

Questions & Answers

1. What are the characteristics of young people that the YOT work with?

The YOT works with young people 10-18 years of age of which 94% of our cohort are male and 6% female, 35% white, 20% Asian, 18% Black or Black British, 16% Gypsy / Roma, 10% Mixed Parentage.

2. How do they work with them to reduce re-offending?

The YOT works in two strands Prevention and Statutory (with specialist workers such as substance misuse, speech and language etc. providing support), with the theme of reducing anti social and offending behaviour.

Through detailed assessments and discussions with the young person and their family, the YOT will try to determine the causes of the offending behaviour and the specific issues involved in order to identify any risks they may pose to themselves and others. Steps will then be taken to facilitate a change of the offending lifestyle.

Slough YOT works closely with a number of other agencies in order to provide a full range of services for the young people. These include social care, health, education departments/organisations etc.

Our work includes:

- Supervision of young people who are sentenced to any statutory Order made by a Court.
- Supervision of young people who are subject to Out of Court disposals, delivered by Police.
- Delivery of the Youth Inclusion Support Programme (YISP) which is aimed at those young people who are at risk of becoming involved in anti social and offending behaviour.

- Acting as the appropriate adult during police interviews when a parent is not available
- Supplying bail information and bail support services
- Preparing reports for the Courts
- Conducting substance abuse assessments and referrals
- Sourcing and directing young people to leisure activities to enable them to use their free time constructively
- Assisting young people who are of school age and who are not in school to re-enter school, or find an alternative arrangement to meet their educational needs
- Providing through care and post-release supervision of young persons sentenced to custody
- Offering parental and family support through individual and group work
- Delivery of offending behavior programmes/workshops including focus of Serious Youth Violence. Utilising 121 and group work methods
- Delivery of prevention training and workshops to schools around Serious Youth Violence, Weapons Awareness and Substance Misuse
- Liaising with victims in order to obtain their opinions and give them an opportunity to participate in restorative conferencing
- Giving support to young people who are remanded to local authority care or custody
- Ensuring young people are safeguarded

How successful is the work?

Slough YOTs end of year performance for re-offending for 2017 - 2018 was at 32%. Although the rate of re-offending has risen from 2016 -2017 from 25%, it should be noted that the cohort was smaller meaning that fewer young people were responsible for the levels of re-offending.

Where the 'movement of drugs' etc is concerned improved working arrangements between partners including information sharing on young people has resulted in more crimes being detected with individuals subsequently being arrested and prosecuted. This is a

positive move forward and is being encouraged as a way to continually safeguard children and young people. Weapons awareness work has been delivered to Schools and East Berkshire College, with plans to continue this work following further requests.

The voice of the child highlighted in the Youth Justice Plan and in the cases appendix demonstrates success in positively supporting and enabling changed behaviours, as do comments from parents which include - *"I just wanted to thank you for everything you've done for Zammie"*.