

**ADULT PERSISTENT (PROLIFIC) OFFENDERS, NEWCASTLE INTENSIVE SUPERVISION AND MONITORING SCHEME****Joint Report of the Chief Constable, Clerk and Treasurer**

---

**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to provide members with an update in respect of the Adult Persistent (Prolific) Offenders, Newcastle Intensive Supervision and Monitoring Scheme.

**2 BACKGROUND**

At the Police Authority meeting held on 23 October 2002, members were advised of a successful bid for Government funding in respect of the provision of a constable to be employed as part of the Adult Persistent (Prolific) Offenders, Newcastle Intensive Supervision and Monitoring Scheme. Funding totalling £75,000 was obtained for the financial years 2002/03 and 2003/04.

The constable works with a probation officer to identify prolific offenders, making them aware they have been targeted, liaises with other agencies regarding support to prevent reoffending and monitors reoffending

Members noted the contents of the report and asked that a further update be provided on the success of the scheme (minute no137(ii) - 2002/03).

The scheme involves targeting the 40 most prolific offenders within the four Newcastle Area Commands (Newcastle Central, North, East and West). The targets are selected using the following criteria:

Aged 18 years and over

Have been convicted of six offences in a twelve month period for acquisitive crime

Have been convicted of ten offences in a two year period

Targeted offenders are advised that they have been identified as “persistent offenders” and that they are subject to enhanced police monitoring. However, in conjunction with a number of different agencies various strategies are put into place to offer appropriate support and assistance to scheme participants to help prevent them reoffending. These are provided in partnership with the National Probation Service and other agencies such as Newcastle City Council, Citizens Advice Bureau, Benefits Agency and Job Centre Plus.

The Magistrates Courts are linked to the scheme and those who do reoffend are put before the courts with a view to seeking remands in custody and custodial sentences.

### **3 CURRENT POSITION**

At present there are 29 offenders on the scheme. Of the 96 offences that have been committed whilst on the scheme, 62% of these have been for acquisitive crimes. There have been a number of instances that have resulted in the offender being released with no further action being taken.

A significant number of other offences have been for breach of bail or failing to appear at court.

The majority of convictions for the offences identified have resulted in community rehabilitation orders, with only one offender receiving a custodial sentence of three and a half years.

The scheme is due to end on 31 March 2004.

### **4 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

### **5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

Although there are no direct human rights implications arising from the report itself, the provision of additional officers does have human rights implications in that the Force has a duty to promote human rights. The work of the officer may be said to promote the 'right to life', the 'right to respect for private and family life' and the 'peaceful enjoyment of property'.

### **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Treasurer confirms there are no other financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

In order to ensure there are no costs to the Authority beyond the expiry of the funding, an appropriate exit strategy will be devised.

### **7 RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.