

Kirklees Youth Offending Team



*Kirklees
Youth
Justice
Summary Plan
2010-2011*

About Kirklees

Kirklees is one of the larger Local Authority districts in England and Wales, with a population of over 400,000, ranking it 11th of the 348 districts.

The major conurbations are Huddersfield and the Pennine valley settlements including Marsden, Holmfirth and Meltham and the former 'mill towns' of the north of the district including Batley, Cleckheaton, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike, Liversedge and Mirfield.

The mid-2000 estimates of the 10-17 population was over 42,000. Just under 80% are white 18% Asian and 2% black or 'other'.

Around 2% of the 10-17 age group will be involved in the Criminal Justice system in any one year.

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Resourcing - Value for money

The Youth Offending Team within Kirklees is based on three sites, offices in Huddersfield and Dewsbury deliver police or court directed services and the prevention team works from offices in a local church in Dewsbury.

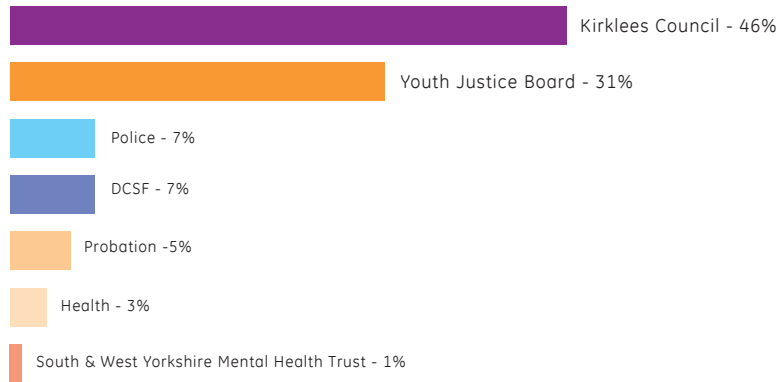
There are core caseholding staff on each site as well as other specialist staff including Health, Education, Careers, Youth Service, Parenting, Police, Housing Support, Substance Misuse and Victim Liaison.

Working across all sites are a Learning Disabilities Nurse, Connexions PA (Housing), Mentoring Co-ordinator and Restorative Justice Team. There are also dedicated teams dealing with Youth Crime Prevention, Intensive Supervision (ISS), Resettlement (IRS), PREVENT (violent extremism) and the Courts. We also second an officer to the Anti Social Behaviour Unit in order to have both an impact on reducing anti social behaviour but also reducing the number of orders made on young people through taking early preventative and informal action.

The Prevention Team maintains a presence on Dewsbury Moor (Youth Inclusion Programme) but through Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Area Based Grant funding have been able to develop Youth Inclusion Support Panels (YISPs) which have gradually been rolled out across the district. The Prevention Team have been nominated for a number of awards and Department of Education (YCAP) funding has allowed them to further develop their approach in the area of youth crime prevention and anti social behaviour, recently taking on a secondee from Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing.

The YOT has been able to demonstrate and evidence the effectiveness of multi agency working over many years and to that extent, the Careers service and Connexions have placed staff within the YOT to engage with those deemed NEET and "hard to reach". The Learning Disabilities Nurse is a key post and may be unique to England and Wales YOTs.

2009/2010 Funding Sources (%)

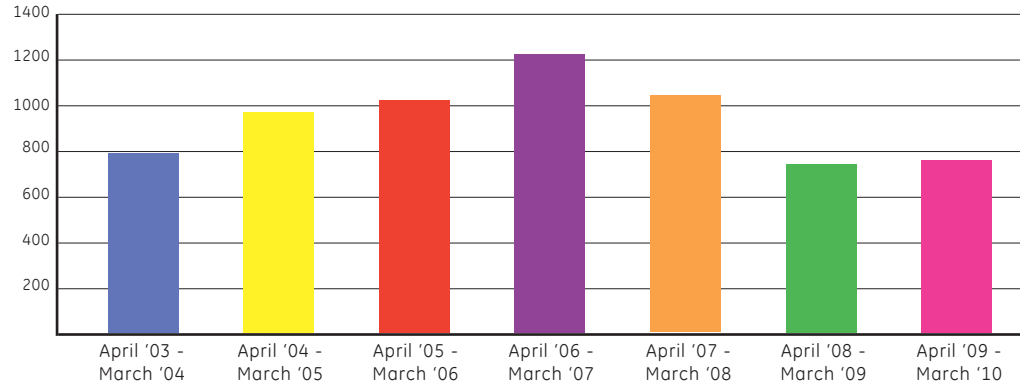


Kirklees Youth Offending Team Workloads 2009/10

Final Warning Programmes	First Tier Penalties	Community Penalties	ISSP	Custodial Penalties	Custodial Licences	Intervention Total	Other*	Reports (PSR) Requests	Total
203	229	187	29	62	57	767	527	206	1500

* Other interventions include Remands to Custody, Remands to LA, Bail Support, IRS work, Parenting and Victim work.

