

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 12TH JANUARY 2005

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY THE YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION AND REDUCTION BUDGET

Purpose Of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Commission of the progress and achievements in relation to activities funded through the Youth Crime Prevention and Reduction Budget.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Youth Crime Prevention and Reduction Budget directly supports the commitments in the “Seeking a Safer County “ objective of the Medium Term Corporate Strategy as well as those within the 2004/05 Best Value Performance Plan. There are no proposals within this report which would involve a change to these Plans.
3. Cabinet approved proposals for the use of the budget at its meeting on the 9th December 2003 and the Commission subsequently received a report on the 7th January 2004.

Background

4. A brief summary of each of the main projects funded through the Budget and where available a short evaluation of results to date is provided in Appendix 1.
5. The activities funded are a broad mix, including a range of diversionary and preventive projects through to those that are more clearly associated with crime reduction.
6. In addition to the County Council’s policy framework highlighted in paragraph 2 above, the Youth Crime Prevention and Reduction Budget also directly supports and complements a number of other initiatives and strategies.
7. Through the work of a subgroup of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Leicestershire, a Youth Crime Preventive Strategy

has been developed which was presented to the Youth Offending Services Management Board and the Leicestershire Together Board in September 2004. The Youth Crime Prevention Budget funds a number of services that are an integral part of the Strategy including the targeted detached youth work provision, the Next Level Youth Café and the Youth Inclusion and Support Panel (YISP) Prevention Team.

8. Within the Strategy there is a specific section on performance management, including some initial proposals to develop a performance management framework and a set of key performance indicators. A performance management group has been established in order to continue to develop these performance measures which will be used to assess the effectiveness of the work funded through the Youth Crime Prevention Budget. It is fair to say that this work is still at an early stage.
9. Over the course of the summer, the Government has published a new Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy which is targeted at the relatively small number of offenders who are responsible for a very significant proportion of crimes committed. In conjunction with a range of partner agencies, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), supported by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Community Safety Programme Board, have a lead role in ensuring its implementation.
10. The Strategy has three strands – Prevent and Deter, Catch and Convict and Resettlement and Rehabilitation. The first of the three strands, Prevent and Deter, is targeted at two groups of young people. Firstly, those who have not yet entered the formal youth justice system but have been identified as at risk of offending and secondly, those already involved with the Youth Offending Service and who may be on the cusp of becoming a prolific offender. The Youth Offending Service will be best placed to lead the development of this particular strand, albeit in conjunction with CDRPs.
11. Services such as the YISP team which the Government sees as a key vehicle for identifying those children and young people in the group who are at risk of offending are funded in part by this budget. In addition the budget has been used to increase the number of county young people who are placed on the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP) as a result of their prolific offending. The ISSP is a key service in relation to the Catch and Convict strand of the Strategy.
12. A number of proposals have been developed including the need to roll out YISP across the county and the resource implications of these proposals have been presented to the Community Safety Programme Board. These may have implications for the use of this budget in 2005/06.

Consultation

13. No general consultation has been carried out in relation to the use of the budget, although CDRPs have been specifically invited to sponsor and

support applications for the additional facilities and one-off grants element. However recent consultation undertaken through the Leicestershire Voice Citizen's Jury indicated that concerns about crime were very high amongst participants' issues.

Resource Implications

14. The resource implications were reported at the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission of 7th January 2004. There is an ongoing budget of £350,000 which for 2004/05 only is increased to £404,000 as a result of a carry forward of an underspend in 2003/04. The allocation is set out in Appendix 2.
15. The budget has been spent largely as set out in Appendix 2. There was a further small underspend against the revised budget in 2003/04, mainly accounted for by the late submission of an invoice from one of the voluntary organisations too late to go through the 2003/04 accounts.
16. For 2004/05 there are two areas of underspend. It has proved more difficult for the Youth Service to make full use of its allocation than had been anticipated, although difficulties in staff recruitment have contributed to this. Consequently only about half of the £30k allocation to extending the youth work service is likely to be required in 2004/05 and only £4.5k is likely to be spent on mobile projects. The voluntary sector has recently produced a proposal for £7k of its £10k allocation whilst the Youth Council has also now produced bids of £2k for its £3k allocation.
17. The other main area of underspend is in relation to Contribution to ASBOs (£30k). This is in part due to an increase in the use of ASBOs made in criminal proceedings, which have no direct cost implications. However, there are additional pressures that haven't been budgeted for arising from the resource implications of the Prolific and Other Priority Offenders Strategy set out in paragraphs 9-12. Given the contribution that this Strategy is likely to make to reducing anti-social behaviour, these additional costs may need to be met from the underspend in this area. The Director of Resources has been consulted in relation to this report.

