young people entering the system over a 12 month period. This is an increase when compared to the same period the year before and can be attributed to an increase in the seriousness of offence type and a spike following the summer in 2019. We also saw a higher rate of young people enter the system for the first time who received a custodial sentence without any previous YJS involvement. At the time of writing this plan, our local monitoring indicates FTE rates had improved significantly with only 52 young people entering the system.

Re-offending (KPI).

Our re-offending performance is excellent when compared to the regional, national and statistical averages. This means that fewer Walsall young people are re-offending and committing fewer offences per person. The current aggregated Youth Justice Board measured binary rate for Walsall YJS is 31.8% ; the binary rate for England is 38.4% and our statistical family is 32.4%. Walsall young people are, on average, committing 2.76 offences per young person, compared to the England average of 3.93 and the West Midlands average of 3.84.

Education.

At the time of writing this plan, none of the young people supervised by the YJS were classified as a Child Missing Education (CME). This demonstrates a significant improvement for our school age young people. Our partnership with the Virtual School has achieved positive outcomes for our young people through additional oversight of this cohort and the introduction of a YJS Vulnerable Personal Education Plan to focus support where needed and ensure a multi-agency approach. Improving outcomes for those of post school age is an identified priority for 2021-22.

Exploitation and Knife crime:

Young people are telling us that carrying a knife is becoming more commonplace. The reasons behind this are varied, include feeling unsafe, and as such our response to knife crime and exploitation has needed to be bespoke to each young person. Carrying a knife is associated with criminal exploitation and those within the youth justice system are more likely to be involved in county lines where vulnerable children and adults transport illegal drugs to another area. In

Walsall, the YJS is central to the partnership's developing Exploitation Hub and the Exploitation Panel where victims, perpetrators and locations of criminal exploitation are discussed and multi-agency plans established.

Until COVID-19 restrictions came into place, we had continued our partnership with the Street Doctors charity to teach young people basic first aid to help save the lives of their friends if they are the victim of violence. This is a powerful intervention which challenges the young person's perception of stabbing and being stabbed, whilst teaching them a potentially lifesaving skill. Plans are underway to re-instate the programme when COVID restrictions are lifted.

The YJS has also formed partnerships with the James Brindley Foundation, St-Giles Trust and Catch-22 to add different dimensions to our work to address knife crime. James Brindley was tragically murdered in Walsall in 2017 and his family have established the foundation in his name to help make a difference to avoid future tragedies from taking place. The YJS are working with the foundation to utilise the Full Circle Knife Crime Programme with young people on the periphery of the youth justice system and James' father has supported the YJS by speaking to our young people about the terrible consequences of carrying a knife. This intervention is both moving and inspirational. St. Giles Trust have supported the YJS with our knife crime workshops to provide 'lived experience' mentoring, to help young people understand the personal consequences for carrying a knife and engaging in violent crime. The YJS has managed to secure additional funding from the PCC to develop our work with mentors in 2021/22. Lived experienced mentors and their unique ability to engage with our young people has been an important piece of the jigsaw in helping to solve the issue of carrying a knife.

Sport and the Inspire Group:

Sport continues to be central to our work with young people. We have continued our partnership with the Inspire Group to provide multi-sports diversion activities across Walsall. The Inspire Group coaches also provide mentoring for our young people, support them to achieve sport coaching qualifications and link young people into community sport clubs. The Inspire Group also support our knife crime workshops providing activities and diversion opportunities. The YJS has previously secured Early Intervention Youth Funding to work with Walsall Wood Amateur Boxing Club. Our young people tell us that boxing is a sport that they would be interested in trying. We have formed a partnership with coaches to provide sessions for our young people during the week to help divert them from offending behaviour. Walsall Wood ABC have also supported us with our knife crime workshops. COVID-19 has created significant barriers preventing us from fully using this provision, but as the country moves out of restrictions this opportunity should be available for our young people.

Restorative Practice

The PCC has provided additional funding in 2020 to support the YJS team, and our partners in Victim Support, to receive further training in restorative practice. We have implemented restorative 'MyPlan' meetings at the start of interventions to ensure that the young person leads on making positive changes and they collaborate with important people in their lives, to achieve goals. The emphasis is on doing 'with' and not being done 'to'. New MyPlans have been developed

to make our intervention plans more child-friendly and focussed on strengths. Within our daily practice, we have adopted a 'connection before content' approach to working together as a team and facilitate restorative solution circles to approach problems.

To improve our services for victims we have started a new partnership with Victim Support who will contact those affected by youth crime to provide services and support where needed and to explore suitability to deliver restorative justice interventions.

Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and Walsall College

At the start of 2020 Walsall YJS worked closely with WM Police and the VRU to implement a 'place based' pilot to reduce violence. The chosen 'anchor institution' was Walsall College due to proximity to Walsall town centre, recent violent incidents in or around a new fast food restaurant and the flow of students into the town centre on a daily basis. The project embedded a health approach to reducing violence throughout the college, modelling best practice. College staff and students were provided with trauma training and Mentoring in Violence Prevention (MVP) train the trainer programmes. These individuals went on to form training groups within the college to cascade learning to the rest of the college population. VRU support, using this model, has now cascaded in schools in the Borough and Head Teachers have access to support and interventions for their pupils and families.

Kitchen Table Talks (KTT)

Walsall YJS originally received Early Intervention Youth Funding for an organisation called First Class Legacy to deliver a forum to engage a group of parents of young people involved within the Youth Justice System. This was an informal meeting facilitated by First Class Legacy staff supported by YJS staff. We wanted to encourage parents to engage in discussions aimed at supporting them with their children and some of the more difficult and challenging elements of their behaviour. Due to the success of the programme, Walsall YJS promoted the use of Kitchen Table Talks as a regional pathfinder in partnership with the VRU and the YJB across the West Midlands.

Disproportionality

At the end of 2019 the YJS successfully applied for funding from the PCC to undertake a Disproportionality Project. In March 2020 the murder of George Floyd in the USA brought into greater focus the overrepresentation of young people from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups in the Youth Justice System here in the UK. The YJS undertook a 2 year data analysis of disproportionality trends to help us fully understand the local issue here in Walsall and used this information to work with an organisation called First Class Legacy to consult with our young people, partners and strategic leaders. We have worked with First Class Legacy to deliver training to the staff better understand unconscious bias and have difficult conversations about race and ethnicity. Although good progress has been made during 2020, further work is planned to develop our infrastructure to ensure monitoring and oversight processes are established and we can start to see positive outcomes and a reduction in the overrepresentation of BAME young people in the justice system.

5. The views of our young people

Walsall YJS continue to believe that if young people are involved in decisions that affect their lives, they are more likely to accept and support them, even if they are hard, and will take ownership of the changes required to avoid getting into trouble and to stay safe. We think that the voice of our young people needs to be at the forefront in tackling all issues affecting or affected by offending behaviour and in particular violence and knife crime. The YJS seeks the views of our young people, and parents, in every aspect of our work to help us make decisions, focus our interventions and develop a training plan for staff.

We worked with an organisation to engage our young people to hear and debate their views on society and issues that affect them. Our young people have identified the following issues as priorities and these have been summarised below:

- *We want better quality role models & mentors. Young people identified the need for more proven mentors who have actually achieved things.*
- *We are interested in being able to access paid work earlier in their lives. Around age of 13, we think having young people earning something for simple activities like bag packing at DIY centres etc, or recycling collections.*
- *We think conversations around parenting should be considered.*
- *We identified the need for mental health support. We felt that mental health was something we saw as a problem for some young people offending.*
- *We felt that school wasn't really helping or supporting our learning to actually do more in life. We felt there needed to be a way to learn things that bring quicker opportunities for young people in poverty. The education route looks/ feels too long for them with no clarity at the end. We felt 'tapping life' looks a clearer pathway to earning money, but education should give a clearer pathway for us to earn money but doesn't.*
- *We felt police have a role as they are good at catching low level young people at the bottom of the spectrum where young people want to get into crime etc. But they aren't good with the more extreme ones.*

In 2020, our young people hosted a knife crime event at Walsall College and delivered a workshop entitled 'Walsall's Youth Voice'. In the workshop our young people led a debate around issues impacting upon and their views are collected below:

- *The lack of trust with the police and a poor relationship with communities. This was countered by those that felt the police were in a tricky position and the police do rescue a lot of people.*
- *Audiences felt schools could do more with enrichment and they valued the need for more community investment in youth spaces for activities to get involved in.*
- *Audience members talked about the lure of money and the temptations of social media/music drawing certain young people into certain behaviours.*
- *'Clout chasing' - the expression used for those trying to get a reputation through anti-social behaviours - was identified as something which fuels young people being drawn into certain behaviours.*

To further support our participation, the YJS has completed the Youth Violence Commission's Safer Lives Survey each year. The YJS practitioners find it a useful intervention to start a debate with young people and the findings remain relevant to help us plan for future delivery. See appendix E.

