

MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW MEETING ON REDUCING YOUTH RE-OFFENDING
5 September 2005

Members: Councillors *Matt Davies (Chair), Alan Dobbie Stephen Gilbert, *Jayanti Patel,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Received on behalf Councillors Gilbert.
2. URGENT BUSINESS – None notified
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – there were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel.
4. ORAL EVIDENCE - THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CRIME & COMMUNITY SAFETY.

As part of the scrutiny review process, an interview session was held with the Executive Member for Crime and Community Safety. The following issues were discussed and responses noted:

Strategic Issues.

1. With reference to the Council's objectives and key mission for reducing youth reoffending the Executive Member informed the panel that the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act Section 37 stated that "it shall be the principal aim of the youth justice system to prevent offending by children and young persons." The Act allowed for the setting up of multi-agency youth offending teams whose overarching aim is to prevent and reduce youth offending. However, the Act is clear that the responsibility for reducing offending lies with each and every agency - "in addition to any other duty to which they are subject, it shall be the duty of all persons and bodies carrying out functions in relation to the youth justice system to have regard for them.
2. **What are the key drivers for change identified (both internal and external) in relation to the Youth Justice Plan?**

The Youth Justice Plan forms part of the business plan for the Youth Offending Service and is linked to a number of other plans (e.g. Young People's Substance Misuse Plan, Behaviour Improvement Plan Children & Young People's Strategic Plan, the annual Business Plans for the Children's Service, The Asylum Service and Safer Communities, the Social Services Delivery Improvement Statements (DIS). The Youth Justice Board provides a template that requires the Plan to address the 13 KPIs for the Service. This year for the first time a 14th KIP was included requiring YOS to carry out a race and diversity audit and to produce an action plan to address inequalities. This will form part of a substantial part of the work of the service in the coming year, as the initial audit to YJB guidelines, proved oversimplistic for Haringey. This was due to the fact that the audit was carried out against the 2001 census data and used census classifications which do not accurately reflect the diversity of Haringey's communities. The service identified the need to conduct a more complex audit in order to have better analysis of the areas needing addressing.

3. Please provide details of current strategies for reducing youth reoffending - It was noted that current strategies for reducing offending/reoffending include:

Intensive supervision and surveillance programme (ISSP) works with 12 serious and or prolific young offenders.

- Just below custody work is carried out with young offenders on community sentences who would otherwise have been given custodial sentences, includes tagging of young offenders.
- Multi-Systemic Therapy Programme (MST) (15 places) works with serious and frequent offenders parents/carers to change the adults behaviour in order to prevent the offending behaviour of the young person. Psychological therapists are used to provide support 365 days per year.
- Priority & Prolific offenders scheme - prevent and deter fraud covers young offenders - to prevent them from developing a criminal career.
- Group work - this approach is developed and run according to current need and identified risk factors.

Youth Inclusion Project

Haringey YISP aims to reduce and prevent the involvement of children and young people aged 8-13 years in offending and anti-social behaviour through their being assisted to better access mainstream and statutory services of multi-agency planning.

Junior Youth Inclusion Project

The JYIP in Haringey aims to work with the 50 most vulnerable children aged 8-13 years in the Bruce Grove, White Hart Lane, West Green and Noel Park wards.

Both the YISP and JYIP projects ensure that they are working with children and young people who are identified by two or more partner agencies and/or parents or carers as being at high risk of involvement in offending and/or anti social behaviour in the area and whose behaviour requires a multi-agency response.

Haringey on Track

On Track works with children aged 4-13 years in the Bruce Grove ward with the aim of preventing offending. Interventions such as Breakfast Clubs lunch and after school clubs and weekend football are offered.

A Home School Co-ordinator works with parents/careers to encourage their involvement in schools while 2 Outreach workers work with parents in their own homes and in the community supporting them in their efforts to change their children's attitude and behaviours. Holiday activities are provided for both children and parents and a Family Therapist supports families with complex problems.

These projects form the **Prevention Team** of the YOS and are funded through the NRF and DfES grants which are short term. On Track is closely linked to the Children's Fund and both projects are funded to 2008.

All interventions delivered makes a contribution to the five key outcome enshrined in'

Every Child matters.' It must be acknowledged that with this age group learning and development occurs through activities that provide play and fun.

