

Community Awards 2017

Shortlisted projects

Policing and children category

Humberside Police Night Challenge - Humberside Police

Humberside Police Night Challenge is an interactive, immersive experience for 13-18 year olds. The project allows participants to experience eight challenges during a 13 mile overnight orienteering event aimed at those who may have a negative impression of the police. Teams come from within our most vulnerable and minority communities.

Night Challenge follows a bespoke theme each year. In 2017, we followed the story of a young person who became a victim of grooming and subsequently of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The young people encountered challenges to help them understand how a young person can be exploited, identify the danger and warning signs of CSE victims and offenders as well as the consequences of the offenders' actions through a courtroom scenario.

Through Night Challenge, we aim to prevent young people from unwittingly becoming victims or offenders. The event educates them in a unique way that is not available elsewhere in the country, giving them essential knowledge about how CSE, going missing, drugs and alcohol can affect their lives. Night Challenge delivers this message in a way that stays with them for years to come whilst allowing them to meet the agencies who are there to keep them safe and help them when they need them the most. By engaging with young people in such a challenging environment, we are able to work together to change each other's perceptions and gain further mutual understanding, thus improving how agencies and young people cooperate.

One Glasgow Reducing Reoffending Partnership - Partnership of Glasgow City Council, Community Safety Glasgow and Police Scotland

The One Glasgow Programme was initiated during 2011 by the Chief Executive of Glasgow City Council and tasked partners to review, demonstrate and recommend how public sector service outcomes could be improved. The Reducing Offending Partnership was one of three partnerships created. The partnership focuses on those in contact with the justice system while also reducing pathways into the system for young people at risk of offending.

A Coordination Hub, incorporating a Client Intelligence Unit, was established and is underpinned by an Information Sharing Protocol agreed by all partners. Specialist staff and ICT Systems were secured and work commenced in 2012 on the following:

- Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) and Whole Systems Approach (WSA)
- Priority Offenders
- Short-term Prisoners, Secure Care and Prison Throughcare
- Women Offenders

The core principles have been to accelerate joint working on evidence-based outcomes through:

- use of partnership analytical data to target the right support to the right individuals and to focus work in areas of escalating crime
- earlier intervention with young people and a proactive approach to prevention
- better targeting of services based on need through the use of one-to-one support and mentoring models
- improved working with the Third Sector
- improved case management and practice

Ealing Youth Crime Diversion Scheme - Metropolitan Police Ealing Borough

The Scheme aims to reduce the numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system and the seriousness of offending in general.

Police and key partners coordinate activities to improve the life chances of young people, ambitiously challenging existing practices.

Ealing Police have dedicated a police officer to each High School and three officers and volunteers to the Youth Justice Service (YOS).

Schools officers are readily approachable for their pupils, deal directly and restoratively with behavioural issues and deliver prevention messages; to avoid criminalisation and prevent escalation. Most problems should be dealt with through school discipline. They work with staff and parents to avoid exclusions and address vulnerabilities. This work is now extending into primary schools.

YJS police encourage a child centred approach. For referred cases (the majority of children who are investigated) detailed multi-agency research is undertaken to inform the disposal and interventions. Generally that means diversion from a criminal justice sanction. Needs, vulnerabilities and risks are identified. Safeguarding and other necessary activities are instigated. This may involve risk panels such as for sexual exploitation or gangs. This project has, along with the considerable efforts of partner agencies, secured significant reduction in key youth crime measures.

Suffolk YOS Diversion Programme - Suffolk Constabulary

Suffolk Youth Offending Service (SYOS) in partnership with Suffolk Constabulary have developed an award-winning and academically evaluated Youth Diversion scheme. The Diversion Programme focuses on early assessment of young people aged 10-17 who have offended or are at risk of offending, to identify and deliver an effective intervention and prevent criminalisation.

The model allows discretion to deliver one Community Resolution, after which a young person, if eligible, will be referred to SYOS for assessment to be completed so consideration can be made around an appropriate out of court disposal. Contact is made with the young person and parents/carers within 48 hours of receiving the referral, and usually involves a home visit.

The assessment process focuses on a holistic, whole family approach, which is something officers were unable to consider previously. This enables the SYOS, with its seconded police officers, to engage quickly and effectively to understand the factors impacting the young person's behaviour. This integrated decision-making model ensures a consistent county-wide approach for out of court disposals, supported by information gathered from a range of sources.

