

Youth Crime Prevention Delivery Plan

Mission Statement

To reduce the number of children and young people entering the youth justice system for the first time

LAA 38 – measured by National Indicator 111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17: to reduce the 2007/08 figure of 1,032 entrants by 5% by 2010/11

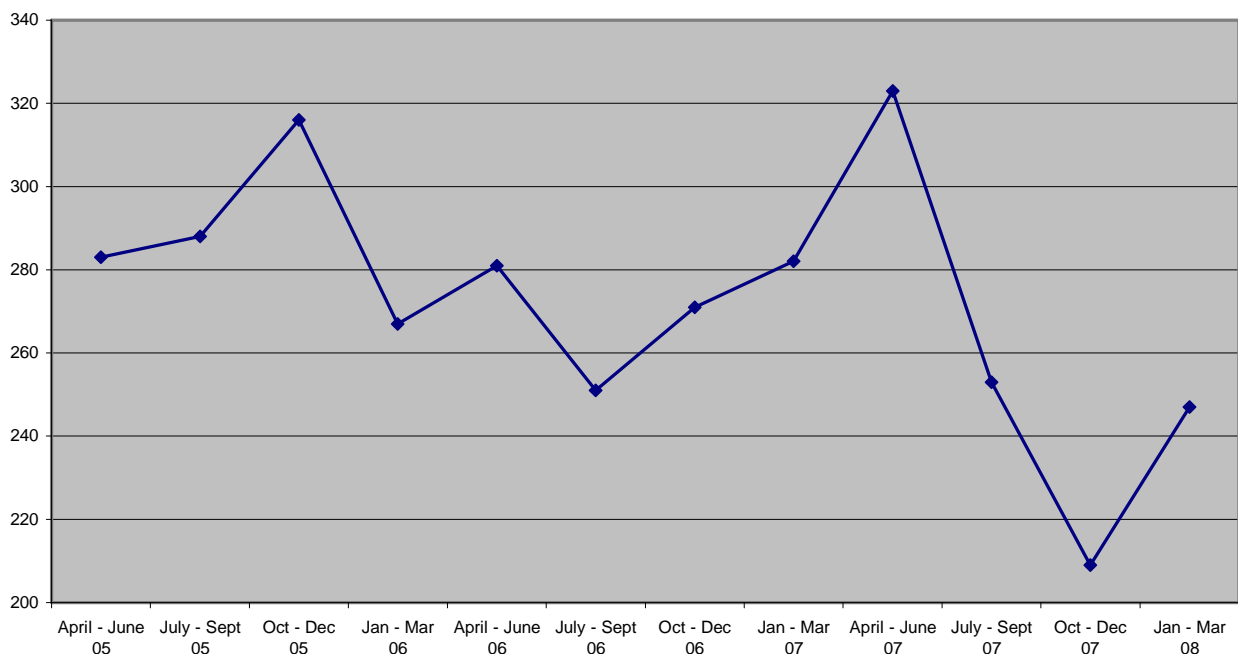
Introduction

Youth crime in Devon is relatively low. There are around 71,000 children and young people aged 10 to 17 years in Devon. In 2007/08 there were 3,272 offences committed by children and young people. The level of youth offending in Devon equates to 46 offences per 1,000 10 -17 population which puts Devon within the lowest 23% of youth offending nationally.

Nonetheless over 1,000 children and young people enter the youth justice system in Devon each year (1,032 in 2007/08). Most children and young people do not offend and their lives do have positive outcomes. However, the implications for those children who do, for whatever reason, find themselves involved in offending behaviour, can be far reaching and their lives, and those of their families and communities, can be adversely affected as a result. Having a criminal conviction can adversely affect the future life chances of a child or young person in many ways and in the long term, for example, employment opportunities. A conviction for a minor assault on a child or young person, for example a “scuffle” on the way home from school, could result in that assault being reflected in future Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks, and could therefore prevent future employment in child care services.

Progress in Devon

DEVON YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE FIRST TIME ENTRANTS



Devon has achieved a reduction in the number of First Time Entrants to the youth justice system (FTEs) by 10.6% (from 1,154 to 1,032) thereby exceeding the target of a 5% reduction by March 2008 against the 2005/06 baseline. This reflects the investment in Youth Crime Prevention across a range of agencies, including the development of early intervention teams across Devon and access to targeted support and diversionary activities.