Effectiveness

All intervention are based on a structured assessment of the child or young person's risk and protective factors associated with involvement in offending and anti-social behaviour. In the case of the YISP all interventions are discussed, agreed, monitored and reviewed by a multi-agency panel.

The On Track project is externally evaluated and findings documented in journals showing that early interventions have proved effective with families and are cost effective in their delivery. (How)?

The individual work with children and families by workers, who wear no labels and are not seen as offering statutory services, has proved effective in Haringey and other On Track projects across the country.

However, we have seen that families want their children to be 'fixed' (i.e. put right by others, without their input and our challenge remains to get hard to engage parents involved.

5. What are the performance indicators for reducing reoffending by young people in Haringey? How is the council performing against national and regional Pis and how does it compare with its family group? Please include details of:

- Haringey's reoffending performance targets against other comparable authorities.

2004 performance table

2002 COHORT RE-OFFENDING AFTER TWO YEARS						
Reoffending				National position	London position	Family position
Performance	Number in cohort	Numbers who re-offended	% of co-hort that have reoffended	From 155 YOTs	From 33 YOTs	From 10 YOTS
Pre Court	79	17	21.52	7 th	3 rd	1st
First Tier	111	43	38.74	11 th	6 th	2nd
Community Penalties	29	19	65.52	28 th	16 th	5th
Custodial	13	11	84.62	65 th	20 th	8th

Performance thus far this year - 2003 Cohort re-offending after 2 years (up to end of August 2005.

Re-offending performance	Cohort	Reoffended	% of cohort that have reoffended	Target
Pre court	52	16	30.7%	20.9%
First Tier	88	34	38.6%	37.1%
Community penalties	35	24	68.6%	62.7%
Custodial	11	7	63.6%	80.8%

6. If the Council is under-performing what are the barriers to improvement?

We are dependent on short term funding in order to provide not only special projects but also core services. This poses a significant risk to maintaining the current level of services and improving on our performance to date.

What key information does the Youth Offending Service use in relation to youth reoffending? Which agencies does this information originate from and how is the information used? - Please includes a breakdown of ethnicity, age, gender and disability

The Youth Offending Service database is able to generate management information that can be analysed and used to plan future services. For example, reports of young people scoring more than 2 for particular risk categories of their assessment are regularly provided for the management team.

All young people subject to YOS intervention are first assessed thoroughly and, in order to assess them, information is routinely sought from the young person, their carers, police, CPS, Children's Service, education, training or employment provider. Any other agency with whom the young person has been in contact is also asked for information relating to the young person. The YOS uses an assessment tool, ASSET, which has been specifically designed, to address the risk factors, which indicate the likelihood of the young person becoming a persistent and/or prolific offender. The assessment is then used as the basis for planning all interventions so that they address the identified risk and can support any positive factors identified. The assessment is subject to review and the initial assessment is compared to later assessments in order to help identify areas which have improved or deteriorated and may have contributed to further offending or the cessation of offending. Furthermore, young person are asked to complete a self-assessment at the start and end of an order and both young people and their parents and carers are asked to complete exit questionnaires to inform future practice.

Management is also provided with a monthly update of recidivism status.

The range of services available to different groups of young people including ethnicity, age; gender and disability:

Services are individually designed and tailor-made to meet young people's needs with a variety of interventions available to suit age, ability and any special needs the young person may have. Interpreters and materials in translation are available. We are required to ensure that our practice is evident based so the basis for all interventions is the use of cognitive behavioural interventions designed to address the young people's criminal and anti-social behaviour as research has indicated the success of this method. Similarly all young people are confronted with the consequences of their offending and required to make reparation to their victim or to the community, having undertaken awareness work. The YOS is a multi-agency service with workers from health, (nurse, psychologist), probation, substance misuse, education, groupwork specialists, police, social workers, parenting workers and housing. All of these workers either contributes directly to the young person's supervision plan, or, using their specialist knowledge, refer to an appropriate agency. Where need is identified services can be developed to meet it (e.g. the prevalence of knife crime in Haringey prompted us to develop and run a group designed specifically to alert young people to the consequences of knife crime on themselves, their victims and the community. We also run young women's group and young, black men's group at regular intervals.

- The level of take up of services available and which groups of these young people have taken up these services.

