

Report to: Community Protection Panel

Date: 15 September 2008

Subject: Prolific and Other Priority Offender Scheme

Report of: Director of Environmental Services

Contact officer: David Gray 01942 486775

Purpose / summary: To inform Panel members about the Prolific and Other Priority Offender (PPO) scheme.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: n/a

Recommendation / decision: That Panel note the content of the report.

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	n/a
Staffing:	n/a
Policy:	n/a
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	Not necessary at this stage as client group worked with is pre-determined by involvement in crime. Diversity issues are considered as part of the multi agency response in order to ensure suitable support is offered.
Wards affected:	All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? **No**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? **No**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	x
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	x
Discussion	
Decision	
Information	x

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
15 th September 2008			

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer Martin Kimber

Date 3 September 2008

Background

1.0 What is the Prolific and Other Priority Offender (PPO) scheme?

1.1 It is estimated that approximately 10% of the active offender population are responsible for 50% of all crime. The most active of this 10% are known as Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs).

1.2 PPO's are identified locally based on

- the nature and volume of crimes committed,
- the nature and volume of harm caused, and
- the detrimental impact they have on their community

1.3 The Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) scheme is a national initiative announced in 2004 to provide end-to-end management of this group of offenders to reduce offending rates of this group of people.

2.0 PPO Strategy

2.1 The PPO strategy in Wigan is currently led by the Community Safety Partnership. The emphasis is on a multi-agency approach with Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Prisons and Probation working together to effectively catch, convict, monitor and manage these offenders in both the community and custody, and effectively rehabilitate them.

2.2 The strategy has three strands to it which are:-

- Prevent and Deter
- Catch and Convict
- Resettle and Rehabilitate.

The strands are not mutually exclusive and activity is directed by the behaviour and needs of the identified offender

2.3 Prevent and Deter aims to work intensively with those young offenders identified locally as being on the 'cusp' of becoming PPOs. The individuals within this Prevent and Deter Target Group will be identified in response to an escalation in their offending and/or the harm they are causing to their communities

2.4 Catch and convict is a managed multi-agency approach to tackle the offending behaviour of those individuals locally identified as committing most crime and causing most harm to their communities. This can involve intensive surveillance, and a swift return to the courts if the individual is in breach of any court order or licence condition.

- 2.5 Resettle and Rehabilitate involves multi-agency working to provide supportive interventions to address the needs of identified PPOs. These interventions can include addressing substance misuse and housing issues amongst others

3.0 Local Targets

- 3.1 Within the Local Area Agreement 2008-11, one of the priority indicators for Wigan is National Indicator 30, to 'reduce the re-offending rate of prolific and other priority offenders.'
- 3.2 At present the Home Office have not confirmed actual improvement targets for the above measure.

4.0 Local Structure

- 4.1 In Wigan, there are currently 85 PPOs registered. 35 are currently residing in the community, with 50 in custody.
- 4.2 The decision to activate or remove PPO status on offenders is taken in a multi agency meeting and is based on both the amount of crime committed, and crime types that have the most harmful impact on communities.
- 4.3 PPOs are case managed by Probation employed key workers, and those subject to a court order or licence conditions have an Offender Manager allocated.
- 4.4 Probation has 4 Key workers, and 2 Offender Managers that deal specifically with PPOs. The Police employ a manager of the Offender Management Unit in charge of 4 Police Officers who target PPOs. The Police and Probation service work closely to ensure that offenders are effectively targeted and appropriate support offered.
- 4.5 Over the partnership PPO structure, there is a Strategy Manager for the PPO scheme and the Drug Intervention Programme. This post ensures that all agencies work effectively together, and that appropriate services are commissioned to meet local and national performance targets.
- 4.6 The PPO Steering Group is responsible for the commissioning decisions and ensuring a partnership approach is taken when delivering services for PPOs. Membership of this group consists of senior management from Police, Probation, Wigan Council, Youth Offending Team, Wigan and Leigh Housing

5.0 Partnership Working to address Reoffending

- 5.1 Police and Probation work together to reduce reoffending. In order to effectively reduce reoffending, 8 pathways are identified in the Regional Reoffending Action Plan which forms the basis of an Action plan to rehabilitate each PPO. The pathways that need to be addressed are:
- Accommodation
 - Education, Training and Employment
 - Mental and Physical Health
 - Drugs and Alcohol

- Finance
- Children, Families, and Community Support
- Attitudes, Thinking, and Behaviour
- Victims of Crime

5.2.1 In order to deliver interventions across all the pathways, links have been built up with local service providers to improve the prospects of reducing reoffending. For example, within the accommodation pathway, the PPO workers in the Police and Probation work with the following services amongst others; Wigan and Leigh Housing, Offender Accommodation Resettlement Services (OARS), Supporting People, and private landlords. We are presently developing pathways and links to ensure we can provide effective services across all 8 pathways.

6.0 Effectiveness of the Scheme

6.1 Home Office research into the National PPO scheme published in July 2007, showed that there had been a 43% reduction in offending of the entire PPO cohort.

6.2 The Community Safety Research and Information Unit are currently developing a methodology to evaluate the impact of the local scheme.

7.0 Future Developments

7.1 • Development of premium service protocols across each of 8 pathways.

framework • Design a reducing reoffending performance management

- Conduct research on the effectiveness of the local scheme

- Review working practices to ensure most efficient and effectiveness performance is achieved in delivering the PPO strategy.

8.0 Conclusion/Recommendation

8.1 Panel are asked to note the content of the report and the work being doing to tackle those offenders that cause most harm in our communities. Further information can be obtained by contacting David Gray (d.gray@wigan.gov.uk). Progress reports will be brought to future panels to keep members informed.