



National Glass Centre

Foreword

The Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2002/05 outlines how youth justice services will be provided in the area over the next three years, providing details of the Youth Offending Service objectives and targets, and information on the financial resourcing of the Service. This document summarises the key elements of the Plan.

The production of the Youth Justice Plan 2002/05 comes at an exciting time of progress and achievement within Sunderland Youth Offending Service. Building on a rich history of partnership working, we are confident that we can achieve our aspirations for young people within the area.

At the heart of the plan is the commitment of the four partnership agencies (Northumbria Police, the National Probation Service, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust and the City of Sunderland) who each contribute staff and other resources to ensure the achievement of the **principal aim**: *'to prevent offending by children and young people'* (Crime and Disorder Act 1998), and to meet the needs of service users, their families, victims of crime and the wider public.

Lord Warner of Brockley, Chair of the Youth Justice Board, with Helen Watson, Head of Sunderland Youth Offending Service, receiving a national Community Care Award



The Youth Justice Plan takes forward the achievements of the Service in 2001/02, building on successes to date and strengthening performance, as well as outlining a range of exciting new projects and provisions for young people within the city of Sunderland and the surrounding area. The Youth Justice Plan 2002/05 stands alongside the Crime and Disorder Strategy 2002/05, and aims to improve the lives of young people in the area. Our **mission statement** reflects what we hope to achieve:

Mission Statement

"Sunderland Youth Offending Service is committed to working effectively with young people who offend or who are at risk of offending, their families, victims of crime and local communities to prevent and reduce the incidence of youth crime and disorder within Sunderland and the surrounding area"

We recognise that one of Sunderland's key strengths is its geographical and cultural diversity and we are committed to the monitoring and delivery of equality within the youth justice system. The Youth Justice Plan will be the main focus to help us realise our vision to further drive down levels of youth crime and disorder, to improve opportunities and outcomes for the young people of Sunderland and, to make it a desirable and secure place to live where young people are encouraged to reach their full potential. The Plan has been developed following consultation with key stakeholders and partner agencies, service users and the wider public.

Consultation

We have developed a Consultation Strategy to involve service users, local people and key stakeholders in planning for the delivery of youth justice services in Sunderland. In 2001 we commissioned research by Northumbria and Durham Universities to develop specific consultation tools for use with young offenders.

To ensure the views of local people are taken into account, the Service has participated in a range of public consultation forums and focus groups in support of the Crime and Disorder Strategy 2002/05.

Consultation Priorities 2002/03

Utilise the recommendations of the consultation research.

Use the results of consultation to inform service and planning delivery.

Seek the views of young people across the range of youth justice provisions, from Final Warnings through to Detention and Training Orders.

Pilot victim satisfaction and parenting satisfaction initiatives with a view to establishing appropriate consultation tools.

Over the next year we will continue to consult with and involve victims, parents and young people, as well as seeking the views of the community in relation to priorities for youth crime.

Youth Crime in Sunderland

During the period January to December 2001:

- 1,343 young people offended (approximately 4.29% of the youth population in the area);
- 77% of offences were committed by males and 23% were committed by females;
- 0.8% of young offenders were of an ethnic minority (consistent with the minority ethnic population in Sunderland of 1.1%);
- 2,842 offences were committed in the area (subject to further detections) during 2001;
- Most offences committed by young people were in the categories of Theft and Handling (24%), Arson and Criminal Damage (13%) and Violence Against the Person (11%);
- 40% of all offences committed by young women were in the category of Theft;
- Offences of violence were high among young females, with 16% of all offences committed by females relating to violence (compared to 10% of males).
- There were 151 persistent offenders processed through the Courts (11% overall of young people who offended);

National Objectives and Performance Measures

Youth Justice Board National Objectives

1. The swift administration of justice
2. Confronting young people with the consequences of their offending
3. Interventions to tackle risk factors
4. Punishment proportionate to the seriousness of the offending
5. Encouraging reparation to victims
6. Reinforcing the responsibility of parents

The Youth Justice Board has six National Objectives that form the core business of the Youth Offending Service.

