

THE COSTS OF YOUTH JUSTICE – 14TH OCTOBER 2015

Summary of workshops

- 1. Quentin Goodman, Operations Manager for Northamptonshire YOS, will describe a system of informal review panels in which Magistrates have oversight of ongoing supervision of young people on YROs or DTOs.**

Northamptonshire YOS is working closely with the Youth Panel and HMCTS to implement as many of the recommendations of the Carlile report as possible. This is against a backdrop of reducing resources, closing Courts and increasing pressure on all of the agencies that support those children who commit, or are at risk of committing offences.

Staffing changes and the recruitment of volunteers have so far enabled Northants YOS to improve the experience of children in Courts, and further structural changes are set to reduce the costs of bail support packages. In considering problem solving approaches, Northants has focused on the principle of “Therapeutic Jurisprudence”. Building on inspiration from work in other YOTs, Northants has developed a system of informal review panels in which Magistrates have oversight of ongoing supervision of young people on YROs or DTOs. It is this model that Northants is now seeking to develop into a problem solving pilot.

With dwindling resources, agencies that support children have increasingly tight criteria for access to their services. YOTs are increasingly faced with unmet welfare needs that must be addressed before they can work on offending behavior. Northants’ proposed pilot would offer a forum where those agencies are invited to prioritise offending related needs, and whilst they would have no powers, the gravitas brought by the presiding Magistrates may be enough to secure that focus. For this to happen, however, Mr. Gove will need to commence CJ&I Act 2008 Sch 1 para 35.

The workshop will offer a discussion about the post-sentence involvement of Magistrates in Youth Orders.

- 2. Davie Parks, Team Manager at Newcastle YOT, will demonstrate a co-production model which was established to employ young ex-offenders in Environmental Management activities and the resulting Social Enterprise, The Skill Mill.**

This workshop will demonstrate a co-production model which was established in Newcastle to employ young ex-offenders in Environmental Management activities through Newcastle Youth Offending Team. The resulting Social Enterprise, The Skill Mill is developing as a social franchise and has already a solid evidence base of significant desistance outcomes, in addition to delivering social value for the community and the environment. We will provide details of the approach and use case studies to illustrate the value to individual young people and the partners.

Presenters will describe the model, the impact and in particular the cost savings achieved by taking this approach and directly employing young ex-offenders as a youth justice intervention.

- 3. Anne-Marie Douglas and Sean Creaney will run a practical and interactive session on “participation” within the youth justice system. Delegates will go away from the sessions will practical examples of how to improve youth involvement/participation practice in their services.**

Anne-Marie Douglas and Sean Creaney) would like to run a practical and interactive session on participation in the Youth Justice System (i.e., what the current landscape is, theoretical background, good practice examples, what they can implement.) Delegates will go away from the sessions will practical examples of how to improve youth involvement/participation practice in their youth justice services. Perhaps Dusty Kennedy can be involved re Welsh perspective and UNCRC? We expect this session to be interactive and inclusive for all – therefore the aim is to use interactive technology to spark debate and involvement through the use of voting handsets . We will also strive to have young adults with experience of the youth justice system actively involved in the session, though we may need a discussion in relation to reimbursement of their travel costs and any out of pocket expenses (egg meal allowances)

Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that children have the right to participate in decision-making processes that may be relevant in their lives and to influence decisions taken in their regard. Since the UK signed up to the UNCRC in 1991, all areas of government and the state, including local government, schools, health services, and criminal justice bodies, must do all they can to fulfil children’s rights. In 2016 the UK will be scrutinised in Geneva around its performance against the CRC.

In addition, though not without challenges in a youth justice context, we can explore whether Shared Decision Making (SDM) processes could be incorporated into some Youth Justice Practice?

