

STOCKPORT PYRAMID PROJECT

The ' Stockport Pyramid Project' is a working partnership targeting local prolific and priority offenders to reduce crime and substance misuse. Partners involved in the project are Probation, Police, Youth Offending Team (YOT), Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Prison Service, Courts, Local Authority (LA) and the Voluntary Sector who all work together to reduce the risk of PPOs re-offending and reduce the risk of harm to the local community.

The project was launched in July 2007 in line with the new collocated partnership team known as the Offender Management Unit based at Stockport Lee Street Police station. The project builds on the work done over the last few years around Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPO) Strategy and the Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) and has pulled this together to realign DIP and PPO and pool best practice amongst key criminal justice agencies.

Offender Management Unit (OMU)

- The OMU is one of the many components that make up the overarching 'Stockport Pyramid Project'. Other components include the Stockport Targeted Offenders Project which is an Intensive package attached to a community sentence, the Intensive Supervision and Support Programme for young people with the YOT and many more.
- The OMU comprises a mix of police and partner agency staff including drug related workers. Current staffing in the OMU includes: 1 x Police Sergeant, 3 x Police Offender Managers (one officer directly linked to the YOT), 1 X Police Offender Manager attached to the Stockport Targeted Offender Project (STOP), 1 x Police Dugs Coordinator, 1 x police admin support, 1 x drugs worker, 1 x DIP Coordinator and 1 x PPO scheme Coordinator.
- Other key agencies such as Probation and the YOT are not collocated so virtual links have been firmly established and the OMU are in daily contact. Managers meetings have been organised on monthly basis to review the progress of the OMU and to evaluate such links.
- Many other partners are involved in the PPO Tasking Group process, to name just some: Housing, Employment Services e.g. Job CenterPlus and Progress to Work which helps to get ex substance misusers get back into employment and training, welfare rights, Health, MOSAIC young peoples drug service, Alcohol and Drugs Service (ADS), Alcohol and Drugs Abstinence Service (ADAS), Connexions, Stockport Community Voluntary Sector (SCVS) etc.
- Reasons behind the move included:-
 - compliance with best practice
 - improve communication links
 - improve information sharing in the management of such chaotic offenders

- Home Office moves to align the Drug Intervention Projects (DIP) and Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) management schemes.
- The new working arrangements have seen many benefits including:
 - Tighter capture of all potential PPOs and de-selecting PPOs.
 - More effective offender management through joined up working by key agencies all collocated and sharing intelligence.
 - Communications have improved with all key agencies sharing an office.
 - DIP and PPO links have been strengthened by co-locating the PPO Co-ordinator, Drugs Coordinator and the DIP Co-ordinator working more closely together.
 - More accurate identification of all pre-prolific PPOs through work done on High Crime Causing Users (HCCUs), High Crime Causers (HCCs) and High Risk young offenders.
 - Closer capture of cross border PPOs and pre-prolific offenders.
 - Performance Management systems are in the process of being set up which the Offender Management Unit as a whole will manage.
 - Long term crime reduction – targets on track re LAA reward target for reduction in acquisitive crime which currently stands as Green.
- A formal launch of the OMU will take place in the New Year - 2008.

How the OMU operates:

- Monthly PPO Tasking Group meetings are held in which individual offender cases are discussed and actions tasked out to ensure effective case management of all PPOs. Those in custody are also looked at and a joint release plan put together. These monthly meetings are jointly chaired by the Police Sergeant, the police lead for the OMU, and Community Safety Manager, the strategic lead for PPOs on behalf of SMBC.
- Each PPO had a specific action plan monitored by the PPO Coordinator. The action plan covers all pathways to reducing that individual's risk of re-offending. Issues tackled are housing, education / employment / training needs, drugs and alcohol misuse, financial help regarding debts and benefits, relationship work (families / social networks), mental and physical health problems and work with local communities to help integrate PPOs back into society and reduce the overall fear of crime.
- All PPOs have been assigned a Police Offender Manager within the OMU. These have been split on a geographical basis for those in the community and also include those in custody. Approx 15 PPOs per Offender Manager.
- The Police Offender Manager will monitor the individual 24 hours a day and have daily morning briefings to capture intelligence from other police officers and updates from other divisions ensuring the capture of cross border offenders.
- The Offender Manager and Drugs Worker carry out joint prison visits to address the individuals substance misuse issues and carry on with

drug treatment when in the community. This ensures greater capture of all those PPOs who may have substance misuse issues.

