

Site

Cheshire YOS

Name of project / initiative

DIVERT

Overview

DIVERT is a multi-agency initiative, focused on the point of arrest, to divert the person concerned from ending up in the criminal justice system. On arrest, where the offence allows for the possibility of an out-of-court disposal, the police contact the YOT who conduct a comprehensive assessment of the person concerned and prepare an action plan, overseen by the YOT, involving a package of services to address the person's needs and help divert them from future offending. It is a truly multi-agency initiative with positive engagement of Police, CPS, Courts, Police and Crime Commissioner, local authorities, CCGs etc., with the strap line that "Diversion is better than Court". It has pathfinder status with the YJB and is recognised nationally and locally as a leading project of its type in successfully diverting children away from the youth justice system and into appropriate services, i.e. education, health, early help etc. as well as demonstrating cost effectiveness.

Longevity

Over 10 years

Benefits

DIVERT has kept countless young people out of the criminal justice system entirely, and referred them on to relevant support services to help them take a different path.

Uniqueness

Has been rolled out more widely though we still think we are the original and the best.

Applicability

The principles underpinning this could be applied anywhere in community criminal justice settings – including with adults (not just young people).

Requirements

Needs local commitment and strong links with local police, courts, CAMHS, CCGs etc.

For more information:

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