

Management Review Knife Possession Prevention Programmes

Overview



Contents

Review approach

Findings

- Programme design
- Implementation
- Volume and profile
- Early indications of impact
- Credibility and sustainability

Review approach

Delivery models

- The range of models adopted.
- Best practice in the set-up and implementation.
- Partnership working and perceived value of programme with partners.
- Performance management and monitoring arrangements.
- Sustainability.

Impact on clients

- Levels of client engagement and take-up
- Modules - how appropriate, which are working well, what are the challenges?
- How are behaviours being monitored and changes verified?
- What do the clients think about the programme?

Credibility with sentencers

- How aware are sentencers of the programme offering?
- Is the programme viewed as credible with sentencers?
- What needs to change to become a credible programme?

Limited review - intention was to gather a 'snap shot'

Programme design

Modular approach – *the 8 modules work well with some flexibility in delivery*

- YOTs commended the modular approach which allowed the programme to be delivered flexibly. Some merged modules and complementary themes.
- The modules provided a range of differing perspectives about the impacts of knife crime. Each module strengthened and complemented the learning.
- The tone of delivery and content was educational, engaging and informative.

Content – *localised examples and personal accounts critical*

- The content of the modules needed to be localised and reflect the issues and challenges faced by young people within the local community. Some explored gang and gun culture, lifestyle issues.
- Personal accounts from victims, health practitioners from the local area were particularly powerful, as the young people could relate to the stories and anecdotes easily.
- Where possible young people provided input into the development of content such as DVDs which added value to the impact of the content.

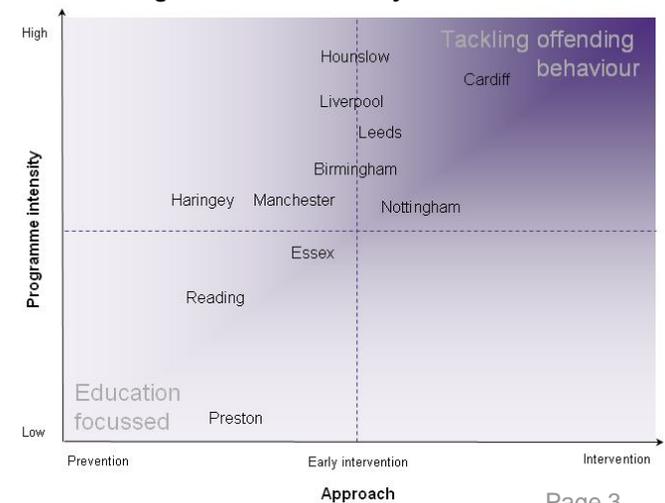
Addressing knife possession vs knife crime – *a range of intensity, and degrees of flexibility*

- Programmes varied in intensity - some YOTs focus at either end of the spectrum with lower intensity programmes addressing knife **possession**, and higher intensity addressing knife **crime**.
- The majority of YOTs provided a more flexible approach which could be tailored to address both levels of behaviour. A more flexible approach required strong design and facilitation skills within the YOTs.

The complementary learning themes of KPPP

Attitudes to knife carrying	The law	Exploring attitudes and consequences
Victim Interaction	Social implications	Understanding the impacts from different perspectives
Peer education	Health	
Managing conflict	Public space awareness	Empowering young people with alternatives

The range of focus in delivery of KPPP



Implementation

Partnership working – critical but inconsistent

- Input from partners such as health, police and third sector (victims, ex-offender groups) added value to the impact of the programme providing personal and real accounts of the impacts of knife crimes.
- Significant coordination and persistence was required to achieve partner input in delivery, which had time and resource implications. However the response from partners was inconsistent, with health input particularly challenging to achieve in some areas.
- Concerns were expressed with the sustainability of partner input - some YOTs developed replacement/back-up resources such as DVDs.
- The emotive nature of sessions that involved victims inherently carried risks, for both victims and young people. This was managed well by YOTs through the pilot period but further guidance on managing risk would be welcomed.

Timescales and skills - pilot deadlines stretched capacity

- The development of the programme required an iterative approach of design, pilot, and refinement. Most YOTs felt pressured to deliver within the tight timescales – a few commissioned external designers to develop a programme which had to be reworked.
- The format and nature of the programme which was often emotive and involved challenging the thinking and behaviours of the young people. It required strong group work and facilitation skills, which highlighted a training gap in some areas.

Format and attendance – critical mass essential

- It was felt that the referral criteria limited the numbers eligible for the programme.
- The majority of YOTs delivered sessions as group work, with the ability to deliver in a 1-2-1 if young people were deemed unsuitable for group work due to disruptive behaviour, learning difficulties etc. One YOT delivered sessions on a 1-2-1 basis only.
- An increased number of young people would help YOTs manage the cohort better - either by age or offending behaviour. A cohort of 8-10 young people was commonly identified as the optimum attendance level for many YOTs, particularly given the nature of many sessions.
- The format of sessions often involved discussion and debate therefore sufficient numbers of young people attending was crucial to delivery. This also contributed to partner confidence and securing input.

