

## Sunderland Ministry of YOS

Sunderland YOS has teamed up with The Bunker, a Sunderland based professional recording and rehearsal space, to provide young offenders working with RAP with a chance to learning new skills. Twice a week the young people can drop into The Bunker at any time and stay for as long as they like. The sessions



provide the young people with a safe environment to produce music and mc with their peers. The Friday afternoon sessions are particularly popular - a time when young people would often start their alcohol or substance misuse, which can lead to anti-social behaviour.



An extension to The Bunker, 'Ministry of YOS' was held recently at Sunderland based Bar "Pure". The bar was closed to the public and no alcohol was available but the young people had a stage, a fantastic set of decks and a huge sound system at their fingertips for an entire Friday afternoon. Well attended by young people and staff alike (some of whom needed ear plugs!), the young people took

the opportunity to show off their mc'ing skills while others provided the soundtrack using the skills on the decks they had learned from the drop in sessions. One young person who attended said **"I really enjoyed the afternoon and loved being on the mike with the tunes pumping"**.

Some young people who attended the event had never been to the drop-in sessions before but are now attending on a regular basis. During the summer these young people will be working on producing their own CD's that will include mc'ing alongside their favourite tracks and are sure to be heard playing in YOS worker's cars in the near future. Due to the outstanding success, two further events are planned over the summer.