

Southampton Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013-14

! Our priorities



Reduce the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system



Reduce re-offending



Reduce custody



Reduce youth crime

✓ Our successes in 2012/13

Priorities	Action	Result
Reduce the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system	Worked to improve the quality of accommodation recording so that data can be more effectively analysed where accommodation isn't suitable. The YOS manager reviewed each case where accommodation was assessed as unsuitable and reported to the YOS Management Board.	3.78% increase of young people who were assessed as residing in suitable accommodation from 90.37% in 2011/12 to 94.15% in 2012/13.
Reduce re-offending	Taken steps to improve completion of risk and vulnerability management plans.	Achieved steady progress ensuring that 100% of plans were completed on time by the 3rd quarter.
	Developed the Offending Behaviour programme.	90 young people attended a total of 742 sessions over 2012/13 and the programme has been identified as 'an area of emerging practice' by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.
Reduce custody	Worked successfully to reduce the number of custodial sentences imposed.	Number of custodial sentences imposed reduced from 49 in 2011/12 to 28 in 2012/13.
	Out of court disposals.	Exceeded the local target of 25% of Final Warnings finishing with an intervention.
	Restorative disposals.	Exceeded the Safer City Partnership target of 50% of Youth Restorative Disposals receiving Restorative Justice disposals.
	Improvements in enforcement measures to be sufficiently robust and improving confidence in our service. The YOS Parenting Officer now attends Court to advise magistrates on a weekly basis.	Supervised 19 Parenting Orders and 51 voluntary parenting disposals. Prosecuted two parents for breaching their Parenting Orders. Parenting Officer delivered 40 group work sessions over the year.
	Steps to increase the Referral Order Panel Member base and the number of volunteers to support the delivery of restorative justice interventions.	Increased our Referral Order Panel Member base to 21 and recruited a further 10 volunteers to support the delivery of restorative justice interventions.
Reduce youth crime	Effective use of the Asset tool in offending behaviour assessments for young people who score 2 or more for substance and alcohol use and making referrals to the Youth Offending Service Substance Misuse Worker for further assessment and intervention.	Achieved our Safer City Partnership target of 100% for such assessments. Offered 65 tier three substance misuse interventions.
	Southampton Youth Offending Service was inspected in February 2013 by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation.	Southampton YOS scored higher than average in all 4 inspected areas and the Southampton Offending Behaviour Programme was identified as 'an area of emerging practice' by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.



Our challenges



Custody rate remains higher than the national average, despite improvement in 2012/13.



Re-offending rate remains 10% higher than the national average.



First time entrants into the criminal justice system have increased since last year and are higher than all our comparator cities.



The age group most likely to be involved in offending is 18-24 years



What we are going to improve

Priorities	Key action	How we will measure success
Reducing rate of first time entrants into the criminal justice system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater direct engagement with police to support diversionary work and more robust analysis of local data. Participate in Out of Court Disposal training when it is rolled out later in the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce first time entrants into the youth justice system by 10% from 1,028 to 925 per 100,000 10-17 year olds (1,028 per 100,000 10-17 year old equates to 193 first time entrants). Increase in the number of young people successfully completing diversion programmes.
Reduce re-offending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and implementation of a Serious Youth Crime Prevention Action Plan. Establish a multi-agency Priority Young People Panel which will action plan on a monthly basis for a cohort of young people identified as 'high risk' offenders. Young people will be referred into the Families Matter initiative, as appropriate. Work with Hampshire Constabulary to raise awareness and understanding of frontline police of the opportunities afforded by community resolution as a result of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act, 2012. YOS participation in the Youth Justice Board reducing re-offending project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the re-offending rate from 47% to 42%.
Reducing custody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse custodial sentences to identify trends and areas for improvement. Further work to develop the YOS offending behaviour programme; specifically there will be a review of the YOS quality assurance process in respect of gate keeping pre-sentence reports. Work with magistrates to build confidence in YOS proposals to the Court will continue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve 'promising status, as assessed by the Youth Justice Board. Reduce the custody level to below 1.0 per 1,000 10-17 year olds (28 custodial sentences in 12/13 = 1.7 per 1,000. To achieve the level of 1.0 per 1,000 there would need to have been less than 20 custodial sentences in 12/13).
Reducing youth crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of, and joint agency interventions work with, young people whose offending behaviour has become entrenched. Implement the new Priority Young Offenders Scheme where partners join together to identify and take actions to reduce repeat offending. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the number of crimes committed by young people by 200.