

NI 30: Re-offending by Prolific and other Priority Offenders - Managing partnership performance

1 Description

1.1 NI 30 measures the level of re-offending by an identified cohort of Priority and other Prolific Offenders (PPOs)¹. The NI 30 definition of offending refers to the number of offences brought to justice (ie. convictions).

1.2 Reward Grant

Successful achievement of the LAA outcomes 2008-2011 will attract performance reward grant payable in 2011/12 and 2012/13. The Performance Reward Grant for NI30 relates to performance in 2009/10 and 2010/11 (years 2 and 3 of the LAA only).

2 Brighton and Hove activity 2008/09

2.1 2008/09 Target

The LAA target was to reduce the number of proven offences committed by an identified cohort of offenders by 27% (from a 2007/08 baseline of 285 offences to 205 offences in 2008/09). We fell short of the target, having only achieved a 22.8% reduction (220 offences).

2.2 2008/09 Performance

Performance data to the end of quarter 1 showed that the number of offences was almost on target. When performance data up to quarter 2 became available in February 2009 this showed a worsened position². During that same month the multi-agency PPO Steering Group discussed the performance information with a view to seeing whether any steps could be taken to improve performance against NI 30. It was noted that a greater level of partnership resources was being directed at the highest risk PPOs on the 'Rehabilitate and Resettle' strand of the PPO Scheme, and there has been less intensive activity with other PPOs on the 'Catch and Convict' strand. The reoffending rate of the highest risk PPOs assigned to the Rehabilitate and Resettle strand of the PPO programme through the 'Intensive Supervision Scheme' had been low, and it was therefore felt that more focus needed to be placed on the 'lower risk' PPOs. A decision followed to adjust resources to increase the level of engagement with the Catch and Convict PPOs. This revised approach came into effect during the rest of 2008/09 and continued into 2009/10 when an additional staff member was brought in to support work with the Catch and Convict strand. The partnership moved towards working with offenders in the Catch and Convict strand, entering into 'offender compacts' and our management of this group of offenders now includes the active involvement of Police Community Support Officers. In addition, members of the PPO Steering Group explored the possibility of making adjustments to the way in which some PPOs were being dealt with in the court system to improve effectiveness. These and other shifts in approach were introduced in order to encourage improvements in performance in the months to come.

3 2009/10 Performance

3.1 2009/10 Targets.

¹ The year 1 cohort relates to those 83 offenders who are identified locally as PPOs as of 1st April 2008

² Convictions data become available after a time lag of between about 4 and 7 months after the offence period.

Agenda item 55 Appendix 2

In Year 2 the target negotiated with GOSE was to reduce the number of proven offences committed by the cohort of offenders assigned to the PPO Scheme as of 1st January 2009 by 21% from a baseline of 322 convicted offences during the period 1/10/2007 to 30/9/2008 to 254 offences in 2009/10. A reduction target is also to be applied to the 2010/11 (Year 3) cohort based on the same 'level of ambition' as agreed by negotiation in Year 2, but translated according to the characteristics of the Year 3 cohort. The Year 3 target is subject to adjustment up (or down) if performance in Year 2 falls below (or above) the target for Year 2.

3.2 Steps taken to provide earlier interim local data

During Year 1 we learned that there were significant time lags in receiving performance data via the 'official' route, which reduced the length of time available to respond to the performance shortfall. It was therefore decided that we would seek to collect interim proxy data to provide an earlier indication of progress in reducing offending. This involved counting the number of arrests and charges, as well as convictions so that we could gain a sense of the level of offending prior to the offences reaching the conviction stage.

3.3 Latest position

As noted previously, 'official' NI 30 performance data are released on a quarterly basis and there is a time lag between the reporting period and the data becoming available. For the Year 2 Cohort, the latest official data relate to the position at the end of quarter 2. Up to this point 72 offences have been recorded. Although on the face of it, this is well below the maximum number allowed according to our target of 254 offences for the full year, we know from experience that the offences for this first half of the year will further increase as time goes on and offences reach the point where they are brought to justice. Nevertheless, taking our local proxy data into account, we are confident that we are well positioned to reach the Year 2 target comfortably.

Further details on how NI 30 is defined and measured and on the target-setting process are available in Home Office Guidance.

*Ruth Condon
Community Safety Manager, Performance
Partnership Community Safety Team
tel: 29-1103*

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