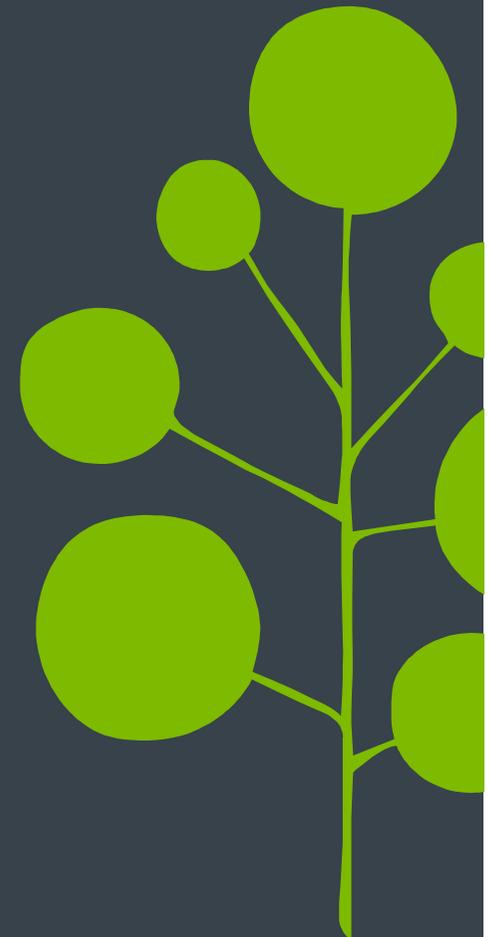


Tired of Hanging Around – Using sport and leisure activities to prevent anti-social behaviour by young people

