

SUSTAINING DELIVERY OF TARGETED YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION & REDUCTION

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On behalf of Hartlepool, South Tees and Stockton on Tees Youth Offending Services.

Introduction:

In 12/13, the Home Office diverted part of its funding allocation from Youth Offending Services to Cleveland Police Authority to support the introduction of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). This funding had supported youth crime initiatives delivered and/or commissioned throughout Cleveland by the three Youth Offending Services (YOS) for over 10 years. Cleveland Police Authority took the decision to passport the funding back to each YOS for 12/13 in order to maintain service delivery. From 13/14, the Home Office will divert all its funding from Youth Offending Services in Cleveland to the PCC. It is estimated that this is likely to be in excess of 200k.

The Youth Offending Services in Cleveland are keen to highlight the importance of the work streams underpinned by the funding and are keen to enter into discussions around the need to retain the funding redirected to the PCC in order to maintain delivery of the current youth crime services. We are also keen to seek opportunities to further enhance our services in order to maximise outcomes for young people and for communities.

Information:

About Youth Offending Services:

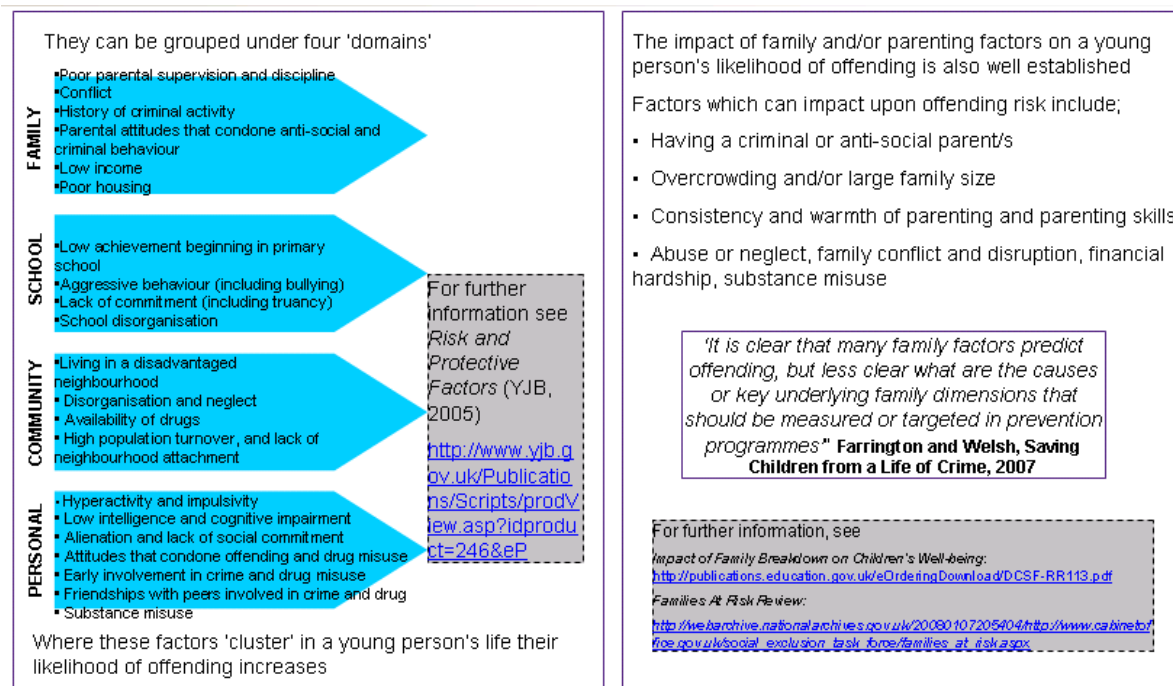
The YOS is one of the statutory services, alongside Police, charged with preventing and reducing youth crime.

There are 3 YOTs within Cleveland. Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees YOS are coterminous with their respective local authorities, whilst South Tees YOS covers the two boroughs of Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. There is a strong history of collaboration between the Cleveland YOTs, as well as the flexibility to respond individually to local issues.

The YJB has worked with YOTs to develop a wide range of evidence-based youth-crime prevention programmes, alongside national and local partners such as the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), local authorities, charities and the voluntary sector.

It is acknowledged nationally that the multi-agency nature of YOS is a significant factor in our success. Having a range of professionals and resources within the service ensures easier access to services for young people, improved information sharing and avoids duplication.

The factors associated with offending behaviour are well established and evidence based (outlined below). YOTs are in a strong position to respond to these factors.



In each area, the YOS partnership includes, but also extends beyond, the direct delivery of youth justice services. In order to deliver youth justice outcomes, the YOS engages with a range of agencies across the criminal justice, community safety and children's social care, education and health services and commissions services where this is a more effective and value for money.

Each YOS has three key elements of its work: to reduce likelihood of offending; reduce the risk of harm to the public; and meet the safeguarding needs of vulnerable children, young people and adults.

