

# The Bradford & District Youth Justice Plan 2009-2010

**BRADFORD & DISTRICT  
YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM**



Our aim is to prevent youth offending

## Introduction

"2008 has been another excellent year for the YOT. The range and effectiveness of its activities continues to increase and the inspection results underlined the tremendous job Bradford YOT is doing across the district. I am delighted by the recognition this has brought to Paul and his team.

There have been numerous outstanding individual contributions, both from staff and young people, and many have been recognised through the award ceremonies held by the YOT in partnership with other agencies. I have attended several and never fail to be impressed by the hard work, effort and commitment demonstrated. The opportunities and support provided by the YOT its partners are helping to reduce the level of youth crime in Bradford but, more importantly, they are helping young people to make those difficult first steps into a positive future.

I also want to mention the many volunteers who support the work of the YOT. Whether it be as Appropriate Adults, Panel Members or Mentors they bring so much and genuinely make a difference to the young people they work with. I appreciate their contribution.

Bradford YOT have set the bar very high for themselves but having those standards seems to motivate the staff to deliver a consistently high quality of service. The inspection has confirmed what many of us know - the YOT is making a big difference to the lives of vulnerable and at-risk young people and this continues to impact positively on levels of crime in our community."

### **Kath Tunstall**

Strategic Director for Children's Services, Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Chair of the Bradford and District Youth Justice Board



From left, Roger Bowers, High Sheriff of West Yorkshire, Kath Tunstall, Frances Done, Chair of the Youth Justice Board of England and Wales, Andrew Coggins, Dance United and Paul O'Hara, Bradford YOT Manager

## What is the YOT?

Bradford & District Youth Offending Team is a multi-agency organisation, established ten years ago, working both within the criminal justice system and children's services.

The purpose of the YOT is to reduce youth offending in the Bradford District and make it a safer place for everyone. It employs four main strategies:

- crime prevention
- work with young offenders which has been proved to be effective
- support for parents
- engagement with the victims of youth crime.

The YOT is required to submit to the Youth Justice Board an annual Youth Justice Plan detailing its performance for the previous year and its major proposals and priorities for the forthcoming year.



The YOT Olympics were another success - definitely the best games to date with lots of new records being set - none more so than the 153 young people who took part in the ten teams, along with 36 staff from all organisations. This was an outstanding turnout when you consider the bitterly cold weather they endured for 7 hours. Well done to everyone!

## 2008/09 Key Achievements Summary

- Lower Rate of Reoffending (61) after 6 months than Yorkshire (63) and Family (67). The National Average is (60)
- 3 year reduction in Reoffending Target - Public Service Agreement achieved
- Reduction in number of First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System
- 16% improvement in young offenders engaged in Education Training and Employment performance but this is significantly below Yorkshire, Family and National Average
- Low rate of young people sentenced to Custody 5.6% compared to Yorkshire and Family 6.9%, England 6.1%
- Youth Justice Board YOT assessment rated 'Performs Excellently' and rated Excellent in recent External Inspection in the areas of Outcomes for Young People
- 200 young people have received certificates to celebrate their achievements at two Award ceremonies in 2008 supported by a range of partners including the Roger Davy Award for outstanding achievement
- 75% of Magistrates rated the YOT service as Good/Excellent
- Bradford YOT won an award for excellent work with young offenders in Inside Justice Week and PC Charanjit Singh (YOT Police Officer) won a Community award from the Punjabi Cultural Society for his outstanding contribution to the Local Community
- Bradford health staff won the Bradford and Airedale Inspiration Award for the Bradford YOT/Primary Care Trust Speech Therapy project

## Key Objectives for 2009/10

- 1 To improve performance across the range of National Indicators 2009/10
- 2 Support Bradford's Children's Services and ensure the YOT contribution to the five outcomes of Every Child Matters
- 3 Support the targets of the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board in relation to the Ministry of Justice Strategic Objectives
- 4 To contribute to the work of the Safer Communities Partnership particularly in relation to Tackling Youth Crime and Anti Social Behaviour and the Prolific and Persistent Offenders scheme
- 5 To contribute to the development of the Integrated Offender Management service in Bradford
- 6 To implement the Bradford YOT Inspection Action Plan and in particular to strengthen the work delivered to young people in custody
- 7 To assist in the development and delivery of Targeted Youth Support Services and the Children's Services Locality prevention services
- 8 To support the implementation of the Youth Crime Action Plan in the Bradford district
- 9 To ensure compliance with the YOT Risk Management Policy in regard to high risk offenders
- 10 To implement the findings of Bradford YOTs Race Action Plan 2009 and continue to monitor for discrimination
- 11 To support Social Inclusion work with Looked After Children and reduce their level of offending
- 12 To improve Public confidence in the Criminal Justice System
- 13 Support appropriately identified staff through the Youth Justice National Qualifications Framework
- 14 To ensure YOT staff receive Child Care Training by identifying and developing links with the local Children's Workforce Development Unit
- 15 Prepare for transition to e-based learning as outlined in the YJB Workforce Development Strategy 2008-11

## Key Events and Awards 2008



March 2008 saw another successful Showcase event, the fourth since 2004 featured young people performing dance, music, poetry and demonstrating their achievements at the Alhambra theatre. The young people represented a range of arts, media and inclusion projects. Many of those taking part were not offenders but participating in various educational, inclusion and prevention programmes across the Bradford District.



