

THE MANAGER'S VIEW - JACKIE KEY ▶▶▶

"The option of an increase in length for ISSP came into force with the Anti-Social Behaviour Act on October 1st 2004. Calderdale and Kirklees ISSP was one of only 11 schemes nation-wide selected to pilot the new order. The 12-month alternative is designed to offer the courts a realistic sentence for those young people who have offended most seriously and for whom 6-months would not be long enough to alter their behaviour. Locally, we are targeting young people who have committed offences of dwelling house burglary. To date, neighbourhood courts have sentenced five young people to the 12-month option.

Clearly it's early days to be talking about success. However, for two of the aforementioned five young people things are definitely improving. With the pilot scheme came extra funding enabling new staff to join the team and the establishment of a base at Dewsbury, in addition to Halifax and Huddersfield.

We have also created an employment and education project in conjunction with the National Children's Centre in Huddersfield to provide work experience for young people subject to ISSP. Our experience suggests that such young people have less opportunity to practice being in work than other young people. As having gainful employment is a clear indicator in the reduction of offending this project will become an increasingly important string to our bow. Local employers have been asked to support this by offering placements to young people with the result that we now have several names on the list. Our first young person should be on placement during the Spring of 2005.

The latest figures prove that ISSP works in reducing offending. With the advent of 12-month ISSP now providing an additional option for the courts I'm confident that we can improve on this."

CASE STUDY - KIRKLEES ▶▶▶

Michael, now aged fourteen, was born to an English mother and a Pakistani father. Soon after, his mother was left to care for Michael on his own. His mother had another two children, but Michael's behaviour started to deteriorate mid-July 2004 when, together with some friends, he entered a house and removed quite a lot of valuable goods.

Three months later Michael committed his first burglary on his own. After this Michael climbed the criminal ladder very fast committing a further burglary, criminal damage, and being found in enclosed premises with the intention to cause damage.

When Michael first came to ISSP, he was awaiting trial for his last burglary. At the time he was unable to express any remorse for any of the offence he had committed. He lacked maturity even for a child of his age, and had severe issues to deal with. Consequently, his mother decided that she did not want him at home.

The ISSP team liaised with Social Services and other agencies to provide Michael with care. A foster placement was found for him and planning meetings were undertaken to provide Michael with education alternatives.

Michael was rather apprehensive about his trial. He was remanded to a DTO in January this year. After a successful appeal he came back to ISSP in March. This experience has had an effect on him and Michael is a changed young person. He attends all his appointments, often coming 20 minutes earlier. He attends an education provision three times a week and he is thoroughly enjoying it. He has found some new friends.

Michael had some confusion in relation to his family heritage and mixed race background. This has been addressed via self-awareness and identity core programmes. He has also undertaken offending behaviour and victim awareness session and has managed to express some genuine remorse for some of his offending.

At the time of writing, Michael has not re-offended again and, although it is early days, we feel we have come a long way with this Young Person. He is one of the first 12-month ISSP orders. He is very enthusiastic about finishing the order and keeping himself out of trouble. He engages well in all constructive activity scheduled for him - he specifically likes IT sessions with the community activity workers.

Recently Michael's mother has expressed a desire to take him back home. However Michael does not feel this would be good for him and a new foster placement has been found for him.



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# ISSP insight

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION AND SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

HELPING TO REDUCE YOUTH CRIME IN CALDERDALE AND KIRKLEES

ISSUE 2 - MAY 2005

THE 12-MONTH ISSP ▶▶▶

Calderdale and Kirklees is one of eleven areas piloting the new 12-month version of the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP). This doubles the length of time young offenders can spend on the scheme.

ISSP is the most robust and intensive community punishment available to the courts. It is individually tailored to address the causes of offending, while providing surveillance to ensure that the young offender knows they are being closely monitored. The current programme lasts for six months, with the first three months involving at least 25 hours a week of supervision and rigorous surveillance. Young offenders are often given a Curfew Order that can be reinforced by an electronic tag.

