

## **London CJB strategy key part of drive to tackle youth crime**

The London Criminal Justice Board's (CJB's) youth strategy forms a key part of a new drive to tackle youth crime and improve the safety of young people in London.

The *Safer Young London* report, which was launched at the House of Commons last week, proposes that three key 'safety nets' be used to help reduce youth crime in London – one being the London CJB's new youth strategy.

The report was produced by the London Youth Crime Prevention Board (LYCPB), which was set up to design, test and embed – over an eighteen month period – new measures to prevent youth crime and improve the safety of young people in London.

The LYCPB brought together for the first time all the pan-London and local agencies responsible for tackling youth crime in the capital – from children's services to the criminal justice service, community safety and the voluntary sector. London Criminal Justice Board (CJB) Chief Executive, Andrew Morley, was one of the members of the LYCPB Board.

Central to the strategy developed by the LYCPB was the belief that, in order to stem the flow of youth crime:

- young people need to feel safe
- young people who lead interesting and rewarding lives will be more resilient to being drawn into crime
- young people need a criminal justice system that they have confidence in.

In response to the above, the LYCPB have developed a number of 'safety nets' to help tackle youth crime in London. The safety nets are:

### **The universal safety net offered by schools**

The Schools Safety and Cohesion Programme means that, for the first time, all London schools and partners will have access to a single, comprehensive method for improving how they keep children safe and, where necessary, out of trouble.

### **Provision for children excluded from mainstream school**

The Pan London Back on Track Project will seek to transform every Pupil Referral Unit in every London borough, raising all to the level of the best.

### **First contacts between young people and the criminal justice service**

The London CJB's *Making Youth Justice Work Better* strategy will provide a cross-system response to youth crime in the capital. The strategy seeks to ensure that every interaction a young person has with the criminal justice service delivers outcomes that make communities safer, prevents offending, and enables young people to improve their life chances.

Supporting the plan, Attorney General Baroness Scotland said:

"Improving the youth justice service in London is a significant priority for the London CJB as it is for me personally. Whilst there is much we can and are doing as criminal justice agencies to deliver this I recognise that making our young people feel safe and helping them flourish requires more than any one agency or sector can deliver on its own.

"The work of the London Youth Crime Prevention Board provides the model for driving coordinated activity that reflects the experience of young people.

"Whilst we should never forget that most young Londoners are doing positive things with their lives, those who are not need to be challenged and supported and it is only by working together that we will have any chance of succeeding in this."

The LYCPB was created following the prioritisation of youth crime by the London Community Safety Partnership and was announced after a No 10 Gun Crime Summit in February 2007.

**More information:**

- For more information on the LYCPB, visit the Young London Matters [website](#).
- The report can be found [here](#).
- For more in London CJB's youth strategy, visit our [website](#).

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