

Meeting: Safer Communities Executive Board

Date: 4 November 2010

Report Title: Haringey Reducing Re-offending Programme (HARRP) 2010/2011

Report of: Michael Buraimoh – Reducing Re-offending Officer

Summary of Important Statistics:

The cost of re-offending in Haringey is £40 million and the national cost of re-offending is £10 billion (Home Office and National Audit Office reports respectively). The social impact of repeat offending is unquantifiable and 2 out of every 3 offenders released from prison re-offend within two years.

Programme Summary:

On the 18th of February 2010, the Reducing Re-offending Officer made a presentation to the board on HARRP (the Haringey Reducing Re-offending Programme). A further report was presented on the 3rd of June which summarised the strategic work carried out so far as well as the planned delivery of the programme. This report summarises the operational work carried out so far and the matters arising from this operational and time critical work.

It is worth mentioning again that although the current funding is for the first year of delivery only; the programme would need to last a minimum of 2 years for its achievements to be measurable (based on the working definition of re-offending).

Summary of key Activities and Successes to date:

- Reducing Re-offending Action Plan developed and presented to SCEB in February 2010
- The Action Plan was well received and members' suggestion of engagement with Children and Young People's Services carried out accordingly.
- A Reducing Re-offending conference was organised and held in March 2010
- The conference brought together key partners in delivering the reducing re-offending plan but also highlighted the absence of mental and physical health agencies, with the engagement of these agencies now being active.
- Key partnerships were developed and the Haringey Reducing Re-offending Network (HARREN) was created in April 2010

- Thirty organisations have committed to membership of HARREN
- A Joint Working Agreement has been written to facilitate the partnership working of HARREN.
- An online forum for managing the network has also been set up and has been live since June 2010.
- Recruitment of Reducing Re-offending Case Worker was finalised in August 2010
- Recruitment and training of 17 volunteers on the HARRP mentoring scheme was carried out in September 2010.
- Recruitment and ongoing engagement with 21 non statutory offenders/ex-offenders.
 - 10 ex-offenders have been released from custody and are actively engaging with the programme; their continued engagement on the programme is voluntary thereby providing an indication of changing attitude.
 - 2 ex-offenders have now secured full time sustainable employment.
 - 7 clients are in the process of securing further education/training spaces with various training establishments.

Planned Future Activities:

- Setting up of a HARRP Court Service in partnership with Haringey magistrates. This is a project based on magistrates deferring offenders' sentences on the condition that they will engage with HARRP volunteer mentors and interventions carried out accordingly.
- Delivery of HANSRE – The HARRP intensive employer engagement initiative to sign up and engage up to 50 employers. The aim of this project is to secure the commitment of employers to the recruitment of ex-offenders in Haringey as well as to carry out an ongoing vacancy sourcing from such employers - Target date is December 2010.
- Recruitment and engagement of 10 additional clients on the programme by January 2011.

Recommendations:

- That board members note the progress to date and outcomes achieved as well as achievable by the programme.
- That the Board note and support the proposed activities over the coming months with a view to reducing re-offending of non-statutory offenders and consider the impact of the project's current end-date of March 2011.

Financial/Legal Comments:

Funding has been allocated from the Safer Communities Area Based Grant to cover the salary cost of the Reducing Re-offending Officer. An operating budget has been allocated from the BCU fund, which also covers salary for a Case Worker.

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Background

1. Introduction: In 2008 the Community Safety Team (CST) and Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) co-commissioned research into re-offending and resettlement. The key recommendation of this work was to establish a project management post to work with a multi-disciplinary officer group to produce and co-ordinate a comprehensive reducing adult re-offending action plan regarding offenders serving sentences of less than 12 months.

In April 2010 reducing re-offending became a national priority and the statutory responsibility of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships or Community Safety Partnerships.

Statistically:

- 67 per cent of people released from prison go on to re-offend within two years.
- In March 2010 the National Audit Office put the national cost of re-offending at £10 billion a year.
- Some 50,000 people are sent to prison for less than six months each year and this group of offenders make up more than 60% of offenders.

2. The Haringey Reducing Re-offending Programme (HARRP)

General Objective: To significantly reduce the risk of re-offending among non-statutory adult offenders through a partnership case management model to deliver coordinated resettlement services.

3. Scope: The London Borough Offender Profile Report reveals that adult Haringey residents who are non-statutory offenders/ex-offenders sentenced to either custodial (particularly in Pentonville and Holloway prisons) or community sentences make up over 60% of re-offenders in Haringey. The Reducing Re-offending Programme will only target this group, as no agency has the statutory obligation to supervise or coordinate efforts to effectively resettle them following their prison sentences. HARRP will work with these offenders during and after imprisonment. It will also provide access to services for offenders' families.

4. Summary of expected Outcomes

- 70% of offenders/ex-offenders on the programme do not re-offend within at least two years of engagement on HARRP.
- Clear lines of accountability and infrastructure for managing offenders sentenced to less than 12 months in Haringey.
- Sustainable partnership is developed with statutory and voluntary organisations on reducing re-offending of non-statutory offenders.
- Sustainable and active network of socially responsible employers in Haringey.

- A sustainable resource for managing offenders sentenced to less than 12 months.
- Improved community involvement in offender resettlement through HARRP Volunteer Mentoring Scheme.

5. Risks and mitigating action

Risk	Impact (H/M/L)	Probability (H/M/L)	Mitigation Summary	Plan
There is a risk of inadequate funding leading to inability to fully implement action plan, especially regarding the social enterprise project.	H	M	The private sector will be engaged to achieve funding where feasible. However the Social Enterprise Project might become a future project	
There is a risk of a lack of commitment from key partners which could lead to problems with establishing an effective multi-agency approach and sharing information as well as co-funding.	M	M	Good practice from other partnership approaches within Haringey and from Tower Hamlets will be implemented where appropriate	
There is a risk that future funding to deliver the action plan may not be available – a risk of discontinuity	H	M	An evidence base demonstrating the argument for investment is being developed	