Youth Justice Convention

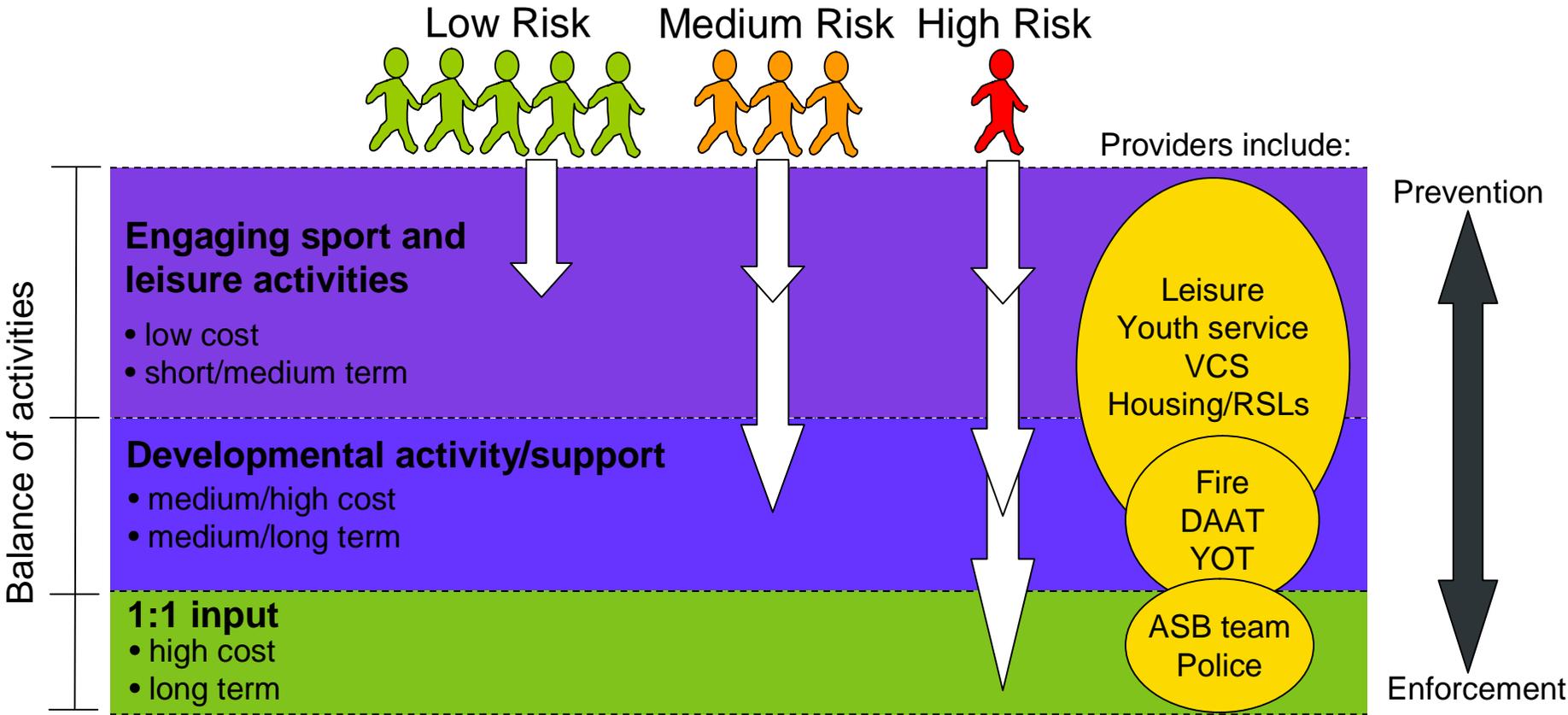
11 November 2009



Prevention is cost-effective

- Government agencies spend an estimated £3.4 billion a year dealing with anti-social behaviour
- ABCs and ASBOs are less effective on young people
- Enforcement is costly – each ASBO costs £2,500
- Costs of enforcement from age 5-16 for young offender was over £200,000
- Cost of support would have been less than £50,000
- If just 1 in 10 offenders had access to effective support, £113 million a year could be saved

Resources need to be targeted appropriately – few need enforcement action



An area wide approach is needed

- Including all relevant partners in both decisions about and delivery of projects – particularly VCS, RSLs
- An increased role for schools
- Making better use of universal facilities
- Achieving a balance between enforcement and prevention
- Publicising and marketing activities to young people in a format they find accessible
- Sharing information with other agencies about activities on offer so they can refer young people

There are some effective local projects, but still problems with engaging the right young people

- Once in projects young people do shape the activities on offer – but this rarely happens before the project is set up
- Those who are consulted are often not representative of the young people the project targets
- Young people are often not aware of local projects
- Projects do not always meet the needs of girls of BME young people
- Young people want activities that are accessible, reliable, and relevant

“There’s always money stamped to things...everything is so expensive”

“If someone’s there for them one day and then the next they feel like they’ve been dropped like a ton of bricks how are they going to build proper relationships?”

“The teacher did the same thing over and over. It got repetitive and then it closed down”

Funding arrangements do not reflect research evidence

- Funding arrangements are usually short term – to be effective projects need to run over the medium to long term
 - It takes time to set up projects and build relationships with young people and communities
 - Outcomes can only be achieved and measured in the medium to long term
 - Short term projects often don't offer ongoing support
 - Each redundancy payment takes £2,000 away from work with young people
 - Young people feel let down when projects close

“Everything gets closed down...apart from youth centres that are only open a few hours a week, there's nothing to do”

Young person

More effort could be put into coordination and building sustainability locally

Working with partners

- Work with partners to address a range of different agendas – e.g. obesity, community cohesion, teenage sexual health, drug and alcohol use
- Joint work with partners may bring resources in kind

Working with communities

- Engaging communities in projects and using local volunteers

Funding

- Coordinate bids for funding and decide whether it is worth applying for low value grants
- Gaining private investment/sponsorship

Tools and guidance are available to help improve local services

- Additional tools and guidance are available:
 - Questions for scrutiny
 - Evaluation guide
 - Advice on consulting young people
 - Self-assessment checklist
 - Summary of the research evidence about ‘what works’
 - DVD giving insights into the problems experienced by young people and projects and how these were overcome
- The Audit Commission will apply the lessons from the study in comprehensive area assessment in areas with concerns about anti-social behaviour
- Copies of the report, guidance and tools can be accessed at:

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/hangingaround>