All young people on statutory interventions are obliged to comply with YOS directions to meet with personnel or undertake group work, if it had been identified on their supervision plan as

compulsory. Failure to do so results in breach of proceedings. However, according to the principles of restorative justice, young people are not required to meet with their victim unless they choose to do so and we have very few young people who are prepared to confront the victims of their offending behaviour. Similarly, undertaking treatment for substance use is on a voluntary basis and many young people do not consistently engage with drugs intervention services (although they are required to engage with YOS drug workers). There remains a problem in identifying suitable education and training for those over statutory school age and it is often the case that young offenders fail to engage with ETE services, even when they have been identified, unless they have had a more successful experience of mainstream education services.

7. Can you provide any examples of how the Youth Offending Service has used information to develop a problem solving strategy to intervention in the area of youth reoffending?

We identified a surge in the number of young Romanian Roma people coming through the criminal justice system. Many had not previously had any formal education and would not attend school. We secured funding from Connexions to run ESOL and numeracy and literacy classes for young people and to support them into mainstream education once they were more confident in their language skills. In conjunction with this, we also ran a group specifically for those from Roma community, which was based around citizenship, explaining the culture and more of the UK, addressing discrimination and oppression and informing them of the laws and the consequences of transgressing them. Similarly, the young women's group and the black, young men's groups arose out of the identification of a need to address issues such as gender, sexuality and identity and the self image the young people had their aspirations and their limited knowledge of positive role models.

Information the YOS gathers in relation to identified areas for action to prevent offending are also shared with key stakeholder partners. For example, we identified that young people were reluctant to attend Step Aheads as they felt that going to a drugs intervention service was stigmatising. We therefore made arrangements with Step Aheads to run a satellite service at the YOS. Similar joint work and problem solving strategies take place with other agencies and services.

Partnership working

8. Does the Youth Service have a strategy to determine how information is shared between partners? Please explain these strategies.

The YOS had information sharing protocols with all other key partners from the formation of the team in 1999. However, these have now been superseded by the Borough wide protocol for information sharing. The Crime and Disorder Act 1999 permits the sharing of information to prevent reoffending. The fact that the YOS is multi-agency assists the sharing of information as workers seconded into the service are permitted access to their own agency information and are designated to share this information.

**9. What strategies exist to ensure effective partnership working?
Please include strategies for identifying barriers and challenges to effective local partnership working.**

The YOS Management Board is made up of representatives from all the key stakeholder partners at a senior level. Any difficulties with effective partnership working can be presented to the Board and a strategy to overcome them developed at a senior level. However, the YOS also has representation on a number of other strategic and managing bodies of our partners and this permits representation to be made at varying levels to identify and overcome any barriers to effective working. When undertaking audits of effective practice in the YOS, consideration is always given to the effectiveness of partnerships.

10. Can you identify any partners or agencies that are not fully engaged with the Youth Offending Service? Please explain how they are encouraged to become more involved?

Although all agencies are fully engaged, stretched resources do not always permit the time or financial contribution to be as generous as we would wish for. Any gaps identified in the provision of services, which are the responsibility of the partnership agencies, can be brought to the attention of the YOS Management Board.

Concerns expressed about definitions between the various services and their views on child protection:

E.g. a 14-year-old is involved with an adult in the sale of drugs. This is a child protection issue or is it criminal youth offending? Child Protection agency would feel that it was not a child at risk issue as nothing unpleasant was happening to the child. Youth Offending Service would take the view that the child is at risk of offending and is vulnerable.

The view of the Panel is that the YOS is a well functioning service with limited resources, which was a cause of concern. The service should be able to highlight issues and request additional funding. There was a need to consider the implications of funding beyond 2008 - Existing strategies were needed for many of the current projects. New Children Services and Youth Offending behaviour project and interventions dovetail between Children Services and the Youth Service.

Officers were requested to provide costings for extra staff needed in the Service.

ORAL EVIDENCE FROM (AYTEN KIANI) THE YOUTH SERVICE INCLUSION MANAGER

Youth inclusions Projects and Positive Future Project (Ben Benoit & Akin Akintola).

