

(Ref 18 – 2013) Allocation of Community Safety Funds

Recipient	Outline of proposal
Youth offending services across Cleveland	Contribution to the delivery of restorative justice
	Contribution to new 'Out of Court' disposals projects from April 2013
	Contribution to the delivery of court ordered community and custodial sentences to young people at risk of reoffending

PCC Scrutiny Meeting 4 December 2014 – Progress Reporting

South Tees Youth Offending Service

Restorative Justice and Work with Victims of Crime

The YOS Restorative Justice Worker has sought to make contact with all identified victims of crime on an individual, corporate or community level. The purpose of this is to undertake victim statements, and to identify whether the victim wishes to engage in further restorative interventions.

For the 6 month period April-September 2014 the YOS identified the following victims of crime:

- 78 individual victims of crime,
- 60 Corporate Victims of crime, including 9 victims in Educational establishments
- 17 Communities as victims of crime

This led to:

- 66 individual victims being consulted
- 33 corporate victims being consulted
- 17 communities being consulted through Community Impact Statements based on Neighbourhood Policing Priorities

With reference to victim engagement the YOS has delivered the following intervention programmes with victims:

- 4 Restorative Conferences
- 6 Direct Mediation Programmes
- 6 Direct Reparation activities identified by victims
- 4 Letters to victims be offenders

In addition 7 victims of crime have been supported to attend or have their voices heard at Youth Offender Panels to engage with young people subject to Referral Orders.

The YOS is currently identifying opportunities to extend the staffing capacity in this area, in order to extend the services provided and seek to engage more victims of crime in restorative interventions.

Also the YOS continues to run weekly programmes of indirect reparation activity to challenge young people to repair harm and make a positive contribution to their communities, this has included:

- Litter picking in various sites in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland
- Painting of seating areas, fencing and bollards in Middlesbrough
- Painting of street furniture for Saltburn in Bloom
- Wheelie bin marking in Middlesbrough
- Clearing and maintaining a Public Footpath area adjacent to Kirkleatham woods.

In addition to the above the YOS Restorative Justice Worker in partnership with Unite LTD has delivered 4, 3-day Restorative Skills training programmes to YOS staff, staff in Children's Home, Anti-Social Behaviour Officers and Education staff. The purpose of this has been to promote restorative interventions as a response to challenging behaviour by young people and as an alternative to intervention by the Police and prevent the young people entering the criminal justice system. A total of 17 YOS staff, plus 3 from Redcar Anti Social Behaviour Team, 8 staff from Children Homes in Middlesbrough and 6 staff from Education provision in Middlesbrough and Redcar have participated in this training. The training has also been hosted at the PCC Office at Cleveland Police HQ at Ladgate Lane with the assistance of the Restorative Justice Co-ordinator. A further 2 programmes of training are planned for the New Year.

The Restorative Justice Activity delivered by South Tees YOS has been supported by the PCC Funding to YOS. This has included supporting the salaries of the Restorative Justice Worker, Case Manager, Support Workers and support staff including Operations Manager, Information Management Worker and admin support. In addition this funding has been used to support the delivery of training, purchase equipment for reparation and offending behaviour programmes, and infrastructure costs such as vehicles and fuel.

With reference to the future the YOS will be seeking to extend the use of restorative interventions by:

- Delivering further training to YOS staff and partners in restorative skills and practice
- Build further capacity in the YOS staffing resource to improve provision to engage and support victims of crime and extend intervention with young people to engage them in restorative activity and increasing their awareness of the impact of offending on victims
- Increase the involvement of victims in restorative interventions.

Early Intervention and Out Of Court Interventions

South Tees YOS supports intervention in the pre-court arena for the following interventions:

- Triage
- Youth Cautions
- Youth Conditional Cautions

Work in this area offers the YOS the opportunity to engage with young people to prevent their entry into the criminal justice system using the Triage programme. Also the Youth Cautions and Conditional Cautions offers the YOS the opportunity to engage young people

at an early stage of their criminal behaviour and challenge them to engage in activities and services designed to address their offending behaviours.

For the 6 month period April-September 2014 the YOS delivered the following Out of Court Intervention Programmes:

- 52 Triage Programmes
- 39 Further Youth Cautions
- 24 Youth Conditional Cautions

In addition the YOS received referrals for 41 first Youth Cautions.

All young people subject to Out of Court Disposals (Triage, Further Youth Caution, YCC) are made subject to a full assessment using the YOS ASSET tool with an individual package of intervention developed from this to address their offending behaviour. Central to this package is a requirement for the young person to engage in restorative intervention, where these have been identified with victims or community reparation designed to repair harm.

Information on re-offending by this cohort is not currently available, however data from 2013-14 shows:

- 16.5% of the young people subject to Triage re-offended
- 26.1% of young people subject to Further Youth Cautions re-offended
- 29.5% of young people subject to Youth Conditional Cautions re-offended

This compares with the general rate of re-offending by young people in the South Tees YOS Cohort in 2013-14 of 38.6%.

Out of Court Intervention by South Tees YOS was supported by the PCC Funding to YOS to reduce first time entrants and reduce levels of re-offending. This funding was used to support the staffing resources in both YOS areas, funding Case Managers, Support Workers and Management as well as contributing to the back office functions. In addition funding was also used to support costs incurred to deliver interventions, including purchasing equipment, infrastructure costs and a contribution to the YOS commissioned services to support Health and Mental Health interventions.

With reference to future work the YOS has identified the following priorities in this area:

- Identify opportunities to extend YOS provision into pre-offending intervention, working in partnership with Anti Social Behaviour Teams, Targeted Youth Support, Education Services and Children's Services to identify those young people at risk of offending behaviour and seeking to delivering co-ordinated multi-agency responses to meet their needs
- Reducing levels of re-offending by tracking young people through their YOS intervention to identify indicators that increase the risk of re-offending and tailoring interventions to address these
- Working with early intervention provision and youth support services in both local authorities to establish 'step down' provision for young people who will require ongoing support to prevent further offending and engage them in mainstream services