

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015/18

15 February 2016



Safe Durham Partnership

Report of Hazel Willoughby, Head of Offender Services, Durham, Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a copy of the County Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015/18 (attached as Appendix 2).

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 which was subsequently refreshed in 2014.
- 3 Following the merger of the Safe Durham and Safer Darlington Reducing Re-Offending Groups into a joint meeting, it was agreed that a new strategy and supporting action plan be developed to set out the strategic direction for reducing re-offending across both areas.

Successes in Reducing Re-offending since 2011

- 4 Partners working across Durham and Darlington have already seen a number of high level achievements since 2011 when Reducing Re-Offending became a statutory requirement of Community Safety Partnerships. These include:
 - Darlington Youth Offending Service was presented with a national Butler Trust Award (2015) in recognition for innovation in restorative justice, service development and leadership with the service rated 'outstanding' by the Youth Justice Board
 - County Durham Youth Offending Service awards for Investing in Volunteers (2013), Intensive Employability Programme (2013) and Fully Integrated Pre Court System (2012)
 - Darlington Youth Offending Service Howard League Award (2013) for innovative restorative justice practice
 - Mentor support for prolific offenders extended to all IOM hubs across County Durham and Darlington
 - Prison pre-release planning with IOM established within HMP Durham

- 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
- 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
- All Darlington YOS staff have been trained to facilitate Restorative Justice Conferencing along with local children's care home staff trained to the same level
- Embedding Think Family with the introduction of hidden sentence training, implementing the 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
- Funding to support four drug workers to provide family and offender support
- Young people who offend and in treatment in Darlington achieved a higher percentage of planned exits than overall treatment population
- Implementation of the Probation / Jobcentre Plus Data Exchange Agreement
- 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)
- Successfully managing NPS/CRC split as part of Transforming Rehabilitation.

Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015/18

- 5 The Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015 – 2018 sets out the Safe Durham Partnership and Darlington Community Safety Partnership's joint approach to reduce re-offending by adults and young people. The strategy will be delivered and monitored by the Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group.
- 6 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.

Our strategic objectives are:

- a) **Prevent intergenerational offending** – Research tells us you are more likely to offend if you come from an offending family. Therefore children and families of offenders are more at risk of becoming offenders themselves. This element of the strategy concentrates early intervention and identification to break this cycle of offending and to divert young people away from the Criminal Justice System.

- b) **Prevent repeat offending** – This element of the strategy concentrates on the offenders themselves, supporting those offenders wishing to stop their offending nature and subjecting robust enforcement to those who don't.

7 Underpinning these strategic objectives are two distinct strands: adults and young people. 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 and Darlington Youth Offending Service.

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

- a) **Prevent intergenerational offending**
- Maintain (and develop for new processes) early intervention to reduce the overall level of re-offending by young people as well as its frequency and severity (including First Time Entrants)
 - Improve how we communicate with young people, understand and response to their communication needs and improve the interventions we complete with them
 - Provide high quality restorative justice services that supports victims of crime and provide confidence to both community and Youth Justice Services
 - Identify, analyse and target our resources on those young people committing the most offences
 - Ensure we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us, promoting success and maintaining public satisfaction
 - Maintain (and develop for new processes) robust quality assurance and staff management processes
 - Improve and develop our 'Think Family' approach for offenders (both adult and young people who offend) and their families
- b) **Prevent repeat offending**
- Manage offence related needs (critical pathways*) of 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
 - 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

** The critical pathways (adult offenders) 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.*

- 9 The successful delivery of the strategic objectives will rely upon the Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group effectively coordinating initiatives and mainstreaming activities to maximise partnership resources. Partners across the community, voluntary sector and statutory agencies are committed to working together to deliver services that bring the most impact and provide a focus on early intervention.
- 10 This strategy will be reviewed on a yearly basis to identify and prepare for potential opportunities and to mitigate against service pressures.

Recommendations

- 11 The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

Note the contents of the report.

Contact: Caroline Duckworth, Community Safety Manager.
Tel. 03000 265 435

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 2015/18 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.