



Crime Reduction & Community Safety Group

Tilley Awards 2008 Application form

Please ensure that you have read the guidance before completing this form. **By making an application to the awards, entrants are agreeing to abide by the conditions laid out in the guidance.** Please complete the following form in full, within the stated word limit and ensuring the file size is no more than 1MB. Failure to do so will result in your entry being rejected from the competition.

Completed application forms should be e-mailed to tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 25th April 2008**. No entries will be accepted after this time/date. Any queries on the application process should be directed to Alex Blackwell on 0207 035 4811.

Section A: Application basics

1. Title of the project: Swansea Youth Offending Service: Using Evidence Based Approaches to Effectively Prevent Youth Offending in Swansea

2. Key issue that the project is addressing e.g. Alcohol related violence: Youth Offending and Re-offending in the City and County of Swansea

Author contact details

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Secondary project contact details

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10. Secondary contact telephone number: 01792 522800

Endorsing representative contact details

11. Name of endorsing senior representative from lead organisation: Paul Smith, Chief Executive, City and County of Swansea

12. Endorsing representative's email address: paul.smith@swansea.gov.uk

13. For all entries from England & Wales please state which Government Office or Welsh Assembly Government your

organisation is covered by e.g. GO East Midlands: Welsh Assembly Government / City and County of Swansea

14. Please mark this box with an X to indicate that all organisations involved in the project have been notified of this entry (this is to prevent duplicate entries of the same project):

Section B: Summary of application - *In no more than 400 words use this space to provide a summary of your project under the stated headings (see guidance for more information).*

Scanning:

Swansea Youth Offending Service (SYOS) exists to prevent youth crime and its re-commission in Swansea. A multi-agency team, SYOS is a core member of the Safer Swansea Partnership (community safety partnership). Through development and reinforcement of common vision of youth crime prevention, allied with robust intelligence sharing, SYOS, with its partners has created responsive, evidence and needs based youth justice processes, underpinned by evaluation (internal and external) and scrutiny. Engagement with partners across all sectors, including the local community has enabled a multi-faceted approach to reducing youth criminality, and the mainstreaming of targeted measures and interventions for offenders.

Analysis:

Interventions and actions involving SYOS have flowed from robust interrogation of data. Utilisation of academic and practice based paradigms of risk factor prevention, combined with locally adopted standardised assessment systems have resulted in significant data generation across an holistic range of real life domains. Data analysis, intelligently deployed has permitted identification and profiling of offenders. Evidence has itself empowered SYOS, with partners to design effective interventions to tackle specific criminal activities, whilst simultaneously combating youth crime in generic context. Generation of information outside traditional conduits has enabled SYOS to create unique and effective solutions to meet evidentially identified needs.

Response:

SYOS has implemented an ambitious programme of universal and specific interventions to reduce, consistently over time, youth crime. Understanding, the criminogenic needs of young people, and the aspirations of partners, SYOS operationalised a range of intelligent responses, seeking not merely to respond to offending behaviour, but also strike at underlying factors precipitating criminality. Via efficient, targeted resource allocation, partnership working across sectors, SYOS developed a comprehensive menu of interventions and performance measures to address crime. SYOS is spearheading efforts to amplify joint working between Welsh YOS' to enable holistic performance review, consolidation of best practice, and enhanced data sharing and analysis.

Assessment:

Fundamental to the work of SYOS is a framework of evaluation and review. Through its Performance Management Team and partners, particularly Swansea University, SYOS verifies interventions, assesses effectiveness and ensures oversight of staff and partner agency actions. Hybrid methodologies are used to understand intervention effectiveness, allied with transparency and accountability. Due the multi-layered and proactive actions of SYOS: youth offending has fallen by 46% since 2001. In the same period: car theft plummeted by 48%; numbers of persistent young offenders fell by 58%; serious offences committed by young people reduced by 74%; and domestic burglaries dropped by 83%.

