

Have you got what it takes?

A framework for cutting crime

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Important facts

Integrated offender management – a local framework

While all crime damages communities, a small number of persistent offenders in an area commit a disproportionate amount of crime. (Persistent offenders are those who regularly continue to carry out crimes.) As a result, tackling their offending behaviour will have a disproportionately positive effect on local crime rates.

Integrated offender management (IOM) arrangements are increasingly providing a local framework to make sure that all persistent offenders are considered by local agencies to see if they should be dealt with under those arrangements. This means that nobody is missed and that the response to each offender is proportionate to the risk that they pose. It also makes sure that the contribution of local agencies is co-ordinated so it has the biggest impact on offending, making best use of available resources.

This approach means that all those who pose a risk to the local community – because of their previous offending and the likelihood that they will continue to offend – can be considered, even if they are not formally supervised by the probation service. Offenders will often still be subject to local IOM arrangements until the risk of reoffending has passed.

Background

Local areas have different priorities when it comes to reducing crime, based on their circumstances, patterns of crime in the area and other considerations. So there is no one model of IOM. Local partners are best able to judge who their most damaging offenders are, and how best to manage local resources to make sure that they face up to their responsibilities or face the consequences.

At their best, local IOM approaches represent a good example of 'better for less'. There is improved co-ordination and joint working between agencies which means there is a clearer response to local crime while working more efficiently together.

Government support

The Government provides support, including practical tools, to help local areas put IOM into practice. These include:

- the key principles behind IOM, drawn from local practice;
- an associated IOM self-assessment diagnostic tool; and
- an IOM efficiency toolkit, to help areas develop the local investment case

Extending the approach in working together

In many areas, the local IOM approach has extended beyond criminal justice system partners, to include the voluntary, community, social enterprise (businesses which work with the state and voluntary organisations) and private sectors. We have published on our website an evaluation showing the added value of involving the voluntary and community sector in IOM in four local areas.

Building on local success

Local IOM arrangements include and build on offender-based approaches, including the following.

- The **Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) approach**, set up during 2004 to tackle locally identified persistent offenders, has been included in local IOM arrangements to provide an intensive focus on the most persistent offenders.
- The **Drug Interventions Programme (DIP)** works with class-A drug-misusing offenders and includes drug testing and assessment in the custody suite to planning for their care and management when they are released. There have been significant reductions in offending by those managed through the programme.
- The **Positive Futures programme** – central funding for 91 local projects during 2012/2013 through Catch 22 (a national voluntary organisation) to deliver arts- and sports-based activities for vulnerable young people to divert them from taking part in crime.

What will happen to Home Office funding from April 2013?

In 2013–2014 (their first full year in post) PCCs will receive funding from the new Community Safety Fund to commission (contract) services to support crime, drugs and community safety priorities. Direct funding for programmes that are part of local IOM approaches (DIP and Positive Futures) will end in March 2013.

Why focus on persistent offenders?

It is estimated that there are one million active offenders at any one time. Our work suggests that less than 1% of this group are responsible for up to 10% of crime. The PPO approach, part of local IOM arrangements, has shown the benefits of providing a concentrated focus on these offenders.

How are drug-misusing offenders identified?

Adults arrested (or charged) for offences linked to burglaries, robberies, car crime and similar crimes as well as specified class-A drug use (heroin, crack and cocaine) can be drug tested. The police carry out around 230,000 tests each year in around 170 police custody suites. A positive test result can lead to referrals for treatment and also inform court decisions on bail and sentencing. In 2010–11 nearly 63,000 class-A drug-misusing offenders were referred for treatment.

The Government has provided funding of over £100 million each year to deliver DIP on the frontline. This includes:

- **£19 million for drug testing by police forces, including for custody staff, equipment and laboratory costs;**
- **£100 million for partnerships to manage drug-misusing offenders, from both the Department of Health and the Home Office (including Wales); and**
- **around £6 million for drug testing which includes the cost of equipment.**

How effective is DIP?

DIP is estimated to help prevent around 680,000 crimes each year (though some individuals would have asked for treatment anyway). Also, Home Office research in 2007 found the overall volume of offending in a group of 7,727 arrestees was 26% lower in the six months after they had been identified through a positive drug test. Around half the group reduced their offending by about 79% in the following six months.

What groups benefit from Positive Futures?

The groups which benefit include:

- **young people displaying early behaviour problems, showing no interest in school, with problems at home, where family members may be involved in problem behaviours (including drug or alcohol misuse); and**
- **young people who show early signs of substance misuse.**

In 2010/2011, over 57,000 young people took part in Positive Futures, recording over 38,000 positive outcomes, including gaining employment and over 9,800 qualifications.

These tools help with local activity but do not place burdens on local areas, as they are free to choose whether to use them. They give professionals the power to deliver an approach that adds real value to reducing crime and reoffending locally.

Tools available from our website are shown below.

Key framework documents which can be adapted to the local model, including the key principles behind IOM.

Shared learning such as the evaluation of five IOM pioneer areas.

National statistics covering all active offenders within the scope of local IOM approaches. These are published every three months and allow local partners to measure the success of their efforts.

Practical tools such as self-assessment tools and an IOM e-learning package.

Other resources such as IDIOM, an offender-tracking tool that allows all areas to track PPOs and other priority offenders under local IOM arrangements.

For more information go to:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/reducing-reoffending>.