

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Safe Durham Partnership Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2014/17

28 October 2014



Safe Durham Partnership

Report of Hazel Willoughby, Head of Services for Durham and Darlington, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present to Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Safe Durham Partnership Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2014/17.

Background

- 2 Section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, requires Community Safety Partnerships (in our case the Safe Durham Partnership) to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce re-offending by adults and young people. The Partnership has had a Reducing Re-offending Strategy in place since 2011 and this ran in line with the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2011/14.
- 3 At the July 2013 meeting of the Safe Durham Partnership Board members receive a report about Strategic Planning and agreed the recommendation from this report to:

'Carry out only a light-touch refresh of existing thematic priority strategies, aligning them with the term of the SDP Plan.'

- 4 The refresh of Reducing Re-offending Strategy was formally agreed at the Reducing Re-offending Thematic Group meeting on the 8 May 2014. The Reducing Re-offending Strategy is once again aligned with the new Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014/17.

Successes in Reducing Re-offending (2011/14)

- 5 The first Reducing Re-offending Strategy has seen a number of high level achievements made between 2011/13. These include;
 - Youth Offending Service awards for Investing in Volunteers (2013), Intensive Employability Programme (2013) and Fully Integrated Pre Court System (2012)
 - The prolific offenders mentor support extended to all Integrated Offender Management (IOM) hubs

- Prison pre-release planning with IOM established within HMP Durham
- Embedding Think Family with the introduction of hidden sentence training, implementing the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) 'common offer' on troubled families within prison settings, parenting courses delivered in our local prisons and piloting a family support worker in HMP Durham
- Housing Solutions evaluated and mainstreamed housing officer supporting IOM
- Restorative Justice introduced within IOM as part of the Restorative Approaches for Prolific and Priority Offenders (RAPPO) Project
- Over 400 police officers trained in 'Level 2' Restorative Approaches. 'Level 1' training for the whole force commenced Sep 2013
- CDYOS have expanded restorative justice across all orders within existing resources. All CDYOS staff trained to level 1 Restorative Approaches with 50 case managers and 50 volunteers trained to level 2/3
- Restorative Approach neighbourhood projects piloted in Bishop Auckland, Peterlee and Durham
- Restorative Approaches training requirement has been added to the 'Stronger Families' Workforce Plan
- Funding to support four drug workers to provide family and offender support
- Implementation of the Probation / Jobcentre Plus Data Exchange Agreement
- New 'Step Forward' service developed by housing
- Provision of safe and secure accommodation for vulnerable women offenders
- Implemented a Women's Diversion Project
- Development of processes to support the management of dangerous or violent offenders (falling outside of MAPPA arrangements)

Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2014/17

- 6 The refreshed Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2014/17 is attached at Appendix 2 of this report. It sets out the Safe Durham Partnership's approach to reduce re-offending in County Durham. The strategic objectives are;
- **Prevent inter-generational offending**
 - **Prevent repeat offending**
- 7 Underpinning these strategic objectives are two distinct strands: Adult offenders are managed by the National Probation Service and Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company. Young people who offend are managed by County Durham Youth Offending Service.
- 8 The strategy outlines our overall aspirations to reduce re-offending. For adult offenders it is necessary to continue our approach to prioritise the effective management of the most difficult, chaotic and persistent offenders. We will expand our integrated offender management principles to a wider cohort and for those young people who offend we will continue to reduce the number of children and young people entering the criminal justice system.

9 Our priority area of work will focus on the following:

Prevent intergenerational offending

- Maintain and develop pre-court assessments and interventions for young people
- Reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reduce alcohol related offending by young people
- Improve exit strategies after statutory supervision and pathways into mainstream services, particularly for young people aged 16 to 18 years
- Develop pathways and access for identified health needs of young people who offend (with a focus on Speech, Language and Communication needs)
- Continue to improve and develop our 'Think Family' approach for identified offenders (both adult and young people who offend) and their families

Prevent repeat offending

- Manage offence related needs (critical pathways*) of prolific adult offenders in order to stop their offending
- Expand our integrated offender management approach to lower level offending using alternatives to custody
- Maintain and develop support for women offenders and women vulnerable to offending
- Conduct further mental health research to enhance our understanding and ability to respond to offender needs and links to health support services
- Ensure offenders are retained in effective drug treatment, drug recovery and abstinence
- Develop and promote victim involvement within restorative practices
- Reduce the impact of offending behaviour on public confidence
- Improve partnership performance of the single re-offending measure
- Continue to provide strategic level co-ordination for Safe Durham Partnership issues relating to the Governments Transforming Rehabilitation programme to improve the management of offenders
- Continue to implement Association of North East Councils and National Offender Management Service recommendations on 'Reducing Reoffending in the North East: Improving joint working between local authorities and prisons'
- Analyse the impact of Welfare Reform; monitor this in the Force Threat and Risk Group and assess against regional neighbours and most similar Forces

* The critical pathways are: Accommodation; Drug and Alcohol Misuse; Financial Management and Income; Education, Training and Employability; Children and Families; Health; Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour; Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Violence.

10 The priority actions have been assigned lead officers and will be monitored by a Red/Amber/Green system within the Reducing Re-offending Delivery Plan.

- 11 The strategy and delivery plan will be delivered and monitored by the Reducing Re-offending Thematic Group. The Strategy will be reviewed on a yearly basis in the context of major national developments for example; the Ministry of Justice 'Transforming Rehabilitation' programme of reforms.

Recommendations

- 12 The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
 - (i) Note the contents of the report

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No adverse implications.

Staffing

The Strategy will be implemented using existing resources.

Risk

No adverse implications.

Equality and Diversity

The Strategy may impact on certain groups of individuals who are over represented in the re-offending cohorts.

Accommodation

No adverse implications.

Crime and Disorder

The Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2014/17 sets out the Safe Durham Partnership's overall approach to reduce re-offending in County Durham.

Human Rights

No adverse implications.

Consultation

Consultation was carried out with stakeholders and service users as part of the strategy development process.

Procurement

No adverse implications.

Disability Discrimination Act

No direct adverse implications.

Legal Implications

No adverse implications.

Appendix 2

The Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2014/17 is attached as a separate file.