The new 12-month programme will allow some young offenders to spend six months on the more intensive phase of the programme. It doubles the time that can be spent on a Curfew Order and allows for more work to be done with the young person to prevent reoffending.

Sir Charles Pollard, Acting Chair of the Youth Justice Board, said, "The new 12-month version of ISSP is a very positive step forward in the fight to divert some of the most persistent and serious young offenders from a life of crime. Dealing with young people in their own community means that the causes of offending behaviour can be effectively addressed. The current 6-month programme is suitable for the majority of our target group, however there is a hardcore of young offenders that can benefit from an extended version. We hope that the additional work that can be done with these young people on the 12-month ISSP will make a real impact on the chances of them re-offending."

Paul Goggins, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Correctional Services and Reducing Re-offending at the Home Office, said, "I welcome this very positive development by the Youth Justice Board. The Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP) is targeting the most persistent and serious young offenders who are responsible for 25% of all youth crime. The new 12-month programme doubles the amount of time that a young offender can spend on ISSP, providing more intensive intervention to address the causes of their offending behaviour and increased supervision in the community."



See inside for a detailed breakdown of how Calderdale & Kirklees ISSP delivers the new 12-month programme.

DOES IT WORK? ▶▶▶

Between October 2003 and October 2004, 54 young people were made subject to ISSP by the courts. They committed 842 offences in the year prior to ISSP. **60% of those offences were rated at levels 3-7**

The Youth Justice Board grade offences from 1-7 with 7 as the most serious.  
An example of a Level 1 offence is Drunk and Disorderly.  
An example of a Level 4 offence is Assault.  
An example of a Level 7 offence is Arson.

During ISSP, 181 offences were committed. **20% of these were rated at levels 3-7**

Many young people did not re-offend at all.

**These figures represent a 78% reduction in offending and an 82% reduction in the level of seriousness.**

TEAM PROFILE - NATASHA DENNIS ▶▶▶

Publicity shy Natasha Dennis began work with Kirklees YOT in August 2000 as a Modern apprentice studying Business Administration. Her role included liaising with the young people who came into the YOT to see their workers. When working with the young people in this way, she developed a keen interest in becoming more involved in the work of the YOT.



In April 2002, Natasha (or Tash to her friends) trained to be a referral order panellist and had involvement in implementing restorative justice into the lives of the young people that accessed the service. By August 2002, she was employed as one of fifteen Advanced Modern Apprentice Trainee Youth Offending Team Officers based in West Yorkshire. This was a pilot project in England and Wales and its success led to the Youth Justice Board offering further funding for young people around the country.

This role involved Natasha supervising young people, producing reports and analysing the many of the issues faced by young people within the criminal justice system. In September 2004, she achieved an NVQ3 in Community Justice and Offending Behaviour. Following her qualification, she was employed by the ISSP team as a Project Worker. She said, **“I wanted the job because I felt that I had worked with all levels of offenders apart from the highest tier, which are those covered by the ISSP Umbrella. So far I have found the job demanding but rewarding, especially when young people complete the programme successfully with so many restrictions attached to it.”**

She concluded by saying, **“I feel that ISSP within Kirklees and Calderdale has scope to be developed in ‘great ways’, and I hope opportunities arise for this to happen.”**

CASE STUDY - CALDERDALE ▶▶▶

Ryan is 15-years-old. He received a 12-month ISSP in November 2004 for three dwelling house burglaries and an offence of arson.

Ryan has spent over 5 full days, whilst on his order, redecorating and cleaning the home of one of his victims. This work will continue until all work is completed.

He is now in full time education for the first time in 12 months. He has not re-offended and he has not missed any of his appointments.

Ryan has achieved Skills Awards in Bronze and Silver during his time with ISSP and is working towards the Gold award.

He is expected to appear before the sentencing judge on a monthly basis to monitor progress.