State number of words: 399

Section C: Description of project - Describe the project in no more than 4,000 words. Please refer to the full guidance for more information on what the description should cover, in particular section 11.

Scanning:

Swansea Youth Offending Service (SYOS) exists to prevent youth crime and its re-commission in the City and County of Swansea. Created in 1999, SYOS is a multi-agency organisation consisting of eight teams covering activities from statutory orders to prevention. Staff are drawn from a range of agencies: Social workers; Police Officers; Probation; youth and education workers; health authority professionals; and specialists. SYOS' partners include organisations from the local statutory, private, community and voluntary sectors, and national Welsh bodies.

As well as operating on its own initiative, SYOS is a core member of the Safer Swansea Partnership (the name given to the community safety partnership). The Safer Swansea Partnership (SSP) and SYOS share a vision that through reduction of offending by young people there can be a long-term positive impact on reducing crime holistically in the City and County of Swansea. This will reduce the fear of crime and problems created by anti-social behaviour.

SYOS engages with partner agencies, young offenders, mainstream young people and adults to address criminal behaviour. SYOS promotes a rights based agenda focussing on the provision of appropriate interventions, identifying and promoting evidence based action and utilising, in conjunction with partners, methods to enable persistent offending to be resolved in a sustainable fashion. An holistic range of effective interventions are provided which have resulted in a reduction in youth crime, most prominently vehicle theft, criminal damage and violent offences. Deployment of innovative practice in the spheres of social inclusion, socio-economic development, family support and employment, education and training has enabled an holistic and effective service to be provided, meeting local and national targets and needs.

Data is shared between SYOS, the Police and partners through SSP. Through intelligent collection and analysis of crime levels, seriousness and spatial distribution, Local Performance Measures (LPM's) were developed. These evidence-based targets illustrate where problem areas, individuals and offence concentration lie in Swansea. LPM's form the baseline measurement for SYOS achievement and are crime specific, combining local and national youth justice targets. SYOS' LPM's facilitate data responsive, multi-faceted action, resulting in the reduction of youth crime, desistance from re-offending, public protection and the re-engagement of offending young people into society.

LPM's allow a more sensitive interrogation of fluctuations in crime locally, enabling an holistic approach to the identification and formation of evidence based responses to offending behaviours. LPM's have equipped SYOS to address not merely justice related needs, but also, through the SSP, incorporate complementary measures perceived as appropriate by partners, particularly in the fields of social justice, community regeneration and the empowerment of young people.

The local community is engaged as a partner with SYOS. Through the commissioning of a community safety audit where residents are able to self report their concerns about youth crime and anti-social behaviour, strategic objectives and measures are formed through consultation and engagement. As a result of its partnership with Swansea University, SYOS has engaged with young people (offenders and others) and adults giving them opportunities to give their opinions on data which has been collected locally, through robust research methodologies. SYOS engages with informal community groups such as sports clubs, justice specific community liaison fora such as Police and Communities Together meetings, and the various layers of government including Unitary and Parish Councils, Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies, the Youth Justice Board, Home Office and Welsh Assembly Government.

By way of interventions, SYOS involves the local community. This can be seen through the work of the Referral Orders Team (ROT). ROT was established in 2002 to manage young offenders receiving a Referral Order. The remit of the team is to work with young people, monitor their progress, and plan appropriate interventions to prevent future offending behaviour. To achieve this, ROT has successfully implemented early intervention processes to divert young people from re-offending. Restorative justice practices have been adopted, promoting reparation for any harm which young people have caused. ROT has achieved impressive outcomes. During 2007, 75% of young offenders successfully completed their Referral Order.

ROT has mainstreamed community justice processes via a lay panel of volunteers, trained and supported through partnership with the 'Just Us' project based at Swansea Council for Voluntary Service. The panel considers issues affecting a young person's life, bringing together parents/carers, young people, youth justice officers, and victims of crime. ROT is a partnership between offenders, SYOS, criminal justice and supporting agencies. Uniquely, strong links have been developed with Magistrates who collaborate and maintain close contact with ROT and its volunteers. Panel processes enshrine the importance of retaining young people in education or training and resolving tensions

such as those at home or in the community. Staff provide individual support, facilitating dialogue with service providers and families, ensuring that young offenders are provided with an environment where they can reflect on their actions, receive training, education, or are involved in appropriate activities, and/or undertaking reparation.