2005/06 baseline = 1,154 FTE

Target for 31.03.08 (based on 5% reduction) = 1,099 FTE

2006/07 = 1,085 FTE

2007/08 = 1,032 FTE

Reduction against baseline = 10.6%

In defining the risk factors for youth offending, the focus is on reducing criminality. However, the risk factors for youth offending and substance misuse overlap to a large degree with those for low attainment at school, teenage pregnancy and adolescent mental health problems. A broad-based and multi-agency approach to prevention therefore offers the most opportunity for achieving reductions in offending behaviour.

Refer to the Sustainable Community Strategy evidence base at

<http://www.devonsp.org.uk/sustainablecommunitystrategy/evidencebase.html>.

Evidence

A detailed analysis of FTEs in Devon (April 2006-December 2007) was commissioned in order to inform the planning and delivery of Youth Crime Prevention services and projects.

Some of the indicators to emerge are as follows:

- There are 4 dominant districts contributing to the FTE total:
 1. Teignbridge 21% (372 FTE)
 2. Exeter 17% (313 FTE)
 3. East Devon 15% (271 FTE)
 4. North Devon 14% (254 FTE)
- IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index) rankings – the general trend is that the more deprived a band, the higher the number of FTE
- Band 1 (highest level of deprivation) accounts for 25% of all FTE
- Bands 1,2 and 3 account for 50% of total FTE
- The number of 10 -11 year old FTE is small – 6% of the total. The incidence of FTE increases by age, peaking at 20% each for 15 and 16 year olds, then tails off to 15% for 17 year olds

There are 4 major crime types committed by FTE:

- Theft & handling 29% (625 crimes)
- Violence against the person 23% (484 crimes)
- Criminal damage 21% (438 crimes)
- Public order 8% (165 crimes)

The major districts for the most common FTE crimes were:

- Criminal damage – North Devon
- Theft & handling – Exeter / Teignbridge
- Violence – Exeter

Crimes in Schools and Colleges

- 141 (6.7%) of all FTE crimes
- Main crime types were violence, criminal damage and theft/handling
- FTE age 10 -13 accounted for 42% of FTE crime in schools

Crime committed in the 3pm-5pm period

- 263 crimes representing 12.5% of all FTE crime
- Exeter and Teignbridge were disproportionately high
- Theft/handling and violence were disproportionately high

Unauthorised absence from school

- The wards that experience high levels of FTE and high levels of unauthorised absence are also the wards containing some of the most deprived areas
- There is a correlation between those wards where there is a higher level of unauthorised absence and those where there is a higher level of FTE

Gender

- FTE gender breakdown for Devon was 69.3% male and 30.7% female
- Overall gender breakdown is largely reflected in each district
- Exeter had the largest number of female FTE (36.4%)
- Overall 70/30% breakdown was similar for crimes of violence and public order
- Criminal damage was more predominantly male 87.6% / 12.4% female
- For theft and handling the breakdown is more even 55.3% male / 44.7% female
- Theft from shop has a majority of female FTE (59%)

Re-offending by FTE

- 300 FTEs re-offended (16.1%) of total
- 72.7% of those FTE who re-offended were following a Reprimand
- The highest number of FTE who re-offended did so within 30 days of their outcome date
- 42.7% of all FTE who re-offended did so within 90 days of their outcome date

(a full copy of the FTE analysis is available upon request from Devon Youth Offending Service)

Delivery Plan

Accountability and governance

Devon's new integrated Youth Crime Prevention Strategy "Children First" (2008-2011) has identified 7 key areas for delivery:

Prevention

Early identification and early intervention

Targeted activities and services

Parenting Support

Education

Anti-Social Behaviour and Respect

Neighbourhood Policing

Responsibility for co-ordination of Devon's Youth Crime Prevention Strategy will rest with the Senior Commissioning Manager, Youth Crime Prevention, with lines of accountability to the Children's Trust, Safer Devon Partnership and the Chief Officer Group.

Development, monitoring and review of the Youth Crime Prevention Strategy will be undertaken by a multi-agency Youth Crime Prevention Strategy steering group who will meet at least quarterly, or more frequently as required.

Please see link to "Children First" strategy on Devon County Council website:
<http://www.devon.gov.uk/childrenfirststrategy.pdf>

Resources

Specific funding for Youth Crime Prevention services and projects has come from three main sources over the last 2-3 years, ie Children's Fund (£454k in 07/08), Youth Justice Board prevention grant (£411k in 07/08) and Safer Devon Partnership (£130k in 07/08). The SDP funding allocation to Youth Crime Prevention in 2008/09 has been reduced to £111,709. A range of other small grants also contribute on a year-on-year basis.

