

## Police and Crime Panel

14 March 2019



### Focused Report on Police, Crime and Victims' Plan Outcomes

#### Outcome 3: 'Reoffending is reduced and rehabilitation is improved'

#### Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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#### Purpose of report

1. To provide Panel members with a focused update on Outcome 3 of the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan – 'Reoffending is reduced and rehabilitation is improved'.

#### Background

2. Each meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will receive a focused report on a single outcome from the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan. The Plan can be accessed via the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's website ([www.durham-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk)) – and a summary diagram illustrating the relationship between outcomes, key performance questions (KPQs) and priorities can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.
3. This report considers Outcome 3 – under which sit the KPQs:
  - 'How well are we reducing reoffending?' (KPQ5); and
  - 'How well are we rehabilitating people who have offended?' (KPQ6).
4. It therefore builds on and reiterates many of the points made in the last quarterly performance report (presented to the Panel in January 2019), which reported on KPQs 5-8 of the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan.

#### KPQ5 – How well are we reducing reoffending?

5. Accordingly, as highlighted previously, reoffending rates both nationally and locally have remained high over time.
6. This is shown by national, publically available and accurate data. Indeed, this data goes some way to show why the work highlighted further in the report (with the Local Criminal Justice Partnership (LCJP)) is important.

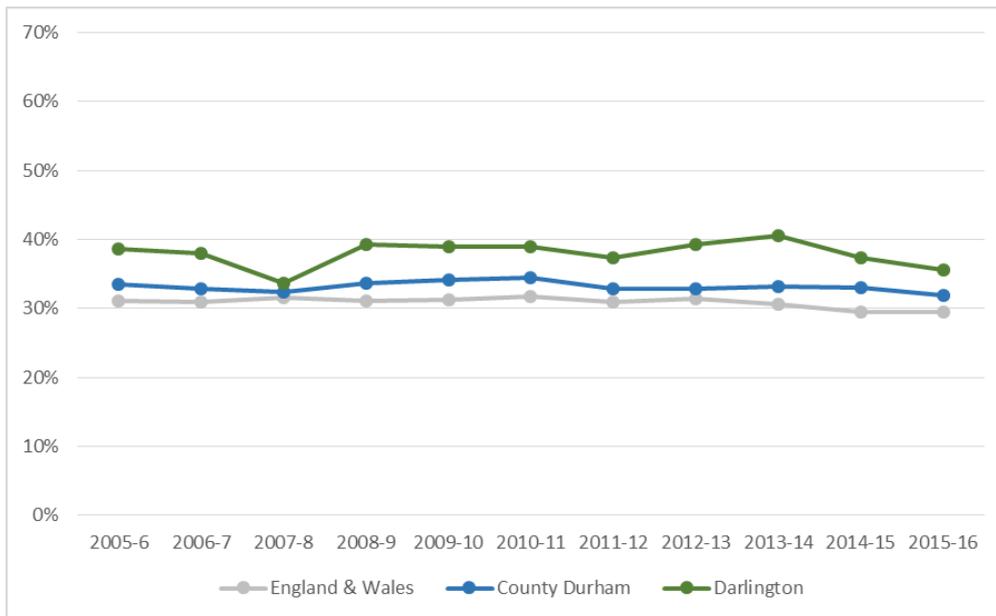


Figure 1: National proven reoffending data - % of offenders who reoffend within 12 months

- Thus, the proven reoffending graph (figure 1) shows that the proportion of all offenders who reoffend in a twelve month period remains fairly stable over time, currently at 31.0% in County Durham and 35.6% in Darlington. Unfortunately, the data has a time lapse of nearly two years between an initial offence and the data being released, meaning the latest available data is for 2015-16.
- The next graph (figure 2) is, similarly, nationally published data – with some of the same limitations – but shows the average number of offences per reoffender.

