

## CABINET

29 SEPTEMBER 2015

### YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 - 2016 REFRESH – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mike O'Brien, Children's Services

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults Services

Author: Keith Gulvin, Youth Offending Team Manager  
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

#### Summary

To set out the comments and recommendations of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee following their consideration of the Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan.

#### 1. Background

1.1 The Integrated Youth Support Service Manager introduced the report which outlined the Medway Youth Justice Plan Refresh 2014-16 and he directed the Committee to Appendix C which summarised the significant changes that had been made. He highlighted to the Committee, the full implementations of recommendations to the Youth Offending Team (YOT) following a Serious Case Review, the preventative work being undertaken in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation, work being undertaken in partnership with the Police in relation to risks of urban gangs in Medway area and managing reductions in funding. He also explained that the YOT had been nominated for a national award in relation to the apprenticeship scheme being run at Cookham Wood Young Offenders Institute.

1.2 Members then raised a number of points and questions, including: -

- **YOT's protocol with Police to reduce looked after children's involvement in the criminal justice system** – in response to a question on how effective and useful this protocol had been, officers explained that this was due to be reviewed imminently by officers from the YOT and Children's Social Care and the outcome of this would be reported back to the Corporate Parenting Board.
- **Urban gangs** – in response to a questions about the extent of this problem, officers explained that there was a multi-agency approach in monitoring this issue as there was concern that influential gang

members were settling in Medway from London and developing their own gangs locally.

- **Reduction of funding** – in response to a question about the impact of reduced funding, officers explained that the YOT had received reductions in funding over the last four year period and one of the strategies in managing this reduced budget was to develop closer partnership working with the youth service to have flexibility in its service delivery, with a focus on targeted work

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Committee recommended the Cabinet to recommend Council to approve the Youth Justice Plan Refresh 2014-16, as set out at Appendix A to the report.

### **Lead officer contact**

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