Equal Opportunities

18. There is evidence that black and minority ethnic young men are over represented in the criminal justice system at a national level. There is no compelling evidence that this is so in Leicestershire. However, although detailed race and gender monitoring is undertaken by the Youth Offending Service and other services such as the YISP, Next Level Café, ISSP this is not necessarily the case across all services funded. The need for such monitoring and also to undertake equality impact assessments was recognised within the Performance Management section of the Youth Crime Preventive Strategy and will be taken forward by the Performance Management Group referred to in paragraph 8 above.

Background Papers

Medium Term Corporate Strategy
Best Value Performance Plan 2004/05
Report to Cabinet 9th December 2003
Draft Youth Crime Prevention Strategy
Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy

Circulation Under Sensitive Issues

None

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Appendix 1

Youth Service Projects

Measham Project

- After delays in recruitment both workers now in post
- Targeted at young people not in full time education or training
- In contact with 20 young people
- Good range of partner contacts – Connexions, Police, Schools and District Council
- Too early to assess impact

Keats Way Detached Project - Loughborough

- Autumn programme in place but little feedback on activity and impact as yet

Fairmead Detached Project - Melton

- Running since April 2004 (2 workers) Thursday evenings
- 124 contacts (72 male, 52 Female - 7 aged 11-12, 117 aged 13-19)
- 10-17 young people are in contact weekly on average
- Work with Venture House (YC on Melton College campus)
- 4 attended residential week in Cornwall
- Not enough information to assess impact

South Wigston Detached Project

- 3 workers in place since January 2004
- 975 contacts aged 13-19 (666 male, 309 female)
- Currently working with core group of 35 young people around risk reduction
- Identified concerns – alcohol and binge drinking leading to anti-social behaviour, younger people mixing with older young men and women
- Work targeted at alcohol consumption and safety (risk reduction)
- Building relationships with the police and CSOs, local shops and businesses, Salvation Army
- Successful bridge building meeting between young people and police and now regular meetings being held.
- Work backed up by alcohol sessions with year 9 South Wigston High School
- Anger Management Programme with young people from detached project
- Basketball project with 15 young people including match with the police. Youth centre staff to take over project in New Year
- Crimebeat Project with 4 young men who are excluded from school or not in employment. Encouraged by detached workers and assisted by Connexions group are developing a Crimebeat application around outdoor education work

Evidence of impact:

- Team know most of young people hanging around the Park, Crow Mills and High Street and have gained their trust and respect
- Increase in number of young people accessing the youth centre for health advice and other information services
- One young person ran a project around dangers of binge drinking
- Improving relationships between the police and young people
- Very good partner engagement involving the Police, Connexions, YOS and YISP, Borough Council and also between detached project and youth centre

NB Additional funding also provided through Youth Service and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Mobile Project

- 637 bus weekly session in Barwell
- Partners involved include Connexions and YISP staff
- Very recently Harborough Chill Out bus has been funded to extend work in hot spots but not started

Voluntary Sector

- Has proved difficult to engage the voluntary sector to date but recent bid for £7,000 received from Leicestershire Clubs for Young People received for a crime reduction project

Youth Council (CYCLe)

- Also taken some time to come to fruition but now received two bids of £1,000 each from projects in Melton and Hinckley – the latter for support to explore the issues around a group dispersal order and the former around more general crime and community safety issues.