6. Walsall YJS National Standards self- assessment of national standards.

The introduction of 'Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019' required all youth justice services to undertake a base-line self-assessment. The following is an extract from the self-assessment with an inclusion of areas for development.

Standard	Strategic Self-Assessed Results	Areas for development in 2021/22	Operational Self-Assessed Results	Areas for development in 2021/22
NS1 Out of Court Disposal	Good	Establish local partnership scrutiny group to demonstrate consistency/fairness of disposals	Good	
NS2 At Court	Good	Implement a disproportionality working group to assess unconscious bias and PSR congruence and share the results with the Court	Good	Improve consistency of recording of Court outcomes Develop literature for young people and parents explaining Court process and outcomes
NS3 in the Community (Court Orders)	Good	Develop performance framework with Children's Services to improve quality of practice	Requires Improvement	Improve the quality of assessment and planning for victim safety
NS4 In secure Settings	Requires Improvement	YJS partnership board to seek assurance from YCS that Walsall young people in custody are safe	Requires Improvement	Establish custody officers as members of the YJS high risk panel.
NS5 On Transition and resettlement	Requires Improvement	Health needs analysis to identify commissioning gaps Strategic Resettlement Audit	Requires Improvement	Review of YJS closure and transmission process Implement individual resettlement plan

National Standards Self-Assessment Methodology

Walsall YJS Performance and Partnership Board made the decision to assign strategic leaders from across the partnership to provide support and have oversight of each of the standards within the self-assessment process.

National Standard	Lead Partner	Strategic Lead
1. Out of Court Disposals	West Midlands Police	Superintendent Walsall LPU
2. In Court	Black Country Magistrates	Chair of the Youth Bench
3. In the Community	Safer Walsall Partnership	Head of Community Safety
4. In Secure	Public Health	Head of Social Inclusion
5. In Transition	Access and Achievement - Children's Services	Head of the Virtual School

The self-assessment was split into two parts; an operational audit and a strategic audit of governance arrangements. The operational audits were undertaken by youth justice managers and practitioners using audit tools adapted from the suggested YJB template. The findings from the operational audits were then shared with the relevant strategic leads to start the strategic assessment process. The YJB did not prescribe a methodology, however provided suggested templates.

The decision was made to choose audit periods of Q3 and Q4 2019/20, October 1st 2019 to March 2020, to enable sufficient time to complete the analysis. For some of the National Standards it was necessary to extend the time-frame for the audit to ensure a suitable number of cases were included in the sample. For example, for the 'In Secure' Standard, due to the low number of custody case available for selection, all young people receiving a custodial sentence during the full period were included. The YJB requested a sample of 20% of relevant case or a minimum of 20 cases.

Standard 4 'In Secure' lent itself to a collaborative approach across the West Midlands as most young people from the region are sent to the same secure establishments and the Youth Custody Service oversees the commissioning and quality standards within each placement. The West Midlands Youth Justice Services alongside representatives from Werrington YOI and Rainsbrook STC met to discuss an agreed performance framework and as such the consortium requested assurances from the Youth Custody Service on behalf of the region.

Summary:

An action plan was put in place following the self-assessment and despite the pandemic, significant progress has been made across all five national standards. The YJS partnership is focussed on improving quality of practice in 2021/22 and will take forward remaining recommendations into the Service delivery plan found in the appendix of this Strategic Plan.

7. Structure, Governance and Partnership Arrangements:

Walsall YJS sits within the Children's Services directorate and the Strategic Lead for the YJS reports into the Director for Early Help and Partnerships with close alignment to Social Care and Education. A disproportionate number of our young people are open to Social Care Services and there are clear links between young people in the youth justice system and those involved in exploitation, going missing or excluded from education. The YJS Strategic Lead is part of the senior leadership team within Children's Services.

Walsall Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board meet quarterly and is chaired by the Executive Director of Children's Services. The majority of statutory partners from the Local Authority, Health, Police and National Probation Service regularly attend. Board membership can be found in Appendix D. The agenda is set by the Chair of the Performance and Partnership Board and contains set items to incorporate the above, alongside reports requested by Board members to further understanding or to address matters arising. The YJS Board members are committed to the youth justice agenda and proactively address issues affecting children and young people.

The focus of the YJS Performance and Partnership Board over the past 12 months has been to; provide oversight and monitoring of improvements against HMIP recommendations, to ensure correct and consistent representation at the Board, to improve the governance arrangements in relation to performance and model of practice. Walsall YJS has strategic links into the following bodies and wider strategic plans:

- **Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Board**

The YJS Strategic Lead sits on the WSCB and contributes to the following sub-groups:

- a) Performance and Quality Assurance (PQA) subcommittee*
- b) Exploitation subcommittee*
- c) Exploitation Steering Panel*
- d) Serious Case Review (SCR) subcommittee*

- **Children's Services Performance Board**

The YJS Strategic Lead sits on the Children's Services Performance Board and presents YJS data against key performance indicators and locally agreed priorities- including the Social Care/YJS interface and first time entrants.

- **Safer Walsall Community Safety Partnership (SWP)**

The YJS Strategic Lead sits on the Safer Walsall Partnership Board Violence Reduction sub-group and receives funding through the SWP from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for our Crime Prevention offer.

- **West Midlands Reducing Reoffending Delivery Group.**

The YJS Strategic Lead represents the Youth Offending Services in the West Midlands at the regional Reducing Reoffending Steering Group to ensure that the needs of children are represented and feature in regional strategic planning.

- **West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit.**

The YJS were a key partner in Walsall's 'place based' violence reduction pilot at Walsall College and continue to engage with the VRU on key themes of serious youth violence. The Strategic Lead also support the VRU Sports Strategic Partnership Board.

- **Contest (the UK's strategy for counter terrorism: Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare)**

