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Resettlement after prisons: What the Government needs to know for the new youth custody Bill

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British Society of Criminology Conference

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Context of concern

- 73% custody reoffending rate – and getting higher
- Expensive at £100 to £200k pa per place
- Low literacy rates (half of 15-17s at primary level)
- 80%+ exclusion rates

- Custodial contracts for STCs, SCHs and educ in YOIs coming to an end



Green paper on youth custody

- *Transforming Youth Custody: Putting education at the heart of detention* (Feb 2013, MoJ and DfE)
 - MOJ and YJB drafting legislation now
- Custody is the “chance to end the chaos”
BUT - Custody interrupts ties, disengages, trauma
- Education at the heart – enables them to engage
- Secure Colleges
Like Borstals and STCs
- “More effectively linked to what happens in the community”
Signs that the MoJ is moving towards emphasising this.

Custody Evaluations

- Evaluation of Medway Secure Training Centre (1998-2000)



- Assessment of Detention and Training Order (2000-2002)



- Evaluation of RESET programme (2005-2008)



- Development of recommendations on resettlement (2010)



- Evaluation of RAP and IRS (2005-2008)

- Evaluation of the YJB Resettlement Consortium Pilots (2010-2012)



- Evaluation of Pilot Resettlement Support Panel Scheme (2005-2008)

MAYOR OF LONDON

- Evaluation of the Daedalus Project (Heron Unit) (2009-2012)

Factors linked to reduced offending

- Evaluation of Medway Secure Training Centre
 - Involvement in ETE or leisure after release
- Assessment of Detention and Training Order
 - (1) Involvement in ETE after release and (2) stable accommodation
- Evaluation of RESET programme
 - Areas having a manager coordinating agency partnerships
- Evaluation of the YJB Resettlement Consortium Pilots
 - (1) Having more needs addressed by agencies and (2) ETE

Green paper on youth custody

- *Transforming Youth Custody: Putting education at the heart of detention*
- Custody is the “chance to end the chaos”
- Education at the heart – enables them to engage
 - Yes, important BUT whole range of needs that need to be met holistically.
- Secure Colleges
 - BUT research showed key to be what happened **when came out** (any ETE or organised leisure)
- “More effectively linked to what happens in the community”
 - Yes, that’s at the heart – and signs that the MoJ is hearing that.

So, what does research suggest the legislation focus on ensuring?

Recent summary reports

- Hazel N and Liddle M (2012) *Resettlement in England and Wales: Key policy and practice messages from research* London: Youth Justice Board



- Bateman T, Hazel N and Wright (2013) *Resettlement of young people leaving custody: Lessons from the literature* London: Beyond Youth Custody (www.beyondyouthcustody.net)



Two key principles from research

1. Smooth transition from custody to community

Effective cooperation between custody and community focused on resettlement throughout

2. Holistic response to complex needs in community

Widespread partnership coordination to address multiple needs



So, all about coordination and partnerships

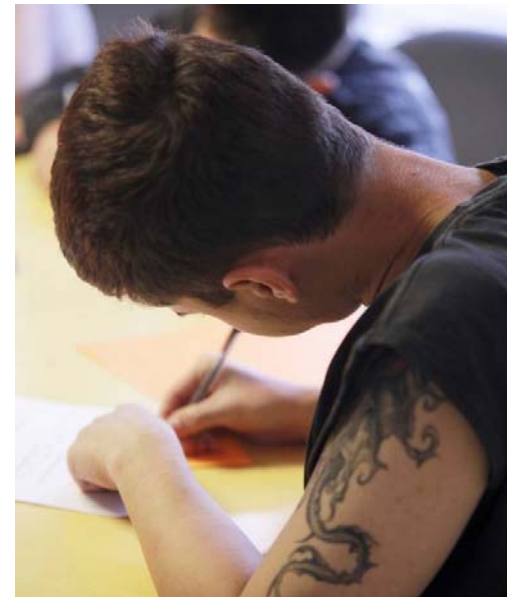
Cooperation between custody and community

- Resettlement should be the focus of detention
 - One joint planning team across custody and community to ensure continuity and shared ownership
 - Focus on resettlement from conviction (or before)
 - Young person placed close to home
 - Fewer institutions in order to build links
 - Reducing transfers
 - Case-management role for institutions



