

CUSTODY YOUTH SUPPORT PROJECT

1. Attached is a report on this project, from which some Stockton young people have been benefitting since February 2007, seeking support for further funding of the scheme after current Home Office funding expires at March 2008.
2. In response to a further query about the Stockton statistics, the following information was provided for the period February to November 2007:-

total young people seen by the project	- 294
number assessed	- 219
number referred	- 167

Referred to	
YOS	- 68
Social Services	- 24
Connexions	- 61
Stash / DISC	- <u>14</u>
	167

3. A meeting was held at Police HQ on 14 January to discuss the scheme with representatives from the four Boroughs. The Deputy Chief Constable offered strong support for the scheme, although stopping short of making a firm commitment to funding at this stage.
4. Further information was provided, including a monthly breakdown of the 'screened', 'assessed' and 'referred' numbers, and an analysis of juvenile arrests, which showed that Stockton young people accounted for exactly 25% of arrests, and that the most frequent offences among these 1540 juvenile arrests were criminal damage (263), theft (243), assault (216), public order (189), 'other' (184) and burglary (178), with no other category exceeding 100.
5. A number of further queries were identified. These included a consensus that any extension of the scheme should incorporate a commitment to further evaluation, to look at comparison of the re-arrest/ re-offending rates between young people who had been identified from the scheme and those who had not (given that only about 10% of young people assessed had been contacted). A further key issue was the extent to which the 'penetration rate' could be improved by more flexible work patterns, modelled on crime patterns, once the Home Office restraints no longer apply. A commitment was given to circulate further information within two weeks.
6. The Stockton 'share' of the £180k sought would be £45k. The Safer Stockton Partnership alone is not in a position to fund this, but it is possible that we could be contributors to a funding package if there are contributions from other sources (e.g. YOS, Communities for Health, DAT, Children's Services).
7. Any further information received will be brought to the Meeting.
8. **RECOMMENDED:**

It is recommended that the Partnership agrees to make £10k available from the Partnership Investment Plan for 2008/09 to support this scheme (this would necessitate 'trimming' £10k from other current projects).

This would help to achieve continuity of this scheme for another 12 months, to allow time for comparative re-arrest figures to become meaningful.