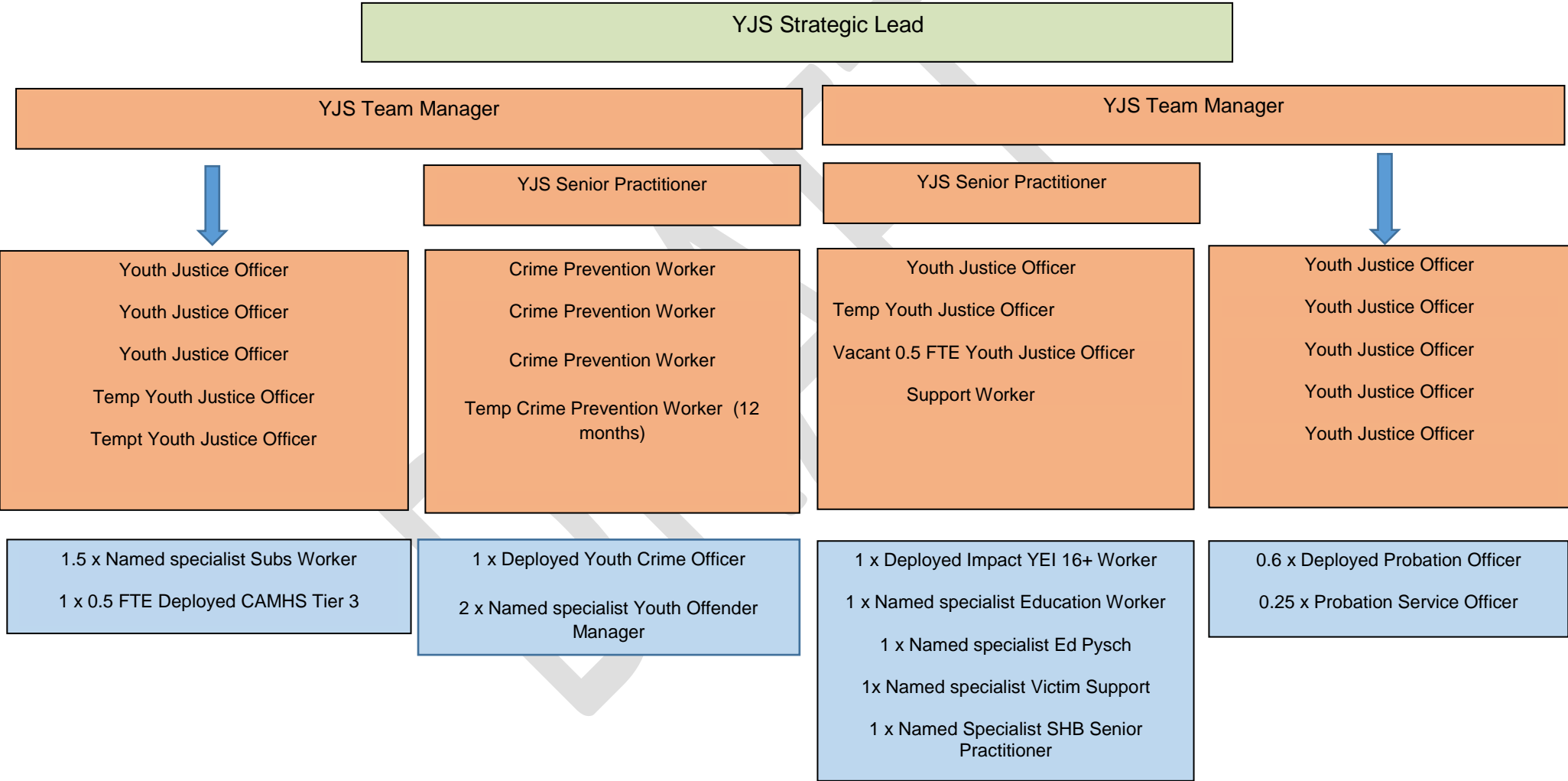
The Strategic Lead for Walsall YJS is the Chair of the Local Authorities Channel Panel and as such sits upon Walsall's Contest Board which is responsible for driving forward the delivery and implementation of the government's Contest Strategy.

8. Service Structure.

Walsall Youth Justice Service is a partnership service constructed by both Local Authority paid staff, deployed partnership staff and named specialist staff from within other departments and agencies. The YJS is funded at the same level as the previous year and has worked hard to develop new partnerships to secure pathways and support for young people in the justice system.

Good examples of how our partnerships have developed are our links with the Virtual School for Vulnerable Children and the Educational Psychology Team and the additional support this offers our young people. Further to this we have developed a partnership with Victim Support who now undertake our victim contact and provide services to the victims of crime, freeing up capacity for Youth Justice Officers to work directly with young people. Our relationship with local sporting organisations (Walsall Wood Amateur Boxing Club and the Inspire Group) continues to grow to ensure that socially excluded young people in the criminal justice system have access to opportunities, positive diversionary activities and 121 mentoring relationships with coaches. These partnerships have remained resolute despite of the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Walsall Youth Justice Service- Structure Chart



9. Finance and value for money

Walsall 2021/22	Staffing cost (£)	Partner contributions (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Local Authority	£301,197		£181,231**	£482,428
Walsall Police		£21,888		£21,888
National Probation Service		£5,000		£5,000
Health*				
Police & Crime Commissioner		£76,885		£76,885
Youth Justice Board- Effective Practice Grant		£387,775***		£387,775
Other		*		
Total Funding	£301,197	£491,548	£181,231	£973,976

*Walsall CCG provide £15,000 directly to CAMHS for the provision of a 0.5 FTE CAMHS practitioner.

** Non-staffing budgets, including ICT, travel allowances and central support services

***Since the budget was set, confirmation has been received from the Youth Justice Board that the grant for 21/22 will increase to £421,959.

Walsall YJS confirms that it is compliant with the minimum staffing requirements as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Partners have confirmed that their contributions to the Service have been maintained for 2021-22 and the establishment is fully funded. Over the past 12 months, the YJS have worked with 111 young people and 131 disposal. These numbers have been significantly affected by the closure of the Courts in 2020 and changes to policing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. Priorities for 2021/2022

Walsall Youth Justice Service will continue to address our key performance indicators as monitored by the Youth Justice Board- working with young people to reduce first time entrants into the Youth Justice System, reduce re-offending and reduce the use of custodial sentences. Practice developments and the remaining gaps identified from the National Standards Self-Assessment will be incorporated into the YJS delivery plan.

The following priorities demonstrate a motivation to align priorities with those of the partnership, with specific reference to the Safer Walsall Partnership's review of the Serious Youth Violence Strategy, Public Health's Wellbeing Strategy in response to COVID and the Safeguarding Partnerships focus on exploitation.

Our priorities for 2021/22 have been identified through consultation with the Youth Justice Service staffing group who assess and support our young people on a daily basis. We are also keenly aware that our young people should be central in improving outcomes for themselves and other young people and their views have contributed to these priorities. The Youth Justice Service also need to continue improvements in terms of risk, education and disproportionality as recommended by HMIP following their inspection in 2019.

The YJS Performance and Partnership Board have determined the following priorities to focus on:

- Reducing exploitation and youth violence.
- Ensuring that education, training and employment outcomes improve for 16+ young people in the Youth Justice System.
- Reducing disproportionality in the youth justice system.
- Effective COVID-19 recovery.
- Improving quality of practice and demonstrating outcomes.

11. Risks to future delivery

Risk to future delivery	Action/mitigation	Owner
1. Increase in the number of first time entrants and an increase in re-offending post COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board monitor FTE, offending and re-offending rates - YJS Board to evaluate current resourcing structure 	Strategic Lead for YJS
2. Partnership (inclusive of LA, PCC, YJB and partners) funding reduction- impact on staffing levels and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board to monitor impact of reductions upon capacity - Board to monitor impact of reductions upon performance and agreed standards and outcomes - Review partnership resourcing 	Strategic Lead for YJS and Chair of the YJS Board
3. Increase in serious offending- including serious youth violence and knife crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board to monitor offending rates - Developing a serious youth violence strategy through the SWP 	Strategic Lead for YJS and Chair of the YJS Board
4. Increase in disproportionality- risk of overrepresentation of BAME young people in the Youth Justice System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board to develop data analysis - Board to monitor outcomes on a quarterly basis - Developing infrastructure and processes to check and response to bias and negative outcomes. - 	Strategic Lead for YJS and Chair of the YJS Board
5. Increase in the exploitation of young people and involvement with Youth Justice System.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board to monitor outcomes - Development of an exploitation hub. - Development of multi-agency exploitation triage. 	Strategic Lead for YJS and Chair of the YJS Board
6. Maintaining staff and business continuity- impact upon relationships with children and outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board to monitor impact upon performance outcomes - Effective recruitment - YJS to work with partners to resource - Team building, 121 supervision - Review of BCP 	Strategic Lead for YJS
7. COVID-19 or other pandemic- impact upon direct delivery, including harm and safety management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board to monitor impact on delivery and take appropriate action. - Review of BCP - Review of YJS risk assessments and delivery models 	Strategic Lead for YJS

12.Approvals and signatures

Chair of Walsall Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board

Sally Rowe- Executive Director of Children’s Services Date:

Portfolio Holder

Councillor Tim Wilson Date:

Strategic Lead for Youth Justice Services



Phil Rutherford Date:

YJS Performance and Partnership Board Members	Date	Signature
Superintendent- Walsall Police		
Public Health- Head of Social Inclusion		
Children's Services- Director Early Help		
Senior Commissioning Manager- CCG		
CAMHS Clinical Lead		
Children's Services- Head of Performance		
Chair of the Black Country Youth Magistrates		
Education- Virtual School Lead		
Children's Services- Senior Accountant		
Children's Services –Director Access and Achievement		
Head of Black Country National Probation Service		
Head of Community Safety		

