

Youth Justice Plan Summary 2007/2008

Sunderland Youth Offending Service



Foreword

As chair of the Sunderland Youth Offending Service (YOS) Board, I am pleased to introduce the Summary Youth Justice Plan 2007/2008.

The year of 2006/2007 has been one of opportunity to benchmark the performance and practice of the YOS with three national Inspection regimes of the Joint Inspection of the YOS, Joint Area Review of Children's Services and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment of Sunderland City Council. The excellent outcome of the Joint Inspection of the YOS confirms the effective practice behind the continued high performance against national key performance indicators set by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB).

The YOS Board welcomes the new national focus on outcome targets in the year ahead and the continuing aim of the YOS to reduce offending and re-offending by children and young people, as well as the effective targeting of prevention services to reduce the number of young people entering the Youth Justice System for the first time. The external scrutiny by the Joint Inspection of the YOS provides the focus for operational activity in 2007/2008.



Dr Helen Paterson
Director of Children's Services
Chair, Youth Offending Service Board

Introduction

Sunderland Youth Offending Service is a multi-agency service that works with Northumbria Police, National Probation Service, Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT), Sunderland Housing Group and Sunderland City Council.

The principal aim of the service is to prevent offending by children and young people. The service works with young people between the ages of 10 to 17 years, their families and relevant professionals to:

- Assist with young people who, because of alleged or actual offending, have become involved in the Criminal Justice System
- Prevent offending by children and young people by working with those at risk.



Sunderland YOS Offices

The Youth Justice Plan is the primary document for the service to set out how youth justice services will be delivered in the area; how the service will deliver against the YJB's performance management framework; and is a key source for local planning.

This document summarises the Youth Justice Plan 2007/2008 and draws on its key themes relating to the strategic aims of the YOS Board, service achievements, the financial context and operational delivery plans.

Achievements

Achievements in 2006/2007 included:

- Being awarded one of the highest inspection ratings at the time of publication. The Inspectors found the YOS to be **“a highly effective organisation with excellent management and leadership structures and a high standard of training, support and supervision for staff and volunteers”**.
- An excellent outturn in the second YJB National Standards Audit with 96.7% compliance.
- Positive press coverage on a range of YOS projects including Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP), Phoenix Firefighters Programme, On Track, and Restorative Justice Services.
- ‘Preventative Work Award’ for ‘Tackle It’ in the national Children and Young People’s Services Awards.
- Resettlement and Aftercare Programme (RAP) recognised in the North East Youth Justice Awards for ‘demonstrating an outstanding contribution’ and a service practitioner was recognised for his ‘outstanding contribution to youth justice’.
- Citywide expansion of the area Youth Inclusion and Support Panels (Wear Kids Project).
- Implemented two new schemes in support of challenging stretched targets under the Local Public Service Agreement II.

Planning Environment

Sunderland YOS has a dual role as both a criminal justice agency and as a children’s service and our service planning is fully integrated within these areas. The YOS operates under multiple accountabilities, with a complex range of priorities and performance reporting requirements.

The YOS plans to improve outcomes for children and young people are set within the context of the Children’s Trust Children and Young People’s Plan 2006-2009, Safer Sunderland Strategy, and the Sunderland Strategy 2004-2007. Plans to prevent offending and reduce re-offending are linked with the priorities of the Local Criminal Justice Board and those of the service’s criminal justice partners.

Governance and Leadership

A YOS Board, consisting of representation from key partners, provides the strategic oversight and governance of the youth justice services provided by the YOS. It also provides the strategic links with the core partner agencies of the YOS as well as other key partnerships in the field of children’s services and youth justice.

The Joint Inspection of the YOS highlighted strengths of the Board. The Inspection Report described Sunderland YOS as having **“a strong Management Board”** and concluded, **“the YOS Board was effective in both monitoring and guiding the work of the YOS”**.



Operations Manager receiving award for Tackle It

Partnership Working

In the last year, Sunderland City Council has designated the YOS as a 'significant partnership'. As a result, a review of the robustness of the governance arrangements has taken place, which found the YOS to be a 'strong partnership'.