Work to reduce reoffending is a primary objective of each YOS. Each year there is a small number of young people who reoffend, some on numerous occasions. Youth Offending Services have had much success in reducing the reoffending rates amongst young people it works with but this requires an ongoing focus.

Youth Offending Service governance:

Each YOS operates as a local multi-agency partnership under a management board that holds statutory representation from Cleveland Police, Durham & Tees Valley Probation Trust and NHS, as well as board membership from crime & disorder partnerships, local children's services, courts and voluntary and third sector organisations. Governance arrangements for each service sit within the Local Authority Children's Services directorates.

The funding of each YOS is made up of contributions from local partners (with the Local Authorities being the highest contributors) and from government grants channeled through the Youth Justice Board (YJB). The YJB removed ring-fencing on its funding to services recently, giving partnerships more flexibility in determining local allocation of resources.

Local partners (social care, education, health, police & probation) also contribute staff resources to the service.

Youth Offending Services are committed to delivering youth justice services that represent value for money. A significant amount of research and time has been spent on

understanding the 'value' of services the YOS delivers, in terms of cost, outcomes achieved and savings created through prevention and 'invest to save' approaches.

Achievements:

Since the peak in 2006/07 national figures for youth justice show:

- Youth crime (proven offences) is down by 40%;
- Numbers of under 18s first time entrants coming into the youth justice system down by 59%; and
- The average under 18 custody population has fallen by 30%.

Local data for [Stockton][Cleveland] shows:

- Youth crime (proven offences) is down by 33% (*Stockton*)
- Numbers of under 18s first time entrants coming into the youth justice system down by 43% (*Stockton*); and
- Unfortunately, the average under 18 custody population has increased by 5% (*Stockton*). *There is a small number of young people who experience a 'revolving door' with custody, indicating that a continued focus on resettlement services for young people leaving custody is required*

In 11/12, the Youth Offending Services, and its partners, delivered statutory services to over 224 young people in [Stockton][Cleveland]. Services include: offence focused work; education; health; and social care services, all aimed at reducing youth crime.

In 11/12, 356 victims were contacted and offered restorative justice services [Stockton]. Over 600 hours of restorative / reparation activities [Stockton] were undertaken by young people in repairing harm to victims / communities. This does not include other sessions YOS officers have had using victim impact statements to challenge young peoples' thinking.

Performance Monitoring:

As well as being accountable to their respective YOS management boards, the work of the YOS is subject to external scrutiny by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and HMI Probation, thereby ensuring accountability and credibility with a range of partners.

Robust performance frameworks are embedded in each service and performance of the YOS is monitored through national and local partnership frameworks. Particular focus is given to local performance against the three key outcomes for the youth justice:

- Reducing first time entrants to the criminal justice system
- Reducing Reoffending
- Reducing use of custody, where appropriate

YOS Performance is published on the Ministry of Justice website on a quarterly basis, for public scrutiny and accountability.

Community engagement:

The YOS engage local communities in a number of ways; directly through the use of community volunteers and consultation with community representatives / individuals about the harm created by youth crime in their area.

Community residents from across Cleveland support the work of the YOS by volunteering their time to sit on Youth Offender Panels. These panels are a ground breaking way of working with young people who offend. Community residents, along with the YOS, sit down with a young person, and parents or guardians, to talk about their criminal behaviour and agree an intervention contract aimed at putting things right.

All YOS interventions are individually tailored to address identified needs and risk factors, whilst strengthening protective factors.

As well as delivering services to young people and their families, the YOS in Cleveland deliver a range of services to victims of youth crime and to local communities.

Restorative Justice:

YOS are the pioneers of restorative justice services in Cleveland.

Restorative justice processes give victims the chance to tell the offender the real impact of their crime, to get answers to their questions, and an apology. It holds the offender to account for what they have done, helps them understand the real impact of what they've done, to take responsibility for their behaviour and an opportunity to make amends. This can be either directly to the victim(s) or indirectly to the broader community.

PCC Funding:

Each service is currently preparing for the introduction of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) which offers new opportunities, including in the early diversion of young people away from the criminal justice system and the strengthening of community sentences and restorative justice approaches.

The Youth Offending Services are particularly keen to work with the PCC and Cleveland Police to refresh our approach to new 'out of court' police outcomes for children and young people.

It is hoped that we can capitalize on these developments to be innovative and creative in the work we do, both collaboratively and retain and enhance the work we do in new and exciting ways.

It is estimated, at this stage, that approx [200k – tbc] in funding will be diverted from Youth Offending Services in Cleveland to the PCC in 13/14. This will be on top of anticipated reductions in YOS funding from local and central funding streams. Clearly, without the commitment from the PCC to support YOS intervention, there will inevitably be a detrimental impact upon service provision in Cleveland and potential loss of youth justice services and experience. Funding from PCC is vital in maintaining service delivery and ensuring successful youth justice outcomes are continued.

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