Youth Justice Board

Preventing offending and supporting young people

24th January 2013

Frances Done,
Chair, Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

Why are PCCs important for Youth Justice?

PCCs will:

•Set policing priorities for their area

•Allocate youth crime prevention funding

•Promote joined up working with community safety and criminal justice partners

•Seek to increase public confidence in the criminal justice system

The Youth Justice System is complex

The Youth Justice system in England and Wales comprises;

- The Youth Justice Board (YJB)
- 158 Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) – multi agency teams run by local authorities
- Children's services
- Magistrates Courts and District Judges
- PCCs / Police forces
- The Crown Prosecution Service
- 25 secure accommodation providers

The role of the Youth Justice Board

The key strategic objective of the youth justice system is to prevent offending by young people aged under 18

The Board is accountable to the SoS for Justice and we

- Advise the Secretary of State
- Monitor the performance of the youth justice system
- Commission research and publish information
- Identify and promote effective practice
- Commission the secure estate for young people

YJB provides leadership to the Youth Justice System

Youth Justice Statistics 2010/11

242,000 aged 10-17 children arrested

72,000 court disposals

85,000 young people supervised by YOTs

1595 children in custody (October 2012)

Youth justice system - achievements

- Reduction in first time entrants to YJS 60%
- *(2001/02-2011/12)*

- Reduction in frequency of re-offending per offender 9%
- *(2000-2010)*

- Reduction in the average number of young people in custody 50% *(September 2002- September 2012)*

- But re-offending rates remain far too high – 35% within 12 months – and this represents a very high priority for government.

The Police are key partners in the YJS

Locally:

•Police represented on YOT management boards

•Seconded police officers as integral part of YOT

Nationally:

•An effective partnership between YJB and ACPO

The new PCCs will be crucial to future success in reducing youth crime

YJB has worked jointly with ACPO

- Development of the ACPO youth strategy
- Information sharing and prevention of youth crime
- Out of court disposals and focus on restorative justice
- Safer schools' partnerships
- Reducing criminalisation of children e.g. children's homes

YOTs are innovative in youth crime prevention work

Hartlepool: Team around the Secondary School (TASS): school based focus on young people at risk

Southend: Street Engagement Team: operate at identified ASB hotspots 6pm – midnight

Suffolk: Time 2 Change programme: focus on 8-13 year olds at risk of offending and ASB

Fire and Rescue Services; huge range of prevention programmes working in partnership with YOTs and VCS partners

NB: Voluntary Community Sector organisations are very important in delivering crime prevention schemes

Youth Offending Teams – Working with PCCs

Good practice developing in many areas:

•Cambridgeshire CC: County wide guide for PCC, demonstrating importance of YOT work

•Hampshire CC: “Offer to the Hampshire PCC 2012” includes section on YOT services

•West Midlands; strategic joint meetings with PCC and input to Police and Crime Plan

PCCs – developing good practice with YOTs

- PCCs holding 'Youth Summit'

- Quarterly meetings between PCC and Heads of YOTs

- Potential for PCC policy representation on YOT Management Boards/YJ Partnerships

PCC role in listening to the voice of young people

•Engagement with young people is an essential part of any Police Crime Plan

•National Council for Voluntary Youth Services(NCVYS)

- Youth Charter – encourages PCCs to pledge engagement with young people and listen to their views

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