Analysis:

Since Youth Justice (which operated under the former West Glamorgan County Council), levels of youth crime have been monitored. With the establishment of SYOS and SSP, officers quickly recognised that holistic, prospective and multi-agency approaches were required to articulate trends, locations and causes of youth crime.

Utilising data provided by the Police, Local Authority managers noted that youth crime in Swansea increased in the period up to the creation of SYOS, at times by 10% per annum. This was not acceptable, particularly since there were increases in violent offence rates, especially by females. The need to establish intelligent information systems led to changes, initiated by SYOS in the way data concerning young offenders was communicated to partners.

Youth crime was measured by SYOS through a three phase process: firstly, 'raw' data received from the Police and referral agencies; secondly, data input into a discrete SYOS administered Youth Offending Information Service to capture information relating to offence types, offender profile and sentencing outcomes; and thirdly, where young people became recipients of SYOS, use of a risk and protective factor assessment tool (ASSET) to understand young peoples opinions, problems and situations within their families, neighbourhoods, education, employment and training, substance usage and appropriate personal issues.

Development of rigorous assessment and data management processes enabled SYOS to build a picture of types of young people, location of offences, and possible reasons for offending. Information was shared through SSP at strategic and operational levels. The intelligent use of data permitted mapping of young people's activities, frequencies and consequences of offences to be anticipated and appropriate interventions offered.

Intensive analysis and interrogation of intelligence enabled SYOS with its partners to create and successfully deploy a range of initiatives. Particularly relevant is the way car theft was approached. During the early 1990's Swansea had a reputation as the car crime capital of Europe. Through data analysis, engagement with local communities and partners, no doubt existed within SYOS that this issue had to be tackled. Data suggested that the main problem was located with a group of young males, aged between 15 and 17 years, residing in Local Authority accommodation with low levels of educational achievement and engagement in formal training.

Through partnership working, SYOS closed the Local Authority accommodation unit where the young males were residing, dispersing them throughout Swansea and moving them to more constructive environments, thereby breaking the cycle of negative mutual reinforcement which exacerbated their offending behaviour. Analysis indicated that School issues and social exclusion were key factors contributing to offending behaviour. Accordingly, multi-agency initiatives called Promoting Positive Behaviour and Youth Access were developed in partnership with the Local Authority's Education and Employment Training Departments. Simultaneously, SYOS realigned its bail support practice: achieving faster case turn around, rapid offender presentation at Court and intensive bail support interventions.

Actions were mapped against effects by staff working with SSP. Additionally, inter-agency collaboration, for example, with South Wales Police occurred where active data was drawn from specialist initiatives to develop existing profiles. Datasets held by agencies were linked to generate spatial and personal matrices, enabling appropriate action to be taken. A Joint Office was created within Swansea, under the auspice of SSP, with SYOS staff, Police Officers, Local Authority employees and other agencies being co-located for the purposes of sharing intelligence, co-ordinating community safety activities, and amplifying partnership collaboration.

These actions were designed to combat causal criminogenic factors. They resulted in: a decrease in vehicle theft between 2001 and 2007 of 63%; the number of young people remanded in custody, Local Authority care or Court ordered secure estate fell by 64%; and the extent to which Looked After Children offended dropped by 50%. SYOS' intelligence led approaches and partnership working resulted in youth crime plummeting by 46% from 2001-2007.

Problems encountered were few, being characterised as systemic difficulties. Initially, Police data collection systems were not sophisticated enough to 'see' the age of offenders. Victim age was also invisible. Accordingly, SYOS consulted more than 2,500 young people in Swansea to understand victim status and crimes affecting youth, gauging victimisation and offence prevalence. Data was used in conjunction with official, recorded statistics to achieve a sophisticated understanding of youth crime. Development of more efficient data recording and processing systems within SYOS allied with greater co-operation with the Police generated procedures to enable process faults to be

corrected and, importantly, maintenance of open dialogue between the Police and SYOS.