Volume and profile

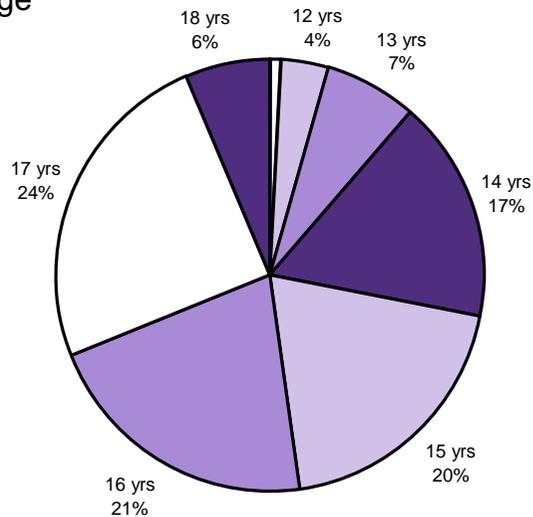
YOTs believed the pilot referral criteria unduly limited the numbers of young people eligible for KPPP.

The majority delivered the programme to those outside of the criteria to include those convicted of acquisitive crimes and/or where intelligence suggests the young person has had an association with knives.

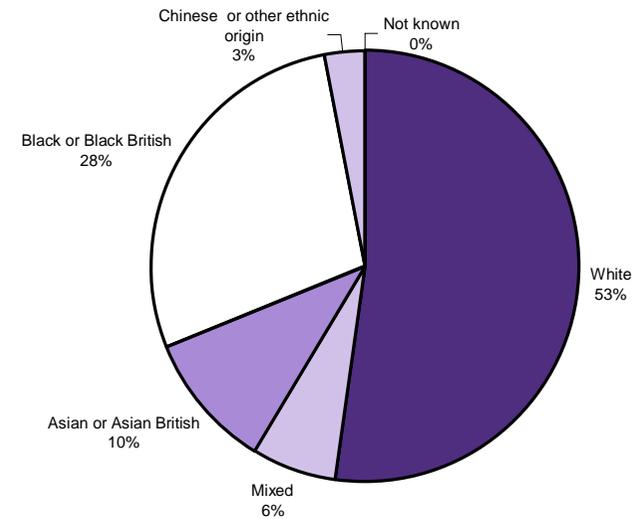
The performance returns only reflects those young people that fit the pilot criteria.

- Total number of young people receiving the programme - 265
- Male - 94%
- Referral orders - 52%, Supervision orders -18%
- Breached - 4.9%

Age



Ethnicity



Early indication of impacts

Our observations – genuine engagement

- Discussions within the sessions were challenging the young peoples' perceptions and attitudes well.
- Sessions built the young persons confidence in being able to engage in debate and discussion, in a safe environment. Young people started to challenge each others attitudes and behaviours in an appropriate way.
- Some sessions were very emotive (particularly victims and ex-offenders stories) and provided an often difficult story for the young person to take on board, but they did so with respect followed by appropriate questions.
- The programme deals with more than knife possession, but gets the young people thinking about their lifestyles, and impacts of wider offending behaviours. There is potential to use structure and format of the programme with a different focus/theme.

Views of the young people – positive on impacts

Victim empathy

- *"it's hearing Marks (the ex-offender) and the mum's stories...its just not worth carrying a knife"*

Understanding the wider impacts and consequences of offending behaviour

- *"A big part of the reason why I'm not locked up, or dead, is because I was forced to consider the harm that knife crime causes to the community"*
- *"I realise now how my actions can have bigger consequences, and can affect a lot of people...its mad how if one person gets stabbed a whole community is affected"*

Recognising a need for change of lifestyle

- *"It really changes your outlook on life...I don't hang around my old mates anymore, they really need to go on it"*
- *"it has really made me think about my actions and since starting the course I've stopped hanging around my old mates, and want to get away from my olds ways"*

Credibility & sustainability

Sentencers views – *currently awareness, credibility to follow*

- YOTs actively promoted the programme to partners and stakeholders through briefing notes to courts and magistrates and presentations to youth panels.
- There was a good level of awareness of the programme amongst the court representatives consulted.
- The programme and approach was seen as important and valued by the courts given the high levels of media and public attention that knife crimes get in many areas.
- High levels of awareness could translate into credibility for programmes over time.

Sustainability – *commitment to sustain may mean compromise on content or resource*

- Many YOTs are committed to continue to deliver knife programmes. The frequency and format may change and will be influenced by levels of need and resource available. Continued resources will be required to continue to deliver the programme in its current format.
- The coordination of the programme (particularly partner input) creates challenges to continue to deliver the programme in its current format, particularly those YOTs with capacity issues and high case loads. Some YOTs have taken steps to manage this such as the development of further DVD resources to replace partner input if it cannot be secured moving forward.
- KPPP has seed-funded the development of resources, and skills that the YOTs intend to use moving forward. Many YOTs had designed the programme and resources with sustainability in mind.
- The programme and approach was valued by the courts given the high levels of media and public attention that knife crimes get in many areas.

Contacts

David Shaw

David.Shaw@gtuk.com

0207 728 2964 / 07791 495075

Bethenie Salik

Bethenie.Salik@gtuk.com

0207 728 2950 / 07880 764 294