



SaferMK Partnership Discussion Report

Subject: Ministry of Justice - Youth Justice Review

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1. **Purpose of report – Please mark (X) the boxes that are relevant to the report**

SAFERMK PRIORITIES

- Improving road safety by reducing the number of accidents and the severity of the collisions to individuals.
- Reducing the number of violent incidences
- Tackling and enforcing substance misuse
- Enhance community engagement to reduce fear of crime

OTHER STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Anti-Social Behaviour Reducing Reoffending
- Prevent Police and Crime Commissioner Priority
- An item under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 that supports the delivery of crime reduction and addressing community safety concerns (please state below)

1.1 **Brief introduction**

- 1.2 To receive for information the outcome of the recent national review of Youth Justice released in December 2016.
- 1.3 An annual Youth Justice Plan has to be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales by 30 September 2016.

- 1.4 The statutory responsibility for completion and sign-off of the Youth Justice Plan rests with the Youth Offending and Strengthening Families Strategic Board which agreed this year's plan on 21 July 2016.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Partnership be requested to comment and note the content of the Youth Justice Review.
- 2.2 That a presentation outlining the local context be received.
- 2.3 That regular updates to actions be provided to future meetings of the Partnership.

3. Comments/Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Group

- 3.1 There are no comments or recommendations that have been requested by the Committee to SaferMK Partnership.

4. Background

- 4.1 At the presentation of the Youth Justice Plan in October 2016, it was highlighted that the government commissioned a review of youth justice which was due for publication in July 2016. This was delayed in order that the new ministerial team could consider the findings and implications but it may have significant consequences for future arrangements including for grant funding by central government. The report was published in December 2016.

- 4.2 The final report can be found following this link:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/577103/youth-justice-review-final-report.pdf .

- 4.3 There are 36 recommendations in the report below is a summary:
- The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) should roll out the money it contributes to YOTs to local authorities and allow them to organise youth justice provision as they see fit.
 - Commissioners and providers should change the way in which mental health support is provided to young people to make it more accessible to those at risk.
 - All areas should operate diversion schemes based on 8 key principles: proportionality; sensitivity to victims, devolved decision making, speed; light-touch assessment; access to other services; high quality co-ordinated (between police and council) leadership and independent scrutiny.

- Children should not normally be held in police custody for more than six hours.
- Care home staff should resolve minor incidents without recourse to the police.
- The MoJ and Home Office should develop a distinct approach to criminal records for young people.
- The Government should remove or substantially restrict the availability of short custodial sentences.
- Children under 16 should only be sent to custody if they pose a significant risk to the public.
- The MoJ and Department for Education should work together to set up Secure Schools which:
 - Are run, governed and inspected as schools,
 - Accommodate up to 60-70 children and are located in the regions they serve,
 - Devolve considerable autonomy to their heads,
 - Provide children with a bespoke package of support and education, and
 - Deliver an improved and better integrated health offer.
- Young people leaving custody must know where they are going to live at least two weeks in advance of discharge.
- The Ministry of Justice should create an Office of the Youth Justice Commissioner, a specific directorate within the department which replaces the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and brings together in a single place responsibility for policy and delivery of youth justice.

5. Implications to SaferMK Partnership

- 5.1 Youth Justice contributes to the statutory requirement to oversee reducing reoffending therefore it can be seen as a key component of the Safer MK strategy to reduce offending and anti-social behaviour with respect to young people.
- 5.2 The risks of not delivering an effective youth justice service which prevents entry to or escalation through the youth justice system include Safer MK being unable to progress it's objectives in key areas such as reoffending and tackling substance misuse.
- 5.3 Funds provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to Youth Offending Teams are now channelled through community safety partnerships so performance against the statutory youth justice objectives offer Safer MK a means to demonstrate congruence with PCC objectives and value for money.

6. Other considerations / Key Partnership Involvement

- 6.1 It is imperative that the SaferMK Partnership has a clear understanding of the risks to delivery against priorities and how the review from a local perspective to ensure a suitable approach to the contribution to reducing reoffending strand and delivery in Milton Keynes

7. Attachments/Background Papers

- 7.1 Youth Justice Review and Government response (link only)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-youth-justice-system>
- 7.2 Local briefing (to follow).