

Community Awards 2017

Shortlisted projects

Liaison and Diversion category

Wirral Integrated Offender Management Team - Partnership of Merseyside Police, National Probation Service, Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company, Wirral Ways to Recovery

The project is a fusion of Criminal Justice and Rehabilitative associates, who work together to rehabilitate offenders, reduce victims of crime and improve community life by working in partnership to manage some of the Wirral's most problematic offenders. Core partners are Merseyside Police, National Probation Service, Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company and Wirral Ways to Recovery, although a wider range of agencies stand ready to assist with solutions to criminogenic need.

We are collocated, thus overcoming silo working methods to deliver meaningful strategies around offenders who need help and guidance away from crime. Partners can discuss offenders in real time by a discussion across a desk. This close working arrangement also affords agencies the ability to deal with risk around victims and vulnerable persons associated with cohort members.

A variety of offender profiles are dealt with including acquisitive crime offenders and more recently those who are disposed to domestic abuse. Those who have been identified to be managed under this integrated approach can expect robust yet fair supervision - the aim is get offenders to accept responsibility for their behaviour and to support them out of criminality by providing support, mentoring and diversion.

Coventry Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service - Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust

Liaison and Diversion services identify people who have mental health, learning disability, substance misuse or other vulnerabilities when they first come into contact with the criminal justice system as suspects, defendants or offenders. They complete assessments and refer and support onto suitable services.

The Coventry Criminal Justice Liaison & Diversion Service covers Coventry police custody, probation and courts and also receives external referrals from probation and police voluntary attendees. It represents the Trust at various police and probation led meetings and is the link between healthcare and police/probation.

The team provides professional guidance and advice for care, support and risk management, and they provide on the spot advice and training for police, probation and the courts when issues arise. The team also work to improve understanding and acceptance of vulnerabilities, in particular mental health, for the lay professional. They regularly provide formal presentations to teams when this is requested, to enhance understanding of vulnerabilities, and the concept of Liaison & Diversion and the referral process. The team in Coventry is a well received and respected team within the criminal justice system.

Time to Recover - Compass Project 2012

The Compass Project is a social enterprise operated solely by people in recovery from substance misuse, 75% of which are repeat offenders. The “Time To Recover” provides volunteer shifts exclusively to people with re-offending backgrounds in areas ranging from retail sales, van driving, warehouse operatives and furniture restoration, to name a few. All training and evaluation is conducted through their Peer Mentoring Programme and this is where a significant amount of the work is done to address the behavioural issues which we have identified as being the main barriers for this group:

- Lack of trust – Members with reoffending backgrounds rarely engage fully with the many services available to them due to deep seeded trust issues and a feeling that they are being judged.
- Lack of Structure – Special attention needs to be paid to fundamental life skills: time management, following rules, taking directions, personal appearance and communication. Members need to be given time to adjust to what, for them, are massive behavioural changes.
- Negative Mindsets – The most crucial part: addressing confidence, self-esteem, motivation and mindsets, especially regarding attitudes towards work and the community.

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).

Project Future - MAC-UK, Haringey Council and Barnet, Enfield, Haringey NHS Mental Trust

Project Future is a community-based, youth-led mental health project for young men aged 16-25 involved in 'gangs', offending, and serious youth violence in Tottenham. It is a partnership project with Barnet, Enfield and Haringey NHS Mental Health Trust (BEH), Haringey Council and MAC-UK and the Metropolitan Police. It is funded by the Big Lottery and independently evaluated by the Centre for Mental Health.

The project aims to; 1) Improve well-being, 2) Reduce offending, 3) Increase access to education, employment, training (EET), and 4) Improve stability by bridging young people into local services. A long-term objective is to reduce the economic and social impact of serious youth violence and gang-related offending to society by addressing the health, social and race inequalities that contribute to such issues.

Future adopts a multi-agency, holistic approach based on the understanding that no one agency has the solution for the complex needs that these young people present with. The service is led by Clinical Psychologists and uses evidence-based psychological interventions wrapped around interactions and project activities. The project provides a supportive and nurturing environment for young people with

bespoke interventions to meet the individual needs of young men to address their mental health, stability, offending and occupational needs.

They work in close partnership with professionals and services in the young person's network (e.g. probation, solicitors) to reduce involvement with the criminal justice system. The project optimizes help seeking to successfully engage and facilitate rehabilitation of some of the most hard to reach young men who are deeply entrenched in violence and offending thus reducing risk of future offending.

Turnaround - Turning Point Scotland

Turnaround is a service for men and women involved in the criminal justice system. They offer flexible, person-centred residential and community-based support across south-west Scotland and north Strathclyde to enable our service users to understand and confront their behaviour by introducing alternatives to drugs, alcohol and offending.

The Turnaround Residential service for men only is based in Renfrewshire; however they can accept referrals from the 10 local authorities we cover. At the Residential unit they focus on men with addiction issues who are failing in community-based alternatives. Priority is given to those who are particularly vulnerable due to substance misuse, mental health issues, homelessness, or lack of coping/social skills etc.

The Turnaround Community service supports both men and women across the same 10 local authorities and is co-located within Criminal Justice Social Work offices. They offer one-to-one support and group work to individuals on a Community Payback Order to reflect and address their drug and alcohol misuse issues and associated offending behaviour.

Turnaround is not suitable for serious, sexual or violent offenders but aims to provide support to young prolific offenders, helping them find stability and move forward supported by our team and guided by their care manager.

Dorset Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service - Dorset Healthcare NHS University Foundation Trust

In 2014 they set out to improve care for people with mental health problems who may be detained in criminal justice settings through the integration of NHS England's Wave One evaluation trial of a national model for liaison and diversion (L&D) services in combination with mobilisation of a locally commissioned mental health street triage pilot.

The parallel formation offered a unique opportunity to collaborate with local agencies to pilot a pioneering approach to mental health triage, integrating a service delivering the national model for L&D in combination with a locally defined street triage service to maximise patient experience and deliver maximum financial efficiency. This meant integrating their workforce, adapting the existing service and mobilising resources.

The work included:

- Recruitment, training and supervision of a new workforce
- Development of partnership alliances across criminal justice, health, social care, third sector and service user forums
- Integration through trust, effectiveness and physical co-location in police custody, safeguarding referral units, magistrates' courts and incident command centres
- Sustained delivery by continual learning aligned to evaluation and collaboration with NHS England, Bournemouth University and The Centre for Mental Health