



Reduce Reoffending Fact Sheet

Better for everyone

What is Reoffending?

Durham and Darlington's Reducing Reoffending Group focuses its work on prevention, early intervention, targeted interventions and enabling desistance pathway support (the reasons why people offend) in order to reduce crime.

Prevention and early intervention initiatives can have an impact on diverting individuals away from the criminal justice system. Our youth justice service has reduced the number of first-time entrants to the system significantly by offering rehabilitative support and restorative interventions to prevent further offending and support victims of the crimes committed. This allows for a greater focus on those young people causing the most harm in our communities and those repeat young people who offend.

Evidence-based diversionary schemes like Checkpoint are known to be effective in reducing reoffending by addressing the underlying causes of offending (such as employment, drugs, alcohol, mental health, accommodation) and diverting them away from the Criminal Justice System. Targeted interventions are also required for specific cohorts such as prolific offenders in offender management, domestic abuse perpetrators and prison-based interventions.

What is the issue?

Around half of all crime is committed by people who have already been through the Criminal Justice System. The cost to the taxpayer of reoffending is estimated to be £9.5 to £13 billion per year (Ministry of Justice, 2010-15).

Reoffending has been too high for too long, despite significant Government spending on offender management in the last decade. There has been little change in reconviction rates and almost half of those released from prison go on to reoffend within 12 months. In Durham and Darlington, around a third of people who offend reoffend within 12 months.

The Home Office Online Report, 2005, estimates that between a third and a half of acquisitive crime and nearly half of violent crime is fuelled by alcohol and the Home Office estimates that 45% of acquisitive crime is committed by heroin/cocaine addicts (Modern Crime Prevention Strategy, 2016).

The Criminal Justice System needs to be effective both in terms of punishing those people who offend and stopping people reoffending through rehabilitation rather than punishment if appropriate.

Why is it important?

To reduce crime and make a difference to victims, we need to consider the underlying causes of offending and reoffending and take an evidence-based approach to rehabilitating offenders to stop them from committing further crimes.

In order to prevent crime and stop people who have offended from committing further crimes, partners need to work together to implement effective measures to ensure adults and young people who offend are challenged and supported to desist from crime.

The partnership wants to ensure that at every stage of the Criminal Justice System, young people and adults who have offended have access to services which are going to help reduce their offending in the future. It also wants to prevent people from offending in the first place by being able to access services which will improve their life chances.

How does it impact people?

The Local Criminal Justice Partnership (LCJP)) is aligned to the Safe Durham Partnership and is committed to delivering an end-to-end system for rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending. This shared objective enables people who offend to:

1. Have any underlying causes of their offending identified, and are provided with access to specialist services to help to resolve those issues – including drugs, alcohol, relationship and emotional support, and mental health – as early as possible in the system and throughout
2. Gain opportunities to improve their skills and employability and have access to work upon completion (or as part) of their sentence, in order to support them in refraining from further offending and enabling them to contribute to the local economy and community
3. Are provided with access to settled and safe accommodation, particularly vulnerable people who offend
4. Receive integrated support from agencies so that the public are kept safe
5. Are offered effective rehabilitation as part of any punishment.

This ensures the police, youth offending services, Crown Prosecution Service, Courts, Probation and Prisons, work together with those partners responsible for providing the services which help to prevent people offending, including Public Health, Housing, Employment and Mental Health services so that people can get access to the support that they need.

This approach is likely to make communities safer and reduce the number of people who are victimised.

County Durham context

- The rate of first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System has been decreasing and shows a downward trend in County Durham, with 176 entrants into the Youth Justice System per 100,000 10-17 population (Jan 19 – Dec 19)
- The reoffending rate in County Durham is 30% (Jan 18 – Dec 18), higher than the national average (29%).
- In County Durham there are an average of 4.7 offences per offender, above the national average of 4.01.
- The reoffending rate for children and young people in County Durham is 39%, higher than the national average of 38.5%.
- The level of detected crime for offenders in the Integrated Offender Management cohort has fallen over the last 12 months to 42%, this is lowest rate seen since June 2018/19.
- The rate of successful completions as a proportion of all Criminal Justice clients in drug and alcohol treatment has been increasing in County Durham since late 2018-19; with a current success rate of 13% (Oct 19 – Sep 20), although this figure seems small, this is the highest rate seen in County Durham.
- Nearly 1,000 referrals were made into the Checkpoint Deferred Prosecution Programme in 2019/20. Between April and June 2020, the number of referrals fell but have since returned to average levels.
- In the 12 months to June 2020 the compliance rate for Checkpoint Deferred Prosecution Programme has remained above 70%.
- Between April 2015 to December 2020, the Stronger Families Programme worked with 2,357 families who were identified as being involved in anti-social behaviour or Crime. 51% of families achieved a successful intervention.
- The number of pre-caution disposals has been decreasing and on a downward trend in County Durham since 2018/19.

Resources

<https://www.durham.police.uk/Services/Checkpoint/Checkpoint.aspx>

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/CDYJS>

[Our Plan | Durham Police & Crime Commissioner \(durham-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Our-Plan)