Improved decision-making between police and SYOS enables a better understanding of the process for young people and their families, which promotes better engagement.

Divert, Youth Justice Services – Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington

The DIVERT strapline is 'Prevention is better than Court'. Divert avoids the unnecessary criminalisation of children through assessment of underlying (often unmet) needs and diversion into alternative intervention or treatment.

Designed and delivered by the Youth Justice Service in Cheshire on behalf of funding stakeholders including the NHS, the PCC and Cheshire's four Local Authorities, Divert began as a purist liaison and diversion pilot project but has subsequently developed into a broader preventive and restorative project. The Divert manager provides a triaging service on all children aged 10-17 arrested by the police for less serious offences (gravity scores 1-3) and determines which children and young people should be diverted into the local authority 'front door' for a safeguarding response, and which should receive an assessment and intervention by the Divert team.

In 2017/18 Divert dealt with 603 referrals on children arrested by the police, completing assessments and making recommendations for disposals which helped avoid sanctions which could adversely affect their future prospects. Divert has contributed to a 50% decrease in first time entrants to the justice system the following year (evidenced by comparing the phasing in of Divert in different years for each Local Authority area in Cheshire).

Anti-Knife Crime Forum, Southwark

The Anti Knife Crime Forum (AKCF) - Southwark has a membership of over 30 community and statutory organisations who proactively work in partnership under the leadership of Co-Chair Elena Noel. Her work over the last 20 years with government and grassroots community sector organisations tackling serious violence and community safety has shaped policy, best practice, and led to the creation of 19 MOPAC-funded crime reduction projects in 2014-2016. Amir Eden who is joint Chair has a background in youth engagement and law.

AKCF's work has saved lives, and changed the lives of young people in Southwark. Its work is supported by Southwark Police and Borough Commander Simon Messinger, Southwark Council, MP's and the community, and recognised by MOPAC as impacting and meaningful.

AKCF aims and objectives:

- Raise awareness of knife crime, knife carrying and acid attacks in Southwark, and actively engage young people at risk of being involved with knife crime in culturally competent ways, convincing them that they can transcend crime, have goals and become future leaders.
- Proactively engage young people, parents, and the wider community to find solutions to knife crime and campaign for policy change. Southwark Council is the first London borough with a multi-agency partnership knife crime action plan/strategy. The AKCF has a strong intergenerational focus, organising awareness-raising conferences, youth community roadshows, workshops in schools, apprenticeship and employment fairs and actively encourages young people to be part of the solution.
- Deliver early intervention programmes that deter, prevent and reduce knife crime. AKCF values multi-agency partnership, raising awareness in schools, patrolling estates, community groups and organisations, It challenges young people to think differently and strongly encourages leaders, and champions youth projects delivered by AKCF members organisations such as: Growing Against Violence (GAV Education), Redthread, XLP, SNT's and Schools Police Officers, LCRC London Probation, Department of Work & Pensions, Jobcentre Plus, Step Ahead, World of Hope, Alwaysz Kreative - Lives & Knives Project, Street Pastors - Ascension Trust, Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations (SGTO) and many others.
- Getting young people involved in knife crime into work, employment and work-readiness training opportunities.

Many of AKCF's members are shaping strategic policy and practice on knife crime and contributed to the Mayor of London's recently-launched Anti Knife Crime strategy.

Youthink, Sutton's Crime Prevention Service - Sutton Community Safety Team

Youthink is a voluntary, early intervention service available to young people in Sutton aged 8-17 years who are identified as being at high risk of offending or involvement in anti-social behaviour. They offer support to young people with the aim of preventing them from coming to the future attention of the police. They support young people to think about their behaviour and the impact their behaviour maybe having on those around them.

Intervention is via one-to-one sessions or group work and delivered with a targeted approach to suit the assessed needs of the young person. Intervention could vary from a one-off workshop to ongoing case work support for up to 12 months. They work on an outreach basis and will meet with the young person in the home, at their school or in the community to support their engagement.

They work closely with other professionals to support "at risk" young people and regularly attend multi-agency meetings. They also have access to specialist workers based in the YOT, such as a Speech and Language Therapist, School Nurse and Psychologist. They also deliver workshops in schools and presentations to parents and professionals on topics, such as anti-social behaviour.