Response:

With the recognition, based on evidence, that it needed to achieve overall and consistent reductions in youth crime, SYOS decided that both universal and targeted responses were necessary to effect a change in trends. Building on the success of assessment tools deployed within SYOS, it was agreed that, to enable reduction in youth criminality, a pro-active approach was required to tackle core risk factors which disposed young people to engage in offending behaviour. Based on practical and academic risk factor paradigms, interventions were shaped to tackle root causes of criminality and, where young people had already entered the youth justice system, equip them to desist in the future.

Research was undertaken to understand pertinent issues flowing from risk domains that could be systematically addressed through service delivery, inter-agency work and engagement with young people. SYOS took the view that systems should not merely collect data responding reactively to young people. Rather, young people were seen as partners for change and fundamental to solutions. This concurred with data analysis which suggested that many young people involved in youth crime were disengaged, personally and institutionally, with few opportunities for improvement, equipped with few skills, being unable to access entitlements. Initiatives and interventions provided by SYOS and its partners were prioritised and assessed to ensure that they met young people's needs and the broader community aspiration of reducing youth crime.

A good example of how the risk factor approach adopted by SYOS works is the family group conferencing/youth inclusion support panel team (FGC/YISP). FGC/YISP, responding to problems experienced by many young people, evidenced through data collected, developed innovative practice promoting social inclusion, socio-economic development, and family support, underpinned by a recognition of young people's rights and responsibilities.

FGC/YISP supports young people aged between 8 and 13 years. Benefiting from close and diverse inter-agency relationships which have been forged by SYOS, FGC/YISP is fundamentally underpinned by strong partnership and collaboration networking between itself, Schools, the health authority, training services, young people and their families.

FGC/YISP's objectives are to: reduce School exclusions; improve attendance at School/educational provision; and reduce disengagement, anti-social behaviour and offending. To achieve these objectives, FGC/YISP: involves young people in an holistic assessment of need using a structured assessment tool; where young people exhibit multiple risk factors, reports are made to the Youth Inclusion Support Panel (a multi-agency body comprising senior managers from agencies); provides a parent mentoring system, giving support to young people and families in a non threatening manner; and operates a mentoring scheme, run by modern apprentices to support young people at risk of offending.

External evaluation of FGC/YISP concluded that Swansea's FGC/YISP consistently and fully achieved Youth Justice Board FGC Performance Driver criteria in relation to: local context; governance and leadership; partnership working; resources; people and organisations; and performance/quality systems. FGC/YISP is recognised by IDeA as a best practice example.

When SYOS was established in 1999, a core team existed, consisting only of the statutory minimum range of staff. Due to analysis by SYOS indicating that significant work was required to tackle increasing youth criminality, the Local Authority Chief Executive agreed to increase resources to enable appropriate intervention and prevention initiatives. Responding to government targets, local need and Welsh national concerns, additional resources have been acquired from public, voluntary and private sectors allowing SYOS to flexibly combat youth criminality.

SYOS has acted to shift the ethos of youth justice in Swansea, shaping, for the long term, an agenda of support for young people. Funding has been negotiated with the City and County of Swansea, South Wales Police, Youth Justice Board (Cymru and England and Wales), Welsh Assembly Government, health authority, Substance Misuse Action Team, European Union, Network Rail and others. SYOS's ability to lever funding has been subject to the development and maintenance of evidence and review of its work. Of significance has been the growth of the service and a movement in human resource and project funding from Court orders to prevention. Currently, SYOS draws 50% of its budget from sources outside its core partners, testifying to the success and provable effectiveness of its work and the confidence of partners in SYOS.