The YOS has a rich history of innovative partnerships for specialist programme interventions across statutory, voluntary, business and community sectors. The highly successful 'Tackle It' initiative, initially developed in partnership with SAFC Foundation, has been extended into other partnerships including Newcastle Basketball Team, Youth Offender Institute (and secure training facility) and with Tyne and Wear Museums Outreach Online.

Long-standing partnerships in the voluntary sector with Crime Concern and Barnardos continue to operate in respect of the Youth Inclusion Programme and Parenting Provision. A highly successful partnership with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service provides a Phoenix Firefighters Programme and will be extended in the forthcoming year to work with parents around fire safety.

The national Joint Inspection of the YOS reported **"the YOS was effectively integrated into local partnerships and cross cutting targets were effectively addressed at both strategic and operational levels"**.

Inspection

In 2006/2007 Sunderland YOS was inspected within the national programme of inspection of Youth Offending Teams (YOTs).

Under the national inspection of YOTs, Sunderland was assessed against the five inspection standards of Management; Work with the Courts; Work with Children and Young People who Offend; Work with Children and Young People subject to a Detention and Training Order (DTO); and Victims and Restorative Justice. The five standards were scored between 1 and 4 (1 being poor and 4 being excellent with outstanding features). Sunderland achieved the following results:

Standard	Rating
Management	4
Work with the Courts	2
Work with Children and Young People who offend	3
Work with Children and Young People Subject to a DTO	4
Victims and Restorative Justice	3

Sunderland YOS and its Management Board are proud of the excellent inspection outcome having achieved the highest possible score for two of the five standards (judged as "excellent with outstanding features").

The inspection team noted that **"work with children and young people on DTO sentences showed high levels of good co-ordination between the custodial and community phase of the sentence with very good levels of support by the YOS to children and young people both in custody and the community"**.

The Inspectorate found a number of examples of particularly good practice, including case studies to the YOS Board, restorative justice assessments completed at court, work of the On Track Project, the YOS Recidivism Project, Community Payback, etc.

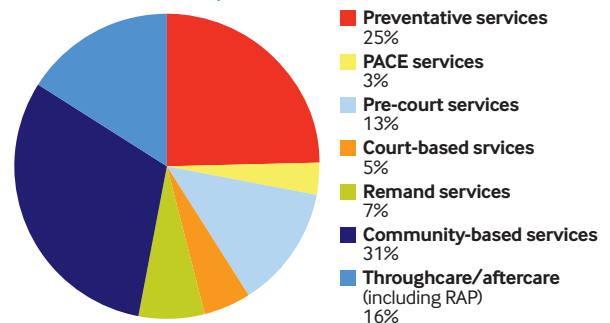
Improvement areas were also identified and have been incorporated into an operational plan.

Financial Resources

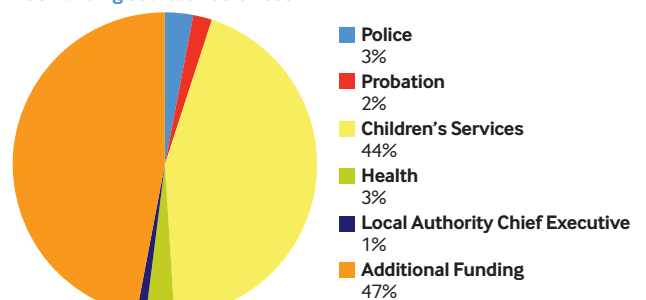
Sunderland YOS has a complex budget structure made up of partner agency cash and in-kind financial contributions, core government funding from the YJB for England and Wales and a range of specific grants (time limited).

Grant funding streams include Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, Children's Fund, Prevention Grant, LPSA Pump Priming and Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour Trailblazer fundings (forerunner to the Respect Agenda).

YOS Planned Service Expenditure 2007/2008



YOS Funding Sources 2007/2008



Needs Analysis

The YOS has collated Asset and Onset assessment data to establish risks and needs of young offenders to ensure appropriate service provision. The three areas where young offenders shows most risk is in relation to their thinking and behaviour, their attitudes to offending and their lifestyle (with the exception of young people sentenced to custody where substance misuse is the second highest risk area).

For young people that have not offended but are referred to the YOS prevention programmes, their greatest risk is in relation to family and personal relationships, lifestyle and thinking and behaviour.

