



**Performance and Finance
Select Committee**
21st March 2006

**Report from the Director of Policy &
Regeneration Unit**

For Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

**Report Title: Crime Prevention Work with schools and young people
across the Borough**

1.0 Summary

1.1 This Report has been written following a request from members of the Performance and Finance Select Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 This report is for information and therefore no recommendations are set out.

3.0 Rationale

3.1 The request for this report arose from the discussion of a report to the Committee on the November 9th 2005 entitled 'A review of robbery offences in the Brent Borough'

3.2 That report pointed out that robbery suspects and victims have a youthful profile and that 21% of all robberies were youth on youth offences.

3.3 Members indicated that they had concerns about youth on youth crime and realised that cross-cutting initiatives were necessary to develop youth crime prevention work. A report was requested focusing on the nature and implications of youth crime prevention work implemented with schools and young people.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 According to information produced for the Brent Borough Intelligence Unit in September 2005, youth crime accounts for 10% of all crime committed in the Borough. This has remained static for six years during which time the proportion of the population in the 10-17 age range has increased, indicating a drop in youth offending. The report also shows that persons aged between 14 and 17 commit the majority of youth crime, and that 83% of accused youths are male, 17% female.
- 4.2 We have reduced the number of Brent young people in the criminal justice system from 581 young people (in calendar year 2002) to 464 (in financial year 2004/5) – a reduction of 20%. (Youth Offending Service statistics)
- 4.3 Figures from the Youth Offending Service show the number of resident young offenders convicted of robbery offences as:

Year	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
No of young offenders	44	57	32	55	66

The figures for 2003/04 are likely to be a reflection of the impact of the Street Crime Initiative (SCI). The SCI is yet to be formally evaluated, but according to information from the Government Office for London (Youth and Crime Unit) there was a fall of 23% Met-wide in the number of youth *accused* of street crime comparing the period July 2002/03 with July 2001/02. This would translate to a substantial drop in the number of those *convicted* subsequently, so that the Brent YOS figure for 2003/04 was part of a London-wide pattern.

4. 4 Other Met wide evidence - for the 6 months to July 2005 - showed the percentage of street crime ascribed to youths in Brent as at 43% (ranking Brent 28th of the 32 boroughs). The average across London was 47%, with Bromley having the highest percentage - 60% - ascribed to youth. (This data is based on *suspects*).
4. 5 In Brent, the busiest wards for youth crime are Wembley Central, Stonebridge, Harlesden, Dudden Hill and Kilburn Wards. Only Wembley Central has a secondary school within it. All of the wards – with the exception of Stonebridge – have High Street shopping areas. Stonebridge has a higher than borough average population of under 16 year olds

5.0 Working in Partnership

- 5.1 The Brent Youth Offending Service (YOS) has a key role in reducing offending and re-offending by children and young people and a preventive role in reducing the risks of offending by all young people. It is a multi-agency operation comprising staff from police, probation, social care, education, and health.
- 5.2 We also have a well established Youth Crime Prevention Strategy Group (YCRSG) which has high-level representatives from all relevant council departments, key statutory partners and the voluntary sector and is chaired by

the Head of the YOS. (see appendix for membership) The group meets on a bi-monthly basis.

- 5.3 Work to reduce youth crime is being undertaken in partnership with the police and other statutory partners and with the participation of all relevant council departments and schools. There are a number of initiatives already underway in the Borough's schools which reflect this partnership, and there are plans to build on these.
- 5.4 The *Safer Schools Partnership* (SSP) – placing police officers in schools was established in two Brent secondary schools in 2002. This programme has now been increased to four police officers, who between them cover all of the borough's maintained Secondary Schools. There are plans to extend the scheme further – the longer-term aim being to establish a Safer Schools Officer in each of the borough's secondary schools.
- 5.5 *Safer Neighbourhood Teams* (SNT's) in Brent will also be given a specific role in relation to the schools in their locality. All areas are due to have police SNTs by the end of April 2006. Schools will be provided with a 'named officer' from their neighbourhood team to contact for assistance. The Teams will be encouraged to visit the schools in their area and SNTs will be provided with training to enhance their capacity to deal with children and young people in a positive and effective manner. Work to develop this training has begun, and it will be piloted initially in one area. Warden Service staffs will also be trained alongside their SNT to ensure consistency and encourage more positive engagement with children and young people in the community.
- 5.6 Meetings are also being held between the *Schools Improvement Service*, Safer Schools Partnership officers and representatives from the London Fire Brigade who undertake school visits to ensure that their work is better integrated with the schools' curriculum offer
- 5.7 *Wembley Crime Prevention Panel* volunteers have undertaken work in schools designed to make primary age children aware of crime and crime prevention issues and there is also a Schools Quiz delivered by Police Crime Prevention officers which gives crime prevention advice to pupils in Year 6.
- 5.8 *The Police Partnership Unit* has also been involved in developing work jointly with the Greenhouse Project (a national charity), including schools-based diversionary activities (e.g. after-school table tennis coaching), and programme based in the Stonebridge/Harlesden area - a youth crime hot-spot. The latter has included summer programmes in 2004 and 2005 in which young people were bussed to use the facilities of a public school near Watford for a wide range of activities including coaching in a number of different sports.
- 5.9 The *Youth Service* has provided Detached Youth Workers to supervise young people on public transport from John Kelly Boys' School as part of the ward-working initiative. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this has led to reduced incidences of offending and anti-social behaviour, and consideration is also being given to staggering the end of the school day.

