



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2007 Annual Report Youth Office

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A. Mandate of the Unit

1. Investigate and conduct follow-up inquiries into offences and incidents involving young persons.
2. Support the investigative efforts of Patrol personnel, provide support in an advisory and/or active role.
3. Interview young offenders on referral of field personnel.
4. Liaise with local agencies on matters relating to young persons.
5. Refer young offenders to any pre-charge diversion or Extrajudicial Measure pursuant to the Y.C.J.A. and Service Policies.

B. Executive Summary

The Youth Section is comprised of one Detective Constable who reports to a Detective in the Criminal Investigations Section. The two major responsibilities of the Youth Section are to investigate criminal offences against children and to conduct Youth Referrals where the youth is involved in a criminal allegation.

With the implementation of recent legislative changes such as the Youth Criminal Justice Act, combined with social issues that every community faces, our Service has seen a continual growth in requests for our assistance in dealing with youth issues. Agencies such as the Children's Aid Society and the Algonquin Child and Family Services, are now experiencing waiting lists to accommodate youths and families in crisis. This trend appears to be continuing and our Service will be required to adjust and prepare to meet the community's needs in dealing with the increase without disrupting the quality of service. The Youth Office plays a vital role within our Service and offers to our community a valued resource to better assist our youth

C. Activities

The Youth Office is associated to various groups and organizations within the community. The Child Abuse Prevention Committee of Nipissing is one of these organizations that the Youth Office has shared endeavors with and continues to build on a healthy working relationship.

In April of 2006, the Youth Justice Committee, headed by Lynn Racicot, was officially recognized by our government and is now receiving Provincial funding to maintain its program and services for youth. The Youth Officer is still involved as a steering committee member and assists with interviews of all volunteer participants. The

committee is another resource in dealing with youth crime. Section 18 of the YCJA gives the Committee of Citizens the authority to assist in any aspect of the administration of the YCJA or in any programs or services for young persons. This Committee has also entered into a protocol with the North Bay Police Service.

D. Performance Indicators

For the reporting year of 2007, the youth office was involved in 21 occurrences dealing with Sexual Assault investigations on young persons, of these 21 occurrences a total of 12 criminal charges were laid. The charges included sexual assault, sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching under the Criminal Code.

Another Mandate of the unit was to interview young offenders on referrals of officers. This is a result of the Youth Crime Standard Operating Procedure on Extrajudicial Measures and more specifically Youth Referrals. For the reporting year of 2007, there was a total of 110 Youth Referral interviews conducted.

A comparison of performance indicators is attached in Appendix 1.

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

Statistics regarding Extrajudicial Measures that are classified as "No Further Action", "Warning" (both written and verbal) and "Youth Referrals", are not being captured all of the time. Incidents of youths diverted from the criminal court process or officers on patrol, can be captured by the record management system (RMS) and reported as a youth diverted.

With the cooperative effort involving all police personnel (sworn and civilian) this can be achieved, thus providing the Service with a more accurate picture of youth crime and issues within our jurisdiction. A further remedy to assist in accurately capturing this information, was the recent changes made to our Standard Operating Procedure in dealing with youth crime. This also involved the drafting and implementing of a new "Youth Referral" document, which requires front line officers to issue when a youth is involved in a criminal matter. This form is then forwarded to the Youth Office where it is maintained for referrals, investigations and statistical purposes.

Maintaining strong working relationships with community agencies such as the Children's Aid Society, Probation and Parole and other youth related groups/committees will be a constant factor in appropriately dealing with youth issues in the future. Ongoing changes in legislation necessitate Youth Officers working to maintain their knowledge in the area of law dealing with young persons. Therefore, continuous training will be required to keep investigators current. The effectiveness of pieces of legislation such as the Youth Criminal Justice Act has been under the microscope.

Documentation supporting the Act and its effectiveness may in the future cause the Youth Officer to maintain statistics in different areas such as recidivism. Although this process will be onerous, the results may be beneficial in identifying the appropriateness of some segments of legislation.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

With the trends that are indicated within the statistics, Youth Referrals are on the rise and indicators show that this trend will continue. Under the YCJA, youths who violate laws can be given more than one Youth Referral depending on the circumstances and nature of the offence. The outcome may provide statistical information that questions the effectiveness of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Attempting to capture these recidivism rates may be a future consideration. It may provide for a better understanding of where our resources could be best utilized. This would allow our Service to plan for the future with regards to deployment of officers.

A closer working relationship with the School Liaison Officer may have an impact on performance objectives in 2007. The combined effort of both units may assist in identifying crime patterns in youthful offenders and may have a direct impact on curtailing inappropriate behaviour of specific young offenders at its “grass roots” level.

G. Other

The Youth Criminal Justice Act provides a variety of methods to deal with youth related crime. For the 2007 calendar year, the Youth Officer conducted 110 Youth Referrals. These are instances where the Act allows the diversion of the youth from the court process and being charged criminally, while at the same time holding them accountable for their actions. This process also allows the youth officer some flexibility. The results of such diversions and consequences issued can be examined on the attached chart or graph (Appendix 2), listing the action taken. The graph provides contrasts between the calendar years of 2005, 2006 and 2007.

H. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Performance Indicators

Appendix 2 – Youth Referral Statistics