

REDUCING RE-OFFENDING ACTION PLAN FOR STOCKTON-ON-TEES

1. Over the last 10 years we have made some good progress in reducing crime and ASB. We have used situational crime prevention methods very effectively, increased visible policing and enforcement to new high levels, and implemented the neighbourhood policing agenda, as well as working with the DAT to bring about a massive increase in treatment capacity, and options for problem drug users. We have also had some success with offender - based interventions, leading to the current PPO scheme, working with 42 of the most prolific offenders who are causing harm to the community.
2. Recent work by the Ministry of Justice for the Home Office suggests that there is a need to increase the 'dosage' of interaction with 'tier 3' offenders (i.e. those who are prolific but not to PPO, alias 'tier 4' levels). National figures support that 0.5% of offenders commit 10% of crime, and 10% of offenders commit 50% of crime. Of that 10%,
 - (a) 36% are offending to fund drug misuse;
 - (b) 56% are currently misusing drugs; and
 - (c) 86% have a history of misuse of drugs.
3. Now that we will soon have a means, albeit crude, of measuring the adult re-offending rates at local level, it may make sense to produce a local plan, setting out more systematically than we have done to date how we will go about reducing adult re-offending and thereby reducing crime. This is also timely in respect of the roll-out of IDTS in HMP Holme House, the Hartlepool model for dealing with tier 3 and tier 4 offenders, and the proposal in the Policing Green Paper to give community safety partnerships a statutory duty to reduce re-offending.
4. It would make sense to structure it on the same 'pathways' used for national and regional planning, i.e.

	<u>Possible lead</u>
(a) Accommodation	SBC Housing
(b) Employment, Enterprise, Learning & Skills	SBC Regeneration
(c) Drugs	Emma Champley
(d) Alcohol	Elizabeth Shassere/nominee
(e) Children & Families	SBC CESC
(f) Life Skills & Offending Behaviour	Probation
(g) Health	Elizabeth Shassere/nominee
(h) Finance, Benefits and Debt	? (SBC Welfare Rights)
5. What we don't need is to set up a huge bureaucracy around planning, which would risk diverting resources from delivery. What we need is a **streamlined** process which adds volume.
6. I suggest that a way forward may be
 - (a) Convene a half day seminar, proposed date 10 October 2008, with inputs from the key players and an initial list of stakeholders (see Appendix A attached), to get everyone up to a common level of understanding, to identify lead persons for each of the eight pathways and to have an initial discussion

- about the barriers to improving performance. Ideally to have a background list of key stats, e.g. number of offenders, number of prisoners released per year in our Borough, age and gender, numbers in PPO, DIP, etc.)
- (b) ask each of the 8 pathway leads to assemble a small task group (no more than about six people and fewer if appropriate) from across the proper agencies and relevant voluntary organisations
 - (c) by Christmas 2008 to have three meetings, as follows:-
 - (i) to make introductions, build networks and explain the task in hand
 - (ii) to discuss the relevant section of the North East Regional Re-offending Plan 2007 and to establish the local position (e.g. numbers, existing provision, gaps etc)
 - (iii) to identify up to 3 or 4 key points to improve local performance in respect of the pathway, in an action plan format, to be devised but including lead person for each action, timescale and success measures.

7. Suggested lifetime for the first action plan is to March 2010.

8. Safer Stockton Partnership or DIP/PPO Strategy Group to co-ordinate (to avoid setting up another group).

Mike Batty
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