Interventions to tackle these risks include:

- 'Tackle It' initiatives
- Youth Inclusion
- On Track
- Mentoring
- Looked after Children Scheme
- Phoenix Firefighters Programme
- CAMHS (onsite CPN Practitioner)
- Health (onsite Nurse Practitioner)
- Youth Drug and Alcohol Project
- Resettlement and Aftercare Programme
- Education, Training and Employment
- Accommodation Support
- Restorative Justice
- Parenting Provision
- Offending Behaviour Programmes
- Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme
- Specialist resources
- Prolific and Priority Offenders Scheme.

The service utilises a specialist 'game style' computer programme (Viewpoint) to consult young people on the services they receive from the YOS.

Performance and Quality

There is a strong culture of performance management that exists at all levels of the service. There is regular reporting to the YOS Board, Strategic Management Team, Operational Management Team and key personnel delivering against

specific service areas and this good practice will continue into 2007/2008.

The YOS supports the performance framework of the YJB and will continue to support the performance frameworks of a number of other partnerships and strategies including the Safer Sunderland Partnership, Children and Young Peoples Plan performance targets, Persistent and Prolific Offenders Strategy, Children's Fund Partnership and the monitoring of grant funded schemes such as ISSP and RAP.

With the emergence of an integrated Children's Service under the Children's Trust arrangements, the performance framework of the service has been aligned with the outcomes of the framework of Every Child Matters, particularly in relation to performance management of the YOS Prevention Services.

Operational Delivery Plan

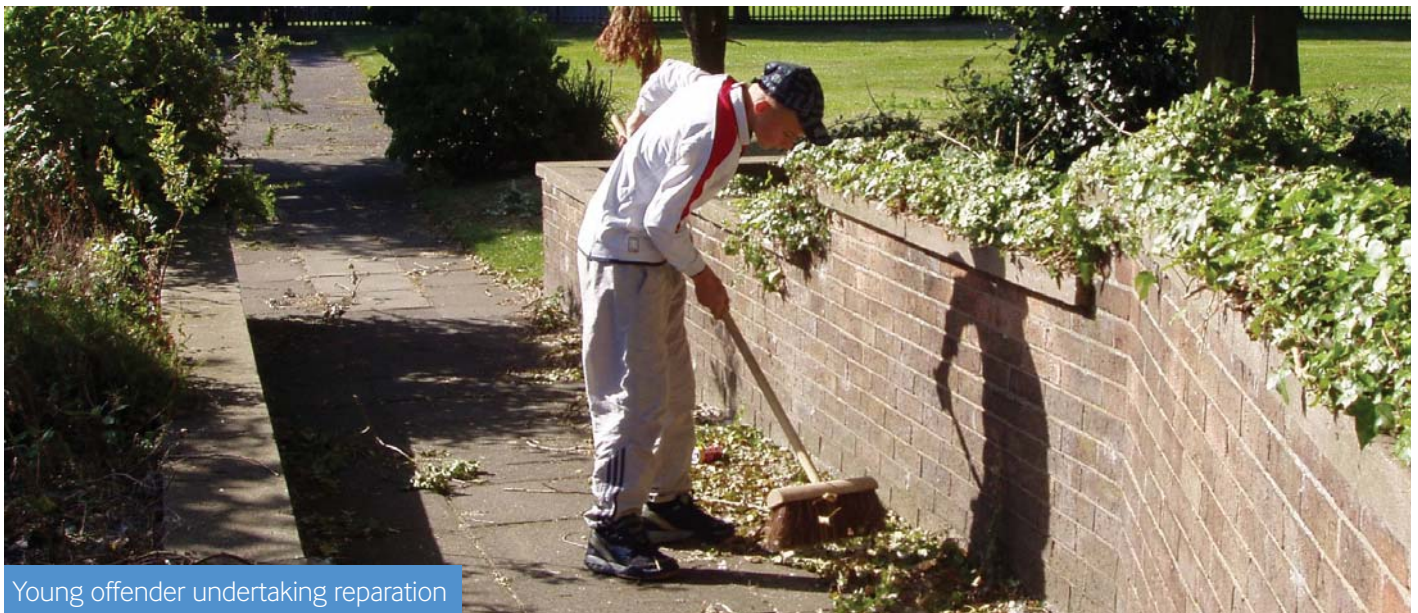
Based on past achievements, strategic and operational priorities, YJB priorities, local priorities, performance against key measures, inspection improvement areas and user needs, the YOS has developed an action plan for 2007/2008 across the key themes of:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Prevent Offending
- Intervene Early
- Provide Intensive Community Supervision
- Reduce Re-offending
- Reduce the Use of Custody
- Enforcement and Enabling Compliance
- DTO Training Plans
- Supporting Young People to Engage in Education, Training and Employment (ETE)
- Support Access to Appropriate Accommodation
- Support Access to Mental Health Services
- Support Access to Substance Misuse Services
- Support Resettlement into the Community
- Provide Effective Restorative Justice Services
- Support Parenting Interventions
- Diversity and Equality
- Risk Management.

