

Newcastle Youth Crime Action Plan 2009/11

In July 2008 the Government published the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP). The plan sets out a comprehensive package of measures to prevent and tackle youth crime through a triple-track approach of tough enforcement, non negotiable support and prevention. We are committed to the plan and the delivery of its 7 elements will support the following aims:

- Young people and families receive support and challenge early to stay or get back on track;
- Young people who break the law are held to account for what they have done in such a way that prevents re-offending; and
- The public is protected from the harm caused by crime

At the heart of this action plan is a recognition that the factors which contribute to offending behaviour also contribute to many other poor outcomes for young people. If we tackle these we will prevent youth crime and cut re-offending, but also deliver improvements in wider outcomes for children and young people. We also know that this will only happen if there is a step change in the way all local agencies and services work together.

There are some elements of the plan that are expected to be seen across the country, but for areas facing the greatest challenges, a more intensive package will be offered. These areas, including Newcastle, have been selected on the basis of a ranking of deprivation, youth crime and perceptions of youth anti-social behaviour.

There is up to £700,000 available over the next two years (2009-11).

Newcastle will use this resource to implement some specific approaches detailed in the Youth Crime Action Plan. The choice over the split of resources between the activities and how they are delivered will depend on Newcastle's local needs and priorities. However, each of the following elements will need to be a strong strand in Newcastle's YCAP plans submitted on the 27 February 2009:

a) Using child protection legislation to remove young people from the streets at night and take them to a safe place, building on lessons from initiatives such as Operation Staysafe;

b) Using street-based teams of workers to tackle groups of young people involved in crime and disorder

c) Tackling anti-social behaviour and disorder at school closing time by increasing after school police patrols where needed.

d) Placing Youth Offending Team workers in police custody suites so that young offenders can be assessed and directed to appropriate services at the earliest opportunity;

e) Making young offenders feel the consequences of their actions by expanding YOT reparation schemes during their leisure time, including on Friday and Saturday nights;

f) Developing Family Intervention Projects to work with the most vulnerable and problematic families with children at risk of offending, with non-negotiable elements and sanctions for a failure to engage;

g) Implementation of the 'think family' reforms to provide an integrated and appropriate service response to all families at risk by the end of the funding period.

The YCAP Programme will support Newcastle's Sustainable Community Strategy and contribute to the delivery of its Local Area Agreement

Strategic management includes regular reports to Safe Newcastle, the Youth Offending Team Board and the Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Executive. A cross partnership YCAP Group has been meeting for several months to drive the development of the programme and will continue to provide leadership and direction.