

Crime Commissioner Calls For Greater Role In Youth Justice

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Hertfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner claims he and other PCCs would be better placed to oversee youth justice, rather than central government...

David Lloyd's told JACK fm he's impatient to cut through bureaucracy and put the local residents in the driving seat.

This as a report from the Justice Select Committee claims the system is failing vulnerable young people, particularly those in care.



It also notes that the huge £246 million youth custody bill could be better spent if it were subject to local control.

Mr Lloyd's contention is that local Police and Crime Commissioners would be better placed to manage youth justice services which are currently overseen, far from the action, by the central Youth Justice Board. Many of the committee's recommendations are for local action; the Commissioner suggests that leadership should be localised as well.

David told JACK fm: "The Youth Justice Board's role was vital in the early days of multi-agency work on youth crime. Now that youth offending teams are firmly established, the time is right to loosen the grip that central government exerts over local leaders. With the advent of Police and Crime Commissioners we have a new opportunity to cut through the bureaucracy and put the public in the driving seat".

Mr Lloyd is impatient to see the potential of the new local leadership role realised. He added: "I don't want to see a loss of nerve or of the momentum around the localisation of control and commissioning which was signalled by the move to localise victim support services by 2014. It is all part of devolving power and decision making to the most local level possible."