The educational success of two hundred children and young people has been celebrated at ceremonies organised by Education Bradford, Bradford Connexions Service, Bradford YOT and partner agencies. There have been ten such events since 2003. This year the awards were presented by the Lady Mayoress of Bradford, Mrs Colleen Middleton, pictured with Amjad Hussain, winner of the Roger Davy Award for Outstanding Achievement.



At an award ceremony, organised by Bradford Punjabi Cultural Society, the work of Bradford YOT's PC Charanjit Singh in his local community was formally recognised. It was in appreciation of his work over many years in the BD3 area where he himself was born and brought up.

PC Singh is shown receiving the award from the Lord Mayor of Bradford Cllr. Howard Middleton, with Hoshiar Singh from the Bradford Punjabi Cultural Society.

## The Views of Young People

Feedback from young people given between 1st January and 31st March 2009, through the on-line Viewpoint survey. Below is a summary of some of their comments.

### Young person's view of likelihood of re-offending

Less likely to offend - **81%**    No difference - **12%**    More likely to offend - **8%**

### Comments about Referral Order Panels

Treated with respect - **86%**    Contract fair - **93%**    Affect on victim - **86%**

### YOT Staff

YOT staff interested in helping - **86%**    Treated young person with respect - **83%**

### Supervision Plans

Young person influenced plan - **44%**    Supervision plan helped make amends - **100%**



"Bradford YOT entered a team in the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board Five-a-side competition held in November 2008 in Leeds and were successful in winning the main Adult's Trophy. The lads played 7 games - winning 6, drawing 1 and going through the whole competition unbeaten. Not only that, they scored 8 goals and conceded none! A fantastic record by any standards!"

## Individual Feedback

### About the Referral Order Panel

"[the panel] treated me with respect and made me understand what is important in life."

### Understanding victims

"They must have been quite scared and they must have gone through a lot of stress. I would not want to go through that."

### What has got better?

"I now have a full time apprenticeship which means I go to college one day a week and work at the garage the rest of the week."

### What has got better?

"I got motivated by my worker and have taken a youth work course and achieved an award and now do community work with kids."

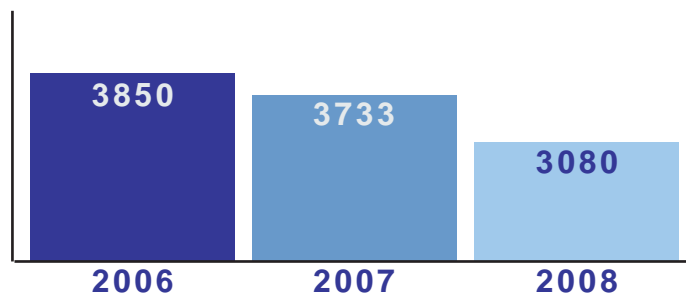
### What has got better?

"I have realised the importance of keeping out of trouble and now stop to think of the consequences."

### What has got better?

"The YOT have helped me a lot and I don't want to throw everything away by getting locked up."

## Total Offences resulting in a disposal committed by Young Offenders in Bradford



## Breakdown of offences compared to national figures

	National	Bradford
Breach of Statutory Order	6%	9.4%
Criminal Damage	14%	10%
Burglary inc. non-dwelling	4.2%	6.7%
Motoring	9.4%	10.6%
Theft/handling	19.7%	17%
Violence against person	19.4%	15.7%
Robbery	2.4%	2.2%

## National Reoffending Data Young Offenders (2007 Cohort)

- 7.5% fall in the number of reoffences committed by children and young people from 2005-2007
- 23.6% fall in the frequency of reoffending comparing 2006 and 2007
- Reduction in the number of serious offences committed by young people from 0.9 per 100 offenders to 0.73 in 2007
- YOTs and Probation have achieved National target of 5% reduction by 2006, achieved 8.3%

"These are very encouraging figures which indicate that children and young people are committing fewer and less serious offences. The YJB would like to pay tribute to the hard work undertaken by dedicated professionals in the youth justice system".

**Frances Done**  
Chair, Youth Justice Board for  
England and Wales

*Figures are based on national sample of young offenders in 2007 tracked for 12 months. Data from Police National Computer*

*Figures released by Ministry of Justice. A full report is available at [www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk)*

## Key Events and Awards 2008



Impressions Gallery hosted an exhibition produced by a group of young people from Bradford.

