

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a white plastic bag. The bag has large, blue, stylized letters printed on it, which appear to be 'NOTTINGHAM'. The background is dark and out of focus.

Nottinghamshire Youth Crime Strategy 2010 – 2013

Contents

Page

1.	Executive Summary	63.	Enabling compliance and effective enforcement
2.	Reducing Victims of Youth Crime	64.	Promoting education, training and employment
5.	Reducing Violent Crime	65.	Health needs
8.	Reducing the use of custody	68.	Families and relationships
12.	Youth Crime Prevention	69.	Accommodation and homelessness
13.	What are we trying to achieve?	70.	Community engagement and confidence
18.	The role of universal services	73.	Minimising the use of custody
21.	Targeted services	75.	Governance, Data and Workforce
26.	Young people and public spaces	78.	Action Plan
28.	Children in the care system	84.	Resettlement, Aftercare and the Transition to Adulthood
29.	Emotional and mental health	86.	What do we know?
30.	Alcohol and drugs	88.	Safeguarding in custody
31.	Domestic violence	89.	Preparation for release
33.	Violent Extremism	91.	Transfer to adult services
34.	Empowering parents	92.	Governance, Data and Workforce
34.	Families reluctant to engage	94.	Action Plan
36.	Restorative Justice and Community Resolution	98.	Measuring Performance
38.	Governance, Data and Workforce	102.	Appendix One – Drivers for Change
42.	Action Plan	104.	Appendix Two – Risk Register
48.	Rehabilitation, Punishment and Making Amends	106.	Appendix Three – Guiding Principles
49.	Overview	108.	Appendix Four – Anti-Social Behaviour Heat Map
56.	Protecting the public from serious harm	109.	Glossary
58.	Managing persistent offenders		
59.	Involving and protecting victims		
62.	Safeguarding in the youth justice system		

Nottinghamshire Youth Crime Strategy 2010 – 2013

Executive Summary

All children in Nottinghamshire need support and opportunities to help them attain success, develop into good citizens and to eventually become mature, responsible and independent adults. During adolescence a minority of young people may, either despite that support or because of a lack of it, engage in risky behaviours which place them in contact with the youth justice system. For most of them brief and carefully targeted support, punishment or opportunities for reparation will deter them from further anti-social behaviour. A small minority of young people who have complex needs and may have experienced abuse or neglect, have emotional or mental health problems or who have received inconsistent or deficient parenting may need much more specialist and long term intervention to change and control their behaviour so that they too can play a full part in society.

This strategy, incorporating the Youth Justice Plan and the Youth Crime Prevention Plan, lays out how the agencies across Nottinghamshire will work together over the next three years to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime, to provide a proportionate response to those engaged in anti-social behaviour and to provide care, control and where appropriate punishment for those who have offended. We also know that where there is a pattern of offending through adolescence this very often continues into early adulthood and the strategy will begin to explore the issue of how agencies can better manage the transition between the youth and adult justice systems. We recognise that the victims of youth crime, particularly when they are vulnerable, need to be placed at the heart of the Youth Justice System and services must be in place to support them as well as the offenders.