Identification and implementation of responses to meet issues arising from data analysis met with almost no problems. SYOS acted to enable strategic and operational discussions between partners to anticipate potential problems and to plan how these could be resolved before they arose. Trends, intelligence and research were used to understand current and anticipated problems. Championing a clear plan to manage youth crime and prevent re-

occurrence allowed SYOS to persuade key partners of the benefits: social, financial and human of pursuing a new agenda which was not always in keeping with current government and justice policy. For example, the use of ASBO's was restricted to a position of last resort instead of an early stage intervention.

Within SYOS, a range of internal review mechanisms exist to ensure the integrity, reliability and availability of intelligence. All internally held statistics are tested, cleaned and analysed. Findings are communicated to staff and managers. Reports are disseminated in their totality to SSP and partners. The Performance Management Team's (PMT) review officer undertakes internal reviews of cases to assure quality and effective interventions. Through its partnership with Swansea University, academic researchers engage with SYOS to perform independent evaluation of programmes. These measures are externally complemented through inspections by the Youth Justice Board, Local Authority, ESTYN, and Welsh Assembly Government.

Early on in the existence of SYOS, it was recognised that youth crime management could not be achieved simply by increasing resources. To break the chain of youth crime, intelligent, client and community-focused work was required to address offending behaviour in a multi-layered context. Cost effective solutions were developed as part of SYOS' arsenal, drawing both on original, in-house provision as well as utilising relevant work and officer time present in partner agencies. This allowed effective utilisation of resources, promoted an end to duplication, and permitted discernment of a model of sustainability.

In relation to the transferability of solutions, SYOS has spearheaded a campaign to integrate key Welsh policies and strategies into its work, particularly the All Wales Youth Offending Strategy and Extending Entitlement. To enable consolidation of best practice in Welsh youth justice, SYOS promotes and plays an active part in the YOS Cymru Manager's group, helping to co-ordinate action by YOS' across Wales, and engaging in a regional YOS Manager's group. SYOS has persuaded Welsh YOS' to adopt its model of LPM's so that, for the first time, a uniform approach can be taken to data collection, management and analysis. This allows Welsh youth justice organisations to compare performance, share intelligence and data analysis. The result is an increase in YOS' ability to act proactively in remedying potential problems, and creates a more robust process for the exchange of good practice and solutions.

A range of innovative solutions have been created by SYOS, including:

Family Focused Solutions

- Parent Mentoring Programmes
- FGC/YISP
- Youth Inclusion Programme

Leisure, Recreation and Sports Activities

- Intergenerational Project bringing 50+ citizens and young people together
- Community Sports Partnership Programme with the Ospreys Rugby Team and Swansea Football Club
- Adventure Challenge Programme
- Duke of Edinburgh/Community Justice Interventions in Wales

Statutory Justice Interventions

- Statutory Orders Programme
- Final Warnings Programme
- Referral Orders Programme
- Bail Support and Remand Management Programme

Anti-Social Behaviour Management and Response

- A three tiered ASB Management and Support Programme

Peer Education, Health and Substance Use

- Healthy Eating and Sexual Health Programmes
- Helping Young People through Peer Education Programme (Substance use initiative)
- Leonardo (European) Peer Education Programme

Strategies have been developed for each intervention, complementing SYOS's Youth Justice Plan.

Work is on going to create a multi-agency, early intervention process called the 'Bureau'. The Bureau is a project which involves SYOS, South Wales Police, Courts, Crown Prosecution Service and local Criminal Justice Board. The Bureau will act as the referral point for low-level youth crime and anti social behaviour. Report data will be recorded

on a database shared by partners. There will be interventions for every reported incident. Based on individual assessment the Bureau will coordinate the intervention most appropriate to the offence and young person. Where appropriate, repeat offending or seriousness offences will proceed to formal criminal justice interventions.

