



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Durham Police Authority hails success of Youth Offending Service Initiatives

Durham Police Authority has welcomed a report by County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) on the Pre-Reprimand Disposal Scheme (PRD), an innovative solution to reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system and reduce re-offending – unique to the Durham Constabulary area.

Led by CDYOS and Durham Constabulary, the Pre-Reprimand Disposal was introduced in May 2008, initially for young people aged 10 to 14 to provide early intervention and prevent further offending. Interventions include family support and restorative measures. The PRD has now been extended to include young people up to 18. Young people are on police bail until the PRD is completed. The PRD has been developed within existing resources and has the support of all partners in the Children's Trust, the Safe Durham Partnership and the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB).

The initiative has seen some impressive results:

- 71% reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system between 2007/08 and 2009/10.
- 50% reduction in the number of young people re-offending and the rate of re-offending for those receiving a PRD (compared to a Police Reprimand).
- 98% of PRDs successfully completed with full engagement of young people, parents and carers.
- 80% of young people receiving a PRD engaged in 25 hours of education, training or employment by the end of the intervention.
- Delivered within existing resources.

Gill Eshelby, Head of CDYOS, presented a report on the positive impact of the Pre-Reprimand Disposal Scheme to the Durham Police Authority at the Effective Policing Delivery Committee. Ms Eshelby said:

"The PRD is about intervening early to prevent crime, address need and reduce re-offending. It is not an easy option. Re-offending rates are incredibly low; young people and parents are very positive about the impact it has had on behaviour. The reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice

system is enabling the service to focus on high risk-high need young people who did not have the benefit of the PRD for early intervention”

Notes to Editors

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors, 8 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority's vision

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing delivery of the highest quality policing.”

Our mission

“Working in partnership to ensure fair, effective and visible policing”

The Authority aims to: -

- Exercise strong and effective leadership in partnership working
- Engage positively with our Citizens and Communities to build confidence in local policing.
- Promote equality, tolerance and respect for human rights.
- Scrutinise and challenge police performance & procedures to secure continuous improvement
- Ensure Effective use of resources

For further information or comment, please contact:

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