

CASE STUDY - KIRKLEES ▶▶▶

On 20 December 2002, Dave was sentenced to 12-month Supervision Order with specified activities. Dave was also ordered to comply with Calderdale & Kirklees Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP), and a three month Electronically Monitored Curfew of 9pm to 7am.

Dave had been charged with 10 offences between May 2001 and November 2002, He had committed 3 offences of dwelling house burglary, 2 offences of non-dwelling burglaries, 2 offences of harassment / threatening behaviour, 2 offences of theft from motor vehicles and 1 offence of aggravated taking without owners consent (TWOC).

Dave attended his first appointment after Court and did not see the point of being on ISSP, he said that no-one could help him as he had not really done anything wrong. The first 6 weeks working with Dave were very difficult for the whole team, as he did not want to engage with any work and did not feel his offending was a problem. Dave had moved in with his dad and step-mum, as his mum had thrown him out due to his offending behaviour. Dave did not get on well with dad who was always contacting the ISSP team to see if we could make Dave behave at home and do more in the house.

After a period of time Dave started to engage with the work undertaken. This was due to him being in breach of the order, and a member of the ISSP team explaining to him that, as he would not fully participate with the work, a balanced report could not be put to the Court. The report could not say he had done things that he had not done. Dave then realised he could be looking at going into custody, as he had not complied with the order given. Dave had two weeks until the Court date. He attended all appointments and participated well with all work undertaken - this became the turning point for Dave. His order was allowed to continue with 12 hours attendance centre as punishment.

Dave completed his ISSP order during which he carried out offending behaviour work looking at his offending and the consequences. Dave has not committed any offences of burglary, harassment, theft from vehicles or TWOC since finishing ISSP. He has had three jobs since completing ISSP in June 2003 and, although he has had short periods of time out of employment, he says he wants so stay in full time employment and stay out of trouble.

Dave is living independently and managing well. He says that had he not been given the chance on ISSP he would probably still be offending and would have spent time in custody by now.



A PARENT'S VIEW ▶▶▶

"When my son was put on the ISSP, it was like total and utter relief. For the 25 hours a week that he was with his advocates, I didn't have to worry about him. And it really helped his younger brothers and sisters too. The ISSP was absolutely blinding."

TEAM PROFILE ▶▶▶

Ged Smith is a **Project Worker** on the ISSP team. He moved into the social care sector in 1996 and gained a degree whilst undertaking a voluntary role providing one-to-one support for children with disabilities on residential holidays. After graduating with a First Class BA (Hons) Degree in Sociology & Criminology. Post-University he worked for six months as a Nursing Assistant on an adult psychiatric ward. Ged joined the ISSP team in 2002.

"This role has provided experience of dealing with the often chaotic lives of young people who are persistently engaging in law breaking activity. I believe that the scheme offers a robust, credible and positive option for the Courts, community and participants."

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ISSP *insight* ▶▶▶

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION AND SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

HELPING TO REDUCE YOUTH CRIME IN CALDERDALE AND KIRKLEES

ISSUE 1 - JULY 2004

WHAT IS THE ISSP? ▶▶▶

The Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP) is a community programme designed to tackle persistent young offenders through rigorous supervision and surveillance. First launched in summer 2001, and funded jointly by the Youth Justice Board and the Home Office, it combines intense supervision with the toughest surveillance of any community programme. Instead of roaming the streets, persistent young offenders are subject to surveillance, such as electronic tagging or voice verification and an intense programme of education and training, offending behaviour work and one-to-one supervision.

It is a **strong alternative to custodial sentences and remands** for young repeat offenders - ensuring they are not just called to account for what they have done, but also made to take responsibility for their actions.

ISSPs are not a soft option – they are demanding programmes which help reduce the likelihood of re-offending. They avoid the disruptive pitfalls of removing young people from their communities and then having to resettle them.



FACTS AND FIGURES ▶▶▶

"Does it work?"

In 2002, **57 young people** took part in the Calderdale/Kirklees ISSP. Prior to joining the scheme they committed a total of **814 offences**, which included assault and burglary. Whilst on the ISSP **157 offences** were committed.

Most of these offences were much less serious e.g. shop-theft and damage.

This demonstrates a significant reduction in both the level (over 80%) and the seriousness of offending.



Members of the ISSP team pose for a photograph never dreaming it would make the front page of the newsletter.

THE ISSP TEAM'S MISSION ▶▶▶

The ISSP team is led by Jackie Key and is made up of project workers, community workers and other specialised staff seconded from a range of agencies in Calderdale and Kirklees. The team are based across the districts with a head office in Halifax town centre. They have a **clear mission statement** which drives all their activities and provides a focus for the team:

"With the aim of reducing offending, we will offer an holistic and structured service to young people subject to ISSP, recognising their individual needs and abilities and encouraging them to adopt positive and responsible attitudes and behaviour towards themselves, their families and their communities. This will be done through the power of the courts, in partnership with all the relevant agencies and in conjunction with the Youth Justice Board."

Supported by:

Calderdale
Youth Offending
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JACKIE KEY - ISSP MANAGER ▶▶▶

Jackie started working with young people in the late seventies as a swimming pool supervisor at a local youth club and caught a bug she's never managed to get rid of! Since then she has worked in Education, the Youth Service, residential homes, child protection and in 1993 what was then called a Juvenile Justice Centre. By 2000 she was managing RISSAP in South Yorkshire, a project that was to become the prototype for the Nationwide ISSP. This was a whirlwind experience during which Jackie travelled to the USA to look at their intensive programmes.

"I believe ISSP is a positive model for dealing with serious and persistent young offenders mixing the right amount of carrot and stick to enable chaotic and damaged young people to make the most of their skills."