Workloads 2003 to 2010



Between 2002 and 2007 the YOT saw increasing numbers of young people being drawn into the Criminal Justice System. Our view was that this did not represent an increase in youth crime *per se* but a change by the Government in how youth crime was dealt with and an increase in the use of formal sanctions.

This peaked in 2006/07, the Police (in particular) were charged with bringing more offences to justice (OBTJ) in order to improve public confidence in the Criminal Justice System. This increase in numbers entering the system had seen a corresponding increase at all stages within the system, custody levels reaching record highs in spite of much higher levels of support for those subject to community based penalties.

Fortunately, this trend has been in decline since 2007 as there is no evidence to show that custody significantly prevents or reduces re-offending beyond the duration of the custodial sentence. Youth crime as a whole is now reportedly reducing at a substantial rate; a combination of factors have had an impact including removal of specific targets for the Police and the development of more targeted, multi-agency prevention services.

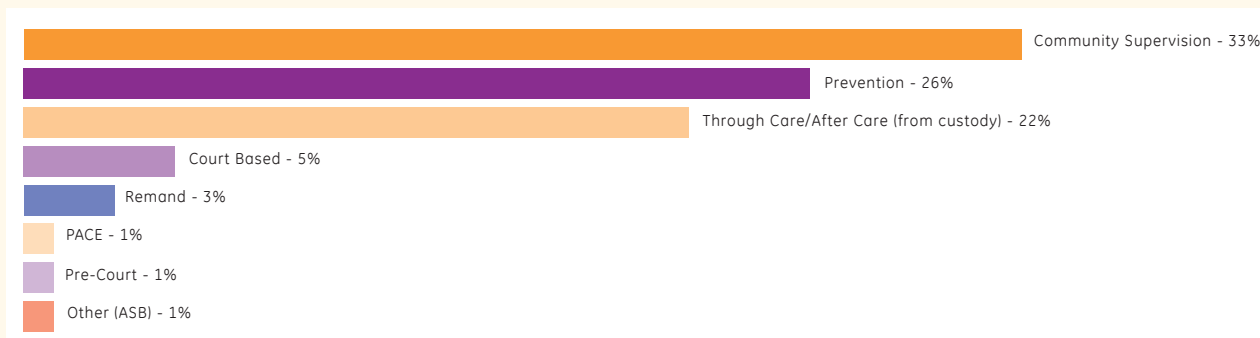
However, whilst overall numbers coming into the YOT have reduced, those that are left will be the most challenging and in most need of our services. Our performance is also likely to dip when those who had a single brush with the Criminal Justice System are dealt with informally, by other methods and no longer feature in our statistics.

Since 2004, the numbers of staff employed to supervise court orders has not increased, we have had to manage larger caseloads through the OBTJ period and inevitably spend less time with those who most needed it. In 2010 workloads are back to what we believe are manageable numbers (around 20/25 per officer) and the recently introduced "scaled approach" has meant that those who pose the greatest risk to themselves and others get the most support and most intensive supervision and surveillance.

Resourcing - Expenditure

The injection of cash by the then DCSF and Home Office into crime prevention and the prevention of extremism under the umbrella of the Youth Crime Action Plan and PREVENT was welcome, though the funding is short term, likely to be cut and therefore difficult to plan these services beyond March 2011.

Currently the YOT spend is broadly apportioned as follows:



Performance

We have recently undertaken a process of self-assessment followed by independent scrutiny and validation by the regional team of the YJB. Their findings are as follows:

Kirklees Capacity & Capability Performance Judgement

Overall Performance

"Performing excellently against NI with good capacity and capability to sustain and improve performance."

Overall Summary

"The annual validation of the self assessment of Kirklees Youth Offending Service demonstrates that it is performing excellently against the national indicators and has good capacity and capability to sustain and improve performance. In terms of overall performance against national indicators, Kirklees continues to excel; with significant reduction in re-offending and falling first time entrant numbers. However, static performance improvement in relation to both Custody and ETE remains a priority for the YOT. The validation process indicated that service delivery in several key outcome areas was good. In particular, comprehensive workforce development arrangements and strong risk management procedures."

Headlines

First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System **down by 38%** (compared with a 'family' average of 26%).

Reoffending Rates (of those subject to YOT supervision) **down by 28%** (compared with a 'family' average of 7%).

Figures provided by Youth Justice Board

Structures and Governance

The Management Board is chaired on behalf of the Council's Chief Executive by the Divisional Commander for Police in Kirklees, Chief Superintendent John Robins. The Police have chaired this group since 2002 and in addition to taking an active and supportive role they were also instrumental in helping develop an effective performance reporting framework which the YOT Board used for many years.