Youth Justice Service Delivery Plan 2021/22

National Standard 1 'Out of Court Disposals'				
Priority	KPI/National Standard	Operational Objectives	Lead	By When
Reducing Youth Violence	Reducing First Time Entrants	Improve the quality of risk of serious harm assessments for young people subject to a Youth Caution and Youth Conditional Caution, through audit, supervision and training.	Lead: Snr Practitioners for Crime Prevention and QA	September 2021
Improving quality	Re-offending			
Reducing Youth Violence	Re-offending	Review the QA template for initial and review assessments to ensure assessment focusses on all victims, not just the victim of the index offence, and include parents if appropriate.	Lead: Snr Practitioner for QA	April 2021
Improving quality				
Improving quality	Re-offending	Quality assurance activity to be shared across both Senior Practitioners to ensure consistency of practice for both pre and post court.	Lead: Snr Practitioners for Crime Prevention and QA	July 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing First Time Entrants	Return to a face to face Joint Decision Making Panel at Bloxwich Police Station	Lead: Snr Practitioner, Supt' Walsall Police	July 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing First Time Entrants	Increase in face to face contacts, including home visits, as part of the OOCB assessment process.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	July 2021
		Strategic Objectives	Lead	By When
Disproportionality	Reducing First Time Entrants	The partnership should establish quarterly local out of court disposal scrutiny panels (YJS, Police, Magistrates and EH) to demonstrate consistency and fairness of decision in line with guidance and legislation.	Leads: YJS Strategic Lead, Supt Walsall Police	October 2021
Disproportionality	Reducing First Time Entrants	To demonstrate impact and need, a comprehensive and regular performance analysis is required of;	Leads: Strategic Lead Head of Performance	July 2021 and then quarterly.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First time entrants, including at which point do young people enter the system and if they had previously received intervention • Re-offending analysis of young people subject to diversion interventions and OOCs • Disproportionality and ethnic breakdown of young people subject to OOCs. 		
Disproportionality COVID-19 recovery	Reducing First Time Entrants	<p>The YJS and local Police will further review and develop the Out of Court Disposal Model and wider crime prevention strategy to consider the evidence base for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An arrest diversion scheme • Greater use of Outcome 22 • a pilot to change police guidance to enable young people from BAME backgrounds to receive out of court support irrespective of their plea. 	Leads: YJS Strategic Lead, Supt Walsall Police	December 2020

National Standard 2 'In Court'				
Priority	KPI/National Standard	Operational Objectives	Lead	By When
Disproportionality Improving quality	Re-offending NS Self Assessment.	<p>Walsall YJS to develop literature for young people and parents to improve their understanding of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What happens in Court. - Out of court Disposals. - Court Orders. - Assisted Visits Scheme. 	<p>Lead: Snr Practitioner</p> <p><i>YP to design and Parents to be consulted. Ed Psychology to review for SEN & diversity needs.</i></p>	May 2021
Improving quality	Re-offending NS Self-assessment	Review of the YJS induction process to ensure it captures young person understanding of the justice system and the impact and consequences of their involvement.	Lead: YJS Team Manager	June 2021

		Strategic Objectives	Lead	By When
Improving quality	Reducing Custody	To improve the quality of reports and assessments by implementing a Court feedback process.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	July 2021
Improving quality Disproportionality	Re-offending Reducing Custody NS Self-assessment	The YJS to review its compliance and engagement policy to ensure it is National Standard compliant and considers the overrepresentation of BAME young people in the breach court.	Lead: Snr Practitioner and Chair of the Youth Bench.	October 2021
Disproportionality Improving quality	NS Self-assessment	The Children's Service quality assurance strategy and policy should be reviewed each year from a YJS perspective, to ensure it is national standard compliant and includes PSR congruence.	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead	October 2021
Disproportionality	First Time Entrants Re-offending	Provide assurance to the partnership that YP only appear in Court when an O OCD has been considered by periodically presenting the findings of regional O OCD moderation panels.	Lead: Snr Practitioner and Chair of the Youth Bench.	October 2021
Reducing youth violence Disproportionality	Reducing Custody	In response to the increase in custodial sentence, the YJS will implement a reducing custody action plan.	Lead: YJS Team Manager	September 2021
Disproportionality Improving quality	Reducing Custody	As part of the Service's efforts to address disproportionality in the system the YJS should implement a PSR disproportionality working group to assess proposal and sentence congruence and use of unconscious bias.	Lead: Snr Practitioner and Chair of the Youth Bench.	October 2021
Education Improving quality	Reducing custody	To improve the youth panel's knowledge and understanding of special educational needs and diversity, Walsall YJS will provide support and training to the Youth Magistrates.	Lead: Snr Practitioner, Chair of the Youth Bench.	October 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing custody	Escalate to the YJS performance and partnership board any COVID-19 issues, such as future backlogs and logistical problems, where Walsall young people are being adversely.	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead	October 2021

National Standard 3 'In the Community'				
Priority	KPI/National Standard	Operational Objectives	Lead	By When
Reducing youth violence Improving quality	Re-offending	The YJS needs to improve the quality of safety planning for victims in MyPlan and ASSET+ pathway and planning through QA, audit and training.	Lead: YJS Team Manager	October 2021
Improving quality	Re-offending NS Self-assessment	To ensure the quality of practice and adherence to national standard for Walsall children living out of borough, the YJS should review it's 'care-taking' process and ensure consistency across the team	Lead: YJS Team Manager	September 2021
Improving quality	NS Self-assessment	To demonstrate effective information sharing with young people and parents, the YJS should develop literature to provide on a consistent basis.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	October 2021
Reducing Youth Violence	Re-offending Reducing Custody	Establish a Lived Experience Mentoring Programme to improve outcomes for those involved in exploitation, carrying a knife and violence.	Lead; YJS Team Manager	July 2021
Education	Re-offending	Ensure monitoring of attendance and exclusion of YJS cohort is robust and results in additional planning and support	Lead: Snr Practitioner/Virtual School	Review September 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Re-offending	Re-instate face to face Referral Order Panels within the new locality model and simultaneously improve the accessibility of Microsoft Teams to undertake virtual panels where appropriate	Lead: YJS Team Manager	September 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Re-offending Reducing Custody	Increase in face to face contacts, including home visits, as part of the assessment process and per locally agreed standards,	Lead: YJS Team Manager	September 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Re-offending Reducing Custody	Re-establish, in-line with health and safety risk assessments, positive activities including sport, group-work and community reparation projects	Lead: Snr Practitioner	July 2021

		Strategic Objectives	Lead	By When
Reducing youth violence Improving quality	Reducing First Time Entrants Re-offending Reducing Custody	Issues with staffing capacity and resilience should be raised and addressed through the YJS performance and partnership board and the Safer Walsall Partnership	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead	Quarterly
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing First Time Entrants Re-offending Reducing Custody	YJS performance and partnership board to monitor ongoing impact of COVID-19 on Walsall young people.	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead	Quarterly
Improving quality Disproportionality	Reducing First Time Entrants Re-offending Reducing Custody	Fully embed the YJS audit programme for 2021/22 to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim contact and assessment of risk. • Re-offending. • O OCD model. • First time entrants. • Exploitation • Social Care interface • Disproportionality 	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead and Head of Performance	July 2021
Reducing youth violence Disproportionality	Reducing First Time Entrants	The YJS is committed to the development of the partnership's exploitation strategy and should commit resource to the newly forming triage and exploitation hub	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead	June 2021
Reducing youth violence	Reducing First Time Entrants Re-offending	Contribute and lead in developing and supporting the partnership's serious youth violence reduction strategy.	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead	July 2021

National Standard 4 'In Secure'				
Priority	KPI/National Standard	Operational Objectives	Lead	By When
Reducing youth violence	Re-offending Reducing Custody NS Self-assessment	To improve oversight of assessment, planning and intervention, the terms of reference for the YJS multi-agency high-risk panel should be reviewed to include custody officers in planning for resettlement and ensuring young people receive the support they need.	Lead: YJS Team Manager	June 2021
Improving quality	Reducing custody NS Self-assessment	To improve information sharing with young people and their parents, including information regarding custody and the assisted visits scheme, the YJS should develop literature to share.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	July 2021
Reducing youth violence	NS Self-assessment	To ensure better continuity for young people into and exiting the secure estate, the YJS should consider adopting a system to upload local plans and assessments (such as EHCP's, mental health or social care plans) on the YJAF.	Lead: YJS Team Manager	July 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing Custody	Re-establish face to face professional visits, and support family visits, into the secure estates upon confirmation from each individual establishment.	Lead: YJS Team Manager	July 2021
		Strategic Objectives	Lead	By When
Reducing youth violence Education COVID-19 recovery	Reducing custody Re-offending	The YJS partnership should confirm specialist resources (incl. health, mental health, education and substance misuse) to effectively plan for smooth resettlement of young people into the community.	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead, Public Health and Virtual School.	October 2021
Reducing youth violence Improving quality	Reducing custody NS self-assessment	A comprehensive health needs analysis for Walsall young people in the justice system would be beneficial to understand any gaps in provision and required pathways. The health needs of young people in the secure estate should be considered within it.	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead and Head of Performance	October 2021
Improving quality	Reducing custody	A strategic audit would be beneficial to understand the resettlement challenges for Walsall young people and improve	Lead: Public Health,	October 2021