Cllr Philip Owen
Chair of the Children's Trust

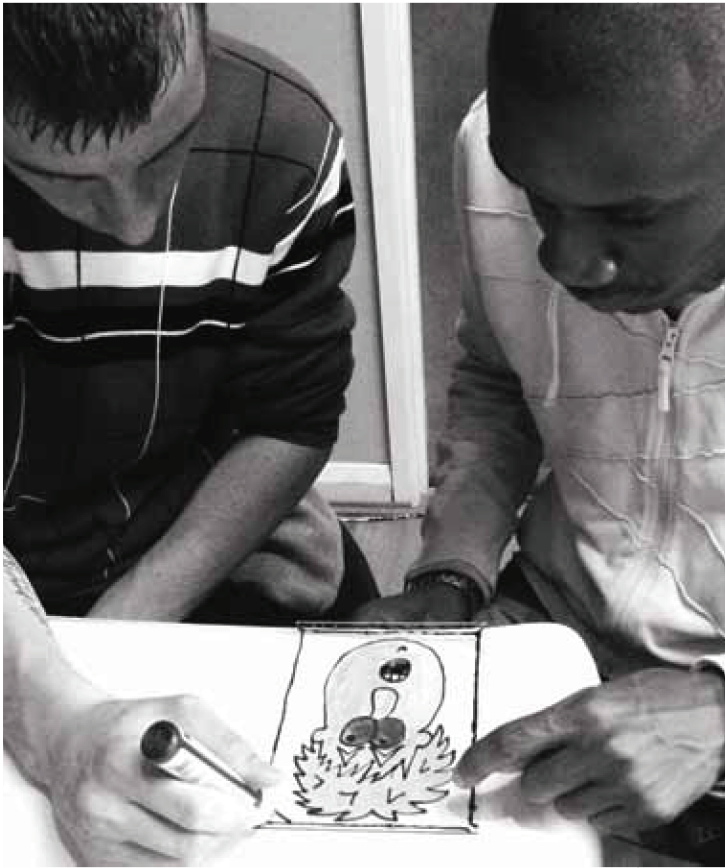


Mick Burrows
Chair of the Safer
Nottinghamshire Board

Target 1: To reduce the number of victims of youth crime

“AUDIT COMMISSION FIGURES SUGGEST THAT EACH YOUNG PERSON IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM COSTS THE TAXPAYER OVER £200,000 BY THE AGE OF 16. BUT ONE GIVEN SUPPORT TO STAY OUT COSTS LESS THAN £50,000.”

Audit Commission 2009, Tired of Hanging Around



“Where people do become victims we will allow them a say in what can be done to make amends and to be involved in a process such as mediation when they wish to and where it is appropriate. Where victims are vulnerable we will provide them with the extra support they need so that they can feel safe doing this.”

Why?

We know that the most vulnerable in society are the most at risk of becoming victims of crime and anti-social behaviour. Becoming a victim of crime can have devastating, long term consequences for both physical health and psychological wellbeing. Children and young people are significantly more likely to be the victims of youth crime and being a young victim is itself a risk factor for becoming an offender. Those aged over sixty are the least likely to be a victim of offending by young people but often fear this the most.

How will we do it?

We will put our efforts into making sure that young people have clear alternatives to being involved in crime through the provision of positive activities and clear information on the consequences of crime. We will support parents and carers who are struggling to provide the right balance of care and control to help their children stay out of trouble. Where young people are, or at risk of becoming, involved in crime we will help them stop by involving them in education, training, employment, help them build positive relationships and support them to sustain stable housing. We know from evidence those with steady lives, good relationships and engagement in purposeful activity are the least likely to offend again. Those committing the most serious crimes or who persistently offend will be closely monitored and have their liberty restricted through intensive intervention programmes and, where unavoidable, through using secure settings.

Where people do become victims we will allow them a say in what can be done to make amends and to be involved in a process such as mediation when they wish to and where it is appropriate. Where victims are vulnerable we will provide them with the extra support they need so that they can feel safe doing this.

“Of the 515 young people receiving an “outcome” of a reprimand or warning from the police, or a court conviction between January and March 2008, only 155 went on to commit another crime.”

Where are we now?

In 2009 there were 1,185 children and young people entering the justice system for the first time from 78,000 ten-to-seventeen year olds in Nottinghamshire. “First time entrants” are measured against the youth population as a whole and Nottinghamshire is in the quarter of the local authority areas with the lowest rates of young people entering the youth justice system across England and Wales.

For those young people who have committed a crime the system works well in stopping them committing more crimes when compared to similar authorities across the country and it is getting better. Of the 515 young people receiving an “outcome” of a reprimand or warning from the police, or a court conviction between January and March 2008, only 155 went on to commit another crime. This equates to a 21% reduction when compared to the same measure carried out on a group who received “outcomes” in 2005. Similar authorities averaged a reduction of only 13%.

How will we measure change?

We will continue to use the current measures through the National Indicator set for reducing first time entrants and proven re-offending to measure whether rates of offending overall are reducing. We will use existing measures on public perception to see whether the public feel safer as a result of interventions being put in place, including children and young people. We will contact every personal victim of youth crime and offer a service and ask them how satisfied they are at the end of the process.

**Target 2: To reduce the number of
violent crimes committed
by young people**

**“PROTECTING THE
PUBLIC FROM HARM
IS A PRIORITY FOR ALL
AGENCIES WORKING TO
PREVENT AND REDUCE
OFFENDING BY CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE.”**

Why?

Violent crimes normally have the most serious impact on victims and also the most far reaching consequences for young people who commit them and are rightly a cause of huge public concern. Protecting the public from harm is a priority for all agencies working to prevent and reduce offending by children and young people.

How will we do it?