References

Participation in Youth Justice – Sean Creaney

The benefits of participation for young offenders – Sean Creaney

Patients or partners? Shared (?) Decision-Making in young people’s mental health care

The State of Children’s Rights in England 2014 – CRAE (Youth Justice section)

http://www.crae.org.uk/media/75135/SOCR_2014_REPORT_WEB.pdf

The Right to Participation UNCRC Factsheet

- 4. Steve Case (Swansea University) and Ben Byrne (Surrey) will demonstrate the concept of “positive youth justice” which challenges the current “risk factor prevention” paradigm in favour of an approach which is “child first-offender second”.**

The workshop will share the critique espoused in the recently published ‘Positive Youth Justice – Child First Offender Second’ (Haines and Case 2015) which sets out the potential for a paradigm shift in our responses to children in conflict with the law and the youth justice system. Challenging the risk factor prevention approach which dominates current practice, positive youth justice promotes responses that prioritise the inherent ‘child’ status of the children with whom we are in contact in the YJS. The child first offender second (CFOS) philosophy challenges much of what we do in YOTS and the YJS which it is argued fails to protect children’s rights, making them responsible for their circumstances and for changes which should be the domain of the adults around them.

We will share experiences from Swansea and Surrey of attempting to implement youth justice responses based upon the CFOS philosophy. In Swansea this has seen the development of the bureau model, which has subsequently been rolled out across Wales in what is increasingly becoming a distinct ‘dragonised’ approach to youth justice which reflects the Welsh government’s child first aspirations for children in contact with the YJS. In Surrey the same principles have been

used to dismantle the YOT architecture in order to provide services to children who offend which are non-siloed and promote opportunities for participation and inclusion alongside other children and young people.

The workshop will encourage participants to take up the challenge of a positive transformation of our response to children in conflict with the law and the YJS.

- 5. Angela Iball, Sarah Green and Ben Estep will describe the operation of the Divert Scheme in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington and show how it and similar youth diversion schemes can make a strong case for continued investment. Ben Estep will discuss the Valuing Youth Diversion toolkit recently released by the Centre for Justice Innovation.**

Angela Iball & Sarah Green / Ben Estep

Job Title: Senior Practitioner & Team Manager / Centre for Justice Innovation

The workshop proposed will be focused on the operation of CWHW YOS's Divert Scheme, and how it and similar youth diversion schemes can make a strong case for continued investment.

The Divert Scheme aims to (wherever appropriate) divert children and young people away from the youth justice system by providing assessment, support and intervention at the earliest possible stage; and working in conjunction with the Police to identify appropriate OOC's to divert children and young people away from the Court system. Angela Iball will provide an overview of its operation and discuss case studies from recent work.

Ben Estep will discuss the Valuing Youth Diversion toolkit recently released by the Centre for Justice Innovation. This publication, developed in conjunction with CWHW YOS's Divert Scheme, is intended to support practitioners involved in, or considering creating, point-of-arrest diversion schemes for young people. The toolkit outlines the research case for youth diversion, offers messaging support for approaching new and existing commissioners, and provides guidance on a method of demonstrating the cost effectiveness of diversion through its local impact on justice system stakeholders.

- 6. Tom Sackville, Operations Director for Catch22, will explore the links made in research, particularly the recently published "Running the Risks", between young people who go missing from home and gangs, and will discuss direct delivery of services to those at risk, involved in gangs or directly affected by gangs.**

The workshop will be based 4 years of research, including the recently published Running the Risks exploring the links between young people who go missing from home and gangs, and direct delivery with those at risk, involved in gangs or directly affected by gangs. The term gang has been used to describe a wide range of issues from older men involved in CSE to young people loosely affiliated and involved in low level anti-social behavior and it is essential that we properly understand who and what we are talking about in order to respond. The workshop will look at what we know about the risk factors increase the chances of gang involvement and how we can best respond to these risks. We will draw upon real case examples and look at the evidence of impact from the ongoing external evaluation of our work.

In terms of the link to the conference title we know that if these risk factors are not understood and not addressed the costs for the youth justice system are significant. The work on county lines highlighted in Running the Risks show that this is not just a metropolitan issue anymore with young people across the county being drawn in to drug supply. The workshop will explore the potential cost savings that can be achieved.