Throughout his time on 12-month ISSP staff have found Ryan both responsive and willing to engage.

TEAM PROFILE - JULIE BRITTON ▶▶▶



Julie has been part of the ISSP team for just over a year and has brought a wide range of experience. She’s run a restaurant, been a nurse and had five years with Securicor as part of their electronic monitoring or ‘tagging’ team. In that role she was working face-to-face with offenders of all ages which included young offenders. This experience has proved useful in her role within ISSP.

Julie said, **“The programme is a direct alternative to custody and we need to be strict in its enforcement - its about public confidence. An important part of my role is dealing with breaches and returning the young person to court if necessary. We have those who work hard and see the programme through without re-offending, and that is very satisfying, but those who don’t have to understand the consequences.”**

Home visits and liaising with the families and local communities is also a key part of Julie’s role. This means working outside of office hours. She doesn’t mind this aspect of the job and believes the intensive level of contact is one of the main reasons for its success. Julie added, **“The ISSP definitely isn’t a soft option for the young people we work with. It’s a very tough and demanding programme that gives them a structure and focus to their lives that is often completely lacking.”**

12-MONTH ISSP TIMELINE ▶▶▶

ISSP is not a court order. Courts can give ISSP as a condition of a community sentence (a Supervision Order or a Community Rehabilitation Order), as a condition of bail, or as the community supervision element of a Detention and Training Order. The new 12-month ISSP will only be available to those young people on ISSP as part of a Supervision Order.

The new 12-month ISSP extends the contact time available for young people, particularly in the intensive period at the beginning of the programme. The chart below illustrates where each of the eight elements of the programme are introduced and how the emphasis changes as the programme develops.

Jackie Key, ISSP Manager, said, **“The 12-month alternative is designed to offer the courts a realistic sentence for those young people who have offended most seriously, and for whom 6-months would not be long enough to alter their behaviour. The 12-month programme provides the opportunity to work very intensively in the first four months but maintain a higher level of contact in the months following. This is important because the ISSP team can help the young person to build on the progress made in that early phase.”**

MONTH	INTENSIVE				MEDIUM INTENSITY		LOW INTENSITY						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
REVIEW	Formal	Informal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Informal	Formal	
EDUCATION & TRAINING	Assessment	Placement			Placement and work Experience								
SURVEILLANCE	Tag				V V Tracking		Tracking						
CORE PROGRAMME	24 sessions completed				Specific Project Work								
MENTOR INVOLVEMENT			Referral	1st Meeting YP & Mentor	Twice-weekly contact			Weekly contact					
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	← Reparation - 24 Hours →				Assessment Tool Completed		Referral for conference and mediation where appropriate			Victim Liaison meetings			
FAMILY SUPPORT	Assessment of specific need	Home Visit	Targetted Session	Home Visit	Home Visit	Targetted Session	Home Visit	Targetted Session	Home Visit	Home Visit	Home Visit	Home Visit	
	← Weekend Home Visits three-weekly →												

TEAM PROFILE - DAN SMITH ▶▶▶

Dan Smith is a recently appointed project worker on the ISSP team in Calderdale. Prior to that he worked for twelve years in the voluntary youth sector for charities in Bradford. He has a part-time youth qualification and recently completed the personal adviser diploma with Huddersfield University.

From 2002 Dan worked for a West Yorkshire Police project whose aim was to reduce youth crime across West Yorkshire. The project enabled disaffected young people in their final year of education to participate in an extended work placement and access personal development opportunities.

In 2004 he became a Personal Adviser for Connexions working for Education Bradford. His roles were to offer support to students with multiple issues and engage them back into educational provision.

Although Dan has been a member of the team for a short period of time, he has found the team friendly and very hard working. He said, **“I was attracted to the ISSP team because of the intensive support that is offered to young people who face many difficulties. The structured programme offers a holistic package that encourages young people to make positive lifestyle choices. I’m very committed to being a part of that and believe we are making a big difference to many of the young people we are working with.”**