Where young people are convicted of an offence of violence a comprehensive risk assessment will be undertaken and plans put in place to manage the risk. All agencies will look to identify young people who are not yet convicted of violence but there is a known risk of aggressive behaviour and clear procedures will be put into place to manage this risk. All agencies working within the field of youth crime have agreed to work together under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAAPA) which promote joint working to manage those who are assessed as a risk of committing violence or other serious crimes. Specialist interventions will be available where required, including programmes to address weapon crime and violent behaviour. Where the misuse of alcohol or mental health difficulties are risk factors for offending treatment programmes that can be accessed immediately will be in place. There will also be provision for tailored programmes to address sexual offending and fire setting.

Where are we now?

Violent crime in Nottinghamshire is reducing, but still remains at higher levels than in similar areas elsewhere in the country. Whilst it is difficult to accurately say what proportion of violent offending is attributable to young people, we know that 487 young people from Nottinghamshire received a police Reprimand, Final Warning or conviction for a violent offence in 2009. There is also massive public concern about the use of weapons. In 2009 twenty-nine young people received an outcome for an offence involving a knife.

How will we measure change?

We will measure the number of young people entering the justice system for the first time with outcomes for violence and also the number of young people convicted for violent offences. The number of young people committing arson or criminal damage by fire will also be monitored and we would hope to see reductions in all of these areas.

**“In 2009 twenty-nine of 78,000
young people in Nottinghamshire
received an outcome for
an offence involving a knife.”**

Target 3: To reduce the number of young people experiencing custody

“HOLDING A CHILD IN PRISON COSTS ABOUT £100,000 A YEAR AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF IMPRISONMENT RESULT IN AT LEAST £40,000 OF FURTHER INDIRECT COSTS TO THE TAXPAYER.”

New Economics Foundation 2010

Why?

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children and young people must only be arrested or locked up as a last resort, for the shortest possible time and that Courts should always try to avoid sending children and young people to institutions. Although in some cases secure settings have to be used to protect the public, we know that custody rarely works in reducing the long term risk of re-offending and has a negative impact on young people's relationships, housing, health and chances of achieving educational outcomes or finding a job. There is also wide agreement that the cost of youth custody should be devolved to local areas, and if this does occur, minimising custody use will help to fund youth crime prevention within communities.

How will we do it?

To reduce the use of custody there needs to be sentencing options available in the community which provide appropriate rehabilitation, punishment, chances to make amends and protection of the public. These need to be supported by excellent assessment of individual young people and clear plans for each young person in the system. We will provide all legally available sentences to the Court including treatment for drug, alcohol and mental health problems, education and training programmes and interventions that change thinking, attitudes