Offending rates of young people who have taken part in the scheme since 2001 have dropped considerably, offering a cheap and credible alternative to prison custody. Now the Calderdale and Kirklees scheme is to be one of the 11 pilots for the extended 1 year ISSP, more serious young offenders will be managed in the community.

Jackie's job presents constant challenges but is never predictable.

"This keeps me active with a youthful outlook despite my advancing years! My two grandchildren also help slow down the ageing process helping me see the lighter side of life in an occupation that can be incredibly stressful!"



CASE STUDY - CALDERDALE ▶▶▶

Miss A has been known to the Youth Offending Team since February 2003 and has a long list of previous convictions for offences including burglary, assault and having an offensive weapon. She started with ISSP on 9 July 2003.

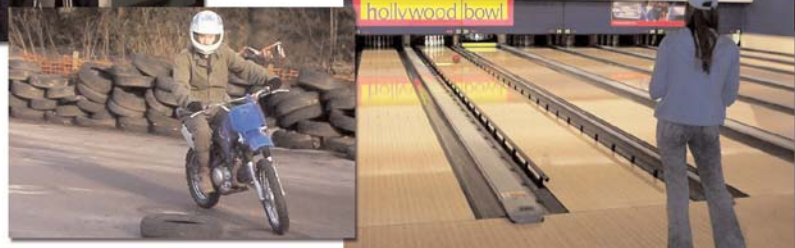
Whilst on ISSP she was secured an education placement at Calderdale Training (a local training provider), and she did modules of work based around her offending at the ISSP office. The work included offending behaviour, victim awareness, basic skills, social skills, drugs and alcohol work and drugs work. She was also linked to a connexions worker who supports her with education and training needs and helps her to compose letters of application and CVs. Miss A really enjoys music and specifically Djing. She attended (with the help of the ISSP Tea) various courses throughout West Yorkshire to pursue this interest. A referral was made to the Princes Trust and she was granted £220 to purchase music decks, which enabled her to continue her hobby.

Miss A attended a weekend at Edale Youth Centre in the Lake District which included drugs awareness work and team building exercises such as potholing, abseiling and caving. Miss A also attended a conference for young people in Middlesborough, which focused on difficulties that young people face on a daily basis. Miss A completed ISSP successfully on 8 January 2004 and at this time she was transferred to the main YOT to

complete the remainder of her Order. Since completing ISSP Miss A has not been charged with any other offences. She is now doing broadcasting at Beaumont Studios, which she is finding interesting and has asked for extra hours. She has also been in touch with a careers advisor with a view to starting college in September.



A great strength of the ISSP is the range of interventions used to engage the young people and develop their confidence and self-esteem.



CASE STUDY - DEWSBURY ▶▶▶

Billy Boyd was 17 years old when he was sentenced to ISSP. He appeared before Dewsbury Youth Court on the 15 October 2002 for offences of Threatening Behaviour, Criminal Damage, Common Assault and AOABH. He was sentenced to a 2 year Supervision Order with 90 days ISSP and 3 months Electronically Monitored Curfew from 9pm - 7am.

The problematic issues surrounding Billy's offending were his drinking. All offences had been committed whilst under the influence of alcohol. Also the relationship with his mother was very volatile. On entering the programme priority was given to his alcohol abuse. A referral was made to then Lifeline in Dewsbury where he was linked with a YOT drugs worker on a weekly basis.

After numerous confrontations with his mother and discussion with colleagues it was felt that it would be in Billy's interest to reside with his father, who agreed this would be best.

Billy secured a place on a training placement, during which time he gained full time employment with an agency. He completed work focusing on offending behaviour and victim awareness. Billy successfully completed his ISSP element of the Supervision Order on 14 April 2003 and with the intervention of Lifeline, Billy gained control of his drinking.

Bill was transferred over to Dewsbury YOT to complete the remainder of his Order. After discussions with his YOT Officer I can confirm that Billy is in full time employment, working for a construction company and complying fully with the Order, and to this date has not re-offended.

TEAM PROFILE ▶▶▶

Rachel Hiley, Senior Practitioner on the ISSP team, developed an interest in working with socially excluded young people whilst undertaking a HND in 1992.

Since qualifying as a social worker in 2000 she has worked at the Calderdale Youth Offending Team.

Rachel was seconded to the ISSP at its beginning and became Senior Practitioner in August 2002.

"I thoroughly enjoy the intensive nature of the work and feel it's of real benefit to the young people. I have also enjoyed being part of the development of the committed and dedicated staff team that is ever evolving."



TEAM PROFILE ▶▶▶

Arelys Gomez Reve is a Project Worker and came to England in 1993, and did voluntary work in different educational settings, in the effort to acclimatise to the culture, language and the different experience of living here.

She decided to go to University in 1996, and in 2000 gained a Law Degree - a year later she completed a Legal Practice Course both at Huddersfield University.

Before working with the ISSP team, she worked teaching GCSE to children excluded from main stream education.

"Although I have not been long working with ISSP I already love my job, on a daily basis we give a variety of young people the opportunity to stay within their community, rather than facing a custodial sentence."

Arelys believes the ISSP team are organised and flexible and the staff have a tremendous degree of cohesion.

TEAM PROFILE ▶▶▶

Bob Garton, who is married with two daughters, worked in the Far East on Government "Hearts & Minds" campaigns followed by twenty years managing people with Ryvita and Jammie Dodgers. He then worked for seven years as a Remand Carer.

He said, "Remand caring, living with young offenders, made me realise how many of these young people had missed out on the things my kids had experienced."

For Bob, working as part of the ISSP means being part of a team. For the young people he works with it means bringing structure, responsibility and sometimes fun into their life. It enables them to access the help they need in order to change and improve their life. Bob added, "The community benefits through a reduction in offending and its associated costs."