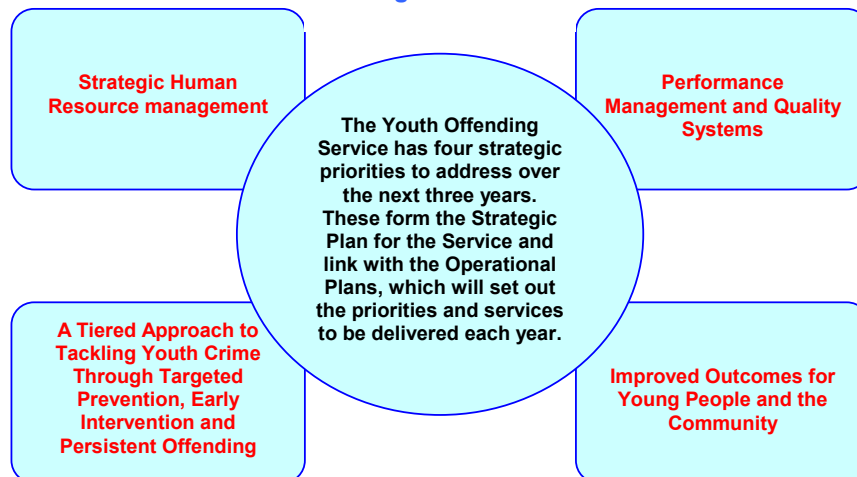
In addition to these there are thirteen performance measures and associated targets, set by the Youth Justice Board. These are outlined in the table below.

The Youth Justice Plan 2002/05 identifies the linkages between each Youth Justice Board Performance Measure, local objectives and targets, and the National Objectives. The Service has also identified four Strategic Priorities and these are also illustrated below.

Performance Measures set by the Youth justice Board

Prevention	Reduce Vehicle Crime (30%); Domestic Burglary (25%); Robbery (15%) by 2004.
Recidivism	A 5% reduction in recidivism rates of cohorts by 2004.
Final Warnings	70% (2003) and 80% (2004) of Final Warnings with intervention.
Use of Secure Facilities	Reduce remands to secure estate to 30% of total remand episodes by 2004/05. Reduce custodial sentencing to 6% of sentences imposed by 2004/05.
Use of Restorative Processes	Restorative processes used in 60% (2003) and 80% (2004) of disposals.
Victim Satisfaction	70% of victims to be satisfied/very satisfied by 2004.
Parental Satisfaction	70% of parenting programmes completed. 70% satisfied/very satisfied with programme.
ASSET	ASSET completed for all young people – community disposals and custodial sentencing.
Pre-Sentence Reports	90% of PSRs to be prepared within National Standards timescales.
Detention and Training Orders	100% of Initial Training Plans for DTOs prepared within National Standards timescales.
Education, Training and Employment	90% of young people supervised by YOS to be in full-time education, training or employment by 2004.
Accommodation	Named Accommodation Officer to be in place. Young people to have satisfactory accommodation to go to.
Mental Health	Acute difficulties: CAMHS assessment within 5 working days. Non-acute: CAMHS assessment within 15 working days. Access to appropriate CAMHS tier to be provided.

Strategic Priorities



Achievements

The last year has offered an opportunity to:

- Build on the strong local partnership working that the Service enjoys;
- Develop good practice locally and, where appropriate, disseminate this nationally through research, evaluation and publications/conferences, and;
- Demonstrate a commitment to the highest possible standards in service delivery.

The forthcoming year presents new challenges, with the establishment of the national performance agenda for reducing youth offending. This sets demanding targets to reduce re-offending in an area that has a traditionally high level of youth crime, with a tendency towards persistent offending. There will also be challenges in the establishment of new initiatives, involving national and international partnerships and the need to ensure sustainability for existing short-term funded projects. As the Service enters this next chapter, we reflect on the major achievements of the past year, which include:

Participation, as one of only nine Local Authorities, in the Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA), setting demanding and challenging targets to reduce re-offending and thus youth crime

The full implementation of the Youth Offending Information System across both operational premises, providing electronic recording of ASSET assessment in all cases, and meeting all performance information requirements of the Youth Justice Board

Winner of a national Community Care Award for the Phoenix Fire Brigade partnership project (Youth Justice Board funded Pathway Programme)

Contributing to national policy through involvement in policy debates with the Prime Minister (November 2001), with John Denham, Home Office Minister (December 2001) and with PA Consulting (January 2002)

Work with the Courts to significantly drive down the rate of custodial sentencing in Sunderland

Work in support of 'quality' in service delivery, including a full procedure manual with an emphasis on National Standards, a full review of the Service's public information (including leaflets and website material) and the formation of a number of Service Development Groups, enabling practitioners to take forward best practice within the Service

The development of Sunderland, Gateshead and South Tyneside Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme, involving international partnership working with the USA Youth Advocate Programme

Participation in a range of national research and evaluation programmes, ensuring evidence-based practice and promotion of a learning culture within the Service e.g. ASSET evaluation (Oxford University), research on substance misuse interventions (Strathclyde University), research on user consultation (Northumbria and Durham Universities), and research into the use of Detention and Training Orders

Managing and Resourcing Sunderland Youth Offending Service

Management Structure and Staffing Arrangements

The Youth Offending Service Chief Officer Steering Group continues to be a strong collaborative force for partnership working in the Sunderland area. Many of the members of the Steering Group are also members of the wider Community Safety Partnership.