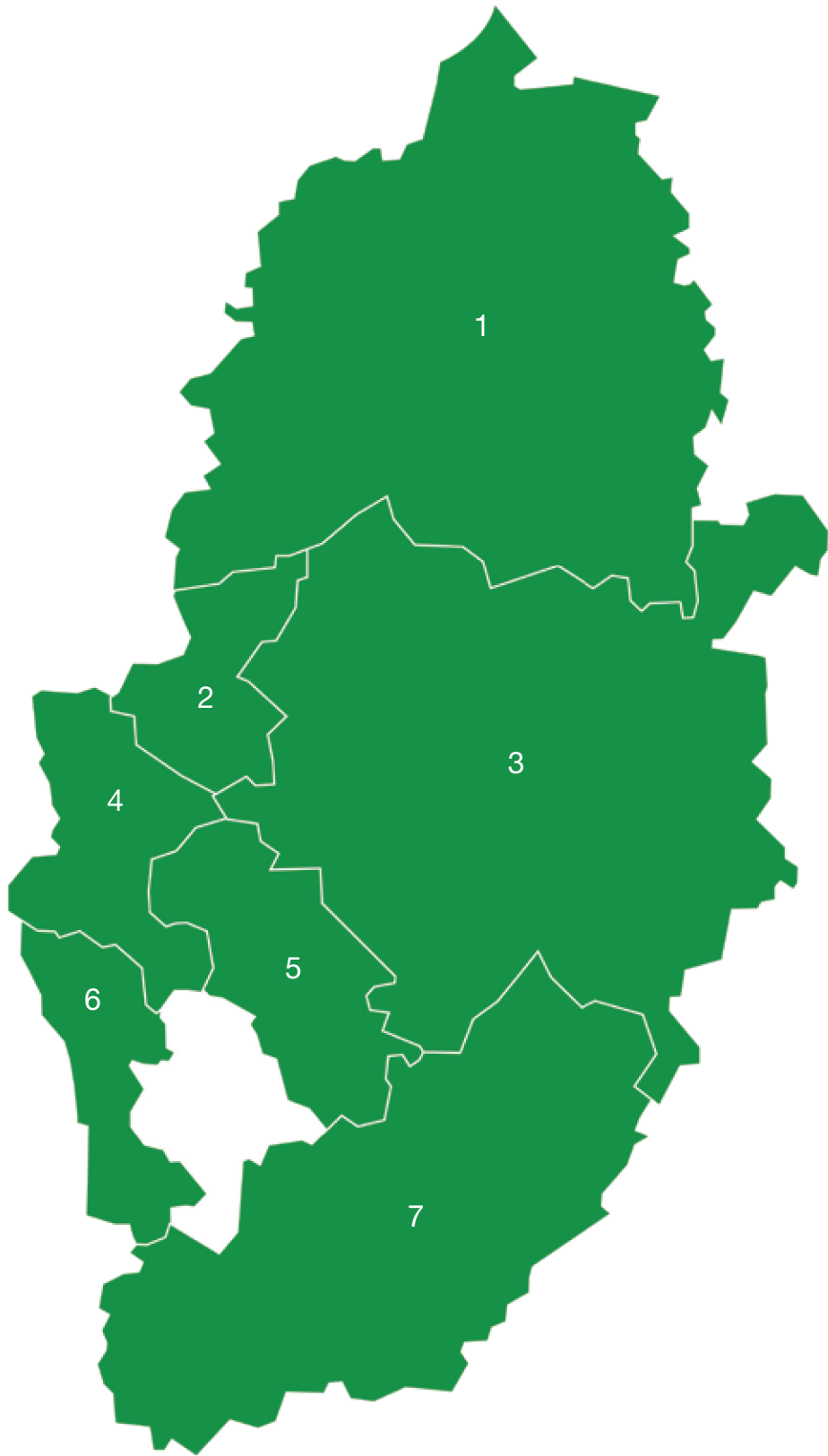
and behaviour. For the most prolific young people a range of controls will be available including curfews, drug testing, intensive monitoring and intervention involving warranted police officers. Clear options for supervising, monitoring and supporting young people on bail also need to be in place. We also need to make sure that the system is fair and that young people are treated equally no matter where they live or what their background. To do this we will monitor all sentencing information carefully and have an ongoing dialogue between all the agencies across the youth justice system to identify and address any disproportionality.

Where are we now?

In 2009 the Courts sentenced Nottinghamshire young people to custody on 68 occasions compared to 84 occasions in 2008 and 96 in 2007. We monitor the whole youth justice system for disproportionality in terms of ethnicity and we know in the past young black men have been more at risk of custody.

How will we measure change?

National indicators look at the proportion of Court sentences that are custodial sentences, but in Nottinghamshire we want to focus on the numbers of young people experiencing custody, both through remand and sentence, and to provide robust alternatives whenever it does not compromise public safety to do so.



1// Bassetlaw

Number of young people aged 10-17: 11,700
Number of first time entrants in 2009: 88
Number of young people who committed a crime in 2009: 242
Number of young people who committed a violent crime in 2009: 81

2// Mansfield

Number of young people aged 10-17: 10,700
Number of first time entrants in 2009: 186
Number of young people who committed a crime in 2009: 324
Number of young people who committed a violent crime in 2009: 124

3// Newark & Sherwood

Number of young people aged 10-17: 11,500
Number of first time entrants in 2009: 117
Number of young people who committed a crime in 2009: 253
Number of young people who committed a violent crime in 2009: 71

4// Ashfield

Number of young people aged 10-17: 11,800
Number of first time entrants in 2009: 167
Number of young people who committed a crime in 2009: 275
Number of young people who committed a violent crime in 2009: 79

5// Gedling

Number of young people aged 10-17: 11,000
Number of first time entrants in 2009: 123
Number of young people who committed a crime in 2009: 193
Number of young people who committed a violent crime in 2009: 58

6// Broxtowe

Number of young people aged 10-17: 10,600
Number of first time entrants in 2009: 88
Number of young people who committed a crime in 2009: 144
Number of young people who committed a violent crime in 2009: 35

7// Rushcliffe

Number of young people aged 10-17: 10,600
Number of first time entrants in 2009: 96
Number of young people who committed a crime in 2009: 140
Number of young people who committed a violent crime in 2009: 39