



Home Office

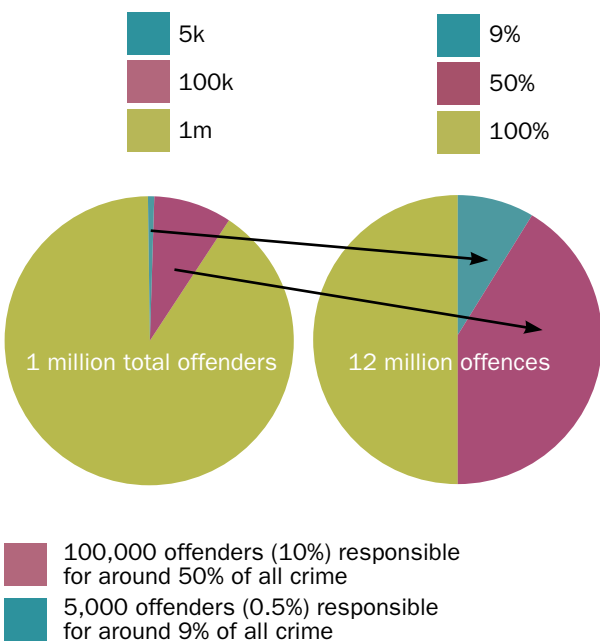
UNDERSTANDING THE
**PROLIFIC AND OTHER
PRIORITY OFFENDER**
PROGRAMME

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PPO PROGRAMME

It is estimated that out of a million active offenders, only 10% are responsible for 50% of all the crime committed in England and Wales.

The most active 5,000 of this group are thought to be responsible for one out of every ten offences. This group is known as prolific and priority offenders (PPOs).

The Prolific and Other Priority Offender (PPO) Programme is a cross-government crime reduction strategy which was set up in September 2004 to tackle this problem.

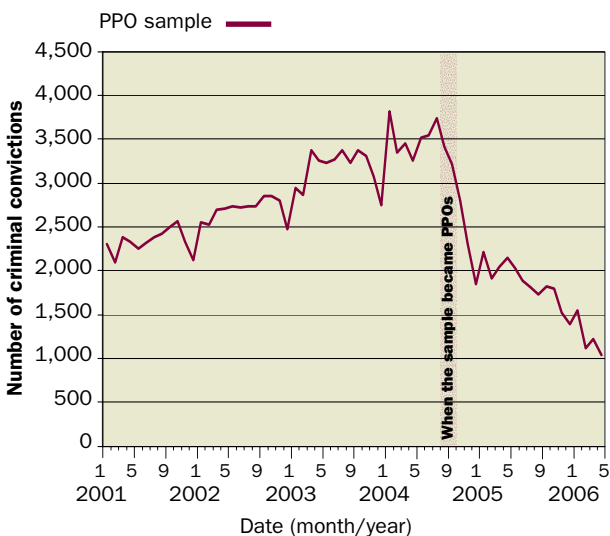


EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

To date, the results* of the PPO Programme are very encouraging. They show that:

- recorded conviction rates for 7,800 PPOs fell by 62% after 17 months on the programme;
- there was a reduction of 24% in the average rate of offending per PPO for the 12 months following their entry into the programme;
- there was a marked decrease in the number of days between a PPO committing their offence and being sentenced in court, in the 12 months following their entry into the programme; and
- the majority of PPOs reported a reduction or claimed to have stopped offending altogether since engaging with the scheme.

* Results taken from *An impact assessment of the Prolific and Other Priority Offender programme*, available at www.crimereduction.gov.uk/ppo/rdsolr0807.pdf



PPO cohort's criminal convictions leading up to and following the PPO scheme

IDENTIFYING A PPO

The first step in the PPO Programme is to identify who exactly is a PPO, according to:

- the nature and volume of the crimes they commit;
- the nature and volume of other harm they cause; and
- the detrimental impact they have on their community.

This task is completed using police, probation and prison information systems and other tools that allow the identification of the highest crime-causing offenders.

THE PPO PROGRAMME IN ACTION

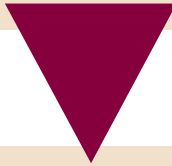
After the PPO is identified, the PPO Programme, which sets up units to both manage them and prevent them from further offending, takes effect. The programme consists of three strands that aim to:

- **Catch and Convict** offenders who have committed the most criminal offences, or whose offending causes the most harm to their community;
- **Rehabilitate and Resettle** offenders by working with them to stop their offending. The opportunity for rehabilitation is backed by a swift return to court if the offending continues; and
- **Prevent and Deter** the most active young offenders from escalating into future prolific offenders, through youth justice interventions and post-sentence support.