	NS self-assessment	partnership pathways to better support seamless transition (with particular focus on accommodation).	Lorraine, Virtual School, Commissioning, Strategic Lead	
Improving quality	Reducing custody NS self-assessment	The YJS performance and partnership board should support the regional efforts to seek assurances from the Youth Custody Service that Walsall children are cared for appropriately.	Lead: Strategic Lead and Public Health	October 2021
COVID-19 recovery	Reducing custody	Escalation of COVID-19 issues affecting young people within the secure estate to the YJS performance and partnership board.	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead	Quarterly

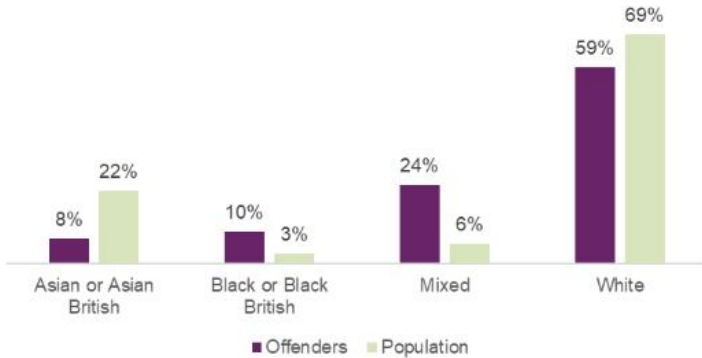
Priority	KPI/National Standard	Operational Objectives	Lead	By When
Improving quality	Re-offending NS Self-assessment	Develop literature to provide to young people and families at the end of statutory YJS intervention that details the support and services available to them outside of the justice system.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	May 2021
Education Reducing Youth violence Improving quality	Re-offending Reducing Custody NS Self-assessment	YJS to ensure that transitions (T2A, Education, Resettlement, Accommodation) are clearly articulated and planned for in ASSET+ Pathways and Planning.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	June 2021
Reducing Youth Violence	Re-offending Reducing Custody	The YJS high-risk panel to ensure oversight of a dedicated 'stand-alone' resettlement plan for all young people leaving custody.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	September 2021
Education	Re-offending	Embed the use of the YJS Vulnerability Personal Education Plan for young people who are CME or at risk of permanent exclusion	Lead: Snr Practitioner	October 2021
Education	Re-offending	Fully establish partnership with Walsall Works to improve employment opportunities for young people in the justice system.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	July 2021
Education	Re-offending	Explore apprenticeship opportunities for young people who have experienced the youth justice system.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	September 2021

Education	Re-offending	Develop a Youth Justice NEET Action Group (NAG) to monitor and drive forward outcomes for 16+ young people	Lead: Snr Practitioner, Employment and skills manager	June 2021
Improving quality	NS Self-assessment	Review the YJS case closure process to ensure consistent recording of exit strategies and smooth transition to the community.	Lead: Snr Practitioner	September 2021

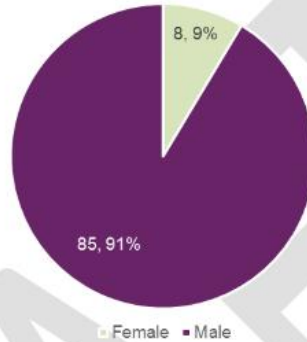
		Strategic Objectives	Lead	By When
Improving quality	Re-offending	Undertake a health needs analysis for 2020/21 for the YJS Performance and Partnership Board to identify gaps develop pathways.	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead, Virtual School, Public health.	October 2021
Reducing youth violence	NS self-assessment			
Reducing youth violence	Reducing Custody	Undertake a strategic audit of the resettlement issues, including accommodation, health and education, for young people leaving the secure estate to update the partnership of complex issues and gaps in pathways.	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead, Virtual School, Public health.	October 2021
Improving quality	NS self-assessment			
Education	Re-offending	Include 16+ Employment and Skills representation on the YJS Performance and Partnership Board	Lead: YJS Strategic Lead	April 2021

Youth Justice Demographic Analysis 1/1/20 – 31/12/20

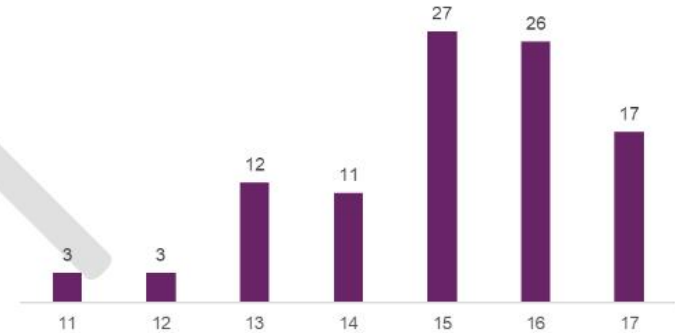
Ethnicity of Offenders Compared to Population



Gender



Age



Published YJB First Time Entrants data per 100,000 of the 10-17 population

	Oct 18- Sept 19	Jan 19 – Dec 19
Walsall	263	275
West Midlands	286	268
Family	250	228
England	216	204

- In the latest published data, Walsall had a higher rate of First Time Entrants per 100,000 than the West Midlands regional and national average.
- The performance is linked to a spike after summer 2019 which is in part due to the serious nature of offending at that time.
- Local tracking of data suggests a significant improvement in performance over 2020

Published YJB custody data- rate per 100,000 *most up to date reported figure

	June 19 – June 2020	Oct 19 – Sept 2020
Walsall	0.41	0.34
West Midlands (PCC)	0.33	0.16
Family	0.25	0.18
England	0.18	0.10

- Walsall had a higher rate of custody per 100,000 than national regional and statistical neighbour comparators in the latest published data.
- Between 2016 and 2019, the rate for Walsall had reduced from 0.98 to 0.24.
- Performance has improved this quarter (which follows the regional and national trend)
- The data (Oct 19 – Sept 20) refers to 10 custodial sentences.

Published YJB Re-offending data *refreshed on a quarterly basis.

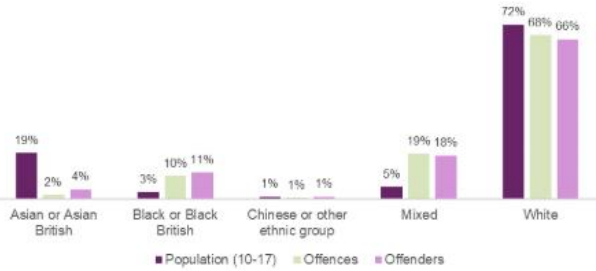
Binary Rate		
	Apr 17 – Mar 18	Jan 18 – Dec 18
Walsall	29.6%	31.8%
West Midlands	33.9%	34.6%
Family	34.6%	32.4%

Re-offences per re-offender		
	Apr 17 – Mar 18	Jan 18 – Dec 18
Walsall	2.66	2.76
West Midlands	3.61	3.84
Family	4.02	3.89

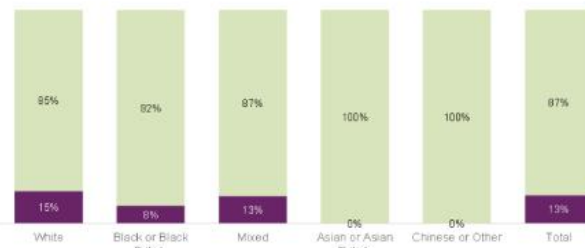
Walsall reoffending rates were better than national, regional and statistical neighbour comparators in the latest published data.