Q.1 Please explain your role

I currently manage the Wood Green Area Youth Centre and provide line management to four of the projects that are being delivered in the Centre, these are:

Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP)

The Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) is a Youth Justice Board (YJB) initiative that seeks to reduce offending; truancy and exclusion on disadvantaged neighbourhoods by targeting support to at risk 13-16 year olds. The Haringey YIP targets young people who are living in Noel Park, Woodside and Harringay wards. Young people are often referred to the programme through Schools, Police, YOS, YISP, Social Services, Youth Services, PSC and Positive Futures. Through these referrals we are able to identify the 50 most at risk young people who fit into criteria and focus our work on these young people who are the YIP Core 50.

Young people from the Core 50 are allocated to Key workers who are able to offer support and guidance as well as identify needs and interest with the aim of either ensuring these activities are delivered through the YIP or to ensure young people are referred to projects which deliver these activities. The YIP regularly delivers Personal Development Programmes to the young people of the core 50. The YIP is overseen by a Steering Group, which is made up of Police, Youth Offending Service, Schools, Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and Youth Service. The project is monitored by the YJB quarterly, through the Youth Improvement Programme Management Information System (YIPMIS) returns. The information we need to feed into the YIPMIS consists of each young person's details including the offending history 12 months prior to being engaged in the programme. We then get arrest data through the police, school attendance and short/long term exclusions, including any authorised or unauthorised absences from schools, every quarter. The Targets set out by the YJB is to reduce offending of the core 50 by 70%. Haringey YIP has continuously exceeded this target and our highest reduction in a quarter has been 96.4%, our lowest has been 68.9%, which is still classified as very good.

Positive Futures (P.F)

Positive Futures (P.F) is a national sports-based social inclusion programme, aimed at engaging young people who are identified as being at risk, are 10-16 years old and living in three wards within Haringey (same as YIP but not so stringent in relation to ward boundaries as long as the young people are living locally and are at risk). We aim to engage young people through sports and other activities with a special focus on building links in education, training and employment programmes. Young people are often referred to the programme by the same sources as YIP; although young people can also self refer.

We provide outreach work to young people at risk of exclusion from local schools, PSC and local estates. We deliver various sporting activities underpinned with educational programmes on Drug Prevention, Sexual health and Healthy Lifestyles. We are also providing accredited Sports and Community Leadership Programmes, football and basketball coaching qualifications Level 1 and have recently started to deliver Leadership days which will be accredited through ASDAN. The YIP in partnership with P.F also delivers a homework club which is being run at the Wood Green Library two evenings a week.

The YIP and P.F in partnership, run holiday activities during each of the school holidays at the Wood Green Youth Project as well as Ducketts Common (D.C only during summer holidays)

Haringey Young Peoples Counselling Service (HYPCS)

HYPCS offers one to one counselling and therapeutic group work to young people who are identified as being vulnerable, in need, at risk and are experiencing difficulties with a range of issues. Some of these issues include offending behaviour, abuse/violence, disruptive behaviour, mental/emotional distress, drug/alcohol misuse, sexual issues, relationship difficulties, domestic violence, school and social exclusion.

The team works with the following:

4 secondary schools; White Hart Lane, Alexandra Park, Highgate Wood and Northumberland Park.

5 Primary Schools; Earlham, West Green, Devonshire Hill, St France's de Scales, Colraine Junior.

We also receive referrals from; Victim Support, Safer Schools Police Officers, Young Carers, Young Parents Project, Looked After Children (LAC) Team, Social Services, HARTS for Families, YIP, YISP, P.F.

HYPCS also provide Focus Groups (Groupwork) tailored to the needs of young people, in or outside school on topics such as:

- Anger management
- Assertiveness training
- Communication skills
- Bullying/Bullying behavior
- Friendships/Relationships
- Attitudes
- Conflict Resolution
- Peer Groups
- and much more.....

Through our experience, counselling and group work can not only impact on the young people's Behaviour, but also it influences their interaction with peers and family, which can ultimately impact the wider community.

Youth Club Provisions

We provide after school and evening youth club activities at the Wood Green Youth Project, where young people can attend and participate in activities in a safe and structured environment. The general youth club activities consist of sports, pool, table tennis, bar football, video games, DJ and MC sessions and a number of indoor and outdoor activities. Young people are given the opportunity to participate in discussion groups on a variety of topics overseen by youth workers.

My role also involves monitoring the budgets of the above projects as well as identifying funding sources to add value to all our programmes.

In addition to the above, I do not directly line manage but have a role to oversee the following projects as they are delivering their activities within the Centre, these are the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, the Haringey Wrestling Group and the Somalian Project.