THE PPO JOURNEY

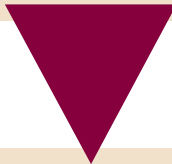
STEP 1

The police, local authorities, prison and probation services, and youth offending teams identify a PPO and monitor them closely. This can involve joint police and probation home visits. If appropriate, the PPO can be arrested and charged by the police.



STEP 2

The PPO is subject to intense police monitoring and probation supervision and is offered interventions to change their offending behaviour. If this is not achieved, tough enforcement action is taken and the PPO faces a swift return to the courts. Drug misusers are also directed into appropriate treatment.



STEP 3

Following any community sentence or release on licence (a release with conditions attached) from prison, the offender manager will closely supervise the PPO, who will continue to receive specifically tailored interventions.

PPO FEEDBACK

When asked how the programme had helped them PPOs identified:

- the benefits of the interventions (for example, the drug treatment they received meant they did not need to offend to fund their drug use);
- the intensity and structure of the PPO Programme (in the community), which meant that they were occupied with little time to commit offences; and
- the regular police monitoring, which acted as a deterrent to committing crime.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PPO PROGRAMME

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in England and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Wales, working closely with Local Criminal Justice Boards, lead the cross-government PPO Programme.

Multi-agency teams consisting of criminal justice agencies, local authorities and other partners are responsible for operating the PPO schemes that have been established in every CDRP and CSP area.

THE PPO AND DRUG INTERVENTIONS PROGRAMME PARTNERSHIP

The Drug Interventions Programme works to encourage drug-misusing offenders out of crime and into treatment, effectively reducing drug misuse, crime and reoffending.

Statistics show that a high proportion of PPOs commit crimes to fund a drug dependency. PPO schemes work closely with the Drug Interventions Programme to tackle such offenders.

WHY THE PPO PROGRAMME IS UNIQUE

The PPO Programme features an end-to-end offender management approach to tackling crime and its causes. It has the explicit aim of stopping the offending of PPOs who cause the greatest harm to their local communities.

The programme features more joined-up working and information sharing between the key agencies, enabling the expert management of offenders in custody and in the community. It also offers a systematic approach to identification, based on the National Intelligence Model and CDRP/CSP priorities for England and Wales.

The closer alignment of the PPO Programme and Drug Interventions Programme is another good example of how the programmes will deliver significant benefits, not only to the offenders themselves, but to local communities as well.

QUICK FACTS

- A PPO is identified according to the nature and volume of the crimes they commit, the harm they cause and the detrimental impact they have on their community.
- Conviction rates for 7,800 PPOs fell by 62% after 17 months on the programme.
- 10,000 PPOs are being managed in over 250 Catch and Convict and Rehabilitate and Resettle schemes across England and Wales.
- 4,000 young offenders most at risk of becoming tomorrow's PPOs are being managed by 179 Prevent and Deter schemes.

PPO PROGRAMME CASE STUDIES

“We picked up one lad who was 17. He was being released from prison, was homeless, with no means of support, no money, no food. They were opening the prison gates, and just letting this lad out, totally unsupported. Because he was a PPO, we pulled together all the agencies and, when he left prison, he was collected by the youth offending worker who took him to pre-arranged appointments we’d set up with Connexions and with Jobcentre Plus. We secured him accommodation in supported tenancy, and he had the support of workers within the scheme. We got him a food parcel, just to help him out, and we’ve worked with him intensively. He must have been back in the community for about six months now, and he’s still crime-free. And last week he told me he had a job interview.”

Police representative

“Tony has been a heroin user and a prolific offender for more than 25 years. Having been identified as a PPO, he was given an Intensive Community Sentence as his offender manager reported to the court the significant efforts he had made to address his behaviour. Tony was referred to Pecan, a charity that supports ex-offenders in finding employment. Through them he managed to secure a temporary job on a building site, and has progressed well, having been given a full-time position.”

Probation Officer-PPO Team

**For more information on the PPO Programme,
please visit:
www.crimereduction.gov.uk/ppo/ppominisite01.htm**

**TACKLING
PROLIFIC
OFFENDERS
REDUCING CRIME**



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