

ANNUAL REPORT ON PPO SCHEME

1. Introduction

The PPO programme is intended to direct resources to the small number of offenders said to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of all crime. The programme was introduced in all areas of England and Wales from the 6th September 2004, and has been implemented by Crime and Disorder partnerships and Community Safety partnerships across all area of England and Wales. The scheme in Stockton commenced in September 2004 with an initial caseload of 23 and has now grown to a caseload of 42.

This report will highlight some of the key issues and contributions that the scheme has delivered this year.

2. Performance

Impact Assessment of PPO Scheme

2.1 In the four years the scheme has been in operation a total of 63 offenders have been subject to the intense supervision of the PPO scheme. A study attempted to identify key changes in offending behaviour of those 21 offenders who had been de-registered from the scheme, and in particular what interventions are believed to have been responsible for the changes in offending.

2.2 Guidelines were issued by the Home office as to how offenders could be de-registered from the scheme. Briefly they are if;-

- Sentenced to ten years custody or more
- Move from one area to another
- Cease offending in a twelve month period
- Other more prolific offenders identified for the scheme

2.3 This study examined the conviction rates of those offenders, prior to the scheme, whilst on the scheme and thereafter. Conviction rates have been used (as opposed to arrest and charged data) as the new 2008/9 target for the LAAs and APACS measures conviction data

2.4 Key Issues from Data are as follows:-

- Average number of months on scheme: 23.15
- Average number of months in custody: 8.85
- Average number of convictions before scheme: 17.85
- Average number of convictions on scheme: 4.05
- Average number of convictions after scheme: 2.45
- Average number of total convictions: 24.35
- Average reduction of convictions whist on scheme: 74.7%

2.5 In terms of positive outcomes:-

- 9 offenders have not re-offended since they were de-registered from the scheme
- 3 offenders who have re-offended their offences were not acquisitive crime
- 4 offenders are drug free and in full time employment
- 9 offenders have not been drug tested since they left the scheme
- 4 offenders have provided negative drug tests since they left the scheme
- 3 have secure long term accommodation
- All but one of the offenders was a class A drug misuser when registered.

2.6 In terms of negative outcomes:-

- 1 offender is still offending as prolifically as ever
- 1 offender continues to offend to fund an alcohol addiction
- 1 offender was de-registered but then re-registered as a result of further offending

2.7 The report concluded that support and interventions works much better with those who are prepared to try and change their lifestyle and offending. The influencing factors that supported changing behaviour were identified as:-

- The intensity of appointments and supervision (up to four times per week)
- The scrutiny under which they were placed by the team and other agencies
- It was a multi-agency team effort and they were signposted and supported by a number of agencies and the voluntary sector
- The use of case reviews where they were challenged about their behaviour by the multi-agency team
- The provision of Elm House apartments and the close working relationship with the housing sector
- Police targeting, resulting in a speedy judicial process.

2.8 Analysis of the data suggested that there were four real positive outcomes, i.e. those four offenders who are now no longer offending and are in employment. Similarly the reduction in offending by the majority of the offenders, notwithstanding the acknowledgement that this is not an exact science, has to be seen as a successful outcome. Finally it concluded that if the four real positive outcomes continue in not returning to criminal activity and continue in full time employment, and others continue to reduce their offending the scheme is good value for money.

3. Reducing Re-Offending

- 3.1 The PPO Programme remains a key Government Priority for tackling crime and reducing re-offending. The Home Office Crime strategy Cutting Crime-a new partnership 2008 published in July 2007 makes clear the need to have a continued focus on tackling the most prolific offenders through the PPO programme
- 3.2 Changes have been made which seek to ensure that all those offenders who have a substance misuse problem are managed more effectively. The National probation service delivers the Drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) intervention which cuts across both the DIP and PPO client group. This intervention has now aligned with the PPO team and works very closely with the DIP
- 3.3 A sub- group of the DIP/PPO Operational is currently trying to identify all those high crime causers within the Borough so that, once identified, a concerted partnership approach ensures that they are managed efficiently by the respective teams and appropriate interventions are administered
- 3.4 The benefits of building on the success of the PPO and CJIT schemes are the:-
- Increased number of offenders subject to intensive supervision
 - One team responsible for the management of a group of high crime causers
 - Reduction in the duplication of effort and effective and efficient use of time
 - Improved working knowledge of various agencies and improve working relationships
 - Focus on reduction in re-offending

4. Traffic Light Assessment

- 4.1 Each individual scheme within the country was inspected by the Government office for their region to examine their capacity and capability in delivering an appropriate PPO scheme.
- 4.2 Stockton were inspected on the 28th November 2008 by a representative of the Government Office North east where they were classified as a "Green" scheme meaning that they were delivering what was required.
- 4.3 In addition to that the comment was made that *"I have attached the traffic light assessment that we did on Friday. Stockton is one of the best in the region."*

J. Evans
PPO Manager