Q.2. The Government believes that good information sharing is the key to successful collaborative working and early intervention to help children and young people at risk of poor outcomes: Does the Service use any information from the Community Safety Strategy in order to plan diversionary activities for young people at risk of reoffending? For example is this information used to target specific age groups; gender or target services in specific areas across the borough?

We have used the information from the Safer Communities Partnership Crime Reduction Strategy 2002-2005. For example we know that 10% of young offenders commit 41% of youth crimes, Through the YIP we target the young people who are known to regularly offend and aim to engage them in alternative activities while giving them key work support, liaising with their parents/carers as well as referring them to the counselling team if they are in agreement. We try and focus on the outcomes we wish to achieve for each young person and support them in achieving these outcomes by setting short and long term targets together. We provide activities for all young people during the known peak times for offending with the aim of keeping them off the streets. We deliver regular workshops to young people on issues such as Safety, the Law, Drug Awareness, Sexual Health, Healthy Lifestyles, Conflict resolution, and Communication skills. We encourage young people to plan and be active in the organisation and delivery of some programmes and trips with the aim of empowering them. We work closely with the Police, YOS, YISP, Schools, DAAT, Peace Alliance, and Connexions Positive Action for Young People (PAYP), and share information when necessary.

Q.3 Do you think the partnership arrangements are working effectively? How do you involve voluntary groups?

Some Partnership arrangements are working better than others, for example we work very well with the Police, PAYP, SPURS and YOS. However we don't get a very good response from some schools, Social Services, and EWS departments. We have to continually remind them of the information we need in referring young people as well as monitoring the young people's attendance and exclusions at school. The schools need to acknowledge their responsibility in cooperating with partner agencies in order to achieve the government's vision. Partnership arrangements with voluntary groups could work well but the problems we are finding is that they do not have the same stringent systems as we have. We sometimes find that they do not take on board the importance of these systems and need to be regularly reminded of the agreements between us. We involve Voluntary groups in partnership work to either deliver a piece of work with/for us and also by keeping them informed of our activities and promoting any activities they may be doing which might be of interest/benefit for young people.

Q.4 Can you identify any gaps or shortcomings in current partnership working? What strategies are in place to ensure that partnership working is continuously improved?

The gaps I can identify in partnership working with voluntary groups, is the lack of systems and accountability. The Youth Service is continually trying to improve some of the voluntary agencies systems to ensure transparency and accountability. I also feel that the Youth Service isn't receiving acknowledgement and recognition of the contributions we are making towards reducing crime in the borough. Even agencies who are receiving funding from Youth Services and are getting a great deal of support from Youth Services fail to acknowledge our support in their activities or their achievements. There is also a gap in communication between agencies; this could be further improved.

Q.5 Can you give examples of effective strategies or initiatives currently used by the Service in reducing youth reoffending? Are these initiatives sustainable? If not, what in your opinion is needed to ensure sustainability?

The YIP and P.F is overseen by a Steering Group made up of Police, YOS, Youth Service, DAAT, Peace Alliance, SPURS FC, Schools, White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre, EWS, Social Services. This has proven to be very effective in planning future strategies as well as monitoring performance and achievement and sharing of information. The YIP and Positive Futures Programmes have proven to be very effective initiatives in reducing the youth reoffending. We are also linked in with the Anti Social Behaviour team and YISP. These initiatives are not long term sustainable as we only have funding agreed until 2008 providing we continue to deliver to the requirements of our funders the YJB and Sports England. All other funding which I receive to enhance and improve our programmes are totally reliant on short term funding. If we had long term funding we can ensure long term sustainability and better performance.

Q.6 Do you work with other agencies to in order to consult young people and involve them in terms of developing solutions to crime and reoffending?

We work in partnership with the police; we have a Young Peoples Police Consultative Group where it has been developed for this reason. We try and involve young people who are on the YIP and P.F programmes to be part of these groups as we find that they are usually the ones who get left out. We also have two young people who are now being trained with operation Trident to work with other young people in relation to reduce gang-related activities. The Youth Service also has Young people's participation workers whose main aim is to involve young people in decision-making.

Q.7 Do you work with other Local Authorities with similar problems to Haringey in terms of working incorporation by sharing ideas, information, or exchange programmes?

