



Devon & Cornwall Police

Force Policy & Procedure	Youth Policy
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Portfolio Holder:	Assistant Chief Constable Alliance Prevention

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1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 Devon and Cornwall Police work together as one team to safeguard communities and neighbourhoods, working with partners to keep children and young people safe from harm and prevent offending and reoffending.
- 1.2 Devon and Cornwall Police recognises the majority of young people are not involved in crime or anti-social behaviour and are responsible, law-abiding citizens who make a positive contribution to their communities.
- 1.3 Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are often the first point of contact with families and young people in particularly vulnerable situations

and therefore have a crucial role regarding the early identification of children with additional unmet needs.

- 1.4 In line with the Children Act 2004, the Force has a statutory duty to co-operate with the Local Authority to improve the well being of such children and young people.
- 1.5 Children and young people are classed as all those individuals that are 24 years of age and under.
- 1.6 The small proportion of young people involved in crime and anti-social behaviour can have a significant, and often enduring, impact on the quality of life within a neighbourhood. The Force and its partners will continue to address the behaviour of the minority who commit acts of anti-social and criminal behaviour through the effective application of our [2014-2017 Devon and Cornwall Police Youth Strategy](#).
- 1.7 This Policy document supports delivery of the [2014-2017 Devon and Cornwall Police Youth Strategy](#) and is written with cognisance of the Children Act 2004, [NPCC Youth Strategy](#), and fully supports the Neighbourhood Policing Strategy.
- 1.8 This policy should read in conjunction with [D024 – Crime Reporting, Management and Investigation Standards](#)
- 1.9 In the application of this policy staff are reminded of the need to comply with the standards and principles of the [Code of Ethics for policing](#).

2. Introduction

- 2.1 This Policy responds to [Lord Laming's Report](#) into the death of Victoria Climbié, the [Every Child Matters](#) agenda, subsequent legislation contained within the Children Act 2004 and the Children and Families Bill 2013.
- 2.2 Devon and Cornwall Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall have a statutory duty under the Children Act 2004 to co-operate with each Children's Services Authority, with a view to improving the wellbeing of children and young people. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 outlines a duty to take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people when delivering our service.
- 2.3 The 2014-2017 Devon and Cornwall Police Youth Strategy and associated Policy reflect the aims of the [NPCC Youth Strategy](#), which emphasises 'wherever possible a joint agency problem-solving approach should be undertaken to deliver a tailored response to meet the needs of children, young people and the wider community which is proportionate to the threat involved'.
- 2.4 This Policy supports delivery of the Force's Strategic Plan, geographic Business Plans, the Neighbourhood Policing Programme and Local Authority Children and Young People's Plans.

- 2.5 This Policy ensures neighbourhood and youth resources are targeted towards children and young people who display additional needs not currently met by mainstream service delivery and whose circumstances or behaviour is having a detrimental effect upon their own development or the quality of life within that neighbourhood.
- 2.6 Working in consultation with partner agencies, officers and PCSOs will work towards achieving long-term solutions to local concerns, and through appropriate and proportionate intervention will address offending behaviour, thereby reducing crime, disorder and the fear of crime across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- 2.7 The inspection criteria, which is set within the framework of the Children Act 2004, will assess the Force's engagement with children and young people and how the Police Service can improve how it operates across each Local Authority, through delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 2.8 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall will ensure that the Force has appropriate and effective policies and procedures in place to meet their statutory responsibilities.
- 2.9 The effective implementation of the [2014-2017 Devon and Cornwall Police Youth Strategy](#) and this Policy reflect the strategic objectives of the Force and the Peninsula Strategic Assessment and will:
- 2.10 Prevent and reduce the harm caused by crime and antisocial behaviour involving children and young people through intelligence led, problem-solving approaches.
- 2.11 Achieve early identification of a problem and effective early interventions, proportionate to the likely threat, risk or harm.
- 2.12 Use a number of functions to address antisocial behaviour and crime directly attributed to children and young people. Use the VIST form, the ASB escalation process and intelligence submissions to assess how young people within our communities are subject to threat, risk and harm.
- 2.13 Improve the satisfaction and confidence of children and young people in the police service by enhancing the quality of interactions and understanding how policing interventions can impact upon life opportunities.
- 2.14 Provide effective early interventions to reduce the risk of children and young people becoming victims or offenders.
- 2.15 Article 12 of the [UN Convention of the Rights of the Child](#) states 'Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously'. Accordingly, staff and officers effectively consult, engage and where required, undertake interventions. Consultation must be widespread, diverse, targeted, constant and use existing structures.
- 2.16 Policing interventions have the potential to change a young person's life, both in a positive and negative way. To achieve the best outcome for the young person and

prevent them from becoming victims or perpetrators of crime interventions must be proportionate and appropriate.