- 5.10 Our capacity to work with young victims and to prevent the victimisation of children and young people has been enhanced by the success of *Brent Victim Support* in obtaining funds for a full-time Schools' Programme Development worker for three years (from September 2005). Research evidence suggests that there are clear links between being victimised and becoming in turn a perpetrator, so work to reduce victimisation has dual significance.
- 5.11 Brent police, in partnership with the 'Not Another Drop' campaign, purchased a set of workbooks aimed at 7-9 and 10-11 year olds for use in our primary schools during this academic year. These materials have been devised by '*Missdorothy.com*' (positively evaluated by the DfES) and are aimed at exploring issues about behaviour and personal safety including bullying, crime and disorder, social inclusion and racism. The programme includes an interactive website to engage children further and which provides additional teachers' resources to develop the work. Teaching staff have recently been trained in the use of these materials.
- 5.12 At the time of writing, the local authority's Schools Improvement Service is redrafting guidance on anti-bullying policies as part of the Children and Families department response to a renewed emphasis on this issue. The Youth Crime Reduction Strategy Group has been consulted as part of this process
- 5.13 Last year funding from the MPA enabled the development of a workshop entitled '*Stay Safe*' devised and delivered by WIZARD theatre to Year 6 pupils in the Borough's primary schools. It has proved very popular with schools and the tour has now been funded for this academic year. The workshops aim to reduce victimisation by offering children strategies to deal with bullying and street crime at a particularly critical 'transition' point in their school lives.
- 5.14 Co-ordinated by the DAAT Young Person's Substance Misuse Plan and the Healthy Schools Programme there have been a wide range of education programmes developed on the issue of substance misuse to support work in schools and with youth groups in the community. This work has included:
- ❖ the training of relevant professionals
 - ❖ supporting the provision of a School Drug Adviser
 - ❖ supporting the development and updating of schools' drugs policies and procedures
- 5.15 A number of specific initiatives such as Operation Cerberus and the 'Immobilise' Campaign were reported to the Committee at its meeting in November. Initiatives such as these continue to feature in our work.

6.0 Diversionary / Preventative Programmes.

- 6.1 We have also established a range of diversionary programmes offering a variety of positive activities for young people at risk of offending, or who live in crime 'hot – spot' areas as indicated below.

- 6.2 A Youth Inclusion Project (YIP) – the senior arm of which is funded by the Youth Justice Board and local partners, the junior via the Children’s Fund The senior YIP was recently inspected by the YJB and found to be excellent and the Junior YIP has also undergone a satisfactory external audit. The YIPs work with 75 children and young people aged 8-16 years in the Church End/Roundwood area. The children and young people are referred onto the programme, and then Individual Action Plans are drawn up with them, identifying their needs and interests. Both programmes deliver a range of activities including for example, educational support sessions, design and craft, IT, film clubs, as well as regular trips at the weekends in term-time and during the school holidays.
- 6.3 The Local Intervention Fire Education Programme (LIFE) which offers one week intensive courses aimed at young people at risk of school exclusion/disaffection, offending or anti-social behaviour. The programme is delivered by the Brent Fire Service and at the time of writing, 220 young people have completed the courses. The courses are very successful in engaging the young people who attend, the drop-out rate is low and the referring agencies report a real change in those who complete the programme.
- 6.4 Projects funded by the Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) Programme. These are varied and range from the Brent Summer University programme to more targeted work often delivered by voluntary sector providers. The PAYP objectives include reducing crime and anti-social behaviour both in the short and long term and supporting young people back into education or training and helping them stay there. Over the coming year, it is intended to engage 1,000 young people in the programme, providing intensive support to 84 young people.
- 6.5 A wide range of Youth Diversionary projects which have been funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme Teams in Harlesden/Stonebridge and in St Raphaels, Mitchelbrook and Brentfield and via the South Kilburn New Deals for Communities Programme.

7.0 Challenges and Forward Plans

- 7.1 There remains a need to reduce the levels of both youth crime and youth victimisation. In particular, we need to address the issue of young people and street crime, a challenge faced by boroughs across London.
- 7.2 It is intended that the next meeting of the Operational Delivery Group of the CDRP in April will be devoted to looking at the overspill of problem behaviour from school premises beyond the school gates both before and after school. This will include a detailed exploration of the issue of robbery, and an analysis of projects (such as that at John Kelly Boys School and Operation Cerberus) aimed at reducing problem/offending behaviours. In addition, it is hoped that the police will be invited to address the Secondary Heads at one of their regular meetings with the Director of the Children and Families Department to explore these issues further.

- 7.3 All of the projects described above are subject to regular monitoring and evaluation. Seeking funding to sustain those deemed successful, remains an annual challenge.
- 7.4 In addition, we need to identify funding to develop new initiatives/programmes to meet identified needs (for example a project on the issue of knives and young people).

Background Papers

Youth Crime Prevention Strategy 2006-2009
Youth Justice Plan 2005-06

Contact Officers

Phil Newby - Director of PRU
Valerie Jones - Head of Community Safety Team
Anita Dickinson – Youth Crime Reduction Officer

Appendix

Membership of the Youth Crime Reduction Strategy Group

- ❖ Head of Youth Offending Service (Chair)
- ❖ Youth Crime Strategy Officer (Community Safety Team)
- ❖ Anti –Social Behaviour Team Manager
- ❖ Managers of the YIP and the CSP

- **Senior Representatives of relevant local authority departments /divisions**
- ❖ **Children and Families Dept**
 - Social Care Division
 - Strategy and Partnership Division
 - Achievement and Inclusion Division
- ❖ **Housing and Community Care Department**
- ❖ **Environment and Culture Department**

- **Senior managerial representatives of other agencies having a duty to co-operate in the partnership namely**
 - **Police**
 - **Health (including PCT and DAT)**
 - **Fire Authority**

- **A senior representative from Brent Youth Court**
- **Young people**
- **Victim Support**
- **Two Representatives from Residential Social landlords**
- **Up to four Voluntary sector providers who have a remit for the provision and delivery of services to young people**