We have several YIP and P.F Conferences and Training events throughout the year. This is a good opportunity to liaise with other YIP's and P.F's throughout the country and share best practice.

Q.8 What more do you think the Council can do corporately to raise awareness and develop solutions to youth crime?

I think that more money needs to be pumped in to Youth Service. We are currently doing a lot of work in relation to reduction and prevention in youth offending and are working to full capacity with very limited resources. The Corporate funding strategy could bear in mind the funding needs of front line provisions and incorporate our needs in their bids.

Q.9 Are you satisfied with the level of take-up by young people of the services available? Can you identify groups of young people who are not fully engaged with diversionary activities? How do you intend to address the problems?

We are currently under resourced; we have a lot more young people who wish to take up our services than we have the capacity to work with them. The Service is also in need to reflect the communities that are living in the borough; we need to improve on that. For example the Turkish Speaking Communities, the Eastern European Communities, the Somali communities could be better represented in our service. This will help us in building better links with these communities. We are currently trying to address this problem by advertising, interviewing, recruiting and training Volunteers from these community groups. We are also supporting some voluntary groups from these communities who are trying to work with young people. Another way we are trying to engage the hard to reach young people is by designing programmes the at risk young people wish to engage in.

Other issues discussed:

- Working in partnership with other agencies was key for crime reduction.
- Funding was an issue, some posts were externally funded e.g. from the Children Fund and Youth Justice Board.
- Target groups: the Youth Service felt that the target group is correct. There are conflicts between Turkish and Afro Caribbean youths. Consideration being given to include White Hart Lane Ward.
- Schools: Schools approached the service where there are problems with young people. Counselling is provided for those in need. Concern that other schools were not getting the help and intervention they need. The service reported success in 2002 work with Turkish youths. The need now is for work to be undertaken with Eastern European communities who are hard to reach. Recent initiative includes writing to parents in the Eastern European communities. However more fund required to start and continue this initiative.
- Resources include match funding from YJB. £83k from Sports Council. £85k NRF £83k YIPS & Children Fund.
- Experience with schools: Officers stated that there was a need for schools to identify students who are at risk; they seem reluctant to do so even though other agencies (e.g. Police, Social Services and Education Services) were referring these students.
 - Schools should be set targets on who they deal with young people at risk.
 - The m
 - The Majority of schools have link teacher whose responsibilities include working with youth inclusion schemes. There is a failure to acknowledge the need for external support.
 - Those students who are at risk do not want to hang around schools.

- The Youth Service needed information such as arrest history for previous 12 months to see the pattern in behaviour and absences.
- Important for schools to share this information to ensure a seamless support.
- There were concerns about the high turnaround of these link teachers.
- Important to link up services YIP and Positive Futures are there to work with them.
- Schools did not include the Youth Service in their planning for extended schools.
- There were also issues with the workload of link teachers.

Gaps

Headteachers need to know that the Youth Service have access to schools to get inside the school and work with them, there was a need to make this a **PRIORITY**. Work could include workshop programmes.

Partnership:

There were issues with Social Services and general workload issues with other agency staff. This slowed down the time taken to pass on information.

- Conflicting priorities also posed a challenge for all agencies.
- There was no Social Worker on the Youth Inclusion Programme.

The Youth Service is only able to deal with a core number of young people (50) who were assessed. The others who were referred and not part of the core group received support, given direction and able to take part in all Youth Service Activities.

The majority of youth who took up activities was boys - however there was a high take up of girls this year. The 12-17 age groups were most significant.

There were issues with funding and targeting specific communities.

Suggestions

After school activities: maybe a cluster of schools could get involved and provide cross school working.

There are only three youth clubs in the borough the team felt that more facilities were needed.

Extending schools (3:30-6pm) it was felt that schools should remain open for a longer period of time - the contractors, Jarvis, were in charge of school buildings after 6pm.

Past initiative included lunch-time football two years ago this was very successful. This improved school attendance however this the initiative was discontinued due to lack of funds.

Schools needed to engage with the Youth Service who should have access to students. The youth service can provide workshops, after school programmes and introduce young people to other activities.

Possible recommendations:

- ❖ There was a need for improved information sharing.
- ❖ Improved links with the Youth Service and Schools
- ❖ School should have Youth Inclusion activities as part of their performance targets.