

<i>Tag: Young people; Country: United Kingdom; Language: English; Year: 2016; Event: Youth workshop</i>	
Programme's name:	Youth offending services – a model for the local level
<u>Organisation / Country:</u>	Youth Offending Services, Brighton and Hove City Council, United Kingdom
<u>Website:</u>	Here
<u>Contact:</u>	Laura Campbell, laura.campbell@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk
<u>Summary:</u> ¹	<p>What does the local Youth Offending Service do? The Brighton & Hove Youth Offending Service (YOS) offers a number of services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preventative services, • pre-court services, • court, • supervision, and • custodial. <p>The YOS works with young people aged between 10 and 17, their families and other relevant professionals to offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support and supervision to young people involved in the criminal justice system, • preventative work for children and young people at risk of becoming involved in offending, and • reductions in the levels of offending by children and young people. <p>Quality assurance framework for Youth Offending Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Brighton & Hove City Council Youth Justice Plan sets out local objectives and methods of the YOS. • The Youth Justice Board is part of the national governance structure and sets national crime reduction targets. <p>Preventative services provided by YOS Preventative services address young people who are at risk of offending. This line of work includes a range of partnerships and works closely with voluntary organisations (e.g. YMCA, NACRO) schools and parents to help young people accept and understand the consequences of their offending. These services work in partnership with local arts projects.</p> <p>Pre-court services</p>

¹ The content for the summary has been taken from relevant websites of the Brighton and Hove City Council.

This involves working with young people who have offended for the first and second time and received a Reprimand or Final Warning. Pre-court services embrace reprimands, final warnings, and community-based court orders. They all form part of the different strands of the youth offending system. Youth offending services are involved to different extents with these forms.

Court Services

These include providing Appropriate Adult services (at Police Stations), preparation of Pre-Sentence Reports, provision of direct support to young people and their families during the Court process, Bail Supervision & Support and Remand Management.

Supervision services

When a young person receives a community-based court order, the staff from the local YOS supervise the orders. This involves an initial assessment, further specialist risk assessments if required, and preparation of a plan of work with the young person to prevent re-offending. A final assessment is carried out at the end of the intervention to monitor the progress that has been made by the young person.

Where required, YOS can provide specialist support including:

- education,
- housing,
- mental health,
- mentoring services,
- offending behaviour programmes,
- parenting programmes,
- restorative justice, and
- substance misuse.

YOS also provide Intensive Supervision and Surveillance programmes (ISSP) for high risk and persistent young offenders.

Custodial Services

YOS work with young people to support them during and after custodial sentences. This includes sentence planning to ensure a seamless transition into the community following a period in custody. A Detention & Training Order (DTO) sentences a young person to a period in custody. The orders can be given to any young person aged between 12 and 17. The minimum period for the order is four months and the maximum period is two years. The first half of the order is spent in custody (secure accommodation or a young offenders institute) and the second half of the order is spent in the community. The community element of the order is supervised by the YOS, and strict terms are applied to this part of the order.

	<p>Volunteer involvement around youth offending</p> <p>In addition to the professionals involved with the youth offending teams, the public sector engages with volunteers to involve young offenders. Volunteers are constantly needed by the YOS to help with referral order panels or mentoring schemes. Volunteers are recruited from the local community. Volunteers are provided with comprehensive training and ongoing support. A rota system is used to take into account any commitments that volunteers have at home or at work. Recruitment for the volunteering scheme happens on a rolling basis.</p>
<u>Issues:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young offenders in the local area are almost twice as likely to have witnessed violence in the family as the whole population. Additionally, young offenders are more likely to be victims of crime than the wider population of young people generally. • Death rates of male community offenders aged 15 to 44 years were found to be four times the rate of the general population. • 73% of young people supervised by the Youth Offending Team in March 2012 have ever been in receipt of free school meals, an indicator of low family income.
<u>Resources:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The YOS structure has enabled the YOS to use staff resources creatively, by mixing roles and responsibilities of statutory, preventative and part time staff in order to meet the needs of the client group and service priorities. While the YOS Partnership has ensured that flexibility and a range of skills are contained within the workforce there has been a gradual reduction of staff and posts in recent years and in the future the YOS partnership will have to review what it delivers as resources become more constrained. • The YOS is funded through contributions from the statutory partner agencies in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The YOS also receives a Youth Justice Effective Practice Grant from the Ministry of Justice and a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner. • YOS budget in Brighton and Hove for 2015/2016: 1,273,247 GBP • Volunteers: 14 volunteers are currently involved with the YOS, of which 12 white females and 2 white males.
<u>Objectives:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing crime and (re-)offending committed by young people • Keeping the number of children and young people in custody to a minimum • Managing risk of harm for victims and perpetrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the number of children in care within the criminal justice system and support those within the system away from offending behaviours
<u>Outcomes:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant reduction in the number of first time entrants into offending services and the youth justice system
<u>Evaluation:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rate of first time entrants between 2009 and 2014 has dropped considerably (2009: 994 – 2014: 279).
<u>Resources:</u>	<p>Local Youth Justice Plan: http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/teenagers/youth-justice-plan</p> <p>Local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2013 (<i>extracted passage on young offenders</i>): http://www.bhconnected.org.uk/sites/bhconnected/files/jsna/jsna-6.3.1-Young-offenders1.pdf</p>