Performance Measures

Key Performance Indicator	2006 Outturn	2007/08 Target
Prevention: Reduce year on year the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system	977	5% reduction by March 2008, compared to the 2005/06 baseline
Intervene early: Ensure that 100% of young people on a final warning are supported by an intervention	98.4%	100%
Reduce re-offending: Achieve a 5% reduction in recidivism (re-offending) rates	8.5% reduction	5% reduction (2007/08 compared with 2002/3)
Reduce the use of custody: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure remands to no more than 30% of the total number of remand decision - Secure remands to no more than 9% of the total number of remand episodes - (Custodial sentences) to no more than 5% of all court disposals 	21.1% New Indicator 3.2%	Old Indicator 9% Reduce to 5%
Pre-Sentence Reports: Ensure that 90% of pre-sentence reports are submitted within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 days for PYOs - 15 days for general offenders 	99.1% 100%	Old Indicator Old Indicator
Ensure effective and rigorous assessment, planning and supervision: Ensure that 100% of assessments are completed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community disposals at (a) assessment stage and (b) closure stage - Custodial sentences at (c) assessment stage, (d) transfer stage and (e) closure stage 	(a) 99.5% (b) 99.3% (c) 100% (d) 100% (e) 100%	Old Indicator Old Indicator Old Indicator Old Indicator Old Indicator
DTOs: Ensure that all initial training plans for DTOs are drawn up within 10 working days of sentences being passed	100%	100%
Education, Training and Employment: Ensure that 90% of young people who are supervised by the YOT are either in full-time education, training or employment	87.6%	90%
Accommodation: Ensure that 100% of young people subject to final warnings with intervention, relevant community based penalties or on release from the secure estate have suitable accommodation to go to	99.2%	100%
Mental Health: Ensure that all young people who are assessed by ASSET as manifesting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acute mental health difficulties are referred by YOTs to CAMHS for a formal assessment completed within 5 working days - non-acute mental health concerns are referred by the YOT for an assessment and engagement within 15 working days 	100% 100%	100% 100%

Key Performance Indicator	2006 Outturn	2007/08 Target
<p>Substance Misuse: Ensure all young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are screened for substance misuse - with identified needs receive appropriate specialise assessment within 5 working days of assessment - access the early intervention and treatment they require within 10 working days of assessment 	<p>99.5%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>
<p>Provide effective restorative justice services: Ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 75% of victims of youth crime referred to YOTs are offered the opportunity to participate in a restorative process - 75% of victims are satisfied - Victims participate in restorative processes in 25% of relevant disposals referred to the YOT - 85% of victims are satisfied 	<p>83.3%</p> <p>97.6%</p> <p>New Indicator for 07/08</p> <p>New Indicator for 07/08</p>	<p>Old Indicator</p> <p>Old Indicator 25%</p> <p>85%</p>
<p>Support parenting interventions: Ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10% of young people with a final warning supported by intervention or a community disposal receive a parenting intervention - 75% of parents participating in a parenting intervention are satisfied - for 20% of young people with a final warning with intervention, relevant community-based penalty, or DTO, and for 20% of young people on prevention programmes, their parent/carer(s) receive a parenting intervention 	<p>11%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>New Indicator for 07/08</p>	<p>Old Indicator</p> <p>Old Indicator 20%</p>
<p>Race: All YOTs to have an action plan in place</p>	<p>Action Plan in place</p>	<p>Reduction in difference</p>



Young offender undertaking reparation

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