Social Work and Young offenders

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Social Work and Young Offenders

• Social worker and manager with young offenders
• Work with Council of Europe and UK government
• Research, books and papers
Social Work and Young offenders

- International Federation of Social Workers  Definition of Social Work definition:
- promoting social change, on the basis of its findings regarding the needs and the avoidable causes of problems confronted by individuals and groups seeking or requiring assistance
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- problem-solving in human relationships, whether interpersonal, intrafamilial, within the wider community or vis-à-vis the authorities and their agents;
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- empowering people to enhance their own well-being, as opposed to creating ongoing dependency and thus maintaining inherent vulnerability.
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• Holistic –personal distress and problems within their networks within their communities- ‘person in the situation’
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• Dual role of social work- Victim rights/offender rights? Welfare of child? Welfare of others?
• Methods and skills
• How fits with professional registration?
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- Parkhurst Act
- 1969 Children Act - welfare and social work based
  - Research on:
    - residential/ custody/ community programmes
    - European wide issues
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- European wide issues
- Age of criminal responsibility
- Use of residential/custody/community programmes/MH – and outcomes
- EU to local- Council of Europe
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- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
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• This presentation is partly based upon work undertaken by the author for the Council of Europe. A number of the recommendations from this work were adopted by the Council in February 2011 (see http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/ATListingDetails_E.asp?ATID=11305 )
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• Key factors which evidence suggests are associated with youth offending are
  • poor education
  • poor employment prospects
  • inconsistent parenting
  • poor housing or homelessness
  • poor physical and mental health
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• poor access to financial resources
• peer pressure
• anti-social behaviour
• drug and alcohol abuse
• and difficulties in forming and sustaining relationships
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• All responses to these need to form part of an integrated whole, within a set of policies on social cohesion, with the focus of developing empathy and individual responsibility underpinning these.
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• (i) Providing specific family support/parenting programmes services based on disadvantaged, high crime, low educational attainment, high unemployment rate areas, which support families and young people without labelling them as “feckless”.
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• (ii) Developing restorative justice and mediation programmes in schools, communities, and at family level as preventative measures, as well as within youth justice programmes.
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• (iii) Encapsulating a specific “developing responsibility” focus for interventions with young people within multi-agency approaches and programmes at local levels with police, education, social services, youth work, faith communities, etc, in order to plan and provide for the wide variety of problems and needs of children, young people and their families.
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• (iv) Developing mentoring programmes using positive role model volunteers, appropriate peers and sessional workers who have credibility with young people in that geographical area/ethnic/faith group, who befriend the young person, and provide concern, emotional support and role models to help increase social inclusion and feelings of connection between the young person and their wider community.
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• (v) Providing support for students and staff in schools from specialist social work/psychology/mental health support workers and specialist teachers trained not just in academic development and attainment skills, but also citizenship and relationship skills, and in dealing with difficult behaviour.
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• (vi) Community development/youth work with ethnic minority/faith groups in identified geographical areas.

• (vii) Developing the use of small institutions with well trained and supported staff for residential and custody regimes where custody becomes necessary.
Young offenders orders

• The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 made available a raft of new orders such as child safety orders, local child curfews, parenting orders, anti-social behaviour orders and sex offender orders which do not necessarily require prosecution or indeed commission of a criminal offence.
Young offenders orders

• The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 made prevention of offending and re-offending primary goal of all who work with young offenders

• Interdisciplinary Youth Offending Teams now key
Young offenders orders

- Acceptable Behaviour Contract / Anti-Social Behaviour Order - civil order
  - Liaison with police at point of arrest
  - Decisions on Youth Caution/Youth Conditional Caution
  - 'Community resolution'
  - Court - Fines
  - Absolute/Conditional discharge
  - Compensation order
  - Reparation order
  - gang injunction - civil order
  - Parenting order
Young offenders orders

- Referral Order: Made by court. Panel community members/social worker/young person/parents/victims - 3 months up to 1 year
- Regular meetings/contract
Young offenders orders

Contract:
• Payback/reparation
• Mental health
• Drugs
• Victim awareness
• Prison visit
• Education/training employment
• Curfew
• Regular meetings with social worker on risk factors/progress on programme
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Youth Rehabilitation Order:

• Activity Requirement
• Curfew Requirement
• Exclusion Requirement
• Local Authority Residence Requirement
• Education Requirement
• Mental Health Treatment Requirement
• Unpaid Work Requirement (16/17 years)
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- Drug Testing Requirement
- Intoxicating Substance Misuse Requirement
- Supervision Requirement
- Electronic Monitoring Requirement
- Prohibited Activity Requirement
- Drug Treatment Requirement
- Residence Requirement
- Programme Requirement
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- Attendance Centre Requirement
- Intensive Supervision and Surveillance
- Intensive Fostering
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- Group work
- Individual work
- Parent work
- Cognitive behavioural work
- Empathy work - effects on others
Young offenders orders

- On basis of social workers pre-sentence report- areas covered attitudes /circumstances/risk factors as assessed by “ASSET” Scaled approach, depending upon level of assessed risk – 3 elements:
  - Risk of reoffending/Risk of serious harm to others/Impact on victims
  - Leads to 3 levels of intervention-
  - Standard /enhanced/Intensive
Young offenders orders

*Youth Rehabilitation order*
Activity requirement
Supervision requirement
Curfew requirement
Programme requirement
Residence requirement (16/17 year old)
Mental Health Treatment requirement
Young offenders orders

- Attendance Centre requirement
- Exclusion requirement
- Education requirement
- Prohibited Activity requirement
- Drugs/testing requirement
- Drugs treatment requirement
- Intoxicating substance treatment requirement
- Local authority residence requirement
Young offenders orders

• Unpaid work requirement (16/17 year old)
• Intensive supervision
• Intensive fostering requirement
Custody

- Detention & training order
- Section 91 serious offences
- Section 228 extended sentence for public protection
- Section 229 indeterminate sentence for public protection
- Section 90 mandatory life/murder
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- Key elements of social work approach
- Holistic approaches
- Personal engagement/ client focus- client feedback
- Engagement with/ concern for others
- Interprofessional co-ordination
- Restorative justice
Young offenders

Draft European rules for juvenile offenders: Comments from Professor Brian Littlechild University of Hertfordshire, European Committee on crime problems (CDPC) Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP), Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 13 December 2007 PC-CP (2007) 12

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• Consultant to the Council of Europe’s Social, Health and Family affairs Committee on Social Exclusion, Education, and youth offending, 2011

www.refworld.org/pdfid/4d70e52c2.pdf
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• 2013- current author’s evidence to the UK Parliament’s House of Commons Justice Committee’s report *Youth Justice (Seventh Report of Session 2012–13)* cited on pages 11, 28, 55 (see [www.parliament.uk/justicecttee](http://www.parliament.uk/justicecttee))