

Southampton Youth Justice Strategy | 2014-2017

We are committed to providing justice for victims and local communities, rehabilitation and positive opportunities for young people.

Youth Justice is a key priority for the City. It is important for us to reduce the numbers of children and young people getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour and to help young offenders rehabilitate.

This strategy sets out our priorities and the actions we are going to take to deliver improvements.

★ Our priorities



Reduce youth crime

Reducing youth crime in Southampton will positively impact on everyone living and working in the city. There will be fewer victims of crime and better outcomes for young people who have previously been involved in criminal activity.



Reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system

Intervening earlier to address risk factors and build upon strengths can help prevent children and young people from offending or re-offending in the future.



Reduce custody

Custody can have a detrimental impact on the lives of children and young people and their families. Young people who serve custodial sentences are much more likely to re-offend.



Reduce re-offending

Breaking the cycle of offending can help young people significantly improve their life chances and make our local communities safer.

✓ Our successes in 2014-15



Reduce youth crime

- The number of non-custodial resolutions has increased by 15.8% and the number of custodial sentences has decreased by 1.3%.
- The number of re-convictions in 2014-15 for the worst offenders has fallen from 43 to 33.
- 685 families have successfully been engaged as part of phase one of the Families Matter programme, which aims to help families with complex needs.



Reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system

- There has been a 35% reduction in the number of first time entrants.
- The Southampton Joint Decision Making Panel has used Youth Community Resolutions more effectively to divert young people from crime and support victims through restorative interventions.



Reduce custody

- The number of custodial sentences has fallen from 27 to 13 over a two year period.



Reduce re-offending

- There has been a 14.5% decrease in re-offending rates and re-offending in Southampton is now lower than the national average.
- Young people's engagement with education, training and employment has risen from 59.8% to 64.4%.



Other successes

Improvements made as a result of feedback from service users

- Developed a user friendly leaflet describing our service user engagement work.
- Made changes to the office layout to make it more welcoming.
- Produced an information film about young people's experience of police custody.

Improvements to the service in 2014/15

- The service now uses real time data to show the effectiveness of local youth justice provision.
- The Youth Offending Service (YOS) has continued to develop its own accredited arts provision.
- All staff have received Speech, Language and Communication Needs training.

! Our challenges



Compared to our 15 most similar group of local authorities* Southampton is 14th highest for number of first time entrants.



Although we have fewer offenders overall, we need to ensure re-offending rates still remain low.



Custody rates remain high when compared to local, national and similar comparator areas.



We need to continue to improve education and economic outcomes for young people who are at risk of offending in Southampton.

*IQuanta comparator group of: Eastbourne, Sheffield, Watford, Southend-on-Sea, Luton, Hillingdon, Slough, Hounslow, Derby, Brighton & Hove, Northampton, Cardiff, Bristol and Reading.

What young people in Southampton have told us

In February 2015, over 200 young people across the City joined in the 'have your say' consultation

3 biggest concerns

- 1 getting a good job
- 2 going to a good school/college
- 3 feeling safe

Young people are concerned about the age at which some of their peers start using drugs

What are we going to do?

Priorities	Key actions	Lead agency	Lead partners	How we will measure success in March 2017?
 Reduce youth crime	Develop relationships with schools and continue to innovate in house resources such as the accredited arts provision.	Southampton City Council	Children and Families / Skills & Development / City Deal / Voluntary Sector	Gaining Gold 'Artsmark' standard for our arts provision. Increase education, training and employment engagement by 10%.
	Work in partnership with voluntary sectors to ensure more effective matching of resources against need. For example using live data to inform service development.	Youth Offending Service (YOS) Management Board	Southampton Voluntary Services	Evidence of partnership working with voluntary sector.
	Develop systems to actively involve young people and parents in service design and delivery.	YOS Management Board	Solent University	Increase the % of young people and families who are satisfied with YOS.
 Reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system	Ensure protocols work effectively so that Looked After Children are treated as a priority group.	Southampton City Council	Hampshire Police Constabulary	Reduce the number of Looked After Children entering the criminal justice system.
	Create a Restorative Network in schools to help young people learn how to effectively resolve conflict.	Southampton City Council	Southampton Schools Forum	Increase the number of schools working with YOS. Decrease the number of young people who feel bullying is a major issue for the city.
	Implement outcomes from the Ending Gang and Youth Violence Peer review.	Safe City Partnership / YOS Management Board	Southampton City Council / Hampshire Police Constabulary	Decrease in serious youth crime and drug distribution.
 Reduce custody	Continue to engage with the West Hampshire Youth Bench to ensure other restorative routes are considered.	YOS Management Board	West Hampshire Youth Bench	Reduce custody rates by 20%.
	Deliver high quality robust assessments and interventions through the successful implementation of the new assessment framework 'Asset Plus'.	YOS Management Board	West Hampshire Youth Bench	Increase the number of pre-sentence report forums that take place with Southampton Youth Bench. 'Asset Plus' being used effectively.
	Help young people understand their interventions through the 'my plan' tool.	Youth Offending Service	Solent University	Increase the number of young people who state on their Service User Survey that they understand their interventions.
 Reduce re-offending	Use the real time re-offending tracking tool and effectively respond to the data gathered.	YOS Management Board	Youth Justice Board	Maintain a low re-offending rate.
	Undertake analysis on the suitability of accommodation for young offenders at point of release.	YOS Management Board	Southampton Resettlement Forum	YOS Management Board will monitor the % of young people who are released to suitable accommodation.
	Restorative Justice Interventions to become a core component of every young person's intervention plan.	YOS Management Board	Hampshire Police Constabulary	Increase the use of restorative justice within youth justice interventions.