In 2 Sport (private sector organisation) - Desford

- Commenced last summer operating in a local park but now based at Bosworth College using the sports hall and out door pitch.
- Weekly multi sports sessions with 15-25 young people aged 13-19 and also during school holiday period.
- At present negotiating with the Youth Service to have staff presence
- Future developments include encouraging Connexions Hinckley office to support young people on activities
- Activity based qualifications to be delivered from February 2005
- Tournaments between other Positive Activities for Young People funded projects during school holidays
- Connexions is a key partner, along with Bosworth College

Next Level Youth Café – Charnwood Arts, Loughborough

- Opened July 2004 and full summer programme provided
- 91 participants aged 11-17 (majority aged 12 -15, 67 male, 24 female)

- Average weekly attendance for each theme week around 100
 - Programme consisted of week long themes consisting of computer games, arts, film, dance, drama, music, sport and show case week
- Current Programme (Term Time)*
- Working with 42 young people with an average of 8 attending each morning and afternoon session
 - Around 3 new referrals per week – work more individually targeted to specific risk factors
 - Joint work with the Student Support Service on weekly basis
 - Connexions PA provides a weekly advice session
 - New evening session started
 - Christmas holiday programme organised
 - Home Office Minister Fiona McTaggart visited in November and purchased piece of art work
 - £200 raised by young people through auction of artwork to pay for Christmas meal

Evidence of Impact

- Good range of referring agencies, YISP, YOS, Youth Service, schools, Connexions, Social Services with mainly appropriately targeted young people.
- Project well organised with quality facilities
- Young people engaged well with project work and staff group
- Quality outputs in terms of project work by young people
- Good partner engagement

Youth Inclusion and Support Panel Prevention Team (Children's Fund priority Areas)

- Two additional preventive officers to extend the work of the team to include 14-16 year olds in addition to work with 8-13 year old funded through Children's Fund.
- Total young people worked with – 148 (38 on a 1:1 basis and 110 in groups)
- Reasons for referral – risk of: offending, school exclusion, anti-social behaviour, received a police reprimand
- Work undertaken; consequences of offending and anti-social behaviour, increase self esteem, improve school attendance and other school issues, reduce difficult behaviour, improve anger management, advice on drugs and alcohol

Evidence of impact (based on evaluation December 2003 – June 2004)

- 21% decrease in average ONSET scores (risk assessment tool)
- Increased protective factors
- 91% not offended or re-offended after programme commenced (after 6 months)
- 100% parents reported improved behaviour
- 100% of young people reported that YISP team helped them
- Youth Offending Service Joint Inspection found the team to be positively engaging children and young people in activities to divert them from offending

- Very good partner engagement – schools, police, district councils, asb units, social services, youth services, Positive Futures and excellent partner feedback particularly from the police

NB Team is currently extending work tackling anti-social behaviour in Melton and Wigston areas with additional funding from CDRPs, working jointly with Youth Offending Service and Youth Service.

Youth Offending Service Community Safety Officer – Countywide

- In post since January 2004
- Increased profile of YOS and County Council in work of CDRPs through attendance at partnership meetings and youth subgroups
- Improved liaison between YOS and District Councils in respect of community safety officers and ASB co-ordinators
- Facilitated a more joined up approach to tackling anti-social behaviour and improved YOS involvement in ASB interventions including warning letters and ABC agreements and speedy access to parenting work programmes
- Improved information sharing, facilitating the provision of aggregated offending data and also, where appropriate, information about individual offenders in relation to anti-social behaviour concerns.
- Assisted in developing a number of joint projects and initiatives in all Districts including motor offending (Blaby, Charnwood and O&W), anger management (Charnwood – joint YOS and Youth Service) and tackling ASB (YISP in Melton)
- Secured additional input from Districts in relation to YOS Basic Skills project
- Assisted in monitoring of youth crime prevention budget and provides project officer role in respect of Next Level Youth Café
- Participated in the development of youth crime preventive strategy

Evidence of impact:

- Significantly improved YOS and LCC input into work of CDRPs.
- Levered in additional funding and resources in kind from Districts
- Identified by YOS Joint Inspection as a strength

Centre For Fun and Families (voluntary organisation) - countywide parenting work

- Parenting Work Co-ordinator employed by Centre for Fun and Families although difficulty in recruiting delayed development of post.
- Complements similar post funded by Children's Fund for parents of younger children
- 6 parenting groups for parents of teenagers were run around the county in 2003/04 with 42 parents completing. 9 groups to run in 2004/05 (up to 90 parents in 2004/05)
- Programme covers: defining and improving understanding of problematic behaviour, developing skills to change behaviour, improving communication, providing, coping skills for parents
- Work underpinned by interagency parenting strategy endorsed by the Children and Young People's Strategy – Leicestershire (CYPSPL)

