

Sunderland Youth Offending Service

Newsletter: Issue 1/August 2002

Welcome to the first edition of the Sunderland Youth Offending Service Newsletter.

This newsletter has been designed for partner agencies, staff and service users to inform you of the latest developments within Sunderland Youth Offending Service.

Your contributions to future newsletters would be welcomed, and details of how to contact us are shown on the back page of this Newsletter.

In this Edition:

In this first edition we:

- look back at some of the achievements the Service has made over the last year;
- outline developments in relation to the implementation of the new Referral Order;
- talk to the new Positive Futures Scheme Coordinator, and;
- provide some essential information on our 'Stop Press' page.

Visit to Sunderland Youth Offending Service by Lord Warner of Brockley, Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

Lord Warner visited Sunderland on Friday 15th March, 2002, at his own request, to view three particular projects – the Youth Inclusion Project, the Barnardo's SunGate Parenting Project, and the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Project.

The afternoon began with Lord Warner visiting the Youth Inclusion Project at Washington, where he met with members of the Steering Group, including members of the Police, Connexions, Youth & Community Service, Education Social Work Service and the school, as well as two young people who, since being involved in the scheme, have shown a remarkable turnaround in attainment and attendance levels.



Lord Warner then attended St Thomas Street Office Centre, where he met with five parents, YOS staff and SunGate staff, for a comprehensive discussion about the benefits of parenting interventions.

Finally, Lord Warner attended the Stadium of Light, where our partners in the ISSP programme, Gateshead and South Tyneside Youth Offending Teams, were also present. Lord Warner met with members of the ISSP Programme Board, four young offenders, parents and advocates. Discussion took place here about what helps prevent further offending by young people, and about work with parents.

The visit was deemed very successful, and thanks were given to all staff involved.

Left: Lord Warner with the Head of Sunderland Youth Offending Service (Helen Watson) at the recent National Community Care Awards Ceremony, London.

Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 'Commended' for Third Year Running

For the third successive year, the Youth Justice Board has awarded a **commended** grade to Sunderland Youth Offending Service's Youth Justice Plan, demonstrating a consistent level of achievement for the Service. The Youth Justice Plan sets out how the primary aim will be delivered in the Sunderland area. The 2002/05 Plan has been developed following consultation with key stakeholders and partner agencies, service users and the wider public.

The Youth Justice Board advisers commented that they were particularly impressed with the following aspects of the 2002/05 Plan:

- Innovative mental health development, including access to Child Psychiatry Unit, Barnes Unit and the Youth Addictions Project
- A clear commitment demonstrated to meeting the accommodation needs of young offenders e.g. the Keys project and Leaving Care partnerships
- Proposals for development of Restorative Justice Services
- Measures established to prevent offending e.g. Early Intervention.

Achievements 2001/02

In the past year, Sunderland Youth Offending Service has had many achievements. Some of the most significant achievements during 2001/02 include:

- Appearing as one of the **top scoring Youth Offending Teams** in the Youth Justice Board Performance table for January -December 2001
- **Winner of a National Community Care Award** for the Phoenix Fire Brigade partnership project (Youth Justice Board funded Pathway Programme).

- The Mentoring Project received a 'Highly Commended' in Sunderland Social Services' **Quality Awards 2001**, as well as being shortlisted for the National Community Care Awards. The Project has: recruited, selected and trained 78 volunteers from the local community and continues to attract volunteers'



Mentors receiving their certificates after completion of training – Stadium of Light December 2001

- The development of Sunderland, Gateshead and South Tyneside **Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme**, involving international partnership working with the USA Youth Advocate Program. ISSP met in full its aim to target the 3% of young offenders who commit 25% of youth crime with a view to engagement, reintegration and reducing offending.

- Participation, as one of only nine Local Authorities, in the **Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA)**, setting demanding and challenging targets to reduce re-offending following police Reprimand and Final Warning.

- The **Youth Inclusion Project** in North Washington has been successful in driving down rates of juvenile disorder, arrests and reduction in permanent exclusions as follows: 15% reduction in



Youth Inclusion

Referral Order Volunteers Help Young Offenders – and Victims

The Referral Order Programme came into effect nationally on 1 April 2002. It is designed for the first time who plead guilty. Sunderland Youth Offending Service anticipates

A sixteen-year-old youth from Washington was one of the first people in England and Order. After the hearing, his mother said: "It's a really good idea. The prospect of me the seriousness of what he'd done...the thought of meeting someone this has affected more about it. I don't think he realised just how serious the matter was".

Young people subject to a Referral Order must attend a Community Panel Meeting

STOP Press!

Revised ISSP Eligibility Criteria:

The Youth Justice Board has revised the criteria for eligibility to the ISSP Scheme as follows:

ISSP is available for young offenders who are appearing in court, charged with or convicted of an offence have previously.

- Been charged, warned or convicted of offences committed on 4 or more separate dates within the last 12 months and received at least one community or custodial penalty.

In addition, young offenders can also qualify for ISSP if they are at risk of custody because:

- The current charge or sentence relates to an offence which is sufficiently serious that an adult could be sentenced to 14 years or more:
- Or they have a history of repeat offending on bail and are at risk of a secure remand under section 130 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Congratulations!

...go to **Helen Watson**, Head of Youth Offending Service, on her promotion to Assistant Head of Service, Child Care Partnerships and Protection Services.

Helen has led the Youth Offending Service since it was a pilot in 1998, and has seen the Service gain national recognition for its achievements and performance.

We wish her well, and continued success in her career.

...also to **Judith Hay**, formerly Restorative Justice Manager, who will take over from Helen Watson as YOS Manager from September 2002

Youth Offending Service Website

The Youth Offending Service is currently updating its website to include information about the projects and services provided.

It will also be possible to download the leaflets available from the YOS.

The website will be updated regularly to include news items, and to report on any developments in youth justice that may be of interest to both service users and partnership agencies.

The website address is
www.sunderland.gov.uk/yos

If you have any suggestions for items to be included on the website, contact **Helen Dainton** by telephoning **0191 553 7464**, or by e-mail at helen.dainton@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk

Artist to work with young people...

The **Restorative Justice Team** have engaged an artist to work with young people.

The aim is to produce art work that gives useful messages, that can be displayed in schools, communities and on the metro system.

Examples of the issues we are interested in are: anti-drugs, racism, graffiti etc.

We are looking for a catchy slogan that can be used in producing posters.

If anyone has any ideas, please contact:

Greg Wheatley, Restorative Justice Officer, on 0191 553 7300, or e-mail at greg.wheatley@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk

Summer Splash

The Southwick and North Washington Splash Schemes are running programmes of activity for young people living in these areas, who are aged between 13-17 years. If anyone is interested in referring a young person to either of these Schemes, please contact:

Tom Thomas, North Washington Scheme Coordinator on 0191 219 3843
Andrea Baldwin, Southwick Scheme Coordinator on 0191 553 4572

Contacting the Youth Offending Service:

If you require any further information you can contact the Youth Offending Service at:

11 John Street, Sunderland, SR1 1HT
Tel: 0191 553 7370, Fax: 0191 553 7381 or:

St Cuthbert's House, East Cross Street, Sunderland, SR1 1XB
Tel: 0191 553 7300, Fax: 0191 553 7321

E-mail: yos@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk

Website: www.sunderland.gov.uk/yos

This publication can be made available in Braille, large print, on audio-cassette and in other languages. Please contact the Youth Offending Service for further information if you require any of these.

For all newsletter enquiries, please contact Helen Dainton on 0191 553 7464, or Susan Smith on 0191 553 7469.