

YOS Case Synopsis

CASE EXAMPLE 1 (X – MALE – 17 YEARS)

CONTEXT

X was subject to a 6 and 4 month concurrent Detention and Training Order. X was assessed as needing Intensive supervision and was therefore required to report to the YOS twice a week. As X was paced in another London borough he reported to the local YOS.

X received these offences for 1 x Assault Occasioning Bodily Harm, 1 x Affray, 1 x Possession of an Offensive Weapon, and 1 x Assault Occasioning Bodily Harm, 1 x Possession of Offensive Weapon. The assaults were unprovoked on unknown victims.

X had a history of offending, prior to this offence he was subject to a 4 month Referral Order for offences of Taking Without Consent – Vehicle, and Driving Without Insurance, and Driving Without Licence. Over the course of this order X had demonstrated poor compliance.

X's attainment and achievement within the education setting was below average, and he presented with problematic behaviours.

YOS INTERVENTION

As a result of his formative experiences, X presented as a young person that was difficult for authorities to engage. He held previous limited rapport with Children's Social Care and Bromley YOS. The breakdown in the relationship with professionals was attributed to the entrenchment of this young person's experiences (gangs, domestic violence, instability).

Initially X had presented to the YOS due to his driving offences which are generally assessed as a low level offending category and driving offences do not usually indicate a likelihood of continued, prolific offending patterns. However X continued offending patterns were varied, violent and associated with gangs and as a result, X received a custodial outcome.

Once he was in custody, X's YOS officer undertook regular visits to X and set about developing a holistic intervention plan targeted at reducing reoffending, risk, and increasing overall wellbeing with the practical goal of resettlement. X's YOS officer engaged the services of:

- Staff at the Young Offenders Institute.
- Social Care Social Workers.
- Community-based support services. (Mentoring while in custody)
- Specialised Education and Training Professionals with the YOS.
- Engaged and engendered the trust of X's mother and family.

After serving his sentence, X was released from custody on a Detention and Training Licence. Through collaborative work coordinated with the above

stakeholders, X was helped to secure accommodation in a different part of London and a college placement. He has recently successfully commenced a trainee/apprenticeship arrangement and is undertaking charity work over the Christmas period. X is also being supported by a mentor. This arrangement was put in place by the YOS at the start of the custody order and the mentor arrangement has continued into the community.

One of the catalysts for change for X has been the professional rapport that the YOS has been able to develop with him, and a well coordinated multi-agency resettlement plan. While it is acknowledged that there are various negative implications relating to exposure to the Criminal Justice System, X as a result has been exposed to various resources, facilities and opportunities through his contacts with the YOS. X has also had improved access to health services, education, community support, and his family have benefited as a result. Risk factors relating to X and his gang affiliation/s have decreased significantly, by placing X away from his peers and community, and there have been no reported incidents of reoffending.

CASE EXAMPLE 2 (B – MALE – 14 YEARS)

CONTEXT

B is subject to a 2 year Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) with Junior Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) and an Electronic Monitoring Service (EMS) Curfew (3 months) for the offence of 1 x GBH with Intent .

B knew his victim, he has no previous convictions, and since this incident he has not been arrested or charged with any other offences. When considering the motive of the offence, B admitted he was angry with the victim because they have had on going conflicts.

YOS INTERVENTION

B as a result of his particular order is required to attend the YOS **15 hours per week**. Prior to the offence, although he was enrolled in school B did not attend for a period of 6 months. This was attributed to a Bail Undertaking designed to protect the victim prior to sentencing, whereby B had a directive that he was not to be in the borough.

Following receipt of the YRO and ISS, B was required to reintegrate into education. Reports from education staff confirm that B has settled in to the education routine positively, and his attendance, behaviour and progress have been likewise positive.

As a requirement of his YRO and ISS, B is required to attend the YOS **every day** following school where he participates in the following offence focused work.

- B has completed a one-to-one victim awareness programme
- B has completed Consequential Thinking Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).
- B has completed work regarding his emotions, managing his anger, and adapting a more appropriate conflict style.
- B has completed a Weapon's Awareness project.
- B has had access to therapeutic and clinical services through the YOS, namely he has been assessed by CAMHS and where necessary would have been offered ongoing support. However it has been identified that B's behaviour was relevant to a combination of learnt behaviours, and immaturity and therefore could be effectively addressed through CBT and boundary reinforcement.

In addition to the above, B engages in weekend contacts, which involve gym/structured recreation. B is also supported with his homework as a measure of supporting his reintegration into the education setting.

B has successfully completed his EMS curfew without occasion of breach, and he has successfully completed the initial 3 intensive months of his ISS without incident of breach. There have been no incidents of reoffending. Although B is subject to a 2 year YRO, the intervention planning targets are to

shift the focus to goals of reintegration and exit planning. In line with research, and literature relating to offending profiles, B's age, response and progress indicates that his prospect for rehabilitation is high.

Given the above, the focus of the work with B has now shifted to work regarding implementing an exit-planning strategy which will be focused on resettlement, and an introduction to community based services as a stepdown

The goal is to explore the opportunity for early revocation for good progress, which involves returning the order to Court and requesting that the order is reduced in its timeframe.