- 2.17 To work with other agencies to improve the effectiveness of our responses to children and young people, whilst driving down cost through improved working practices, especially with regard to the sharing of information and making the most of opportunities presented by technology.
- 2.18 The Force provides secure, effective and timely sharing of information between agencies involved in working for the benefit of children and young people. Sharing of information takes place at both a strategic and a practitioner level.

3. Procedures

3.1 Force Youth Strategy

- 3.1.1 The [Force Youth Strategy](#) will support the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- 3.1.2 Neighbourhood Policing Teams will deliver the same level and quality of service to Children and Young People according to their needs. Through the engagement of children and young people as part of the community, we aim to develop greater cohesion and provide opportunities for all citizens to influence policing priorities in their neighbourhood.
- 3.1.3 Through the effective application of a Youth Strategy, which fully supports our Neighbourhood Policing delivery, we aim to engage with all members of the community in identifying and resolving the problems that are most important to them, thereby inspiring greater confidence in the police service.
- 3.1.4 Youth Intervention Officers will support Neighbourhood Policing Teams by working alongside partners to target and signpost specialist intervention towards those children or young people who have identified additional unmet needs.
- 3.1.5 The small proportion of young people involved in crime and anti-social behaviour can have a significant and often enduring impact on the quality of life within a neighbourhood. These young people will be targeted through the effective application of the Youth Strategy and the development of links to Community Intelligence and LPA Tasking and Co-ordinating processes.
- 3.1.6 Effective application of the National Decision Making Model and National Intelligence Model at neighbourhood level will support the delivery of this policy. Intelligence gathered from within the community and partner agencies, together with appropriate information sharing, will enable analysis of both Police and partnership data in order to co-ordinate resources and address neighbourhood concerns. This intelligence led process will be further utilised through the effective use of the 'Force Tasking Process' managed within the Intelligence Directorate.

3.1.7 Youth Intervention Officers are trained on the completion of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or local equivalent under the Children's Act 2004. The CAF will be utilised to co-ordinate delivery of multi-agency resources to meet the complex needs of children and young people not currently met by universal service provision, in order that we improve well-being and reduce the risk of offending, re-offending or victimisation as circumstances dictate.

3.2 Individual Roles and Responsibilities

3.2.1 Associated Working Practices support delivery of the [2014-2017 Devon and Cornwall Police Youth Strategy](#) and Policy D108. The following roles will adhere to their relevant working practices which pay due regard to delivery of the youth strategy:

- Police Community Support Officers.
- Neighbourhood Beat Managers.
- Youth Intervention Officers.
- Force Youth Issues Lead.
- YOT and YISP Seconded Officers.
- Community Safety Team Sergeants.

3.3 Related Guidance, Protocols, Practices or Service Agreement with other Agencies

- [NPCC Youth Strategy](#)
- Children Act 2004 [Link](#)
- YJB – Developing Restorative Justice – Action Plan. [Link](#)
- [Reducing reoffending and improving rehabilitation](#)
- Common Assessment Framework.
- [Peninsula Strategic Assessment](#).

3.4 Administration

3.4.1 The [VIST](#) is completed by frontline staff when additional unmet needs are identified in line with working practices.

3.4.2 The VIST fulfils the function of an initial CAF assessment as specified under the Children Act 2004.

3.4.3 YIOs are the only resource nominated and trained to complete a Full CAF Assessment.

3.4.4 VIST are retained in accordance with policy [D032 – Records Management](#)

4. Assessment Compliance

- 4.1 This policy has been drafted and audited to comply with the principles of the Human Rights Act. Equality and diversity issues have also been considered to ensure compliance with Equality legislation and policies. In addition Data Protection, Freedom of Information, Management of Police Information and Health and Safety issues have been considered. Adherence to this document will therefore ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and internal policies.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 Monitoring and raising awareness of this policy to be undertaken within each LPA and supported by Youth Issues Team, Alliance Prevention Department, HQ.

6. Review and Ownership

- 6.1 The review of the contents of this policy is the responsibility of the Head of Alliance Prevention Department. Review of the policy will be undertaken annually.

7. Useful Links

Internal

D012	Safeguarding Children
D024	Crime Reporting
D025	Handling Intelligence
D034	Domestic Abuse
D036	Misuse of Drugs
D072	The Management, Recording and Investigation of Missing Persons
D140	Mental Health Issues
D199	Restorative Justice Policy
D258	Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
D290	Anti- Social Behaviour and Escalation Policy
D313	Information Sharing Policy
D328	Prolific and Other Priority Offenders
D340	PND Policy
VIST	Guidance
2014-2017 Devon and Cornwall Police Youth Strategy	
Devon Safeguarding Children Boards	
Single Safeguarding Process	

External

NPCC Youth Strategy
Peninsula Strategic Assessment