- 7. Chris Sweeting and Steve Oates from Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington, will introduce “Back on Track”, a musical intervention project which has been working for 12 months with young people across three venues in the North West.**

The theme of the seminar is ‘The Costs of Youth Justice’. ‘Back on Track’ is a musical intervention that has been engaging young people within CWHWYOS over the past 12-months; both statutory and prevention (Divert). Thus the young people involved have represented the span of YOS interventions which has enabled a good balance of those attending at any one time. It is hoped that some of these will assist us with the Workshop. Back on Track was enabled by a grant from Youth Music for just under £50K which saw the YOS partner with Score Creative Education in operating sessions at 3 venues across the area covered; in Ellesmere Port; Warrington and Runcorn. A number of YOS Support Workers were designated as ‘champions’ to lead on the support and engagement of young people, particularly those subject to ISS programs.

Over the first 12-months (May 2014-May 2015), Back on Track has worked with a substantial number of young people, with the ‘top 20’ enjoying more sustained attendance, in some instances leading to ‘Arts Awards Accreditation’ (for which tutors/staff had separate training) and in one case thus far a place at a Music College. The rate of reoffending has been in keeping with the overall YOS figure, but the effects in some cases have been very positive. This has included the continued engagement of some hard to reach young people beyond the life of their YOS intervention. Going forward, we will continue to fund at least one generic group with an expectation that we will also have an additional dedicated Girls Group. Early indications are that this is proving popular with the girls attending at the summer ‘taster sessions’.

Here again, it is hoped that representatives of the Girls Group will assist staff/tutors on the day with this Workshop.

- 8. Gemma Morgan and Dr Pamela Ugwu-dike from Swansea University will describe their plans to design an evidence-based inventory to evaluate youth justice practices and their current pilot of the ‘Correctional Programme Assessment Inventory-2010’ developed by Canadian academics to measure ‘programme integrity’.**

The proposed workshop will discuss Swansea the Service Evaluation Team’s (SSET) plans to design an evidence-based inventory to specifically evaluate youth justice practices. SSET is currently piloting the ‘Correctional Programme Assessment Inventory-2010’ (CPAI-2010) in several YOTs and secure estates across Wales. The CPAI-2010 is an evidence-based evaluation inventory that was developed by Canadian academics to measure ‘programme integrity’. This is the degree to which organisations (i.e. YOTs)/interventions adhere to the principles of effective practice that are linked with reductions in re-offending.

The CPAI-2010 evaluates a wide range of practice; one key aspect of the CPAI-2010 evaluation is based on direct observation of the supervision sessions with practitioners and the young people. This assesses the supervision skills (i.e. relationship and structuring skills) of the practitioners that are correlated with reduced re-offending (see Raynor, Ugwu-dike and Vanstone, 2014). The workshop will pay particular attention to how practitioners can effectively implement supervision skills and the impact these can have for the young people in regards enabling them to achieve positive outcomes.

Whilst there has been positive feedback from participants of the CPAI-2010 evaluations, SSET recognises that the CPAI-2010 may not be wholly suitable for practice and policy settings in England and Wales. To this end, the SSET would like outline their plans of developing a more suitable evaluation inventory for youth justice practices in England and Wales and how this can be achieved through the active participation from youth justice practitioners and young people. The inventory has the potential to allow YOTs to clearly document and articulate their strengths. Importantly, in a time of austerity the inventory can help YOTs to focus on key areas of practice that can be developed

and improved. In turn, this can help to ensure that the young people are receiving services and support that are evidenced-based, engaging and tailored to their specific needs. Ultimately, this can help YOTs to reduce re-offending and assist the young people to lead pro-social lives.

9. Hannah Doughty Head of Liverpool YOS and colleagues from Merseyside Police will outline findings of their detailed cost benefit study of the work of their “Deter Young Offenders” (DYO) programme which provides evidence that the scheme has had a positive effect on reducing re-offending.

