



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2010 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 and 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 measures pursuant to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and service policies.

B. Executive Summary

The Youth Office is comprised of one Detective Constable who reports to a Detective in the Investigative Support Section. The two major responsibilities of the Youth Officer include: investigating criminal offences against children and to conduct Youth Referrals when a youth is alleged to have been involved in a criminal offence.

In 2010 our Service continued to receive many requests for assistance in dealing with youth related issues. Reflected in the 2009 Annual Report, support agencies in North Bay and area experienced waiting lists to accommodate youths and families in crisis. This trend has, unfortunately, persisted but has been identified as an important focus for the future with many of the Youth Justice partners.

Youth crime continued to be an area that our community voiced concerns about. Exploring new initiatives with our community partners and identifying new successful methods of interacting and challenging young people remains a key focus of the Youth Officer.

Throughout 2010, the Youth Officer provided assistance to parents and/or guardians who were having difficulty dealing with youths residing in their homes. Seven (7) occurrences of this nature were recorded, where assistance and guidance to families was provided by the Youth Officer. During these sessions, the Youth Officer conducted interviews similar to that of a youth referral in an attempt to identify areas of concern, provide advice as well as information regarding the appropriate resources available in the community.

This early intervention was done in an attempt to assist youths prior to them reaching the age of criminal responsibility (12 years) or prior to them being dealt with by the police for criminal behaviour.

C. Activities

Historically, the Youth Office has had strong working relationships with various groups and organizations within the community. In 2010 the Youth Officer maintained involvement in the Youth Justice Committee (YJC) as a steering committee member. The YJC continues to be a valued resource in dealing with youth crime.

Section 18 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)* provides 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 proven to be invaluable to the North Bay Police Service in dealing with youth offenders. Other professional alliances addressing youth related issues have been maintained with YES Employment and the North Bay Crown Attorney's Office, which have proven very valuable in addressing youth issues.

In 2010 the Youth Officer presented lectures combined with recruitment sessions to students enrolled in the Police Foundations Program at Canadore College and at West Ferris Secondary School. Topics of discussion included the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and the Youth Referral process of the North Bay Police Service. These information sessions were well received and provided a forum to bring forward information about the Youth Justice Committee Program and the functions of the North Bay Police Service Youth Office.

In the first quarter of 2010, a grade 8 class at a local school was addressed regarding theft offences, as it was identified through youth referrals that there were a number of thefts occurring at nearby stores by some students. This proved to be an effective deterrent and was a proactive approach to addressing youth crime. There were no other thefts involving students from that school for the remainder of 2010.

The Youth Officer spoke to groups of youths at the Near North Detention Centre and Nipissing Attendance Centre regarding various topics during their summer programming. This has become an annual interaction between the Youth Officer and young persons who have found themselves at odds with the judicial system.

In March the Youth Officer attended a Paediatric Conference in North Bay and presented on interviewing child and adolescent victim's and witnesses.

Finally, the Youth Officer was invited to assist the Children's Aid Society for the Districts of Nipissing and Parry Sound by delivering a presentation on "Duty to Report and Sexual Offences" for an audience of Health Unit employees.

D. Performance Indicators

In 2010 the Youth Officer was involved in thirteen (13) occurrences that dealt with sexual offences against young persons. Of these, a total of thirty two (32) criminal charges were laid. These charges included the following offences; sexual assault, sexual interference, sexual exploitation, invitation to sexual touching and possession of child pornography.

Another mandate of the youth office is to interview young offenders on referral of other officers. This was in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure on Youth Crime as it related to Extrajudicial Measures and more specifically, Youth Referrals. For the reporting year of 2010, there were a total of eighty nine (89) Youth Referral Interviews conducted.

The position of Youth Officer is under the purview of the Investigative Support Section. In 2010 the Youth Officer assisted the Investigative Support Section on several occasions with interviewing young persons and adults, preparing search warrants, assisting with other types of investigations.

