

REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, TARGETED SUPPORT AND YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES

YOUTH CRIME PRESENTATION

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with an update regarding youth crime in Nottinghamshire.

Information and Advice

2. In 2010 the County Council along with partners launched a three-year Youth Crime Strategy laying out how agencies across Nottinghamshire would work together to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime, to provide a proportionate response to those involved in anti-social behaviour and to provide appropriate care, control and punishment for those who have offended. We also made clear that victims' needs would be at the heart of our decision making.
3. We agreed to monitor the success of the strategy through three performance measures:
 - Reducing the number of victims of youth crime, measured through two proxy measures or the number of young people committing their first crime and those within the youth justice who have re-offended
 - Reducing the number of violent offences committed by young people
 - Reducing the Number of Young People Experiencing Custody, both on remand and sentence

The latest performance details are shown below.

4. Reducing The Number of Victims of Youth Crime

	In 2009	In 2010	In 2011
Number of young people committing their first crime	917	888	550
Percentage of young people re-offending	30.7%	27.1%	29.3%

4.1 The number of young people committing their first crime has reduced considerably in recent years through a mixture of diversionary work, direct interventions children and families at risk of offending and restorative justice and community resolution as an alternative to formal criminal justice processes. As number in the youth justice system have reduced it has become more difficult to reduce re-offending in the smaller and more entrenched offender group. As such the performance on re-offending is viewed as positive.

5. Reducing Youth Violence

	In 2009	In 2010	In 2011
Number of young people committing a violent crime	495	513	395

5.1 Approaches to managing young people in public spaces, a focus on interventions directly targeted at violent behaviour and sustained investment in young people's alcohol services have been successful in reducing youth violence.

6. Reducing the Number of Young People Experiencing Custody

	In 2009	In 2010	In 2011
Number of young offenders receiving a custodial sentence	51	38	32
Number of young people receiving a secure or custodial remand	33	26	21

6.1 Numbers of remands and custodial sentences have reduced considerably with Courts showing increased confidence in robust and intensive community sentences.

7. Coming Developments in Approaches to Youth Crime

7.1 Changes in legislation, organisational design and policy initiatives, such as "Troubled Families" and the election of "Police and Crime Commissioners" have prompted a reconsideration of the current model of youth crime prevention and the delivery of some aspects of youth justice work. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) will mean that from April 2012 young offenders are increasingly dealt with outside of the Court system. The "Troubled Families" programme will see a significant number of families targeted for multi-agency interventions aimed at reducing offending, worklessness and improving school attendance. The Police and Crime Commissioner, when elected, will have to produce a five year plan, which is likely to subsume the existing Youth Crime Strategy.

7.2 In response Nottinghamshire County Council and the police are establishing a core team to deal with youth related disorder and to reduce youth crime centred on each of the ten local area commands in the county through a fortnightly “Local Youth Crime Panel”. Any of the Youth Crime Panel members will be able to bring problems for discussion, be that an individual young person or a group causing concern. The meeting will use a problem solving methodology and “task” members to take action either individually or through their agency and “coordinate” a swift response. The meeting will also act as the decision making vehicle for the police and youth offending services for “local justice” and diversion from prosecution.

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