



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive and Chief Constable

Date: 01 March 2018

Innovation fund – Tackling re-offending through deferred prosecution

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the use of the Home Office innovation funding to tackle reoffending through the use of deferred prosecutions and effective support interventions.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the direction of travel.

3. Background

3.1 Cambridgeshire has successfully been awarded £250,000 from the Home Office Police Innovation Fund in 2016-17. A further £250,000 for 2017-18 was approved. The bid proposal was to tackle the root causes of early offending behaviour through a conditional deferred prosecution. This will provide a foundation for multi-agency pathways to reduce demand on policing and other services.

3.2 Currently the bulk of investment is further ‘downstream’, spent on managing known offenders, rather than ‘upstream’ in preventative and early intervention work. We need to do more to manage demand on policing and other services, and improve the

impact of attending court. Where low level crime takes place, there is an opportunity to respond in a way which ensures that they do not reoffend, while also reducing costs.

- 3.3 A systematic review of all studies on juvenile court processes over 35 years covering 29 studies and over 7,000 juveniles found that court processes do not reduce reoffending overall. In fact, most studies show a backfiring effect, with offenders entering a 'revolving door' of offending. Evidence indicates that holding the prosecution over provides more of a deterrent than the court processes themselves. Research has also shown that speed as well as certainty is more effective than severity of punishment in reducing offending.
- 3.4 We have joined up our response to the most vulnerable through the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub. We recognise that we can learn lessons from the Troubled Families methodology and multi-agency safeguarding work. We can further develop linkages between existing case management initiatives such as the Chronically Excluded Adults Service and the Liaison and Diversion service. We need to look at the whole system, and create truly integrated pathways which:
- Maximise the impact on reducing reoffending
 - Provide resolution for victims
 - Reduce demand on services.
- 3.5 National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) published a document in December 2017, agreeing to the preferred position of adopting a two tier Out of Court disposal mechanism for Adult offenders; Community Resolution and Conditional Cautions thus removing all other options; Simple cautions, Cannabis warnings and Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND). Cambridgeshire adopted this position on 1st February 2018.

4. Update

- 4.1 Police identify suitable individuals and hold over their prosecution, pending compliance with conditions for dealing with the issues underpinning their behaviour. A swift multi-agency assessment process enable appropriate conditions to be set, and agreed with the offender.
- 4.2 Bespoke options for support include support for debt management; housing issues; anger management; drugs or alcohol misuse; mental health or other health needs; employment, education and training. Appropriate interventions are provided by partner organisations.
- 4.3 Compliance is monitored throughout and if the conditions are not met, the prosecution will continue. Currently @85% of those offenders issued a Conditional Caution comply with the conditions.
- 4.4 The project focuses on two key outcomes:
- Reducing reoffending
 - Reducing demand and costs associated with reoffending.
- 4.5 Benefits include:

- Savings from court processes and related police time and longer term savings through reduced demand across agencies
 - The root causes of an individual’s offending behaviour will be addressed early, before they escalate and require more costly interventions, while holding over the prospect of prosecution to ensure compliance
 - Holding the offender to account for their behaviour, but not adversely affecting the rest of their life with a criminal record
 - Ensuring the delivery of the most appropriate interventions by fewer agencies where previously many organisations may have acted independently, often duplicating services and giving conflicting advice and assistance
 - Multi-agency working to ensure that every contact offenders have with services reduce their likelihood of reoffending
 - Increased victim satisfaction
 - Ensuring that the issues causing offending behaviour are tackled by the most appropriate agency
 - The potential for prosecution should increase the motivation of the offender to get issues dealt with.
- 4.6 The model has sustainability through the use of existing resources and does not require any uplift or additional funding.
- 4.7 The funding has also been used to develop pathways – break4change, strategic needs assessment and housing event. Further pathways are currently under consideration.
- 4.8 A performance framework has been developed to ensure that performance can be monitored effectively. Currently 595 adult offenders have received a Conditional Caution with compliance rates @85% and re-offending rates @10%.
- 4.9 The project is subject to independent evaluation which is due to report in May 2018.
- 5. Recommendation**
- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note the direction of travel

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	Offender hub Project initiation document Innovation fund delivery plan
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