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# Program to get youth on track

POLICE and teachers will refer young offenders to early intervention services as part of a \$14.5 million program to help break the cycle of crime.

Minister for Corrections David Elliott announced the successful tenderers for the Youth on Track program, designed to coordinate services for 10- to 17-year-olds at risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system.

Youth on Track will be expanded to Coffs Clarence, New England and Central West from December.

Social Futures is the successful tenderer for the Coffs Clarence.

As part of the program, teachers and Police can refer young offenders believed to be at high risk of reoffending to support services, such as behavioural and family.

Almost 90 per cent of young people who have participated in Youth on Track have either stabilised or reduced their contact with Police and 53 per cent reduced their offending risk factors after three months.

“Research shows young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system at a very young age are the most likely to offend for a longer time and at a greater frequency,” Mr Elliott said.