These additional investigations were in relation to offences such as assault with a weapon, robbery, missing persons, sexual assault with adult victims, assault with youth victims, robbery and surveillance details. Other assigned investigations included background investigations of candidates for the position of police constable, missing persons and a threat assessment of a grade 8 student regarding comments that were made at a local school.

A comparison of performance indicators from 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 is attached in Appendix 1 – Youth Referral Chart and Youth Investigations Chart.

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

The North Bay Police Service has a relatively young workforce, and coupled with continuous innovations that affect the methods in which we approach problems associated with young people, it is recommended that yearly in-service training should continue to be provided to our members. This also includes invitations to external agencies to provide insight on how their organization(s) and ours can work either independently or in a collaborative fashion to address youth crime/issues.

Historically, the Youth Office has benefited from a very positive working relationship with our School Liaison Officer. This relationship has been extremely helpful as it relates to information sharing regarding youth referrals, intelligence gathering as well for investigations conducted by both the Youth Officer and the School Liaison Officer.

In late 2008, a new program was being implemented by some schools in North Bay and area to deal with behavioural problems within its student body. This program resembled that of restorative justice and the program was similar to what the Youth Justice Committee Program offered. The program offered by the school was suitable for issues that were not of a criminal nature or where there was no requirement for enforcement by police. In an effort to ensure that youth are not exposed to the possibility of double jeopardy, should the matter be initially dealt with by the school and later by police, a protocol between the four school boards, the Crown Attorney's Office and the North Bay Police Service will be explored in early 2011.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

In January 2011 a new Youth Officer will be taking on the responsibilities associated to the Youth Office. Training and relationship/partnership maintenance and building will be a significant task for the new officer.

It is anticipated that the number of Youth Referrals will continue to remain relatively consistent. Monitoring the restorative justice programs being implemented by local schools will be required as this issue has had a direct influence on the number of referrals in the past. Meetings with the four School Board Directors and/or Principals are a priority and will be pursued in 2011.

G. Other

The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* allows flexibility regarding the methods used by police to deal with youth related crime. In 2010, the Youth Officer conducted eighty nine (89) Youth Referral interviews (56 males and 33 females). 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 discretion.

The results of such diversions and consequences issued can be examined on the attached charts (Appendix 2 – Distribution of Referrals), listing the action taken. The charts provide a contrast between the calendar years of 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

When the Youth Officer has chosen to conduct an extrajudicial measure without accessing the Youth Justice Committee Program, a written apology is required and followed up with a verbal apology when the victim and offender are brought together to further discuss the incident(s). Other methods of diversion when dealing with youth include, for the TAPP-C program (Arson Prevention Program for Children) and Community Service Hours continue to be facilitated through the Youth Justice Committee Program

H. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Youth Referral and Youth Investigations Table (2010)

Appendix 2 – Distribution of Referrals (2010)

APPENDIX 1

Youth Referral and Youth Investigations

	2010	2009	2008	2007
Sexual Offence Investigations (Child victims)	13	16	19	15
Other Investigations	16	21	15	5
Charges	32	29	32	12
Ass't other Dep't/Officers	14	11	16	1
Trouble with Youth Interviews	7	10	12	N/A
Youth Referrals	89	80	119	106

Note: N/A = Not Available

APPENDIX 2

Distribution of Referrals

	2010	2009	2008	2007
Youth Justice Committee Program	78	54	55	76
Written Apology	6	20	43	8
Returned to Patrol	5	5	8	5
Verbal Caution	0	1	1	11
Verbal Apology	0	0	6	N/A
Community Service Hours	0	0	0	1
TAPP-C	0	0	1	2
Other	0	0	5	3
Total Youth Referrals	89	80	119	106
Males	56	35	75	60
Females	33	45	44	46

Note:

- Since 2009, all referrals requiring Community Service Hours and TAPP-C continue to be forwarded to the Youth Justice Committee Program due to insurance issues and a new referral system for the TAPP-C program.
- N/A = Not Available