

APPENDIX 4

MORAY YOUTH JUSTICE AND FAIRER SCOTLAND FUNDING REPORT

Purpose of Report:

To present the cost, content and effectiveness of the interventions
To promote the case for continued funding of diversionary interventions
To state the impact that the loss of this funding would have on services

Introduction

The Youth Justice Services in Moray were developed in conjunction with the Scottish Executive's plan between 2006 –2008. These were interventions which adopted an holistic approach to young people which includes parenting, prevention, redressing harm, diversion (young people with 3 offences, intervention with those with 5 offences (persistent offender) and a community based alternative to detention in a secure unit. The first and last of these interventions have been integrated into legislation and are now disposals available to Children's Panel. Moray ran pilot projects which had time limited ring-fenced funding. These were in Parenting, Restorative Justice and Intensive Support and Monitoring Services.

All of the interventions undertaken by Moray Youth Justice are subject to evaluation by two independent agencies by Tim Chapman of CT Associates and Mansoor Kazi of Buffalo University, and the Grampian Police track offending trends.

Interventions

We monitor ALL young people aged 8-16 years who are coming to the attention of the police in Moray. The Police Youth Justice Management Unit provide us with precise details on a weekly basis and formally once a month at a multi-agency meeting, which includes the Children's Reporter.

The research tells us that we must respond quickly, flexibly and with precision if we are to maximise our chances of helping children and their families. Efficient, effective and targeted intervention avoids duplication of services, effort and more significantly are designed to re-direct children away from an offending culture.

The evaluation we have, informs Moray Youth Justice that assessed interventions which are delivered by meeting twice a week with the children and their carers can reduce and stop offending during and for up to two years after contact. What we are doing is engaging with the family about a range of issues in a range of ways. These are talking about the issues in a critically

constructive way and looking to engage them in activities which enable them to achieve positive socially acceptable goals.

The profile of persistent offenders in Moray is that they are not in fulltime education, misusing drugs/alcohol and they are associating with a delinquent peer group.

The profile of the young people who are involved with the intensive work (ISMs) are that they and their carers had significant histories of need, health/mental health issues and substance dependency. Their risk-taking involved being exploited by adults, offending and placing themselves at risk of harm.

Areas we address:

Victim focused/restorative interventions

Substance mis-use and harm reduction

Anger management

Independent Living skills and training/employment

Health and Mental wellbeing

Support for parents

Interpersonal/relationship skills

Self esteem and engagement in positive activities

The link we have with the Police enables us to socially profile Moray's young offenders, the type of offending, the harm caused, who else is involved and geographic location. Our close links with the Police and Children's Reporter enable Moray Youth Justice to link our work directly and indirectly with those being effected by youth crime. This is a vital part of our work as it offers those harmed a service but reparation has been shown to be a significant means of reducing re-offending.

We support young people to become involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Service, ASDAN and Careers Scotland.

Moray Youth Justice works in partnership with NCH, Aberlour Child Care Trust, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, Drug and Alcohol Team, Health Promotions, Community Safety Partnership, Moray Parenting Partnership, Grampian Police Youth Justice Management Unit and Outfit Moray. We co-work and work jointly with Children and Families, Through Care, After Care Team, Criminal Justice Social Work Service and Education. We have close working relationship with Secure Units and Reliance.

Interventions and Impact

Early Interventions

Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts undertaken by Community Wardens and Youth Justice.

Results/Outcomes: The number of referrals for ABCs have increased from 10 in the first year to 24 in the second. In this third year, to date Moray Youth Justice have screened 21, there are still cases pending. Out of those screened, 10 have gone to the contract stage, 5 have been successful, 4 are ongoing and 1 has failed. This young person is involved with Moray Youth Justice.

Offending

Agencies involved: Reporter to the Children's Panel and Grampian Police Youth Justice Management Unit, Moray Youth Justice.

1st and 2nd Offence

Interventions/disposals – Police Letter and Restorative Warning.

80% of those dealt with by Police Restorative Warning did not re-offend. Moray Police have reduced offending and increased detection rate by targeted youth disorder/alcohol misuse/rival gangs and use of offensive weapons.

3rd Offence

Intervention and diversion work and offence focused work. Interventions, which start after 2-3 offences, are implemented quickly and redirect into pro-social activities are effective.

5th Offence

Allocated to Persistent Officer Pilot Project. Intervention programme of offence focused work. 11 out of the 32 Councils had reduced the number of persistent young offenders by 10%. Moray was one of 21 Councils whose numbers had increased.