Evidence of Impact

- profile of parenting work raised through improved information and promotional material and much improved support to staff running parenting groups
- High level of parental satisfaction with service received
- Improvement in target behaviour of between 30% and 50% with evidence of improved parental confidence and understanding of problematic behaviour
- Recruitment of parent volunteers as course facilitators from those that have completed the programme. Identified as good practice by recent YOS Joint Inspection.
- Development of parenting work submitted as a good practice case study for recent CPA inspection.
- Good partner engagement including YOS, YISP, Family Steps, Education, Connexions, Social Services, CAMHS

Leicester and Leicestershire Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme – Countywide

- Managed by Leicester City YOT on behalf of Leicestershire YOS
- Two full time county advocates in post since July providing an additional 8 places, thus increasing the county total to 14 young people at any one (28 per year)
- Targeted at the 3% of offenders who are responsible for 25% of youth crime
- 80% of those on ISSP are electronically monitored compared with 70% nationally and 100% receive minimum of 2 daily surveillance checks
- Programme includes offence focussed work, social development and inter-personal skills, victim empathy and family support.
- Evening and weekend programmes in addition include enhanced thinking skills, robbery reduction, motor offending, anger management, drugs and alcohol awareness , burglary offending workshop

Evidence of Impact

- 13 out of 18 (72%) young people successfully completed the programme between May and August 2004. Of those who didn't complete, 4 went to custody and 1 received a further community sentence
- 6 out of the 13 were supported back into full time education, 2 were helped to find full time employment, 2 gained a place on the Rathbone programme and 1 at Leicester College, leaving only 2 out of Education Training or Employment. (85% in full time ETE)
- The Leicester and Leicestershire ISSP has been independently reviewed by PA Consulting as one of the strongest in the country.
- Significant partner engagement across a wide range of agencies, particularly with the police.

Mediation Scheme - Victim Support (Countywide)

- Funding £10,000 (under the contribution to ASBO category 2003/04)
- Jointly funded by CDRPs and LCC

- Targeted at neighbour disputes which include an anti-social behaviour element
- Full time project co-ordinator + trained volunteers
- Taking time to establish itself and therefore no information on impact to date

Additional Facilities and One-Off Equipment Grants

- Each of the CDRPs were invited to sponsor applications to a maximum of £6,135 in 2004/05 and all of them have done so.
- Blaby supported the CVS Outreach youth project .
- Charnwood supported 4 projects including skating equipment and personal safety for teenagers.
- Harborough supported 4 projects from basketball equipment to “Harborough on Wheels”, a moped borrowing scheme.
- Hinckley and Bosworth supported 3 projects including a diversionary scheme in Markfield aimed at a number of parish councils.
- Melton supported 2 projects, but mainly a Pyramid scheme to identify children at risk using volunteers.
- NWL supported 3 projects including a youth shelter in Battram
- Oadby and Wigston supported the “Give and Take” project where hard to reach young people perform community tasks such as litter clearing based on a reward system eg a Go-Karting trip.
- The balance of £15,000 has been allocated to fund equipment for a new graffiti cleaning project run by the Probation Service through their Community Punishment section.
- Too early to assess impact

Appendix 2

Youth Crime Prevention and Reduction Budget

<i>Preventive Measures</i>	2003/04 £	2004/05 £
1. Extending Youth Work Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leicestershire Youth Service • Mobile Projects • Voluntary Sector 	21,200 6,000 0	30,000 12,000 10,000
2. Additional Facilities and One-Off Equipment	40,000	57,950
3. Youth Council	3,000	3,000
4. Charnwood Youth Café	25,000	60,000
5. Sports Projects	15,000	15,000
6. Crimebeat	8,000	8,000
7. Youth Offending Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention Officers (X2) • Community Safety Officer (youth crime reduction) 	28,000 11,600	61,000 33,000
<i>Crime Reduction and Enforcement Measures</i>		
8. Parenting Work (including Parenting Orders)	10,250	41,000
9. Youth Offending Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (targeted at prolific young offenders) 	15,000	40,000
10. Crimestoppers	3,000	3,000
11. Contribution to provision of ASBOs	10,000	30,000
Total	196,050	403,950
Total over 2 years: £600,000		