'Knockout' was a photography project delivered in partnership with Kala Sangam, Bradford YOT and Nacro.



impresionsgallery

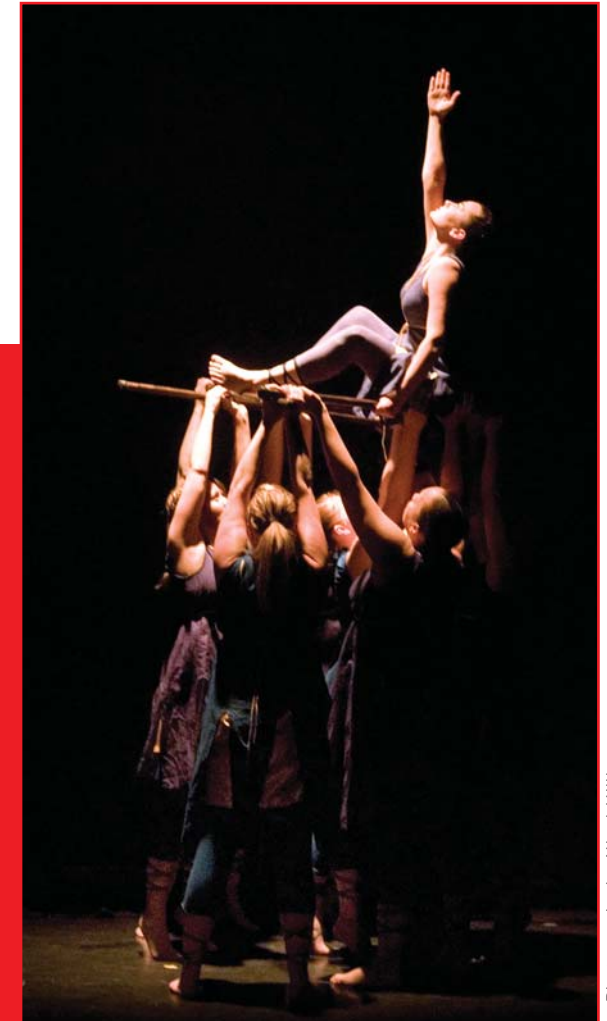
### Knockout

Impressions Gallery invite you and a guest to the exhibition opening of *Knockout*, an exhibition produced by a group of young people from Bradford. This exhibition is brought to you in partnership with Kala Sangam, Bradford Youth Offending Team and Nacro.

**Tuesday 10 March 2009 3.30pm to 5.30pm**  
**Speeches and performances will begin at 4pm**

Join us for drinks and treats  
 Exhibition continues until 3 April 2009

Impressions Gallery, Centenary Square, Bradford, BD1 1SD  
 Tel: 08400 915 882 | Email: enquiries@impressions-gallery.com | Web: www.impressions-gallery.com  
 Impressions Gallery is funded by Arts Council England and Bradford Metropolitan District Council



Photography by Nigel Hillier

The Koestler Trust received a record 5,130 entries for the 2008 competition which makes Dance United's 'Outstanding' achievement for their performance of 'AEA' all the more impressive. The photograph is from a performance which was choreographed by Claire Donaldson and Helen Linsell and performed by Cohort 4.



Kath Tunstall, young people and staff involved in the production of an award-winning DVD attended a celebratory event at the National Media Museum. The DVD 'New Kid on the Block' won first prize for Quest West Yorkshire and was put forward for the National award competition representing West Yorkshire. The DVD and teaching pack resource is designed to stimulate debate with young people and professionals about dealing with incidents that occur in Local Authority Childrens Homes.



Bradford YOT was represented at the launch of the joint Dance United/Sadler's Wells Destino production at the Royal Society of Arts in London on 2nd July 2008. The first part of the launch was a presentation on the work of 'The Academy' in Bradford and included contributions from two young people from Bradford who have gone through the project. They joined Sir Christopher Frayling Chair of Arts Council and members of Dance United to discuss the project to an audience of 150 people from a range of Art/Criminal Justice Agencies. Darryl and Danny did a great job in describing the positive impact the project had on their lives.

### For further information please contact:

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## Partners

The Bradford YOT works with its main partners, police, social services, probation, education and health but continues to build strong links with local communities with its wider network of partners.

- Bradford Motor Education Project
- Youth Service
- Joint Activity Services
- YMCA
- Connexions Bradford
- Foundation Housing
- Nacro
- Children's Fund
- Dance United
- Kirkgate Community Centre
- West Yorkshire Fire Service
- Bridge Project
- Project 6
- Himmat/Ummid
- Learning Skills Council
- Arts Council West Yorkshire
- Bradford Bulls
- Kala Sangam
- West Bowling Community Partnership
- Bradford Youth Development Partnership
- National Media Museum
- Common Purpose
- PRISM
- Prince's Trust
- Bradford Council Sports & Recreation Service
- Aspire-i
- Bradford Council ASBO Team
- Bradford City Football Club
- In Communities (Social Housing)
- Brathay
- Freedom Studios
- Waxworks
- Keighley Arts Factory