The Bureau process will ensure appropriate responses to youth crime and anti social behaviour based on offence resolution, victim engagement and reinforcement of parental responsibility. Data shows that 85% of youth crime in Swansea in 2006/07 was in the lowest two gravity categories of seriousness and value. Each Court appearance costs at least £3500. Through formal justice processes, victims and parents are marginalised. Young people are criminalised with potentially adverse impact on educational attainment and employment prospects. The Bureau would enable implementation of a key recommendation of the Audit Commissions "Youth Justice 2004" report, that Court based sanctions should be reserved only for serious or persistent offending behaviour. This approach will allow maximisation of actions preventing repeat offending by young people through a community based multi-agency response. The Bureau will be operational by mid-year, 2008.

Assessment:

Evaluation and review form the bedrock of SYOS practice. SYOS has created a PMT which is central to its structure. PMT is headed by the SYOS Manager and consists of staff whose purpose is to hold SYOS to account, verifying or disproving effectiveness, guaranteeing constant oversight of staff and partner agency actions.

SYOS has adopted an action research model, which, combined with a coherent application of National Standards, robust monitoring mechanisms, internal review, on-going comparison of performance against national, and LPM's enables a clear understanding of data collected from external sources, the views of programme recipients, and the results of investigation. Every intervention which operates under SYOS complies with a comprehensive set of outcomes and, through use of existing data sources, baselines are established for each initiative.

Every programme described in this document has either achieved or exceeded goals designed for them. This has been borne out in terms of internal and external scrutiny. There is an expectation that, as further understanding of youth crime grows, so also will inter-agency work to allow information exchange and identification of areas where it is beneficial to re-align programmes to meet challenges. The result is a process of implementation, review and renewal. Data and lessons arising from experience will continue to be shared across SSP. It is SYOS' view that if partnership working is weak, solutions will also be weak.

The solutions adopted in Swansea have resulted in the following:

KEY TASK		Baseline 2001/02	Actual 2006/07	% Variation
Reduce the number of young people in the Criminal Justice System	Total Young People Recorded	563	513	8.9% decrease
	Total Prosecuted	259 yp 580 occasions	211 yp 375 occasions	18.5% decrease 35.3% decrease
Reduce the number of Persistent Young Offenders (PYO)	Number of defined PYOs	186	78	58% decrease
	Number of custodial sentences	62	34	45% decrease
Reduce offending by young people	Recorded offending by young people aged 10-17	2044	1098	46.3% decrease
	Reduction in serious offences – gravity score 5-8	273	71	74% decrease
Reduce Specific Offences	Domestic Burglary	71	12	83% decrease
	Car Theft	174	64	63.2% decrease
	Violent Behaviour	114	169	48% increase

	LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES	2001/2	2006/7
1	Reduce Youth Crime totals by 5% per year		
	Number of offences	2044	1098
	Number of Anti Social Behaviour Orders	1	0
2	Target Offences 5% (Consistent with Home Office Targets)		
	Vehicle Crime	174	64
	Domestic Burglary	71	12
	Violent Crime	114	169
	Criminal Damage	180	112
	Public Order/Nuisance Offences	185	100
3	Reduce the number of children offending:		
	Total number of young people offending	563	513
	Looked After Children	32	16
4	Reduce the number of young people sentenced in the Youth/Crown Court System		
	Total number of young people	259	211
	Total number of sentences	580	375
5	90% of young people are remanded on bail until sentenced		
	Total Bail	750	348
	Remanded in Custody/Remand in LA/Court ordered secure	75	27
	Percentage of bail not receiving RIC/Remand in LA/Court ordered secure.	90%	92%
6	Reduce the number of young people made subject to a custodial sentence.		
	Number of custodial sentences	62	34
7	Reduce the number of young people re-offending while subject to an order		
	Number of interventions closed during the period	346	412
	Number of interventions closed due to young person re-offending	39	42
		11.30%	10%
8	100% Victim contact in cases with an identifiable victim to seek engagement in our RJ approach.		
	Final Warnings/Referral orders with identifiable victim		117
	Contact		50
			43%
9	Arrest to sentence (71 days timescale)	140	35*

* Data provided by Swansea Magistrates Court

SYOS believes that these figures speak for themselves, highlighting its effective work and the powerful effects of true partnership working.