Ethnic Disproportionality in Youth Justice 1/4/18-31/3/20

Percentage of population (aged 10-17), offences and offenders by ethnicity



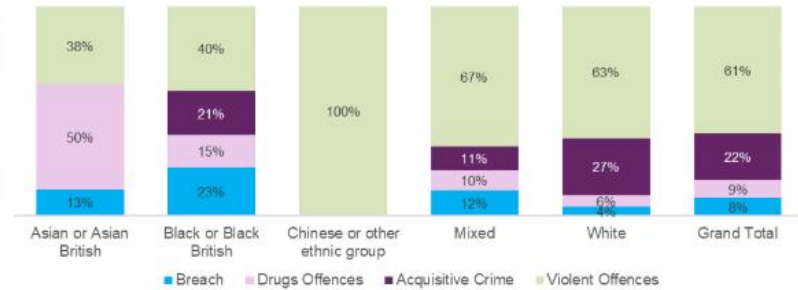
Gender by Ethnicity



Between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2020, there were disproportionately more young people from black or black British and mixed ethnicity groups in the young offenders' cohort, compared to the number of young people from these groups in the 10-17 population. Young offenders are more likely to be male, with few differences across ethnic groups.

Ethnicity by Population and Number of Offenders				
Ethnicity	Percentage 10-17 Population	Percentage of Offenders	Difference	Number of offences / offender
White	72% (20,253)	66% (216)	-6%	3.20
Mixed	5% (1,396)	18% (39)	13%	3.32
Black or Black British	3% (723)	11% (24)	8%	2.63
Asian or Asian British	19% (5,473)	4% (8)	-15%	1.50
Chinese or Other	1% (423)	1% (3)	0%	1.33

Ethnicity by Type of Crime



Young people with white and mixed ethnic groups committed the highest number of offences per offender.

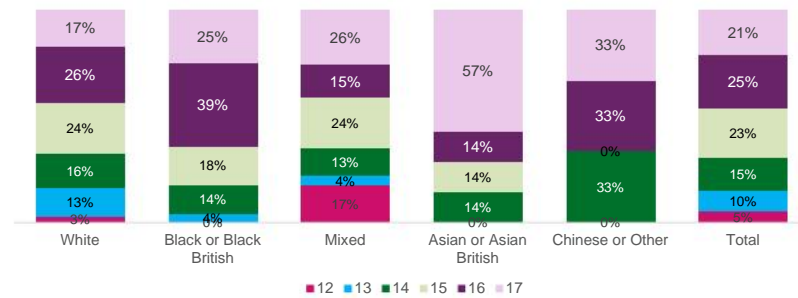
Young people from black or black British and mixed ethnicity groups committed a disproportionately high percentage of drugs offences, breach offences and violent crime

Ethnicity by Disposal Group



Young people with mixed ethnicity were given a disproportionately high percentage of the most severe disposals

Age by Ethnicity



Appendix D

Current YJS Performance and Partnership Board membership:

- West Midlands Police – Superintendent
- National Probation Service – NPS lead for the Black Country
- Health (CCG) - Senior Commissioning Manager
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services- Clinical Lead
- Black Country Magistrates Youth Panel Chair
- Local Authority –
 - Director of Children’s Services (Chair)
 - Public Health – Head of Social Inclusion
 - Community Safety – Head of Community Safety
 - Education- Director of Access and Achievement

Supporting Officers-

- Youth Justice Service Strategic Lead, Walsall Children’s Services
- Youth Justice Board- Head of Innovation and Engagement
- Virtual School Lead
- 16+ Education- employment and skills manager
- Local Authority Accountant – finance.
- Local Authority Performance Officer
- Administrative Support, Youth Justice Service

Appendix E

Safer Lives Survey Summary:

Exposure to violent media: 40% of young people surveyed stated that they saw violent images or videos on social media on a weekly basis. Over a half watched violent TV or films that contained violence & 40% played violent computer games on a daily basis. Similarly nearly 50% of young people surveyed listened to violent lyrics each day.

Exposure to violence in daily life: 40% of the young people had seen violence within their school or college on a monthly basis, with 2 of those that were surveyed stating that this occurred each day. 40% had seen violence within the local neighbourhood during the past year but no one admitted that violence was commonplace.

How safe do our young people feel?: Conversely, the majority of young people surveyed, including those who had experienced violence at school, expressed that they felt safe within their school or college and their local neighbourhood. When asked about how safe the young person felt within their own home, when compared to being in school or out in the neighbourhood, 53% of young people claimed they felt least safe when at home. This is in stark contrast to previous findings from the survey which highlighted that young people felt most safe in other neighbourhood.

The people they know: 53% knew someone who had previously been the victim of serious violence with 47% knowing someone who needed hospital treatment. A small number of young people stated that they know 10 or more young people who had been the victim of violence. 27% of the young people knew at least one person who carried a knife, with 33% knowing someone involved in the supply of drugs. The vast majority of young people in the survey felt they could talk to their parents if they were worried about violence and 7 of the young people felt confident in approaching the police. Young people were generally able to identify individuals who could help them. Only 1 of the young people sadly felt they had no-one they could turn to.

What is important to our young people: Only 3 young people thought that having expensive clothes and jewellery was important to them and only 5 believed having designer goods were important. Hugely concerning was that 60% of the young people stated that young people carry a knife to make them safer. Positively 87% of young people believed that their education and getting good grades was important.

What would they do to make things safer?: 27% of the young people believed that having more things for them to do in their local community including more youth clubs would make them feel safer. 1 young person said that the Police should 'check for knives' and 'do more stop and search' and 2 other young people thought they needed 'more police and community officers around and to be able to talk to them'. The impact of social media was also recognised by our young people with some believing that violence needed to be removed from platforms including drill videos.

Appendix F: Case Studies.

Crime Prevention- Out of Court disposal Model

The Police referred T to the YJS to see if he was suitable for and out of court disposal for a possession of a weapon offence. Following checks from our Youth Crime Police Officer, he was allocated a crime prevention officer to complete a full ASSET+ assessment. Both the young person and parents engaged in the assessment and it was agreed at the Multi-Agency Decision Making Panel that the matter could be kept out of court via a Youth Conditional Caution.

T was permanently excluded from his school due to the offence and parents requested support with seeking another education provision. The crime prevention worker put a plan of support/intervention in place alongside T and his parents, which included weapons awareness work, the law and ladder of offending, keeping safe work and working with the Local Education Authority about T's education options.

T has engaged with his crime prevention officer on a weekly basis and completed restorative reparation work by designing a leaflet for young people, about the implications of carrying a knife. The YJS crime prevention worker advocated for T, was able to positively report that his engagement, understanding and remorse around his behaviour was good. During T's interview with the school he was able to reflect on his offending behaviour and inform the School panel what he had learnt during his work with the YJS. T has started at his new school and fully complied with the conditions of his caution. There have been no further reports or concerns regarding offending.

Criminal Exploitation and Resettlement

M was sentenced to an 18 month custodial sentence for multiple offences including robbery, possession of an offensive weapon and possession of class A drugs. He was a first time entrant and had not previously been known to the YJS. A Youth Justice Officer worked closely with M to complete a full assessment and to plan for his eventual resettlement back into the community. As part of this process an exploitation screening was completed which led to a referral to the National Crime Agency for National Referral Mechanism (NRM) status, which identified M as being the victim of human trafficking.