Investment in approaches to Youth Crime Prevention, whether financially, "in kind" or through collaborative working, supports the Duty to Co-operate in promoting positive outcomes to improve well-being for children and young people. Well-being in this context is defined by reference to the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

The Children Act 2004 (Section 10) places a statutory Duty to Co-operate responsibility upon local authorities, district councils, police, probation, YOTs, health authorities and providers of education services. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Section 17) also places a duty to co-operate upon local authorities and statutory partners. However, it is important that all agencies, whether statutory or voluntary, who are involved in providing services to children and young people, play their part.

Investment in Youth Crime Prevention is an "invest to save" approach, ie to improving positive outcomes and reducing adverse outcomes for children and young people, their families and communities, and also thereby impacting upon a wide range of cross-agency targets. Whilst there will be some "quick wins" to be seen, most of the impact of preventative approaches will be seen in the medium to long term. It is vital that statutory agencies such as the Police, Children and Young People's Services, Health, Housing, Leisure, Youth Offending Service, schools, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Youth Service and Connexions commit to investment in Youth Crime Prevention, both in terms of finance and other resources.

Direct funding for Youth Crime Prevention is complex and mostly non-recurrent, ie grant funding. The Devon Children's Fund funding for youth crime prevention projects has now been confirmed at the 2007/08 level until March 2009 – funding beyond that date will be subject to commissioning arrangements in conjunction with Children's Trust Local Planning and Implementation CTLPIPs. The Youth Justice Board Prevention funding has now been secured for the next 3 years, with contributions from the DCSF, Ministry of Justice and Home Office. Allocations to Local Authorities for 2008/09 will be the same as for 2007/08.

Funding and resources at current levels will be needed to maintain progress and to effectively deliver Devon's Youth Crime Prevention Strategy. Resources in 2007/08 totalled £1.1m.

Allocations of SDP funding to projects will be subject to the commissioning arrangements of the Youth Crime Prevention Strategy "Children First" and together with DCSF and YJB funding will support both prevention / early intervention services and targeted projects in response to identified locality / thematic need as follows:

Targeted activities and services will be determined on an evidence-led basis through data analysis, eg police strategic assessment and other processes, and consultation with partners. The detailed analysis of youth offending in Devon will inform the planning and delivery of youth crime prevention activity from April 2008. Effective practice models of delivery will be prioritised.

The SDP allocation for Youth Crime Prevention for 2008/09 is shown below:

Project title	Action (including geographic coverage)	Project lead	Resources (SDP allocation)	Delivery dates	Performance measures
Delivery of Youth	YISPs across Devon:	YOT	£77,709	Ongoing	NI 111 reduce the number of

Inclusion & Support Programmes (YISPs) and related early intervention services across Devon for children and young people 'at risk' of offending					children who enter the justice system for the first time (First Time Entrants)
Delivery of targeted neighbourhood Youth Inclusion Programmes (YIPs)	TBC on evidence-led basis and subject to consultation – likely to be Teignbridge and/or Exeter	YOT	£34,000	TBA	NI 111 reduce the number of children who enter the justice system for the first time (First Time Entrants)

Measurement considerations

The relevant indicator from the national outcome and indicator set in relation to the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system is NI 111 “First time entrants to Youth Justice System aged 10 -17) PSA 14 “Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success”. This may also measure the impact of prevention interventions (LAA 38)

Because of the close links between risk factors associated with offending behaviour by children and young people, and other risk factors, related outcomes may include reductions in:

- the number of young people who are victims of youth crime
- incidents of anti-social behaviour
- incidents of bullying
- the number of fixed-term and permanent exclusions from school and the number of days lost to exclusions
- the number of Children in Care who are inappropriately brought into the criminal justice system
- the fear of crime
- the number of children and young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Additional positive outcomes may include:

- narrowing the gap in opportunities and outcomes between most children and young people and those that are most vulnerable or underachieving (focus on the lowest achieving 20% of the population)
- increased engagement with the curriculum
- improved school attendance
- improved parenting and parenting support
- increased numbers of “at risk” young people engaging in positive activities and volunteering
- improved resilience built through positive activities and engagement in learning and work