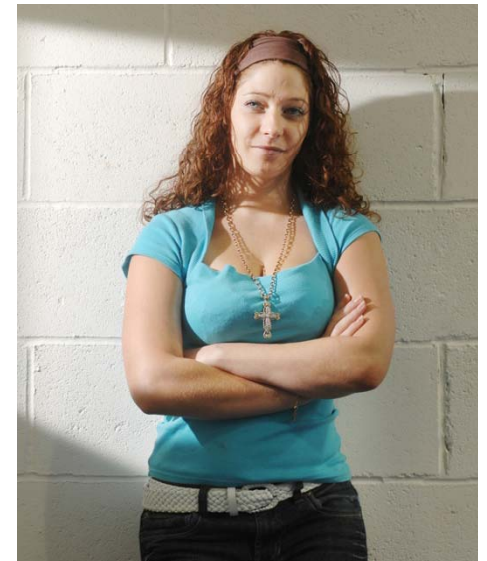
Cooperation between custody and community

- Preparation for release
 - Institutions prepare for readjustment from conviction
 - Marry education to what's available outside
 - Unblock ROTL (risk and short sentences)
 - Allow community agencies access
 - Sort out the CSCS issues



Cooperation between custody and community

- Preparing the home provision
 - ETE should be in place in time for release (target)
 - Intensive support in immediate period
 - Immediate housing provision
 - Early homeless assessments
 - No deregistering of looked-after children
 - Roll-on, roll-off courses
 - Summer courses



Cooperation between custody and community

- Info flow between custody and community
 - Sharing of who to contact
 - Central recording of all in-custody work
 - Info passed on prior to release
 - Consistent completion of common recording system



Coordinated community approach

- Overall strategic management
 - Early senior-level buy-in from LA departments
 - Shared aims and targets
 - Shared operational management to be user focused
 - Closer working with Probation



Coordinated community approach

- “Service broker” model
 - Role focused on partnership coordination – not cases
 - National guidance needed
- Developing wraparound services
 - Wide range of partnerships needed (for complex group)
 - Partners beyond youth justice, and beyond state sector
 - Prioritise accommodation
 - Prioritise employer links
(beyond construction)

Coordinated community approach

- Meeting the young person's needs
 - Keep the young person occupied
 - Ensure that the family is on-board
 - Avoid increased breaching
 - Ensure enforcement agencies are on-board
 - Have a tapered exit plan



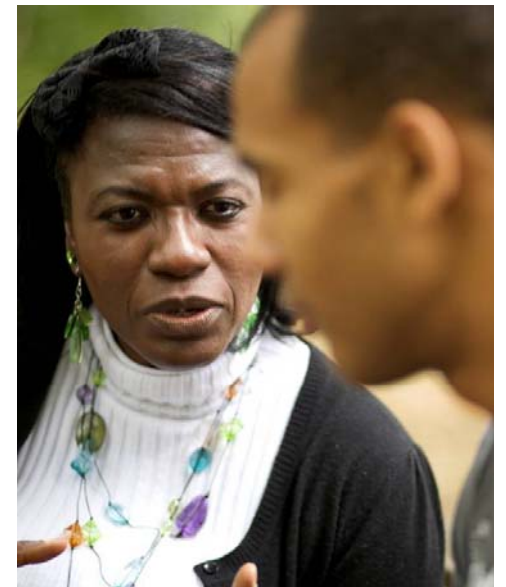
Key questions for Government:

- Emphasis on introducing market forces or what works? **What works**
- Education or resettlement? **Resettlement**
- Who should be responsible for resettlement? **Probably Yots, but with as many having stake as possible**
- How to ensure that everyone has a stake and plays a part?
- How to incentivise resettlement? (Easier to control instructions)
- How can ROTL benefit when placed so far from home?
- How to engage employers in these times?
- How to keep open accommodation?
- How do you resettle those on remand?



Moving Beyond – key questions for researchers:

- How can the transition at 18yrs be made more seamless?
- How can we sustain engagement?
- How can we give enhanced support without increasing the risk of breaching?
- How might services take account of gender? Do black and minority young people require specific provision?
- How to we resource and manage a tapered exit strategy?
- Are the resettlement lessons the same for remands?
- Do we have the right resettlement aims?



Moving Beyond:

Beyond YOUTH CUSTODY

A 5-year national programme which examines and promotes best practice in the resettlement of young people and young adults leaving custody.

www.beyondyouthcustody.net



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