

# Review

## **Consultation of networks – municipalities’ use of and experiences with section 57c of the Danish Social Services Act**

### *Background and objectives:*

- The aim of the report is to describe Danish municipalities’ use of and experiences with the Consultation of Networks in cases of youth crime.
- The Consultation of Networks was incorporated into the law to create a uniform process of incorporating the social networks of juvenile offenders in order to reduce criminal behaviour.

### *Research design:*

- The report is based on qualitative interviews with municipal personnel and on 377 cases of minors in the target group for the Consultation of Networks submitted by 81 municipalities.
- The municipalities do not have a uniform use of the Consultation of Networks and the results of the report should therefore not be considered a complete analysis of the use of the Consultation of Networks, but it can describe how and in what cases the Consultation of Networks is used in the majority of municipalities.
- The report presents the types of crime committed by minors. It also describes the experiences of specialist personnel and caseworkers by using qualitative interviews.

### *Findings:*

- The average age of the minors is 16 and the majority (87 per cent) are boys.
- The most common types of crime committed by the target group are violence, theft, robbery and threats.
- The majority of the invitations to participate in the Consultation of Networks are sent within seven days. On average, the Consultation of Network takes place 28 days after the municipality received the documentation from the police.
- The most common reason for not having a Consultation of Networks is failure to appear or that the minor or the minor’s parents do not wish to participate.
- Most often, the participants are parents, the minor, the school and other family members. The caseworkers sometimes struggle to identify the minor’s broad network as provided in the law. Sometimes the family does not want to include a broader network because of fear of stigmatisation.
- Most caseworkers have not experienced a major change since the implementation of the law, but the differences that they do experience are perceived to be positive.

