

Issues with Youth in the Kempsey Area

Current issues with youth in the Kempsey area are:

Young offenders are aware of the YOA and therefore push it to its limits, such as offending under the set age and therefore there are no repercussions. They should be made accountable for their actions no matter what age. (Do the Crime You Do the Time). Parents should also be made to be involved in this process, so that they are aware of the impact.

Young offenders having been admitted to a Juvenile Justice Centre become very comfortable with that way of life as most times it is far better than their existing life on the outside, therefore it is no threat to reoffend and return to the Juvenile Justice environment.

This is no fault to Juvenile Justice but most young offenders don't get a healthy meal three times a day, a comfortable bed and defiantly no structured routines, e.g. no parental discipline. The majority of the time this is all they require.

I think Juvenile Justice should set up a similar program as Corrective Service has with their COSP – (Community Offender Support Program).

Instead of releasing the offenders into the community we need a facility similarly run like the Juvenile Justice environment that will slowly integrate the offenders back into the community, teaching them life skills and how to get back on track.

Community Service Orders should be utilised to its full potential instead of incarcerating these young people. They should be made aware of the impact it has on the victims.