

Taking the time to tackle prolific offenders in Derbyshire



The Reach Project is multi-agency led, bringing together criminal justice agencies, community safety partnerships, Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAAT), the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP), housing agencies and other support networks. All agencies involved have a responsibility to deliver a 'premium service' to ensure that Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs) are identified as quickly as possible, are assigned a dedicated worker and are given priority access to appropriate offending behaviour programmes. In addition, those offenders that aren't complying with their conditions will be fast tracked back into the criminal justice system and returned to custody where appropriate, much like the below case study highlights.

The targeted people in this project are offenders causing the most harm to local communities by bring together essential elements to provide real opportunities to help break the continued cycle of reoffending. Part of the scheme is to target people that continue to wreak havoc in local communities. This then reduces volume crime and tackles substance misuse.

Alfreton experienced an increase in dwelling burglaries from November 2007 to February 2008. Intelligence led to three suspects, of which two were arrested in February 2008. Evidence collection led to the third suspect being arrested the following day. In one day in February, six burglaries were committed, with one of the suspects being charged for two and admitted to the other four. When remanded in custody and taken through the process, he admitted a further 168 crimes spanning two Police divisions, most of which were dwelling house burglaries. The PPO was sentenced to five years in custody in May 2008. The other two defendants are also PPOs and 'class A' drug users. One has been sentenced to 11 months for possession of criminal property and the other is on remand awaiting trial for several burglaries. After the three were arrested at the beginning of February, dwelling burglaries committed in Alfreton virtually stopped.

Chief Inspector Sunita Gamblin, Serious and Acquisitive Crime Co-ordinator said: ***“The d The Reach Project feature an end to end approach in offender management. Partners actively tackle offenders who cause the greatest harm. The monthly divisional meetings are well attended by all agencies who are committed to sharing information to catch and convict the active PPO population.*”**

“Running parallel to this, all agencies are working towards rehabilitating and resettling offenders by offering a range of

supportive interventions.”

The **Premium Service Protocol**, which has recently been reviewed to incorporate current working practices and procedures, sets out what is expected of each statutory partner and compliance will be monitored via the PPO Steering Group. Pocket-sized booklets will shortly be produced reminding staff about the protocol and the full document can be found at **www.derbyshirecriminaljusticeboard.co.uk** under downloads for CJS Staff and Partner Organisations.