

Safer Communities Executive Board
26th October 2007

Subject: Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPO) Scheme

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1. Purpose

To highlight the role and resources implications of the Haringey PPO scheme across the partnership

2. Background

Haringey PPO scheme started in 2005 and is based on the London Model Guidance provided by GoL and partners. This defines an adult PPO (18 years and over) as:

“there are six or more indications of criminal activity (convictions and/or reliable intelligence) by this person over a two-year period and

He or she has been involved in an offence of relevance to the Public Service Agreements 1 and 4 eg. personal robbery, residential burglary, vehicle crime or another crime of equivalent local priority and significance and

Where, for the majority of individuals, offending is motivated by drug or alcohol abuse.”

Haringey PPOs must also be citizens of the borough.

In many areas, a small group of individuals with these characteristics has historically been responsible for a high proportion of crime, especially acquisitive crime.

The SCEB and the Criminal Justice Groups are responsible for providing “an enhanced programme of monitoring and interventions aimed at those offenders and young people at risk of becoming the super-prolific offenders of the future”. It is composed of three strands:

- **prevent and deter:** prevent the most at risk young offenders from becoming the PPOs of the future through appropriately targeted youth justice interventions, supported by community-based interventions to tackle the risk factors that drive young people to offend;
- **catch and bring to justice¹:** ensure that PPOs are consistently prioritised through the criminal justice system;

¹ This is the London name for the Home Office’s “catch & convict” strategy.

- **rehabilitate and resettle:** rehabilitation of PPOs who are in custody or serving sentences in the community, through closer working between all relevant agencies, and through continued post-sentence support.²

Prolific Young Offenders (up to 18 years) are the prime remit of the YOS, hence this covers the **prevent and deter** strand. Where there are young offenders approaching 18 years whose offending is escalating, they will be considered for transfer to the (adult) **catch and bring to justice** strand. Although it is possible to have young offenders on this second strand, in Haringey they are generally only included on the first one.

The Police lead on the **catch and bring to justice** strand and Probation is the lead agency for **rehabilitate and resettle** strand, with the DAAT providing overall coordination of the scheme, including servicing the PPO and DIP (Drugs Intervention Programme) Steering Groups, acting as operational link between the partnership and the Home Office/National Treatment Agency on performance and monitoring.

Active agencies at present are Police, Probation, Preventions and Options (Housing) and the DAAT, who meet on a regular basis to identify and case manage PPO clients.

The scheme has been successful in case managing clients, largely due to the commitment of the individuals representing their agencies, but this is counter-balanced by the absence of extra resources from partnership agencies.

Since the start of the scheme in 2005, the throughput has been 66 individuals. In the first year March 2006, 7 individuals re-offended while in the following calendar year a further 12 re-offended.

37 individuals have been removed from the scheme as a result of their reduced offending and the average the re-offending rate has been 25%.

In a coordinated approach to PPOs, partners have agreed, in principle, to provide a 'Premium service' to ensure swift and effective passage through the criminal justice system. The majority of PPOs are problematic drug users and there are also protocols for 'fast-tracking' through the treatment system. Due to the links between acquisitive crime and problematic drug use, the Home Office recommends and monitors the alignment of local DIP and PPO scheme. In Haringey, DIP and PPO have been aligned for some time and have the same chair/ champion and are both led and serviced by the DAAT.

A number of partners reflect the work around PPOs in their targets. The Haringey draft LAA includes a targets relating to:

Reduce the proportion of adult and young offenders and prolific and other priority offenders who re-offend.

² The Home Office has issued guidance on each of these three strands: "*Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy, Initial Guidance: Catch and Convict Framework, July 2004*", "*Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy, Supplementary Guidance: Rehabilitate and Resettle Framework, September 2004*" and "*Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy, Guidance Paper 3, Prevent and Deter, September 2004*". These documents are available on the Home Office Website: www.crimereduction.gov.uk/PPO

There are also targets relating to reducing acquisitive crime and accommodating PPOs however, focus on these targets is not reflected in resource allocations.

For discussion:

1. The SCEB is asked to recommend that partners – HfH/Housing, Police, Probation, DAAT, Court, CPS et al – commits to working together in delivering the PPO scheme.
2. The SCEB is asked to recommend to each partner that they clarify and meet their role in providing a Premium Service to PPOs.
3. The SCEB is asked to identify candidates for the role of DIP Champion.
4. There were no new resources provided by the Home Office. The SCEB is asked to recommend allocating partnership resources to ensure strategic, operational and monitoring roles are secured and that partnership targets around, re-offending, reduced drug use and housing will be met. For example, the Police and DAAT have had discussions about potential PPOs who are also problematic drug users and re-engaging them in the treatment system which will go towards achieving the reducing acquisitive crime target – resource implications for this area should be considered.

Resources are needed:

a. to ensure the continued co-location, currently in Probation, as well the continued employment of relevant staff (administrative and a Probation Service Officer) to work with the non-statutory PPOs (ie those who are not subject to statutory supervision by Probation). The admin role is to support the overall work of the PPO unit.

b. to resource the individual PPO's needs to help them gain employment and lead crime –free lives eg. birth certificates, applying for drivers licences, occasional travel, training, constructive leisure activities, etc.

c. For at least one post, (located with the Police) to track the criminal justice pathway of each individual PPO from arrest, through court, sentencing, treatment and resettlement, and to re-engage anyone 'dropping out' at any point along the journey.