

Justice sector BPS initiatives

THERE ARE 60 INITIATIVES IN THE SECTOR'S BPS RESULTS ACTION PLAN.

These are new programmes, policies, investments and ways of working to reduce crime and re-offending and provide better public services.

RESULT 7: REDUCED CRIME, VIOLENT CRIME AND YOUTH CRIME

► Collective Impact Toolbox

A collective impact toolbox to help frontline managers work together to better effect frontline services was launched at the first regional frontline workshop on 17 May 2013 in Christchurch.

The toolbox was designed by justice sector frontline staff and the Ministry of Justice, Department of Corrections and New Zealand Police through a number of workshops and feedback sessions held during February and March 2013.

The toolbox includes:

- tools and techniques that are designed to help justice sector frontline staff work together easier
- case studies as examples of how to change work practices
- a template of documents and instructions frontline staff can draw on.

Staff can choose from a number of tools, those most relevant to them and their community.

► Prevention first

A targeted police response has seen an 88% drop in residential burglaries in one of Hamilton's most vulnerable areas. Over recent months there was a significant increase in burglaries in the Waikato region. Police responded by focusing on crime prevention in the worst affect areas. Police saturated the vulnerable areas with a mixture of high-visibility patrols at night - coupled with community staff doing follow up visits and crime prevention messages during the day. This resulted in a drop from 99 burglaries to 33 in one week.

► The Hutt Valley innovation project

In July 2012 the Justice Sector Leadership Board initiated the Hutt Valley innovation project to see how greater collaboration between agencies could achieve BPS targets in the Hutt Valley.

This involved bringing together a working group of justice sector operational managers with strong local knowledge and operational experience.

The group was set clear objectives:

- Lead crime reduction and provide enhanced support to repeat victims through better connectedness of frontline justice services.
- Identify and implement initiatives that achieve justice sector Better Public Service targets and improve service delivery in the Hutt Valley, and elsewhere, through innovation and enhanced on-the-ground collaboration between agencies.
- Identify initiatives that could be applied nationally.

The working group identified 10 initiatives including:

- Introducing audio-visual link facilities at the Hutt Valley court.
- End-to-end management along the justice sector pipeline and better information sharing.
- A review of the Family Violence Court.
- A community outreach mobile office van.
- Raising attendance and achievement in the youth sector (RAAYS).
- Maori Wardens in court.

These initiatives have been approved by the Leadership Board and are now being implemented, with many capable of being rolled-out nationally.

RESULT 8: REDUCED RE-OFFENDING

► Interventions delivered by probation staff

Probation staff are now delivering brief alcohol and drug interventions, relapse prevention, and motivational interventions to offenders throughout New Zealand. This enhanced capability means probation staff are better able to support community-based offenders to recognise and address the factors that contribute to their offending. Probation staff have delivered more than 32,000 direct interventions to about 11,000 offenders.

► Expanding restorative justice

Restorative justice services have received \$4.4 million in extra operating funding over two years from the Justice Sector Fund, which means an extra 2400 restorative justice conferences by 2014/15.

Restorative justice plays an important role in meeting the justice sector's Better Public Services target of reducing re-offending by 25% by 2017. It also empowers victims and enables offenders to take responsibility for their actions.

Research shows restorative justice is supported by victims, reduces re-offending by up to 20% and holds offenders to account for their actions.

The 2011 Victims Satisfaction Survey showed that:

- 77% of victims who participated in a restorative justice conference were satisfied with their overall experience
- 74% of victims said they felt better after attending the conference
- 80% of victims said they would recommend restorative justice to others in a similar situation.

The justice sector is focused on new ways to increase the availability, and accessibility of, and results from restorative justice.

The Ministry of Justice is working with Restorative Justice Aotearoa (RJA) on a strategy to encourage development of the restorative justice sector, raise awareness for restorative justice among key regional and national stakeholders and support providers to deliver high-quality restorative justice services.

The Ministry, RJA and New Zealand Police are aiming to increase referrals to restorative justice. Work is being undertaken to be sure the current system can support this.

► Victim intervention plans

More than 400 victim intervention plans have been developed around New Zealand as part of the Police Victim Focus component of Policing Excellence. The plans are tailored solutions aimed at addressing the underlying reasons why someone is repeatedly victimised and breaking this cycle.

► Immunisation of children

Prisons are providing a new avenue for boosting immunisation rates among potentially vulnerable children. Corrections is working with the Ministry of Health and Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) on an initiative to boost awareness and understanding of child immunisation among prisoners and their families, and provide access to child vaccination services at prison visitor centres. Targeted health promotion material will be given to prisoners, and special display stands made by prisoners will be used to present a range of health-care material for visitors. PHOs will be encouraged to set up regular clinics to offer immunisation for babies and children visiting prison sites. The joint approach will contribute to national immunisation targets under the Better Public Services programme and foster the general health and well-being of prisoners' children and families.

► Case management support units

Case management support units have been established in each police district. The units free up officers to focus on crime prevention in their communities by reducing the time frontline staff spend on administrative duties. The effectiveness of the units was proven recently when, following the arrest of an offender, the case management support unit prepared all the prosecution documents, and the officer only needed to interview the offender and submit the prosecution file.