



# RESPONSE TO HAMPSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL SCRUTINY

“Youth Offending - Thematic Scrutiny Report  
Recommendations”

From the Police and Crime Commissioner for  
Hampshire, Mr Simon Hayes.

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Prepared

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Police and Crime Commissioner's response to Police and Crime Panel recommendations:

3.1

### ***Pan-Hampshire and IOW Service Provision***

a. That robust evaluation takes place, with input from local Community Safety Partnerships, for schemes and projects funded by the PCC which contribute to the prevention and reduction of youth offending. The findings of these evaluations should inform a pan-Hampshire and IOW approach to youth offending services and ensure equity of access to early prevention and diversionary services.

- The Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Simon Hayes (hereafter referred to as the Commissioner), can confirm that in order to ensure equity of access to early prevention and diversionary services, the OPCC will conduct robust evaluation of each project funded, in accordance with the terms of all grant agreements. The findings of the evaluation will be used to inform future approaches to funding projects in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as well as assessing applications for funding from the OPCC. Each project funded by the Commissioner is set a number of generic and bespoke measures which depending on the size of the grant awarded report back to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner either biannually or quarterly. A combination of qualitative and quantitative data is requested which is used to evaluate the performance of the project and to assesses any further funding requests.

b. That, as part of any evaluation of youth offending services, the PCC assesses, on a geographical basis, any gaps in the provision of services with a focus on areas of greatest deprivation/need.

- Such an approach has already been used for the evaluation of YOT applications, for funding from the Community Safety Fund for 2015/16. Applications are assessed against population demographics as well as levels of crime and anti social behaviour in those areas. Such an approach ensures funding is targeted and focussed on areas of greatest deprivation and need. Meetings have been held with representatives from each of the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This has ensured funding is directed where it is needed and takes account of CSP priorities.

### ***Commissioning***

c. That the PCC should conduct a review of whether he is able to commission services with organisations which enable young people to access information on life skills, employability and finance management. This should include consideration of how those young people captured by youth offending services and programmes can be signposted to these services.

- The Commissioner through his Community Safety Fund already funds numerous projects across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight which work with young people, particularly those who are NEET's (not in education, employment or training). One of

these projects is Winchester Detached Youth Project aka Street Reach – the primary aim of the project is to work with young people aged 11 – 19 to achieve their full potential. The project targets young people at risk of suffering through the effects of a wide range of issues including underachievement or exclusion from school / college, unemployment, homelessness and low esteem. A number of applications have been identified for funding during the 2015/16 Community Safety Fund round, which are awaiting approval from the Commissioner.

- The Commissioner plans to conduct a review of how young people working with YOTs are signposted to diversionary services and will report back in the near future.

d. That a review of funding to Youth Offending Teams takes place, in light of the Youth Justice Board's evidence and recent local inspections, to ensure that resources are reaching those areas where improvement is required to tackle youth offending.

- A review has taken place of how OPCC funding to YOTs in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight will take place. Following the review the OPCC is following a funding formula agreed with Community Safety Partnerships to review each YOT application based on population figures, levels of crime and anti social behaviour in each area. As a result of following this new formula it is anticipated that the Portsmouth YOT will see an increase in its funding for 2015/16 from the OPCC.

e. That the PCC continues to promote innovation in services for young people by retaining an Innovation Fund, and makes provision for this in his future budgets.

- The Commissioner intends to continue with his Innovation Grants Fund subject to finances and resources remaining available.

### ***Multi-Agency / Partnership Working***

f. That the PCC more actively engages with Youth Offending Teams on Restorative Justice models in order to learn from their extensive experience in this field.

- The Commissioner has set aside a budget of £300k to fund restorative justice activities in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The Commissioner recognises the extensive experience that YOTs have in the area of delivering restorative justice projects. The Commissioner will seek to work with each YOT by meeting with YOT managers.

g. To enable greater sharing of information and best practice, the Office of the PCC should review their engagement with, and improve attendance at, YOT Management Board meetings.

- The Commissioner welcomes the recommendation and is keen to improve information sharing and best practice with and amongst all four YOTs in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The Commissioner is invited to numerous meetings and proactively attempts to attend as many as possible but is unable to attend every meeting he is invited to. Apart from YOT management boards the Commissioner has also been invited to attend health and well being boards, local safeguarding boards for adults and

children, troubled families, Community Safety Partnership meetings to name just a few.

- To improve communication and an understanding of what is happening in each YOT board the OPCC will obtain and review the minutes of each board meeting, and respond as appropriate. The Commissioner will seek to appoint a lead officer from with his staff to undertake this role.

h. That, working in partnership with other commissioning agencies and providers of diversionary activities for young people, the PCC emphasises the importance of the availability of free or low cost activities that appeal to young people, to provide an alternative to potential anti-social or criminal activity.

- As part of the process to evaluating applications for funding under the 2015/16 Community Safety Fund, the Commissioner's staff met with Community Safety Partnership representatives to look at each application submitted to the OPCC from their area. As a result a number of diversionary schemes have been identified and put forward to the Commissioner to consider and approve which provide an alternative to criminal activity or anti social behaviour. These applications are yet to be formally approved / rejected by the Commissioner.

### ***Communicating with Young People***

i. That through the Education Charter, the PCC leads on a pan-Hampshire and IOW strategy for schools engagement, with sign-up from agencies involved in preventing youth offending.

- The Commissioner through the Education Charter, his social change message and commissioning strategy will endeavour to bring key partners and stakeholders together. To work together to produce a strategy for schools engagement across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight focusing on delivering key messages to young people to divert them away from criminality and help them remain safe.
- The Commissioner will seek to align as closely as possible the Education Charter with Hampshire Constabulary's Safe4me programme, which was conceived following a challenge set by the Commissioner to develop a Youth Strategy. Through Safe4me, Hampshire Constabulary can now provide schools with credible, timely and relevant information relating to prevention and safety to assist teachers in their delivery of Personal Development and Citizenship education, specific to law, prevention and safety. This approach will enable officers to focus their time in schools to problem solving, reducing crime and offending, and addressing safeguarding and vulnerability.

j. That, based on the findings of the Youth Commission, the Education Charter is built upon to ensure that messages on risk-taking behaviours and criminality to young people are conveyed in the most effective way.

- The Education Charter will remain a living document which is subject to periodic reviews, to ensure it remains up to date and relevant. Findings from the Youth Commission will be built into the Charter. The Charter will reflect the changing nature of criminality and risk behaviour taking by young people and will be delivered effectively.

k. That the PCC ensures that the findings of the Youth Commission's pilot feeds in to the Hampshire Constabulary Youth Strategy, and that engagement takes place with young people to ensure that the aims of the Youth Strategy meets their needs.

- Through regular meetings the working group on the Youth Strategy set up by Hampshire Constabulary, the OPCC will ensure that the findings of the Youth Commission's pilot feed in to the Constabulary's Youth Strategy, and that, through the Youth Commission, a cohort of young people are consulted on the strategy to ensure that the aims of the Youth Strategy meets their needs.

***Young People as Role Models / Volunteers***

l. That the PCC helps to develop, as part of the Youth Commission, a 'Volunteer Pool', which would enable young role models to work on and lead projects around Hampshire and the Isle of Wight designed to reduce youth offending, by providing early intervention or diversionary activities.

- Through the Youth Commission and organisations committed to supporting young people, the OPCC will continue to build a 'pool' of volunteers who act as mentors and role models for other young people throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as part of the Be Part of the Solution campaign.
- Members of the Youth Commission have assisted the Commissioner to evaluate new applications made under the "Be Part of the Solution" strand of the commissioning round for projects to be funded in 2015/16.