

New Approach to Tackling Youth Crime

February 2009

'Youth Justice: The Scaled Approach' and the introduction of the new **Youth Rehabilitation Order** is a major project being implemented in December 2009 that will bring about a change in practice for youth justice services. The objectives of this project are:

- to develop a tiered approach to interventions in order to reduce likelihood of re-offending and risk of serious harm
- to ensure increased levels of supervision
- to ensure a coherent relationship between National Standards, Key Elements of Effective Practice and the new case management guidance
- to support case management as an end-to-end process, and improve practice in assessment completion, pre-sentence report (PSR) writing and intervention planning
- YRO will simplify and provide a more robust sentencing framework

Purposes of Sentencing

The new sentencing structure will clarify the purposes of sentencing:

"Courts must have regard primarily to the principal aim of the youth justice system... to prevent offending by persons aged under 18."

Courts must have regard to welfare and:

- The punishment of offenders
- The reform and rehabilitation of offenders
- The protection of the public
- The making of reparation by the offender to victims

"I welcome this new initiative and look forward to working with magistrates and legal advisors of the Bradford and Keighley Youth Courts to ensure it's smooth introduction and that this 'scaled approach' will help reduce offending."

**Paul O'Hara
Bradford YOT Manager**



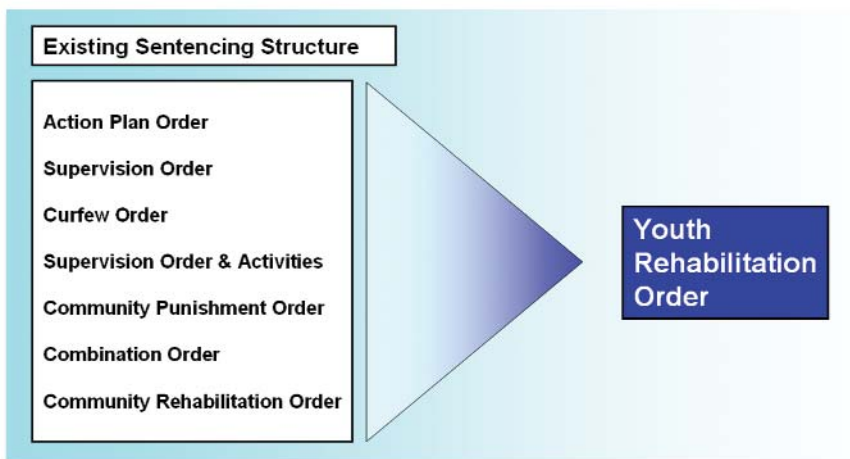
The Youth Rehabilitation Order

- Will replace nine existing community sentences
- Will simplify youth sentencing structure
- Will enable magistrates to tailor sentences to individual risk and needs
- Provides a menu of interventions to tackle offending behaviour
- Provides robust community sentence that can be returned to on multiple occasions minimising use of custody

The Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) commences in December 2009

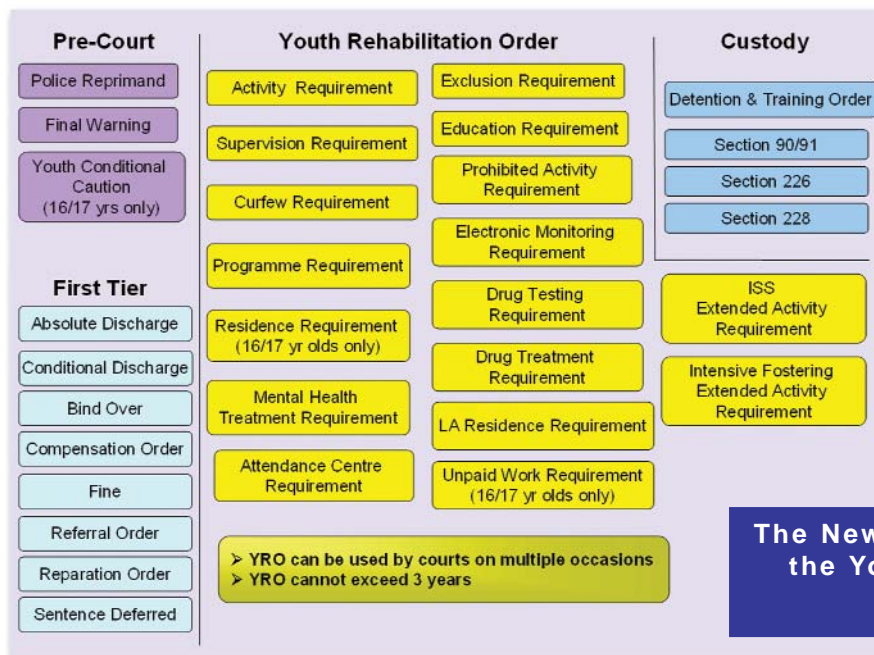
Experience shows

- Short orders work best with focus on 3 to 6 months
- They most effective in reducing offending and fit with young peoples maturity and age
- Clarity around expectations in order not to confuse young people
- Longer orders only in exceptional cases



“The key issue will be to ensure that staff are trained and Magistrates are prepared for this new approach and the new Youth Rehabilitation Order. In order for it to work we need short effective interventions primarily between 3 and 6 months that help young people stop offending.”

**Bernard McNulty
Team Leader
Scaled Approach**



The New Sentencing Structure including the Youth Rehabilitation Order from December 2009