

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

21 September 2009

**YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE: PROGRESS REPORT**

**1.0 Key Points**

1.1 This report seeks to inform Board Members of recent developments in respect of Deter Young Offenders (DYO) and seeks partner agreement to provide enhanced service delivery.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 That the Board notes the report and seeks agreement from partners to ensure the delivery of a premium service to young people identified as DYO.

**3.0 Background**

3.1 The Prolific and other Priority (PPO) Strategy was launched by the Prime Minister in March 2004 as a means of targeting offenders who commit the most crime and those who cause the most harm to local communities.

3.2 There were three complementary strands designed to tackle both prolific offending and its roots comprising:

Prevent and Deter	(young people)
Catch of Convict	(primarily adults)
Rehabilitate and Resettle	( “ ” )

3.3 From April 2009 Local Criminal Justice Boards were asked to focus their efforts to develop a multi agency approach to tackle a single priority group of young offenders: the Deter group.

3.4 Government guidance is clear that tackling DYO re-offending effectively will involve a wide partnership of agencies, both within and outside the criminal justice system.

**4.0 Identifying the 'Deter' Group**

4.1 Deter Young Offenders (DYO) are those assessed as posing the highest risk of causing serious harm to others and likelihood of re-offending.

- 4.2 The Deter scheme in North Yorkshire focuses on a relatively small number of young people at any one time (approx 30-35) identified through the ASSET assessment tool.
- 4.3 There are currently three multi-agency Deter panels in North Yorkshire that are held every 6 weeks in Scarborough, Harrogate and Selby. Panels meet to consider individual cases and to agree a premium service delivery to meet individual needs and risks.
- 4.4 A strategic Deter Management Group meets quarterly to oversee and develop the service.

## **5.0 Performance Measures**

- 5.1 The Deter Young Offenders scheme has two main performance management measures to:
- i) Reduce re-offending of the Deter Cohort and
  - ii) Improve timeliness through the criminal justice processes
- 5.2 The children & young people who receive a formal disposal between January and March each year and who are assessed as high risk, make up the Deter Cohort.
- 5.3 Performance is monitored by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) via Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJB).
- 5.4 A new scaled approach to youth justice will be introduced in November 2009 ([www.yjb.gov.uk/scaledapproach](http://www.yjb.gov.uk/scaledapproach)) alongside new legislation and court orders, and a new set of National Standards. DYO's will receive the intensive level of minimum contacts under this guidance.
- 5.5 The performance measures of the DYO scheme link closely with LAA target to reduce re-offending by young people (NI 19) and with key targets in the Children and Young People's Plan. By effectively targeting the highest risk, most prolific offenders, the overall re-offending rate should reduce.

## **6.0 DYO Access to Wider Children's Services**

- 6.1 The provision of mainstream services to young offenders, particularly DYO's, is critical to breaking the cycle of offending behaviour. Annex C of the Management Framework issued by OCJR sets out the requirements for access to wider children's services (attached).

## **7.0 Contributions from Children & Young People's Services**

- 7.1 The contributions agreed by Children and Young People's Leadership Team in July are attached as Appendix 2.

- 7.2 This meeting also agreed the need to
- ensure that DYOs have one clearly agreed and recorded plan based on shared assessment.
  - ensure access to Family Group Conferencing and Restorative Community Conferencing
  - develop Integrated Services to target difficult families known to a range of services, including Housing
  - in relation to Education: resolve residential provision for EBD young people; identify at transition from primary to secondary those children at highest risk; involve the Education Psychology Service; establish Learning Support Units with integrated working.

## **8.0 Recommendation**

- 8.1 That Board Members note the requirements in the report and consider what 'additionality' or premium service their organisation can deliver to prolific, high risk young offenders identified as DYOs.