Resettlement release planning focussed on ensuring that M had access to suitable accommodation in a new area to distance him from perpetrators of criminal exploitation and a suitable education placement that offered vocational mechanic courses. M's Youth Justice Officer maintained case responsibility but worked closely with the Youth Offending Service in the new area to ensure that he complied with his stringent licence conditions and had access to offending behaviour programmes and positive activities, including access to a local football team. M engaged with all aspects of his licence up to this point with no new information from the police to suggest and increase in risk of re-offending.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

Proposal name	Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2021-22		
Directorate	Children's Services		
Service	Youth Justice Service		
Responsible Officer	Phil Rutherford		
Proposal planning start	03/02/2021	Proposal start date (due or actual date)	01/04/2021

1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Policy		
	Procedure		
	Guidance		
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?		
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?		
	Other - give details	Yes	
	The YJS has a statutory duty to complete an Strategic Plan on an annual basis. It is within the Council's constitution to seek Council's approval.		
2	<p>What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?</p> <p>Walsall Youth Justice Service (YJS) remains a statutory multi-agency service under Section 37 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act in partnership with the Local Authority, Walsall Children's Services, West Midlands Police, National Probation Service and Health. The YJS is also supported by numerous other partners who contribute to the YJS' agenda. The principle aim of the YJS partnership is to prevent and reduce offending and re-offending behaviour in children and young people.</p> <p>Youth Justice partnerships have a statutory duty to produce an annual youth justice plan for submission to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales showing how youth justice services will be provided and funded. The plan is prepared on an annual basis in accordance with the guidance and specific conditions as set within the Youth Justice Board Effective Practice Grant. The youth justice plan sets out key achievements over the past 12 months, how Walsall Youth Justice Service is structured and funded and also identifies risks to service delivery and improvement.</p>		



The plan outlines the partnerships priorities for 2021/22 and provides commentary on the three national performance indicators for youth offending services;

- Rate of first time entrants to the youth justice system
- The number and rate of custodial sentences
- The proportion of young people re-offending

The plan identifies 5 main priorities as stated below:

- Reducing exploitation and youth violence.
- Ensuring that education, training and employment outcomes improve for 16+ young people in the Youth Justice System.
- Disproportionality in the youth justice system.
- COVID-19 recovery.
- Improving quality of practice and demonstrating outcomes.

3 Who is the proposal likely to affect?

People in Walsall	Yes / No	Detail
All		The Youth Justice Service work with young people aged between 10 and 17 who enter the Youth Justice System either via a Police disposal, such as a Youth Caution, or via conviction in the criminal courts.
Specific group/s	Y	
Council employees		
Other (identify)		

4 Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer's protected characteristics.

Continuing to develop understanding and address disproportionality is a priority for the YJS in 2021/22.

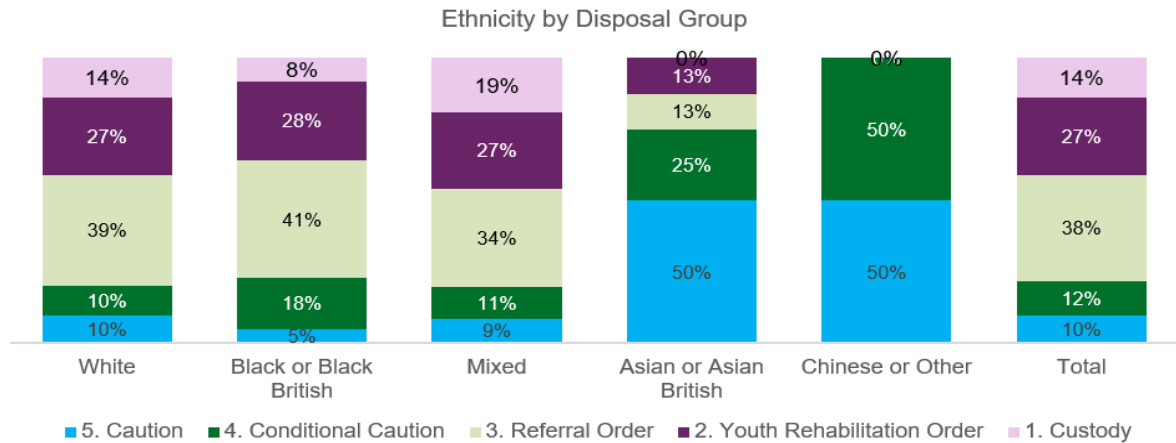
Disproportionality (overrepresentation) within the youth justice system is a national and local issue. We have developed our ability to monitor and analyse the ethnicity of young people subject to disposals and we can see that, when compared to local demographics, young people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds are overrepresented.

Through funding from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the partnership has worked with an organisation to consult with our families, staff and partners. The YJS has completed training as a team and is developing systems and processes to enable the monitoring and checking of disproportionality in work with our young people.

Work has also commenced with West Midlands Police to consider how to ensure young people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds have the same opportunities to receive out of court disposals as other young people.

The Youth Justice Service has an analysis of the ethnic disproportionality of young people in the youth justice system between 1/4/2018 and 31/3/2020.

Ethnicity by Population and Number of Offenders				
Ethnicity	Percentage 10-17 Population	Percentage of Offenders	Difference	Number of offences / offender
White	72% (20,253)	66% (216)	-6%	3.20
Mixed	5% (1,396)	18% (39)	13%	3.32
Black or Black British	3% (723)	11% (24)	8%	2.63
Asian or Asian British	19% (5,473)	4% (8)	-15%	1.50
Chinese or Other	1% (423)	1% (3)	0%	1.33



*Only 2 young people within the 2 year period had a recorded ethnicity of 'Chinese or other'

There is disproportionality in the disposals received by young people with mixed ethnicity with 46% of offenders in this ethnic group receiving one of the two most severe disposals compared with 41% of white offenders and 36% of black or black British offenders.

The disproportionality is high when compared with the fact that young people with mixed ethnicity are only slightly more likely to be convicted of violent crime (67% compared with 63% for white young people) and that the offences committed by white youths are more likely to be in a higher category of severity. Overwhelmingly, disproportionality is affecting boys.



5 Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal. (Please use a separate box for each engagement/consultation).

Walsall YJS continue to believe that if young people are involved in decisions that affect their lives, they are more likely to accept and support them, even if they are hard, and will take ownership of the changes required to avoid getting into trouble and to stay safe. We think that the voice of our young people needs to be at the forefront in tackling all issues affecting or affected by offending behaviour and in particular violence and knife crime. The YJS seeks the views of our young people, and parents, in every aspect of our work to help us make decisions, focus our interventions and develop a training plan for staff.

To inform the Strategic Plan, consultation has occurred with young people in the justice system, parents, with the YJS practitioners and also with the YJS Performance and Partnership Board members.

Consultation Activity

Type of engagement/consultation	Consultation with YJS Performance and Partnership Board members	Date	March 2021
Who attended/participated?	Strategic Leaders from across the partnership including National Probation Service, West Midlands Police, Public Health, Community Safety, Children's Services.		
Protected characteristics of participants	-		
Feedback YJS Board members have been consulted in preparation for submission of the strategic plan to the national Youth Justice Board as per the conditions of the effective practice grant. The priorities within the Strategic Plan align with the partnerships', including reducing youth violence (Safer Walsall Partnership and WMP) and reducing disproportionality (National Probation Service).			

Type of engagement/consultation	Consultation with YJS staff group	Date	March 2021
Who attended/participated?	YJS practitioners and specialists		
Protected characteristics of participants	Current YJS establishment: 4 x Male 15 x Female 11 x white 3 x Asian 4 x black 1 x dual heritage		
Feedback YJS practitioners were consulted on the Services strategic priorities for 2021-22 through a full Service meeting. The priorities identified within the Strategic Plan have been informed by the consultation.			

Type of engagement/consultation	Young people safer lives surveys	Date	February 2021
Who attended/participated?	Young people open to the Youth Justice Service on either a Police Disposal or Court Order		
Protected characteristics of participants	White (English) x 8 Asian (Pakistani) x 3 Black (Caribbean) x 3 Dual Heritage x 1 Male x 13 Female x 2		
Feedback 40% of the young people had seen violence within their school or college on a monthly basis, with 2 of those that were surveyed stating that this occurred each day. 40% had seen violence within the local neighbourhood during the past year.			

53% knew someone who had previously been the victim of serious violence with 47% knowing someone who needed hospital treatment. A small number of young people stated that they know 10 of more young people who had been the victim of violence. 27% of the young people knew at least one person who carried a knife.

Type of engagement/consultation	Walsall's Youth Voice-workshop	Date	February 2020
Who attended/participated?	Young people open to the Youth Justice Service on either a Police Disposal or Court Order		
Protected characteristics of participants	24 young people attended the event. 16 young people from BAME background.		
Feedback			
<p>In half term, our young people, as part of our wider partnership knife crime workshop, hosted and led on a recorded debate. The following is their summary of points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The lack of trust with the police and a poor relationship with communities. This was countered by those that felt the police were in a tricky position and the police do rescue a lot of people.</i> • <i>Audiences felt schools could do more with enrichment and they valued the need for more community investment in youth spaces for activities to get involved in.</i> • <i>Audience members talked about the lure of money and the temptations of social media/music drawing certain young people into certain behaviours.</i> • <i>'Clout chasing' - the expression used for those trying to get a reputation through anti-social behaviours - was identified as something which fuels young people being drawn into certain behaviours</i> • <i>We want better quality role models & mentors. Young people identified the need for more proven mentors who have actually achieved things.</i> 			

6 Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation

Her Majesties Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) undertook an inspection of youth offending in Walsall in 2019 and made the recommendation that the Youth Justice partnership needs to do more to understand the issue and improve outcomes for young people from BAME backgrounds.

