

Reaching out to tackle and support persistent offenders

It is estimated that, nationally, out of a million active offenders, 100,000 offenders have three or more convictions and are responsible for half of all recorded crime. The active offender population is not static, 20,000 individuals leave this pool every year and are replaced by another 20,000.

But thanks to The Reach Project, the County's Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) scheme, criminal justice agencies together with key partner organisations are reducing volume crime and tackling substance misuse across the County.

After the government launched the PPO strategy four years ago to target offenders who commit the most crime and cause the most harm to local communities, individual Community Safety Partnerships have led the multi-agency scheme which is proving to be a huge success in helping persistent offenders turn their lives around.

Offenders are required to work to a challenging and demanding programme of monitoring and supervision delivered by agencies represented on Derbyshire Criminal Justice Board and have been helped to leave behind a path of offending and look towards a crime free future.

Some key facts:

- In March 2008, there were 48 PPOs in High Peak and Derbyshire Dales
- 26 to 30 is the peak age group which is older than the National and East Midlands peak age group
- 91% of PPOs are White British
- Acquisitive crime and violent crime are the main PPO convictions in High Peak
- 60% of the PPO population are in the community or criminal justice system, with 40% in custody

For further information about The Reach Project, please visit www.derbyshirecriminaljusticeboard.co.uk or contact Laura Gurnett on 01773 733423.