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22.8.09

## **Annex C**

### **DYO access to wider children's services**

#### **1. General principles**

- We believe that the provision of mainstream services to young people, who have offended, including DYOs, is critical to breaking the cycle of offending behaviour and ensuring that local communities are safer.
- Many young offenders have complex problems which contribute to their offending behaviour. This is especially true of the DYO cadre. Children's and mainstream services and Youth Offending Teams should be working together to identify, assess and intervene as early as possible where a young person is displaying signs of offending or anti social behaviour.
- Effective interventions, tailored to the needs of the young person, can address their offending behaviour and improve their so that they can change their behaviour and make a positive contribution to their community.
- The Department for Children Schools and families (DCSF) has set out in the Youth Crime Action Plan their expectation that local mainstream services, including children's services, should ensure that young people who have offended should have the same support and access to services as their non offending peers.
- The sorts of services DCSF believe could form a package of support for young people who have offended cover the following areas;
  - (i) Planning and ongoing review (as soon as they enter the Youth Justice System and if applicable as soon as they enter custody so that resettlement issues can be addressed)
  - (ii) Named key worker in YOT/children's services
  - (iii) Education, training and employment
  - (iv) Access to wider children's and mainstream services including health and substance misuse treatment if applicable
  - (v) Accommodation
  - (vi) Family work

#### **2. LCJB, CDRPs and Children's Trusts**

- Children's Trusts are local partnerships which bring together the organisations responsible for services for children, young people and families in a shared commitment to improving children's lives.
- Children's Trusts develop the local strategy for improving children's lives by delivering better services, including their health and wellbeing.

YOTs are a relevant partner within a Children's Trusts and are under a duty to cooperate in making arrangements for children's services in a local area.

- Local Criminal Justice Boards can play a key role in encouraging children's services to engage more effectively with the PYO group. This could be through joint protocols between the YOT and wider services and/or joint protocols between the LCJB and the local Children's Trust.
- The Government recognises that children's services and local children's trusts should be more accountable for young offenders including DYOs. DCSF are clarifying and strengthening the role of children's services in overseeing services for young people who have offended as part of their ongoing responsibility for assessing and meeting all children's needs.
- They have developed guidance for current Children's Trust arrangements. This includes draft statutory guidance for Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services which emphasises their responsibilities on the prevention of youth crime. It also reinforces their responsibilities to those young people who are leaving custody, many of who will require resettlement support from Children's Trust partners.
- DCSF have also updated guidance on local Children and Young People's Plans which seeks to ensure that these plans are aligned with local Youth Offending Team plans and the work of the Local Criminal Justice Board and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. Finally they have updated guidance in the children's trust partnership arrangements which emphasises the critical role of partnership working and the role the YOT should play in local children's strategies.
- All of this guidance emphasises the key role that children's services must play in the prevention of offending and re-offending by young people. LCJBs and CDRPs should take this opportunity to ensure that they are influencing the planning of local strategic partners including children's trusts to ensure that services are delivered to the DYO group.

## Appendix 2

### Access and Inclusion

- provide the Children and Young People's Service lead on all 3 local Prevent and Deter Panels for ETE
- ensure all identified individuals in the Deter Group have full-time education?? provision through the local Pupil Referral Service or mainstream school and if appropriate an individual Key Stage 4 curriculum
- ensure targeted support for those permanently excluded and new to the area through one of 7 Inclusion and Accountability Panels/school behaviour and attendance partnerships

### Quality and Improvement

- ensure that the Key Stage 4 engagement programme includes provision for young people in the Deter Group
- ensure that the quality of provision made by independent providers is of a satisfactory standard

### Learning Youth & Skills

- 1 Connexions
  - support of a Connexions Adviser to identify and access appropriate education, employment and training opportunities
  - advice and assistance to improve employability skills
  - advice on benefits and financial support to enable the young person to re-engage with or remain in education, employment or training
- 2 Targeted Youth Support (TYS)
  - support of a TYS practitioner as part of a managed exit strategy for those DYO's whose order has come to an end and whose needs are not already being met
  - support to parents via parenting programmes
- 3 Youth Service
  - provide priority places on the Targeted Activities Programme and on other suitable positive activities programmes for young people on deter

### Education Social Work

- through the Education Social Work Service identify young people who are persistently absent. Provide referrals to EOTAS and deter panels

#### Children's Social Care

- intervene in line with child in need and safeguarding procedures, fast tracking if necessary
- provide Family Support intervention
- prioritise support for Looked After Children who are identified as DYOs
- consider core assessment as appropriate

#### All Services to provide as a priority

- a strategic lead to represent their service on the countywide DYO Management Group which meets quarterly
- a senior lead for each DYO Panel