A significant amount of activity has occurred over the past 12 months to improve the YJS' understanding of the issue locally, completing an extensive needs analysis and also working closely with an organisation to facilitate consultation and to train the staff in engaging with BAME young people and unconscious bias.

Evidence from our disproportionality analysis tells us that between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2020, there were disproportionately more young people from black or black British and mixed ethnicity groups in the young offenders' cohort, compared to the number of young people from these groups in the 10-17 population.

Young people from black or black British and mixed ethnicity groups committed a disproportionately high percentage of drugs offences, breach offences and violent crime and young people with a mixed ethnicity background are more likely to be criminalised at a younger age.

Young people with mixed ethnicity were given a disproportionately high percentage of

the most severe disposals and the amount of severe disposals do not appear to correspond with a higher number of severe offences committed by these young people. The severity of these types of offence does account for the severity of the disposals in each case. In fact, young people with a mixed ethnicity background are disproportionately more likely to receive custody disposals for less severe violent crimes.

The priorities within the strategic plan do not adversely impact certain groups and conversely aim to improve outcomes for young people from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups within or on the periphery of the criminal justice system. Work will continue into 2021-22 to improve the Service's data monitoring, to train staff in better engagement of different communities and unconscious bias and to improve policies to check and monitor issues of discrimination.

7 How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group? The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.

Characteristic	Affect	Reason	Action needed Yes / No
Age	Positive	The strategic plan aims to improve outcomes for young people aged 10-17, and recognises the majority of young people from BAME backgrounds enter the system at ages 15-17.	No
Disability	Neutral	No foreseen impact	No
Gender reassignment	Neutral	No foreseen impact	No
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	No foreseen impact	No
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	No foreseen impact	No
Race	Positive	The Strategic Plan is setting a priority to reduce the overrepresentation of BAME young people in the youth justice system	No
Religion or belief	Neutral	No foreseen impact	No
Sex	Positive	The strategic plan recognises that the majority of young people in the youth justice system are male and therefore the partnership's priorities aim to improve outcomes for this group.	No
Sexual orientation	Neutral	No foreseen impact	No
Other (give detail)	-		

	Further information			
8	Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.			(Delete one) No
9	Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?			
A	No major change required			
B	<u>Adjustments needed to remove barriers or to better promote equality</u>			
C	Continue despite possible adverse impact			
D	Stop and rethink your proposal			

Action and monitoring plan				
Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome
October 2021 (Date TBC)	Establish Out of Court Disposal oversight and scrutiny groups with partners.	Phil Rutherford		Proposed outcomes- Ensuring fairness of criminal justice disposal decision making and impact on BAME monitored & responded to.
October 2021	Establish a Pre-Sentence Report disproportionality working group	Phil Rutherford		Ensuring fairness of decision making, use of unconscious bias and sentencing congruence for BAME young people
October	Review of the Compliance and Engagement policy	Phil Rutherford		Ensuring that enforcement of non-compliance is fair and issues of disproportionality are taken into consideration
May 2021	Develop literature for young people and parents regarding criminal justice processes	Phil Rutherford		Ensure messages are clear and young people fully understand the impact of criminal justice processes.
April 2022 (Date TBC)	Progress against the actions above.	Phil Rutherford		

The Youth Justice Service Performance and Partnership Board will monitor progress against the priorities within the Strategic Plan. The Board meets on a quarterly basis, will receive performance reports, including audit findings and data analysis, and will review updates for the plan. Outcomes from this Strategic Plan will inform our priorities going in 2022 and onwards.

Update to EqIA

Date	Detail

Contact us

Community, Equality and Cohesion
Resources and Transformation

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Inside Walsall: http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service_information/Equality_and_diversity

Council – 26th May, 2021

Extension of Term of Office - Independent Person

1. Summary of report

To request the Council to extend the term of office of Mr Andrew Green to the Standards Committee and Audit Committee.

2. Recommendation

That Mr Andrew Greens term of office as an Independent Person on the Council's Audit and Standards Committees be extended for a period of 4 years.

3. Report detail

Standards

3.1 The Localism Act 2011 was enacted on 15th November 2011 and amongst its provisions was the repeal of the existing standards regime as set out in the Local Government Act 2000. This included amongst other changes, the abolition of the Standards Board for England and the existing arrangements for local investigation and determination of complaints and the requirement for independent members on Standards Committees.

3.2 The Localism Act 2011 requires the authority to have in place arrangements under which allegations of a breach of the Code can be investigated and decisions made in respect of such allegations. The arrangements require the authority to appoint at least one independent person, whose views are to be sought and taken into account by the authority before it makes its decision on an allegation that it has decided to investigate. The views of the independent person may be sought by a member if that member's behaviour is the subject of an allegation.

Audit

3.3 Audit committees are a key component of an authority's governance framework. Their function is to provide an independent and high-level resource to support good governance and strong public financial management. The purpose of an audit committee is to provide to those charged with governance independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance processes. By overseeing both internal and external audit it makes an important contribution to ensuring that effective assurance arrangements are in place. The Council's audit committee should adopt a model that establishes the committee as independent and effective. The committee should:

- act as the principal, advisory function supporting those charged with governance;
- be independent of the decision making committees of the Council and include an independent member where not already required to do so by legislation;
- have clear rights of access to other committees/functions, for example, service committees, corporate risk management and other strategic groups; and
- be directly accountable to the authority's governing body.

3.4 Best practice dictates that governance, risk management and strong financial controls be embedded in the daily and regular business of an organisation. The existence of an audit committee does not remove responsibility from senior managers, members and leaders, but provides an opportunity and resource to focus on these issues.

3.5 CIPFA considers that Audit Committees must also actively explore the appointment of at least one independent member to the Committee. This is in line with good practice to demonstrate good governance principles and independence from the executive and other political allegiances.

4.0 **Legal Implications**

4.1 The Council is required under the Localism Act 2011 to appoint an independent person in order that the Monitoring Officer may consult with them before it makes its decision on an allegation that it has decided to investigate.

4.2 Whilst Independent on Audit Committees is not a requirement, it is considered Best Practice by CIPFA.

4.3 All Independent Persons are required to sign a declaration to confirm that they have:

- received a copy of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council's Code of Conduct for Members, currently in force and have been encouraged to read the same; and
- that in performing any of their functions as an Independent Member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council's Standards Committee they will observe and uphold the Code of Conduct for Members, currently in force and any subsequent Code of Conduct; and I understand that I will not be permitted, by operation of law, to act in such capacity, unless and until I have given this written declaration to the Council's Monitoring Officer.

4.4 Independent Persons are also asked to complete a declaration of interest form.

4.5 The term of office is for a period of 4 years but may be extended by Council.

5. **Financial implications**

- 5.1 There will be a cost to the Council in reimbursing Independent Members reasonable out of pocket expenses such as travelling/subsistence/other related expenses. These are difficult to quantify in advance and will be dependent on the level of activity of the Standards Committee.
- 5.2 To ensure that the Council attracts high quality candidate whilst recognising the complexity of the role, Standards Committee agreed that an allowance for members of the Standards Committee should be paid. Following a review of a number of Councils, the Chair of Standards Committee agreed that an allowance of £750.00 plus reasonable expenses be paid.

6. Equality implications

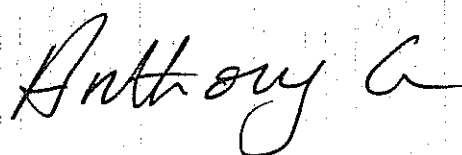
- 6.1 Arrangements for dealing with complaints will ensure that complaints are investigated impartially and fairly, which is to be of benefit to both the complainant and elected member or co-opted member.

Background papers

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance on the function and operation of audit committees; "Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police, 2018 edition"

Author

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Signed: Anthony Cox

Director of Governance

Date: 12/05/21