- The PPO admin support officer checks all prison releases daily to capture any potential PPO who may be released onto Stockport division and also capture cross border PPOs.
- The Police Sergeant attends all priority / volume crime meetings to share intelligence with the Operational Policing Unit re the OMUs PPOs and the Force Neighbourhood Policing targets.
- Each Offender Manager works closely with Probation, the YOT, Courts, Housing, Prisons etc to ensure that the individual has the chance to address offending behaviour and the triggers.
- The DIP Coordinator, Drugs Coordinator and PPO Coordinator liaise daily regarding cross checking all Drug Test on Arrest, DIP and PPO clients to ensure all PPOs that should be are engaged in drug treatment.
- Currently Stockport has 84% PPOs assessed as having substance misuse issues. This falls in line with the national average of 85%. The dedicated drugs worker works with all drug users to try and address the links between crime and substance misuse.
- The Community Drugs Team drugs worker targets 25+ clients and works closely with MOSAIC Young Peoples Drug Service who works with those up to 25 years old.

‘Success’ Stories

Success can be interpreted in many different ways. The OMU focuses on reducing re-offending and in turn protecting the local community. The ‘success’ stories below highlight some of the good work that the OMU has displayed to date. Key areas can be identified as leading to such successes, such as information sharing and partnership working.

PPO 1 – He was wanted for breach of bail whilst awaiting trial for 6 burglary dwelling offences. For 6 weeks there was no intelligence/sightings and all attempts to arrest at his former home and that of associates proved fruitless. An off duty officer then spotted him in an area we didn’t know he frequented. OMU staff spent 2 days on the streets in that area hoping to sight him. He was spotted, chased and initially escaped. Within the hour OMU staff spotted the car belonging to his mother (known because of the home address checks completed in the previous 6 weeks) they gave chase and detained him in a nearby flat. He remains in custody having been given a 21-month sentence for the burglaries.

PPO 2 – He is a cared for child from the Wirral living in a children’s home in Stockport and being monitored on behalf of the Wirral by Stockport YOT. His police offender manager was not satisfied with the care being provided for him as he was effectively living alone with only daytime visit from care staff. He was visited regularly and the ISSP worker from the YOT, along with OMU staff, worked hard to have him breached on his ISSP because he was failing to attend the required appointments. He was not recalled by the court – the magistrates were persuaded by his pleas of innocence. OMU staff realised he was highly likely to re-offend and continued to target him looking for possible

offences he had committed and further breaches of his ISSP. He duly did re-offend and OMU staff identified him as the offender. The OMU supported the arrest, file preparation and attended court to ensure we supported the YOT in the local authority attempts to have him removed from Stockport and cared for in another area. He was convicted and is serving a 12-month sentence for assault. The work to have him re-homed elsewhere continues with support of the OMU and YOT.

PPO3 – He was released on suspended sentence 21/8/07 for 18 domestic burglary offences committed earlier this year. Immediately created as a PPO on release and visited by OMU staff. His attitude and behaviour caused the OMU staff serious concerns that he would re-offend so they visited him daily and built up a positive relationship with his relatives. Whilst being closely watched his behaviour and obvious drug use became more erratic. Over one weekend he stayed out late into the night and his mother noticed the following morning that he had money he shouldn't have had. She called the OMU staff and informed them of what he'd done. This information then linked into 3 personal robbery offences committed the night before. As a direct result he was arrested and later admitted the robbery offences and was charged.

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