Youth Crime Action Plan

Supporting young victims

OFFICE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM
Criminal Justice System: working together for the public

Home Office

department for children, schools and families

Ministry of JUSTICE

Why support young victims?

- Young people are more likely to be victims of crime than adults – and the impact can affect all of the Every Child Matters outcomes.

- They are less likely to report a crime – which is the main way to access support.

- Without support some young people may turn to crime in response to being a victim – through retaliation or befriending as a way to stay safe.

The different components of delivering support

Service components	Prevention	Giving young people information so they can keep themselves safe before a crime has happened.
	Access	Giving young people the confidence and knowledge to recognise victimisation and come forward. Improving adults' (parents and practitioners) skills to recognise and support victims.
	Support	Identifying the practical and emotional support each individual needs. Delivering the support – through a variety of providers.
Delivery components	Engagement	Asking young people what it is they want and how to deliver it.
	Working together	Getting agencies from the criminal justice system, the Local Authority and the Voluntary Sector to join up.

This exists already

Service components	Prevention	Workshops and lessons with young people on safety and crime and its consequences. Safer Schools Partnerships.
	Access	Workshops and lessons with young people on safety and crime and its consequences. Safer Schools Partnerships.
	Support	Victim Support Youth Offending Teams Youth Inclusion Projects Other Youth Groups Special Measures and support for young witnesses to go to court. Restorative Justice approaches. Safer Schools Partnerships.
Delivery components	Engagement	Youth panels and councils
	Working together	Regular meetings between relevant agencies – (they may not be talking about victims)

The Pilot Projects

Service components	Prevention	Workshops and lessons with young people – in school and out. Reinforced through cards, pens, posters
	Access	Workshops, lessons and talks to raise awareness of how to report. Establishing intranets in schools to report crime anonymously. Texting to report crime. Reply cards to fill in and return asking for help. Training adults in victim awareness.
	Support	Training adults in restorative approaches. One-to-one support delivered through Victim Support or case workers Group sessions including away breaks. Referral to existing Youth Inclusion Projects A young person's MARAC
Delivery components	Engagement	Holding focus groups. Establishing a Youth Advisory Panel. Asking existing youth panels/councils about victims
	Working together	Establishing regular meetings between relevant parties – at strategic and operational levels. Monthly MARAC meetings. Agreed protocols on referral pathways. Including in Children and Young People's plans Young Victims Pledge.