

Brighton & Hove City Council

Meeting: Community Safety Forum

Date: 07-07-03

Report of: Head of Youth Offending Services

Subject: The Establishment of An Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP) in Brighton and Hove

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To outline progress in establishing a local ISSP to target the most prolific and serious young offenders as a community based alternative to custody.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report.

3. Background / ISSP Operation

- 3.1 ISSP is the Youth Justice Boards (YJB) flagship programme for prolific and serious young offenders. It offers community based programmes to the courts as a rigorous alternative to custody. It is delivered by Youth Offending Teams (YOT) and combines an intensive focus on addressing the causes of offending with robust surveillance designed to protect the community. This includes a minimum of 25 hours supervision input per week (for 3 months), which must include weekend provision, and a minimum of 2 surveillance checks per day and use of curfews. This is enforced by tagging and voice verification provided by an external contractor.
- 3.2. ISSP is currently delivered by 50 schemes covering 119 YOTs across the country and has been implemented in phases since July 2001. As part of the final phase 4 implementation must take place in Brighton and Hove by **October 2003**.
- 3.3. ISSP is part of the Government's increasing focus on persistent offenders, with recent research showing that 3% of young offenders are responsible for 25% of youth crime. It is intended to fill a gap in the range of available disposals to young offenders by offering a credible community based programme for those at the top end. It also puts into practice the emerging evidence on what works in tackling offending behaviour and its intention is

to provide an effective alternative to short custodial sentences and help manage the custodial population.

3.4. Programme Objectives

3.4.1. The YJB have set three national objectives for ISSPs :-

- To reduce the rate of re-offending in the target group by 5% and in the seriousness of that re-offending, by 2003/04.
- To tackle the underlying problems of the young people concerned effectively, with a particular emphasis on educational needs.
- To provide reassurance to the community that the behaviour of these repeat offenders is being closely monitored and that any relapse will be effectively dealt with.

3.5. Local Implementation and funding

3.5.1. A collaborative bid with East Sussex YOT has been submitted to the YJB for approval and is based on a total of 22 starts per year (seven from Brighton and Hove). Funding is likely to be provided at around £6k per start and the programmes will build on existing YOT functions, including restorative Justice, offending behaviour work, parenting support, drugs programmes and education, training and employment. A shared Co-Ordinator will set up and develop the Sussex East Project with much of the funding used to enhance evening and weekend provision for young offenders.

3.5.2. Briefing has already taken place with the chairs of the youth panel and further training for magistrates is scheduled for September 2003. A consultation seminar has also been arranged with Sussex Police to take place in August 2003.

3.5.3. Oversight of the scheme will be maintained by a joint operational management group to be co-chaired by the two YOT Heads of Service. This group will report to the Brighton and Hove Responsible Authorities Partnership and the East Sussex Chief Officer's Group on the schemes performance.

3.6. Financial Implications

3.6.1. Whilst final funding is still to be determined, monies will be provided by the YJB for ISSP to commence in October 2003.

3.7. Legal implications/Human Rights Act Implications

3.7.1. An ISSP is not a separate court order and access to the programme is via existing disposals (Conditional Bail, Supervision Order, Community Rehabilitation Order, Detention and Training Order).

3.8. Corporate/Citywide Implications

3.8.1. The Sussex East ISSP Scheme will operate across the whole of Brighton and Hove and East Sussex.

3.9. Risk Assessment

3.9.1. No risk assessment necessary.

3.10. Sustainability Implications

3.10.1. The local ISSP will work to the Council's sustainability policies.

3.11. Equalities Implications

3.11.1. The ISSP will work within the YOT and Council equalities' frameworks.

3.12. Implications for the Prevention of Crime and Disorder

3.12.1. As outlined above, the ISSP is a major new national initiative to prevent young people re-offending with targets for recidivism set..

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