Sunderland Youth Offending Service has a relatively large and complex staffing structure, combining in-house and external service provision through sub-contracted services. The structure comprises:

- The head of the Youth Offending Service with strategic management responsibility;
- Two senior management positions providing an overview of operations (including the position of Restorative Justice Manager to oversee the newly created Restorative Justice Unit);
- Multi-agency teams of staff (Social Workers, Probation Officers, Police Officers, Education, Housing and Health staff).
- A strong Administrative Section, led by a Senior Administrative Manager, and;
- A Policy, Planning and Data Resource Section in recognition of the central function of performance management

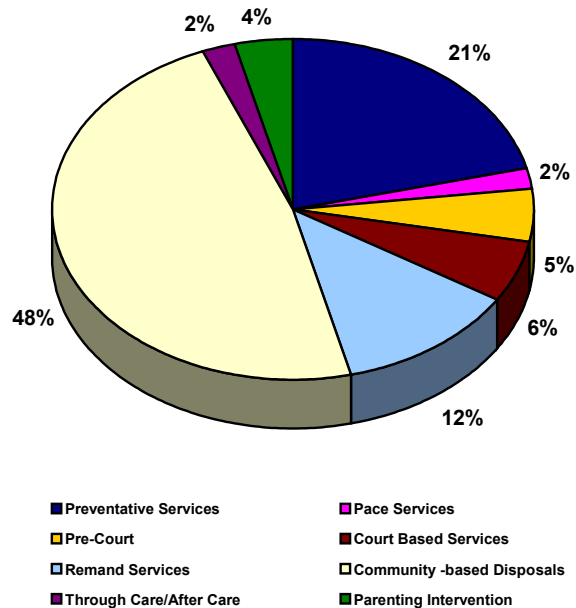
Resources

The overall budget for 2002/03 to deliver the full range of projects and services is £3,378,000, which includes £50,000 from each of the partner agencies. This means a projected spend per head of offending population of £1661.95, and spend per head of youth population (aged 10-17) of £69.98. The chart opposite demonstrates how our budget will be spent in providing services across the area over the next year.

The Service is proactive in seeking additional funding from local and national government, and other funding sources, to ensure innovative youth justice provision in the area. During 2001/02 the Service:

- Successfully obtained funding to sustain projects previously funded through the Youth Justice Board Development Fund;
- Secured £600,000 per annum to spearhead an Intensive Supervision and Surveillance initiative;
- Obtained monies from the Youth Justice Board to fund drugs services and Referral Orders.

Projected Proportionate Spend on Services Planned for the Financial Year



All monies are subject to a rigorous auditing process to ensure best value. The City of Sunderland has in place processes for the implementation of Best Value Reviews, and these are undertaken as required within the Youth Offending Service.

Services and Projects

As well as the core youth justice services required by statute (Crime and Disorder Act 1998), Sunderland Youth Offending Service also has in place a range of additional and specialist projects. These meet the diverse needs of young offenders and those at risk of offending within Sunderland and the surrounding area, enabling a holistic and comprehensive approach to youth justice provision.

The following services are in place:

- **Early Intervention, to work with young people at Reprimand and Final Warning.**
- **Bail and Remand Services to: provide Bail information at Court; supervise young people subject to bail supervision; provide Remand Foster Care placements; oversee Remands to Local Authority Accommodation, and; visit and plan for young people remanded to the secure estate.**
- **Court Services to: provide trained staff to attend Youth Courts (including Saturday Court) to assist young people, their families and Court staff.**
- **Reports for Court – our trained and experienced staff prepare Pre-sentence and other reports to assist at point of sentence.**
- **Prevention Initiatives, working with those at risk of offending, youth disorder and antisocial behaviour:**
 - Positive Futures
 - Youth Inclusion
 - Splash Schemes
- **Appropriate Adult Service provided where a young person has been arrested and a parent/guardian is not available for interview.**
- **Post-Court Services: after a young person has been sentenced to a community based order, a range of services are available – including; individual and group based programmes to divert from future offending; assistance with education issues or problems; health assessment; direct work with victims, and; access to a range of specialist projects.**
- **Specialist interventions: the Service can provide the following through its range of projects:**
 - A trained Mentor to advise/support;
 - Specialist help with drug or alcohol problems;
 - Programmes to help young people return to school or with choices about employment and training;
 - Direct reparation with victims of crime and indirect reparation to the community;
 - Assistance for parents who may require support in dealing with challenging adolescent behaviour;
 - Intensive Supervision and Surveillance for persistent and prolific young offenders.
- **Detention and Training Order: the Service supports young people who are serving a custodial sentence and supervises them following their release.**