This has now been replaced by the Council's standard reporting template from which the YOT provides quarterly reports on performance against the relevant national indicators. The Board also receives quarterly data including that on workloads and distribution by geographical area and type of specific intervention.

The membership of the YOT Management Board includes representatives from all statutory partners (Health, Education, Social Care, Probation and the Police) and also Community Safety, Young Peoples (Youth) Service, Housing and the Courts.



Partnership Arrangements

The key partnerships in relation to working with children and young people who have offended is with the Police and the Courts. They refer into the YOT and we are required to provide a statutory service which couples with National Standards for working with young people who have offended. In order that this functions effectively we have to ensure that the information received and shared is accurate, secure (confidential) and timely.

This is backed up with regular meetings/consultation between the YOT and Police staff, Legal Advisors and Sentencers. Feedback about the service we provide is also a key element of this.

Our multi-agency teams ensure that we are able to meet the factors that may have contributed towards a young person becoming involved in crime; parenting issues, peer pressure, education, training or employment, substance misuse, physical or mental health issues, learning disabilities, neglect or abuse, lack of a positive role model etc.

Where specialist services are required we can refer on. This would include services such as the Family Intervention Project, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Counselling Services, Shield Project (sexual offences), Victim Services, Family Therapy, Safeguarding and Bereavement Counselling.

Those who supervise young people will use these services as appropriate but they must also tackle the specific issues around offending behaviour and what motivated, triggered or led that young person to break the law.

This involves the officer in a process of assessment, planning, intervention, supervision and review. Where the young person poses a risk of harm to themselves or others or where the risk of reoffending is assessed as being greater, then there is increased accountability and management oversight of these cases and where appropriate, referral into specific local criminal justice and safeguarding processes such as Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Integrated Offender Management (IOM) or Child Protection procedures.

Strategic oversight and/or links are maintained by the YOT with the Safer Stronger Communities Team (CDRP), Local Public Service Boards for Children and Young People and Community Safety (strategic partnerships), Respect Steering Group (Anti Social Behaviour) and Local Safeguarding Children Board.



Risks to Future Delivery

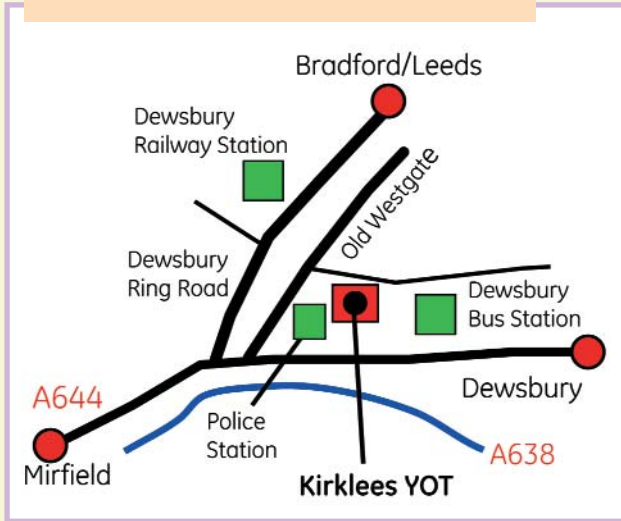
There is an expectation that the YOT will be required to find savings of around 25% over the next 3 years in line with other council services in Kirklees - the process of reducing the number of posts has already started. Cuts in external funding are already affecting our prevention service.

Clearly the risks to future service delivery will be a challenge and are going to be more keenly felt in 2011/12 and beyond.

Given the reduction in workloads brought about by fewer young people committing offences in the first place and lower reoffending rates, we may be able to manage measured and reasonable reductions in funding in 2010/11.



Dewsbury YOT Office



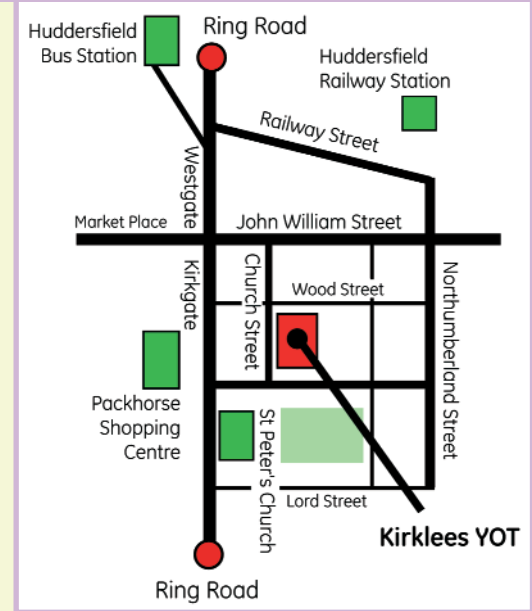
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