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Organsation:	North Connaught Youth and Community Services
Type:	Web
Title of Submission:	Community Policing
Comments:	<p>As a regional Youth Service operating in the North West of Ireland, and managing Garda Youth Diversion Project for the last twenty years, we strongly suggest that Community Policing be promoted and properly resourced. Since the Economic downturn we have witnessed a reduction in the time spent by Gardaí in Community Policing which denies them and local communities a vital, and we suggest fundamental component in maintaining community involvement and sense of ownership in aiding Crime prevention and promoting Garda Community Relations.</p> <p>We also recommend that the current Garda District model of operation by Garda Youth Diversion be retained as this reinforces the Community aspect of the projects in reducing Juvenile Crime and promoting Garda Community Relations moving to a Divisional model will we suggest greatly eliminate that Community dimension of the projects. The Community sense of ownership of the Garda Youth Diversion Projects is vital in maintaining ownership and a sense of partnership with Gardaí in addressing and reducing Juvenile Crime.</p> <p>Garda Youth Diversion Projects have as a fundamental aim a reduction in Juvenile crime, greatly aided by the practices and programmes promoted by the Irish Youth Justice Service, but we suggest the promotion of Garda Community Relations in tandem with reducing Juvenile Crime, has been lost and need to be revisited and promoted.</p>