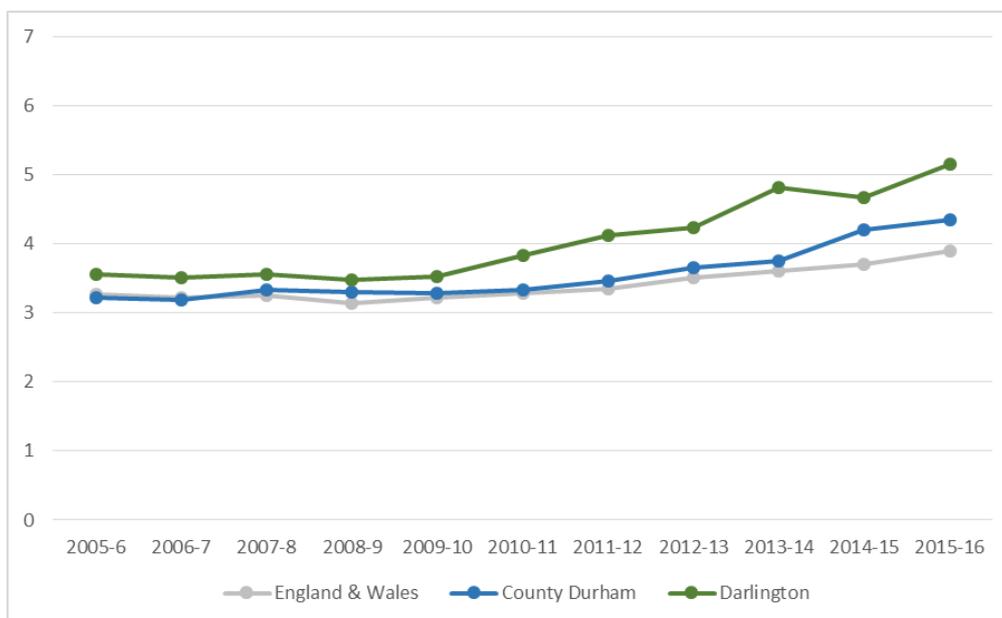


Figure 2: Average number of re-offences per reoffender

9. The average number of re-offences per reoffender is starting stabilise following a rise, currently at 4.46 in County Durham and 5.10 in Darlington.
10. Having considered the top-level reoffending indicators, the next section highlights some of the work ongoing in trying to reduce reoffending, principally in partnership through the LCJP.

*County Durham and Darlington Reducing Reoffending Group – LCJP*

11. The LCJP brings together criminal justice agencies to look at the criminal justice system (CJS) as a whole.
12. The County Durham and Darlington Reducing Reoffending Group, which is part of the LCJP, looks to reduce offending and reoffending by ensuring that adults and young people who offend are challenged and supported to desist from crime
13. The Partnership's overall plan – including that of the Reducing Reoffending Group – can be found on my website, here: <https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Scrutiny/Local-Criminal-Justice-Board.aspx>.
14. Focusing specifically on the Reducing Reoffending Group, it has six priority work-streams:
  - 14.1. A review of the pathways to desistance throughout the criminal justice system  
The current focus of this work remains accommodation, family ties and employment.
  - 14.2. Performance framework review  
The idea of this work-stream is that the Reducing Reoffending Group will be able to manage reoffending performance across the system and to identify critical issues in a timely fashion.
  - 14.3. Whole system approach to female offending  
The aim of this work-stream is to develop a joined-up approach to improve support for female offenders. This, then, would allow for a more developed understanding of the needs of female offenders and what works when it comes to reducing their reoffending.
  - 14.4. Finances  
This work aims to improve the current pathway for prison-leavers and offenders in relation to benefit claims.
  - 14.5. Offender journey  
This work looks to seek improvements in the management of offenders, to reduce duplication and confusion, and to identify any gaps.

#### 14.6. Diversionary interventions

Checkpoint is connected significantly to this work-stream. Launched in April 2015, it aims to reduce the number of victims of crime by reducing reoffending and improving life chances. The programme offers eligible offenders a four month long contract to engage with services as an alternative to prosecution and offers interventions to address the underlying reasons why they committed the crime to prevent them from doing it again.

#### *Other things to mention*

15. The Constabulary also works with those who have been identified as some of the most demanding offenders through the Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOMU), with the aim to reduce their level of offending.
16. Frequently, these individuals display complex needs and are responsible for multiple and predominantly acquisitive crimes.

#### **KPQ6 – How well are we rehabilitating people who have offended?**

17. One of the LCJP's high level objectives is to have an end-to-end system for rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending.
18. Part of rehabilitation here would be that the underlying causes of a person's reoffending is identified, and that they are provided with access to specialist services to help to address those challenges as early as possible in the system and throughout it.
19. Indeed, those things which might be identified as contributing to someone's reoffending can include:
  - Thinking and behaviour;
  - Accommodation;
  - Employment;
  - Family and relationships;
  - Emotional and physical health;
  - Substance misuse; and
  - Finance.
20. Much of the work through the Reducing Reoffending Group's priority work-streams, highlighted in KPQ5, look at these factors; particularly the work-streams on desistance, finances, and the offender journey.