A variety of methods are utilised to enable evidence to be gathered regarding programme effectiveness. Partnership involvement in evaluation is particularly visible through the work of Swansea University. Swansea University undertakes programme evaluation, with research to gather different types of data independently to understand the effects of interventions. Results of evaluation are compared with work being undertaken in other YOS' and similar organisations. Other forms of partnership involvement in evaluation can be seen through the generation of monitoring

reports and working groups where partners are invited to challenge and understand SYOS' work. Partners are necessary to allow the work of SYOS to continue and succeed. For example, in terms of plans to further decrease recidivism, the tracking of offenders is necessary. Without the Police and Local Authority, this would be difficult. Management of offenders requires co-operation and explicit dissection of programmes to enable progress. SYOS cannot do this alone and so, 'the books are opened' to partners and SSP is invited to examine what is happening.

Internal SYOS review processes generate quantitative and qualitative data and provide young people with opportunities to critique work undertaken with them. External inspections permit a further level of investigation, supporting the concept of SYOS being accountable to the wider community for its work.

One of the key lessons which evaluation has taught SYOS is that, despite the importance of justice system generated data, it is imperative the views of young people, their families and partners are heard when interventions and solutions are developed. Whilst SYOS has a clear vision of promoting prevention including targeting areas with crime concentrations, providing appropriate and quality interventions, enabling opportunities for education, employment and training, it is important, for the process of managing offenders to effectively function not to place overt reliance on risk management at the expense of flexible, evidence led practice. Young people are not an homogenous group and interventions to support them should similarly not be a simple process of choosing options from a static, uniform menu.

State number of words used: 3982

Section D: Endorsement by Senior Representative - Please insert letter from endorsing representative, this will not count towards your word or 1MB size limit restrictions.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Tilley Awards 2008 – Submission by Swansea Youth Offending Service

I am pleased to endorse the submission made by Swansea Youth Offending Service for the Tilley Awards 2008.

Since its inception, the Swansea Youth Offending Service has made significant progress in meeting its primary duty of preventing offending by children and young people. Between 2001/2, which forms the recording baseline, and 2006/7, the level of reported youth offending has been almost halved.

By working closely in partnership with the Local Authority and the Safer Swansea Partnership, the Swansea Youth Offending Service has been at the forefront of developing innovative and appropriate interventions for young people. Effective practice can be seen in the areas of appropriate interventions, prevention and the management of persistent offenders.

Using evidence and intelligence based approaches, and problem solving SARA models, combined with inter-agency co-operation, the Swansea Youth Offending Service has proactively engaged with the requirements and aspirations of young people and their communities. The result has been a risk focused, cost effective and needs driven approach which simultaneously addresses national and local performance frameworks.

I am happy to endorse the work of the Swansea Youth Offending Service and commend to you its submission for the Tilley Awards 2008.

Should you require further information from me, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Smith
Chief Executive
City and County of Swansea

Checklist for Applicants:

1. Have you read the process and application form guidance?
2. Have you completed all four sections of the application form in full including the endorsement from a senior representative?
3. Have you checked that your entry addresses all aspects of the judging criteria?
4. Have you advised all partner agencies that you are submitting an entry for your project?
5. Have you adhered to the formatting requirements within the guidance?
6. Have you checked whether there are any reasons why your project should **not** be publicised to other police forces, partner agencies and the general public e.g. civil or criminal proceedings pending in relation to your project?
7. Have you inserted your project name as a footer note on the application form? Go to View-Header and Footer to add it.
8. Have you saved you application form as a word document and entitled your message '**Tilley 08 entry (followed by project name in brackets)**' before emailing it?

Once you are satisfied that you have completed your application form in full please email it to Tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk. One hard copy must also be posted to Alex Blackwell at Home Office, Effective Practice & Communication Team, 4th Floor, Fry Building (SE Quarter), 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF and be received by 25th April 2008.