Offence focused interventions which address the underlining risk factors can reduce/stop offending careers. Moray's PO's reduced their rates of offending by between 30-40%. Our work with 122 young offenders showed that 54% reduced offending, 33% stopped.

The SCRA Persistent offender statistics for 2006 – 2007 showed that on 1st April 2006 Moray had 15 PO's and on 1st April 2007 Moray had 14 PO's. The accumulative figure over the same period had risen from 16 to 43.

Intensive Supervision and Monitoring Service (ISMs)

The evaluation looked at the elements of ISMs. The electronic monitoring element, which tended to be a night-time curfew was viewed by many young people and the community as helpful, but it had limited overall impact. The intensive supervision element (up to 55 hours per week) and an Out Of Hours

support service, was shown to be what effectively diverted young people from risk taking and offending.

Impact in Moray: Between January 2005 and January 2008, Moray Youth Justice undertook 13 ISMs assessments. These young people received Intensive Supervision over a six week period, 8 young people moderated their behaviour/level of risk and were not then electronically tagged. 5 young people were tagged. Over the following six weeks, 3 responded and their level of risk reduced. 1 young person was accommodated in foster care and 2 young people re-offended and were placed in secure units.

Cost of Intensive Services: The total cost is £1552.50 per week. Education costs would be core funded. If a residential element was required NCH have a specific self-contained unit.

Average cost for residential/secure units:

Unit	Cost per Week
Residential School	£3923.00
Secure Unit	£4800.00

MORAY YOUTH JUSTICE BUDGET

Intensive Support and Monitoring Budget is allocated as follows:

	2007-2008	2008-2009
Moray Youth Action grant to work with 3 offences group	£70000	ENDED
Grant to mainstream education	£40000 for Management and additional specialist provision	
To core budget for Senior and Social Worker & ASB ACT	£25000	
Sessional Workers	£4800	£81056
Outfit Moray	£10000	ENDED
Activities and Travel	£15000	
Assessment Tools and Consultancy & RJ	£10000	
Training	£8000	
Evaluation	£5000	
Drug/Alcohol support	£10000	
Crisis/Residential Intervention	£15000	
Management Support Moray Council	£10400	
TOTAL:	£223200	£81056

Core Budget

	2007-2008	2008-2009
SE Restorative Justice	£16000	ENDED
Antisocial Behaviour	£10000	£10000
Community Safety Partnership	£10000	ENDED
Changing Children's Services	£34000	£24100
Office costs, salaries, travel and activities		£33970.80
TOTAL:		£454,857.80

Moray Youth Justice Team – current and permanent staff is reduced to 9 from 11 following recent cuts.

- 1 Manager
- 1 Senior Social Worker
- 2 Social Workers
- 4 Project Workers
- 1 Administrator

Policy Demands, Legal Requirements and Practical Service Delivery

These three areas have to be balanced and Moray Youth Justice adopts a pragmatic approach.

Preventing offending by young people: A framework for Action, Scottish Government Publications 24/06/08 has focused Youth Justice on 4 of the 15 national outcomes and in turn we are linked to the Moray Community Planning Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2008-2009

No 4: Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

No 5: Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.

No 8: We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.

No 9: We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger

We also have to provide a service in line with statutory demands of the

- Children's Scotland Act (1995) – Intensive Supervision and Monitoring Orders,
- Restorative Practices,
- Anti Social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 – Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and
- Parenting Orders

The latest government directive is Getting it Right for Children and Young People who present a Risk of Serious Harm. This Scottish government document outlines the services and management of this group and sets out what each Council requires within an evaluation framework, pending an inspection.

With the change of government, Moray Youth Justice has had it's budget radically reduced. We believe that through our links with the Police we are ideally placed to identify young people who are on the brink of moving into the Youth Justice System, the patterns of those already involved and we can evaluate the impact of our intervention.

Our workers undertake Youth Justice interventions by involving those harmed by crime. It offers those harmed a service and a voice which we integrate into the reparation work in our contact with young people.

Our remit is a Moray wide service which is demand led and we engage with members of the most disadvantaged areas in Moray.

The previous grant (£24100 = 1.5 Youth Justice Project Workers) was integrated into our service delivery. The strength in using this grant in this manner is that it enhances our overall capacity to deliver a range of interventions. The loss of this grant will impact on our overall capacity to deliver services across Moray.