#### *Restorative Hub*

21. In addition to these things, the work of the Restorative Hub is relevant to KPQ6.
22. The Hub is an organisation that works with victims and offenders through restorative justice and has recently been awarded the Restorative Service Quality Mark by the

Restorative Justice Council. This mark recognises and indicates that restorative justice organisations follow safe, high quality practices.

- 23. In terms of being pertinent to rehabilitation, then, restorative justice can have a profound impact on offenders. This is as well as its critical importance in offering victims the opportunity to have a voice in the criminal justice system, through getting answers to questions they may have.
- 24. Accordingly, to be eligible to take part offenders must accept responsibility for their actions and demonstrate a genuine willingness to communicate meaningfully. The offender then has the opportunity to listen to the person they have harmed, and can answer any questions that the victim might have.
- 25. It offers offenders the chance to explain their actions and understand the implications of their behaviour and, where possible and acceptable to the victim, to make some amends. Careful preparations are made to ensure that the meeting has positive value for all who attend.

### Checkpoint

- 26. Building on what was highlighted above in relation to Checkpoint – when offenders take part in the Checkpoint programme, they are supported through the process by a specialist ‘navigator’ who completes a detailed needs assessment and creates a tailored contract which includes interventions around any issues an offender may have.
- 27. These navigators can identify those factors highlighted above which might need to be addressed in one way or another to prevent future reoffending.
- 28. Those on contracts will nearly always have more than one ‘critical pathway’. The graph below (figure 3) shows these pathways for Checkpoint.

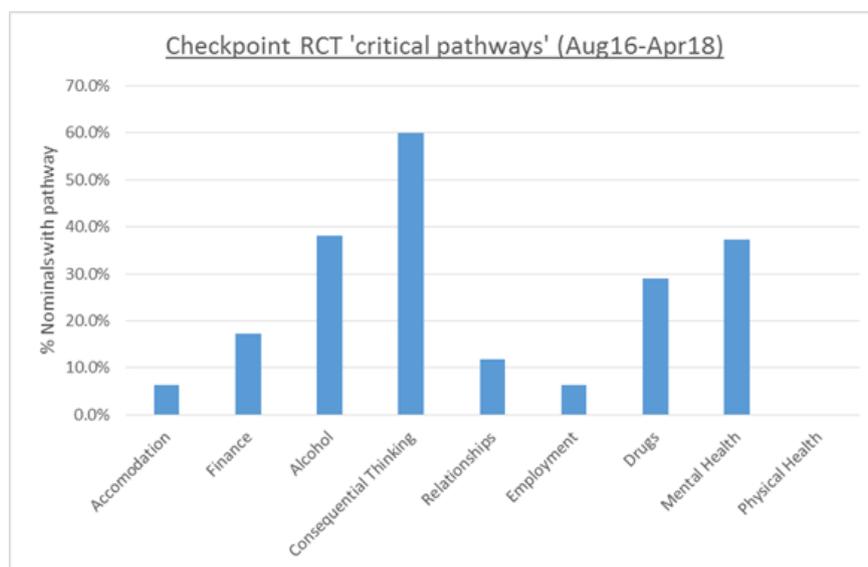


Figure 3: Checkpoint Randomised Control Trial ‘Critical Pathways’

## **Recommendations**

29. That the Panel note the contents of the report and seek any relevant points of clarification.

**Ron Hogg**

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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Appendix 1: Outcomes, Key Performance Questions, and Priorities

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Outcome 1

Outcome 2

Outcome 3

Outcome 4

KPQ1

KPQ2

KPQ3

KPQ4

KPQ5

KPQ6

KPQ7

KPQ8

12 Priorities – Cross Cutting

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**Appendix 2: Risks and Implications**

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**Finance:**

N/A

**Staffing:**

N/A

**Equality and Diversity:**

N/A

**Accommodation:**

N/A

**Crime and Disorder:**

N/A

**Children's Act 2004:**

N/A

**Stakeholder/Community Engagement:**

N/A

**Environment:**

N/A

**Collaboration and Partnerships:**

N/A

**Value for Money and Productivity:**

N/A

**Potential Impact on Police Crime, and Victims' Plan Priorities:**

Highlights performance in relation to Outcome 3 of the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan.

**Commissioning:**

N/A

**Other risks:**

N/A

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