As part of the IOM scheme Hannah chairs a monthly Deter Young Offender meeting – this is a multi-agency meeting and young people are identified via police systems (Corvus) and via the YOS. The young people have to be on a statutory order, are informed they are DYO's via YOS police and offered an enhanced service. We target those young people who are causing concern from the level of police intelligence or the knowledge of the YOS workers (it is often an action for them to be a DYO as part of risk management processes) but are not eligible for catch and convict or other schemes. The meeting includes representatives from the YOS, police, Community Safety (ASB information), targeted youth support and troubled families. Education information is provided via the YOS. Actions are taken back from the agencies to individual workers.

Merseyside police have conducted a detailed cost benefit study of DYO's which evidence that the scheme has had a positive effect on reducing re-offending. This will be the basis of the workshop – to show how the scheme works in practice and the initial findings. This will be a joint presentation with Merseyside Police.

10. Sarah Wilkinson with colleagues and young people from Nacro's Beyond Youth Custody and Safe Hands projects will deliver a workshop with the title: “Moving on from custody: What does success look like?”, which explores what successful resettlement is and how it can best be measured, looking beyond binary reoffending rates.

The workshop will be co-delivered by staff from Beyond Youth Custody* and Safe Hands**, including 2 young people who have worked with the Safe Hands project.

We are interested in exploring what successful resettlement is, and how it can best be measured in terms of outcomes – looking beyond binary reoffending rates. Other indicators such as increased confidence, building relationships with children / families, employability etc. - that indicate 'distance travelled' by a young person as they begin to move away from offending (acknowledging that this may involve episodes of relapse as well as progress).

Rough outline:

- Introduce BYC and Safe Hands/ Everton in the Community and idea behind the workshop
- Break into small groups– each group will consider a case study of a young person who has been in and out of custody. Groups will discuss what successful resettlement is and how it can be measured, and how this may be different for the different groups/ stakeholders involved (young people, practitioners, commissioners, etc)
 - o Can you think of examples where a young person may have reoffended but has made huge progress?
 - o Can you suggest more appropriate ways of measuring how successful resettlement is?
- Could then feedback to the others in the room
- At the end of the session groups to feedback and the young people can explain what was important for them – what was the goal they were working towards/ what made them feel

proud. If there is time, show the video of Phil's story (Phil will be attending the session)

<http://www.evertonfc.com/news/2015/07/24/phil-dodds-story>

- 11. Clare Reeder, Team Leader of the Liverpool branch of Street Doctors, a national charity supported by over 200 medical student volunteers, will describe their work in teaching young people young people affected by gun and knife crime how to administer first aid at the scene.**

StreetDoctors is an organisation set up in Liverpool in 2008 by two medical students. They decided to teach young people affected by gun and knife crime how to administer first aid at the scene. 7 years later, StreetDoctors has grown into a national charity with 14 teams teaching across the country with over 200 medical student volunteers teaching weekly sessions to young people. The workshop will include a taster of the two sessions StreetDoctors teach, what to do when someone is unconscious and what to do when someone is bleeding. It will also demonstrate the impact StreetDoctors has on the young people through the presentation of research that StreetDoctors has conducted. It will highlight how StreetDoctors aims to reduce the cost of lives lost as well as cost to the NHS and the social sector in trying to educate and empower young people.

12.

*BYC is one of three England-wide learning and awareness projects funded under the Big Lottery Fund's Youth in Focus (YIF) programme, which aims to support vulnerable young people through changes in their lives. BYC has been designed to challenge, advance, and promote better thinking in policy and practice for the effective resettlement of young people.
<http://www.beyondyouthcustody.net/>

**Safe Hands is funded under the same funding stream, the project targets young offenders in the Merseyside area, aiming to help them integrate back into society after leaving secure care by offering them opportunities that they may never have considered as options before.
<http://community.evertonfc.com/social-inclusion/safe-hands/>